

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

STUDY AND STUDIO.

CONTRALTO.—We have always understood that Starwood Burney, in *Charles Ancherter*, is Stern-dale Bennett; and that Seraphael is Mendelssohn. We have heard Clara Novello's name also coupled with a chief female character, but cannot go further in explanation. It is always rather unsafe to push the identification of fictitious characters too far—as the real personages may often be only "types."

M. W. F.—You could probably teach yourself Italian, which is easier by far than French. Dr. Lemmi's Italian Grammar is the best we know, and you would also require a dictionary, besides, by-and-by, an easy reading book, such as Silvio Pellico's *Le Mie Prigioni*. No English tongue can possibly acquire the liquid Italian intonation, but the actual rules for pronunciation are very few and very easily grasped. See our answers in June and September last. We are glad that THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER "helps you in your desire to improve yourself."

IGLON.—We are very glad to hear of your progress and success. The Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, London, W.C., holds examinations in Theory of Music and Counterpoint for first, second and third class certificates. Possibly this may be of use to you, though the course you suggest is excellent.

HEARTSEASE (LYONS).—1. Raphael's cartoons were placed in Hampton Court by King William III., and remained there, with the exception of a short interval, till May 1865. They now form part of the National Collection in the South Kensington Museum.—2. Raphael was born on April 6, 1483, and died on April 6, 1520. We can only answer two questions at once, and thank you for your pleasant letter.

WISTON asks if there is any club or society that would send out magazines, newspapers, etc., when done with, to poor ladies.

CONNIE.—The poem "Barbara Fricthe" is by the American poet Whittier, and may be found in any collection of his works.

PHILOMELA.—If your friend is not neglecting any duty by writing verse he might certainly be encouraged to try once more in a cheerful vein. There is no special merit in the eight lines you send us, but the musical "lilt" and pictorial description of the first three, give hope that better work might be done. The remainder of the verse is rather disconnected, and (as you say) dismal.

SNOWBALL.—We are glad to know that your little sister is fond of poetry and is "always reading Scott." The verses are not at all bad for her age. The metre is irregular, but the idea is pretty.

SUNBEAM.—"In the Firelight" contains a pleasant picture. It might be made much better with a little more attention to the rhymes in the latter half of the verses. We cannot quote the reasonableness of your metaphor in "My Cross"—for the weight of the jet ornament, slight though it may be, does hang on the wearer.

M. W. F.—We have never met with your quotation, but think there must be something wrong about it. "He seemed a cherubim who had lost his way" would be incorrect; *cherubim* is a plural expression—*cherub* being the singular form. Perhaps some reader, noticing this alteration, may help you.

MEDICAL.

MARGERY wishes to know of a cure for blushing and constipation. We can cure both of these together by the same means. Take the following pill as often as it is required:—

℞. Extracti visci omnicæ gr. ½
Extracti belladonnæ gr. ½
Aloin gr. ½

These pills are very small and easy to swallow. Also take plenty of fruit and preserves. Avoid tea, beer, wine, and indigestible food. Take a walk every day.

PEGGY.—We cannot give you a complete description of "biliousness" in the space at our disposal. It is an affection of a most varied character. There are hundreds of forms of biliousness. We can only give you a few disconnected facts about its cause and treatment. Usually biliousness can be traced to errors of diet. With some people certain foods tend to produce biliousness whenever they are partaken of. Thus many people get bilious after shoulder of mutton, especially if they eat onion sauce with it. If you suffer from biliousness, find out, if possible, what causes it, and do your best to remove that cause. When you have an attack eat nothing until it has left you. A little iced water or lemonade, or even a little milk, may be taken, but the less the better. Do no work while the attack lasts. Take a dose of calomel (gr. ij) and bicarbonate of soda (gr. xxx) at the start. We do not know whether you have the unreasonable prejudice against calomel that so many people have. It is a drug that is perfectly harmless, except in enormous doses; it does not injure the teeth, and is a most satisfactory medicine in every respect.

