

# Steel Construction

---

## INTRODUCTION

The introduction of steel in construction has become universal in this country during the last decade. Its extended use is evidently due, not only to its merits as a constructive material and the exceedingly low price at which it may be obtained, but also to the rapidity with which it may be assembled in the field. Without such a material the skeleton construction adopted for high office buildings and similar structures, which are being erected so generally in the principal American cities, would be impracticable; bridges would become more cumbersome and unsightly affairs, and the successful construction of graceful and symmetrical roof trusses, and arched ribs of great span would be almost impossible.

Since structural steel has become such an important factor in all building operations, its proper adaptation in the design of structures should be thoroughly understood by architects, contractors, and others engaged in the building trades. Not only will such an understanding enable them to design the safest building with the least expenditure of material, and consequently capital to their client, but it will enable them to erect such structures as to preclude the possible loss of life by the collapse of unstable structures, caused by their improper design and through ignorance of good constructive details on the part of their designer.