

## In The Play Room.

"Mild or wild we love you, loud or still, child or boy."—SWINBURNE.

(The editor of this department will be pleased to receive letters from young contributors. Contributions such as puzzles, short stories, etc., will be welcomed.)

### Answers to Puzzles

(In Last Issue.)

No. 2. ARITHMETICAL.—\$100.

No. 3. LOGOGRAPH.—S-Nail—Snail.

### NO. 1. Conundrum.

What is this?

Formed long ago, yet made to-day.  
And most employed when others sleep:  
What few would wish to give away,  
And none would wish to keep.

### No. 2.

"I went to the Crimea, and I stopped there, and I never went there, and I came back again."

### No. 3.

"I went to the wood and I got it, and when I had got it I looked for it, and as I could not find it, I brought it home in my hand."

### Ginger-Bread Land.

I had such a wonderful, wonderful dream;  
A fairy took hold of my hand,  
And mounting a moonbeam she carried me off  
To far away Ginger-bread Land.

If you could have walked in those beautiful streets;  
If you could have smelt what I smelt;  
If you could have peeped there and seen what I saw;  
If you could have felt as I felt!

There was ginger-snap slating—now, would you believe!  
All over a ginger-bread house,  
With ginger-bread cookies for tiling below—  
What a place for a boy or a mouse!

The boys and the girls were of ginger-bread, too,  
And wore only ginger-bread clothes.  
The trees and the bushes were bent to the ground  
With ginger-bread nuts hanging in rows.

There were ginger-bread horses and ginger-bread dogs;  
And soon, to my wonder and joy,  
I saw, as I looked at my hands and my feet,  
That I was a ginger-bread boy.

And then I was hungry, and hunted about  
For daintiest pieces to find.  
You see, with such plenty on every side  
I hardly could make up my mind.

But while I was waiting, the fairy was gone—  
The ginger-bread went out of sight—  
Alack and alack and alack!—I awoke  
Before I had taken a bite!

Oh! oh! if I only could take it again,  
That journey so jolly and grand,  
I surely would make better use of my time  
In beautiful Ginger-bread Land.

### A Fairy Tale.

Merlin, the magician, once stopped at the cottage of a poor couple, who treated him very kindly to the best they had. He saw that they were not content with their lot, and the cottager's wife told him what it was that made them so sorrowful; they much wanted to have a son; and she added, "If it was even no bigger than his father's thumb!"

When the queen of the fairies heard from Merlin of this wish of the honest people she promised to grant it. By and by they had, to their great delight, a little son, and sure enough he was no bigger than a large thumb, and was called, accordingly, Tom Thumb, and owing to his very small size he was always getting into scrapes.

When he was old enough to play with the boys for cherry stones, and had lost all his own, he used to creep into the other boys' bags, fill his pockets and come out again to play. But one day as he was getting out of a bag of cherry stones the boy to whom it belonged chanced to see him.

"Ah, ah! my little Tom Thumb!" said the boy, "have I caught you at your bad tricks at last? Now I will pay you off for thieving."

Then drawing the string tight round his neck, and shaking the bag heartily, the cherry stones bruised Tom's limbs and body sadly, which made him beg to be let out, and promise never to be guilty of such doing any more.

### Never Chastise in Anger.

First Boy—What did your mother do to you for goin skatin on thin ice an gettin in?

Second Boy—She boxed me ears.

"Did it hurt?"

"Nope. She was so mad she didn't wait fer me to git me ear muffs off."

### An Amusing Evening Game.

"The Hat" is a game which may be played for stakes or not, as decided. The players are divided, as for clumps, into two opposing parties. They sit in two half circles at the same distance every way around a hat placed on the floor in the centre of them.

Two differently colored packs of cards are then given, one to each party, and by them equally dealt out to each player. The aim is then for each player to throw a card in the centre—a by no means easy achievement. The cards have a way of flying over it, or around it, in a provoking way, even when thrown by good players. The floor is soon littered with failures. The game is played till both packs are exhausted; then those cards that have reached the hat are counted, and the side that has the most of its own color in wins the stakes, or at least is victor. This is a very amusing game for the evening.

## Prof. Wickle's Prize Graphological Examination.

### Special Notice.

The Ideal Wife Prize Examination closed on Dec. 15th. We shall continue to publish in this column the delineation of the different specimens of handwriting sent in for the Prize Competition until they have been completed. We will then publish the decision with the numbers to which the different prizes were awarded. No more specimens of handwriting will be delineated for this Examination. It will be useless for subscribers to forward them, as Competition closed, as above stated, on Dec. 15th, and we shall simply continue to publish those which were received on or before that date.

