

PASTIMES.

CLASSICAL ARITHMOREM.

The initials will give the name of a Spartan king, who was killed in battle.

1. 160 and *cum* = A poet put to death by Nero.
2. 661 " *ue* = An Egyptian mathematician.
3. 504 " *o* = A famous Latin poet.
4. 1602 " *u sun* = A skilful Roman commander.
5. 12 " *no* = A mythological personage, who was tied to a burning wheel.
6. 652 " *no sea* = An emperor of Rome.
7. 652 " *a sale* = A brave Athenian, distinguished for his ostentatious disposition.
8. 1502 " *noses* = A famous Grecian poet.

ENIGMA.

A hue of colour, and a tree,
I am at times; and next you'll see
Me where the stealthy waters glide
Of the vast ocean's moving tide.
Then in the moonlight's dreamy hour
You sometimes hear me; and I've power
To keep at distance all who stray
Unbidden where I take my way.
Explain my five-fold mission now,
Or I will never wreathe your brow. M.

CHARADES.

1. I am composed of 38 letters.
My 22, 26, 17, 21, 16, is a game which requires close 1, 25, 16, 38, 5, 16, 17, 8, 31.
My 28, 3, 22, 32, 12, 37, is apt to take fire unless handled with 35, 27, 11, 7.
My 10, 14, 19, 21, 20, 33, 15, 21, is what government gives to widows of soldiers killed in battle.
My 15, 27, 13, 38, is a part of a wheel.
My 29, 16, 25, 18, 23, 34, 3, 21, 7, 21, is a perfume well known in name, but less abundant in fact.
My 9, 30, 37, is worn by ladies in winter.
My 6, 1, 3, 36, 16, 35, 26, 33, 4, 35, is a gum from which a great variety of articles are manufactured.
My whole is a proverb which it is well to remember when cholera is apprehended.

H. V. O.

ANAGRAMS.

The italicised words give the names of two very favourite writers of the present day.

1. A labourer declining a tart in which, owing to a dearth of sugar, honey had been used, replied to his wife's question by saying, "*No honey tart, Poll.*"
2. When fowls were dear in the market, a gentleman complained to his good lady that she hardly ever set one upon table. To which Madam, who was a bit of a "screw," as it is called, tartly rejoined, "*Chickens are £ s. d.*" A. H. B.

ARITHMETICAL PROBLEM.

Two merchants make equal sums by trade annually, but they are not equally economical, since, while one of them spends only four fifths of what he gains, the other spends a larger sum by £200, and finds that, in six years, his expenditure will have exceeded his income from trade by a whole year's profits. How much did each make yearly by his business?

ANSWERS TO ARITHMOREMS, &c., No. 61.

- Arithmorems.*—(Beasts).—1. Crocodile. 2. Hippopotamus. 3. Rhinoceros. 4. Elephant. 5. Wolverine. 6. Chinchilla.—(Birds).—1. Flamingo. 2. Toucan. 3. Ptarmigan. 4. Woodpecker. 5. Landrail. 6. Cormorant.

Enigma.—Comets.—Collingwood, Odin, Miltiades, Epaminondas, Semiramis.

Charades.—1. Wind-mill. 2. Spar-row. 3. Matrimony.

Arithmorems.—(British Worthies).—1. John Manderville. 2. William Caxton. 3. Sir Thomas Moore. 4. Miles Coverdale. 6. John Lydgate. 7. William Shakspeare.

We shall in No. 65 resume the publication of any answers we may receive to the questions propounded in this column. Solutions to the above questions will appear in that number.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Commencing with No. 65, we shall resume our "Answers to Correspondents," and shall be glad to welcome all our old friends to our letter box, and also as many new ones as will favour us with their communications. This feature of the Reader has not been without interest in the past; and, with an enlarged circle of correspondents, we hope to give increased zest to our confidential intercourse.

MISCELLANEA.

The South Kensington museum has acquired a pack of playing cards, woven in silk, and made for the Medici in the seventeenth century by Panichi, whose name is on one. Such cards are not mentioned by any authority on the subject.

Molière's *M. Josse* is a native of all countries. He has lately turned up in Wiltshire. A worthy west country incumbent has a church choir made up of quarrymen. This summer he accompanied them in an excursion to Salisbury, and in the course of that well-spent day they were all grouped in front of the glorious Cathedral. They gazed in silence, then spoke in whispers, and, at last, being asked by their friend and rector what they thought of it, the foremost man replied, for himself and fellows, with a heave of the chest: "Sir, we all think there's a mortal deal o' stone there!" It was true, honest quarrymen's criticism.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

In the midst of towns there is more ozone in the air at night than during the day.

Plants grown under the light of the electric lamp show that their green colour is equally capable of being produced under the influence of such light as under that of the sun.

A WEATHER GUIDE.—Two drachms of camphor, half-drachm of pure saltpetre, half-drachm of muriate of ammonia, and two ounces of proof spirits, in a glass tube or narrow phial, will make a pretty sure weather-guide. In dry weather the solution will remain clear. On the approach of change minute stars will rise up in liquid; while stormy weather will be indicated by the disturbed condition of the chemical combination.

