

Banner Enrollment Of Maryland Institute Is Under Miss Stewart

Art School Boasts 2,052 Students; Many Developments In
Departments Of Work; The Appointment Of High-
Grade Instructors; Fine Exhibitions And General
Progress Have Marked The First Year Of The
School Under An Acting Woman Director.

By EMILY EMERSON LANTZ.

FOR the past year, Miss Edith Hoyt Stewart has been acting director of the Maryland Institute for the promotion of the mechanic arts and the very marked success of her administration is attested by an enrollment of 2,052 students—by far the largest number the school has ever known.

Since the days when Margaret Brent worthily administered the provincial government of Maryland, women of the State have proved their ability to succeed in administrative and constructive work when they undertook it. The Maryland State Normal School was for years directed and wonderfully developed by Miss Sarah Richmond. The charity organization over which Miss Mary E. Richmond presided with singular efficiency opened the way to this officer being called to still broader fields of similar work. Bryn Mawr College honors its president Dr. Mary Carey Thomas, of Baltimore. Miss Helen J. Rowe has for years wisely administered the affairs of the Samuel Ready School for Girls, and Miss May Garrettson Evans, the first woman employed on the staff of *THE SUN*, established, directed and developed a preparatory school of music of such excellence that it is now combined with the Peabody Conservatory of Music as part of that organization.

All of these women have directed educational institutions of high standard, and into this "noble army" of women who have achieved Miss Edith Hoyt Stewart has slipped quietly and naturally because her training and natural gifts have in a singular way qualified her for the work in which she is engaged.

Usually the most critical judges of the head of a department are his or her staff, and the enthusiasm felt for Miss Stewart by her assistants is very definite tribute to her ability. They ascribe to her sound judgment, poise, genuine knowledge of art, discrimination, progressive spirit and energy to provide for the institute exhibitions of highest order that are stimulating and educational to students and of unusual interest to art lovers of Baltimore.

Miss Stewart wears her honors very modestly and attributes any fitness she may possess for her position to her long association with the school. She received her art education at the Maryland Institute, was for several years a teacher in its classrooms and was for three years assistant to the late C. Y. Turner celebrated mural painter and director of the institute, stepping, naturally, at his death into the duties with which she is so intimately acquainted.

Woman Director Not Unusual.

"It is not really so unusual to have a woman as director of an art academy," said Miss Stewart recently. "Miss Cornelia Bentley Sage, director of the Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, was for three years assistant to the late Dr. Charles M. Kurtz, director of the academy. Upon his death she succeeded him in office.

"An important appointment in connection with the institute has been that of Mr. Hugh H. Breckenridge, instructor in the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, who comes to give weekly criticism in the oil and life classes, and who is a marked acquisition to the school. He is a member of the American National Academy, a constant exhibitor of current work and has won two gold medals and a \$100 prize within the past month. He was on the jury of selection for the Buffalo and San Francisco Expositions and on the international jury of awards at the St. Louis Exposition. His pictures are permanently placed in many of the leading museums.

"Miss Maud Drein Bryant, an artist of distinction, is teaching elementary classes in charcoal and pastel. Miss Marie De Ford Keller, an artist of exceptional ability, has also been appointed to the faculty.

Commerce Needs Art.

"Among the latest developments of the institute has been instruction in catalogue illustration—the first classes of this kind to be established this side of New York. Miss Virginia Albert, a well-known commercial illustrator, is in charge and there has been large enrollment of pupils. We found that many Baltimore business firms get out illustrated catalogues twice a year and one firm as often as once a month. All their illustrations had to be done in New York. These classes meet a definite local commercial need and the instruction is in pen and ink, black and white and wash work. There is also instruction in magazine illustrating and drawings for newspaper advertisements.

"Trade and art are now closely associated. Many New York business firms now employ artists to regularly visit their stores and to criticize from an artists' viewpoint the arrangement of goods; the color effects of interior and window displays and to pass judgment upon little things, such as the shape and style of boxes sent out, the color and quality of wrapping paper and string. The customer only knows that the effect of things in the shop is to attract his eye, please him and incline him to buy the goods offered; that the package sent home containing his purchases suggests fine quality and purchase from a shop governed by good taste. They feel the appeal of art, but are unconscious that an experienced artist has expressed his training, his feeling for beauty in color and design through commercial medium.

McKee Barclay On Staff.

"Classes in cartooning were also formed, instructed by Mr. McKee Barclay, of *THE SUN*, and the fact that he was the head of this department insured its enthusiastic reception. 'McKee Barclay' is almost a hallowed name among art students of Baltimore, and the mere fact that they come in personal touch with the master is an inspiration to his pupils.

"Mr. Theo Hanford Pond is master craftsman of the Institute.

"The Federal Board sends nearly 100

soldiers here for training that some of them have wanted all their lives, but never before had opportunity to obtain.

"Two classes have been formed in occupational therapy and thorough instruction is given in 17 crafts, such as modeling in wax and clay, wood carving, toy making, lead work, basketry, weaving, rope making, etc. The work is under the supervision of physicians of the Shepard and Knock Pratt and Johns Hopkins Hospitals. Graduates of these classes—and we have already graduated two classes—have been appointed at the Walter Reed and Fort McHenry Hospitals, and there is such continued demand for trained workers along these lines that what started as a patriotic work has become a continued feature. Our object is to supply every need for everything that applies to art in any shape or form. Anything that may accrue to the advantage of the City, we owe it to the City to provide, so far as we can.

Distinctive Exhibitions.

"All exhibitions at the Institute are free and we have been fortunate in securing three very fine ones this winter. One by Hugh H. Breckenridge; another by Jonas Lie, a Norwegian who has received most of his training in the United States and is proud to be considered an American painter. He is a member of the American National Academy and is represented in the Metropolitan Museum, New York, and other galleries, and a third exhibit was by the justly celebrated Robert Henri.

Greek Exhibit To Come.

"On Sunday, April 25, there will open at the Institute an exhibition sent by the Greek Government, which is now on exhibition in New York. It will consist principally of photographs of Greek art, past and present; pictures of ancient temples and modern churches, of monuments, etc. It will include Greek potteries, sculpture, also embroideries and a few Greek costumes. It is an effort on the part of the Grecian Government to show not only Greek art of the past, but contemporary art as well. The exhibit is touring the country and will remain at the Institute a fortnight. On the afternoon of its opening the Greek consul will be present and an informal reception held.

"The Sunday afternoon teas that have been held when an exhibition of importance was on view, have been found pleasant and have afforded opportunity to many to see notable pictures who were not able to visit the gallery on weekdays. The leisure of Sunday and the tranquillity of mind induced by the day is peculiarly pleasant preparation for enjoyment and appreciation of art. From 400 to 500 have visited these teas."