

THE CORK SCHOOL.

The distribution of prizes to the students took place on the 22nd ult., within the walls of that dingy building called "The Royal Cork Institution." The mayor presided. From the report (read by the master, Mr. James Brenan, R.H.A.), we cull a few extracts ;—

All the classes have continued in full working order; the number of students on the roll was 260, being an increase of 18 over the number for preceding year. The number attending the science classes in solid geometry, machine drawing, and building construction, was 28. The school sent 239 works to South Kensington from the art division, and 43 works from the science division, 14 students in the art division were awarded prizes, and 2 in the science classes. The second grade examinations in freehand, geometry, perspective, and model drawing were held in May last, and 69 students presented themselves for examination, of whom 35 were successful in passing one or more papers, and 10 students were awarded second grade prizes. The students were awarded free-studentships, entitling them to study in the school free of expense for one year; their fees being paid by the Science and Art Department. One student was successful in passing the local advanced art examination in painting a group from nature in a given time. In a science division 16 students presented themselves for examination. In solid geometry, 1, who obtained a Queen's prize; in machinery drawing, 3, of whom 1 was successful; in building construction, 11, all of whom were successful in passing the examination, and 4 obtained Queen's prizes. Professor Armstrong again most kindly offered a silver medal in competition amongst the students for the best rendering of an original subject. The subject given for this year was "Reflection," and the medal was awarded to Miss Harriette Fitzmaurice. Your worship, following the example of your predecessors in the civic chair, kindly placed at the disposal of the committee a sum of money to be offered in prizes to the students. Twelve prizes were offered to the evening class and 10 to the morning class; all the stages were made as comprehensive as possible. Ninety-eight works were sent to London to be adjudicated upon by one of the department examiners. He found that so many works were worthy of recognition as to compel him in several instances to award a third prize. The committee, therefore, supplemented the Mayor's by some additional prizes, so that none whom the examiner considered worthy should go without reward. The prizes keep up a spirit of competition in the school, and are productive of the greatest benefit to the students.

Mr. R. Scott, in the course of some remarks when moving the adoption of report, said that it was a great pity that in a city like Cork much more advantages had not been afforded to the pupils than they had been able to accord to them. They were placed under very great disadvantages on account of the condition of the building in which they were obliged to pursue their studies, and he might say that a great desire existed among many citizens that a better and a more suitable building should be provided for them. No doubt, it took a great deal of time to bring this matter to a successful issue; but he could say it was in progress. The difficulty of obtaining a site had been encountered, but the matter was very much in the hands of the Government. He trusted that before long they would be in possession of a site, and also of funds sufficient to erect a large and improved school. It was a matter of satisfaction to them to find that there was such an amount of latent talent in the city. Irishmen, when their minds were cultivated and their talents elicited, were able to hold their own in the race with the rest of the world. They had a very efficient master, who was popular with his pupils. The number of prizes that had been awarded bore testimony to the ability of the pupils.

The Mayor, having performed the pleasing duty of distributing the prizes, said he thought he would not be doing justice to the occasion if he did not congratulate all present on the progress which the school had made during the past year. The report which had been read, the result of the examinations, and the very appearance of the students proved beyond all doubt that the school had been conducted with great success during the past year. It gave him the greatest possible pleasure to be present that evening; in fact no act of his mayoralty

during the past year had given him more pleasure. There was no more useful or elevating art than that to which they were devoted, and he was glad to find that the young men of the city were availing themselves of the advantages afforded by the School of Art and Design. Now-a-days no tradesman who had not some knowledge of drawing had any chance in life in the race beside the educated tradesman who possessed a knowledge of drawing and design. The cultivated tradesman possessing artistic knowledge must far outstrip and outrun his fellow tradesman who possesses nothing but the mere mechanical knowledge of his trade. He hoped and trusted that the numbers of pupils would continue increasing, and that the School of Art would increase in prosperity and fame. He hoped that at no distant day they would have better buildings and more accommodation than they had at present.

Mr. N. D. Murphy, M.P., said that her Majesty's Government had signified their intention of doing everything in their power towards enabling the citizens of Cork to found institutions which would accommodate all the art pupils.

Pressure on our space prevents us printing the prize list.

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