

THE CORK SCHOOL OF ART.

THE annual distribution of prizes at this school took place on the 23rd ult., in the Royal Cork Institution. It is very satisfactory to see this school not only sustaining, but increasing, its reputation. The want of a new building suited to the requirements of the school is a want of long standing which, we trust, will soon be supplied. The following is the report of the head master (Mr. James Brennan, R.H.A.). The prizes, which were numerous, were distributed by the Mayor :

The number of students on the roll of the school for the year was 260—being an increase of 21 over the number for the preceding year. The number of works sent to South Kensington for examination was 780, and the number of prizes awarded was 14—an increase of 5 over last year. When the severe character of the examination is taken into account, the standard of merit being considerably raised, and the style of work very much changed in accordance with instructions from South Kensington, this increase shews a fair improvement in the work sent forward. In the second grade examinations 37 students were successful—being an increase of 13 over last year. The following students completed all the subjects of the second grade, viz.—Lucy Kertland, Jervis Biggs, Sarah A. Addey; and Albina Mahony. In the advanced local art examination in which a group is required to be painted from nature in 25 hours, Mr. E. M. Sharman Crawford was awarded "good" for her study. Eighteen students attended the science classe and of these 11 were successful in passing the examinations, two of them receiving Queen's prizes. Professor G. Armstrong very kindly renewed his prize of a silver medal for an illustration of an original subject. "Evening" was the subject selected. The number of works sent in for competition was 7, and the medal was awarded to Mrs. E. M. Sharman Crawford. A gentleman interested in art education also offered a silver medal for the best head, shaded from life. Five competed, and the medal was awarded to Miss Sara Atkinson. Your worship most kindly placed the sum of £10 at the disposal of the committee, to be competed for as Mayor's prizes. The number of drawings sent in for competition was 104—being 32 more than last year. The awards were made by an examiner of the Science and Art Department, and he speaks most favourably of the character of the works sent forward. These Mayor's prizes do a great deal of good, as they help to keep up that spirit of competition throughout the year which is so essential to the well-being of any school. Mr. Jeremiah F. Mullins competed this year for a prize offered by the Coachmakers' Company of the City of London for the best essay on coach-painting. The competition was open to the United Kingdom. He obtained the first prize of a silver medal, certificate, and £12. It may not be out of place to mention the success of Mr. Richard H. A. Willis. In my report last year I stated that he had obtained admission to the training class at South Kensington. He has this year, I am happy to say, gained a gold medal in the competition there; and I think we may at least, fairly congratulate ourselves on having laid a good foundation for his great success in so short a period. I trust, before we meet again (as I hope we shall for our next distribution of prizes) this time twelvemonth, that instead of making, as I have done for so many years, a periodical complaint of the great inefficiency of the building in which the School of Art is situated for art purposes, I shall have the pleasure of congratulating the students on the prospect of a new school. I believe we may confidently look forward to such a result from the great interest that has been awakened about the school. In conclusion, I must testify to the increased earnestness and diligence of the students.

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