

Drawings by Percy Noel Boxer

PENCIL DRAWINGS OF GREENWICH BY PERCY NOEL BOXER.

IN these days of art decadence or renaissance—whichever term may suit one's point of view—when an art school or any other training is looked upon as an incumbrance in the career of an artist, it is a relief to turn to the pencil drawings of Mr. Percy Noel Boxer, which are notable for the evidences of severe training, craftsmanship, and intimate appreciation of the full resources of this charming medium which they reveal.

Both Blackheath Art School and the Goldsmiths' College, New Cross, claim a share in Mr. Boxer's art education, and living in the South East of London he naturally found on the riverside subject ready to his hand, and it is a matter for congratulation, now that the old order is giving place so rapidly to the new, that these picturesque corners of old Greenwich have found so accurate and sympathetic a recorder.

Apart from their technical excellence, on comparison with the original subjects it will be noted

that little has been suppressed and nothing added to these drawings for the sake of the picturesque. Like Whistler in his Thames etchings, Mr. Boxer takes his subjects as he finds them, and who shall say that, like Whistler, Mr. Boxer's maturer work may not present similar subjects in their more poetic aspects, transformed from prose to poetry by the varied phenomena of nature which alone makes a *picture* out of a *subject*? For Mr. Boxer is still wanting a few months of thirty, and as he uses oil paints, water-colours, and the etching needle with equal dexterity, we may hope for many pleasant surprises in his future work. Unfortunately, owing to prolonged illness he has been incapable of serious effort for some time, and those who now see his drawings for the first time will join with his many friends in good wishes for his speedy recovery.

It may interest workers in a similar medium to know that the large variety of tone in these drawings is obtained by the use of pencils ranging from 6H to 6B on a smooth chalk-surfaced paper.

PERCY BUCKMAN.



Greenwich

7.1.1906
1906.

"A Corner Shop"

By P. Noel Boxer

155