GENIUS IN VAN BOY'S PAINTING.

YOUTH TO STUDY AT ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART.

The exhibition of arts and crafts of the employees of the Great Western Railway at Paddington Station has revealed a van boy painter who is described as "a genius in the making."

He is William F. Gall, aged 17, employed at Paddington, and his picture, "The Song of the Dove," represents a gipsy woman playing a mandoline, surrounded by a small family of the gipsy tribe.

The figures are excellently drawn, the grouping is natural and the colours well blended.

So highly regarded is his talent that Professor Rothernstein (Principal of the Royal College of Art) is giving him a course of study at the College.

Praise for a Porter.

The head of a woman, painted by Mr. L. D. Green, a Paddington railway employee, is another fine piece of work which will attract much attention.

Wilfred Adams, a dock porter at Cardiff, has sent in some admirable oil, water-colour and black-and-white subjects which have been highly praised.

A black-and-white study, "In the Cloisters, Chester Cathedral," has been furnished by William Robert Boyd, a goods porter at Chester.

So much is thought of it that Boyd has already been commissioned to illustrate a book of old buildings published by an authoritative organisation.

A Violin Maker.

A rising Stradivari is said to have been found at Penzance in Mr. A. Coad, a railway signalman who has made and is showing what is regarded as a violin of the finest quality and tone.

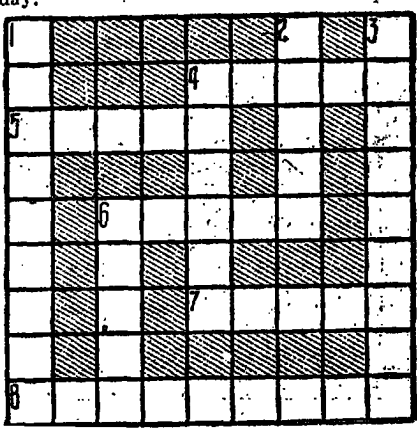
Last year he exhibited an instrument he had fashioned, which fetched quite a high figure.

Some of the photographs on view are excellent, and many of the etchings are choice and delicate.

The jewellery displayed is tastefully designed, and there are leather work, ladies' bags and artificial flowers made chiefly by women.

Models of railway engines, carriages, bridges and signalling apparatus are also a feature of the exhibition.

The exhibits number over three hundred.

CRISS-CROSS PUZZLE.

The solution of this week's Criss-Cross puzzle, given below, will appear on Thursday.