

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

## STUDY AND STUDIO.

**D. B.**—You will find the words of the poem "Unanswered Yet" in the October part of *THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER*, under the heading "Browning, Havergal, or Another."

**DARWIN**—You should study the elementary rules of grammar and spelling before attempting to write verse. "Please excise this poetry," contains two mistakes, one in spelling, the other in accuracy of expression.

**ORISKO**.—By all means send us the little play for children and the short stories, for criticism. We are always glad to help our readers in this way. The incident recorded in "The Child's Prayer" is pretty, but the setting is scarcely suitable. Blank verse is not adapted for a homely, simple tale such as this, and as there is nothing specially poetical in the lines, the reader wonders why the story was not told in prose. One line "Delighted with her flowers, on she goes," is halting.

**S. U. J.**—We have read your essay and sympathise with you wish to earn a little money by writing, but we must frankly tell you we do not think it is of the least use for you to entertain the hope that you could do so. The profession of literature is a profession like other professions, and to succeed in it, one must have something to say that will attract public attention. Your remarks on "Sympathy," though quite true, only express what is familiar fact to all. Read our next answer.

**ELISE**.—We feel extremely sorry for you, as an unhappy and discouraged spirit breathes from your letter. We have carefully read your story. One great source of the disappointment felt by many young writers, in common with yourself, is this, they cannot realise that the profession of literature, even in its minor branches, needs training and long practice as other professions do. It is no discredit to them if, without this, they cannot succeed. Your story shows that you have not mastered the laws of construction. For instance, you begin "It was Violet Hermesley's birthday," and describe her very well. We expect something is going to happen, but nothing does; you suddenly leap over several months and begin anew. This is a defect. You occasionally use expressions that would not be admissible in serious composition, e.g., "tilted the lot." But the gravest criticism we should be disposed to offer is this; your story is likely to give false views of life. We do not see how a woman could live so as to dress prettily and keep healthy on "competition fees" from, at most, half-a-dozen music pupils, even if fancy work at twopenny per hour were thrown in. At forty, your heroine, with such experiences, must have had a few of the lines that describe her mother, and her marriage, some time later, in the fashion of *Jane Eyre*, with the rich father of a pupil, is too much after the style of the fairy tale, where all comes right. Your closing sentence seems to imply that Violet's religious trust and faith gained her this happy ending to her troubles. But, in fact, you will see, on reflection, that this is all too unlike the ordinary course of events for such a statement to be justifiable. In conclusion, we urge you not to allow too melancholy a mood to grow upon you. If there is any one thing you like doing, and can do well, take that up vigorously; if it is of importance for you to learn to use your pen, read and closely study the masters of your art; make composition a matter of daily practice, and do not, at present, hope to do more.

**MAYFLOWER**.—We could hardly tell you whether your verses are "sufficiently advanced to compete with other poems of a similar kind in a prize competition," unless we knew more about the competition in question. But we must candidly say that we are afraid they are not of a very high place anywhere. The metre abruptly changes in the last verse—

"I am sitting in the twilight,"

is of a different cadence to

"But now it will seem all rest."

and your possessive cases and plurals are mixed up indiscriminately. The lines are also too sentimental for our taste.

**A. MARK WOMAN**.—The National Home Reading Union, Surrey House, Victoria Embankment, is excellent as a "Reading Society." Amateur societies are often mentioned in this column. We think you would hear of one from Miss Anderson, Hathway's, Denmark Hill, London, S.E.

## INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE.

**MADemoiselle JEANNE BOISSY**, Avallon par Aves, Charente Inférieure, France, wishes to correspond with an English girl of good family and of about the same age (18). Mademoiselle Boissy would write in English, her correspondent would reply either in English or French.

