# OUR PUZZLE REPORT: "A WELL-BRED GIRL."

### SOLUTION.

## A WELL-BRED GIRL

Never talks during music at concerts or athomes :

Never turns round in the street to see other girls' frocks;

Never laughs loudly when in a public place; Never coughs when talking to others without raising her hand to her mouth;

Never conveys cheese to her mouth with a knife;

Never loses a post in accepting an invitation to dinner:

Never omits to make her duty call after a dinner-party or entertainment ;

Never instils envy in others, but incites them to content;

Never intentionally hurts the feelings of those in an inferior position.

#### PRIZE WINNERS.

Seven Shillings and Sixpence Each. Elsie Bayley Hook, nr. Winchfield, Hants. Mary Jane Bryan, Bryon's Lane, Sutton, Macclesfield.

R. Howse, Maisey Hampton, Fairford, Glos.

Annette E. Jackson, Bournemouth. May Lees, Waterworks Road, Tattenhall.

May Lees, Waterworks Koad, Fattennall, L. Morgan, 57, Chardmore Road, N. Robert Murdoch, 9, Newton Place, Glasgow. Helen M. Norman, 64, Lilleshall Road, S.W. Edith Neck, Beatrice Philpott and Winifred Philpott, 83 and 103, Foulden Road, Stoke Newineton N

Stoke Newington, N.

G. Rhys, Clyne, Penarth, Glamorganshire. C. E. Thurger, Unthanks Road, Norwich. M. Utting, Bracken Brae, Thorpe, Norwich. Florence De Ville, Sevenoaks. R. A. Wells, Shadingfield, Wangford, Suffolk.

#### Special Mention.

Eliza Acworth (equal with prize winners). Rev. Alexander B. Orr (for arrangement of solution).

### Most Highly Commended.

Maud L. Ansell, Florence Eppstein, Edith W. Flint, Ellen A. Fox, Edith E. Grundy, A. L. Hall, Wm. H. Hatch, A. J. Knight, Hildegard A. Löwen, S. Mason, Florence Miller, Rev. V. Odom, Edith F. Sellers, S. R. Smith, Isabel Snell, Annie F. Stoney, Wm. E. Trezise, Mts. Vaux, Florence A. Wallis, W. V. Wood.

### Very Highly Commended.

Muriel V. Angel, Jane L. Campbell, G. Carr, G. F. Chute, E. W. Floyd, Kate Hooker, Carr, G. F. Chute, E. W. Floyd, Kate Hooker, Cherie Massie, Jeannie D. Massie, A. C. Mellor, M. Oxley, A. Preece, Alice L. Salter, Amelia Salter, Ethel J. Shepard, Fanny Shepard, R. Carr Smith, Florence A. Steele, May T. Stephens, Florence Watson, Jessie Woodruff.

# Highly Commended.

Ethel Abigail, C. E. Ainley, G. Aitchison, Mrs. Andrew, L. B. Ashford, Mary E. Bailey, Alice M. Barton, Clara Bason, Ellen Bason, A. J. Batchelor, Janet M. Bell, Violet Biggs, Lizzie Bowring, I. Cargey, Annie J. Cather, May Causton, Lucy Chakona, I. H. Christie, William Clark, Mary G. Coley, J. Ethel Collingham, Elizabeth A. Collins, Daisy Coombs, Amelia Cornall, Helen Cornall, Coomos, Amena Cornan, Heren Cornan, Constance Cumpston, Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. Ranald Daniel, Agnes Dewhurst, Mrs. A. E. Dobbs, Arthur G. Dunn, Edith Edmonds, F. G. Edwards, B. Fletcher, J. A. Flynn, Agnes M. Ford, Lillie Galloway, Clara Gaw-thorp, Edith E. Gotobed, Mary D. Gourlay, Long Green, Ada Greenwood Ethel Genery Louie Green, Ada Greenwood, Éthel Gregory, Jas. W. Halbert, Mary Harrison, Frank S.

Hills, M. Hodgkinson, Eva Hocley, H. Hop-kins, Minnie Hudson, Annie Jones, Mrs. Kemp, Ellen H. Kemp, Leonard F. Kemp, P. R. Kemp, A. E. King, Alice F. Knight, Gladys M. Knight, Blanche de Labilliere, Maud de Labilliere, Clare E. Law, John L. Laws, Grace W. Lewis, W. E. Lewis, Florence Lush, Maude Lutton, Louise McCready, M. Mackaraie, Loha H. Marchart May Murrall Mackenzie, John H. Marchant, May Merrall, Mackenzie, John H. Marchant, May Merrall, Mabel Merry, Mrs. Amy Moraine, Mrs. F. M. Morgan, May Morris, Florence Morse, Chas. A. Murton, A. Nichols, Carrie North, Rosa Oliver, James Ore, Madge Orford, Gertrude Peace, Lizzie Peacock, Marion B. Perston, F. A. Powell, F. A. Prideaux, A. C. Pringle, N. E. Purvey, Lily Radcliffe, Ethel Rayner, Edwin Rhodes, Emalia Robertson, A. L. Roofe, Elizabeth Rose, Louis Sargers. A. L. Roofe, Elizabeth Rose, Louie Saggers, A. L. Roofe, Elizabeth Rose, Louie Saggers, Jessie C. Savory, M. Shadforth, Mamie Smart, W. P. H. Smiley, Ada Smith, Grace Simpson, Ella R. Sole, Isabel E. Strong, Dora Sturdy, Constance M. Swan, Mary J. Taylor, Mrs. G. M. Thompson, Miss Thornton-Varley, Edith Tichener, Winifred M. Wakefield, Beatrice C. Walker, Robert S. Watkins, Lilian G. Wayman Wayman.

