

### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES.

IN bright sunshine and in the midst of a brilliant assembly, his Majesty laid the foundation-stone of the National Museum of Wales on Wednesday, June 26. All sides of Welsh life and activity were represented—peers and peeresses, members of Parliament, county and municipal aldermen and councillors, magistrates, college principals and professors, Druids and bards in their distinctive robes, and representatives of Welsh music, art, and literature. Home and foreign museums were represented by Sir Cecil Harcourt Smith, of the Victoria and Albert Museum; Mr. C. E. Fagan, of the British Museum (Natural History); Dr. F. A. Lucas, of the American Museum of Natural History; Dr. C. William Beebe, of the New York Zoological Gardens; Mr. Kermode, of the Museum of Victoria, British Columbia, and many others.

The loyal address which was presented to his Majesty made grateful mention of the fact that the King had deposited in the museum the unique silver-gilt chalice and paten, of thirteenth-century workmanship, which were found at Dolgelly some twenty

may be roughly described as having the form of a rectangle 440 ft. long by 250 ft. wide, enclosing a quadrangle 307 ft. by 134 ft. in the centre. The entrance is in the middle of one of the shorter sides, and faces south and somewhat east; it leads into an octagonal court under a dome nearly 100 ft. high. From this dome galleries branch out east and west, and occupy the whole of the southern block; from the eastern gallery opens the refreshment-room, from the western the children's room. The north side on the first floor is occupied by the sculpture and picture galleries, both lighted from above. The two long sides are separated by a longitudinal partition wall into two portions corresponding to the division of the contents of the museum into two parts—the exhibition collections and the reserve or study collections. The exhibition galleries look out upon the central quadrangle, and consist of only two storeys. This arrangement enables the show galleries to be made of an adequate height, 18 ft. on the ground floor and 20 ft. on the first floor measured to the cornice of the room. The outer portion, containing the study collections, had to be kept down to a lower level to correspond with the height of the adjacent City Hall. It consists, however, of

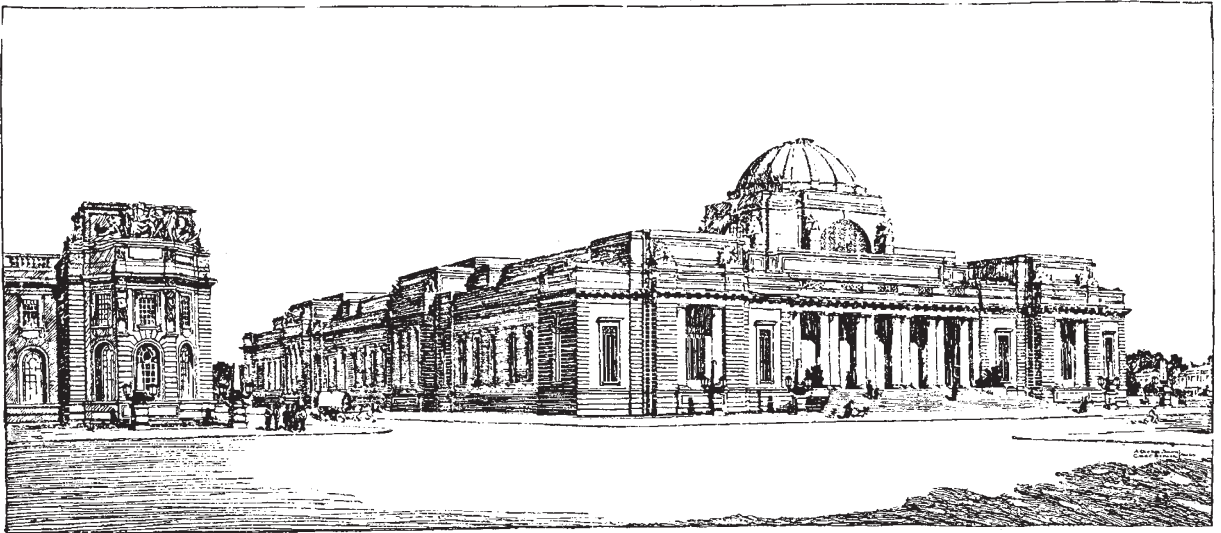


FIG. 1.—National Museum of Wales. Perspective view from the south-west.

