

THE OWL AND THE PUSSY-CAT.

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat;
They took some honey, and plenty of money
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the moon above,
And sang to a small guitar,
"O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love!
What a beautiful Pussy you are —
You are,
What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

Pussy said to the owl, "You elegant fowl!
How wonderfully sweet you sing!
Oh, let us be married — too long we have tarried —
But what shall we do for a ring?"
They sailed away for a year and a day
To the land where the Bong-tree grows,
And there in a wood, a piggy-wig stood
With a ring in the end of his nose —
His nose,
With a ring in the end of his nose.

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?" Said the piggy, "I will."
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined upon mince and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon,
And hand in hand on the edge of the sand
They danced by the light of the moon —
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.

Edward Lear.—

The following suggestions for September are sent by a very successful primary teacher in New Brunswick.

Early in the year is the time to assist the children in forming good habits, punctuality for example. Lead the child to see that the school bell calls him to duty as the bugle calls the soldier; no good soldier would think of not instantly answering the summons. A simple drawing of a bell, with some such admonition as "Don't be late," "Hurry, children, hurry;" written under it, serves to emphasize the lesson. Then a simple verse or rhyme about a bell, voicing this sentiment, tends still further to impress the idea. In the afternoon the children can cut patterns of bells or draw them for the drawing lesson. September is the month in which to note the first preparation for winter now being made by Mother Nature. Very interesting talks can be had on seeds. Why do plants produce seeds? Get the children to observe the different kinds of seeds. Some have wings, some have silky hairs. They are scattered by the wind. Other seeds have hooks. Animals and people help to carry these. Some have bright coverings. Some, as wheat, corn, beans and nuts, are used as food.

QUESTION BOX.

1. A subscriber asks for a note on lines 69-72 in Gray's *Elegy*.

The struggling pangs of conscious truth to hide,
To quench the blushes of ingenuous shame,
Or heap the shrine of Luxury and Pride,
With incense kindled at the Muse's flame.

Gray is contrasting the lot of the labourer with that of men in public life,—statesmen, writers, poets. He says that their lot forbade them (a) to have to speak, write, or act falsehood, stifling the truth which is struggling to assert itself in their own minds; (b) to commit or encourage shameful actions contrary to their own natural modesty; (c) to debase the gift of poetry by using it to flatter the rich and great.

The *Notes to the Golden Treasury* quotes another explanation. "Their lot forbade them to be eminent persecutors, unscrupulous place hunters, or courtly and venal poets," but Mr. Fowler, editor of the *Notes*, prefers for line 69 such an interpretation as we have given in (a). With the whole stanza compare Shakespeare's Sonnet CXI.

O! for my sake do you with Fortune chide,
The guilty goddess of my harmful deeds.
That did not better for my life provide,
Than public means, which public manners breeds.

especially the italicised lines.

F. C. M. asks "What is the length of the life of the butterfly?"

The length of the life of butterflies and moths varies somewhat with the species, but it is usually not more than a few weeks; the fall generation of the Mourning Cloak, however, hibernate and live till next summer, but this is not a common habit among butterflies and moths.

B. M. No. 3. Examination Paper 36, page 121, Academic Arithmetic.

a. This example is apparently impossible as it requires $\frac{18}{9} \times \frac{47}{2} \times \frac{4}{3} = \frac{188}{3}$ or $62\frac{2}{3}$ yds. of carpet for the room. It will work out to the given result if 80 yds. be bought instead of 60. We judge that 60 yds. is a misprint.

b. No. 5. Examination Paper 43, Academic Arithmetic, page 125.

The money is to be divided in the ratio of $\frac{1}{2} : \frac{1}{3} : \frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{6}{12} : \frac{4}{12} : \frac{3}{12}$ or in the ratio of 6 : 4 : 3. There are therefore to be 13 parts