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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NIBELUNG TREASURE IN ENGLISH.

(Vol. ix. p. 372.)

MR. KER is in error regarding the reference to the Rhine in his quotation from Sir Degrevant. "In the reyne" means simply "in the kingdom."

LEWIS F. MOTT.

College of the City of New York.

Professor Ker comments as follows :

"The rhymes in *Sir Degrevant* are correct enough, though the spelling is not, and *Reyne* here rhymes to *mine*. For the spelling compare line 1413 (p. 236 in Halliwell's text) :

' And evere sche drow hom the wyn
Bothe the Roche and the Keyn
And the good Malvesyn
ffeelde sche hom zare.'

And line 1704 :

' Sche brougthe hem Vernage and Crete
And wyne of the Reyne.'

Reine in the sense of *realm* cannot be made to fit the rhyme. To read the passage as 'All the gold in the realm,' instead of 'All the gold in the Rhine,' is an emendation, not an interpretation, of the text, and one that appears to be disallowed by the usages and language of the poem."

BURIAL CUSTOMS.

(Vol. x. pp. 253-4.)

In 1860 I went with my father to the house of a friend who had just died. He lay in his coffin, and my father placed his hand on the forehead of the corpse, and told me to do the same. As we left the house my father said to me: "This is the first time you've ever seen a dead body, and I wanted you to notice what a peculiar coldness there was in it. And," he added, in a somewhat apologetic fashion, "they say that you should always touch any dead body that you see, for it prevents you dreaming of him—at least, that's what they say."

My father, his father, myself, and the dead friend, were all Londoners by birth and residence.

J. P. EMSLIE.