

SECTION VII.

HOME INDUSTRIES AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS EXHIBITS.

THE Home Industries Section, containing an exceedingly diversified collection of practically everything that it is possible for adults as well as children to manufacture in their own homes, and also a great deal of work done by the pupils of the technical schools of the colony, was situated on the large gallery to the south side of the dome. It was reached by staircases leading off either side of the grand vestibule. The gallery contained an immense variety of work in wood, plasticine, metal, and other materials, and an especially large and beautiful subsection was the display of fancy needlework; and there were a large number of exhibits in brushwork, mapping, &c., from the primary schools.

The nature and scope of the Home Industries Committee's work is set out in the following introductory note to the schedules of competitions sent out by the Committee:—

The definition of the term "home industries," as adopted by the Committee, is the work of the individual, as distinct from the work of firms and factories.

In compiling these schedules the Home Industries Committee have been largely influenced by the desire that, through the medium of these competitions, a love for emulation may be created or fostered that will result in a permanent educational advantage to the community.

The aim has been to provide special facilities for all to display their ability, in whatever direction it lies; but it was soon found, as the work proceeded, that many branches of industry and commerce do not lend themselves to competitions coming within the scope of a Home Industries Section.

The broad and liberal lines upon which these schedules have been prepared inspire the Committee with the hope that the Home Industries Section will be among the most attractive at the Exhibition, and there can be but little doubt that the success of this section must prove one of the greatest advertisements that the colony can have, as it will show that the individual worker has an energy and ability that must of necessity promote the growth and consequent prosperity of the commerce and industries of the colony.

The Committee, therefore, earnestly appeals to all employers to assist this movement by using their best endeavours to encourage their employees to take their part in proving that the hope of present and future success is not based on false grounds.

A perusal of the accompanying schedules will show that the commercial and industrial classes, whilst open to all, afford special opportunities to students at technical schools of all grades to practically demonstrate the value of the theory that is therein taught, and for that purpose such students can enter not only in any of the sections throughout the schedules, but can enter in the sections specially set apart for them.

With a view of increasing the interest taken in technical education, it was thought that complete sets of exhibits, showing the methods adopted in some of the best technical schools in the world, would be most interesting to the public and students, and of special use to many of the teachers engaged in the various schools.

As the best means of accomplishing this object the Home Industries Committee asked the assistance of the Minister of Education, which was readily granted. Letters have been sent to some of the leading technical schools in England, Germany, America, France, and Australia, and it is hoped that a most interesting and instructive display will be made of modern educational methods and appliances.

WILLIAM MINSON,
Chairman.

How far the hopes and aspirations of the Committee were satisfied by the number of entries received and quality of the exhibits will be gathered from the following remarks which have, at the request of the compiler, been furnished by the Committee:—



IN THE HOME INDUSTRIES SECTION.

Many of the features in the Home Industries Section were entirely novel in connection with industrial exhibitions, consequently the Committee was in a great measure breaking new ground unaided by past experiences.

A review of the results gives the organizers the impression that with the experience now gained a second effort would probably secure much better results.

As regards the number of exhibits received, the Committee had ample cause for satisfaction. A study of the schedules issued naturally created the feeling that such competitions would be mainly supported by local industries and commerce, and that, therefore, the educational advantage to be gained by the circulation of new and original ideas from a wider centre would be minimised; but an examination of the prize-lists shows that very many of the best displays of skill and originality came from the greater distances, a fact which tends to show that the results of the Committee's efforts must have a much wider sphere of stimulating influence than was at first expected.



IN THE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS SECTION, HOME INDUSTRIES GALLERY.

The quality of the exhibits also calls for a word of praise, for while, of course, in such a large number of entries coming from all sources, from schoolchildren and apprentices up to master workers, and amateurs who had followed their business or their hobbies for a long time, some were not up to the standard of exhibition display; yet a very large number of the successful exhibits called forth most eulogistic comments from those experts who consented to judge, and the general expression of opinion, both in the Home Industries Court and amongst the outside public, agreed that the display proved that home industry is still an important factor in the home-life of the Dominion.

The Committee feels that the excellent examples of work sent in by the various schools of art, technical classes, and other educational organizations, demand special acknowledgment, and ventures the belief that both the institutions and the community will derive considerable benefit from those displays.

The exhibits occupied over a score of bays in the long gallery. Perhaps the best branches of work shown were the wood-carving, copper and brass repoussé work, brush-

work, and needlework. In the wood-carving there was an excellent display—plain and ornamental carving, high and low relief, chip and incised, and carving after the fine patterns of the Maori. New Zealand woods were chiefly used, with the best results. There were two handsome collections of native timbers on view. Particularly good were some of the examples of artistic woodworking as applied to household furniture. One exhibit that attracted much attention was a clock, with female figures and decorative foliage, carved from the solid piece. Another fine example of art design applied to common objects was a writing-table with incised panels carved in representation of oak-foliage. There were model carved houses, wall-cabinets, Maori canoes and walking-sticks, side-boards, settees, desks, chairs, picture-frames, mirrors, and so on in seemingly endless variety. There was an inlaid casket skilfully made of New Zealand woods. There were some good examples of fretwork, and several accurately built and rigged models of ships were shown. Other notable exhibits were a model of a cottage piano, a quarter the size of the original, and complete in every detail; several locally made violins, a banjo, and a set of bagpipes.

