

which Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick accepted the pastorate of the Park Avenue Baptist congregation. The architects' plans have been approved within the past fortnight, and preparation for the foundations is under way.

So far as the drawings and advance description indicate, the Riverside Church will constitute a high achievement in combining genuine academic tradition, creative interpretation, and contemporary usefulness—which is the qualification of vital architecture. The elements of the design were collected by the architects, Charles Collens and Henry C. Pelton, in a study of Gothic and Romanesque ecclesiastical buildings in France and Spain. From the Cathedral in Chartres came the definition of the simple, sturdy, noble Gothic that will characterize the church—windows without tracery, and with heavy leading framing the glass; an exterior of a grace spiritual yet severe. From Chartres was adapted the massive, aspiring 375-foot tower, which is to contain twenty stories of parish rooms for many uses, reached by an elevator, and, at the top, a carillon of fifty-seven bells. From the Cathedral in Bordeaux came the precedent for having the entrance at the side, which in the case of the New York church permits the axis to run parallel to Riverside Drive. Projected adjoining Gothic buildings of the Union Theological Seminary as seen in the drawing tend to give the church the appearance of an

English cathedral, with its great tower in the middle rather than at the front.

From a number of churches in Spain and southern France came the suggestion of a low, wide vault for the nave. In contrast to the narrow, lofty proportions of northern French and English cathedrals, the broader treatment was adopted as most suitable to accommodate 2,400 worshipers and to provide the improved acoustics and increased vision desirable for the Protestant form of service. The architects feel that none of the inspirational qualities of the loftier naves is lacking from the prototypes of the wider, lower design for the River-

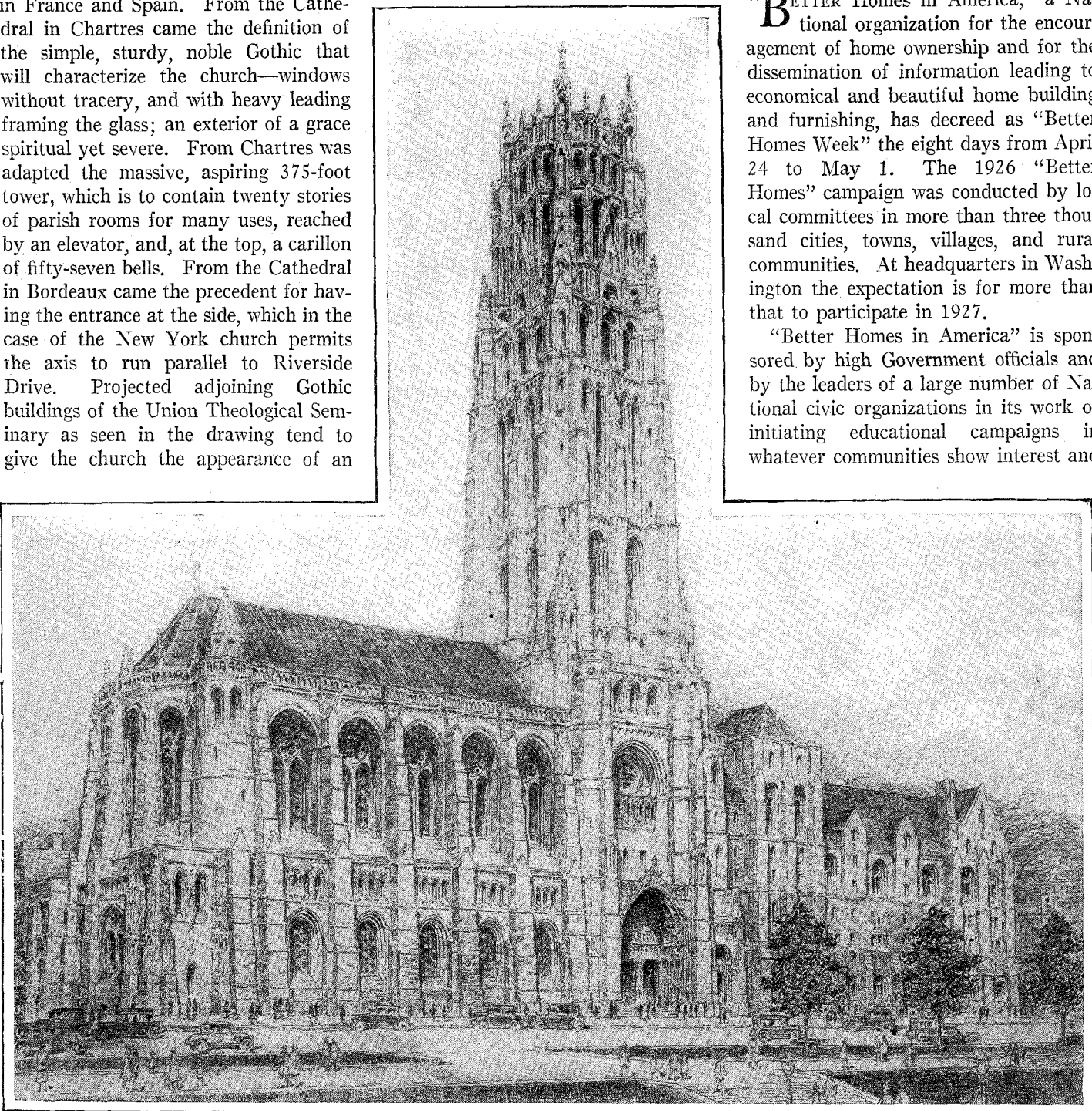
side Church. A chapel to hold 200 persons, entered by the door visible on the drawing immediately south of the main portal, has been designed in a pointed Romanesque style in what promises to be charming contrast with the later Gothic of the rest of the church.

