

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



*XIII International Congress of Architects
Joint National Conference on Housing*

Why Ethics?

The Better City

State Planning

With the Chapters

As of Interest

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XIII International Congress of Architects

A REPORT BY C. C. ZANTZINGER—F.A.I.A.

Through the courtesy of Major George Oakley Totten, Jr., Secretary of the American Section of the Permanent Committee of the International Congress of Architects, and with the permission of Mr. Zantzinger, THE OCTAGON is privileged to publish an informal report of the International Congress in the form of a letter from him to Major Totten under date of November 14. The Congress was held in Rome September 22-28, 1935.

The delegates who were officially appointed to represent The American Institute of Architects at the Congress are as follows:

*CHESTER H. ALDRICH.....	<i>New York</i>	*STEPHEN F. VOORHEES.....	<i>New York</i>
*ARTHUR BROWN, JR.....	<i>San Francisco</i>	*C. HOWARD WALKER.....	<i>Boston</i>
*J. MONROE HEWLETT.....	<i>New York</i>	JOHN LLOYD WRIGHT.....	<i>Michigan City</i>
*FREDERICK V. MURPHY.....	<i>Washington</i>	*C. C. ZANTZINGER.....	<i>Philadelphia</i>
*W. L. PLACK.....	<i>Philadelphia</i>	*CARL A. ZIEGLER.....	<i>Philadelphia</i>
*MAJ. GEO. OAKLEY TOTTON, JR.	<i>Washington</i>		

The names of those appointed by the President of the United States to represent the Government are marked with an asterisk. Those present at the Congress were Messrs. Aldrich, Brown, Hewlett, Voorhees, Wright and Zantzinger.

Mr. Voorhees acted also as the official representative of the Federal Housing Administration.

The Officers of the Institute take this occasion to express their appreciation to Major Totten for his active work from year to year in keeping the International Congress in the minds of the profession in the United States; and also to the members of the Institute delegation whose names appear above.

My dear Major Totten:

Returning from the International Congress of Architects, which was held in Rome in September, my first thought is to write you a report of all that transpired, knowing your personal interest and your great regret at being unable, for the first time in so many years, to be present at the Congress. You were indeed very much missed, not only by the American delegates but by your many friends amongst the foreigners from whom I bring you messages. Indeed, inquiries for you were continuous throughout the period of the Congress.

Again, we had counted that the Chairman of our American Committee, Dr. C. Howard Walker, would be with us to head our delegation. At the last moment we learned to our regret that, for reasons of his health, he found it impossible to leave home. His knowledge of the language and well known sympathy with the Italian people and art would have enabled him to make a real contribution in adequately representing our Country. We felt handicapped throughout by reason of the absence of you both.

Rome in September was hot; our week there was under one continuously cloudless sky, so that

XIII Congress—Continued.

we were able to enjoy all the entertainment provided by our Italian confrères under ideal conditions.

The Royal Academy of S. Luca was the headquarters. The ground floor provided ample office space; on the second floor there are committee-rooms as well as meeting rooms, and above that, the Library and Picture Collection of the Academy. The whole building was available to the members of the Congress, of course, and the meeting room itself was both adequate and suitable for the purpose.

Let me dispose first of the business sessions. As you know very well from your familiarity with past congresses, the business transacted is, while important to the profession, not the part of the Congress to which the greatest amount of time is allotted. Under the influence of Italian hospitality and the Italian climate, I got the impression that perhaps these sessions were even further abridged than is usually the case. It is fair to say also that the fact that Italian, English, French and German were all accepted as official languages, and consequently that anyone who wished to speak could address the Congress in any one of them, did not make for efficiency in deliberation on the floor. None of the modern stunt arrangements of telephone or loud-speaker combinations permitting of rapid translation of remarks had been installed, and consequently all remarks made in any language had to be translated into the other three by interpreters who spoke at the close of each speaker's remarks. You readily see the picture. By the time the third translation was being made, it was difficult to hold the attention of those present.

I am appending to this letter a memorandum of the themes or subjects selected for discussion by the Congress, to which are added in each case the names of the presiding officer and "reporter" and finally the Resolutions passed by the Congress after deliberation on each theme.

The procedure was in each case the following: A different presiding officer was named for each theme, and he could control the sessions under his direction more or less, depending upon his familiarity with the language which the several speakers used. The regulations issued prior to the Congress, however, provided that all papers that might be written on any theme had to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Congress, Mr. Plinio Marconi, at least two months prior to the Congress. A so-called "reporter" was assigned

to each theme, and to him had been handed all the papers presented on this theme, giving the reporter time to study the papers and compile his report of the arguments advanced.

The first in order of business was, then, under each theme, for the reporter to read his report. This was almost invariably done in Italian. After the translation of the report, the members of the Congress present on the floor could be assumed to be familiar with the study that had been given to each particular theme by those who had written papers. If there were members on the floor who wished to advance further arguments they were given the floor, upon request in writing to the presiding officer, and these remarks in turn also were translated. A careful stenographic record was kept of all the proceedings and from this the officers of the Congress compiled a statement and resolution which was presented at the final session of the Congress on Saturday, September 28th. It is these resolutions that appear attached hereto.

To judge of the amount of interest taken by our confrères in the subjects presented for discussion, you will be interested to know that some seventy-six papers were written. The resolutions that were based on the consensus of opinion on these various topics are therefore the result of a great amount of study and should have a corresponding interest and weight for us here in America.

Sunday, the 22nd, in the morning, was devoted to a (what we should call) registration. The scene at the Accademia di S. Luca was animated; men from all over the globe moving in and out, speaking each one his own language and endeavoring to understand the answers given him.

In the afternoon, a motorbus ride about the City had been scheduled, starting from the Academy at 3 o'clock. We were given ample time to visit the new excavations that have been made between the Victor Emanuel Memorial and the Coliseum. It is astonishing what has been done in the way of opening up this section of the City and the Roman buildings themselves are of great interest. Of course, one needs more time to really understand; at the same time a general impression could be gotten and from time to time some of our Italian friends explained to us the significance of that which had been done.

The members of the Congress were not seated by name or number in the buses; one got in and took an available place, and this resulted in mixing up the delegations from the various countries which was a delightful experience. One

struggled with the various languages and so did they, and, in an atmosphere of friendliness, delightful acquaintanceships, and perhaps more, were begun.

The following day, the Congress was opened by the Governor of Rome, in Julius Caesar Hall, on the Capitol. This was, however, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, so that the day could be devoted to the many interests that architects naturally have in the City. There was during the morning a meeting of the Permanent International Committee of Architects, which is, as you well know, the steering Committee, under the able direction of Paul Vischer of Zurich, as President, and Emile Maigrot of Paris, as Secretary-General.

The following day, Tuesday, the first real business session of the Congress opened at 9:30 in the morning. Alberto Calza Bini, the President of the Congress, opened the session, and then passed on the conduct of the discussion of the first theme to Mr. de Kersterz of Budapest, to whom this honor was properly accorded in recognition of the delightful Congress that had been held in Budapest five years ago.

In the afternoon, again by motorbus, the Congress was taken to the University City, the new university which the Italian Government is creating in Rome. On the way out, we stopped at the Eastman Hospital, an institute of hygiene, which is the gift of our fellow-citizen, and is principally devoted to dentistry. I shall not attempt to describe to you the University. It is a tremendous group of buildings erected out of the whole cloth to create a seat of the great modern Italian teaching institution; a series of vast buildings devoted to the several branches of knowledge, a colossal undertaking which is nearing completion. Indeed, since my return, I have seen that it has been opened for use. I can hardly believe this for the buildings did not seem to me to be sufficiently finished when we were there to make this possible. However, they are on their way, a tremendous undertaking in the cause of education. While in the buildings, the members of the Congress were entertained at that delightful Italian function called the "Colazione"—ices, tea, cakes, sandwiches, and various suitable wines.

On Wednesday in the morning, again, the session of the Congress continuing the discussion of the themes,—and at 3 o'clock another motor-trip to other points of interest, including a stop at the Church of Cristo Re, a brand new church in the modern manner, and very fine. One is

surprised that more churches are necessary in Rome but this one is certainly a splendid effort.

At 6 p.m. the Congress was entertained again at a colazione by the American Academy in Rome in their splendid quarters on the Janiculum. We were received by our fellow-delegate, Chester Aldrich, the new Director of the Academy, along with Monroe Hewlett, the retiring Director. The occasion was a delightful one and augers success to Aldrich's administration, for which you may be sure he received the good wishes of all his guests.

At 10 o'clock that evening, His Excellency, the Governor of Rome, offered an official reception in the Palazzo dei Conservatori on the Capitol. The members of the Archeological Congress, which was meeting in Rome at the same time, were also invited, and the reception was actually held in the Museo. It was a brilliant affair; full dress, orders, uniforms, all the magnificence and ceremony that the setting called for. It was a warm evening; all the windows open; the courtyard lighted; an orchestra playing, and of course the colazione—the whole taking place in the marvellous rooms of the palace, with all the pomp and ceremony that our hosts know so well how to give. As a spectacle it was superb. The courtesy and simplicity of the reception by the Governor, his cordiality, gave to the affair an atmosphere of warmth and reality that charmed us all.

On Thursday, the usual meeting of the Congress in the morning for the discussion of the themes, and then, in the afternoon the Congress went by motor-coach, as usual, out to Tivoli where the Villa d'Este and gardens were thrown open to the Congress by the Fascist Government. We wandered at will through the gardens and the villa, and finally in the setting sun, on the terrace looking out over the Campagna, were again entertained at a colazione, and went home on our way satisfied that another wonderful experience had been ours.

On Friday there was no business meeting. A trip to Littoria and Sabaudia—namely, to what was the Pontine Marshes—had been arranged for a day's excursion. Lunch was taken along, and we had time to study and try to understand the problems that had been solved by the Government engineers in accomplishing this great work which had so often baffled the engineers of past centuries. A great land improvement work has been accomplished. A vast terrain of fertile soil has been added to Italy. The towns have

XIII Congress—Continued.

been planned and built and are partly complete. The whole is going forward to the great honor of Italy's engineers and architects, and of the far-sighted persistence of the great man now directing Italian destinies.

