**NOTES AND QUERIES.**

**Vol. viii. part ii. p. 1130, records the death of the ex-High Master of St. Paul's School:**

"Dec. 10. At Charles Bedford's, esq. at Brixton-Causeway, in his 85th year, George Charles, esq. He was formerly preceptor to the Duke of Cumberland; and, in consequence of being in that office, had a pension of 300l. per annam."

**Daniel Hifwell.**

17, Hilldrop Crescent, N.

By the following extract, under "St. Paul's School," from Wilkinson's 'Londiniæ Illustrarum,' London, 1819, the High Master (1737-48) held the degree of LL.D.:—

"There is a Catalogue of all the books in the Library of St. Paul's School, with the names of all the benefactors; as given in by George Charles, L.L.D., High Master, in the time of John Noss, Esq., Surveyor-Accountant of the School; dated the 2nd day of March, 1743."

**Everard Home Coleman.**

71, Brecknock Road.

**Cuming Family (8th S. vi. 108).—Mr. Boswell-Stone will find an autobiographical letter from Dr. Cuming to his friend Dr. Lettsom in Pettigrew's 'Life of Lettsom' (London, 1817), vol. i., "Correspondence," p. 3, together with a portrait of Cuming, engraved by Sharp in 1785, after a painting by Beach, 1783. The letter is a full one as regards Dr. Cuming's life and personal history, his settling in Dorchester, his connexion with Hutchins's 'History of Dorsetshire,' &c.; and is succeeded by several chatty letters from and to him and his friend Lettsom. In addition to the information Mr. Boswell-Stone quotes, we have the date of Dr. Cuming's birth, Sept. 19, 1714, O.S.; the facts that his father and mother lived together for "almost forty years," and produced sixteen children, eight sons and eight daughters; that "of this number three sons only arrived at man's estate": that of these, t.e., of the three surviving sons, Dr. Cuming was the youngest.

Of Dr. Cuming's brothers, the eldest, James, a merchant in Edinburgh, married, in 1738, Katherine, daughter of the Hon. William Erskine, third son of Lord Cardross, and had by her several children, of whom one only survived at the date Cuming wrote his letter (Aug., 1783), viz., Charlotte Helen, wife of Pelham Maitland, Esq., of Belmont.

Dr. Cuming's second brother, Alexander (almost certainly unmarried, since the former speaks of him as "a very spirited, promising young man"), sailed for China in the beginning of the year 1739 as first supercargo of the Suecia, a ship in the service of the Swedish East India Company, which was wrecked off the Orkneys, on her return voyage, in 1740, all hands, except thirty common sailors, being drowned. The "my nephew" of 1768 may have been one of James Cuming's sons, who had died before 1783 (although Dr. Cuming makes no allusion to any such nephew in his letter, and expressly states he had never even seen his niece Mrs. Pelham Maitland), but cannot have been the "Lieut. Cuming, of Guise's Regiment," mentioned in the Caledonian Mercury, since James Cuming, the only possible father to an actual nephew of the Doctor, having only married in 1738, could have had no son older than seven years in 1745, an impossible age for a fighting and captured ensign. I should fancy, too, that Cuming's hypothetical nephews would hardly have been found fighting against the Young Pretender, since their uncle tells us he was educated in the doctrines of the Church of England (which, in a Scotchman of that age, hardly argues Whiggish tendencies), that he was sent to Paris in 1735 to study anatomy, &c. (a somewhat unlikely place for the son of a Whig to visit at the time), and that, when settled in Dorchester, he had to overcome "a spirit of party, which affected him through the persons with whom he was connected." Dr. Cuming died March 25, 1788.

I think Dr. Lettsom produced a memoir of Cuming.

**W. Sykes, F.S.A.**

**Gladstone Bibliography: Immuring Nuns**

(2nd S. ii. 401, 501; iii. 1, 41, 135, 214, 329, 452).

—Is Mr. Peacock, in reference to this subject, able to offer a critical examination of the following statement in Lord Malmesbury's 'Memoirs'? I have not seen the articles which Mr. Peacock mentions.

"1846. November 27th. Left Florence at ten and arrived at Arezzo at seven.

"November 28. We were shown in the church at Arezzo the skeleton of a man who had been immured. It was still covered with skin like parchment, and the features were quite preserved. The wretched creature had been walled up evidently all live, and seems to have struggled either to escape from his prison or died from suffocation."—Vol. i. p. 131, 1334.

**Ed. Marshall.**

Mr. Peacock may like to put on his notes a reference to Poe's story, 'The Cask of Amontillado,' in which a gentleman is "walled up" by his friend in a highly horrific manner.

**W. F. Waller.**

The following extract, taken from a local paper, has a bearing upon this subject:

"A horrible discovery has been made at Angerburg, Germany, in the course of some excavations which are being carried on beneath the church there. The workmen came across a small walled-in space, in which they found a human skeleton, a broken chair, and the remains of a helmet and a pair of boots. The walls bore marks as of finger-nail scratches, and there was only too much evidence that some person had been walled in alive."

**W. B. Gerish.**

**Early Catechisms** (8th S. v. 147).—The question is puzzling to a mere idiotus. What catechism...