

contents of Brunn's brick house in Panton Street, London, and the "benches and gallery in his (timber) Exhibition Room behind his dwelling house". What were Chinese Shadows, and is anything known of Joseph Brunn?

L. M. W.

MRS. AUGUSTA WEBSTER.—I shall be grateful for information and location of any manuscript material and letters of Mrs. Augusta Webster, poet (1837-1894), and of her family—her husband Thomas Webster, lawyer and prior to 1870 Fellow and Law Lecturer at Trinity College, Cambridge; her only daughter, and her father Vice-Admiral George Davies (1800-1876); also for any reference to her by Theodore Watts-Dunton, Christina and William Rossetti, in unpublished material of theirs.

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SOURCE WANTED.—Can any reader help me to identify the quotation given in a footnote to Part I of James Thomson's *City of Dreadful Night*?

Though the Garden of thy Life be wholly waste, the sweet flowers withered, the fruit-trees barren, over its wall hang ever the rich dark clusters of the Vine of Death, within easy reach of thy hand, which may pluck of them when it will.

(MRS.) ANNE RIDLER.

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RHINOCEROS HORNS.—In connexion with my research work I am doing on the use of rhinoceros horns both as "poison detector" and aphrodisiac, I am looking for references in the literature and also for specimens of rhinoceros horn in museums or private collections.

It is known to me that in the past centuries the Chinese produced some very beautifully carved cups and tankards from rhinoceros horn, and I have found some specimens in various collections and museums, including the Victoria and Albert Museum.

It is also known to me that some Asiatic potentates—amongst them the Chinese emperors of the seventeenth century—made

gifts of such horns to Europeans of high rank.

It is specifically any reference to this kind of gift that I am looking for, and I would be most grateful for any assistance in finding them.

DR.-JNG. E. H. WERNER T. SCHAURTE.
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COLOURED CROSSES.—I am anxious to trace the origin of the use of coloured crosses as plague symbols. Blue, white and red have all been used in different countries at different times.

I should also be glad of any information about the use of the red cross as a medical or pharmaceutical symbol before or after the Geneva Convention.

It was used by some apothecaries and druggists from as early as 1650 and continued to be used for these purposes and as a trade mark until prohibited by the Geneva Convention Act of 1911.

(DR.) T. D. WHITTET.

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THE BOOK TRADE.—I am engaged on a comparative economic and social study of the book trade in this country, the U.S.A., and the continent of Europe. Many *N. & Q.* readers will have personal memories of the book trade before the last war, and even at the end of the last century, and many more will have had a professional interest in the book trade as librarians or collectors over many years. What I require are (a) references in non-book trade papers to prices of books, trade practices (i.e. books at a discount, remainder selling, price of new books), and remarks about booksellers as tradesmen; and (b) personal memoirs, if possible supported by old bills, etc., of the prices charged in bookshops, discrepancies between one shop and another (both in terms of prices and service), and some descriptive pictures of life in such bookshops as Mudies at the turn of the century. I would also be grateful for any references to sources of information on these subjects, either printed or in MSS., which readers may know.

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