In needlework there was a very large collection, ranging from plain sewing—some of the best of this came from the girls in the Maori schools—to beautifully embroidered work such as ecclesiastical vestments and altar-cloths.

In the beautiful collection of hand-made lace there was one very fine and quite unique exhibit, a large collar of the Maltese-lace pattern and a length of lace, about 2 in. wide, made out of the fibre of our New Zealand flax, the *Phormium tenax*, by Mrs. Williams. The material, it was stated, was prepared by scraping with an ordinary pocket-knife. The fibre was left in its original unbleached condition. It was a surprising and beautiful example of one more of the many uses to which our familiar harakeke plant may be turned.

The technical schools' class-work shown included the subjects of plumbing, metal-work, carpentry and joinery, building-construction, coachbuilding, cabinetmaking, &c. The entries made by the various schools and the individual students attending the classes showed that these institutions are already proving of great value to the industrial section of the community.

The Wellington Technical School exhibited a considerable number of articles of first-class workmanship. The most interesting exhibit of this school was a model cathedral made from original designs and working-plans supplied by the students under the direction of Mr. A. R. Fraser. Every detail of church-building was shown with exactitude, even to the carving of the small doors into the vestry, and the tiny cross surmounting the rood were shown on a larger scale in detached parts. The cross, for instance, was full-sized, of beaten-lead work; the altar-rail, with a design based on the wild rose, was shown in coloured plaster. This school also showed some fine beaten-copper work, burnished for a wall-panel and used as a frame for a mirror. Some good stencil designs for frieze and other decorative work were shown. There was a model circular staircase on exhibition, designed and made by the students of the Wellington School evening classes, faithfully and well finished. A number of paintings, both oil and water colours, were shown, and several good carvings.

The Auckland Technical School sent as its quota an excellent collection of work in plumbing, carpentering, and cabinetmaking, which did high credit to both instructors and pupils. Another exhibit sent by this school, and an excellent one too, was a display of dressmaking and millinery, done entirely by the pupils of the school. There were dresses, coats, tea-gowns, and hats which rivalled any display made in the showcases of the millinery firms downstairs.

Other technical schools showed some capital work in oil paintings, black-and-white drawings, and designing with pen and pencil, carved furniture, and plumbing.

One bay in the Home Industry Section was devoted entirely to sign-writing.

marbling, and decorative work generally. The plumbing exhibits from the various schools were considered by expert judges to be capital work, faithfully and neatly done in every particular.

The Canterbury College School of Art had a bay fitted up as a hall and corner. The walls were battened and decorated with stencil designs and with a deep frieze in harmony. In the corner was a fine settee, well carved and panelled with good examples of repoussé work. This school is doing excellent work under the guiding hand of Mr. R. Herdman Smith, formerly of the Wellington Technical School. In this cosy corner of the Canterbury School the most remarkable feature was a large corner seat in brown oiled wood, decorated with carved panels, and with beautifully designed beaten-copper panels let in around the top of the woodwork. The carving was based on an oak-tree *motif*; the beaten-copper panels had designs of wide-winged ships sailing over highly decorative seas. This seat was considered by the judges to be a most excellent example of skill and taste in applying decoration to the treatment of household furniture so that it becomes a thing of beauty without losing its practical utility. Another article worth mentioning was a hall-stand in the form of a pillar decorated with clinging vine-leaves and bunches of grapes. The wall-decoration of this corner was a tasteful study in pale greens with wild-rose painted embellishments, panelled in dark-brown oiled wood.

Amongst the art designs in the Home Industry Section were a number sent out from the South Kensington School of Art, illustrative of the manner in which flower-designs are evolved from the original sketches of flowers. At the close of the Exhibition these designs were distributed amongst the different technical schools of the colony.

New South Wales made an excellent display, illustrating the advance of the home-industry idea, from paper-folding in the infant classes to cardboard and plasticene-modelling in the intermediate grades and elaborate and artistic woodwork and modelling in the upper classes. From South Parramatta School came some water-colours done from life. An excellent show of woodwork, from the rough timber to the complete article, was sent by the Newtown Public School, Sydney. This New South Wales exhibit was housed separately from the other home-industry exhibits in a little bay near the southern entrance of the Exhibition.

MODERN CHEMISTRY.

An exhibit in the northern gallery that illustrated modern methods in scientific instruction was that of the Canterbury College Chemical Laboratory, shown by Dr. Evans, Professor of Chemistry in that institution. In the centre of the bay there was an experiment table for students, with a collection of some of the mechanical apparatus used in chemical research and work, including an electrically driven ball mill (a modern successor of the pestle and mortar): a hot-air motor driving a shaking-machine for fluids: an apparatus showing the process used in driving turpentine out of fossil kauri-gum. A special feature of the exhibit was a large diagram drawn by Dr. Evans, occupying the wall behind the other exhibits, showing readily the composition and the heating-powers of seventeen typical samples of New Zealand coals, varying in size according to the constituents they represented. Coloured rectangles showed the proportions of coal, sulphur, and water present in each coal, and a red flag showed the heating-value of the different coals. On the northern wall there was a large diagram showing the effect of volcanic action on coal, and illustrating an example from the Malvern Hills, in Canterbury. A variety of other exhibits made this little bay of particular interest and service to students of chemistry.