

other week, classes take trips to the numerous museums, historical sites, and other places of interest there. A class may be seen boarding a subway train or a double-decker bus, which is itself a pleasure, going to the Museum of Natural

History, the American Museum, Grant's Tomb, or the Aquarium. Every school has its pleasures and drawbacks, but going to school in New York City is a definite adventure which gives an unusual kind of education.

## Peter Pan's Paradise

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The European Rooms in Miniature, by Mrs. James Ward Thorne, exhibited at John Herron Art Institute contain the depth of reality and the realm of fantasy. The realization that the objects in these rooms are perfect miniature replicas of exemplary period furnishings catches one's imagination.

"Our Lady Queen of Angels" is an appropriate title for the enchanting model of a Roman style Catholic church. It is the largest and most awe-inspiring of the rooms. An atmosphere of peace and sanctity seems to be prevalent in this scene. Streams of light that pierce the stained glass windows and break into prisms of color, inshroud the altar and seem to say, "Quiet and peace reign here."

The attitudes, the customs, and the history of a people are reflected by the interior decorating in this dwelling. The Great Hall of the late Tudor period with its romantic suits of armour and its robust furniture is a sharp contrast to the fanciful Italian Baroque and Callaliltis of the Stuart period. One can easily tell by looking into these rooms the great effect that world events have upon architecture. The discovery of Pompeii brought the classical period to Europe in which the architecture of Ancient Greece reigned. The anteroom during the period of

Napoleon's empire was highly decorated with Egyptian motifs and color schemes. These rooms, in my estimation, hold the key to the revolt of the common and middle class people of Europe against the aristocracy. One can realize how indignant he would be to see such splendor amid dire poverty.

Being an ardent admirer of modernistic architecture, I liked the contemporary rooms most of all. These rooms seem to be made for comfort and beauty, not the artificial beauty of the straight high backed chair or the coldly formalized pillars and rigid design.

If I were Peter Pan or Tom Thumb, the modern English room is where I would like to stay. I would visit the modern French library or foyer and stroll into the garden beneath the sun, but I would always return to the English room. I like the soft lightning effect, the tiny crystal horses in the dining room, and the thick carpet in front of the fire place. This room would be decorative, yet simple in comparison to most of the other types of rooms in this exhibition. Being tiny like Peter Pan would have its advantages for this English model is the most beautifully simple, "livable," room I have ever seen.