

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

H. MILLER writes—"In your interesting account of Essex churches, you mention 'Horn Church' as having a singular peculiarity. Instead of a gable cross at the east end there is a carved head of a bull, in stone, etc. I thought you would like to know that the church formerly belonged to the convent on Mount St. Bernard, in Savoy, and it has been suggested that the ox's head, with the horns, may, perhaps, be the crest or the arms of the convent. Is the church dedicated to St. Luke? If so, that might account for the head of the ox."

The letter about Horn Church and the bull's head on its eastern gable is very interesting, especially the information that this church was connected with the celebrated Abbey of Mount St. Bernard in Savoy. I do not see, however, that the bull's head is accounted for by this fact. I have never heard that the cognizance of that monastery is a bull's head, nor is it likely that a mere heraldic device would be likely to occupy the position nearly always assigned to a cross over the altar gate of a church. I rather think that Horn Church is dedicated to St. Mary; but of this I am not sure. The object in question in no way resembles the Evangelistic symbol of St. Luke. A curious thing about it is that the

head of the beast is carved in stone, but the horns appear to be genuine horns, or are, possibly, of metal. I only know of one other church in England where the eastern gable cross is replaced by another object, and that is Blithborough, in Suffolk, where there is a statue in this position. It is much mutilated, but appears to represent the Trinity.

The name Horn Church seems to suggest some connection with this bull's head.

H. W. B.

DILETTANTE inquires—"Is there any trace in antiquity of the modern custom by which artists invite their friends to inspect paintings in the studio before the time of public exhibition?"

We can give DILETTANTE one instance very much in point. The famous Greek painter Apelles, when he had completed a work, used to exhibit it to the view of any who chanced to enter his studio, while he himself, concealed behind the picture, would listen to the criticisms unobserved.

The latter part of his method of procedure is not modern, and may be recommended to Royal Academicians and others who wish to obtain a candid opinion.

The story goes on to say that Apelles one day overheard a shoemaker objecting that he

had painted shoes with one latchet too few. Like a man of sense, the artist recognised the justice of the censure, and at once rectified the error. Next day the shoemaker came again, and was delighted to see his advice had been overheard and acted upon. Emboldened at his success, he began to criticise aloud the drawing of the leg that wore the shoe; upon which the indignant Apelles thrust forth his head and reminded him that a shoemaker should give no opinion beyond the shoes.

This piece of advice has become a proverbial saying: "*Ne supra crepidam sutor judicet.*" "Above the shoe let not the shoemaker judge."

There is an excellent moral in this anecdote (told by Pliny the Elder), which may apply to many a modern would-be critic.

INVESTIGATOR asks, "What is the meaning of the expression I so often meet with in historical stories, 'By my halidom?' What is a halidom?"

The question is a natural one, but there is no such thing as a "halidom." The expression comes from the Saxon Haligdom—"holy" and "dom." "By my halidom" is, therefore, equivalent to an adjuration by all that is holy.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

STUDY AND STUDIO.

MORAG.—You are not at all too young to go abroad *en pair*, that is, to give your services in teaching English in exchange for lessons in French or German. Numbers of English girls about your age go to Switzerland and elsewhere on these terms. Would you like to advertise in some Swiss paper, e.g., the *Feuille d'avis de Vevey* or the *Gazette de Louanne*?

AN ENQUIRER.—We can never answer questions so quickly as you propose, for we go to press a very long time before you receive your magazine. We are afraid therefore that our reply will come too late to help you with your composition. Any of Miss Edgeworth's stories would be useful, or *History of our own Times*, by Justin McCarthy, or the *Life of Lord Shaftesbury*, or one of the books that were so numerous last year about the Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

A LOVER OF MUSIC.—You have eight years' advantage over our correspondent Doris (see N. 965), but you, also, are too old to begin with much prospect of success. You could buy an instruction-book, such as "Hamilton's," or the "Academy" Pianoforte Tutor, 15, 4d. net; Davenport's Guide to Pianoforte Students, 6d.; or Charles Halle's Practical Pianoforte School, Section I., 1s. 4d. But we fear none of these would stand you in stead of a teacher. If you are bent on learning, we can only answer you that the "cheapest way" is either to get a friend to give you a few lessons to see whether you think it worth while to go on, or to apply to some local teacher in your town whose fees are low. Your eagerness to learn will prove a great help to you.

CÉCILE RAHIER (Brest).—We are delighted to be able to award you the second prize for the April "Stories in Miniature." You make a mistake in saying "unscrupled" for "unscrupulous," and there is now and again an un-English expression which experience will teach you to avoid; but in the main your work is admirable, and we congratulate a French girl upon being able to express herself so well in a foreign tongue.