IRENE.—Certainly; we know of people who have been cured of a discharge from the ear, which has persisted for two years, or ten years as a matter of fact. You have done quite right in syringing out your daughter's ears with Condy's fluid, and though you have failed to cure her, you have doubtless ward off any serious complication. Now, however, it would be better to try some stronger means. We would therefore advise you to discontinue the Condy's fluid and use solution of boric acid (1 in 40) instead. There is a lotion which is ten times more efficacious than this or any other, but it is poisonous, and therefore we hardly like to advise it. But we feel that it would be safe to trust it to a mother. It is the following:—

℞. Hydrargyri perchloridi gr. 4
(corrosive sublimate) gr. v.
Potassii iodidi ʒj
Aqueæ destillatæ ʒij

This lotion is perfectly safe to use as a lotion, but it must not be taken internally. Whichever lotion you use, dilute it with half its volume of hot water, and syringe out the ears three times a day. After you have syringed out the ears thoroughly, blow into the ear some of the following powder:—

℞. Aristol pulv. ʒij
Arditi boracis pulv. ʒij

Do not put wool into the ear. **ISLAY CAMPBELL.**—We presume that you wish us to tell you of something that will relieve the paroxysms of asthma. You ask for a "cure for asthma." We would be most happy to tell you what it was if we only knew ourselves. It unfortunately we do not know of a cure for asthma, at present, but we can relieve the paroxysms by several methods. The best way is to inhale the fumes of burning stramonium leaves. One way to do this is to smoke stramonium cigarettes, and inhale the smoke. If you object to smoking, you may burn some of the powdered leaves on a plate and inhale the smoke as it rises. But the cigarettes are the best.

VIOLLET.—The best water to wash in, at all times of the year, is rain water. Where this is unobtainable tap water is the best. Well water and spring water are inferior to the above because of their hardness. When water is very hard, boiling it removes the greater part of the hardness and so renders it better for washing. For drinking purposes the harder the water is the better, soft water being flat and unpalatable. It is always better to wash your hands and face in water that is tepid, but in summer time cold water is quite as good, unless your skin is very delicate. In winter always wash in warm, not hot, water. In very cold weather both hot and cold water are liable to start "chaps," and hot water has the additional danger of producing a chill and so starting a cold, if nothing worse. Whatever temperature the water may be, always wipe your face and hands thoroughly dry after washing them.

MISCELLANEOUS.

F. B.—We have found the following a good recipe for preventing the chapping of the hands and wrists. Melt together a dram of white beeswax, 1 oz. of spermaceti, and 2 oz. of almond oil with a small quantity of gum camomile. Place in the oven to melt, and while warm and liquid, pour the mixture into small jam-pots and cover. If a little be well rubbed into the skin at night, and a pair of kid gloves be worn, you will preserve your hands.

YOUNG COOK.—To make lemon custard—place in small rounds of pastry—grate the peel from two lemons, and squeeze the juice upon it. Mix in four eggs well beaten, ½ lb. of sifted sugar, and 2 oz. of butter. Cook the mixture well blended together until it thickens like custard. This is an old recipe, but considered good. White celery soup, we can suggest, as a pleasant variety from the ordinary brown ones. Employ veal broth as a foundation; put in plenty of celery stalks, cut rather short, boil until quite tender, which must then be passed through a sieve and returned to the soup. Thicken with flour, and add a pint of milk, one lump of sugar and a little salt. Lastly, add two spoonfuls of butter, and blending all well together. Some add a cupful of whipped cream.

CHRYSANTHEMUM.—The initials F.R.S.F. denote the Friends Fellow of the Royal Society, Edinburgh.

D. L.—Certainly, trees have a great effect on the state of the atmosphere. A wooded country is a comparatively damp and wet one. The cutting down of forests renders the whole tract so cleared and for many miles surrounding the immediate neighbourhood, very dry, excepting in low-lying marshy land, where there are most unwholesome fogs. Germany has benefited by the clearing away of the great forests. At the same time it must be remembered that shelter from severe winds is desirable, and that trees absorb bad exhalations, and in dry climates are very valuable. The best trees for planting in a town, and exposed to a smoky atmosphere, is the common plane. The next best is the Italian poplar (black). After these, the lime, beech, birch, horse-chestnut and laburnum will all thrive well despite the fogs and the smoke.

