



Art.

The retrospective exhibition held during the early December weeks by the Art Student's League was one of marked interest, and those who made their

first visit to the Gallery found sufficient attraction to draw them back again several times.

This retrospective exhibit of the work of the League was of interest, not merely because it showed the advance made since its inception ten years ago, nor yet in that it gave a surprising knowledge of the range of art covered; but also that it contained the early and later work of Canadian artists who are now making both name and money in the large American cities. Where competition is keenest, they are not simply securing a foothold, but have made their way well up the ladder of public recognition and consequent money profit.

In this retrospective exhibition we saw water colors and oils that showed the touch of genius; but we saw also in the black and white what young Canadian artists are doing in illustration and design—and in this department their work is worthy of all praise for its originality and artistic conception.

It were impossible in the three hundred pictures shown to do more than make mention of a few of those which appealed most instantly to us. And first we mention the contributions of C. W. Jeffreys and Mrs. Jean Jeffreys, a couple of young Toronto artists who are now proving their work in New York.

Mr. C. W. Jeffreys is on the New York *Herald* and making a name for himself as an original artist with a light, sweeping style and a realism peculiarly his own. "A Winter Day," by this artist, is a splendid bit of work—a Canadian village sleeping under its white winteriness. It is a shivering realism executed with a strong touch and impressionist brush.

He contributed also several effective sketches of Quebec; one of Wolfe's Cove, another of the Battery. In addition to his water colors were a number of illustrations in line drawing, vigorous and original things that confirm his genius.

Mrs. Jeffreys, nee Miss Adams, is a young lady well-known in Toronto. Her work also betrays a large share of the artistic gift. Among her numerous contributions to the exhibition, one entitled "Correspondence," a rich little study in color, showed her gift in that direction.

These young married artists certainly deserve our congratulations, and have earned our pride in them and their future.

Mr. D. A. McKellar is another Toronto boy who is now successfully pursuing art in illustration, on and outside of one of the New York dailies.

He showed the original of one illustration in the Art League Souvenir for 1897, entitled "The Skipper," an effective figure study in wash drawing.

Mr. C. M. Manly, one of Toronto's best-known and best-liked artists, contributed a number of

sketches in water color and wash. In the latter a life study of an athlete shows splendid vigor and pose. In water colors "The Top of the Valley," a sunshiny sketch of moor and heather and hill, full of soft color and lighting, was perhaps our favorite.

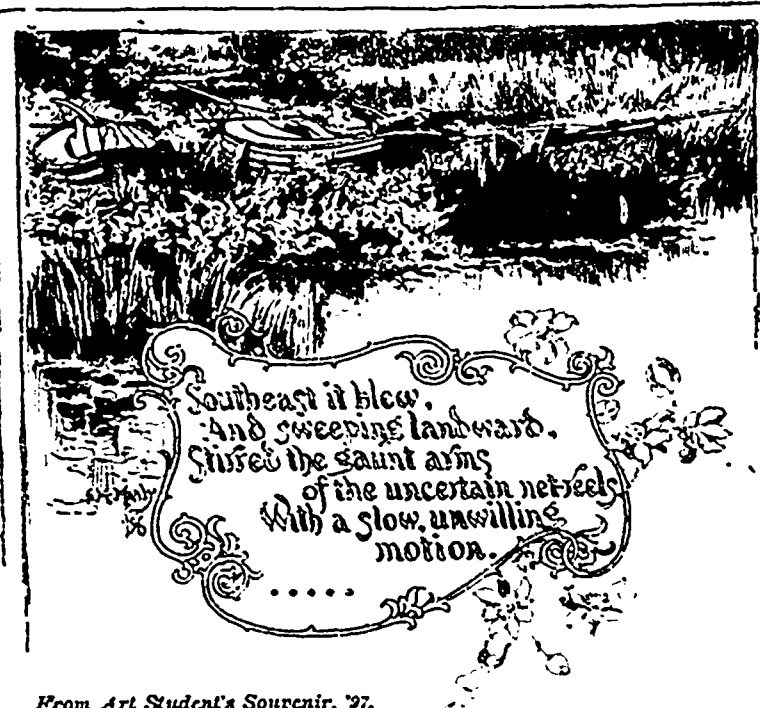
W. O. Blatchley contributed some sketches of Toronto Island, excellent in the contrasting tints of brown and yellow greens, the flat effects and the cuts and curves peculiar to our own especial Island.

F. H. Brigden showed best in his black and white, "The Skaters" being a good piece of work. In water colors his "In the Orchard" won our chief favor.

F. S. Challoner pleased us in his "Mid-day Meal," a workman sitting by the roadside with his dinner pail opened. The figure and face were excellent, and the harmony in coloring finely obtained.

