



## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

## MEDICAL.

**A VOCAL CORD.**—You certainly might try gargling for a "relaxed throat," but you would find spraying more efficacious. Whichever method you employ, you must pursue it thoroughly, so that the remedy may come in contact with every part of the throat. Salt and water is not a bad lotion to use, though certainly inferior to solutions specially made for the purpose. The following is the best application for "relaxed throat"—Take one teaspoonful each of bicarbonate of soda, chlorate of potash and borax, and two teaspoonfuls of finely ground white sugar. Mix these ingredients well and keep the powder in a dry bottle or box. You make the lotion by dissolving one teaspoonful of the powder in half a tumblerful of tepid water. An astringent lozenge, of which the best is "rhatany and black-curtain," of the throat hospital pharmacopoeia, taken occasionally, especially before singing, is also helpful. We hope you will excuse us for reminding you that there is no "h" in "vocal cord." It is only spelt vocal chord in some books on the voice. If you wish to spell the word with an "h" you must use the Latin phrase "chorda vocalis." The vocal cords are so called because they are cords, like pieces of string. They have nothing to do with "harmonic chords."

**KATHLEEN.**—We would like to know two points in connection with your nose. First, do you breathe through your nose? or is it always stopped up? If you answer that you do breathe through your nose, we can tell you for certain that you have not got polypus. The second question is, is there any bad smell connected with your nose, apparent to yourself? or to others only? Here we expect the answer "that other people have noticed a bad smell, but that you do not notice it yourself." The treatment we advise is the following. If you will read above the answer to "A Vocal Cord" you will see a prescription, or more rightly speaking, a description, of how to make a lotion. Use this lotion as a spray for your nose and as a gargle for your throat. Next, get a chemist to make up for you the following ointment—

R. Zincii Benzoatis, gr. xx.

Lanolin ℥j.

Apply this ointment to the sore places after using the spray. The little finger is the best "instrument" to use for this application. Use both spray and ointment as often as you possibly can. Your nose will soon get better, but you must use the applications for a long time.

**EVA.**—If you have an abscess in your gum, above a tooth, you may be almost certain that the abscess is caused by that tooth being decayed. We therefore advise you to have the tooth looked at at once by a dentist, who will either remove it or stop it as he thinks fit. To get rid of the abscess wash out your mouth two or three times a day with water, as hot as you can stand it. When the tooth has been seen to the abscess will not recur. Neither the abscess nor the tooth are without dangers, and it is not by any means uncommon for serious mischief to arise in connection with either. We therefore repeat—go to a dentist and have the tooth seen to.

## STUDY AND STUDIO.

**"PROTESTANT."**—1. You should procure "Family Prayers for One Month," by Archbishop Langley and others, edited by the Rev. C. Hodgson (Religious Tract Society, 2s. 6d.).—2. For a grace before meals we have heard the following—"Sanctify, O Lord, these Thy mercies to our use, and ourselves to Thy service;" or "Grant us Thy blessing with these mercies and help us to live to Thee;" or, "For these and all His benefits God's Holy Name be praised." The latter is suitable for grace after meat also.

**REVAL.**—There are many points in which your verses are open to criticism. "Thou brings" ("Faith," v. 1) is incorrect, and your rhymes and metre are often faulty. "Name" and "refrain," "wealth" and "itself," are instances; and the line "Desires small and great" is a syllable too short. "Love" is the best of the poems. All the thoughts you express are very good.

**CHRISTMAS ROSE.**—1. We think the remarks of your friend (with whom we sympathise) on "Is Life worth Living?" are altogether too dismal, and that the majority of people, considering the eagerness with which they cling to life, do *not* (as she says) "reply in the negative." You tell us that she has a contented mind, although she does not possess the gift of sight; therefore it is a pity she takes so dark a view of the universe.—2. When "How d'ye do?" is said as a matter of form, the correct thing is, not to reply with detailed statements about one's health, but to say "How d'ye do?" in return. Only two questions are admissible at once.

**BESSIE.**—The safest way for you to set to work would be to write to the National Debt Office, London, saying what you want to discover. You might also write to the office of the London Gazette, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.1. for the Gazette each year publishes a list of the sort you require. These are more reliable sources of information than the one you mention.