**Miss LUCY HARRISON**, ward maid at the Infirmary, Cottage Homes, Hornchurch, aged 21, would like to correspond with a French girl of musical tastes.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**AUNT SUSAN**.—Your kind letters have much interested us in you, and we feel greatly drawn towards one who is in so pitiable a plight spiritually. Your lonely life in a far-away land and your yearnings for light in the reason that shall tend to a pure faith in revealed religion fill us with a strange sympathy, and give us a keen desire to be serviceable to you. One of the authors to whom you addressed an enclosed letter is now passed beyond the veil, and the other is, it seems, passing. We send you, with our earnest hope that it may be useful, Romanes' *Thoughts on Religion*, edited by Canon Gore. Romanes' thoughts used to be similar to those expressed in your letter, but the higher light came before his end, and this little book contains some of the final conclusions of that powerful thinker. How can we thank you for the delightful present of seeds. All our staff were able to participate in the gift, and there is much friendly rivalry in our attempts to make them grow.

**GUSNORA BRADSHAW**.—1. You might, with the education you have received, put an advertisement in a local paper to the effect that you are prepared to go out as a visiting governess, either in the town or neighbourhood, being certificated. Or that you would receive pupils at home (parents consenting). If plain sewing be among your acquirements, you might add that you would go out to the country houses round by the day or week, to assist in making, mending and re-arranging clothing, or to take charge of children during the temporary absence of the mother. Cards stating these proposals might be placed in the shops and windows of friendly tradespeople, to whom you might communicate your wishes, and who would oblige you so far. Show them your certificates. You write a good hand, which is in your favour.—2. With reference to the period of "fusion" in English History, we suppose you mean the time when Ireland was incorporated with Great Britain (or England, Scotland and Wales) as one United Kingdom, the Act of Legislative Union being passed on January 1st, 1801. Wales was united to England in 1283, and Scotland in 1706.

**A. B. C.**—It is not true that the poet who composed that beautiful "ode" (as it has been classified) on the "Burial of Sir John Moore" never wrote any other poem. We are not prepared to say how many poems he wrote, but we know a song by him:

"If I had thought thou couldst have died,"

set to the Irish air "Grammachree." Charles Wolfe was in Holy Orders, and died of consumption while still a curate. He was a native of Dublin (1750-1823). He published the poem which earned him immortal fame anonymously; any shameful act, it was claimed by a Scottish student and teacher, who was forced by overwhelming evidence to the contrary, to confess the odious fraud, and to express his contrition. The Reverend Charles Wolfe was curate of Ballinacorney, Co. Tyrone, and afterwards Donoughmore. He died of over-exertion in attending to the wild and scattered parish of which he had charge as a curate.

**CHARLES H. (St. John's)**.—You are of about medium height (though not for our Northern Counties in England), but you have probably not yet acquired your full height at seventeen. No self-respecting woman could so demean herself as to try to "get a beau." It is the beau that should try to get her. **A. B.**—There is no difficulty in giving the answer to your query, respecting the quotation which occurs in Henry Drummond's book, viz.,

"I expect to pass through this world but once."

It is from Marcus Aurelius, an author of whom he was very fond.

**ROSE**.—If you had any real talent, there would be no need of searching for it. It would make itself evident without your assistance.—2. For the icing of a large cake you will require to sift 8 oz. of fine sugar; put the same into a mortar, with four spoonfuls of rose-water, and the whites of two eggs beaten and strained; whisk well, and when the cake is almost cold, dip a feather in the icing and cover the cake well with it. Set it in the oven to harden, but do not let it stay long or it may become discoloured. The cake should stand in a dry place. For almond-icing, beat the whites of three eggs to a strong froth; beat 1 lb. of Jordan almonds very finely with rose-water; mix the almond paste and eggs lightly together; add 1 lb. of powdered loaf sugar by degrees, and when the cake is baked take it from the oven, lay on the icing, and put it in the oven to brown.

**PODLE**.—1. Of course the higher the degree and position a man has, the better for him in every profession, even when not obligatory.—2. We think that the ginger cake is baked in too hot an oven, and it gets cooked at the edges, and not in the middle; or else your cake requires more flour to make it into a stiffer dough. Opening the oven door is also a source of trouble in the baking of cakes. It should not be opened on any account till the cake is perfectly set.

**L. H. (Scarborough)**.—Write to Miss Lefroy, 17, Eillon Road, Kensington, London, W., Secretary of the United British Women's Emigration Association. You must show good testimonials as to character, and capability to work in some way. This society will secure proper protection for you on the voyage, and reception on arrival. For one or two years after they will keep you in view; and if you were specially well recommended, they would advance you a loan without charging interest, and endeavour to find you a situation through their correspondents.

