

Educational (1906) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No 399

DATED 8.6.6.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

School Buildings. Informing A.V. Ranga
Chandra Aiyar that the Government do not
grant licenses to any person for the preparation
of plans and estimates for —.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
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1,599-12-12

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT FILE.

CONTENTS.

From	Number.	Date.	Pages.
[890] A. V. Ramachandra Iyer		25-5-06.	

[P. T. O. FOR PUT UP PAPERS.]

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No. _____

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (=S. C.).	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, &c., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (=S. C.).	Despatcher to note the return of the papers to the departments concerned.

A. V. RAMACHANDRA AIYAR.

(Retired from Govt. P. W. Deptt.)

Architect.



25th May 1906

Has been licensed by the Madras Municipality for the preparation of designs for buildings and has also been "approved as an architect" by the Madras Municipality.

Sir,
The Secretary to Govt., Educational Dept., Madras.

Is prepared to :-

1. Furnished designs and Estimates for all kinds of buildings.
2. To supervise the construction of buildings.
3. To give advice to those who are to purchase or sell buildings.

Also maintains lists of buildings and house sites to be sold both in Madras and in all the principle Towns of the Madras Presidency.

In Government notification No. 59, regarding the rules relating to the allotment of Grants-in-aid to Educational Institutions, published in the Fort St. George Gazette dated 22nd April 1906, it has been laid down in para 50 page 329 of the Gazette that "applications for aid" for the purpose of constructing buildings "shall be accompanied by a plan and an estimate, prepared by a professional or other competent person, of the cost of work proposed." From the accompanying papers and from G.O. Nos. 724 Financial dated 22nd June 1899, 3059 W dated 22nd November 1899, 430 Educational dated 15th July 1900 and 654 dated 21st September 1902, it may, I most respectfully beg to submit, be evident that I have been for the last some years working towards the development of the most useful but much neglected art of architecture in India.

2. I now pray that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be generous enough—as a sort of encouragement to the first native of the Presidency who has ventured to work in the long untrodden path of Architectural Art—to order that I may be considered a licensed person for the preparation of plans and estimates mentioned in para 1 supra.

I beg to remain, Yours faithfully,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. V. Ramachandra Aiyar.

* The author of (1.) "An Epitome of Engineering," which has been recognized as a useful book of reference by the Government of Madras and by some of the Native States in India and (2.) A Pamphlet on Architecture, which has received the Commendation from almost all the representatives of the British Empire in the World and crowned by the sacred and unique acceptance from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

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ARCHITECTURE,

Revival of the Art Necessary

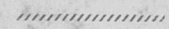
IN

INDIA.

BY

A. V. RAMACHANDRA AIYAR, F.S.I.,

*Member of the Architectural Association, (Edin.),
Member of the Institution of Junior Engineers, (London),
Member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great
Britain and Ireland.*



MADRAS :

HIGGINBOTHAM AND CO.

1899.

The Honorable Mr. Justice S. Subramanya Aiyar,
B.L., C.I.E., writes :—

“I have read with interest your paper on the improvement
of Architecture in this country. I can well sympathise with
you in your wish to bring about some improvement in the
existing state of things.” * * *

An apology may perhaps be due from one who
has ventured to come out with a paper relating to
architecture without all the necessary qualifications,
and I beseech those who read this pamphlet to
overlook errors ; for I write, neither as a finished
writer nor as an expert grammarian, but as a plain
and simple lover of architecture, and I approach
the subject with affection if not with sufficient
knowledge. I deeply feel that the work should have
emanated from some better and more experienced
hands ; but nothing of this kind having been
hitherto done, it has fallen to my lot to do it.

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ARCHITECTURE, Revival of the Art Necessary

IN
INDIA.

General.

The term architecture is derived from the Latin *Architectura*, the chief workman, the Architect. The Hindus call this art *Silpa Sâstra*, from *Silpa*—Manual art—and *Sâstra*—Science. This term, though in its general signification it comprehends the whole of the mechanical arts, is applied commonly and perhaps by way of pre-eminence to architecture.

