

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

THE PUPIN PRIZE

The Gift of Prof. H. J. Pupin of Columbia University, the celebrated inventor of the modern transformer and now Scientific Officer of the U. S. Navy.

FIRST PRIZE—\$100 SECOND PRIZE—\$25.00
(For conditions governing this Prize Competition, see Circular of Information, April VIII—See 2 and 3.)

PROGRAM

The Committee on Architecture proposes as subject of this Competition:

A STREET-CAR RACK

A clock, which has been given to a small town here as a memorial, is to be placed in the middle of the street formed by the intersection of two important thoroughfares.

Entries Invited to left in the design of the clock as to the choice of materials used in its construction. Its fabrication

and form, and the method of setting time. The only restrictions are that the circular dial of which it is placed is only 10 in. in diameter, and the total height of the clock is not to exceed 10 ft.

ENTRY

R. M. Hood, H. O. Miller, J. W. Connor, O. Foshay, G. F. Frost and C. S. Probst.

WINNERS OF PRIZES

First Prize (Not qualified for money prize): R. S. Fisher, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Phila.
Second Prize: Fred F. Fisher, University of A. W. Fisher, Cornell Univ., Ithaca

Third Prize—\$100: Fred F. Fisher, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Phila.
Fourth Prize—\$50: J. Lashburn, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Phila.

Prize Fifth—100: H. P. Price, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Phila.

Building for Y. M. & Y. W. H. Association, Newark, N. J.

THE building is to be treated in Georgian style, an attempt being made to produce an effect not too institutional and not too residential. Along the property line is provided a light court, nine feet wide, which will afford protection from neighboring establishments. The plans provide for another entry to the main building which the structure ultimately become too small for the organization.

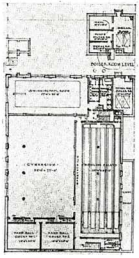
The building will have a frontage of 96 feet on High Street and 176 feet on West Kinney Street, exclusive of an extension containing a swimming pool and shower rooms, 60 x 100 feet, on West Kinney Street. It is proposed to have the exterior finish of limestone or terra cotta and red Harvard brick.

Placing the main floor a few feet above High Street raises the level of the remaining pool, gymnasium, locker rooms, and spectators' gallery easily accessible without going through the main building. A grade entrance on West Kinney Street is such to accommodate those who wish to arrive without entering the main foyer, thereby preventing congestion at the entrance.

Entered the vestibule from High Street, one may look through large glass doors into an elliptical reception hall two stories high. The deck, control is in this room and affords a view of the hall and main stairs. The main stairs are the men's game room, women's social room, office stairs which run from the gymnasium and locker, office level to a roof garden, and the auditorium lobby, which may be shut off at this point if the audience is reduced.

The terrace runs along West Kinney Street and around the rear, forming a wide passage to the street from the auditorium and also a breezing place.

The Men's Department is placed at the corner on a single story. On the main floor is their game room, opening direct to the terrace, with coin room and private stairs to the billiard room below. The women are afforded a billiard social room on the main floor with the prescribed equipment



BASEMENT FLOOR

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swimming room, domestic science department, etc., on the second floor.

An attempt has been made to exclude the Junior Department so that fire youngsters may enter from West Kinney Street, avoiding the physical director's office and going up to their main room without entering the main portion of the building. From a mezzanine level easy access is provided to the locker and educational rooms.

The gymnasium, swimming pool and locker form a separate and easily controlled area. Gymnasium, easily accessible from the exterior and interior, and

gymnasium without exposing the public hall. A running track is provided in the gymnasium and the showers are on the same level as the floors of the swimming pool and gymnasium. The pool is built on ground.

On the second floor will be eight educational rooms of various sizes and a reading room of the hall with plenty of natural light. A hand-washer from the kitchen will run to this floor, so that the rooms may be used for entertaining.

On the ground floor will be a cafeteria, easily accessible from the exterior and interior.

The Menace of Fire to Our Historical Structures

IT is gratifying to note that there is an awakening of public sentiment both in Philadelphia and Boston, as to the menace of destruction by fire of buildings of the most sacred of historical associations.

Further, it is good to learn that the daily press of these cities is vigorously discussing these matters and by well-written editorials, seeking to arouse the people to the danger of a loss that would be irreparable and be felt by every man, woman and child in this country.

The Philadelphia Register states in a recent issue:

Whatever needs to be done to protect Independence Hall and the connecting buildings from danger by fire should be done at once. Their present condition is attracting attention all over parts of the country. For this shrine of national patriotism is, unceasingly speaking, the property of the whole nation. The loss of it would be irreparable. There would be swift and bitter condemnation of Philadelphia were such a calamity to happen. The duty of averting it, in far as that is humanly possible, should not longer be delayed. * * *

Calabaz paintings, which are deteriorating rapidly and which will be completely ruined if the work of restoration is not undertaken, are stored there. The exterior has a battered look, which shows the license ticket regarding its historical history, and crowding it in the rear is a comparatively modern building which does not belong to the group.

Had these degraded and benighted specimens of Colonial architecture no sacred associations, it would be a duty to preserve them. In the circumstances, respect is a crime. Let it not be said that the city which holds the birthplace of American liberty is faithless to her trust.

Boston, whose present boast it is that it is "the cradle of American liberty," is much worse, as it has rights to be over the city of the historic State House. The *Evening Star* of the city is awake to a realizing sense of the danger of fire to this fine old building. It states editorially:

The Broadly Eagle sees in the flames that swept through our Old State House a picture in which that ancient edifice appears as the stage of great preservation documents because Yankee thrift has not questioned the expenditure of money necessary to put them in improved vaults. "A fire in the Old State House in Boston, both in FIRE," says the *Broadway* paper, "wiped thousands of priceless documents, Massachusetts is rich enough to afford improved vaults." Yet Yankee thrift that seeks to make a historic structure serve as a storehouse and thus lift two birds with one stone.

This is not a correct statement of the case. The rich collections of the Historical Society are not in the Old State House solely for storage. They have been placed there because it makes an appropriate setting for these reminders of the life of days long gone by, and because they, in their turn, by inducing the ancient structure with the atmosphere of Colonial times serve to enhance its interest for the home folk and for the thousands of visitors who come to it from all parts of the country to see a shrine.

That being the case, there remains the question of changes in the construction of the building to safeguard it, in far as may be possible, from the danger of fire. It might, of course, be made as fireproof as a modern office building. As the building has been reinforced with its swerving staircase of wood and wood floor and joists, it is to be regretted that the building known to the fathers. To fireproof it would necessarily ruin it of its essential characteristics as a monument to the past.

But the Old State House may be guarded against fire to a very much greater degree than it has been in the past. It is a matter which demands earnest and expert attention.

The hundreds of millions of dollars that annually "go to waste" in this country are of sufficient amount to us, but they represent a loss that money can repair.

Two or three men out of three fire old historical buildings, lost through fire, the result of negligence or improper preparation, would be a national disgrace; we might never live down.