**NORAH GRAYSON**.—If your joints be supple, and you have a correct ear, and good musical taste, you are not too old to learn to play any instrument sufficiently well to give pleasure to yourself and your audience, though not to become a professor.

**OLD POLLY**.—You should write to our publisher for any indexes you require, which perhaps he may still have. You do not say of what description of work the slippers are required to be—embroidery on cloth or silk, crochet-work, or knitting? Small sixpenny manuals for the last two kinds of work applied to any purpose as slippers.

**DAISY (Russia)**.—Many thanks for your kind and correctly written letter. We are surprised to hear you have only learnt English in one year.

**FAITH**.—Write direct to the address given for all information, enclosing a stamped envelope. It is better in all cases, when you have such a clear address, to write to headquarters.

**SHAMROCK**.—Amongst our most distinguished Lords Justices of the present reign, we may name Robert, Lord Cranworth (1811), afterwards Lord Chancellor; Sir Hugh Cairns (1851), afterwards Lord Chancellor; Sir Wm. Page Wood (1868), afterwards Lord Chancellor. The present Lords Justices, Sir W. M. James (1870), Sir R. Baggallay (1875), Sir George Bramwell (1870), Sir W. Balliol Brett (1876), Sir Henry Cotton (1877), and the Hon. Alfred H. Thesiger (1877). We do not pretend to "place these in the order of merit!" Amongst the humorists, Thomas Hood, the poet, was one; Theodore E. Hook was celebrated for his "wild sallies of wit and drollery;" Charles J. Lever, M.D., J. L. D., Robert Burns, poet, and Edward Lear, author, amongst other publications, of *The Book of Nonsense*. Tennyson alludes to him in one of his lyrics as having

"Such a pencil, such a pen."

**BLUEBELL**.—Cucumber jelly should be made, like any other jelly, with isinglass, or with gelatine. A good recipe for orange or apple jelly, or aspic, might be followed, so far as the clearing and the quantities are concerned.

**MIRRIE H.**—Miss Prince Browne holds classes for dressmaking and millinery throughout the year (we believe) at Artillery Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W. Pupils can enter at any date. Terms for twelve lessons, one guinea. Visitors may see the work being done in the studios any Tuesday or Friday, either in the morning or afternoon. Miss Prince Browne is the registered teacher under the "City and Guilds of London," and is also a teacher of artificial-flower making, tailoring, French pattern modelling, and making-up of straw into bonnets and hats.

**WARRINGTON**.—Yes, it is quite true that an English woman can go all round the world without once leaving British territory. The course of the journey is from England to Quebec by the C. P. R. to Vancouver, from thence across the Pacific to Hong Kong, thence to Singapore, Penang, Mauritius, Cape Town, St. Helena, and England. There is an alternative route, from Penang to Ceylon, Bombay, Aden, Perim, and Gibraltar. Most of the journey is of course by sea, but there is a very long land journey from Quebec to Vancouver.

**GIRGON** inquires what is meant by a "hone" in a river, as in the Severn and elsewhere. It is occasioned by the advancing front of a tidal wave when it stretches across a bay or mouth of a river. These waves rush with such impetuosity as to sweep all before them. The same phenomenon occurs in the river Garonne as in the Severn. In the Indian Ocean it does not exceed the average surface of the waves by more than about three feet; but at Chepstow the spring tides rise to forty, and at such times a "hone" some nine feet in height rushes up the stream. This phenomenon occurs off Patagonia, between La Plata and Cape Horn; in the Indian Ocean, in the Bay of Bengal, and in the Arabian Gulf.—2. We do not anticipate any return to the styles that obtained when Her Majesty ascended the throne, and loyalty does not demand it, for she has worn all the various fashions which have successively followed, like every one else.

**XAVIER**.—Candidates must pass through a training college for missionary work, learning the languages needed, and must be in good health. The age would be from 25 to 28; but it would depend on circumstances.

**CARRIE T.**—We never heard that there was any rule on the subject of ladies wearing flowers either on one side or the other. As a fact, we believe they are nearly always worn on the right side.