

MISCELLANEOUS.

MAY.—As you cannot play the piano nor have patience to learn, and you do not appear to be a performer on any musical instrument, we do not think that you could dispense with a master for the mandoline, at least you should require a few lessons. Your learning to spell correctly is far more desirable than playing a mandoline. The spots on the skin of which you complain may arise from poorness of blood.

L. H.—Probably we can do no better than put you in communication with Miss Mason, Bessels House, Bessels Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. Terms for board, etc., 15s. a week, four meals a day provided. As the accommodation afforded in this "Home of Rest" is rather limited, you should make an engagement early, sending a stamped envelope. Reduced railway fare for a month, from London Bridge or Charing Cross, 2s. 6d. The Home stands in a large garden, at a little more than a mile's distance from the Sevenoaks station, and which is at an hour's distance from town, South Eastern line.

MARJORY.—The phrase "born in the purple" generally means to be of royal birth. On the accession of Julius Cæsar a law was passed prohibiting any private individual to wear that colour. As a royal colour we find a mention of it in the Book of Judges, viii. 26, "purple raiment that was on the kings of Midian," and when our Lord was attired in mockery as a king, they put a purple robe upon Him. Mordecai was clothed in a garment of purple, and permission for its use was a mark of special honour to the recipient. The great and the wealthy alone could wear it because of the costly nature of the dye. The little shell fish found in the Mediterranean called the *Murex*, produced very small quantities of what the ancients employed to produce the "Tyrian purple." In the time of Cicero, wool, double-dyed with this secretion from the *Murex*, cost 1000 *denarii* for a pound weight, equal to about £35 of our money—such numbers of the fish had to be obtained to dye a very small quantity of wool. It was punishable with death among some ancient nations to wear purple, excepting only the king or the supreme judges. You may remember that one of the early Christians of Thyatira, Lydia, was "a seller of purple"—a costly manufacture.

NEW READER.—When the housemaid has to call a gentleman visitor in the morning she should knock at the door till she receives an answer. The boots or shoes left outside the night before should be replaced there, together with the hot water, and the coats or trousseaux hung across the back of a chair after having been brushed. But if there be a valet, or other manservant in the house, he should take in all these things, open the shutters and do all else required. If the visitor be a lady, the housemaid should knock, and on receiving a reply, should take in the water, shoes and brushed dress, or fetch out the latter and return with it shortly. She should open shutters, empty and rinse the basins, and inquire whether she can do anything further.

COOK.—We do not know how milk may be protected from the effects of a thunderstorm. We think a small bowl might be closely shut up, as the sugar in it turns to lactic acid from the electricity in the atmosphere, which renders it unfit for children. Indeed it is so some time before it turns sour. Milk should be kept at a temperature not exceeding 45 degrees, and to destroy all dangerous germs boiling is the only method. Filtering is by no means effectual.

LOVER OF MUSIC.—The difference between the Irish and Welsh harps consisted chiefly in the strings. The former, like the more ancient examples, were strung with wire, and the latter with cat-gut. The most ancient existing is that of the Irish King, Brian Boroihme, now in the College Museum of Dublin. It was given to Pope John XVIII., with the Crown and Regalia of his father by Donagh, son of the former, to purchase absolution for the murder of his brother Feig. The harp was given by Pope Leo X. to Henry VIII., and passed through many hands till deposited in the museum in 1782. The Welsh harp had twenty-eight strings in the sixteenth century. Pedals were invented in the year 1720. All particulars as to prices you could obtain at the Harp Warehouse in New Oxford Street, W.C.

SCOTCH LASSIE.—It is quite true that there has been a revival of taste for the works of Robert Burns, and the price of the original edition has risen in a wonderful way. It is quite true also that a copy of the edition published at Kilmarnock (512 copies) in 1786, at 3s. a volume, fetched £90 in 1886, sold out of Dr. Lang's collection. The edition was all bought up in a month after first publication; it fetched a guinea in 1812, £17 in 1871, £38 10s. in 1876, £68 in 1887, and rose again in price the following year to £80. The last price obtained for an original copy does certainly appear fabulous, but we have no reason to doubt the fact.

SPRINGTIME.—Sandals would have to be made to order, if for children; for a man, they can be had at a fancy-dress *costumier's*.
WORRIED ONE.—To bake cakes experience is required. If you get a piece of tin and lay it on the floor of the gas stove, and place the greased paper on that, the cakes would not be burnt. Probably the heat is too great, and you should be content with less heat, and slower baking. Perhaps the bottom of the stove is worn out, or worn too thin.

NORFOLK SCHOOLGIRL.—In the first phrase the tense is wrong. The pretéritoperfecto should be employed, viz., "When I wrote that letter I had not had the pleasure of hearing his sentiments" (or becoming acquainted with his sentiments). The second phrase is badly expressed, and would read better thus—"I am so old-fashioned that I dislike our cook's habit of cooking without a cap." We should say that it needs not to be "old-fashioned" to object to so uncleanly a habit. A *chef de cuisine* always wears a white cap, and so do bakers and pastrycooks.

D. D.—It is said that travelling by electric tramscars does tend to injure a watch, and this constitutes a serious objection to the use of the new horseless cabs and carriages. Whether the process of injury be a slow one, or how soon an effect would be perceptible, we have not as yet ascertained; but it is a fact known to the great watchmakers for some eight or ten years past, and it is said that they have been on a quest for some material of which to make springs which will prove uninfluenced by magnetic action. One substance that might be substituted for steel is glass, and possibly has been already employed.

