

## CORK SCHOOL OF ART.

THE annual distribution of prizes to the students of the Cork School of Design took place on the 21st ult., in the Athenaeum. His Worship the Mayor presided. We are happy to state that many of the subjects on view displayed not merely an improvement on the performances of the previous year, but exhibited in many cases a power of design and execution of a positively high order. Amongst those more particularly worthy of notice were, a "Study of Still Life," by Mrs. Henry Hill, finished with remarkable fidelity to nature, both in drawing and color. In this category Miss Anne Baker and Miss Maria Thorpe exhibited same exquisite studies of fruit and flowers. In the department of portraiture from life, Miss Kate Bleasby exhibited same really beautiful productions. Miss Baker and Miss Fancy Thorpe were also very successful under this head. Among the most attractive pieces on view was a frieze from the Parthenon, by Miss K. Bleasby. An Apollo, in monochrome, by Miss Sarah E. Wood was also deservedly admired. Under the heads of Architectural and Mechanical Drawing, Mr. Charles W. Adams exhibited a design for a Town Hall (prize). Mr. P. Meade exhibited drawings of machinery. Some bold life studies after Mulready, exhibited by Messrs. Coombes, Leslie, Franklin, and M'Glennan, attracted much notice. The freehand drawing was of unusual excellence.

In commencing the ceremony of the evening, the master, Mr. J. Brennan, read the following report :—

Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen,—I have the honour to submit the report for the School of Art for the last twelve months. During the past year the total number of persons receiving instruction in the Central School of Art has been 187, being a slight increase over the number attending previous year; in addition to which the children from the National Schools, St. Stephen's Bluecoat School, &c., continue to receive instruction either in their own schools or at the School of Art. The Department examination in freehand drawing, geometry, modelling, &c., were held early in the month of March. About 56 persons presented themselves for examination, of whom 20 were successful, being an increase of 9 over the number last year. Two of the students, having passed in all the subjects of the "second grade," received their certificates. A considerable number of advanced and elementary works were sent up to the annual competition in London. The Department reported favourably on the character and rendering of the works sent. The works of thirteen students were selected for national competition—two received "honorable mention," and three students received their grade prizes. The committee desire to record their sense of the continued liberality of the Earl of Cork—by means of which they have been enabled to remunerate the pupil teachers for work done in National and other schools. They would also wish to thank his Worship the Mayor, for his having, for the third time, contributed largely to the prize fund of the school, and which has enabled the committee to reward many of the students for the diligence and attention they have shown, this incentive to study comes the more opportunely, at a time when the Department has considerably diminished the number of prizes awarded to schools of art. This munificence on the part of his worship has also been kindly supplemented by a member of the committee, which has enabled prizes for modelling, &c., to be awarded. Amongst some of the recent changes made by the Department of Science and Art there are one or two I would wish particularly to draw attention to. The first is the creation of "free studentships," to which any student who is

an artizan, draughtsman, designer, &c., may (after the annual competition in London, if his works are of a sufficiently high character) be appointed; this gives free admission to all the classes of the School of Art for one year—the Department paying his fees. At the last examination, six of our students gained this distinction; their names are Patrick Meade, Patrick O'Keefe, John Coombes, Luke Franklin, James Griffin, and Charles W. Atkins. The free studentships are renewable from year to year. Another advantageous change is the creation of a collection of oil and water-colour drawings as examples; these are lent to the Schools of Art throughout the kingdom, three or four at a time. This arrangement will keep a constant variety of work before the student, and the high character of these (chiefly original) drawings may be expected to operate favourably on the work done in the schools. We have already availed ourselves of the privilege of borrowing from this collection. In conclusion we can only express a hope that all classes will avail themselves of the many advantages a School of Art offers, and that at our next distribution, we shall have if not more at least as many successful students.

The Mayor then proceeded to distribute the prizes (a list of which had been read by the secretary), and afterwards addressed the meeting. He referred in strong terms to the withdrawal of the government grant from the school. It was gratifying to see, notwithstanding the disabilities and disarrangements under which it laboured, the Cork School of Design progressing so satisfactorily. It was gratifying to see that the inhabitants of the most intellectual city in Ireland, true to their character, still fostered their taste and love of art—art which is the religion of the intellect, which it refines and elevates as the religion of the soul purifies and elevates the spirit. Art was the mark of civilization, and wherever it appeared should be protected and stimulated as a welcome sign of human progress.

[Taken from *Irish Builder*, Vol. XI, 1869, p.3]