On our return to the City, we learned with great pleasure that arrangements had been made for our reception by His Excellency, Benito Mussolini in his palace on the Piazza Venezia that afternoon. So sure enough, the "Congressistes" in full force made our way down the Corso and up into the great hall, the name of which I forget. A horse-shoe was formed, and presently into the open end walked Il Duce, in undress uniform. He came the length of the room with MM. Vischer and Calza Bini, bowing his welcome to us all, and then greeted us in admirable French, passing on to talk informally of his plans and methods in his great building undertakings, of his convictions concerning the proper direction our modern architecture should take as the expression of our times in the new materials available. Just a friendly talk for some fifteen minutes, modestly, as in our field of endeavor, and yet with force and conviction. We all, I think, felt much complimented that in that season of political stress the Prime Minister should be willing to take time amid his great responsibilities to receive the Congress even for these few minutes.

On Saturday morning, there was the closing meeting of the Congress at which the appended resolutions were passed, along with other usual formalities. I was particularly struck with the graceful wording of the resolution of appreciation to the Italian Government for all the many delightful entertainments that had been offered to the Congress.

In the afternoon, there was another motor-bus trip through the City, and on out to Ostia, the Lido di Roma, where the National Fascist Association of Architects again entertained the Congress at a colazione.

That afternoon late, the American delegates went by invitation to take tea with the American Ambassador in his splendid villa on the Viale Rossini, at 6 o'clock. The occasion was a delightful one. Mr. and Mrs. Breckinridge Long had asked not only all the members of the Embassy staff and their wives to meet us, but also some other friends, and we had a friendly hour with

them. One of the secretaries reminded me that we, as delegates of our Government, were required to make a report to the State Department. We have this matter in mind and the report will presently be forthcoming.

And finally, at 9 o'clock that evening, the official dinner of the Congress was held at the Ambassador-Palace Hotel. It was a handsome affair, with the usual congratulatory speeches, thanks to presiding officers, etc., etc. The occasion, however, did seem to me to have more than the usual interest of such entertainments. There was a spirit of friendliness and informality that had developed through the delightful and continuous contacts that were possible amongst the members of the Congress from all over the world that added to the charm of the occasion. The President of the Congress, Calza Bini, is particularly happy in his choice of words and has a most sympathetic personality. His cordiality to all members, his unvarying courtesy, was astonishing to me, given the great number of those present at the Congress. I forgot to say that there were about three hundred in more or less continuous attendance, and Calza Bini seemed to know them all.

And so the 13th International Congress of Architects came to an end. I hope that I have not been too long in writing you. I believe that there is something of interest to us all in an event of this kind. Those of us who were so fortunate as to be there certainly have brought home a wonderful memory of hospitality and cordiality of our confrères in Italy. While we realize very well that a Congress on this scale could not be without the financial and official support of the Italian Government, still it is equally true that the effort put forth by the architects was what really made the thing a great success.

We American delegates carried on as best we could without you. In all matters of the protocol we were sadly uninformed. I trust we did not make too many blunders. I am sure from the cordiality of our relations with our Italian confrères that they pardoned such shortcomings as your direction, had you been there, would have spared us.

Once more, with great regret that you were not of our number, I am, my dear Major,

Very sincerely yours,

C. C. ZANTZINGER

Recommendations And Resolutions

OF THE XIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS

Study of New Materials.

Presiding Officer: M. deKersterz, Hungary
"Reporter": M. Enrico Griffini, Italy

THEME I.

Concerning new materials from the point of view of design and construction and the result obtained from their adoption in practice.

Resolution

Whereas, The materials available for building have in all periods been a governing factor in determining architectural form, and

Whereas, The new materials available to the designers of today have therefore naturally brought about basic changes in modern architecture,

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Congress, That the present studies of these new materials be vigorously continued, to increase knowledge and understanding of them, and also that research be encouraged to bring about the creation of other new materials answering the present demands of building needs, and

Further, Be It Resolved by the Congress, That, to this end and in accord with previous undertakings, there be created within the C. P. I. A. an agency to bring together all information available from national research laboratories, and more especially from architects who in their practice have been able to determine the value of these materials.

City Planning and Public Buildings.

Presiding Officer: M. Pontremoli, France
"Reporter": M. Birbauer, Hungary

THEME II

Concerning the knowledge that is useful to architects, both officially employed and in private practice, in the study of public buildings and of city plans, to enable them to effectively collaborate in the creation of such plans, including buildings, bridges, docks, railway and other stations, etc., whose properly related composition is an essential esthetic element in the successful planning of the modern city.

After a prolonged debate during which were developed the importance of both the architect's service to the success of these projects and of the education that he should receive to equip him to take part in and to direct such undertakings, whether initiated by private or public authority, or regarding city planning particularly.

Resolution

(1) *Resolved*, That the architect is particularly fitted for the solution of all problems of City Planning, and that therefore

it is proper that architects should direct and control the development of all that is related to the study and creation of both regional and city plans, and

(2) That it is essential that in the education and training of the architect he be brought to realize the great importance of individual design in its relation to and influence upon the ultimate completed whole, and that consequently preparation for practice must be so organized as to include the inculcation of the principles of general, comprehensive planning or urbanism, as a fundamental.

Public Understanding of the Functions of the Architect.

Presiding Officer: M. Slothouwer, Holland
"Reporter": M. Ambrogio Annoni, Italy

THEME III

Concerning the means that architects can adopt to convince both the general public and their governments of the advantages accruing from a better understanding of the complete service that the architect is competent to render in his professional capacity when fully and directly employed and of the inefficiency of the method of securing architectural service by other means, as, for example, through construction companies or other contracting agencies.

Resolution

Whereas, The reports presented to the Congress and discussion on the floor have established that the professional standing of the architect varies greatly in different countries, and that in several countries our profession is lacking in prestige because it is neither understood nor given proper protection under the law,

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Congress, That there should exist in all countries legislation properly and fully protecting the title of architect, and the practice of our profession, as is now the case in certain countries, notably, Italy, Rumania, Spain, and

Further, Be It Resolved by the Congress, That in those countries where such legislation already exists, its interpretation and resulting application should continue to more and more completely define the service, capacity and usefulness of the architect as distinguished from those of the contractor.

Standardization in Housing Operations.

Presiding Officer: M. Elkart, Germany
"Reporter": M. Pietro Bottoni, Italy

THEME IV

Resolution

Whereas, It is recognized that standardization of materials, units, methods, etc. may be a necessity for economic reasons in large scale low-cost housing undertakings,

XIII Congress—Continued.

It is None-the-less Resolved by the Congress, That the tendency to standardization should be limited to the elements of construction, thus leaving the architect free to express his personality and esthetic ability in his design, and

Further, It Is Resolved by the Congress, That while quantity production may have its influence on furnishings and equipment, this should not be to the detriment of local popular tradition and handicrafts, which must be encouraged in their development.

Sub-surface Construction, Subway Communication and Underground Protection.

Presiding Officer: M. Theiss, Austria
"Reporter": M. Armando Melis, Italy

THEME V

From the reports presented it is evident that special importance should be given to the study of underground construction, especially as regards protection against attacks from the air, reinforcement of existing underground construction, and particularly construction to effectively supplement surface circulation.

As a result of this study

It is Resolved by the Congress:

1. That a complete study of sub-surface transportation systems should be made, since these will surely become more and more essential for the relief of surface traffic congestion in cities;

2. That all sub-surface problems must be considered from a broad point of view in relation to city plan requirements;

3. That the sub-surface development of cities must be considered as the vital center of means of communication and of other public services, and as a protection against attack from the air; all of which requires that there be a complete and satisfactory relation between the plans of sub-surface and surface services.

Architect's Legal Rights of Authorship.

Presiding Officer: M. Zantinger, U. S. A.
"Reporter": M. Suillio Torres, Italy

The application of legal copyright or the rights of authorship to the architect's original conceptions, and his right to direct the carrying out of the resulting construction.

THEME VI

Resolution

Whereas, The laws concerning copyright are in some countries entirely satisfactory, while in others not only the laws themselves but their interpretation by the courts show a complete misunderstanding of the subject,

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Congress:

(1) That there be established by the C.P.I.A. a Committee for the study of this vital subject in its application in all countries, with instructions to report to the next Congress a form of law for suggested adoption by all countries, accompanied by a definition of the professional duties and responsibility of the architect;

2. That it is the inalienable right of the architect to direct the construction of the building or project which he has conceived, since the making of drawings is but a step in the creation of the buildings he thus designs, and that every effort should be made to secure the acceptance of this essential principle in countries where it as yet fails of recognition;

3. That in particular in all public competitions this principle be adopted by assuring to the winner the right to direct the construction of his design;

4. That all architects should be urged never to make a design for any undertaking unless the direction of the construction be assured to them, and further that every influence be brought to bear on all governments to bring about their formal acceptance of this principle.

Architectural Competitions and Governmental Building Projects.

Presiding Officer: M. Bellido Y Gonzalez, Spain
"Reporter": M. Slothouwer, Holland.

THEME VII

Resolution

Whereas, The Congress recognizes that the system of public competitions is the best method of assuring to architects a means of expressing their thought and of demonstrating their ability, and

Whereas, The Congress realizes the need of perfecting the conduct of public competitions as follows:

(I) There shall be, on all juries, a majority of architects, selected either by the competitors or by their professional societies;

(II) Programs must state the problem with absolute clarity and must completely establish the conditions of the competition, which, after acceptance by the professional societies, shall be binding on the promoters of the competition and on the competitors;

(III) The promoters of the competition must be absolutely and legally bound to adhere to the terms of the competition in carrying the project to completion—

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Congress, That these three essentials of the program, after adoption by all countries, shall become the basis of an international competition practice, accepted in both national and international competitions, and having the force of a contract between the promoters of the competition and the competitors, and

Be It Further Resolved by the Congress, That in all competitions of great importance the two stage form of competition be adopted, the first stage calling for only ideas and general conceptions, which drawings shall not be publicly shown, leaving for the second stage the elaboration and development in detail of the schemes which offer the best solution of the problem.

Joint National Conference on Housing

THIS Conference was an outgrowth of two meetings held in Washington in the spring of 1934 to discuss means of effecting better cooperation among public and private housing agencies. It was decided then that a conference of private agencies would be a first step toward achieving such an objective. Therefore, the Joint National Conference was held in Washington on October 16, 17, and 18, 1935.

