

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

X. Y. Z.—So long as the remarks are not addressed to you, and only to the children, we do not see that you have any business to interfere. You will find throughout your life that it is well to be deaf at times, both for outward peace and our own quietness of spirit. You must follow the way of peace at all times in such things, and avoid judging anyone harshly.

EBRU must inquire at a library, or of a bookseller. If these titles be articles in magazines she must give the name of the magazine; if books, the name of the publishers.

GIP.—The cat wants to be well brushed and kept clean; the skin, especially on the back, requires attention, if they be much in the house, with a garden.

X. Y. Z.—If the old painting were worth £500, say a hundred years ago, it would gain in value, provided that it retained its good condition. In the fashion of the time, when offered for sale, would affect the question of value, and the country where it was exhibited. There are continual changes in the run made on certain old masters, and the season when put up for sale. Sometimes the competition is large, and at other times, as when "London is out of town," there is scarcely any at the great picture-sale repositories.

J. S. BOLGER.—In reply to your letter, we promise you a series of articles on the subject of "Marks on Porcelain" in our next volume; for it would be impossible to give you the information you require, on a subject of such proportions, in our correspondence columns.

A. B.—To clean white straw hats, you must make a warm lather of soap, and with this wash the hat thoroughly inside and out, using a soft brush. Thorough taking out all grease and dirt effectually, you must be gentle with the straw or you will break it. When clean, rinse off the soap with cold water, and then bleach and restore the colour. To effect this, take from a quarter to half an ounce of oxalic acid powder—depending on the number of hats you have to whiten—and put into a large clean pan, and pour sufficient boiling water over the acid so as to cover the hat completely. Then immerse it and hold it down with a stick for five minutes, when you should take it out and dry it in the sunshine, or before a fire. Next prepare some parchment size or white glue, melting either in a hot-water bath, and brush it with a broad flat paint brush over the inside of the hat to stiffen the straw. Remember that oxalic acid is poison, so do not leave it about.

MARY MACLAGAN.—Brabazon Home for Ladies is at 8 and 9, South Crescent, Tottenham Court Road. Write for information to the matron or secretary.

ELIZA.—Clans exist in the Highlands only, not in the Lowlands.

THE JOLLY TAR.—1. When a bee uses its sting it generally leaves it in the wound, and the loss is said to kill it; at least this is the popular belief.—2. Kissing under the mistletoe has its origin in ancient mythology. Balder "the beautiful," and the Apollo of Scandinavian fable, was killed by a shot from an arrow of mistletoe, given to a blind man by the god of mischief. He was restored to life, and the arrow was confided to the care of Friga, that it might never be an instrument of harm until it touched the earth—the dominion of the mischief-maker (Lod). So the mistletoe is hung up out of harm's way, and the kiss of peace is given beneath it, where it is no longer a means of evil.

VIO.—You should be more careful how you speak of the acts of your Creator. It is profane and even blasphemous to say "When God made man He did it so badly that he fell." You seem to forget that He did not make him an automaton—without reasoning powers, without free will, without the promise of "very ready help" in every time of temptation. But you quite forget your position. You dare to be your Maker's judge; and though a finite creature, you fancy you can understand the infinite! But you cannot. There are wheels within wheels, as it were, in the dealings of the Almighty; and there is a needs-be for all His ways in reference to His creatures. You may safely leave all in His hands, and beseech Him to create a new heart in you and to lead you into the way of holiness, of faith, and of peace.—2. Your handwriting is cramped. You should write copies daily, and hold your pen higher up on the handle.

DAME DURDEN.—You will find numerous replies to your question by consulting our Indexes. Press the flowers between sheets of clean blotting paper and change them when damp.

DARK CLOUDS.—We feel an interest in all you have confided to us, and thank you sincerely for so gracious an acknowledgment of obligation to us. The bridegroom gives the bouquets to the bride and the bridesmaids. We hope all will be overruled for your ultimate happiness.

LUSTRE PAINTING.—An article appeared in the "G. O. P." on this subject in 1880.

