

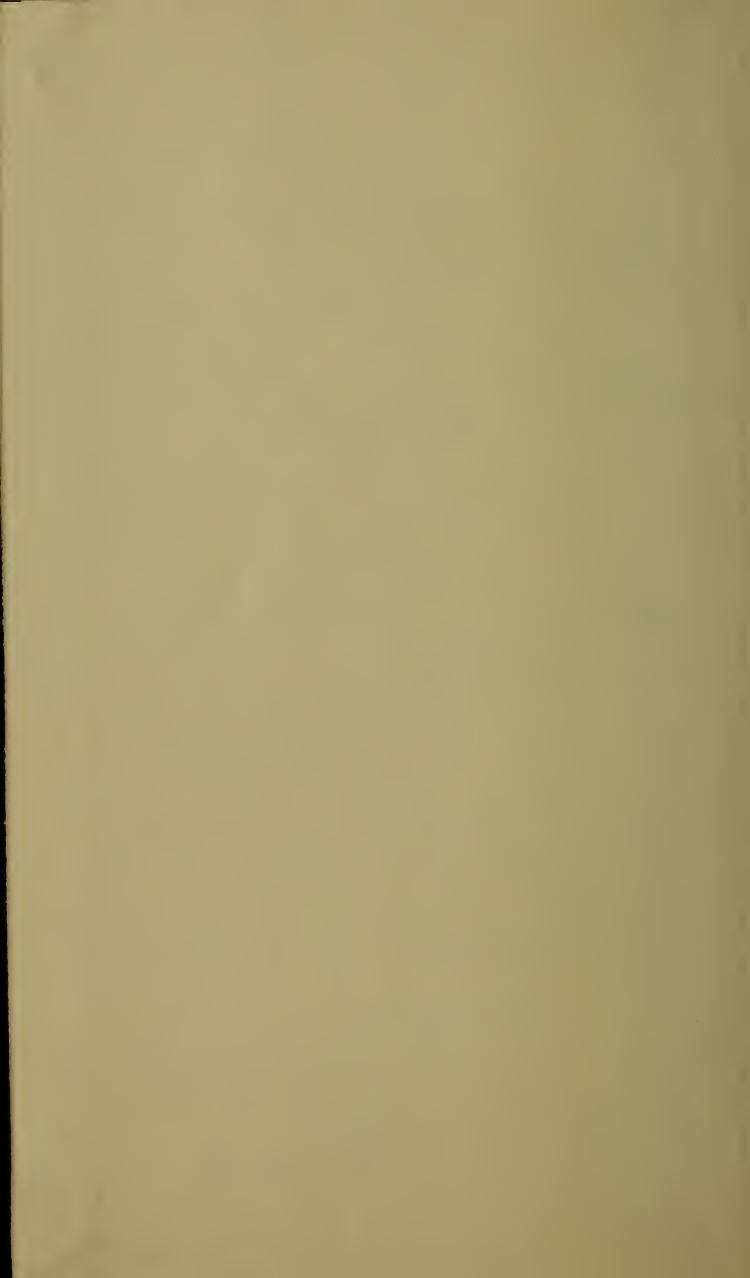
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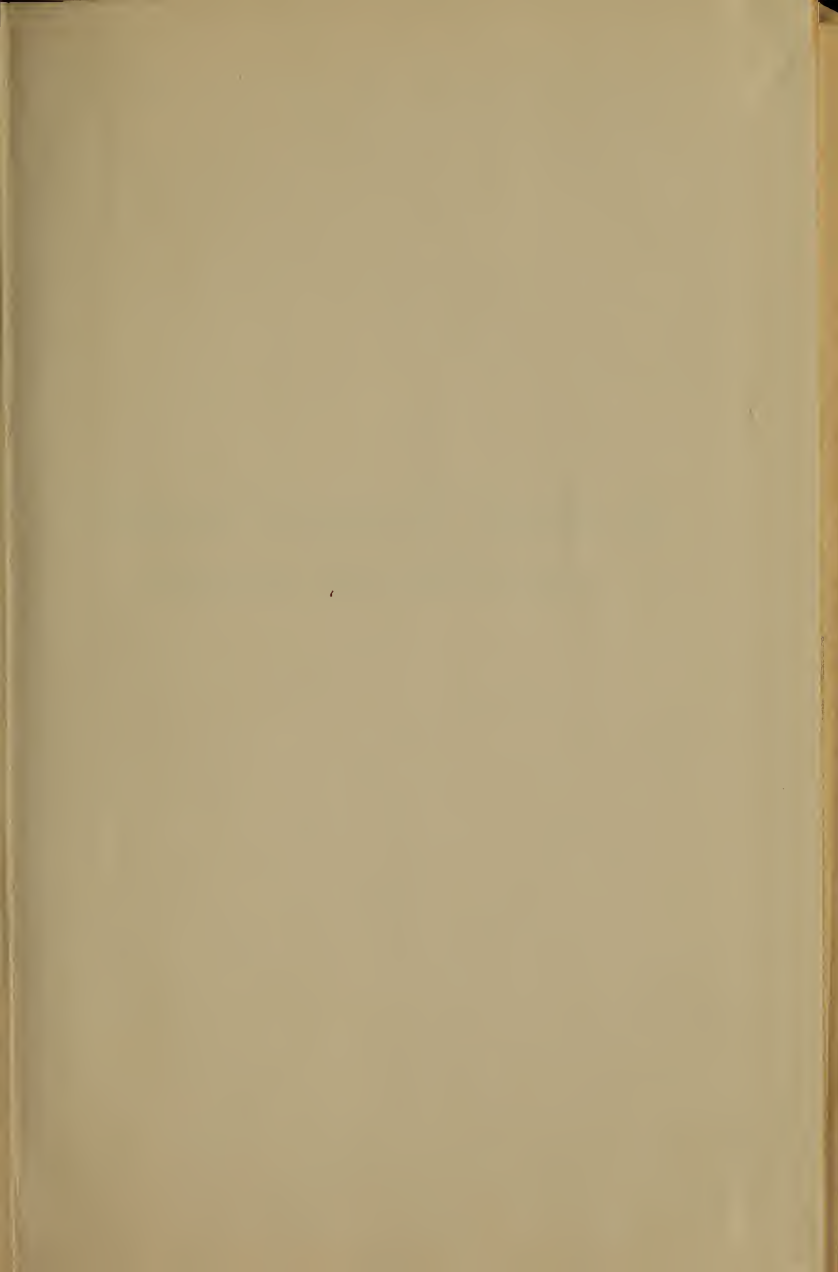
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**“Dame Curtsey’s” Book of
Games for Children**

The "Dame Curtsey" Books

"Dame Curtsey's" Book of Novel Entertainments for Every Day in the Year. Illustrated. \$1.00 net.

