

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

GIRLS' EMPLOYMENTS.

DISPENSING.—*What qualifications are needed for women dispensers?*—MARGERY.

The full course of training in pharmacy is a long and rather expensive one. It covers a period of three years, and is estimated to cost about £200. The intending dispenser is advised to apprentice herself to a pharmaceutical chemist in order to obtain a business training, and also to attend lectures on chemistry at the laboratories of the Pharmaceutical Society, Bloomsbury Square; University College, London, or at one of the colleges in the provinces, such as University College, Liverpool, or Mason College Birmingham. A less expensive, though not so good a plan, is, after passing the A. S. A. examination, which may be managed in a few months, to obtain a paid post as assistant-dispenser to a doctor. While holding such a post, a girl could continue her chemical and pharmaceutical studies, so as to enable her, at the end of the three years, to obtain the Pharmaceutical Society's diploma. It is necessary to remember that without this diploma no one may open a chemist's shop. But women who are unambitious or unpossessed of capital, are sometimes content to remain assistant-dispensers, and in this capacity they may earn from £35 to £75 a year.

FACTORY INSPECTORSHIP.—*How can I become an Inspector of Factories and Workshops? What are the subjects to be studied? I am nineteen, and have received a good education. I have tried to get into the General Post-Office, as woman clerk, but failed, owing to the keen competition.*—SALLY BRASS.

We fear that "Sally Brass" is aiming too high in thinking of a factory inspectorship at present. To begin with, she is much too young. A factory inspector ought not to be less than twenty-five, and we should say preferably, not less than thirty. The duties are not such as can be summed up by saying how many hours they occupy, or what subjects must be studied. They demand mainly such rare personal qualities as judgment, tact, observation and knowledge of the world. Primarily it is the inspector's business to see that the regulations of the Factory Act are carried out in places where women are employed. It is necessary to ascertain that women do not work overtime more than the amount fixed by law, that young persons are not detained beyond the limits which apply to them, and that all sanitary conditions are properly observed. To enforce such regulations as these, a person of considerable authority and force of character is required. Women of less experience, however, may seek employment as Sanitary Inspectors of Workshops under the control of municipal bodies, especially of vestries. And from a sanitary inspectorship it may be possible later to pass to the higher office.

We give this pleasant extract from the letter of a girl-correspondent who leads a life of travel. The letter is answered elsewhere.

"I am sure that you must be a kind friend to your world of girls in all countries; far, far over the sea, at the Cape, in America, in Melbourne, even in China and Japan, I have met many an English girl who read with great pleasure the yearly volumes of our Paper. It follows me about in my travels like a loving voice, from a dear yet unknown home."

STAR writes: "*Can you give me the explanation of the following lines in Tennyson's 'In Memoriam.' They occur in stanza lxxxviii, verse 12.*

*And last, returning from afar
Before the crimson-circled star
Had fallen into her father's grave.*

The "crimson-circled star" is the planet Venus, often called the Evening Star.

As the planets derive their light and heat from the sun, and revolve about him as their centre, he may be called their father. "The sun and his family" are frequently spoken of. "We thus see that the sun presides over a numerous family," says Sir Robert Ball (*Story of the Heavens*), in describing the solar system. "The members of that family are dependent upon the sun, and have a size suitably proportioned to their subordinate position.

But why *crimson-circled*? We may again turn to the *Story of the Heavens*. "Look to the west; the sun has but lately set, and over the spot where his departing beams still linger, we see the lovely evening star shining forth. This is the planet Venus." At a certain part of the year only is she visible in the west; but when she is she may often be girdled by the glory of the sunset crimson, ere she too sinks into "her father's grave," i.e., sets in the clouds, the darkness, or the waves, which have already appeared to receive the setting sun.

We thank STAR for sending us so interesting a question, and suggest that our readers should study for themselves the appearances of the planet Venus.

"**DILYS**" *inquires the author of the following lines:*

"Where is the man who has the power and skill
To stem the torrent of a woman's will?
For if she will, she will, you may depend
on't;
And if she won't, she won't; so there's
an end on't."

They appear as an inscription upon the pillar erected on the mount in the Dane John Field, Canterbury, and are there anonymous. Aaron Hill (1685-1750), however, writes in the epilogue to *Zara*:

"First then, a woman will or won't, depend
on't;
If she will do't, she will; and there's an
end on't.
But if she won't, since safe and sound your
trust is,
Fear is affront, and jealousy injustice."

Samuel Tuke (died 1673) writes in *Adventures of Five Hours*, act v. scene 3:

"He is a fool who thinks by force or skill
To turn the current of a woman's will."

The lines, therefore, on the monument would appear to be a compound of olden quotations.

OUR OPEN LETTER BOX.

Can any one tell STAR the author of a poem entitled—

"Creeping up the stairs."

"A Lover of Poetry" wishes to know the last three verses of a ballad entitled "Mary Hamilton" (Whyte Melville's "The Queen's Mairies"), and to be informed whether it has been set to music.

Miss M. K. Pugh writes from Hastings to answer LILAAC's query as to a quotation:

"If she gets Will Carleton's *Farm Ballads*, she will find the words in one of his most beautiful poems, *The First Settler's Story*. The whole moral of the story runs thus:—

"Boys flying kites haul in their white-winged
birds,
You can't do that way when you're flying
words;
'Careful with fire,' is good advice, we
know;
'Careful with words,' is ten times doubly
so."

E. A. T. asks where the full text can be found of the hymn containing the following verse:—

"Father of Heaven, Thy children stray,
Groping, at noon, their homeward way;
Long is the road and fierce the sun,
When will the weary way be done?
Footsore and faint, to Thee we cry,
Father of Heaven, be very nigh."

We have to thank F. P. and Bessie Cleveley for the information LILAAC required as to the authorship of the verse quoted recently, beginning:

"Boys, flying kites, haul in their white-
winged birds."

(Will Carleton, *The First Settler's Story*, published in "Our Own Gazette," February, 1893). If LILAAC will send her address to Miss Bessie Cleveley, Thorntonville, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, she will have a copy of the lines sent her by post. It is against the rules for us personally to forward the extract.

VERA VERNON writes to inform "Tony Whiskey Tibbins" that the lines by Lady Nairne with the refrain:

"Will ye no come back again?"

are to be found in "Fifty Years of Scottish Song," arranged with pianoforte accompaniment by James T. Smith (London, Bayley and Ferguson, 34, Paternoster Row; Glasgow, 54, Queen Street). The words occur also with slight variation under the title "Bonnie Charlie" in "The Franklin Square Song Collection." We are much obliged to VERA for this (the only) reply to the question, and for her suggestion that the music is by Finlay Dunn. The first verse runs as follows:

"Bonnie Charlie's noo awa'
Safely ower the friendly main.
Mony a heart will break in twa
Should he ne'er come back again."

WYANDOTTE *inquires the name and address of the publisher of a poem called "The Captive Slave."*

Longfellow and Whittier have many stirring poems on slavery, but we cannot discover one with this title. Perhaps some correspondent can offer a suggestion?

VENDETIA asks for the author and the source of the following extract:

"Well I know thy heart-strings quiver
Answering music to my own."

Also for the meaning of the Christian name "Alwyn."