

# ARCHITECTURE

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PLATES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

ARCHITECTS OF TO-DAY.	
MR. N. C. MELLEND	150
INTERIOR, FIRST NIGHT AND DAY SAFE DEP. CO.	152
<i>Clarence Luce, Architect.</i>	
SCREEN AND STAIRCASE, 33 West 33rd St., New York.	154
<i>Clarence Luce, Architect.</i>	
STABLE, C. W. POST, Greenwich, Ct.	156-157
<i>N. C. Mellen, Architect.</i>	
DESIGN FOR A COUNTRY HOUSE	158
<i>A. Jessop Hardwick, Architect.</i>	
DESIGN FOR A COUNTRY HOUSE.	159
<i>A. N. Prentice, Architect.</i>	
BEAUX ARTS COMPETITIONS,	160
COUNTRY HOUSE, Biddenham, Eng.	164
<i>Mallows &amp; Crocock, Architects.</i>	
OFFICES, BUSH TERMINAL CO., New York,	
Exterior,	Plate LXXXI
Lobby,	Plate LXXXII
<i>Kirby, Petit &amp; Green, Architects.</i>	
AMERICAN INSURANCE CO. BUILDING, Newark, N. J.,	
<i>Cass Gilbert, Architect.</i>	
PRODUCE EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING, New York,	
<i>Ernest Flagg, Architect.</i>	
GORHAM BUILDING, New York,	
Interior of Salesroom,	Plate LXXXV
<i>McKim, Mead &amp; White, Architects.</i>	
EDWARD C. CLARK CLUB, Elizabeth, N. J.,	
Exterior,	Plate LXXXVI
Entrance to Chapel,	Plate LXXXVII
<i>Frank E. Wallis, Architect.</i>	
RESIDENCE, MORTON F. PLANT, New York,	
<i>R. W. Gibson, Architect.</i>	
WETZEL BUILDING, New York,	
<i>Hill &amp; Stout, Architects.</i>	
TRAINING STABLE, Brooklyn Fire Department, Brooklyn, N. Y.,	
<i>Helmle, Huberty &amp; Hudswell, Architects.</i>	
MANSIONS OF ENGLAND IN THE OLDEN TIME, Series II, Plates 41 and 42	
<i>Joseph Nash.</i>	

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MR. FRANK MILES DAY and Mr. Andrew Wright Crawford have performed a public service architecturally, civically, and from the standpoint of the sociologist, by their excellent report on American Park Systems issued through the Philadelphia Allied Organizations. This organization is made up of over forty societies whose purpose it is to secure a comprehensive system of parks for their own city. But in the report before us all the principal cities of the United States are covered and a map shown of each in which the existing parks are shown in green and the proposed parks in brown, and at a glance the reader has before him not only what parks the city now boasts of, but just what its most enlightened citizens feel should be added. The text tells the difficulties overcome by each community and shows that Boston easily takes first rank, for within a radius of eleven miles of the State House there are 15,000 acres of park lands and twenty-five miles of parkway. In addition to this Boston boasts of fifteen playgrounds so located that every child is within one-half mile of one of them, and within a mile of the larger athletic fields. As would be expected of Chicago its plans for the future are more ambitious than that of any other city, although it has already eighty-four parks connected by forty-five miles of boulevards. Smaller cities are thoroughly covered in the report, which also contains a description of the grouping of the public buildings in Cleveland which has already been given in "Architecture". The report should be of considerable value to members of the profession who have such works in charge, and its usefulness is greatly enhanced by its giving the names of those who can supply further information as to the experience of each city.

