

# Building & Architecture.

The Architectural Editor will be glad to receive suggestions or matter from those interested in this section. Address: Architectural Editor, PROGRESS, Progress Buildings, Cuba Street, Wellington.

## Painting by Machinery.

It is important to notice that a technical paper goes the length of saying that in another ten years we shall be having much painting work done by machinery. It is admitted that the work of the aerograph is better than hand work for coating washable distemper on paper. Here is an expert's report:—

I used it myself, and found it easy to evenly distribute a coat of this dark colour in such a way as to be perfectly even, and to cover upon white paper as regularly and efficiently as if stippled, and with less labour than the mere stippling itself, apart from the painting. I noted that stencilling could be done as if by magic; that a 12 inch frieze could be stencilled perfectly and even blended, in one tenth of the time that the stencilling brush would take, and without any noise, jarring or exertion.

The writer begs the trade to consider the saving in "wear and tear of brushes and many similar troubles," and urges it not to oppose but to welcome the introduction of painting by machinery.

## A Most Laudable Example.

At the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts there was lately given a demonstration of London County Council activities, which, even on the eve of a fiercely contested election, could not, it was hoped, arouse adverse criticism. This was the exhibition of the works of students attending the Camberwell school and other schools affiliated to it. The exhibit included examples of architectural drawing and building construction, carpentry and staircasing, masonry, plastering, plumbing, stone carving, wood carving, house painting and decoration—to name only those which are directly connected with building. It will be seen, therefore, that the instruction given at the schools covers a wide range, but the significant thing is that in every department the aim is not merely to give skill in the ordinary trade processes. The artistic side of craftsmanship is kept constantly before the pupil, and he is encouraged to express his own individuality and make the most of those artistic faculties which, as this exhibition shows, are by no means rare among the young craftsmen of to-day. The schools are doing an admirable work in revealing to young workmen the possibilities of beauty which lie in ordinary work.—*Technical Schools of N.Z.* "Please Copy."

## Monotony and Utility.

An American writer has been advocating the use of standard sizes in the building of concrete block houses. He thinks that by such a means great saving in regard to labour would be effected. He points out the remarkable progress that has followed standardization and organisation in other industries and declares that "the situation seems to cry aloud for ready-made tenements of assorted sizes." It is not quite a pleasant prospect

for architecture, perhaps. The house as an individual artistic entity, designed to meet special needs, is no doubt the ideal state of things. But, after all, it is an ideal that is rarely realised; and the more urgent need is for sound, healthy and cheap dwellings. If that demand can be satisfied, we may well put up with the drawback of the infinite multiplication of standard types. But let not the standard be the "Carpenter's Gothic" of some of our towns.

## Cheap Cottages.

Those who do not believe in the possibility of cheap cottage-building should see a photograph and plan in a building-trade contemporary of a pair of cottages in Surrey, the plan

of which is a credit to the architects. They contain on the ground floor, a living room 12½ ft. by 11½, a lobby, a scullery almost as large as the living room and containing a bath, a gas stove and a copper. There are three bedrooms. Counting in closet, drainage and attractive fencing, the bill is £379 19s. The walls are brick, which in the top story is rough-casted. Roofing with old tiles cost 32s. 6d. per square. The dividing walls were of patent slab construction, not of stud and plaster.

## Lightning Proof Building.

Yet another advantage of ferro-concrete construction! This time it is the safety from lightning which is gained by buildings erected wholly on this system. A German scientific paper has been dwelling on the fact, and now the *Scientific American* has been calling attention to it. The ferro-concrete building is its own lightning conductor.

"Wiltshire Buildings," at the corner of High and Tuam streets, Christchurch, have lately been completed for Mrs. E. White, and we reproduce a photograph of same in this issue. The materials used are brick and Oamaru stone, whilst the shop piers are of bluestone. On each first floor are two bay windows of chaste design with moulded and en-



WILTSHIRE'S BUILDINGS, CHRISTCHURCH.