A Rockingham Pot (5th S. vi. 208.)—There is in the possession of Mrs. Evetts, of Tackley Park, Oxon, a small Rockingham teapot. It is four inches in height, and the same in width from the end of the spout to the bend of the handle. The lid is formed like a stopper, with a catch to prevent its falling off. The ground is white, and is ornamented with raised flowers and leaves, the stems of which in front stop against the spout, and at the back are twisted to form the handle. The end of the spout is covered, with perforations, to prevent the tea-leaves from being poured out. Underneath is a griffin in violet, with the inscription, “Royal Rockingham, Bramel.”


Although I have adopted the usual mode of spelling, it is not generally known that the patent of Earl Scarborough’s peerage in 1690 designates him as Scarbrough—the way in which his lordship always subscribes himself.

Benj. Ferrer.

Carlyle as a Poet (5th S. vi. 67, 110.)—Carlyle seems to have a penchant for a blue lead pencil. A few years ago, wishing to add his honoured autograph to my small collection, I wrote, and received the following characteristic reply, written in blue pencil: “This is my authentic signature, if you much care for it: T. Carlyle. Chelsea, 31 Octr., 1871.” Afterwards regretting that it was not written in endurable ink, I ventured to express my regret, and this drew forth another blue pencil reply: “In pencil alone is it well possible, trace in ink if you like! T. Carlyle. Chelsea, 31 March, 1873.” Of course I should never think of committing such a piece of vandalism.

O. Ed. Ma.

“Ramping” (5th S. vi. 6, 115.)—Mr. Pengelly, who says that a working man told him that an acquaintance “was ramping in his head,” may be interested in learning that, in Dutch, ramp signifies damage, loss, misfortune, suffering. I need hardly remind anybody of the state of mind described by Mrs. Gamp as “rampagiousness,” being otherwise “going on the rampage.” Being “rampagious” seems to refer to the anger attendant on loss, damage, misfortune.

H. Fishwick, F.S.A.

The Devil Overlooking Lincoln (5th S. v. 510; vi. 77.)—In the Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, Elizabeth, Addenda, p. 531, under the date of 1578, is the following allusion to this saying: “If any one came to the Bishop without a present, she (Mrs. Freke, the Bishop of Norwich’s wife) will look on him as the Devil looks over Lincoln.” From this it would appear that his Satanic majesty did not look with favour on the citizens of Lincoln. A version of the proverb familiar to me puts quite another colouring on the question. It runs: “This is all my own, as the Devil said when he flew over Lincoln.”

H. Fishwick, F.S.A.

“Scran” (5th S. v. 513; vi. 55.)—It is asked what is the derivation of this word, used in Ireland in this way, “Bad scran to you.” In Gaelic, crann has several meanings; among others, a lot. Crannchur is a casting of lots; crann-tarruig is a drawing of lots. Our Scotch Gaelic has a way of sometimes prefixing s. To the Celtic Magazine (Inverness) for June I sent a list of sixty-five pairs of words of this kind. I fancy that Irish does the same. It is not likely that scran here has anything to do with the other word scran, applied to food. It means “Bad luck to you.”

Thomas Stratton.