

of other interests. He became increasingly interested, too, in architecture. He told the writer on several occasions before his fatal illness commenced how glad he would be to be able to devote his whole time and service to the Institute. But this needed no telling. No one of those who came closely into touch with him, especially during the last year or two of his life, but could judge where his heart lay. In point of fact during the last few months he had devoted almost the whole of his time and attention to Institute matters. He continued actively engaged upon work for the Institute until his last conscious moment. His mind was clear and active to the last. He again and again expressed a wish that he might live long enough to have everything in order for the annual meeting, and was busy preparing matter for that occasion when he passed away. In his long illness he proved himself a gallant gentleman, courageously fighting until overcome at last. One of the oldest members of the Institute and a Past President wrote as follows:—

"As one who has been intimate with the history of the Institute's many strenuous experiences, I would wish to pay tribute to the whole-hearted loyalty and ability of our secretary, Mr. William Beauchamp-Platts, in all matters large or small, pertaining to the best interests of our Institute and its members, since his appointment on the 24th of November, 1909.

"He possessed wonderful ability in grasping the technical details of our profession and showed tactful and skilful administration in carrying into effect the wishes of our governing council. A marvellous memory as to the Act and Regulations made him a veritable encyclopædia of reference, until it became a frequent expression: 'Ask Platts.'

"Mr. Beauchamp-Platts had a way with him of carrying conviction. His suggestions and advice bore the hall-mark of wisdom and common-sense. No trouble, no time, or the expenditure of midnight oil did he ever begrudge where the interests of the Institute, or its individual members were concerned. No secretary in any official capacity enjoyed more absolute confidence and good-will than was placed in him by our Governing council and members.

"Many incidents could be recited by those who knew him best in collaboration with him over the affairs of the Institute, in evidence of his great devotion to its interests. It was always *the Institute first*, his own private and business affairs second.

"Those who may not have that personal knowledge of Mr. William Beauchamp-Platts, may well accept the assurance of those who have."

The President's message to the members of the Institute and the resolution of sympathy passed by the Executive Committee, which we print below, bear added testimony to the esteem in which Mr. Beauchamp-Platts was held by those who knew him best.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

"I deeply regret to announce the death at Wellington, on the 5th instant, of the Secretary of the Institute, William Richard Beauchamp-Platts.

"Since his appointment as Secretary in 1909, Mr. Beauchamp-Platts has given to the Institute most devoted service, service which only ended, literally, with his death. Gifted with great natural ability, possessing an amount of special and general knowledge which is rare, combining great energy with force of will, Mr. Beauchamp-Platts was no ordinary Secretary, and his untimely death has cut short a career of eminent usefulness.

"I am confident that every member of the Institute shares the deep sorrow occasioned by the passing away of so faithful a servant. Those only, however, can fully appreciate the true magnitude of the loss sustained by the Institute who, like myself, have had the advantage of Mr. Beauchamp-Platts' personal acquaintance, and who have received from him, on so many occasions, so much willing assistance and invaluable advice in the Institute's behalf."

RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY.

"That the members of the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Institute of Architects desire to place on record their feelings of sincere regret at the death of Mr. W. Beauchamp-Platts, Secretary of the Institute, and their deepest sympathy with Mrs. Beauchamp-Platts in her bereavement, and to give expression to their great admiration for the late Mr. Beauchamp-Platts, for the thorough manner in which he performed the secretarial duties during a period of twelve years; that this Executive recognises that the late Mr. Beauchamp-Platts not only conducted the routine business of the Institute in a masterly fashion but had its welfare deeply at heart and was ever ready to suggest and support new activities and measures whereby architecture might take its rightful place both as a profession and an art and considers that the Institute and the architects of New Zealand generally owe to him a great debt of gratitude; and further, that the members of this Executive who for so long came into very close touch with our late Secretary, can testify to his unfailing courtesy, tact and fine administrative ability and by whom he was held in the highest esteem and affection."

War Memorial, King's College, Auckland.

Good progress is being made with the campaign to raise £8,000 to erect a chapel at the new King's College, Mangere, in memory of the old boys of King's College and St. John's College who fell at the front. Old boys, parents of old boys, present boys, and a few friends of the school are being invited to contribute. The sum of £5,000 is in hand or promised to date, considerably more than half this amount having been contributed by the old boys themselves.