

LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART I.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY.—You do not often favour me with your correspondence, so that I was particularly pleased and flattered by the receipt of your letter asking for my opinion, as a rising barrister, on the following important legal points, which I will now proceed to deal with. As you have approached me without the intervention of a solicitor, it may possibly gratify you to know that I am not entitled to make any charge (even were I disposed to do so) for my professional opinions. This statement will, I am sure, remove a great weight from your mind; but a truce to jesting, now to business.

In your first question you ask me to decide whether you or Mr. Anstruther were right on the question of paying excess fares on your return from the Crystal Palace the other evening.

So far as the arguments adduced on either side are concerned, I can tell you frankly that you were both wrong; but let me have the facts of the case clearly stated before me. It appears that Aunt Anne, Robert and yourself went down last Wednesday to the Crystal Palace, where you met Miss Anstruther and her brother; and I have no doubt enjoyed yourselves immensely, wandering through those lovely grounds, gazing at the antediluvian monsters on the lakes or listening to the bands in the rosary or on the terrace.

In my opinion the Crystal Palace is just the place to spend a happy day. This, however, is a digression.

Instead of dining at the Palace, Aunt Anne invited the Anstruthers to return to town with

you and to take their chance of getting—what I from personal experience can vouch for as certain to have been—an excellent impromptu meal.

On the return journey—we are getting to the point at last—the tickets were collected at Battersea Bridge, your tickets were returns to Victoria, but the Anstruthers had returns to Clapham Junction only, and accordingly Mr. Anstruther was invited to pay excess fare on them.

As a matter of fact the price for a return ticket from Victoria to the Palace is exactly the same as a return from Clapham Junction to the Palace, and such being the case, you considered that the collector had no right to demand an excess fare on Mr. Anstruther's tickets. You were wrong. Mr. Anstruther, you say, paid the excess on the ground that it was merely a concession on the part of the Company to those booking at Victoria to charge them the same fare as those booking at Clapham Junction; this may or may not be the case, it is beside the question.

The matter is entirely one of contract between yourself and the Railway Company. They contract to carry you for a certain sum to a certain place; in your case it was from Victoria to the Palace and back, and in the case of Mr. Anstruther and his sister from Clapham Junction to the Palace and back. On their return, therefore, to Clapham Junction, the contract between themselves and the Railway Company was completed, and on their remaining in the train and travelling up to Victoria a new contract was commenced between themselves and the Company. Mr. Anstruther was right, therefore, in paying the

excess demanded, although his reason for doing so was not the right one.

To turn to quite another matter, I see that you want my advice on a point in connection with bicycles. So you also have not escaped the cycling craze of the day. Oh, Dorothy, after this I shall not be surprised to hear that you have taken to golf!

I am very sorry that you should have been annoyed by the insolence of the cabman; I am afraid our London jehus are not called "growlers" without reason, and some of them are only too ready to take advantage of ladies, when travelling without male escort, to insult them with impunity.

In offering the man twopence extra for carrying your bicycle on his cab, Aunt Anne was paying him not only more than he deserved, but more than he was legally entitled to demand.

It may appear to be very ridiculous to the unlegal mind, such as yours, my dear Dorothy, but it has been decided by the London magistrates that a bicycle is not luggage.

The result of this decision is that a cabman is not entitled to charge anything extra for carrying a bicycle on his cab, unless he has previously made an arrangement with his fare.

This piece of legal information you might bear in mind and make use of on a future occasion; if, therefore, a cabman ever behaves rudely towards you again when you are paying him extra for carrying your bicycle, just give him his correct fare, and if he is troublesome, take his number and send it to your legal adviser, or, in other words, to

Your affectionate cousin,
BOB BRIEFLESS.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MEDICAL.

MARIAN.—So many different affections are included under the term "nervous disease of the heart," that it is quite impossible to say whether any one case is dangerous or not, without knowing for certain which of the various forms of "nervous heart" the patient suffers from. The commonest of these ailments is that arising from indigestion. It is also the least serious, for it is fairly easy to cure. It is impossible for us to tell what is the cause of your friend's illness without knowing more about her. You should have told us her age, which is a most important point in coming to a conclusion as to what is wrong with a patient. Some forms of "nervous heart" are very serious, but most kinds can be cured.

MAJORIE.—What you have got is, in all probability, merely a slight attack of chronic catarrh of the throat following upon an acute nasal catarrh. Get a spray and thoroughly spray out your throat three times daily with the following paint—solution of menthol in paroline, sixty grains to the ounce. Take an astringent lozenge occasionally, and avoid highly spiced food. It is almost certain that your complaint will disappear within a few weeks.

MIGNON.—Of course quinine and iron made your indigestion worse. Both drugs are exceedingly indigestible, and should not be taken unless the stomach is in good condition. Your neuralgia is probably due partly to anaemia or indigestion, or both. You should therefore persist in your treatment of dyspepsia, the cure of which would do you much more good than quinine and iron ever could. Locally you might apply to the nerve a very small blister, or a liniment of soap and camphor. Menthol applied locally gives temporary relief. We think that caffeine would be the best drug for you to take internally. You can get tabloids of caffeine citrate (5 grs.), one of which may be taken when the pain is especially severe.

KATHERINE RUSSEL.—Yes; we advise you to obtain the advice of a specialist about your daughter's eyes. It is probably nothing very serious, but it ought to be seen to at once.

F. ROGERS.—Unfortunately, the physician mentioned by "Ada Wright" is no longer alive, so that we are afraid that we cannot help you.

SWEET BRIAR.—We do not think that there is anything seriously wrong with you, and there is no reason to alarm yourself with groundless fears. If, as you say, your health is good, you need not worry yourself about your neck. Follow the advice that we gave to "A Mother."

ANXIOUS ONE.—Use a hard, opaque toilet soap. Any of the really good soaps before the public (which are not patent soaps) will suit you. The opinion held by many that, in scented soaps, the scent is added to cover the smell of bad fats, is not correct. Wash your face about once a week in borax and hot water (one teaspoonful of borax to a pint of water). Soft water is preferable to hard for washing purposes.

ARTHUR.—We advise you to give up tea entirely for a time, and to carefully attend to your digestion. You will find all about indigestion in the medical articles and correspondence in last year's GIRL'S OWN PAPER. Read the answer to "Fair Isobel," which appeared some months ago, and contained a long account of acne. We would however suggest ichthiol rather than sulphur ointment in your case. Otherwise, follow all the advice given in the above-mentioned answer. You are at the age for acne, and although it is sure to disappear in time, you will have to persevere in your treatment.

MARY NOBLE.—Undoubtedly you do suffer from chronic nasal catarrh. It is the rule for persons afflicted with this malady to be subject to constantly recurring attacks of acute inflammation of the nose. You must get the following powder made up and use it three or more times a day:—Chlorate of potash, bicarbonate of soda and borax, of each, one part; powdered white sugar, two parts. Dissolve one teaspoonful of the powder in half a tumbler of tepid water, and use it as a nose wash and gargle. Wash out your nose thoroughly with this lotion, and then apply the following paint with an "atomiser" or nasal spray—menthol in paroline, sixty grains to the ounce.

FLUFF.—Wash your head in borax and water once a week, and then rub a little sulphur ointment into the roots of the hair. It is quite impossible for us to answer any correspondent in less than six weeks' time from receiving her letter. Often, at this time of the year, it is two or three months before a letter can be answered.

A READER.—See answer to "Fluff" for scurf on the head. Scurf on the face is usually secondary to that on the head. Apply sulphur ointment, made with lanoline, for a week or so. Be careful of the soap you use.

THROAT.—Catarrh of the throat is of course at the bottom of your trouble, and if we can cure this, we will probably at the same time improve your hearing. You should treat your throat in the same way that we advised "Mary Noble" to do. The great secret of success is to thoroughly and completely wash out the nose and throat while you are about it. We would advise you to syringe out your left ear to make certain that there is no wax there.

ST. CECILIA.—The reason why you so frequently suffer from "colds" is most probably because you are the subject of chronic nasal catarrh. Read the answer to "Mary Noble" above, and do the same as we advised her to do.

SYLVIA.—Inhalations of steam impregnated with medicinal substances are exceedingly useful, especially in bronchitis or catarrh of the throat. If you have an inhaler handy so much the better; if not, you can make an excellent inhaler out of a jug. Fill the jug or inhaler with hot water, add the drugs prescribed (most probably, compound tincture of benzoin or camphor), place your face over the jug, being careful not to scald yourself, and cover your head with a large dry towel, shrouding yourself with the jug beneath its folds. Inhale for about half an hour or less. Be very careful to keep out of draughts after inhaling. Very severe colds, if nothing worse, may occur from carelessness in this respect.

FAIR JAPAN.—No; it will do you no harm to ride a bicycle. If you sit well on the machine, and do not ride too fast, bicycling is a good and healthy exercise. All girls of thirteen and fourteen "grow very fast." We do not quite understand your second question—"When a girl leaves school, what science ought she to know best?" The only science commonly learnt at school is mathematics. If you want to know which science is the best to study after leaving school, it depends entirely upon yourself. That science in which you have greatest interest is the best to learn. Whatever science you take up, you must study for many years before you can become proficient in it.

of the thinnest lead in an ordinary pencil to that found in a six B, and may be used similar to the leads in an ordinary pencil case or mounted in wooden handles of the thickness of a lead pencil. You can buy (although only of the largest artists' colourmen) both silver point paper and card; the latter is the best from its non-liability to cockle.

The silver wires may be sharpened to any point desired on a piece of very fine emery cloth. Two sizes of round and one flat point are those usually used.

