

## THE CORK SCHOOL OF ART.

THE annual distribution of prizes to the students of this school took place on the 20th ult., in the Round Room of the Theatre Royal. The Mayor occupied the chair.

Mr. James Brennan, R.H.A. (head master), read the annual report, which stated :

The number of students on the roll for the year was 288, showing an increase of 13 on last year; of these 265 attended the art classes, and 23 the science classes, in solid geometry, machine drawing and building construction. The second grade examinations in freehand drawing, geometry; perspective and model drawing were held the last week in April. 25 students were successful in gaining 29 passes and 12 "excellents," 8 were awarded second grade prizes; 2 students passed in all four subjects, one of them gaining three "excellents," and 5 having completed the four subjects were awarded full certificates. In the local advanced art examinations, 2 students were successful, one—a lady—getting the highest mark "excellent" for the very difficult subject of anatomy. This reward carries with it the value of a National book prize. The other student received the mark "good" for advanced perspective. These local examinations are of a very high character, and have lately been instituted. 17 third grade prizes were awarded for works sent to South Kensington, being 3 more than last year, and 3 students were awarded free studentships, the Department paying their fees for one year. In the National Competition 3 prizes were awarded to the school, and these for high-class stages; 2 were awarded for painting in water colour from the cast, and 1 for group painted in oil from nature; in this latter subject the competition is particularly severe. In the science division 12 students were successful. In solid geometry 3 passed, 2 obtaining Queen's prizes; in machine drawing, passed, and 1 Queen's prize; in building construction, 10 students passed, and 4 Queens prizes were obtained, and 1 student was awarded a third grade prize for works sent to South Kensington. Your worship again this year most kindly offered the sum of £10 to be divided as prizes in certain stages of drawing and painting. The number of works sent in to compete for these prizes was 100, and the examiner reports that from the excellence of the works in some stages he has been compelled to award additional prizes to those contemplated in the programme of examination. However, the committee has supplemented the amount given by your worship, so that the fullest encouragement may be offered to the students. In March last the school was visited by F. W. Barwell, Esq., one of H. M. Inspectors, and an artist well known in London. His inspection was a most thorough one. He expressed himself satisfied with the works he saw, and the method of execution employed in them, and said he could give a most favourable report of the works, but he regretted this favourable opinion could not extend to the building, for as regarded the arrangements for lighting, and for the comfort and convenience of the students, it was sadly defective. In consequence of his report, the school was visited last month by E. J. Poynter, Esq., R.A., Director for Art, South Kensington. He examined all the works of the students that were available at the time of his visit. He said that this school sent up excellent work to South Kensington, and that the internal arrangements of the building were far worse than he had anticipated—in fact the worst he had ever seen. The testimony of these two gentlemen bears witness to the truth of what I, as master of the school, have endeavoured to impress on the citizens of Cork for the past twenty years, viz., that it is a subject of regret that the students should be placed under such disadvantages, when it is to be remembered that they have to enter the lists in competition with all the students in the United Kingdom.

Mr. R. Scott, in moving the adoption of the report, said they had in that Rotunda specimens of the works produced recently by their students, and if they examined those works they would be pleased at seeing that they had among them so many talented young men and women. He was present, indeed; when Mr. Poynter expressed his surprise at the badness of the arrangement of the accommodation afforded to the pupils. He hoped the people of Cork would aid in improving the position of the school, so as to give the pupils more facilities for pursuing their studies.

Mr. Denny Lane said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion. He might add his poor testimony to the very high commendation which Mr. Scott had passed upon some of the works exhibited there. Among the works of those who were former pupils he should specially refer to those of Mr. Hovenden, which, he believed, stood in the highest class of art. Their school was not at present merely a school of design or a school of science, it was a school of art, and in that respect especially he observed a great advance on the works done there by the students. He believed that if their school were placed in a proper condition, their pupils would be second to none in the United Kingdom. He hoped that during the next year some improvement would be made in the buildings of the Cork School of Art.

Mr. Adams (hon. sec.) read the following letter which he had received from Mr. Norman MacLeod, of the Science and Art Department :—

SIR,—I am directed to inform you that the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have received from the Director for Art a highly satisfactory report of the qualifications and activity of the master of the school, Mr. Brennan; but at the same time calling attention to the fact that he is working under great disadvantages; and I am to express their lordships' hope that the committee of the school will endeavour to improve the accommodation, examples and other appliances necessary for the success of the master's efforts.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

The prizes were then distributed by the Mayor.

