



MR. H. SIMPKINS A.R.C.A., one of Montreal's finest free lance illustrators, shown at work on the face of Christ in the copy of "Christ in Gethsemane" which was one of the subjects chosen for the murals. Mr. Simpkins promised to give a few hours of his time to work on the head and hands of this picture and became so interested in the project that he worked for nearly two days, helping out on another of the large paintings.

... of the Hall of the Church. A summer project, under the direction of Mr. Jones, has resulted in the completion of four outstanding paintings.

## Paintings For Dorval United Church By Local Artist

Four beautiful religious paintings have recently been completed and hung in the Christian Education Hall of the Dorval United Church. A plan by the decorations committee to obtain some murals for this hall resulted in an ambitious project directed by Rev. P. W. Jones, after it was found impossible to obtain reproductions of suitable size to show up well on these walls. He was aided in the painting by Lois Eastman Coates and Mr. H. Simpkins A.R.C.A. Mr. Jones and Mrs. Coates are original members of the Lakeshore Association of Artists and Mr. Simpkins, one of Montreal's best known artists. Mr. Gordon Findlay prepared the panels of masonite for the paintings, Mr. H. Weldon lent a hand with the painting, and Mr. Les Keiller and Mr. H. Coates were in charge of framing and hanging of the paintings.

The paintings -- a copy of Holman Hunt's symbolic "Light of the World"; a copy of the familiar and beautiful "Christ in Gethsemane" by Hoffman; an original composition depicting Christ with His Disciples; and a copy of Lerolle's "The Arrival of The Shepherds" are now in place and their installation will be marked by a special dedication at a later date. The rich colour and beauty of composition and theme in these murals will be for many years a source of pleasure and inspiration.

The choice of the particular themes, and the work behind the project was enlarged upon by Mr. Jones. "We chose for the two paintings originally proposed for the far end wall of the hall "The Light of The World" depicting Christ returning in the robes of a king to the closed door of a man's inner self. The latch is on the inside and may be opened only from within. He stands at the door and knocks. The weeds, the brambles and the vines grow from below and above to show this door has not been opened for a long time and the hinges hang rust-

ed to the door. Only the fact that nothing is impossible with Him makes us believe it can ever be opened again. Outside are two lights, the light of conscience in His hand showing up the weeds in clear definition and the light of understanding about His head which glows even in the darkest places. When the weeds are cleared away there remains the clear light still but now they show things worth while. The text for this painting is from the Book of Revelation of John, "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man will open unto me I will come in' . . ."

The choice of the second picture, "Christ in Gethsemane" (the original hangs in Riverside Church in New York City) was encouraged by the simplicity of the design and the magnificent art in this familiar and appealing picture of Christ. The theme of the third picture, Christ with his disciples, depicts Jesus sending His disciples out into all the world and telling us "To Launch into the Deep". On a hillside Jesus points out over the horizon, and, below the group of eleven disciples, are the hills and waterways on which a large boat such as might have sailed Palestinean harbours bellows its sails into the evening wind. The fourth picture depicts the Nativity in simple and realistic fashion, with the baby Jesus and his parents shown as real people and not as mythical figures.

Mr. G. Findlay who worked on the panels of 4' by 8' masonite, produced a fine painting surface, wonderful to work on and impervious to dampness and stretching. The designs and detailed drawings were done by Mr. Jones and the underpainting scrubbed in by a number of helpers. Mrs. Paul Ruta volunteered to make the drapes which will hang between two of the paintings. Mr. P. Lariviere, caretaker gave enthusiastic help in the moving, cleaning and encouragement. All work and materials were donated.