

Industrial Exhibition, Christchurch

Bournemouth Graphic June 5, 1902



On Thursday an Industrial Exhibition of quite a unique character was held in the Town Hall, Christchurch. It was promoted by the Countess of Malmesbury and a number of ladies for the purpose of encouraging habits of industry and thrift in the home. The whole of the work for sale is done by the people in the surrounding villages, and no doubt represents many pleasantly spent hours which might otherwise have been wasted.

The articles were sold entirely for the benefit of the workers, and the proceeds of the sale devoted to the furtherance of this object, so well worthy the

help and co-operation willingly given by the ladies of the neighbourhood. The Countess of Malmesbury represents Hurn; Mrs. Claude Guinness, Highcliff; Mrs. W. Tucker, Christchurch; Mrs. Hopkins, Holdenhurst; Mrs. Alan Druitt, Mudeford; Miss Edith Ward, Barton and Winton; Mrs. Jesson, Bransgore; Mrs. J. Kemp-Welch, Sopley; Mrs. Cecil Mills, Bisterne; and Miss Hay, Avon.

The exhibits consisted chiefly of underwear, children's frocks, pinafores, a number of knitted articles, gloves, stockings, etc., and even costumes and trimmed hats, wood-carving, hammered brass and copper, and almost every description of fancy work. There was also a nightgown competition for the encouragement of plain sewing. I think if some of the croakers who are always prophesying that this will soon become a lost art could have seen the work at this exhibition they would have been effectually silenced.

The Countess of Malmesbury, looking very charming in black, with a becoming toque of the same colour, took an active part in the sale, the interest of which she has so very much at heart. Through her kindly courtesy we are enabled to reproduce her portrait this week. On the Highcliff stall were displayed some ancient specimens of needlework, almost unique, amongst which I noticed an embroidered jacket of the period of Elizabeth, a bed quilt worked by Catharine of Arragon; specimen of old tating, lent by Lady Montague; babies' embroidered caps, lent by Mrs. Napier; and several specimens of English embroidery which it seemed almost impossible to believe were done by hand, and a pair of quaint slippers worked by Curzon Howe, aged seven. Mrs. Claude Guinness had also a lace pillow, to demonstrate the making of Torchon lace.



Mrs. Guinness' Stall.

Mrs. Tucker, assisted by Mrs. Walter Tucker, had a large stall, on which were displayed a number of beautiful articles. Here I noticed a very ancient crocheted bedspread, and a beautifully embroidered lace veil, as formerly worn in the early Victorian period with poke bonnets, several pastel portraits, and a painting entitled, "What's my name?" by Miss May Goddard. Also a copy portrait in a very unique frame, done in poker work; but one of the most beautiful things was a mirror in carved frame, the design being particularly good, and of great purity. I understand this was the work of Mr. John Tucker, as was also

a quaint spinning chair in marqueterie. The boys' Band of Hope Brigade had sent some useful things in carved wood, which I hope found a ready sale, and Mrs. Kemp-Welch had some very old samplers on view.

There was a very good musical programme, and amongst those who so kindly gave their services was Lady Maud Warrender, who sang three songs, "The Three Fishers," "Drink to me only with thine eyes," and "When I awake" in a most finished and engaging style, and very sweet she looked in black voile, with vest of white chiffon and lace, and large black picture hat, trimmed with white tulle. Lady Nora Noel sang an Italian serenata delightfully, but I was, unfortunately, obliged to leave before her second song. Her dress of grey hopsack, and her hat of roses of a peculiar and beautiful shade, made a charming harmony of colour.

There were several very pretty muslin dresses, one in mauve, but I think here, as everywhere, black was the prevailing colour. Amongst those present I noticed Lady Meyrick, Lady Manners, Mrs. Stuart Wortley (very graceful in black homespun, with white pin spots and picture hat), and her two sweet children—dark, like their mother—had early Victorian leghorn hats, trimmed with Banksia roses, and were perfect little pictures; the Hon. Mrs. Ward, Miss Edith Ward (in pink muslin), Mrs. Morant, Mrs. Ricardo, Mrs. Claude Guinness, Mrs. Cecil Mills, Mrs. Kemp-Welch, and the energetic secretary.