

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

STUDY AND STUDIO.

MARGARET PLANTAGENET.—Your quotation—

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin," is from Shakespeare's *Titus and Cressida*, act iii, scene 3. It is particularly appropriate when used in connection with the work of the poet Wordsworth, which may account for your friend's mistake in attributing the line to him.

HONEYSUCKLE.—"Absence makes the heart grow fonder," is from a poem entitled "Isle of Beauty," by Thomas Haynes Bayly (1797-1839).

"Crabbed age and youth
Cannot live together."

is from "The Passionate Pilgrim," a poem by Shakespeare (xii); "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever," is by Keats (*Endymion*, Book 1). We feel a little doubtful whether we are not answering three questions in referring these three quotations to their source, and our rules restrict us to two!

L. M.—We fully understand and sympathise with your wish to earn a little money, but in all kindness we must assure you that there would be no chance whatever of doing so by your pen. In the second verse of your poem you employ "thou" and "you" alternately in addressing the violet; "alone" and "home" do not rhyme, and so on. It is a difficult matter to make money even by poetry of some merit. Is there nothing else that you can think of which would employ you and be remunerative? We may add that we only accept the work of experienced writers for *THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER*.

PERSEVERANCE (Argentine).—We have read your paper on "Work" with interest. You need practice in expressing your thoughts. It is not quite correct to call *thought* and *work* "qualities," and there are many instances of a similar looseness of expression. You should not, in an essay, use the sermon-like phrase "let us consider for a few moments." Then this is not a grammatical sentence:—"The fault lies with ourselves for being impatient, expecting all to run smoothly in our path, and bitter murmurings when it naturally does not do just what we individually want." One could not parse "bitter murmurings" as being in any case, and what does "it" mean? There are many mistakes in spelling, e.g., "reconize," "indispensable," "percepible," "irratation," but as your letter and essay show you to be an educated woman, it is probably lack of care that causes these slips. Have you seen a book by Dr. Abbott, *How to Write Clearly*? With all these criticisms we wish to help, and not to discourage you; for your remarks on usefulness, tact and cheerfulness as being necessary to good work, are very sound, and your quotations are particularly apt.

UNA CONCHA DE LARECHO.—We were glad to hear from you, but have received no former letter. Your lines are very fair, but there is a well-known valentine couplet in English much resembling their commencement, i.e.—

"The rose is red, the violet's blue,
Lilies are sweet and so are you."

We have inserted your request for a French correspondent.

ESPÉRANCE.—We are pleased to receive your pretty letter in its vernal green. "A Birdie's Lay" is the better of the two poems. The thought is fresh and sweet. In "Violets" you should not use "thou dost" in addressing a plural substantive. It is the third poem on violets we have before us at present for criticism. It is impossible to say that you might not, with study and perseverance, one day "write something worth printing." But you would need to work hard, and devote your attention to the best literary models.

RUMPELTILTSKIN.—Your writing will ultimately be good if you take pains. It is a free flowing hand, but your down strokes are too thick at present. You should not say "If you will excuse me for saying so, but I don't think much of your puzzle competition." Either the "if" or the "but" should be omitted to make a grammatical sentence. Your criticism is not very explicit, as you give no details of what provokes your disapproval.

A WOULD-BE POET.—Only just thirteen! and for that age, dear child, your lines are not at all bad. They are, almost without exception, correct as far as metre goes. But you are right in modestly supposing you are too young to fulfil such an ambition. Read good poetry instead of, as yet, trying to compose it.

GERMANY.—We cannot tell you of "a vacancy in a good school in Germany for a junior English governess," in August or September. Perhaps you would hear of one by writing to the Governesses' Home, Kleinbeeren-Strasse 22, III., Berlin (London secretary, Miss Green, 23, Warwick Road, Earl's Court, S.W.). You might at least derive information from this source where to apply for what you require.

VIOLET.—Any music-seller would procure for you a copy of Tosti's song "Good-bye." It is published in E, F, G, and A^b, net price 1s. 4d.

CELANDINE.—Your verses show that you do not understand the laws of rhyme and metre. A poem is something more than a series of lines, varying in length, written below one another. We thank you for your kind letter, but consider you would do better to employ your leisure time in study.

M. ROOKER writes to tell "A New Reader" that "B. M." is a Mrs. Macandrew, living near Ivy-bridge, South Devon.

M. E. H.—No anthem composed by you has come to hand, we regret to say, otherwise we would gladly give you our opinion on it.

OUR NEW PUZZLE POEM.

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* * PRIZES to the amount of six guineas (one of which will be reserved for competitors living abroad) are offered for the best solutions of the above Puzzle Poem. The following conditions must be observed:—

1. Solutions to be written on one side of the paper only.
2. Each paper to be headed with the name and address of the competitor.
3. Attention must be paid to spelling, punctuation, and neatness.
4. Send by post to Editor, *GIRL'S OWN PAPER*, 56, Paternoster Row, London. "Puzzle Poem" to be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
5. The last day for receiving solutions from Great Britain and Ireland will be August 16, 1898; from Abroad, October 18, 1898.

The competition is open to all without any restrictions as to sex or age. No competitor will be awarded more than one First Prize during the year (November 1897 to October 1898), but the winner of a Second Prize may still compete for a first. Not more than one First and one Second Prize will be sent to any one address during the year.

A CONSOLATION PRIZE of one guinea will be awarded to the competitor, not a prize-winner, who shall receive the highest number of marks during the year for Mention. Very Highly Commended to count 10 marks; Highly Commended to count 7 marks; Honourable Mention to count 5 marks.

This will be an encouragement to all who take an interest in the puzzles and who cannot quite find their way into the front rank of solvers.