

*Mr. Joseph Pennell's Recent Etchings*

ON SOME OF MR. JOSEPH PENNELL'S RECENT ETCHINGS. BY PROF. DR. HANS W. SINGER.

OUR time is usually spent in telling the public at large how to appreciate certain works of art or certain artists, who heretofore have not gained the degree of popular esteem they deserve. It is a great pleasure, by way of variety, to write about somebody whom the public does appreciate, and it is a still greater pleasure to be able to show them that they do not even then appreciate him enough.

Everybody knows Mr. Pennell's work as a topographical draughtsman; at least, everybody who gets to see our great monthly magazines and who takes some sort of an interest in modern illustrated books. His etchings are perhaps a shade less known, though the Toledo set and the set of "sky scrapers" of New York have received considerable attention, whereas the most recent, the London set, may be pronounced a

distinct success even from the dealer's point of view.

"Topographical draughtsman and etcher" has a peculiar and not altogether agreeable ring to it. The expression reminds one of those ungifted but conscientious artists who anticipated the possibilities of the camera in their indiscriminate attention to detail and who, faithful chroniclers that they were, seem to have resorted to the etcher's point rather than to the pen, simply because it enabled them to be more precise and unequivocal than any literary author possibly can be. Lithography gave this tribe a heavy blow; photography swept it away. And yet the topographical artist was not always of this description. There were the Canaletti and Guardi of old, who have raised the rank of the profession to an equality with all others, since they proved that topographical subjects are as open to highly artistic treatment as any others. And to-day there are men like Kuehl and Pennell whose work will convince everybody that entering upon this field of pictorial art does not in any way hamper a man's invention or fancy,



"THE PAVEMENT, ST. PAUL'S"

FROM AN ORIGINAL ETCHING BY JOSEPH PENNELL