The program was arranged under the direction of Mr. Frederic A. Delano, who acted as General Conference Chairman. The objective was to enable those in attendance to evaluate better the Federal Government's housing work, and to establish a base upon which there may be developed informed public opinion in support of a sound comprehensive housing program.

The evening session of Wednesday, October 16, was under the Chairmanship of Richmond H. Shreve, F. A. I. A., Chairman of the Institute's Special Committee on Housing. The subject was "Planning for the Location of Low Cost Projects."

There were two interesting and analytical papers—one by Jacob L. Crane, of Chicago, who spoke on "Population and Industrial Movements Affecting Location," and the other by William F. R. Ballard of New York City, who spoke on "Site Selection in Large Metropolitan Regions." Following these speakers, an open forum discussion developed, under the guidance of Mr. Shreve, which made this session one of the most interesting of the Conference.

At the morning session of Thursday, October 17, the general subject was "Site Planning and Types of Dwelling Units." Mr. John Nolen presided. The principal speaker was William Stanley Parker, F. A. I. A., Vice Chairman of the Boston City Planning Board and Chairman of the Institute's Special Committee on Construction Industry Relations. His subject was "The Inter-relation of the Site Plan and Types of Units—Guiding Principles of Design."

In view of the general interest aroused by Mr. Parker's paper, it is printed herein, with his permission, and through the courtesy of the Joint National Conference on Housing.

The Inter-relation of the Site Plan and Types of Units —Guiding Principles of Design

BY

WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, F. A. I. A., VICE-CHAIRMAN, BOSTON CITY PLANNING BOARD

THE time available for this paper is short and should not be used to repeat generalities that are pretty well agreed upon. Much has already been written on this subject of "Types of Dwellings and Site Planning." Much doubtless remains to be said but certain underlying facts may be accepted as adequately established.

The different types of dwelling unit common in this country have been described in detail in the reports of the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership, not to mention many other analyses. Their relative advantages and the desirability of each type under appropriate local circumstances are sufficiently established.

The single free-standing house, the two family house, the row house, and the multi-family dwelling, all have established themselves in the operations of private real-estate enterprise, the types used and the particular variants of each type depending upon local needs and habits. Whether, in a given locality,

the types have been developed to fit the habits, or the habits moulded to fit the types commercially available through the operations of the local speculative builders, is a branch of the old hen and egg precedence controversy that I will touch upon later.

Since I am primarily concerned, for the moment, with the consideration of this subject in its relation to large scale operations built for rental rather than sale, I would personally assume that the two-family house is of negligible importance in this present discussion. Its principal claim has been on the grounds of its value as an investment to an owner who occupied one flat and rented the other. In recent years, however, with the other flat often not rented, the two-family house has frequently been a serious burden. With a large rental development the use of row houses in small groups can, in my opinion, provide better accommodations than a two-family house, with equal economy in construction and land use. Therefore, I am assuming

Housing Conference—Continued.

we are considering three types of dwelling, the single free-standing house, the row-house, and the multi-family dwelling.

Relative Value of Types.

Conferences can continue to debate the relative values of these types, but housing authorities and their architects and other advisers must make specific decisions on each point in the light of the special conditions connected with a given site. Here they meet the necessity for the various compromises always inherent in a building operation due to special local conditions and differences of opinion.

It is not a question of whether row houses or apartments are a better type of housing, but which is better suited to the needs of the families actually to be served on this particular site or the proper proportioning of the units to be built between the two types.

Theoretical discussions permit flights of fancy and argument over a wide field of statistics and opinions. A construction program necessitates keeping one's feet on the ground, and on the particular piece of ground that constitutes the site of the project. In doing this, local statistics require careful study and yet cannot be accepted too readily as proof of what sort of housing units are needed. The existing units were provided not because they were right and desirable or actually desired, but because they were being built and bought or rented and others like them could be marketed at a profit. Certain sections of Queens County in New York were not developed on an idealistic basis or on any conscious expression by the residents as to what sort of accommodations they desired or what kind of neighborhood character they preferred, and the same can be said of similar districts in any of our large cities.

The Value of Light and Air.

During the early portion of the past half century various forces were impelling the development of areas of low-rental housing units with regard solely to their immediate marketability. The producers of these housing units were not concerned with problems of city planning and the development of desirable neighborhoods. Neither was the community at large. Social agencies were concerned, and various individuals and groups face to face with the living conditions being created were fighting for more light, air and sanitation.

Building laws, step by step and slowly, reflected this pressure with improved minimum provisions for courts and coverage, which immediately became maximum provisions in the eyes of the speculative builder of low cost housing. In Boston a first enactment of a requirement for a ten foot rear yard to every tenement house illustrates a step that when taken was progressive if not revolutionary but which now is seen to have legalized wholly undesirable conditions.

This thought should give us pause today, as we now look back on many similar inadequate minimum provisions, when we attempt to determine any new legal minima with which to control future low rental housing.

The greatest single and fundamental failure in the production of housing units for sale has been the failure to recognize the economic value of light and air.

Let me emphasize this point. I am not referring to the aesthetic and social values of light and air but to their cold, hard-boiled financial value. The real estate expert and business man of the time, with nothing much but dollars and cents in mind, wholly failed to gauge this underlying economic asset. This is not so strange in the real estate broker with current sales primarily in mind, but is more significant in the loaning agencies presumably interested in long term investment values back of their mortgages.

Crowding of tenements is easily understood, but the same failure is visible today in small house developments where the houses are being placed too close together. Thus the type of house to be used cannot be separated from the way in which it is used and where it is used.

With the foregoing brief generalities in mind, let us be more precise in regard to the different types of housing.

Multi-Family Dwellings.

Beginning with multi-family dwellings, and at the top of that classification, we have elevator apartments. I take it we are primarily considering housing for the lower rental groups who are not reasonably served by private enterprises. I don't look on elevator apartments as falling in that category except under such exceptional circumstances as are found in New York. I prefer, therefore, to look upon elevator apartments as undesirable accommodations for the low rental groups and if used must, in each case, be justified by local con-

ditions that have created land values that make high buildings necessary if built at all, and surrounding conditions that seem to make the land best used by such buildings. That, therefore, becomes a problem largely restricted to New York and which I am quite willing to leave to it to solve as best it can.

With the multi-family dwelling, therefore, I am concerned solely with the walk-up type, and I believe that a reasonable normal limit of height for such apartment buildings is three stories. Any extra height requires special justification by local conditions. Occasional four story units in a large project that is generally three stories high may add variety and accent to the general composition and provide some apartments with a distant outlook over the lower roofs that for some families would justify the extra flight of stairs.

With such buildings I would set 30% lot coverage as a desirable maximum. This would permit somewhat over 40 families per net acre which seems to me might well be taken, even in central districts of large cities, as a maximum density and I suggest 30 families per net acre as a more desirable maximum at which to aim, any excess being required to justify itself by special local conditions.

Adequacy of Room Sizes.

As to the individual family units in apartment buildings I would briefly accent three items. A straining for rooms of minimum size is bad policy. Little is gained in the matter of lower cost and the usefulness and rentability of the apartments are seriously endangered. Each room should be ample in size for its particular use. Flexibility of use should be provided for and this will necessarily contemplate the use of the living room, at times, as a sleeping room, generally for one of the children. This use requires a type of plan that does not make passageway through the living room inevitable, by providing entrance through a small hallway from which one can enter the kitchen as well as the living room, and through the kitchen reach the other bedrooms and bathrooms.

Finally, for the low rental group, while a kitchenette may serve adequately a two or possibly a three room apartment, there should be a good sized kitchen in all four and five room units so that it may serve comfortably as a sitting room for some of the family while others may be receiving friends in the living room. The lack of any opportunity to receive their friends in their own home, away from the noise, confusion, and

lack of privacy of a room being used by the rest of the family for various and sundry purposes, is undoubtedly one of the reasons why the younger members often resort to sidewalk groupings and gang affiliations with their socially undesirable influences.

I would also suggest five rooms as a desirable limit for an apartment. A family that is large enough to require more than five rooms, can be better taken care of and without appreciably more cost in a row house with the added facilities of yard areas and opportunity for privacy that an apartment cannot provide. The front and rear yards are in effect two extra rooms where phases of the social life of the family can be carried on while still being at home.

The Row House.

The row house represents the intermediate grade of density, still maintaining the social values of the single free-standing dwelling with direct access to its own front and rear yard areas, but approaching nearer than the free-standing house can to the densities natural to three story apartments. I believe there is a large place in future low rental housing for the row house if well arranged in not too large groups. The real property inventory in Boston (I am not sure about the results elsewhere) shows an interest in vegetable gardens in every section of the city even in the densest portions. The subsistence homestead idea is by no means limited to the rural districts. It is an idea that can well be fostered and the best way to do that is to provide opportunities for it in good surroundings. The State Department of Agriculture in Massachusetts has worked out a program of multiple plantings by which a 50' x 100' lot can produce all the produce needed to support a family of five. This merely suggests that substantial results can be secured on small garden plots.

For row houses I suggest a desirable maximum density of 20 families per net acre. This is midway between the maximum density of 30 families just suggested for multi-family dwellings and the 10 families per net acre which is probably a seasonable maximum for single free-standing houses.

English Density Standard.

Densities are variously considered in relation to gross and net acreage and these two are not always easy of accurate comparison. Mr. Whitten in his "Neighborhoods of Small Homes" cites densities per gross acre. Mr. Thomas Adams in his dis-

Housing Conference—Continued.

cussion of "Economic Density of Low-Cost Housing in England," in the same volume uses both net and gross acres as a basis. Mr. Whitten (page 81) cites "about six houses" as the present normal density to the gross acre for low-to-medium-cost houses and as a reasonable density making feasible the provision of a liberal percentage of play-park area. In this he appears to be referring to single free-standing houses.

Mr. Adams (page 123) refers to typical densities in England as 10 to 12 houses per gross acre in small towns and 15 to 16 per gross acre for inner suburbs of large cities, but in this he evidently refers to the customary English row-house type of development. But these densities per gross acre of neighborhood groups are not comparable to densities for a larger district or community where the larger athletic fields and park areas are included.

These difficulties in comparing gross acres have led me to cite densities per net acre as being more easily compared on the same basis, and more clearly applicable to the relatively small tracts of 20 to 30 acres in our current projects which naturally exclude from their site plans the larger recreation areas.

