

TENNIS AND RACQUET CLUB, BOSTON, MASS.
Parker and Thomas, Architects

The Technology Review

VOL. VI.

APRIL, 1904

No. 2.

THE TENNIS AND RACQUET CLUB, BOSTON, MASS.

It is the intention of the REVIEW from time to time to publish the work accomplished by former students of Technology, and this number contains a very interesting architectural composition from the office of Messrs. Parker and Thomas in this city. J. Harleston Parker graduated from Harvard in the class of '93, and Douglas H. Thomas, Jr., from Johns Hopkins in the same year. Immediately afterwards they came to the Institute. Mr. Parker later studied at the École des Beaux-Arts, in Paris, and on his return to Boston the partnership was formed. It was successful at once, both in Baltimore, the home of Mr. Thomas, and in Cambridge and Boston. Important responsibility was early placed on the shoulders of these young men, and their ability always to meet it, we hope, was due in part to their early training at the Institute.

The building here represented is the home of the Tennis and Racquet Club, on the corner of Boylston and Hereford Streets. It is one of the very best examples of vigorous and consistent design that has been seen in Boston for many days. The street is narrow, and the building is very properly designed to be seen close at hand and in sharp perspective; and the whole thing falls into superb harmony. This really very remarkable building is, besides, a brilliant

piece of color composition, and is about as good an example of the frank development of an exterior from interior conditions as one could ask. The building is absolutely fireproof, and is built of brick and stone, with iron framework and solid walls of brick. It is three stories in height.

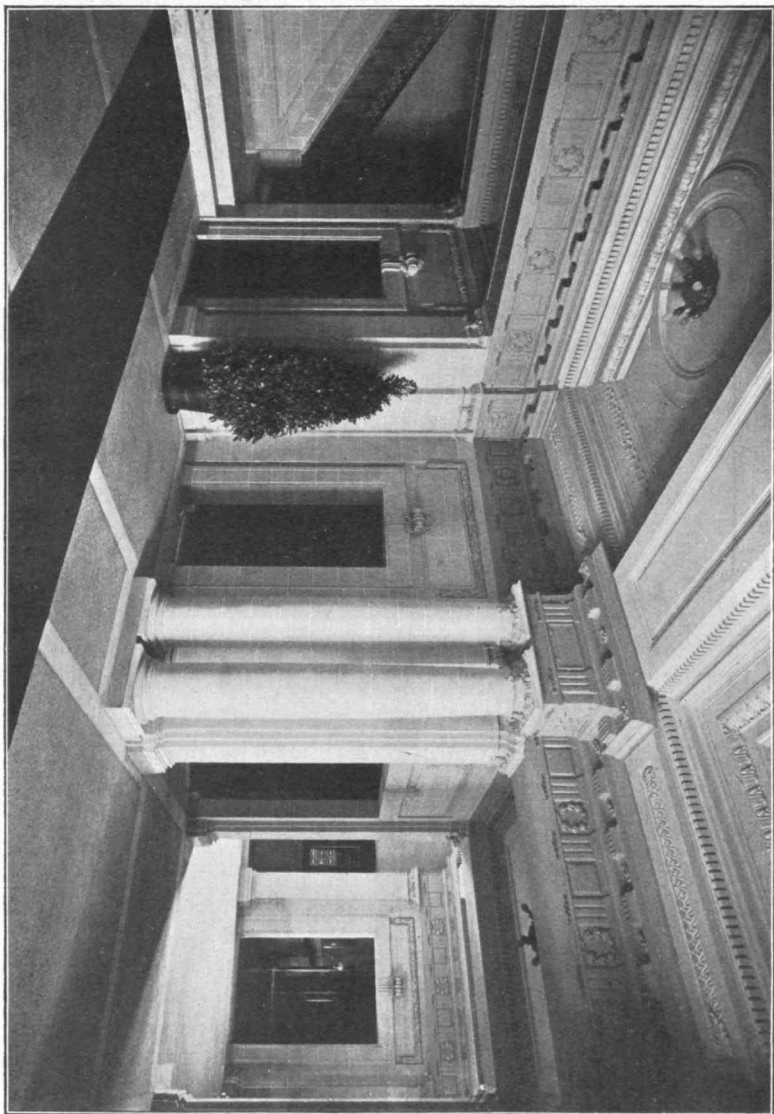
On entering the building from Boylston Street, one passes into a beautiful hall, finished in French Caen stone. The hall is 40 feet long and about 15 feet wide, and at the extreme end is a broad wrought-iron staircase, leading to the floors above. This hall, with its panelled ceiling and artistic finish, is in the style of Louis XVI., as, in fact, is the entire treatment of the interior.

