

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Gus MORTON.—As you have enclosed stamps for the purpose, we return the MS. through the post.

R. T. B.—Please accept our thanks. The contributions are very acceptable.

J. F. F.—Whilst looking over some papers during the week, we discovered your communication, which had by some means been mislaid. Let the title be a happy augury.

HAMILTON CITY.—"Rinderpest" is a compound German word, and may be freely translated "Cattle plague". "Rinder" a bullock or heifer, and "Pest" pestilence or plague.

DOT.—Samuel Lover is still living, but he has not been before the public of late. His last work was published some years since.

M. M. S.—We regret that we cannot publish the verses. It would give us much pleasure to do so; but whilst some of the stanzas are quite presentable, others are too incorrect to be admissible.

HATTIE.—There is no other correct way of spelling "*au revoir*," but it is not necessary to commence "*revoir*" with a capital letter.

KATE S. McL.—Your contribution will be inserted in an early issue. We will take care that the fate which befell Valentine is not repeated in this case.

WATSON C. ORR.—The paragraph which went the round of the press stating that Artemus Ward and his wife had met with their death by suffocation from coal gas is said to have referred to a real Artemus Ward. The gentleman you heard lecture, and who is known under the *nom de plume* of Artemus Ward is still living. It was stated some time since that he was about to visit England, but we are not aware whether he has yet done so. Many thanks for your good wishes.

C. R. B.—Your letter with the MS. came to hand a few hours since; we have not yet been able to give our attention to the latter. Your request shall be carefully attended to; but permit us to add that it would not be in our power to afford much information on the subject—would it? Will reply to your query in our next.

X. Y., STRATFORD.—Much obliged; shall be pleased to hear from you frequently.

M. Mc.—Your contribution is reserved for insertion.

LUCRUS.—We must ask you to wait until our next issue as we have not at present found time to read the MS.

GEO. S.—To "dine with Duke Humphry" is equivalent to having no dinner at all. A part of the public walks in Old St. Paul's, London, was called "Duke Humphry's Walk," and the phrase is said to have originated from the fact that persons who were unable to pay for their dinner at a tavern were accustomed to walk there, in hope of procuring an invitation, from their more favoured acquaintances.

MEMO.—The handsome covers provided for the READER are for sale at the office, or you can procure the bound volume if you prefer to do so.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

By boiling shellac and borax in water a solution of the lac is obtained, which may be used as a varnish or as a vehicle for colours. Mixed with lamp-black, it has been used as an ink that will resist acids.

NON-COMPRESSIBILITY OF WATER.—It is often necessary, before re-melting cast iron, to reduce large masses of it to pieces. This, by the method ordinarily used, is both troublesome and difficult. The *Scientific Review* says—"A simple and ingenious mode of producing the required fracture has been recently used in France. It consists in drilling a hole in the mass of cast iron for about one-third of its thickness, and filling the hole with water, then closing it with a steel plug, which fits very accurately, and letting the ram of a pile-driver fall on the plug. The first blow separates the cast iron into two pieces."

PATENT WINDOW CLEANER.—An ingenious instrument for cleaning windows of every description has been lately invented by Mr. Smeaton, of Birkenhead. It consists of a long wooden rod, with an elbow joint; and the person using it has no need either to stand or even to sit on the window sill. The long arm is supplied with a nut and double cord, and the short arm has a movable bolt on it, to which may be attached a brush, sponge, or wash-leather; and by moving the nut up and down, the brush or other article on the short arm is brought in contact with the window panes. The instrument seems to answer its purpose admirably. It is light, portable and cheap.

THE DIAMOND.—Contrary to the usual opinion, that the diamond has been produced by the action of intense heat on carbon, Herr Goeppert asserts that this jewel owes its origin to aqueous agencies. His argument is based upon the fact that the diamond becomes black when exposed to a very high temperature. He considers that its Neptunian origin is proved by the fact that it has often on the surface impressions of grains of sand, and sometimes of crystals, showing that it has once been soft.

MADAME de Castelnau requests the French Academy to direct its commissioners to examine with the aid of the solar microscope the animalcules to which she attributes the development of cholera, and specimens of which she offers to place at their disposal.

## MISCELLANEA.

THE UMBRELLA, OR PARASOL, is by no means a recent invention; one of the earliest mentions we find of this most useful article is by Aristophanes, who flourished about 340 B.C. Parasols were frequently given as presents. And then, as now, a common mark of attention was for a gentleman to carry the parasol when walking with a lady. The men did not carry them in those days, on account of its being considered effeminate. Frequently the Roman and Grecian ladies employed slaves, generally women, to carry them.

ANTIQUITY OF SHAWL PATTERNS.—It is a singular fact the pattern now most common upon Paisley shawls, and which has always been a favourite, is said to have been in use among the Hindoos 2,000 years ago.

