

OUR MAIL BAG.

In this department we will answer all inquiries, communications, &c., not containing a stamp or postal for reply.

Detective.—We are sorry you lost your voice; have you tried advertising? if not, do so. We lost a poodle dog once, but thanks to advertising we found it.

M. X. D. Pickles.—Shall appear next month. Do you still continue to attend singing class? if not, some time when you have leisure call at "our sanctum," but do not call until the shades of night begin to fall and the silvery light of the queen of night casts its shadows on the rear of our domicile, then, and not till then, will you be favored with those enrapturing sounds which proceed from the throats of *tenor* eleven Grimalkins.

C. U. Natrub.—(1) The best publications for a young puzzler are "The Puzzlers' Own" and "Puzzledom in a Nutshell." The latter can be obtained by addressing H. E. Juergens, Charlotte St., Pittsburgh, Pa., U. S. (2) We have sent you a copy of what we consider the best amateur paper. (3) We cannot tell, having heard nothing from *Rose Budd*. We sent him a batch of puzzles, but never received an acknowledgment.

Whittier's Review.

Books, Papers, &c., if sent to the following address, will receive an extended and impartial review.

Papers criticising the *YOUNG BLUEBIRD* shall receive an extended criticism.

Edward W. Frye.

17 Edinboro' Street,

Boston, Mass.

THE APEX, BROOKLYN, N. Y.—Of the twenty best papers in amateurdom, this is one of them. The May issue shows a discernible improvement in its contributed and editorial matter, typography

and size. "The Brook," a poem of nine verses, is superb. We next enjoy the perusal of a continued story, two interesting "Short Lectures," a pleasing poem, a story of merit by "Athena," and "Occasional Occurrences," by "Oreutt." "Retribution" is decidedly original and humorous. "Let Justice be Done though the Heavens Crash" is a good editorial. We agree with the *Apex* in declaring "Buz" a first-class author, as several of his late sketches will testify. Criticisms and advertisements close the contents of this splendid journal. We want more journals like it.

THE PIERIAN, BROOKLYN, N. Y.—This publication is a monthly magazine of twenty-four pages. J. M. Giles deserves unbounded praise for publishing a magazine of this size, as we feel sure that it does not pay its expenses. If we had more persons whom are willing to work (without profit) and place before the public a creditable journal, amateurdom would be extolled, but the trouble is, a large number in our ranks have no ambition whatever, hence poorly printed and miserably edited papers come from all parts of the United States. Again we say, J. M. Giles deserves unbounded praise, and give it to him too, and all others whom are as ambitious. We shall omit criticising the many stories, &c., as we have not sufficient space at our disposal. The editorials are good, but if those insolent remarks about O'Connell were omitted, the editorial department would be improved.

THE COMPOSING STICK, RIPLEY OHIO.—The May issue of this excellent journal is more interesting to editors and the general reader than to printers, the review of specimens of printing being only of interest to the printing fraternity. The editorials are concisely writ-

ten and remarkably entertaining. "Plagiarism," seems to be a theme considerably written about in this issue of the *Stick*, and we tremble to learn that Percy Monroe, (supposed by us to be a writer of rare abilities,) is a plagiarist. The "National News and Notes" are not of any account, as we have read the same news and notes in various journals, but the paper is first-class, and glad we are to hear of the projected enlargement.

THE CLUB, CHICAGO, ILL.—For a good representative of amateur journalism, we would advise our friends to inspect a copy of this superb journal. "Time" is a good poem and "A Base Ball Hero" is splendid. The remainder of the paper is filled with well-written editorials and "Original Humor," and the editor can justly and proudly claim the title of "Jovial George."

OUR ODDITY, CINCINNATI, O.—No. 2 of this journal comes to us enlarged to just double the size of its first number, which plainly indicates that the editor of the paper had rather have a journal of respectable size than one that is of but very little consequence; but we hope the enlargement of the *Oddity* will not cause it to find an early grave, as was the case with the *Ohioan* of the same city. The editorial department is very good when we take into consideration that it is presided over by a new comer into the mysteries of journalism. We hope Malcolm will not labor under the impression that Clossey will win the presidency of the N. A. P. A., no, far from it, and, by the way, sensible gentlemen never make it a business to support weak candidates.

The *Echoes of the Board* commences an exceedingly interesting sketch in its May number, entitled, "Reminiscences of Harry S. Barber." [Dep't. Condensed.]