



PUZZLE POEM REPORT: "OUR PUZZLED GIRLS."

SOLUTION.

OUR PUZZLED GIRLS.

Dear puzzled girls, who bravely pore
O'er } all our hieroglyphic store
On }
And never vote it all a bore,
Say, patient friends, we do implore,
Are not the brain and temper sore,
Would you not like to have no more?
But in by thousands papers pour,
Much more than ever heretofore,
Solutions good and bad galore!
So then, dear puzzled girls, who pore,
How may we change our plans aforesaid?
You say, politely, "Pray give o'er?"

PRIZE WINNERS.

Fifteen Shillings Each.

Miss A. C. Carter, Shottery Hall, Stratford-on-Avon.
Mary I. Chislett, Great Broughton, Northallerton.
Lily Horn, 85, Victoria Terrace, Littlehampton, Sussex.
Miss F. A. Prideaux, Modbury, Ivybridge, South Devon.

Seven Shillings and Sixpence Each.

Henrietta French, 60, High Street, Maidstone.
Mildred M. C. Little, Great Broughton, Northallerton.
Stuart Bostock-Smith, 3, Hillside, Cotham, Bristol.
A. P. Suttill, Bridport. [Kent.
Ellen C. Tarrant, 2, Palace Grove, Bromley,
Eleanor Whitcher, 21, Hove Park, West Brighton.

Very Highly Commended.

E. Adamson, Annie A. Arnott, Edith K. Baxter, Lily Belling, E. Blunt, Mary Bolingbroke, Amy Briand, B. Bryson, Ines Bryson, Rev. J. Chambers, M. J. Champneys, E. H. Duncan, Mrs. W. H. Gotch, Edith E. Grundy, Marie E. Hancock, Edith M. Higgs, Edith L. Howse, J. Hunt, Alice E. Johnson, Mrs. H. Keel, Louise M. McCready, Ethel C. McMaster, Nellie Meikle, Mrs. Nicholls, E. R. Oliver, Margaret G. Oliver, Ellen M. Price, Janet M. Pugh, Annie Robinson, Kate Robinson, Fanny Shepard, Ellen R. Smith, Isabel Snell, Clara Souter, Florence Whitlock, Henry Wilkinson, Hubert Wix, M. Woodcock, Josephine Woodrow, Edith M. Younge.

Highly Commended.

Eliza Acworth, Edith Berry, Isabel Borrow, Helen M. Coulthard, Dr. R. Swan Coulthard, M. A. C. Crabb, Edith Dickson, Marguerite L. Dow, Jessie F. Dulley, Mrs. A. D. Harris, M. Hodgkinson, Edward St. G. Hodron, Minnie Ives, P. R. Kemp, Mrs. Latter, E. E. Lockyear, Winifred A. Lockyear, Maud C. Macpherson, Lillie Milner, Nina E. Purvey, Amy I. Seaward, Rose Shephard, A. M. C. Smith, R. Carr Smith, Gertrude Smith, Mary J. Taylor, Edith F. M. Varnish, Louisa Whitcher, W. Fitzjames White, Katie Whitmore, C. H. Wimpress, Helen B. Younger.

Honourable Mention.

Mrs. Acheson, Elsie Bayley, E. M. Blott, Melinda S. Bourne, Miss Bradbury, Agnes B. Chettle, Lilian Clews, Mrs. Crossman, Mrs. Ranald Daniel, K. Dawson, Ada L. Drayton, C. M. A. FitzGerald, John J. Giraud, Ada J. Graves, Florence Graves, L. Hartshorn, Caroline M. M. Hog, Katie Jameson, Ellen H. Kemp, A. Kilburn, Edith Lenton, Edmund Lord, Annie G. Luck, Mrs. McKenzie, Ethel H. Maddox, E. Mastin, F. Miller, E. C. Milne, Mrs. A. Moraine, Annie B. Olver, Emily L. Reid, Ada Rickards, A. Roderick, A. J. Rogers, Alice Salberg, Alice N. Seaman, A. C. Sharp, Sadie Stelfox, Alice E. Stretton, C. E. Thurgar, Violet C. Todd, Annie L. Trendell, May Tutte, A. F. Walker, Emily M. P. Wood, Alice Woodhead, Charles Wright, Sophie Yeo.

EXAMINERS' REPORT.

Wonderful to relate, there were only four perfect solutions. Some of the authors of the seven next best may demur to this statement, and if they like to complain we shall be happy to point out their mistakes in spelling and to prove that perfection is not allied with such errors. The puzzle evidently presented many difficulties, and mistakes abound in connection with the solution of almost every line. The title was rendered in many curious ways. "Our Puzzle Poems" would not do as the solvers rather than the poems were depicted. Only those solutions which worked in the evident distraction of the solvers could be accounted really good. Taking the second line, "o'er" is more usual in connection with the verb to pore than "on." On the other hand the letters in the puzzle are distinctly *on* one another and the word is rhythmically

better than o'er. We therefore accepted both readings. To translate the patient in the fourth line into "tired," "weary" and the like, begs the question. The purpose of the poem was to find out if our solvers are tired of these puzzles yet, and it would be prejudging the case to assume, as early as the fourth line, that they are. Besides it is not necessary to have a bottle of medicine within reach if you are merely tired. In the same line our artist drew a thistle for the *weed*, which calls forth a dignified rebuke from a Scotch solver. We have a great deal too much respect for the Scotch to retort that, apparently, the weeds of England become the flowers of Scotland. We simply apologise for what was a grave artistic error.

In line 5 we found the most common mistake, "muscle" being adopted by a majority instead of "temper." But even wrestling with puzzle poems does not involve much muscular distress, while as to its effect on the temper whole volumes might be written. The lad is clearly displaying temper, and though such an exhibition is often accompanied by a certain amount of muscular activity, *temper* is obviously the better word here.

For the rest little need be said. The solutions in the ninth line were often described as "letters" or "answers," but either word robs the line of a syllable. The *change* in line 11 was sometimes rendered "coin," but "change" is necessary to express the right idea. And lastly, the word "politely" caused any amount of trouble, many of the suggested readings being extremely wild.

We have noticed that when there has been nothing particular for competitors to write about we have been favoured with a large number of letters or interesting notes with the solutions. But now when we have distinctly challenged an expression of opinion we find only four responses, and from all the rest an ominous silence. Truly the four beg us to continue the puzzles, but it is rather a large undertaking for the sake of four. In short, after the most careful consideration we are afraid that in the absence of a more unanimous (to put it as gently as we can) expression of opinion we must— But there! Christmas is barely over and we have not the heart to say the final word. Let us review the situation for another month.

To "Violet" and others. In the solution of "On a visit to the country," "come" is a misprint. The word in the original is "fierce."