HINTS ON WORKING THE LETTER CASE.

As the time for working presents for Christmas has now arrived, we give the readers of the OWN PAPER a design for a letter or postcard case, always a useful gift to make to any one; and as the design is delicate in suit the small space, it will be a good example of the work of the worker in the art of embroidery. The design is given in the full size to save loss of time in enlarging. The material of the case itself might be canvas, but we would recommend silk, velvet, or satin, as being richer and more recherche in appearance. It should be cut in two pieces, the front and flap forming one piece, the back the other, and it should be stuffed with buckram to give substance to the case, and the inside should be lined with silk. There might be two small pockets under the flap for stamps. Be careful to get a good side at sides and bottom of the case to allow it to expand, on the principle of a purse or portfolio; and work over all the edges with silk, as shown in the illustration, thus serving the double purpose of binding the case together and obviating the raw edge that would otherwise appear.

The border at back of case might be worked in conventional flowers or leaves in rich colors in blue greens, but this depends entirely upon the color of the groundwork. The damask design in front should be worked in tones of delicate warm pinks and reds, the florals in a mixture of white, buds yellowish, stems slightly brown. We have indicated an appropriate place for a monogram, and also the style of letter suitable for initials. The initials being chosen merely to show how initials should be treated.

THAT AGGRAVATING SCHOOL-GIRL.

(Continued from page 171.)

you were studying by the moonlight last night?

"Yes," began Josephine, and then breaking off too startled to finish even that short affirmative. Her pale eyes darkened with wonder and some nervous anxiety as she asked, almost breathlessly:

"How do you know I was studying by moonlight? You couldn't have seen me through the keyhole, even if you would condense to try to, which I am sure you wouldn't.

"I should think not indeed!" said Helen, indignantly. Then, half laughing, she added, "Never mind troubling your head about how I gained my knowledge, Josie. If wise old Solomon were here now I expect he would repeat his proverb to you—'A bird of the air shall carry the matter.'"

A mischievous smile passed over Miss Nellie's face as she uttered this quotation and Jones's request that her companion would mention to no one the fact of her having gained this knowledge, which Josephine began to put down to a clever guess, as every one in the school knew that she was the only one in a small and almost impossible time to study. Little she dreamt that the bright, beautiful eyes had been within a few inches of her during the night, and that she had brightness over with sad tears for her sake. But she had little time just then for dreaming anything. Helen had come to the study to give help, and she was determined to render it without further loss of opportunity. Piling to-
gether and carrying to another table everything but the French books, the Roman History, and the spelling, she said quietly—

"Papa says one of the sins of the present day is a way people have fallen into of trying to make their brains tell falsehoods. They stuff a lot of things into their minds, and then tell their brains to say they know them, when their muddled brains really know no more about them properly than the man in the moon. I wonder which you would rather do, go on telling falsehoods, or begin to tell the truth?"

Josephine looked shocked and hurt as she answered—

"Oh, Helen, the truth, you know. But I never have told the falsehoods, nor let my brain tell them. I have known always that I knew nothing."

"Then it is time you began to know something," said Helen, calmly, or rather with an outward appearance of calmness. Inwardly she was feeling very anxious. She knew that it would be utterly impossible for any real use to poor Josephine if she insisted on keeping up the accumulation of studies she had undertaken; but Helen much feared if she should have powers of persuasion strong enough to induce her schoolfellow to give up any of what she had regarded hitherto as her duty. As usual, when Helen doubted herself she fell back on her father's thoughts, and more the more they stood her in good stead.

Josephine mentioned the veracious Professor Smith and the German governness, and then she and Helen set to work together at the Roman History, and before five minutes had passed Josephine had forgotten, for the first time since she had been at Crofton House, that she was engaged upon a difficult task.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

COMEDONES.

By Medicus.

COMEDONES! I think I can see before me even now the puz-

zled looks of num-

bers of my fair young readers as they read the title of this little article. Comedones! what is it? or what are they? Whatever do they do? Had it been by anyone but by Medicus, you might fancy it was the name of some nice little tale; but being by Medicus, of course, you will say, "it must be something profound, or phys-

ickey.""

Well, not to keep you any longer in sus-

pense, the word "comedones" is the technical name of a little skin condition which some of you are always consulting me. It is an affection of the skin, principally of the face, which girls call "those tiny little tick things," or "small black spots."

"Well," you ask me, "and what are they? What will cure them? Answer me quick." "No," I reply; "I refuse to be hurried, but you shall have the answer all the same. Listen.

You have all heard of the pores of the skin. They, as you know, secrete perspiration. But there are also in the skin numerous tiny outlets from glands, which secrete an oily lubricating substance, which keeps the skin pliant and soft. Like every other gland and organ in the body, these little bodies are subject to many different derangements, of which I shall not speak at present. Suffice it to say that one of them gives rise to the affection called comedones (from come and done, to cut up, or devour). In the skin's state of health it is only a hard crust on top of the contents of the tubes of the glands. These latter are unable to force out the secretion, and so it distends the skin, and can be a menace out.

"Why has it a black head?" you inquire. The black point is merely caused by the smoke or dust of the atmosphere. Sometimes it gives rise to pimples. The affection is most common among girls who live in towns, who do not take sufficient exercise to render the circulation active, or among girls who suffer from nervousness.

If the unpleasant-looking things are left long in and undisturbed, they get as hard as horns, and when they are finally squeezed out they leave a little pit. I have known cases in which, from no other treatment having been adopted except that of simply pressing them out with the fingers or nails, the skin of the face came to assume quite a pitted surface all over.

As I have already told you that these dis-

satisfying specks are caused by an inactive state of things, then you will readily perceive, then, that removing this state is the proper way to get rid of them. The morning soap bath to the whole body will greatly aid the cure, and plenty of friction should be used. Then to the face soap should be applied and well rubbed in twice or thrice a day, morning and night; at all events; then, after drying it, rub well with a rough towel. Do not be afraid of spoiling your complexion. You will do quite the reverse—you will improve it, although there may be redness of the skin for a little time.

After this thorough washing and rubbing of the face, you may apply a little Eau de Cologne, with just one grain of corrosive sublimate to the ounce. As corrosive subli-

mate is a deadly poison, this lotion must be compounded by a chemist. Exercise must be taken in the open air, and plain, wholesome, non-stimulating food.

VARIETIES.

A CLASSIFICATION OF NOSES.

Here is a classification of noses which will prove of interest to all who study either their neighbours' faces or their own. It is a clearly marked classification.

1. The celestial or turn-up nose. 2. The snub nose. 3. The Jewish or hawk nose. 4. The cognitive or wise-featured nose. 5. The Greek or straight nose. 6. The Roman or aquiline nose. 7. The Roman, however, infinite crosses and inter-

mixtures of noses which at first embarrass the student of 'nosology,' but after a little practice she will be able to distinguish all different sorts with tolerable precision.