There is plenty of room for fault-finding and grumbling about the lighting of the Art Gallery of the Ontario Society of Artists, where the present, the sixteenth annual exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy is being held. The light comes from two wells, deep-set sky-lighting, and is so far from satisfactory as to do scant justice to the pictures on certain parts of the walls. If there were no remedy there "naught behoved like silence," but the remedy was lately brought to the public in the movement to erect an art building worthy of our city. If some benevolent and artistically inclined citizen would do for this art what has already been done for music in providing a suitably large building, or would at least start the thing, there is a sufficiently large number interested to carry it through as we are sure. As this present exhibition it is evident that the new school of "plein air" enthusiasm is somewhat on the increase, but yet very much in the minority. These brighten the walls and give variety, and possess certain delightful qualities which it is to be reached by the other members of the gallery. One is given up to architectural draughtings which are interesting even to those outside the profession: the other to mural decorations. The most attractive of these is Mr. Reid's Resting, full of repose in the reclining figure and open-air effect in the treatment of the golden rod and foliage. We would be inclined to find fault with the grassy of the bay. In Miss Ford's Annunciation the simplicity of the distance of St. John's College; the water and background with the faint of "blue" (really green) Nile, the same color repeated in the costume, the easy pose, the thoroughly consistent costumes and profoundly insolent expression give us a very convincing Cleopatra. Mr. Fisher has much good work in three heads, all very low in tone. Mr. Graham's Horse Drinking is an excellent piece of animal painting, solid, strong, sure and harmonious in color. Mr. Hurd's Mutton-Hook is equally well drawn, the action, as they pull their heavy load, is well given, but the subject fails to interest. Of Mr. Grier's Beretta mention has been already made. It is full of tender sentiment finely expressed. Miss Houghton's sheep give promise. Mr. Bell-Smith's Cavalier is a strong piece of work. Mr. William Gale shows careful work, but lacks spontaneity. Miss Hildreth's Daffodils has the crisp freshness of the flowers. Mr. Stanfield's work is vivid. Mr. Merck's Fire and Child in the springtime silver of the baby, while the flesh is madder. Mr. Reid gives charming out-of-door effects in several canvases, full of sunshine and atmosphere, and also shows a pleasing interior. Mrs. Watt's cat In Misthiea! has a delightful furry look and good movement. Mr. Homer Watson shows a number of Nature's moods with feeling; occasionally he lapes into an over-concentration of color and wings of his canvas has expressed much in Tired Out of a phase of life not usually given; his work might be carried further and given better expression to a good subject, for he has undertaken a line almost entirely his own among local artists. Of landscapes there is a pleasing variety. Mr. Ahearne contributes several strikingly new and effective in treatment. Mr. Aitken shows a large canvas in his usual strong manner, in which the water is not altogether so satisfactory. Mr. J. A. Brown, Mr. Cantwell, Miss Spurr, Mr. Jeffreys, Mr. McGillivray Knowles, Mr. Manley, whose water colors, Flowers of the Field, is especially good and out of the common, Mr. J. W. B. Waits, Mr. Robins, Mr. Raphael, Mr. Challenger, Mr. T. Mower Martin, whose subjects are always homey and interesting. Mr. Hope, whose moon-light on the Lota expresses well the wide brooding quiet of the subject—these are among the principal contributors to the branch of art. Before closing we would mention a marine by Mr. Harris, sparkling water, charming color and movement; Mr. Ham mond's rich coloring in the golden mistiness of the St. John's Harbor; the glimmering water on the haws, the ship's side, the sails' wings and the opalescent color of the sea in Mr. O'Brien's Mackeral Fishing, Bay of Fundy. Mr. Robins has handled an old subject from a new standpoint and with fresh, clear color in Peres Bay, while Mr. Matthews in No. 53 and 57 has given us a couple of good water colors. To sum up, the present exhibition is held to be the best four years ago from the presence of several works of marked originality in subject and treatment, while the average picture is about equal in each. Several very fine specimens of wood carving by Miss L. Baret tuffly and three examples of Mr. Hamilton and McCarthy's work occupy the space in the center of the large room.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Reid are among the first artists to leave for the summer's work. They are now in New York having a look at the two exhibitions now on and expect in a few days to be at their home in the Catskills.

Mr. Brownell of Ottawa was this year the only associate elected member of the Royal Canadian Academy, although two vacancies had been declared. A more satisfactory choice could scarcely have been made, as Mr. Brownell's work at this exhibition shows.

LYNN C. DOYLE