

rooms should have one retiring room; that schools of more than five class rooms should have two retiring rooms, one being for men and the other for women.

### Desks.

A paper was read by Mr. Penlington on the most suitable school desks and standardisation of same. After discussion it was agreed to defer the matter to some future conference.

### Painting.

The painting and interior decorations of the schools and classrooms in particular was discussed. Several schemes of tinting were considered, and it was thought that the most suitable for interiors were certain shades of greens, cream and French gray, the ceilings in all cases to be a flat white. The outside of schools should be painted in tints most suitable for the climate.

### Rebuilding.

Regarding the rebuilding of schools or residences, it was recommended that each case be decided on its merits. When a second person is called in to report on the condition of a building the Board's architect should accompany him in the inspection.

### Artificial Heating of Schools.

It was found that in the mild climatic conditions of the north, artificial heating is required for a short time only during the winter, but further south, especially in Southland and Otago, the heating has to be maintained for quite six months of the year. The conference came to the conclusion that for large schools and especially those erected in brick or concrete, hot water heating of the "Ideal" or "Beeston" systems should be installed. For small country schools in the colder parts of the Dominion, where fuel is not plentiful, a slow combustion jacketed stove now used in Otago would be most satisfactory. It was understood that the Department would not contribute, except by subsidy, to installation of heating systems in old buildings.

### Drying Rooms.

In discussion, Mr. Spencer suggested that a radiator in the cloak rooms would meet the requirements. The delegates considered this would not be sufficient, and that a specially arranged drying room would be necessary to meet the requirements.

### Cloak Rooms.

It was decided that in the erection of large schools, provision be made in the plan for separate cloak rooms.

### General.

Other matters considered were, the question of the Boards holding a stock of building materials and special accounts in relation to same; the purchase of materials; grants for workshops; the various delays in procuring grants from the Department for buildings; and also the provision of janitor's cottages for the larger schools. The above items were discussed and various delegates gave valuable information con-

cerning the items, but nothing definite was arrived at, and the matters are therefore deferred. The general opinion expressed by the delegates was that the conference had been of great educational value to the Board's architects, and apart from the conference itself, the general discussions that took place both at the sittings and after, were most interesting and instructive. It has brought the architects together for the first time, and there appears to be a brotherhood existing that was quite impossible outside of the conference. No professional jealousy has been displayed in any discussion or act, and there is no doubt that the various architects will consult one another on any subject in which they may be in doubt.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Penlington, the Chairman, and Mr. Spencer for attending the conference; to Messrs Penlington, Moore and Hodge for valuable papers; to the Wellington Education Board for use of Board room, etc.; and to Mr. McDougall, who acted as secretary.

Subject to the consent of Boards, it was decided to hold the next conference at Wanganui, on or about this time next year. Mr. Hodge undertook to make any arrangements necessary for rooms, etc., and the visiting of schools in his district.

## Book Reviews.

### "The Home I Want."

"The Home I Want," by Richard Reiss, published by Hodder and Stoughton, London, 2/6 net.—We can heartily recommend this book to all those interested in the housing movement. The book summarises the main facts and legislative provisions as existing in England up to September 1919, and gives some working suggestions as to the plans and internal arrangement of cottages, the layout of land for building purposes, and other practical matters.

The author in his introductory remarks, points out that the actual extent to which improvements in housing conditions will be carried out in each district depends upon the local inhabitants. Many Acts of Parliament have been passed giving local authorities wide powers, and it is safe to say that if these powers had been properly exercised, the housing problem would have been largely solved. He stresses the necessity of preparing adequate plans at once, and points out that the housing problem is one of the basic problems upon the solution of which other problems depend. He shows how health, for instance, is bettered by a comparison of Shoreditch with Letchworth. In the latter town the infant mortality is only 30 per 1000 infants under 12 months, while in Shoreditch the number was 165 per thousand. Strong arguments are given showing how education, agriculture (including village life), and intemperance, can be improved by better housing conditions. Besides the space devoted to housing there is a chapter on town planning, and another on Town Planning Act of 1919, giving the very latest information on the subject that ought to be of the greatest value to our New Zealand housing reformers.