Moresnet: Alleged Small Republic. (See 12 S. i. 429, 195, 258.)—At the first reference I quoted a letter in The Standard of June 2, 1896, in which the writer mentioned Moresnet as a "miniature republic." I gave an extract from The Times of Aug. 25, 1903, which showed that it was not a republic, but rather a small territory "under the condominium of Belgium and Prussia," "subject to a joint administration, pending a final settlement." This presumably final settlement has been arrived at by the Treaty of Peace, part iii., articles 32 and 33:—

"Germany recognizes the full sovereignty of Belgium over the whole of the contested territory of Moresnet (called Moresnet neutre)."

"Germany renounces in favour of Belgium all rights and title over the territory of Prussian Moresnet situated on the west of the road from Liége to Aix-la-Chapelle; the road will belong to Belgium where it bounds this territory."

See Supplement of The Times, June 28, 1919.

Robert Pierpoint.

Vinegar upon Nitre.—Compared in Prov. xxv. 20 to disturbing actions. The "nitre" here referred to is not saltpetre, on which vinegar has no effect, but carbonate of soda, known as "washing soda," on which vinegar produces a violent effervescence. R.V. gives "soda" as an alternative rendering, but that ought to be the only one. "Nitre," L. nitrum, Gr. ντροπή, Heb. nether, used at first to denote native sodium carbonate or natron, but since about 1633 potassium nitrate or saltpetre. So in Jer. ii. 22, "though thou wash me with nitre" (R.V. lye), "with soda" would be right now, and be generally "understood of the people." J. T. F.

Winterton, Linus.

Plane Trees in London.—Plane trees have been accused (without definite proof) of being agents in spreading colds, &c.; it is said that their minute spicules, which float in the air in dry spring weather, act as irritants of the nose and throat. The plane is a native of a region of scorching summers, and the sun's heat in London is reflected from buildings and streets; it is late in leafing, thus escaping the spring frosts; and its bark is shed periodically. For these reasons it is an excellent tree for towns. There are many fine examples in London, the best known being the one in the old churchyard of St. Peter in Chepe, at the corner of Wood Street, which probably suggested Wordsworth's 'Reverie of Poor Susan.' Amy Levy's poem 'A London Plane Tree' must not be forgotten, and Dr. Manette had a fine example in his wonderful old echoing garden in Soho.

The April number of the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy contains an article entitled 'The History of the London Plane, Platanus acerifolia,' by Augustine Henry and Margaret G. Flood. The bibliography of the subject is extensive (unfortunately not included by Dr. Henry), and mention may be made of a paper by George Nicholson in 'Woods and Forests,' vol. i. p. 346, and an article by Henry English in The Daily News and Leader, Aug. 13, 1917.

J. Ardagh.

"Lorribus," "Lorribuses."—The words "lorribus" and "lorribuses" have found their way into print this month (June), probably for the first time, and it may be useful to place this on record. Journalists have used these words in connection with the conversion of the large War Department motor lorries into passenger-carrying vehicles. These are now plying for hire on the London streets, to relieve the congested condition of the tubes, trains, trams, and other public conveyances.

Archibald Sparke.

Attention of a Soul to the Corpse.—Fresh to me is the psychological fancy that as long as a corpse remains unburied the released soul pays it a visit once in every twenty-four hours. This is what I pick up from p. 73 of Mrs. Romanes's 'The Story of an English Sister':—

"At one of our luncheon parties, Lord Halifax told us the following story. Two ladies (I think he knew them) had been hunting somewhere in Lincolnshire, and after the run they gave their horses to a groom and hired a gig. Presently they got to a bridge and saw a man looking very tired, so they either offered him a lift or he asked for one. Presently they came to an inn, and without any thanks he got off the back seat and made his way into the inn, round which a small crowd had gathered. The landlord came out to them, and as he came out the man brushed close past him. So they, a little bit vexed at the man's want of manners, asked who the man was. The landlord said he had seen no one; 'Oh, yes,' they said, 'you must have seen him,' and they began to describe the man. The landlord grew very puzzled and said: 'Please will you come into the house for a minute?' So they went into the inn, and the landlord took them into a room where on the bed lay the man whom they had seen—dead. 'This is the body of a man who was drowned,' said the landlord. 'His body has just been found and we are awaiting the coroner.' But the cream of the story is yet to come. Lord Halifax was driving across a moor with only a servant, so he began talking to him and presently told him this story: where-
upon the man said, 'Of course, you know what this was, my Lord. It was his soul visiting the man's body. The soul of a dead person always visits the body every twenty-four hours until burial.'