On this basis the density per net acre would naturally be higher than the density would be in a much larger area in which parks and play grounds would form a part of the net area, excluding streets. These smaller tracts would, however, include the smaller play-park areas included by Mr. Whitten in his studies of the block layouts. If his street areas were omitted, his average 6 families per gross acre would approach fairly close to the ten families per net acre that I suggest as a desirable maximum. Also, the 20 houses per net acre that I suggest as a maximum for row houses compares favorably to the "19.9 exclusive of roads" cited by Mr. Adams (page 123) as the density in the Lambeth development, which he states may be compared to Cambridge, Mass., in its situation. Other English developments further from London have lower densities and possibly include the larger recreation areas.

Density Yardstick.

In this day of yardsticks it may help to focus our ideas then and our discussion, to isolate these three easily remembered numbers 10, 20, and 30, as reasonable maximum densities per net acre for single houses, row houses and apartments.

In suggesting these limits of density I do not want to be misunderstood as to their application, nor have it inferred that I am not concerned with the density per gross acre of the larger neighborhood, district or city. I assume it to be obvious that it is the total community result that is to be kept in mind even when developing some relatively small part of its area.

In suggesting a limit of 30 families per acre for 3-story apartments, I am not suggesting that any site may be appropriately developed. In each case the limit of density appropriate to the site must be determined in the light of all the surrounding facts. My 10-20-30 limits merely suggest that if a density between 20 and 30 families per net acre is decided upon as reasonable, it is too dense for row houses alone and it will presumably require three story apartment units or a mixture of such units and row houses. If a density of from 10 to 20 families per net acre is decided upon, it will be too dense for free-standing houses and suggests a group row-house development, although it may well involve some free-standing single houses and perhaps some apartments as well. In either case the yardstick is intended to stand as a warning that if a lot is developed with row-houses to a density greater than 20 families or with apartments to a greater density than 30 families per net acre, the burden of proof of the reasonableness of the scheme lies with its designers who must show some special local conditions that justify the increased density, just as they must justify whatever density they adopt as being reasonable in the light of surrounding community conditions.

Desirable Minimum Size of Lots.

One further standard I would like to suggest in connection with low cost single family free-standing house developments, and that relates to the desirable minimum width of lot. I would set this at 60' regardless of how small may be the construction cost of the house. If the development is in the country, cheap land can easily permit this, or more, provided the standard is understood and enforced by zoning or other means.

If it is in a town the tendency to expect higher land values makes an enforced standard of this sort more important. The average small house is from 25' to 30' or more in width. With 40' lots this means 10' to 15' between houses. Mr. Whitten cites 10' as a reasonable minimum requirement "considering light and air only." This too often has been the only consideration apart from maximum return to the owner of the land.

I observed such a development this summer in Syracuse, N. Y., and was struck with the lack of privacy that resulted from the closely adjacent houses with only comfortable space between them for a driveway and small grass strips. No trees or high, shielding shrubbery were possible between the houses. One window looked directly into another, a scant 15, 18, or 20 feet away.

If one assumed that the cost of land per square foot and the lot depths would remain the same, the extra land to lift a 40' or 50' lot to a width of 60' would still be a relatively small percentage of the total cost of house and lot. But this assumption is not necessary provided the requirement for the wider lot can be established by the community. This is substantiated by both Mr. Adams and Mr. Whitten in the following quotations from the previously cited treatises. Mr. Adams says (page 142) "When, however, a plan for a neighborhood is made in accordance with a pre-arranged limit of density, economies can be obtained in street location, width, and forms of construction that enable wider frontages to be given without greater cost than narrow frontages on an unplanned development." Mr. Whitten says (page 76), "For low and medium cost houses, acreage values in tracts ripe for building tend to increase directly with the housing density customary to a particular city. Smaller lots do not necessarily mean cheaper houses. The smaller lot may result in such a great increase in acreage values that the 15 foot lot will cost as much as the former 40 foot lot."

Price of Land Self-Adjusting.

Both these quotations indicate that the price of land adjusts itself to the accepted type of use and that a tendency to larger lots, or wider lots of the same area for small houses, if adopted by a community, would not necessarily increase the cost of an individual lot, but rather would tend to reduce

the potential value of land for such use, leaving the cost of a lot substantially the same for a given grade of house. Larger lots would spread the community's development over a larger acreage of land, would give a better site for the house, and the added element of privacy would tend to better neighborhood conditions and to insure the long term value of the whole investment of the house and lot. The present effect of too narrow lots is to endanger the whole investment in order to increase the land owner's profit on about 15% of the total cost. This is poor finance and poor community policy. This is well established by Sir Raymond Unwin in his analysis entitled "Nothing gained by overcrowding."

Better Standards Foreseen.

In the past twenty years we have been moving with accelerating speed towards acceptance of better standards in housing. The charted curve of this progress is one that must ultimately flatten out as we approach the reasonable minimum of density and coverage. The question before us today, when planning present projects, is to approach the future standard as nearly as possible so that future progress may not, within their useful life, leave these projects too far in the rear, rendering them obsolete before they are amortized. The practical philosophy that we should adopt cannot well be stated any more directly and briefly than in this short paragraph of Mr. Whitten's (page 81) with which I will close.

"In determining lot and housing standards consideration should be given to the probability of a continuance of the trend toward higher wage and living standards. The benefit of the doubt should be given to the wider rather than to the narrower lot, to the larger rather than to the smaller play-park area, and to the lower rather than to the higher housing density."

The American Guide

ACCORDING to a memorandum received at The Octagon, a comprehensive guide to the United States is being prepared by the Writer's Division of the Works Progress Administration, under the direction of Mr. Henry G. Alsberg. The guide will be a compendium of American data covering every aspect of the country from its scenic beauties and historic background to its commercial and industrial resources. It will touch upon the local geography and ethnology, the cultural and aes-

thetic aspects, the recreational facilities and economic resources of each locality. This vast mass of material is to be published in five regional volumes. The data will be collected and arranged according to States, Cities and Counties. Eventually, it is hoped, each state will issue its own guide book, similar in format to the National Guide, but far more detailed and comprehensive in treatment.

About a thousand cities, each of ten thousand

Why Ethics?

By PAUL A. DAVIS, III, F. A. I. A.

Published with the approval and at the request of the Philadelphia Chapter.

"AMY is so nice that you keep wantin' to tell her how much nicer she'd be if she'd quit doin' so many things that ain't nice." *Aunt Het—in the Evening Bulletin.*

One but glances over the past to find that the great proportion of our controversies has originated in the heat of battle for work, and seems for the most part to revolve about the unregulated competition.

The hope of drawing the lucky number—the hope of special privilege, or super-salesmanship seems to outweigh the better judgment and the code is made something to circumvent, as a fine but impractical procedure arbitrarily set up by an outmoded generation.

The group so acting is fortunately small and dwindling. The client wants the best service available and is open to conviction how to secure it. But, generally through fear, some still persist in questionable tactics.

There is a certain "slinking" about the unregulated competition; one hates to be a "wince" in the architectural family; no one wants to admit having taken part. We wish to hold our heads up and enjoy the amenities of life, but right down in our bones we know it is bad—bad for ourselves and everyone else.

It is astonishing what a little courage will do.

We look forward to the thrill of seeing the building develop under our hand; or putting all of our energy and ability at the disposal of our client, but in the back of our minds we know that this service is a part of our economic structure and should be properly recompensed. Placing our service on the bargain counter is a questionable way of getting it.

The young man, even the student, plans ways and means of breaking into the ranks of the profession. He sees others, often, unfortunately, those in our midst, leaping the fences—and elects to follow.

Many heartbreaks could be avoided, and greater success at greater speed assured, if one could but see things at long range and realize that ballyhoo is a poor substitute for serious endeavor.

A few appear to think of ethics as nine short printed "don'ts" and when in the quandary of procedure, if the nine points have been successfully

passed, the whole sea is clear for safe and pleasant sailing.

On the contrary—the nine points are but great black jagged rocks, so obvious that in avoiding them little credit is due. It is the sunken reef that calls for care and a display of good seamanship.

Ethics is a course over a very broad ocean and often an uncharted one—it is the science of morals and a moral sense is the faculty that distinguishes between right and wrong.

Questions of ethics, therefore, arise at all hours of the day, many never foreseen by a written code, comprised nevertheless within the intent of the preamble of our own document.

The fundamentals are simple morals, the protection of the public and the protection of the profession from itself.

To have reached intelligent manhood should carry with it perceptions of right and wrong, quite as acute in one as in another. One hesitates, therefore, to acknowledge the completeness of a code in which so little is written and so much implied—we conclude it must be either for the myope or for those who insist upon adventure where the ice is exceedingly thin, marking in bold type just a few of the most dangerous spots where a chilling douche is certain.

The perception of right and wrong is delicately poised; it is the anxiety for temporary gain that leads one to doubt the accuracy of an intelligent judgment.

However, setting aside all question of morals, I contend that a high and consistent standard of professional practice is a master stroke of business.

There is hardly a better way to belittle a service, than to offer it in lottery form, exposing oneself as of mediocre ability, or as holding hidden cards for future play. The Owner with whom we come in contact pays for his demands in the everyday world, and our own service will receive identical treatment if intelligently presented. Service, like advice, is extremely difficult to give away, but may find a ready sale.

The Architects' Code is often unknown to the prospective client, and if known may be considered as none of his affair.

The question of ethics need never see the light of day, but our service must be presented as of

Why Ethics—Continued.

value, warranting the treatment accorded business or the other professions.

One who implies that he is held to the tyranny of a code immediately throws away all justification for fair treatment and stamps himself as a weak member of his profession.

Very little experience is necessary to learn that Architects are not picked from the clear sky, or from telephone directories; an Owner is a very discerning being, and realizes the responsibility that must fall to his choice. He is careful to make his inquiries, and while knowing little of our standards of practice, looks nevertheless not only for ability, but character which is built up through the exercise of that hair trigger perception between right and wrong. It is obviously excellent business to gain and hold the respect and good will of the public and the profession.

We are jealous of the client's confidence in us as impartial advisers. Hence it would seem the height of folly to risk losing it by compromising our services with commitments of any kind, or revealing ourselves as irresponsible by forcing others to shoulder our mistakes.

We would never commit the bad business manners of maliciously injuring the reputation of a fellow practitioner, and certainly we would never sink so low as to receive fees from other than the client, or buy our way to work.

