

THE CORK SCHOOL OF ART.

THE annual distribution of prizes at the above school took place on the 22nd ult. in the Theatre of the Royal Cork Institution. The Mayor presided.

Mr. Brennan (head master) read the report, from which it appeared that the total number of students who attended the school during the year was 222, being an increase of 34 on the preceding year. The number of works sent to South Kensington for inspection was considerably in excess of those sent in former years. They amounted to 458, and the number of prizes awarded was very nearly double of that gained last year—26 this year as against 14 last year. All those who presented themselves for examination in building construction were successful, two of them obtaining Queen's Prizes. The prizes which his worship the Mayor so kindly offered to the school, as well as those from South Kensington, had been eagerly competed for, and had helped to keep alive the spirit of emulation which was so conducive to the well-being of a school. In the report, Mr. Brennan referred to the success of former pupils at the school. Mr. J. P. Addey who received his art instruction in the school, was in March last appointed head master of the Londonderry School of Art, and Mr. Samuel J. Murphy, late pupil teacher in the Cork School, was recently placed in charge of the Waterford School, so that out of the seven schools of art in Ireland the masterships of two were filled by former students of the Cork School. In his report Mr. Brennan also mentioned the success of Mr. Matthew Mullins, who took first prize in the advanced stage in the Technological examinations held by the Society of Arts, and also the first prize offered by the Coachmakers' Company of London, the former consisting of their certificate and £7, and the latter the certificate, silver medal of the company, and £3. These prizes were competed for by students from all parts of the United Kingdom. Having referred to the inadequacy of the accommodation afforded by the School of Art in its present state to the requirements of the pupils, Mr. Brennan concluded by testifying to the increasing care evinced by the students in the preparation of their works.

The Mayor, having distributed the prizes, expressed the satisfaction it gave him to be present on that evening. It was a pleasant thing to find together on those occasions people of all classes and all grades, for the purpose of taking part in so interesting an event. They had seen by the progress shown there that Cork was prepared to assert the position it had always enjoyed in art. Certainly it was pushing its way in art, but it laboured under very great disadvantages, as was alluded to in the report. There was no doubt the department was lodged in a manner which by no means reflected credit on the city of Cork. However it was not for him to indulge in any censure of the want of spirit of the inhabitants of the city. He regretted at the same time to have to say that they were a city of great conceptions and of very little performance. He felt sorry to be coerced to say this, but the subject of this department had been treated like every other project brought forward in relation to the advancement of the city. He hoped, however, that there would be an improvement in this respect, and that those who succeeded him would be more fortunate than he had been.

Mr. Beale moved the adoption of the report. He had made it his study to watch the proceedings at the school, and it gave him the utmost pleasure to find that the institute was progressing most favourably, and he hoped it would ever continue to do so.

The report was unanimously adopted.

The proceedings having concluded, the visitors proceeded to the schools to inspect the works of the students which were on exhibition.

[Taken from *Irish Builder*, Vol. XVIII, 1876, p.009]