

# ARCHITECTURE

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## PROFESSIONAL COMMENT.

AS far as New York City is concerned, the advocates of reinforced concrete construction will have to desist from their usual argument that this form of construction should commend itself to the architect on account of the possibility of performing much of the work with unskilled labor. The Bricklayers' Union recently communicated with the Mason Builders' Association, stating: "That notice be herewith given to the Mason Builders' Association, to all general contractors who are not members thereof, and to all architects in the City of New York, that whenever and wherever concrete is used in building construction within the limits of said municipality the work must be done by union bricklayers, none of whom will hereafter seek or accept employment from any contractor, owner or architect that fails to comply with this requirement." Under this notice the bricklayers will insist not only on laying concrete and terra cotta blocks and making concrete floor arches, but also on the right to pour concrete in the framework of walls of reinforced concrete, hitherto done by laborers, at the regular bricklayers' wages of seventy cents an hour. The work of laying concrete blocks is also regarded as bricklayers' work.

IT is now "up to" the architects and electrical engineers to prepare their electrical drawings so that they will be "esperanto" to the entire country. As a result of the work of the Committee on Uniform Symbols of the National Elec-

trical Contractors' Association, a series of signs and symbols has now been issued to the architects and engineers; and if any one has not received the card it can be obtained from the Secretary of the Association.

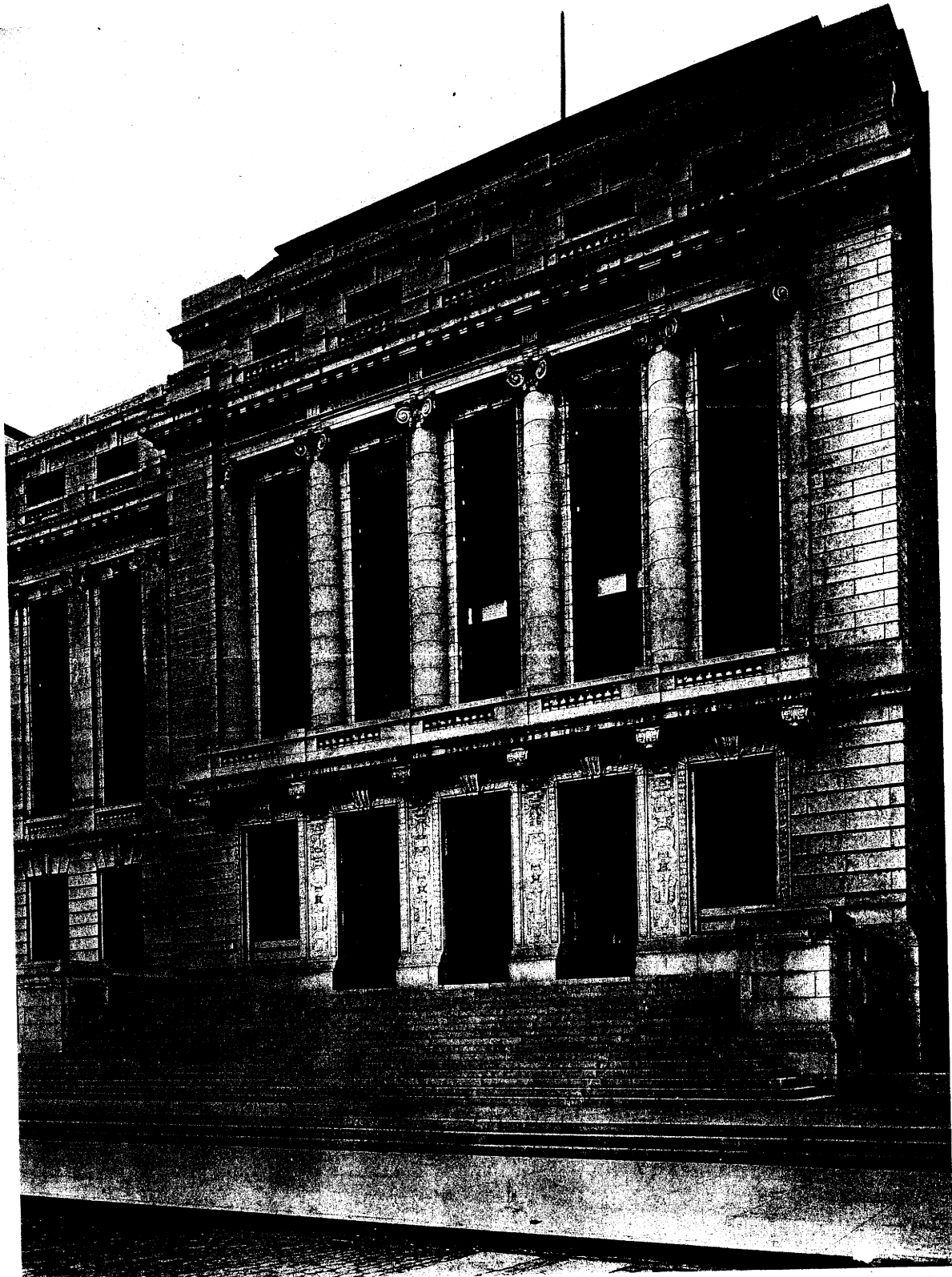
EVEN at thirty-five dollars a month people are beginning to demand architecture in their homes. Witness the advertisement of the hundreds of two-family houses being offered in the suburbs of Brooklyn and the Bronx. "You will be charmed with the architecture of these houses. The best architects have designed these comfortable dwellings." And all of it may be had for thirty or thirty-five dollars a month or "On easy payments." Seriously, the architect has an opportunity here to turn his thoughts to the betterment of social conditions, for these little houses for two families are designed for workmen and small trades people and the democratizing of art and the consequent improvement of taste is no mean goal for the best of us. It is interesting to note, too, that from the owners' point of view it is a step in advance. These houses are for the most part built in new neighborhoods far ahead of the improvements and rise in value resultant on the improvements, and act in very many instances as tax-payers. It is an evidence of advance that the speculative owner is willing to invite his prospective tenant with the bait of architecture rather than that of expediency of access or cheapness of rent.

