

OUR PUZZLE POEM REPORT: "ON A VISIT TO THE COUNTRY."

SOLUTION.

ON A VISIT TO THE COUNTRY.

I went forth into the kitchen to make a cup of tea
And nearly died of terror, or as nearly as could be,
It only proved to be a bird attempting liberty.
And then I went into the air, and sat upon a seat,
But presently the ground did rock, rise up, and then retreat;
But it turned out to be a mole in search of things to eat.
But, O my nerves! when from the ground a lump of earth was shot,
And out there sprang a frightened worm, with wriggles quite a lot—
A dragon come to eat me up, and coming at a trot!
Then Mary brought the cup of tea before I scarce could scream,
I drank it down, and then confessed, with penitence extreme,
That yesternight with currant tart I overdid the cream!

PRIZE WINNERS.

Half-a-Guinea Each.

Murray Jardine Bell, Keig Manse, Aberdeen.
B. Bryson, Ponton Lodge, Staines Road, Sunbury, Middlesex.
Elizabeth M. Caple, 1, Prospect Place, Beechen Cliff, Bath.
Miss M. Hodgkinson, 2, Feversham Terrace, York.
Carolina V. M. Leggett, Burg Hall, Burg, Lincolnshire.
Ellen M. Price, 38, Eleanor Street, South Shields.
Lucy Richardson, 1, Bootham Terrace, York.
Kate Robinson, The Laurels, Claybrooke, Rugby.
W. Fitzjames White, Albert Drive, Low Fell, Gateshead.
Elizabeth Yarwood, 110, Bramhall Lane, Stockport.

Very Highly Commended.

Eliza Acworth, Mary E. Ball, Elsie Bayley, N. Campbell, Ethel Dickson, Edith E. Grundy, Ellen H. Kemp, E. King, Mrs. W. and Robert Murdock, Rosa Oliver, Gertrude Peace, Ida Rafford, Ethel J. Shepard, Fanny Shepard, M. Short, Ellen R. Smith, Gertrude Smith, Mrs. Isabel Snell, Mary E. Spencer, Ellen C. Tarrant, Emily M. P. Wood.

Highly Commended.

A. J. Batchelor, M. J. Champeys, Helen M. Coulthard, Dr. R. Swan Coulthard, R. D. Davis, Cecil Dawes, E. S. Dickson, C. M. A. FitzGerald, M. J. F. FitzGerald, Thomas Gordon, F. M. Haines, Mrs. A. D. Harris, Lily Hawley, Edith M. Higgs, E. A. Knight, E. Mastin, F. Miller, Ida Seabrook, Edith Shakespeare, A. C. Sharp, Ethel E. Spencer, Mary M. Tanner, Constance Taylor, Mary J. Taylor, Bettie Temple, C. E. Thurgar, Violet C. Todd, G. S. Wilkins, Emily C. Woodward.

Honourable Mention.

Maud L. Ansell, Mrs. Ashby, S. A. Baldwin, Ellen Baron, Rev. S. Bell, Lydia Belling, A. W. Blott, Eliza Blunt, Mary Bolingbroke, Amy Briand, E. I. Brideaux, Louie Bull, Edith M. Burr, Ethel F. Burr, A. C. Carter, Rev. F. T. Chamberlain, Rev. J. Chambers, Mary I. Chislett, Rebecca Clarke, Constance H. B. Cook, Mrs. Crossman, Elie

Crossman, E. G. Dalton, Edith A. Davies-Cook, S. F. Edmond, Amy G. Fasham, Mrs. F. Farrar, A. and F. Fooks, Mrs. W. H. Gotch, Florence Graves, Mrs. Grubbe, Mary Howard, Dorothy Hault, J. Hunt, Alice E. Johnson, E. M. Le Mottée, Florence J. McDermid, Ethel M. Morris, Mrs. Musgrave, Mrs. Nicholls, Annie Page, Phyllis Pearson, Mildred Richardson, Ada Rickards, Gertrude Saffery, M. Saffery, Annie Saunders, Eliza J. Scarle, Alfred Scott, Janet Scott, M. Shadforth, A. A. Lucy Shave, M. H. Shepherd, Anthea M. Stevenson, Ellen Thurtell, Ethel Tomlinson, Annie L. Trendell, Alice M. West, Frances Whitlocke, Florence Whitlock, M. Wilkins, Mrs. E. A. Wilson, Mary Woodcock, Alice Woodhead.

EXAMINERS' REPORT.

That is the worst of visiting the country. You think you are so invigorated by the fresh air that you can do anything with impunity. Some portion of your newly imagined strength is sure to be devoted to fruit and cream and other unwholesome things, and hysterical indigestion follows as a matter of course. Now in London no one ever thinks of eating too much cream, but whether that is because of the eater's lack of strength or the cream's is a question we need not discuss. The moral is the same in either case, "Stay at home." And let us say that to be able to point such a pleasing moral at the close of a long holiday affords us much peculiar satisfaction.

