

Answers to Correspondents.

The Editors will be pleased to answer any queries under this heading, but should the answers be required by post a fee of 10 cents must accompany the inquiry. All queries must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender.

Mohawk—The term "Ibsenite" has lately been applied to the admirers — some of them almost worshippers — of Henrik Ibsen, Norway's greatest poet. The translation and adaptation of his plays has become almost a craze in England during the last few years, and certainly several of them have had most successful runs. His four greatest satires are *Love's Comedy*, *Emperor and Galilean*, *Peer Gynt*, and *Brand*. We cannot afford space to give an account of all four, but hope the following sketch of *Brand*—the most popular of Ibsen's works—will interest you.

Brand, the hero of the book, is a priest in the Norwegian church. The temper of his mind is earnest almost to fanaticism, consistent beyond the limits of tenderness and humanity. He is sent for to attend a dying man, but in order to reach him he must cross the raging Fjord in a small boat. So high is the storm that no one dares go with him; but just as he is pushing off alone, Agnes, a young girl of heroic temperament, who has been conquered by his intensity, leaps in with him, and they safely row across. Brand becomes priest of the parish, and Agnes, in whose soul he finds everything that his own demands, becomes his wife. In process of time a son is born to him. The doctor declares that unless they move to some healthier spot—the parish is a noisome glen that does not see the sun for half the year—the babe must die. Brand, believing that duty obliges him to stay at his post, will not leave it. His child dies, and the mother dies, Brand is left alone. At last his mother comes to live with him, a worldly woman with a frivolous heart; she will not submit to his religious supremacy, and dies unblessed and unannealed. Her property now falls into Brand's hands, and he dedicates it all to the rebuilding of the church. The satire now turns on the life in the village; the portraits of the various officers, school-master, bailiff, and the rest, are incisively and scathingly drawn. All society is reviled for its universal worldliness, laziness and lukewarmness. At last the church is finished, Brand, with the keys in his hand, stands on the doorstep and harangues the people. His sermon is a philippic of the bitterest sort: all the wormwood of disappointed desire for good, all the burning sense of useless sacrifice, vain offerings of heart and breath to a thankless generation, all is summed up in a splendid outburst of invective. In the end he throws the keys far out into the river, and flies up the mountain side away into desolation and solitude.

Shang—The most usual meaning of the word "gall" in modern slang seems to be "check," though it is sometimes almost synonymous with "courage." We cannot quite explain how these meanings became attached to the word, but it is worthy of note that in China to this day the gall bladder is supposed to be the seat of courage, and it is not at all uncommon for men who wish to be very courageous to devour the galls of wild beasts. There are many cases on record of Chinese who have, with the same object, eaten the galls of notorious murderers, who have expiated their crimes at the hands of the executioner.

Carin—'Marines' and 'dead-men' are both used to denote empty bottles. We thought everyone knew the old tale about the Duke of York and the 'marines.' The Duke was dining at the table, and happened to order the waiter to take away the

marines—meaning, of course, the empty bottles. A marine officer, who was present, took offence at the expression, and asked for an explanation. "I call these bottles marines," replied the Duke, because they have done their duty well, and are prepared to do it again." Needless to say, the officer's equanimity was at once restored.

K. T.—Do you mean "Bob" or "Bobby?"—Both are very common words in England. A "Bob" is a shilling, from "baw-bee." A "Bobby" is a policeman, probably so called from Sir Robert Peel, who established the force in Ireland. From him also they are called to this day "peelers;" and it is a remarkable fact that a couple of hundred years ago the same word was used to signify "robbers."

Kosmos—The Army is certainly the better paid service, and in the army the Royal Horse Artillery comes first, Household Cavalry next, then Line Cavalry, R. A. and R. E. and Infantry. A naval Lieutenant ranks equal with an army Captain. A Captain R. H. A. receives £274 (and allowances), Captain Household Cavalry £246, Captain Line Cavalry £237, Captain R. A. or R. E. or Infantry £226, while a Naval Lieutenant receives from £182 to £225. A Major R. A. or R. E. receives considerably more than a major of Infantry.

DARTMOUTH—The question of a site for the new Dartmouth Post Office is now under consideration. Thanks to Mr. Jones and Mr. Kenny, but chiefly, no doubt, to the latter, the Dominion Government lately voted \$5,000 for this object. The appropriation was not made before it was needed, as our present office is very inferior in size and appearance to those of even the small villages of the province. The matter of selecting a site was referred to our town council. They recommended all or a portion of the property situated just south of Simmond's Hardware Store, belonging to the Dartmouth Ferry Commission. For the whole of this piece of property, including that on which Simond's barber shop stands, the commission ask \$4,000, and for a certain part \$2,500. The site has been submitted to the government engineer, and there the matter stands. At these figures it would appear that there will not be much money over for erection of a suitable building.

We certainly think that the corner on which the barber's shop stands is the place for the Post Office. It is at the junction of the two main streets, Water and Portland. No doubt many who, having to go to Halifax, now find the city office the handiest, would then drop their letters and buy their stamps in this office, and so increase its business and importance. But especially a fine building on that situation would greatly improve the appearance of Dartmouth as it is first viewed from the ferry. And it would insure the removal of the old unsightly buildings that now occupy that site.

However, the people of Water Street and the northern part of the town want the new Post Office to be north of Simmond's Store. Certainly then a jubilee meeting should be called, and the people be allowed to choose the site themselves.

The only three cases of diphtheria now in Dartmouth are nearly quite recovered.

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DO YOU read "OUR SOCIETY."—If not you are in ignorance of this "A.I." and unaware that "Doughty's Voice Lozenges" are patronized by the leading Speakers and Singers of the day. Signor Tommaso Salvini says: "The other night when my voice would have otherwise failed I was able to accomplish my duty to the very last in 'Othello,' which I owe entirely to your Voice Lozenges." These Lozenges are sold at the

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