Architecture is the art of constructing buildings upon correct and scientific principles in which, strength, utility and beauty are combined. This is generally divided into 3 distinct branches—Military, Naval, and Civil ; and it is of the last branch that I purpose to treat.

Origin.

Architecture being one of the three great wants of man—food, clothing and shelter—it originally took the shape of the erection of hovels formed of twigs and covered with mud or

leaves. Then the wigwam grew into a hut, the hut into a house and the house into a palace.

The modern tent may be assumed to be the representative of the earliest form of habitations of man ; at first, perhaps, covered with leaves, then with bark of trees, and in a more advanced state with the skin of animals.

Importance.

Architecture is the noblest of arts as pressing all other arts into service ; for, those of the sculptor, and the painter occupy but a subordinate part in producing the general result. "Architecture" says Lord Napier and Ettrick, "is an art of necessity as well as decoration ; it is closely associated with the mechanical sciences, with productive industry, with commerce, with public safety, with public economy, with public health, and with the practice of religion. It is the art of the temple, the forum, the market and the theatre, the art which does the greatest amount of service and provides the greatest amount of recreation for the greatest number. It is the protection and the home of the other arts, the most glorious, comprehensive, and permanent of all."

The Royal Charter authorizing the constitution of the Royal Institute of British Architects, London, speaks of civil architecture as "An art esteemed and encouraged in all enlightened nations as tending greatly to promote the domestic convenience of citizens and the improvement and embellishment of towns and cities."

Architecture has in all ages been intimately connected with the religions of mankind, and the greatest monuments which remain to us are for the most part the result of the devotional feelings of those who erected them.

Hindu Architecture.

The works of Ancient Hindus on Architecture promise to afford a fertile field for investigation. The following are the names of some of them :—

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Viswadharmam. | 17. Vāstubodham. |
| 2. Viswasam. | 18. Vistāram. |
| 3. Visvasāram. | 19. Aindram. |
| 4. Vrittam. | 20. Vajram. |
| 5. Twāshtram. | 21. Saumam. |
| 6. Nalam. | 22. Visvakāsyapam. |
| 7. Mayam. | 23. Mahātantram. |
| 8. Hanuman. | 24. Visālam. |
| 9. Bhanu. | 25. Satram. |
| 10. Kalpāryam. | 26. Kapilakālyupam. |
| 11. Trishtam. | 27. Nāmasamhita. |
| 12. Mānasāram. | 28. Śāktikam. |
| 13. Vāstuvidyāpati. | 29. Viswabodham. |
| 14. Pārāsaryam. | 30. Ādisāram. |
| 15. Harshanam. | 31. Bahusrutam. |
| 16. Saiddhakam. | 32. Mānabodham. |

Of the Art itself there are at present types varying from mere huts called *Parnasālas* to palaces or palatial buildings known as *Prāsādas*. *Parnasālas* are temporary residences formed of twigs and green leaves or of twigs with green creepers made to grow on them ; and they are peculiarly fitted for India during the greater part of the year and must have been suggested by the nature of the climate. In some parts also we have the other form of primitive Architecture, namely caves which are called *Viharas*. These were originally mere pits into the earth and are seen in abundance in mountainous places, as there the cold is almost unbearable during the cold season. There is a large territory in India called *Béhar* (corruption of *Vihara*) supposed formerly to have been a country of these *Viharas*.

Speaking of the Hindu architecture Doctor Fergusson, the greatest authority on the subject, calls it "the most ancient as well as the most interesting of those whose monuments are found scattered over the plains of India." Writing about the rock-cut temples of India the same writer continues, "When Europeans first became acquainted with them, they were so struck by their monolithic grandeur and the apparent eternity of duration that resulted from it, that they jumped at once to the conclusion that they must be among the most ancient monuments of the world rivalling in this respect, as was then supposed, even those of Egypt."

