

of the mode pursued in forming the columns of the temple of Jupiter Olympius, at Agrigentum, the basilica at Pompeii, the London terminus of the Birmingham railway, and the Nelson column in Trafalgar-square. The columns of the first named are 13 feet 2 inches in diameter; they are attached, and project from the face of the wall 1 foot 7 inches more than the semi-diameter. The stones of every alternate course bond into the wall; the whole is solid, and the greatest care was taken to break the line of the upright joints. The columns of the Birmingham terminus are 8 feet 5 inches in diameter. Each course, 6 feet 2 inches in height, consists of four blocks of Bramley Fall stone, which form the outside face around a rough core, with a hollow in the centre. The four blocks are bound together by an iron tie, in the shape of a St. George's cross; and each stone has two dowels in it to keep the superincumbent course in its place. The Nelson column is constructed of Dartmoor granite. Each frustum consists of seven blocks, and each block has slate dowels in it. The whole column is solid throughout; whether judiciously so or not he thought a question.

A question being raised as to the wood of which the dowels in the Parthenon columns were formed, Mr. Penrose said they were of the olive, and that all he saw were square.

Mr. C. H. Smith remarked on the great smoothness of the horizontal joints in these columns, and suggested that the dowel might have been used as a centre, by which to grind one stone upon the other, so as to make them fit closely.

The Chairman said, that on the continent they had not the advantage of such large stones as could be had in England; all would remember the way in which the columns of the *Madeleine*, in Paris, for example, are built up with small stones, which produce, when seen closely, a mass appearance. The columns of the great church of St. Petersburg were an example of a directly opposite course, being, if he remembered rightly, 45 feet high, and of one block. As to the Nelson column, he certainly would not have made it solid. Money being wanted, too, in this particular instance, it was a great pity to waste the costly granite by burying it in the centre, as was done there; he could not understand why this course had been pursued, and thought it exceedingly injudicious. He was bound to say that the architect was not responsible for it, the blame rested elsewhere.

Mr. Charles Fowler read a paper on the arrangement of lunatic asylums, with especial reference to the Devon county lunatic asylum, recently completed at a cost, in round numbers, of 60,000*l.* As this communication contained much important information, we shall probably place it before the public *in extenso*.

The Report of the Council on the drawings for a water-gate, submitted in competition by students, was read; the letter which accompanied the selected design being opened, the author was found to be Mr. George Judge, jun., to whom accordingly the chairman, with some remarks on the necessity of attending to construction when designing, presented Inigo Jones's Designs, as published by Kent. Wilkins's Vitruvius was presented to Mr. Nicoll for the best set of illustrated notes of the papers read during the sessions.

Relative to Inigo Jones's works, Mr. Donaldson reminded the meeting, that the preceding day was the anniversary of his death, and remarked, that he had recently met with a tombstone inscribed to an individual "by his friend, Inigo Jones."

Mr. Godwin said, that the mention of a tomb raised by Inigo Jones to another, forced him to remark on what he had always considered a matter of reproach, namely, the want of a fitting and permanent memorial of Jones himself. He was buried, as many would remember, in the church of St. Benet, Paul's Wharf, but there was not even a tablet to record the fact, and he thought it was incumbent on the architects of England, if not on others, to supply the deficiency.

The suggestion appeared to be well received by all present, and will probably not be lost sight of. We will gladly do all in our power to assist in carrying it out.

The chairman afterwards ably reviewed the proceedings of the session, commented on some of the principal papers read, and adjourned the meeting 'till November next.

THE ROYAL MEDAL IN AID OF ARCHITECTURE.

SEVERAL correspondents having asked for information on the subject of the royal medal offered by the council of the Institute of Architects, we think it desirable to give the following particulars furnished by the council:—

Her Majesty the Queen, having been graciously pleased to grant to the institute an annual medal for the promotion of architecture, it has been resolved, that it shall be applied to the encouragement of the junior members of the profession by a competition in designs, composed in a style calculated to promote the study of Grecian, Roman, and Italian architecture, and further that the designs shall be judged of, not only with reference to their merits as works of art, but likewise as to the knowledge of construction they may exhibit.

In order to secure, as far as possible, uniformity in the conditions under which the designs are submitted in competition for the royal medal, it has been determined that the age of the competitor shall be limited to twenty-five years,* and that with this limitation the competition shall be open to the profession in general.

The successful competitor will be further intitled to draw upon the treasurer of the institute for the sum of 50*l.* after his arrival in Rome in the pursuit of his professional studies, at any period within five years from the time of the medal having been awarded to him, upon sending to the institute a satisfactory study of some existing building, either ancient or modern.

The royal gold medal for the year 1846, will be awarded to the best design for a building suitable to the purposes of the Royal Institute of British Architects; comprising a room for general meetings and lectures, with seats for 350 persons, arranged with a view to the reading of papers, the exhibition of drawings and diagrams explanatory thereof, and for facility of discussion; a council room, for twenty-five members; a library for 10,000 volumes, with suitable depositories for drawings, prints, medals, &c.; a gallery for models, casts, fragments, &c.; an exhibition room for architectural subjects, and suitable residences for a secretary and a curator. The cost of the building not to exceed 20,000*l.* The design to comprise not less than one plan of each story, two elevations, two sections, and a perspective view.

