

was executed by Mr. White: much of it is exceedingly well done; but parts, especially externally, are unworthy of the purpose.* The dressings of the church externally are of Whitby stone, with the exception of the plinth, which is of Morpeth stone. The church affords seats for 350 persons, and has cost a very large sum of money.

ENLARGEMENT OF BRITISH MUSEUM.

Your correspondent "Zeta" intimates an impression on his mind that the effect of the interpolation proposed by Mr. Hosking of a copy of the Pantheon upon the present plan of the British Museum would be to interfere with, and thereby to injure the effect of the Grand Ionic Front of the building. The same idea had occurred to me, but upon trying the design in section from south to north, and taking the front of the Museum to be between 70 and 80 feet high from the level of Great Russell-street, I found that no part of the cupola over the proposed rotunda in the centre of the Museum (from 200 to 250 feet back from the front of the height stated in the description) could come into view with the grand façade in any part of Great Russell-street, from which alone the façade can be seen, at a lower level than the tops, or perhaps the top windows of the houses in that street.

It seems certain, indeed, upon reflection, that the cupola in this case could no more interfere with the front of the building than the cupola over the rotunda of the Bank of England (which no one ever yet saw from the ground) does with the front or grand façade of that building.

EXAMINER.

* In reply to another inquiry, the Trustees declined considering the proposition.

FIRES THROUGH FIRE-PLACES.

The recent remarks in your pages on stoves are undeniable: the men who can sell and fix them cheapest being usually employed, the commonest article is used; it is fixed with a few bricks, and then filled in with rubbish, oftentimes containing shavings: one week's work in drying the house is sufficient to burn the stove through: the rubbish is ignited, the house burnt, and but few ascertain the cause. This is not theory, but experience. Fire brick is now getting much into use, and being a powerful conductor of heat, is, in the hands of unskilful men, a dangerous material, especially where, as is now often the case, the fire-place is partly of wood. A short time since I went over twenty-four houses, of ten, twelve, and fourteen rooms; only two or three chimneys in each had brick trimmers; the bed-rooms had boards laid on fillets nailed to trimming joists, and filled in with rubbish, and wooden chimney bars are not yet out of date. The allusions to hot-air stoves, with ascending or descending flues, are strictly correct; but the blame is seldom laid on the right parties: for instance, a person wants a stove for a shop, entrance-hall, or church; on applying to a respectable man, he is told that to do it with safety a brick foundation must be made, also a proper description of flue, either in iron or brick. He finds this comes expensive; he then goes to some cheap shop, or wholesale broker's, buys the last new puffed-up thing, and employs a tinman to put him a pipe to it: the stove is fixed without any preparation, the floor is fired, and the fault is laid on the stove, or the maker, whereas the fault lies with the employer. As a stove maker of nearly thirty years' standing, I will assert that a stove with an open fire and descending flue—acting properly (not drawing like an air-furnace)—can be put up only by men of experience. In the present day an old stove is puffed with a new name, and, without trial, pronounced to be the best thing ever made, and the purchaser, in most cases finds it utterly useless.

A STOVE-MAKER.

The perusal of your papers "On the Construction of Houses for the Prevention of

Fires," forcibly reminded me of an occurrence which took place under my own observation some years ago, corroborative of the reality of one of the sources of mischief from fire there enumerated, viz. the incautious employment of stoves on foundations of wood or other combustible materials, without the intervention of a sufficient non-conducting medium. While walking along the aisle of a village church, my attention was arrested by a splashing noise upon the pavement near me, and on directing my eyes to the place whence the sound proceeded, I found it to be occasioned by molten lead pouring down through the joints of the boarded roof-covering on the rafters above. Scarcely a moment elapsed before this boarding burst into flame, which happily, from the proximity of a copious water supply, and the promptest measures for its application being adopted, was speedily extinguished with but trifling damage, but would, I doubt not, in the absence of these have resulted in the total destruction of the edifice. On the extinction of the above I ascended the roof of the church, and ascertained that the fire had proceeded from one in use by a plumber engaged in repairing the leads. This fire was contained in an open grate, standing on legs 7 inches high, placed in a sheet-iron tray, laid in contact with the roof covering of 6 lbs. lead. It had been in operation but a short time when the heat became so intense, that notwithstanding the interposing tray, the lead was reduced to a state of fusion, and the boarding beneath ignited, practically attesting the insufficiency of not only a sheet of iron or lead alone, but of the two together, for the protection of inflammable substances when thus exposed to the action of heat; and demonstrating the absolute necessity for the strictest caution and forethought being exercised by workmen requiring the assistance of fire, to prevent casualties of the most serious and destructive nature.

W. B.

CHURCH-BUILDING IN HANTS.

Widley Church.—The church at Widley has been rebuilt, and was consecrated on the 28th ult. by the Bishop of Winchester. It is designed in the Norman style of architecture, and very plain: it is constructed of rubble, with Bath stone dressings, and consists of a nave 51 feet in length, and 17 feet 6 inches in breadth, a north aisle 8 feet 10 inches broad, a semicircular apse, a vestry and south porch; there is a bell turret on the west-gable and nave, containing an old bell from the old church. The nave and north aisle are separated by stone columns and arches. The roof is open and constructed of trussed rafters, stained oak colour; the height to the ridge is 32 feet in the nave. The seats are all low, and stained oak colour. The pulpit of stone is circular, and surrounded by an arcade of intersecting arches. The church cost only about 625*l.* raised by private subscriptions, exclusive of the old materials. It will seat 214 persons.

