

College is of brick, and when completed will be a stately building, fully satisfying, it is hoped, all the purposes for which it is intended. The external features of the old College, so long an ornament to the city, have been generally retained. Inside there will be class-rooms for 250 pupils, ample bedroom accommodation for boarders, Principal's and masters' quarters, dining-hall, laboratories, library, baths, kitchens and servants' rooms, with the great assembly hall. A large gymnasium, with baths and workshop attached, has been built during the year, and is now in use. An ample swimming-bath has been designed and laid off, and will be excavated during the winter. The builders' contract price for the main building alone was £21,518, and there can now be no reasonable doubt that the whole will be finished and ready for occupation by the 1st February, 1907.

The work of levelling the play-ground is being proceeded with as rapidly as possible, but the contractors were greatly hindered by bad weather in the earlier stages.

The Staff.—*Boys' College:* Mr. W. H. Johnston, B.A., and Mr. H. E. G. Smith, B.A., left during the year for other appointments. Mr. M. N. Skelton was appointed teacher of the junior department. Mr. S. W. Thornton, visiting master for commercial subjects, left on a visit to England early in the year, Mr. W. Spencer Hampson taking up his work as *locum tenens*. On Mr. Thornton's return he resigned his post, when Mr. Hampson was appointed as his successor. *Girls' College:* Miss A. C. Tendall, M.A., Lady Principal of the College since June, 1900, left at the end of the year, having accepted an appointment in Melbourne. Her successor, Miss M. Lorimer, M.A., joins the College with the highest recommendations in every respect, and the Governors feel confident of its welfare under her charge. Miss F. E. Livesey, B.A., resigned at the end of the first term to visit England, and Miss N. I. Maclean, M.A., was appointed in her place. Miss E. Gribben, B.A., was granted leave of absence for the second and third terms on medical certificate, and accompanied Miss Livesey to England, Miss E. M. Allen, M.A., taking her position temporarily. Miss K. Carter was appointed teacher of gymnastics during the winter months.

The Governors desire to express their hearty recognition of the good work which is being done by the Old Boys' Association in keeping alive the interest which all old pupils should take in their school, and also of the substantial financial help given by them, which has made it possible to carry out the long-cherished hope of levelling the play-ground. They also, and no less heartily, thank the Old Girls' Association for similar efforts, resulting in the permanent endowment of the "Nelson College Old Girls' Scholarship," and the presentation to the College of a large number of fine pictures, which have greatly added to the appearance of the principal class rooms.

Boys' College.

The classes were carried on during the year in the School of Music Hall, the Presbyterian Hall, Shelbourne Street School, and the Central School, all these buildings being close together, the three first-named being rented, and the use of two rooms in the last granted free by the kindness of the Town Schools Committee.

The attendance was not greatly affected by the somewhat inconvenient conditions under which the work was carried on, there being 204 names on the roll, 64 being new pupils, 39 of whom had junior free places. The total number of free pupils (senior and junior) was 88. The number of boarders during the year was 63.

The results of the public examinations proved very satisfactory. A. Sandel and H. P. Kidson gained Junior Scholarships at the University, the former taking the third place. Three boys obtained credit, and one boy qualified for matriculation on the scholarship papers. Eight passed the Matriculation Examination, and one the Medical Preliminary. Three of the senior pupils passed the First-year Terms Examination at Victoria College, and two the Second Year, the two latter being also successful in the First Section of the Examination for Degrees. H. Watts passed the final examination for entrance to the army, and has now left to join his regiment in England. Twelve boys passed the Civil Service Junior, of whom five obtained credit. Twenty boys, holding junior free places, obtained an extension of their period of free education by passing the Senior Examination.

The Preparatory Department was weak in numbers, but made excellent progress. Thirteen boys were granted the competency certificate after examination by the Inspector of Schools, so qualifying for promotion to a higher class.

All boys, except a few of the juniors, belong to the cadet corps. In November 150 of them went under canvas for a week's training, the tents being pitched in a paddock behind the College.

Girls' College.

The average attendance for the year was 142, of whom twenty-four were boarders. Fifty-eight of the pupils held free places under the Secondary Schools Act.

The public examinations resulted as follows: Two girls obtained the First Section of the B.A. Degree, three passed Second Year's Terms, and one First Year's Terms. One passed the Junior Civil Service Examination with credit, being twelfth on the list. Two girls passed the Junior Civil Service Examination, two the Matriculation and Solicitors' General Knowledge, five passed Matriculation, and eight the Senior Examination for Free Places.

Besides the ordinary school course, the pupils have been afforded opportunities of learning cookery, shorthand, swimming, gymnastics, and dressmaking. The music pupils gave recitals from time to time at the School of Music.