JOHN BLACK, OF THE "Morning Chronicle."—This journalist, so well known in his day, has lately been referred to in the Times as Dr. Black. Did he ever get a degree of doctor from any university? I believe not. He was dubbed doctor by Cobbett, who frequently mentioned him as "my doctor." He was a German scholar, and may have had in after times a German degree. I do not doubt that it is Cobbett's degree which has stuck to him.

Cromay.

MADAME LE BRUN.—I have in my possession a fine example of the celebrated portrait painter Madame Le Brun; it is apparently of an actress, and, if English, painted about the year 1802, when Madame Le Brun visited England, and painted the portraits of the Prince of Wales, Lord Byron, &c. I wish to ascertain whom the portrait represents, whether there are any means of getting a list of pictures painted by her while in England, also if any of her descendants are living who would be likely to give information. It has been suggested the portrait may represent the celebrated Mrs. Abington, an actress of that time.

H. SALTER.

"The Universal Magazine."—What are the dates of the birth and death of this periodical, which had a career of perhaps forty or fifty years' duration in the latter part of the eighteenth century? Enshrined in its pages were innumerable stories, voyages, travels, a monthly chronicle of current events, and biographical memoirs; it was illustrated by many excellent copper-plate engravings. I can well remember that dipping into its pages in my boyish days afforded me the very greatest pleasure, and made me acquainted with the history and manners of the former part of the reign of King George III.

JOHN PICKFORD, M.A.
Newbourne Rectory, Woodbridge.

A Silver Badge.—I have before me a silver badge with inscription "St. James Society." It is in the form of a star, with a gilt bell in the centre, and a date 1624, with a small engraved bell between the figures. It has been suggested that it may have something to do with the parish of Aldgate. Does any society of this name still exist in London or elsewhere? Any information upon the subject would be acceptable.

J. C. J.

Bookbinding with Wire.—When and by whom was this first introduced? I find it adopted by Macmillan & Co. in the binding of Eternal Hope, by Canon Farrar, 1878.

W. STAPKAUSSEN JONES.

WANTED A HUMOUREOUS MOTTO.—Will any one help me to find a humorous motto for a badge consisting of a bat or vampire bearing a blood-red heart? The heart of course need not be alluded to.

A. F. S. St. James's, S.W.

Bull-baiting in England.—Required the latest date of this occurrence in our own country. An old advertisement gives me a record that a bull was to be baited at the "Blue Boar's Head" Inn, opposite the church of Waltham Abbey, Essex, on Whitsun Monday, 1750, and "any gentleman bringing a dog should be entertained at a dinner free."

C. GOLING.
Romford, Essex.

The Murdered Chief of Glencoe.—Does any information exist as to where Ian and Alister, the two sons of the murdered chief of Glencoe, fled after the massacre? Are there any proofs that either of them or their direct descendants subsequently settled in a Perthshire parish, as by some they are understood to have done?

A. F. M.
Edinburgh.


A. J.
Bath.

"Garrulous Old Age."—We have been taught by poets from Homer's time that old age is characterized by great talkativeness, but is not this altogether false, and contrary to experience? I find that old men are very far indeed from being great talkers, and I am sure that they cannot come near young men and maidens in this respect. The chattering age is from about eighteen to thirty; at seventy we do not care for the fatigue of talking, and are not likely to find listeners if we did. "N. & Q." is the place to ventilate all sorts of errors, and it would be interesting to know if this time-honoured phrase is not eminently untrue.

E. COBHAM BREWER.

The King's Serjeant at Arms.—What duties were attached to the office of King's Serjeant at Arms, when was that office created, and does it still exist? There exist, I know, two officers called Serjeants at Arms, one in attendance on the House of Lords, the other in attendance on the House of Commons, but these do not appear to be styled Queen's Serjeants at Arms. Sylvanus Urban, Guen, records, under date of May 7, 1749, the marriage of Thomas Coke, King's Serjeant at Arms, and the death, under date of January 1, 1760, of John Mason, King's Serjeant at Arms. The former was supposed to have been a nephew...
of Sir Thomas Coke, Knight of the Bath, created May 9, 1744, Earl of Leicester, and certainly pre-deceased his uncle, who died April 30, 1759.

Frederic Larpent.

Water-colour Drawings: Mr. Walter Fawkes's Gallery.—This gentleman in 1819 opened to public view his beautiful collection of drawings at his elegant mansion in Grosvener Place. His collection consists entirely of water-colour drawings: it is peculiarly rich in Turner's drawings. The west drawing-room contains forty of them, and the bow drawing-room twenty of his sketches, which are singularly beautiful. The other drawings are by Fielding, Smith, Robson, Atkinson, Varley, Hills, De Wint, Glover, Prout, Ibbetson, Garmod, Swinburne, and Heaphy. Does this collection still exist? Wyatt Paworth.

[As numerous and elaborate series of articles on this gallery which is now publishing in the Athenaeum. In the first of these (Sept. 27) is a reference to the source of our correspondent's quotation from Carey's Memoirs of the Fine Arts in England. Mr. Fawkes was one of the most distinguished Yorkshiremen of his day, an M.P., an author, and a great friend of Turner and other artists.]

Parker Family, Staff, and Salop.—Can you give me information about two families named Parker, living in Staffordshire and Shropshire about the beginning of the last century? Antony Parker, amongst others, resided at Madeley, was connected with the Darbys and Pritchards, and died 1766. He was possibly born at Pool Quay. His daughter Esther married one Levi, a representative of the other family, reputed Jacobite, and probably from Newcastle-under-Lyme or Madeley. Was either family connected with the Parkers of Park Hall, in Shropshire? X. Y. Z.

Dramatic: First Appearance of Miss Stephens, &c.—When did Miss Stephens first appear on the stage? I think she appeared in The Hair of Venoni, some time in 1815-16, and sang "Oh, say not woman's heart is bought," composed by John Whitaker. Can you give me the dates of the first night of the opera of Ariaxerxa, which is intended to give illustrative citations for every word in the language,itative citations for every word in the language, and to put, is quite untenable, because there is no post in French in the sense of posy, and the word could not have been formed in English from a French verb. Mr. Pictor's explanation of the word in the sense of a posy is precisely that which I have given in my Dictionary. —Wyatt Paworth.

AUTHORS OF QUOTATIONS WANTED.

"The thin red line."

R. F. S.