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1905.

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Vol. VI. QUARTERLY BULLETIN. No. 3.

OCTOBER, 1905.

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

The Board of Directors have determined that January 9th, 1906, will be the best time for holding the Thirty-ninth Annual Convention. In order to comply with the Constitution, a limited number of local members will meet December 29th, 1905, and no quorum being present will adjourn until January 9th, 1906.

Delegates who have been elected, and other members who expect to attend the Convention, must come January 9th, 1906, as the actual proceedings and all business before this meeting will take place January 9th, 10th, and 11th.

There will be an informal reception at the Octagon and a view of the Cavalry Drill at Fort Myer during the Convention.

The Convention will open with an address of welcome by one of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia. This will be followed by an address from Mr. W. S. Eames, President of the Institute, and reports from Standing and Special Committees. An Amendment to the Constitution, notice of which has been sent to all members of the Institute, will be acted upon at this meeting.

The Committee of Arrangements have arranged for papers to be read during the Convention on the following subjects:

By Mr. Eugene Henard, of Paris, on the Recent Artistic Development of Paris;

By Mr. D. H. Burnham on the Proposed Treatment of the City of Manila, P. I.

By Mr. C. C. Zantzinger on The Improvement of the Schuylkill River Banks.

By Mr. Electus D. Litchfield on Municipal Improvements in the Borough of Brooklyn, New York City.

A Report of the Committee on Competitions by Glenn Brown, Chairman, will be followed by a paper on the same subject by Mr. R. D. Andrews, after which the subject will be open to general discussion for those who have interesting matter to present to the Convention;

Mr. Frank Miles Day will speak on the subject of and present a form of a Standardized Specification.

A detailed programme will be mailed some time during the latter part of December.

ARTICLE 21. These By-Laws can be amended only upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee or of two-thirds of the Members of the Committee; the amendment must be submitted to the Executive Committee at least two months before the meeting of the Committee.

The proposed amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the Members of the Committee present.

The present Proposed By-Laws, prepared by Mr. George Harmand, Advocate, Member of the Judicial Council of the "Société Centrale des Architectes français," and of the "Caisse de Défense mutuelle des Architectes," discussed and adopted at the meetings of the French Section of the Committee held June 29 and December 9, 1904.

Approved:

The President

DAUMET,
Membre de L'Institut.

The Secretary,
CHARLES LUCAS.

MEMBERSHIP.

The following applicants have been declared elected Associate Members, A. I. A., by the Board of Directors since the meeting of the Board in July, 1905:

Louis Levi.....	Maryland, Baltimore.
Cyrus L. W. Eidlitz.....	New York, New York.
Frank E. Perkins.....	New York, New York.
Henry Atterbury Smith.....	New York, New York.
Alexander M. Welch.....	New York, New York.
John Molitor.....	Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

CHAPTER NOTES.

BOSTON CHAPTER.

The last meeting of the Boston Society of Architects was held October 3, 1905, President J. R. Coolidge, Jr., in the chair. It was voted upon recommendation of the Committee on Junior Membership to appropriate the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars from the funds of the Society for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the classes of the Boston Architectural Club.

The report of Mr. Edward T. Foulkes, 20th Holder of the Rotch Travelling Scholarship, was read and accepted. Mr. Foulkes, whose home is in Portland, Oregon, was the first of the Rotch Scholars to start westward on his travels. He spent considerable time in Japan, where he made measured drawings of quite a considerable amount of Japanese work, and sent back some very interesting drawings. He then proceeded to China, touching at some of the seaport towns, and visited Ceylon and India, in which latter country he made some measured drawings of portions of the Taj Mahal, a structure which impressed him very strongly as one of the finest examples of created architecture in the world. A brief visit was also paid to Egypt and to Greece, and he arrived in Paris in the winter and engaged himself in the class work at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. Subsequently during the term of his scholarship he made trips into Italy, Spain, and throughout the architectural regions of France, and came home by way of England.

The matter of further co-operation between the Society and the Architectural Club was referred to the Executive Committee with full power.

