

EXHIBITION OF PICTURES AT THE ALPINE CLUB, 1934.

AN Exhibition of Alpine Paintings was held in the Club Gallery from December 11 to January 5.

Critical visitors may experience a certain sense of monotony inevitable with an exhibition confined to a definite range of subjects, but none of these will deny the high standard of quality which was displayed at this exhibition.

Space does not permit of a detailed description of all the pictures deserving it.

The exhibition was remarkable for the contributions of two newcomers to these exhibitions; these stood out as being amongst the best works shown. Mr. Holroyd Pearce's oil-colours place him as one of the most successful painters of mountain scenery in that medium who have exhibited at the Club Exhibitions. In 'Across the Rhône to the Valais Alps' the delicate tenderness of the deep shadows showed that he had captured the spirit of the mountains in no uncertain manner. As an exponent of Alpine landscape, Mr. Holroyd Pearce has undoubtedly a great future. The second newcomer, Mr. B. Eyre Walker, son of a celebrated artist, found inspiration in the mountain scenery of Skye. His three water-colours defied criticism by virtue of their finish and delicate, exquisite tones. Mr. Walker contributed also a most fascinating etching of the Coolins. The British hills certainly met with their full share of recognition in other charming pictures by Miss M. S. Edwards, Miss Buckton, Miss Ackland, Miss Baggallay, and last, but not least, in the clean, strong washes of the drawings by Mrs. Geen, who showed also a delightful study in deep blues, 'Moonlight, Grindelwald.'

Mr. Cecil Hunt's work was as masterly as usual. He appears to have the gift of catching his peaks at their best moments, which is further emphasised by the individuality with which he treats his subjects. Miss Hechle has a fine sense of colour, showing to great advantage in the blues and greens of the delightful little 'Dawn, Aiguille Verte.' We do not always like her draughtsmanship, and in 'The Little Matterhorn' the effect of the strip of colour across the snow in the right-hand lower corner was not quite happy. Mr. Linnell sent four of his characteristic winter scenes with the delicate lighting which distinguishes his work. Colonel Donne's exhibits showed his usual mastery of brushwork and were so attractive that it is difficult to believe that purchasers would not be found at the very low figures at which they were priced.

Four very pleasant pictures by the late Walter H. Blake were obviously from the hand of a practised artist. Mr. A. F. Topham's works found as usual hosts of admirers, although for once he erred in his values in 'Shadows, near Zermatt.' The foreground was

perfect, but the blue of the distant sky was too intense, with the result that the Matterhorn was out of tone with it.

Miss Sylvia Powell's 'Sundown ; Crater Lake, Cascade Mountains' gave a really delightful rendering of mountain atmosphere with shadowy peaks and a strong foreground of dark pines. Mrs. Keel in 'The Dents du Midi' showed that she has inherited to no small extent the talent of her father, the late Mr. E. T. Compton.

Charming lake scenes were shown by Miss Pearce and equally attractive studies of mountain villages came from Mrs. Rimington. Lady Bowers' nicely drawn 'Interior of Santa Maria, Pontresina,' had a pathetic interest from its association with the tragic death of the Eton masters on Piz Roseg.

There were interesting sketches of Central African mountain scenery by Mrs. Carson Roberts, of the Japanese Alps by Mrs. Gausden and one of New Zealand by Miss Daly. Several drawings of the Everest district and of other Himalayan peaks by Mrs. Stephenson, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Hartley Bibby and (in oil-colour) by Mr. Harold Meyer were very well executed. All, however, were done from photographs, a form of art which, in our opinion, is hardly suited to a serious exhibition. Miss Pawsey showed two of her delightful character studies in the soft tones we have come to associate with her work. A decided note of gaiety was imparted to the Exhibition by the extraordinarily clever still life studies by Dr. Corning. It certainly seems as if it were time that the Editor of the 'A.J.' paid a visit to his hatter ; 'Ursula's Boots' are also sadly out of repair.

Miss Buckton, Mrs. Dixon, Miss Anderson, Lady Hume-Williams and Mr. Hayter Cox all showed pictures contributing largely to the success of the exhibition.

Miss Lithiby's oil colours displayed a considerable strength of treatment, but were rather lacking in atmosphere. We much preferred the small 'Obergabelhorn' to her two larger pictures. Miss Benecke's study of ice appealed no doubt to certain admirers of the modern school, but for our own part we must confess that it appeared to be most unconvincing. Mr. Marshall K. Smith showed a large water-colour by Elijah Walton, one of the finest examples of the latter's peculiarly characteristic style which we have seen.

Last, but not least, we have to refer to three very beautifully executed small water-colours by the late Edward Whymper which are now fortunately in the possession of the Alpine Club, as a very generous and highly appreciated gift to the club from Mrs. H. E. Longman.