

Passerulus septent. 4

NORTH TERRACE.

INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES.

The buildings on the northern side of North terrace, from King William street to the Botanic Garden are stately edifices, which would be ornaments to any city. Although they have been erected haphazard there is a continuity of design, typical of the British race—stolid and enduring. Behind the front terrace, however, are structures of ancient date, whose days are numbered. They have served their day and generation, and the Government is determined to make a complete alteration in those buildings which are viewed from the present military parade ground. Mr. Denny has moved in the House of Assembly that the site of the Destitute Asylum and Government House should be turned into parks for the people. His ideas are not likely to be carried into effect. When in office Mr. Verran considered several schemes for alterations on North terrace, but all of them depended on the removal of Government House from its present position. It is, however, considered to be unlikely that any viceregal representative will live during the winter in any other locality than the corner of North terrace and King William road for many years to come. The present Government, at the suggestion of the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. G. Bice) and the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. F. W. Young) is considering a well-thought-out plan for improvements, not only to what is known now as Education Block, but to the other end of North terrace, where the Consumptive Hospital is situated.

—Destitute Asylum and Police Barracks.—

The Destitute Asylum has been condemned by the Ministry. So soon as possible the inmates will be removed to Magill, where more comfortable quarters will be provided, and where the aged people will have a home in which to spend their last days in pleasant surroundings. Next to the Destitute Asylum are offices now used by the 19th Brigade as headquarters, and behind them are the Mounted Police Barracks. The military offices will be moved when the new headquarters at Keswick are ready, and it has long been realized that the accommodation for the mounted police is inadequate for the requirements of such an efficient force of men. It is generally recognised that better quarters must be found for them, and it is stated that probably when alterations are made at the western end of the city by the removal of the sheep and cattle markets, new barracks will be provided for the mounted men in that locality. The space left by the removal of those buildings will provide room for the extension of the University and the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery.

—Botanic Garden.—

It has been suggested that the old Exhibition Building and grounds should, when vacated by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, be handed over to the board of governors of the Botanic Garden. It is not likely that anything in that direction can be done for two years, as it is considered that it will take fully that period before the showgrounds can be removed to Keswick. When the first intimation was made last year, when the Verran Government was in office, that the Agricultural Society was likely to move from its present grounds, the board of governors wrote to the Government asking that the old Exhibition Grounds should be placed under its control. A reply was sent by the Verran Government, but no further correspondence has passed. The Commissioner of Crown Lands has looked carefully into the question of further extensions of the Botanic Garden. He has asked his officers to prepare plans of the land adjacent to the Botanic Garden, which might be handed to the board of governors, together with an estimate of the value and the cost of the alterations. When he has obtained those particulars he will be in a position to deal with the matter should any request be made to him by the board. The Old Exhibition Building is a substantial structure, which can serve purposes for generations to come, and it is understood that the Director of the Botanic Garden (Dr. Holtze) has intimated that with alterations to the roof and extra windows he could transform a dingy hall into a beautiful fern bower. Probably a portion of the land now enclosed by the walls of the Consumptive Hospital will be added to the garden. Incidentally, it might be mentioned that it is understood that Dr. Holtze will remain the Director. His term of service has been and will be extended, and it is considered likely that when he retires his son (Mr. N. Holtze), the curator of the garden at Darwin, will succeed him. Before Mr. Holtze takes charge he will probably spend some months in Adelaide studying arrangements with the present Director.

—Consumptive Hospital.—

The Government has announced its intention to remove the hospital for consumptive patients from North terrace. This, as well as other tentative arrangements, is part of a large scheme for improvements in the treatment of the mentally afflicted. Scientists who have studied the diseases of the brain have recommended that before a patient should be incarcerated in an asylum, unless certified as hopeless, he should pass through stages, the first a receiving house, and the second a detention house. The building on North terrace was first used for a hospital for the mentally afflicted, and may be again used as an institution under the new system. Portion of the ground would be well adapted for the purpose of enlarging the Botanic Garden, and that point will not be missed when the Government makes final decision.
