

just valuation of anything, to enquire as to which of these operates the most forcibly. The useless ornament or grotesque may charm us by its associations, and be valued on that account. We all incline to the reverence of family heirlooms, when we know their history, and many ugly atrocities are thus sanctified. But to the uninitiated such objects can have no charm apart from their intrinsic worth. Therefore, we have to be on our guard, to see that all objects should charm by reason of those intrinsic qualities which appeal to all men.

(To be continued.)

### Building in New Zealand.

#### Remarkable Progress in Auckland.

The opening of the new Sacred Heart Convent at Remuera on June 25th was but the forerunner of many similar public ceremonies which, we are informed, will be performed in Auckland during the next eight months. The large and stately public edifices (we learn from our esteemed contemporary the "N.Z. Herald") which have been in course of erection for the past two years or more, are now rapidly approaching completion, and the first of these, the Auckland Technical College, will be opened within the next three months. This will be followed in November by the opening of the Town Hall, and it is more than probable that the new chief Post Office and the new Ferry Buildings will be brought into public use by February. When this is done, the reproach frequently levelled at Auckland, that it possessed few, if any, public buildings worthy of the name, will have been removed.

The following table is of special interest as showing the total expenditure involved in the erection of public buildings just completed and now approaching completion in Auckland:—

Town Hall .. .. .	£121,000
New Chief Post Office .. .. .	100,000
New Ferry Buildings .. .. .	55,977
New City Electric Power Station .. .. .	31,000
Auckland Technical College .. .. .	25,000
Extension Nurses' Home .. .. .	17,250
Sacred Heart Convent, Remuera .. .. .	15,000
New City Reservoir, Mount Eden .. .. .	7,397
Lyric Theatre, Symonds Street .. .. .	5,200
Masonic Hall, Upper Queen Street .. .. .	4,830
Presbyterian Orphanage, Remuera .. .. .	3,400
Brick Buildings, Costley Home .. .. .	2,465
Additions, Children's Home, Grey Lynn .. .. .	2,274
Epsom Methodist Church .. .. .	1,727
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£391,620</b>

As the figures given only represent the contract prices for the different structures, it will be seen that when extras are added the grand total might easily be swelled into over £400,000.

To those not conversant with Auckland's building programme these figures may appear somewhat startling, but it is important to note that the erection of a still larger number of public buildings in Auckland is projected for the next decade, involving a still greater expenditure. These contemplated buildings include new University buildings, railway station, Boys' Grammar School, King's College, Dilworth Institute, Y.M.C.A. building, Public Trust Office, Law Courts, new auxiliary Post Office in Wellesley Street, Municipal Depot, new Cool Stores, the Naval Stores, Knox Home for Incurables, Trades Hall in Hobson Street, rebuilding of the City

Market, completion of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board's building programme, enlargement of St. Paul's Church, Municipal Baths, public schools, etc.

Quite a large number of the bigger suburban estates are to be cut up into suitable building allotments shortly, ready to be placed on the market during the coming summer.

Among the larger of these properties is that belonging to Messrs. R. and W. Hellaby, at Richmond. This property, which comprises some 33½ acres, much of it having a water frontage, is now being surveyed, and tenders will be called for shortly for constructing roads through it.

Another property, comprising 20 acres fronting the Point Chevalier Beach, has been purchased by a small syndicate, and is now being cut up into 79 building allotments.

Steady progress is being made by the Grey Lynn Borough Council with the construction of roads through the Surrey Hills Estate, and it is expected that the whole of it will be properly roaded within three years' time. The construction of Selborne and Owen Streets and Williamson Avenue has now been practically completed, thus opening up a large number of allotments.

#### General Post Office, Wellington.

Wellington's new General Post Office, to cost over £90,000, is well advanced, but we regret to learn is not likely to be in use for many months. The walls have reached roof-height, but an enormous amount of work has to be done, and the flat roof has yet to be constructed. According to a paragraph, which obtained currency this week, there is delay because the Government officials are uncertain whether they will strengthen the roof. The facades are looking very handsome.