The Secretary reported that on August 5th the Club and the Society conjointly made an excursion to Fairhaven. Forty-one took part in the trip. The party was met at the Fairhaven Parish House by the donor, Mr. H. H. Rogers, and the architect, Mr. Charles Brigham, and were by them entertained at a most hospitable lunch served in the parish rooms, and then conducted over the church, the rectory, the

public library, and the town hall, all of which had been donated to the town by Mr. Rogers. The party also visited Mr. Rogers' house, and were entertained there by him, returning late in the afternoon to Boston.

The President stated that at the time of the death of Mr. Charles A. Cummings the Executive Committee had appointed a committee consisting of Professor William R. Ware, Mr. W. P. P. Longfellow, and Mr. R. D. Andrews, to prepare resolutions for the Society on Mr. Cummings' death. Professor Ware, for the committee, introduced Mr. Longfellow, who presented an account of Mr. Cummings' life and works, a print of which is annexed to these minutes.

Professor Ware then spoke of Mr. Cummings' early studies and of the manner in which he developed his peculiar style, being at once free from over-influence of the Ruskin development or the Neo-Grec movement in France, and marked so strongly by perfect openness and frankness of mind. He then presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously voted:

Resolved, That in the death of Mr. Charles A. Cummings, for sixteen years Vice-President and President of this Society, we have lost a member who by a life of high-minded endeavor and notable achievement did much, both through his example and by his counsels, to raise the tone of our profession and to secure for it the confidence and respect of this community. His excellent natural gifts, both literary and artistic, were fostered by liberal studies which helped to give his architectural work an unusual freedom and individuality of style, while they emphasized a native sobriety of judgment which manifested itself in the reticence and the distinction that marked whatever he did.

This breadth and even balance of mind made him, in the discussion of the important practical questions which from time to time came before us, a most sagacious counsellor and a safe guide, while his courteous and sympathetic attitude obtained for his opinions, even with those most disposed to differ from him, a fair and friendly consideration.

Resolved, That the Secretary send to Mr. Cummings' family a copy of these resolutions, as a mark of our sympathy and respect.

It was voted that Mr. Longfellow's remarks be incorporated in the minutes, be sent to the American Institute of Architects, and offered for publication in the "American Architect."

The President announced as a subject for discussion the question of "Professional Ethics," and called first upon Mr. C. Howard Walker, who presented specifically the matter of competitions, which he considered should be limited to those in which a definite program is drawn up and a small number of competitors are invited, and each paid at least the cost of preparation of drawings. He did not feel that any hard and fast rule of ethics could be adopted, and that each architect must be a judge for himself as to what is right for a particular case. He spoke of the value to the office force in stimulating strength and *esprit de corps* by taking part in large competitions, and he felt that any office which does not enter competitions is certain to experience in time a species of crystallization which is apt to be fatal to the right kind of growth.

The Secretary, in the absence of Mr. Cram, spoke upon the matter of advertising considered from the standpoint of ethics, deprecating any sort of paid advertisements either indirectly in the daily press, or through special editions which newspapers are so apt to bring out, and he objected to the advertising features which are so often brought to architects in connection with the catalogues of architectural exhibitions. The Secretary further stated the facts in regard to the recent competition for the Baptist Church in Melrose, which at the start contained all of the objectionable features of competition, but by means of concerted action on the part of the competitors the committee was induced to invite the President of the Society to act as official adviser and to offer a cash payment to each competitor.

The President spoke on the general subject of an ethical code, urging that the necessity of the younger men for a high standard of ethics is quite as imperative as for those who have passed the experimental or probation state.

Mr. Andrews, speaking in regard to competition, said that when an architect is called upon for competitive plans he should find out first who are the competitors and endeavor to put himself in touch with all of them and prevail upon them to agree together not to accept any conditions which were not acceptable to the whole. In other words, that an ideal competition would be one in which all the competitors drew up the conditions and adhered very strictly thereto.

The Society adjourned upon motion at 10.45.

C. H. BLACKALL, *Secretary*.

(Mr. Longfellow's remarks will be found under "Obituaries.")

RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER.

