

ARCHITECTURE

THE ARCHITECTURAL GUILD OF TORONTO.

A NUMBER of the architects of this city have formed themselves into an Association called the Architectural Guild of Toronto. The Guild has been formed through a feeling among the architects that there should be some means of bringing the members of the profession together in a friendly way to discuss matters of interest to themselves and their clients. The Guild has been very successful, all the members taking a deep interest in the proceedings. It meets once a month, when a dinner is partaken of before any business is transacted. After the good things provided by the host have been disposed of to the great advantage of the physical wants of the members and the producing of goodwill, general business matters are discussed in an informal manner. All sorts of questions are considered—matters in which the architects are directly interested and their clients indirectly, and also matters in which the respective positions are reversed. Five meetings have been held, at which the attendance has been good and the benefits unmistakable. The membership is now twenty-four. Mr. S. G. Curry, of Messrs. Darling & Curry, is Secretary-Treasurer. It is hoped that the Architectural Guild of Toronto will prosper until it has developed into an incorporated Association of Architects for the whole of Canada, similar to the Institute of British Architects.

THE ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

THE addresses which are being delivered before this Association at present by some of the master mechanics of the city are proving, as was expected, very instructive. The knowledge gained from the experiences of skilled mechanics in the building trades, must be of great value to the young architect, and the opportunity afforded by these addresses of acquiring valuable practical information in the different branches of building should be embraced by every student of architecture. Since our last issue the regular weekly meetings at the Canadian Institute have been spent as follows:

On Jan. 17th Mr. M. J. Hynes gave an interesting and thoughtful talk on the subject of Terra Cotta. He began by giving a short history of this material, showing how it had been employed from earliest times and by almost all nations with the most lasting results, thus proving its durability. He then gave a description of the methods of construction of the terra cotta kilns, and also described the peculiarities and uses of the various kinds of fire clays, and the different varieties of pressed bricks, encaustic tiles, etc.

On Jan. 24th a paper on "Renaissance Architecture" was read by Mr. Frank Douglas. The history and distinctive features of this style were clearly set forth, and ably criticised in the discussion by the members which followed. Mr. Douglas expects to leave shortly for Scotland, and the Association will lose a valuable member by his removal, as he has always shown a deep interest in its welfare.

January 31st formed the second of the trade nights. Mr. J. B. Vick was present and gave a very practical talk on the subject of stone dressing and setting. He described the tools employed and their uses, the different kinds of stone and their uses, the various ways of finishing and the proper method of setting work.

On February 7th there was no programme, but instead an open discussion. The most useful books for an architect's library were discussed, the different members present giving their views.

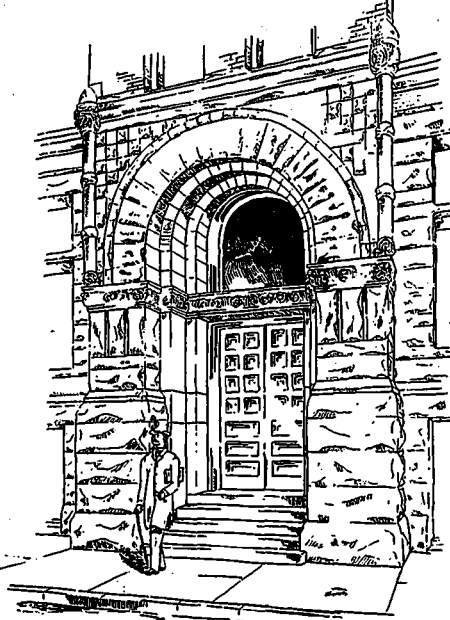
The meetings of the Association are held every Tuesday evening in the Canadian Institute, corner of Richmond and Clare streets, and a cordial invitation is extended to every one interested in the subject of architecture.

AN APPEAL FOR ORGANIZATION.

"BY CONSTANTIN FIDES."

NOW that your journal has been started, it will be in order to urge upon the members of the profession to at once push into existence again the apparently defunct "Canadian Institute of Architects." Permit

me to give a slight history of the past. Somewhere about 1856, I forget the exact date having lost the papers, an effort was made by a few gentlemen, amongst whom were Mr. Brown, of Kingston; Mr. Wm. Thomas, of Toronto, and some others, to start a Society of Architects for the Province of Ontario. I was invited to join, which I did after its formation. Mr. Brown was elected President, and Mr. Thomas Vice-President. By-laws were made, and a schedule of professional fees were published. After its establishment, certain parties who called themselves surveyors crept in and so ruled affairs that they caused the Society to collapse. Perhaps there are some now alive who can give the cause and reason of its short lived existence. In 1876 an advertisement was inserted in two Toronto papers calling for a gathering of the profession to discuss the advisability of forming an Institute. About nine or ten met in the Society of Arts rooms on King street, Toronto. It was decided to form a society. A secretary was named; a few meetings subsequently took place; committees were appointed, By-laws, &c., drawn out, and a tariff of fees adopted. Illness prevented the writer from attending regularly and finally illness prevented him from taking any active interest in its affairs. Since recovering his health he has several times tried to find out what has