As to the card or paper. This, it must be at once understood, is one of the most delicate of substances. Its surface once soiled, it is absolutely useless. No mark of any nature can be erased from it. There is no rubbing out or *shurring over* to be practised. If you scratch its surface with an erasing knife it alters the colour and the stylus will no longer mark on the scratched surface. The same result occurs from the contact of a hot or greasy hand or the spilling of a spot of water no matter how quickly removed.

For these reasons no silver point can be entirely drawn direct from nature. A fairly finished sketch must first be made; from this it is advisable to take a careful tracing. Through this tracing bore very small holes with a broken etching-needle or small piercer at all the salient points and at short intervals along the outline of your subject. Then lay your tracing on the silver point paper in the position you intend it to occupy, secure it by weights, and with your smallest silver point make a tiny dot through each hole on to the

paper. This is the only guide you can make to help you. Now lightly indicate your drawing with fine strokes made diagonally from right to left downwards, always remembering that the silver point cannot be rubbed backwards and forwards the same as a pencil without destroying the surface of the paper. All shadows should be put in very lightly at first, as lights cannot afterwards be added, although they may be taken away where not required. To get your deeper shades you may go over the same places many times with the silver point if you continue to work downwards. Either parallel or diagonally crossed lines may be used to shade. It is as well to avoid all firm hard outlines, as silver point mainly depends for its beauty on its misty and shadowy effects.

As in all classes of art work portraits, after having been fixed from a sketch, should be finished direct from nature. Without using this method you may preserve the features of your model, but soul and character will always be wanting. For land and seascape silver point is peculiarly adapted, as some of the most delicately beautiful aerial effects may be attained by its use. For foliage also, used with a careful knowledge, it is incomparable. To look its best no silver point drawing should occupy more than one-fourth of the paper on which it is drawn, and any attempt to finish square up to a mount or frame must be studiously avoided. In fact, the edges of the drawing should imperceptibly melt away into the paper. In very fine work, such as the face of a baby or young girl, a singularly

beautiful effect may be produced by finishing the features through the aid of a magnifying glass, thereby removing all traces of lines, and then in the ordinary manner and with bolder lines adding hair, figure, costume, etc.

One last word on the choice of paper. This is made with two kinds of surface, dull and slightly glazed, like the backs of playing cards. The latter I have found to give the best effect in colour. All drawings after they are completed should be exposed to the atmosphere (but not to dust) for at least a week, it taking some time for them to acquire their beautiful colouring. After the period above mentioned the colour is absolutely permanent.

In framing the edges of the paper should be hermetically sealed to the glass so as to exclude dust.

Frames are always a matter of taste. Personally I have used with the happiest effect a wide flat frame of white enamelled wood with a very narrow pale gold Louis Seize edging to enrich the opening of it. A fine silver point in a well-made frame of this kind is indeed one of those things of beauty which are joys for ever.

ERNEST M. JESSOP.

** The original drawings from which these illustrations are taken were recently exhibited by desire to H.R.H. the Princess of Wales at Marlborough House, and H.R.H. was pleased to say that she had derived great pleasure from her inspection of them.

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LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART II.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY,—Accept my heartiest congratulations on your engagement to Gerald Anstruther. He is a good fellow, and I feel sure that you will be very happy together. Your engagement is not one that has been hurriedly rushed into. You have known each other for some time and have had an opportunity of discovering each other's merits and demerits, if any of the latter exist.

I am glad to hear that the wedding is to be an event of the immediate future, and I have no doubt that Gerald is quite of my way of thinking.

I am patriotic enough to be pleased that you are going to marry an Englishman. Not that I have any particular prejudice against foreigners; but their marriage laws differ from ours and thereby lead to complications.

For instance, a Frenchman, no matter what his age, cannot legally marry without the consent of his parents, a fact which it is just as well for English girls to remember.

Now I know that you will not be offended with me when I tell you that your *fiancé*, although a man of business, is not a business man.

This may sound contradictory, but is not really so. There are many men who follow regular occupations and attend to their own particular business and yet are not, strictly speaking, men of business habits and instincts. Literary men, musicians, artists, and inventors may be generally regarded as instances in point. And Gerald, who is an engineer and inventor, is not one of the exceptions to the rule, which is my reason for offering you the following suggestions.

In the first place I would strongly advise

you to persuade Gerald to insure his life in some respectable English office; the American ones are risky.

It is true that he is making a good income, but he has very little money put by for a rainy day, for both of which reasons I would suggest that he takes out a policy for £1,000 with profits. The premium for insuring without profits would be a little less, but I am certain that it is better on the whole to insure with profits.

The policy he can assign to you or leave you in his will, or, if he waits till you are married, he can, if he likes, effect what is called a trust policy for your benefit, and, so long as any object of the trust remains unperformed, the policy will not form part of his estate or become subject to his debts. The last few words of the foregoing sentence you will be able to understand. You need not trouble your head about the meaning of "trust" and "performance"; it is sufficient for you to know that the arrangement is intended to benefit married ladies, and can be carried out under the provisions of the Married Women's Property Act.

All the above I am aware sounds dreadfully technical; but it is extremely difficult when writing on legal matters to avoid legal phraseology, the danger being that the omission of a single word in a sentence may have the effect of giving a totally wrong interpretation of the law.

The Act which I have mentioned above also gives you the right to retain sole control of the money left you by your god-mother. It was not a very large amount—£50, if I remember rightly. I should advise you to deposit it in the Post Office Savings Bank if

you have not already done so. You will receive two and a half per cent. annual interest for it, which is rather more than double what any ordinary bank would offer you.

There is only one thing more that I wanted to mention, and I have left it to the last because it is perhaps the most important thing of all—it is on the subject of wills. It is not generally known that every will is revoked by marriage.

You cannot make a will, my dear Dorothy, because you are not yet twenty-one years of age; but Gerald can, and I consider that it is his duty, and the duty of every man who gets married, to make his will, no matter however small the amount of the property he has to dispose of may be.

There is no great difficulty about making an ordinary will. All that is necessary is that the intentions of the maker should be clearly expressed, that he should sign it in the presence of two witnesses, who should also affix their signature, and that is all.

There is only one other thing to remember, and that is that the witnesses should not be people who benefit by the will, or rather, I should say, who are intended to benefit by it, for the result of such witnesses being left a legacy would be that, although the rest of the will would hold good, they would not get their legacies. Also it is important for anyone making a will to give the name of one willing to act as executor.

I need hardly say that, when any difficulty arises in the making of a will, it is advisable to consult a solicitor or a barrister such as

Your affectionate cousin,

BOB BRIEFLESS.

for, of course, it must be sometimes—but a little careful attention to ordinary conversation will teach you more than any written remarks could, and your own instinct must guide you further in the avoidance of little faults of the kind.

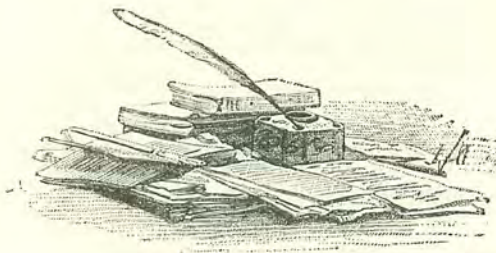
A matter of importance when visiting is to try never to be in the way when you are not wanted, and never out of it when you are wanted. Do not, for example, sit down and make an unrequired third in a conversation carried on between two people who are evidently quite content with each other's society, for they will only wish you anywhere, and, unless you have the constitution of a rhinoceros, the freezing atmosphere will soon bring to your mind a certain proverb which says that "Two's company, but three's none."

Do not insist upon speaking of something which interests you specially when, perhaps, nobody else cares very much about it; and, more than all, do not talk about yourself, your likes and dislikes, your health, etc., etc. It may not be pleasant, but the fact remains that nineteen people out of twenty feel not the smallest interest in you or your concerns except in so far as the outcome is agreeable

to them, and this not exactly from want of heart so much as from want of time to stop and consider you, when there are so many others near and dear to them to be thought of. At all events, so it is, and any person who hangs about a room when she might as well go out of it, or worries people by airing her own opinions when nobody wishes to hear them, is decidedly in the way, and neither more nor less than a bore. This rock, *i.e.*, being *de trop*, may be called the Scylla, while another of quite a contrary kind may be styled the Charybdis in the sea of Society, and both must be steered clear of if the voyage is to be pleasant and successful. The former is the rock on which active and energetic people split, and the latter often makes shipwreck of the more meditative and indolent natures, inclined to let things slip by, unobservant of what is required of them, or, if aware of it, too fond of their own comfort and repose to respond. Judgment and tact are essential in order to avoid running against one or other of these rocks, and perhaps the best preventive of mistakes in the matter will be found in remembering to "do as you would be done by," because, keeping that in mind, you will have only to make a shrewd guess as to

what others would like in the same circumstances. Now and then doubtless in carrying out this rule some self-denial is involved, as, for instance, when lawn-tennis, or croquet, or even a walk, is proposed, and you, caring little for physical exertion at any time, and very anxious, moreover, to finish a book you are deep in, feel for a moment disposed to be churlish and refuse to join. Well, then comes in the remembrance of what is due to others, and you put the best face you can on it, get your hat, and go. Or on a wet day somebody wants to play billiards, or battledore and shuttlecock, or something, and you would rather work at a drawing or run through a song or two in the little boudoir where you will disturb nobody, but you are wanted to help brighten up the dreary day, and your private inclinations have to be sacrificed to the good of others. Another thing—But my paper is growing rather lengthy, and, lest I should be voted a bore and go to pieces on the rock Scylla, I think my remarks had better end here for to-day, the remainder of them, not many now, being laid by for another occasion.

