

success if each architect takes his interest in its success seriously and keeps it in mind when using its advertising pages as a directory of building materials and appliances and informs vendors of its virtues.

**Q** *A systematized professional practice one of the results of the issuing of standard contract forms by the American Institute of Architects.*

**A** S AN organization that has succeeded in accomplishing more reforms in architectural practice, both within and without its ranks, than any other, the American Institute of Architects stands first. While contending with newer conditions and a less ethically developed people than that of Germany, France, Italy or England, it has successfully regulated many of what might be termed the business features of the profession and established rules thereto that have the support of the profession and interested public alike. While the establishment of a better government architecture through the passage of the Tarsney Act; the appointment of a civic commission for the city of Washington; or the regulation of public competitions, belong broadly to this general improvement of architectural practice and the betterment of design, it is in the establishment of standard documents for the use of the architect in his dealings with the contractor and owner, and the contractor in his dealings with architect and owner, that the work of the Institute takes its most practical and beneficial form. For almost twenty years the uniform contract, a standard form evolved and issued jointly by the National Association of Builders and the Institute, has been in general use to the practical abolition of disputes over obscure terms or lack of equity in contracts. Ever since this document was established committees of the Institute have been at work upon other standard forms, especially during the past four years, and after repeated reports and revisions, these documents have been issued. They comprise those forms currently used by architects, and the effort has been to improve them with a view to making them clear in thought and statement, equitable as between owner and contractor, applicable to work of almost all classes, binding in law and standard of good practice. The forms are six in number: "Invitation to bid," "Instructions to bidders," "Form of proposal," "Form of agreement," "Form of bond," "General conditions of the contract." These forms while intended for use in general practice, can be regarded as a form of reference representing the judgment of the Institute as to what constituted the best practice of the profession. It is in this latter phase that the Institute preserves its ethical integrity and at the same time gives to the users a readily understood form and a simply worded document that will bear legal inspection. The direct work was in the hands of the Institute Committee on Contracts and Specifications, of which A. B. Pond, of Chicago, was chairman. To get its results the committee studied with great care the forms in use by thirty well-known architects, and

also the uniform contract. Tentative forms were first embodied in a first and second edition which were submitted to all the chapters of the Institute for criticism. As a result of all the criticisms thus obtained, careful revisions were made and embodied in a third edition. This in turn was submitted for criticism to engineers, contractors, and architects throughout the country. The results, with their suggestions and further study, were finally incorporated in three editions. It was in 1907 that the Institute authorized sanction to the publication of standard forms, and in 1911 final approval of the Institute was made on the completed documents. It is doubtful if ever in architectural history so complete a summary of the professional attitude toward the physical features of the art architectural has been made. The forms are copyrighted by the Institute and printed under permission by one concern, a royalty on all sales accruing to the Institute as in the case of the uniform contract, where the two parties to its ownership are the royalty beneficiaries.

**Q** *The smoke nuisance a matter of police regulation and not an inability to prevent its continuance or secure its abolition.*

**T**HERE IS probably no more hackneyed subject among all those pertaining to city life than what is known as the "smoke nuisance." Thirty years ago it was not only a live issue, but innumerable patented "smoke consumers" were put upon the market and ordinances passed for the suppression of smoke. England was promised a "smokeless London," and the cities of the United States vowed that smoke should be abolished. And that we have the same smoky cities and the same agitation kept up by health boards year after year seems to argue that the abolition of smoke in cities is impossible as the producers often claim. During the entire thirty years it has been known that careful firing of itself does away with more than one-half the trouble, but it is cheaper to hire an "engineer" who will fill up his furnace with slag and leave it for half an hour than to get one who will intelligently throw on coal in small quantities and frequently. Then there are mechanical stokers that will do this work automatically, but their installation costs money, and firms like Boggs & Buhl, of Allegheny, or Eaton's, of Toronto find little encouragement after going to the expense they have in the direction of smoke prevention, to know that their neighbors continue in the same old way. It is probable that the chief fault, like the automobile nuisance that drives the larger mass of people from the streets, is in the courts that will not carry out the ordinances to a greater extent than they are obliged to. A fine in the first instance and an imprisonment for a repetition in either case for both owner and servant, would soon abolish both these impositions on the public. It must not be inferred that all the efforts toward securing "smokeless cities" have been entirely useless. Most cities have grown, and some have doubled and trebled populations and industries in thirty years,