

neers, etc.—Messrs. McCoy and Hearn have been selected as professors in the new University of Melbourne. These gentlemen have hitherto been professors in the Queen's Colleges of Belfast and Galway respectively.—The Privy Council Committee on Education have recently passed a minute in regard to a system of grants in aid of training schools. At the end of the first, second, and third years, a grant of merit is to be made to students of merit and to the treasurers of colleges. The scale is to come into operation for the year ending 31st December, 1855, but all colleges are to be at liberty by application before the 1st September, 1854, to give effect to it for the year now current.—The King of Bavaria has decreed that no child aged less than ten years who has not received elementary and religious instruction shall be employed in manufactories.

MIDDLE-CLASS EDUCATION.—Lord Ebrington is again before the public as author of a plan of what he calls "middle-class education," which for its novelty at least deserves attention. His pamphlet is reprinted from the Society of Arts' weekly journal, where it first appeared. He argues that while no effort has been left untried to educate the children of labourers, and even of paupers, the class next above this—too proud to accept government assistance, too poor to pay for really valuable teaching—is in danger of sinking lower and lower. The deficiency cannot be supplied by eleemosynary institutions; nor can our universities, even if "poor scholars" were again to frequent them, meet the local requirement. Lord Ebrington suggests the establishment in each county town of local examinations, conducted by competent persons, who should have the power of conferring "degrees"—that is, of pronouncing authoritatively on the claims of candidates—prizes and scholarships to be founded in connection therewith, if money could be obtained for the purpose, either from individuals or from the proceeds of fees. The subjects of examination to be simple and practical, such as might befit an Englishman of the middle class, unable to devote, as the rich are supposed to do, many years to the process of instruction. Lord Ebrington conceives that the value of a "degree" of this kind, as a testimonial, would compensate both the trouble of preparation and the slight expense of fees. We are not sanguine of his success, but the idea is ingenious, and deserves better than to be rejected without trial.—*The (London) Press.*

THE EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION IN LONDON.

Three months ago we had the satisfaction of announcing that the Society of Arts proposed to add one more to its many claims on public gratitude, by originating a special Exhibition of the various means and appliances employed in carrying on elementary education in the United Kingdom, some of our largest colonies, the leading countries of Europe, and the United States of America. What was then little more than a happy idea, is now an accomplished fact. Through the zealous co-operation of our Government with those of other nations—some of which displayed quite an unexpected degree of interest in the project,—the praiseworthy exertions of the several educational societies in this country, and the enlightened activity of private persons whose business it is to prepare the material means of education, a very respectable collection has been got together and arranged in a manner convenient for inspection.

We have spoken of the idea of the Exhibition as a happy one, and such it will be found to be on a moment's consideration. It is one of the natural offshoots of the Great Exhibition of 1851,—that fruitful germ which has already been so productive of good, and is destined to contribute much more largely to the world's happiness. We now proceed to give some account of the contents of the Exhibition. And here we deem it necessary to state, that at the time of our visit many articles,—particularly from abroad—had not been received. Hence the middle of the great hall, which is devoted to foreign and colonial productions, presented rather a bare appearance. With this slight deduction, the general aspect of the room was very animated and agreeable, the various objects being arranged in an effective as well as convenient manner. The front of the orchestra is occupied by the Department of Science and Art, which exhibits numerous copies for outline drawing, architectural and mechanical drawing, shaded drawing, coloured examples, and miscellaneous solid forms. These, with the specimens of the five orders of architecture, statues, busts, masks, friezes, pilasters, &c., exhibited by Signor Bunciani, and placed near the wall on each side of the orchestra, at once attracts the visitor's attention as he enters the hall from the main staircase; and a closer inspection seems to heighten his estimation of their value. The end of the room opposite the orchestra is well filled with various objects exhibited by the Committee of Council. Along the sides, under the galleries, are the compartments allotted to the leading educational societies; in the middle are four tables, on

which, as we have already intimated, are exhibited the articles from abroad, and the galleries are devoted to philosophical instruments, apparatus, &c. The room appropriated to books,—of which there is a numerous collection supplied by all the leading educational booksellers,—is over the great hall. One of the most interesting features of the Exhibition is to be seen in the Library, which contains the "results of the schools," or articles made by the young people in those establishments, and specimens of work done there. All over the walls, in the passages, on the landings as you go up the stairs, and round the galleries, maps and diagrams are hung, and at the foot of the stairs some excellent models of school fittings, desks and seats, are exhibited.