The annual meeting of the Rhode Island Chapter, American Institute of Architects, was held September 27th, at the University Club, at half past six. The following officers were chosen, and the annual address was read by Mr. Alfred Stone. Local matters were discussed and then the Chapter adjourned.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

PRESCOTT O. CLARKE,	<i>President.</i>
FRED. E. FIELD,	<i>Vice-President.</i>
EDWARD I. NICKERSON,	<i>Secretary.</i>
HOWARD K. HILTON,	<i>Treasurer.</i>
	EDWARD I. NICKERSON, <i>Secretary.</i>

Mr. Stone's address reviewed the work of the past year, both in the Chapter and the Institute, dwelling at length on the proceedings of the Thirty-eighth Convention of the Institute, and the annual dinner which was given at that time, with its notable speeches. As chairman of the Committee on Uniform Contract he tells of the work

to the charging for blue-prints by the architect, with the idea of making profit, and he characterized this as thoroughly illegitimate.

The following members of the Chapter were present:

Eugene Taylor,	Cedar Rapids.
Wilfred W. Beach,	Sioux City.
John Spencer,	Dubuque.
Fridolin J. Heer, Jr.,	Dubuque.
Geo. E. Hallett,	Des Moines.
H. D. Rawson,	Des Moines.
W. E. Proudfoot,	Des Moines.
G. W. Bird,	Des Moines.
G. W. Kerns,	Ottumwa.
T. W. Reeley,	Fort Dodge.

The following members were elected to the Iowa Chapter during the past year:

G. W. Kerns,	Ottumwa.
T. W. Reeley,	Fort Dodge.
Seth Temple,	Davenport.
Park T. Harrows,	Davenport.
Cyrus McLane,	Davenport.
Thomas T. Carkeek,	Davenport.

The report of the Treasurer was read and there was a balance, after all of the expenses were paid, of \$102.

The committee appointed at the last meeting in reference to the incorporation of the Iowa Chapter made a report. The committee accomplished its work and has been discharged.

The President appointed a committee of two local members to give to the local press such information as they deemed proper.

Mr. Fridolin J. Heer, Jr., Delegate to the National Convention held in Washington January 11-13, 1905, made a report reviewing the various matters of interest that took place during the Convention, also giving a full account of the dinner which took place January 11th, 1905. He called attention to the very encouraging report made in reference to the American Academy in Rome, and the very generous contributions made at this time for the beginning of the fund for the foundation of the school. He ended his report by reviewing the papers read at the Convention.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

WILFRED W. BEACH,	<i>President.</i>
PARK T. BARROWS,	<i>Vice-President.</i>
FRIDOLIN J. HEER, JR.,	<i>Secretary and Treasurer.</i>

Executive Committee.

GEORGE E. HALLET,

JOHN SPENCER.

A paper on Architecture as a Trade and as a Profession was read by Mr. Wilfred W. Beach.

Mr. Beach treated the subject of architectural practice drawing a sharp contrast between an architect who practiced entirely in his client's interests with remuneration solely from his client, with the other side of bargain and trade with no fixed commission, no respect for brother architects, no purpose except in receipt of checks in any possible way. He cited various methods by which architects might illegitimately be remunerated; the different methods of graft; he felt very strongly that the Chapter should insist on proper methods of receiving fees directly and only from the client; he recited numerous instances of improper business methods of architects that have been known in a more or less degree in this section and other parts of the country.

FRIDOLIN J. HEER, JR.,

Secretary.

COLORADO CHAPTER.

At a meeting of the Colorado Chapter, held in December, 1905, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

ROBT. S. ROESCHLAUB,	<i>President.</i>
JAS. MURDOCH,	<i>Vice-President.</i>
WILLIAM COWE,	<i>Secretary.</i>
E. P. VARIAN,	<i>Treasurer.</i>

The following action was taken by the Colorado Chapter on the death of Mr. Frank E. Kidder:

We, the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, contemplate with pride the life, and, in genuine sorrow, the death, of one of our most prominent members, Mr. Frank Eugene Kidder.

Mr. Kidder was born in Bangor, Me., on November 3, 1859, and died at Denver, Colorado, October 27, 1905, in the prime of his manhood, at a time when his life's labors were developing into fruitage, and there was call for further service at his hands.

