

GIVE LIFE TO YOUR EXHIBIT

By ELIZABETH ROBERTS

IN viewing various weaving exhibits I often feel that I would like to take the articles out of their orderly arrangement in the show cases and place them in a proper setting such as they would have in a home. To me a piece of hand-woven material is too vibrant and individual in its character to be imprisoned behind cold, impersonal glass. It demands surroundings in keeping with its live personality, and nothing, I think, can supply a more completely satisfying background than the fine old pieces of furniture which have come down to us from the period when the loom and the spinning wheel were necessary mechanisms in the home. There is, for instance, perfect harmony between an old four-poster bed and a hand-woven coverlet, or between great-great-grandmother's mahogany table and a hand-woven runner. It is with this thought in mind that my pupils and I arrange our annual display in the galleries of our local Art Association (under whose auspices our classes are conducted). From our own homes and from those of our friends we assemble the choice old pieces of furniture which are to form the framework of our exhibit and, so far as possible, place each hand woven article in its appropriate setting.

In the accompanying photographs are two taken in the main gallery where the weaving of the class was displayed. My pupils are at present interested in making articles for their homes and the pieces

to be displayed fell naturally into three groupings,—living room, dining room and bed room furnishings. The upholstery on all the chairs was woven in class. To display a handsome pair of window drapes in the dining room group a window was borrowed from the drapery department of a local store and the effect enlivened by a floral wall paper panel which gave the appearance of a garden vista. I am sure all weavers will recognize the different patterns which were used. I am sorry the pictures must be in black and white for we all felt that the exhibit gave a pleasant effect in color harmony.

The third picture was taken in an adjoining gallery where we had arranged an exhibit of coverlets woven over a century ago. This proved of great interest to most of our visitors, many of whom found coverlets similar to ones which they had stored away, woven by a great grandmother or grand aunt, who, it was usually proudly said, had also spun and dyed the yarn. As a result of this exhibit many of these old coverlets will, I believe, be brought out of their moth-ball seclusion and given again a place of honor in the home.

To those who are weaving commercially I would suggest this method of exhibiting as one which is likely to bring results. I used it several years ago while supervising a "cottage" weaving industry among a group of foreign women and our largest orders came as a result.