SUNDAY SCHOLAR inquires the meaning of the term "Leasing," as employed in Psalms iv. 2; and v. 6 (authorised version). The Hebrew word of which it is the translation is elsewhere almost uniformly rendered "Lies," see Psalms xl. 4; and lviii. 3. The term "Sabbath" is the Greek form of the Hebrew word for "Armies," and the designation "the Lord of Hosts" is synonymous with it, hosts in Scripture language meaning armies. Dagon, the national divinity of the Philistines, was represented with the face, hands, arms and legs of a man, with a long curled beard like an Assyrian; but his back, and the back of his head represented a fish—the two forms of head being united. An illustration of a still existing representation of him at Nimrod, supplied by the explorer, Layard, will be found in Dr. Smith's *Smaller Bible Dictionary*.

EDITH G. PRICE.—We are happy to acknowledge your letter, and comply with your request, to give a notice of your Convalescent Home of Rest, at Dane Hill Cottage, Cliftonville, Margate, "for ladies of limited means." For a small bedroom the terms are 15s. a week for board and lodging (exclusive of wine); and for a cubicle 14s. Forms of admission to be applied for and returned, signed by a clergyman and a doctor. Address the above-named, at Gloucester Lodge, Margate.

HUTCHINGS.—There are various appliances sold for testing the presence of water in milk, but we hear that their reliability is questionable. One very cheap and simple method is to take a new and very bright knitting-needle and hold it upright in the milk, and remove it steadily, and should a drop remain at the end, the milk may be considered pure; but if there be no drop then the milk has been adulterated.

CARRIE.—1. The Woman's Club, formed in America in the year 1868, and called the "Sorosis," was designed for the benefit of literary, artistic and dramatic persons. The title is derived from the Latin *soror*, or sister. Mrs. Croy, known as "Jennie Jones," was its first president, and the present director of the society is a Mrs. Helmuth. The members chiefly consist of journalists and philanthropists. It was very unpopular at first, but seems in better favour now; it has handsome headquarters in New York, and branches in many of the most important cities in the States.—2. What is called a "Wooden Wedding" is the fifth anniversary of that event; the "Tin" is the tenth; the "Crystal" is the fifteenth; the "Silver" is the twenty-fifth; the "Golden" is the fiftieth; and the "Diamond" is the seventy-fifth anniversary.

MISS MONDY is thanked for the three copies received of the "National Home Reading Union Magazine," comprising information respecting the "young people's section," "general course" and "special courses." Communications about membership, books, certificates, and receipt of the magazine are to be sent to the secretary above named, Surrey House, Victoria Embankment, W.C.

MAD.—We should think that you could not do better, if studying privately for a Civil Service appointment, than to apply to J. Charleston, Burlington College, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C. Oral tuition, and the latter by correspondence are given, and "weak subjects receive special help." The staff of the college consists of a number of "honours" graduates of all the great universities.

MISS MASON.—We are in receipt of your advertisements respecting your Home of Rest, at Bessels House, Bessels Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. It is designed for women in business and girls upwards of 15 years of age. Terms 15s. a week—four meals a day supplied. Railway fare reduced from London Bridge or Charing Cross st. (6d.) for a month's return ticket. A stamped and directed envelope should be sent for particulars, and the occupation of the writer should be stated.

HOPELESS ONE.—Your difficulty lies in this—that being a poor finite creature, you wish to exchange places with your infinite Creator—a sinner, in the place of your Judge; a censor over the actions of Almighty God, whose wisdom and whose mercy are infinite; whose knowledge is as far reaching as the universe and extends into eternity. Your business is not to direct the ruling of the world, but the ruling of your own heart, words, thoughts and works; and to ask the help of the Divine Spirit to please your Creator and Redeemer and unrequited Benefactor. "What I do, thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." "Shall the clay say to the potter, 'Why hast thou made me thus?'" "Woe without faith it is impossible to please God." "Pray for grace to trust Him and leave all in His hands."

AMBITIOUS.—You write a beautiful hand, but how much you could obtain in remuneration for all your other accomplishments we could not tell you. Competition is great and ever increasing. We fear you would not get more than from 12s. to 16s. a week. Perhaps you would do well to advertise.

APPLE BLOSSOM.—Green is a bad colour for stains. As the coffee has naturally fallen on the front breadth of your dress, if you spilled it yourself, you had better put some trimming over it, or else put in a new breadth.