### Delineations.

375 Here is a lady of exquisite tact, refined manner, and great warmth of sympathy, hopeful, even-tempered, and of correct judgment, gentle but decided, anxious to succeed, and careful to do her best; adaptable to circumstances, a charming woman for a man who does not expect great energy or exact passionate regard, of which this lady is incapable.

376 This is in many respects a similar hand to No. 375, but has in addition sense of humor, and more strength and a slight advantage in energy. Would be less placid and more active.

377 This is a capable, and probably smart business woman, with love of praise and desire to deserve it. She is lively, careful, breezy and prone to look on the bright side of things, but her effort is transient and her thought scattered; some ambition, love of beauty and good energy and temper are shown. Concentration, constancy, and self-control are small. Writer should also beware of too outspoken views and comments.

378 Same characteristics as No. 376, with yet more energy and enterprise.

379 This is a determined and bright lady, with a very strong will, variable spirits, great capacity of affection, and the reverse; she is a daring thinker, and a large planner, has intense love for social pleasures, and ambition to shine, is smart and occasionally witty, fond of fun, self-willed, and though apparently courageous, would probably sink under pressure of trouble or disappointment.

380 Here is a quiet, and rather sensitive lady, who will never assert herself, but remain modestly unknown except to her intimates. She feels deeply, but is rather reticent, and her mind is tinged with melancholy. A gentle manner, probably low voice and great constancy and truth are shown in her writing. She may be a little impatient and hasty is verdict on others, but her nature at bottom is just and sincere. To some types of husband she would be the very woman to make home happy. A little indifference and indecision are her weak points. She also lacks quickness of perception and tact, and though she has love of the beautiful, her taste is crude and uncultivated.

381 Some ideality, deliberate and thoughtful action, slightly faulty judgment, honest, some carelessness in small things, hope, rather discreet speech, love of beauty and good tact and some sympathy are blended in this lady's writing. She is probably methodical and regular in her life, and her husband would always find his meals on time and his slippers toasting. A comfortable and reliable wife, a little narrow, but very conscientious.

382 Here is a clever, stirring, impulsive and original lady. She has good method, great enterprise, but is cunning and foreseeing, loves company, and talks a good deal, is full of feeling and a little too fond of change. Is generally practical and chary of indulging in dreams, which she will probably attain.

383 This is an original, strong, and clever woman who has great force of will and depth of feeling. She is determined, serious, variable in temperament, and very persevering in action. Sincere, straightforward, and quite lacking in finesse and diplomacy.

384 This study is identical with No. 375, but lacks some of the fineness of perception and tact, though her nature is stronger and broader, while less gentle.

385 An imaginative, but deliberate mind, rather chary of her affections and not demonstrative, but when her heart is won, most loyal and faithful. Would be a thoughtful and true wife, discreet, mirthful, not particularly strong in will nor independent in action, but liable to show obstinacy if unduly ordered and guided. Would like the best available, but could be contented on reasonable fare. A very lovable woman, and very fond of beautiful things.

386 This lady is tenacious, of excellent consistency in effort, discreet speech, and some refinement. Her tendency is pessimistic rather than optimistic, but she is far from being a grumbler, rather apt to show a good face to the world under any circumstances. She is peculiar in some ways, having fixed convictions, and conservative and set mannerisms, her carefulness is marked, in fact, in work, she would rather always do too much than fail ever so little. She has not very keen perception, and though kind, is not warmly sympathetic, would look out well for Number One. A wife bound to secure respect as well as affection.

387 This lady is full of enterprise, with good perseverance and energy, but lacks buoyancy and hope. She has some ideality, care and a decided touch of temper, which however is only transient, her nature is affectionate, and she loves the good things of life, has ambition and strong self-will.

### An Exciting Incident.

A Frenchman's experience of a day's shooting: "Mon cher, I saw a rabbit pass. It was my first rabbit. How delightful! How exciting! I shouldered my gun, I took aim. I pulled the trigger—the gun went off!"

"And the rabbit?"

"Went off too."

### Some Funny Sights.

I saw a cowhide in the grass,  
A rush-light on the floor;  
I saw a candle-stick in the mud,  
A bell-pull at the door.

