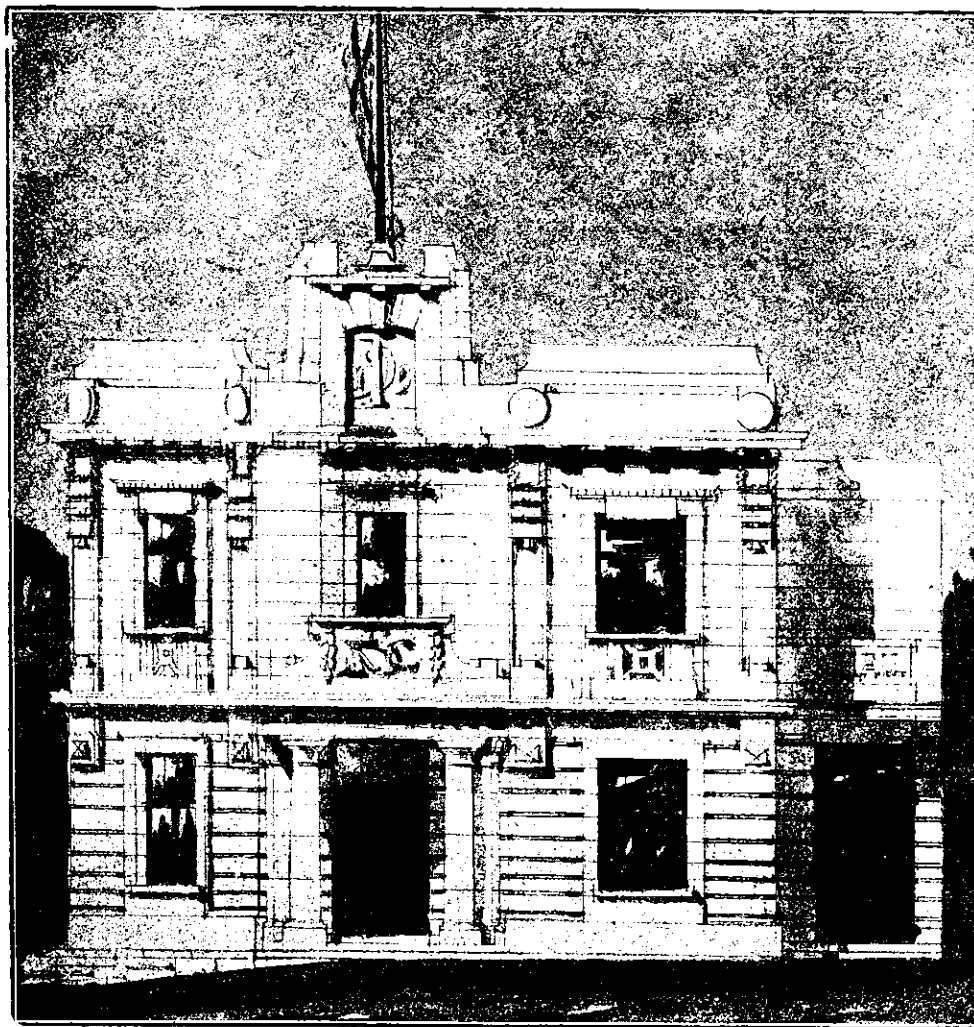


quarrel with the simile and say a tool is an instrument by which something is created, whereas concrete is the creation itself. Now this is a great fallacy. Concrete in itself is an ugly thing, but in construction it must be considered as a servant and as a means to an end. It is a good servant, but a bad master.

It is my firm conviction that the beauty of concrete construction must mainly consist in right proportions. What are right proportions? I refuse to

delicate feeling will express beauty through any medium, provided they are not hide-bound by tradition, they will create that which breeds beauty of character.

There is one thing for which we must be thankful to concrete construction, namely, that it has forced upon us the necessity for a revision of the building laws. These foolish and mischievous irritations must be revised, if not repealed altogether, for the stupidity of veneering concrete construction so as



Moray Place (Dunedin) elevation of the proposed Soldiers' Clubhouse.

have any formula forced upon me, either Greek, Roman, or Gothic. It is a matter of feeling, and is capable of refinement—forever evolving and developing as we advance in spiritual, moral and intellectual culture. We want no dogmatic statements as to what is in good proportion, any more than we need a definition of truth or beauty. All are growths, forever being purified and lifted higher. Those who are steeped in archaeology cannot glorify concrete construction. Precedent and ancient fashions will not help us there. Men with

to give it the appearance of stone is fraudulent as well as foolish. Veneer, when frankly applied, is legitimate enough, but it is open to question as to whether a concrete building cannot be made beautiful and satisfying without veneering it. The texture of concrete might be made as pleasant as that of stucco. It is quite doubtful as to whether we should allow the expenditure on veneer, the purpose of which is only to enhance appearance. True architectural beauty, in my mind, must be welded to the structural function. Therefore, the form of