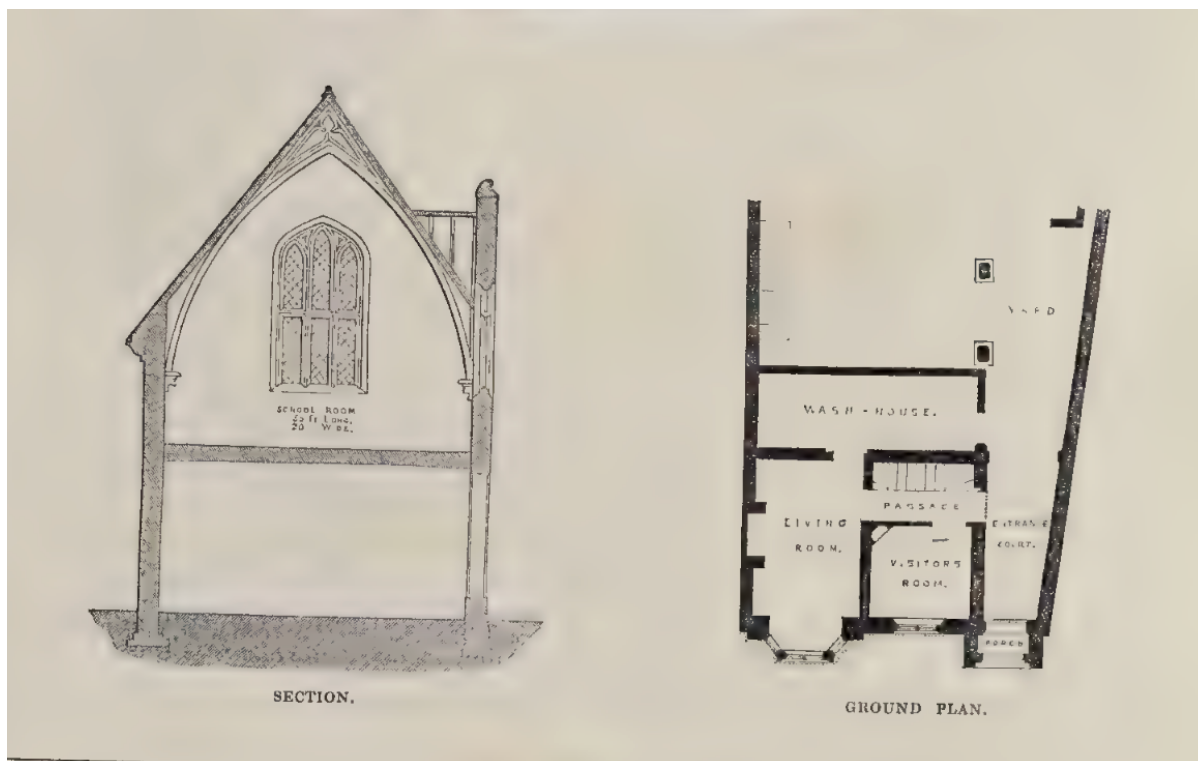
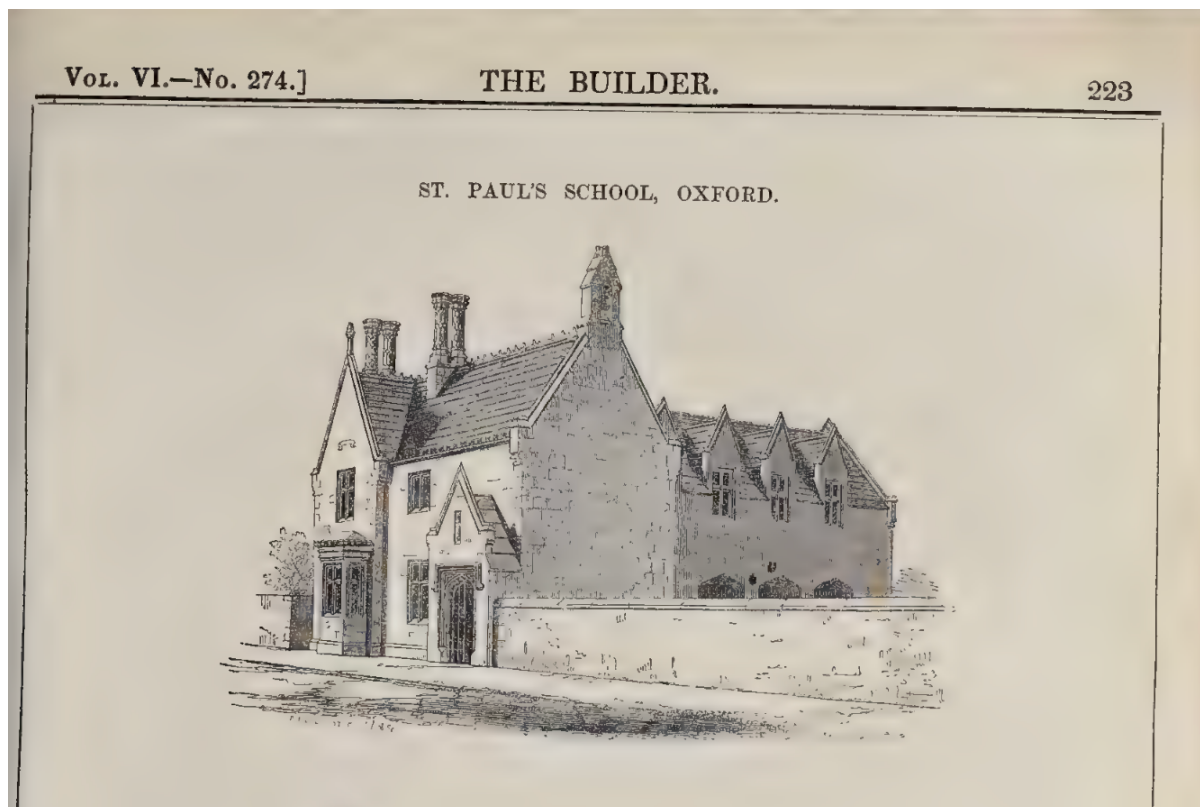


ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, OXFORD.
SELF-SUPPORTING ROOFS.



Sir,

I have frequently noticed in your excellent paper engravings and descriptions of various schools, erected or erecting, in different parts of the country, and as it is a subject of great interest at this time, when so many parochial and other schools are building, you may not think a short description of that lately erected in St. Paul's, Oxford, unimportant to your numerous readers. Surrounded as we are there by so many fine examples of Gothic architecture, we have perhaps rather exceeded the bound of usual practice in ornamental detail, not forgetting, however, substantiality, sound work, and good materials. The elevation faces and contrasts well with the fine Grecian front of the university press; this part forms the dwelling-house for the mistress (the school is only for girls), and a small room for the vicar, to transact his parochial business in. The school-room extends behind : it is 55 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 18 feet between the apex and the floor. Those engaged in educating the smaller children always consider it most advantageous to be able to send them out occasionally — for a little recreation to lessen the confinement — and as our site was too limited for a playground, we adopted the plan of placing the school-room on the second floor, and devoting the lower one to this purpose.

In the construction not a particle of wood has been used. The roofs are supported on terra-cotta ribs, with transverse sleepers of the same material, and the floors, arched on geometrical principles, are formed by tiles set in cement ; both are of undoubted strength and durability. The mullions and jambs of the windows, the chimneys, copings, and many of the ornaments, are all of terra-cotta ; by the use of these materials, and with the skill of the patentee, Mr. Grimsley, he has been enabled to give us a building, which is creditable to all parties, at a much less expense than ordinary places of this kind cost. I am sure you will be doing good service by making known this mode of building. Its applicability is not confined to schools, but well suited for work-houses, stables, barns, and warehouses, both for safety against fire, strength, and durability, not forgetting that from the absence of wood and carpenter's work, it is less costly by one-fourth than the common building.

— I am, Sir, &c.,

T.C.
Oxford, April, 1848.

P.S. The cost of this school was 650*l*. The accompanying engravings shew the appearance of the building externally, the plan of the front portion of it, and playground.