(To be continued.)



LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART III.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY,—So you have decided on commencing your married life in a flat—a very wise decision on your part. In the first place, in a flat you know exactly what your position is as regards rent, whereas a house entails constant expense for repairs, to say nothing of rates and taxes.

It is true that, if the people on the floor above you indulge in clog-dancing all the day whilst the occupiers of the floor below practise the cornet à piston half-way into the night, you might find that the drawbacks of a flat were unendurable; but I do not think that you are likely to suffer quite such a terrible experience as I have depicted.

Another advantage of a flat is that, if you want to run down to the country or the seaside for the week's end, or for even a longer period, you can lock up your flat and start off gaily; but with a house on your hands it is a very different matter.

But perhaps the greatest attraction of a flat is the reduction in the number of the necessary domestics. In a small flat like yours, you ought to manage very well with one servant, provided she is capable and attends to her work.

Whatever you do, don't engage a "treasure," unless you happen to know all about her. If one is recommended to you by an acquaintance, you may be quite sure that the "treasure" has some great drawback; otherwise, why should her mistress be so anxious to part with her? Ask yourself that question before you burden yourself with a "treasure" that you may have great difficulty in getting rid of,

especially if she turns out to be a tyrant like some "treasures" I have known. Remember my warning, beware of "treasures." Get a servant that you can instruct, not one that will order you about and make your life a burden to you.

I am sorry to hear that Aunt Anne had so much trouble with her late cook, to whom she had been, as every mistress is bound to be, very kind; but I am glad that she managed to get rid of her in the end. Under the circumstances, she would have been quite justified in discharging her without giving her a month's wages in lieu of notice.

A servant who refuses to do any work and locks herself in her room, refusing to come out, as this one did, may be summarily dismissed without being paid for services which she has not rendered.

Aunt Anne was fortunate in getting the policeman to come in and turn the woman out. A constable is not bound to enter a private dwelling in order to eject a noisy or troublesome domestic. On the contrary, the householder has to get the troublesome individual as far as the street door before the constable will interfere and take charge of him or her.

I hope that Aunt Anne will be more fortunate in her choice of a new cook.

It may seem rather hard that because you happen to have been given a silver mustard-pot with Gerald's crest upon it, that you should be obliged to pay a guinea a year for a licence to carry armorial bearings; but, strictly speaking, this is what you are bound to do if you keep the mustard-pot.

I happen to know of a case where a good lady was summoned before the magistrate for not having taken out this licence, where it was shown that all she had in the way of a crest or coat-of-arms was a hall chair, which she had recently purchased, with someone else's crest on it; but, in spite of this fact, she was fined and ordered to pay for the licence.

The occasional use of the services of the hall-porter at your flat will not render you liable to the duty for keeping a male servant.

What is the objection to purchasing a piano on the three years' hire system? Instead of parting with a large sum in one cash payment, which is very often an inconvenient thing to do, you pay, by half-a-dozen half-yearly instalments, or quarterly if you prefer it, with what you will probably be able to save out of your housekeeping money. It seems to me a very excellent way of acquiring an expensive article.

Your dressmaker cannot force you to pay for a dress which is so badly made that it is quite impossible for you to wear it. But then the question arises, Is it really so bad as you make out? Could it not be made to fit properly with a few alterations?

If you are positive that nothing can be done with it to make it wearable, I should advise you to refuse to take it in or to pay for it, in which case you may possibly have to appear in the County Court for the judge to decide whether it fits, or can be made to fit, or not.

If such a contingency arises, you may rely upon having the professional assistance of

Your affectionate cousin,
BOB BRIEFLESS.

BEAUTY'S MISSION.

Beauty's mission is a noble one, and if kept well apart from pride and frivolity, it is a self-ennobling one.

Beauty has been called a fatal gift. It is so only when the possessor thereof has no other attractions. Every beautiful girl should possess refinement, and by this I do not mean accomplishments that can be shown to advantage in a drawing-room. No, but refinement of mind or soul. She ought to be well read, though far indeed from being a blue-stocking. She ought to be herself a poet at heart, a lover of nature and of God's animals, His trees and His flowers. She ought to be a good but not a garrulous conversationalist; the sentences that leave her lips ought to flow like the murmur and ripple of a sparkling fountain. Forced conversation has no reality about it, and anyone can see it does not come from the heart.

Beauty should be musical. Alas! it is not always so. I may go further and say it is too often automatic. This is the result of a forced musical education. Beauty should never play what she cannot feel. If she feels, so shall others around her, and the chords will touch the heart.

A beautiful woman who can play the violin so as to bring tears to the listener's eyes, possesses a power that nothing on this dull earth of ours can excel.

And a beauty like that which I so feebly paint has a deal to be proud of, though she ought not to be vain. Vanity only proves narrowness of soul, a mind with no breadth of beam.

"She moves a goddess and she looks a queen."

True enough, yet the greatest of beauties

are not simply there for show. For her a nobler part is retained, and ere many years are over her head she ought to be as noble-minded and beautiful a matron as she now is a maiden.

Yes, and if health and beauty go hand-in-hand, with modesty and virtue in their train, this great kingdom of ours will never need to lower its flag to any combination in the world.

I say, then, to every girl-reader I have, "It is well to be beautiful."

GROWING OLD GRACEFULLY.

I cannot but respect and admire the women who grow old gracefully. Generally a little inclined to *embonpoint* are they, which but accords with their years. But there is a sincerity about them which is very creditable. A lady of this kind is never ashamed to own that she is getting up in years. No one would be rude enough to ask her age; but if anybody did, they would have a straightforward truthful answer. See, there is a sprinkling of silvery hairs on her head; she is, I believe, somewhat proud of them rather than otherwise, and if true religion dwells in her heart, she is altogether amiable. Some day she knows she will die. Some day—yes, some day; but this death will only just be going home. She is to be envied.

SHOULD ART AID BEAUTY?

My answer is, "Yes, undoubtedly, if it be real art."

Says the poet—

"Beauty unadorned is adorned the most."

This is all nonsense. It is just as reasonable for beauty to call in the aid of science and art as it is for her to use soap with which to wash

her hands and face. But on the other hand, a beauty that is all artificial is quite detestable. No man can stand a painted doll. We meet such in society all too often, but we soon find out that she is just as frivolous and heartless as she is artificial—a painted fraud, in fact, and I pity the poor fellow who is snared into marrying her.

But there are legitimate methods of securing greater beauty. The chief of these is health. Without good health there can be no real beauty, no beautiful complexion, no bright and sparkling eyes, and no power to please others or make others happy. One cannot bestow upon those around them that which they do not possess themselves. It is girls like this—girls who may be classed with that great army, the only middling—who, instead of endeavouring to set themselves right by the aid of judicious living and everything that conduces to health, are for ever hunting among the trashy advertisements of cheap ladies' papers for cosmetics that shall not only make them beautiful for a day, but keep them beautiful for all time.

Very catchy are many of those advertisements to the eyes of the simple and the ignorant, and they are always tastefully illustrated. In a country better governed than ours, those advertising quack-women, who charge such awful prices for specialities that are simply worse than want, would soon find themselves inside the four walls of a prison. Pray take my warning, girls, and keep your money in your purses.

Do not forget, however, that regularity in living, temperance in eating, daily pleasant exercise, no spurring if you ride, plenty of fruit, and the bath, using the mildest soaps are the passports to health and happiness; and beauty cannot exist without these latter.

LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART IV.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY,—Before going away for your summer holiday, I should advise you to put all your valuables, such as your silver tea-set, etc., into a strong iron box and get Gerald to deposit the same at his bank, where it will be perfectly safe.

The bank will not give you a receipt for the contents of the box, because they will not make themselves responsible for property which they are taking care of gratuitously; but they will give you an acknowledgment for the box itself, which is quite sufficient for your purpose.

The landlady at Southsea had no justification for writing and telling you that you could not have the rooms, which you had previously engaged, for another week yet, because her present lodgers were staying on in them. She has broken her contract with you—which was to let her rooms to you from a certain date for a specified amount—so that if you find it more convenient to leave town at the date you originally fixed, you need not wait upon the Southsea landlady's pleasure. The contract to take her rooms is at an end, and you need not go to her at all unless it suits you to do so.

From a strictly legal point of view, you have a right of action against her, which I do not advise nor suppose you would care to exercise, although it is most annoying to have your plans upset in this manner, and more especially too when you went to the trouble and expense of going down to Southsea so as to make certain of securing comfortable quarters.

I would not advise your friend to have anything to do with those attractive advertisements which appear in the newspapers, offering home employment to gentlewomen at the rate of ten to thirty shillings a week. The dodge is little better than a swindle; perhaps not a swindle in a strictly legal sense, but a swindle all the same.

The way it is worked is this: you are asked to send two or three shillings in the first instance and in return you get a quantity of rubber stamps which you have to sell to your friends at a profit, and when you have disposed of them all (a most unlikely event) you buy more rubber stamps at wholesale prices and sell them at retail ones; or else you receive a packet of wool, which you have to knit into an impossible number of socks and comforters, and for which you will be paid a small sum for so many dozen pairs.

It is a particularly heartless swindle to my mind, because the unfortunate ladies who answer these advertisements can ill afford to waste even two or three shillings, and, of course, they are quite unable to sell the rubber stamps or similar rubbish received in return for their money.

I have received frequent complaints from ladies who have been taken in by this trick, and I should like to see all such advertisements expunged from the newspapers. The advertisement columns contain a good many traps for the unwary. For instance, there is the "lady" who is offering silver fish-knives for sale at an immense sacrifice, unused, and less than half the original value.

