

### The Review Question Box.

A subscriber sends some twigs of witch hazel which he reports "in full bloom" in the woods near Riverside, N. B., growing in over two feet of snow. He adds that it is remarkable to have forest specimens in bloom in the open air of our mid-winter. But it is not safe to draw such conclusions from this shrub. The witch hazel is an exception to most other plants in its behaviour. When October leaves have fallen, and plants generally have prepared for winter, the witch hazel uncurls its yellow ribbon-like flowers as if forgetful of the season. The yellow petals often remain throughout the winter, though in a withered condition, and in spring look as if they had just died while the calyx lobes persist and the two styles are fresh and green on the downy ovary. Our correspondent will thus see that this is only the winter condition of the witch hazel, which blossoms in late autumn and perfects its hard nut-like fruit in the following spring and summer.

The twig enclosed, "showing buds about to burst," is from the hobble-bush (*Viburnum lan-tanoides*). This is another example of the winter state of some plants, especially certain trees or shrubs. The two rusty infolded leaves remain in that state on the ends of the twigs throughout the winter, and when spring comes are the first leaves of this shrub to unfold.

The question relating to the pronunciation of Chaucer will receive attention next month; also an arithmetic problem, too late for solution in this number.

Health of our children is another quarter where we need to advance. For four or five hours a day we herd our children in the schools and give them a vitiated atmosphere. Personally, I enjoy the open window and sleeping practically out-of-doors. I have been in schoolrooms here when I thought every additional five minutes in that bad air was a drag. I haven't thrown up the window because the still somewhat unenlightened condition of the teaching profession made me doubt whether such an act would be welcome. Cold air doesn't necessarily mean colds. I am told by explorers that they never have colds at the North Pole. Health is the problem, and I don't know that much progress has been made in the medical knowledge of the teaching profession.—*Chas. W. Eliot.*

### For Friday Afternoons.

#### Character Hints.

1. My first is a gentleman very unique,  
Unparalleled—A. No. 1, so to speak.
2. Two men engaged in a fiendish plot,  
The good was hanged and the bad was not.
3. Shrewd and miserly, witty and wise,  
He brought down fame by a string from the skies.
4. A ripe red apple gave him the clue,  
His dog a candle overthrew.
5. In England and France three cardinals great,  
Who ruled the people, the king and the state.
6. He threw an inkstand at Satan, and bade him be quiet,  
A diet of worms was his principal diet.
7. The greatest writer known to fame,  
And no one knows how to spell his name.
8. A knave on the wool sack, a god with his pen,  
The greatest, the wisest, the meanest of men.
9. An old man hanged one terrible day,  
But his soul is marching on for aye.
10. Crossing a rivulet made him great,  
He threw down his mantle and met his fate.
11. A very remarkable pioneer,  
Mixed up somehow with an egg, I hear.
12. Amid many a nation and peril he strayed,  
Saved once by a compass, and once by a maid.
13. A queen who was witty, vain, learned and bold,  
Once cruel, once loving, a terrible scold.
14. Amid battle and bloodshed her white pathway led,  
From a sheep farm, through fame, to a fiery bed.
15. He lived and died and left no trace,  
Is famed, though no one saw his face.
16. Wise, good and brave he nobly reigned,  
His hostess once of him complained.
17. He won a warrior's mighty game,  
His opponent bore his Christian name.
18. He freed the land that holds back the sea,  
By a little spaniel saved was he.

(Answers next month).

—*Woman's Home Companion for March.*

#### Game for Indoor Recess.

A blackboard game not generally known is called "soldiers." Two boys each draw a row of ten o's about a quarter of an inch in size and half an inch apart; the two rows must be separated by a distance of twelve or fifteen inches. Each boy takes a piece of chalk and pretends that he is the commander of one row of soldiers. He then fires a shot from one of his soldiers at the opposite row, drawing his chalk rapidly across the blackboard from one row