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A. C. McCLURG & CO., Publishers
Chicago

“Dame Curtsey’s” Book of Games for Children

For Indoors and Outdoors and
All Occasions

Edited By

Ellye Howell Glover

Author of “‘Dame Curtsey’s’ Book of Guessing Contests,” “‘Dame
Curtsey’s’ Book of Novel Entertainments,” “‘Dame
Curtsey’s’ Book of Candy Making,” etc.



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1914

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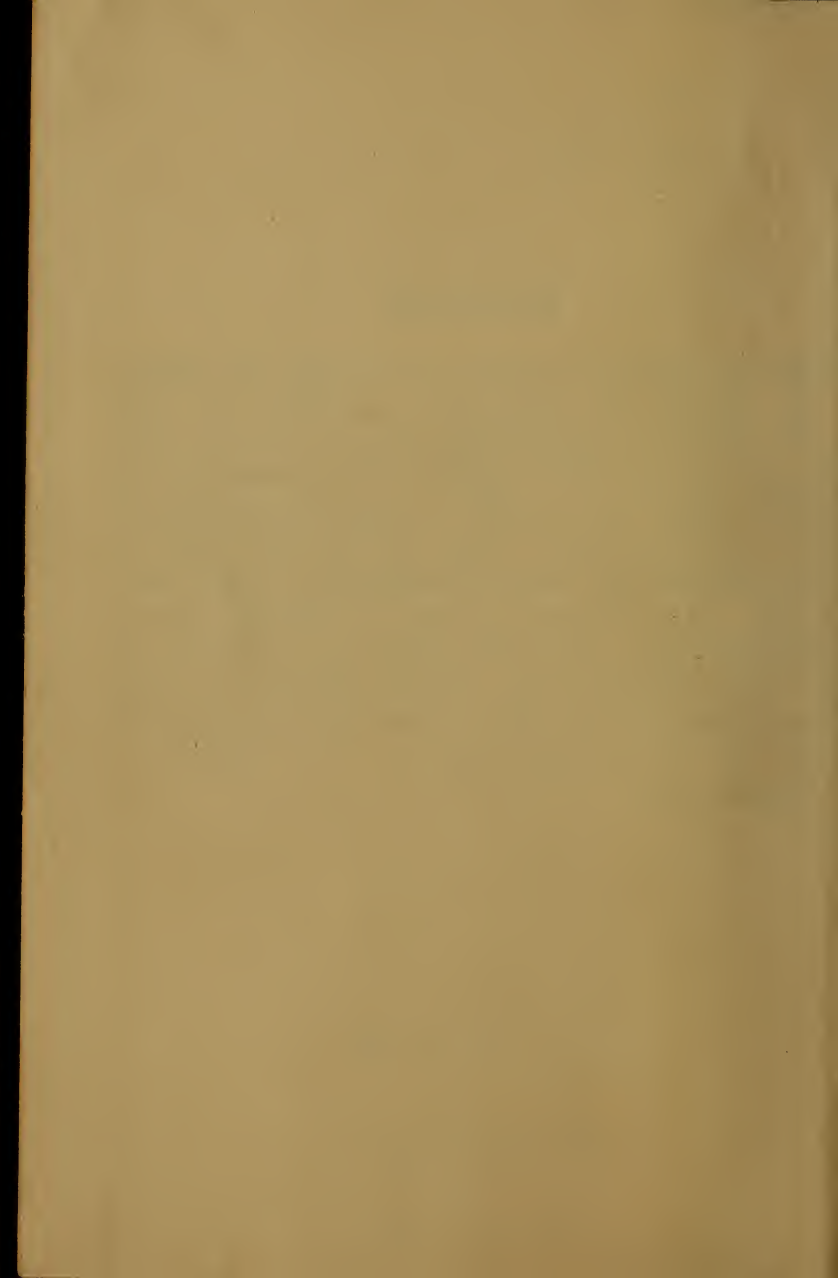
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Foreword

THE demand for games and pastimes for children between the ages of three and fifteen has been such as to show "Dame Curtsey" and the publishers the need of a collection of entertainments to enable mothers and teachers to supply amusements for any and all occasions. Great care has been taken in compiling this book, and all schemes will be found practicable. It is designed to assist in planning many a delightful party, solving the problem of "something to do" when rainy days come. Herein will be found games for indoors and out, some of them new and some old, and some from foreign lands.

E. H. G.

August, 1914.



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“Dame Curtsey’s” Book of Games for Children

I

Bon Voyage Gifts

FOR a young boy who was going to Europe, a girl friend made this charming gift whereby many an hour was happily spent, and it provided amusement not only for him, but the grown-ups in the party enjoyed it quite as much.

It was a blank book, the first pages containing ninety cleverly illustrated book “titles.” The “key” to this was given to the lad’s mother. Then there were a number of pages ruled off forming a diary, covering the months of the journey.

After this came snap shots of his own house, the street on which he lived, and of the children who were his playmates and friends. There were valentines from these chums, also Easter cards, April fool jokes, and Fourth of July souvenirs. The “special” pages were tied together with “not to be opened till the date,” written on the page preceding, and the boy’s birthday pages were concealed in the same manner.

Another “going away” gift was arranged for a baby of three years, who was to make the long month’s voyage to South America. A friend provided a huge

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ball of worsted, with the instructions to unwind one “surprise” a day. The ball contained all sorts of little novelties, a top, dolls of various kinds, a tiny bottle of perfumery, a gay handkerchief, knife, pair of round-pointed scissors, small boxes of odd shapes filled with bonbons, toy animals, a coarse needle, threaded, and a number of large-holed buttons.