Now for the puzzle. It was clearly a difficult one and the number of solutions was much smaller than usual. But in spite of the difficulties ten perfect solutions were sent in, most of them by experienced solvers; and there was no need to hesitate as to the destination of the prizes. For once in a way, solutions having a good honest mistake receive honourable mention, and far be it from us to say that they do not deserve it.

Several solutions unaccountably omitted the "or" in line 2, but the first real difficulty proved to be the "tempting" picture in line 3. Of the alternative readings "longed for" was the favourite and it was presented in two ways—"that longed for liberty," the th being evolved out of nothing, and "at longed for liberty." The first can be dismissed as unwarranted, while as for the second we may say that the freedom of a kitchen is not the kind of liberty desired by most birds. On the other hand, assuming that the bird had escaped from a cage, the reading is not hopelessly absurd, and we allowed as much credit for it as possible.

All kinds of words were substituted for "rock" in line 5, but not one of them was so acceptable as the original. In the following line the thinness of the g was generally recognised though a few competitors wrote "geese" (gs=geese!) instead of "things." What expression does a mole assume when it is hunting for geese, and how much cream would an ordinary mortal have to devour before being in a condition to discern it?

Several solvers asked if there was not a superfluous a in this line. It all depends upon how you spell arch; the puzzle editor (in his professional capacity) spells it rich, and who shall say he is not justified?

"Snake" was a very common substitute for "worm" in the eighth line; the picture might do duty for either, but the story loses something of its point by the introduction of a snake. People who are not the victims of indigestion are often frightened at the appearance of a snake.

The tenth line proved to be a very troublesome one, but the true rendering occurred to

many solvers who failed at less difficult points. It is strange that in all the puzzles there has not been one point which has baffled every competitor. There is still something left for the "puzzle editor" to live for.

A. W. H.—Avril should be spelt with a small a, and we had to adjudicate accordingly. Obviously we cannot take the mistakes of others into consideration though your contention is natural enough.

FOREIGN AWARDS.

POISSON D'AVRIL.

Prize Winners (Half-a-Guinea Each).

Florence E. Bapty, Farnley Hall, Pedder Road, Cumballa Hill, Bombay.
Miss D. R. Wates, Elmwood, Priestman's River, Portland, Jamaica.

Very Highly Commended.

Philippa M. Kemlo (Cape Colony), Hilda D'Rozario (Bangalore).

Highly Commended.

Sadie Barrat (Canada), M. Browne (S. India), Mrs. Catford (Barbados), Dagmar Hentsch (Paris), Anna I. Hood (Pas de Calais), Gertrude Hunt (Auckland), F. G. B. King (Barbados), Cecilia Nicolay (Western Australia), Maud C. Ogilvie (Deccan), Frank and Ruth Ondatje (Ceylon), Nina Reid (New Zealand), Florence Stephenson (Cape Town).

Honourable Mention.

Evalyn T. Austin (Victoria, Australia), Winifred Baker (Dresden), Florence L. Beckman (New York), Ethel Bever (Ceylon), Winifred Bizzey (Canada), C. H. Cather (Malta), Annie I. Cunningham (Demerara), Victoria E. Drake (Victoria, Australia), Mrs. Hardy, Clara J. Hardy, and Edith Hardy (Melbourne), M. Heath (Cape Colony), Mrs. T. Hill (Victoria, Australia), D. H. Lyall (near Cape Town), D. Muecke (South Australia), Nellie B. Muir (near Cape Town), Mary Ruttonji (Deccan), Ethel Sanderson (Barbados), Mrs. Sprigg (Cape Colony), Ruth Sutherland (South Australia), Herbert Traill (Bombay), Gladys Wilding (New Zealand).

STILL-LIFE.

Prize Winners (Half-a-Guinea Each).

Miss Maryat c/o Mrs. Lynall Thomas, 5, Rue Danehouden, Bruges, Belgium.
Gladys Wilding, Opawa, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Very Highly Commended.

Mrs. A. D. Edwards (Blomfontein), Violet Hewett (Canada), W. K. Smith (Brisbane).

Highly Commended.

Sadie Barrat (Canada), Mrs. Catford (Barbados), Annie Hunt (Victoria, Australia), F. G. B. King (Barbados), M. V. Miller (New Zealand).

Honourable Mention.

Jean Andrew (New South Wales), Mrs. H. Andrews (Canada), Florence F. Bapty (Bombay), Elsie Bethune (Canada), Miss Bhabha (Mysore), Charlotte Brown (Victoria, Australia), Victoria E. Drake (Melbourne), Hilda D'Rozario (Bangalore), John A. Fitzmaurice (Victoria, Australia), Mrs. Gartshore (Jamaica), Flontilla Greaves (Barbados), Clara J. Hardy (Melbourne), Constance Ingpen (South Australia), A. Lincoln (Madras Pres.), Kate Moore (Victoria, Australia), Maud C. Ogilvie (Deccan), L. Plunkett (Poona), Evelyn Russell (Melbourne), Helen Shilstone (Barbados), H. L. Thomas (California).