Early History.

It is said that *Silpa Śāstra* was first practised and made known by *Mayan*, a *Dāitya*, the architect of the *Asuras*, during the *Vedic Age* (2000 to 1400, B.C.), as there are allusions to "mansions with a thousand pillars" in those days. But the science itself seems to have been elevated into importance by *Varaha Mihira* during the 6th century after Christ. Referring to the question of age Doctor Fergusson says, "In the seventh century before the Christian era a prophet, *Sakya Muni*, was born in India, the result of whose teaching was the introduction of Buddhist religion into that country and consequent on this change was the elaboration of a style of architecture." The Architectural History of India commences with King Asoka (250 B.C.), grandson of Chandragupta. But this may be a curious revelation to the Hindus who find in their two great Epics, the *Ramāyana* and the *Mahābhārata*, dated 2000 B. C., and 1200 B. C., respectively, that frequent mention is made therein about palaces, halls of assembly, &c. These, however, must have been built of wood like the buildings of the Burmese of the present day.

Architecture in stone, previous to the Buddhist age, was confined mostly to engineering works such as city walls, gates, bridges and embankments.

By the way it may be mentioned that the fact that there stands at Delhi the famous iron pillar 16 inches in diameter and 24 feet in length, weighing 17 tons and said to be 1,700 years old (from the inscription cut upon it), goes to show that the Hindus even at that early period had learnt the art of forging iron evidently required for architectural purposes.

Causes of decay.

The harmony of architecture which might have been preserved elsewhere could not be expected in India, where for centuries two peoples, sharply opposed to each other in religion and distinct in many other respects, were occupying the soil and contending with each other for the supremacy. Besides, owing to climatic conditions and circumstances, structures in India are exposed to rapid destruction as soon as they lose the protecting power of man. Added to these, the religious intolerance and devastating war have conspired together and contributed in no small degree to aid natural causes in the destruction of the ancient edifices of the Hindus.

Necessity for revival.

The development of this art in any country may be measured by its civilization. Increased attention to architecture is a sign of prosperity in a nation. It is also the sign of peace, for proper attention cannot be paid by a nation to its advancement or to the erection of noble buildings during the havoc or exhaustion of war.

It is not gratifying to learn that, after a century and a half of British rule and an uninterrupted peace for about half a

century, the people of India show no signs for the revival of this art in spite of vast improvements in all other respects. Unfortunately, the leading facts of the history of architecture are unknown to the greater part of our educated classes. Well-informed as they are in most other subjects they have never given their attention to this. And it is sad to contemplate that, in spite of the disinterested labours of several noble-minded English gentlemen wishing the revival of this art here, no practical result has been the outcome of them all. There is not a page of Doctor Fergusson's work on Hindu Architecture that does not breathe the author's lament over the gradual and steady extinction of the art; and he evidently wrote in earnest hope of its revival.

Defects which exist at present.

The caste system of India has divorced intellect from manual labour, and low caste men alone engage themselves in the art. It may be right or it may be wrong, but the notion of despising simple manual labour exists in the minds of high-caste or high-born men in every old country. Whatever it may be, it is necessary that there should be a class of trained master-artisans, I mean architects, such a training of course being accompanied with literary education.

The *Silpa Śāstra* of the Hindus alluded to already, recognizes the importance of the above remark and says that an architect should be a man of learning. The following is the literal translation of the passages therein given describing the qualification of an architect.

A.—An architect should wear golden thread and rings on his fingers, should have a tuft of hair on the back of his head, should have a fair complexion, should be of pliable nature and

yielding heart, should not allow himself to mix with other castes and should be learned.

B.—An architect should be clean-bodied, should have studied science, should wear clean cloth or silk, should present a bright appearance so as to command respect, should be of good morals, should be devoid of anger, should perform his daily ablutions and his worship, and should read the science of architecture every morning.