II

A Bunny Party

THERE is a quaint old German legend of the Easter rabbit, and this party was planned to give the rabbit the prominence it has with the children of the “Fatherland.” All grocers keep animal crackers, and will doubtless order a couple of pounds “all rabbits” for the occasion. Hide these about the rooms and provide baskets or bags for the spoils. Allow twenty minutes for the hunt. For prizes award a book about rabbits or some one of the Easter novelties with which the shops are filled.

The next thing on the program was a rabbit race. The children were told to stoop down like “bunnies,” and when the bell rang to start to hop to the goal, which was a spot at the other end of the room. Then each child was given a half-yard of ribbon, with which to make a bow to pin on a rabbit’s neck. This may be a good-sized toy rabbit, or the game may be managed like the old-

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fashioned “donkey” party; only instead of pinning on the tail, the bow is pinned on the neck after the children are blindfolded. If there is a blackboard the guests may be allowed to show their artistic talents by drawing a rabbit, each artist signing his or her name to the masterpiece. This will afford amusement for another thirty minutes. Slips of paper and pencils will answer if there is no blackboard.

Next chairs were arranged as for “Going to Jerusalem,” and placed in the four corners of the room were four rabbits. When the music stopped the children made a dash for the bunnies, those securing the rabbits retiring from the game. The refreshments consisted of hard-boiled eggs, each one in a nest of lettuce, with sandwiches and nuts.

III

A Valentine Post Office Party

A POST OFFICE was erected in the large hall from clothes bars covered with dark green cambric on which quantities of red hearts were pasted. A window was placed in the opening, and a table behind for sorting the mail. A mail bag hung on the outside, and there was a slit below the window so as to permit the children dropping their valentines in. Each child brought one and the hostess provided the others, so that each child received at least three. A sign “office closed” was over the window and then one “office

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open” was put up after all had arrived and were ready for the distribution of the mail. United States mail uniforms may be purchased at the large department stores and the postmaster might wear one, just to add fun.

Here is a new version of an old game called “blind postman” to be played at this party: Count out and choose a child for postman, then each child selects the name of a city and takes a chair in the circle. The postman is blindfolded, stands in the middle, and says: “A letter has been sent from New York to Chicago.” Then those two children change places and the postman tries to get a vacant chair. Tiny mail bags may be found at the favor counter, filled with candy hearts; they may be given as favors at this party.

IV

Another Valentine Party

ISSUE the invitations on heart-shaped cards, preferably of pink, and decorate them with little pink hearts cut from thin cardboard. These hearts may be purchased by the hundred if there is not time to make them at home. Have ready on a large sheet of white paper the drawing of a man, just the head and shoulders. Place this on the wall, then blindfold a child and give him or her a bright red cardboard heart. Turn the victim around three times and then tell him to walk to the man on the wall and pin the heart to its place. The result is laughable. Next

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hang from the doorway or the ceiling a heart made heavy enough so it will hold the string down within reach of the guest. Give him a pair of scissors and walk him once around the room with final instructions to walk to the heart and cut it down.

After this a quiet game will be acceptable, so pass cards with the word “valentine” at the top in fancy letters. Allow fifteen minutes for making as many words as possible out of the one word. Collect the cards and award a prize for the most or fewest words just as the hostess decides. Small prizes should be awarded winners of the first two games, as it always adds zest to work for something. There are so many pretty symbolic favors that are inexpensive.

If the hostess desires she may ask each child to bring one valentine, which must be dropped in a box as they arrive. Just before serving refreshments give each one a pencil and tell the girls to address a valentine to the boys, and the boys to the girls. (All the valentines should be in envelopes.)

V

A Children’s Lawn Party

REMEMBER, children are the most satisfactory of all guests, the very fact of dressing and going to a party and bringing home the spoils is bliss. Provide little baskets or dainty tissue paper bags in which to put the favors and candies, and even the cake, for some children love to take samples home.

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Now for the party. We will need a lawn, some trees, and a big porch, and then with these accessories there must be a big bowl of lemonade on hand under a Japanese umbrella, the stake or handle being driven into the ground. Children are always thirsty and this will prevent them from running into the house for a drink every five minutes. Hide animal crackers over the grounds and tell the guests there is a whole menagerie hidden under the bushes, in the grass, and even in the branches of the trees; give each one a paper bag in which to put the game and give a little prize to the one who finds the most. A small flag may be hidden and that will make another hunt, the gay little “stars and stripes” being pinned on the lucky finder.

The “eats” will be the climax of the party and the cake should be lighted with due ceremony and the children allowed to blow out the candles. Cunning favors are made by sticking animal crackers together with icing, and thus made they will stand upright at each plate. Delicious small cookies may be ornamented with daisies made from blanched almonds, the stem and leaves of angelica; fasten them on with frosting.

Snapping motto caps always give pleasure, and sometimes the Christmas tree sparkles are obtainable at this season, and they are lovely set to going outdoors, and are not harmful.

Ice cream may be served in orange halves, thus making baskets with smilax for handles. Orange ice is very good served this way and is not so rich as ice cream. The

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party stationery that comes for parties is a joy to use for the invitations and the “Sunbonnet” baby cards are attractive also. The “five and ten cent store” will furnish any number of trifles for a fish pond if one cares for this, or for a grab bag, or, better still, for a “fairy tree.” Tie the parcels onto the low branches and let each child clip off one with a pair of scissors. Anything that makes for mystery is an adjunct to a child’s party.

VI

For the Eastertide

May the glad dawn
Of Easter morn
Bring holy joy to thee.

This message, sweet and holy,
Tired souls forget your pain;
Christ, the Lord, for you is risen;
Doubting hearts, He lives again.

May the calm eve
Of Easter leave
A peace divine with thee.

MOTHERS with little children always have Easter eggs to color. An easy and satisfactory method is to use the aniline dyes that come especially prepared for this purpose. If directions are followed there will be good results. The name and date, which

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will greatly delight the child, may be written on the egg with a pointed stick dipped in melted lard before placing in the dyestuff. When removed all will be colored except the writing.