Many of us have received the comments of Owners after Architects have had their fling and have finished scattering their services like cheap hand bills over the streets. These comments are anything but eulogistic, and generally express surprise tinged with contempt that a profession could show itself so lacking in the elements of good business standards.

True, some do secure a commission in this manner, but what seems to be a gain of today becomes a serious loss of tomorrow.

In the August number of *THE OCTAGON* appears "A Statement to the Architectural Profession" by the Boston Chapter, which opens as follows:

"The Architects themselves, and not the public, are responsible today for most of the disabilities under which they are suffering. This has been true for many years past, and tragically true today. They have established in the public mind a definite impression that under certain circumstances professional services for which a substantial fee is legitimately charged, may be secured without any compensation whatsoever."

The article is well worth attention, but is weakened at the end where the opposition thought has contributed a discordant note:

"If he wishes to enter unauthorized competitions or vary from the spirit of professional practice, let him be honest about it and resign from the Institute before so doing. A few Architects have done this and their honesty in so acting is respected."

It is not a question of Institute membership—in or out, it is a bad business maneuver, and without doubt reacts adversely on one's own practice as well as injuring the entire profession.

How one thus acting may expect to retain the respect of his fellow practitioners or the public is certainly beyond the comprehension of intelligent men.

In or out of the Institute has no relation to the subject—in either case one may pursue lofty ideals—but remaining out to free oneself from the supposed entanglements of good practice is to admit a lack of straightforward purpose, and is a dubious business course.

I submit that good ethics and good business are close companions. If we brush aside all the fine attributes of the gentleman, the exercise of that keen perception of right and wrong, and regard the matter from purely selfish motives, we still can only afford to follow a consistent and high standard of professional practice.

Status of Housing Projects

THE Housing Division of P. W. A. has issued, under date of November 8, 1935, an announcement of the status of all work to be done under that division.

It is stated that "all projects either previously announced or initiated, which are not included in this listing, are indefinitely suspended."

This announcement is of great interest to the profession generally, and interested architects are urged to apply for copies of the announcement and list of projects (P. W. 44315) by addressing their requests to A. R. Clas, Director of Housing, Housing Division, Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, Washington, D. C.

The Better City

THE architect's place in the movement for the "Better City" was the subject of discussion at a meeting of the New York Chapter on November 22, at the Architectural League. Through the courtesy of Arthur C. Holden, Chairman of the New York Chapter's Committee on Public Information, THE OCTAGON is pleased to present a synopsis of the addresses delivered on that occasion.

The New York Chapter is to be congratulated on their splendid efforts in bringing the architect to the fore through service of its members on municipal committees, and through their assistance in formulating municipal policies.

It is through such vigorous participation in the affairs of city and state that the architect may confidently hope for greater public recognition.

Hobart B. Upjohn, President of the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, initiated the meeting with a ten-minute address in which he urged his fellow members to prepare to assist their communities in the increasing, replanning, and rebuilding that has been made necessary by the change in standards of living and transportation. He said that the architect must be aware of what is going on around him today. It is no longer sufficient for the architect to be merely a competent designer. He must understand the way in which cities grow. He must be competent to suggest methods for the improvement of cities and open spaces and the proper planning of private buildings in relation to the streets on which they face.

Ralph Walker, Architect, and member of the Mayor's Committee on City Planning, followed with a discussion of Public Control of Property through Zoning and the Police Power. He said that if New York City were built up to its zoning limitations, it would contain dark-towered buildings of sufficient bulk to house 250 millions of people. He pointed out the need for revising zoning laws within reasonable limitations and suggested that a limit of 12 millions, or nearly twice the present population, would be adequate. He pointed out that zoning was the basis of all city planning and urged architects as well as those who were responsible for assessing and collecting the taxes of the city to study zoning principles. He said that the managers of real property are agreed today that it is imperative to improve methods of zoning control.

Arthur C. Holden, who is also a member of the Mayor's Committee on City Planning, spoke as Chairman of the Committee on Civic Design of the local Chapter of The American Institute of Architects. His subject was Organizing Owners to Act Together. He pointed out the great waste in the assembly of property by speculation, sale,

and turn-over, and explained that whole neighborhoods could join in a movement for replanning and reconstruction through the concerted effort of property owners. He said that the day was past when the individual unit of property could be considered apart from its neighbors. He urged individual owners to enter into block agreements, to maintain standards and to co-ordinate needed public improvements and private rebuilding. In turn he urged blocks to form combinations for neighborhood replanning and rebuilding. By this method, he pointed out, we may steadily progress toward making our cities into what we want them instead of impotently bemoaning the chaos of urban life.

Latham C. Squire, Assistant to the Commissioner of Parks, spoke briefly on the subject of open spaces, their methods of acquisition, and the relation of open spaces to the control of surrounding property. He spoke of the need for adjusting the tax burden, of abutting properties during the transitional period of rebuilding and through the later period of stabilization. He discussed the departmental responsibilities of maintenance of open spaces, and explained the success that the present Park Department has met through leasing private property on permit cancelable at 60 days notice.

Horace Kallen, Professor at the New School for Social Research and member of the Mayor's Committee on City Planning, spoke of the necessity for arousing the public to an appreciation of the possibilities of the improvement of living conditions. He said that knowledge of the respective responsibilities of City Government, of private owners, and of mortgagees must be driven home to the public. He said that if the public is to make known what it wishes it must in the first place realize what sort of city is possible; and in the second place know whom to support in asking for such a city, as well as know what obstacles must be removed which are now preventing proper development.

State Planning

A REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS

THE National Resources Board has issued a printed document under the above title. It consists of 310 pages of comprehensive and valuable information with respect to State Planning in all its phases, in forty-six states.

The document is fully illustrated with maps and charts which show in simple form the accomplishments and the programs of the various states.

In a statement of November 18 the National Resources Board made some suggestions which are hereby commended to individual architects and to the Chapters of the Institute. The sooner the architect gets on the job in his community in all these planning programs, the better for him, for his profession, and for the community.

Excerpts from the statement are as follows:

The National Resources Committee, after surveying the work of the 46 State Boards, declares that the State Planning units "represent a new approach to the problem of providing democracy with the best technical tools," and recommends continued Federal support of State Planning activities which are described as "an indispensable factor in any effective program for better utilization of the natural and human resources of the country."

Emphasizing the belief that planning is basically a State function, the Committee, in its "Findings and Recommendations," which preface the report made public today, says, "Too great centralization in Washington is not desirable even if possible, since planning is an attitude and a practice which must command the confidence and invite the cooperation of wide groups of people; it must come from the bottom up as well as from the top down."

In return for continued Federal assistance the 46 State Planning Boards can be expected, according to the Committee, to play a major role in the creation of a sound national program of conservation and public works to be extended over a period of years. Pointing out that no matter how small or large the normal expenditure for public works may be, the Committee says it is of prime importance that there be such coordination among the State and Federal governments that maximum returns may be assured to the people of the States.

The Committee both in its "Foreword" to the report and in its "Findings" emphasized the non-partisan character of the State Planning movement and the importance of keeping the Boards detached from immediate political power. The Committee cites numerous endorsements of State Planning Boards by Governors no matter what their political affiliation may be, and, describing the place of the Board in the State government picture, says, "The State Planning Board may be looked upon as a 'general staff' for the executive of the State, gathering and analyzing facts, observing the interrelation of different State policies, proposing from time to time alternative lines of State procedure, constantly preparing and presenting to the authorities its findings, conclusions and recommendations in the field of long-time programming.

"It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the function of these boards is not that of making final decisions upon broad questions of policy—a responsibility which rests firmly upon the elected representatives of the people. Such a board will be useful in proportion as it is detached from immediate political power, serving as the technical tool of the democracy. In this field the intelligence and vision of a board, the respect and confidence it enjoys among groups whose cooperation is indispensable, are far more important than large statutory powers or bristling governmental sanctions." The National Resources Committee's recommendations are:

"1. In view of the demonstrated usefulness of state planning boards both to the localities and to the nation, we recommend the continuing support of these agencies. In no other way thus far developed is it possible to bring about so ample a measure of cooperative planning of our resources, local, state and national, at so modest a cost, and with so great a possibility of progressively larger results.

"We recommend that the states provide for permanent establishment and adequate financial support for state planning boards where this has not already been done. We further recommend that for a development period and to promote interstate and Federal coordination, Federal aid be extended to state boards in the form of technical consultants

and emergency personnel as at present, or by loan of Federal personnel or by other ways and means that may seem appropriate.

"2. We recommend unremitting efforts in the direction of closer cooperation between state and Federal governments in the many practical channels through which they may now be effected without injury to the pride or prestige of either, and without disturbing the just balance between national and local authorities. One of the greatest losses in public expenditure lies in the frequent failure to pool available resources and personnel freely.

"The interrelation of the personnel of different jurisdictions, the overlapping of some forms of administrative arrangements, in some cases the designation of the same person as the agent of more than one authority, the loaning of personnel by one government to another—those are examples of the friendly working together of all of the taxpayers' agents. Many fine examples of this are seen in agriculture, in public health service, in the administration of justice, in park and recreation organization, in public welfare, and at many other points. There is still, however, great opportunity for the further elaboration of such forms of personnel and other coordination, to the advantage of all of the jurisdictions concerned and to the great improvement of public service.

"The state planning boards have unusual opportunities to promote such cooperation between various agencies of government, both within and without their states, and have indeed utilized these possibilities on many occasions.

"Especially in the field of public administration, as distinguished from general policy, it is possible and feasible to bring about many state-national arrangements, adjustments, and accommodations, which will increase the efficiency of administration while reducing its cost—and that without sacrificing the independence of the authorities concerned.

"3. We recommend that the state boards consider carefully the possibilities in the direction of closer coordination of efforts in the development of our natural resources upon the general lines indicated in the recent report of the NRB. Agencies dealing with the broader aspects of water uses, land use, and mineral use have already been established under this Committee and are available for purposes of extending their friendly offices in the unified and systematic planning of the development of our resources. In land use notable progress has already

been made; in water uses and mineral use the advancement is also significant as indicated in the recent report of stream pollution, and in a variety of other steps toward systematic organization of resources.