### EXAMINERS' REPORT.

A record number of solutions rewarded our effort to instruct a well bred girl how not to behave. To the sixteen hundred and thirtyone solvers who receive neither prize nor mention we commend the nine precepts as worthy of the most particular remembrance. Abstention from nine unlady-like practices will yield a reward which will last long after the three half-crowns are spent and the "mentions" are forgotten. In spite of the table of contents, the puzzle

was not a poem-excepting in the sense that every work of Art is a Poem. But habit is so strong that many solutions were headed "Puzzle Poem," and in one instance no other title was given, reducing the whole thing to an absurdity. In several other instances there was no heading of any kind, excepting the name of the sender, and the solution resolved itself into a laudation of the solver. "Mrs. A. B., London, Never talks," etc.

Of difficulties there were not, unfortunately, enough, and many hundreds of solutions were substantially correct. It followed, therefore, that the strictest accuracy was required for the prize-winners, and anything more than a trifling variation debarred from mention altogether.

The beauty of a simple puzzle, or one of its beauties, is that it is sure to present nonexistent difficulties to the solver, who has been taught by experience to distrust simplicity. Hence "stalks" become "sticks," and we learn with respectful amazement that a well-bred girl "never ticks during music." "Sings," "yawns" and "whistles" in the same connection have originated we know not how. The first is not strictly true, because even the best bred girls sometimes sing during a concert. As to "yawns"—well, we have seen—but never mind, there is no reason why we should go out of our way to be unkind. The statement that a wellbred girl never whistles during music is, as far as our own experience goes, quite correct, but it is not to be found in the puzzle. In the same line at-homes would not do without a hyphen, inverted commas or capitals to denote the special meaning of the expression. You can speak of an At-home as you speak of a concert or any other form of entertainment, and obviously that is the sense in which the words are used in the puzzle. There is a way of punctuating this line which also destroys the sense ; it is by introducing a comma after music and another after concerts.

Punctuated thus the line means that you are not to talk during music or at Concerts or At-homes, which is absurd. You may talk at concerts between the music, and at Athomes there is very often nothing else to do. In the second line hundreds of solvers failed

to notice the peculiar roundness of the eye. In such a close competition we could not but regard this as a serious failure. A very few solutions omitting the "round" were ad-mitted into the "highly commended" list, but only because they were exceptionally good in every other respect. Scores of solvers left out the apostrophe after "girls" and as many more put it in the wrong place. This again was a serious error. The "frocks" were very commonly converted into "dresses," but we think, though on such a point it behoves us to speak with much humility, that the former word more accurately describes the picture. But we regarded the difference as of

In the fourth line there was much conflict of opinion between "lifting" and "raising." We need not go into the question very deeply. The picture justifies either reading, and inas-much as it is not at all usual to *lift* one's hand to the mouth we have decided in favour of " raising."

In line 5 conveys spelt "conveighs," and cheese spelt with a z would not do. Neither did "lips" as a substitute for mouth commend itself to us. Conveying cheese to the *lips* suggests a rabbit-like action in feeding, while girls adopt a mode which is less obtrusive and more convenient.

Another awkward point has arisen. Three perfect solutions come from two houses in the same road. In all probability they were evolved in conference. We do not object to this in the least, but it hardly seems fair that more than one prize should go to the conspirators. If we receive an assurance that there was no collusion between the two houses we will review the situation.

The solution commended for its "arrangement" is the most perfect thing of its kind we have seen. It is a beautiful piece of penmanship and combines a solution, a key solution and a running commentary all in one. As it is executed in three different coloured inks each part stands out quite distinctly from its fellows.

In answer to many recent inquiries we ought perhaps to say that we do not require

key solutions to be sent. "Ellen Baron" in a recent award should have been Ellen Bason.

### FOREIGN AWARD.

### ON A VISIT TO THE COUNTRY.

Prize.—The only perfect solution has been sent by M. W. Noble, c/o Mrs. Ross, 21, Cyprus St., Launceston, Tasmania, to whom we have sent the prize of one guinea.

### Very Highly Commended.

Florence E. Bapty (Bombay), Norah Shannon (Demerara), George Waterstrom (Victoria).

# Highly Commended.

Amy Esam (New Zealand), Annie Jack-son (Canada), Elizabeth MacPherson (New South Wales), Mary Ruttonji (India), Louisa S. Thomas (Switzerland).

#### Honourable Mention.

Winifred Bizzey (Canada), Anna I. Hood (France), Ethel Malone and May Malone (West Indies), Mrs. S. F. Moore (West Australia), Alice E. Riley (Italy).