

*Studio-Talk*

STUDIO-TALK.

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

LONDON.—Our frontispiece this month is a reproduction of *The Pool*, a characteristic painting by Mr. Anning Bell, in which his refined sense of colour and disciplined draughtsmanship are admirably exemplified. In these days, when the cult of colour tends to run to extremes and we are often called upon to admire paintings which have about as much right to be called works of art as a bit of "crazy" patchwork, it is necessary to

insist upon the significance of form as a vital element in pictorial productions. The correlative importance of colour and form in a painting was years ago emphasized by Ruskin, who certainly was no whit behind the ultra-moderns of to-day in recognizing the aesthetic value of colour.

A few months ago we published a reproduction of a stained wood panel, *Madonna and Child*, by Miss Jeanne Labrousse, and we now supplement this by another charming example of her work—*Joan of Arc*, in which her decorative instinct again finds expression. We have already mentioned that Miss Labrousse, who is French by birth, received her training in this kind of work at the Polytechnic Institute School of Art in Regent Street—the only school, we believe, that makes a speciality of it. Admirably suited as it is for achieving rich and varied colour effects through the medium of stains applied to wood, it is surprising that this very artistic craft does not receive more attention, especially as the technical difficulties are by no means serious. It is found that certain woods give much better results than others—sycamore and American white wood being among the best kinds—and also that the stain is apt to "run," but with practice this tendency is soon overcome. The important matter, of course, is the design and its suitability to the medium, and that is where the artistic instinct comes into operation.

The formal announcement made a few weeks ago of Mr. Joseph Duveen's generous offer to provide funds for the erection of a gallery of



DESIGN FOR A DRAMATIC AUTHORS' CLUB

(See preceding article)

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