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NEWS NOTES—INSTITUTE BUSINESS—OBITUARY

the endowment of a school of fine arts, including art, architecture and music, at the University of Virginia which Jefferson founded. In his outline for a scheme of education, the first to be listed among the professional schools was the department of fine arts, embracing "civil architecture, gardening, painting, sculpture, and the theory of music." In the buildings of the University group, Jefferson gave a model of the Pantheon and copies of the finest examples of the different orders to serve "as specimens for the architectural lecturer." Modern instruction there in these subjects has now been made possible by a gift of \$155,000 from an alumnus, Paul G. McIntire. Fiske Kimball, a member of the Institute, recently appointed its Historian, has been called to take charge of the courses in art and professional instruction in architecture to be inaugurated this fall. His researches, which first revealed the great extent of Jefferson's activity in architectural design and in the establishment of a worthy tradition of official art patronage in America, make the appointment particularly appropriate.

"The Tragic Muse" Fetches a New High Auction Price in London

There seems to be plenty of money available for paintings, and in common with the general tendencies, prices seem likewise to be going up. The famous picture, by Reynolds, of Mrs. Siddons as the Tragic Muse, came up for sale at Christie's on July 4, at the instance of the Duke of Westminster. For many years it has been at Grosvenor House, having been purchased in 1823 by Earl Grosvenor for £1,837. It was expected that a new record would be established in an English auction room, and that the sum of £40,000 paid for a Romney and a Raeburn would be easily exceeded.

The bidding began at 5,000 guineas, and the hammer finally fell at £58,600. It was an afternoon of big prices. A landscape by Jacob Ruysdael realized 12,000 guineas, whilst the artist's "View of Norway" went for 9,500 guineas. Above these was the remarkable price of 16,200 guineas for Jan Steen's "Spendthrift." In less than an hour thirty pictures were sold for a gross total of £100,000.

New Architectural Firm

Mr. Walter W. Judell and Mr. Harry W. Bogner announce the partnership of Judell & Bogner, with offices at 508 First National Bank Building, Milwaukee, Wis., succeeding the firm of Schuchardt & Judell.

Institute Business

Cablegram from R. I. B. A.

The American Institute of Architects has received the following cablegram from the Royal Institute of British Architects, extending its felicitations to the American architects on the occasion of the coming of peace: "The Royal Institute of British Architects salutes all American architects, and sends them brotherly greetings and congratulations on conclusion of victorious peace. (Signed) SIMPSON."

The Cost-Plus-Fee Building Contract Documents

A fourth tentative draft of a circular relating to the cost-plus-fee method of executing building contracts, together with a fourth tentative draft of a form of agreement to be used when such method is employed, has been sent to the members of the Institute.

This draft is a revision of the third tentative draft sent to Chapter officers and otherwise widely distributed in 1918. The revisions have been the result of the consideration of the third tentative draft in the light of the experience of the past two years of emergency war construction work, most of which has been done on this basis, but some of the fundamental changes are due to a belief that under such scheme of operation the general contractor assumes a fundamentally different relationship to the owner than is the case when he is working under a lump-sum contract, assuming under these conditions a more professional attitude toward the work, on which he becomes the owner's construction manager.

This fourth tentative draft is submitted for consideration of the members of the Institute with the hope that they will submit to the Committee on Contracts any suggestions they may have to offer in regard to the fundamentals or details involved. The Committee earnestly hopes that those who are interested in the matter will submit their criticisms and suggestions as soon as possible, in order that the present Committee may be able to bring the draft into final shape for issuance. Criticisms and suggestions should be sent to WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, Chairman, Committee on Contracts, 120 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.

Meeting of the Executive Committee

A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on August 16, Detroit having been chosen as the meeting-place in conformity with the now established custom of making Board and Executive Committee meetings the occasion for a joint meeting with the various Chapters.

Award of Institute Medal

The Institute Medal for Students has been awarded to Kenneth John Conant, of the School of Architecture of Harvard University.

Committee on Fire Prevention: F. E. Davidson, Chairman; Julius Franke, Joseph Jacobberger, and William J. Sayward.

Obituary

James Sweeney

Elected to the Institute in 1912

Died at New London, Conn., July 3, 1919

Mr. Sweeney was born in New London, Conn., in 1870 and there spent his entire life. He was unmarried and is survived by one sister and four brothers.

