

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MEDICAL.

POMONA.—Goitre or "Derbyshire neck" is an enlargement of the "thyroid gland," which is placed in front of the neck just under the larynx or voice box. The causes of this condition are not fully understood, but locality is undoubtedly a very important factor. Derbyshire and parts of Cornwall and Wales are the districts where the condition is most prevalent. It is supposed by some authorities to be due to impure water-supply, especially to drinking water strongly impregnated with lime salts. As regards the treatment: the first point, obviously, is to remove from the district where the condition prevails. Iodine, both internally and externally, is warmly recommended by some physicians. The progress of the affection is very slow, and when formed it often tends to slowly disappear on leaving the place where it originated.

JOAN.—The condition you mention is a symptom which often accompanies heart-disease, but the term is very loosely applied to any form of difficulty in breathing it would be impossible to say what the condition was without examination. We therefore advise you to have the girl's chest examined by a physician, who will be able to set your mind at rest on this point.

"FLO" AND "ALBERTA."—Moles on the face cannot be cured except by removal. They are best removed with scissors. Afterwards the sides of the wound are stitched up with horsehair. A minute scar is left after the operation.

LOTTIE.—The following is the best method to cure warts and is perfectly free from danger. Having washed the wart and surrounding skin with warm water smear vaseline over the skin round the wart, but do not let it touch the wart itself. They drop on to the wart two or three drops of strong acetic acid, and after waiting for ten seconds rub well into the wart solid nitrate of silver (lunar caustic). If one application does not cure repeat the treatment. We have never known this method to fail.

GIRLS' EMPLOYMENTS.

MANNA (Asylum Attendant).—Your project of becoming an asylum attendant is a good one, and you are likely to find the previous experience of children's nursing of some value. Efforts are being made by the Medico-Psychological Association (address, Hanwell Asylum) to improve the intellectual status of asylum nurses by instituting a system of training and examination. Those who have passed this examination would undoubtedly have a better chance of obtaining appointments than others without special qualifications. There is a large Poor Law Asylum for children at Earlswood, and you would do well to write to the matron asking whether there are likely to be any vacancies in the staff. Ordinarily the payment of asylum nurses begins at £10 a year and rises to £25.

LES YEUX (Civil Service, Post Office Department).—Your short-sightedness might not actually hinder you in the discharge of your duties as a Post Office messenger; but, with the high medical standard now enforced, we think you would run a considerable risk in selecting a Civil Service career. There is, as we have pointed out before, the painful possibility of being thrown out of employment at the end of a two years' engagement.

LAUREL (Lessons in Hairdressing).—Advertise your intention to give hairdressing lessons in the papers principally read by ladies. It is not however a good time of the year for such an undertaking, as fashionable ladies and their maids are out of London during the early part of the autumn.

STEWARDS (P. and O. Co.).—We have recently given information on this subject. The principal companies usually engage as stewards the widows and relatives of their own officers. Possibly your cousin, who is in the service of a Transatlantic company, might be able to further your wishes. We hardly think, however, that the companies would be willing to appoint a very young woman to such a post.

TINK (Copying at Home).—We are obliged to repeat that copying at home is work which can scarcely be obtained in London, much less in a country village. People do their copying now by means of various mechanical appliances, and if they wish it done for them, they send to some well-known office where the work is certain to be done expeditiously and satisfactorily.

A CONSTANT KEEPER (Cookery).—You do not give your address, so we are unable to tell you what would be the best means for you to take to learn cookery in your own neighbourhood. Probably, however, you will find on inquiry that some County Council classes exist, and those you could attend with profit. As you object so much to beginning your career as scullery-maid. You would do better to become a cook, as you have some talent for the work, than to go into a draper's shop, or become a children's nurse, though the last-named occupation is an excellent one for those who are clever in the management of children.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHARITY BATE.—The motto *Pugna pro patria*, "Fight for your country," is that of the Titchbourne family; but the crest is not the same as yours. *Pugna pro patria*, "I fight for my country," is the motto of one branch of the Ogilvy's, the crest also being different. We do not understand the inversion of the motto, and cannot find out anything about either it or the crest you send, except the above. Many crests and mottoes are the composition of the heraldic stationers.

