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**TO ADVERTISERS.**

For the benefit of Advertisers, a copy of this Journal is mailed each week to persons mentioned in the CONTRACT RECORD reports as intending to build, with a request to consult our advertisement pages and write advertisers for material, machinery, etc.

THE excavations on the site of ancient Babylon, carried on recently under the direction of Professor Hilprecht, of the University of Pennsylvania, have disclosed the city wall, the foundations of which were 16 feet below the level of the desert; it was 17 feet high and 45 feet wide. In its construction were used bricks 20 inches square. A keystone arch was discovered which is believed to date back 5,000 years B. C., and tablets bearing cuneiform inscriptions, which are declared to have been written at least seven thousand years prior to the Christian era.

THE T square club, of Philadelphia, has hit upon a novel method of assisting the public to distinguish the good from the bad in architecture. The members of the club have been invited to compete for a medal for the "re-designing" of some of the most objectionable buildings in Philadelphia. Each competitor will be furnished with a photograph of the building and the approximate requirements for which it was intended. It is proposed that the designs submitted in this competition shall be published as an object lesson to the profession and the public.

UNTIL such time at least as the City Council see fit to further improve the means of overcoming fire in Toronto, the Underwriters' Association will charge a special insurance rate on buildings in excess of four stories. They claim that the city water pressure cannot be effectively employed on buildings of more than four stories, and that the present equipment of steam fire engines would require to be at least doubled before buildings of greater height could be regarded as equally good risks with those of four stories and under. Not only are additional fire engines needed, but means of furnishing them with the necessary supply of water should likewise be provided. At present there is but a single water main supplying the Rosehill reservoir, and in case of accident, a large section of the city would be left without fire protection. A duplicate main, such as is to be found in every large city, has long been an absolute necessity, but there is no indication that it will be provided except as the result of some great catastrophe. The existing main, which is 24 inches in diameter, is at present fed from a 10-inch main on Front street, by which senseless arrangement its efficiency is greatly reduced. The City Engineer is fully