

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The following communication has been received :—

It seems to me that one benefit to be derived from the many open air excursions has been overlooked, and now, at the beginning of the Summer Session, I wish to direct to this advantage the attention of the members.

It is that of studying from the objects around us the varied beauty of their shapes, and endeavouring to construct from them pattern and ornament. The Club numbers among its members ardent and eager botanists, zoologists, entomologists, geologists, artists, photographers, and archæologists; and while many of these scientifically examine and analyze, making new and valuable additions to the treasury of the Club, let the skilful penciller, as even the inexperienced, note down what they see of beauty, of grace, or of symmetry in these very objects.

If we refer back to the work of the ancients, we shall find that many familiar, and perhaps often disregarded, plants formed their models, sometimes from their beauty, as the honeysuckle, the thistle, and the harebell; and often from some symbolical significance,—the ivy, symbol of friendship, especially of the weaker with the stronger; the laurel, sacred to Apollo, symbol of atonement, and also of glory; the olive, sacred to Athens, symbol of peace. The olive branches, too, were the prize of victory at the Olympian games, and the oak symbol of power and strength. In antiquity it was called the tree of Jupiter.

Another important thing is that we need never dread monotony or sameness in taking plants that have already formed the basis of other designs, if we observe the different treatment of plants in what is to us now classic work by, firstly, designers of the same period; secondly, by those of different periods and the same nation; and, thirdly, by those of different nations, we need not hesitate to try and compose new designs which we must stamp with our own identity. Applied design soon becomes a most fascinating subject, and of necessity the student really interested dips a little into history, and into architecture and many things, and so, almost unconsciously, he acquires a good deal of fresh knowledge. It is not, however, my purpose to discourse of this subject itself, but merely to suggest to you that it is an interesting one to study for yourselves.

ALICE F. DOYLE.

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