This competition was distinguished by great excellence of workmanship in every class. No doll was sent in carelessly dressed; all the girls had taken extreme pains, and much ingenuity had been shown in bringing the clothes up to date, by the using of "combinations," and "Jaeger under-clothing," as well as flannelette—flannel—"elastic woven" material, and silk. One of the faults to be found was, that some of the under-clothing was soiled, which had evidently happened in the making, as if they had lain about, and been too long in hand; but even to this the judges have been merciful, remembering the multitude of lessons laid on the shoulders of our present-day maidens.

There could be no mistake about the prize doll. She is a young lady of about four summers, dressed in a white cashmere pelisse, trimmed beaver bonnet, Dutch hood, her under-dress of white muslin's veiling, with a pink silk gathered yoke and sleeves; the under-clothing knitted to shape; combinations with pattern, the narrowing at knee, waist and legs beautifully done; so much knowledge shown. The pelisse was lined. The effort generally made to make combination under-garments was very satisfactory. The hats and their trimmings were remarkable for their style, and good needlework. The shape of the skirts, where gowns were attempted, leaves something yet to be desired, especially where the "bell skirt" has been aspired to. The caps and pelisses on some of the dolls were admirably cut and shaped and the lining sets smoothly, and without a wrinkle. The bodices are wonderfully well-fitting when one considers the dreadful dolls' figures that they are destined to fit; and they do fit wonderfully well.

The second prize was given to a very dusky young lady, with an entire outfit of the more recent fashion for out-of-door use, the patterns of which, as well as the under-clothing, are of the worker's own cutting. The bodice of the velvet out-of-door dress, was remarkable for its cut and fit. The colour was a grey-green, and it was trimmed with a bordering of grey and green fluffy galon. The stockings are knitted, and the shoes home-made. This girl has also an invalid.

The third prize has been given to a Japanese young lady in a frock of pink and green satin, with gold embroidery. The needlework of this and of the fourth prize was exquisite; indeed, so good was the exhibit of baby-dolls, that our editor added an extra prize of one guinea for the skill and care shown in the dresses. The same was the case with the rag-dolls, they were wonderfully good, and as tests of skill and taste were excellent.
SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES. (Three Guineas and One Guinea.)

EXTRA PRIZE DOLLS. (One Guinea each.)

In this class of dolls there are three remarkable specimens. A Kaffir girl from Durban, Natal, is really a doll to be remembered; the wig is a kind of brown hair to represent the colour of the Kaffir girl’s hair, when it has been coloured with oil and red earth; for it appears they have an ambition to resemble white people, at least in the colour of their hair. Two Kaffir necklaces adorn her neck, one made of a succession of white beads in threes, divided by chains of tiny beads of red and black. The other is a round necklace of small beads worked round in an intricate open-work pattern. Both
THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER.

There was some ruin among the dolls through careless packing, but the examining ladies constituted themselves into a repairing committee, and, provided with glue-pot and needle and thread, replaced hats and shoes, and mended legs and arms very successfully. The fastening on of the labels must be commemorated, and no trouble was found in the certificates of each competitor.

One young lady arrived headless, and another was actually murdered on the road, her poor head being completely severed from the body.

The dolls have been sent to the following hospitals and schools:

Consumption Hospital, Brompton,
Girls' Orphanage, Chapel Fields, Norwich.

Jenny Lind Children's Hospital, Norwich.
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.
Children's Ward, Hampstead Workhouse, N.W.
Nursery Hospital for Sick Children, Forquay.
Evelina Hospital, London.
Mildmay Mission Hospital, Bethnal Green.

Sick Ward of the Bethnal Green Industrial Schools, Leytonstone.
Sick Ward of the Shorefield Industrial School, Hornchurch, Essex.
Whitchapel and Poplar Schools, Forest Gate.

It was at the kind suggestion of Dr. Arthur Downes, one of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board, that dolls were sent to the three last institutions, as he informed us that "the dolls would give pleasure to these East-enders, who have few to think of them in such matters."

The following was printed on the back of postcards, and were distributed with each doll, to be filled in by the fortunate girls who received our readers' kind presents.

To....................................Hospital,

The Editor of The Girl's Own Paper has handed me the doll, kindly presented by you, which I accept with many thanks for your kind trouble and sympathy with one in suffering. Your grateful friend,

THE GIRL'S OWN GUILD OF SCRIPTURE-READING AND STUDY.

Being a scheme for studying the Bible day by day for self-culture, with test questions to prove that the reading has not been wasted.

RULES.

Half-an-hour's study and reading each day.

One chapter a day to be read, the book for the present month being the Book of Numbers. A course of Biblical study will occupy three years and three months.

Ten questions to be published each month in the "G. O. P."

Answers to be sent in by the first week in the following month by readers in Great Britain; by readers in Greater Britain answers to be sent within a month later.

Books required for the present year's study:—The Bible Handbook (Dr. Angus, R. T. S., 5s.); Bible Cyclopedia (Dr. Fuille, R. T. S.); Oxford (or Queen's Printers') Aids to the Study of the Bible, 18. or 3s. 6d. ; the Revised Version of the Bible.