Vitruvius, the earliest Roman author on the subject, whose works are extant, says "An Architect should be (1) a good writer, (2) a skilful Draftsman, (3) versed in Geometry and (4) Optics, (5) expert at figures, (6) acquainted with history, (7) informed in the principles of natural and (8) moral philosophy, (9) somewhat of a musician, (10) not ignorant of the sciences both of law and (11) physic, nor of (12) the motions, laws, and relations to each other of the heavenly bodies."

The twelve requisites enumerated above serve the architect in the following ways:—

1. Learning is wanted for recording and committing to writing observation and experience in aid of memory.
2. Drawing is employed in sketching.
3. By Geometry, delineations of buildings on plane surfaces are greatly facilitated.
4. Optics is useful for the purpose of judging the requisite quantity of light according to the aspect.
5. With the aid of arithmetic, the cost is estimated.
6. Unless acquainted with history, the architect will be unable to account for the use of many ornaments which he may have to introduce.

7. Natural philosophy is necessary in the solution of various problems as, for instance, the conduct of water whose natural force, in its meandering and expansion over flat countries, often requires restraint.

8. Moral philosophy will teach the architect to be above meanness in his dealings and to avoid arrogance.

9. Music assists him in the use of harmonic or acoustic and mathematical proportions.

10. A knowledge of the portion of law which relates to party-wall and to the free course and discharges of the eaves waters, the regulations regarding cesspools and sewage and those relating to window lights and last of all, those required for drawing up contracts for the execution of works, is essential.

11. Skill in physic enables him to ascertain the salubrity of different tracts of country and to determine the variation of climate. For, the air and water of different situations being matters of highest importance, no building could be healthy without attention to these points.

12. Astronomy enables him to regulate the aspect and design of his building with reference to the seasons and to the varying positions of the sun and of the other heavenly bodies.

It may appear strange that an architect should be required to be conversant with such a variety of learning, but the close alliance of the different branches of science with his work solves the problem. And, as Vitruvius says, an architect need not be a philosopher of the highest rank, or a most eloquent orator, or a man excelling in the highest branches of literature; but the true architect, besides possessing a knowledge of the absolutely necessary artistic and mathematical requirements, should be imbued with learning.

Cause of backwardness.

The cause of the degeneration of the art in India, as already hinted, is that it has almost all along been left entirely in the hands of illiterate men who alone are allowed to engage themselves in architecture and sculpture.

The result of this is that the rising generation is abandoning the indigenous style of architecture and is erecting buildings after the European style for the reason, as Sir Lepel Griffin says, that "untrained native designers are incompetent to adopt modern conveniences to their traditional methods;" but as said in the *Indian and Eastern Engineer*, "An English house would be entirely unsuited to the Indian climate but there is no reason why a house in India should not be so designed as to be not only suited to the climatic conditions but also conveniently arranged and properly fitted within."

Strangers from more advanced countries who visit India are generally struck with the backward state of the art here. The amount of labour which an Indian artificer wastes over his work may be taken as an index of an industrious disposition, but it is also a proof of a deplorable want of scientific knowledge.

Practical illustrations.

Not only are the present set of untrained architects in India unable to design the buildings to suit the modern requirements, but their want of knowledge of utility brings on a massiveness of construction disproportionate to the necessities of the case. Besides, the elaborate carving and sculpture work which they do, cost 3 times as much as the erection of the building itself.

For the last 8 centuries Indian dwellings have been built on principles intended to secure seclusion and shade and vouchsafe protection from the scrutiny of the grasping authorities ; but these styles of buildings need no longer be continued in an age of peace, justice and learning, when the light of heaven and reason and freedom can penetrate.

When Mr. W. S. Caine, M. P., said that "the average Hindu does about one-fifth of the work of an average Englishman and has not physical strength for more," I thought that the defect in architecture as has been adopted by the Hindus should be one of the causes that have given rise to this national defect ; and the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, probably agreeing with my view, says, "the cause mentioned by you is only one of the many causes of the physical weakness of the Hindus."