years ago. This reference was taken up by the King in his reply in the following passage:—"The collections in the museum will serve as a record of developments in every branch of intellectual and industrial activity, and will illustrate the practical aspects of Welsh life. I am glad to have been able to commit to the charge of the museum the Dolgelly chalice and paten. I hope that the treasures which are to be stored here will be constantly enriched, and that many others will emulate the generosity and public spirit of the donor of the Caergwle cup." This last is a valuable Celtic relic of wood, oval in form, and inlaid on the exterior with thin gold in various devices; it has been handed by the owner, Sir Foster Cunliffe, Bart., of Acton Park, Wrexham, to the Ancient Monuments Commission, with a view to its transference to the National Museum of Wales.

Before leaving the museum site to visit the adjacent University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, their Majesties inspected with great interest a model of the museum buildings on a scale of a quarter of an inch to one foot, made by Mr. J. Lambert, which had been erected in the reception pavilion.

The museum building (Fig. 1), which has been designed by Messrs. Smith and Brewer, of Gray's Inn,

three storeys, and their contents will correspond as nearly as may be with those of the show galleries adjoining them. Doors, placed at certain intervals, admit of easy passage from the show collections to the study collections and *vice versa*.

Within the quadrangle are two low buildings; the southerly one is to be devoted to an exhibition of Welsh natural history; the more northerly to Welsh history. In each will be a central space, and around it a series of alcoves, lighted from above. Each of these will have a suitable painted background, representing a scene in some part of Wales—moorland, forest, woodland, meadow, marsh, and shore—whilst in the foreground will be the plants and animals characteristic of such a locality. In the historic pavilion groups illustrating different periods of Welsh history will be installed.

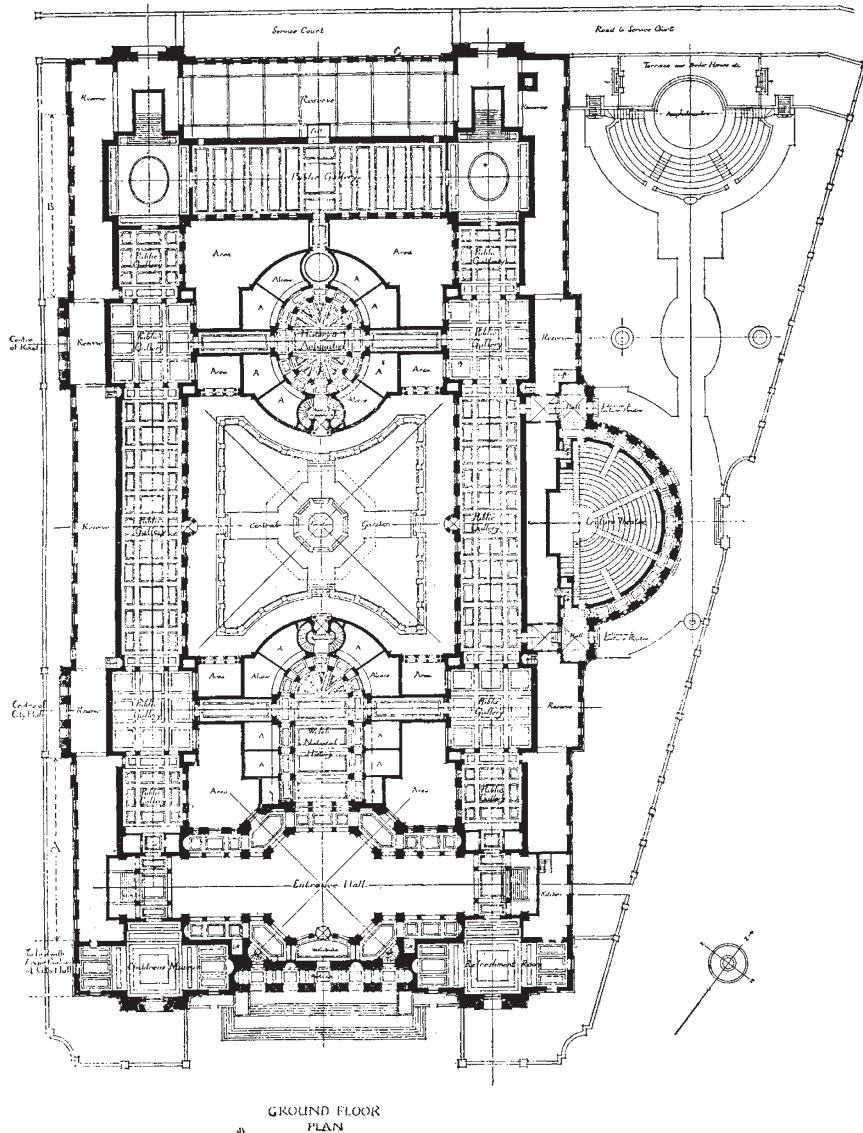
The administrative rooms are placed in the south block on the second floor, and consist of a council-room, library, and the director's offices; they are approached by passenger lifts. On the east side is placed the lecture theatre, with two entrances, two extra exits, and two pass-ways from the museum galleries; it has also its own cloak-rooms, &c. A service court, for the unloading of goods, with a cart-

