

opened, on the 1st September last, a special industrial course. In this laudable undertaking, they have been generously seconded by the Hon. Minister of Public Instruction for the Province.

There will open a new and interesting field to young men who have finished their scientific course in our classical colleges, and afford them an opportunity of studying whatever may be best suited to their capacity and inclinations.

This will be a complete polytechnic course, conducted on the same principles which prevail in the special and professional schools of France and England; and in order to ensure the fullest measure of success, the services of professors specially trained in the professional schools of the above named countries have already been secured.

All the pupils of the Institution, at present numbering nearly 400, receive, without any extra charge, instruction in artistic and linear drawing and vocal music,—and, with the view of promoting physical development, instructors in military drill, calisthenics and gymnastics, have been provided to exercise the pupils weekly.

There is a Primary School attached to the Academy, which may be seen in the grove to the left of the facing on St. Catherine street,—and which at present accommodates some 200 pupils.

The excellent drawings of the building, which we publish, give a fine idea of its imposing appearance. The engraving was executed by J. H. Walker, and reflects great credit upon his skill.—(*Montreal Gazette*.)

Art Schools in Southern Germany.

BY SCHELE DE VERE.

In one of the most beautiful parks of the Old World there rises on a slight eminence, a vast building, presenting to the south a line of immense windows, and filled in winter with the magnificent old orange trees of the Royal Gardens. Hence its name of the Orangerie, by which the good people of Stuttgart, the capital of Württemberg, designate the noble structure. During the summer months of the year 1872, however, the building contained treasures of vastly greater import for the little kingdom than the costliest exotics and the rarest plants of the world. Every five years an exposition is held there of a special class of schools, the usefulness of which cannot be well over-rated, whether we look at the tangible results shown in this great hall, or at the influence they exercise on the taste and the wealth of the people.

From time immemorial the people of Southern Germany have exhibited rare talents for the higher branches of mechanical arts. No traveler through Swabia and the lands on the Rhine can help being struck with the exquisite beauty of villas and villagers' houses, while railway-stations, and even the flag-keepers' little huts, are often real master-pieces of architecture, and loaded with a profusion of admirable wood-carving. Swiss carvings are familiar to most of us; but the wealth of ornamentation with which the modern houses of Germany are decked is a matter of wonder and admiration to all new-comers. From majestic Berlin in the north to the smallest village in the south these new structures show in every feature of their architecture a master's hand; lintel and coping, window-frames and cornices, are cunningly carved by skilful stone-masons; front and sides are covered with fresco-painting in subdued colors and classic patterns; and in suitable places, over the wide entrance-gate or in well-arranged medallions, the sculptor finds room for a noble statue or a portrait-bust. Nor is this love of ornament limited to the great and the rich; the humble house has its galleries with richly-carved railings and graceful cornices, and even the vintner's modest hut in a cucumber field has its few titbits of rich coloring and delicate carving.

The skill which has placed all these sources of enjoyment, these etchings of beauty which remain "a joy forever" to the educated eye, within reach of all, is the result partly of an innate love of the beautiful granted from on high to most Southern nations, and partly of an admirable system of education which finds its expression in the above-mentioned exhibition. For long years the little kingdom of Württemberg has been famous among German principalities for its Sunday drawing-schools, frequented by mechanics of all degrees, from the youthful apprentice to the hoary master. Here, during the

hours not devoted to divine services, volunteer teachers, enthusiasts for their art, met their volunteer pupils, and taught them drawing in all its various branches. The time was necessarily very limited, and hence, for many years, no real artistic skill could be obtained in these schools except by a few rare children of genius. The hard, coarse work of the week often destroyed the delicate touch required for holiday labors, and the eye alone could be permanently benefited.

It was not until the year 1854 that the general interest felt in this kind of instruction by men of influence and far-seeing statesmen on one side, and by the eager, ambitious mechanics of town and country alike on the other side, led to the establishment of regular evening or night schools for the same purpose. It was a noble sight to watch the weary artisan and the hard-working mechanic come hither after a day's incessant labor, still anxious to improve, to learn, and to benefit others as well as himself. Youths of barely fifteen, sturdy men in the full vigor of their strength, and old, gray-haired masters, all met here as humble pupils to teach the stiff fingers new and rare skill to train the eye to perceive unsuspected beauties, and to reproduce with the brush or the burin, the hammer or the saw, the masterpieces of great artists. The schools were over-crowded; soon one hundred and twenty-five such institutions sprang up in the small kingdom; the indispensable expenses of room rent, gas, models, etc., were cheerfully borne by the eager learners, and ere long the results appeared in every town and every village. Low, dark huts were replaced by bright, cheerful houses; dirty mud-walls reappeared as bright, stuccoed surfaces, to which a few sparing bits of color gave light and beauty; the low door with its stone seat displayed a modest garland of well-carved flowers, to take in winter the place of the vine and the clematis; and neat little summer-houses arose, as if by magic, in every garden. Far greater, of course, was the change in towns and cities, where entire new quarters were built in the improved style of architecture, giving the mason, the painter and the sculptor ample opportunity to display their newly-acquired skill. But the most cheering encouragement came when the great London Exhibition revealed to the astonished multitude the beauty and the skill displayed in the workmanship of mechanics trained in these Württemberg schools, when prize after prize was obtained by their pupils, and when finally, sensible Englishmen actually sent their most talented workmen to learn the secret of such great success, the joy and the pride of the people knew no bounds.

The immediate effect was the extension of the facilities heretofore offered only at night and during a few Sunday hours. Every school in the land, above the humblest, arranged a large hall, which was kept open on one day of the week to all who chose to avail themselves of the opportunity. Then winter courses of six months' duration were added for the benefit of laborers whose work ceased with the fine season. Finally a class of special schools sprang up, under the name of *Fortbildungsschulen*—literally schools for further advancement—to which all had free access who wished to profit by its instruction, and who were willing to pay the small fee required. For, as in the excellent public schools of the kingdom, so in these technical schools also, the principle was adhered to that he who could must pay, since no one values much what is given away without price. Those really unable to pay even the small fee required here and in all public schools find no difficulty in being admitted gratuitously; and then education may be said to be virtually free throughout the land, from the village-school to the universities. In the case of the industrial schools the state pays one-half of the expenses, and the community in which the school is placed the other half, and nothing can speak more forcibly of the usefulness of these instructions, and the good sense of the people in appreciating their worth, than the fact that there are now four hundred such *Fortbildungsschulen* in operation.

It was soon found that the eagerness with which instruction was sought, and the endless varieties of subjects for which pupils called, required a subdivision in the general purposes of those schools. They divided in the larger schools, into a mercantile department, where book-keeping, the laws of exchange (very complicated on the Continent), modern languages, telegraphing, etc., were taught, and an industrial department for geometry, physics, chemistry, mechanics, and the so-called fine arts. What deserves special praise is the fact that, with a view to the true interests of the other sex, special schools of this kind are established for married and unmarried women,