

CORK SCHOOL OF ART.

THE annual meeting for the distribution of prizes amongst the students of the Cork School of Design, was held on the 23rd ult. in the Theatre of the Institution. Some of the works of the students were exhibited in another part of the building.

The MAYOR occupied the chair.

Mr. James Brennan, head master, read the annual report, which stated that the position of the school, both in numbers and in efficiency, had been maintained. The number of pupils who passed through the school during the year ending June 30, was 188, and there are at present attending classes 159. A course of lectures on elementary building construction is now in progress. Twenty-eight of the students were successful in the examinations of the Science and Art Department in the second grade. Two students were awarded second grade certificates. Two free studentships were also obtained by students of the evening class. In the science subjects of practical plane and solid geometry, and machine drawing, all those who presented themselves for examination were successful, and six Queen's prizes were obtained in those subjects. The report went on to enumerate many instances in which students had received solid practical benefit from the Art teaching of the school. At the Technological Examinations of the Society of Arts, last May, in carriage building and steel manufacture, Messrs. Jeremiah F. Mullins and Mathew Mullane got first and second prizes respectively. The Mayor, following the example of his predecessors, kindly offered prizes, which had been productive of the greatest benefit to the school, and had created a vast amount of healthy competition. The report renewed once more the complaint of the total unsuitability of the present premises for a School of Art, badly lit, draughty, with a leaky roof, and rotten floors. Considering the number of costly Schools of Art erected by other towns, surely Cork with its long bead-roll of illustrious names, should not be behindhand in this provision for Art. The reading of the report was marked by frequent tokens of applause.

The Mayor then proceeded to distribute the prizes, and having done so, said—The very able and exhaustive report they had heard from Mr. Brennan left him very little to say on this most interesting occasion.

He had a sincere pleasure, as Mayor of Cork, in being there that night, and in seeing an institution like this flourishing amongst them—an institution which men of all shades of opinion could unite in fostering, and where they could all assemble on common ground and with a common object. He fully participated in the opinion expressed by Mr. Brennan as to the condition—the disreputable condition of the building in which this school was located. He certainly thought its condition was unworthy of a great city. They were apt to be rather boastful about Cork—they always spoke with pride of what they had done in the past, but he certainly thought it a discredit to their city to see art and literature collected in such a building as this. He had seen ruins in many countries—had seen many in Rome, in Pompeii, and elsewhere, and he should say he had seen ruins that were in a far better state of preservation than the ruin in which they were assembled to-night. He had often been much surprised that no effort was made to better this state of things. He did not know whether it was only a dream, but it had certainly been one of the dreams of his life to see a Free Library in Cork, with a Museum and a School of Art altogether. He thought it would be one of the best civilisers they could introduce into their midst; and would give them a ground upon which they, could all meet and agree. He might say for himself that if at any time he saw a reasonable prospect of forwarding this scheme, he for one would gladly help it forward, but, of course, one man could do very little unless supported by the voice of public opinion. If any such thing were mooted, he promised, then he would do everything he could to assist them. With this digression he resumed by saying that he was, indeed, very proud in, taking part in this interesting assembly. It showed they were not receding—that they had among them in the rising generation the elements of artistic success, and that they might have among them those who might follow in the footsteps of men who had made the city famous through the world.

Mr. J. Beale also delivered an interesting address, praising highly the drawings exhibited by the pupils, and speaking warmly, of the director of the school, Mr. Brennan.

Alderman Keller was then moved to the second chair, and Mr. R. R. Brash proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Mayor for the dignified and earnest ability with which he had presided over this, as over every other meeting over which he was called upon to preside. Alderman Harley seconded the vote of thanks in the warmest terms, and said the Mayor had upon all occasions done his duty manfully, honourably, and to the satisfaction of everybody.

The vote of thanks was passed with acclamation.

The Mayor returned thanks, and, amid applause, announced, as an encouragement to the students, that he would offer prizes next year as before.

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