When the surpassing grace of the Woolworth Building threatens to be followed by the gaunt lines and blank walls of merely "the tallest building in the world," it is reassuring to find another major American architectural project dipping into the exhaustless stream of historical beauty for its form.

Better Homes

"**B**ETTER Homes in America," a National organization for the encouragement of home ownership and for the dissemination of information leading to economical and beautiful home building and furnishing, has decreed as "Better Homes Week" the eight days from April 24 to May 1. The 1926 "Better Homes" campaign was conducted by local committees in more than three thousand cities, towns, villages, and rural communities. At headquarters in Washington the expectation is for more than that to participate in 1927.

"Better Homes in America" is sponsored by high Government officials and by the leaders of a large number of National civic organizations in its work of initiating educational campaigns in whatever communities show interest and



The architects' drawing of the projected Riverside Church, New York

of distributing publications outlining various means of making better homes. Prizes are offered for the best-conducted campaigns in towns of various sizes. A number of communities, impelled by these measures, have built houses, or refurbished and furnished houses already standing, to serve as demonstrations. At the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia a model house was built and furnished by a local committee, to be maintained permanently by the Girl Scouts of the city. Elsewhere, local committees have arranged "Better Homes" tours, to show their fellow-citizens what their neighbor towns were doing to improve their homes.

Americans who have taken pleasure in the increasing attractiveness of average homes will join those who have been helped in having attractive homes in gratitude for the influence of the "Better Homes" movement, which is now centered in the "Better Homes in America" organization.

"Poisoning the People's Drink"

THOSE who celebrated the season of peace on earth with lethal doses of bootleg liquor have caused, dead, more strife than, alive, they ever could have caused. When they were alive, most of them could not disturb the peace sufficiently to influence anything higher than a police court. Now that they are dead, they have started a turmoil which involves several National organizations and the Treasury Department of the United States Government, and will involve Congress.

The wets are charging again that the Government is "poisoning the people's drink" by denaturing commercial alcohol. The thirty or so persons who died of alcoholism in New York City at Christmas are said to have been murdered by the Government, as are the eight hundred or so who died in that city from the same cause during the year 1926. The fact is overlooked, apparently, that there always have been deaths from alcoholism. Indeed, the number of such deaths has not varied greatly from year to year. In 1910, nine years before prohibition, the number of deaths from alcoholism in New York City was greater than in 1926.

