

*Reviews and Notices*

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*The Appeal of the Picture.* By F. C. TILNEY. (London and Toronto: Dent.) 6s. net.—In this volume the author examines principles in picture-making, illustrating his points from well-known pictures and by diagrams. "The pictorial photographer," he says, "often becomes a much better artist than many an art-student of the schools who has been pitchforked into his course of training, partly on the strength of some ill-judged childish attempt, and partly by the greed of the schools for scholars. It is from both these classes that picture-makers come, and it is to both that this book is offered in the hope that its arguments will prove profitable." We are not friendly to the encouragement of picture-making, except by artists, and as regards the pictorial photographer, we believe that there are laws accounting for successful artistic photographs which are not to be discovered in paintings, and that photography is suffering from a want of faith in its own character and from the continual reference to the art of painting for its laws. But having said so much, we commend this book alike to painters, photographers, and lovers of pictures. The author will, however, allow us to dissent from the conclusions drawn in the last chapter, in which he condemns the conscious employment of a naive outline in decorative illustration. As he says, "the word decorative written up over things is supposed to disarm criticism," but he misses the point that avoidance of naturalness may bring decorative embellishment into closer agreement of style with text, and into conformity with the circumstances in which a composition is seen when it is on a flat page at but a little distance from the eye. Satirical imitations of such style in "Punch" are treated by the author as if they were of the same value as the thing they "take off," but in no case can we remember them exhibiting the sensitive autographic charm on which all such license with line depends for its appeal.

*Decorative Design: A Text-book of Practical Methods.* By Joseph Cummings Chase. (New York: J. Wiley & Sons; London: Chapman & Hall.) 6s. 6d. net.—This text-book, embodying the results of some years' experience in teaching and designing, is what it professes to be—practical. Students who contemplate embarking on what is called the "commercial" kind of art will find here many valuable hints as to the treatment of designs of various kinds, such as posters and advertisements generally, book covers and jackets, and so forth, as well as lettering, and there is some

good advice as to materials and a list of books worth consulting. The notes are accompanied by numerous illustrations.

The Medici Society has through its publisher, Mr. Lee Warner, now completed the issue of the ten volumes of Mr. Gaston de Vere's translation of Vasari's *Lives of the Painters, Sculptors, and Architects*, the tenth volume (25s. net) containing besides an index to that volume a general index of the craftsmen mentioned in the work as a whole. The Society announces that owing to circumstances arising out of the war progress with the projected series of volumes embodying a complete Apparatus Criticus, epitomising the results of modern criticism and research into the entire subject matter of the Lives, has been interrupted, but all who are interested in this project are invited to communicate their names to Mr. Lee Warner.

The seventh annual volume of *Art Prices Current*, edited by G. Ingram Smyth, and recently issued by "The Fine Art Trade Journal" (3rs. 6d.), contains in order of date a record of all the pictures, drawings, and prints sold at Christie's during the season beginning in October 1913 and ending on July 30, 1914, the prices realised being stated in each case. Included also are all the more important sales of the same class of works by Messrs. Sotheby and Messrs. Puttick & Simpson. The Index occupies some 250 pages or thereabouts, and as the titles as well as names of artists are here repeated it is a very easy matter to trace a work sold at those well-known establishments. Great care has been bestowed on the compilation.

The new issue of *The Year's Art* (Hutchinson & Co., 5s. net) contains the usual information brought up to date on a multitude of matters relating to art institutions, and the various ways in which the war has affected the course of events of which this useful annual takes cognisance are reflected in this issue. In the directory of all workers, which fills some 150 pages, the names of those who have joined the Forces are indicated by a distinguishing mark.

Mr. W. S. Williamson, who recently migrated from Taunton to London, has issued a book containing numerous original designs of useful articles for Art Wood Carving, set out on nine sheets, each containing instructions for carving, working drawings, directions for making-up, and other explanatory matter. The designs are of a character which a student without any extensive training can work out and if need be vary by himself. The price of the set of sheets is 5s. 9d. post free from Mr. Williamson's Studio, 404c Fulham Road, S.W.