The Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art

A review of the objects and work of this institution, will, we feel assured, be of interest to all who are interested in raising the artistic quality of the metal-working, textile, ceramic, and other manufactures in which so much of the value of the product is dependent upon the ingenuity, skill and talent of the designer and decorator. The fact that manufacturers in these industrial branches, which of late have become very largely developed and extended, have been dependent almost entirely upon foreign skill and taste in relation to the matter of artistic design, is well known, and this fact, and the lack of means and facilities and opportunities of proper instruction in the cultivation of the arts of design in their application to the industries, were the immediate reasons that prompted the formation of the institution here referred to. Its purpose, as disclosed in its charter, is to establish in the city of Philadelphia a museum of art in all its branches and technical applications, and with a special view to the development of the art industries of the State, to provide instruction in drawing, painting, modelling, designing, etc., through practical schools, special libraries, lecture courses, and otherwise.

The object had in view by the founders, therefore, appears to be strictly industrial, and the purpose of creating the institution is to provide an opportunity to students of art in the city of Philadelphia to study the various branches of art, with the view of making them illustrative, as far as possible, of the application of art to industry, and the plan of instruction created for the school has been patterned to a similar purpose.

A fair impression of the character of the museum collections may be had from the following: The idea of forming the institution took shape during the Centennial Exhibition in 1876, and, pending its incorporation, a considerable fund was raised with which to make purchases at the exhibition. This fund, judiciously expended, and the gifts of exhibitors in a number of instances, formed a nucleus around which has grown an extremely valuable collection numbering more than 10,000 objects.

The major part of the collection of the products and manufactures of the United States, shown at the Centennial Exhibition, was presented to the museum by the British government at the close of that exhibition. It occupies the whole of the west corridor at Memorial Hall.

The Moore memorial collection of objects of art, presented to the museum by Mrs. Bloede-Moore as a memorial of her late husband, occupies the entire east corridor. It contains exquisite examples of lace, embroidery, fans, jewelry, pottery and porcelain, metal work, sculpture, carved work in ivory and in wood, tapestries and pictures.

The museum also possesses several smaller collections, sufficiently complete in themselves to be regarded as fairly representative of the departements to which they belong. Of these, the Cooper Clark collection of Persian metal-work, the Vaux collection of Etruscan pottery, and the Fuglsee collection of textiles are perhaps the most important.

In addition to its actual possessions, the museum has constantly receiving new objects in the form of loans of more or less permanent character, by which the element of freshness is secured and popular interest in the collections continually renewed.

The purpose of the school is to furnish such instruction in drawing, painting, modelling, carving and designing as is required by designers, superintendents and workmen.

The first successful attempt made to incorporate this feature, was the establishment of the department of weaving and textile design, which was accomplished.

The weaving room of the Pennsylvania School of Industrial Art, Philadelphia.
of the higher branches of the textile manufacture, and may be found today in leading positions in prominent textile works all over the country.

The success which has attended the career of this notable institution, is due to several causes. It has numbered among its directors and friends many of the leading manufacturers, who have taken a warm interest in its welfare; and its plan and scope have been placed upon a high plane, which has been steadily maintained from the start.

The schools of the Institution are located at 1310 Spring Garden street, and the collections are preserved in the Memorial Hall of the Centennial Exhibition in Fairmount Park.

Students desiring admission, should address the principal, Prof. L. W. Miller at the school.