To the left of the hall are the living and dining rooms, also the coat-room ; and on the right is the strangers' room, the main office, the bell-boys' booth, and the elevator ; and beyond the office is the billiard-room and a card-room. To the rear of the office is a café and bar and a private dining-room. The entrances from the hall to these various rooms are marked by columns, in pairs, of Caen stone, producing a somewhat formal architectural treatment.

The living-room is finished in oak, with a large limestone fireplace. The dining-room adjoining, which extends along the Hereford Street side of the building, is finished in mahogany. The dimensions of this room are 70 by 30 feet, so that there will be plenty of room for the future needs of the club in this respect. In connection with the office is a room for the clerical force.

The billiard-room is on the Boylston Street side of the building. Its dimensions are 54 by 26 feet, affording ample room for four tables ; and leading from the billiard-room is a card-room, large enough for four tables, and a writing-room for the convenience of members.

Perhaps one of the most attractively arranged rooms on



Entrance Hall

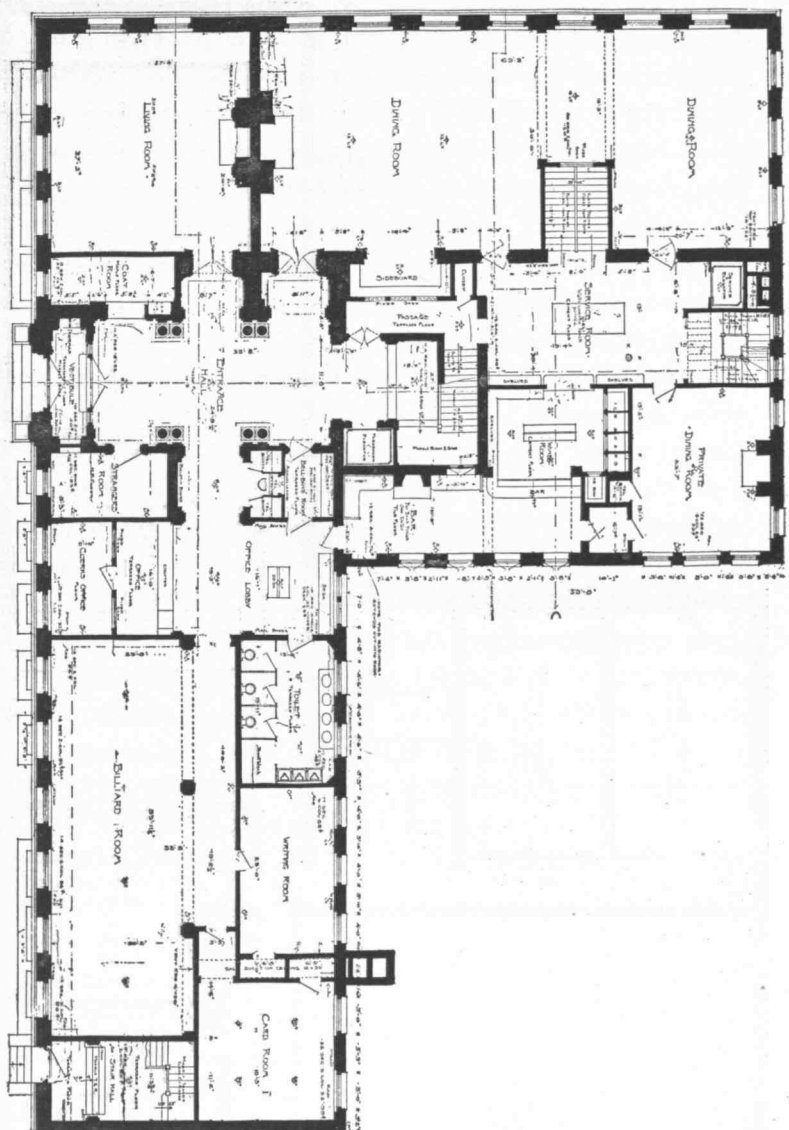
the ground floor is the bar. Here a Tyrolean effect is produced by a combination of exposed red brick, with the bar located between two columns, and around the sides of the room are rough, deep seats and tables.

The main service room is just beyond the hall, and centrally located, so as to be in close touch with every room on the floor. The kitchen is in the basement, and on account of the drop in Hereford Street is unusually well lighted. It is equipped with all the latest improvements for cooking.

