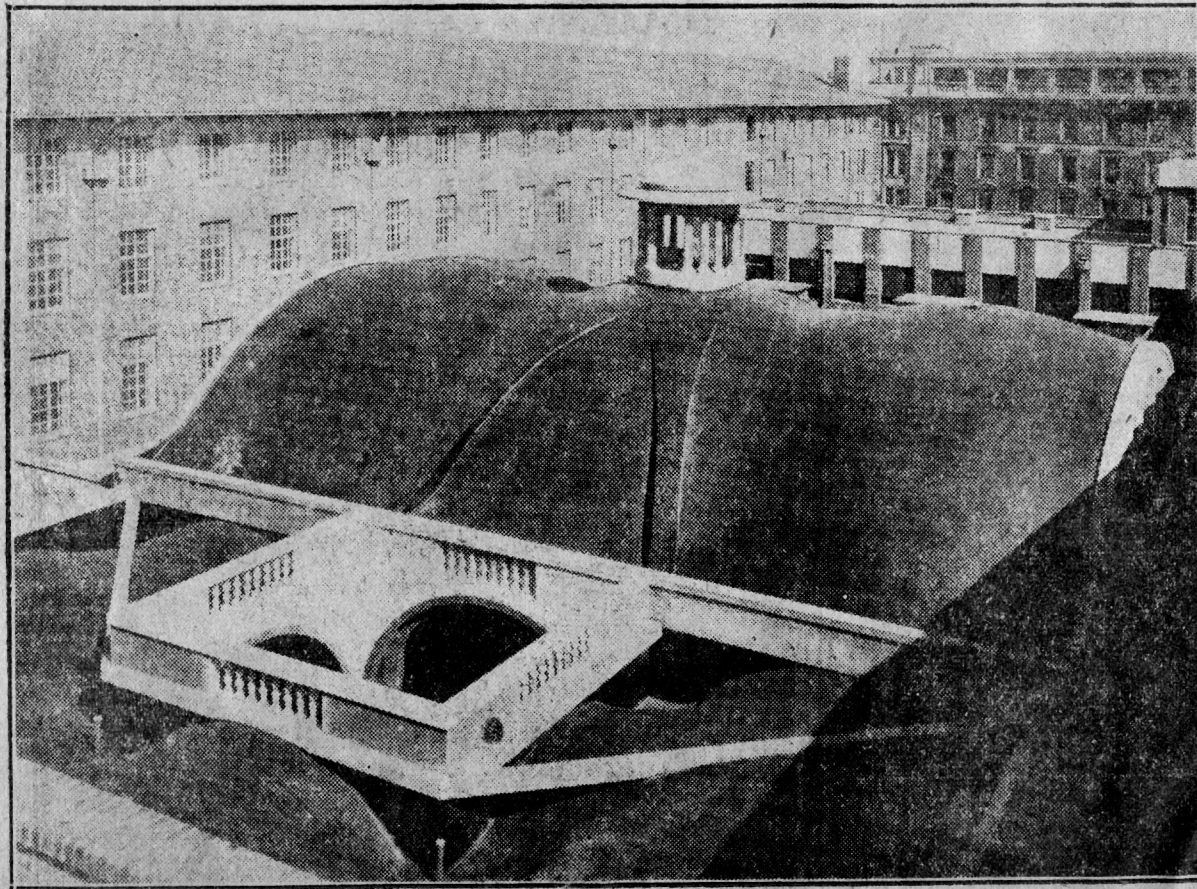


THE CITY'S NEW STATION



AT last Johannesburg has got its new station; but, if only for its concourse, it has been worth waiting for. Here fountains play under the lofty domed roof. Pillars of green marble and the parquet floor, and glimpses on either side of the dome of a sky that is nearly always blue, give the concourse a distinction and make it one of the most attractive spots in the city.

To the left on entering the building is the main booking office, and on the other side the tourist and travel bureau. Following the ground floor, which provides a gallery to the lower floor of the concourse, one finds the post office and cloak room, and the clearing room for incoming baggage, opening on the west upon the Joubert Street quadrangle.

Gilded doors separate the concourse from the waiting rooms, and on the opposite side is the big restaurant. It is not, however, the only place of refreshment, for on the Eloff Street side there is a very spacious bar, with a small bar lounge, the walls of which are decorated in striking futuristic pattern.

The show piece of the station, however, is the big tea room, whose walls are covered with hundreds of delicate porcelain pictures of historic scenes and persons in South Africa, native and animal studies. It would take hours to exhaust its riches, and for

the casual traveller it will take years of coming and going. Old Dutch texts are interspersed, and are also to be found in the waiting rooms.

Although the station building itself will soon be ready for use, it will be some time before the last vestiges of the old arrangements have disappeared. In time all the platforms will be cleared of the buildings that now encumber them and all business will be done in the new quarters. The fate of the old restaurant on the central platform is not yet decided, but there is little doubt that it will eventually go to make way for motor traffic, which will be allowed right on to the platform, coming in from Harrison Street and leaving by the new Wanderers Street bridge.

The electric water heaters installed at the station are absolutely modern and most simple in construction. There is nothing to go wrong, since there is no heating wire element. The water acts as the conductor for the electricity. The effect of electricity passing through water is to heat it up. Ten gallons can be heated up to 120 deg. F. in 10 minutes at a cost of a penny.

In connection with the heating installation of the new station three miles of piping was used, besides 400 hot water radiators, three 4in. pumps, three boilers, each 8ft. long and 6ft. high by 5ft. wide, and five tons of asbestos insulation.