

AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL.

PRIZE-WINNERS FOR £200,000 BUILDING.

NEW ZEALANDERS HEAD THE LIST.

In the open competition for designs for the Auckland War Memorial a building on which £200,000 will be spent, New Zealand architects brought high credit to their profession in the Dominion by heading the list. The result of the competition was as follows:—

First prize, £650—Messrs. Grierson and Aimer and M. K. Draffin, of Auckland.

Second prize, £300—Messrs. R. W. Maclaurin and C. H. Mitchell (Wellington).

Third prize, £100—Messrs. E. G. Le Petit (Takapuna) and G. E. Downer (Auckland).

Based on classical lines of rare architectural beauty, yet chaste withal, the building as depicted by the authors of the winning design (states the *Auckland Star*), is handsome to a superlative degree, and sufficiently imposing and dignified to make it impossible for even the casual observer to fail in appreciation of the purpose which it will represent—the perpetuation of the memory of those men and women from the Auckland district who died in the late war.

The main entrance is accentuated in effectiveness by a row of tall Doric columns, which are surmounted by a parapet of some depth, over the top of the frieze. On an attic panel is inscribed in appropriate lettering:—MCMXIV - MCMXVIII. "The whole earth is the sepulchre of famous men. They are commemorated not only by columns and inscriptions in their own country, but in foreign lands also, and by memorials graven not on stone but on the hearts of men."—Pericles.

A sword is depicted near the middle of the inscription, and on the left-hand side there is represented St. George and the Dragon; a figure symbolical of Peace is shown at the other end.

Approached by a flight of exceptionally wide steps, the main entrance is an outstanding feature of the conception. A broad terrace stands at the head of the steps, fronting the north elevation. Here, it is proposed, a cenotaph shall be erected on a scale likely to harmonise with the general effect of the building. The plans provide for future extensions, the side walls being designed in a suitable manner, although their characteristics are in keeping with the handsome front elevation. The vestibules will be easy of access, and a central lecture chamber, replete with a platform, will accommodate 600. Elevators and public accommodation are provided near the entrance, as also are the curator's room, board room and storerooms. To the right facilities are provided for a museum and future development. An easy stairway leads up to the first floor, and here are situated the Maori court

and the New Zealand natural history hall. Specially planned, these spacious rooms will give ample facilities for a fine view of the very valuable collection which will be exhibited therein. The geology, palæontology and zoology halls are depicted on this floor, the measurement of all the halls being 60 feet by 130 feet.

THE WALL MEMORIAL HALLS.

Above, on the next floor, the central memorial hall will be situated. Records of the late war—"maps of the far-flung battle line" as the plan states—will be kept here, and a great collection of memorable objects they will be. The Hall of Memory, to be a more or less sacred place, is shown on the left, being so situated in order to prevent it being used as a corridor to other sections.

In the Hall of Memory the most prominent feature is a sarcophagus, in a strong light, raised on steps in a central space arranged for the reception of wreaths and other memorial emblems. There is an ambulatory round this space in subdued light from stained glass windows. A Roll of Honour is provided for on the side and end walls. There is space for tables and books containing personal records at the sides. On anniversary occasions, when a continuous procession is passing round the central shrine, iron gates can be opened on the south wall of this hall, thus providing, if desired, an additional or emergency exit.

A war trophies' hall, and the foreign ethnology hall are on the right, whilst the institute library is on the left. Altogether, as everyone agreed, and as one of the adjudicators remarked to a *Star* representative, the building as planned is indeed a masterly conception.

THE OTHER WINNING DESIGNS.

The design placed second won its place on planning. It is classical in feeling. The entrances are marked by a row of columns surmounted by a pediment. A dome above the main entrance hall