"CONSTANT READER" (Paris).—You could not go to a nicer seaside place in South Wales than Tenby. There are chalybeate springs there of a tonic character, and being not far from Pembrokeshire, there are pleasant excursions to be made to the old castle there, and *en route* to Carew Castle, also to that of Manorbier. There are also extensive sands and bathing, and you could visit the Milford shipbuilding docks. Your best plan would be to go to an hotel for the night, and look for lodgings or a boarding-house the next day. On this side of the Severn there is Ilfracombe (North Devon) facing west and just at the entrance of the Bristol Channel. There the air is bracing. There are many charming places within a walk, and pleasant for a picnic and sketching excursion. The bathing arrangements are not good, as the place suitable for it is reached through a tunnel, and there are eddies a little way out which are dangerous for swimmers.

MOTHER.—You would do well to keep the nails of the child very short, and procure some quassia from a drug-store with which to wet the finger-tips. Should this fail to break the habit of biting them, tie on a pair of old dark leather gloves, and do not remove them except for washing.

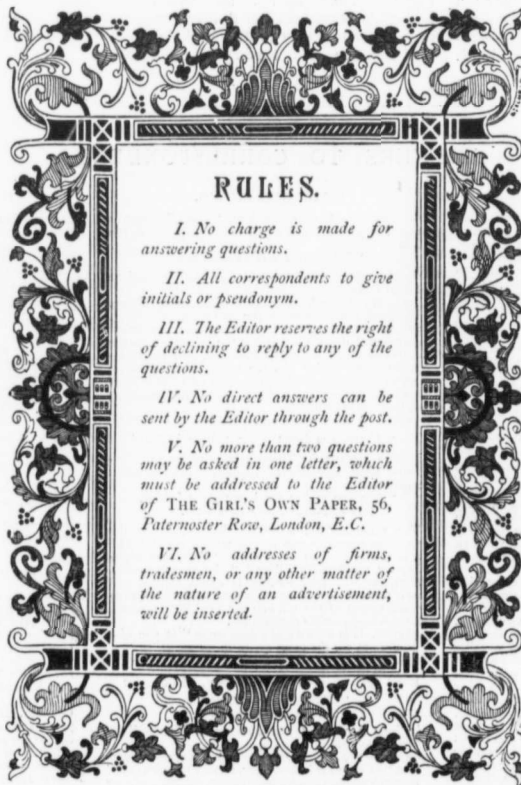
READER OF THE "G. O. P."—If your gloves be so much shrunken, we can only advise you to give them to someone with smaller hands. They might be worn by a child.

ALPHEUS.—1. "Turck's Medium" can be had at any artists' colourman's shop, of which you will find one in the Quadrant, Regent Street, and in Grafton Street, close to Hanover Square, W.—2. Respecting your MS., the Editor's answer will be given shortly.

DOLLY inquires why a cat should go by the nickname "pus." We do not know the origin of its application to a cat; but to a hare it may be explained. To arrive at this, we must refer back to a time shortly after the Norman Conquest. The upper classes then spoke a mixture of Latin and Norman French; and the Latin name of the hare is *Lepus*, corrupted into *le puss*, and the article *le* being soon dropped, the name *pus* remained.

W. J. E.—1. There is a handbook on *Model Yachts and Boats*, by J. du V. Grosvenor, of which a good notice was given in the *Graphic*. It treats of their design, making and sailing. (Gill, 70, Strand, W.C.)—2. All Indian stamps are required for the Indian department of a stamp-collection book.

FAITH.—Far be it from us to deny the power of "the prayer of Faith." But never forget that our prayers must be "according to His will," see 1st. John v. 14. No promise has ever been made in reference to the stature of a man or woman, and your sister is ignorant in thinking that a miracle would be wrought in such a cause. At twenty-one full stature has been attained in the ordinary course of nature. The probable cause of the greater stature attained by the aristocracy, and their finer physique, as a rule, is that they have inherited better constitutions and lived under more favourable conditions of life. The wide-spread habit of drunkenness prevailing in the lower ranks of life naturally promotes disease, and dwarfs their children; pauper marriages, crowding together in cheap lodging-houses, and the destructive habit of charring too early, are all sources of deterioration in the so-called working class.



RULES.

I. No charge is made for answering questions.

II. All correspondents to give initials or pseudonym.

III. The Editor reserves the right of declining to reply to any of the questions.

IV. No direct answers can be sent by the Editor through the post.

V. No more than two questions may be asked in one letter, which must be addressed to the Editor of THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER, 56, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

VI. No addresses of firms, tradesmen, or any other matter of the nature of an advertisement, will be inserted.

LOVER OF THE "G. O. P."—A series of articles will be given in our next volume on the marks distinguishing the firms and countries where porcelain is produced. There are several small publications on the subject; but the most comprehensive is that by Chaffers, which includes the pottery manufactures at home and abroad. There is a book having reference to old furniture, and is by V. le Duc. You had better inquire for it at a library.

CONSTANT READER and E. C. (Bath).—To make a doughnut, take half a cupful of butter, one of finely powdered sugar, two eggs, half a cupful of sour milk or cream, and half a teaspoonful of soda dissolved in a little hot water, a little ground nutmeg and cinnamon, and sufficient flour to roll out into a soft dough. Form the paste into twists or balls, and fry them in boiling lard until of a golden-brown colour.

QUEENIE.—Certainly, the use of curling-irons must be injurious to the hair, because it dries up the natural oil, and the pressure, especially under the action of heat, must tend to break it and to split it at the ends. The use of curling-paper would not have an injurious effect, provided that there were no strain on the roots.