

# SOLDIERS AND WAR MEMORIALS

We wish to draw the attention of our readers to the announcement of a competition for a Soldiers' Memorial, which is published in this number, and in doing so we think that a few words on the subject of memorials generally will be of interest at this time, and will afford the competitors some guidance.

In a constructive problem the first step towards good design is the adjustment of the proportions, and in this connection it is important to note that there is a radical difference between proportion and dimensions. We *feel* proportion. We *measure* dimensions! Good proportion, therefore, is de-



Two Views of Concrete Monuments erected in Southland

We have received from Southland some photographs of a memorial which has been erected at Edendale, and from the "Southland Times" we learn that a similar memorial has been erected at Woodlands.

These memorials are of such a nature as to call forth some very scathing criticism on the part of local correspondents (see elsewhere in this issue), and certainly, judging from the photographs and what we can learn, we consider that it is more than justified. We publish two photographs so that our readers can judge for themselves.

The memorial, including the figure of the soldier, is made of concrete, and, as will be seen from the photographs, is lacking in good proportion.

pendent upon the comparative relations of various dimensions. The memorial is weak in the matter of proportion, and the map or outline is very unsatisfactory.

Different materials have different peculiarities, and the mark of good art is to adapt the subject to the material. Concrete is not a suitable material in which to carve a figure. In the pedestal, the strong contrast produced between the cement and the marble is not pleasing to the eye. The base, the pedestal and the figure should have been united in such a way as to form a definite whole. The cornice or cap is much too heavy, and thereby disconnects the figure and the pedestal. The strength of the shade and shadow caused by the heavy cornice is