

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.



STUDY AND STUDIO.

NORMA.—Many thanks for your letter of acknowledgment. You see that we are still mentioning your society, and wish you all success. Kindly be sure to apprise us of any change in address or management.

VERA VIKSON.—Many thanks for your information which we publish elsewhere. The piece described in Lily Watson's "Child of Genius," "Gavotte from Bach's Second Violin Sonata, transcribed by Saint-Saëns," is certainly a real piece of music, and you can obtain it, as also Grieg's "Reveries," by writing to any good music warehouse.

ETHEL.—1. The "Lake Poets" were Wordsworth, Southey and Coleridge, so called, because they lived in the English Lake District. Wordsworth's poetry, especially, is inspired by the scenery of that region.—2. We think you would find plenty of fresh, pure air, sufficient exercise, and plain wholesome food, the best cure for "rings under the eyes," as you say they are not caused by overwork. Attend to your general health in every possible way.

E. N.—Your designs strike us as very good. We should advise you to send specimens to some of the great firms of pottery manufacturers and inquire if they would be of any use. Of course, as

to their value, everything depends on the demand there is for such designs, and this only an expert could tell you.

ELUCUTION.—We cannot insert your query unless we know more of the poem you wish to find. The extract quoted does not seem to us worth following up, but this may be an unfair judgment on our part from so brief a specimen.

WM. GILMOUR.—We are grateful for your suggestion that the passage beginning "I expect to pass through this world but once," and ending "for I shall not pass this way again," appears in the works of Xenophon. We should really be very glad if this quotation (*vide* p. 815, October part) could be actually traced to its connection in the pages of Xenophon, Marcus Aurelius, or elsewhere. We must confess that we have not hitherto been able to light upon it in its original home.

ANXIOUS TO LEARN.—Your letter does you great credit. If you work from 9 until 8 P.M. (far too long!) at dressmaking, we do not see how you can find time for hard study. We should advise you to begin by reading some of Walter Scott's novels and looking up the history of the period, so as to get a clear idea of the setting of the story. If you are very weak in any special subject (e.g., arithmetic) get a manual, and work a short sum every day. But it would be far better for you to attend some evening classes in the nearest Polytechnic or Evening Continuation School, as lonely work when one is tired is apt to be rather discouraging. The Diamond Jubilee Society, Miss Noble Green, Kewnan Bank, Peebles, N.B., might help you, and the fee is only 1s. a year for each class joined, with an entrance fee of 1s. We shall be glad to hear from you again.

ISOBORNE.—We are glad to hear from a Danish girl. Certainly you can "prepare for an examination by correspondence." Apply to the Secretary, Association for Education of Women, Clarendon Building, Oxford; also to the Hon. Sec., Queen Margaret Correspondence Classes, 31, Lansdowne Crescent, Glasgow. From either you will doubtless receive full particulars.

INQUIRER.—Your verses show an observant ear, and we rather like your conception in the lines—

"Nature's sounds, with those invented,
Make a stirring monotone."

But the "form" is open to criticism. The rhymes are incorrect, e.g., "alone," "come," "dome." "Then the fring of a gun," is a halting line. All these matters need attention in the writing of verse. You are quite right in trying to describe what you actually see and hear, and in any case, it is a good exercise for you in composition. Many thanks for your kind expressions.

ARGENTON.—We are pleased to hear from you in New South Wales. You will not be wrong in applying the same rules to the pronunciation of Greek as to the pronunciation of Latin, and you say the latter are given you. There are, however, a few special points note we wish to note here (from Dr. Curtius' grammar) for your assistance:— "Before γ , κ , χ , or ξ , γ is pronounced *ng*, and is in Latin represented by *n*; e.g., $\tau\epsilon\gamma\gamma\omega$ is pronounced *tengo*; $\phi\acute{o}\rho\mu\alpha\gamma\epsilon$, *phorminx*. Of the diphthongs, *ai* and *ei* are both pronounced as *ai* in height; *oi*, as *oi* in boy; *ou*, as *ou* in how (or now); *yu* as *yu* in why; *eu* and *yu*, as *eu* in new. When two vowels, usually pronounced together, are to be pronounced separately, the latter has over it a diæresis; thus *máis* is pronounced *pa-is*. The sign placed over an initial vowel, represents the letter *h*; *h* is pronounced *hex*." No doubt your own grammar tells you whether the vowels are short or long. It is not at all likely that we pronounce as the ancient Greeks did, and whatever we do, we cannot hope to be very near correctness. We wish we could help you more. We are very glad to hear that you are making such good progress in Latin. If you like to send us a Greek sentence or two, we could write them out for you as usually pronounced, but we fancy your difficulty may arise largely from want of familiarity with the Greek characters.

ABBOTSFORD.—We are glad to hear brighter news of you. No, we do not consider that short-story writing is, as a rule, waste of time. The short story has in our days been brought to a pitch of great perfection. But in your case we felt it would be wise to rest awhile, and then attempt a more sustained effort. If you have some good ideas, however, for short stories, do not let them slip, but embody them before they have melted back again into the unknown.

SCATTER-BRAINS.—1. Carlyle means by saying "no one should ever write poetry unless he cannot help it" that the greatest poetry has in it what we call "the inevitable"—something that forces itself into utterance, instead of being laboriously manufactured. This is the mark of genius. His observation would not apply to the writing of verses such as those you send us. It is a capital exercise in composition for you. "Evening" is the better of the two pieces. The metre of "Jubilee" is rather shaky. We cannot tell you that these are true "poetry," but that, you know, would be very high praise indeed.—2. We only publish stories by practised writers in THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER. Two questions are all that may be answered at once, but we thank you for your charming letter, and wish you success in your medical career.