What India needs.

To sum up :—Architecture embraces and aims at the elevation of national and individual character and the increase of the physical comforts and well-being of mankind. Moreover, it is apparent that the higher the stage of national advancement the more marked should be the character which the architecture of that nation should assume.

Great are the changes that western influences have produced, and architecture is certainly the first that needs reform as a mark of progress ; but this art is entirely neglected by the Hindus of the present day. Agreeably to the proverb "Better late than never," it is necessary that an improvement in this direction should take place at least along with that in others.

An Association suggested.

The British nation which at present guides and controls our destinies has formed Architectural Associations in several

countries—England, Ireland, Scotland and America—for the general advancement of that noble art and for promoting and facilitating the acquirement of its knowledge.

We have of course been following the lead of our western nation who have greater scientific and mechanical knowledge, juster principles of Government and superior energy in war, in all other matters, and have been following their principles in forming Institutions and Societies in all other respects after their model ; but an Architectural Association is a sad want in India and one to which no attention has been devoted till now.

We cannot look to Government for taking steps for the revival of this art. The thought must emanate from the Hindus themselves who must not fail to adapt the style of their architecture as far as possible to modern circumstances and necessities. To preserve this ancient art of ours is the duty of every man of culture and taste and it need only be suggested to be accepted that to form a new Society for this purpose will be the best way of reviving and improving our Art.

By the same Author.

"AN EPITOME OF ENGINEERING" OPINIONS.

Fort St. George Gazette:—"Intended as a ready reference book with Plates and Summary of calculations and various tables to help the Engineer, Architect, Surveyor, Builder and others. The arrangement of the matter is alphabetical and the whole ends with a useful index to facilitate reference."

H. E. CLERK, Esq., Executive Engineer, P.W.D. "It contains much useful information and should be of great service to subordinates of the Department.*

* I am sure it will have a good sale."

G. B. LAMBERT, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., Executive Engineer, P.W.D. "It has been carefully compiled and will supply the want felt for a book of ready reference."

S. D. PEARS, Esq., Executive Engineer, P.W.D. "An Epitome of Engineering" by a subordinate of the P.W.D. is a credit to its compiler. It contains a great deal of useful matter and little or none that is superfluous, and will be of great value to the upper subordinates of the P.W.D.

M. R. Ry. S. A. SUBRAMANIA IYER AVERGAL, B.A., B.C.E., A.M.I.C.E., Executive Engineer, P.W.D. "I think it is a very useful book for which members of the Department will be grateful to you. The book is full of facts and formulæ regarding the ordinary practice of the Department and I sincerely wish it God-speed."

M. R. Ry. R. A. SREENIVASA IYENGAR AVERGAL, B.A., B.C.E., Executive Engineer, P.W.D. "No book has yet been published which gives all the information required by an ordinary public works subordinate in the discharge of his duties. The book before us is intended to meet this want."

M. R. Ry. R. VYTHINATHA IYER AVERGAL, B.A., B.C.E., Asst. Engineer, P.W.D. "It contains information connected with every branch of the profession and ought to be found very useful in practice."

Col. A. T. FRASER, R. E., a retired Superintending Engineer, of the Madras P.W.D. "It seems to contain the more useful data for works in the South of India, and will save a number in the Department, having to search their notes and text-books, as they get the whole compiled for them."

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OPINIONS
ON
THE PAMPHLET
ARCHITECTURE, REVIVAL OF THE ART NECESSARY
IN INDIA
BY
A. V. RAMACHANDRA AIYAR, F.S.I., A. Can. Soc. C.E.

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From Sir Arthur Bigge, K.C.B., Private Secretary to
Her most gracious Majesty the Queen Victoria.

Buckingham Palace,
28th March 1900.

"The Private Secretary is commanded by the Queen
to thank Mr. A. V. Ramachandra Aiyar, for his letter of
the 8th instant and for the pamphlet on Architecture which
accompanied it."

