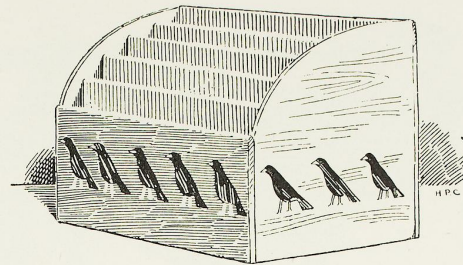


*Home Arts and Industries*

**T**HE HOME ARTS AND INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL. 1897.

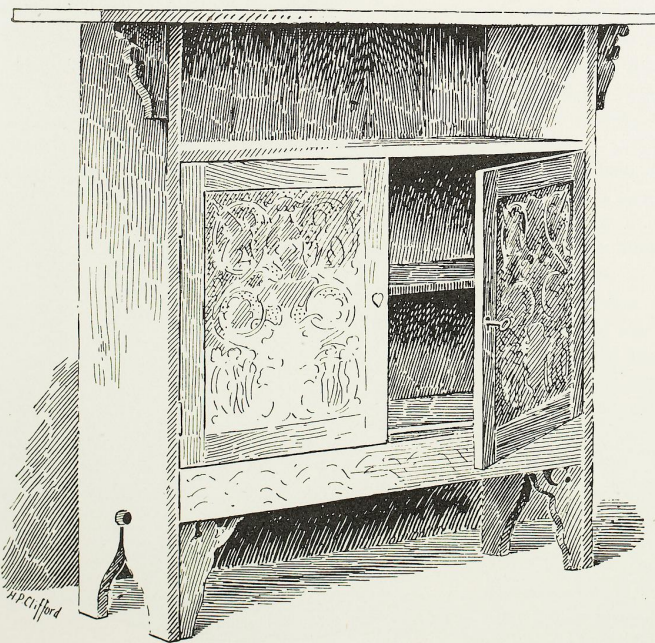
FOR some years THE STUDIO has devoted a considerable amount of space to the annual exhibition of the Home Arts and Industries Association at the Royal Albert Hall. Lest its purpose in so doing should be misunderstood, it is well to reiterate once more the reasons which make these yearly displays specially interesting to all who are studying the progress of national technical education. It is not because they represent an amazing variety of objects decorated by clever amateurs; nor is it because these artistic experiments are but the ornamentation, as it were, of a solid structure based on a philanthropic intention to provide employment for idle fingers of rich and poor. Both these purposes are laudable in themselves, but would fail to tempt a journal devoted to the arts to grant so much of its space to their consideration. It is for other reasons we approach the subject of its thirteenth Exhibition here. The Association, directly, and indirectly, strives to re-instate the lost industries and crafts of our villages, and to



STATIONERY CASE. DESIGNED BY HON. MRS. CARPENTER EXECUTED BY H. O'SULLIVAN, *Bolton-on-Swale*

interest townspeople in the art of making things comely as well as useful. It aspires to restore to the average British workman certain qualities of which the introduction of machinery has almost deprived him; to impart again deftness of touch to awaken his personal interest in fine handicraft; to turn the mere mechanic into an expert artisan, from whose ranks in time new geniuses may be expected to arise. But neither after thirteen nor thirty years dare you expect that such an ambitious scheme will be accomplished fully. The children's

children of some of these recruits may indeed display the peculiar qualities of head and hand which stamp the great craftsman. Nature shows us how many seeds are ripened to perpetuate a single plant, and so sustain the balance of living objects. If tens of thousands of pupils taught directly by this Association, or by trained workers who have learned their craft in its schools, produce in time but a hundred first-rate craftsmen, and these ultimately reveal but one who is a genius; such result would amply justify the effort. This statement of the case has been set down in similar context on previous occasions; yet before noticing the doings of the Association in 1897, it is well to insist once more upon this aspect of the



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