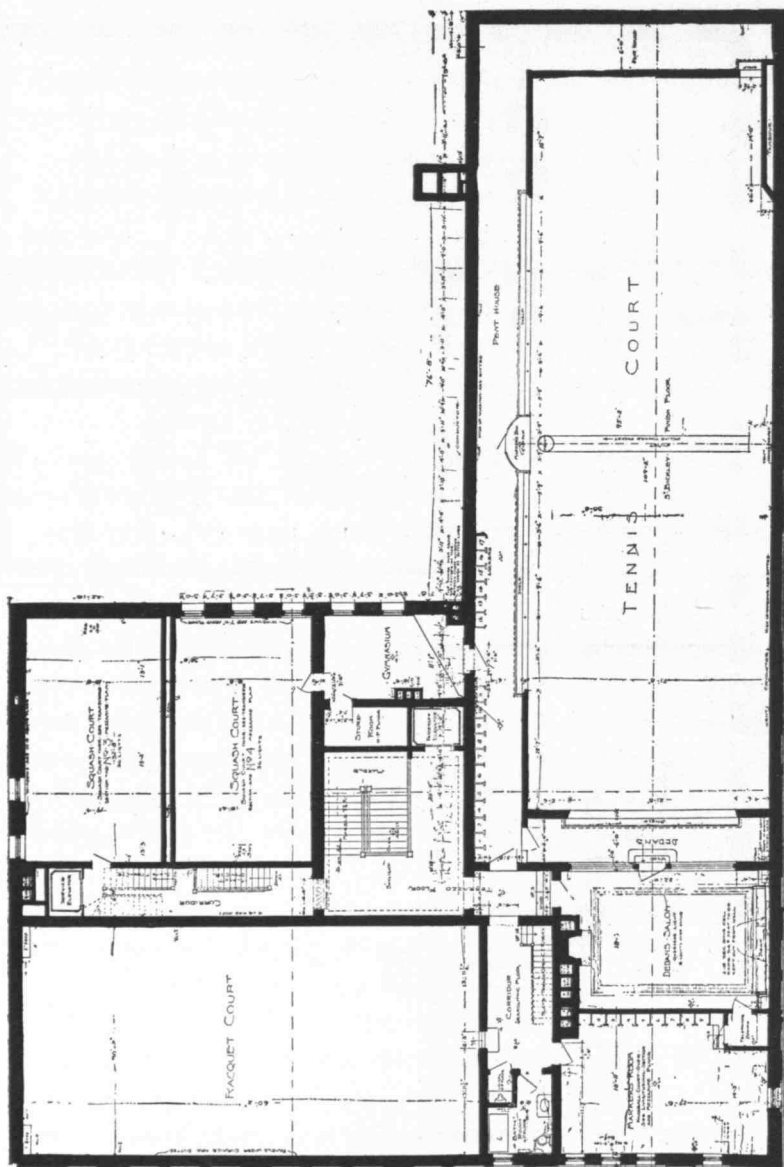
On the second floor the lounging-room, which fronts on Boylston Street, is probably the most popular room in the entire building. It has a beamed ceiling, with brick wainscoting, giving an unusual effect. There is an immense limestone fireplace, with big lounges placed about. In this room there is a large board where members sign for games, and a glance at this board will tell just what matches are on for the day or week.

Leading from the lounging-room is the dressing-room, with the baths beyond. The bath-room is finished in enamelled brick, and it is finely located in regard to light, as the sun breaks in from the west late in the day. The locker and drying-rooms are easy of access, the locker-room being only a step away from the dressing-room. There are three hundred lockers which are rented to members. Leading from the locker-room is a drying-room, and on the same floor, directly over the Boylston Street entrance, is a card-room, large enough for six tables.

On each landing of the antique-fashioned staircase of marble and wrought iron there are panel spaces, which will be used as a sort of "hall of fame" for the future club and national champions in tennis and racquets. Oak tablets will be inserted in these panels, and the names of the winners for each year will be inscribed thereon. On this



