

replanting immediately....In 1908 the United States Department of Agriculture published a tabular statement of the prices from 1886 to 1908, of the more important classes of timber in that country. The figures shown in many cases show a rise of over 100 per cent."

It is true, we still read in timber journals and trade catalogues, of the inexhaustible supplies available, but these statements are made by men whose object it is to push business and whose interests are in the direction of keeping up, or still further raising present prices. It is safe to say that in our own land the rise in price and the lowering of quality has been quite as marked as in the instances quoted from Europe and America: for, whereas in former times, the retail price list was a simple statement of the relative cost of heart and sap timber, or of first and second class, the present day catalogue is of such a character as to be hardly intelligible to anyone outside the timber trade, in one or other of its branches, and the present day grading is such as to include a large amount of stuff which in former times would not have been accepted as having any market value.

It is unnecessary to quote prices to prove the foregoing statement in a memorandum addressed to a body of men whose trade knowledge and business experience have made them familiar with the facts, all our present energies are required in the direction of urging for some early action towards placing the future of our timber supplies on a better and more business-like footing.

## Book Reviews

### "The Planning of the Modern City"

*A Review of the Principles Governing City Planning, by Nelson P. Lewis: 423 p.p. Illustrated, 1916. John Wiley and Sons, Ltd., New York; London—Chapman and Hall Ltd.—15/- net.*

Town Planning has of recent years come very prominently before the public, and many excellent works have been published dealing with the subject.

The general public, and we fear quite a number of those prominent in the movement, have, however, looked upon Town Planning as synonymous with City Beautification and considered it from a purely aesthetic or architectural point of view. The work under review is unique in that it is written by a highly qualified municipal engineer solely from an engineering point of view, and forceably and clearly shows the necessity and advantages of Town Planning for even the smallest growing town. In his introduction the author expresses the hope that his work will be found of some value in bringing municipal engineers to a somewhat keener realization of their part in, and responsibility for, the constructive work of city planning as well as city building.

We commend the volume to our own engineers confident that they will derive inspiration from it and also to all who are interested in this subject.

The space at our command will not permit of as full a review as the importance of the subject and this work merit, but we may say that the author treats of many phases:— Mistakes and their correction; Transportation—tram and railroad; Harbours; Street systems—Traffic and details of adornment; Parks and Recreation facilities; Public Buildings and Civic Centres; The Industrial Town or District; Garden Cities; The economic value of a City Plan and methods of financing.

The work is profusely illustrated by diagrams and photographs, and while the latter are chiefly of American subjects they serve not as details to copy but to illustrate the point under discussion and provide abundant food for thought.

In a word: the author shows that City Planning properly carried out pays.

*"Drawing for Builders," 6/6 net; A Problem Course in Architectural Drawing by R. Burdette Dale, M.E., 166 p.p., illustrated, 1916.—Messrs. Chapman and Hall Ltd., 11 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.*

While written principally to be used as a text-book for Technical school students in the building trade this book should prove a valuable self help to any person desiring to learn architectural draughting.

The work is simply written and profusely illustrated. After thoroughly explaining and illustrating the instruments and their use, the author takes the student through an excellently graduated series of 50 problems in drawing and construction, concurrently with a course in freehand lettering, which is equally important in a draughtsman's training. We have pleasure in recommending this publication to our architectural students.

## Reinforced Concrete in the Great Explosion

In a report, in the periodical called "Fire," upon the effects upon buildings of the explosion at a munitions factory, it is stated that the triumph of reinforced concrete construction is the most striking feature of the catastrophe. Not only have such structures within the explosion area withstood the effect of the air wave, but they came through the ordeal of fire successfully.

The steel reinforcement within the concrete enabled the buildings to give slightly to the air wave when it struck the buildings; the windows caved in. The reverberating air entered, and, expanding, passed through the opposite windows, thereby helping to straighten up the main structure again, although fire was left behind. The fractures in the structure are only where the fires were fiercest, owing to the nature of the contents.

Brick structures collapsed ignominiously, being pulled inward by the floor and roof joists and girders. But brick chimney stacks, because they have no upper strain, without exception exist practically undamaged, having been able to give slightly to the force of the air wave and then spring back to perpendicularity.

The roofs of buildings, including dwelling-houses, were lifted by the excess internal air pressure set up by the air blast passing in through windows and doorways. Not all the 100,000 windows broken were blown in: many were blown out by the advance wave entering open doors and creating a preliminary high internal pressure, sufficient to burst out some windows, before the main blast arrived and blew in the remaining windows.

Were it permissible, we would reproduce photographs of the area showing how wonderfully reinforced concrete withstood the shock of the huge explosion, but this is one of the things that must be deferred until after the War.

HADN'T HARMED THEM.—VISITOR—"My good man, you keep your noses much too near the house."

COTTAGER—"That's just what the doctor said, mum. But I don't see how it's agoin' to hurt 'em."