

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.



GIRLS' EMPLOYMENTS.

**FRAULIN K. (*Teaching in Paris*).**—We trust you will observe your initials, as you give no pseudonym. To women without a connection in Paris the doors of schools are not readily opened. At the same time you tell us that you are certificated, so that your chances may be better than those of other German teachers. You had better consult either the Young Women's Christian Association, 25, George Street, Hanover Square, or the Girls' Friendly Society, 35, Victoria Street, S.W., on the subject. Each of these societies make a special study of the difficulties attending the employment of young women abroad. Should you go to Paris, however, you would be wise in consulting Miss Pryde of the Governesses' Home, 152, Rue de la Pompe. Possibly, however, there are German societies established for the assistance of German young women in Paris, in which case you would do well to turn to them.

**INDEX.**—Indexing is hardly an occupation to be set down as a home employment. No doubt a girl, possessed of much ability and scholarship, could practise it at home; but the average girl ought to learn the business thoroughly at an indexing office. There is a right way of making headings and sub-headings which has to be learnt like any other business. Moreover, a girl who has her living to make by indexing, must become known in the literary world, and this she can hardly succeed in doing if she lives under conditions which prevent her from coming in contact with the members of her profession.

**FLORENCE (*Employment at the Cape*).**—There is little demand for Englishwomen in South Africa, because native labour is cheap there. But good cooks obtain high wages. We would not advise you to emigrate in the hope of finding an engagement as shop assistant. On some of the matters touched on in your letter you should consult the Emigrants' Information Office, Broadway, Westminster. We fear you will find yourself mistaken about the half payment of passages. Perhaps you are thinking of some South African hospitals which have paid the passages of nurses on certain conditions at the time of engagement.

**CARLOTTA (*Pianoforte Playing*).**—Engagements to play in private houses are only obtained through personal recommendation. Nor are they easily obtained thus. There are plenty of musical people who are only too ready to do what you offer, namely, to play pianoforte solos of classical music; and, apart from the pecuniary question, hostesses would rather have one of their friends to perform than a stranger who has been obviously engaged to entertain the company. We would advise you to try to make up a small band for playing dance music and attractive selections at dances, afternoon parties, and the like. Make up a little band with a couple of violins, a French horn, and other instruments as occasion may demand, and we believe you would find a good many engagements for parties of young people during the winter evenings.

**A VIOLET (*Hospital Nursing*).**—As you are a careful reader of our answers on "Girls' Employments," you will have observed that most of the large hospitals are over-burdened with applications from probationers. This is not quite so much the case with Poor Law Infirmarys, and some of these are so splendidly managed as to afford valuable training schools. In your own part of the world there is the Brownlow Hill Infirmary, Liverpool. You are the right age for admission to it, and we advise you to write to the matron on the subject. The fee for a year's training is £10, the probationer then serves for three years and receives £10, £15 and £20 yearly salary. The Birmingham New Infirmary and the Poplar Sick Asylum may also be recommended to you.

**MOLLY (*Civil Service*).**—You are not too old to become a candidate for engagement in the Post Office. If you seek a clerkship, however, you must prepare for a difficult examination, in which you must show a knowledge of French, German, arithmetic, composition and other subjects. The salary begins at £65 a year, but of course you must find your own board and lodging. On the whole, you would probably be wise to remain a children's nurse, as you are at present. But in this capacity, as you wish to improve your position, you could do so by obtaining some knowledge of the nursing of children in illness. A course of lectures from the National Health Society, 36, Berners Street, W., would be of use to you in all probability.

**AN EXILE.**—It is certainly a pity not to utilise the leisure which is left you from your employment as teacher in a German school. But we do not advise you to occupy the time either in translation or in fancy work. What you should do is continue your studies so as to improve your position in the teaching profession. We conclude from what you say in your letter you have passed the German examination for teachers. You could now prepare for the Cambridge Higher Local Examinations. Also it would be desirable to work steadily at music, which is regarded almost as an essential in an English governess. Your handwriting is neat and clear, although it is not very English in appearance, that is no drawback, seeing that modern English writing is illegible.

**D. M. K. (*Suggestions Wanted*).**—As you will not leave school for two or three years, it is almost needless to advise you of any employment. You appear to be fond of an active life. Perhaps (as you do not require to earn your bread) you could find scope for your talents by working at a woman's settlement. There is one, as you know, in connection with your own college. Such a post infrequently qualifies a girl for a paid post, e.g., a Charity Organisation secretaryship, or the matronship of a girls' club. The general experience and training that such a life affords are of great value.

**NOVITA (*Pianoforte*).**—We have been obliged to say on a previous occasion that there is scarcely any demand for pianoforte soloists.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**IDA.**—The so-called "Garden of Europe" is applied to the county of Kent; the "Garden of Europe" to Italy, and that of Italy said to be the island of Sicily. The "Jardin de la France" is the Department of Indre-et-Loire, including Touraine, part of Anjou, Poitou and Orléansais. In America, likewise, certain parts are so distinguished—Kansas and Illinois are designated "the Garden of the West;" and the vast territory drained by the Mississippi is called "The Garden of the World."