CEMENT FOR ROOMS.—An invention by M. Sarel, of Paris, is stated to be superior to plaster of Paris for coating the walls of rooms. It is used as follows:—A coat of oxide of zinc mixed with size, made up like a wash, is first laid on the wall, ceiling, or wainscot and over that a coat of chloride of zinc applied being prepared in the same way as the first wash. The oxide and chloride effect an immediate combination, and form a kind of cement, smooth and polished as glass, and possessing the advantages of oil paint without its disadvantages of smell.

HOW TO DRY GRAIN.—Mr. Nicholson, a Nottingham land agent, makes what seems likely enough to turn out a good practical suggestion. Why not, he asks, dry our corn by sending through it currents of hot air of a temperature ranging from 100° to 120°? Timber, paper-hangings, &c., are often dried in this way. From 10 to 15 per cent. of water can be taken out of wood by driving hot air through it at a hurricane rate, say 45 miles an hour. Corn can thus be treated without injury to its germinating power. Mr. Nicholson has proved this by experiment. The effect of the hot currents is very different from that of the dormant heat of a kiln; it only hardens the outer surface, rendering the grain less likely to reimbibe moisture. The corn can thus be dried on wire kilns if the air is set in motion.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

WHAT tree represents a person who persists in incurring debts?—Willow (will owe).

A LADY'S home-dress ought to last a long while; she never wears it out.

IF one hundred and twelve pounds make one hundred-weight, how many will make your wife wait?

A SPIRITUAL INQUIRY.—Is it likely that ghosts talk in the dead languages?

AS a man drinks he generally grows reckless. In his case, the more drams the fewer scruples.

IN New York city, the common bats fly only at twilight. Brick-bats fly at all hours.

ONE ought to have dates at one's fingers' ends, seeing they grow upon the palm.

THE gentleman whose lips pressed a lady's "snowy brow," did not catch cold.

"SO FAR, so good!" as the boy said when he finished the first pot of his mother's jam.

THE question is discussed in some of the Missouri papers, whether raising hemp is a good business. A much better business than being raised by it.

THE Editor of the Green River Union intimates that we take "a drop too much." When the hangman gives him his due, nobody will think he has "a drop too much."

A MAN in battle is not allowed to whistle to keep his courage up; and the whistling of the bullets doesn't have that tendency.

"I MEAN to abandon my habits of life," said a dissipated gentleman.—"Are you sure, sir, that they are not abandoned enough already?"

CALL a lady "a chicken," and ten to one she is angry. Tell her she is "no chicken," and twenty to one she is still angrier.

NOVEL SPORT FOR THE MILLION.—A mill-race.

A FACT.—According to the Articles of War, it is death to stop a cannon-ball.

A HARD HEAD.—An old gentleman was relating a story of one of your "half-horse, half-alligator" St. Lawrence boatmen. "He is a hard head," says he, "for he stood under an oak in a thunder storm, when the lightning struck the tree, and he dodged it seventeen times, when finding he could not dodge it any longer, he stood and took nine claps in succession on his head, and never flinched."

WHY is oak the worst wood of which to make a wooden leg?—Because it produces a corn.

THE man who got intoxicated with delight has been turned out of the Temperance Society.

I AM like a hone," said a schoolmaster of himself. "I sharpen a number of blades, but I wear myself out in doing it."

A QUACK advertises a compound that will cure everything, from a bad character to a bad temper.

AN author, ridiculing the idea of ghosts, asks how a dead man can get into a locked room. Probably with a skeleton-key.

CLASS in the middle of geography, stand up. "What's a pyramid?"—"A pile of men in a circus, one on top of the other."—"Where's Egypt?"—"Where it always was."—"Where is Whales?"—"All over the sea."—"Very well; stay there till I show you a species of birch well known in this country."

A GENTLEMAN who had long been subject to the nocturnal visitation of thieves in his orchards, wishing to preserve his property without endangering any one's life, procured from a hospital the leg of a subject, which he placed one evening in a steel trap in his garden, and next morning sent the crier round the town to announce that "the owner of the leg left in Mr. —'s grounds last night, might receive it upon application." He was never robbed again.

TO SOME pungent remarks of a professional brother an American barrister commenced his reply as follows:—"May it please the court, resting on the couch of republican equality as I do—covered by the blanket of constitutional panoply as I am—and protected by the ægis of American liberty, as I feel myself to be—I despise the buzzing of the professional insect who has just sat down, and defy his futile attempts to penetrate, with his puny sting, the insterstices of my impervious covering."

THE favourite motto with Mr. Paradox has always been, "Time is money." Acting upon this principle, he never wastes a single word in conversation. For instance, he meets you in the street, and instead of saying "Good morning! How do you do?" it is simply, "Morning. Do?" If he wishes to inquire of his wife what she has for dinner, he merely says, "Dinner?" And on retiring to bed, in lieu of bidding Mrs. P. "Good night!" in the customary way, exclaims, "Night!" Mr. Paradox calculates that he makes a clear saving of thirty days per annum by this economical system.