From W. R. Lawrence, Esquire, C.I.E., Private
Secretary to his Excellency Lord Curzon, P.C., G.M.S.I.,
G.M.I.E., Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

Viceregal Lodge, Simla,
29th May 1899.

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of
the 17th instant, and to thank you for the copy of your
pamphlet on Architecture which you have been good enough
to send for the Viceroy's acceptance."

From H. A. Sim, Esquire, I.C.S., Private Secretary
to His Excellency Sir A. E. Havelock, G.C.M.G., Governor
of Madras.

Government House,
Ootacamund, 19th April 1899.

"His Excellency wishes me to thank you for the copy
of the pamphlet on Architecture which you have been good
enough to send him."

From the Private Secretary to His Highness Sir Raja
Ram Raja Bahadur, G.C.S.I., Maharaja of Travancore.

Palace, Trivandrum,
18th April 1899.

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the
13th instant, and the copy of the pamphlet therein advised.
I duly submitted them to His Highness the Maharaja and
in reply I am directed to convey to you His Highness"
thanks for the pamphlet."

From R. F. Chisholm, Esquire, F.R.I.B.A., late
consulting Architect to the Government of Madras.

Heidelberg (Germany),
30th May 1899.

"I have perused with much interest your little book
entitled 'Architecture.'.....Keep to your own native style
and you cannot go wrong. If you found your Society I
wish it success in every way."

From the Honourable Sir S. Subramanya Iyer, B.L.,
Kt., C.I.E., Judge, High Court, Madras.

"I have read with interest your paper on the improve-
ment of Architecture in this country. I can well sympathise
with you in your wish to bring about some improvement in
the existing state of things However this may be, your
idea of starting an association deserves support."

Proceedings of the Madras Government. Read the
following paper :—

From M. R. Ry. A. V. Ramachandra Aiyar Avergal,
Vellore, dated 15th June 1899.

Order No. 721 dated 22nd June 1899.

The pamphlet will be forwarded to the Registrar and
Superintendent of Records, India Office, for transmission
to the British Museum.

(True extract)
(Signed.) H. E. CLERK,
For Chief Secretary.

From the "Keeper" of the British Museum.

London, W. E.,
July 31st 1899.

"I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of
Architecture, Revival of the Art necessary in India, which
you have been so good as to present to the Trustees of the
British Museum."

From the Librarian, Canadian Society of Civil Engi-
neers.

Montreal,
June 5th 1899.

"On behalf of the Canadian Society of Civil Engi-
neers I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of your
pamphlet entitled, 'Architecture,' Revival of the Art
necessary in India, and to convey to you the thanks of the
Society for this donation to the Library."

From the Honourable Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, C.S.I.,
Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Shillong,
25th April 1899.

"I beg to thank you for your pamphlet on Architecture which I received this morning,"

From S. D. Pears, Esquire, Executive Engineer Madras,
P. W. Department.

Vellore,
February 22, 1900.

"The pamphlet is a laudable first step in the long untrodden path, and deserves encouragement."

From E. R. Soobraya Iyer Avergal, B.A., B.C.E.,
Comptroller, Mysore State.

Bangalore,
27th March 1899.

"I read through your paper on Architecture with much interest."

From A. Rea, Esquire, M.R.A.S., F.S.A., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Madras.

Avalahalli Plantation,
Bangalore District.

"I am very much obliged for your pamphlet on Architecture, which you have been so good as to send me. I was much interested in the contents."

From M. R. Ry. R. Vythinatha Iyer Avergal, B.A.,
B.C.E., Assistant Engineer, Madras P.W.D.

Tanjore,
26th April 1899.

"I have read your interesting paper on the necessity for the Revival of Indian Architecture. I believe an institute such as the one you advocate is necessary for the elevation of this class to a standard suitable to our present requirements. I wish you success."

Huzur Cutcherry,
Trivandrum, 11th September 1899.

Official Memo.