A graduate from Maine State College in 1879, whence he received the degrees of C. E. and Ph. D. A student in architecture at Cornell University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1878-80; assistant in the office of Ware & VanBrunt and prominent offices in New York city; experience as a practicing architect in Boston and Denver; he was well equipped to become the author of various text-books which are perhaps the crowning achievements of his professional life.

His "Churches and Chapels," "Building Construction and Superintendence," and "Roof Trusses" are valuable additions to the library of an architect, and every student and practitioner in building lines knows of the value of "Kidder's Architects' and Builders' Pocket Book."

Mr. Kidder had been a practicing architect and consulting engineer in Denver for seventeen years, and was highly thought of generally in the community and especi-

ally by the profession. He was an active member of the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and its president during the years 1903-1904, and an honored Fellow of the A. I. A.

He was a kindly Christian gentleman, and his good offices will be sadly missed in the immediate community in which he lived and labored. In sincere friendship and love, we inscribe upon the records of our Chapter these inadequate notes in his memory, and extend to his bereaved family our heartfelt sympathies.

W. E. FISHER,
President, Colorado Chapter, A. I. A.

Attest:

WILLIAM COWE,
Secretary.

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER.

The San Francisco Chapter held its annual meeting at the rooms of the Chapter on October 13th. An election of officers was held, and the following were unanimously elected to serve during the coming year:

HENRY A. SCHULZE,	<i>President.</i>
WILLIAM MOOSER,	<i>Vice-President.</i>
WILLIAM CURLETT,	<i>Secretary-Treasurer.</i>
JAMES W. REID,	}	<i>Trustees.</i>
CLINTON DAY,		

A letter from Charles William Dickey was read apologizing for his action in writing a letter published in the daily paper, criticising the stand taken by the Chapter in the Oakland School Houses Competition. The Chapter accepted Mr. Dickey's apology.

President Henry A. Schulze made his annual address, which was of much interest to the assembled members. Among other things he stated that as President of the Chapter and of the State Board of Architecture, the State Capitol Commissioners had graciously invited his assistance in formulating the invitation to architects to submit plans in competition for the addition to the State Capitol, and in the final selection of the same. This was most gratifying to the Chapter after the unfruitful work in the Oakland School Houses Competition.

The Secretary rendered his report for the past year, covering the work done by the Chapter and showing a satisfactory report.

WM. CURLETT,
Secretary.

Following is a report of the Committee appointed to investigate the charges of unprofessional conduct against certain members of the San Francisco Chapter in the matter of the Oakland School Houses Competition:

SAN FRANCISCO, August 16, 1905.

To the San Francisco Chapter A. I. A.:

In the matter of charges, dated March 13, 1905, by Mr. Edward Kollofrath, of unprofessional conduct against Messrs. Albert Sutton, W. D. Bliss, W. B. Faville, and C. W. Dickey, we, your committee beg leave to submit that we have carefully perused and considered the charges, that the accused members above named have personally appeared before us in defense, and have in addition submitted a written joint statement of reasons why said charges should not be sustained, all of which have had our best attention, consideration and due deliberation.

Article 2 of the Constitution of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Institute of Architects recites: "The objects of the Society are: To unite in fellowship the architects of the Pacific coast, and to combine their efforts so as to promote the artistic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession."

Your committee feels sure that we are all agreed that the "practical efficiency of the profession" in the sense that the understanding and appreciation by the layman and the public as to the worth and high order of the service rendered by the profession is best attained by united and systematic effort on its part. We know that the public does not give due recognition to our work or to the responsibilities put upon us by our labors, in fact these are ignored or belittled on many occasions, and while the professions of Law and Medicine have attained to a respected and high public estimation, the standing of the architect and his profession has received but little just recognition, being held in general appreciation at the value the profession itself has placed upon its efforts.

