

Gussy.—Your teeth are in a very bad condition, and must be seen to by a competent dentist. You can no more stop your own teeth than you could cut off your own leg. If you cannot afford the fees of a private dentist, we strongly advise you to ask your mother's permission to go to a hospital. Her fears that "cheap material might be used, and injury thereby result," are without foundation. At none of the London hospitals do they use anything but the best materials in any department. You will have to be very careful about the tooth-powder that you use.

Hippie.—Certainly you may use boracic acid for your hair. One teaspoonful of the powder to a pint of hot water is the correct proportion to use.

You should not use soap with the lotion. Boracic acid injures neither the face nor the eyes. Scurfiness of the head has nothing whatever to do with scrofula, which is an old-fashioned and almost obsolete name for some forms of tuberculosis.

The condition of your head is what is known as seborrhoea or dandruff.

MARY.—You wish to change a "nasty dark red-coloured complexion for a nice pink and white one." Doubtless you do, so do very many girls. We wish we could tell you how to effect the exchange, but, unfortunately, it is beyond our power to do so. We will, however, give you a few hints on improving the complexion. Avoid indigestible food; wear a veil when you go out on windy days; use a very fine soap for washing your face with; and never use any cosmetics containing poisonous drugs or coloured material. Glycerine and cucumber, and glycerine and rose-water, are nice preparations for the face, and may be used occasionally with advantage.

F. S.—The small holes "like pimples" which are left after an attack of acne has been cured, are the dilated orifices of enlarged glands. They are not produced by the sulphur, indeed they are made less prominent by that drug. Do not give up using the sulphur ointment just yet; it is apparently doing you a great deal of good, and will cure you completely in a short time. You can do nothing special for the minute holes, except keeping your face very clean, and using a fairly rough towel after washing. The holes will gradually get less and less conspicuous. You must be very careful not to use any powder or other material to "fill up the holes." Acne is due to these holes becoming plugged, and so if you try to fill up the holes you will have a return of the pimples.

MABEL.—Wear gloves when you go out; wash with a good soap, and if necessary use a little glycerine and rose-water. Attend to your digestion if it is not up to the mark. Remember that every one who does hard work with her hands has red and hard hands.

WELLSINGTON.—We cannot give the address of any tradesman in this column.

A. M. B.—Decidedly your hair may grow thick again. Cannot you discover any cause why your hair is thin? Read the answer to "Absalon" again, and also the other answers about the hair that appeared in this column about the same time. Very often, when you have found the cause of hair falling out, the cure is quite simple. If no cause can be discovered, treatment must always be difficult, and the results very uncertain. Bay rum or cantharidine and rosemary lotions are sometimes very useful.

KATE.—You have acne and must follow the advice that we have given to the great many correspondents who have asked this question before. No; eating oranges could not have the effect of producing acne, nor of injuring the complexion in any way, unless it produced indigestion or nettlerash.

QUESTION.—Spectacles of $4\frac{1}{2}$; D convex contain glasses of the strength of 21 dioptries. Both lenses would be of equal power.

"AZALEA" suffers from noises in her left ear, of some years' duration, and she asks us to tell her what is the cause of this condition and how it may be remedied. Noises in the ear may be due to affections of the ear itself, of the auditory nerve, or of the brain. It is not always easy, or indeed possible, to tell which of these parts is at fault. If the noises are confined to one ear, it is probably the ear itself that is abnormal. If it is confined to the head and is not in the ears, either the brain or the nerve is wrong. If the noises seem to arise in the head, it is probably the brain that is wrong; if they seem to come from outside and the sufferer cannot tell whether the noises are real or imaginary, it may be any one of the three organs that is affected. Besides these "organic" diseases, noises in the ear may be due to "functional" troubles such as anæmia, sleeplessness or hysteria. One of the commonest causes of this condition is "wax," and very many people have been cured by simply syringing out the ears. If the noises are due to anæmia or sleeplessness, these conditions must be treated. If due to organic disease of the ear, other than wax, surgical operation may sometimes do good. When the noises are due to brain disease, they are secondary to the other symptoms. When the nerve is at fault, bromide of potassium, hydrobromic acid, and borax are sometimes very useful. In other cases, tonics are more efficacious. In your particular case we think the "nerve" is affected, but we strongly advise you to syringe out the ear before trying any other means to cure the complaint.

A CONSTANT READER.—It requires a very strong electric current to pierce the human skin and make itself felt. A battery which will light a three-candle power incandescent lamp will produce little or no effect on a person grasping the terminal wires in her hands. The contact of dissimilar metals, such as zinc and copper, produces a most minute quantity of electricity, ten thousand times less than the friction of sharpening a lead pencil. It is an absurdity to suppose that such an amount of electricity would be able to pierce such a resisting structure as the skin. And if it did pierce the skin what good could it do for rheumatism?

GRANNIE.—Yes. We strongly advise you to have your heart examined by a doctor. All your symptoms may be due to anæmia, but then they might also be due to organic heart disease. The diagnosis could only be settled by the examination of your heart.

"GREY AT THIRTY YEARS."—There is no doubt that the various made-up hair dyes are the best. These preparations are made of very various drugs. Some are composed of lead solutions with sulphur. Others contain nitrate of silver, and others again are purely vegetable. We believe that one of the last kind is made from walnuts. Avoid any preparation containing silver. The lead and sulphur lotions are very efficacious and fairly safe, but minor degrees of lead poisoning can result from their use. The vegetable dyes are mostly harmless.