The Minister of Public Works said the other day, *apropos* of delay:—"The kind of roof required was fully detailed on the contract plans, and there is no intention whatever of making any alteration in the design." This firmly. He added: "It is understood, however, that the contractors, without consulting the officers of the Public Works Department, ordered expanded metal different from the kind specified in the contract. No doubt they found some trouble in getting this material in the length required, unless it is specially made. There has been no hesitancy whatever about the Public Works Department. The statement that the contractors put in a price for strengthening the roof some time ago, but have been delayed because no decision was arrived at, is absolutely contrary to fact. Messrs M. and A. Wilson have been negotiating with the Resident Engineer to be allowed to substitute some other material for the No. 10 expanded metal which was provided in the contract. They ordered No. 8 metal, which could not be allowed. A clause in the contract provides for the use of steel reinforcing rods in lieu of expanded metal, and no doubt the contractor will be called upon to carry out the terms of his contract in its entirety without being asked to submit any price, as the contract already provides the terms on which the roof is to be constructed."

"If men are being discharged it cannot be because the roof is not being constructed, as it could not be proceeded with until the three big cranes and staging at present in use in connection with the masonry work are pulled down. This apparently cannot be done for a considerable time. Blaming the Government for this is only on a par with the usual daily misrepresentations having the same object. The Government is paying £5000 a year for accommodation for its postal officers in Wellington, so that it is not likely to unnecessarily delay the completion of its own building for postal use."

With reference to the above, we have nothing to say about "blaming the Government," for we are not politicians. But there is no reason, we are informed creditably, why the contractors should be blamed. As the Minister himself has pointed out, the cranes and staging still in use prevent further progress with the roof. It is possible that the only trouble is that there are still people in the world who believe that Rome was built in a day.

#### NOTES.

The frequent opening of new hotels in London sometimes gives rise to surprise that there should be a sufficient number of travelling people to make use of all the accommodation provided. But in the matter of hotel accommodation London, in proportion to its population, is far behind New York. The latest New York scheme is for the building of a twenty-five storey hotel at a cost of £3,000,000. The site alone cost £1,500,000. The new hotel is to have 1600 rooms, and among its attractions are a roof garden and a Turkish bath. The hotel will be a commercial house, and will have entrances on four leading thoroughfares. It will be the biggest hotel in the world.

The value of models in litigation has often been proved. Mr. Percy Collins, who writes in the "World's Work and Play" on the model-making of Mr. John B. Thorp, shows by many examples how useful a careful scale model may also prove in carrying out building operations. "All architects," he says, "at times experience a difficulty in explaining to their clients the actual significance of plans and working drawings, this difficulty being accentuated when alterations or additions to existing structures are under discussion. For instance, a gentleman may wish to build a new wing to his country house, and he naturally desires to see for himself exactly what the architect has in mind—and this before he commits himself to contracts."

The hatred of everything Gothic and Mediaeval which was very general in England during the eighteenth century forms a very curious chapter in architectural history. It often took the form of covering up work which, according to the ideas of the present day, was infinitely superior to that which replaced it. An example of this perverted taste has recently come to light at Farnham, Surrey. Alterations at the Goat's Head Tavern in that town have revealed the fact that the house possesses a fine Gothic facade. The front of the house was found to have two casings. Underneath some modern lath and plaster work was another covering of old roughcast, and when this was removed evidence was found of a much earlier framework, to which much of the present house has been added. The date of the earliest part is probably of the fourteenth or fifteenth century.

The "Oruro" concrete Machine Company, of Knight St., Liverpool, has issued a neat booklet which gives particulars of their concrete block, brick and tile-making machines, moulds, mixers, etc. These machines contain some special improvements, which are protected by registration. They are worked entirely on the face-down principle. They are designed for hollow blocks 9in. or more on the bed, giving a perfect system of vertical and horizontal cavity, to ensure thoroughly dry walls, and also