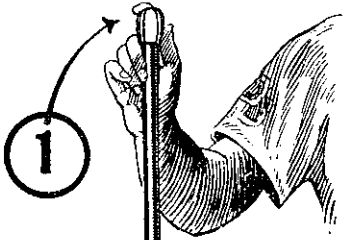


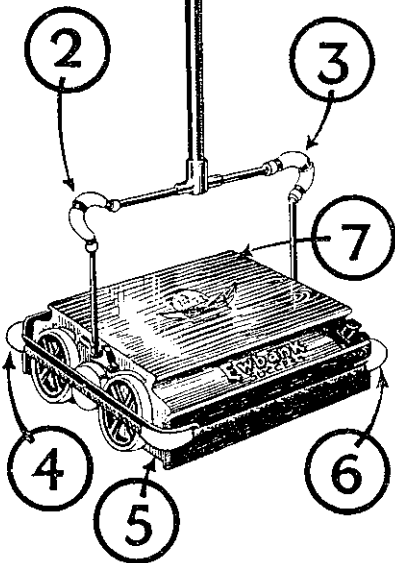
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HINTS TO YOUNG WRITERS

S.M.D.—Your story is under consideration. It certainly does justice to the Maori race.

G.B., North Auckland.—Sketch is quite good, but such a subject requires to be treated on a larger scale, and in lighter vein. Yours is decidedly heavy and unrelieved.

S.J., Auckland.—You have not mastered even the simplest rules of versification.

W.P., Auckland.—Your verses show promise. I have retained "Eyes" for further consideration.

L.E., Hamilton.—As a first attempt your lines are worthy of commendation.

R.F., Linwood.—Diffuse. Wordiness only blurs the effect. Cut out every superfluous word. Make your story like a picture—clear in outline, impressive, telling. As for the plot, it has long been worn threadbare.

S.T., Auckland.—"Who" is an interesting instance of clairvoyance. Your use of crisp, short sentences is good up to a certain point, but it can be overdone. Your sketch would gain in variety and lightness by appropriate paragraphing. "I Am Surprised" is strikingly appropriate—under the circumstances.

L.H., Feilding.—"Betty" has promise. Have you essayed grown-up stories yet?

M.T.A., Nelson.—There are charming word pictures in your sketch, but the thread of interest connecting them is so tenuous as to be almost negligible. Judy's memories are more interesting to Judy than to anyone else. I am retaining your lines on "Spring" for further consideration.

C.V., Auckland.—Verselets are correct enough as to technique, but thought and expressions are banal. Such phrases as "glow with love and mirth," "flowers new-born," "breathed a fragrance," "the blushing dawn," and so on, are mere "tags" to conceal absence of thought.

P.B., Wellington.—Surely this is not original!

C.R., Mount Albert.—Story under consideration.

M.P., Dunedin.—Very sorry, but there is no money in that kind of writing. Try something original.

M.E., Te Awamutu.—Surely some new interest could be woven into that ancient plot! For the rest, quite a pleasant little tale.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"Patricia Ellen," by Mary Wiltshire. Publishers, Mills & Boon.

We have been much interested in reading Mary Wiltshire's charming book. The descriptions of English scenery are extremely good, and the delineation of the very human characters depicted in its pages clever; while humour, pathos and tragedy are skilfully blended to make a very readable story. The brief idyll of Patricia Ellen and Timothy, with its tragic climax, should appeal to all artists and art lovers; and the later story of Patricia Ellen's devotion to, and struggles to maintain their child, provides an example of unselfish mother-love, although she is at times somewhat unscrupulous in the methods she pursues. The book will well repay its readers.

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