

who examines intelligently the work of this School will withhold his testimony to its value.

It is due to the object of this department, and to the public spirited citizens who supervise it, to ask the attention of the General Assembly, especially of those interested in mechanic arts, to its claims to an appropriation by which the proper facilities can be procured for more extended usefulness.

Between 300 and 400 young persons are taught to draw, having special regard to those branches of the art which are connected with the practical demands of architecture, ship building, furniture and machinery.

Young women perfect themselves in branches available for their own support, connected with photography, designs for embroidery, patterns for goods, and illustrations for serial publications.

The Schools are most strictly "Schools for the people" and as such have a strong claim for a small portion of the money devoted by the State to educational purposes. This can be done by devoting to the Institute Schools the appropriation of \$3,000 declined by the School of Letters of the University of Maryland.

The improved style of architecture in edifices public and private throughout the State, is due in a great degree to the School of Design; many young men now employed in the Public Departments in Washington, and in private offices as draughtsmen, attribute their skill to the instruction received under the auspices of the managers of the Institute.

#### GRADED SCHOOLS.

Every practical teacher knows and regrets the time lost in our rural Schools, because of the various ages and equally varied attainments, of the children who occupy the benches. Boys and girls, young and old, from the alphabet class up to Natural Philosophy and Geometry, form a chaotic mass out of which the teacher is expected to produce something which may be called order.

To a skilled teacher the task is not impracticable, if he has the proper assistance, and the ordinary conveniences of a School-room. But the larger portion of teachers, discouraged by irregular attendance and the multiplicity of classes give up in despair and adopt the old routine, and get through with hearing instead of teaching lessons.

To aid those who experience these difficulties, and encourage them to persevere, a table of Studies has been prepared. It divides the children into classes according to their attainments, and fixes the degree of knowledge required for advancement. This plan has been adopted in Calvert County by