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CORRESPONDENCE.

EASTER DAY.

(Vol. vii. p. 90.)

WITH reference to the sun dancing on Easter Sunday, it may be of interest to mention that a somewhat similar custom of getting up early to see the sun rise prevailed in Norway until a few years ago. As mentioned in my recently published book, *In the Northman's Land*, there stands, on the borders of Hardanger District, a mountain of considerable height, which in olden times was a place of Easter pilgrimage. Thither, it is said, the peasants of the neighbourhood flocked on Easter morn to witness "the rising sun dance *for joy* in commemoration of the Resurrection of Our Lord."

A. F. MOCKLER-FERRYMAN.

CHARMING FOR THE KING'S EVIL.

(Vol. vi. p. 205.)

A friend of mine has communicated to me the following, which is, I think, worthy of being recorded. I may add that my friend is a native of Somersetshire, the subject of the "cure," a clever man, and the head of a London firm of brewers.

"Among the many superstitions in the West of England down to the middle of this century was the belief in the healing virtues of the touch of a seventh daughter, and doubly so in that of a seventh daughter of a seventh daughter. Of course there must be no sons intervening. One of these lucky women lived at

Hatch, in Somersetshire, about the year 1840. She had the reputation of being able to cure what was then known as 'King's Evil.' The writer, then about ten years old, was suffering from an abscess in the lower jaw, which many doctors failed to cure, and the superstitious ones pronounced it to be a genuine case of 'King's Evil.' Accordingly he was taken to the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter that she might exercise her healing virtues upon the wound. She was a girl of sixteen years of age. The method of procedure was to visit the girl for seven successive mornings and then to miss seven mornings and again repeat the visits in the same order. The patient must be the first person the operator should see on the morning of the visits. She came downstairs to a room where the patient was alone, then taking her spittle upon the point of her middle finger, she would cross the wound three times without saying a word, she afterwards retired to her room and the patient left the house. This treatment was continued for about six months, and it is hardly necessary to say that no cure was effected. No fixed charge was made, but a present was expected to be made to the girl's parents.

"The 'King's Evil' was simply the effect of a diseased tooth, the removal of which later on effected a cure in a fortnight."

A. G. FULCHER.

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