The forty-third annual exhibition of the Ontario Society of Artists now on in the Art Gallery of the Reference Library, is, on the whole, hardly as noteworthy, nor as large, as that of last year—yet there are a number of pictures of such merit that they give to the display the brilliance lacking in many of the others. As at local exhibitions, the past year's oils predominate, but there is a fair number of watercolors—and pleasing ones at that.

Possibly the most admired picture in the display is Thomas Thompson's large "Northern River." Splendid indeed is the effect through the trees, and the soft lighting of the landscape. Broad and strong in its treatment, it is impressionist in style. A new painter, whose work attracts wide attention, is S. Soboloff, who has two fine pictures somewhat sketchy, but full of virility and character. One is a small sketch in Russia, while the larger is entitled "Winter in Russia." J. Ernest Sampson is successful in his small picture of "Pont Neuf," but his larger portrait, study is less harmonious. J. W. Beatty has a fine canvas of the mountains—taken in the Yellowhead Pass—while a delightful study of trees weighted down by snow and touched by the flickering sunlight of a late winter afternoon, is by J. E. H. Macdonald, who has also several other snow scenes—decorative in character.

Winter is the inspiration also for an excellent picture of "The Little Bridge"—by Miss Mary E. Wrinch. Good also is G. A. Reid's "Winter Sunset," a scene in a village.

Mrs. Gertrude Spurr Cutts has a softly colored canvas rather subdued in character, while Mrs. G. A. Reid is exhibiting one of her characteristic local gardens as well as several scenes and a study of pansies.

Miniatures are shown in a case by Mrs. McGillivray Knowels. Miss Marion Long has two portrait studies, one of which, "Sisters," shows fine feeling and good composition.

Two clever studies of "London—Trafalgar Sq. Day" and "Trafalgar, Sq. Night," by John Russell, hold prominent positions on each side of the gallery and are pleasing in color and effect. Summer sunshine fills Miss Estelle Kerr's picture of the "Airship."

Marines are not lacking, and one of the most pleasing is Harry Britton's "Fishing Boats, St. Ives." Two clever pictures contrasting in subject and treatment are by Clarence Gagnon, both strongly drawn and well colored.

The war zone is brought closely to mind by a series of small sketches from Antwerp, charming in detail and exquisite in tone, by Fred S. Haines, who is also showing a study of dogs. Franklin Brownell has a fine market scene entitled "Wood Stand," by Ward Market, Ottawa, and Frederick Challoner has a number of small but spirited Western scenes, and W. R. Stark has infused plenty of Canadian character into "The Creek, Winter."

Possibly the most attractive portrait of the exhibition is by one of the prominent illustrators, E. Wallcousins. Owen Staples has also an interesting portrait study entitled "Knitting" in addition to several charmingly colored canvases. John Cotton has two delightful pictures, "October Afternoon" and "Where None Intrude," while Dudley Ward's original and fantastic creations of "Dingbats" attract universal attention.


Irene B. Wrenshall.