

The dining room and kitchen I consider too small, and more consideration might have been given with advantage to the planning of the service part of the establishment.

I doubt if a membership of 100 would run to a professional. That is why this room was not asked for; also a small shelter somewhere away from the building would have been sufficient and preferable for caddies. In any case the professional's room should have had a door in east wall so that members would not have to go through yard to deposit clubs, etc.

Design.—The design is simple and in good taste, and in massing, proportion and detail shows that insight into the characteristics of English domestic work that I was desirous competitors should display.

"SNOWY."

Plan.—This competitor shows remarkable diligence in the preparation of his drawings which is deserving of much credit, but I think he would be wise to turn this energy to studying the finer points of planning and design. The disposition of his main rooms is right, but his sense of proportion in planning is very poor: the hall is a bad shape and the men's locker room, dining room and lounge rooms far too big—in fact, the plan does not "hang together." The members who had to use the lockers against internal wall would need a plentiful supply of matches, and I am afraid their language would be worse than on the course. The lavatory accommodation is too elaborate.

Design.—There is too much effort after effects, a principle that defeats its own object—the keynote of English domestic work is simplicity; character in design is not gained by excrescences stuck on wherever possible.

"LEADLIGHT."

Plan.—This competitor is disqualified for placing his changing rooms on the first floor accessible only from main hall and staircase, a very bad feature especially in wet weather. This plan is the most compact sent in and shows promise, the smaller details being carefully thought out. The loggia is too small, but the sizes of the other rooms are good, as also is the disposition thereof.

Design.—The design lacks character and does not show a knowledge of the type asked for—the proportion of the transome lights is that beloved of the speculative builder.

"ROMA."

Plan.—This has not many favourable points; the competitor has a fair idea of balance but not much of scheming—the hall, instead of being the "key-stone" of the plan as it were, is awkwardly placed and leads nowhere—the disposition of the rooms is not good. Evidently "Roma" is not a member of a golf club or he would know that during moments of leisure golfers desire a certain amount of innocent

fun sitting in the lounge rooms or loggia watching others "foozle" at the 1st tee.

Design.—The elevations do not interpret the character of English domestic work which was asked for; my previous remark on transome lights applies here also. This competitor, if his thoughts are turned in the right direction, should design well in the future.

In conclusion I would like to say that my adverse remarks are meant only in a spirit of kindness and in the hope that they may be helpful as from one student to another, knowing full well it is easy to criticise and difficult to evolve; also that we who practice or hope to practice architecture must devote our whole lives to the study of our art, and at the end will know little about it. Great commendation is due to all the competitors for the hard work, care and thought they have put into their designs.

STANLEY W. FEARN.

State House Building in Wellington.

Twenty-two houses have been built by the State at Miramar, Wellington, under the direction of the Housing Department.

The latest difficulty that the Department has encountered is a substantial rise in the price of cement. On January 1st the price rose by 36s. a ton. Fourteen tons of cement are used in the smaller type of concrete dwelling erected by the Department. When the houses were started the cost of cement was about £4 17s. 6d. a ton. Now it is £9 13s. 6d. The Department is considering building dwellings with 4½ in. brick exterior, wooden studs, and wooden lining, and is also arranging now to proceed with the erection of a number of wooden houses at Petone.

Roading and drainage are being proceeded with on the Department's new model township, and the erecting of houses where road frontages already exist.

Pise-de-terre Building.

An interesting experiment in pise-de-terre building construction is being conducted by a resident of Muriwai, Gisborne. Tests made with the soil have proved eminently satisfactory, and a sample shown to a Gisborne representative by a local architect was remarkable for its toughness and closeness of texture, although it has only been lightly rammed. The sample has been given a light coat of paint, and proved quite impervious to water. A cowbail is now in course of erection of this material, and, if the results are satisfactory, of which there is little doubt, it is intended to construct a whare of the same material. The soil between a thick sod and the underlying clay is used, and appears to be admirably suited.