

GIRLS' EMPLOYMENTS.

GRIEF (Suggestions).—Through the Post Office Savings Bank you could purchase an annuity; and if you have no near relations to whom you wish to bequeath money, it might be wise to expend the sum you mention in this way. Otherwise you had better employ some respectable stockbroker to invest it in first-rate securities; but as these would not yield you more than from £10 to £15 per annum, an annuity would be preferable. We would recommend you to seek a situation as general servant to a lady living quietly in the country or in a London flat, and affording you some help with the rough work. Any spare time could be profitably employed in taking lessons in cookery, which you could pay for out of your annuity. As general servant you could earn from £16 to £20 a year, according to your proficiency in cooking and waiting at table. There is an immense demand now for general servants, and many situations offer agreeable conditions to a woman who likes housework.

SOUTH DEVON (Librarianship).—You ask whether a girl requires any special training for the position of a librarian in a public library? Undoubtedly she does; but it is difficult to say where she can obtain it. In some of the local branches of the Manchester Free Library women are employed, and your daughter might be wise to seek admission to one of these libraries. Women have also been employed at the People's Palace in this capacity. A good training might be obtained in some local circulating libraries; and there is no reason why a girl possessing a good knowledge of books should not also succeed as a bookseller. In regard to librarianship, it has to be remembered that libraries are usually supported by a special rate and leave very small means out of which to pay salaries. Men are almost invariably ill-paid as librarians; and with women the case is worse.

J. C. (Typewriting).—This employment is only suitable for a girl who possesses a very good general education and a thorough knowledge of shorthand, if possible book-keeping, French and German. Girls who can only type have great difficulty in finding employment, and often do not receive more than 15s. a week. Superior clerks, knowing shorthand, earn from £1 to £1 10s. There are many schools of typewriting in London; but we think that for the present you would be wise to continue your general education. Your handwriting, about which you ask our opinion, is somewhat unformed, though neat and clear.

MEXTRON (Dressmaking).—The School of Dressmaking, about which you inquire, is equally well adapted to a lady who wishes to make her own gowns as for one who contemplates going into business. The teaching given appears to be most satisfactory.

LI. (Hatters).—If you wish to enter the service of the Acrated Bread Company, you had better write to the Secretary, Eastcheap House, 24, Eastcheap, E.C. The other matter is one in which a respectable solicitor could best help you; that is to say, if you do not possess the address of anyone in Australia through whom you could trace your missing relation. Or it might be desirable to advertise in some Australian papers.

A. LOVER OF GOOD MUSIC.—Your musical qualifications are, we fear, not strong enough yet to enable you to become a teacher of music. To join a practising society, as you suggest, is no guarantee that the practising is carefully done. Membership of such a body only serves as a kind of link of fellowship between musical people. Would it not help your mother most effectually if you could cook very well or make your own clothes? The knowledge of a domestic calling is constantly useful in life.

CARRIAGES (Travelling Abroad).—Posts abroad, especially in France, are difficult to hear of. Supposing you decide to try Switzerland, you could not do better than seek the advice of the Girls' Friendly Society, which has a Foreign Registry for Northern and Central Europe at 10, Holbein Place, Sloane Square, S.W.

L. M. R. (Taking Boarders).—Except during the summer months it would hardly be worth your while to advertise for "paying guests." Your position is certainly a very difficult one, and although you are wanted at home now, you ought not to lose sight of the probability that you will one day be called on to earn your living. In the meantime we advise you to take every opportunity of learning some remunerative kind of work such as cookery, dressmaking, or laundry-work.

JUNO.—You had better put the question to the lady rather than to us.

