

## On Artists and Art Schools

There is no field of human activity that has so many applicants and so few successes as the field of art. Every village has its genius and a great per cent of these geniuses aspire to make tracks in the sands of time through the medium of pictures. There is scarcely a country cross roads that has not some ambitious youth "who can just draw anything and never had a lesson in his life."

The very fact that he can draw pictures of houses and trees so that their identity can be determined without a label, leads his fond relatives and friends to predict that he has before him a path of roses leading to immortal fame. Many of these village geniuses are content to live on local fame, until dire necessity compels them to weigh out prunes in the corner grocery store.

Some of them begin to search for the rose strewn path, and are surprised and pained to learn that success in art depends upon the same qualities as success in any other profession—good common sense and a capacity for a lot of hard work.

It is generally supposed that all that is required to be an artist is the ability to draw and the youth who has this knack is usually urged to take up the study of art when he has none of the other requirements; with the result that the word "artist" is associated in our minds with garrets and free soup.

The youth who can copy beautiful pictures has just as much chance of becoming a great artist as the one who can run the typewriter has of becoming a great author or editor, and no more. The drawing is simply the means by which the artist may express his thoughts and without the thought the drawing amounts to nothing.

Drawing is purely a mechanical process and is natural to no one. Anyone can learn to draw who can learn to write and nearly every child attempts the drawing first, because it is more interesting, but the writing gets the upper hand because it is encouraged while the drawing is laughed at or otherwise discouraged until it pines and pindles and finally peters out and the grown up youth is able to boast that he cannot draw a straight line with a yard stick.

Artists become draftsmen because their constant effort to express their thoughts and pictures makes them proficient in drawing