With reference to his letter dated 24th ultimo, to the Private Secretary to the Highness the Maha Raja requesting help towards the publication of his proposed work on Indian Architecture, Mr. A. V. Ramachendra Aiyar, is informed that His Highness has been pleased to sanction a donation of Rs. (100) one hundred towards the cost of the publication.

* * * * *

(Signed.) K. KRISHNASAMY ROW,
Dewan.

The Hindu.—Architecture in India.

"Mr. A. V. Ramachendra Iyer, Member of the Architectural Association of Edinburgh, Member of the Institute of Junior Engineers, London, and Member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, has sent us a neatly got-up pamphlet in which he pleads for the revival of Architecture in India. He quotes, in support of his cause

the words of a former Governor of Madras, the late Lord Napier of Ethick: "Architecture, is an art of necessity as well as decoration, closely allied with the Mechanical Sciences, with industry, commerce, public safety, economy, health and religion. It is the art of the temple, the farmer, the market and the theatre. It is the protection and the home of other arts, the most glorious and permanent of all." In the works of the ancient Hindus, the author says, there are no less than 32 kinds of architecture mentioned. The causes for the decay of architecture in India, he says, were the sharp struggle for supremacy that was characteristic of the last century and the religious intolerance that always accompanied it. The art develops with civilization. The degeneracy is due to the Art being left in the hands of illiterate men, and now the "untrained native designers are incompetent to adopt modern conveniences to their traditional methods." The writer then attempts to point out the necessity for improvement, and suggests the formation of a society for the best way of reviving and improving the art. The author has the sympathy of all patriotic men in his desire to effect some improvement in the present neglected state of the Indian Architecture."

The South Indian Mail.—"Architecture—This is a science which has to be improved to suit the advancement of times, the development of civilization and the conveniences which the climatic conditions demand."

With this very object in view, the author of the brochure 'Architecture, Revival of the Art necessary in India,' has suggested the formation of an Architectural Association in India."

"Architecture, Revival of the Art necessary in India," is the title of a neat little pamphlet printed by Messrs. Higgimbotham and Co., and published by Mr. A. V. Ramachandra Aiyar, F.S.I., Member of the Architectural Association, Edinburgh, &c., &c. The writer discusses the usefulness and necessity of reviving this ancient art, quoting the excellent remarks on the subject by such eminent authorities as Dr. Fergusson, and Lord Napier. He further points out the qualifications of the architect which look at first sight rather formidable, especially "as the true architect besides possessing a knowledge of the absolutely necessary artistic and mathematical requirements, should be imbued with learning." The Indian architect betrays a deplorable want of scientific knowledge in spite of his industrious disposition and it is suggested that the nation as a whole should by private efforts raise this art away from its present backwardness and the best to do it would be to found an association and work it out after the models in America, England and such advanced countries. The book is interesting and instructive to all those who think it their duty to preserve this ancient art of ours. Mr. Ramachandra Aiyar's attempts and suggestions are always original and often in the right direction and it is the duty of the educated public to encourage him in his endeavours."

DESIGNED BY

A. V. RAMACHANDRA AIYAR, F. S. I. (LOND.).

1. E. K. Krishnan Esq., B.L., Sub Judge writes on 28th November 1894:—

"I extremely regret that your kindness in furnishing a design and estimate for the Calicut Jubilee Town Hall has not been properly acknowledged. Let me, as the Ex-President of the Committee, now thank you for the signal help you rendered us in the construction of an ornamental little building which rounds off the western side of the Manandurai Tank. It is of great utility to Calicut when your services and my services in connection therewith are being probably forgotten. I left Calicut in 1892. Your design has been admirable. * * *"

2. Extract from the *Barata* dated the 9th Decbr. 94.

"* * * Great credit is indeed due to Mr. Ramachandra Iyer for the perfection of his design and I wish that in every place to which he might be transferred the people will see the usefulness of his design so that all the places trodden by him may also boast of having such a fine, cheap and perfect Town Hall."

