

STUDY AND STUDIO.

AN ANXIOUS SISTER.—Do not be troubled when we say that the verses you enclose are not worthy of publication. They occasionally lack in metre and in rhyme, and contain nothing original; but it is a difficult art to write verse that is even moderately good. We quote two lines that are defective; the first is too short for the metre, the second is too long:—

"Beside the fire knelt a child,"
"Hark! She is speaking in a voice so clear."

STELLA.—Considering your age we can commend your poems, for they indicate an ear for melody and poetic feeling. "Leonora" is the best. There are a good many technical errors; for instance, in one verse of "At Evening," you say—

"While above in the sky
Shines the bright moon on high,"

Here you have a redundancy of expressions—"above," "in the sky," "on high." One, or at most, two of these would suffice. In "To my Cat," you use the second person singular and plural alternately—"your" and "thine." But if you read good poetry, and study, there is no reason at all why, in days to come, you should not write what is worth reading. We do not think you should at present give much time to composing verse.

AMELIA.—The poems you now enclose are decidedly better than the last. In "The Watcher" you commit a sin that is deemed unpardonable against the canons of poetic art; that is, you make "dawn" rhyme to "morn," "born," "forlorn" and "thorn." But "Orpheus" is the most musical poem ever submitted to our criticism, and this we say deliberately. It is so good, that we should strongly urge you to make it better. In a poem of this kind, with the Greek spirit, "form" is most important, and you should polish and re-polish. For example, "moved to thee" is not a happy expression of Aphrodite and Eurydice. "Jetty," from the other meaning of the word, is an impossible adjective; we should suggest "dusky hair." In "Eurydice" the accent is on the second syllable. The line—

"And moved along the gloom illimitable giving light,"

lacks awkwardly. "Stony throne" is unmusical. We feel that if you study and persevere your work should become known; but there is no "royal road" to success in the literary profession, and the only way is to try again and again, sending, if you wish, separate poems to the editor of any magazine for which you think them suitable. But first make them as good as they can be made, and study the best models. As to "when you can publish a volume," all depends on the quantity of really satisfactory work you have achieved.

DOROTHY C.—1. The three words you quote apply generally to the same class of object—spots of the sea. "Flotsam" signifies cargo found floating on the sea after a wreck. "Jetsam"—things thrown out of the ship to lighten it (French, *jetter*). "Lagan"—goods thrown on board, but tied to a cork or buoy in order to be found again (Latin, *lagere*, to tie or bind).—2. We have from time to time mentioned several amateur literary societies, in this column—consult our back numbers. Miss Hathaway, Anderson's, Denmark Hill, S.E., has an established "Story, Essay and Letter Club."

TROUBLED.—1. It is a most perplexing matter to find fresh recitations, for the moment one is heard and liked, every amateur reciter seems to pounce upon it. See our answer to "Lena" (May) and others. There are some collections compiled by the Rev. F. Langbridge, M.A. (St. Peter's Row), where a variety can be found. We think it is a good plan to search the works of such American poets as Whittier, Lowell, Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and find what is not too familiar. The "Gordon League Ballads" are commended. See "Our Open Letter-Box."—2. You will find frequent suggestions in another part of "Correspondence" for making your hands white. But why not wear gloves while reciting "after dinner, or at an 'at home' after a wedding?" We should have thought this was necessary, and it certainly would relieve you from part of your difficulty.

MARJORIE.—The idea of your tune is not at all bad, but there are defects that show the need of study. There are too many consecutive fifths and octaves in the composition; and the seventh in bar 6 is wrongly treated. Could you not take harmony lessons? You have evidently some talent.

PINBASKET.—Needles of steel were introduced into England from Spain and Germany about the year 1395; but from prehistoric times sewing-needles of some kind have been in use wherever mankind used clothing made either from the skins of animals or woven fabrics. Originally the needle was made of fish-bone, bone, or ivory, and bone needles are used by uncivilised tribes till this day; but since the discovery of bronze, metal needles have been used in civilised countries. Towards the end of the 19th century steel needles were made at Nuremberg. Spanish needles were also very famous, and the story goes that a negro brought the secret of making them from Spain in the reign of Queen Mary. We have inserted your other question and your kind information in "Our Open Letter-Box."

ELISE writes to inform us that the Portfolio Sketching Society, formerly conducted by Miss Adkins, Faversham, has been transferred to Miss Munn, Sandhurst, Kent. Will our correspondents note the change?

LITTYE DOBELL.—Your story also shall certainly receive our attention when you send it to us. As to the question you ask—whether a girl with a Board School fifth standard education should persevere in writing—we should be inclined to say that she would do better to devote herself to reading. If you have "an insatiable appetite for knowledge," try to satisfy it by reading, not only a compendium such as Cassell's *Popular Educator*, but books of high reputation.



