

COMPETITION FOR "STAY AT HOME GIRLS."

PRIZE WINNERS.

FIRST PRIZE (£2 2s.).

"Carnation," Haggerston, London.

SECOND PRIZE (£1 1s.)

"Rose," Aberdare, Glamorgan.

THIRD PRIZE (£1 1s.)

"Anemone," Newquay, Glamorganshire.

FOURTH PRIZE (£1 1s.)

Alice Margaret Dunn, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.

FIFTH PRIZE (£1 1s.).

"Daisy," Eaton Place, London.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

"White Violet," Forest Hill.

"Cyclamen," Woodstock.

"Lily of the Valley," Woodbridge, Suffolk.

"Monthly Rose," Waikato, Auckland.

"Queen of Queens," Tremayne, Alton, Hants.

"Grass of Parnassus," Pollokshaws, Glasgow.

"Carnation," Ingarsley, Leicester.

"Lily," Great Melton, near Norwich.

"White Clarkia," Cheadle Hulme, Stockport.

"White Rose," Bromley.

"Sweet Pea," Halstead, Essex.

F. James, West Croydon.

"Moss Rose," Proxy Broadway, Woodbury, Exeter.

M. S. Webster, Rettendon Rectory, Essex.

"Wattle Blossom," Melbourne.

"Azalea," Welbourne Rectory, Lincoln.

V. M. Pearson, Combe Vicarage, Hangerford.

"Pansy," Shrewsbury.

"Stephanotis," Malta.

L. Daniel, Andalusia, Spain.

"Arum Lily," Upper Twickenham.

"Speedwell," Evesham.

"Wild Orchid," Lytton, Brisbane, Queensland.

REPORT.

THE clear and descriptive competition papers sent in by girls who work with hands and heads have given pleasure to thousands of

people all over the world; they have created a sympathy with, and a reverence for the brave girls who, in spite of many difficulties and temptations, lead good, honest, unselfish lives.

Owing to the restrictions of the former competitions many thousands of girls were prevented from competing who would gladly have done so. The letters we have received from them prove how deeply interested they have been in the papers sent in by their working sisters, and the effect upon them has been to make them look into their own lives and see how they compare with those less protected.

We therefore opened a competition specially for "Stay at Home Girls" of every rank and condition, that they might have the opportunity of showing us how they spend their time.

It proves the interest excited by this competition, that the papers we have received come from every part of the globe—from India, Tasmania, New Zealand, Australia, Queensland, Manitoba, West Indies, Malta, Spain and France, as well as from the Channel Islands, Scotland, Ireland, Wales and all parts of England; and the position of the competitors is as varied as their dwelling-places.

It will be a matter of surprise to many on reading these papers to see how very full and interesting the lives of these "Stay at Home Girls" are, whether they are at home from necessity or choice. Many of the daily rounds are fully as hard and difficult as those of our working girls, the difference being the platform on which the work is done; the one in the midst of the world's buffetings, the other in the shelter of home, the one for wage, the other to supply a need at home.

We have received papers from all ranks of society except that of royalty, and we believe that if any of the princesses had given us a peep into their lives we should have found them as hard-working, as difficult and as interesting as those of our working girls or stay at home girls.

The papers sent in are, with one or two exceptions, well spent and well written; the descriptions of how the girls spend their time and of the places in which they live are quite fascinating. We feel after reading

some of the papers that we should be able to keep poultry, milk the cows, make the butter, so clearly is the work set down.

The tendency to get up late sets a good many lives awry, but throughout the whole of the papers there is but one thing that decidedly displeased us. It was that of a girl responsible for the entire work of the house, sitting down for an hour immediately after breakfast in the midst of soiled plates and dishes to read her dear GIRL'S OWN PAPER. We do not feel honoured by this action; our object is to strengthen girls for the battle of life, whether fought within the home or outside it; and never to make them self-indulgent and careless of duties.

The occupations of "stay at home girls" are many and vary according to their position in life. Some keep house, others have the charge of poultry or dairy, while others have the entire charge of the garden. Again, others divide their time between study and society, but nearly all devote some of their time to music and painting. The bicycle seems to have found its way into the remotest corners of our colonies, and riding and driving stand second in the matter of giving pleasure. Some of the girls have spent their leisure time in making themselves good Latin, Greek, and Hebrew scholars.

There is one thing practised by all whether in the colonies or at home, and that is teaching in Sunday schools, even where it means a walk of two or three miles. We wish earnestly that we could print all the papers; they are so good, so vigorous, so full of life that they would not fail to do good. Unfortunately we have been obliged to set some on one side, although they are interesting, because they transgressed the rules laid down in "Queen of Queens." Among our competitors is one confined to her bed with spinal trouble, another has no right hand, and a third who is blind. One and all of these are bright examples of lives happy and full.

In the whole of the papers sent in there are very few indeed that describe an idle, purposeless life. Each writer seems to be doing her best in the position where she is placed, and with her influence combined with that of the working and professional girl England must grow happier and more helpful.

FIRST PRIZE ESSAY.

It is most difficult for one whose time is not occupied in regular work to give an account of how she spends it, but I think that by taking a week of my ordinary life and relating its daily duties I may give a fair idea of how my time is occupied.

I live in an East End Vicarage and most of my time therefore is spent in church and parish work. I will take a week out of one of the winter months as the work is more settled, and tell what I am generally doing then.

Sunday.—Holy Communion at 8.30 A.M.—if it is a festival we have it at 8, so that it may be over in time for Sunday School. Breakfast at 9.15 and then prayers, after which it is time for Sunday School. I have a class of about 15 girls aged 11 and 12. Sunday School is over at 10.45 when we all go into the largest school-room where a service is held for the children. This finishes about 12, & the children disperse, & we teachers go over into church in time for the sermon,

Dinner at 1.15 and a little rest before afternoon Sunday School, which is at 3 P.M. School is closed at 4 & if it is a festival or the last Sunday in the month we go over to church, if not we may perhaps have a Teachers' Meeting or time for rest before tea at 5. Evensong at 7 P.M. and supper at 9 conclude my Sunday.

Monday.—Before rising I usually study a little for the Church of England Sunday School Teachers' Examination. At 8 I go over to the schools to help give between 30 and 40 poor children a breakfast. This consists of tea, coffee or cocoa and bread and butter, jam, or marmalade. After breakfast I have either a poster or tickets to print for the next Temperance Tea. This poster is done by stencilling each letter separately and printing some by hand; I do it in red and black ink and it generally takes me nearly all the morning. It is very tiring and I am very glad when it is not "Temperance Tea" week. The afternoon,—if I am not wanted at the

Schools, or sent to the Bank (which is often the case to take money connected with Church accounts)—I have free for needlework & study. At 5 P.M. we generally go to a Lecture at the London Institution, returning home in time to take a Band of Hope class to prepare the children for the Church of England Temperance Society Examination which takes place every March. This is over between 7 and half-past, then supper, & over to the Schools again for the Temperance Tea at 8. We have about 150 people there as a rule. It is in connection with the C.E.T.S. and consists of a speech, Entertainment and Tea. This is over about 10.30. These teas are fortnightly but on the alternate Mondays there are Missionary Meetings, Teas, Committee Meetings, Lectures &c.

Tuesday.—Study before breakfast. Afterwards I prepare the work for the evening Candidates' Class. My girls are making a Crochet Quilt from the pattern in the "Girls' Own" and I have to commence every square