"4. We recommend that the state boards consider carefully among other possibilities the plan suggested by the National Resources Board in its report of December, 1934, for the establishment of a permanent public works administration. The arrangement proposed would provide for a continuing organization to deal with the coordination of a wide range of Federal public works projects on a technical basis, but would also enable this agency to take the lead in the coordination both of state and federal works programs over a period of years. Such coordination is of prime importance in view of the normal annual expenditure of some 3 billion dollars for public works, national, state and local, and the possibility of greatly improving the planning, construction and operation of these works—a total of perhaps 26 billion dollars in the period from 1935 to 1944. The plan involves a continuing development and revision of long-range programs of public works in which the state planning boards would properly play a major role. The services of U. S. Engineers, the good offices of the several agencies of the Federal government and in some cases perhaps Federal grants might be employed in cooperation with the facilities of state and city engineers and technicians for the purpose of developing a sounder national program of public works. The cooperation of the state boards in such combined planning would be of a very great significance; and their attention is directed to this important possibility."

The National Resources Committee is headed by Harold L. Ickes, Chairman, and consists of Frederic A. Delano, Vice Chairman; Secretary of Commerce, Daniel C. Roper; Secretary of War, George H. Dern; Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace; Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins; Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, Harry L. Hopkins; Charles E. Merriam, and Wesley C. Mitchell. Charles W. Eliot 2nd is Executive Officer of the Committee.

Copies of "State Planning," issued by the National Resources Board, may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 75 cents per copy.

Tribute to Julian Clarence Levi

AT THE last meeting of the Architects' Emergency Committee at its headquarters, 115 East 40th Street, New York City, a testimonial was tendered the Honorary Chairman—Julian Clarence Levi—as an appreciation of his loyal service to the Committee and to the architectural profession in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Levi was Chairman of the Committee from its founding in 1930 to 1934, and is now Honorary Chairman.

Hundreds of architects and draftsmen owe their very existence to the untiring efforts of the committee and to Mr. Levi as its guiding head. When the organization was founded in November, 1930, it perhaps took little courage, as no one at that

time could envision what the following five years held for the men of the profession, but as the depression spread and deepened it took infinite courage and faith to carry on.

An illuminated scroll was presented to Mr. Levi, signed by members of the Committee, inscribed as follows:

"To Julian Clarence Levi, the Architects Emergency Committee which you were instrumental in founding wishes to extend to you its sincerest appreciation for your loyal and unselfish devotion during your period as chairman. Without your sound judgment and creative imagination the great work that the committee has done for the distressed members of the profession would not have been possible."

Applications for Membership

Notice to Members of the Institute:

November 30, 1935.

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors, or its Executive Committee, for action on their admission to the Institute, and if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

<i>Boston Chapter</i> - - - - -	WILLIAM W. FREEMAN, ROBERT REID, EDWIN THEODORE STEFFIAN
<i>Chicago Chapter</i> - - - - -	M. LOUIS KROMAN
<i>Cleveland Chapter</i> - - - - -	CHARLES HYATT HINMAN
<i>Delaware Chapter</i> - - - - -	CLARENCE A. SMITH, II
<i>Detroit Chapter</i> - - - - -	EDGAR ROLLINS KIMBALL
<i>Iowa Chapter</i> - - - - -	J. WOOLSON BROOKS
<i>Kentucky Chapter</i> - - - - -	STRATTON O. HAMMON
<i>Minnesota Chapter</i> - - - - -	ROY NORMAN THORSHOW
<i>Mississippi Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOHN T. COLLINS
<i>New Jersey Chapter</i> - - - - -	ROBERT PAUL BAECHLIN, PAUL WOODHULL DRAKE, ALBERT LUEDERS, ELMER S. TUT- HILL
<i>New York Chapter</i> - - - - -	ANTHONY J. DEPACE
<i>Philadelphia Chapter</i> - - - - -	CHARLES DUHRING FRIDY, JOHN DUHRING FRIDY, H. MARTYN KNEEDLER, MARGARET F. SPENCER, CLARENCE CLARK ZANT- ZINGER, JR.
<i>Pittsburgh Chapter</i> - - - - -	RAYMOND CHERUBINI CELLI, ROBERT JOHN BROCKER
<i>San Diego Chapter</i> - - - - -	SAM W. HAMILL
<i>Washington, D. C. Chapter</i> - - - - -	HOWARD LELAND SMITH, HOWARD PARK VERMILYA

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws, to send privileged communications before December 30, 1935, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors on their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

CHARLES T. INGHAM,
Secretary

National Home Show

THE Federal Housing Administration announces that, marking the first of a nation-wide series of similar events, the first National Home Show will open in Baltimore, Md., January 4, 1936.

National Home Shows will be held in scores of principal cities throughout the country during the coming year. They are being sponsored by the Manufacturers' Housing Display Council, a group of national manufacturers of building products. In cities and towns where the shows are to be conducted, local real estate boards, better housing committees and civic organizations have pledged themselves to co-operate in the movement. The fundamental principle of the National Home Show is to educate the public in the opportunities to be derived from utilizing the provisions of the National Housing Act.

It is expected that the Baltimore show will set the pace for the nation. During 1936 hundreds of American cities will be the scene of similar educational events and from present indications communities will vie with one another in making the shows outstanding events.

Since formation of the Manufacturers' Housing Display Council the Council and the Federal Housing Administration have had many inquiries and requests for such shows by municipal officials, presidents of real estate boards and officials of other organizations.

The Baltimore Show will be held in the Fifth Regiment Armory, and is scheduled to be the most elaborate housing show ever held in the nation. The Federal Housing Administration is furnishing ultra modern educational and display equipment for the Show. An outstanding innovation

will be "talking towers," electrically operated, which are equipped with broadcasting apparatus to furnish visitors with information concerning the "Single Mortgage System" and the Modernization Credit Plan of the Federal Housing Administration. In each "talking tower" are two miniature model homes which include the most up-to-date equipment.

An outstanding feature of the Baltimore Show will be a complete five-room cottage which will be built under the direction of the building committee of the Baltimore Real Estate Board. The exterior will embody all of the old charm and grace of typical Maryland architecture. The interior will be furnished and designed in the most modern manner. The cottage will be "landscaped," carrying out the finest traditions of Maryland exterior beautification. Numerous last minute innovations will be included and sponsors of the show say that the house will be the last word in modern living accommodations.

Guy T. O. Hollyday, president of the Baltimore Real Estate Board, is making elaborate plans to have the Baltimore National Home Show the most extensive event of its nature ever held in the United State. William Gordon Beecher, A. I. A., is actively assisting in arrangements and is the designer of the five-room cottage to be constructed on the floor of the Armory.

The equipment which will be supplied by the Federal Housing Administration is as advanced in design as a modern automobile and is the Federal Housing Administration's contribution to the national program to revive the construction industry and reduce unemployment in the building trades.

Construction League of The United States

STATEMENT ON PUBLIC WORKS APPROPRIATIONS

IN a series of six general principles, the Policy Committee of the League, at its meeting on November 8, defined the League's attitude toward further Works appropriations. The League asks that the Institute give publicity to those principles among its members and that they contact their Senators and Congressmen so that all Members of Congress may have an indication of the feeling of the construction industry on the Public Works question.

"The Construction League recognizes the need for the utmost reasonable economy in public ad-

ministration in order to prevent excessive tax burdens and maintain the public credit and yet avoid any drastic increase in unemployment.

"The greatest opportunity for economics naturally will be found in connection with administrative and other overhead costs of government, but it is evident that the investment of the public credit in public works and facilities should be conducted with due regard to economy, efficiency and the permanent values to be realized by the community.

"Accordingly, the Construction League recommends the following principles to govern the con-

Construction League—Continued.

duct of federal, state and local public improvements:

1. Elimination of the wasteful construction projects now carried on by WPA as a means of relief.
2. Continuation of a substantial program of useful Federal Public works and of federal aid to highways.
3. Continuation of PWA aid to States and municipalities for useful projects that add to the public wealth.

4. Grants for state and municipal projects and emergency appropriations for highways to be on a descending scale in proportion to the increase in private employment.

5. Ear-marking of all appropriations for particular purposes.

6. Mandatory provisions that construction projects financed in whole or part by federal funds should be carried out in a normal manner through public lettings and contracts and the regular engagement of professional services without arbitrary and artificial restrictions."

The Architects' Aid Association

A letter from Harry L. Shupe, of the Cleveland Chapter to Alexander Robinson, newly elected President of the Chapter.

My dear Mr. Robinson:—

HAVING been brought to the verge of penury and nervous collapse through the vicious habit of rate cutting indulged in by some of our brothers and furthermore being sickened by the moans of other sufferers through that practice, I have given heed to it all and have in consequence evolved a plan which if whole-heartedly administered, will I think stop this destructive growth which is strangling the profession.

Briefly, the outline is this: Our benign and paternal government has materially aided our farming class by paying them generously for things they didn't raise done under the name of A. A. A. which act and title will most likely be knocked cockeyed by the United States Supreme Court.

When this happens there will be the slightly shop-worn but serviceable and alliterative moniker A. A. A. which we can appropriate and use as the symbol of our plan, the Architects' Aid Association.

Now for the working of the plan: I propose an impartial committee to be appointed by you to ferret out the names of our recreant brothers who indulge in the stultifying but business getting practice of rate cutting, in short, chiselers. When the whole plan is unfolded to them I am reasonably sure they will agree that it is pretty hot stuff.

They must further agree to file with the Secretary of your Committee a truthful account of the money each receives per year based on an average covering, say five years. Your committee would then agree to bind the rest of the Chapter to an agreement to pay these men these various amounts in return for which these chiselers would agree, say for a period of ten years, to refrain from practice.

In other words, they would be paid for what they do not produce.

While this scheme may appear too expensive, a simple illustration of the way it works would convince the most skeptical that it is practical. Let us suppose that your office has a chance to build a \$25,000 house for some client and that you would have every reason to expect that you were to receive a 6% fee or \$1,500.00. Now, let us further suppose that word of this contemplated improvement has reached the ready ear of one of our chiseling fraternity who thereupon seeks out your prospective client and agrees to do the same amount of work in a professional way for the staggering sum of \$100—result, you are out \$1,500.00 and your prospective client has on his hands a house and that's all you can say for it. Would it not have been better for you financially and for the profession architecturally for you to have given your competitor say even more than \$100.00, possibly \$150? In the long run everybody would have been happier and better off financially. You would have had \$1350.00, our chiseling brother would have had \$150.00 and the hopeful home builder would have had a house that would not be a perpetual pain in the neck.

