

N. Z. I. A.

Wellington Branch Competition for War Memorial.

We regret to record the fact that the Students' Competitions being held by the Wellington Branch New Zealand Institute of Architects are not receiving the support they should. Only three designs were received for the second bi-monthly competition, as follows:—A. D. Connell (with Mr. Stanley W. Fearn); B. W. Johns (with Mr. William M. Page); and W. D. Quinn (with Mr. F. E. Greenish).

Mr. J. F. Munnings, the judge, placed A. D. Connell first and B. W. Johns second. The first prize consists of books to the value of £3 3s.; second prize to the value of £1 1s. The winning design is published on page 11.

N. Z. I. A. (Invercargill Branch).

At the quarterly meeting of the Southland Branch of the New Zealand Institute of Architects, held on September 5th, the members passed a vote of congratulation to Mr. Allan C. Ford on his success in winning second prize in the Christchurch War Memorial Competition. The members considered the result a great credit to him seeing he has been in business on his own account for so short a time.

Personal.

There were seven competitors in the final test held in London for the Rome Scholarship, 1921 (offered for painting, sculpture and architecture), of whom three were New Zealanders. The result has just been made known, the successful entrant being Mr. S. Rowland Pierce. Mr. E. W. Armstrong, of Feilding, the holder of a N.Z.E.F. scholarship, comes second, and so receives the Henry Jarvis studentship, which is of the value of £250 a year and tenable for two years at the British School in Rome. Mr. Armstrong has been studying at the Architectural Association for two years, and a year ago he passed his A.R.I.B.A. examination. The awards were made by the Faculty of Architecture of the British School at Rome.

Mr. H. A. Mealand, of Auckland, is a student in London. He intends taking his exam. for A.R.I.B.A. and diploma in Town Planning subjects.

Mr. Frank Peck, F.R.I.B.A., who has been residing in Christchurch for some months past, is removing to Wellington early next month. Mr. Peck, it will be remembered, was commissioned to design the Wellington War Memorial Cathedral.

Architect and Client.

By C. REGINALD FORD, F.N.Z.I.A.

(Continued from August issue).

The architect's very effort to please the client often leads to his undoing. He knows that it is as difficult to add £200 worth of work or material to a plan already drawn as it is to take it away. He knows that the client is prepared to spend £2,000 on the house and would like to do so; that he would like to get as many of his requirements satisfied as possible. In a pardonable effort to accomplish this result, the architect goes too near the mark only to find that the lowest tender reaches perhaps the sum of £2,200 or £2,300. It must not be forgotten that even with the working drawings and specifications complete contractors themselves, who are by the nature of their business more in touch with the material and labour market than the architect can possibly be, vary within fairly wide limits in their tenders. Considerable space has been given to this matter of cost and approximate estimates because it is one which so often leads to trouble and dispute.

In the case of works of larger magnitude, the question of cost is frequently the determining factor. If the proposed building cannot be erected at such a cost as will enable it to pay certain interest and other charges plus a margin of profit to the owner it obviously cannot be proceeded with. But the cost cannot be determined even within a reasonable approximation without fairly complete preliminary studies. The owner should be prepared to pay for the work involved in this as he would for other professional services, even if it is found that the work cannot be proceeded with. Both the architect and the owner should allow a fairly liberal margin to cover unforeseen items which it may be found necessary to include as the labour of preparing the working drawings and specifications proceeds.

The owner should carefully consider any drawings or specifications submitted to him. This is especially necessary in the case of the preliminary studies. It is unfair to the architect for an owner to criticise important details in the working drawings if he has not given fair consideration to the preliminary studies. It is an expensive matter to alter drawings when they are in an advanced stage, and one for which the owner may be called upon to pay. The architect will appreciate the efforts of an owner to "follow all important points brought out in working drawings and specifications as they are being developed. It is not difficult to follow these details with the architect's explanation, and the owner will be in a position to know exactly what materials, methods, equipment and details of planning will be incorporated in his building before it is constructed. By following these matters closely and visualising them in a practical manner, the owner may prevent results which are not satis-