Prizes will be given at the close of each year (not of the course).

First Prizes will be given to each student who has obtained the necessary number of marks. Also a certain number of Second Prizes, according to the number of the students, will be given to the best of those who have reached the required standard. Handwriting and neatness in the MSS. will be considered.

First Prizes to consist of books to the value of One Guineas. Second Prizes to the value of Half-a-Guinea. Students who are prepared to make up the answers to the questions that have gone before may join at any time during the first six months of the "G. O. P." year, i.e. from November to April inclusive. But in all cases the subscription will be 1s. per annum, payable always in advance, and sent by postal note to the Editor of The Girl's Own Paper, 56, Paternoster Row, London.

Each letter in connection with this work to have written upon the envelope "The Girl's Own Guild." A card of membership will be sent to each member, signed by the Editor.

QUESTIONS.

51. Give the first mention of uncoined money in the Bible? the first actual transaction in commerce: and the first mention of jewelry being given as presents.

52. What is the book in the New Testament which is a comment on the Somene Ritual, and gives its spiritual meaning?

53. What is the meaning of the word "Nazirite" (R.V.)? What was a Nazirite of days? When was the order instituted? Name four famous men who were Nazirites? What
OUR DOLL COMPETITION.

EXAMINERS' REPORT AND LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS.

The rag and the woollen dolls have been placed on a separate list, and our editor has given them a special prize of 10s. 6d. Their merits were so conspicuous, that they could not be passed over. The prize "rag doll" we have already mentioned as having been photographed with "the bride." It is remarkably clever; the painting of the rag face is good, and the crocheted dress and cap are very picturesque. It is the work of a girl of only fourteen years of age. The woollen-clad dolls, with their beautifully knitted and crocheted dresses, are all most distinguished, and the prize the highest of all. Her white woollen combinations are in fancy knitting, and are well shaped and finished, and her cape and cap are wonderful specimens of fine knitting.

The dolls in fancy costumes and national dresses take the third prize of one guinea. This is allotted to a charming lady of France, the production of one of our French girls. It represents a child of Ploengaste, a Breton village, in the department of Finistere, near to Brest. The maker is a very old friend, and has read THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER all her girlhood. She writes a very good English letter, free from mistakes, and describes herself as one of our faithful girls.

Nor must the two handsomely dressed Scotch boys be passed over; nor the North American Indian Squaw, hailing from one of our girls in Alberta, N. W. T., a very far-away region. Sir Walter Raleigh, an Italian, Swiss, and Spanish peasant, and several fisher-girls from various coasts should all be noticed.

The dolls have been sent to the following hospitals and schools:

Children's Ward of the Hampstead Workhouse, N.W.
Mildmay Mission Hospital, Bethnal Green.

**FIRST PRIZE.—A BRIDE AND HER TRousseau.**

On this occasion only two casualties are reported, we are glad to say, in the transit of the dolls to our offices; and both of them of a trifling character, not in any way interfering with the pleasure of the future owners. The plan of demanding from each contributor to our competition a clear estimate of the prices paid for the clothes appears to have had very excellent results; and wonderful economy has been exercised in the purchases, these dolls looking, in most cases, better dressed than the ones on which more money has been expended. The needlework is most excellent throughout, some exquisite in its neatness and finish. The general cost of the materials may be roughly stated as about 5s., and they are, in all cases, excellent. The bills of the various dolls' dressmakers range from 9s. 4d. up to £1 4s.; in the latter case the purchase of the doll has been included also.

The first prize doll is a bride, of whom a photograph has been taken, sitting amongst the articles of her trousseau, which is an extensive one, rich in tea and dressing-gowns, tea-jackets, evening dresses, a going-away dress, and bonnet—with hats and bonnets to match the dresses, under-clothing, and a trunk to contain the whole, on which the bride reclines. The number of baby dolls is very large, and all of them are distinguished for their great merit. That selected for a prize is quite perfection as regards the material and shape of her under-garments, and the beauty of her upper ones. The crochet and knitting of her petticoats and booties is beautiful. There is a baby-boy doll worthy of great praise, his hat and jacket being very clever performances. Quite a "pet de zibele" young woman is in a tailor-made gown of grey cloth, which is wonderfully complete, even to the habit skirt, and the most gentlemanly studs beneath a double-breasted waistcoat. She also wears stays, combinations, and black silk stockings. One beautifully dressed baby-doll has a white satin gown, and a spray of apple-blossoms painted on the front of it, with apple-blossoms to match on her white satin hat.

**SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH, AND FIFTH PRIZE DOLLS.**
A PYRAMID OF DOLLS SENT IN COMPETITION FOR "G. O. P." PRIZES.
Sick Ward of the Bethnal Green Industrial Schools, Leytonstone.
Princess Louise Home, Kingston, Surrey.
Sick Ward of the Shoreditch Industrial School, Hornchurch, Essex.
Whitechapel and Poplar Schools, Forest Gate, E.
Children's Hospital, Shadwell.