I saw a horse-fly up a creek,  
A cat-nip at her food;  
I saw a chestnut-burr, and heard  
A shell-bark in the wood.

I saw a jack-plane off a board,  
A car-spring off a track;  
I saw a saw-dust off the floor,  
And then a carpet-tack.

I saw a monkey-wrench a hat  
From a fair lady's pate;  
I saw a rattle-snake a bird,  
And hogs-head on a plate.

I saw a brandy-smash a glass,  
I saw a shooting-star;  
I've heard the corn-stalk in the field,  
And pig iron crow-bar.

I saw a pin-wheel off a post,  
A wheel-wright in the shop;  
I saw a gin-sling on a bar,  
I saw a ginger-pop.

I heard a fence-rail at the din,  
I heard a waist-band play  
A lovely strain—a sweet spittoon—  
And then I went away.

### Novelties in Table Linen:

There are few housewives who do not desire nice table linen. Not all of us can afford the expensive damasks, but there are few who cannot have an abundance of linen for tablecloths, napkins, tray cloths and doilies that can be made beautiful and artistic by a little time and ingenuity.

Among the latest novelties is the carnation pink pattern in tablecloths and napkins. A center-piece of finest linen with a hemstitched border and a pattern of drawn work just inside and covered with pink carnations, as if carelessly strewn over it, is made to accompany the cloth and napkins. A set of doilies also corresponds with the other pieces.

The leaf designs, both in centerpieces and doilies are in high favor, and are outlined and embroidered in heavy white silk on handsome linen. An effective sideboard scarf is hemstitched and has a drawn-work pattern a few inches from the hem. Yellow Marshal Niel roses are seen on this with their buds and foliage.

An exquisite centerpiece has a pattern of lilacs embroidered on it that is very natural. Another centerpiece is of handsome white huck. In size it is from point to point in the center, twelve inches. The edge is heavily buttonhole stitched, and then for three inches it is darned in gold-colored silk. The centre is outlined in white silk, to show the veining of the leaf. A similar one is done in pink instead of the gold color. Sets of doilies may be made to match both centerpieces.

Another set may be of finest linen, in size six and a half inches square besides the fringe. The designs may be wild roses, butterflies, bachelor's buttons, a monogram and two conventional patterns.

A sideboard scarf may be two yards long and seventeen inches wide, including the fringe. About three inches from the edge should be a zig-zag pattern of drawn work. The material used for such a scarf should be of momie linen, and the design morning-glories on one end and on the other carnation pinks.

A very pretty tray cloth is thirty-four inches by twenty-four and is made of fine white linen, hemstitched. A conventional design is embroidered in yellow silk in each corner. Another tray cloth is of the same material and in size is thirty-one inches long and twenty-seven wide. A cup and saucer with a butterfly perched on it is found in two corners and a spray of flowers in each of the others.

A platter cloth which is comparatively new is of momie linen, and is twenty-one inches long add sixteen and a half wide. The conventional design on it is done in yellow silk.

A very attractive tray cloth, twenty-seven inches long including fringe and eighteen inches wide, is of momie linen and has large, red, strawberries, so natural that one would like to eat them, embroidered on it.

Another tray cloth, which can also be used for a centerpiece, is of butcher's linen and has a cactus pattern done in pink and yellow silk on it.

Three very pretty cake doilies are five and a half inches square besides the fringe, and have forget-me-nots, thistles and yellow pansies on them.

An exquisite set of linen, comprising tablecloth, centerpiece, tray cloths, sideboard scarf and doilies, to be used for a cherry luncheon next season, have ripe, red cherries and their glossy leaves embroidered in wash silks on each piece. The effect is most charming. A similar set has strawberries in place of the cherries.

A set of exquisite fruit doilies is made at home of finest linen, and instead of being fringed has a hemstitched border around the edge. The designs used are grapes, cherries, currants, strawberries plums, and blackberries.

Hitherto table linen has been only ornamented with embroidery on account of the frequent laundering it requires, but of late Blackman's fluk has been invented for the purpose of painting delicate and dainty designs on doilies, tray cloths, etc. Nothing could be more satisfactory than this word has proved thus far. It is certainly a great saving of time and many artists who haven't the time for embroidery hail this new innovation with joy.

Flowers, fruits, birds, butterflies, bumblebees, tiny landscapes, and water scenes, are all seen among the decorations for table linen.