

Architecture. X

Lecture by Mr. G.
Moerdijk.

Mr. Gerard Moerdijk, A.R.I.B.A., who last night, in the Memorial Hall, gave a lecture on architecture, had a good many interesting things to say on his subject, and, what is more, he said them in a manner which could not fail to impress his audience. Mr. Moerdijk, who has planned, or shortly will be planning, several important buildings in this town, is an enthusiast about his art, a man of ideas, who realises that "a beautiful building is not merely a thing of stone and mortar, but a refining influence in the life of those who take the trouble of looking at it carefully and attentively."

The lecturer pointed out that architecture is the one art which comes into nearest contact with the practical side of our life, and claimed that architectural style should have its foundation in the character and history of a nation. For that reason, he denied artistic value to all present buildings, however pretentious they might be, with the exception of those buildings which have come to us as our heritage from the founders of the South African nation. "These buildings supply all the postulates of suitability, durability, effectiveness and beauty, and prove the high artistic development of the first colonists."

A number of amazingly effective lantern slides, picturing the most varying examples of the art and craft of bygone days, largely helped the lecturer in driving home the lesson he was teaching.