By the way of variety, paint some of the eggs with gold and silver paint, dip others in a solution of gum arabic and then in diamond dust, wrap some in colored calico that is warranted to fade and boil for half an hour. This way was about the only method known to our grandmothers for decorating the annual eggs. “Calico” eggs and those colored a vivid magenta by the use of cochineal were very dear to childish hearts “a long time ago.”

Baskets may be arranged in neat form by using tissue paper cut in fine strips; all sorts of dainty receptacles may be concocted from boxes, crêpe paper and a bottle of paste. Children enjoy these preparations, so let the little ones have a share in planning for this beautiful festival season.

Eggs for breakfast on Easter are served as a matter of course. Let each one choose how his or her egg is to be cooked. Only a little more time will be consumed and much will be added to the interest of the meal. For a centerpiece have a large nest filled with colored eggs and spring flowers.

VII

A Jolly “Animal” Game

HAVE two tables with six at each (any number can play, however), but over six requires two packs of cards. This is the way to do it:

A deck of playing cards is dealt evenly among the players. Then each places his cards face downward in front of him, first a name of an animal being given to each player, such as elephant, snail, leopard, giraffe. The person on the left of the dealer takes the top card off his pile, placing it face upward on the table. Supposing this card is the nine spot, then the next player lays his top card on the table. If it should happen to be a nine spot, too, the one who first calls the animal name of the other wins, giving him the card. The player who gets rid of all his cards first wins the game. If the card does not match the next person turns a card.

Sometimes as many as twenty cards will be forced upon a player whose wits desert him and he cannot quickly remember the animal name. The whole pile goes when the top cards match. The game continues only until there are two players. The others must sit absolutely quiet; if a word is spoken each player makes the unlucky one take a card and start all over again. This is a most amusing game, even for grown-ups.

VIII

Animal Blind Man's Buff

I FIND many versions of old-time games ; for instance, this way of playing our old favorite, "Blind Man's Buff:" Seat the children in a circle, or they may stand. The leader is chosen by the time-honored custom known as "counting out," blind-folded and placed in the middle. He is given a cane ; he then walks around the circle, stops and points the cane, the one it touches or comes closest to must repeat in a disguised tone the noise made by either a cat, dog, cow, or horse. He may repeat the sound three times. If the blind man cannot guess who it is he must try some one else ; if he names the right child, that one takes the place of the leader.

IX

A June Birthday Party

AS June is the month of roses, have one for each child. It is quite a new idea to have as many little cakes as there are guests, all put together on a big round plate, a candle in each one held in a candy rose or regular rose candle holder. When it is time to pass the cakes each child blows out a candle and takes one. Serve ice cream, peppermint candies, sandwiches, and cocoa with a marshmallow in each cup. Have an animal cracker hunt and a "fish pond" for amusement.

X

For July Fourth

That the time may pass more gaily,
And the guests be more contented.

NOW, with our saner “Fourth,” I fancy mothers are having a much more peaceful time, for they are quite certain that “Tom,” “Dick,” and “Harry” will come in with the requisite number of arms and legs and with two eyes where they belong, but I have my secret doubts as to whether the average small boy of today will have the memories to gloat over that his father did before him. With cannon crackers tabooed (thanks be to the law) we must find appropriate pastimes that will still have a significance of the glorious day we celebrate.

The children must be amused and it concerns us to do it. So get out a big sheet of drawing paper and with a heavy pencil or crayon draw the American eagle with tail and wings outspread. Leave the large feathers off of the wings and get an obliging butcher to save you one nice big wing and tail feathers. Blindfold the players and proceed as in the time-honored “donkey” party, only instead of pinning on a tail the game is to put a pinion in “Old Abe’s” wing, and the child who pins on the most in three trials will be rewarded by a fire cracker box filled with candy fire crackers.

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The shops have all sorts of symbolic novelty favors for this day we celebrate with such brave display of “Stars and Stripes.”

The following is a good contest: A small boy told his mother what he wanted and the answers are the articles she brought him. Ornament the cards bearing the questions with bows of red, white, and blue ribbon and tie a wee pencil to each card.

ARTICLES NECESSARY FOR AN “UNSAINE FOURTH”

1. A powerful submarine weapon of offense.
2. A destroying element and an accompaniment to an oyster stew.
3. An ancient civilization and a feeble means of light.
4. A woman’s toilet necessity and part of a wagon.
5. A color and a means of warmth.
6. The chief implement of warfare.
7. A two-wheeled vehicle and the peak of a house.
8. Where nature’s wealth is stored.
9. A kind of stone used in paving.
10. Bardolph’s companion in King Henry IV.
11. One kind of headgear.
12. What a wise mother does not do to her baby.
13. A carnation with u instead of i.
14. A musical organization and a long lapse of time.
15. An Irishman’s name, a disorderly uprising, and an intellectual fad.

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ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Torpedoes. | 9. Flag. |
| 2. Fire-crackers. | 10. Pistol. |
| 3. Roman candles. | 11. Caps. |
| 4. Pinwheels. | 12. Rock it (Rocket). |
| 5. Red fire. | 13. Pink P(u)nk. |
| 6. Guns. | 14. Band-ages. |
| 7. Cart-ridge. | 15. Pat-riot-ism. |
| 8. Mines. | |

XI

A Cobweb Doll Party

THIS party was given for little girls aged from six to nine. Arrange like a cobweb party, using colored cords all starting from one place with the name of each girl on a card fastened to the cord. Let them wind up the strings and at the end of each have an inexpensive dolly, with only its undershirt on. Then go into another room and on a clothes bar or line have the name of each child pinned to the dress that belongs to her doll. Dressing the babies will occupy at least a half hour. At the table have paper dolls for the place cards, and the cookies should be cut in doll shape.

XII

A Sewing Party for a Dolly

A GIRL of ten entertained her little friends by giving a doll party. She asked a dozen doll mothers to bring their favorite child and spend the hours from three until five. Gay silk pieces, odds and ends of lace were provided, and each child made one article for her doll.

The place cards were tiny dolls, each one dressed differently, and tied on its arm was a wee basket with the doll’s name tied on the handle. Boxes in shape of little trunks contained the candy.

