have heard boys call this harmless weapon "bultrygn." The Rev. J. C. Atkinson, in his 'Glossary of the Cleveland Dialect,' says, "In Scotland the forms boun-tree, bun-tree, prevail, as well as bourn-tree, bur-tree." For the syllable bun he compares the A.-S. bune, a cane, reed, pipe.

F. C. Birbeck Terry.

EARL OF ESSEX'S ARMY (7TH S. X. 388) — In the British Museum Library will be found copies of "The List of the Army under the Command of Robert, Earle of Essex and Ewe.....With the Names of the several Officers belonging to the Army," London, 1642, 4to. (press-mark E. 117. 3.), and "A List of the Army of his Excellency, Robert, Earle of Essex." Printed December 22nd, 1642, 4to. (press-mark E. 83/9).

Daniel Hipwell.

ARCHAEOLOGY OR ARCHAIOLOGY. — (7TH S. X. 3, 114, 170, 238, 377). — I suppose I am an "unreasonable reader," for archaeology annoys me. But why should we not drop the diphthong, as our ancestors did? No mediæval scribe ever wrote such words as "domicella Domine Regine Alianora," but always "domicella Domine Regine Alienore." Why not revert to the old usage? One of your correspondents has advised us to make a printed æ; but how are we to prevent the compositor from setting it up as æ — which mine very generally does outside 'N & Q.'

Hernimtuude.

Sharpe's 'Catalogue of Warwickshire Portraits' (7TH S. X. 167, 273) was compiled by John Merridew, and published by him in 1848. Sharpe could not have had anything to do with it, as he died in 1841. In fact his name is not mentioned among the many acknowledgments made by the compiler in his introduction. Mr. Merridew died in 1862, at Leamington, aged seventy-two. WM. GEO. Fretton, F.S.A.

Hearsall Terrace, Coventry.

ETYMOLOGY OF HIBISCUS (7TH S. X. 269, 350). — This word is not derived from Ιβις, nor is the latter derived from any of the Egyptian languages. Hibiscus has been probably corrupted from Arabic ḵubbīzī, mallows. ḵibis is an Arabic compound.

R. S. Charnock.

Crichton Club.

WAY-WISER (7TH S. X. 386). — Compare German Weg-weiser.

R. H. Busk.

SECRETARY JOHNSTON (7TH S. X. 364). — James Johnston was a younger son of Sir Archibald Johnston, of Warriston. After his father's execution he was sent to Holland, and was educated at the University of Utrecht, where he distinguished himself as a student of law. He was employed by the Whigs as a secret emissary just before the Revolution. He was appointed permanent Secretary of State for Scotland in 1693, with a seat in Parliament, the Master of Stair being the Political Secretary (Ormond's 'Lives of the Lord Advocates,' vol. i. p. 241).

R. W. Cochran Patrick.

PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS, APOTHECARIES' COMPOUNDING (7TH S. X. 328). — Beckmann, in his 'History of Inventions,' has an article on 'Apothecaries,' in which he says: —

"Conring asserts, without any proof, but not, however, without probability, that the physicians in Africa first began to give up the preparation of medicines after their prescriptions to other ingenious men; and that this was customary so early as the time of Avenzoar, in the eleventh century. Should that be the case, it would appear that this practice must have been first introduced into Spain and the lower part of Italy, as far as the possessions of the Saracens then extended, by the Arabian physicians who accompanied the Caliphs or Arabian princes.... Hence it may be explained why the first known apothecaries were to be found in the lower part of Italy; but at any rate we have reason to conclude that they obtained their first legal establishment by the well-known medical edict of the Emperor Frederick II., issued for the kingdom of Naples, and from which Thomasius deduces the privileges they enjoy at present." — Ed. 1846, vol. i. p. 329.

Beckmann also states that "in many places, and particularly in opulent cities, the first apothecaries' shops were established at the public expense, and belonged to the magistrates."

The earliest record of an apothecary in England that he mentions is dated 1345.

J. F. Mansergh.

Liverpool.

With us ther was a Doctor of Phialke.

Ful redy hadde he his apothecaries,

To send him drages [sic] and his lettuaries,

For ech of hem made other for to winne:

Hir frendship n'as not newe to beginne.

To send him dragges [sic] and his lettuaries,

Ful redy hadde he his apothecaries

With us ther was a Doctour of Phisike.


Jonathan Bouchier.

Ropley, Alresford.

The legal status of apothecaries as assistants to physicians was first fixed in 1511 by the Act 3 Henry VII., c. 9. Mr. Jacob Bell, from whose 'Historical Sketch of Pharmacy in England' I take this item, does not give the Act in full, or say precisely what the duties of the apothecaries were; but it is evident from what he afterwards says that among them was that of compounding physicians' prescriptions.

C. C. B.

THE ANDES (7TH S. X. 227, 354). — A "first paper" on 'The Ascent of Cotopaxi' is contributed by Mr. Edward Whymper to Good Words for November, in which the author says, "So far as I am aware, the first person to reach the summit was Dr. W. Reiss, of Berlin, on November 27, 1872." Mr. Whymper's "forthcoming work, 'Travels..." Lecture Notes and Queries, December 6, 1890, page 453.