searched all the usual sources but have drawn blank. Possibly there may be a drawing, ink or pencil. One is often rewarded by such a bit of luck, as I was some years back, when I discovered a pen sketch of old Lewisham Church. My old friend Leland Duncan, the historian of the parish, had searched in vain all his life and had only got a sketch of the tower of the church. Less than a year after his lamented death, I found the drawing in a bundle of other Kent items. It has been reproduced by the local Antiquarian Society and the originals safely housed in the vestry of the parish church.

F. WILLIAM COCK.

STANISLAS PONIATOWSKI IN LONDON. — In, or about, the year 1754, Stanislas Poniatowski, the last King of Poland, visited London. I know Horace Walpole's amusing story of his visit to the Duchess of Gordon. Is there any other authority on his visit?

J. M. BULLOCH.

THE BLUE LETTER. — In Wassermann's 'Etzel Andergast,' at p. 139, one of the characters makes mention of getting "The blue letter" (den blauen Brief) as a term for dismissal. To what exactly does this expression refer?

H. F.

WEIRD AFRICA. — I have read somewhere (I believe it is in 'Etzel Andergast') that the strangeness of Africa has been accounted for on the supposition that a meteor has been incorporated in the earth in that region. With whom did this idea originate? Has it ever been seriously entertained? I should like references to some further account of it.

H. F.

LORD HALLIFAX'S CANAL. — At ante p. 92 (s. v. 'Two Hundred Years Ago') an accident is described which took place in 1730 in Bushey Park, through the action of a swan on Lord Hallifax's Canal. What was this canal, and the date of its construction, and of its termination?

J. LANDFEAR LUCAS.

MISSIONS IN CHINA IN 1730. — In the account of the earthquake at Pekin (Pequin) on Sept. 30, 1730 (see ante p. 92 s. v. 'Two Hundred Years Ago') it is stated that the fine church of the Portuguese Jesuits and that of the French Jesuits were almost quite demolished, and likewise the Convent of the Franciscans. When were these religious establishments first set up?

J. LANDFEAR LUCAS.

VELLAS. — A recent drowning accident at Perranporth has revealed at the inquest that on the Cornish coast holes or depressions in the sand under water are called "vellas." What is the origin of this word?

J. LANDFEAR LUCAS.

MARTIAL: INDEX EXPURGATORIUS. — That most accomplished of bibliographers in his own special field, the late Henry Spencer Ashbee (1834-1900), in his unparalleled work, Index Librorum Prohibitorum, 1877 (privately printed under the pseudonym of Pisanus Fraxi), gives an excellent and sympathetic notice of another privately printed and scholarly work almost as scarce as his own, viz., 'The Index Expurgatorius of Martial,' concluding with the words:

'This very excellent work . . . the joint production of four friends, three of whom had at the time just left Oxford . . . Although they have only reason to be proud of their labours, I am nevertheless not at liberty to divulge the authors' names.

As fifty-four years have elapsed since these words were written, and sixty-three years since this work on Martial was printed in 1868 in an edition of only 180 copies all told, could not the veil of secrecy employed by these scholars, and respected by Mr. Ashbee, now be lifted and palman qui meruit ferat: — Who were they?

RHODON.

VOLTAIRE: BIBLIOGRAPHY. — Can anyone say what is the real first edition of 'La Pucelle'? Brunet, in the Supplement (vol. ii., 1880) to his 'Manuel du Libraire,' has the following note at p. 928, modifying his statement in the earlier work: "La P . . . d'O . . . [Pucelle d'Orléans] poème divisé en quinze livres. S. l. n. d. in 12. Édition non décrite; elle se compose d'un faux titre et de 161 pp.; le xvè chant finit par 3 lignes de points et les mots: Coetera desunt. L'édition de Louvain qui jusqu'ici a passé pour la première, a le même contenu, le même nombre de pp., à la fin les mêmes points, et les mêmes Mots: Coetera desunt. L'une des deux est la première."

Quite so, but has any later search- or bibliographical discovery been able to determine which of these two copies is the first