The girls enjoyed this delicious menu: Minced chicken sandwiches, cocoa with whipped cream, ice cream in small flower pots with a pink carnation “growing” in it, assorted cakes ornamented with tiny china dolls, and fluffy egg kisses.

XIII

A Paper Doll Party

THE invitations were sent out for 2 o’clock, with a request to bring scissors. On the appointed hour a gay party of ten-year-olds had assembled and were seated at sewing tables. Each child was allowed to select from a colored fashion sheet the dress she liked best. This took some time. Heads had previously been cut out of advertisements. Then the head

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was mounted on the dress. This made one kind of a doll. Then tissue paper, lace paper, and all sorts of odds and ends of paper were put on the table, and dresses were made for paper dolls that stand in little blocks and may be purchased for a trifle. Paste was provided and a busy hour was spent.

A prize of a pair of round-pointed scissors in a little case delighted the child who made the prettiest dress, the girls voting on this momentous question.

The table was decorated with gayly dressed paper dolls, which the children took home as souvenirs, besides the dolls they had made. Cocoa, chicken sandwiches, and crullers in shape of dolls were served. The hostess said never before had she gotten through a party with so little fatigue and friction. Perhaps it was because the boys were not invited. But I think boys could be entertained in the same way, for the secret of keeping youngsters good is to keep them busy.

XIV

A Doll Birthday Party

A LITTLE girl who dearly loved her doll conceived the happy idea of giving her a birthday party. No sooner thought of than the little girl and her mother put the thought into execution, with the result that seven girlies received invitations to bring their favorite doll to “Annabelle’s” birthday party. The hours were

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from “3 to 5,” and it was indeed a pretty sight when the dolls and their mothers assembled around the daintily decorated table. Doll dishes were used and the small table was set entirely with miniature articles and the gifts brought the birthday doll were most fascinating, for everything that grown people have is now made for dolls. There were wee cakes with tiny pink tapers, which were lit, and the little mothers were just as grown up as possible and looked after their respective children with true motherly solicitude. At a large table the real children had their repast, and I noticed that some of them ate the doll’s portion also. When your six or seven-year-old daughter wants a party, try this.

XV

A Sale for Dolly

A CLUB composed of ten girls from the age of ten to fifteen managed and made ready this bazaar, which they gave for a charity devoted to children. It was given in the afternoon at the home of one of the members. The room was arranged like a department store, with all articles belonging to dolls most attractively displayed. Now that there are patterns for dolls so that complete wardrobes may be made, the girls found it great fun to make the clothes, hats, muffs, etc., and orders were taken for all articles for doll houses, such as sheets, pillow cases, even with the doll’s monogram

embroidered, wee towels, wash cloths, etc. The mothers and big sisters of the girls served light refreshments, or rather donated them, and the girls served.

XVI

A Doll’s Wedding

THIS affair proved to be so interesting that I can hardly wait to tell all our little readers about it, and I fancy the grown-ups will be interested a bit, too. A dear grandmother told me about it and I immediately saw the possibilities for a “party,” not only for dollies, but for their devoted mothers, big and little; for some big girls love their dolls long after they are afraid to admit it.

“Well,” said grandmother, “Annette’s engagement is announced,” and she handed me the tiniest envelope imaginable, sealed with a wee gilt heart. I opened it, took out the gilt-edged card and read the following, written in violet ink:

ANNETTE MELINDA FITZ JAMES

Engaged to

SIR HORACE ALGERNON TRAVERS

August Thirtieth

1913

“Annette is my little granddaughter’s favorite doll and she is coming with her ‘mother’ to visit me and you shall meet her.”

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And I did, hence this story:

“Annette” came with her trunk full of pretty clothes and was the honored guest at luncheons, teas, and even card parties, at which diminutive packs of cards were used. Then there finally came the great event, the wedding day. When “Sir Horace” and his best man arrived (taken from the trunk) the house (one corner of the drawing room) was decorated, aisles formed of white satin baby ribbon, and the bridal party marched down the aisles (with assistance, of course).

The ceremony was performed by the doll minister in his robe and stole; the wedding breakfast was served; the bride changed her gown, threw her bouquet, and the happy pair stepped into the waiting automobile and went off for their wedding journey midst a shower of confetti and rice.

All these events took place in one afternoon and a number of little girls participated with their dolls.

I can only tell you briefly that there were wedding invitations, presents which went into the doll house and were displayed with the diminutive cards of the donors.

Don’t you see what good fun this was? Just try it. Best of all is the preparation, so many dolls may be invited to take part, and on the “wedding day” I am sure mother will see to it that refreshments are forthcoming. I assure you there is much excitement in the events which follow in rapid succession. Girls even as old as fourteen will be interested in getting up this pretty pageant.

XVII

Pretty Christmas Table

THE arrangement of this table was quite unusual, inasmuch as it was an old-fashioned square one, lengthened to accommodate twelve children. It was pushed back against the wall and at the back was the largest sized Yule log candy box resting on a bed of holly and mistletoe. On top of the log was a doll dressed as a jester, called the “Lord of Misrule,” and attached to the front end of the log by red ribbons were six dolls dressed to represent the first six months of the year. Following after the log were six more figures dressed like the last six months.

At each plate was a horn covered with holly paper and a wee tree lit with red wax tapers. The children were to blow out the candles, making a wish for each one. If they go out with the very first puff, the wish will come true. A white and red Christmas ribbon goes to each plate, fastened by a spray of holly, then each child looks at the dolls and says which one he or she thinks represents the month in which he was born. If there should be two in the same month, the one who is the oldest gets the doll for that month; as there is one for each guest, a satisfactory adjustment is easily made. The Yule log also contains small favors for each guest.

XVIII

A Christmas Tree for the Baby

“OUR tree last year was indeed a thing of beauty;” said a young mother. The color scheme was white and silver, as befitted the tiny maiden for whom it was arranged. Each little sprig was tipped with a grain of popcorn, giving the effect of a snow-covered tree. The corn was fastened on with a pin, and it took several papers of pins to “snow ball” this tree. Strings of popcorn were festooned from branch to branch. White tarlatan stockings, button-holed together with silver tinsel, hung from the boughs. Walnut shells silvered containing wee dolls of china made acceptable souvenirs for the small guests.