PRIZE LIST.—Caroline Beatson—National book prize for excellent in anatomy. Rose Bulkeley—Department prize for flowers painted from nature. Susan Dutton—2nd Mayor's prize for figure shaded from the cast. Eva Dunscombe—2nd Mayor's prize for model drawing. Lizzie Bergin—3rd Mayor's prize for model drawing. Mary Gould—Department prize for ornament painted in monochrome from the cast. 1st Mayor's prize for ditto. Marian Gubbins—Department prize for ornament shaded from the cast. 2nd Mayor's prize for ditto. Ethel J Hughes—3rd Mayor's prize for ornament painted from the cast. Pass in perspective. Bessie G. Laud—National book prize for group painted in oil from nature, and 1st Mayor's prize for ditto. Albina Mahony—3rd grade prize for flowers painted from nature. Josephine F. MacMullen—Two Department prizes, one for group painted from nature, the other for ornament painted from tile flat; pass in geometry and perspective. Claire Lewis—3rd Mayor's prize for model drawing. Anna M. Sparling—1st Mayor's prize for model drawing; pass in freehand. Susan Ross—3rd Mayor's prize for ornament shaded from the cast. Matilda C. Spring—2nd grade prize for geometry and model drawing. Alice Swan Professor Armstrong's silver medal for original painting. 2nd Mayor's prize for group painted from nature. Augusta. Warren—Department prize for ornament from the cast in monochrome. 2nd Mayor's prize for ditto. Second grade prize for excellent in perspective. Elizabeth Woodroffe—Department prize for group painted in oil from nature. 3rd Mayor's prize for the same. Louisa Roche—National book prize for ornament painted in monochrome from the cast. Hugh Charde—National book prize for ornament painted in monochrome from the cast; "good" in advanced perspective. 1st Mayor's prize for figure painted from the cast. 1st Mayor's prize for head shaded from life. Queen's prize in perspective, geometry, and building construction, and a free studentship. William Morrison—Department prize for design for panel executed in inlay. 2nd grade prize in geometry. Pass in freehand and perspective. Michael O'Meara—1st Department Prize for architectural drawing. 1st Mayor's prize for head from life. 2nd Mayor's prize, figure shaded from the cast; and a free studentship. Jeremiah J. O'Connell—Department prize for designs for painted decoration. 1st Mayor's prize for figure painted from the cast; and a free studentship. Henry J. Scully—Department prize for ornament painted from the cast. 2nd Mayor's prize for the same. Pass in geometry. Joseph T. Hartly—Department prize for ornament painted from the cast. 1st Mayor's prize for the same. Robert N. Sutton—Department prize for architectural drawing. Richard S. Baker—Second grade prize in perspective; pass in geometry; full second grade certificate. Jeremiah O'Meara Second grade prizes for excellent in geometry and perspective; pass in model; full second grade certificate; second advanced in building construction. Addison B. Perrott—Second grade prize for excellent in geometry and perspective; pass in model. Richard T. Perry—Second grade prize for excellent in perspective. Samuel Thomas—Three second grade prizes for excellent in geometry, perspective, and model pass in freehand; full second certificate; Queen's prize in building construction. 2nd Mayor's prize for figure outlined from flat. Bryan Buckley—Prize for having passed in freehand, geometry, perspective, and model drawing. Second grade—Full second grade certificate; 2nd Mayor's prize for model drawing. William O'Connell—Queen's prize for descriptive geometry. Second advanced in building construction. James Perrott—Queen's prize for machine drawing. Denis M'Carthy—Pa in freehand; full second grade certificate; Queen's prize in building construction. Nicholas P. Sisk—Queen's prize for building construction; pass in geometry. Charles W. Grey—Pass in perspective; 1st Mayor's prize for figure outlined from the flat. Edward M'Dermott Pass in freehand; 1st Mayor's prize for model drawing.

David Ryan—1st Mayor's prize for figure outlined from the flat. John Graham Keitland—2nd Mayor's prize for figure outlined from the flat. Daniel Lynam—1st Mayor's prize for architectural drawing. James Quinlan—Second elementary building construction; 1st Mayor's prize for architectural drawing. Daniel Kelleher—3rd Mayor's prize for ornament shaded from the cast.

The distribution of prizes having concluded, The Mayor said the report which had been read was very satisfactory, but Cork had been always famous for its Science and Art School. It was not at all creditable to the country that the buildings in which the students pursued their studies were in their present condition, and he knew that there was sufficient spirit in the city of Cork if it were properly appealed to, to procure a proper building.

On the motion of Dr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Denny Lane, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Brennan.

Mr. Brennan in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said that the best recompense for his labours was to find the students working earnestly and thoroughly in pursuit of Art.

[Taken from *Irish Builder*, Vol. XXIII, 1881, p.100]