

COMPETITIONS.

A prize of 3000 lire is offered by the municipality of Venice for the best design submitted for a large gold medal to be awarded to the most important works shown at the International Art Exhibition of 1903 to be held in that city. Competitors are required to submit wax or plaster models to the exact diameter of 120 mm., accompanied by photographic reproductions 40 mm. in diameter, which will be the size of the medal. These must reach, postpaid, the office of the Secretary of the Exhibition not later than the 31st of January next, and must be signed with a motto, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the full name and address of the author. The committee of award consists of the Mayor of Venice, the President and Secretary of the Exhibition and three artists,

SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE ; CHEMISTRY AND MINING BUILDING.

On concrete foundation walls now in place at the head of McCaul Street, Toronto, the Ontario government are proceeding to erect the brown stone and brick building shown in front elevation, in illustration plate, as it will appear from College street. The plan will cover about 262 feet from east to west, with two wings, of which the western will have a depth of about 130 feet and the eastern 102 feet. It will be placed about 30 feet back from the street line. This building is for the accommodation of the Departments of Chemistry and Mining of the School of Practical Science. Students in all departments of the school will thus attend this building for all lectures and laboratory work in Chemistry and Metallurgy, as well as the students in Chemistry and in Mining Engineering. The accommodation provided in this building will also be made to suffice for the classes in Mineralogy and Geology in the Faculty of Arts.

In addition to a sub-basement for pipes, there will be four floors available for purposes of instruction and research. A main corridor runs east and west on each floor, from which access is obtained to rooms on each side as well as to the two wings of the building. Ventilating fans will be provided in the basement which will deliver fresh air, screened from dust, and warmed if necessary by steam coils to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, to the different rooms; but in winter the main heating will be done by radiators distributed through the building and used as required. The air will also be exhausted by fans in the attic when it is desired to have better ventilation. In this manner the ventilation and heating in each part of the building are separately under control.

The steam coils and radiators while in use will be supplied wholly or partly from the exhaust steam of an engine driving a D. C. dynamo, from which the ventilating fan motors will be supplied, as well as the current for lighting the new and the old building. At other times the usual city service will be used.

The museums for minerals and geological specimens will occupy an area about 50x80 feet in the east wing. In addition to lecture theatres, chemical, mineralogical and assay laboratories, metallurgical furnaces, and work rooms for fossils and minerals, lithology and crystallography, there will be a number of rooms for special purposes, such as calorimetry, gas analysis,

toxicology, photography, electrolytic assay, fire-proof and constant temperature rooms.

Next spring the Milling Building of one storey, about 75 feet square, will be begun on ground at present occupied by the old Wycliffe College building, immediately north of the centre of the new building. The Milling Building will be equipped with such appliances as are usual in modern milling laboratories, such as stamp mills, vanners, rolls, separators, leaching plant, etc.

CONDITION OF VENETIAN MONUMENTS.

The Commission for the Inspection of Venice Monuments has presented the following report :—

The Doge's Palace.—The Commission is not aware that anything new threatens its stability, but the weight of the books of the Marciana Library must be removed.

The Procuratie Vecchie.—In this building, which forms the north side of the Piazza of St. Mark, the whole of the internal arrangements have been altered to meet the needs of trade and commerce. Besides which tons on tons of goods, a large part of which consists of glass, are stored there. Consequently cracks have appeared, and though there is no danger of collapse, still work of restoration is urgently needed. Signor Boni said he should like to see the buildings turned into dwelling-houses, thus restoring them in great part to their original use.

The Campanile of S. Stefano.—The upper half of this campanile was rebuilt after the destruction caused by lightning in 1585, but it is precisely this part that now threatens to fall. It is nearly 6 feet out of plumb. Signor Boni has therefore ordered the demolition of the newer upper half.

The Campanile of S. Barnabas.—Near the base of this campanile cracks and bulgings have been discovered. The Commission have, therefore, ordered the cessation of the ringing of its bells and they contemplate immediate repairs.

The Campanile of San Francesco della Vigna.—The Commission finds that this campanile needs strengthening. Its bells, too, have been ordered to be quiet. Signor Boni says it may have been built too near the banks of some old canal.

The Bell Tower of the Arsenal, in which hung the modern "Marangona" that called the workers to their labours, has been condemned to undergo repairs. The bell has been swung to the top-mast of a ship, and meantime does duty there.

The Church of Mater Domini is dark, and low and dismal, and the Commission report it to be in a positively deplorable condition. It will have to be closed and thoroughly overhauled and restored.

The Church of the Maricoli, considered to be one of the most beautiful Renaissance churches in Italy, has been ordered to be closed so that the necessary work may be done to preserve it.

A controversy is going on in the eastern States as to the point at which building operations begin. On the one hand it is contended that the point of commencement is the excavation. Against this C.H. Blackall, a prominent Boston architect, states that in his own experience about 10 years ago the city solicitor had decided that for a building to have been begun it was not sufficient for the excavation to have been made, but that some of the actual permanent construction of the building must be in place.