

NEW £23,000 Y. M. C. A. FOR RAF LOCKING

BUILDING WORK BEGINS

Work has begun on a new Y. M. C. A. building at No. 1 Radio School, RAF Locking. It is to cost £32,000, and will be almost entirely for the benefit of the 300 to 1,000 apprentices who serve on the Station.

No. 1 Radio School used to be at Cranwell, where the homely and personal influence of the Y. M. C. A., and of the Y. M. C. A. leader, were so greatly appreciated that when the school moved to Locking, the Y. M. C. A. was asked to go with it.

Fully Employed

The Association was prepared to rent premises at Locking and begin work at once, but every building was fully employed. The Air Ministry continued to urge the Y. M. C. A. to come in, but could not offer any accommodation. The only way in which the Y. M. C. A. could begin to meet the need of the apprentices was to put up a building at its own expense.

The Air Ministry could not, of course, give an absolute guarantee about the future of the Locking Station, but the National Council of Y. M. C. A. s received the fullest assurances that could reasonably be hoped for, and it was decided to go ahead.

The building has been designed by Mr. Arthur Miller, who also planned the Y.M.C.A. National Camp at Lakeside, Windermere. There will be a hall/games room, with a stage, also to be used as a group room; a quiet room; a lounge, and an up-to-date canteen and kitchen, as well as a house for the secretary and accommodation for other resident staff. The builders are Messrs. Stanley Stone (Chelsea) Ltd., who have done much work at Locking and in the neighbourhood.

Special Appeal

The Y. M. C. A. National Service Fund will bear the cost, and will make special appeals for the Locking project. The building began as soon as the contract was signed, but there could be no appeal until it was quite certain that the scheme could proceed. It is hoped that West Country people will help. Group Captain Blair-Oliphant, the Commanding Officer, has expressed satisfaction that the building is now beginning to go up.