

The Christchurch of the Future

"Perfection Plans" at Local Exhibition

C.T. July 3, 1943

PLANS for a post-war Christchurch, with blocks of houses surrounded by public gardens, and open ground along both sides of the river and around the Priory Church, are included in the "Living in Cities" Exhibition on view at the Town Hall all this week, from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily. A by-pass from Hinton Admiral to Iford Bridge would carry all through traffic past the built-up areas, which are to be confined to specified parts within the town.

This plan is intended mainly for discussion and criticism, and shows clearly the proposed built-up areas and the open land, and some populated regions, including much of the Jumpers area, which it is intended should revert to open ground.

A new Civic Centre for Christchurch, to be situated at the Pit, is the subject of a plan drawn up by Mr. B. Harrison. This includes a Council Chamber seating 250 persons, a public library, with reference and children's libraries, municipal restaurant, rest rooms, and children's welfare centre, as well as all the departments of the Borough Council. Undoubtedly, the replanning of towns will form an essential part of any post-war programme, and the question presents a personal problem of vital importance to every householder. The exhibition of photographs and diagrams showing housing in cities in the past and present and plans for the future have been formed to stimulate discussion on the subject, and any practical suggestions put forward will be welcomed.

Evening discussions

During the week lectures have been given each evening, when the interest felt on this problem was shown by the numbers of questions each speaker was asked by the audience.

The first speaker, on Monday evening, was Miss Jane Drew, F.R.I.B.A., who was introduced by his worship the Mayor (Councillor T. Markham).

The principal factor to remember in rebuilding, said Miss Drew, was the "way of life" of the people. In the past housing schemes have been carried out; hundreds of houses had been set up and roads built to them. But more than this was needed. In a "way of life" children had to be considered, and children needed light, sun and air, and a place in which to play, where there were trees and grass instead of endless brick walls.

Beauty was an essential part of any life, and in these days of machinery and mass-production, when a single unit was multiplied many thousands of times, the original planning of that unit had to be made with the utmost care.

Greek Cities.

Another important aspect of life, that of the community as a whole, had been greatly neglected in the past. Miss Drew referred to the Greeks who first of all planned their temple, theatre, market place, athletic and political centres, and built their dwelling houses around this plan of their way of life.

After a brief historical survey of architecture and housing conditions up to the present time, Miss Drew showed lantern slides of modern plans of city building. If the same population is to be accommodated in the cities as before, she said, and parks and open spaces

left as well, the only solution was to build upwards. Large blocks of flats can be made to look very beautiful, and by concentrating the population would prevent the spreading into the country from every city of ever-growing areas of suburbs.

A vote of thanks to Miss Drew was proposed by the Deputy Mayor (Alderman Galton), who also thanked his Worship the Mayor for his chairmanship during the meeting.