

411, Holloway Road, N., and also the North London Collegiate School. More central is the Birkbeck Institute, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, W.C., where classes are under the joint direction of Messrs. Lawrence, H.M.C.S., and Lyle, M.A. Lately the Civil Service Commissioners have been increasing their staff of young lady clerks. It is also mooted that the typewriter will be much more used in Government offices. It is well therefore for young aspirants to know this useful little instrument thoroughly. The terrible number of candidates who apply for the comparatively few vacancies causes one, however, to be unable to recommend young ladies to turn their thoughts to Civil Service clerkships.

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CIVIL SERVICE preparation by correspondence has been much tried, and is very popular; but I cannot believe in it myself, although the papers set are very good sometimes, and of course the advantage of such a system to those living in the country is obvious. But considering that, above all things, these examinations are competitive, it stands to reason those best taught have the best chance, and we all have felt at times how difficult it is to explain by letter.

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IT is intended shortly, I learn, to start a Women's Vigilance Association in London for the purpose of calling attention to the condition of things in Armenia, where, it is said, the Kurds and other wild tribes, when opportunity occurs, carry off the women to sell as slaves to the Turks. I am very sorry for the poor Armenian women, but there is an old proverb, "Charity begins at home." Are there no slaves in free England, slaves of the hardest of task-masters—even the law of elevenpence halfpenny, as Walter Besant calls it—slaves of the needle, slaves of the shop, slaves of the pen? Should not such be freed before we, as a nation, turn our eyes to foreign countries or raise the voice of indignation as regards their sins? There were, as Mrs. Stowe's once famous book shows us, kind masters sometimes amongst the slave owners; but the hand of stern trade, with its inevitable law of demand and supply, is never tender.

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MESSRS. RAPHAEL TUCK have a splendid show of cards and booklets again this Christmas, a show which does credit to the skill of the many pretty artists and designers this large firm employs, and to whom Christmas cards mean not pretty trifles with kind greetings from friends, but solid gold

and silver, and perhaps even a crisp note or so put by for a rainy day. The newest design is that of a pretty view, the figure of a radiant angel, a Christmas angel, floating over all becoming visible when held to the light. Another charming novelty is their card calendars, most handy for the table, and more of a present than any other card, being useful as well as ornamental. They have also some other pretty calendars, one to hang on the wall, with a fresh card, but equally pretty one, for every month in the year. As usual, they have several pretty porcelain cards, and also a very pretty panel one of gorgeous tropical birds. Their booklets are lovely and of all conceivable sizes and shapes—buckets, bells, bonnets, &c.—but the one I most admire is their illustrated booklet of Longfellow's "Psalm of Life." In its sweet blue covering and jewelled lettering it forms a perfect gem, both literary and artistic.

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MANY of the female clerks of the Central Telegraph Office have now joined the Telegraph Clerks' Association, of which hitherto only male clerks have been members. As there are, according to *The Queen*, nearly a thousand girls working in the Central Office alone, this means a large increase of numbers and let us hope also of strength.

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ADELINA PATTI, it is said, began to sing in public before she was in her teens. In relation to this there is an amusing story told in the Continental gossip columns of the smart little new paper, *The Magazine and Book Review*, of the great diva. Whilst only a little girl she took part in a concert in Ohio and in a supper afterwards. Stanley Matthews, now President of the Court of Appeal, was present, and said he to the little Adeline, "Sing, and I'll do anything you like." "Anything?" she answered; and he reiterated, "Anything." Whereupon the future prima donna sang her favourite, "Home, Sweet Home," and then calmly asked Mr. Stanley Matthews to stand on his head. He was a man of his word, and he stood therefore amidst frantic applause and much laughter from the assembled company.

VEVA KARSLAND.

POST-CARD EXAMINATIONS.

WE are pleased to be able to announce that the *eighth* of this series of examination questions has been most heartily responded to, the following having secured the prize of a book or books of the value of five shillings:—

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