

will sub-let the chambers to a number of barristers who will probably become holders of a new B. class share which may be created in the company.

The accommodation provided at Mena House comprises 23 rooms. As well as spacious clerking facilities and a waiting room, there is a typist pool, galley and shower available. The Building is also air-conditioned. A special feature of the Chambers is a separate floor library. The cost of financing the library is largely being met by an initial contribution of £50/-/- each from members of the floor. The Chambers are indebted to Mr. Clarke's generosity in relation to the first arrangements for their floor library.

It was confidently expected from quotations obtained that the cost of erecting the partitions and making structural alterations to accommodate Counsel would be in excess of £7,000 0s. 0d. James Wallace Pty. Ltd. submitted a quote for £5,500 which was accepted by Counsel's Chambers Ltd. This quote was deliberately reduced to enable Counsel using the Chambers at Mena House to subscribe the sum of £1,500 0s. 0d. towards the cost of a floor library and, in the result, the owner of the building in effecting the partitioning has made an indirect contribution to the floor library of approximately £1,500.

The Bar Council and the Barristers who will be occupying Chambers in Mena House wish to take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the generous and valuable assistance of Mr. Clarke and James Wallace Pty. Ltd. in forming the new floors at Mena House.

Mena House Courts

At the beginning of the year, three new Court rooms located on the top three floors of Mena House, 225 Macquarie Street, Sydney and intended for the use of the Equity Judges were occupied for the first time. The Registrar of Probates Court is also situated in the building.

The Court rooms are air-conditioned and are fitted out in the same general style as the two Equity Courts were in the Macquarie Street Courts. There are, however, a number of facilities for members of the profession which are beyond anything previously provided for them.

On the thirteenth floor, the Equity Library is located. This is a large, quiet, T-shaped room, air-conditioned and with fluorescent light, with adequate reading tables and chairs. The Library consists of all the English reports (both reprints, authorised and All England), English Weekly Notes, Weekly Law Reports, Law Journal and Law Times Reports, R.P.C., Irish Reports, English Statutes since 1823, 1st and 3rd editions of Halsbury's Laws of England, C.L.R., all N.S.W. reports, N.S.W. and Commonwealth Statutes, Victorian reports since 1861, New Zealand Law Reports, English and Empire Digest, Australian Digest, Encyclopedia of Forms and Precedents, and a small but very useful collection of text-books. The contents of the Library are available for use in the Courts in the building, but may not be taken away.

On the twelfth floor, there is a barristers' room fitted with a handsome table and chairs and with its own toilet and washroom, as well as a sink and power point. The Council has provided the means of making morning tea, including an electric jug, tea, coffee, sugar, etc. for use by members of the Bar, for which a small charge is made. Members are urged to use these facilities.

In addition, on the twelfth floor, there is a large room with table and chairs which is available for conferences with clients and witnesses. This room opens off the waiting room and is clearly marked.

The thanks of the Bar are due to the Chief Judge in Equity (the Hon. C. McLelland), for his consideration and effort in ensuring that these facilities were incorporated in the design of the Court floors of the building.

The New Common Room

The setting up of the Common Room in the additions being erected on the Selborne site has now advanced to the point where its general shape and spaciousness can be seen. There may perhaps be some significance in the fact that it is in the kitchen area that most progress in the fitting out work has been carried out. It is clear from the inspection of the work that the most modern and efficient as well as capacious set of equipment is being installed.

Orders have been placed or are about to be placed for the various furnishings for the lounge and dining room, and it can be stated that the lounge furniture will be modern, comfortable, and pleasing to the eye, and that its decor will be modern and thoroughly interesting.

It was noted in the last Gazette, that several floors had made donations to a Fund to assist in financing the establishment costs of the new Common Room. It is pleasing to report that further contributions have been made by most other floors and that the Fund now stands at about £4,000. It is known that several other floors will be making donations in the near future.

The total cost of fitting out the whole area will be in the vicinity of £11,000, part of which will be defrayed by Counsel's Chambers Ltd., which has also agreed to make a long-term loan to the Bar Association of a substantial sum, towards the remaining cost.

No firm date can be set at the moment for the opening of the Common Room, but, as far as one can judge from the progress of the work on the building as a whole, it seems likely that the building will be occupied in late September or early October.

History of the Bar

The History is now being written.

Twenty-five students from the Law School are assisting the authors of various chapters and undertaking research into Parliamentary papers and the like.

The proposed publication has been carefully planned and is involving and will involve an immense amount of work on the part of authors and students assisting.

It is hoped that a draft of the History should be ready by the end of the year, or shortly thereafter.