On leaving school Mr. Sweeney became an assistant to the engineers of the city water department, where he

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learned the essentials of draughting and engineering. Five years later he entered the office of George Warren Cole and Edward Everett, architects, with offices in New London and Boston. While in New London he attended the Slater Memorial in Norwich, at the same time taking a special course in architectural design in the Academy of Design, New York City. About twenty-five years ago, at the death

of Mr. Cole, he began independent practice and subsequently designed many of the public buildings of New London, among them the Municipal Building, Harbor School, St. Mary's Parochial School, Lyric Hall, Union Bank and Trust Company building, St. Mary's Convent, Quaker Hill School, Thames Hall of Connecticut College, and many of the first-class residences of the city.

Book Reviews

The Real Estate Educator. By F. M. PAYNE. New York: T. J. Carey & Co. \$1.

This small volume, which the editor describes as a "repository of useful information" fully justifies its title. It does not take away from the value of the book to say that it is, for the most part, lacking in originality, for the short paragraphs of "Don'ts" and "Pointers" treat of subjects which should be of familiar knowledge to all men of affairs, but of which ignorance too often prevails.

It is only when the editor yields to the temptation of treading unbeaten paths of thought, as he does in the chapter on "The Successful Real Estate Operator," that he runs the risk of incurring strong adverse criticism. His theme must be quoted verbatim to be appreciated: "City values represent the superlative of civilization. The man who gets a piece of land just before it is overtaken by civilization is the man who makes the most money, provided he buys it before the seller sighted the first sign of civilization." It is assumed that a rising market is in the mind of the author.

A chart of realty prices, ascending, will at all times furnish a precise indication of the progress of civilization. As the converse must be true, the theory simplifies a number of hitherto complicated problems. For instance, a statesman, in doubt as to the degree of benefit which a certain much-discussed international agreement will have on civilization, need only call up his realtor and inquire if Mr. X will shade his asking price for that corner property. The answer will allow him to calculate to a fraction of 1 per cent the net benefit to be bestowed by the legislation. The illustration proves that rule only works on a bull market.

It is a pity that this chapter has been included in the book, but the pages devoted to its crude philosophy are few and can well be ignored when contrasted with the merit of the rest of the subject-matter.—JOHN IRWIN BRIGHT.

What of the City? By WALTER D. MOODY, Chicago, 1919. A. C. McClurg & Co. \$2.50.

A new value has been given to the word "promotion," and that by a self-admitted preacher.

"What of the City?" is the title of a volume by Walter D. Moody, which tells the story of the Plan of Chicago and demonstrates beyond dispute the essential value and the indispensability of organization, publicity, and promotion in any scheme for civic betterment or municipal planning. The volume is inspirational and historical. It does not place the planner and the theorist on quite as high a pedestal as they would put themselves upon, but it does point out the service that the promoter can perform.

Architects and town planners should read it to discover that they can do but little alone and to learn how to develop the interest and secure the coöperation of others.

That there is every reason to hope for success in city building when preceded by city planning is the conclusion which must follow a careful reading of this book. It is in no sense a technical guide nor manual for planners, but it is a textbook in promotion, and therefore contributes an essential which no architect, town planner, or engineer can ignore and ever hope to see results. The reader must not let the author discourage his search for theory nor let him lessen the value of technique. The adverse criticisms of theory must only be admitted to apply to half-developed and superficial theory, which is not theory at all. No theory is really theoretical unless it is capable of practical application and nothing is practical that is not based upon sound theory.

As a chapter in the life of Chicago, the book will have value to future students of history, provided they do not stop with this narration. Further investigation will reveal the names of many active citizens who have done much to bring about present accomplishments—people whose names are conspicuous by their absence. To people about to embark upon city planning and construction, the book may safely pilot them through the difficulties of the task and past those elements of the problem which are less understood than all other phases of the art of city building, so far as it is developed in the year 1919.

The author says nothing about—in fact he does not attempt to touch—the still greater problem of relating city to city throughout the country. That is the problem of nation planning and building. As this great task must be governed by the same general principles as city construction, it may not be too much to say that a work and an influence has been started in Chicago which is bound to become nation-wide, and that any book which has told Chicago's story, or only a part of it, has helped to build the nation.

Readers should go to this book for promotion ideas as related to city planning only. There is quite a little relating to economics which is not sound and to Government activities which ignores the very great contribution to community planning made by the U. S. Shipping Board, the U. S. Housing Corporation, and many other departments of the Government, as a result of the war and its necessities. Perhaps Mr. Moody may yet write a book relating the positive benefits of the war preparations which forced a degree of communal thought and action never before paralleled in history, and gave priceless object lessons which no city, large or small, can afford to ignore.

DWIGHT H. PERKINS.