A PANSY BLOSSOM.—As we have already given an article on the subject of furnishing a girl's room, to which you refer (and have the volume), we have no intention of publishing another at present. We are glad you appreciate our paper.

A. A. A.—It is not the custom for the bride's family to provide household necessaries such as linen, furniture, etc. A man should not ask a girl to leave her own home until able to provide one as well appointed, or with a sufficiency, in exchange. Of course there is no limit, nor hard-and-fast rule, as to what her parents may be pleased to give her. But the rule is that a man should provide a suitable home for the woman he asks to marry him.

Y. Z.—1. "Foreign bonds" are foreign securities yielding interest to those who have invested money in them.—2. We never heard that any injury to the eyes would result from wearing steel hair-curlers.

E. CLAYTON.—We answered you before. There is a hospital for epileptic persons in Portland Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W., near St. John's Wood Road Station, where patients are received on payment according to means, and in some cases free. Otherwise the ordinary charge would be (for a bed in a ward, one at night, two or three beds) 21s. weekly. Apply to Mr. H. Howgrave Graham, the secretary. It is difficult to give any satisfactory answer when totally uninformed respecting the age, condition in life, and pecuniary circumstances of the invalid requiring a home, or hospital.

INSALTI.—Consumption is a disease which exists almost in every country, and the death-rate from it is said to be as high in Italy as in this country. But we imagine that this rate may be greatly augmented by that of persons seeking a cure in the more genial climate of the former country, least taking the disease with them. Avoid Florence. Pisa will probably suit well, the air is so balmy and climate equable. Take an apartment on an upper floor, and always return home from a walk a full hour before sunset, and never go out for as long a time afterwards, for the great heat of the day draws up the moisture, and low fever is too often the result of the miasma. If wintering at any time in Italy, the 1st of May is the latest date for seeking a cool summer locality. The baths of Lucca might suit an invalid wintering at Pisa; or, perhaps, Capri, one at Naples, or some decidedly less objectionable to the point of dangerous—after April for any northerner. Once attacked by Roman fever and you remain a victim to its tenacious hold of your system for life.

ANNIE'S MATH.—Have you no mother that you apply to a stranger in a matter which she should decide? You have no right to engage yourself to any boy or man without her permission. To marry a lad seven years younger than yourself would be silly in the extreme, and discredit to yourself. No young man knows his own mind till at least five-and-twenty. And if he does, he will probably change it and deplore his rashness, when he has seen a little more of the world and had some experience of life.

JOEY.—You should not take him out in the east wind, and you had better consult a veterinary surgeon about him. Let him have a little cloth jacket.

D. L.—The University of Aberdeen was founded in 1495, by Bishop Elphinstone, as a *Studium Generale*, in which he constituted a college, known as King's College, in 1505. This university admits women to degrees in divinity, arts, science, law and medicine; as well as certificates of proficiency in the local exams, which it has instituted throughout the northern counties of Scotland. For any further particulars you must make direct application.

MISNIE.—We are not acquainted with a Home of Rest at the place you name. You might write to the rector, sending an addressed and stamped envelope, and ask him kindly to excuse the liberty you venture to take in inquiring for such a place in his parish.

ONE OF THE GIRLS.—However clever you may be as a nurse, your God-given duty, as an only child, is to devote yourself to your parents, not to strangers. Do not stray out of the path set before you. Any extra time that can be spared from home might still be bestowed on the sick. The sort of book you require is one called *Sick Nursing at Home*. It is a small manual published by Gill, 70, Strand, W.C. (at the *Bazaar* office).

EVELYN can find her most reliable answer in the New Testament. "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," see 2 Cor. vi. 14. Englishmen do not wear wedding rings. The bride gives none at the marriage ceremony, as such a presentation forms no part of the service. We think that foreigners wear them on the same hand as the bride.

LOVER OF STAMPS.—You would have to send your full address before we could help you in the matter of an exchange of stamps.

EAGLE.—A book on leather work is published by Messrs. Barnard & Son, Edgware Rd., and they also supply the materials for it.

