Dublin, he having been a highly distinguished fellow for many years. To some persons mistakes like the foregoing may seem to be immaterial; but accuracy in details is at all times much to be desired. The issue of a new edition of the biographical sketch to which I have referred, “for private circulation,” with sundry improvements and some additional and very interesting matter, is in contemplation, and, I think I can take upon myself to say, may soon be expected. A.B.H.B.A.

“A LENGTHY” and “A STRENGTHY.”—Here is an appeal from our American contemporary, the Literary World, Boston, U.S.A., for a legitimate and fresh word-coinage:—

“We desire to make a public appeal in behalf of the application of these words, now standing without, to be admitted into the temple of good language. The first named has been knocking somewhat loudly for some time, and now and then, indeed, has crept in for a moment, only, however, to be shown the door very promptly. Its companion has been less important; in fact, we do not know that it has made any application at all. But if ‘lengthy,’ why not ‘strengthy’? Analogy is certainly strong—we may say strengthily—in favor of their admission. ‘Wealth’ has given us ‘wealthy,’ and ‘health’ has given us ‘healthy’; two adjectives which we could not at all do without. ‘Lengthy’ is quite as convenient. It is a softer word than ‘long.’ And ‘strengthy’—how we should like to use that epithet in describing books, for example, which have strength, but are not exactly strong. We have many ‘strengthy’ novels, for example, and the trouble with many otherwise excellent articles offered to the Literary World is that they are too ‘lengthy.’ But we will not be further barbarous without general consent.”

F. J. F.

TACITUS AND SCHUBERT: A PARALLEL.—C. M. L.’s admirable parallel between Schumann and Shelley (ante, p. 246) recalled to my mind a comparison between Tacitus and Schubert, which occurred to me long ago. It may seem very fanciful to compare two minds belonging to such different worlds, separated by so many years, and not even exercised in the same sphere. But in both may be traced the same powerful imagination, at one time sombre, at another picturesque; the same inexhaustible invention, which seldom (perhaps never) exactly repeats itself; the same pregnant thought, which suggests quite as much as it expresses. On the other hand, the elaboration and studied compression of the historian find their parallel only in the last works of the musician.

H. C. DELEVINGNE.

HARES’ BRAINS.—I have just met with two instances of a local (?) superstition which may be worth noting for the benefit of your correspondents interested in folk-lore. Here, in the centre of Dorsetshire, it appears to be commonly believed that a dose of hare’s brains is an excellent soporific for troublesome infants. A woman in the parish from which I write had recently the misfortune to become the mother of twins. The twins are, as I suppose twins usually are, somewhat troublesome. On paying a visit to inquire after the mother, my wife was consulted as to the desirability of a dose of hare’s brains. Mentioning the circumstance to my keeper in the hope of eliciting some information as to the prevalence of the belief, he told me that about a fortnight ago the wife of the keeper on the adjoining manor, who had been recently confined, called at his house and told his wife that she had been down to the squire’s house to beg a hare’s head from the cook, in order to give the brains to her baby as a sedative. I do not remember having heard of this superstition before, and therefore make a note of it, thinking that it may be new to some of your readers.

G. W. M.

SALTED HERRINGS: A SEASONABLE NOTE.—The art of salting and packing herrings was discovered in the fourteenth century by Beukels, of Biervliet, in Flanders, who, after introducing it into his own country, went to Finland and established it there, whence it spread to all the Baltic provinces. In 1856 Alexander II., Emperor of Russia, in his visit to Finland, after leaving Helsingfors, went to the little town of Borgo, and laid with great ceremony the first stone of a monument to the memory of the fisherman Beukels, who died in 1397 in his native village, where his tomb was once visited by the Emperor Charles V., and Peter the Great, in recognition of the importance of his discovery, gave a pension to one of his descendants.

WILLIAM PLATT.

Callis Court, St. Peter’s, Isle of Thanet.

“THE WHISKERED INFANTRY OF SWITZERLAND.”—Macaulay, in describing the entry of William’s troops into Exeter, speaks of “The whiskered infantry of Switzerland.” The term sounds incongruous. Surely he was misled by the changed meaning of the word. According to Mr. George Scharf’s Catalogue of the National Portrait Gallery, “Whiskers, in ancient descriptions, meant the hair over the mouth, now called moustaches.” This would fit the Swiss soldiers much better.

J. H. R.

M UZZLED HARVESTERS.—The following paragraph, from the Daily News of October 18, deserves, I think, a place in “N. & Q.,” though it may be hoped that the Milanese journal was romancing:—

“It seems, according to a Milanese journal, that the prefect of one of the first cities of Italy, who is a rich landowner, has, in this civilized age, reverted to the feudal custom, obliging his field labourers to wear an iron muzzle during the grape harvest, to prevent them from tasting a few bunches of grapes! The fact was noticed last year, and yet the said prefect still represents the Government.”

JAMES HOOPE.