PENMANSHIP (Cape Colony).—1. Both styles of writing you submit are very good, but we prefer that marked B. We do not like the introductory strokes to the letters in A. You might, however, make B a little less plain, thus combining the beauties of either style.—2. We cannot give a downright "yes" or "no" to your second question; for much depends upon the companions likely to be met with, the hours kept, and the general effect upon the girl herself, whether that of dissipation or recreation. Each one must judge according to circumstances and conviction, avoiding everything, however delightful, that she feels is harmful to her personally; but not shunning diversion just because it is pleasant.

PAULINE MARY.—Would you like to sit for the Queen's Scholarship Examination, which will qualify you for entrance into a Training College? If so, write to the Education Department, London; or to Alfred Bourne, Esq., British and Foreign School Society, Temple Chambers, London, E.C. Those who pass this examination obtain two years' board, and tuition at a Training College at a small fee. You might also consult the Secretary, Association for the Education of Women, Clarendon Building, Oxford, for particulars of teachers' training.

S. J.—We are very sorry that our rules do not allow us to answer queries by post. As you distinctly say you do not want a reply in "Answers to Correspondents" we feel a difficulty in advising you, but you will find suggestions to those in like case with yourself, by glancing through our back numbers.

MISS MARGARET TODD writes to inform us that the secretaryship of an amateur "Poetry and Essay Club," formerly mentioned in *The Girl's Own Paper*, has come into her hands. "The club is intended to promote the study of the works of our great poets," and essays are written, which are corrected by a competent critic. There is room for a few more members, the terms are moderate, and all details can be obtained from Miss Todd, at Fairview, Barningham, Barnard Castle.

STUDENT writes most kindly offering help to "Aspirant" in the study of Euclid and algebra. She says, "As a student who has experienced the difficulties and drawbacks of studying alone, I should be pleased to give 'Aspirant' any assistance in my power by correcting and explaining her work at intervals, should she not be able to obtain personal tuition as you advise. I feel fully qualified to help her, as for over ten years my time has been given to the study of mathematics in various branches, Euclid and algebra being naturally my first subjects." "Student" does not wish her address published, so, as we cannot undertake private communication, perhaps "Aspirant" will send us hers. We thank "Student" for her kind letter.

MARIE.—Your verses, "The Return of Spring," are not at all bad for your age. They are correct in metre and rhyme, which is more than can be said of many amateur efforts we receive. You use the adjective "dreary" too often—three times in four verses!

KADJ.—We remember you well, and are sorry you have not as yet been successful in the competitions. Your essay was, however, not at all bad, and nearly obtained Honourable Mention. You labour under a disadvantage in your writing being so small and cramped. "Try, try again!" The sketch of the Choral Society is very amusing. You can describe cleverly, but you need practice in composition, and—dare we hint it?—you sometimes spell incorrectly.

MEDICAL.

SHRIMP.—We have already answered the questions you ask us. If you will read the correspondence in the last two months' numbers of *THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER* you will obtain all the information that we can give you about superfluous hairs and "open pores." The answer to "Milly" will tell you about freckles.

GRACE.—It is natural for the palms of the hands to perspire more freely than the other parts of the body. When the perspiration is far in excess of what it should be, as it is in your case, we must try to seek some cause for it. There must be a cause for it though we are by no means certain to discover it. In indigestion this condition of excessive perspiration of the palms may occur. It also occurs as a symptom of rapid and weak action of the heart, of over fatigue and of anaemia. Among local causes, excessive use of the hands for delicate work is the most important. Wearing kid gloves does not really increase the perspiration of the palms, but as leather prevents evaporation, it appears to increase the amount of moisture. Bathing the hands in a warm solution of borax (1 in 80), or bicarbonate of soda (1 in 40), or ammonia (about 1 in 200) are advised for this complaint. It is much better, however, to use an acid wash, and the most convenient of these is toilet vinegar. Ordinary table vinegar is nearly as good, but not so pleasant. Aromatic sulphuric acid, very much diluted (one part of the acid to ten or twenty parts of water) is the best of all preparations for the purpose.

LUCY.—1. You have no doubt got a return of the anaemia. It is by no means uncommon for the face to be very high coloured in anaemia, but the white of the eyes is always bluer than normal and the lips are always pale. Flushings are constant symptoms of anaemia and the commonly concurring indigestion.—2. We strongly disavise you from using sulph-hydrate of calcium for superfluous hairs. The skin of the face is very tender, and you should be very careful in applying any preparation to it. Our experience of this drug has been exceedingly discouraging. We have found it dangerous and useless.

BROWN EYES.—If we could produce a plentiful supply of eyebrows at will we would be millionaires by this time! Still, if we are not sure of success we can nevertheless try our best. Is the skin surrounding the hairs in your eyebrows perfectly healthy? If not, find out what is wrong with it and cure the condition, and your eyebrows will grow better. But from your letter it appears that there is nothing wrong with the skin. A solution of boric acid (1 in 40) may do good, or you may try one of the milder stimulant lotions or pomades used for the hair of the head such as "cantharidine," "brilliantine" or "rosemary."