

2-HPSEFOI

CUSTOMS ART EXHIBITION.

Anyone who's ever come home from aboard knows these X-Ray eyes. They belong to the man who could spot a bottle of cognac or a wrist-watch through a yard of reinforced concrete, let alone a suitcase. With eyes as keen as that, it's not surprising that many Customs officers spend their off-duty hours sketching and painting; like Mr. V.C.R. Keen, who is a member of the Customs and Excise Art Club. So are dozens of other members of this hard-working service, including Mr. H. D. Thora.

So popular is this hobby with the Customs men that they hold their own exhibition at the Royal Exchange, London, where well over a hundred pencil, water-colour, and oil paintings are on show to the public. This one is by our friend Mr. Thora, and over here is a flower painting by Mr. Keen. The pictures are judged by Mr. W.P. Robins, the well known water colour artist.

Sea and river ports naturally provide the inspiration for many of the pictures - though by no means all of them.

So next time you're asked "Anything to declare?" - remember, the eye of the artist sees further than most people's!