You will observe that the word is "value" not "cost"; but she omits to state that the value put upon them is that given to

them by herself, and, curiously enough, she is offering a similar sacrifice every day in the year.

I do not suggest that there is any swindle in the above style of advertisement. It is a trick of the trade, and if you are sharp enough you will find that the same "lady" is offering other articles for sale also at a sacrifice in another part of the paper.

The fact also that nearly all these articles are advertised as "unused" ought to be sufficient to warn people that it is a dealer and not a private individual who is advertising; but people, especially ladies, my dear Dorothy, are so anxious to make a bargain that they cannot resist the temptation to purchase an article, with a fictitious value attached to it, at half price.

A similar article, if bought at a shop in the ordinary way, costs less and lasts longer; but then it would not profess to be a bargain—wherein lies the charm.

I am afraid that I cannot give you any comfort as regards the bill sent in by your stationer, whom you say you have already paid. If you cannot find or did not get a receipt from him you are powerless and will have to pay it over again.

When tradespeople know your name and address, it is always advisable to ask for a receipt if they do not offer to give you one. Even when dealing with shops which profess to sell on cash terms only, I always make a point of asking for a receipt if the goods are to be sent to my address; and, for the future, I advise you to follow the example of

Your affectionate cousin,
BOB BRIEFLESS.

would-be student to avail herself of "a course" on some subject or another, even if there is not "a centre."

Much scorn has been lavished on the "University Extension" movement, and we are told of the working man who inquires, "Which d'yer like best, 'Omer or Hossian? Hossian's my man; 'e knows a deal about natur', does Hossian."

It requires strong faith to believe in that working man. The whole question of the advantages of the movement, and the appropriateness, or absurdity, of its title, cannot of course be examined here. But if any girl reader has the opportunity of attending a series of lectures on some subject in which she is, or ought to be, interested, we may offer her a few hints.

Go by all means; but do not sit in the lecture hall week by week, and expect the words of the speaker to do everything that is needful. Study the books he recommends to you diligently and conscientiously. Do not

be so much occupied in trying to scribble down what he says *verbatim* in your note-book that you are left far behind in hopeless bewilderment at an early stage of the proceedings; but listen attentively, and above all do the paper work set every week. When you have accomplished this much, do not be deterred by the alarms of wounded vanity from going in for the examination at the close of the course. You need not, and will not if you are sensible, suppose that you have received in any sense a university education; but you will, especially if the lecturer be one of the noted men we could name, have acquired a distinct addition to your mental store of wealth; and this is no slight advantage, for it may urge you to go on and on acquiring more and more.

"'Tis the taught already that profits by teaching,"

as Browning says.

The "University Extension" movement has

been touched upon because these lectures seem to appeal specially to girls who wish somehow or other to "take themselves in hand." But, after all, the main instrument of self-culture must be reading, and, before turning to the question of what books shall be chosen, we may repeat Carlyle's words—

"Learn to be good readers—which is perhaps a more difficult thing than you imagine. Learn to be discriminative in your reading; to read faithfully, and with your best attention, all kinds of things which you have a real interest in—a real, not an imaginary—and which you find to be really fit for what you are engaged in. The most unhappy of all men is the man who cannot tell what he is going to do, who has got no work cut out for him in the world, and does not go into it. In work is the grand cure of all the maladies and miseries that ever beset mankind—honest work which you intend getting done."

LILY WATSON.

(To be continued.)

LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART V.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY,—I am sorry that you should have had so much trouble about your luggage; it must be very annoying to be deprived of one's things, quite apart from all consideration of their value, and I can quite appreciate the amount of trouble and inconvenience, to say nothing of expense, which you have been put to by the loss of your portmanteau.

I am happy to say, however, that I can give you a certain amount of comfort. The Company are clearly liable and will have to compensate you for its loss.

If you leave your luggage at a railway station, on the platform or in a waiting-room, telling a porter to keep an eye on it, and your luggage is lost or stolen, the Company will not be liable for its loss, because it is not part of a porter's duties to act as a quasi-policeman or detective, and moreover the Company provide a place where such luggage can be left with safety, viz., the cloak-room. But your case is quite different, you gave your portmanteau into the Company's charge at Brighton, to deliver to you in London, and the Company became responsible for its safe delivery to you the moment it was given into their possession.

I will give a categorical reply to your queries.

1. If the box is lost, you can claim compensation for the value of the box and its contents.
2. If the box is not lost and is restored to

you, you can still claim compensation for the expense you have incurred in buying new clothes, etc.

3. In either case you can claim damages for the trouble and annoyance caused by the Company's detaining your portmanteau for nearly three months.

4. As the matter arose between Brighton and London, you could enter the action at either place; you will, of course, enter it in London.

5. If Gerald can give any information, he will have to appear as witness, in which case he will get his expenses as a witness, but he cannot claim compensation because he happens to be away at work in the country, and it may be inconvenient for him to come up to town.

6. Yes, you will have to appear as plaintiff, to give evidence of the value of the portmanteau and its contents, and also of the date and other particulars of its being given into the charge of the Company.

Lastly, I do not suppose the Company will pay much attention to any letters which you or Gerald may write on the subject, but a letter from a lawyer will probably bring them to the point, and so you had better "screw up your courage to the sticking point," and consult a respectable lawyer.

I may tell you that if your box was stolen and the railway company get hold of the thief, you will not be obliged to prosecute him—the Company will do that for you—but you will have to appear as a witness.

I think the cabman was quite within his

rights in claiming twopence for the bag which was placed upon the footboard of the hansom. The Act says "outside," and the footboard of the hansom is just as much the "outside" as the roof of the cab. I am aware that a metropolitan magistrate decided quite the contrary way the other day, and dismissed the claim of a cabman, who sought to charge a lady twopence for a bag which was carried on the footboard, but I confess I read the report of the magistrate's decision with considerable surprise and it does not make me alter my opinion; the magistrate was wrong, and the cabman was entitled to his twopence.

It is not necessary for Gerald to take out a gun licence because he has come into the possession of a gun left him by his uncle; the mere fact of having a gun does not make it imperative for its owner to have a gun licence. It differs in this respect from the licence for armorial bearings; but if he wishes to use the gun, he must take out a licence to carry one, and if he intends to shoot game with it, then he must take out a licence to kill game.

It really comes to this, unless a man has opportunities for a good deal of shooting, it is not worth his while to take out these licences which are fairly expensive.

I have a gun, but I have never yet taken out a licence to carry it, because I don't carry it, I keep it at home in its case. One of these days when I have a "shoot" of my own, I shall take out the necessary licences and advise Gerald to do the same. Your affectionate cousin,

BOB BRIEFLESS.

VARIETIES.

THE MASTER OF ALL.

There is a pithy epigram in the Greek Anthology on a statue of Cupid; its translation is to this effect—

"Whoe'er thou art, thy master see—
He was, or is, or is to be."

LIFE IS A MYSTERY.—Life is indeed a mystery, but it was God who gave it, in a world wrapped round with sweet air, and bathed in sunshine, and abounding with interest, and a ray of eternal light falls upon it even here, and that light shall wholly transfigure it beyond the grave.

THE WAYS OF PROVIDENCE.

"Providence for us, high, infinite,
Makes our necessities its watchful task,
Hearkens to all our prayers, helps all our wants,
And e'en, if it denies what seems our right,
Either denies because 'twould have us ask,
Or seems but to deny, and in denying grants."—*Leigh Hunt.*

QUALIFIED PRAISE.—The meanest kind of praise is that which first speaks well of a girl and then qualifies it with a "but."

MOTTOES FOR CLOCKS.

Time trieth truth.
Time and tide wait for no man.
Time conquers all and we must time obey.
Sleeping or waking time passes with all.
We take no note of time but from its loss.

A WISE GIRL.—To communicate her knowledge is a duty with a wise girl; to learn from others is her highest gratification.

SOBRIETY.—Modesty and humility are the sobriety of the mind; temperance and chastity are the sobriety of the body.

the milkman and greengrocer, and a basket in which to bring back a pound of cold salt beef in slices from the pastrycook's, half-a-dozen scallop-shells, and two lemons.

In the meantime Nellie began the creams, which she knew must have plenty of time to cool, and for this reason decided to make them in cups. There was only a quart of milk in the house; a pint of it she put into a bowl with half an ounce of gelatine, and left it to soak for half an hour, whilst she made the rest into a custard, and stood the jug containing it in cold water to facilitate its cooling.

She next prepared a small bowl of bread-crumbs, and finely flaked the whitening, removing the bones. Then Mary having returned with the things, Nellie peeled a small quarter of one of the lemons very thin, and put milk, gelatine, lemon-peel and five ounces of white sugar into a lined saucepan on the fire.

During the time it took to bring it to the boil, she buttered the scallop-shells and proceeded thus:—A layer of breadcrumbs, a layer of fish, salt and pepper to taste, a layer of breadcrumbs, sprinkled with small lumps of butter, and so on, taking care to heap the materials well up in the centre of the shell, and to scatter the last layer of breadcrumbs liberally with butter; the scallops were then placed on a baking-sheet ready for cooking, twenty minutes being sufficient to brown them nicely.

After boiling for five minutes, the contents of the saucepan were strained into a jug with a lip, and when sufficiently cool to prevent curdling, the well-beaten yolks of two eggs were stirred in. The directions, Nellie knew, were to pour constantly from one jug to another till nearly cold, but she had to content herself with doing this occasionally, whilst making the pastry for the tart.

