"The stairway, an important detail in the construction of any fireproof building, is proof against the action of flames. There is no chance for the stairway to be transformed into a vertical flue to carry fire upward, as there is nothing in it to burn.

"The interior trim is of wood fastened with screws. Metal trim can be used if desired. Details of this character can be adapted to the taste of the builder without much affecting the fireproof qualities of the structure. . . . .

"The cost of the fireproof house as built is approximately 21 cents per cubic foot.

"If built with 12-inch solid brick walls with same interior it would cost 28 cents per cubic foot. . . .

If built with stucco on hollow tile with wood interior it would cost 17 cents per cubic foot.

"If built of stucco on metal lath with wood interior it would cost 16 cents per cubic foot."

The man who wishes to build an incombustible house, however, is by no means limited to one kind. Another is illustrated and described in "The Scientific American" (New York), and doubtless there are, or soon will be, as many varieties as there now are of houses that will blaze. Says the last-named paper:—

"Boards of concrete, with joists, rafters, and stair-frames of the same material, are used in the construction of a novel building in Los Angeles, California, the whole being set upon a concrete foundation. Though put together after the manner of a frame-structure, the building is as fireproof and durable as the more common types of cement houses, but it requires less material and is lighter in weight.

"The various parts are poured into forms on the ground near the site and in that way the danger of breakage is eliminated. The clapboards are poured in sets of ten, the forms being securely clamped together, and the cement allowed to harden in them for several days. Then they are taken out and allowed to cure before being set up. This should be done while the preliminary work is going on, such as excavating and laying the foundation.

"The joists, rafters, and other parts are formed in the same manner, and various types of reinforcing are used for each. The boards are reinforced with mesh like chicken-wire, while the timbers have iron rods of varying thickness to strengthen them. These are allowed to project at one end in order to fit into corresponding holes in other timbers, so that the whole framework dovetails. The method of attaching the boards to the 2 by 4's is with nails, and nail-holes are bored into the cement boards before they have set, by running a wire through them. As the cement timbers will not take the nails a strip of wood about an inch and a-half thick is wired to the cement scantling."

Personal.

Mr. F. de J. Clere, F.R.I.B.A., of Wellington, announces that he has taken Mr. L. C. Williams, A.R.I.B.A., into partnership, and that the firm will be known in the future as Clere and Williams, carrying on business at 157 Featherston Street.

Obituary.

Mr. W. A. P. Clarkson, who died suddenly at his residence in Rugby street on Friday, the 9th inst., was a well-known Christchurch architect, and eldest son of the late Mr. Samuel Clarkson, one of Canterbury's early colonists. The late Mr. Clarkson was born in Christchurch, and at the time of his death was fifty-four years of age. In his youth he was articled to Mr. J. C. Maddison, and on the completion of his time left for England, where he studied his profession, and gained an A.R.I.B.A. degree. After travelling around England, Mr. Clarkson came back to New Zealand, visiting South Africa and Australia en route, and set up in business on his own account in Christchurch. He designed several prominent buildings, including the Canterbury Hall, and (in conjunction with Mr. F. J. Barlow) Messrs. Tonks, Norton and Co.'s premises, Hereford street, and a number of other public and private buildings. During part of his career he was in partnership with Mr. R. A. Ballantyne, but subsequently again launched out on his own account. He was president of the Christchurch Architects' Institute for several years, and on its council at the time of his death. The late Mr. Clarkson was well-known and popular among city architects, but took no active part in public life. He was an ardent horticulturist.

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By the death of Second Lieut. Murdoch Keith Macleod (killed in action) the architectural profession has lost one of the most gifted of the younger New Zealand architects. He had in a greater measure than many that essential combination of qualities which go to the making of a successful architect—a good draughtsman, with power of invention and design, excellent business capacity, and, above all, a perfect sense of fairness and integrity. His frank and genial manner endeared him to all with whom he had business or social relations. Born in Canterbury on October 6th, 1890, he passed his early years in the country and received his primary education at the Templeton School. Moving to Christchurch in 1904, he entered the Boys' High School, where he took the Second Form prize in 1906, being first in French and first in art. His promise in art led the headmaster to recommend that he should enter the architectural profession, and as a result he was articled to the firm of Messrs. Hurst Seager and Wood in August, 1906. During the term of his indentures he attended classes at the Technical College and at the School of Art, where he gained a free scholarship in 1910, and continued to hold it during 1911. He was looked upon by the masters as one of the school's best students. From 1908 to 1910 he completed his indentures under Mr. Hurst Seager, and then became his assistant. In March, 1914, he became a partner, and was actively engaged principally in domestic work until he enlisted in the 16th Reinforcement. He entered the N.C.O. class, and soon gained his sergeant's stripes, and afterwards his lieutenancy. He spent twelve months in camp, and did not leave till February 16th last, with the 22nd Reinforcements. He reached the front just after the battle of Messines, and met his death on 13th inst.