

N.Z.I.A.

REGULATING COMPETITIONS.

A new or revised set of "Regulations for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions" is now before members for consideration, the period of study commencing on May 23rd and ending on June 23rd, 1921.

The alterations suggested in the new Conditions consist mainly in a re-arrangement and/or wording of clauses, a better definition of the conditions under which competitions should be held, and the setting out of the various steps as they should occur.

The chief alteration is the substitution of a "jury of award" in place of the single assessor. This does not mean that a single assessor *must not* be appointed, but rather that it is preferred a "jury," representative of the interests involved, may be appointed. If this jury consists of not more than three persons then *two should*, and at least *one must*, be a practicing architect. Should the jury, consist of more than three persons then the architectural representatives must be proportionately increased. The object of this very necessary provision is to prevent flooding the jury with persons unskilled in the reading of plans or otherwise unskilled in judging the highly technical issues involved.

In view of what has transpired in connection with a recent competition, it is evident that two important amendments must be made to the draft submitted. They are:--

- (1) In the third paragraph, 1st page, 7th line, alter the words "it is therefore desirable" to "it is therefore necessary"; and at the end of the sentence add the words, "No member of the Institute is permitted to enter any competition, without such approval being first obtained and printed on the face of the Conditions."
- (2) In the section relating to the "Professional Adviser" (page 2), sub-section (b) should have the following words added to it: "The 'instructions' or 'conditions' must state clearly the date of the closing of the competition, and this date shall not be extended without the written consent of the assessor, and in no case shall any extension be granted within 14 days of a date already fixed."

This will put a stop to the pernicious practice of promoters extending dates without reference to the assessor or the Institute, and making an extension so close to the last advertised closing date as to exclude the majority of the competitors from the benefit of the extension by reason of the fact of their designs being either already sent in or *en route*.

The success of any competition rests solely upon the competitors. If they loyally abide by the

Institute's Conditions (specially framed for their protection) and refuse to enter any competition which has not obtained the approval of the Council, then all the existing evils and troubles will be done away with at once. The whole matter is really one of "self-preservation," which is a "first law."

Scale of Charges.

The Council at its last meeting on May 4th endorsed a recommendation by the Special Committee on the "Scale of Charges" that the new draft scale be circulated to all Councillors and Branch Secretaries for consideration, and that one month from the date of issue should be granted for a study of the proposals submitted. The documents were all posted, simultaneously, from the office of the Institute on Thursday, May 19th, at 5.30 p.m., and so that the most outlying Branch might have the *full* month in which to study the proposals, the "date of issue" was fixed as Monday, May 23rd, thereby making all reports returnable at the Secretary's office by the close of business (5 p.m.) on June 23rd, 1921.

The re-arrangement of this scale, consequent upon the decisions of the last annual general meeting and the annual meeting of Council, has entailed very great labour upon the Special Committee. The method followed was to first set out the known requirements and directions of Council and members, and discuss them in all their bearings. As a result of this discussion (which occupied the whole of an afternoon and until 6.30 p.m.) the Chairman and Secretary prepared a preliminary draft, and in doing so the old scale, the lately revised R.I.B.A. scale, and that of the American Institute of Architects, were carefully perused for guidance. While the Sub-Committee endeavoured as far as possible to preserve such benefits as might accrue by conformity to "usage" or "established custom" they desired, as far as possible, to utilise to the full the experience of all English-speaking countries. Where the arrangement or working of clauses in other scales appeared to be an improvement on our own they were adopted, and when any portion of our own scale seemed better suited to our needs it was retained.

On the completion of the first draft several meetings took place, all very prolonged, at which the draft was considered most carefully word by word, and as a final precaution the penultimate revise was submitted to the Institute's solicitor for perusal and to correct any errors or ambiguities of expression that he might consider existed.

The main idea in recasting the scale was, apart from the elimination of the 1½ per cent. from builders as ordered by the annual general meeting, to do away with the old form of "setting out" by which it might appear that the scale was a sort of "tariff" from which the client might select such items as he wished and reject the remainder. Many practitioners must have experienced this, and will readily understand what is meant. The Committee