

# DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW EDINBURGH THEATRE IN LEVEN STREET.



As has been intimated, Dr Andrew Carnegie to-morrow lays the memorial stone of the new Edinburgh Theatre, a handsome and commodious building situated at the corner of Leven Street and Tarvit Street, near Tollcross, Edinburgh. The ground was taken over less than a year ago, and building began in the latter part of last year. The work has been carried on with great expedition, and as no serious mishap or accident has occurred to hinder operations, it is expected that the buildings will be opened for public use by the 1st December of this year, when, it is understood, a pantomime will be the first production. The exterior is practically completed, and at the present time about 120 men are engaged in the interior of the building.

## THE EXTERIOR.

The building will be a feature architecturally of the part of the city in which it stands. It has a frontage of 84 feet towards Leven Street, and 170 feet towards Tarvit Street, and presents a warm, handsome appearance, the outer walls being built of red sandstone, taken from the Closeburn Quarry, Dumfriesshire. The principal facade towards Leven Street is symmetrically designed in a free treatment of the Italian Renaissance style. The central feature is the principal entrance, which is flanked by shafts having enriched Ionic capitals, surmounted by a central arch, the key-block of which carries a balcony supporting the central oriel window, two floors in height, and capped with an ornamental domed stone roof. The crowning central pediment is carried by twin engaged columns with elaborately carved Ionic capitals. These columns rest on piers on which are carved the lion rampant on crowned escutcheons. The windows on the second floor are capped with carved pediments, while the main wall-head is finished with a stone balustrade divided by panelled dies, which are supported by carved corbels, sculptured to represent Tragedy and Comedy. The Tarvit Street elevation is finished in a plainer manner, but is quite effective in its treatment, and has a

pleasing appearance. It is proposed to erect ornamental verandahs at all the entrances and exits.

## THE INTERIOR.

The principal parts of the house enter from Leven Street, and a feature is the main central entrance hall, which is about 33 feet by 20 feet. Ample provision is made for the comfort of visitors by provision of smoking, lounge, and retiring rooms. The decorative plaster work of this part of the building is being completed, and gives an idea of the elaborate and artistic manner in which the interior will be treated. The entrance to the pit floor and the galleries is from Tarvit Street, and a new feature in the planning of the theatre is the provision of narrow passageways formed at each of the entrances for the purpose of giving admittance at the early doors. The pit floor is 60 feet in width, and the back wall is about 70 feet distant from the curtain line. The dress circle will have eight rows of chairs, everyone giving a direct view of the stage. In the second tier, the family circle, there are seven rows of seats, while the gallery will have 14 rows. Eighteen boxes are being provided, nine on each side of the stage, arranged in three tiers. In the present condition of the building it is possible to fall in with the architects' view that there is not a seat in the house that has not an undisturbed view of the stage. The auditorium will give comfortable seating accommodation to 2500 persons, representing one of the largest theatres in the provinces. The stage is 66 feet in width by 50 feet deep, and here, as elsewhere in the building, every possible precaution has been taken to render it fireproof. Ample emergency and ordinary exits are provided. The stage is being fitted up with every equipment known to modern stagecraft, and the accessories are of the most complete character. The building has been designed and the plans prepared by the joint architects, Messrs James Davidson, Coatbridge, and J. D. Swanston, Kirkcaldy, under whose personal supervision the work has been carried on. Mr T. I. S. Watson, Frederick Street, is surveyor, and Mr John Tulloch, clerk of works. The contractors for the whole building are Messrs W. S. Cruickshank & Son, Edinburgh.