

COMMERCE HOME ALTERED.

Many New Features in Chamber of Commerce Building.

The remodeling by Helmle & Corbett, architects, of the building at 65 Liberty Street for the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York, of which Darwin P. Kingsley is President, will be completed this week, and on Thursday, Jan. 5, 1922, the first monthly meeting since last June will be held in the reconstructed building.

The alteration presented many difficulties both due to the extent and to the fact that the activities of the executive staff in the building had to continue without interruption, but these were surmounted and the structure has been completed by Charles T. Wills, Inc., general contractors.

Through intensive study of the requirements of the Chamber of Commerce as it exists today this structure has been recast not only to function to a high degree of efficiency and to meet the practical needs of the organization, but also to fittingly represent by a high artistic standard the dignity and importance of the association. This is well expressed by a fine quality of restraint, simplicity and good taste, as well in the use of materials as in the proportions and forms throughout.

Members entering the building will pass directly into a new and spacious elevator lobby and thence directly to the grand stair, which leads with easy steps to the second floor landing, at the entrance to the large assembly hall. This stairway, inspired by the famous stair of the Ducal Palace at Venice, offers one of the unusual instances

where the decorated vault above follows the line of the stair.

The treatment consists of travertine steps, exceedingly simple walls of texture Rosato marble and a contrasting design in the vault above.

On the fourth floor one passes from the oak-paneled elevator lobby into a handsome vaulted stair hall. Here a rich ceiling in various tints with three octagonal panels containing allegorical reliefs of Transportation, Commerce and Industry is strikingly contrasted with the simple walls, accented here and there with tapestry or portraits.

Through spacious openings one passes into the main banquet room, formerly the library, but now much enlarged. A flood of golden light from the overhead ceiling light in the centre diffuses the whole space, while the enclosing plaster ceiling with its rich coffering touched with buff and old gold lends additional warmth. An ample modern kitchen is provided to serve this room.

On the third floor has been added the President's dining room for smaller banquets. Here a new note of delicacy has been introduced fitting this small scale of the space, and the treatment in the Adam style with its delicate handling and fine proportion is most pleasing.

A complete story has been added to the building in which is placed two committee rooms and the library to house the valuable collections of the chamber.

An important new feature is the extra fire stair providing an additional and independent means of exit.