FIREFLY.—1. The summer season at Bournemouth lasts from the beginning of July to the end of September, and as there is a winter season, we think that October might be a cheaper time, as well as April, May, and June for a visit. They have greatly overbuilt the place, and the price of lodgings and boarding-houses has much gone down of late. Cromer has a very different climate and is bracing, but warmer and drier than Lowestoft and Yarmouth. There is only a summer season, beginning in June and closing by October. Both of these places have a sandy beach, that of Bournemouth is five miles in length.—2. Wedding-cake presentations are not usually acknowledged.

SANDY.—We have inquired about the home but can hear of nothing of the sort. It is probable that you would obtain information of something of the same description at the Y. W. C. A., Central Institute, 310, Regent St., W. But, observe, we do not approve of the plan, and think you should consider well before you act. You should have the full consent and free permission of your fiancé's father and mother.

LOVER OF THREE.—The plant from which Indian hemp is obtained, grows in various parts of Hindustan, where it is called *bang*. It is used to produce intoxication in India, and the drink of which it is a stimulant is called *bang*. The extract is only used in England for medicinal purposes, and it is considered to be a cure for whooping cough; but as its properties are very powerful it would be highly improper to administer it unless by a medical prescription, made for that particular sufferer. You appear to be reading a number of unhealthy books; quite unsuitable for so young a girl. Don't! you will be sorry when you are older and wiser.

ANXIOUS.—You do not give information as to the social condition of the person for whom you wish to find an inexpensive home. Is she a retired governess? or a domestic servant, or has she been in trade? There are "St. Andrew's Cottage Homes" at Clewer, near Windsor, in which are some free rooms; but, however, may not be vacant. Others are at 15s. and others at 20s. weekly. At Blackwater, Hampshire, there is a Cottage Home for a few ladies from 12s. 6d. weekly. Apply to Miss Hillman, Woodbine Cottage. You had better write all particulars to the secretary of "The Governesses' Benevolent Institution," 32, Sackville Street, London, W. Or, perhaps, still better, to the Hon. Superintendent of the "Y. W. C. A.," Kent House, 91, Great Portland Street, London, W., stating that you want a permanent home for a person past middle age and past work; saying to what class she belongs.

H. LACREY.—1. A George III. half-crown, dated 1817, obverse small bust without shoulders, and reverse, arms on a plain shield, surrounded by the garter, the collar omitted, valued at from 3s. 6d. to 6s. A George III. crown piece obverse laureated bust to right, reverse St. George and Dragon, dates 1818-19-20, valued at from 7s. 6d. to 15s. Take them to some silversmith, who, if he do not take them, would advise you as to where else to offer them.—2. Your spelling is more than usually bad. You write "perservation" for "preservation," "piece" for "piece," "as" for "has," "mcellinious" for "miscellaneous," amongst other words.

A TWELVE YEARS' READER OF "G. O. P." (Liverpool).—Beeswax only, or a mixture of yellow soap and beeswax melted together, is the proper thing for the inside of a feather bed, not soap alone, which soon dries, and becomes powder. It is better to use very little even of the beeswax and soap, but instead, to purchase a very stout good ticking, 80 close in texture that the feathers cannot get through it.

SAY AND SEAL.—Miss Elizabeth Wetherall (Susan Warner) died in 1885. The date of her book, *Melbourne House*, is 1864; *Say and Seal* was written in 1860 by the two sisters, Susan and Anna. The latter wrote under the name of "Amy Lotthrop." The last book that we know of by her was *Stories of Vinegar Hill*, published in 1871; but there are books by the sisters which are dated in 1880-1882. The unfinished nature of many of their books leads to constant inquiries about sequels to them.

PESS HULLFAX.—1. The "spade guineas" (of George III.) of 1787, but were discontinued after 1799. The proof spade guinea of this reign issued 1787, with plain edge, is worth £1 18s.—2. The works of Swift, published in 1766, 18 vols. 12mo., to which edition there is sometimes added *Letters*, 6 vols., and *Supplement*, 3 vols., forming altogether 27 vols., are valued at about £4 4s.

