

THE NEW HOME FOR SCIENCE AND
ART IN CORK.

DURING a short visit last week we had an opportunity of taking a cursory glance at the plans adopted for the additional and much-required buildings at the School of Art, Nelson-place, Cork. The principal elevation will have a frontage of about 130 ft., and will partly occupy the site of several old houses towards Half Moon-street. The architects, Messrs. H. and A. Hill, of George's-street, in following strictly their instructions to have everything as plain and substantial as possible, have been debarred from an exhibition of their skill in presenting (exteriorly, at least) a building which would impress the beholder as the Home of Science and Art in "The Beautiful City." The interior of the building is very judiciously arranged. The class-rooms, modelling-rooms, lecture-theatre, galleries, &c., are all well lighted and ventilated. The theatre is planned somewhat on the lines of that at the Royal College of Science, St. Stephen's Green.

Five tenders were submitted for the erection of the structure, that of Mr. John Delany being accepted at £5,012; quantities by Messrs. Gribbon and Butler. The work of sinking for foundations has been commenced. We hope to give more minute particulars in a future number.

We print below a report, submitted to the Town Council on Friday last by the Hon. Sec. of the School:—

The necessity for an improved building in which to carry on Art teaching in Cork has been so long before the public and so often alluded to, that everyone is now conversant with the fact. It need only be mentioned that when Mr. Poynter, R.A., Director for Art, was in Cork a couple of years ago, he reported that the school was utterly unfitted for its purpose, and informed the committee that if something were not speedily done to remedy the defects, it would be a question with the Department if they would not entirely withdraw their aid. Were such a step carried into effect the disastrous consequences to the development of technical education require no reflection. The various countries of Europe now admit drawing to be the foundation of all technical education, and to abolish the School of Art would mean practically to cut at the very root of technical education. The first act of the Committee of Science and Art was to obtain from the Crown a gift of the present building, for the purpose of science and art—a gift which has been already accepted by the Corporation, by resolution dated 12th August, 1881. It might have been possible by remodelling the present building to have satisfied the requirements of Art teaching alone upon the site, but it was felt to be a matter of even greater importance to provide for the education in art matters of the general public, by the erection of a picture gallery and statue gallery, constantly open gratuitously to the citizens, where art objects of all kinds might be displayed. It was also felt that at the present time no effort should be spared to obtain sufficient room for the development of technical education, providing for the purpose a technical museum, a lecture theatre, and class rooms for scientific and technical lectures. Accordingly the committee entered into negotiations with the owners of the adjacent properties for the acquisition of their interests, in order to extend the site, and applied to the Corporation for permission to bring the building forward into Nelson Place, in exchange for a strip of ground to widen Half-Moon-street. This request has been acceded to. The funds required for the purchase of these properties it is proposed to obtain by conversion of a portion of the annual income of the schools into capital, in accordance with powers conferred by the Libraries' and Museums' Acts. Certain formalities required by the Board of Works having been complied with, the Committee now ask the Council to borrow the sum of £3,000, and to set aside a portion of the rate already levied for science and art, to meet the interest on the proposed loan. It may be desirable here to remark that this proposition does not impose any additional obligation upon the Council beyond the existing rate. The Department of Science and Art make building grants to aid localities in the improvement of their schools, upon certain conditions. 1st, That the building should be vested in the local authorities; and 2nd, That the construction and arrangement shall be suitable to the requirements of teaching. In order to ascertain how far the plans which have been prepared by Messrs. H. and A. Hill complied with these conditions, they were submitted to the department for approval, and were returned last week sealed and formally approved of, so that the benefit of the maximum grant of a thousand pounds from South Kensington (£500 for Art and £500 for Science) has been secured. This explanation of the action of the committee, up to the present time, will, it is hoped, be deemed satisfactory and that the confirmation of the Council may be given thereto.

The report was adopted.