A ring at the bell announced the arrival of the greengrocer with the apples and lettuces. As Mary was busy in the upper regions, Nellie answered the door herself, returning quickly to prepare the apples, which she quartered and cored before peeling them, to keep the pieces whole.

By this time the lemon-cream was cool enough for her to add carefully the strained juice of the lemons, stirring briskly the while, after which it was poured into the cups, and these were surrounded with cold water to set the cream quickly.

"Now for the mutton," said Nellie to herself, proceeding to cut up the joint. "No wonder the boys said it was like 'old boots,' and I fear its toughness isn't entirely due to under-cooking! Well, 'cannelon' is a splendid way of using tough meat," she thought, first reserving several thick slices to be converted into mock cutlets next day, and then grinding the rest in the mincing-machine. The minced meat was well seasoned with salt, pepper, parsley, thyme, and a dessertspoonful of Harvey's sauce, adding a *souffon* of finely-chopped onion, half a cupful of breadcrumbs and a well-beaten egg. She made the mixture into balls rather larger than a walnut, and placed them, wrapped in oiled paper, on a tin, to be baked in a moderate oven for half an hour. The tomato sauce was put in a lined saucepan ready to be heated, and the potatoes which Mary had peeled for that "early dinner" she cut into slices to be fried crisp and brown.

Mary was a tolerable plain cook; therefore, after directing her, Nellie was free to arrange fresh flowers in the dining-room, and to make the necessary additions to her toilet, before laying the luncheon, which she did herself, in order to send the handmaiden up to dress at a quarter to one.

The salad was soon made and prettily decorated, the beef arranged tastefully on a dish and garnished with parsley, and then Nellie whisked the whites of two eggs with a little sugar to a stiff froth, piling it in snowy billows amongst the golden creams, previously turned out into a glass dish. To this the custards in dainty little cups made an excellent *vis-à-vis*, the salad occupying a central position on the table.

Mr. Vernon, entering the dining-room with the guest, was abundantly satisfied with the result of Nellie's busy morning. Spotless damask, bright electro-plate and glass, go far to making up for costly dishes or priceless silver, and the luncheon-table, decorated by an old gold centre-piece, with sprays of fiery virginia creeper, and vases of citron chrysanthemums, was a picture. He could not but observe the quick look of admiration his daughter called forth when he presented Mr. Laurence.

She presided at lunch with a gentle dignity, conversing with the visitor, her father and the two boys, and betraying no anxiety about the arrangements, which *insouciance* Mary tried to deserve by changing the courses as deftly as she could. Mr. Vernon, perhaps for the first time, realised what a treasure he possessed in one who, at such short notice, could provide a luxurious meal, and have house, servant, herself and her little brothers, looking the pink of neatness to do honour to any friend of his.

Possibly Mr. Laurence was clever enough to read between the lines, for the lawyer's modest circumstances were well known; at any rate, the luncheon-party, which Nellie triumphantly assured her father had only necessitated the outlay of four shillings, was the means of introducing the Squire of Templemeade to his future wife.

LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART VI.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY,—The leaving of perishable articles at houses where they have not been ordered is a very common trick, and one which often succeeds, because people imagine that they have incurred a responsibility by taking them in—which they have not.

If tradespeople choose to leave butter, milk, bread, meat, or wine, etc., which you have not ordered at your house, they do so at their own risk, and if you do not use the articles, they cannot compel you to pay for them, neither can they make you pay for them if you do use the articles under the impression that they were a gift; this last is only likely to arise in the case of wine or game being left without any indication of where it came from.

Servant girls are often inveigled into purchasing rubbishy articles, which they do not want, such as musical-boxes, silver watches, etc., by men who go about selling these things on commission, and who, refusing to take "No" for an answer, leave the article in question with the servant, saying that they will take so much a month for it.

In a day or two the girl receives a letter from the makers saying that they understand she is prepared to purchase the article in question by payment of instalments of so much per month. The chances are that the girl will be frightened into purchasing the thing in this manner; but if she writes declining to buy the article they will try to bully her into taking it by threatening legal proceedings, etc.

Girls who are treated in this manner should

at once inform their master or mistress. The latter should then write to the firm, saying that their servant has no desire to purchase the article left at their house, and that if the firm want their goods back, they must come and fetch them.

Servant girls, especially Irish ones, are very fond of joining burial societies. Such girls should be careful to have a receipt for every payment they make, and should not allow themselves to be put off with vain excuses by the collector. It is the duty of the collector to give a receipt for every payment he receives, and if he fails to do so, it can only be because he is putting the money into his own pocket and not paying it over to the society.

What I told you in my former letter about bicycles not being luggage has just been confirmed by a decision of the High Court, so that railway companies are entitled to make a charge for carrying your bicycle by train, although they would take a bag of the same weight for nothing.

You cannot extend the time for paying a life assurance premium by adding the three days of grace on to the month's grace already allowed you by the company. The three days of grace arise after the premium becomes payable and are included in the extended time given you by the company.

If you ever send in a withdrawal order to draw money out of the Post Office Savings Bank, and then find that you do not wish to take out the money because you have received some from some other source, be careful to always draw it out when you get your order,

and, if you do not want to use it, pay it in again the following day.

It is most important that you should do this. If you do not do so, you leave the door open to fraud, because a duplicate withdrawal notice is sent to the post office named in your order, and some dishonest official might make use of it; and, secondly, it saves any confusion which might otherwise arise through your change of mind.

Of course I do not mean to say that the officials of the Post Office are dishonest—I should be sorry to make such a statement—but there are black sheep in every flock, and I do happen to know of a certain case in which a girl lost all her savings through not following the advice which I have just given you.

The case which I have in my mind was a particularly hard one, because the withdrawal order was for the whole amount of her banking account. And when she found that after all it was not necessary for her to close her account, it was only natural that she should think that if she did not use her withdrawal order, the money would still remain to her credit in the bank—and so it would have been if the postmaster of the country office had been an honest man; but, unfortunately for the girl, he was not. By means of the withdrawal order he succeeded in getting hold of her money and appropriating it to his own use.

Therefore, my dear Dorothy, despise not the warning of

Your affectionate cousin,
BOB BRIEFLESS.

LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART VII.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY,—It is perfectly astounding to me that people not absolutely devoid of common sense should be taken in by the so-called confidence trick, a device so transparent that it seems incredible that any sane man could be deceived by it. I am bound to say in justice to your sex that I have never heard of a case when a woman was a victim to the confidence trick. I suppose it does *not* appeal to them in the same way that it seems to do to some men.

Perhaps the true explanation of the gullibility of mankind was that given by a rogue who was had up and convicted at the Old Bailey. When asked what he wished to say, why he should not receive punishment for this offence, he replied that he ought to be treated as a great moral teacher, because the confidence trick could only succeed with people who were covetous and desirous of acquiring other people's money without giving an equivalent for it, and that when they found that they had lost their money, it taught them to be more cautious and less grasping.

There was some truth in what this "great moral teacher" said, but unfortunately for him he had also a lesson to learn, and the Recorder gave him several months in which he might give it his careful consideration.

The "Free Portrait" scheme is a bait which allures a good many people. They cannot resist the temptation of getting something for nothing. A man calling himself A. Tanquerey or F. Schneider, and giving an address in Paris, is, I believe, the author of this ingenious system of extracting money from the unwilling pockets of the public. He

professes in his circulars and advertisements to send you a crayon enlargement of any photograph you send him "absolutely free of charge."

After you have sent him the photograph, which is generally one of special value to yourself, being, we will suppose, the only portrait you possess, of a deceased parent, friend or relation, you receive a letter stating that the portrait is ready and will be forwarded to you on the receipt of two or three guineas for the frame.

If you decline to purchase a frame, and write telling him to return your photograph, you receive no reply to your letter, and finally, to recover the photograph which you value, you send the money for the frame, and receive a fairly good crayon enlargement of your photograph in a frame which has cost you as many guineas as it is worth shillings.

There is a class of advertisement which may be seen in almost any weekly paper which just borders on the fraudulent. Even if they are genuine in themselves—and some undoubtedly are not—they open the door to fraud. I refer to those advertisements offering articles for sale in connection with monetary prizes to every purchaser and winner in a competition which can be guessed at a glance.

Every purchaser is told in the advertisement that he will be entitled to receive a prize of £10 if he guesses rightly; but when he has made his purchase and sent in his solution, he will find that either only the first letter opened gets the prize, or that every competitor having guessed correctly, he is only entitled to receive a halfpenny for his share of the money. In this last case, of course, the thing is a swindle because no one would have purchased the article and answered the competition if they

thought the money was going to be divided amongst the winners.

I tried one of these competitions myself, not because I thought it was genuine, but because I wanted to see how it was worked. The task I had to accomplish was something like the following:

"Give the names of the fruits and flowers mentioned below—Soer, Reap, Liput, Cepah, Socruc, Ragone."

Well, you can see at a glance they are rose, pear, tulip, peach, crocus, orange. I sent in my answer and a shilling and a penny stamp, and in due course received a puzzle worth about twopence.

Later on I received a letter stating that my solution of all the words was correct, and enclosing my share of the prize—a halfpenny stamp.

In a similar competition I saw it stated in the papers that 6,000 answers had been received, which shows that the game must be a very paying one for those who issue the advertisements.

What a number of young women there must be waiting to get married! In answer to an advertisement which appeared the other day in the *Exchange and Mart*, in which a lady, "disappointed in love, offered her *trousseau* at an enormous sacrifice," over 1,400 replies were received.

But the lady "disappointed in love" disappointed also the 1,400 ladies who wanted a *trousseau*, for her advertisement was a bogus one, and was merely another trap to catch the unwary.