THE total amount of timber now standing in the forests of the United States is estimated at 1,475 billion feet, but the annual cut per year is 45 billion feet, which would mean the total destruction of the forests in 35 years, not counting any increase in the cutting. In this connection it is interesting to observe that the building trade in this country must shortly look towards a substitute for wood in many of the operations, and considering, too, the advancement that has been made in sheet metal stamping, it is not unlikely that sheet metal of various forms will be more largely used than concrete, which is, at the present, playing such an important part.

THE Regents of the University of Ann Arbor, Michigan have established a Chair of Architecture as a branch of the Engineering Department. Emil Lorch, of Harvard, is the new occupant of the Chair at a salary of \$2,500 a year.

WE may in time outgrow all forms of mimetic art and cultivate pure decorative art in abstract color and form. But in the meantime, is it not somewhat presumptuous in us to assume that our statuary and painting will be admired for thousands of years to come, as we do when we use bronze and marble, mosaic and plaster as the materials?

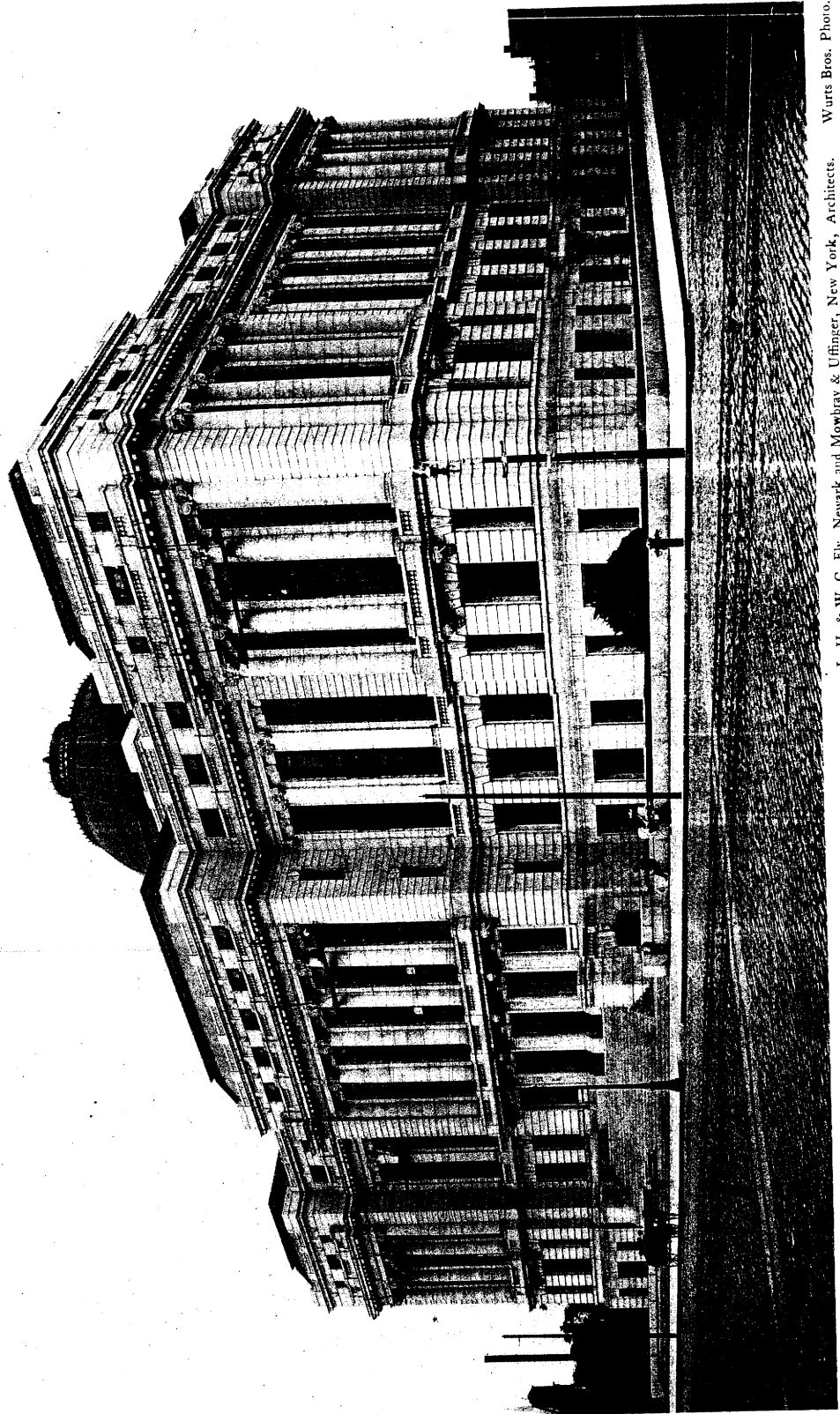
ONE of the most valuable applications of electricity to simplify household affairs is the thawing transformer. The usual method of thawing a frozen pipe is by means of a fire and more recently by the use of steam. A transformer is used so that a suitable electrical pressure may be obtained, whatever may be the pressure of the supply mains. In thawing street mains it is only necessary to make satisfactory electrical connections to a hydrant and the pipe which is beyond the frozen part, thus obviating the great inconvenience and expense which the laying open of streets, in order to get at a frozen main, entails. An example of the time saved by the new method is on record. A six-inch water main was frozen



MAIN ENTRANCE, CITY HALL, NEWARK, N. J. J. H. & W. C. Ely, Newark and Mowbray & Uffinger, New York, Architects. Wurts Bros. Photo.

