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Shadows and Straws

“**H**OW TO GET LOW-COST HOUSES” was the title of Mr. Grosvenor Atterbury’s paper read at the last Housing Conference in Providence, excerpts from which are printed in this issue. No one can take issue with his admirable summary of certain economic conditions connected with the problem, and the necessity for research along lines of standardization. All of this is admirable, yet there still remains the social and human side of the problem which will neither be confined nor directed but which will, we are quite sure, work out its problems along the lines it chooses. It seems curious that at a time when transportation in many and varied forms is reducing problems of distance that we should be willing to accept that element of Mr. Atterbury’s solution which proposes to reduce the number of houses and increase the size of the housing units in order to attain cheapness in building. This seems to accept concentration as inevitable and to forever commit us to the inevitable difficulties of transportation crowding, recreation, and child development, and the far deeper problems related to the development of that civic consciousness and responsibility which are rarely called into active and useful being when a population is deprived of any possible chance of having a bigger stake in the community than the chance to rent so many cubic feet in a housing unit. By

comparison with present conditions, such a chance may appear very attractive, but that is not the question. Is it a step in the right direction? Will it lead to the ultimate condition where all life may have an equal chance for free and full development? Why is it true that the problem, as a whole, is locked up in the question of the size of the housing unit? We venture these thoughts in the belief that they reveal a side of the problem worthy of careful reflection, for there is a natural social and political balance of human life which cannot be upset without creating further havoc of the kind we are now witnessing in Europe.

As revealing a different trend of thought on the part of the people whose life is being considered, it is perhaps significant that at the Convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in November, a resolution was adopted looking toward legislation by Congress under which the deposits in the postal savings banks may be lent to municipalities, or used to establish a system of credits under which people may borrow money for a long term at a low rate of interest and build their own homes.

In his address at the Housing Conference, Mr. John Nolen said, among other things, the following:

“An English architect recently pointed out that many housing schemes have been carried through as if they were isolated phenomena—just as though

News Notes

New Members Admitted to the Institute

Albright, Harrison	Los Angeles, Cal.
Andry, Paul	New Orleans, La.
Armstrong, Charles R.	New Orleans, La.
Benedict, E. C.	Waterbury, Conn.
Bernard, Joseph	New Orleans, La.
Burk, William R.	New Orleans, La.
Chase, William J. J.	Atlanta, Ga.
Choate, Charles Edward	Atlanta, Ga.
Chubb, Jr., Chas. St. John	Columbus, O.
Church, Walter S.	Chicago, Ill.
Colburn, Serenus M.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Davis, F. Pierpont	Los Angeles, Cal.
Day, Beaver Wade	St. Paul, Minn.
Dodd, W. J.	Los Angeles, Cal.
Downs, Harry T.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Duncan, Herman John	Alexandria, La.
Eads, Harold H.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Elmslie, George G.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Erkes, Walter E.	Los Angeles, Cal.
Farrell, R. C.	Pasadena, Cal.
Farwell, Lyman	Los Angeles, Cal.
Gage, Carl A.	Minneapolis, Minn.
German, Frederick G.	Duluth, Minn.
Glidden, Homer W.	Los Angeles, Cal.
Hartman, Julius	Louisville, Ky.
Haxby, Robert Van Loan	Minneapolis, Minn.
Jones, Roy Childs	Minneapolis, Minn.
Keast, Wm. R. Morton	Philadelphia, Pa.
Kennedy, Ernest	Minneapolis, Minn.
King, Clarence W.	Shreveport, La.
Kropff, Henry M.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Long, Louis L.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Macqueen, James M.	Sewickley, Pa.
Marston, Sylvanus B.	Pasadena, Cal.
Marye, P. Thornton	Atlanta, Ga.
McElroy, Clifford T.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Meyer, Fred H.	San Francisco, Cal.
Monahan, Robert C. N.	Pawtucket, R. I.
Van Pelt, Jr., Garrett	Pasadena, Cal.
Powell, Warren C.	Atlanta, Ga.
Puckey, Francis W.	Chicago, Ill.
Robinson, Arthur Neal	Atlanta, Ga.
Ross, Thomas P.	San Francisco, Cal.
Roush, Stanley L.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Russell, Edward P.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Schwab, Henry A.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Schwacke, John Strubing	Philadelphia, Pa.
Snyder, John Young	Shreveport, La.
Straus, Charles B.	Minneapolis, Minn.
Tafel, Arthur G.	Louisville, Ky.
Thompson, Lewis I.	Portland, Ore.
Toledano, Albert	New Orleans, La.
Vawter, John Terrell	Los Angeles, Cal.
Washburn, George Hyde	Burlington, Iowa
Watrous, Charles A.	Des Moines, Iowa
Williams, Richard	New Haven, Conn.
Winslow, Carleton Monroe	Los Angeles, Cal.
Withey, Henry F.	Los Angeles, Cal.
Wogan, Victor	New Orleans, La.
Wuehrmann, William G.	Chicago, Ill.

Oregon Educational Work

The report of the Educational Committee of the Oregon Chapter is an interesting document. During the past year the work of the Committee has been closely identified with the reorganization of the Portland Architectural Atelier and the organization of the School of Architecture at the University of Oregon. The report tells of courses at the atelier in architecture, pen and pencil design, and descriptive geometry; an exhibition of the work of the students in the University held in the atelier; lectures at the library, and courses at the library in life, modeling, graphical statistics, descriptive geometry and architectural design; coöperation with the Trade School and with the University, the whole constituting a vital contribution to educational work. The School of Architecture at the University is destined, after another year, for enrollment in the inter-collegiate group.

The State Capitol Grounds at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The state of Pennsylvania has acquired some twenty-nine acres of land for ground, part of which is for open space and part for building purposes, the whole being a part of the Capitol development. The project was at one time in serious danger of being made an experimental study for the benefit of the students of the State College, but we are glad to say that the state of Pennsylvania has seen fit to employ a competent advisor for the project. One cannot be unsympathetic with experimental work for students, but we are quite sure that an undertaking of this magnitude is hardly the place to begin.

Obituary

Rudolph L. Daus

From Paris there is reported the death of Mr. Rudolph L. Daus, formerly a member of the Institute and at one time president of the Brooklyn Chapter. Mr. Daus studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, practised in the United States for over thirty years, and designed a number of notable buildings in and about New York City. In 1899, Mr. Daus was appointed secretary of the commission to revise the building-code of New York City. He was a member of the Beaux Arts Society, the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, and of a number of prominent clubs.