

*Home Arts and Industries Association*



COPPER WORK

*Yattendon*

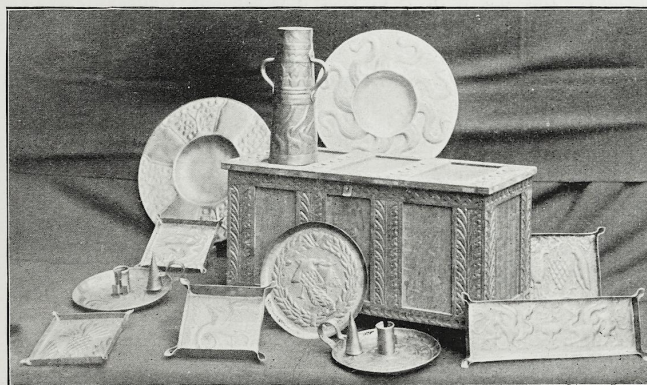
counteracted by wise husbandry. To drop the metaphor, the Association at present has good working machinery, ready and enthusiastic helpers, but of its branches many lack the skilful teacher who can bring out the best qualities lying dormant in his pupils. No exhibition of the year reflects more responsibility on the critic. For the work shown is done, for the most part, without the running criticism of an art school, without the publicity which purely commercial products

**T**HE HOME ARTS AND INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION AT THE ALBERT HALL. BY GLEESON WHITE.

THE Home Arts and Industries Association may exercise such important influence on future generations of British craftsmen that, even if its twelve years' record showed nothing but failure, it would still retain the active sympathy of all who believe in the power of Art to raise the individual and add profit as well as dignity to the nation. But it can, on the contrary, show proof of very definite success in return for the labour of its supporters. Since the day a Mrs. Jebb first instructed a crippled lad in a handicraft—wood-carving most probably—the seed she planted has grown up and scattered its progeny far and wide over the British Isles. Possibly the crop at present may not contain one mature specimen; but it is showing signs of blossom, and, given careful gardeners, there will be rich harvests of fruit not many years ahead. But the gardeners must be vigilant: lack of sympathy may be as a drought, undue praise as a gross fertiliser, bringing forth leaves in abundance but no fruit. Blight and tempest, which no human being can ward off, may find their evils largely

must needs face, item by item, as they are offered for sale and without the torrent of printed criticism which almost any picture-making industry is certain to provoke to-day. Therefore, it is a most difficult task to discuss the merits of a thousand and one specimens of all sorts of handicrafts, arranged geographically and uncatalogued, and to deduce from the disconnected facts anything like an exact statement of its success.

The Association has a two-fold purpose—to make the young artisan a better citizen, by providing him with a personal hobby outside and independent of his wage-earning pursuits; and also, if he show latent genius, to encourage and develop it in the right channels. A third and less obvious advance, one which must needs follow in time, is that the taste of those who direct or patronise the various branch schools may be raised by the efforts of



COPPER WORK AND CARVED CHEST

*Yattendon*

91