

ARCHITECTS AFTER THE WAR

W. C. Chatfield, Esq.,
President,
New Zealand Institute of Architects,
Featherston Street, Wellington,
New Zealand.

March 8th, 1917.

Dear Sir,—

Following a letter sent to you by the Architectural Association with reference to the above subject inviting the co-operation of your Society with the A.A. War Service Bureau in regard more particularly to the prospects of architects' assistants obtaining work in your country, and enclosing a copy of the A.A. Journal containing a report on the proposed work of the Bureau.

Since then, further developments have taken place and the Executive Committee of the Architects' War Committee have appointed a Joint Committee of the Council of the A.A. and representatives of the Professional Employment Committee of the Architects War Committee to report to them upon all questions affecting the position of architects after the war.

The work of this Joint Committee includes dealing with the demobilisation of architects, not only from His Majesty's Forces, but also from other forms of National Service. This demobilisation is to some extent already taking place by the discharge from time to time of architects rendered unfit for further military or other National Service by reason of wounds or sickness.

The main points are covered by the A.A. report referred to and need not be enlarged upon here. Our object in writing to you is to make it clear that the two bodies are now working in conjunction and from this address on this matter. The home Allied Societies are represented on the Joint Committee and are giving them their active assistance and co-operation, and the Joint Committee invite also the support of all the Over Seas Societies allied to the R.I.B.A.

The Joint Committee desire your assistance more particularly, in advising them in regard to the future prospects of architects in your locality, and also as to whether the scheme requires in your opinion any modification or alteration to adapt it to the needs of over seas architects serving in His Majesty's Forces who may on demobilisation be resident at home for a time or desirous of remaining permanently.

Generally speaking, what is wanted is a scheme to meet the requirements of all architects serving with His Majesty's Forces, on demobilisation without distinction of country. To do this it is necessary there should be co-operation between the Joint Committee and every architectural society at home and over seas.

It will give the Joint Committee great pleasure to know that they may count on your support and have the very great advantage of your personal advice and co-operation, as well as that of the society which you represent.

It is very difficult to discuss the matter in detail by letter, but if you will read this letter in conjunction with the communication and enclosure recently sent to you by the A.A. War Service Bureau you will get a very good idea of what the Joint

Committee are aiming at and the need there is for co-operation to make the scheme sufficiently comprehensive to meet the situation.

Awaiting the favour of your kind reply,

Yours faithfully,
C. H. AUSTIN BUTLER,
F. R. YERBURY,
Joint Honorary Secretaries

Durability of Stucco and Plaster

In Conjunction with the Associated Metal Lath Manufacturers the United States Bureau of Standards undertook, in 1911, exposure tests of metal laths plastered with various metals, mainly for the purpose of determining the best methods of construction to ensure the protection of the metal from corrosion. These tests, which are still in progress, proved that painted or preferably galvanised lath, embedded in dense, water-resisting plastering material, would not corrode. At the same time, some plastering materials were in themselves found defective, of course, and the manufacturers of lime, cement, gypsum, hollow tiles, metal laths, etc., suggested a conference of interested parties. As a result, a committee was appointed in 1914, consisting of members of the Bureau, of representatives of the Supervising Architect's Office of the Treasury, of the American Concrete Institute, of the industries and, further, of three experienced contracting plasterers. A test structure, 200 ft. long, 26 ft. wide, and 24 ft. high, was erected in the Bureau grounds, and fifty-six stucco panels, each about 15 ft. by 10 ft., were prepared, the building serving for the exposure of the panels and for the erection of plaster walls and partitions. When the panels were examined, in April, 1916, after six months' exposure, only two panels were found entirely free of cracks; 40 per cent. of the panels were considered satisfactory, but the majority were more or less deteriorated. The tests were rather discouraging, therefore, but it must be stated that in the panels a smooth type of finish, commercially known as "sand-float finish," had been employed, which is more likely than the usual rough type of finish adopted by builders to bring out any superficial defects. The report contained in Technologic Paper No. 70, which was drawn up by Messrs R. J. Wilg, J. C. Pearson, and W. E. Endrey, does not draw any general conclusions, in view of the necessity of further experimental work. No recommendations are offered for stucco construction. The forms and construction of the stucco specimens examined and their present condition are described, however, and it is intended to issue a further report dealing in particular also with various stucco structures which have been standing for five or more years.

"Extravagance of any kind, whether in the use of unduly costly material or excess of ornament, is as inconsistent with refinement as anything approaching to the frivolous or gaudy."—*Belcher*.

"Well building hath three conditions—Commodity, Firmness and Delight."—*Sir Henry Wotton*.