Floor Plan—Ground Floor



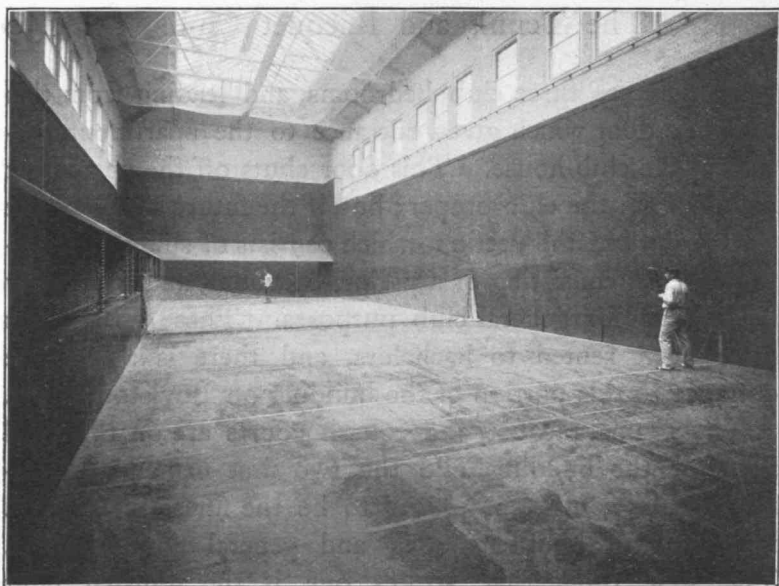
Floor Plan — Third Floor

floor there are three club bedrooms, and leading from this floor is a door which gives entrance to the apartment section of the club-house. This door shuts off the apartment section from the club proper; but, if the future needs of the club require it, this section, which consists of suites of apartments, each consisting of a parlor, bedroom, and bath, may be utilized for general club purposes. These apartments have been rented to bachelors, and there is a separate entrance to this portion of the building on Boylston Street.

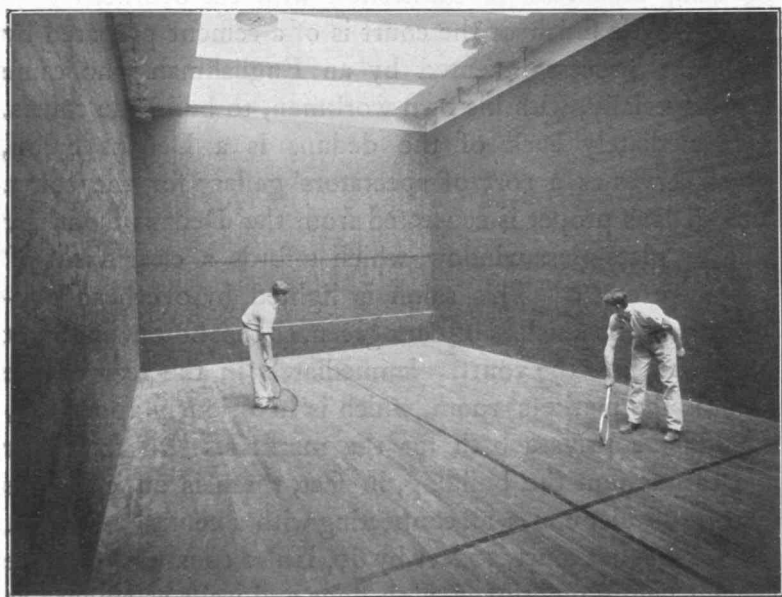
The tennis, racquet, and squash courts are on the third floor of the building, and the two first named are pronounced by competent judges to be the finest in America in regard to light, material, and general appointments. The first thing that strikes one is the unusual light that pervades the tennis court, and this is accomplished by using sidelights in connection with the overhead skylights. The finish of the court is of a cement prepared by a patent process invented by an Englishman who came over especially, with his own workmen, to build the courts.

Immediately back of the dedans is a Dedans Salon, which serves as a sort of spectators' gallery for the court. The dedans proper is separated from the Dedans Salon by a heavy plate-glass window, which affords a clear view of the entire court. This salon is lighted by overhead skylights, and the finish is of dark green, so that no outside light will break into the court. Immediately in the rear of the salon is the markers' room, which is luxuriously appointed, including a private bath for the markers. On this floor and throughout the building, in fact, there is an elaborate system of telephones, all connecting with a central exchange.

The racquet court, 30 feet by 60, is also constructed of the cement before mentioned, with floor and walls as smooth as glass. Here, again, the overhead light is used, and a new



Tennis Court



Racquet Court

effect is obtained in the gallery by having a top platform extending to the edge of the court, so that the spectators may see the play in every corner of it. The game of squash is more of an exercise pastime than a sport like racquets or tennis; and, realizing the growing interest in squash, the Tennis and Racquet Club has provided five courts, some of which are lighted artificially. Two of them are equipped with a splendid gallery, or what is technically known as a third-floor mezzanine story. These twin squash courts are lighted by thirty-six sixteen-candle-power lights.

Although the club is not an athletic club, there is a small gymnasium on the third floor, off the tennis court, where members may take light exercise with the weights and bag punching. It is hoped in the future that a covered lawn tennis court may be built in the rear of the building, on a lot owned by the club, and be connected with it. If this should ever be completed, the Tennis and Racquet Club will have a plant unequalled in the country.

FRANCIS W. CHANDLER.