JEWISH ANTIQUITIES.—An ancient Jewish house has been excavated in Syria, which, by its structure and interior arrangement, would seem to belong to the second century B.C. Seven books have been found in it—viz., the Pentateuch, the Psalms, and a volume of Hebrew poems hitherto unknown.

THE PEABODY FUND.—The trustees of this fund have published the letter in which Mr. Peabody communicates his second donation to the Fund. It consists of 5,000 Hudson's Bay Company shares of £20 each (£100,000). He gives directions as to its investment and appropriation, intimating a wish that school and reading rooms should be connected with the new dwellings for the working classes.

CROSSING SWEEPERS.—A brigade of juvenile crossing sweepers has been formed in London, under the presidency of Lord Brougham. At present there are eighteen boys, who wear a green blouse as their uniform.

THE late attempt to find the Temple of Diana, by driving a gallery into the mound outside the city walls, has failed. Some beautiful broken pottery was found in the heap. The works at the Odeon are progressing; the marble is as white and shining as if polished only yesterday.

FRENCH.—An entirely subterranean theatre is being constructed in Paris, at a cost of 30,000,000 francs. It is expected that its coolness will be a great attraction in summer. Very much of what is customary in Parisian theatres had better be as far under ground as is possible.

THE question of a universal monetary system for the whole of Europe is attracting much attention in Paris. It is proposed, as one of the first steps towards the introduction of such a system, to make the franc exactly 1-25th of a sovereign.

## WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.

TEMPTING SUBJECT FOR ANIMAL PAINTERS.—A dog trying to imitate the bark of a tree.

HOUSEHOLD NOTE.—(By a Cockney.)—What to do with Cold Mutton.—Heat it.

A COURSING CONUNDRUM.—When is a greyhound not a greyhound?—When it turns a hare!

"WERE you ever cross-examined?"—"Yes, when questioned by my wife, after spending the evening abroad—cross enough, in all conscience."

"Well, farmer, you told us your place was a good place for hunting; now we have tramped it for three hours, and found no game."—"Just so," said the farmer; "as a general thing, the less game there is, the more hunting you have."

A MAN that marries a widow is bound to give up smoking. If she gives up her weeds for him, he should give up the weed for her.

THE more ladies practice walking, the more graceful they become in their movements. Those ladies acquire the best carriage who don't ride in one.

AN IRISHMAN visiting a churchyard with a friend, pointing to a shady, quiet nook, said, "This is the spot where I intend being laid, if I'm spared."

SOME one remarked to Mrs. Siddons that applause was necessary to actors, as it gave them confidence. "More," replied the actress; "it gives us breath."

AN advertiser in one of the papers says he has a cottage to let containing eight rooms and an "acre of land."

"How do you get that lovely perfume?" asked one young lady of another. "It's scent to me," replied the other.

A RECENT philosopher discovers a method to avoid being dunned! "How?—how?—how?" everybody asks. "Never run in debt!"

To cure hams, first ascertain what is the matter with them. Then apply the proper remedies; and if you do not succeed in curing them, it isn't your fault.

What is the difference between a spendthrift and a feather bed?—One is hard up and the other is soft down.

NO, WONDER, INDEED!—The process of reasoning in some minds is a curious one. "When Nineveh has departed and Palmyra is in ruins; when Imperial Rome has fallen, and the Pyramids themselves are sinking into decay, it is no wonder," sighed a French humourist, "that my old black coat should be getting seedy at the elbows."

ON THEIR HANDS.—A certain eminent medical man lately offered to a publisher in Paternoster-row, a "Treatise on the Hand," which the worthy bookseller declined with a shake of his head, saying, "My dear sir, we have too many treatises on our hands already."

A PAIR OF LIPS.—"Wonderful things are done nowadays," said Mr. Timmins; "the doctor has given Flack's boy a new lip from his cheek." "Ah!" said his wife, "many's the time I have known a pair taken from mine, and no very painful operation either."

KILLING TO CURE.—"You have lost your baby, I hear," said one gentleman to another.—"Yes, poor little thing! it was only five months old. We did all we could for it. We had four doctors, blistered its head and feet, put mustard-poultices all over it, gave it nine calomel powders, leached its temples, had it bled, and gave it all kinds of medicines; and yet, after a week's illness, it died."

FAMILY CONNECTIONS.—A Persian merchant, complaining heavily of some unjust sentence, was told by the judge to go to the *cadi*. "But the *cadi* is your uncle," urged the plaintiff. "Then you can go to the grand vizier."—"But his secretary is your cousin."—"Then you may go to the sultan."—"But his favourite sultana is your niece."—"Well, then, go to the devil!"—"Ah that is a still closer family connection!" said the merchant, as he left the court in despair.