One has to be very sharp, but the sharpest of us are sometimes taken in, including even

Your affectionate cousin,

BOB BRIEFLESS.

GIRLS AS I HAVE KNOWN THEM.

By ELSA D'ESTERRE-KEELING, Author of "Old Maids and Young."

PART VI.

THE ATHLETIC GIRL.

WANTED: A groom, tall, good-looking, steady.

WANTED: A housemaid, neat, respectable, no fringe.

WANTED: A cook, good, plain.

So run certain familiar advertisements. They are cited here as containing the descriptive words which have a particular applicability to the athletic girl, who, to state the general case in regard to her, is tall, good-looking, steady; neat, respectable, with no fringe; good, plain.

This fact notwithstanding, the average athletic girl would not make a successful groom; still less would she give satisfaction as a housemaid; and least of all has she in her the makings of a good cook. Some hold

that she has in her the makings of a good pianist, but that is a mistake, for she has no *adagio*. "I call a girl like that a fortist, not a pianist," was said of her the other day.

Not always, but very often, the athletic girl's is the prosaic type of mind, concerning which Lowell writes—

"The danger of the prosaic type of mind lies in the stolid sense of superiority which blinds it to everything ideal, to the use of everything that does not serve the practical purposes of life. Do we not remember how the all-observing and all-fathoming Shakespeare has typified this in Bottom the Weaver? Surrounded by all the fairy creations of fancy, he sends one to fetch him the bag of a humble-bee, and can find no better employment for Mustard-seed than to help Cavalero Cobweb scratch his ass's head between the ears. When Titania, queen of that fair, ideal world, offers him a feast of beauty, he says he has a good stomach to a pottle of hay!"

The athletic girl easily thus runs to prose. Sometimes her prose is very funny. She looked up lately from a novel with the speech—

"There's one thing I do want to know most awfully, Daddy—how people 'gnash' their teeth. Is it anything like this—or this—or this?"

Each question was accompanied by a facial illustration. Daddy is a serious man, but he laughed heartily.

Sometimes, however, Daddy shakes his head. The following is a case in point.

"Do you know, my dear," he asked, "the difference between a soprano and a contralto?"

"Why, of course, Dad," was the answer. "The one's a squeak and the other's a squawk."

Such a girl has some knowledge, but she lacks some grace. Very often the athletic girl lacks both knowledge and grace. Sometimes, too, she lacks brains. The outward marks by which you shall know her in that case are that she has large ears and a little forehead. There are exceptions to this rule, but they are not many.

Of accomplishments the average athletic girl has few. All the French she knows she puts into a smile, and that smile is the one with which she meets any references to customs of the good old time. It says—

Nous avons changé tout cela.

Twenty years ago this girl was the girl who wished she was a boy. It is one of the changes which time has wrought in her case that she no longer wishes that. She is happy and proud to



they busily gather their morning store of honey.

Various tall grasses are sending up their feathery plumes, and in a special bed where only wild flowers are allowed to grow, teasel, hypericum, valerian, and bog-myrtle are delighting my eyes by the free, graceful way in which they make themselves at home as if in their native habitat.

Under one of the arches the birds always find an abundance of food, which I strew for them several times in the day.

There I see young blackbirds, chaffinches, hedge-sparrows, wrens, and titmice feasting and flitting about, quite regardless of my presence. One advantage of this retreat is that no house-sparrows come here to annoy the more timid birds.

The quietness and peace of this secluded spot is in marked contrast to the scenes I witness near the house. There sparrows reign supreme. They come down in flocks to gorge themselves and their offspring upon the sopped bread, rudely driving away many other kinds of birds that I would fain encourage.

It may be observed that I have not spoken of robins feeding under the archway, because only one haunts this spot, and he is my special pet, and elects to sit on a bough close to me warbling his sweet low song, and occasionally accepting some choice morsel from my hand.

When he was a brown-coated youngster I began to feed and attract him, and in one week he gained so much confidence as to alight on my hand.

He is now my devoted adherent, flying to meet me in different parts of the garden as soon as he hears my voice.

I am much interested, and I think he is also,

in the development of the little scarlet waistcoat which marks his arrival at maturity. I saw the first red feather appear, just a mere tinge of colour amongst the rest, and now daily I see the hue is deepening. If bathing and pluming will tend to make him a handsome robin, he bids fair to outshine his compeers, for he is always busy about his toilet, first fluttering in a large clam-shell, which contains water, and then becoming absorbed in his preening operations, which nothing will interrupt but the appearance of another robin, who, of course, must be flown at and driven away.

Birds, however, are not my only visitors. Some tame voles or field-mice creep stealthily in and out of the rockwork and find their way to the birds' feeding-ground, where they also enjoy the seeds and coarse oatmeal, and amuse me much with their graceful play and occasional scimmages. Field-mice are easily tamed and made happy in captivity.

Last year I coaxed a pair of these voles into a large glass globe, and kept them long enough to observe sundry family events, such as nest-building, the arrival of some baby-voles, and their development from small pink infants into full-grown mice, and then I set the whole family at liberty under the archway, where they now disport themselves with all the confidence of privileged rodents.

By remaining absolutely still for an hour or two, quietly reading or thinking, one has delightful opportunities of seeing rare birds quite at their ease.

A green woodpecker, all unconscious of my presence, is clinging to an old tree stem near by, and I can not only hear his tapping noise, but I am able to observe how he is supported by the stiff feathers in his tail, which press

against the tree, and how his long tongue darts into crevices in the bark and draws out the insects upon which he feeds.

I follow his upward progress around the stem until he flies away with the loud laughing cry which has earned for him the local name of Yaffle.

Hawfinches are by no means common in this neighbourhood, but one morning I was much interested to be able to watch three or four of these birds, which had alighted on the top of a spruce fir in this dell. Their golden-red plumage glistened brightly as they busily flitted from branch to branch, snapping off small fir-sprays with their powerful beaks, and chattering to each other all the while like diminutive parrots.

Now the early morning sun is sending shafts of brilliant light through the thick foliage, and bringing out special objects in high relief.

Just beside me is a large mass of grey stone, moss-grown and fern-shaded. The sun has lighted up one side of this; the rest is in shadow, so that it forms a picture in itself, and my robin has alighted on it as though on purpose to give the touch of colour that was needed.

All my readers may not have so sweet a spot in which to study nature, but I do strongly commend to them the delight of a quiet time spent alone out-of-doors in the early morning.

The air is then so pure and fresh that it seems to invigorate one's mind no less than one's body, and in the country the sights and sounds are such as tend to helpful thoughts of the love and goodness of the Creator Who has blessed us with so much to make us happy, if only we will open our eyes and hearts to see and understand the works of His hands.

ELIZA BRIGHTWEN.

LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART VIII.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY,—Nothing seems to puzzle the ordinary public so much as the law of omnibus travelling, and in one of two cases which I saw reported the other day, the worthy County Court judge seems, if he were correctly reported, to have made a slip and nonsuited a plaintiff with a good cause of action. I am inclined to think, however, that it was the reporter who made the slip and not the judge, by omitting an important point in the case which had escaped his notice, and I think I can pretty well guess what that point was.

As both the actions arose out of incidents of everyday occurrence, which might happen to anyone, I will here relate them for your benefit.

The first case was one in which a lady claimed damages from an omnibus company—I think it was the London General, but that is a detail—on account of injuries received through the misconduct of the conductor. It appears that there had been a previous altercation between the parties, and that when the lady rose to go out, he pushed her off the step and started the bus, so that the lady fell down and injured her leg.

The judge very properly nonsuited the plaintiff, because it is not part of an omnibus conductor's duties to violently push people off his omnibus; such behaviour on his part was something outside of his ordinary duties as a servant of the Company. The lady therefore had no cause of action against the Company; her remedy was against the conductor for the assault.

This may seem to you, my dear Dorothy, to be a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, but so

it is, and it seems to me to be good sense and good law, although I admit that an action against a wealthy omnibus company and one against a poor conductor are not quite the same thing.

In the other case a lady brought an action against an omnibus company to recover the value of a dress, which she stated had been damaged owing to her falling into the mud through the negligence or carelessness of the conductor in starting the omnibus before she had taken her seat.

According to the report, as I read it, she was going upstairs, but before she got to the top, the conductor, without giving her any warning, rang his bell, and the omnibus started with a jerk, which threw her off into the mud and spoiled her dress.

Now if these had been the only facts in the case, I should have said that this lady was entitled to recover the value of her damaged costume from the omnibus company, because it is undoubtedly part of the conductor's duties to ring his bell and stop to take up and set down passengers, and if a passenger is going outside he ought not to start the omnibus until the passenger has secured his seat, or without giving him warning or taking other reasonable means to see that he gets his seat in safety.

But in this also the plaintiff was nonsuited, and, although it did not appear so in the report, the learned judge must have thought that there was some negligence on the part of the lady. Possibly she had got on to the omnibus whilst it was in motion, as so many ladies do nowadays. This would at once put her out of court. If there had not been contributory negligence of some kind, this lady would have won her case.

If you meet with an accident through getting on or off an omnibus whilst it is in motion, you contribute to the accident in not ordering the conductor to stop, and you have only yourself to blame; if, however, you had ordered the conductor to stop and he had neglected or refused to do so, you would probably succeed in an action against the company.

Nowadays, when nearly all the omnibus companies issue tickets, you are not bound to show your tickets whenever they are demanded by a conductor or inspector, but it is wiser to do so because the absence of a ticket will generally be regarded by the magistrate as evidence of your not having paid your fare, and unless you have any friends travelling with you who are ready to come forward and swear that they saw you purchase a ticket, you will very likely be fined and have to pay costs as well. If you are travelling in a train or a tram, you are bound to produce and deliver up your ticket whenever it is demanded by a servant of the company, the railway and the tramway companies having special powers to make by-laws to this effect.

