

OUR NEW ESSAY COMPETITION.

STORIES IN MINIATURE.

Subject:—"THE G. O. P. SUPPLEMENT FOR MARCH."

With a view to training the mind in observation and literary expression, we offer three prizes of TWO GUINEAS, ONE GUINEA, and HALF-A-GUINEA for the three best papers on our "Story Supplement" for this month. The essays are to give a brief account of the plot and action of the story in the Competitor's own words; in fact, each paper should be a carefully-constructed *Story in Miniature*, telling the reader in a few bright words what THE GIRL'S OWN STORY SUPPLEMENT for the month is all about.

One page of foolscap only is to be written upon, and is to be signed by the writer, followed by her full address, and posted to The Editor, GIRL'S OWN PAPER, in an unsealed envelope, with the words "Stories in Miniature" written on the left-hand top corner.

The last day for receiving the papers is March 20th; and no papers can in any case be returned.

Examiners:—

The Author of the Story (Mrs. Jerome Mercier), and the Editor of THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER.

NOW READY.

No. 5.

PRICE THREEPENCE.

MONTHLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER.



AMY'S DELIVERANCE

A Tale for Girls.

BY

MRS. JEROME MERCIER,

AUTHOR OF

"ARUM FIELD," "ONLY A GIRL'S LIFE," etc.

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LONDON:

"GIRL'S OWN PAPER" OFFICE,

56, PATERNOSTER ROW.

Will any one kindly direct "Jasmine" to the recitations, "The Obstructive Hat in the Pit," and "Mr. Brown's Trials"?

Mr. William Wardrop (Linthgow) says that the music of the song,

"Bonnie Charlie's now awa"

(see Part 216) is not by Finlay Dunn, but (probably) by Neil Gow, junior, a son of a famous violinist of that name.

"Southern musical people," he says, "should be interested to note the absence of the fourth of the scale from the air."

MEDICAL.

MISERABLE.—Two kinds of hairs grow upon moles; one is a fine silky down, the other consisting of a few very long coarse hairs. The fine silky hairs are not very common, and as they are inconspicuous rarely require any treatment. If they are black or dark brown they may be bleached with peroxide of hydrogen, but no other treatment is possible. The larger hairs are usually very few in number, and are very noticeable. Personally, we think the best thing to do for them is to keep them cut short. Removal with tweezers may be practised, but this is not advisable as it irritates the mole. Electrolysis is occasionally practised, but it is very expensive, and notwithstanding that one hears that "it never fails," in our experience it does fail, decidedly. If you have a really disfiguring mole on your face, removal is much the best treatment. They are easily removed by operation, leaving a minute linear scar at the place of the incision.

GOOGLES.—Do incorrect spectacles do any harm? We can scarcely understand any sensible person asking such a question. We know that many people, when their sight begins to fail, go to an optician—these men usually style themselves "oculists" (which they very seldom are)—ask for a pair of spectacles, choose a pair with the prettiest frame, wear them once or twice, and then useless (because in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred they are not of the right kind), then give up wearing them, and abuse the medical profession because it can do nothing to relieve the long-sightedness of advancing years. Never wear spectacles that are not of the right kind. Go to an oculist (we have to call him an ophthalmologist now that men who sell lenses have usurped his rightful title), or if you cannot afford his fees, go to a first rate optician who can test your eyes and give you suitable glasses.

AMELIA.—Most decidedly, decayed teeth can cause neuralgia; in fact, they are the commonest cause of neuralgia. You tell us that you are "tortured" with facial neuralgia, and that no treatment has been of any avail; but when you say that you have "four decayed tooth-stumps in my upper jaw" it seems to us that the first sentence, "no treatment is of any avail," is rather hasty. The first measure in facial neuralgia is to remove any decayed teeth from the jaws. Usually this alone, with a brief course of medical treatment is sufficient to cure the neuralgia. If it is not, one must seek for other causes and other measures to cure or to relieve.

A CONSTANT READER.—Habitually wearing a false fringe does, in time, affect the natural hair beneath. This is the rule, but there are frequent exceptions. As a false fringe is usually worn because the natural fringe is either insignificant or has partly combed out, it is not at all unlikely the condition which necessitated the use of the artificial hair in the beginning will continue to get worse until the forehead is quite bald. In this case it is not the fringe which causes the baldness. When wigs were in fashion baldness was exceedingly common.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GEORGE.—The origin of the descriptive name given to the Duke of Wellington, i.e., "the Iron Duke," although very suitable in consideration of his insublime will, owes its origin to quite a different source. A passenger steamship placed on the line between Liverpool and Dublin, many years ago, was called the *Duke of Wellington*, and being one of the new iron boats, it was popularly known as "the Iron Duke." From this circumstance the great general was himself distinguished by this sobriquet. In reply to your second query, as to the so-called "Hermit of Grub Street," he was a man of fortune, but secluded himself from all society, and lived in three rooms, communicating only with the other study, bed-room, and kitchen and eating-room. When the service of the apartment had to be performed in one room he retreated to another, never, with a very rare exception or two, seeing anyone. There he occupied himself in religious devotions, and works of charity, during a period of forty-four years; and when he died his hair was of a great length. An attempt to shoot him by a younger brother was the cause of his retirement from all society.

