INTRODUCTION

The illustrations have been conceived as of equal weight with the text in the composition of Vols 1 and 2, but with this volume on Construction they are of special significance. Building construction is more effectively represented graphically than verbally. Indeed the traditional students text books of building construction (McKay, Mitchell, etc.) take the form of sheets of detail drawings with accompanying notes, rather than an illustrated text. It is hoped then that Part 2 of this volume may parallel in some degree such text books of traditional modern building construction.

There is no lack of effective illustrations of Ancient Building Construction, rather the difficulty is to limit the choice from those available. Here it may be said that any merit the present submission may have lies not in striking “novelties” among individual illustrations. Photographs of building construction detail are not selected for their art content; and drawings are chosen above all for their simplicity and directness of expression, not as examples of fine draughtsmanship. The virtue aimed at here resides in the selection and its ordering, so that the individual items cast light on one another to form a collective account of Ancient Building Construction, which in some way is a readier reference than the text. If this aim is achieved in any degree then the present part of Vol 3 may possess its own independent utility.