

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ARTIST.—We are glad to hear from you again, and beg to refer you to our next issue.

X. Y.—The letter was forwarded to us by a valued contributor with a request to publish it. He omitted to enclose the key, consequently we were unable to test the correctness of the "copy."

Dor.—Thanks! We have placed it aside for publication in an early issue.

J. M. LEM.—We are happy to accede to your request. Our columns will be always open to yourself or the "Society."

DOUBLE YOU.—We shall be glad to avail ourselves of your contributions as opportunity offers. Many thanks.

H. C. C.—We have placed your name upon our mail list, and will forward you the READER regularly.

JAS. R. L., TORONTO.—We have no recollection of the articles you refer to, and fear, if we received them, that they have been destroyed. We regret this since you wish them remailed, but you must be aware that, as a rule, we cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

AIM WELL.—We are unwillingly compelled to decline your contribution, but we think if you continue to "aim well" that you will be more successful next time.

ESTHER.—Please accept our thanks for your good wishes. We will publish your contribution, if you can furnish us with the word or words which constitutes the "whole." The answers you have given appear to us to be only parts or transpositions of the actual solution.

S. S., LONDON.—We hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you frequently, as we value your contributions.

JAS. H.—Respectfully declined.

V.—We owe you an apology for our omission to forward the numbers last week. We have now mailed them and placed your name upon our list. The READER will be forwarded to you regularly.

W. L.—Your letter is the reverse of respectful. We cannot recede from the position we have taken.

CLOUD.—Much obliged.

FESTUS.—We still believe the solution we have given to be correct.

HOUSEHOLD RECEIPTS

TO CLEAN TARNISHED SILVER.—Wash the silver over with a strong solution of cyanide of potassium. Simultaneously with the development of a very disagreeable smelling gas, the metal becomes bright, and must be immediately washed with water, and dried.

HAM TOAST.—This is very convenient to hand round with chicken or with roast veal, and also makes a tasty breakfast or luncheon dish. Mince very finely the lean of a slice or two of boiled ham, beat the yolks of two eggs, and mix them with the ham, adding as much cream or stock as will make it soft: keep it long enough on the fire to warm it through—it may be allowed almost to boil, but should be stirred all the time. Have ready some buttered toast, cut it in round pieces about the size of a crown-piece, and lay the ham neatly on each piece.

CORN PUDDING.—Take eighteen ears of sweet corn, cut down lengthwise and scraped from the cobs; about a pint of milk, and three eggs; but in sugar and salt to the taste. Bake it three hours slowly.

TRIOY PUDDING.—One cup each of raisins, suet, treacle, milk; three cups and a half of flour; one teaspoonful of saleratus; stir it altogether; put it into a pudding cloth, and boil it three hours. Serve it with sweet sauce. 952437

WATER-PROOF PAPER.—Dissolve eight ounces of alum and three ounces and three-quarters of Castile soap in four pints of water, and two ounces of gum arabic and four ounces of glue in another half gallon of water. Mix both, heat, dip in the paper, then suspend until dry. M.K.

COLD IN THE HEAD.—Dr. Fallon, of St. Foy, publishes the following method of curing coryza,

or cold in the head. It consists of inhaling through the nose the emanations of ammonia contained in a smelling-bottle. If the sense of smell is completely obliterated, the bottle should be kept under the nose until the pungency of the volatile alkali is felt. The bottle is then removed, but only to be re-applied after a minute; the second application, however, should not be long, that the patient may bear it. This easy operation being repeated seven or eight times in the course of five minutes, but always very rapidly, except the first time, the nostrils become free, the sense of smell is restored, and the secretion of the irritating mucus is stopped. The remedy is peculiarly advantageous to singers.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL

THE CAUVOUR CANAL, one of the greatest public works in Italy, is now completed. The waters of the Po have been admitted into the channel, and now fill its whole extent of fifty-three miles.

A PARIS ARCHITECT, borrowing the idea from the Romans, has invented a brick which hardens with time, completely resists humidity, and is said to realise an economy of forty per cent. in building. He has demonstrated these advantages in important works, and proposes giving further ample proofs at the approaching Paris Exhibition. This system is applicable to every kind of construction, but must be peculiarly interesting to those who occupy themselves with improved dwellings for the poor.

SPONGES are adulterated by being well kneaded in weak gum-water, with which very fine sand is mixed. They are then dried in the sun, and the excess of sand falls out of the pores, but sufficient is left largely to increase the original weight of sponge.

