STUCCOLIN DECORATION: THE BANKING CHAMBER OF THE BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, WELLINGTON.

which there is a roomy passage leading to a general office in front, 25 ft. by 15 ft., which has a very handsome screen of figured rimu with sashes glazed with Muranese glass. This passage leads also to the accountant's office and Mr. Stevens' private room at the western side, warehouse at rear, 38 x 31 ft., and to the packing-room, 17 x 32 ft., which contains an office for warehousemen.

Two doors open from packing-room to yard, two open to warehouse, and two open to gateway. A bold stair-case opposite the entrance doors leads from this floor to the floor above, which has two large sample rooms in front, each 32 x 24 ft., and a warehouse at rear, 64 x 38 ft. From this floor another stair-case on the eastern side leads to the top floor, which occupies the whole area of the building. Each floor is amply lighted from front and back. Another room, 25 x 25 ft., behind pediment, is approached by a movable step ladder and lighted by the rose window in front.

Massive iron columns in basement support the ground floor; while similar iron columns on ground floor support the floor above, which has 8″ x 8″ wooden story posts for supporting the top floor, where similar posts support the roof, which consists of three spans. The internal walls on each story are match-lined, as also are the ceilings.

There is an up-to-date electric lift to convey goods from basement to each floor, and a small hand-lift running from ground floor to each floor above. There is a spacious store in the yard, 74 ft. by 23 ft., with concrete floor, and provided with copper, for heating water, and also with wash tubs, etc. Convenient W.C s are also erected in yard, with all sanitary arrangements. The windows on ground floor in front have plate glass, while the upper floor windows in front have opening casements with fan lights over, all the back windows are fitted with opening transom lights.

The main building is most substantially constructed, and forms a striking feature among the up-to-date establishments of Christchurch. The cost amounted to close upon £5000. Architect. A. H. Hart; contractors, W. Greig & Sons; clerk of works, W. Gee.

Criticism is thought to be a form of enjoyment for the one who makes it. But sometimes it's worth money to the man who gets it

Stuccolin Ceiling Decoration.

It is only a little over one-and-a-half years since the Carrara Ceiling Co Ltd started business in New Zealand, and already we find springing up in our midst an industry of great importance, not only to our architects, builders, and decorators, but to those who are interested in the steady improvement of all that pertains to the various branches of building construction. On every hand may be seen the truly artistic work in ceiling and wall decoration that follows on the use of Stuccolin, which is the well-known and exclusive product of the Carrara Ceiling Co. Ltd.

Our illustrations are representative of many examples of fine work executed in Stuccolin, and they show the possibilities of this material when fashioned at the hands of an artist.

One shows the entrance to the Grand Hotel, Wellington, and the style adopted is Louis XVI. Fluted pilasters are seen surmounting an ornamental dado, while the pillars and arches are of an exceedingly delicate design. In addition to this main hall, some fifteen rooms have been finished in Stuccolin, and the work executed by the Company right through this magnificent hotel is of a highly meritorious character.

The above illustration depicts the interior of the new Bank of Australasia, Wellington, and gives a good idea of what is undoubtedly one of the finest banking-chamber ceilings in the colony This illustration also serves to present an idea of the extent to which the plasticity of Stuccolin may be worked. The style adopted in this ceiling is Italian Renaissance, and the work has led to a very faithful representation of this style. In the centre there is a perspective balustrade in low relief, giving the appearance of a dome. It will be readily concluded on studying this illustration that Stuccolin is possible of greater effects than any other material used for ceiling work. There is a vigour and finish about it that are peculiarly its own—thus a good future for the material is assured.

We shall yet be going to the far East to learn the ways of modern methods in craftsmanship. There is always something we can pick up, though the tools and methods are strange to European or American users. Pre-eminent among the skilled craftsmen of China the carpenter still retains the leadership. Though almost invariably wedded to the use of the tools of his ancestors and to their methods, yet, when judged by results, he is more efficient in his line than are the average of the foreign-trained fitters and machinists in theirs.

The Education of Architects and Builders.

It is now well understood, says *The Carpenter and Builder*, that the demand for efficient workmen can only be met—if we must assume a revival of apprenticeship to be out of the question—by a great extension of the work of trade and technical schools. But if every reform that is needed in this direction could be achieved, if we could develop a race of highly trained workmen, so that efficient and skilful labour were the rule rather than the exception, we should still have a great deal to do before the building industry reached a really satisfactory position. We should then have a highly trained army with ill-trained or untrained officers. The education of the foreman, the clerk of works, the master builder, and the architect is at least as important a matter as the education of the workman.

Everything at present is haphazard, unscientific, unorganised. Take the case of the foreman, for instance. The foreman is generally the smart workman, who has kept his eyes open and made the most of his opportunities; but often he is quite innocent of scientific training, and is apt to be greatly puzzled, if not completely baffled, by an unfamiliar problem, and in regard to certain trades his position is often one of real embarrassment. The skilful carpenter becomes a general foreman, and is entrusted with the duty of superintending the work of masons, plasterers, and plumbers. He has picked up a smattering of these trades, but has never had a thorough grounding in them. Consequently, he has to walk very warily in dealing with men who, he feels, know their trade better than he does, and would be only too pleased to