

coming spring, and will find it a very dream of perfumed sweetness to be added to salad dressings or white sauces.

PRIMROSE VINEGAR.

To fifteen quarts of vinegar add six pounds of common lump sugar, boil and skim it. When cold add half a peck of primroses, with the stalks on, and three table-spoonfuls of yeast; let it stand four days, then put it all together into a barrel. Put it in a warm place for six months with the bung out.

It takes, as you will see, a much longer time than the other vinegars, but is well worth the time.

Our wild hedgerows produce an abundance of herbs which can be used in cookery. Treacle-mustard is the name of a well-known plant, and we all know the pretty ground ivy with its purple blue flowers and strong smell; this rejoices in the character of "Sauce alone."

But I have wandered far from our herb garden, and must return there to name one which is only little used, but must not be overlooked. Fennel is one which I only know of as used for fish sauce in England, although, probably, many of us have eaten *finocchio* with chicken and *ragouts* in Italy and not recognised in the thick blanched

stems that it was related to the fennel we knew. I think it might with ease and advantage be cultivated here, although I have never seen it in English gardens. If sown in March in a light soil in a sheltered situation it will be fit for use in July or August, and should be gently boiled and eaten with white sauce, or even raw, as in Italy. It is a very agreeable change from celery.

I have, in the foregoing article, merely mentioned some of the most useful of kitchen herbs; but I should like, at another time, to tell of the useful properties of the medicinal herbs of which I spoke.



OUR CHRISTMAS PUZZLE REPORT: "A REAL CHRISTMAS."

SOLUTION.

A REAL CHRISTMAS.

When we the chimes of Christmas hear,
We should arise with joyous cheer,
To greet the day that is so dear;

And we our hearts' delight should show
To every one, both high and low,
That all with happiness might glow.

We to the needy-souled might tell
What bliss without a parallel
Upon this hardened earth befell.

And if they've needy bodies too,
We might for these a something do,
That they be cheered just through and through.

PRIZE WINNERS.

Seven Shillings Each.

M. J. Champneys, Croft House, Winchester.
B. Ellen Clegg, 46, Sheriff Street, Rochester.
E. Conlin, Beltarbet, Ireland.
Helen M. Coulthard, 4, St. Mary's Buildings, Bath.
Eleanor Elsey, 2, North Street, Peterborough.
Mrs. Grubbe, Mentmore Vicarage, Leighton Buzzard.
M. Theodora Moxon, Hillside, Ilfracombe.
Alice F. Johnson, 104, The Grove, Hammer-smith, W.
Mrs. H. Keel, 51, Walcot Street, Bath.
Evelyn M. Kent, Stubbington Lodge, North End, Portsmouth.
Elsie B. F. Kirkby, Oakwell Terrace, Bramley, Leeds.
E. Lord, West View, Pontefract.
Alexandrina A. Robertson, 15, Fairlawn Avenue, Chiswick.
Ethel Tomlinson, The Woodlands, Burton-on-Trent.
Emily M. P. Wood, Woodbank, Southport.
Mary Woodcock, Bletchington Park, Oxford.

Elizabeth Yarwood, 59, Beech Road, Cale Green, Stockport.
Sophie Yeo, 17, Portland Square, Plymouth.

Special Mention. (Equal with Prize Winners in every respect.)

Eliza Acworth, A. C. Carter, M. A. C. Crabb, E. H. Duncan, Mrs. W. H. Gotch, Edith E. Grundy, Ellen M. Price, Ellen C. Tarrant, V. M. Welman.

Very Highly Commended.

C. Adams, Ethel B. Angear, Florence M. Angear, Annie A. Amott, Edith Ashworth, Dora M. Barling, Wm. J. Barrett, Elsie Bayley, Rev. S. Bell, Elsie Benians, Mary Bolingbroke, Amy Briand, Ellen L. Brigham, Hubert A. Brown, Alice W. Browne, Louie Bull, Jessie O. Carryer, Rev. F. T. Chamberlain, Agnes B. Chettle, Mary I. Chislett, Emily J. Clegg, Edith Collins, Ellie Crossman, R. D. Davis, Grace Gibson, Constance A. Graham, Annie F. Hardie, Fanny K. Hardie, Mrs. A. D. Harris, Gertrude F. Hawkins, Arthur I. Haynes, Edith M. Higgs, J. Hunt, Rachel V. R. James, Elsie M. Jay, H. N. Johnson, Edith B. Jowett, C. E. Kirkness, Carina Leggett, Caroline Lee-Warner, Mildred M. C. Little, H. N. McKenzie, Ethel C. McMaster, M. K. Martin, S. Mason, E. Mastin, Isabella M. Maxwell, Mrs. Amy Moraine, Rev. V. Odom, Hannah E. Powell, Jane Ritchie, Frances A. Roberts, Annie Robinson, Elizabeth Rose, Florence E. Russell, A. C. Sharp, Ethel Shepard, Fanny Shepard, H. C. Smith, R. E. Carr Smith, Harriet C. Smyth, A. P. Suttill, Gertie Walker, Florence Whitlock, Miss Williams, E. R. Wimpess, G. D. Wimpess, Lennie Wimpess, Mrs. Winny, Annie W. Young, Edith M. Younge, Helen B. Younger.

EXAMINERS' REPORT.

One hundred solutions were word-perfect. Twenty-seven of these were perfect in other

respects as well, and, according to our rules, the prizes should have been divided between their authors. But four shillings and eightpence is not a good sum for a prize, so we have taken the liberty of relegating nine solvers to the Special Mention list. They have already dipped into our puzzle coffers this year, so we hope they will not object. Out of the seventy-three solutions remaining, seventy-two receive very high commendation; the other had no name upon it.

Some of these seventy-three solvers failed to divide the poem properly into stanzas. Some omitted the necessary apostrophe in line 4. Others wrote "every one" as one word, and a large number left out the hyphen in line 8.

Upon such faults it is difficult to comment with much severity, and our true estimate of them is shown by the commendation we have bestowed upon their perpetrators. It is not given to every one to attain perfection in everything, and it is a hardship to find oneself in competition with those who attain it at all. If any solvers wish to know why every one should be written as two words, while everything and everybody are each written as one word, we hope they will write to the Editor and not to us.

It is not necessary to refer at any length to actual mistakes in solving. Line 11, on account of its quaint construction, gave the most trouble, but it was easy enough for those who elected to solve and not to guess. "On" took the place of *upon*—line 9—in many solutions; but, though correct enough as a solution, it leaves the line too short, and could not be allowed.

It is a very common practice to spell *befell* with only one l, so common indeed that we could not feel justified in regarding it as a mistake. But the current spelling is *befell*, and is undoubtedly the more correct. We hope our readers will make a careful note of our instruction on this point as upon all others.