

Work Starting on Final Stage of Transfer to Ilam

Work is about to start on the first building of the final stage in the transfer of the University from the city to the Ilam site. The tender of the Christchurch firm, C.S. Luney Ltd., of \$3,005,349, for the Library-Arts block, was accepted by Government at the end of July.

At the same time the Minister of Education, Mr Kinsella, announced that subsidies had been approved for the construction of Rolleston House and a women's hall of residence at Ilam. In addition a further hall of 100 beds is to be built for Colombo Plan students in association with the Rolleston House—women's hall project.

It is hoped that the contractor will be able to complete the Library-Arts block in less time than the four years stipulated in the contract.

Pleasure at the news was tempered by disappointment that no provision had been made by the Government for the payment of subsidies for the construction of church halls at Ilam. Some 1965 donors contributed \$250,000 to enable three church halls to be built at Ilam—Christchurch College (Church of England), which was completed two years ago; Rochester Hall (Roman Catholic), which has accepted a \$100,000 subsidy to build accommodation for 41 beds while erecting dining facilities for 200; and Rutherford Hall (Methodist-Presbyterian).

Christchurch College has 120 students in residence. Work has started on the small first stage of Rochester Hall, which will enable the Education Department to use the old Rochester Hall in Bealey Avenue for in-service training. Because it felt the hall could not operate with accommodation only for 41 beds, the Rochester Hall Committee decided to construct dining accommodation for the 200 ultimately expected in the hall. No provision has been made for Rutherford Hall.

As a result, a deputation from the Univer-

sity and the churches met the chairman of the University Grants Committee, Mr A.J. Danks, early this month to ask when subsidies would be available for church halls. Mr Danks said provision would be made in U.G.C. programming next year for spending on subsidies to allow church halls to proceed in Christchurch. But Mr Danks added that while this would be included in the programme for spending there was the reservation that spending of this type was "at risk" and dependent on the money the Government actually decided to make available each year.

The University halls are to be built on Maidstone Road. Each will accommodate 100 students and there will be a central amenities block for all 300. Each block is of four storeys with a roof house. Men students will have single and double study-bedrooms but the women's hall will have single rooms only.

There will be two small lounges on each floor with a kitchenette recess and storage space. The roof house contains laundries, ironing rooms and recreation rooms. The women's hall will also have a matron's room, additional ironing rooms and a sick-room.

The halls will be of reinforced concrete faced with brick.

Parking space for 75 cars will be provided. The dining hall block will contain a separate dining hall for each block but these may be combined for large functions by opening folding doors. The block also contains administrative offices for the

whole complex, kitchen, serveries, stores and boilers. Above the administration area and entrance lobbies there will be a guest room and a sickroom. There will be a staff block for each hall containing a warden's and matron's flat.

New Block For Chemical Engineering Completed

The floor area for the Department of Chemical Engineering has been doubled with the completion of a five-storey block on the frontage of the School of Engineering at Ilam. The new block, which will be fully occupied next year, is the final stage of extensions to the school.

The new block is linked to the existing department with a covered way at first-floor level and provides an additional 4500 square feet of laboratory space, 3000 square feet for the design office and ancillary rooms, 1000 square feet for workshop and store rooms and 1500 square feet for staff studies. The department's capacity now is about 120 undergraduates and 15 to 20 postgraduate students.

The new block is extremely well-serviced. Pumps and compressors in the basement provide services in the same way as those in the Department of Chemistry. The services run overhead in the laboratories and may be readily attached to apparatus. A well running through several storeys will enable a distillation column up to 40 feet high to be installed.

The ground floor contains two small laboratories, one for fuels and the other for radio-chemistry work, a workshop and a small glassblower's workshop. Maximum use has been made of store-room space with the use of Lundia moveable shelving. These shelves may be easily rolled apart or together so that only one gangway is required at any time. A space saving of 80 per cent is achieved by using this method.

Flexible design is a feature of the first professional laboratory on the next floor. This laboratory will also be used by final-year students doing research projects and flexibility is required because of the variety of projects that will be undertaken. Much of the equipment is moveable.

There is a research laboratory on the third floor. Slabs in the floor may be moved aside to allow apparatus to protrude into the laboratory below if necessary.

This floor also contains a darkroom suite and a constant environment room for calorimetry work.

A design office for senior final-year students occupies the fourth floor and there are seven staff studies and a seminar room on the top floor. The views from the top floor of the alps in the west, the hills and the city to the east and of the Ilam site rival those from the top of the Chemistry-Physics building.

The space on the roof will not be wasted. Services are run to the roof and experiments involving dirty or noxious material may be carried out there. The room on top of the building houses the lift mechanism and services.

The building is attractively finished internally with timber panelling and bannisters. Overcrowded sections of the department have already moved in and the building will be fully occupied at the start of next year.

Cover picture: The new block for Chemical Engineering.

The Nuffield Foundation has approved research grants for Dr J.E. Fergusson (Department of Chemistry) and Mr J. Warham (Department of Zoology).

The Library has received from Dr D.J. Boorstin, of the University of Chicago copies of five of his books, and from Dr C.H. Gray, formerly a member of the staff of the Department of Psychology, a copy of a book of which he was co-author.