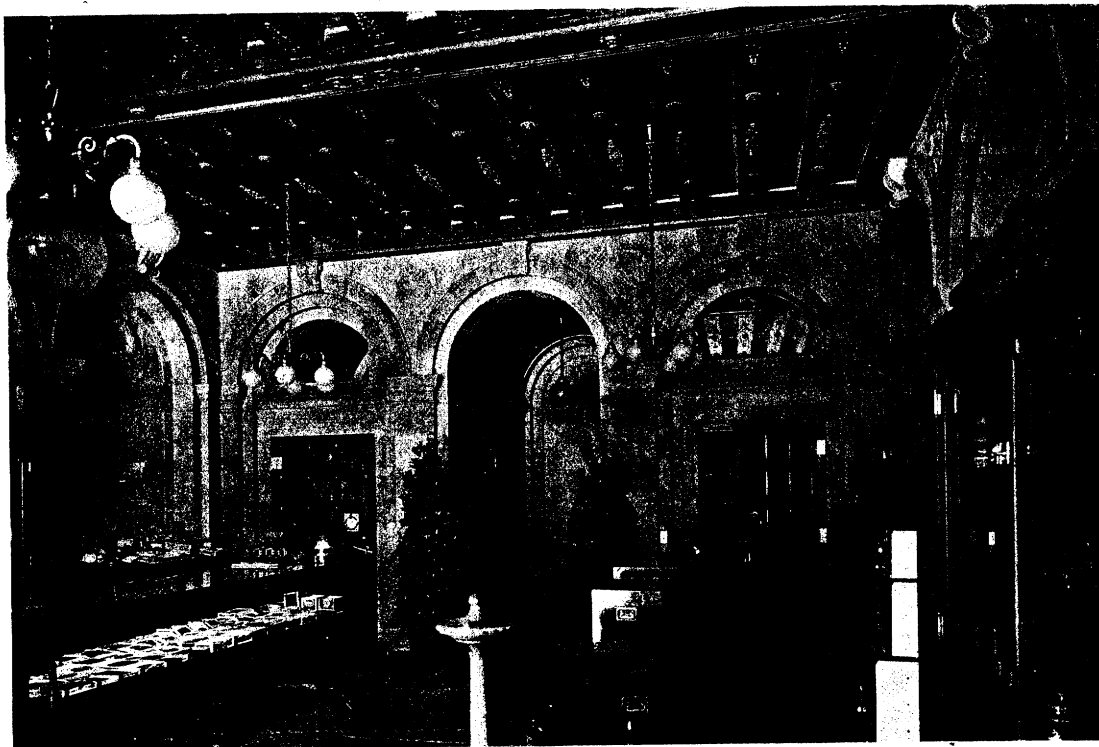
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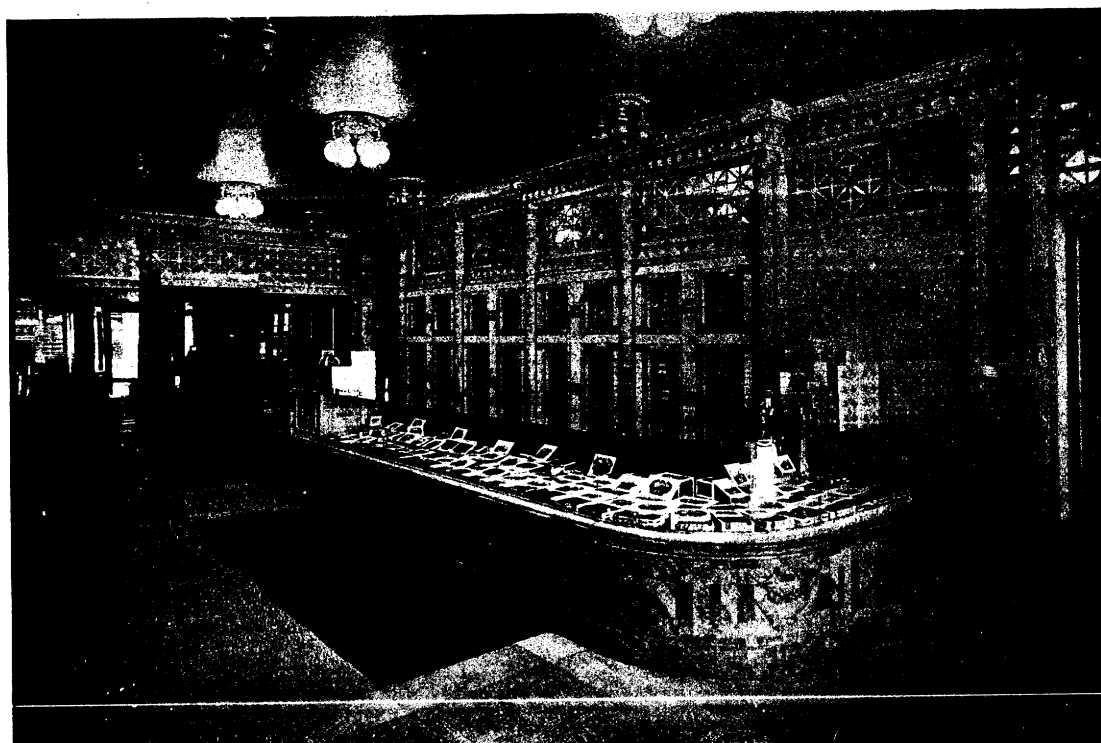
PERSPECTIVE, CITY HALL, NEWARK, N. J.

I. H. & W. C. Ely, Newark and Mowbray & Uffinger, New York, Architects. Wurts Bros. Photo.



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Edmund Lewis Ellis, Architect.



INTERIOR, RETAIL DEPARTMENT, ROYAL TOBACCO CO., 37 WALL ST., NEW YORK.

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