

In the department of Machinery, the Prizes will be given with reference to novelty in the invention, superiority in the execution, increased efficiency, or increased economy, in the use of the article exhibited. The importance, in a social or other point of view, of the purposes to which the article is to be applied, will also be taken into consideration, as will also the amount of the difficulties overcome in bringing the invention to perfection.

In the department of Manufactures, those articles will be rewarded which fulfil in the highest degree the conditions specified in the sectional list already published, viz :—Increased usefulness, such as permanency in dyes, improved forms and arrangements in articles of utility, &c. Superior quality, or superior skill in workmanship. New use of known materials. Use of new materials. New combinations of materials, as in metals and pottery. Beauty of design in form, or colour, or both, with reference to utility. Cheapness, relatively to excellence of production.

In the Department of Sculpture, Models, and the Plastic Art, the rewards will have reference to the beauty and originality of the Specimens exhibited, to improvements in the processes of production, to the application of Art to Manufactures, and, in the case of Models, to the interest attaching to the subject they represent.

These general indications are sufficient to show that it is the wish of the Commissioners, as far as possible, to reward all articles in any Department of the Exhibition which may appear to competent judges to possess any decided superiority, of whatever nature that superiority may be. It is the intention of the Commissioners to reward excellence in whatever form it is presented, and not to give inducements to the distinctions of a merely individual competition. Although the Commissioners have determined on having three Medals of different sizes and designs, they do not propose to instruct the Juries to award them as first, second, and third in degree for the same class of subjects. They do not wish to trammel the Juries by any precise limitation; but they consider that the Juries will rather view the three kinds of Medals as a means of appreciating and distinguishing the respective characters of the subjects to be rewarded, and not of making distinctive marks in the same Class of Articles exhibited. They fully recognize that excellence in production is not only to be looked for in high priced goods, in which much cost of labour and skill has been employed, but they encourage the exhibition of low priced fabrics, when combining quality with lowness of price, or with novelty of production. They can readily conceive that Juries will be justified in giving the same class Medal to the cheapest Calico Print, made for the Brazilian or other South American market, as they would to the finest piece of *Mousseline de Soie* or *Mousseline de Laine*, if each possessed excellence of its own kind.

In selecting the Juries who are ultimately to guide them in making their award, the Commissioners will take the greatest pains to secure the services of men of known ability to form a judgment, above the suspicion of either national or individual partiality (for which purpose they will be composed partly of Englishmen, and partly of foreigners); and who may be expected to recognize and appreciate merit wherever it may be found, and in whatever way it may show itself.

No competitor for a Prize in any Section will be allowed to act upon a Jury to award the Prizes in that species of article in which he is a competitor.

The names of persons selected to act on these Juries will be published when decided upon.

All persons, whether being designers or inventors, the manufacturers or the proprietors, of articles, will be allowed to exhibit; but they must state the character in which they do so. They may also state the names of all or any of the parties who have aided in the production. In awarding the prizes, however, it will be for the Juries to consider, in each individual case, how far the various elements of merit should be recognized, and to decide whether the prize should be handed to the exhibitor, or to one or more of those who have aided in the production.

Lastly, the Commissioners, in announcing their intention of giving medal prizes, do not propose altogether to exclude pecuniary grants, either as prizes for successful competition, or as awards under special circumstances, accompanying, and in addition to the honorary distinction of the medal. There may be cases in which, on account of the condition of life of the successful competitor, (as, for instance, in the case of workmen,) the grant of a sum of money may be the most appropriate reward of superior excellence; and there may be other cases of a special and exceptional nature, in which, from a consideration of the expense incurred in the preparation or transmission of a particular article entitled to a prize, combined with a due regard to the condition and pecuniary circumstances of the party exhibiting, a special grant may with propriety be added to the honorary distinction. The Commissioners are not prepared, for the present at least, to establish any regulations on these heads. They consider it probable that a wide discretion must be left to the Juries to be hereafter appointed in respect to the award of money prizes, or the grant of money in aid of honorary distinctions; it being understood that such discretion is to be exercised under the superintendence and control of the Commission.

Articles marked "Not for competition," can not be admitted.

J. SCOTT RUSSELL,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER,
July 29, 1850.

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