CAMERATION, JAPONICA, ROSE AND OTHERS.—We have several times answered this question. Flowers must be pressed in botanical paper, or if not, in ordinary blotting paper. The secret of preserving their colour seems to lie in careful pressing, and in much changing of the paper in which they are placed, so as to dry them expeditiously.

M. P.—Stains made by milk, either plain or sugary, such as blanchage, are difficult to take out. We have succeeded best with pure cold water, for silk is a very trying material, especially if light-coloured, and delicate in hue. Lay the stained spot on a damp towel and use a tiny sponge, not too much wetted; pressing it on the stain gently. Boiling water would answer, but the coloured silk would not stand it. If any grease-stain remain, you can then take that out with a little benzine. Unfortunately, most stains are complex, and composed of two or more ingredients.

TWINS.—1. We have been told that pigs make the best return for the amount spent on them. Much waste in the matter of food is saved, and everything turned to good account. But we do not consider them "to take up"—if you have "bad ears for music" spare your friends the infliction of playing any description of instrument, and above all, stringed or wind ones, as you would have to make the notes which are made for you in a piano.

A GREAT LOVER OF THE "G.O.P."—Make a mixture of the cold cream, iris powder, and the heather honey, and apply to the inside of the gloves. Heather honey is the honey gathered from the places where the heather grows, and is considered to be the best flavoured of all honey. The iris powder is probably added to this recipe to thicken the other ingredients, so as to make a paste which would not melt with the heat of the hands, and, of course, for its fragrance also.

CHRISTABEL.—How happy you are to live amid such beautiful scenery! We are much afraid that the binding of your Bible is hopelessly damaged; but you might try to revive and clean the leather with a very little glycerine, or perhaps still better, a very little oil rubbed in gently with your hand. This will sometimes restore and clean dirty leather, but must be done carefully and gently.

M. E. D.—All articles are better polished than varnished. Full details of polishing are given in Sporn's *Workshop Recipes*. The work is by no means difficult, but needs great patience and perseverance.

E. E.—We never heard of the perquisites of a dressmaker, and think the term is only applied to cooks, etc. Why should a dressmaker have perquisites? Would it not lead to some dishonesty?

IRISH GIRL.—We were pleased to hear that you gave us so much satisfaction, and also that our paper is to great a favourite. We shall always be glad to hear from you.

A SUSSEX ROSE.—A minor must obtain the permission of parents or guardians to marry. His signature or hers is of no legal value. He cannot witness a will nor any legal document. Besides, a girl who was so silly as to marry so young a lad—even with the consent of the parents—would run a grave risk of ruining both his happiness and her own; for the choice made at so inexperienced an age, and with such unmaturing tastes, would be very different from that of a few years of ripened judgment and experience of life. Fancy how you would feel when in a few years he discovered his mistake.

PHYLLIS ought to be very thankful that her lover changed his mind before the attachment went further, and now she had better forget all about both him and it, and turn her attention to some more worthy subject. Seventeen is very much too young to be talking about lovers and matrimony, and we should advise you to try to improve your education by reading and study, with plenty of outdoor exercise and cheerful society.

PERPLEXED ONE.—The materials for the Japanese cabinet, the bamboo and Japanese paper—may be obtained at Liberty's, in Regent Street, W.

SNOWDROP.—We should say that your father's opinion should be your guide on this subject until you be of an age to judge for yourself.

M. S.—"Miss Smith accepts with pleasure Mrs. Browne's kind invitation for Monday next, the 18th January." We do not understand your second query; perhaps the husband of Mrs. Browne is absent or dead, and she has run her pen through the name for that reason.

DUTY.—We can only advise you to cultivate that perfect love which "casteth out fear." If your engagement be intended to continue you must do this, or be constantly in torment. Give your betrothed husband your absolute love and trust, and cast out doubt and suspicions.

A WINTER BIRD.—The 7th of February, 1876, fell on a Monday; and the 18th July, 1875, on a Sunday.