E. M. A.—When one visiting card is intended to serve the purpose of two a portion of the card may be turned down or folded, to indicate that it is meant for two persons; for example, a mother and daughter, or two sisters. On the Continent it signifies that the owner called in person, and that no relative or friend had left it with her own.

SCOTIA.—It is impossible to pronounce definitely on the very smallest amount on which a girl could dress. We have known girls who spent only £8, and others who made £10 answer. Of course, they made their own dresses and underlinen.—2. It would depend on the style of evening dress you needed; and there are so many cheap and pretty materials that we think you should manage for only £12 per annum.—3. "Will You No Come Back Again," is an old Jacobite song which is found in several collections of Scottish songs. It is in one called *Lytic Gems of Scotland*, published by Cameron, Glasgow. To be a pleasant companion and talker you need what the poet calls—

"A heart at leisure from itself."

You must be free from self-consciousness and able to think of others.

B. C.—The duties of an under-lady's-maid are to do what her senior orders, and learn as much as she can from her; but to begin with, she must be a good needle-woman, and able to brush hair, quick and clever at messages and errands, and able to fold and pack. Ladies'-maids do not wear caps and aprons. A good deal of useful training is needed to make a lady's-maid; and a pleasant but respectful manner, and kind heart, are very necessary.

OSWALD.—It is quite true that trees and plants do us service in absorbing injurious elements in the atmosphere; especially from marshy ground, or refuse heaps and drainage, etc. When there are no leaves on such trees and plants we cannot tell you "what becomes of these injurious elements," excepting that we inhale more of them than otherwise. However, hard frosts are likely to destroy many noxious microbes, and "God made man upright, but they have sought out many inventions." One thing we do know, that all can obtain His help and protection in time of temptation, "a very ready help," and that for all sin He accepted an infinite Atonement, free to all who accept of it. You must not forget that man is not an automaton. He has the gift of free will. He is not a slave. Thus he is responsible. But his purification and his salvation are assured to him if he ask for them, with an earnest effort to serve his Creator. For how long a period is he to try, and to fight the fight of faith," with the powers of evil, none but the All-wise and All-merciful can know. You try to assume the place of the Judge instead of the delinquent; and of the supreme Creator instead of the creature. Man owes Him all he possesses of good here and can hope for in the future. Write again if you like.

SEA-BREEZE.—We never heard of any sinister attribute attached to pearls; and according to the ancient theories respecting the properties attached to precious stones, bringing, as was imagined, good or bad luck to the wearers, opals were not regarded with disfavour, but quite the contrary. The superstition is a modern one. Amongst the semi-precious stones the onyx is of evil repute, excepting when worn with a sardonyx, and malachite is also credited with being of evil influence; but no other stone.

NEVA.—Never send up your card by the servant when making a call. Pronounce your name distinctly that it may be correctly written on your entering the reception room. The degree of intimacy must decide the question of leaving cards after a reception. It is always better bred to go in, rather than leave a card. On going out, lay a card of your husband's on the hall table. If you went in and paid your visit you need not have left a card on the hall table.

AMANDA.—Blonde net lace is produced at Caen, Bayeux and Chantilly, as well as at Barcelona and Catalonia. Those made at the latter place (Chantilly) are unsurpassed in beauty and delicacy. It was first made there in 1740. The old white and black, made of floss silk, and with flowers of large size, cost 20 guineas a yard. Whether the old Spanish would fetch such a price at present, or even that of Chantilly, seems doubtful. Take it to Hayward's, Oxford Street, for an opinion and possible sale.

F. SMITH.—It is unfortunate that you have not the means to pay for a training in a foreign missionary field, as you would throw all the burden of the expense entailed on the society. But you might apply to the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, 9, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, London, E.C.; or to the Deaconess's Training Institution, 41, Ferntower Road, Midway Park, N. Your age, health, and temper, and intelligence must be taken into consideration. Foreign languages and dialects have to be learnt, and you should be strong and active, and able to endure hardships and trying climates.

WINSTON.—Income Tax is deducted from all securities. It can be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue Department, at Somerset House, on sending guarantees to prove that the tax has been paid. A printed paper is supplied which must be filled up, stating the sources from which your income is derived, and the several amounts and rates of interest obtained. An income of only £130 per annum is not liable to any tax.

MARY HILL.—There is no such society. In a parish unconnected with any other place, such might be found; but only to benefit their own fellow parishioners.