

undertaken, and when that is done the effect should be very rich and striking.

For the meantime the nave has been seated with the pews from the old church, but it is intended to replace these later on with rush bottomed chairs, similar to what have been used for the aisles.

A noticeable feature of the interior is the beautiful cream colour and markings of the stone. This latter feature is especially noticeable in the piers, and other places where the hard quality was employed. Gay's Oamaru stone was used throughout except in the sheeting of the vaulting, where white and pink T.T. was mixed with the Gay's, to give a slight variety to the colour, and take away the monotony which might be caused by using the one colour right through.

One of the first impressions gained on entering the cathedral, is the extreme purity and dignified simplicity of the design, and this is without doubt partly caused by the exclusive use of stone, and the absence of harsh, crude colours, such as mar too many otherwise good designs.

A short account of the actual building of the cathedral may now be of interest. Early in 1915, the old church was cleared away, and the foundations were put in by day labour, the foundation stone being laid on June 8th, 1915. Tenders were then called for the superstructure, resulting in that of Mr. W. McLellan, of Dunedin being accepted. A start was made early in 1916, Mr. Wm. Haigh, of Christchurch, being appointed clerk of works. On the contractors' staff the general foreman was Mr. Jas. McLellan, and the masons' foreman Mr. John Tweedy. Great credit is undoubtedly due to the contractor and these two especially, for the successful carrying out of this job, as in many ways both the construction and design were quite new to New Zealand. The cutting and preparation of the stone was greatly accelerated by the use of up-to-date machinery; in some cases— notably the machine for cutting mouldings on the curve— invented and constructed by the foreman himself.

As far as possible timber has been eliminated in the construction, the only place where it has been used, beyond the doors and fittings, being the roof trusses over the nave. The aisle roofs are of concrete reinforced with expanded metal, and covered with Neuchatel asphalt. The main floor and the triforium floor, are also of reinforced concrete, the former being reinforced with round rods, on the beam and slab principle. Neuchatel asphalt on concrete has also been used for the roof gutters in place of wood and lead, as originally intended, so that the amount of deterioration and maintenance should be infinitesimal. The core of the walling is concrete, waterproofed, a very fine solid job resulting, with no sign of damp anywhere.

As a great many of the walls in the basement are faced with white lime and sand bricks, and the whole of the interior of the nave and aisles is stone faced, there was very little boxing to be done. Concrete therefore made a far more economical core than brick would have done, besides being immensely su-

perior and convenient in the way of bonding, etc. For the greater part of the job, a concrete mixer of the "batch" type was used, with very good results, very much better than the "continuous" mixer that was used for the foundations. As may be imagined, the scaffolding was a very big item, also the centring for the nave vaulting. As a matter of fact however, practically the only centring needed was for the ribs, the sheeting being run across from rib to rib in one length as far as possible, the upper portion only being slightly supported in the middle.

Owing to the war, there was a certain amount of trouble in getting imported materials, but fortunately the bulk of the materials used, consisted of concrete and stone, which of course were local products. The green American slates took about two years to be delivered after ordering, and arrived just in the nick of time. By dint of ordering well ahead, however, everything essential was obtained, and where it could not be, compromises, and substitutes of sometimes a better nature were employed.

The sub-contractors' works, upon which so much usually depends, were all well and faithfully carried out, the names of the firms being as follows:—Heating—Messrs G. W. Davies and Co.; Electric lighting and power—Messrs Turnbull and Jones, Ltd.; Glazing—Messrs Bradley Bros. of Christchurch; Plastering—Thos. Didham; Plumbing—Messrs A. and T. Burt, Ltd.; Chancel fittings—Messrs C. and W. Hayward; Wood carving—J. Scott and Co.; Stone carving—Mr. E. L. Shank.

Architectural Competition.

A competition has been advertised by the Auckland University College Council, by which architects are invited to submit preliminary sketch designs in competition for the erection of an Arts Building and Accessories, which it proposes to erect on the site known as the Metropolitan Ground, facing Princes street, Auckland.

From the preliminary sketch designs six (6) will be selected, the authors of which will be invited to submit final designs, and on their so doing, in accordance with the prescribed conditions, a final selection will be made of a design to be placed first, and each of the five unsuccessful architects will receive an honorarium of a hundred pounds (£100). The author of the first design will receive as a premium the sum of five hundred pounds (£500).

Designs for the preliminary competition must be delivered, addressed to the Registrar, Auckland University College, Symonds street, Auckland, by the 14th August, 1920. The award for the preliminary competition will be made within 21 days of the above date. The date for sending in the designs in the final competition will be determined hereafter, but at least 12 weeks will be allowed, and the final award will be made within 21 days of the date so determined.