The following was printed on the back of postcards, which were distributed with the dolls, to be filled in by the fortunate girls who received our readers' kind presents.

PRIZE WINNERS.
FIRST PRIZE. £5 5s.
Jessie Dodds, Bristol.
SECOND PRIZE. £3 3s.
Hilda L. Page, Folkestone.
THIRD PRIZE. £1.
Cecile Kahler, Brest.
EXTRA PRIZE, 10s. 6d.
Ada Elizabeth Street, S. Ashford, Kent.
EXTRA PRIZE, 10s. 6d.
Mary Britten, Brigg.

In this way each donor and worker knows exactly where her little doll is carrying on its mission of love and light.

CHAPTER II.

A WILFUL WARD.

ATHLEEN MOUNTFORD was silent for a few moments after listening to what she called "one of aunty's sermons." But, in her heart, she owned the truth of it, and her generous nature impelled her to speak: "I think you always come off conqueror in a fight with self," she said. "Everyone who knows you would say that you are ever ready to speak of your blessings, and that your trials are kept to yourself. I, on the contrary, have but a single grievance, and I take every opportunity of airing it. Most girls would be so glad and thankful to be placed as I am, that they would feel they had an excuse for grumbling at all.

"I am going to try not to spoil your drive, dear, but, like the parrot we have all read about, I am afraid I shall 'think the more.'"

"However, I will confess beforehand the spirit that is in me. I am seeing Mrs. Stapleton and her surroundings all the time. I am forced to own that her turn-out is perfection, but I am certain my Polly is equal to her Princess any day. That she should look as well as she does, and equal her at managing her horse, if I had the chance. That Polly would fly over the ground, and, as I am a lighter weight, would pass her steed like the wind. And all the while we are lumbering on in a carriage with old Mountain on the box, as if I were a dwarf of seventy, instead of a girl not quite twenty. I have everything, but I am daubed from what I most long for, and the 'but' spoils the rest. I have done now, aunty. Said all that was in my mind. Now I shall struggle after a more contented spirit, and whether I get it or not, I mean to be outwardly amiable for your sake."

Kathleen laid her hand on Mrs. Elliott's. The latter pressed it lovingly, and no more was said about the girl's grievance.

Old Mountain, on the box, had thoughts very similar to those which exercised the mind of his young mistress, when Mrs. Stapleton cantered past.

"She looks a picture, a real pretty picture," thought he. "But our young miss would beat her on Polly. It does seem a pity she should be inside a carriage instead of outside a horse, though anybody might be proud to drive the like of Miss Kathleen. She's the image of her mother, and has a deal of her spirit too. No doubt the master saw it, and felt it would be best to make her promise as he did. Whether she likes it or not, he meant it for her good, and her poor mother paid dearly for breaking her word, though I don't suppose Miss Kathleen knows about that."

The coachman was right. Kathleen only knew that a few years ago, before the death of her father, he had exacted a promise from her to the effect that, so long as she remained unmarried, she would never join the Hollingby or any other Hunt.

"I say so long as you are unmarried, Kathleen, for I hold that the wishes of the father, whether living or dead, must yield to those of the husband, when the daughter becomes a wife. But give me this promise, and a pledge that you will never appear on horseback, at meet or in the hunting-field, so long as you are Kathleen Mountford, and never after you change your name, except by the wish of your husband, and under his protection."

Kathleen readily gave the promise, which seemed a light one to the girl of fifteen. Mr. Mountford was ailing at the time, and she would have done anything in the world to give him pleasure. Then after his death, and the contents of his will became known, the girl was hurt to find that Mr. Mountford had not contented himself with simply exacting that promise from her. He had attached certain penalties to any breach of Kathleen's pledge, and had she disobeyed his command, she would have paid for doing it by the loss of a large portion of her property.

Here was the sting of the whole affair. "He might have trusted me," sobbed the girl. "I never broke my word to him, and now he is gone, a promise made to him is ever so much more sacred in my eyes. It will always be love for my father, not the thought of what I should lose, which will keep me from breaking my word, though he is no longer here to know that I do it."

A very thin thorn in the flesh will give pain quite out of proportion to its size. So with Kitty Mountford's grievance. Because it was a solitary one, it was perpetually making itself felt.

In a famous hunting-county like Woldshire, she was constantly reminded of it. All through the last two seasons she had withstood the condolences of her unsympathetic, but well-meaning friends. To this and all she gave an ungrudging answer with a ringing laugh, and made light of the whole affair.

"I am quite certain I should never care to join in a hunt were I not prohibited from doing it. I am a daughter of Mother Eve, and my case is like hers. I have all but that one tree in my earthly paradise. I trust, nay, I feel sure, that I shall not follow Eve's example in putting out my hand for the forbidden fruit."

Or Kathleen would vary her answer—Evidently.

"The Hunt is my Bluebeard's chamber. But I will not unlock the door and suffer, as Mrs. Bluebeard had nearly