There was a plentiful sprinkling of silver tinsel thrown over the tree and all the candles were white. The presents were done up in white paper tied with silver cord and in silver paper tied with white ribbon. Stars of silver sparkled in the topmost branches, and there were silver chains made kindergarten fashion. This pure white silver tree was pronounced the most beautiful one ever seen by the friends who were present when it was lighted.

XIX

For the Birds’ Christmas

DO not forget our little feathered friends, but give them a Christmas tree. If you had not thought of it before, plan for one.

Where there are children in the household they will love the idea. Take some suet and bones, some cracked nuts, some bread crumbs, even raw oatmeal or any of the uncooked breakfast foods, and scatter in the yard; tie bits of the suet to trees with a red apple or two. Then go inside and watch the delighted guests. In the North the chickadees, woodpeckers, blue jays, and sparrows ought to abound in grateful throngs. Don’t forget the squirrels, and put out some nuts, even though they have helped destroy our gardens. They often have a hard time to exist when the snow is deep. At Christmas time we all should remember our dumb friends.

XX

Red Balloons for a Holiday Party

IN cities balloons are almost always obtainable, so get bright red ones and try this novel scheme for a children’s party. If it happens to be a birthday so much the better. Surround the cake with tiny candlesticks or candelabra holding red tapers, sprinkling the cloth with

holly sprays and diamond dust (Christmas snow). Here is the way to give the favors (red snapping motto caps): Tie one to the end of the string of a red balloon and let it go away up to the ceiling. If the snapper is not heavy enough weight it with a chocolate bonbon or one of the many hard all-chocolate shapes that children love. Then let each little guest catch a balloon and bring it down to earth. To make more fun each balloon may have a card attached bearing the name of a child, and each must find his own.

XXI

Christmas Snowballs

PREPARE as many snowballs as there are guests. Make them by using a small toy or favor for the center, wind it with cotton until round in shape, then wrap in white tissue paper, dip in mucilage or liquid glue, then in diamond dust. These will dry over night and be ready for use the next day. Decorate two market baskets with holly and red ribbon and place on two chairs at the end of the room. Divide the company into equal sides, drop the balls in two long rows equally distant from each other, and at the word “Go” the children start from the chairs and get the farthest ball first. The side first getting all the balls back into the basket wins. It is a jolly time and each child has a ball to keep. It makes a little novelty in distributing the favors, and the children dearly love to tear open the balls and find the

treasures inside. All the scraps of paper must be picked up and put in the baskets.

XXII

A Santa Claus Party

A SANTA CLAUS party is what a mother planned for her little daughter’s sixth birthday which occurred ten days before Christmas.

From the dining-room door, suspended by red ribbons, there was a large holly wreath and through this the children threw a pretty inflated ball of red rubber. When the ball went through the circle the successful child entered the dining-room.

At a long kindergarten table the small guests were seated on little chairs. A miniature Santa Claus with a pack on his back and a cane in his hand stood in the center of the table, while around him were a number of artificial trees in toy-sized jardinières. At either end of the table there was a wreath of holly, enclosing another tree. Red candles blazed from the mantel, plate rail, and table. Alphabet crackers spelled out the name of each child at the place where he or she sat. Snapping caps and confetti were the souvenirs, with sticks of candy. Sandwiches of entire wheat bread, with ice cream on which there was a red cherry, and an angel food birthday cake, were the refreshments served these little people. By the way, at children’s parties it is quite the thing to serve the ice cream in ramekins.

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Wires were stretched across the ceiling in all directions, from which red Japanese lanterns and red Christmas bells were suspended.

XXIII

“Puss in Boots” at Christmas

A MOTHER who is continually on the watch for novelties had this unusual centerpiece on her Christmas table when she entertained at a neighborhood children’s party on Christmas afternoon. She took the idea from the Scandinavian custom of placing in a row all the shoes of the household on Yule night as a symbol that the family would live in peace and harmony during the coming year. So all around the table were tiny red doll shoes filled with bonbons, and a red leather boot was in the middle of the table with red ribbons going to each child’s place. Gold lacing went up the front and a white pussy cat peered out of the top with a string of bells around his neck and holly leaves depending from the top of the boot. When the children pulled the ribbons a Christmas favor was forthcoming. Around the “boot” was a mound of snapping mottoes, gorgeous ones with a spray of holly attached and a chime of three gilt bells.

Afterward they played a romping game of “Pussy Wants a Corner” and then had this contest, which was to pin a paper pussy cat on the top of a red cloth boot which

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was pinned upon the wall. Each child was blindfolded in turn and the prize was a scarlet tarlatan stocking filled with toys and favors. The ice cream was frozen in shape of white stockings with wee Christmas trees standing upright on individual white frosted cakes. The children were delighted with this party.

XXIV

Invitation Jingle for a Christmas Party

SEND the invitations written on little red stockings, inclosed in an ordinary envelope, with this jingle written in white ink:

At the “Sign of the Stocking,” warm and bright,
We’ll expect you sure on Christmas night;
The hour is six, so don’t be late,
A good time’s coming, for you we wait.

Hang a big red stocking in the window with a light behind it and the “sign” will be visible for blocks.

XXV

Poinsettia Birthday Party

OF late the tropical poinsettia has been very much in favor for decoration and gifts at the holiday time. In way of variety a mother issued these invitations for a little daughter’s birthday that came close to Christmas. The cards bearing the message were of

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white, ornamented with poinsettia seals, and the envelopes were closed with them:

Come to my poinsettia party, don't forget the place and day;
As my invitation's hearty, kindly do not stay away.

The table was lovely with a centerpiece of scarlet poinsettias in a round, gilded basket, glass candlesticks, and scarlet candles, a white iced individual cake at each child's place, with a wee red taper resting on a poinsettia doily. Crêpe paper napkins ornamented with the same flower were used. Across one end of the dining room a red cord was stretched, on which hung a red filled stocking for each child, fastened on with a gilded clothespin. Cherry ice was served instead of ice cream, and the bonbon box was gay with a big red poinsettia fastened to the lid. The young hostess wore red slippers and a red hair ribbon. They had great fun playing a game that went like this: The first child said, "I hung up my stocking," and the second asked: "What did you find in it?" "Nuts," was the reply. Then the second child asked the next child what she found in her stocking, who said, "Nuts," and added an article like "candy." So the game went around, with the list unchanged. If a child forgot and left out an article she dropped out and the next one continued until the stocking was well filled.