To turn from the spiritual to the material: had ever a gig a "back-seat"?

ST. SWITHIN.

American Link with Winchester.—While searching the city archives of Winchester I came across this entry in the Winchester Coffin Book, which may appeal to those who collect historical and genealogical data:

"1625, 30th December. Taken from the (city) cofers Thirty shillings, for the apparelling of six poor boys that went to Virginia."

Unfortunately names are not given. So far as the expenditure went, those were certainly "good old days," as compared with present prices for clothes, if the boys got a fair supply at five shillings each.

WM. JAGGARD, Capt.
Records J3 Repat. Camp, Winchester.

Curious Personal Names.—The following female telephonists appear among a list of persons appointed by the Admiralty, as set out in The London Gazette of July 4, 1919: Ladysmith Shamrock and Thistle Dijon.

Union Club.

W. C. J.

Queries.

We must request correspondents desiring information on family matters of only private interest to affix their names and addresses to their queries, in order that answers may be sent to them direct.

HuetT Tomb, Millbrook. (See 2 S. vi. 246, 294, 331.)—This tomb which appears to have been destroyed and buried in 1858 was rediscovered on April 11, 1919, and the figures and portions of the tomb placed in a temporary position in the church; but it appears from the excellent description of the tomb in 'N. & Q.,' Oct. 9, 1858, that there are further portions still to be found. This agrees also with Pedestrian's account of Sept. 25, 1858, and with local statements that portions of the tomb were buried in the rectory garden, together with the brass of a priest. Owing to alteration of the chancel since the tomb was destroyed, it is practically out of the question to put the tomb back in its original position: but I shall be glad to hear from any members of the family as to their ideas on the subject.

Harry P. Pollard.
The Rectory, Millbrook, Beds.

Sir Peter Denis.—I shall be obliged if any reader of 'N. & Q.' can give me information regarding Sir Peter Denis and his wife, beyond the following: Sir Peter and Lady Denis, the commander of the yacht which conveyed Princess of Mecklenburg Strelitz, bride of George III., to England.

I should like to know the date of his birth, marriage, and death, to whom he was married, and where I can find the best account of him. He is not in the 'D.N.B.'

John Lane.
The Bodley Head, Vigo Street, W.1.

Chevalier Peter Dillon.—The Chevalier Dillon, who was a member of the Legion of Honour, of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and of the Geographical Society of Paris, and commander of the H.E.I.C. ship Research published in 1829 an account of his search in the South Seas for information about La Pérouse's voyage of 1785-88. What was his origin and when did he die? He seems to have been alive in 1842, when his pamphlet against the Methodist Missionaries in the Friendly Islands to which the Rev. David Cargill replied was published. Where can I see the pamphlet. It is not in the British Museum.

J. M. Bulloch.
37 Bedford Square, W.C.1.

Cowap.—Information desired as to the origin of the surname Cowap. Believed to have arisen in Cumberland or Westmorland. Is it a variation of Cowan and Cowen?

J. Landfear Lucas.

Medieval Scientific MSS.—I am compiling a catalogue of the Medieval Scientific MSS. in the British Isles. The work has received grants from both the Royal Society and the British Academy—a combination of help which happily illustrates that cooperation and mutual recognition between science and the humanities that votaries of the history of science feel confident will be fostered by this growing study.

The catalogue now comprises over 40,000 entries, and I am anxious to make it as complete as possible. Early scientific material has been found embedded in the most unlikely places—even in missals and psalters—and I shall therefore be grateful for information as to any MSS. dating from before the sixteenth century, other than those of our great national collections which have, of course, already been examined for the purpose.

Dorothea Waley Singer.
Westbury Lodge, Norham Road, Oxford.