In competitions, particularly for public work, these evils have been more than ordinarily manifest and of public professional discussion, being often instituted and conducted in a most one-sided manner (as against the profession) without the slightest code to govern the deliberations involved and decisions necessarily resulting, or if governing conditions were promulgated they were usually prepared without professional aid and advice and therefore inconsiderate of the rights of the profession, notwithstanding which each competition had its quota of competitors who proved themselves willing to accept anything on any terms to the manifest detriment of the profession at large and those of its members who did recognize a standard governing such matters.

By the efforts of the American Institute of Architects, its various Chapters and the self-respecting position of many architects outside the Association, these conditions are slowly and gradually improving and are taking on a more healthful tone. It is becoming more and more manifest that architects are not as ready as formerly to lend themselves to the futherance of problematical schemes on uncertain promises, particularly when this would result in detriment to the profession at large, recognizing that anything detrimentally affecting the profession as a profession will sooner or later reflect on and affect in the same manner themselves and other individual members. The Institute recently adopted a code for the conduct of competition con-

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER.

The annual meeting of the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects was held on the evening of October 10, 1905, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

A. F. ROSEHNEIM,	President,
JOHN PARKINSON,	Vice-President,
FERNAND PARMENTIER,	Secretary,
AUGUST WACKERBARTH,	Treasurer,

Board of Directors:

R. B. YOUNG.
OCTAVIUS MORGAN.
FRANK D. HUDSON.

Following the election of officers Mr. W. L. B. Jenney read a letter from Mr. Louis Ritter, of Chicago, on "Reinforced Concrete," which was the subject of discussion for the evening.

FERNAND PARMENTIER,
Secretary, Southern California Chapter, A. I. A.

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER.

Washington State Chapter of the American Institute of Architects held their annual meeting at the Firloch Club, November 23, 1905. Delegates from all the principal cities of the State were in attendance. Officers for the ensuing year were elected and a number of interesting papers were read. The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, first, That we recognize and fully appreciate the results accomplished by the official board of park commissioners of Seattle.

Second, That we fully endorse and urge the passage of the preferred bond issue.

Among the speakers of the evening were James E. Blackwell, former president of the Chapter, who read the president's address, "Modern Architecture," by George W. Bullard; "Civic Improvement," by Charles Bebb.

Officers elected were:

A. W. SPAULDING,	President.
GEO. W. BULLARD, Tacoma,	Vice-President,
JOHN GORHAM,	Secretary,
JAMES SCHOCK,	Treasurer,

Among the subjects discussed at the meeting was the building ordinance.

The address of Mr. Charles H. Bebb on "Civic Improvement," called attention to the speeches delivered at the annual dinner of the Institute in January last, and called special attention to the value and importance of the address of the president, Mr. Wm. S. Eames. He then gave an extended review of the Report of the Committee on Municipal Development by Mr. Frank Miles Day, and then took up the question of the systematic development in Seattle and urged the necessity of an active propaganda for this purpose.

OBITUARIES.

CHARLES A. CUMMINGS, F. A. I. A.

Half a century ago or so American architecture was at its lowest level. The New England carpenter, who planned most of our houses, had been drawn aside by changes of fashion from the sober taste in which the traditions of the Georgian school had nurtured him, and with Downing's books or perhaps Batty Langley's in his hands, was a different being from the old carpenter with his kit of quasi-classical moulding-planes, and his temperate habit of design, who had preceded him. There were hardly any professional architects among us; the influence of the training of older ones lingered in the traditions of the builder's trade, in the buildings of the Colonial time, or in a few books which contained pictures, more or less adequate, of the classic orders, or designs based upon them. Among the few men who took the title and work of architects were capable and instructed builders, like the late Gridley J. F. Bryant and Nathaniel J. Bradley, and they gave employment to two or three designers of talent, but not of thorough training, Hammat Billings and Arthur Gilman for instance, in whose work, so far as it remains, we still see much to admire.

At this time there came forward, under just what influences it is not easy to say, two very able artists—Edward C. Cabot, the honored first president of this Society, and George Snell, a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects—whose practice went far to set architecture on a solid professional footing, and give it the position and the quality of an understood art. They were followed by a group of young men of very different type from most of their predecessors, men of education and aspiration, the greater part of them college men, who twenty years earlier would have gravitated to the ministry or the law, but who had an artistic impulse that would not be satisfied in these. They found architecture already a profession, calling for a definite professional education. They took possession of it, and they and their successors have given Boston its prestige as a city of architecture. Among them was Charles A. Cummings, the second president of this Society, whose honored life we commemorate to-night.

