chest is incised, divided into three compartments. The centre contains a large tree with two figures in armour, one armed with a sword, fighting a lion, which he holds by the mane; the other figure in mortal combat with a monster with wings. The right-hand compartment has a fountain with two lions at the base. The left-hand one also has a fountain with birds drinking, and a large serpent twining up a tree. The length of the chest is 6 ft. 8 in.; its breadth, 2 ft. 4 in.; height, 2 ft. 2 in. It was filled with many objects of interest, of which a few are still in our possession, including a model of the Holy Sepulchre, a fine crucifix in ebony and ivory, an ivory carving of the Nativity, and a number of beads and other relics, which would seem to show that it belonged to some ecclesiastical dignitary of the Romish Church.

In his cruise, Captain Woodes Rogers is said to have touched at the Island of Juan Fernandes, where he took on board Alexander Selkirk, the prototype of Robinson Crusoe. The Cruise of the Duke and Duchess was published at the time—I believe at Bristol. Could any of your correspondents tell me whether any copy of this work remains, and where it could be seen?

Edwd. F. Johnson.

Hinton Blewett, near Bristol.

Zwolle.—In one of the amusing Colloquies of Erasmus, the Confictus Thalise et Barbarie, Zwolle is mentioned as being under the peculiar protection of this Dutch Goddess of Dunness, Barbaries, as being her gymnasium. Can any of your readers give me any references which will explain why this town, above all others, should have been thought worthy of such an honour? A. L. Mayhew.

Stratford-on-Avon.

The Size of Hands.—In several ancient swords, as well as in modern ones of foreign manufacture, Indian and Turkish scimitars and daggers, as may be seen in the Kensington Museum (in Mr. Taylor's collection of Indian objects), and also in the Geological and British Museums, the hilts are remarkably small, so much so that an Englishman of average size could hardly grasp such weapons firmly. Did the ancients place the thumb and forefinger outside the guard, or were their hands, and are those of Eastern nations generally, smaller, on the average, than those of Western European nations of the present day? E. H. Dunkin.

Kidbrooke Park Road, Blackheath.

Madame de Genlis.—In looking at the well-known photograph from the alto-relievo of Christ on the Cross with the two malefactors, I found that a friend had attached at the back of the frame the following lines, &c. said to have been written by Madame de Genlis on a wall in one of the Convents of Paris, believed to have the virtue of driving away robbers.

Was Madame de Genlis the authoress of these lines? Are they still on the walls of the convent, and where is the authority for Dismas and Gesmas as applied to the two malefactors?

Madame de Genlis, 1820.


Thomas Warner.

Cirencester.

Anonymous American Plays.—Who are the authors of—

1. The Magician and the Holy Alliance; or, the Spirit of the Book, a melo-drama, 28 pp. (Anon.), 16mo. Philadelphia (1821). This seems to be a political squib.