This plan may smack of subserviency and is contrary on the surface at least to our grand old American slogan of "Millions for Defense and not a Cent for Tribute." However, the situation is so grave that heroic treatment is necessary. We can't smoke them out so let's buy them out.

With very best wishes for a successful year as President and with kindest personal regards, I remain

Very truly yours,
HARRY L. SHUPE

With the Chapters and State Associations

[Excerpts from Minutes, Bulletins and Reports]

Baltimore.

At a recent meeting of the chapter, luncheon was served to 19 members.

The President read to the Chapter a letter from the Mayor stating that Mr. Emmart's appointment to the Art Commission had expired. Upon motion duly made, seconded and passed it was

Resolved, that Mr. Emmart be reappointed as the representative of the Baltimore Chapter, on the Art Commission, subject to the approval of the Mayor.

At the same time the President pointed out that the Art Commission should enjoy powers similar to commissions in other cities and upon motion duly made, seconded and passed it was

Resolved, that the President appoint a committee to investigate the nature and extent of the powers of Municipal Art Commissions in other cities and to co-operate with the other organizations represented on the Art Commission of Baltimore, with the view to accomplishing the enactment of legislation to implement this Commission with adequate powers to pass judgments within its jurisdiction and to enforce its decisions.

It was suggested that Mr. L. R. White, as Chairman of the Committee on Public Measures Affecting Architects, be requested to report to the Chapter on the effect of the Social Security Bills as now enacted on present and future architect's payrolls.

Boston.

At a recent meeting of the Boston Society of Architects, twenty-five members were present with five invited guests from out of town. A number of other members came in during the meeting, which was called at 5:35 p. m. by President Chandler, who presented the object of the meeting—to discuss the proposed Registration Bill and to get an expression of what should be done by the architects to further this bill.

Fifteen architects from different parts of the State were invited to attend the meeting, the purpose being that these fifteen architects, if interested, might be willing to form a nucleus to see that other architects in their locality became interested.

Mr. Watts, chairman of the Registration Bill Committee, could not be present and President Chandler asked Mr. W. Stanley Parker to act for Mr. Watts and present the bill in detail. The meeting was turned over to Mr. Parker, who dis-

cussed the history of the bill, and as far as he knew, why the bill failed of passage in the Legislature last year and its present status. Most of those present seemed to be fairly cognizant with the details of the bill which has been printed by the Society and was sent to every one with the last *Bulletin*. The President then called on outside guests to express their opinion of the bill and to make any comments desired.

Mr. Parker moved that it was the sense of the meeting that the Registration Law substantially as printed be presented to the next session of the General Court for action. Seconded by Mr. Cogswell and unanimously voted.

Mr. Smith suggested that it would be well to inform the architects of the State outside of the Society in regard to the sentiments of the Society.

Mr. Parker moved that power be delegated to the President to disseminate this information. This was seconded by Mr. Brown and unanimously voted.

Central New York and Buffalo

The Central New York and Buffalo Chapters held their October meeting at the University Club in Rochester, in conjunction with the New York Council of Registered Architects.

This meeting, largely attended, was very successful in bringing together three groups that have the same interests. The conferences were honored by the presence of several prominent officers in the Architectural Societies, also Government and Housing officials, among these:

Robert D. Kohn of New York, President of New York State Council of Registered Architects.

R. Harold Shreve of New York, Regional Director, A. I. A.

Walter McCornack of Cleveland, Ohio, Cleveland Housing Board; Regional Director, A. I. A.

Ira S. Robbins of New York, Counsel for New York State Housing Board.

Frank Ward of Albany, State Construction League.

The Central New York Chapter, presided over by James A. Randall, held their fall meeting at 11:30 a. m., and among the important matters disposed of was the favorable consideration of the request of President Voorhees that all members of the Chapter be assessed \$2.00 to help finance the A. I. A. during these strenuous times. Motion was made that the request be granted and that the

With the Chapters—*Continued.*

same be paid out of the Chapter funds—this amount to be about \$120.00. Regional Director Shreve explained the need of this assistance.

At one o'clock lunch was served, and directly afterwards the joint meeting of the Council of Registered Architects and the Chapters took place. This meeting, presided over by Robert D. Kohn, President of the Council, was very interesting, likewise instructive, and was unique in view of the fact that this was the first joint meeting of the Council and Chapters.

The first speaker of these sessions was Walter McCornack of the Cleveland Housing Board who proved to be a deep student of slum housing. The members were quite surprised by the many sides of the question brought out in his talk. He showed many charts in practical and economic planning in his Cleveland development, the orientation, recreation requirements, the nearness to schools and churches, and the many other requirements in planning of this type.

Ira S. Robbins, Counsel for New York State Housing Board, explained many of the intricate problems in connection with Housing laws. The very unassuming way in which he expressed his views greatly impressed the meeting.

Frank Ward of Albany, representing Industrial Board, was present and entered into the debates.

Many questions were asked both Messrs. McCornack and Robbins and their answers were very instructive.

The latter part of the meeting was given up to considerations of the best means of making the Council work more effective.

Mr. Kohn explained the various functions of the Council and asked for advice from the members present. The bulletin published by the Council was first under discussion, and the opinion was strongly expressed that it is indispensable. The members, however, disapproved of any advertising matter in connection with same.

The question of legislation was discussed, and the idea of having active key men in every County was approved. Many sides of the Council question were discussed with Regional Director Shreve who took an active part in the discussion.

The very successful meeting ended with a dinner at the University Club, with over 50 members present, and cheering talks were given by Mr. Kohn, Director Shreve, Edward Greene and many others.

Connecticut.

The 152nd regular meeting was held in New Haven, Conn.

A letter from a real estate operator in Stamford to the A. I. A. at Washington, requesting name of an architect interested in joining their organization, was referred to the Chapter for action. After listening to the qualifications demanded, it was the sense of the meeting that the man for the job was as yet unborn, and if he did exist, the real estate operator should be discouraged from depriving the profession of such a versatile member and from competing with the legitimate field of architects. The President and Secretary were instructed to write the Realtor discouraging the practice.

President Orr asked for the opinion of the Chapter on the proposed F. H. A. Modernization and New House campaign in New Haven, entailing the personal attendance of all A. I. A. members in rotation at a free "building clinic." It was decided that, due to the impracticability of the Chapter handling the matter, it be endorsed and turned over to the Practicing Architects' Association for active participation.

The main issue of the meeting was the proposed voluntary articles of Fair Practice inaugurated by the Connecticut Construction League, having to do especially with bidding, selection of sub-contractors, and similar matters. President Orr turned the meeting over to our guest, Alfred Boylen, Chairman of the League's co-ordinating committee, who explained the matter in detail and answered many questions. It was pointed out that the success of the movement depends largely upon the initiative of the architects of the State.

There was a short discussion of competition from the pre-fabricated house organizations. Discussion of the Fair Practice documents of the Construction League was resumed and after a searching analysis of the matter it was voted that, "it is the sense of this meeting that the ideas behind the documents are meritorious and that we endorse the movement in a general way, reserving the right to give it further study and make concrete recommendations touching upon the architects' status in the matter."

Detroit.

The Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects held its Annual Meeting and election of officers at Cranbrook Academy of Arts on Wednesday evening, October 30, 1935. About

forty members and guests assembled at the residence of Mr. Eliel Saarinen where Mr. Saarinen and Mr. Richard P. Raseman, Executive Secretary of the Academy, were hosts at a most delightful reception, followed by a dinner at 6:30 p. m.

Mr. Saarinen welcomed the Chapter to Cranbrook and expressed the desire that these pilgrimages become annual affairs.

President Palmer of the Chapter in opening the meeting stated that upon retiring after serving two years he was convinced that the future of the Chapter depended most upon the co-operation of the individual members, and that without the wholehearted support of the members the officers could accomplish little. He urged committee chairmen to continue their good work as they had done in the past.

Reports of officers and committees for the past year were received and approved.

The secretary was ordered to cast a unanimous ballot for the election of the following officers for the coming year:

President, Alvin E. Harley; Vice President, G. Frank Cordner; Secretary, N. Chester Sorenson; Treasurer, W. E. N. Hunter; Director (one year), Wells I. Bennett; Director (three years), Richard P. Raseman.

Mr. Harley, upon taking the chair, stated that he had come through with flying colors against the "opposition," and that if he could keep that record during his administration he would be satisfied.

He expressed an optimistic note when he said that he intended to enlist the support of the best material offered by the Chapter for the personnel of his committees, and to give them every assistance in maintaining the high standard set by the past administrations.

New Jersey.

The regular meeting of the Chapter, and the New Jersey Society of Architects and of the executive committees of both, were held at the Down Town Club, Newark, N. J.

A representative of the Prudential Insurance Co. gave a talk outlining his Company's new policy in making mortgage loans. Extended discussion followed.

Mr. Arthur B. Holmes outlined the Entertainment Committee's plans for the year and received the approval of the members as to the same.

Mr. Williams reported as to the status of the Historic Buildings Survey and asked for support

in his efforts to obtain sufficient funds to complete the work. The secretary was authorized to write suitable letters to the proper State authorities working with Mr. Williams in the matter.

The treasurer's report was read and discussed at length, it being felt that it would be difficult to finance the winter's work. The president was finally instructed to appoint a committee to consider means of collecting arrears of dues. The president appointed the following committee: G. C. Higby, Chairman, Messrs. Convery, Fairweather and Fougner. The treasurer's report was ordered placed on file.

A resolution was passed by a vote of six to four that hereinafter before the president or secretary signs the "without endorsement" blank on any Institute membership application form, the candidate must attend one meeting of the Chapter with the knowledge of the secretary so that the Board can get acquainted with him.

A letter from the president to the secretary was read relative to the president's offer in behalf of the Chapter of two silver trophies—one to be awarded to the best new housing development and the other to the old development which has shown the best improvement architecturally during the current year. The president's action in making the offer was approved and he was authorized to appoint a committee to work out the details of the scheme including the awarding of certificates of merit to the architects concerned.

New York.

A special chapter meeting was held on Wednesday, November 13th, at THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE to formulate recommendations for submission to the Corporation of the World's Fair of the City of New York.