It will be seen from this general outline of the plan upon which the Exhibition is arranged, that every available portion of the building has been turned to the best account. When we come to examine separately the contributions of the various exhibitors, our attention is naturally first directed to the three beautiful cabinets in the centre of the great hall, exhibited by the Prince of Wales. One is the cabinet of specimens illustrative of cotton manufacture, presented to His Royal Highness, in 1851, by Messrs. Hibbert, Platt, and Sons, and showing all the various stages through which the cotton passes, from its natural state on the plant to its finished manufactured forms. The other two contain very choice specimens of fishes, crustacea, marine plants and vegetable productions used in commerce, such as seeds, roots, fibres, &c. Near these is an excellent model of a group of school buildings, suitable for a large rural village, with drawings of the plans, elevations and sections of the buildings, contributed by Earl Granville. One of the most prominent groups under the north gallery is that of the National Society, which includes copy-books, school clocks, globes, stationery, drawing and colouring materials, diagrams, prints, maps, hydrostatical and pneumatical apparatus, Attwood's machine for illustrating the laws of falling bodies, the geometrical solids, a machine for illustrating centrifugal force, sets of the mechanical powers, sectional models of steam engines, &c. Near these are the contributions of the asylums for the blind, the deaf and dumb, and idiots, which consist of embossed books for the blind and numerous articles worked by these unfortunate classes. The fancy articles, needlework, knitting, crochet, &c.; hair-work in bracelets, brooches, &c.; mats, baskets, shoes and slippers, exhibited by the Schools for the Indigent Blind, are really wonderful specimens of what the blind may be taught to accomplish. Scarcely less astonishing are the drawings, mats, shoes and slippers exhibited as the workmanship of the unhappy creatures for whom a home has been provided in the Asylum for Idiots.

On the opposite or south side of the hall the British and Foreign School Society is very creditably represented. The articles it exhibits comprise a good model of the Borough-road School—a model of Jerusalem and the surrounding country—a raised map of Great Britain and Ireland—cases of objects to illustrate the lesson-books—models of the pump, diving bell, and inclined plane—a sectional model of a steam-engine, prepared by a British school teacher—plans, maps, globes, drawing materials, diagrams, and apparatus for illustrating natural philosophy, geometry, natural history, astronomy—moveable letters—reading stands—sheet lessons for infant schools—and four cases containing specimens of needlework, &c., executed by girls in the schools of this Society. On the whole, this institution seems to bear the palm among its fellows for excellence of educational means. In success of results the Congregational Board of Education takes a high place, if we may judge from the beautiful specimens of perspective and mechanical drawing executed by its students; but we presume the students are inmates of the Homerton College, who are preparing to go out as teachers, and consequently, are beyond the ordinary school age. Among the books exhibited by this body we were sorry to observe several controversial publications, which, however calculated to further its peculiar tenets, are certainly ill suited for purposes of education. We turn with satisfaction to the specimens of workmanship executed by pupils in Ragged Schools. They consist of mats, baskets, shoes, and other articles made by boys, and art toys in the shape of dolls' bedsteads and house furniture made by girls,—all of which deserve great praise. We have only time to mention that the cabinets of objects, moral prints, boxes of form and colour, models of schools, and specimens of cotton, silk, linen, iron, copper, tin, and lead, in their natural and manufactured states, which the Home and Colonial School Society exhibit, are well worth a careful inspection.

Among the contributions from abroad, those from Norway make decidedly the best show. They consist of drawings, plans, and models of school buildings, apparatus for teaching natural philosophy, stuffed quadrupeds, insects, fishes, and reptiles, maps, and specimens of exercises in writing, composition, mathematics, and the modern languages. America is largely represented in