

a little upturned; over that a kind of dark-blue zouave, without sleeves; a pair of very wide brown trousers, which are attached just over the knee, and bear a strong likeness to the ones worn by lady-cyclists; he has also dark-blue leggings and a pair of coarse shoes. A broad red belt with pistols complete his accoutrement. On his both sides are two lambs stretched in the green grass; before him is placed his bag and he is playing on a shepherd's pipe. The whole is of earthenware and made in this country; it looks very true and picturesque. On the other shelves are my notes; exercises, easy sonates, Salon-Albums, a few dances and a great many songs.

On one side of the chimney is my writing-table, in the drawers of which are the letters of my numerous correspondents; there are from England, United States, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Cape of Good Hope, Peru, Paraguay, &c. I have never seen them, but made their acquaintance in the following manner. My German paper, the *Kränzchen* prints offers of international correspondence, like *THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER* has begun to do now; it is thus that I have known them all. Each one's letters are neatly tied up together with a narrow silk ribbon. My writing-table has the shape of a desk, and a shelf on each side; it is a venerable piece of furniture which Father used when he was young and which he has given me last year. On one of the shelves are placed my letter-book (for I copy all the letters I write), a bottle of Stephens copying-blue-black ink, the brush and other &c.s, necessary. On the other shelf is my portfolio, and my ink-stand which is carved out of a piece of olive-wood; there is also the pen to match; on the inkstand is

carved the cupola of the Holy Sepulchre; both were brought from Jerusalem, when I was a little girl, by a Bishop who is a great friend of Father and who came from there. On the wall just above my writing-table is hung up a Japanese cabinet which Mother gave me on my last birthday, and in which I put the letters I have to answer.

On the other side of the chimney is another whatnot on the uppermost shelf of which is placed my album with illustrated cards which my correspondents have sent me from England, France, Germany, Russia, Sweden, Italy, Constantinople and Egypt. There are also a small ink-stand in the shape of a *genericshoe* drawn by a Chinese, and the photo of one of my correspondents which is in a frame she painted herself very prettily. On the other shelf is my stamp-album which contains now more than 1500 stamps. Below is my album for photos; it is of embossed brown leather with ornaments of steel and was given to me on Christmas three years ago. The fourth wall is occupied by the Book-shelves which contain Armenian, English, French and German books. And what else is there in the room? A large terrestrial globe, my little working-table near the window, which I received at Christmas when I was twelve years old. On the wall above it, is hung up a pretty pincushion which I worked last Summer; it has the shape of a crescent; one side is covered with dark-green silk on which is embroidered a branch of forget-me-nots. The other side is covered with pale-blue silk, and it is hung up with pale-blue ribbon. On the working-table is placed a work-basket which I received on my 9th birthday.

On the walls are hung up four pictures

representing the story of Genevieve of Brabant. I remember how, when quite a little girl, I stood before them, looking at them admiringly and asking always Mamma to tell me that wonderful story again. I never grew tired of listening at it and looking at those pictures. Above the piano is hung up the portrait of an old friend of Father's who died long ago and whom I have never known. Above the chimney is a mirror, and on the mantel piece is an old-fashioned clock representing Flora with a basket full of flowers and fruit; on both sides are the photos of Father and Mother in steel frames and two vases which look like old Egyptian urns.

On each sofa is a cushion made of brown cloth; on one of them wild poppies are embroidered and the other side is covered with red satin. On the other one is a branch of daisies and the other side is covered with yellow satin.

I believe there is nothing left undescribed in our sitting-room. In short, though there is nothing precious or brand-new in it, and many pieces of the furniture are old-fashioned enough, I think it is the most agreeable and cosy room one can imagine; at least it is so for me who love it dearly, as everything in it is full of remembrances from the days of my childhood.

I am sure I did many mistakes, but excuse them please, as I have studied English for 2½ years only.

I declare the statement in this paper to be true.

"ARMENIAN SWEET SEVENTEEN."

Smyrna,

Asia Minor.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MEDICAL.

JENNIE WILLIAMS.—Is it a bad thing to take quinine every day when it has not been ordered by a physician? Most decidedly it is a very pernicious habit! What do you take quinine for? You say "to keep away influenza." We tell you that for that purpose it is useless. Quinine is not a specific for influenza, and even if it were, it would be useless to take it before the occurrence of the disease. To take a drug—because it is used in an affection—as a preventive against that affection, is about as logical as to wear a crutch as a preventive against breaking your leg. Give up this silly and dangerous habit of taking quinine, which is a most powerful drug and one that produces symptoms of an alarming character, quite as bad, if not worse than over-indulgence in alcohol. We have seen cases of deafness and a kind of catalepsy develop from taking quinine. Noises in the ears and headache, following the use of this drug, are of every-day occurrence.

