

A letter was read from the Minister of Defence agreeing to the Institute's request to enable student members with the forces to be discharged in England, should they so desire, subject to the consent of the General Officer Commanding the Expeditionary Forces.

Mr. Hooper wrote asking the Council to set up a special committee to consider present and possible amendments to the Regulations. It was decided to reply that a file was now kept, on which were recorded all suggested amendments to be dealt with at a suitable time. Mr. Hooper was asked to say in what particular direction he wished the Regulations amended.

The Otago district branch wrote suggesting that the Institute should invite the Government to institute a competition for at least the facades of the new Post Office in Dunedin. Some discussion followed, on the grounds that it seemed to be undesirable to ask for a Competition for any one portion of a building. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Hurst Seager:—"That the Government be asked to arrange a competition for the new Post Office at Dunedin, in terms of the Institute's Regulations for Architectural Competition; and that if thought necessary a plan of the office requirements could be attached to and form the basis of the Competition."

Mr. Gummer wrote accepting advisory membership of the Education Committee.

A letter was read from Mr. T. H. White, Opatiki, expressing his thanks and appreciation of the good wishes of the Council on the occasion of his golden wedding.

#### Members on Active Service.

The Secretary reported to the Council that Lieutenant V. P. Haughton, New Zealand Field Artillery, a member of the Institute, had been seriously wounded, whilst serving in France. It was resolved that a letter be sent to his father, expressing the sympathy of the Council and hopes for Lieutenant Haughton's speedy recovery.

The Secretary also reported, as killed in action, Major Fleming Ross, son-in-law of Mr. G. G. Schwartz a former Member of Council. The secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Schwartz and convey to him the sympathy of the Council.

In connection with Members on active service the Secretary was directed to write to all district branches for the purpose of obtaining a complete list of members for a Roll of Honour, the branch secretaries to be asked to supply, where possible, the Reinforcement number and regiment and to report any casualties that may come to their knowledge.

#### Conditions of Contract.

A memorandum by the president as to the finality of an architect's certificate as set forth in the general conditions of contract was considered. The question arose out of a case recently heard in the Supreme Court at Auckland in which an employer refused to make the final payment to the contractor in terms of the architect's final certificate. The president submitted a copy of the written judgment from which it would appear that there can be no finality to any matter which is subsequently liable to arbitration. As the case is of great

importance and interest to all members the judgment was ordered to be printed in the next issue of the Journal. The president also detailed his suggestion for an alteration in Clause 25 which he thought might overcome the difficulty.

As the contractor's case appeared to have been to some extent prejudiced by the fact that the conditions had never been signed, it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Hurst Seager:—"That in the opinion of this Council it is the bounden duty of the architect to ensure that the agreement and the conditions of contract are signed by the employer in order that the interests of the contractor may be protected."

#### General.

The secretary presented all the certificates of membership duly signed and sealed. These were now to be posted to all members, without delay, save those whose subscriptions were in arrear.

Several accounts were passed for payment.

As it appeared improbable that there would be another Council Meeting prior to the Annual Meeting in November, the following Councillors were appointed a Committee to make the necessary arrangements for the election and to draw up the annual report: The president, Mr. W. A. Cumming, Mr. Chatfield, Mr. Atkins, Mr. Crichton, Mr. W. Gray Young.

Mr. Frank Peck, F.R.I.B.A., who was conditionally admitted at the last meeting, sent in his application form and fees. The form was then signed by the president on behalf of the Council.

Applications for membership from the following were considered:—Mr. C. E. Harris, Christchurch; Mr. H. L. Massey, Auckland; and Mr. E. Phillips, Auckland. All these applications being in order the applications were duly admitted.

### The Decline of Gothic

The life of a nation is usually, like the flow of a lava stream, first bright and fierce, then languid and covered, at last advancing only by the tumbling over and over of its frozen blocks. And that last condition is a sad one to look upon. All the steps are marked most clearly in the arts, and in architecture more than in any other; for it, being especially dependent, as we have just said, on the warmth of true life, is also peculiarly sensible of the hemlock cold of the false; and I do not know anything more oppressive when the mind is once awakened to its characteristics than the aspect of a dead architecture. The feebleness of childhood is full of promise and interest—the struggle of imperfect knowledge, full of energy and continuity—but to see impotence and rigidity settling upon the form of the developed man; to see the types which once had the die of thought struck fresh upon them, worn flat by over use; to see the shell of the living creature in its adult form, when its colours are faded and its inhabitant perished—this is a sight more humiliating, more melancholy, than the vanishing of all knowledge and the return to confessed and helpless infancy.—“*Ruskin.*”