XXVI

A Christmas Post Office

IN a large family it is great fun to deliver gifts through a Christmas post office arranged the week beforehand in a corner of the living room or hall. Rig up postmen’s suits or uniforms for the small boys in the home and call them “Santa Claus’ assistants.” The day before, tell the postman on the beat that he is to deliver all his mail to the family postmaster, who will hold all Christmas mail for distribution on Christmas morning. The use of holiday labels and seals is so common that it will be very easy to distinguish letters and parcels that may hold over. If all members of the family and those who are to be numbered in the house party enter into this scheme it will work out satisfactorily, as I can personally testify. It does not take long to do up the packages and they may be stamped with “play” postage stamps or canceled ones; there should be registered letter department, special delivery, etc.

XXVII

The Game of Christmas Candle

HOW many have ever played the game of the “Christmas Candle?” Try it this year and get all the grown people in it, for it is so very funny. Of course, it goes without saying that children will not attempt to play this without an older person, for I do

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not want to be responsible for any fires or burned fingers. This pastime comes to us from our English cousins and was a favorite way back in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

Get a nice, long, fat candle, such as we see on church altars, light it, and choose one child to be the candle bearer and another to be the “blower.” Blindfold the latter, turn her around three times, and then tell her to blow out the candle. Just as likely as not she will start off in the opposite direction, while all the others giggle. If a long candle is not at hand take one of the little artificial trees that come with several lights. They will burn long enough for one trial. A little prize may be offered to the successful blower.

XXVIII

A Christmas Pastime for Children

WHEN the children have tired of even their new possessions (and how soon the new becomes old!) and it is too early for the sandman to pay his nightly visit, try this simple amusement. Suspend a wreath of holly or evergreen from a doorway and give to each child an equal quantity of nuts, paper-wrapped candies, or favors that will stand handling, then see who can throw the most articles through the wreath into a basket placed to catch them. Give a simple reward to add zest to the game.

In the same manner the game of “Toss” is conducted.

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Take a large napkin or piece of stout paper. Place a lot of nuts or hard candies in the center. Let a child take hold of each corner and give three vigorous tosses, singing:

Goodies, goodies, dance, my Christmas goodies.
Up they go, down they go; dance, my Christmas goodies.

Then there will be a lively scrimmage to see who can recover the most.

These little devices will make a jolly ending to the happiest day in the year for the children. Put them to bed with pretty songs ringing in their ears:

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight.

XXIX

Unique Holiday Party

AT a jolly party for twenty youngsters, this scheme was carried out. Invitations like these went to those bidden:

There is an old lady
Who lives in a shoe,
Santa Claus has left her so many stockings
She does n't know what to do.

Will you come and help her solve the difficulty at eight o'clock?

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Name and date followed. When the guests arrived they found the hostess standing in a room mysterious with various colored cords running in all directions. She explained that the name of each guest was written on a stocking-shaped card attached to the end of one of the cords, and just imagine the score of merry lads and lassies finding themselves and then winding their strings until the end was reached in a stocking of tarlatan which contained a charming little favor from the hostess—who, by the way, is a middle-aged woman whose heart has never grown old. She entertains each year during the holidays, and always has something different. This time the ice cream was in shape of bells, served on plates wreathed with holly. The dining-room table had an enormous bell over it, and the place cards were stocking-shaped, the nut holders being little wooden shoes.

XXX

For the Closing of School

THIS little scheme is very pretty and not difficult to work out. It is called “Childhood’s Happy Year.” Select four girls about the same age and size to form each “season.” Make the costumes from crêpe paper and represent “Spring” by green frocks with wreaths of green about the head; “Summer” with white frocks and crowns and roses, either real or artificial, and gowns trimmed with garlands of small roses; “Autumn”

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should have brown dresses with fall leaves in red and brown tints, and “Winter” all white with holly wreaths and mistletoe, or red dresses trimmed in cotton.

“Spring” should enter first and march to the front of the platform and sing the first verse of the following song, which is easy to sing to the tune of “Swinging ’Neath the Old Apple Tree.” At the end of the lines, two of the girls turn to the right and two to the left and march down the sides, joining at the back in a line. “Summer,” “Autumn,” and “Winter” follow, a group at a time, sing their verse, and march as did “Spring” and take their places at the back behind the preceding “season.” This retains “Spring” at the front, and then all join hands, forming a circle, and sing the chorus through and march off in single file, “Spring” leading. It is really very effective.

Happy Childhood’s hours,
With the budding flowers,
With the warbling songsters
 In leafy trees;
When the earth rejoices,
Glad we join our voices,
 Happy in the spring we are.

CHORUS

Happy Childhood! Happy Childhood!
Singing all the day right merrily;
Happy Childhood! Happy Childhood!
Happy all the year are we.

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In the summer weather,
Glad we are together,
Chasing little butterflies
While on the wing;
Ringing 'round o' rosies,
Gathering sweetest posies,
Happy in the summer as in spring.

CHORUS

When the winds are sighing
And the leaves are dying
Opening prickling burrs
'Neath chestnut trees —
Merrily we're racing
In the air so bracing
Happy in the autumn breeze.

CHORUS

When Jack Frost is nipping
Still we're gayly sipping
All the sweetness stored throughout the year
So, with cheeks aglowing
Welcome we the snowing
Winter brings us all good cheer.

CHORUS

XXXI

The Game of “Pass It”

AT each end of the drawing room have an empty clothes basket and another basket filled with articles of all sorts, such as books, balls, pens, pencils, shoe horn, bell, old hats, clothes brush, nail brush, old doll—in fact, anything that can be collected around the house. Choose by lot or ballot two captains, who then choose sides and place their players in line so that they face each other. A full basket is placed on the right of each captain and an empty one at the left of the players at the end of each line. At a signal from the one in charge each captain selects an article from his basket and hands it to the next person, who immediately passes it as quickly as possible to the person at his side. In this manner the articles are picked up and rapidly passed on. If an article is dropped it has to go back to the captain and be started over again. The side which first lands everything in the basket at the other end wins. The prizes should be good things among the articles passed, such as boxes of bonbons, wee favors like pencils, key rings, etc. It may add to the interest of the game to offer a prize to the player who can remember the names of the articles passed and write them down on a slip of paper ten minutes after the game has been played and the objects removed from sight. The hostess, of course, must have a correct list and check off the articles. This makes quite a memory test.