ENTRANCE TO MEDICAL COUNCIL BUILDING, TORONTO.

become of the Institute. A note was addressed to the secretary asking to be informed what had become of the property, for property there was, several volumes having been given to the Institute. No answer has been returned to the enquiry. This is a matter of surprise and regret, as common courtesy at least should mark the conduct of members of our profession. No one of the many hundreds of my fellow students of former days in London, Paris, Rome and Berlin, had I written to them on the slightest matter in connection with the profession, but would have replied instantly and courteously. Indeed I have some pleasant contrasts to the discourtesy of which I complain in letters from old fellow students from Chicago, New York, and Baltimore.

I am aware that our profession is not held in the highest esteem by the outside public, but this is the fault of the members themselves who exhibit such jealousy of one another that it causes all this indifference to them. I am quite sure that if we could establish a "Canadian Institute of Architects," there would soon spring up a spirit of kindness and goodwill, that a strong and permanent good would be the result. I well remember what pleasant meetings we had in the days of my studentship, when we used to gather together in the evenings each bringing his sketches and memoranda of his day or week's work. These gatherings were frequently attended by professors and elders, who would offer us friendly criticism and advice. How pleasant and profitable would such meetings be, if we had an Institute of Architects where such gatherings could take place.

Let some energetic members of the profession in Toronto start the formation at once. The young students, I have no doubt, would soon join, and would find it to their mutual advantage. There would soon spring up a united body who would place the members of our noble profession on a sound foundation. Remember that architecture is the root from which all the art orpessions have sprung, and it is our duty to resuscitate it here in Canada to its proper and legitimate position. Such organization is necessary, not only in order that the dignity of the profession may be maintained, but also that by means of the united action which could thereby be secured, Canadian architects might protect their rights.

I see in the first number of the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER a letter in which it is pointed out that a Judge of one of the Courts stated that he could only allow an expert witness of the profession the fee of a mechanic (I believe it is 75 cents), for his day's attendance at the Court. I myself fought against this monstrous injustice years ago. I had been employed on an inspection of a quarry, taking levels of the waste stone used, made plans and a report. When I had done, I put in my account, including my assistant's time, chairman and other expenses. On being informed that

I could not claim more than laborer's or mechanic's pay, I refused to go into Court at all. This matter culminated in my going to Toronto and appearing before the then presiding judges, Chief Justice Draper, Judge Robinson and Judge Burns, and asking leave to address the Court, which was granted. I stated the whole case and was listened to, much to the astonishment of the barristers. The judges admitted that the tariff was unjust, and said it would be altered. I was told to bring the matter before the judge at the next assizes in Hamilton, which I did. Judge Burns presided, and recollected my having appeared before him and the other judges, and on handing up my account he at once indorsed it and I was paid. I am surprised to find that this unjust tariff at Osgoode Hall still exists. Why should lawyers or any other body make our tariff? We must take the matter in hand and help ourselves. We are now quite a numerous body, and there are clever educated young men enough in our ranks to secure for the profession the necessary Act of Parliament authorizing the profession to charge regular fees and pass such laws in our organization as will regulate all the matters complained of. If we are united as one man there is no doubt of success. I have written this more as an appeal to my fellow professionals to put aside any spirit of jealousy that may exist, unite for the common good, and our Canadian Institute of Architects will soon be a fact.

WHAT ARCHITECTURE IS, AND WHAT IT IS NOT.

THE President of the Western Association of Architects in his address at the annual Convention held at Cincinnati, in November, thus defined architecture:

"Architecture is not a system of incoherently uttered and illogically occurring fashions.

Architecture is not a "fad" which is respectable today because it apes the work of some great man to whose creations it is comparable only as a jackdaw is to an orator.

It is not architecture in whose name we dare erect to-day rough and brutal piles of stone, whose only merit is the roughness, and which to-morrow we will spurn from us as unskempt tramps of things.

Architecture is the material expression in stone and iron and brick, of an idea, dominating, consistent, coherent; source and inspiration of ten or a thousand thoughts, but giving character to all. As such it can afford to lose sight at no instant of one thought by its great apostles and prophets.

These traditions, which have lived for centuries, are not to be venerated for age alone, but for their truth; they are not sacred because of their age, but are old because of their truth. All architecture based upon mere caprice is less enduring in the history of art than a breath."

At the next regular meeting of the "Architectural Draughtsmen's Association of Toronto, to be held on the 21st inst., a paper will be read on "Drawing," by the President, Mr. Robt. Dawson; and at the meeting on the 28th inst., Mr. Wm. Simpson will present a paper on "Joinery."