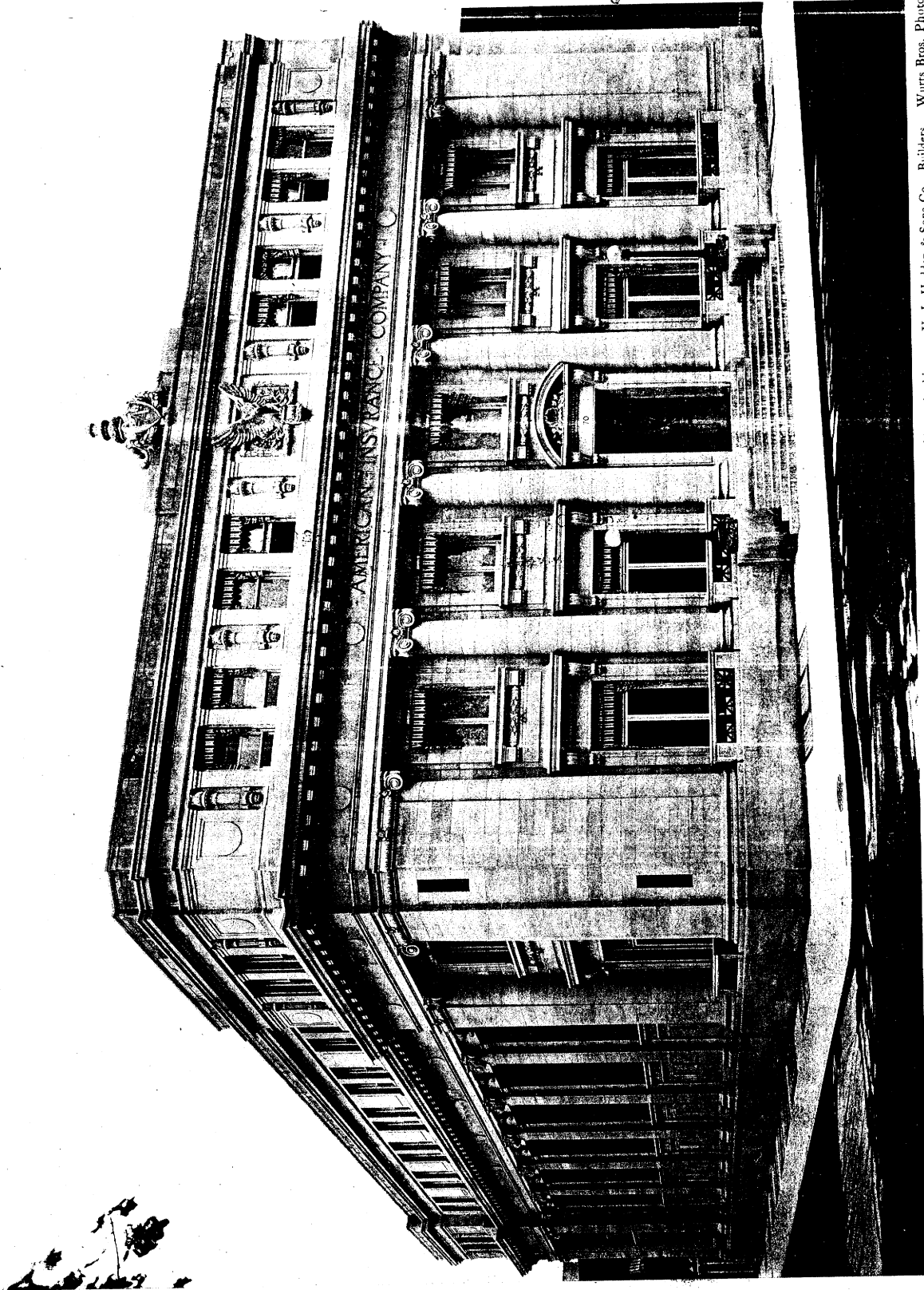
FEW architectural competitions have had so much public interest as that which has been inaugurated by The Board of Directors of the Carnegie Foundation for the Peace Palace in The Hague. As the United States has placed itself in the front rank or the nations in promoting peace, it would be especially fitting if an American architect should be selected to provide the building in which the good work is to be continued.

HOW can architects expect the public to take their Code of Ethics seriously when this very Code has so small restraining influence upon the profession itself. Real estate men will tell you that there is nothing easier to get for nothing than sketches. During the past few weeks a corporation in New York wished to erect a new building, but after informally deciding upon the architect wanted, so much pressure was brought upon them by friends of other practitioners, that they determined to institute what they were pleased to call "a competition". The programme was issued on one sheet of paper—no jury was named—no instructions were given as to the way the drawings were to be prepared—no promise was made that the winner of the competition should have the commission, and it contained no statement as to what percentage would be paid to the successful man. The paper was distributed broadcast to all sorts of men and the response fully justified the statement made by the real estate men. The committee in charge received fully fifty plans, elevations and perspectives in line, in water color, in monotone of all sizes and all kinds, from men of great reputation and from men of no reputation, and after they had all been looked over the architect originally selected who had been wise enough to keep out of the "competition" was called in and the competitors asked to send for the drawings at their own expense.

ARCHITECTURE

PLATE LXXXIII

OCTOBER, 1905.



AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY BUILDING, NEWARK, N. J.  
The bronze work made by Jno. Williams, Inc., New York.  
Cass Gilbert, Architect. V. J. Hedden & Sons Co., Builders. Wurts Bros. Photo.