

# PERMANENT "PRE-FABS" ARE ON THE WAY

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## **THE first permanent prefabricated bungalow in Christchurch is nearing completion in Endfield Road.**

It is being built by Mr. Stanley Kermode, who told Christchurch Times that it would be ready for public inspection within the next few days. In appearance it closely resembles the traditional brick built bungalow although, apart from the foundations, no bricks are used in its construction.

"I estimate that 25 men could erect three a week and the cost would be under £800," said Mr. Kermode. It fulfils all the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Health and complies with local building bye-laws. Its minimum estimated life was given by Mr. Kermode as 60 years.

Unlike temporary pre-fabs, this bungalow has a normal tiled roof, but its outer walls are constructed from sheets of highly compressed wood pulp—a material which has been used very largely in recent years for the building of small boats. Although comparatively thin and easy to work it is claimed to be completely weatherproof.

The cavity between the outer and inner walls is filled with wood wool blocks which have a high insulating quality as regards noise. The inner walls are of composition wall boarding, which at the present time is widely used throughout the industry for internal building.

Here are the sizes of the rooms in Mr. Kermode's bungalow: Living room, 13ft. 4in. by 12ft.; bedroom, 13ft. 4in. by 12ft.; second bedroom, 12ft. 6in. by 12ft.; kitchen, 11ft. by 9ft. There is also a hall, 7ft. by 10ft.; a bathroom fitted with wash basin and a separate lavatory. A useful sized store cupboard is also provided.

### **HEATING ARRANGEMENTS.**

An electric emersion heater supplies hot water for the kitchen and bathroom and there is an attractive tiled fireplace in the living room.

Although the labour question still remains acute, Mr. Kermode contends that it is easier to find men to build this type of bungalow than the brick type. "In my 27 years' experience in the building trade I've only come across one plasterer's apprentice," he said. This, he continued, indicated the trend of development in the industry. Men were not so keen on the dirty trades, such as bricklaying and plastering; they preferred carpentry and joinery, and the building of permanent "pre-fabs." was essentially a job for men of these trades.

Mr. Kermode intends to offer his permanent "pre-fabs" to the Council to help forward the housing programme.