JAPANESE MATCHES.—Dr. Hofmann has exhibited to the London Chemical Society some small paper matches, which were lately given to him, and said to have been brought home from Japan. He lighted several of these matches, which burned with a small, scarcely luminous flame, a red-hot ball of glowing saline matter accumulating as the combustion proceeded. When about one-half of the match had been consumed, the glowing head began to send forth a succession of splendid sparks. The phenomenon gradually assumed the character of a brilliant scintillation very similar to that observed in burning a steel spring in oxygen, only much more delicate, the individual sparks branching out in beautiful dendritic ramifications. His first idea, Dr. Hofmann continued, had been to look for a finely-divided metal in the mixture. But when examined in his laboratory, it had been found quite free from metallic constituents, and to contain carbon, sulphur, and nitro only. These constituents were present in the following proportions:—Carbon, 17.32; sulphur, 29.14; nitre, 53.64. Each match contained about forty milligrammes of the mixture, which was folded up in fine paper. There had been no difficulty in imitating these matches.

WATER AS A LUBRICATOR.—For some four months past an improved water lubricator, the invention of Messrs. Acrt's Brothers, has been in use on the North-Eastern Railway, and in the *Mining Journal* of December 16 it was mentioned that the results obtained were highly satisfactory. The experiment in question has been under the superintendence of Mr. de Pelsevaire, of Gateshead, by whom a carriage for that company was fitted with two of Acrt's boxes on September 4 last; since which date, with the exception of a few days, that carriage has been and is still running daily with excellent results. Up to the beginning of October it was in use between Newcastle and York, and since that date between Newcastle and Normanton. The boxes and bearings remain perfectly cold even when running express. The mileage run by the carriage with the water-box up to this date is about 23,500, and this without any grease having been added to the thinnest possible coating which was put on the bearings when the boxes were fixed.

WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

PEOPLE talk about making a clean sweep. Can they make a sweep clean?—*Punch.*

WHY are gentleman's love-letters liable to go astray?—Because they are generally miss-directed.

THE use of the comma is sometimes important. At a banquet this toast was given: "Woman—without her, man is a brute." It was printed "Woman, without her mau, is a brute."

MRS. PARTINGTON, in illustration of the proverb, "A soft answer turneth away wrath," says that "it is better to speak paragonically of a person than to be all the time flinging epitaphs at him."

A HANDSOME OFFER.—"I once had a very handsome offer made to me," said Lord Eldon. "I was pleading for the rights of the inhabitants of the Isle of Man. Now I had been reading in Coke, and found there that the people of the Isle of Man were no beggars. Lord Coke's words are:—The inhabitants of this isle are religious, industrious, and true people, without begging or stealing"—so in my speech, I said, 'The people of the Isle of Man are no beggars; I therefore do not beg their rights, I demand them!' This so pleased an old smuggler who was present, that when the trial was over, he called me aside, and said, 'Young gentleman, I tell you what; you shall have my daughter, if you will marry her, and £100,000 for her fortune.' That was a very handsome offer; but I told him that I happened to have a wife, who had nothing for her fortune; therefore I must stick to her."—*Men who have Risen.*

SIR RICHARD JEBB being called to a patient who fancied himself very ill, told him ingeniously what he thought, and declined prescribing, thinking it unnecessary. "Now you are here," said the patient, "I shall be obliged to you, Sir Richard, if you will tell me how I must live—what I may eat, and what not?"—"My directions as to that point," said Sir Richard, who abominated this sort of question, "will be few and simple: you must not eat the poker, shovel, or tongs, for they are hard of digestion; nor the bellows, because they are windy; but anything else you please."

PARADOXICAL AND ANTE-PRANDIAL.—"No, sir!" said Alderman Gobble; "I never took to fox 'unting."—"Perhaps not," we replied, as we took our place at the well-spread table, where the waiters were in readiness to remove the covers from the various dishes. "Perhaps not; and yet you have always been fond of the meet at the coverside." The alderman said nothing: perhaps, like the monkeys, he thought the more.

A FRIEND once visiting an unworldly philosopher whose mind was his kingdom, expressed some surprise at the smallness of his apartment, "Why you have not room to swing a cat!" "My friend," was the serene, unappreciative answer, "I do not want to swing a cat."

KINDNESS OF A CARPENTER.—A carpenter, having neglected to make a gibbet (which was ordered by the executioner), on the ground that he had not been paid for the last that he had erected, gave so much offence, that the next time the judge came the circuit, he was sent for. "Fellow," said the judge, in a stern voice, "how came you to neglect making the gibbet that was ordered on my account?"—"I humbly beg your pardon," said the carpenter; "had I known it had been for your lordship, it should have been done immediately."

"THE GENTLEMAN IN THE COFFIN."—As a gentleman from somewhere deep down among the fields and trees, who was wholly unaccustomed to London crowds and processions, was passing along the Strand the other day, when the erection of a new building and piles of brick obstructed locomotion, he met a long drawn-out funeral, and supposing that the deceased must be no less personage than the Lord Mayor of London, he asked a hod-carrier who was standing near whose funeral it was. After gazing at him vacantly for a time, the hod-carrier replied, "I can't just exactly give you his name, but I think it's the gentleman in the coffin."