The scale of the drawings to be one-eighth of an inch to the foot, and to be tinted with Indian ink or Sepia only. To be sent in by December 31st, 1846.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE baths at Birmingham are still progressing towards realization. The sites have been purchased, and regulations for the management resolved upon.—The Hull baths are now opened for the use of the working classes on the Sunday mornings. The state of the drainage of Hull still occupies the attention of the inhabitants; indictments are threatened against the Paving Commissioners if they fail to remove the nuisance of open drains and cesspools, still infecting various parts of the town. On the 19th instant the first stone of St. Paul's Church was about to be laid.—The inhabitants of Peterborough have been induced by the exorbitant charge made on them for gas to take steps for procuring it at a more reasonable rate.—The proposed improvements at Doncaster will cost, it is thought, about 17,000*l.* but, strange to say, there seems to be ground for fear that the plans are to be "developed," not by any architect, whether of taste, talent, and experience, or otherwise, far less by any sort of competition, but by "the corporation steward;" a circumstance which, as a correspondent of the *Doncaster Gazette* naturally observes, "is rather startling." It is to be hoped, however, that the inhabitants will take care how so large a sum of money is to be expended, and how improvements so extensive are to be carried out. A letter on this subject will be found on another page.—A plan is under consideration for supplying the town of Liverpool with water from the famous spring at Holywell. The quantity of water which it discharges into St. Winifred's well is 30,240 tons in twenty-four hours, of 7,620,480 gallons. This would supply nearly

twenty gallons a head for a population of 400,000. The water, from the height at which the spring is situated, might be made to flow into the highest house in Everton without any forcing. It would be carried in pipes under the Mersey and the Dee.—The first stone of a new church at Westleigh, between the Bolton and Leigh Railway, was to be laid on the 29th inst. It is to be in the decorated style, and dedicated to St. Paul; cost, 2,300*l.* and upwards.—The parish church of the Holy Trinity, Ashton le Willows, was reopened on the 14th inst., with extensive restorations and repairs, under the superintendence of Mr. John Hay, the architect. The chancel has been entirely renewed, with sedilia and reredos in white stone, and other ornaments; and a stone pulpit has been erected in the nave. The eastern window has been supplied with stained glass, and a new organ provided.—An instructive corollary on our quotation from the *Times* in last impression, respecting the wooden erections surrounding Westminster Hall, has occurred at Bristol, where the extensive military barracks, now approaching towards completion, ran an imminent risk of immediate destruction by the conflagration of a collection of wooden buildings which surrounded them.—On Thursday, last week, the foundation-stone of the church about to be erected for the new district of St. Simon, at Bristol, was laid by the mayor. Messrs. Hicks and Gabriel are the architects, and Mr. William Robertson the builder. Some alterations are to be made in St. James's Church, Bristol, which is said much to require them.—The chancel of the parish church of Frome is in process of restoration.—The new church at Cholderton, Wilts, is nearly completed.—A subscription of 3,000*l.* is being raised for the restoration of the church of Oundle, Northamptonshire.—The old church of Motcombe, Gillingham, Dorset, is about to be taken down and rebuilt.—A new window of stained glass, representing Faith, Hope, and Charity, has been erected in Malvern Church. Sir Alexander Hood has contributed 50*l.* to the Wells Cathedral Fund; and 5*l.* for opening the new church at Bridgewater.—The Queen Dowager has contributed 20*l.* on behalf of the Church of St. Stephen the Martyr, about to be erected in Portland-town.—A commission of the Board of Ordnance is shortly to determine at Portsmouth where the new laboratory is to be built. The present one, adjoining the new steam basin in the dock-yard, is to be given up to the Admiralty.—A people's college, on the plan of the institution at Sheffield, in which 1,000 pupils are now instructed, has been commenced at Nottingham. It will cost about 2,000*l.*—In Scotland, nearly 100,000*l.* have been subscribed for Mr. Guthrie's "manse scheme" for the Free Church, besides large sums for the establishment of schools.—Among the public works in Ireland about to be commenced, in order to provide labour to the poor, preparations, it appears, are making for the erection of the new college in Galway, on the site selected and approved by the Board of Works. The style is to be that of Henry the Eighth's time, well adapted to the accidental resources of the locality, which is said to abound in limestone.

ART IN ITALY.

THE most important late art acquisitions are the Gregorian Museum, and that of the Lateran at Rome. The private collections, however, of ministers of State, St. Angelo at Naples, and Cavaliere Campana at Rome, are also of paramount importance for the study of art. That works of sculpture and pictures are exhibited in the same rooms at Florence is much to be regretted, as they require different light for being properly viewed. The beautiful wall-pictures of Herculaneum and Pompeii are yet piled up, as in a store, one above the other, at Naples, while it would be desirable that a selection was made, and the master-pieces exhibited like other pictures. Restoration is still one of the most mischievous enemies of art; and at Florence, especially, some splendid works have been impaired thereby. In the Brera at Milan, in the Vatican, and most other collections, you have to stand the inspection of a whole gallery; in which respect, also, the Grand Duke of Tuscany makes an honourable exception. The Gallery Pitti is furnished nearly like a private

* We dissent from the decision of the council in this respect, and think it much to be regretted.