We selected D. F. Thomson's "Gone to Seed," a delightful little painting of white bursting pods, late blooms and soft, fuzzy, stemmy effects, among a number of excellent sketches; while R. Holmes, who is pre-eminently Toronto's artist in detail, showed his careful work excellently in "Brock's Monument," and also the illustration of "Thistle-down," a poem of Pauline Johnson's.

Among Miss Spurr's contributions we have space only to mention her "Kingfisher," commend-



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able for the rich glossy effect obtained "Ennerdale," a charming little landscape, and "The Would-be Artist," a figure study in water color. Miss Wrinch is a young girl who is coming well to the front. Her best work was "A Studio," in which the coloring is excellent; also "Holly hocks" and "A Favorite Path" are well conceived and artistically executed. A pleasing sketch of Toronto Island fog bell was shown by Miss Studley. Miss Elliot is at her best in black and white and in poster effects.

Miss Hemming, whose talent in portrait painting is so widely known, showed some fine work in miniatures.

Taken altogether this retrospective exhibition by the Toronto Art Students is one that gives both pride in what its graduate members have achieved, and encouragement to those who are as yet at the beginning.

An exhibition of work by Messrs. O'Brien and Reid was held in Matthew's Gallery during the same December weeks; and in this aesthetic well-lit little nook many a quiet half hour of enjoyment was spent by picture lovers. Here each of the sixty pictures hung, were finished expressions of nature in art, and each well repaid an individual study.

Mr. O'Brien's showed some of his choicest work

in water colors; his marine studies yielded their usual beauty of illimitable distance, their green and purple shadows, while his still waters were perfect in placidity.

"At Collingwood," a bit of marshland, with its pools reflecting the tall poplars; "Gloaming," another still water sketch with poplar bank and touch of pink and yellow-green sky; On the Road to Rousseau, a charming bit of shadowed roadway, cool and restful—these were a delight among his delightful smaller sketches; while "St. Ives Bay," a sketch of beach with sea-swell purpling from the far horizon into nearer green, and breaking easily upon the sand in white foam edges, was perhaps chief among his perfect marine studies.

Mr. and Mrs. Reid both exhibited Spanish sketches, the result of their recent tour in that country. It takes education to appreciate the garish coloring and impressionist touch which is apparently necessary to portray Alhambric effects, certainly they are not attractive to the ordinary Anglo-Saxon eye. "Burgos at Sunset," by Mr. Reid, gave the softest coloring. "Old Musician," by the same artist, is an effective and finished life study, while "Solitude" arrested the eye with its shadowy blackness, so filled with suggestion of all that is lonely and fearsome.

Mrs. Reid showed her usual perfect flower paintings, a jar of "Mountain Daisies," and another of "Yellow Daisies," being especially delightful. These little field flowers are inclined to look stiff in reproduction, as any artist knows, but Mrs. Reid retains the softness both in texture and artistic grouping. "A Studio Interior" also showed her command of color and arrangement.

It is a privilege to be able to spend a quiet few minutes now and again thus surrounded by the work of our best artists, and these gallery exhibits are a public benefaction, as well as a means of making us acquainted with the merits of our various Canadian painters.

The Art Souvenir for '97, gotten up by the League and contributed to by several of its members, is a charming and dainty affair, deserving of our praise and our purchase also. Sold at the modest sum of a quarter-dollar, and makes a No. 7 Year souvenir most suitable for friends in foreign lands.

T. Mowar Martin, another of our artists, held a sale of his pictures during December. Mr. Martin's best work is in still life and birds. One of the best pictures shown in his collection was a Canadian summer scene, in which he obtained delightful effects of sun-flecked grass beneath the trees.

Mr. G. Bruenech, our well known artist, who has recently returned from his prolonged trip abroad, also showed a few choice water colors, with his exhibit of black and white work, at Bain's gallery, during the anti-holiday weeks.

Toronto picture lovers should remember "Studio Day"—the first Saturday of each of the winter months, from two o'clock until four p.m. We give a list of the open studios, which will be convenient for reference:—Mrs. A. D. Patterson, Elmsley place; Mrs. M. E. Dignam, 275 St. George street; Mr. F. M. Bell-Smith, 336 Jarvis street; Mr. C. M. Manley, corner Church and Adelaide streets; Mr. J. W. L. Forter, Manning Arcade; Mr. McGillivray Knowles, 144 Yonge street; Miss G. E. Spurr, 9 Toronto street; Mr. G. Bruenech, 28 Toronto street; Miss M. Cary McConnell, 16 Pythias Building, Victoria street; Mr. W. A. Sherwood, Yonge street Arcade. Mr. E. Wylie Grier and Miss Tully.

BLACK AND WHITE.