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AUTOMATIC SASH HOLDER CO.

NEW YORK, U.S.A.

Australasian Headquarters:

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Colombo St., Christchurch

A Great Architect.

Sir Christopher Wren.

Reading in the life recently published of Sir Christopher Wren, we came across many reasons for the suggestion that an architect is made by combination of many qualities; but that with all the qualities present he can not, without opportunity, be made at all. Wren had genius, and application. He was so many-sided that he quickly attained to Doctorship of Laws and of Medicine, besides taking high rank early as an engineer, astronomer, surveyor, and mathematician. He was, in addition, a rather noted inventor. When the genius of the man had combined the development of all the qualities required for the above extensive list of achievement, there came to Wren two opportunities. The King—Charles II.—appointed him to be Surveyor-General of the Kingdom, and the Great Fire of London gave scope to his enterprising genius to do great things. The effect of the appointment ought to be to modify the hard jibe that King Charles "never said a foolish thing and never did a wise one," for this appointment of

It is true that lines must be laid down at the outset before there can be criticism at all. Ruskin laid down the false lines that every thing must be what it seems in architecture, and therefore we are to believe because the visible dome is carried by a brick inner structure, and because the lantern which seems to rest on the outer dome rests really on the inner one, that therefore the lantern is not a miracle of beauty and that the dome's evidence convicts the cathedral of being a hideous fraud and unjustifiable pretence. Wren, on the other hand, exalted the ideal of strength of construction and beauty of appearance, and by that standard his cathedral comes out in the judgment of all reasonable men a master piece. Let us be thankful for the work that Wren did, and let us regret that he was unable, on account of the limitation of the intelligence of his contemporaries, to do more. From both what he did and what he suggested there is much to be learnt by the architect. Genius can not be commanded by every one who wants to be an architect. But it is possible for all men to widen the circle of their effort—be it in architecture or ought else—in order



PROUSE LUMBER CO.'S BUILDING.

Hoggard & Prouse, Architects.

See below

Wren's was as eminently wise a thing as was ever done by King or Commoner. It was patronage, and as such may be spoken of as vicious in principle. But, however vicious, the appointment can only be described at worst as good fruit of a bad system. The result of the first was chiefly St. Paul's, and much more of architecture which lives and is of noble example, and a suggestion which, had it been carried out, for the rebuilding of the city would have antedated the modern improvements of London Embankment, Victoria street, and the rest, by two centuries, and saved more money in the process than the cost of a dozen Boer wars. Ruskin did not approve of Wren's work for the most part. Which only proves that even the greatest men are not immune from the attacks of the mosquitoes of criticism, who, as critics, do nothing but sting. The criticism of Ruskin, however, does not prevent Wren's St. Paul's from being one of the great churches of the world. Wherein lies a lesson for all critics and all men criticised.

that later on a concentration of accomplishments may help to build them up high in the profession of their choice. If Wren only became an architect after he had succeeded in many things, it ought not to be difficult for men who are architects to widen their knowledge of the arts and sciences so as to be useful to them in the work of design and construction. The opportunity may never come to them as opportunity came to Wren. But to men who work there always come many opportunities for useful achievement.

The new offices and warehouse for Prouse Lumber, Limited, Taranaki street, are an illustration of a serviceable type of modern building. With a frontage of 132ft. by a depth of 54ft., it is four-story, with a flat roof and large basement. An automatic electric lift connects the basement with the flat roof. The contract was carried out by Messrs. Campbell & Burke, at a cost of £7800. Hoggard & Prouse, architects.