

NEW SCHOOL AT PYRMONT.

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A very large Public school was opened yesterday. The occasion was made one of considerable festivity. The building was decorated with flags, and the children were arrayed in holiday costume, and were so numerous, so clean in appearance, and so happy withal, that the scene was an exceedingly animated one. Large numbers of the girls carried beautiful bouquets and the parents of the children, principally of the artisan and labouring classes, take a commendably deep interest in the cause of education, and approve of the system which the Government has adopted.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. E. Johnson, the chief inspector. Mr. Johnson explained that the new school was intended to supersede that which the Government had acquired from the Church of England some time ago. He gave details of the efforts of the Government building large healthy schools, training teachers on the best known system, and adopting a plan of instruction to favour every child with an equal chance to be successful in life.

Dr. Evans, of the school board, expressed most favourable opinions of the system adopted, which he thought was judiciously generous to all classes of the community. The structure provides accommodation for 1279 scholars, and the cost to the State will be £11,000.

While the structure is plain it is marked with good taste, shorn of unnecessary ornament.

The principal front, which is in John-street, is 150 feet long, while the Mount-street frontage is 67 feet.

A tower 16 feet x 16 feet, and 70 feet high forms a prominent feature in the building, and serves for the main entrance to the boys and Infants' departments, the stair lobby, and on the first floor for the boys' lavatory. It finishes with a belfry. The main building is two stories high, the ground floor being intended for the infants and the upper floor for the boys. The girls' department is in a semi-detached wing to the main building. The entrance to the infants department is from the western door of the tower, which opens into a lobby 16 foot x 6 feet 9 inches, which leads into the central hall, or infants' hat and cloak room, which is 19 feet 6 inches by 16 feet, and 16 feet high. On either side of this hall are doors leading to the schoolrooms, each 45 feet 6 inches by 25 feet, and 16 feet high. The ceilings of these rooms have been formed into panels by heavy iron girders, which carry the floor above, and the manner in which they have been cased in and painted has a very pleasant effect. At the end of the hall there is a passage 22 x 6 foot on each side of which there is a teachers' room 15 feet 6 x 12 feet, with fireplace, hat rack, and other office furniture; the infants' lavatories occupy the remaining portion of this floor, having two courts, each 15 feet

6 by 7 feet, with doors opening into the courtyards. The entrance to the boys' school is from the eastern door of the tower, which opens into the stair lobby, and the schoolrooms are reached by flights of stairs.

Off the top landing, to which access to the boys' lavatory and hat and cloak rooms is attained, are doors leading to the schoolrooms each 45 feet 6 x 25, with an average height of 18 feet. There is also a passage leading off the hall which opens to two classrooms, each being 20 feet by 15 foot 10 inches. The main entrance to the girls' department is from a door at the western end of the portico, which opens into the hat and coat lobby, 21 feet x 8 feet, which also communicates with a lavatory, 17 feet 3 x 8 feet. Off the hat lobby a door opens into the schoolroom, 63 feet x 25 feet, and 18 feet high; at the south end of the room a door leads into a classroom, 26 feet x 18 feet 6 inches. There is also a door from the classroom to the lavatory, and thence to courtyards. The roofs are of queen post construction, with projecting eaves with couplet brackets, and slated. The underside of the rafters of girls and boys' rooms are lined with wrought and beaded boards, while the principal timbers are wrought and stop chamfered, and the whole has been painted in a tasteful manner. The inner walls of the halls, passage, teachers' rooms, and stair lobbies have been finished in stucco, lined out, and coloured.

The other internal walls are coloured French grey, and have a painted dado 5 feet high, finished with a band on the top.

All the rooms are well lighted; the sashes are all hung and glazed with a beautiful tinted glass, introduced into schools by Mr. Kemp. The ventilation is on the Tobin principle, and is regulated at will. All the rooms have fireplaces, fitted with register grates. The school and classrooms accommodate 548 boys, 367 girls, and 364 infants.

The John-street front of the building is enclosed with a wrought-iron palisading, and it was necessary to form a court yard at the back, divided into an upper and lower playground, well drained and tar-paved.

In the latrines the architect has introduced the trough system. The troughs (one for each department) are 24 feet long, made of strong copper: when charged with water no offensive matter can adhere to the sides. At the lower end of each trough is a large brass valve, which closes the outlet; and this valve works in a neat brass pedestal, fixed in the teachers' compartment, in such a way that, when the teacher requires to empty the troughs, he merely raises a handle. At the upper end of the trough is a flushing apparatus, connected with a 400-gallon tank overhead.