Still, it is not to be denied that many of those who drank themselves to death at Christmas in New York City drank alcohol denatured by the Government with poisonous substances, redistilled, peddled by bootleggers. Both the revenue law under which alcohol is dena-

tured and the Prohibition Law were, in that sense, instruments of homicide. But it would be more logical to charge General Andrews, head of prohibition enforcement, directly with the deaths. Somewhat more poisoned alcohol was drunk than usual because better enforcement of the Prohibition Law made less real liquor obtainable. And that applies to most other cities as much as to New York.

Information comes from reliable sources that enforcement lines have recently been so tight that practically no real liquor has found its way into New York or any other of the large Eastern cities with the exception of Baltimore. There are said to be sources of supply among the tortuous inlets of Chesapeake Bay from which the Maryland metropolis drew fairly liberal supplies of real liquor for Christmas. Over the country inland, cities great and small were in the same situation as New York. One city on the Pacific coast, Seattle, was about as fortunate—or unfortunate—as Baltimore.

And so Senator Edwards, of New Jersey, and the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment talk of legalized murder and the like. "In opposing the use of poisonous denaturants," says a statement from the Association, "this Association has always held that nobody voted for prohibition with murderous intent. It still holds that the misguided followers of the Anti-Saloon League did not so vote." The Association Against the Prohibition Amendment ought to know—and probably does know—that alcohol is not denatured under the Volstead Law or the Eighteenth Amendment, but under a revenue law passed in 1906 without the slightest reference to prohibition.

The Treasury Responds

THE Treasury Department, as if in defiant answer to its critics, put into effect on January 1 a new denaturing formula containing twice as much wood alcohol as the old ones. Heretofore commercial alcohol has contained two per cent of wood alcohol. Hereafter it will contain four per cent. Some other poisonous substances, however, are left out, and commercial alcohol, as such, is no more poisonous than before.

Further, the announcement has been made personally by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon that the Government has no desire to put poisons into commercial alcohol if it can be denatured with non-poisonous substances. Chemists in the Prohibition Unit are hard at work in an effort to discover denaturants

non-poisonous but so vile tasting and nauseous as to render alcohol undrinkable even after the finest arts of redistillation have been applied to it. If such a denaturant can be found, it will be used. Secretary Mellon, however, is not very hopeful that any such formula can be evolved. Neither are the chemists who are at work upon the problem. Some progress, it is announced, has been made, but nothing as yet known to chemistry is adequate.

Persons whose knowledge of hard liquor and hard drinkers of liquor comes from observation rather than from experience will be, perhaps, even more doubtful than the Secretary and the chemists. It is probably not possible to make anything so distasteful that certain types of soaks will refuse to drink it. Most of the liquor consumed during the past several years has been decidedly vile tasting. And it has always been accepted as a fact that persons who get drunk derive no pleasure from the taste of their liquor. Most of them are gagged by it, even when it is good liquor. If any chemist's job depends upon his ability to make an intoxicating draught so nasty that men like this will not drink it, that chemist had better resign at the outset; but some chemist may some day find a substance inseparable from alcohol that, though not deadly, but acting as an emetic, will make the alcohol undrinkable.

Hoods or Flour Sacks?

WHEN the Governor of Georgia in offering a reward for the conviction of those engaged in a whipping outrage declared that "mobs with heads covered with flour sacks shall not rule in Georgia," he did not mean to distinguish between flour sacks and hoods. But the Grand Dragon of the Georgia Ku Klux Klan pointed out that his followers wore robes and regalia, and that the night-birds who beat and injured Mr. W. E. Brown wore something different and presumably inferior.

At all events, Mr. Brown was thoroughly thrashed with leather straps, and he says that it was because he prosecuted "alleged members of a hooded mob that killed Willie Wilson in July" and that the punishment was for attacking the Klan and writing newspaper articles—in other words, for exercising the right of free speech and a free press.

The incident illustrates the basic fallacy of regulation by secret society. Even a theoretically ideal society that whips or banishes people without trial is bound to have imitators of a baser sort, and who shall separate the noble