

GWENDOLINE N. asks us to translate an indistinctly written Dutch verse for her:—

"Varvel, varvel! hart is 't voorde;
Maar de inhout is 't zoo diep.
Lang klinkt het nog in 't harte voorde
Nadat de mord het reip."

We render it thus—

"Farewell, farewell! short is the word;
But so much does it betoken,
That it long echoes in the heart
After the mouth has spoken."

C. M. T. M.—1. Your verses are weak in spelling, e.g., "the" for "they," and "feign" for "fain." These errors might be the result of an oversight, but apart from them, we scarcely think you could expect to see the lines in print. The idea is somewhat involved; first the leaves of the "flow'ret" are lying faded around you, then you say the "flow'ret" is gone to the garden of heaven. If you represent heaven as a garden of flowers, you should not also introduce the chanting of songs, as it makes the metaphor rather confused.—2. The fees for the examinations of The Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, at local centres, are £2 2s. for one subject, and £1 1s. extra for each additional subject. The address of the Hon. Sec. is 52, New Bond Street, London, W. The Royal Academy does not hold local examinations on its own account.

M. H. MOULD.—We are sorry that we cannot encourage you to hope for any success in earning money by your verses. They break the laws of metre, of rhyme, and of grammar. For instance, the metre changes frequently in "If Thou Wert Mine"; and you make "strout" rhyme to "quason," while you constantly interchange the second person singular and the second person plural in addressing the same individual, e.g., "Thy face is fair, and you laugh like the glad sunshine." It may seem harsh criticism, but we think it is the truest kindness not to encourage delusive hopes when there is any question of expecting to earn by the composition of verse.

JANIZ.—We are much interested in the verses you send. They can hardly be awarded the term "poetry" (which is a term of very high praise in its strict acceptance), because the mode of expression is faulty; the metre is often not according to rule; and we might pick many holes, did we choose, in your technique. But we do not choose, because you show true poetic thought in these efforts, especially in the first, about the "fairy dreamland," and in the fourth, about "the ships that pass in the night." Many of your verses are very sad. Do not encourage a morbid turn of thought; at the same time do not suppose that we look with anything but sympathy upon a lad—if we may call you so at sixteen—who is evidently endowed with imagination and feeling.

MISS LILIAN MASTERS, Mount Avenue, Ealing, wishes us to state that a second course of Mess Elementary Greek Class is about to commence, leading members from the study of the alphabet to selected passages from the New Testament. Rules will be sent on application.

ETHEL.—There is a French paper, *Revue pour les jeunes filles* (£1 8s. a year), but we do not know it well. We have sometimes recommended *Racon de Soudet*, which is only 2s. 6d. a year. Messrs. Hatchard's, 187, Piccadilly, W., would send you a full list on application.

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE.

MISS ISLAY CAMPBELL, 11, Markham Road, Shanghai, China, offers to correspond with "Dark-eyed Maiden" of Bude's Death.

MISS EVELINE D. CONNELL, Danby Wiske Rectory, near Northallerton, Yorkshire, aged 194, would like to correspond with a French girl of about her own age or a little older.

MISS MAY CLARK, Etrick-Brae, Trefor Road, Aberystwith, Wales, aged 17, has the same wish.

MISS MARY HUNT, Chestnut Cottage, Heaton Norris, Stockport, would like to correspond with "Roumanian Primrose."

MAXX LASSIE wishes for the name and address of a French girl who will correspond with her.

H. E. D. P. has the same wish.

ISA R. WYLLIE (The Bank, Inverkeithing, Fifeshire), would be glad to correspond with a French girl.

EDITH TAYLOR LOMMAN (30, Courtenay Street, Newton Abbot, Devon), would also like to correspond with a French girl. She adds that she is seventeen, attends a girls' high school, and has been learning French for some years.

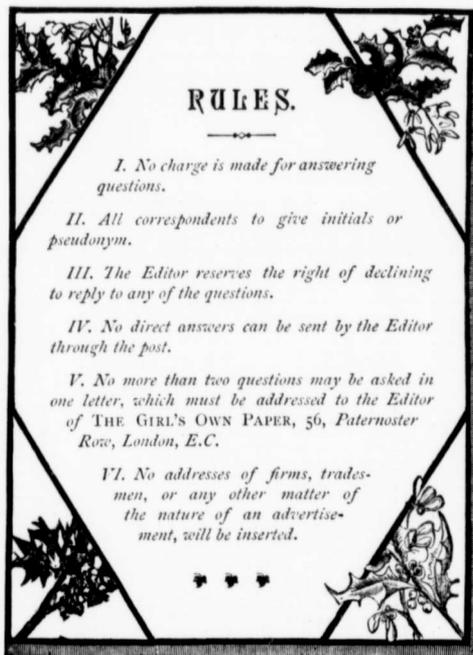
SEA-NYMPH, who does not wish her name published, would like to correspond with a French girl.

"PURPLE HEATHER," who has been taught French at a girls' grammar school, "where all the teachers, unfortunately, had different ideas as to the pronunciation of that language," would like a French correspondent.

Will some French subscribers kindly note these offers and be good enough to write, either direct to the correspondent, or to the Editor of THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER, giving their name and address for insertion in this column?

When a pseudonym is given, we infer that our correspondent does not wish her address published, but it is evident that on one side or the other this must be done, if both parties are to be put into communication.

NOTE.—Will our correspondents, who wish to write to girls of foreign countries, remember that it is a duty to try and spell their own language correctly? Mistakes are frequently caused by want of care alone. "Correspondance" is a usual blunder. Imperfect spelling becomes a serious matter when it occurs in a letter to some one who may not be able to detect the error, and may copy it herself in learning the language.



