

require the assistance of a tutor in these subjects, the latter, because the studio method of criticism seems to be the best method available for acquiring a knowledge of method in design. The feature which pleases me most in the matter, as far as the work is concerned, is that we have combined to spend money on the education of the students. It is the only way to do, if we are to have the right instructors and feel sure that we really can count upon them. In the first place, teaching is a profession by itself, and the best architect is probably the worst teacher; but further, the conscience of a volunteer instructor is not with his voluntary work, but with that for which he is paid, and, if either has to suffer upon any occasion, there is no question in his mind as to which it is to be. It would be different if the present generation of the students were eager for instruction, if the volunteer instructor might feel an earnestness and enthusiasm on the part of the students that would quicken his own and make him feel that his work was of real public importance. But the contrary is the case. A handful of students, and some of them listless, is all we have been able to gather hitherto out of the large number we know to be in the city. With so much talk about education as there has been since this Association was started, and the Eighteen Club took the matter up, there ought to be a more lively apprehension on the part of students of architecture of what studies they must undertake if they are to be properly equipped for the practice of architecture; yet the old attitude continues; the young men feel that if they can become architects without the tyranny of an apprenticeship, and without being answerable to anyone for the extent of their studious preparation, why should they voluntarily put their neck under a yoke, and—what seems of most importance to many of them,—take a longer road instead of a short one to the ultimate goal,—earning money? The state of public opinion is at the bottom responsible for this. Any clever young fellow, after two or three years' of experience in an architect's office, preferably in the office of an architect not engaged in such important work as to be beyond the grasp of a clever young fellow, can put up a Queen Street shop with sufficient credit to himself, and, learning as he goes, can really drive a profitable practice in a few years. His type is regarded with favor by the public. He calls himself an architect, thinks he is practising architecture, and expects to grow into a capacity to design monumental structures. But there is such a thing as working out of the capacity to design good work as well as working into it. It is possible, by beginning work too soon and being obliged to press on in ignorance of what constitutes good design, to make it forever impossible to really design anything. In architecture, as in every art,—as in everything that has character at the bottom of it,—there is no such thing as standing still; one must either advance or go back; if a designer is not improving, he is deteriorating. The self-confident may not take encouragement from the Greek saying, "one learns to play the flute by playing the flute," unless they are quite sure that what they are playing upon is really the flute; for one does not learn to play the flute by playing the jew's-harp; and in any case they should remember the saying of another Greek, a teacher of the flute, who charged so much for lessons, and double to those who had previously learned to play.

In seeking to advance architecture, I think there

is no doubt we shall be taking the shortest road if we go back to the old idea of an Association, with such prestige attaching to its membership, such recognition of it by the public, that common sense will point out to students that the way of safety in practice is enrolment among its members, and will take from its course of study and examinations the appearance of superfluity which now makes them weigh upon the spirits of pushing young men.

How to create this prestige is the question. I have tried during the past year to do something with our monthly meetings, but without success. We have done something, but not much.

I still think, in spite of the difficulty of getting the movement to move, that this should be the principal aim of the Association now. The prestige we aim at is to be found in this. If we cannot make this Association a society of the élite by law, let us do so in fact. Let us cease for the time to consider the students, and turn our attention to ourselves. It is time we took hold of the question by the other end. Instead of seeking them, let us make our society so desirable that they will seek us. I well recollect myself how much I picked up, when I began practice, from being included in the Toronto Architectural Guild, the mother of this Association, and having the privilege of discussing professional questions with older men at monthly dinners of the Guild. There will be nothing so valuable for young men as admission to membership of this Association, if we develop and carry on persistently our monthly meetings. We are busy men, it is true; but the tendency of such meetings will be to help us to transact our business with greater ease; and at any given meeting only one man will have had the trouble of preparation. It seems to give nobody in this Association any trouble to express himself; and, if anybody has conceived but one thought, and will bring it before the Association, I will guarantee that he will go away with a dozen. Our discoveries are not half as useful to us if we keep them for our own use as they would be if we communicate them. The way to get information out of other men is to pour information into them. If any one wants to get the worth of his membership fee back at one stroke, let him make a little paper upon any point upon which he has made up his mind, or wants to make up his mind (the clear arrangement of his ideas will alone be worth the money to him), and read it before a monthly meeting of the Association. He will find that he has got out of the transaction as much as he gave, or more.

The members of other professions are given to reading papers, and contributing the results of personal observation to their professional journals. Reports of professional proceedings are recognized authorities for engineers, and a doctor who does not read his professional journal regularly is likely to drop behind. The constant perusal of original papers, and the occasional preparation and delivery of one, is stimulating to thought. These professions are all alive. I know of a paper on surgical bandaging which was projected, while swimming, by a doctor who had received an injury, and observed the comfortable pressure of the water upon the injured part. That is the spirit we should have in a profession like ours, which continually calls forth invention.

I think there is a general impression that architecture is dead; that we are only copyists and imitators, making play with old forms and conventions, according to fashion, without regard to reason;