QUELUPÉ (S. America).—We are pleased to receive your letter, and will certainly criticise your story when it reaches us. Your home must be a very charming one, and we are glad THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER is a welcome visitor.

OUR OPEN LETTER BOX.

FREIZ, Miss E. M. BRYANT, and Mrs. MATTIE Cheshire, answer Rosebud's inquiry about "The Doctor's Fee." It is in a book of recitations entitled "Gordon League Ballads." These are written by an Oxford man, in connection with the "Gordon League" at the East End, and are told under the name of "Jim's Wife." Miss Bryant kindly adds that if "Rosebud" finds any difficulty in procuring the book, she will have pleasure in sending her a copy of the poem. Address, Miss M. E. Bryant, The Sanctuary, Fortlampton, Tewkesbury.

MISS HAYES inquires where she may find the recitation of that name. **PINBASKET** inquires the meaning of the (Hungarian) name "Tassilo."

"ETHEL" asks by whom the lines were written beginning thus—

"For never a day is given,
But it tones the after years,
And carries up to Heaven
Its sunshine, and its tears;
While the to-morrows stand and wait,
Like silent mutes at the garden gate."

Mrs. MATTIE also says, in reply to "Speculation," that the words in the poem were written by an Ombudsman, occur in a parody by Southey on "Engene Aram."

GIRLS' EMPLOYMENTS.

IRELAND MOSS (Advice on the Choice of Occupations).—Most gladly would we help you as far as we can. Your not being "good at figures" we do not reckon a very terrible failing. Every capability is, of course, an advantage, but the absence of one sometimes signifies the presence of another. Let us hope it is so in your case. Do not, we would say urgently, become a nursery governess. It is only an occupation that can be pursued for ten years or so, and then the poor governess is considered too old to teach small children, and at the same time is supposed by employers to be unable to do anything else. For the good, or even the moderately-skilled dressmaker there are innumerable openings, there is scarcely a provincial town in England where a dressmaker might not thrive. Even the humble needlewoman who can repair gowns, retrim hats, hem curtains and so forth could find plenty to do. If you were to make known to the secretary of the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, 60, Chancery Lane; to the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women, 22, Berners Street; or to the Young Women's Christian Association, 25, George Street, Hanover Square, that you wished to be apprenticed to a dressmaking firm where you would be well taught and employed under satisfactory conditions, we do not doubt that your wish would be complied with. The millinery business is not quite so safe or so remunerative a one to the girl of moderate talent, and the apprenticeship premiums charged by good firms are exceedingly high, ranging from £25 to £50 for indoor apprentices. It must be remembered, however, that in return for this sum board and lodging are provided. But in general a girl would be wise to engage herself as outdoor apprentice, if she could find a home with relatives or friends.

GISSY (Lancashire Works).—It is almost useless to make fancy articles at home in the hope of selling them through some depot or society. The truth which we cannot too often impress on girls who wish to earn money by their labour is that they must go into business in one direction or another. Some firms which undertake ecclesiastical or decorative needlework, employ a large number of girls as workers and tracers of designs. But these girls work on the premises for regular hours. At drapers' shops also young women are much employed in working up the innumerable pretty trifles, such as cambric collars, chiffon throatlets, hair ornaments, etc., which are wanted from day to day by fashionable customers. But all this needlework must be executed on the premises, because alterations may be required and personal directions must be given. The case is very little different with those women who make fancy articles for wholesale dealers or retail stationers. If they devise a novelty which catches the fancy of the public, an enormous quantity must be made if these articles rapidly. The worker then treats her home (or her room in it) as her workshop, sets private engagements aside, and regards the fulfilment of the orders as her first care. Competing with women who work in this businesslike fashion, the girl who works at home fitfully and in response to no particular demand, has no chance. Would it not be wise, therefore, in your case, to seek regular employment? We do not "recommend anything for the nerves." We must leave that to the doctors. But the slight affection you speak of does not appear to be a serious matter. Probably nobody except yourself is aware of it.

QUEEN HILDEGARDE (Teaching Abroad).—It is pleasant to learn that we have in you another appreciative reader. It is more easy to obtain a situation in Germany or Switzerland than in France. For employment on the Continent, generally, it is wise to consult the Girl's Friendly Society's Foreign Registry, 10, Holborn Place, Sloane Square, S.W., and the Foreign Registry of the Young Women's Christian Association, 25, George Street, Hanover Square, W. In Berlin an Employment Bureau has lately been established under the title of "Helios," at 62, Friedrichstrasse. If you go to Berlin you might apply there for advice or to the British and American Governesses' Home, 22, Kleinbeerenstrasse, Berlin. At the latter governesses are allowed to stay while looking for situations, and the charges are most moderate. The Empress Frederick has interested herself much in the home, and it is to her that its success is largely due. We do not recommend you to spend money in advertising, but you might reply to advertisements, using a considerable amount of discretion.