**LIGER LILY.**—1. You should certainly ask your mother's permission to engage yourself to any man, however respectable; besides, as she is an invalid, she might only give it conditionally on a certain period of delay, or on your arrangement to be near her, and as much with her, to do her service in her loneliness and debility, as possible. —2. Feb. 20th, 1882, was a Sunday.

**RED SQUIRREL.**—We cannot make any promises respecting competitions, although it would give us pleasure to gratify you as to one for painting. There may be one soon on the subject of our Story-Supplements, so keep a good look out, and read each one carefully.

**MISS ISABEL KENT** requests us to draw attention to her Rover Musical Practising Society and to her Queen Reading Society. She obtained many subscribers through a former notice of ours, and she wishes for several new members. The address, Lay Rectory, Lower Abington, Cambridgeshire.

**RED VIOLET.**—Powders for cleaning sponges are to be had at a druggist's; or washing them in raw potato water. Cut up a potato in slices and leave it to soak in a little water—not much of the latter.

**SCIENCE.**—We believe that the sound of a locomotive (railway train) may be heard at a distance of 2800 yards, and the whistle much farther, i.e., at 1300 yards, of course supposing the country to be level. The bark of a dog, we have read, can be heard at as great a distance as the report of a pistol, viz., at 1800 yards, and the human voice, at 1000 yards. But if speaking to one above you it can be heard to a height of 600 yards; whereas to one below the voice has a range of only about 100 yards. The quality of the voice and distinctness of articulation must modify this general statement. We have taken this calculation from a transatlantic source.

**E. A. B.**—Go to a musical instrument maker and you may see a secondhand, but perfectly good, mandoline at a much reduced price. You would require two or three lessons to start with. We have not heard of any exams. in reference to playing that instrument. We consider it more suitable as an accompaniment to some other instrument than for playing solos.

**M. DAWN.**—Your letter containing a list of all your comforts in your kitchen and expressions of gratitude for having been supplied, by His gracious Providence with so kind a mistress and so pleasant a home, interested us much. We quite enjoyed reading it. Remember to thank Him who has cast you into it in such a pleasant way, and do your best to requite your mistress by studying to improve your cookery, and yet to save her expense. This can be done in many little ways—in coals and wood, in scraps of food to be turned to account, in saving stock for soup, etc. Gather up the fragments that remain that nothing be lost." St. John vi. 12.

**PUSSY.**—We are able to reply to your query as to the origin of your *nom de plume*, or rather pseudonym. It is a corruption of the Egyptian word *Pashi*, or the face of the moon, according to a contemporary. The pupils of a certain school seem to be continually both in form and light. Sometimes they look like a full moon, and at other times like a crescent; and on this account the Egyptians made the cat a deity, and they embalmed them as they did other animals, and even reptiles, which they regarded as sacred.

**ZARA.**—You compare the habits and circumstances of a different nationality, and a long ago period with the present time, and expect to run the ladder on the same lines, and regard our greater freedom as unchristian. Many of the early Christians had to live in "dens and caves of the earth," and our blessed Lord had not where to lay His head. The circumstances of the times rendered it necessary, but that constitutes no rule for us. People did not go out to afternoon tea, nor other recreations; but Christians of quite as exemplary lives, and as full of good works, go to such now. Our blessed Lord—who "took on Him the form of a servant," and came to preach, to heal, to suffer and die for mankind—did not go to a concert nor joined in athletic games, nor other recreations; yet he was hard-and-fast rule for us to abstain from them (used in moderation), nor enjoined our all travelling about preaching in the streets. The zeal of young believers often runs beyond their judgment. Still it is well to keep a tender conscience. We do not condemn the recreation you name with your family and friends.

**MRS. G.**—You tell us, in reply to some inquirers, who are seeking Cottage Homes, that you have such to offer to a young lady (yourself a widow) at 12s. 6d. a week, in Essex, near a church, and 100 mile from a railway station. A. J. Bress, Mrs. G., care of R. J. Freeman, Esq., St. Bride's Store, 80, Fleet Street, E.C.

**K. MORGAN.**—For a supper-plate, when meat is served, the ordinary dinner-plates are used; but small tea-plates should likewise be laid for the bread and butter.

**O. MIMOSA SAN.**—If you sent your short stories to papers and magazines, written on one side of lined small or long foolscap, you sent them in the proper way; and if not accepted it was because they were not approved, or else that they went in too late.

**NASCIE.**—We think you could not do better than put your money into the Post Office Savings Bank. You are fortunate in having found a situation as nurse-companion, for they are comparatively scarce. **JOSEPHINE.**—The great mystery of the building of the Pyramids appears at last to be solved through the life-long studies of the great Egyptologist, Dr. Ferdinand Seeger (of Park Avenue, New York). He demonstrates the fact, it would seem, that they are not composed of rock-hewn and transported stone, but of a composition made on the spot, layer on layer, during the erection; impregnable to the action of fire, water, atmospheric influences, or the destructive power of time. "It was a composition," he says, "of sand, ashes, saw-dust, paper, vegetable matter and refuse of various kind, a fluid, inherent in electricity, being a factor employed in this fabrication." Dr. Seeger was the editor of a journal called *Medical Classics*, and the inventor of many instruments. We give you this information as information to us, without pledging ourselves to the fact of an incontrovertible discovery.