BUILDING CRAFTSMANSHIP
IN BRICK AND TILE
AND IN STONE SLATES
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by

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PREFACE

I hope this little book may prove helpful to that daily increasing section of the public, lay and professional, which appreciates good craftsmanship.

I wish to express my profound gratitude to Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens, R.A., who first inspired me to observe, practise and make known old and new ways of “right building”; also my sincere thanks to another friend, Mr H. Greville Montgomery, Hon. A.R.I.B.A., editor of *The Brick Builder*, etc., and to the Architectural Press, Ltd., whose loans of blocks have made possible the publication of this volume at a moderate price.

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CRAFTSMANSHIP

There are buildings which charm us: others leave us cold. Often we cannot detect the elements which produce results that fill us with a sense of delight and satisfaction or those which have the contrary effect or, at least, which fail to inspire pleasure. How often do old buildings appeal to us and how seldom new ones! Amongst architects whose works possess the charm of old work is Sir Edwin L. Lutyens, one of the few living men to have penetrated the veil and discovered for himself those qualities which make old buildings what they are and who has succeeded in applying the same principles to his own works. Such subtle qualities are particularly noticeable in domestic buildings, in which we are quick to see their influence upon the whole, although unable to see “how it is done”. Even those who are able to refer to building textbooks get no assistance, for none of them enter into such refinements, nor, indeed, trouble to expound them. Yet the thirst for such knowledge is apparent in the young Architect who has passed through the schools with distinction, in the Estate Agent who has to design cottages and estate buildings, in the Builder who aspires to something beyond the common practice, and especially in the Layman who contemplates having a house built for his own occupation and would appreciate those little touches, not necessarily entailing increased expenditure, which in some mysterious way confer charm and distinction upon a home.

For each and all of these, this book has been written. It tells what the eighteenth century book-writers would have called the “secrets” of good building, few of which are to be found in other books. They include illustrations from works of Sir Edwin Lutyens and other architects as well as examples from works of the old builders, now forgotten. Many illustrations are by photographs taken “close up”, showing each stage of the work as well as the completed job. Where it was thought that greater clearness could be secured by measured drawings, these have been added.

Briefly, this may claim to be the first technical work to take cognisance of those elements which produce charm of effect in building construction.