The President appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Arthur Loomis Harmon, Ralph Walker and Harvey Stevenson to prepare recommendations. As agreed upon by the Executive Committee of the Chapter these were substantially as follows:

1. That an executive architect be appointed at once to act with the executive committee of the Fair.
2. That a commission consisting of the above appointee, a landscape architect and three design architects be named with the advice of the Profession to create the Plan and to maintain supervision over all the elements of its design.

With the Chapters—*Continued.*

3. That the Fair Corporation and the Architectural Commission in its selection of designers for individual groups and buildings recognize and utilize the abilities and services of as many architects and artists as possible, including the younger members.

Hobart B. Upjohn, the President of the Chapter, has asked that a program of meetings be arranged for the year which will help to unite the Chapter in "Working for the Better City." The Program was initiated by a Key Meeting at the Architectural League on Friday, November 22. A series of short talks, outlining the winter's work, followed (*A full account of this meeting is printed elsewhere in these pages*):

(1) President Upjohn—"The Architect's Place in the Program."

(2) Arthur C. Holden—"Organizing Owners to Act Together."

(3) Gilmore Clarke—"Planning for Open Spaces and Parks."

(4) Ralph Walker—"Public Control through Zoning and the Police Power."

(5) Horace Kallen—"Winning the Confidence of the Public."

The second meeting will be a joint conference attended by representatives of the Building Congress, the Merchants' Association, the Engineering Societies, and a high official of the City of New York.

Later meetings will take up "Plans for Improvement (a) Blighted Sections," and "Plans for Improvement (b) New Sections."

The Committee on Admissions, Edgar I. Williams, Chairman, called attention of members of the Chapter to Article VIII—Section 6—Paragraph 3, of the Chapter By-Laws providing:

"If any Member, Associate or Chapter Member knows anything prejudicial to the moral character of the candidate, or has any proof that in his professional practice he fails to comply with the requirements of the Constitution of The American Institute of Architects, it shall be the duty of such Member, Associate or Chapter Member to forward to this Committee a

statement of the facts, which statement shall be considered as a confidential communication. Every such communication shall be signed and objections must be accompanied by the reasons therefor."

Pursuant to the above provisions, members are requested to submit within ten days from date of publishing of names of candidates for membership for the information and guidance of the Committee on Admissions, privileged communications relative to the eligibility of any candidate.

Northern California.

A recent meeting of the Chapter was held at the Plaza Hotel, San Francisco, with Albert J. Evers presiding.

A study of fees leading to conferences with a group from the Structural Engineers' Association of Northern California, upon an agreeable basis of fees to be paid by architects for engineering services, has been a recent activity of the Committee on Practice, it was reported by the Chairman, Mr. Gutterson. The grounds upon which the engineering group based a proposed graduated schedule were explained and the existing conditions which prompted it were commented upon.

The matter was discussed by various members, with no unanimity of opinion. By motion of Mr. Bangs, seconded by Mr. Stringham, the matter was laid on the table for future consideration with the understanding that the Committee would continue upon the work.

President Evers told of the recent request of the Institute to each of the Chapters that they undertake the raising of a fund equal to \$2 per Institute member, as a contribution to enable the Institute to renew curtailed activities. In response, the Directors of the Chapter have forwarded \$188 as its share toward this working fund and have collected the per capita amount from those who voluntarily subscribed toward reimbursement of the amount to the Chapter.

Upon motion of Mr. Stanton, seconded by Mr. Bertz, it was voted that each member be assessed \$2 for this fund and that contributors to date be properly credited as paid. It was further instructed that Associates be requested to make voluntary contributions but not be assessed.

With the conclusion of business affairs, Mr. Moise gave a very interesting account of what had transpired in the 67th A. I. A. Convention which he had attended as delegate from this Chapter. His

personal impressions and, further, a few words on the continuation of his trip eastward proved highly entertaining.

Philadelphia.

The regular meeting of the Chapter was held in the Architects' Building.

The Treasurer made a verbal report in which he stated briefly the financial status of the Chapter and his plans with regard to the collection of delinquent dues.

The Treasurer moved, and the motion was seconded from the floor, that the Treasurer be empowered to withdraw Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars from the Reserve Fund to cover the deficit for the remainder of the year. The Chair called the meeting's attention to the fact that a two thirds vote was necessary for the withdrawal of any sums from this fund. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting proceeded to hear the papers of the two speakers scheduled:

Dr. Klauder read and spoke at length on the formation and work of the Advisory Committee on Architectural Design under the Procurement Division of the United States Department of the Treasury, of which he is the Chairman.

On question from the floor, Dr. Klauder spoke in further detail of the proposal to move out the East front of the Capitol Building in Washington, his committee's approval and modification thereof, and the final abandonment of the proposal.

Mr. Paul A. Davis was introduced and delivered his paper on Professional Ethics. [*Printed in full elsewhere in these pages.*] The paper dealt with the question in general and in particular with the closing paragraph of an article entitled "A Statement to the Architectural Profession," emanating from the Boston Chapter and published in the August OCTAGON.

Washington, D. C.

Through the courtesy of E. P. Schreier, Secretary of the Washington, D. C. Chapter, we publish the following entertaining account of the November meeting:

Thanks to the ingenuity of the inimitable Harry Francis (Professor) Cunningham the November meeting of the Washington, D. C. Chapter was a most unusual and entertaining one.

As Chairman of the Chapter's Education Committee the above named "pedagogue" conceived and carried out a program which drew the largest attendance of any meeting in years.

Four features marked the program. The first, a complete ban on the use or mention of the words "Architect" and "Architecture," demonstrated that the members of the profession are capable of spending an entire evening together without talking shop—and thereby thoroughly enjoying themselves.

In the second feature, Friend Cunningham "inched" a bit on the above ban in reading an essay on "Fishing and Fishermen" (Translated from the Assyrian, said the "Professor") in which, if the words "Architecture" and "Architect" were substituted for "Fishing and Fishermen" one would find a brilliant story of the Architect through the ages with particular stress on his present status in relation to the Administration's oft mentioned Alphabet Soup.

The third feature, was an address by Louis A. Justement (an educational feature—the only excuse for putting the Chairman of the Education Committee in charge of the meeting) entitled "The Home Life of the Turtle."

Justement, known best for his interest and activity in Housing, opened up a veritable wellspring of biological knowledge which has hitherto been kept in leash except on occasions when his use of homely similes discloses a deep insight into such matters as "The Elephant and Adequate Housing" or "The Love Life of the Oyster."

The fourth feature of the Program was "Beer and Skittles" as well as "Wine and Victuals" and, who knows, may have been the chief factor in the turnout.

Among the guests present were: Stephen F. Voorhees, President of the Institute, Frank C. Baldwin, Past Secretary of the Institute, E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary of the Institute, E. B. Morris of the Treasury Department whose articles in "Architecture" and other periodicals we have often enjoyed, H. P. Vermilya, Assistant Technical Director in F. H. A., C. S. Moss, Florida Central Chapter, Howard L. Smith, Chief Architect, F. H. A., Paul H. White, Assistant Executive Secretary of the Institute, H. M. Webb, A. C. Yates, Carl C. Moss, Sculptor, W. H. Van Benschoten, and Don Bloch of The Washington Evening Star.

As of Interest

Housing Digest.

A mimeographed publication of interest and value has just been issued by the Research and Information Branch of the Housing Division of P. W. A. It is entitled "Housing Digest" and is to appear monthly. The first issue—that of November 1, 1935—contains a foreword which reads as follows:

"The Housing Digest consists of abstracts of current writings which seem pertinent to the work of the Housing Division staff and of its advisory committees. Other agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in housing may also find the Digest of use for reference and selection of material applicable to their own problems.

"In issuing this first number, acknowledgments are due to similar publications in the field before us. The Housing Study Guild, the Housing Committee of the Welfare Council of New York City, the National Association of Housing Officials, and more recently the National Public Housing Conference have made valuable contributions of reviews and bibliographies.

"It is to be hoped that these organizations will continue their bulletins and news letters which have proven of such value. In no sense is the Housing Digest intended to supplant the contributions of these private agencies. Its primary purpose is to keep a hard-pressed staff posted on current thought in the housing field."

These reviews which cover magazine articles and new books in housing and related fields are classified according to the subjects treated as follows:

- (1) Planning and Housing Program; (2) Slum Clearance; (3) Technique and Standards; (4) Finance; (5) Law; (6) Management; (7) Public Opinion.

Only the more general articles appearing in the

technical periodicals are concerned.

No architect interested in housing as an abstract subject, or engaged on a specific project—be it public or private—should fail to secure this first number of a remarkably comprehensive survey of current thought in the housing field; and to take steps to see that it is sent to him regularly.

All communications on the subject should be addressed to the Public Works Administration, care of the Housing Division, attention of the Research and Information Branch, Washington, D. C.

Pre-fabricated Houses.

The Octagon has received from the Technical Division of the Federal Housing Administration its "Technical Report Number One," an analysis of recent developments in dwelling construction.

The report should be of interest to the architectural profession in that it is most comprehensive in its treatment of the pre-fabricated house; its development; approach to the solution of the problem of better construction at lower costs; evaluation of work along these lines already done, together with tentative conclusions as to its probable effect on the dwelling market.

The Report presents descriptions of the different methods and materials used in present experiments, together with lists of individuals and firms who have been engaged in such work, both in this country and abroad. Existing methods of mass production in other industries, and the probable adaptation of such methods to the building industry are interestingly presented.

Copies of this Report may be had by addressing requests to Technical Division, Federal Housing Administration, Washington, D. C.

Important Notice

IT is necessary to publish a new edition of the HANDBOOK OF ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE and the Board of Directors desires to make such changes therein as will bring it up-to-date.

Therefore, the Board requests every member who is using or is familiar with this Handbook to send:

- (a) Notice of any error therein;
- (b) Notice of text, plates, figures, or forms that are unsatisfactory or obsolete;
- (c) Suggested changes in text, plates, figures, or forms;
- (d) New subjects, plates, figures or forms that should be included.

The Board will appreciate a prompt response to this appeal, for it desires to make this handbook of the greatest possible benefit to the profession.

Please send your suggestions to the Secretary at The Octagon *before the close of this year*, in order that proposed changes may be assembled and submitted to the Board at its pre-Convention meeting in 1936.

