

## ART EXHIBITIONS

### PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND WATER-COLOURS

Immediately pre-Academy art exhibitions must have short shrift if they are to be noticed at all, and there are several at the moment which deserve a word in passing. Because it only lasts until next Wednesday first mention may be made of the exhibition of about 80 oil paintings, pastels, and water-colours, including revolutionary sketches in Spain, by a Swiss artist, Mr. Oskar Barblan, at the Modern Galleries, 15, Greek Street. They are attractively free in style and joyous in colour, "The White Dress," "Maternity," and "Pastel Head" being three good examples. The revolutionary sketches have the interest of being done on the spot.

### PRESS CRITICISMS

His Excellency Cipriano E. Oppo writing in the "Tribuna" (Rome) speaks of O. Barblan as "a painter rich in artistic feeling" (ricco di emozione pittorica).

Senor Banza Guanabeus in "La Ora Majorca" writes: "Barblan is a lyric-artist, who expresses his impressions with great ability, painting in daring colours with a delicate harmony of tone."

Monsieur Clement Morro wrote in "La Revue Moderne" (Paris): "A young painter, who keeps up the tradition which formed the foundation of the great masters. . . . He has the good taste to build up his talent on a profound knowledge of drawing."

### Birmingham Post, Birmingham, 28.4.1938

#### An Artist Under Fire

At the Modern Galleries, Greek Street, where Oskar Barblan, a young Swiss artist, is exhibiting brilliant work, there are rough but vivid impressions of the street fighting at Barcelona in the early days of the revolution. He had pictures at the Spring salon there when it was closed down, and he then attached himself to the Red Cross. On the first day of the fighting, when 1,500 people were killed in the streets, he transferred to his sketching-block the impressions of an attack on a church, and a man employed in the humane task of collecting mattresses and carrying them on his back to an improvised hospital for the wounded. There is a sniper who, at the first glance, has the appeal of a simple peasant with his brown shirt, blue trousers and gaily-coloured scarf; and the gunwoman is included in another group. On one occasion the artist, failing to understand something said to him by a supporter of Franco, was suddenly enlightened by the click of a rifle. He threw up his hands just in time, and the matter was adjusted.

## ★ THE STUDIO

**Modern Galleries (Oskar Barblan).** An unusually talented young Swiss painter whose boldly composed and sensitively felt landscapes of Majorca, nude studies and sketches of scenes of the Spanish civil war entitle him to more than the passing mention which is all one has space for.