

**WISDOM ON THE HIRE SYSTEM:
CONTAINING FULL DETAILS OF
THE 'INSIDECOMPLETUAR
BRITANNIAWARE' PRIZE
COMPETITION**

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Prize Competition by Edward Verrall Lucas & Charles Larcom Graves

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EDWARD VERRALL LUCAS & CHARLES LARCOM GRAVES

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BRITANNIAWARE'
PRIZE COMPETITION**

From YE TYMES of April 1, 1403.

‘Yt is ye opinyon of ye wyse and skilled clerkes, lykly to knowe, that ye reason of ye happinesse and prosperitye of merrie Englonde, and ye comelinesse and buxomnesse of ye Englishe wyves and maydes, and ye peacefulnessse and long life of ye Englishe men, is due unto ye gladdde and blithesome facte that America has not yet been alighted upon by any lucklesse marinere.’

Scenes In the Lives of Competitors.—I.



'I'VE WON A SCHOLARSHIP AT GIRTON!'

WISDOM ON THE HIRE SYSTEM

Containing Full Details
of the
'INSIDECOMPLETUAR BRITANNIAWARE'
PRIZE COMPETITION.

'Concentrate, even though your coat-tails be on fire.'
Sentimental Tommy. By J. M. BARRIE.

By E. V. L. & C. L. G.

ISBISTER & CO., LTD.
15 TAVISTOCK STREET, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON.
1903.

22418.26.117

THE AWARDS.

THE FIRST.—An eight-roomed fourth-floor flat in Portland Place, to be named Bellevue.

THE SECOND.—A portrait model of the winner, to be placed advantageously at Madame Tussaud's.

THE NEXT THIRTEEN.—A complete set of Bekker's *Aristotle*, bound in three-quarter levant. With annotations by Mons. Walkley.

THE NEXT FIFTEEN.—A year's supply of Pale Pills.

THE NEXT FIFTEEN.—A Stall for all first nights of Mr. H. A. Jones's plays.

THE NEXT TWENTY.—Mr. Arthur Bouchier's autograph.

THE NEXT THIRTY.—Half an hour's stimulating converse with the gentleman who invents the advertisements for the 'Ency. Brit.'

THE NEXT FIFTY.—Ten minutes' ditto.

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Lucas.

PREFACE.

WHAT is an INSIDECOMPLETUAR without readers? A play without an audience, a dinner without diners, a Chamberlain denuded of his monocle, a Salmon bereft of his Gluckstein, a legless baronet, an eggless omelette, an asylum without lunatics, an anomaly, an eyesore, a *rara avis in terris*, a white elephant, a thing abhorrent to nature.

Hence, every means must be resorted to, to provide the INSIDECOMPLETUAR BRITANNIAWARE with supporters. If we cannot sell it we must lend it; if we cannot lend it we must give it away. (But not yet.) Just now we want to lend it; we are straining every nerve to find it a good home. It must be read. If you can't read the Articles, read the Index, and thus qualify for an award from the marvellous array that we are offering.

What is life without prizes? In the words of a great

jurist, a blank. But, again, what are prizes without competition? The idea is unthinkable. Conscious of our great responsibilities, we are resolved not to pauperise the nation, but to exact a reasonable expenditure of time and trouble on the part of the applicants for our unparalleled munificence. Hence the scheme which it is now our privilege to propound.

With these words we step aside, to remove all impediment between a clamorous and enlightened public and

THE COMPETITORS' GUIDE

TO THE

BELL LETTRES

E. V. L.

C. L. G.

Easter, 1903.

THE COMPETITION ORGANIZED BY THE
CONDUCTORS OF THE

‘INSIDE COMPLETEUR BRITANNIAWARE’

is of an altogether novel kind. It is a form of advertisement so arranged that those who enter for it believe themselves to be the victims of disinterested philanthropy.

The most successful Competitor will receive at his (or, if a woman, her) option either—

- (1) An Eight-roomed Fourth-floor Flat in Portland Place, to be called ‘Bellevue;’ or
- (2) Its equivalent in raw or hard-boiled eggs, according to the competitor’s taste.