I have stopped to say these things because they mark the conditions under which he began his practice, conditions that influenced the quality of his work, and gave tone to his career. They are in a way an index of the professional position in which he began his practice.

Mr. Cummings' advanced schooling was in the Van Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and his architectural study was in Mr. Bryant's office, where he met Mr. Sears, who afterwards became his partner. His fondness for knowledge was great, his artistic instinct strong; before he began practice he took a long professional tour through Europe and Egypt—a thing not so much a matter of course then as now—and on his return opened an office for himself. After a year or two of solitary work he made a partnership with Mr. Sears, a partnership which lasted with singular felicity and efficiency as long as he continued in practice.

This was a most stimulating period in our architectural evolution. The note of the time was innovation. Independence was in the air. The self-reliant architect had unlimited opportunity to embody his aspirations and experiments, could bring all the arts into his service. Architectural books and journals, richly illustrated, photographs, new processes of reproduction, these put before him an abundance of precedent such as had been before unknown, and was soon to become, as the late Mr. Van Brunt used to say, an embarrassment and a snare to the young designer. The Gothic movement in architecture and the Romantic movement in letters were behind the architect; the excitement of novelty was his continual spur. It became the doctrine of the day, new to our people, that the architect should be an artist broadly versed in all the arts; that the correlation of the arts in great monuments and great cities should be his special study. The doctrine was as old as Vitruvius, was the foundation of the practice of the great artists of the Renaissance; but it came like a new gospel into our profession here, and all our young architects made haste to illustrate it. The buildings of our cities took on a new aspect. There was no better representative of the new spirit than Mr. Cummings. He had a ready invention, a wider range of resource than most, a sober judgment and refined taste that held him back from unprofitable vagaries. His work from the beginning showed a dignity and sobriety that lent it character, and so it was in pleasant contrast to much of the work of those rather fantastic days. His designs were greatly varied; their composition was always well arranged, their detail animated and graceful. Perhaps their chief distinction was a certain tranquil elegance that was certainly not the common characteristic of our revival.

I have not time or opportunity to consider his buildings in detail. The earliest that I remember, the Macullar-Parker building, designed in what we then called the Italian style, attracted much attention by its elegance, and still stands in witness of him. He did not work long in this style, for his travel in Italy had sent him home an ardent mediævalist, and the invasion of the Victorian Gothic which swept over our country in the sixties, chiming in with his own inclination, turned him quite away from classicism. But he was too independent to give himself over to the Victorian movement. The broadly pointed arches and the fair surface

of the Italian Gothic buildings tempted him more than the buttresses, the sharp arches and crowded mouldings of the English. His liking for polychrome effect led him in the same direction. The polychrome treatment certainly was Victorian, but it was really un-English; and Mr. Cummings' tendency was apart from the drift of his fellow architects, into a manner of his own. He was a reader and admirer of Ruskin, though not a devotee, and one of his earliest buildings, the Mason and Hamlin building, beside the Common, is a graceful adaptation in plain white marble of Venetian forms, into which he may very well have been led by the study of Ruskin's writings. It still stands, but commercial exigencies have robbed it of the elegant loggia at its base that was its distinction.

The burning of Boston in 1872 was the greatest opportunity and stimulus that her architects ever had, and Mr. Cummings' firm, in which, as I understand, the designing fell mainly to his share, was very busy in covering the burnt district with new commercial buildings. It is interesting to see how readily, artist and student as he was, he bent his ideas to the new forms and multiplied fenestration that were called for. Much of the work of that period is already displaced, but several of his buildings on Devonshire Street are left to show how decisively he could sink the restraints of style in favor of practical wants. The Montgomery Building on Summer Street is more characteristically Italian than most, for all its Victorian roof, and shows the graceful trend of his design undismayed by commercial restrictions. A competition design for a bank building which appears in Volume II of the Architectural Sketch Book is a very happy example of the play of his fancy, when it was untrammelled. It does not appear to have been carried out, and I doubt if the designer himself would have chosen it for a bank in his later years; but it is a charming composition, almost purely Italian, worked out *con amore*, and with an easy command of delicate detail that would have done credit to Sir Gilbert Scott.