way leading to the road in either direction, is placed at the north end of the building, and grouped around it are unpacking rooms, workshops, service lifts, macerating, sterilising, and stone and plaster rooms. Other rooms provided include those for photography, printing, and distilling, and a large number of store-rooms, also a kitchen and bicycle rooms for men and women.

electrically-driven fans. Fireproof construction is being employed throughout, and it is intended that the cases and much of the furniture shall be of metal. There will thus be little inflammable material in the building, and any outbreak of fire could at once be isolated by iron doors placed at suitable intervals.

It is intended only to build the southern half of this extensive pile in the first instance, and to add the remainder as space is required. The cost of this first instalment, including equipment, is estimated at 230,000*l.*, of which 60,000*l.* has been already received. Of the remainder half will be contributed by the Treasury, provided the other half is raised from other sources, so that the council is faced by the problem of raising 85,000*l.* in three or four years if the scheme is to be carried out successfully.

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GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
 FIG. 2.—National Museum of Wales. Plan of ground floor.

Between the two pavilions for Welsh history and Welsh natural history, above described, will be a garden about 134 ft. square, in which the visitor will be able to rest and enjoy the fresh air in the intervals of inspecting the collections. Beneath the centre of this garden will be the aquarium. In the north-east angle of the site, just outside the museum quadrangle, is an open-air amphitheatre, intended primarily for the performance of Welsh national folk-songs and dances. The heating and ventilation will be upon a combined system of inlet and extract ventilation, controlled by

minimum 32.4° August, giving a yearly range of 64.9°. The absolute extremes in any year were -37.0° and +35.7°. *Odessa Observatory* (1910).—The meteorological observations contained in the *Annuaire* of the University Observatory include those taken three times a day at Odessa, with daily and monthly means, and the principal results (rainfall and thunderstorms) at stations in south-east Russia. The mean temperature values at Odessa are:—January 30.9° F.; July 72.1°; year 51.6°; absolute maximum, 87.8° in June; absolute minimum, -8.5° in January.

REPORTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

*ROYAL OBSERVATORY OF CATANIA* (1909 and 1910).—We have received from Prof. A. Riccò the meteorological results made at this observatory. From useful tables giving the means and extremes for nineteen years (1892-1910) we note that the mean annual temperature is 63.7°; January, 49.8°; August, 79.0°. An extreme reading of 106° was reached once, in August, 1896, and the temperature only fell below freezing point twice, in February, 1895 and 1905.

*Moscow Meteorological Observatory* (1910).—The observatory is attached to the Imperial University; the observations were made under the direction of Privat-Docent Speransky, and are discussed in great detail by Prof. E. Leyst in the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Society of Naturalists, No. 4, 1910. The means of air temperature (centigrade) were:—January -7.2°, July 19.1°, year 5.5° (normal 3.9°); all months except August-October were above the normal; December was 5.6° in excess. The absolute extreme readings were: minimum -32.5° January, maximum 32.4° August, giving a yearly range of 64.9°.