MISCELLANEOUS.

OLIVIA.—The last authority on the subject says that, for eating, a cross between the Indian game fowl and the Dorking is best; while for eggs, the white Leghorn and black Minorca are to be preferred.

FRIENDS OF THE CLERGY.—We believe that the poorest living (so-called) is Cotherton Vicarage, Worcester, which brings in to the labourer in things spiritual, a hire of £4—just £1 a quarter! The living of Aston, Herefordshire, is valued at the same amount, but the incumbent obtains £35 per annum, as being vicar, of Leintail Stark, and curate of Elton. But there are worse starvings than these; for several so-called "livings" have no incomes whatever attached to them.—2. If your diagonal cloth coat be worn shiny, moisten some fullers-earth with lemon juice, mix with pulverised pearlsh, and roll it into balls. Scour the cloth with this, and raise the nap with a teazel, or hatters' card filled with flocks, and when raised sufficiently lay the nap the right way by the use of a hard clothes-brush.

A. L.—If unable to go far from town, why not go to the Home and Institute for young women in business, at Ealing, W. It is in the Uxbridge Road, opposite Christ Church. Board and lodging are provided at from 10s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. a week. Address the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Tulloch, 50, Grange Park, Ealing.

KATHARINE.—The 31st October, 1862, was a Friday. Your handwriting is fairly good.

IVY LEAF.—We have read your letter with much sympathy. Marriage is indeed a very serious matter, and requires much affection on both sides to make it happy. Your letter has made us rather doubtful that you are really much in love with your future husband. If you are really fond of him, and have a reasonable belief in his kindness of heart, and good temper, you would not be so hesitant to dread to marry him. You are quite young, however, and can afford to wait.

LILLIE OF THE VALLEY.—The following is a Canadian recipe for making toffee (see also vol. xvii., p. 695), with which you may be more successful perhaps. A teaspoonful of this cream, two teaspoonfuls of brown sugar or treacle, one cup of nuts, which you must prepare first, of course, and take the inner skins off carefully. Any kind of nut is used—walnuts, peanuts, or almonds. Put all the ingredients together and let them melt slowly; stirring the *young boy* after they are cooked, till thickened; add the nuts last. Some people put them on the plates before pouring the toffee into them.

MISS FRANCIS.—We have no special society in connection with our own for the sale of ladies' work; but there are many such, one at Bath which is near you, and at Clifton, at 2, Portland Place, Treasurer, Miss Read, 15, West Mall.

NAN.—For invalid, or convalescent gentlewomen, there is the St. Bernard's Home, at 25, Dyke Road, Brighton, where the charge rises from 15s. a week upwards.

P. S. J.—So far from hurting oil-paintings to put them under glass, it preserves them. Do not hang them on a damp wall, nor near the fire, or stove.

KATH.—There is a Seaside Home of the Y.W.C.A. in the beautiful Isle of Man, Athol House, 9, Mona Terrace, at 15s. a week upwards. Address Miss E. Wilson, Hon. Sec. to the Y.W.C.A. ONE WHO WISHES TO KNOW.—Your father or mother should inquire into such a matter, and ascertain the wishes of the man before you be made a subject of remark and tattle. If you have no parents, place the matter in the hands of some respectable middle-aged friend.

FIRE-FLY.—You have placed yourself in a difficult position. To contract a debt without any prospect of incoming means to repay it with no honesty; and if unable to go from home to earn it, or to inform your father of it, we do not see what plan we can recommend. Have you a brother or sister who could allow you to transfer the debt for a time to either of them? And if you have a dress allowance could you not save out of that, and pay by small instalments?

AUTUMN LEAVES.—We have preserved leaves so as to retain their colour by brushing them over thinly with a fine transparent white varnish, or gum diluted with water. But these were pressed leaves, not in branches. You had better go (or write) to the Town Gardening and Florists' Work Institution, or send a friend there for information, 62, Lower Sloane Street, S.W.

MISS BRINE (Claremont, High Barnet) requests us to give a notice of her Bible-learners' Union, as we have done in former years. She has just issued the list of subjects and course of reading for the current year—for copies of which we thank her.

GYMNKHANA.—It has taken some time to find an answer to your question; but we were fortunate enough to light upon it in Sir Henry Yule's book, *Hobson-Jobson*. "Gymkhana," he says, "is quite modern, and was unknown twenty-five years ago. It is a fictitious word, invented probably in the Bombay Presidency, and based on the word 'gend-khama'—ball-house—which is the name usually given in Hindi to an English racket-court. It is applied to a place of public resort at an Indian station, where the needful facilities for athletics, and games of all kinds are provided, including a skating-rink, lawn-tennis ground, and so forth. The 'gym' may be simply a corruption of 'geno,' shaped by 'gymnastics.' The word is also applied to a meeting for such sports; and in this sense it has already travelled to Malta." Today the writer might have added, that the word is well known in England, and is very generally used in Canada.

MISS J. F. CHARLES requests us to remind our readers of the Convalescent Branch of the Santa Claus Society, of which she sends the Twelfth Annual Report. Competitions in connection with it in doll-dressing for invalids, and dolls and materials contributed to be dressed by cripples and the sick would be welcome. There are also knitting, brood and pinafore making; scrapbook, cake and sweetmeat making—boys being eligible for the scrapbook competition, in which they have hitherto been successful. Address Miss J. F. Charles, Stormont, Hampstead Lane, Highgate, N.

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