MARTHA.—Of all fishes, the whiting is the most easily digested; then follows sole, turbot, plaice, haddock, cod, in the order mentioned. Salmon, eels, mackerel and herrings are indigestible. All shell-fish except oysters are indigestible. Oysters (except the hard "gristle" in the middle, which is indigestible) are perhaps the most digestible of all foods, as they digest themselves. When giving oysters to invalids the "gristle" should be removed; there is no need to waste it for it will help to make excellent soup.

"PANSY" asks us for something to relieve a stiff knee, which she has been told is due to "rheumatic gout" (a bad name, for it has nothing to do with either rheumatism or gout). You should keep the knee warm, wearing a flannel knee-cap. At times when the knee is painful, a small blister applied, either above or below the joint, will often remove the pain. Massage is sometimes of great value (see answer to "Philippa" in No. 550). Residence in a warm climate; sulphur or vapour baths; treatment at a hydropathic establishment, or a sea-voyage may be tried by a very rich sufferer; but, for a poor, or even fairly well-to-do person, none of these measures are worth the expense. As you know, there is no specific for rheumatic gout, and but few drugs have any effect upon it. It occurs in elderly people and is chiefly due to senility. It is one of the diseases included under the name of "Anno Domini."

STUDY AND STUDIO.

JANE W. BARR.—The quotation you give is from a poem entitled "The Bridge of Sighs," by Thomas Hood. We insert your request for international correspondence.

HERRO.—The letter "h" is now usually sounded in humble. Uriah Heep in Dickens' *David Copperfield* gave the death-blow to its omission, and in the General Thanksgiving in the English Prayer Book the expression "umble and hearty thanks" is inconsistent with euphony. "H" is not sounded in honour, heir, hour, honest and their derivatives, but is frequently sounded in herb. Consult any good up-to-date little grammar, as usage has changed on this point.

ONE OF OUR GIRL READERS.—We presume you mean Invergarry Castle in Glangarry, Inverness-shire. It was the ancient seat of the MacDonnells of Glangarry, and the interior was burnt by the Duke of Cumberland in 1748. Colonel MacDonnell, who died in 1828, is supposed to have been the original of Fergus McIvor in *Waverley*. The castle stands on a rock called Craig-an-Fhithich (rock of the raven), which became the war-cry of the clan. We think a good local guide-book would be the best source if you wish for further information.

NINETTE (Budapesth).—We think the book you mean must be *The Prince of the House of David*, a well-known work. You can get it from any English bookseller, such as Messrs. Sotherton, Strand, London. Your letter does you great credit, and is very well written and expressed.

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE.

A Russian girl of 151, who wants to go to Oxford, wishes to correspond with an English girl of the same age, who is also going to Oxford.

Many thanks, Miss MAY CLARK, for telling us that you have found two foreign correspondents. We have often wondered if any result followed the requests we so often print.

ERICA of Budapesth, Hungary. "would love to exchange correspondence in English or German with refined young ladies from 20 years upwards, who live in India, Japan, Africa or Australia."

MISS JANE W. BARR. Fortune Villa, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland, who is sixteen years old, would like to correspond with a French girl.

HOUSEKEEPING.

A WELSH GIRL'S question is rather vague for she gives no information. What is to be included in the 50s. per week? Rent she says is 3s. 4d., but she does not mention coals, nor whether they have a garden, poultry, or a pig, which, being in the country, they may have. Nor does she say anything about light nor clothes. So we answer her question merely as to housekeeping with three men in the house. Her meat bill will be heavy of course, but if she can use rabbits and fish they will reduce it. Butcher, 10s.; grocer, 5s. 6d.; baker, 3s. 6d.; vegetables, 1s. 6d.; coals and wood, 2s. 6d.; milk, 1s.—21s. a week. This was taken from the accounts of a family of two grown people and five children. Of course you should be saving a little, and you must allow for the wear and tear of the household things. You will find a daily diary of money spent a great help to you, and the weekly accounts will always be a guide to every housekeeper. Cash should always be paid for all you buy, and this habit will be a great bar to careless expenditure.

READER.—You appear to require to complete your drawing-room, besides pictures and ornaments, a large Chesterfield sofa, as many pretty easy chairs as you can afford room for, and two or three pretty little tables. Stain the edges all round to a distance of about two feet, and get a carpet for the centre space. You do not tell us anything about colour, so we cannot suggest those suitable.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ANXIOUS SISTER.—Your father and mother are the best people to tell about your brother, and they if wise will keep your information to themselves while acting upon it, so as to save him from an undesirable marriage.

A. H.—The only method of finding a sale for large quantities of fancy work of all kinds would be by advertising it in the various papers for ladies. Many people would be glad to know of it, as it is sometimes very difficult to get enough for bazaars and fancy fairs.

CONSTANT READER had better write direct to the Y.W.C.A., 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W., for their list of Homes, published yearly, we think.

CATHERINE.—There is a Diocesan Deaconess Institution at Chester to which you might apply for training and information respecting it. Address, Sister Violet Hyde, Head Deaconess.