Newtown Church.—The new church at Newtown, in the parish of Soberton, was consecrated on the 27th ult. by the Bishop of Winchester. It is in style, "Early English," and is constructed of flint, with Caen-stone dressings. The church consists of a nave 60 feet in length, and 25 feet 3 inches in breadth; a short chancel 18 feet long by 11 feet 9 inches broad; a porch on the south side, a small vestry, and a bell turret, containing one bell, on the west gable. There are three lancet windows at the west end, with an early quatre-foil over the centre one, and a triple lancet window at the east in the chancel. The roof of the church is open, of high pitch, and composed of trussed rafters, boarded on the back, and stained oak colour; the height to the ridge is 43 feet, and to the wall plates 19 feet 6 inches. The seats are all without doors, low and all free, and stained to resemble oak. The passages are paved with blue and red paving-tiles. The pulpit, desk, and altar-railing are simple. The communion-table is covered with a red cloth, on which has been worked in gold-coloured silk a device representing the emblems of eternity and the Trinity, enclosing the sacred monogram, and in each corner a fleur-de-lis by the wife of the architect. The church was built by Messrs. Pink, of Hambledon, and the cost is about 1,250*l.* It will seat 258 persons.

Both these churches were built under the direction of Mr. Colson, architect.

Titchfield Church.—The tower of this church is undergoing restoration under the direction of the same architect: the thick coating of plaster has been removed, and the churchwardens have decided that it shall not be renewed, but that the masonry shall be pointed, as it was originally. Nearly the whole of the masonry of the church is hidden in a similar manner, and it is hoped that in a short time funds will be collected to enable them to remove this also.

Bishop's Walkham Church.—The chancel of this church is about to be improved by the removal of the cumbersome square high pews with which it is at present crowded, and substituting one pew on each side of an appropriate character; by repaving the floor; by removing the clumsy reading and clerk's desks, and putting others of a more suitable description; and by putting an appropriate stem to the pulpit. It is in contemplation to throw open the timbers of the oak roof.

ST. BARNABAS'S CHURCH, SOUTH LAMBETH.

The consecration of this church took place on Monday, June 24th: the ceremony was performed by the Bishop of Winchester in the presence of a large assembly and clergy of the neighbourhood. The building is in the Early English style of architecture, and is faced with Kentish rag, with Bath stone quoins, and dressings. The nave walls are carried up upon Caen stone columns, with carved caps; the chancel is a semi-octagon, with a window in each bay; the ceiling of the chancel is groined, but the building generally is very little ornamented; all the woodwork is of deal, stained and varnished.

The first stone was laid on the 17th of June, 1849, by his R.H. the Duke of Cambridge. The dimensions of the interior are as follows:—The entire length, including chancel, 102 feet, the entire width 57 feet, the height of nave 55 feet. According to our informant the galleries are constructed independently of the nave columns. Accommodation is provided for 1,500 persons, including children; and the cost of the building is 4,900*l.*, the work being executed by Mr. Myers, contractor, according to the drawings supplied by Messrs. Clarke and Humphrys, architects. The organ was built by Messrs. Hill and Son, of New-road, and, being constructed in two compartments, allows of the light passing through the west window into the body of the church. The church has no tower or spire, but there is a bell turret surmounted by a pinnacle at the west end of the nave, at the junction with the south aisle.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

A RATE has been granted for necessary repairs of St. Peter's Church, Bedford, previous to carrying out the proposed extension of the edifice. The tenders have been sent in, and that of Mr. G. H. Miller accepted. The rough stucco is to be scraped off the tower, the stonework pointed, and the unsightly window on the south side of it replaced by a Norman window. On the other sides, according to the local *Times*, similar windows may be afterwards inserted.—The new Corn Exchange at Brigg was opened on Thursday week.—On the 14th ult. the new Church of St. John, Kingsdown, Dover, was consecrated. The cost of erection and endowment (about 7,000*l.*) has been defrayed by Mr. William Curling. The seats are open benches, free, for 400 persons.—An eccentric gentleman of the name of Hartley has lately died at Havre, bequeathing property valued at from 20,000*l.* to 25,000*l.* to form a library and scientific institute at Southampton, whence he had departed when young, after locking up his house, furniture, garden, &c., which have remained ever since *in statu quo*, or, at least, without interference by him, having even refused either to let it or to receive the value of a portion of it taken under Acts of Parliament by the Itchen Bridge Company.—A visitor to Stratford-on-Avon Church and Shakspeare's Tomb complains that although "the 'living' is a much more lucrative one than that of thousands of working and learned clergymen," the parish

* Over the west door is a model of the church in stone, carried by an eagle, as a sort of play on Miss Compton's name, Angela; and in the corbels are water-lilies and crotches, for a play on the word *Compton*.