His sense of style was keen, a natural product of the feeling for harmony in all things that was essential to him. Yet he was very independent in his conceptions, and very far from being a pedant, as the buildings which I have quoted may show,—indeed, pedantry has not been the vice of American architects. His *magnum opus*, the New Old South Church, with its stately campanile, is an illustration of his free handling of his chosen style, in subservience to the exactions of Congregational worship, of the abundance of his resources, and of the sumptuousness of detail in form and color that he had at command when the occasion allowed it. He did but little in other styles after he was actively busy, I suspect; but I recall one city house on Clarendon Street that he designed for Mrs. George Fiske in the modern French manner, which showed that he could successfully express himself in another language if there were need.

With all his artistic quality and fineness of instinct, the background of Mr. Cummings' character was an eminent sanity of mind, a fairness of judgment that made his counsel valuable in practical matters and public questions. He was one of the founders of this our Society—at one time, if I remember rightly, its

secretary; later its vice-president; and as you all recall, for a number of years its president, following Mr. Cabot. As a member of many committees, both of this Society and of the American Institute of Architects, he did long and useful service to our profession. He served on many public committees—on the commission for preserving and restoring the Massachusetts State House, later on the city's Art Commission. He was a director of the Boylston Bank, President of the Permanent Committee of the school at the Museum of Fine Arts, Trustee of the Boston Athenæum, and of the Museum of Fine Arts. The memory of his colleagues and in many cases public record are witnesses to the faithfulness and amenity with which he performed these important duties. The last of his public services, and characteristically enlightened ones, are the bequests in his will of ten thousand dollars to enlarge the architectural equipment of the Boston Athenæum, and of fifty thousand dollars to the Museum to found and maintain a collection of representations—"Whether models, casts, paintings, drawings, or photographs," of the best architecture of all ages.

But to those who knew Mr. Cummings well his personality was the first thing. Like all men of real individuality, he was more than his work, excellent as that was. His interests were so wide, his cultivation so general, that he was one of the most interesting of companions, one of the most valuable of friends. If you visited him at home, you found his study table covered with stimulating books, his walls with clever sketches and pictures. His taste was as sure in literature as in art. A great reader, he was also a graceful and suggestive writer, on purely literary topics as well as on professional. In his younger and more leisurely days he wrote much for reviews and magazines, especially for the *Christian Examiner* in its palmy time, under Dr. Hedge and Mr. Hale. Afterwards he was an important contributor to the literature of our profession. He had a large share in the writing of Scribner's *Encyclopedia of Architecture in Italy, Greece, and the Levant*, and furnished articles to Mr. Sturgis's *Dictionary of Architecture and Building*. He wrote the architectural volume of Dr. Winsor's *Memorial History of Boston*. His chief literary work is his *History of Architecture in Italy*, extending from Constantine to the Renaissance—which by virtue of its breadth of scholarship, its sanity of judgment, and interest of presentation, treats this difficult subject more successfully, I think, than any other book in our language.

The same qualities which made his published writings interesting and valuable gave charm to his correspondence and conversation. Whether you talked with him of politics or public affairs, of books or art, you found the same right-mindedness, the same intellectual resources, the same fertility of expression. A fortunate mingling of alertness and serenity was one source both of his attractiveness and his efficiency. Even at his busiest times he did not allow his work to ruffle him. He would come quietly down to his work in the morning,—not very early, I believe,—throw off his coat and sit down to his table, and do more work in two hours than most men in four.

We have lost a valued associate,—a rare example of the best in private, in public

in professional life. Absolutely without self-seeking, he received ample acknowledgment; whatever of general recognition, of positions of trust, of public confidence, was natural to his profession, was given him in good measure, with no shadow of rivalry. To his intimates the loss of his friendship is very great. It is not common to meet a personality so generous and so upright, a mind open on so many sides, with so much charm of fancy and of thought, a companionship so winning—I suspect that in these eager, strenuous, prosaic days it may come to be rarer still. If you have such friends, cherish them; when you lose them, it will not be easy to replace them.

