

question of building extensions reported that it had carefully considered the matter in conjunction with a memorandum from the Director, and outlined plans from Mr. Bowring, and it recommended:—(1) That the present stairwell be thrown into the cloak-rooms and the staff common-rooms, and that a new double stairway be constructed to come out of the hall. (2) That the hall be increased in length to 100 feet. (3) That four additional rooms be added to the south wing approximately 25 x 27 feet. (4) That the ground floor of these be approached by a corridor through the present drawing office, and the upstairs rooms by an outside covered balcony. (5) That increased sanitary accommodation be provided, that the girls' cloak room be transferred to the north end of the building, and the boys' to the south. The committee also considered the question of the establishment of a hostel for boys, but in view of the urgent need for the provision of the above accommodation it recommended that the matter be postponed for the present. The estimated cost of the total work was just over £6,000. The report was adopted, the estimate of the cost to be forwarded to the Government.

The architect of the Education Board has been instructed to prepare a sketch plan of the proposed new school at West Christchurch, and Dr. Chilton has been asked to confer with the Buildings Committee at its next meeting.

#### PALMERSTON NORTH.

It is not generally known that the Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company has purchased a property of over thirty acres in the vicinity of Palmerston North, and that thereon is to be erected an extensive factory for the production of the well-known Nestle's Condensed Milk. But for the war the buildings would already have been up, and the industry in active operation. Still, even at this critical time, the initial step in construction has been taken. A cable received from London early this month directed that two artesian wells, capable of supplying at least 500,000 gallons of water daily, straightway should be sunk. This work, therefore, is not only already in hand, but it can be expected that immediately the war is over further and rapid progress will at once be made.

#### NELSON.

The trustees in the Cawthron Estate have purchased a site for the Institute at Annesbrook. An area of 26 acres has been acquired, including the old Annesbrook homestead, erected by the late Mr. Hugh Stafford. A considerable portion of the land is of first-class quality, some part being in good orchard, and the site available for the Institute building is unsurpassed, being rising ground, easy of approach, and overlooking the lower portion of the bay and the Waimans. The trustees of the Fund are investing a further £5,000 in war bonds, making £10,000 so invested.

#### WANGANUI.

During the month it was announced that the Wanganui Education Board had accepted the tender of Messrs Graham and Son, Christchurch, of £13,600 for the erection of the Sargeant Art Gallery.

It will be remembered that the winning design originated in the office of Mr. Edmund Anscombe of Dunedin. The total cost of the building is said to be in the vicinity of £10,000. Full particulars of the competition were published a few months back in "Progress," the conditions of which called for a design to cost not more than £9,000. The system of lighting adopted for the building is new for this part of the world. The galleries will be arranged face to face, with a corridor having a solid ceiling between, the light being admitted in the side of the ceiling vault above, and directed upon the picture wall, while the spectator remains in comparative darkness.

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