The muzzling orders still remain in force for the Metropolis, although in the country the dogs are freed of their muzzles.

A man who was summoned the other day for allowing his dog to run about unmuzzled, tried to make a point by pleading that he did not permit the dog to run about unmuzzled. Whenever he took the dog out he always put his muzzle on, but on this occasion the dog had gone out without his permission. However, the magistrate fined him all the same, just as he did

Your affectionate cousin,
BOB BRIEFLESS.

MAN AND THE MOUNTAIN.

By WILLIAM T. SAWARD.

MEN who dwell beside the rivers!
 Ye who build eternal towers—
 Empire-makers, poets, heroes—
 Ye who chain the vivid lightning,
 Till the rocks, and span the ocean,
 Make th' unfriendly desert smile!
 See, afar, the peaks of ages,
 Lifting tempting hands to heaven!
 Beckoning to the lowly-dwellers,
 "You have conquered all the ages
 With your wondrous kingly minds!"

Here, your broadly flowing rivers,
 In the hearts of these old mountains,
 Leap to birth, and give you life!
 Here the winds take sudden refuge,
 Here the stars spell out their secrets,
 And the heavens speak to us!
 Here is solemn meditation,

Dignity and peace majestic;
 Time unmoves us, and the currents
 Of the spheres that roll above us,
 Beat eternal harmonies!

Ask the eagle of its freedom,
 Ask the gentian of its blueness,
 Ask the torrent of its swiftness,
 Ask the lovers' edelweiss!
 They will answer, "River-dwellers,
 While you toil among the vineyards,
 Fret and toil, and age with fretting,
 There's a music in these mountains
 Ye have never, never heard!"

Winds that beat across the ocean,
 Wand'ring stars and clouds that kiss us,
 Bring your broken, sobbing music
 To our feet, and die, confessing—
 "This is greatness, this is rest!"



LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART IX.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY,—I was very sorry to hear that your holiday had commenced in such a disastrous manner; but you were quite justified in leaving the furnished house which you had taken for a month at the end of the first week, when you found that the drainage was in a defective condition.

It is all very well for the landlord to threaten Gerald with proceedings to recover his rent for the three weeks which you did not stay at his house. There is an implied condition in the letting of a furnished house that it shall be reasonably fit for habitation; if it is not fit, the tenant may leave without notice.

No one could possibly assert that a house whose drainage was out of order was fit for habitation; so that, if your landlord is ill-advised enough to bring an action against you, you need have no fear of the result. But I fancy that he is only trying it on, and will abandon his claim when he finds that you are determined to resist it.

It was fortunate for him that you did not stay on in his house and contract typhoid fever, or something of the kind. If one of you had done so, you might have taken action against the landlord for damages and compensation.

What I have just written only applies to the hire of a furnished house. The law on the letting of furnished lodgings is quite different. There is no implied warranty that the lodgings shall continue fit for habitation during the term.

I know of a case where a friend of mine took lodgings at the seaside for his wife and family, and while they were staying there one of the landlady's children became ill with scarlet fever; but, as she did not wish to lose her lodgers, the landlady concealed the fact of her child's having the fever from my friend. The consequence was that my friend's wife and child also became stricken with the fever, and he was put to a lot of expense for medical attendance, nursing, etc. But he was unsuccessful in an action which he brought to recover such expenses as damages, because the jury found that the house was healthy at the time of the letting. And the judges of the Appeal Court laid down the axiom that there is no implied agreement in the letting of furnished lodgings that they shall continue fit for habitation.

If a landlady were to let out lodgings knowing that one of the inmates of her house was suffering from an infectious disease, I have no doubt that she would render herself liable to a claim for damages if one were subsequently brought against her; and it may give you, my dear Dorothy, some satisfaction to learn that she would certainly be liable to a criminal prosecution involving a heavy fine or imprisonment.

"Trespassers will be prosecuted" is a notice which one frequently sees in the country; but it is an empty threat. Provided you are careful to do no damage to the grass, you may trespass as much as you please. Very often you will find such notices stuck up in fields over which there is a right of way. In such cases the notice simply means that

you should keep to the footpath and not trample down the grass. It has been said that it is no offence to take mushrooms, blackberries, primroses, or wild plants of any kind or to trespass to find them.

Of course this only applies to mushrooms which are growing wild; but it still applies even when such mushrooms may be a source of profit to the owner of the field, provided they are growing wild and not in a state of cultivation.

At the same time I ought to warn you that the farmers do not regard things in a purely legal light, and they generally manage to make themselves exceedingly unpleasant to the people whom they find trespassing over their lands. I am bound to say that personally I sympathise with the farmer to a certain extent.

The law does not regard professors of palmistry with a favourable eye; on the contrary, it is inclined to class them as "rogues and vagabonds," although it is true that a prosecution of two professors of the art in Yorkshire was not upheld on appeal and the conviction was quashed. I do not think, however, that the followers of the art have much cause to congratulate themselves on this decision as, at any rate, the London magistrates have a very summary method of disposing of those who are brought before them charged with practising "certain subtle crafts, means and devices by way of palmistry, and imposing upon Her Majesty's subjects."

Your affectionate cousin,
 BOB BRIEFLESS.

and cheerfulness. From her earliest days she found her chief happiness in sacrificing for others. In the exquisite little memoir which her sister (Mrs. Eden) has published, we have a personal interpretation supplied to some of her writings. We learn that in the sketch of Madam Liberality we have reminiscences of her own doings: "Here she has painted a picture of her own character that can never be surpassed." With such a testimony we turn to peruse its pages with redoubled interest. In the first sentences of this sketch we find it recorded of Madam Liberality:

"It was not her real name: it was given to her by her brothers and sister. People with very marked qualities of character do sometimes get such distinctive titles to rectify the indefiniteness of those they inherit and those they receive in baptism. The ruling peculiarity of a character is apt to show itself early in life, and it showed itself in Madam Liberality when she was a little child."

And then we have the account of the pleasure the child derived from saving the plums from her cake, and how "she could 'do without' anything if the wherewithal to be hospitable was left to her." Her liberality was the outcome of continuous and rigid self-denial, and in sharp contrast to that of her brother Tom.

"It may seem strange that Madam Liberality should even have been accused of meanness, and yet her eldest brother did once shake his head at her and say, 'You're the most meaneest and generousteest person I ever knew.'"

"And Madam Liberality wept over the accusation, although her brother was then too young to form either his words or his opinions correctly. But it was the touch of truth in it which made Madam Liberality cry. To the end of their lives Tom and she were alike and yet different in this matter. Madam

Liberality saved and pinched and planned and then gave away, and Tom gave away without the pinching and the saving. This sounds much handsomer, and it was poor Tom's misfortune that he always believed it to be so, though he gave away what did not belong to him, and fell back for the supply of his own pretty numerous wants upon other people, not forgetting Madam Liberality."

Mrs. Eden tells us of the thoughtful kindness shown to herself and other members of her family by her sister who, out of her literary earnings, planned delightful holidays for them, often adding to the pleasure by letting the patient choose her own route according to her fancy.

In this same sketch we get an insight into the courage of Madam Liberality, "like little body with a mighty heart." Often tortured by headache, toothache, and quinsy, "no sufferings abated her energy for fresh exploits or quenched the hope that cold and damp and fatigue could not hurt her 'this time.'" Of Mrs. Ewing it is stated that "she was always coughing" as a girl, but her weakness never seemed to affect her vivacity. We read how Madam Liberality went alone to the dentist's and allowed him to extract a horribly difficult tooth without flinching; she well merited the praise, "You're the bravest little lady I ever knew." This incident finds its counterpart in Mrs. Ewing's life when she went alone to a London surgeon for an operation on her throat in order that no friend might be present at so unpleasant a scene.

On the "ever-glorious first of June" in the year 1867 Juliana Gatty was married to Alexander Ewing, A.P.D. After two years spent in New Brunswick she returned to England with her husband, who for eight years was stationed at Aldershot. Here she acquired her close familiarity with military habits and the high appreciation of soldierly virtues which have made her later books both pathetic and stimulating.

Of fragile frame herself, she has immortalised the famous south country camp.

Not long after the final removal of Major Ewing from Aldershot the health of his wife began steadily to fail. She was compelled to remain in England when he had to serve in India, and she had to bear many crushed hopes during the last six years of her life. But her "lamp of zeal and high desire" continued to burn brightly.

In the early part of 1885 she was seized with an attack of blood-poisoning. After a short period of physical and mental darkness she said truly that she would be "more patient than before." At her request her sisters made a calendar for the week with the text above, "In your patience possess ye your souls." Each day the date was struck through with a pencil. For another week she had the text, "Be strong and of a good courage," and later still, when nights of suffering were added to days of pain, "The day is Thine; the night also is Thine." Her brave life was closed on May 13th, so far as her visible presence in this life is concerned; but who can fail to appreciate the words from the *Newcomes*, which are the last entry made in Mrs. Ewing's commonplace book, "If we still love those we lose, can we altogether lose those we love?"

Whilst herself a devoted member of the Anglican Church, Mrs. Ewing was well able to appreciate the point of view of others; thus we get sympathetic pen portraits of devout Presbyterians, and her writings are free from sectarian suggestions. In the realm of philanthropy we owe much to both Mrs. Gatty and her daughter. Both bring us into close touch with nature and inculcate a tenderer sympathy with all created beings and objects. No one can read Mrs. Gatty's *Parables from Nature* without gaining some spiritual insight and a fuller conception of God's care and love.

