school at Udny, Aberdeenshire. On his father's death he became, at the age of seventeen, a school teacher, and his private school became celebrated.' Dr. Grosart, the author of the notice, says that "many of the local gentry were educated by him, and not a few of his pupils became men of mark, among them being Sir James Outram and Canon Robertson, the ecclesiastical historian." The life of Canon James Craigie Robertson, author of the 'History of the Christian Church,' in the same work gives Udny academy as the chief place of his education but adds that "owing to his mother's frequent migrations, he is said to have been at twelve other schools" [!]. Dr. Grosart was, of course, not distinguished for his accuracy, but it is curious that no mention is made of West Ham. Was Dr. Bisset's school ever there at any time?

EDWARD BENSLY.

PROSCENIUM MOTTOES (clvii. 25, 70, 122; clxi. 51).—At 12 S. iv. 138, under 'Spenser and "The Shepherd's Calendar,"' I quoted, in reply to a query about the source of Vivitur ingenio, caetera mortis erunt, the couplet from the longer 'Elegia in Maecenatem,' 37-38, where the above line is the pentameter, and pointed out that the words Vivitur ingenio appear at one time to have been prominently displayed at Drury Lane theatre, as in the epilogue to Farquhar's 'Love and a Bottle,' written and spoken by the actor Joseph Haynes, are these lines:

Vivitur ingenio, that damn'd motto there,
Looking up at it.
Seduced me first to be a wicked player.

EDWARD BENSLY.

THE CHRISTIAN NAME VERA (clxi. 50).—This name is, of course, of Slavonic origin, but it is by no means the feminine of Verus, nor is it a contraction of Victoria. It is derivated from the Slavonic word viera, which means faith, Fides.

OTTO F. BABLER.

Olomouc, Czechoslovakia.

In the 1860's the popular novelist "Ouida" published a society novel called 'Moths.' This will be familiar to everyone who, like myself, spent their holidays in pre-war days at the old Patterdale Hotel by Ullswater. The hotel was then under the management of the Miss Hudsons, and the only reading-matter provided, apart from the Bible, was an ancient yellow-backed copy of 'Moths' which consequently all visitors perused on a wet day. The beautiful and virtuous heroine was an English maiden named Vere, but the wicked and worldly mother made her marry, as a mere child, a brutal Russian prince, and her name was then changed to Vera. In Marion Crawford's novel 'A Cigarette-Maker's Romance,' published, I think, about the same period, the scene is Russia, and the heroine is called Vera, spelt I think Vjera. The author explains that this is a Russian name meaning "Faith."

As both these authors felt it necessary to give some explanation of the name, it must have been unknown to the majority of English people at that time.

M. H. DODDS.

Charlotte M. Yonge's 'History of Christian names,' London, 1884, states that Vera is a Slavonic name, meaning faith.

ARCHIBALD SPARKE.

"VAUXHALL": USE OF THE WORD (clxi. 49).—The Russian vozel is more interesting and complex than your correspondent thinks.

A pleasure garden of the Tsars near S. Petersburg was called Vauxhall, after Vauxhall Gardens. The first railway in Russia ran out to it. Then the word was transferred to the "Vauxhall railway": and so came at last to be synonymous with "railway station."

EDWARD J. G. FORSE.

A SHAMBLE (clxi. 28).—Shamble is the Anglo-Saxon sceamel, coming via the German tongues from Latin scamellum, scabellum, diminutives of Latin scamnum, a bench. The use for a butcher's shop is a reference to the butchers' chopping-blocks or heavy chopping-benches.

EDWARD J. G. FORSE.

CAPS IN COLLEGES AND CONVENTS (clxi. 28, 68).—The "mortar-board" seems to have been introduced with Cambridge in 1769 by permission of the Chancellor, the Duke of Grafton. University head-gear had been a matter of controversy there for more than two hundred years, and there is much literature on the subject. A start might be made with Mullinger's 'History of the University of Cambridge' (Longmans).

EDWARD J. G. FORSE.