W. P. P. LONGFELLOW.

Mr. Cummings was one of the organizers of the Boston Society of Architects in 1867, its president from 1896 to 1901, and vice-president in 1885 and 1886 and from 1887 to 1896. He was elected an Associate of the Institute in 1870 and a Fellow in 1889.

F. E. KIDDER, F. A. I. A.

(From *Inland Architect* of November, 1905.)

Frank Eugene Kidder, architect, engineer and author of works on buildings, died October 27th last at Denver, aged 46 years. Mr. Kidder graduated in 1879 from Maine State College and about that time had completed his first compilation of the "Pocketbook," destined to become a standard work of reference for architects and builders. He studied architecture at Cornell University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and after practical experience in prominent offices located as architect in Boston. Seventeen years ago, from considerations of health, he removed to Denver, where he engaged in practice as architect and engineer. He was a past president of the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and a fellow of the A. I. A. To the building public at large he was best known through his published works and writings, prominent among which are his "Building Construction and Superintendence," and "Churches and Chapels." He was esteemed by the community in which he lived for his uprightness of character.

Mr. Kidder was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1896.

EDWIN P. OVERMIRE, A. A. I. A.

Mr. Edwin P. Overmire of Minneapolis, Secretary and Treasurer of the Minnesota Chapter, A. I. A., died recently in that city. He was born at Mattoon, Ill., in 1864 and was educated in the public and high schools of that place. At the age of 18 he removed to Minneapolis, where he associated himself with the Architectural firm of Plant and Whitney, and when that firm dissolved he remained with Mr. Whitney. Later he went to Boston where he was in the office of H. H. Richardson and his successors Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge. In 1891 Mr. Overmire

returned to Minneapolis, where he practiced under the firm name of Overmire & Orth, and later opened an office for himself. He built many churches and residences and his latest work was the C. M. Pond Building.

Mr. Overmire was a student, was much interested in practical problems of building and wrote much for architectural and trade journals.

Mr. Overmire worked hard in the Chapter to further its interests and to make it of value to the local architects.

He was elected an Associate of the American Institute of Architects in 1901.

WILLIS F. DENNY, A. A. I. A.

Mr. Willis F. Denny of Atlanta, Ga., died in Denver, Col., August 18, 1905. Although but 32 years of age he had made a name for himself in the architectural profession in the South. Among the principal buildings that he designed are the First Methodist and St. Mark's Churches, the Hotel Majestic, and the Rhodes and du Bignon residences, in Atlanta and the new hotel in Montgomery, Ala. Mr. Denny was elected an Associate of the Institute in 1899.

PUBLICATIONS.

BOOKS RECEIVED SINCE JUNE 30, 1905.

Presented by the Bankers Association of the District of Columbia, Mr. William Van Zandt Cox, Chairman, Committee on Souvenir Volume, Washington, D. C.:

American Bankers Association Souvenir Volume of the Washington Meeting. Compiled and edited by William Van Zandt Cox, President Second National Bank of Washington, D. C., 1905.

Presented by the Connecticut State Library, Mr. Geo. S. Goddard, State Librarian, Hartford, Conn.:

Report of the State Librarian to the Governor for the year ended Sept. 30, 1903.

Report of the State Librarian to the Governor for the year ended Sept. 30, 1904.

State Register and Manual, 1905.

Presented by Mr. Alex. Koch, Architect, London, England:

Academy Architecture and Architectural Review. Vol. XXVII. 1905, 1.

PRESENTED BY THE PUBLISHERS.

New York Cut Stone Co., New York, N. Y.:

Bulletins, Vol. III, Nos. 3, 4 and 5. July, August and September, 1905.

Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.:

Circular No. 1115, July, 1905.

Circular No. 1118, July, 1905.

Circular No. 1121, August, 1905.

Circular No. 1123, September, 1905.

The Engineer, London, England:

The Engineer Directory.