

SCIENCE AND ART SCHOOLS, CORK.

IT is gratifying to note the deep interest taken by the citizens of Cork in the matter of Art and Science teaching. At no distant period the "Beautiful Citie" (*Corcaig*) will have added to its many fine buildings one in which the rising generation will be afforded the opportunity of receiving sound technical education and art instruction, and thus hold their own in the competitive struggle of the world.

On the 1st inst. the citizens assembled in public meeting (under the presidency of the Mayor) at the Royal Cork Institution, for the purpose of taking steps to carry on the work of building a new School of Science and Art for the city.

Mr. George J. Adams (one of the hon. secs.) read the report as follows :—

The necessity for an improved building in which to carry on art teaching in Cork has been so, so long before the public, and so often alluded to, that everyone is now conversant with the fact. It need only be mentioned that when Mr. Poynter, R.A., late Director for art, was in Cork a couple of years ago, he reported that the school was utterly unfitted for its purpose, and informed the committee, that if something were not speedily done to remedy the defects, it would be a question with the Department if they would not entirely withdraw their aid. Such a step would mean the collapse of the School of Art, and consequently of technical education in the city. To meet this condition of things, it became absolutely necessary that additions should be made to present building, and that so much of it as it was desirable to retain be remodelled. Plans were prepared which have been submitted to the Department of Science and Art, South Kensington, and formally approved of. These plans comprise an entirely new wing, which, besides various class-rooms for the School of Art, will comprise also a statue or cast gallery to be dedicated to the use of the public. This section will cost about £6,000. The second portion of the design is to be specially applicable to the teaching of Science and technical instruction, and will include besides the class-rooms, suitable for that object, a lecture theatre, which will also be available for general public purposes. The estimated cost of this section is about £3,000. The third part of the scheme will include a chemical laboratory, a public picture-gallery, and general repairs and alteration of the existing building. This section cannot be undertaken until the others are completed.

The project has necessitated the purchase of land, the cost of which has been provided by a mortgage on the rate struck under the Public Libraries and Museums Act, by the Corporation, and the instalments are repayable out of that fund.

The first section of the work has been contracted for by Mr. Delany; it is now rapidly progressing, and will be ready in sufficient time for the opening of the autumn session of this year, provided the public give sufficient aid towards the completion of the contract, aid which is now earnestly solicited, otherwise the committee will be compelled to stop the works, a step which would be most injurious to the future of an undertaking of such vast consequence to the interest of art and industry in the city.

Mr. R. Scott, in moving a resolution as to the necessity of completing the buildings, said that they had got a set of elaborate plans prepared, which could now be seen on the walls, comprising a most extensive range of buildings—with class-rooms and lecture rooms suitable for a great institution of the kind. The front elevation showed that when completed it would be a very beautiful structure and very ornamental to the city; and with regard to the internal arrangements and everything else, they had taken care to secure the best possible result; and he believed that when completed, these buildings would

form, perhaps not the most expensive Art School in the kingdom, but on the whole, one of the best, if not the best in many particulars. That being the case, they had come to the position in which they were placed at present. The aim of those charged with the carrying out of this project was to elevate the industrial classes of the city, who would, he had no doubt, reflect credit on the country when they were afforded proper technical training. From what he had said it would be apparent that this was a work of absolute necessity, and he, relied on the people of Cork to sustain them in a project which would be of great material, benefit to the citizens and a lasting monument to the benevolence of the people.

Mr. Denny Lane said he would take a little credit for Cork in one respect, and it was that the people of Cork were the first to tax themselves in order to support such schools as that which they were advocating at present. It was Mr. Francis Bernard Beamish who got the Public Libraries Act extended to Schools of Science, and Mr. Nicholas Dan Murphy afterwards succeeded in getting it extended to Schools of Art. There was one purpose remaining behind, and it was the teaching of science. Of course for persons who could afford it, nothing would be better than the teaching of science at the Queen's College, Cork, and for those who were in, their primary stage of education there could, be no better primary school for them to embrace than the Christian Brothers'. It was important that the class of young men who were earning their bread during the day by various employments should be attended to, everyone of whom could be improved if they possessed a moderate knowledge of science.

Mr. M. Murrav said the committee were satisfied that was no flimsy undertaking, but, that it would work for the benefit of the people, great and small. The labouring man would have an opportunity of studying art: and improving himself in every way he could" and perhaps emulating the example of such great men as those to whom Mr. Scott had referred. He now begged to propose the following resolution:—"That a subscription list be opened, and that subscriptions be paid in in charge of the committee or into the Munster Bank to the credit of the building fund." Of course a work of such magnitude should be liberally supported by the citizens of Cork, and he had not the smallest fear but that the citizens would respond generously. He had been authorised by the directors of the Distillery Company to subscribe £100 towards the undertaking.

Sir George Colthurst and others addressed the meeting. Our space prevents us continuing the report in present issue.

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