LORD WHARTON'S CHARITY (4th S. xii. 447.)—M. D. will do well to spread the information as to Lord Wharton's bequest of "Bibles and prayer-books" to every district. The bequest had never been heard of in Cambridgeshire until about four years since, when I gave the information to some clergymen who availed themselves of it. The funds are great and accumulating. The secretary's name can be given if necessary. S. N.

ARMs OF SLYS (4th S. xii. 449.)—The arms of the town of Sluis (Sluys), as given by Rietstap, are "De gueules a deux fasces, ondes d'argent." JAYDEE.

MARTIAL'S EPIGRAM, XIII. 75 (4th S. xii. 426.)—I fear that the quasi explanation of S. T. P. will not be considered to elucidate this obscure passage more than the vain efforts of previous commentators. Why he should suppose that what is clearly a distich (of two lines) should be written as a Δ seems unaccountable, especially as no division of words or sense seems to need or permit such an arrangement. After some consideration, I have hit on the following, which if not Martial's meaning, at any rate, is curious. The "litera" I understand to mean the flight of cranes, in the shape of a letter. The words were doubtless originally in uncial letters; and without our modern distinction of the U and V.

First. Turbaeis [the word] versus—spelt versus—that is, shuffle, or anagrammatize the letters.

Secondly. Perdideris [or take off] one of the axes, or letters of the word—say the last one—you will then have versus.

Thirdly. Turn the first u sideways (part of turbabis), and transpose the other letters;—thus, Crabes—the title of the epigram (Crabes) appears, and the riddle is solved. EDWARD KING.

Lymington, Hants.

SIR WILLIAM BROWNLOW (4th S. xii. 448.)—I think Burke is right in saying that Sir W. Brownlow married Elizabeth Duncombe, and that there has been a confusion between two men of the same name. My reasons are these:—In the extinct baronetcies, under Skipwith, it appears that Sir Thomas Skipwith, Bart., married Margaret (Brydges), daughter of George Lord Chandos, and widow of William Brownlowe, Esq.; also, that the father of this Sir Thomas was knighted 1673, made a baronet 1678, and died 1694. It does not, therefore, seem at all likely that his son could have married the widow of a man who died as early as 1666, which is the date given by the same authority for Sir W. Brownlow's death.

CHARLES F. S. WARREN, M.A.

"A KING WHO BUYS AND SELLS" (4th S. xii. 449.)—There need be no difficulty found in identifiying the king here stigmatized. Byron was an ardent Napoleonist, though not a blind worshipper of the fallen Emperor. Allusions may be found in his poems to show his disgust at the policy of the restored Bourbons and of the ultra-royalist ministry. Canto 3 of Don Juan, in which the "Ode on the aspirations of Greece after Liberty" is introduced, was commenced in October, 1819, but not published until August, 1821, and then accompanied by cantos 4th and 5th. The delay is accounted for on p. 629, edition 1859. Louis Dix-Huit (nicknamed Louis des Huitres, from his inordinate passion for oysters) is the king referred to in Byron's ode. Any impartial history of the Restoration, and of the subsequent elections in France, will justify the allegation as to bribery and corruption. Louis XVIII. lived until September, 1824. J. W. E. Molash, Kent.

THE POMEGRANATE (4th S. xii. 449) was used as a very common ornamental device, both in the ancient Jewish temple and on the Ark of the Covenant, as a symbol of peace and prosperity, since it was the common production of the land. Pomegranates were used as ornaments, as roses and oak leaves are in our own land. R. H. F.

In all Eastern countries the pomegranate is the symbol of fertility, and also of fecundity in women. C.

"AND WHEN THE EMBERS," &c. (4th S. xii. 447):—

"And when the embers fall away,
    And when the funeral flames arise,
    We'll journey to a home of rest—
    Our ancient gods!—our ancient skies!"

I copy this from a volume of poems by the late John Anster, Esq., LL.D., printed in Edinburgh in 1819. The lines quoted are the last of a translation of Goethe's Bride of Corinth. Dr. Anster also published an excellent translation of Goethe's Faust, and a small volume of poems entitled Xeniola. He was an Irish barrister, and latterly judge of the Court of Admiralty in Ireland. He was a scholar of T. C. D., where he took his degrees.

S. T. P.

"CENTAURY" (4th S. xii. 407.)—There are two genera of plants, of quite different families, which bear in English the name of Centaury. One is of the Composite. A very pretty species is a well-known weed in corn-fields. The English botanists ascribe no medicinal qualities to this genus; but a blue ink can be made from its flowers. Two species imported from Persia are known in our gardens by the name of "Sweet Sultan."

The other Centaury, Chironia (=Erythraea) is of the family of the Gentians. It is a strong bitter and stomachic. Withering, on the authority of Stokes, says that it forms the basis of the "Portland Powder" for the prevention of gout.