## OUR OPEN LETTER BOX.

**CAN** any of our readers help "Mademoiselle Nemo" to find the author and source of the following extract which appeared years ago in *THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER*?

"Let us be thankful for all God's gifts to us, but ever most thankful for those He lets us give. Sometimes it is our giving that leaves room for His gifts. But we must not think of getting, only of giving; nor of doing, only of being; and not even of being loved, but only of loving. This is the daily dying which keeps our souls open to the fountains of eternal life."

We have to thank "Flo" and "Ella" for the information "A Lover of Poetry" requests concerning the "Queen's Mairies." From "Ella" we learn that the ballad has been set to the music of an old melody, arranged by James Merryloes; and that the song is included in that collection of Scotch songs called "The Thistle," by Colin Browne. "Flo" gives the last three verses as follows:—

"Oh, little did my father think  
That day he held up me,  
That I, his last and fairest hope,  
Should hing upon a tree.

For if my father and mother got wit  
And my baird brethren three,  
O mickle wad be the gude red blude  
This day wad be spilt for me.

Sae weep nae mair for me, ladies,  
Weep nae mair for me!  
The mither that kills her ain bairn,  
Deserves well for to dee."

**WINIFRED A. GRIFFITHS** says, "Can any of your readers give me the words of 'The Voiceless Chimes,' or tell me where I can obtain a copy of it. It begins as follows:—

"Many deeds of daring glory  
Figure on the roll of fame."

**HAWTHORNE** wishes to know where the following lines are taken from:—

"'Tis we, not they, who are to blame  
When others seem so wrong."

**M. LILITH E.**, Los Angeles, California, who tells us that our magazine "has been an intense pleasure to her from the initial number," asks for the remainder of the last verse and the author's name of the following:—

CHARADE. (ANSWER "CAMPBELL.")

I.  
Come from my first, aye come,  
The battle dawn is nigh,  
And the screaming trump, and the thund'ring  
drum  
Are calling thee to die;  
Fight as thy fathers fought,  
Fall as thy fathers fell,  
Thy task is taught, thy shroud is wrought,  
So forward, and farewell!

II.  
Toll ye my second, toll,  
Fling high the flambeau's light  
And let us sing the parting hymn of a dying  
soul to-night,  
The wreath upon his head,  
The cross upon his breast,  
Let the prayer be said, and the tear be shed,  
So take him to his rest.

III.  
Call ye my whole, aye call,  
The lord of lute and lay—  
She also asks for the name and author of the poem from which the following lines are taken—

I have been here before,  
But when or how I cannot tell,  
I know the grass beyond the door  
The sweet, keen smell;  
The sighing sounds the lights around the shore.  
But just when at that swallow's soar  
Your neck turned—so,  
I saw it all, I knew it all of yore.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**LENA.**—All you have heard of the late Laura Bridgman (of New York) could scarcely exceed the truth. Blind and deaf she proved to be a singularly gifted woman, wrote, spelt, and expressed herself well; and her scientific attainments were of no mean order. We have read a letter of hers, and seen a beautiful specimen of her needlework. Now another marvel of a similar character has arisen, also American, Miss Helen Keller, who lost both sight and hearing at nineteen months old from fever. Now, at the age of sixteen, she has learnt to speak not English alone but French and German; and she has made such an advance in literature and science that she was to enter Dr. Gilman's school at Cambridge, U.S.A., this autumn to prepare herself for entrance into Radcliffe College, the so-called annex of Harvard University. All this has been accomplished by the sole sense of touch. She learned to speak by placing her hands on the throat and lips of her teacher, Miss Sullivan.

**BIBLE STUDENT.**—No, it is not believed that our Lord spoke Hebrew. Dr. Meyer, of the University of Bonn, who has made a special study of the question, says that there is one only work extant written in the language He spoke, i.e., the Jerusalem Talmud, written in Tiberias, in the third century after Christ. According to this authority (and a transatlantic contemporary) our Lord spoke a Galilean dialect of the Aramaic tongue. This latter is one of the Semitic family of languages, and sister-tongue to Hebrew. Aramaic was at one time the language of business intercourse between Syria and the countries farther east. We do not pledge ourselves to this opinion. We only give it as that of a learned man, whose special researches give weight to the theory he has formed and pronounced.