I doubt whether it is possible for us at this time to specify them, and I cannot find that Mr. Pitt ever enumerated them. In his speech in Parliament (18 April, 1785) he expressed his belief that the House would agree with him in thinking that "there were about 36 boroughs so decayed as to come within the scheme," and he proposed "the establishment of a fund [a million pounds] for the purpose of purchasing the franchise of such boroughs as might be induced to accept of it." (Parl. Hist., xxv. 441–2).

This language seems to me to show that he necessarily left the names of the boroughs in the dark. The Western counties of England by themselves would have provided a sufficient number of Parliamentary boroughs which were ripe for extinction.

W. P. COURTNEY.

Unless the names of the burghs proposed to be disfranchised by Pitt are contained in the Journals of the House of Commons, it is hard to say where a complete list of them may now be found. The following works might be consulted: Stockdale's "Parliamentary Guide" for 1785, or "Debates and Parliamentary Register... from 1780 to 1796," published by Debrett. Massay's "History of England during the Reign of George III.," vol. i. chap. ix., deals at some length with the subject of corrupt constituencies. Earl Stanhope ('History of England from the Peace of Utrecht,' vol. i. chap. i.) gives a list of 35 "hereditary seats," which probably coincides to some extent with the list of Pitt. The Rev. Christopher Wyvill, Rector of Black Notley, published a work bearing directly on Pitt's Bill, entitled "Summary Explanation of the Principles of Mr. Pitt's intended Bill for Amending the Representation of the People in Parliament," 1785. He also wrote, "State of the Representation of the People of England," 1793, and "Political and Historical Arguments proving the Necessity of Parliamentary Reform," 1811, 2 vols., but I cannot say whether he gives the names of burghs to be disfranchised.

As regards Wilkes, it is scarcely likely that any list of the burghs he proposed to wipe out can now be found. His speech, however, in bringing forward his measure, is still extant, and may be read in "The Treasury of British Eloquence... Compiled by Robert Cochrane," Edinburgh, W. P. Nimmo, 1831, pp. 165–9. In the course of his speech he names some ten or a dozen burghs to which the term "rotten" used to be applied.

W. SCOTT.

RATS AND PLAGUE (11 S. ii. 465).—"Accordingly it appears that the priests and diviners then knew that 'scientific basis' is the ending of my Note 2431 in The Boston Evening Transcript's 'Notes and Queries' of 10 September, 1910; and this note can doubtless be seen in the file of that periodical at its London office, 3, Regent Street, by any interested in coincidences. My note was based on a dim remembrance of a similar article in The New York Evening Post of about ten years ago, so the parallel is not novel, as thought by CANON SAVAGE.

Further light is thrown by Baikie's 'Sea-Kings of Crete,' pp. 167–8; and that the rats are not directly responsible for spreading the plague, but merely as they are "hosts" for fleas, may be inferred from a paper read before the (London) Zoological Society on 15 November, and briefly recorded in The Athenaeum of 10 December, p. 738.

ROCKINGHAM.

BOSTON, MASS.

HACKNEY AND TOM HOO D (11 S. iii. 29).—Hood slightly alters Byron's 'Child of Harold,' canto iii. st. 21:

"There was a sound of revelry by night,
And Belgium's capital had gather'd then
Her Beauty and her Chivalry, and bright
The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men.

WALTER W. SKEAT.

[MR. T. BAYNE and DIEGO also refer to Byron.]

GOATS AND COWS (11 S. ii. 466, 534).—George Eliot was evidently cognizant of this custom. In 'Middlemarch' (1881 ed., p. 291), when describing the old farm homestead called Freeman's End, she says: "There was an aged goat (kept doubtless on interesting superstitious grounds) lying against the open back-kitchen door."

See also 9 S. v. 248, 359, 521; vi. 132, 196.

JOHN T. PAGE.

LONG ITCHINGTON, WAR WICKSHIRE.

"'Pucked'" (11 S. ii. 526).—The 'N.E.D.' records the word "puck-led" s.w. "Puck," sb. e, but gives no such early quotation as that produced by MR. PIERPONT.

L. R. M. STRACHAN.

HEIDELBERG.

CAPT. WITHAM AND THE SIEGE OF GIBRALTAR (11 S. iii. 28).—The incident referred to is not to be found in Drinkwater's 'History of the late Siege of Gibraltar,' although that writer gives a full account of the sortie made on the night of 26 November, 1781, along with a plan of the operations. He even condescends upon details, as where he