

WOMEN'S REST ROOMS

NEW PLYMOUTH BUILDING

OPENED FOR USE YESTERDAY.

CHARM IN COMMERCE SECTION.

BEAUTIFYING CENTRE OF TOWN.

The essence of modernity in construction yet homely and comfortable in atmosphere and spotless cleanliness mel-
lowed by soft and restful indoor decoration. These are the characteristic notes of the New Plymouth Borough Council's new women's rest rooms in Gill Street, opened yesterday.

Work was begun on the building early this year by Messrs. Boon Bros. at a tender of £1836 to replace the old rest room opposite the fire station in Courtenay Street. The architects, Messrs. Griffiths and Stephenson, were responsible for the plans of the building and for the adjacent council electricity department's transformer station. Messrs. Jones and Sandford were contractors for the station.

The past few months have seen a transformation in what was an unkempt site. The rest rooms, built in colonial style with residential lines, are a pleasing addition to the town and the transformer building which spans the Huatoki stream has a utilitarian style and is harmonised with the rest room in the similar buff lustre plaster outside work. On the site of a one-time smithy a smooth stretch of tilled land not yet broken by grass shoots and arranged with native shrubs runs on three sides of the rest rooms and is bordered above the Huatoki stream by a rockery sloping to the water. Even now the contrast with the surrounding commercial centre is pleasing, but when the grass and plants have grown the section will be all that the town and country woman could desire.

There is a happy coincidence in the selection of the site. To the east of the rest room is the land upon which the first hospital at New Plymouth was erected in the early 1840's, the building in which Bishop Selwyn preached the first Church of England sermon in the young town. It has been suggested that the Borough Council should erect a stone on the spot, to stand outside the entrance to the new building.

The inside of the building is a happy blend of comfort and utility. The finish is plaster-tinted in soft, soothing colours and the harmony of the decorations completed by warm heart of rimu furnishings. A fireplace is provided but large windows facing the north ensure that sunshine will give comfortable warmth even on winter days. A private room is set aside for mothers and babies, and general facilities are available. The caretaker's accommodation consists of comfortable rooms and kitchen and an ample supply of hot water is ready for the wants of the rest rooms.

A feature of the building is its central position. Its situation in Gill Street gives access through James Lane, Brougham Street and Currie Street. This access will be particularly appreciated by country visitors. The opening of the building yesterday was not formal, and as a result only a few women visited the rooms. The old rest room in Courtenay Street was closed during the day and increasing numbers are expected to utilise the new facility.