3. H. E. Clerk Esq., Executive Engineer, Madras P. W. D., observes on the 7th February 1895:—

"I am very glad that the Hall is so much appreciated. I congratulate you."

4. M. R. Ry. P. Krishnasawmy Iyer Avergal B.A., District Registrar and a Managing Member of the Jubilee Committee certifies on the 29th August 1895:—

"The design was simply excellent and there stands the Hall as a proof of your great capacity."

"An Epitome of Engineering" by A. V. Ramachandra Aiyar.

- (1). Extract from the ^{Catalogue} review of books published in the Fort St. George, Gazette, by order of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

"Intended as a ready reference book with plates and summary of calculations and various tables to help the Engineer, Architect, Surveyor, builder and others. The arrangement of the matter is alphabetical and the whole ends with a useful index to facilitate reference."

- (2). The Government of Madras have ordered the book to be used as a reference book in all the P. W. Department Offices in the Presidency Vide G. O. No. 3250. W. dated 23rd November 1900 and have authorized the purchase of copies by all the District Boards in the Presidency Vide G. O. No. 232. L. dated 4th March 1902. The book has been similarly patronized by the Native States of Mysore, Baroda, Travancore, Pudukotta and Hyderabad.

The 2nd Edition of the above work is now in the Press.

The Municipal Council Madurai and the Vizanagaram Samasthanam have already arranged to purchase copies of the 2nd Edition.

Solicits Patronage.

Five copies apply to.—**A. V. RAMACHANDRA AIYAR,**
10th April 1906. *Madurai*

C. No. 590 From the A.V. Rama Chandra Aiyar No. 7 dated 25-5-1906.

SUBJECT.

Application for being considered a licensed person for the preparation of plans & estimates for school buildings.

T.

vide letter page of his book forming the first enclosure to his appⁿ.

Article 50 of the new grant in aid Code provides that applications for grants for school buildings and for hostels or boarding houses for students "shall be accompanied by a plan and an estimate, prepared by a professional or other competent person, of the cost of the work proposed." Mr. A.V. Ramachandra Aiyar who is a retired officer of the P.W.D. and who appears to be a member of the Architectural Assⁿ (Edinburgh), member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (London) & member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain & Ireland and who has written a pamphlet on Architecture, requests that he may be considered a licensed person for the preparation of plans & estimates mentioned in the article of the Grant in aid Code quoted.

2. Before a school is "recognized" also, its site, plan & accommodation have to be approved by the Director in the case of Secondary Schools and by the Inspectors in the case of primary schools - article 21 of the Educational rules. This plan may be prepared by any competent person & managers who require the services of an officer of the P.W.D. can apply to the Executive Engineer of the District or in the Presidency Town to the Consulting architect - article 23 of the Educational rules.

3. It is submitted that under the rules it is for managers of schools to decide whether Mr. A.V. Ramachandra Aiyar is a competent person to prepare the plans ^(and estimates) required by them and he has to convince them that he is. We have no official knowledge of his capacity.

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C. No. 890, From the A. V. Ramachandra Aiyar No., dated 25-5-1906.

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” ” ” ” ” ” ” 190

No. 399, dated 8-6-1906

Mis.

~~With reference to his letter of~~
In R.Ry
~~25.5.06,~~ A. V. Ramachandra Ayyar is
informed that Government do not
grant any such licenses as that for
which he ^{now} ~~has~~ asked.

Obs
8-6-0.

7.6.06

Mr. A. V. Ramachandra Aiyar
Ivanni Pillai Street, Triplicane
Madras.

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____ } 190
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____, DATED
 190 _____

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO C. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT ... A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.--
 A = Copy in full.
 B = Not to be copied.
 P = Copy abstract only.
 H = Copy heading only

*The reference is to the ...
 A.V. Ramachandra ...
 informed the Government ...
 grant and such license as that for ...
 which he has ...*

*A.V. Ramachandra ...
 from the ...*