STAR.—The offering of incense in the Jewish Church was not a special and distinctive ordinance of their religion only, because it has formed a part of the religious ceremonies of most ancient nations. Doubtless, it had a symbolical significance, as well as an offering to the Deity (read or supposititious), such as rendered to none but the Deity. But, over and above this, it was of hygienic importance and value; as in a great concourse of persons of all conditions of life, some with infectious breath, and some with old and soiled clothing from houses where there had been contagious disease, such fumigation was not only hygienically desirable, but agreeable to the other worshippers. There is an allusion to incense in Rev. v. 8., where the "vials full of odours," are described as typical of "the prayers of saints," also in chap. viii., 4. See also Malachi i. 11.

GLORIA.—Dr. J. Eadie, in the *Bible Cyclopaedia*, says, "The Second Temple did not contain the ark. Whether it was seized among the spoils when the city was sacked, or whether it was secreted and afterwards destroyed, does not appear. The Jews think it will be restored when their Messiah appears." Dr. Sir W. Smith, in his *Smaller Dictionary of the Bible*, says "The Ark was probably taken captive or destroyed at Nebuchadnezzar's."

Prideaux's argument that "there must have been an Ark in the Second Temple," is of no weight against express testimony, such as that of Josephus. "PERAUTE QUI ANTE NOS NOSTRA DIXERUNT" is from Donatus, a learned grammarian, the instructor of St. Jerome. It is translated, "Words that those persons had never existed who give utterance to the very same thoughts that occur to ourselves." An exclamation to which many people give utterance in the present day, no doubt, and which finds its best analogy in our English adage, "There is nothing new under the sun."

A ROLY POLY PUPPY (Moscow).—1. Your English is wonderful for twelve years old. You may make your bad temper much better, if you will invariably count twenty before you attempt to speak. If you can control yourself so far, the victory will be half won. Pray to God for His grace to help you.—2. We should always give cats cooked meat when domesticated; but you must remember that in their wild state they would eat it raw.

GREAT REFINEMENT.—You give no idea of the tastes nor the vocation of your intended husband, which we should know, to give you a good suggestion for a present. If fond of horses and riding, a silver-mounted whip or gold horse-shoe cravat pin. If a reader, a book on his favourite studies; or else some nice articles for the toilet—such as brush and comb in a leather case, or a small leather travelling bag, sufficient for an absence of a day or two. Your acquaintance with his habits and pursuits must render you a better judge than an utter stranger.

E. M. H.—There are farmhouses in Kent and Sussex and elsewhere, prepared for the reception of boarders. The Great Eastern Railway has, for some years, issued yearly a printed list of farmhouse-lodgings, which may be obtained at any of their stations and offices in London. We have heard of other railways had done the same, and as you have plenty of time, you might inquire at their various offices.

E. M. H.—We should hope that this feeling of shyness will wear off in time and give place to a happy confidence and pleasure in each other's society. You will need much love and trust to enable you to bear the test of marriage.

S. C. A. L.—It would not be "rude" to speak to a man—"a widower"—who is unknown to you except by sight; it would be very forward and intrusive to persevere to force your acquaintance on a stranger, especially a man. How could you be "really fond of him?"—we suppose you mean "fond." There is no terminating the word "spoke."

WILD IRISH GIRL.—1. March 7th, 1870, was a Friday.—2. Birds should have covers over their cages to keep them as dark as possible when they go to roost; but there should be some aperture for ventilation.

AGNES.—MS. has been read, declined and returned to you. The question is not one of etiquette but of wisdom and propriety. An exchange of letters, or a correspondence between a young man and a girl, who are not betrothed to each other, should be begun only with the knowledge and consent of parents or guardians, who are able to judge how far it would be wise to permit it. Such letters should be always open to inspection, and in no sense private. Platonic friendships have been found, by long experience, to be dangerous.

MARGUERITE.—A situation as lady nurse, or children's maid, where an under nurse is kept, is comparatively rare; and much experience in the physical care, as well as more training, of infants and young children is an essential qualification. At only seventeen and six months you could not be thus qualified. It is a situation of great trust, and only persons, say from twenty-five to thirty years of age, could inspire sufficient confidence for such a position. But you might advertise, of course.