F. W. NEWLAND, M.A.

LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART X.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY,—You say that Aunt Anne is in a great state of mind because she has lost her copy of Uncle John's will. She sent it to her solicitors to have their opinion on one of the clauses in the will, and they declare that the will was returned to her, and that it is not in their possession.

There is no need for Aunt Anne to distress herself, even if her copy of the will is lost; she can easily procure another copy by applying to Somerset House. If she only wishes to read over the will again with the opinion she has received from her lawyers, she had better go down to Somerset House, which is in the Strand, not very far from Wellington Street, on the right hand side going towards the City from Charing Cross, and there they will let her read the will on payment of, I think, a shilling, and they will supply her with a certified, or an ordinary, copy of the will on payment of so much per folio, the exact amount she can learn on inquiry.

The part of Somerset House where the wills are kept is exactly opposite the archway, straight across the courtyard—she cannot mistake it. Inside she will find several polite minor officials, who will show her what forms to fill up, fetch the books for her and render her every possible assistance; the men who fetch the books expect a small tip for their trouble.

At Somerset House, Aunt Anne will find all sorts of people reading not only the wills of their friends and relatives, but also wills under which they can take no pecuniary

interest, such as the wills of public men in no way related to them; anyone can read anybody's will on payment of the usual fee. To make a copy of a will for oneself is not permitted, but you may take a short note of its contents.

Somerset House, like most of the public offices, closes at four o'clock, so it is advisable to go not after half-past three at the latest. If Aunt Anne can put off her visit till next week, I shall be happy to accompany her if she desires it. This week all my time is fully occupied with an unusually large session, which means that your affectionate cousin will have the chance of scooping in a guinea or two by the prosecution of some unfortunate prisoner. This is what we call getting "soup."

A curious name, is it not? I do not know the origin of the term, which is certainly a suggestive one. A good many of us never get beyond the "soup," I am afraid, much as we should like to assist at the carving up of the joints.

After which poetical digression, let us return to our muttoms. It is very annoying to lose a business appointment on account of a train being late. Gerald has my sympathy, but I can offer him no consolation, it being a generally established rule that damages cannot be obtained for the loss of a business engagement, nor can damages be obtained for the annoyance experienced by the traveller.

You see the railway companies say that "every attention will be paid to ensure punctuality," and to recover damages you would have to prove that the lateness of the

train was due to their neglect to pay the "every attention" promised, a difficult thing to do. Supposing the weather was foggy, or there had been a break-down on the line, or some other reason for the train being late, the company would declare that their failure to keep to the time advertised on their timetables was unavoidable, and due to causes beyond their control.

There have been one or two cases where travellers have recovered damages from railway companies on account of the lateness of a train, but in all these cases there were special circumstances which rendered the companies liable; but Gerald's case was not an exceptional one; in fact, if he were a suburban season ticket holder, he would find the lateness of trains arriving in the morning a very common occurrence.

If a train is advertised to stop at a certain station, and you get carried beyond your destination, you would probably be successful in obtaining damages for personal inconvenience, supposing you were obliged to walk back, and you would certainly be entitled to drive back and charge the expense of carriage hire to the company; or, supposing that no conveyance was procurable and it was too far or too wet or too late for you to return on foot, you would be justified in going to a hotel and making the company reimburse you for the expenses of the night. It would have to be an exceptional case which would justify you in the ordering of a special train, a course of action not recommended by

Your affectionate cousin,

BOB BRIEFLESS.

boil for ten minutes with a blade of mace, three peppercorns, a little lemon rind, and some salt; strain and mix with a gill of cream. Work half an ounce of butter with as much cornflour as it will take up, stir it into the liquor and boil up over the fire; cut the oysters in small pieces, put them into the sauce and heat gently for a few minutes without letting it boil again.

PISTACHIO CREAM.

Ingredients.—One pint of double cream, the whites of two fresh eggs, four ounces of castor sugar, a quarter of a pound of pistachios (chopped and blanched), one ounce of leaf gelatine, two tablespoonfuls of water, a half-pint packet of lemon jelly.

Method.—Take a plain round cake-mould that will hold a quart, and line the sides of it with lemon jelly. Sprinkle the bottom over with chopped pistachio, using a little melted jelly to set it. Whip a pint of double cream to a stiff froth, and mix it lightly with the stiffly beaten whites of two fresh eggs and the castor sugar (sifted). Pound the pistachios in a mortar, and add the sweetened cream to this. Have ready the gelatine, and when it is lukewarm stir it quickly into the cream. Pour at once into the prepared mould.

Before the wedding-day, Jane, Ada, and Marion had a little tea-party at "The Rowans," at which it must be confessed they talked a great deal and ate very little.

"Well, we have had a very happy year at all events," said Ada, "and if *circumstances* had not upset our previous arrangements, I should have been quite content to go on in the same way for a long time."

"As *circumstances*, named Tom Scott and Jack Redfern, intervened, our housekeeping is at an end," said Jane decisively. "I think I am the one to whom all apologies should be made. Of course, with you two gone, I could not bear starting the same sort of thing again with anyone else, but it has certainly been a most successful experiment. Has your dress come home yet, Marion?"

"Yes; and fits very well."

"It is the prettiest dress you can imagine," said Jane to Ada. "A grey Sicilienne skirt, with a grey glacé silk bodice, and cherry-coloured velvet at the throat and waist. A dear little cherry-coloured toque to wear with it, and a smart grey velvet cape with a delicate design in steel on it. I can't help talking like a fashion plate when I think of it! Our dresses are sent back at last, and there is nothing that needs altering."

Jane and Ada were to wear their new winter dresses of green cashmere and brown velvet; big brown "picture" hats with rowans under the brim. Marion's wedding-day dawned bright and sunny. The wedding was to be at two o'clock.

Jane had arranged to go over to Norfolk Square early to superintend the laying of the breakfast before the party went to church. The table was decorated with white flowers in specimen vases. Azaleas, chrysanthemums, and orange-blossoms, and sprigs of rowan-berries were laid on the pretty white satin table-centre which Ada had worked for her friend.

And now they are off to church.

Marion makes a charmingly pretty but very nervous bride. Everybody is bright and cheerful and there are no tears. Soon they come back and sit down to the breakfast, prepared with so much care. And now the time has come for us to bid farewell to our young housekeepers, whose plans and contrivances our readers have followed for so long. If their example will induce any to try the experiment for themselves, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Redfern, and Miss Jane Oringbury will feel that they have not worked in vain.

[THE END.]



LETTERS FROM A LAWYER.

PART XI.

The Temple.

MY DEAR DOROTHY,—As you are one of the members of the committee for the bazaar in aid of the Nursing Home for Old People, I may be able to give you a few useful hints to avoid certain illegalities which beset the path of the unwary promoters of such charitable entertainments.

The great feature of a big bazaar should consist in having as many side shows as possible, so that people may be able, by the expenditure of a shilling or two, to escape from the importunities of the stall-holders into a concert-room, waxwork show, or other attraction, and not be driven out of the bazaar altogether.

If you want to have anything in the nature of a farce, operetta or comedieta played in the building, you ought to inquire if the hall which you are going to hire for the bazaar has a licence for stage-plays. If it has not such a licence, the performers and those responsible for the entertainment will render themselves liable to a fine, unless the proper licence is secured.

Fish-ponds, bran-pies, lucky tubs, and similar contrivances, are doubtless, strictly speaking, illegal, but are always tolerated at bazaars, where people do not expect to get the value of their money; but it is advisable to draw the line at roulette tables or anything in the nature of a real gamble or a lottery.

On the last day of the bazaar, it is often the custom to sell off the undisposed-of stock of the stalls by auction. The person who holds the auction should be a person having an auctioneer's licence to sell by auction, otherwise trouble may ensue, as the auctioneers have recently made a determined stand against unqualified persons acting as auctioneers.

I think that these are the principal errors into which people who get up bazaars are liable to fall; but perhaps I ought to enlarge a little more upon stage-plays and the necessity for having a licence for their performance.

It is almost impossible to give any kind of a variety concert without unwittingly performing what is the legal equivalent of a stage-play; any song with dramatic action is a stage-play, and so are duologues and monologues, as distinguished from recitations.

Some people have an idea that so long as they do not take any money at the doors, they are quite safe and within the law in giving a performance in the cause of charity, but such is not the case. When money or other reward is taken or charged, directly or indirectly, or when the purchase of any article is made a condition for admission, the performers and the owner or occupier of the building render themselves liable to a fine.

This may sound very alarming, and would, no doubt, considerably startle those good

ladies who lend their houses for performances for charitable objects in the season; but every time they do so, and anything in the nature of a stage-play is performed, they may be prosecuted and fined, although personally they take no benefit from such performances. The fact that they frequently do so with impunity does not affect the law on the matter, which is perfectly clear. Why it has not been altered before now, I am unable to say; hardly a day passes without its being broken, exemplifying the old proverb that "one man may steal a horse from a stable, and another may not look over the hedge."

I know of a case where a gentleman who had turned part of his house into the Theatre Royal back drawing-room, and who permitted a performance of a play to be given on two occasions, to which admission was by ticket only, which could be obtained beforehand on payment of a fixed sum, in aid of the funds of a charity, was convicted and fined under the Act. The gentleman appealed against the conviction, but without success; the conviction was confirmed by the Court of the Queen's Bench. So be warned, my dear Dorothy, and do not allow your friends to disregard my advice, and be assured that it is much better to avoid these risky entertainments altogether.

Your affectionate cousin,
BOB BRIEFLESS.