XXXII

Music for Children

THE following delightful programmes will be most helpful to those casting about for something musical of interest to little people:

CHILDREN'S MATINÉE SONG RECITAL

This programme of songs and ballads is designed especially for the little folks, for whom it is a unique as well as valuable and delightful form of entertainment.

This programme can also be given in connection with a children's descriptive piano recital, in which each number is accompanied by a brief description, within the comprehension of children, of the music sung or played and incidents of interest connected with the lives of the different composers.

"The Wedding Bell." SCHUMANN.

"There, Little Girl, Don't Cry." CAMPION.

"Why Don't You Sleep, My Baby?" ROSABEL.

"The Sandman." SCHUMANN.

"Cherry Ripe." C. E. HORN.

"This Little Pig Went to Market." GUSTAVE KERKER.

"Little Boy Blue." F. H. BRACKETT.

"The Elf's Trip." GOUNOD.

TO PLAY FOR CHILDREN

"Rondo Capriccioso"—A musical story of fairy frolic. MENDELSSOHN.

"The Little Orphan," "The Happy Farmer," A glimpse of sorrow and gladness. SCHUMANN.

"Wayside Sketches," "By the Brook—Sunset." VOLKMAN.

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- "Moments of Pleasure," "Spring Song"—German dance. GURLITT.
- "Hush-a-Bye Baby," Cradle song. BARILL.
- "Pleasant Recreation," "The Little Rope Dancer"—Skating Song. KULLAK.
- "An Unpleasant Failing," "The Tattler." WOLFF.
- "The Result," "The Complaint." WOLFF.
- "A Delightful Time," "The Children's Ball." WESTERHOUT.
- "A Fortunate Little Boy," "Happy Johnnie"—Festival March. LOW.
- "The Bird's Song," Nightingale Polka. CERITO.
- "The Mischief-Maker," "The Little Gossip." REINECKE.
- "The Rebuke," "Grandmother's Story." REINECKE.
- "I Know a Little Maiden," "The Dance of the Elves," Some Norwegian Stories. GRIEG.

XXXIII

Novel Birthday Party

AT a birthday party given for a ten-year-old girl the guests were asked to come, each wearing an object to represent a "Mother Goose" character. To illustrate: "Little Boy Blue" tooted a horn and carried a wee woolly sheep. "Miss Muffet" was adorned by a huge spider which did not seem to frighten her in the least, although it was very close "beside her." The "Old Woman Who Lived in the Shoe" carried an armful of dolls, which caused her a great deal of trouble.

When all had arrived cards were passed and small pencils, and the names of the boys and girls present were

written on the cards, then each child was to write opposite, the name of the character he thought was represented. “Big Sister” kindly looked over all the lists and determined who had the most correct and awarded the prize, which consisted of a lovely “Jack Horner” pie, from which sugar plums for every one were drawn, the winner keeping the pretty gilt basket from which the pie was made. The top was covered with crêpe tissue paper and pink ribbons came through for each guest. Delicious tarts were a feature of the refreshments, supposed to be made by the “Queen of Hearts.”

XXXIV

Snow Men for Children’s Party

NOW don’t say “these are too much trouble to make.” Of course it would be a little easier to just dish up the ice cream plain, but we must all take a bit more care with holiday parties, and the kiddies will just love these snow men. What you need is ball scoops in two sizes, some grated chocolate, some white stick candy, and some cloves. Take vanilla ice cream, scoop out a league ball first, place the smaller ball on top, roll in grated cocoanut if you want them fuzzy, and if you want some darkies use a chocolate cream for the head; stick in the candy arms, sprinkle on some chocolate for hair, put in cloves for eyes, and stand off to admire the result. Don’t forget a clove for the nose and a couple

for mouths. In place of cloves, citron bits or candied cherries cut up may be used, or all three, to make a variety. Cloves or tiny, hard red candies may be used for buttons down the front. In fact, there are many possibilities in making these ice cream figures very fascinating.

XXXV

A New “Garden” Party

THIS is carried out exactly like any “stage coach,” only the girls are all given names of flowers and the boys of insects, bugs, etc., like Midge, Grub, Moth, Spider, Wasp, Mosquito, Fly, Hornet, Ant; while a starter for the girls would be Heliotrope, Violet, Mignonette, Pansy, Rose, Lily, Morning-glory, Forget-me-not.

“The Butterfly” takes the place of the “driver” in “stage coach,” and tells the story. When “sunshine” is mentioned, all the flowers and insects move around swiftly. When rain is mentioned, flowers throw up their heads, insects scurry away from the flowers. When a flower is mentioned by name, that flower is obliged to answer by mentioning another flower insect. When the gardener or a garden tool is spoken of, the flowers bow their heads or bend their bodies. The insects shrink away, and wander around the room; when the butterfly is making only general remarks, the insects move around the flowers, making characteristic remarks about themselves, or about the emblems of the flowers in the garden.

If a flower or insect fails to respond when mentioned, a forfeit is demanded.

XXXVI

“Up Jenkins”

HAVE you ever played the exciting game of “Up Jenkins”? If not, try it. I hope I can make the rules clear so you can all understand, and the faster it is played the more fun it is. The players are divided into sides with leaders or captains and sit in a line on opposite sides of a table. A toss up is made for the first start, and it is the place of the leader of the “in” team to say what shall be done by the “out” team, who have a coin (a quarter is best) which they must endeavor to keep concealed.

The players on the “out” side pass the coin from one to another beneath the table, leaving it hidden with one of the members.

When the leader calls “Up Jenkins” and raises his hands over his head, the opponents follow his example with their hands closed. He says “Down Jenkins” and brings his own hands down on the table. The “out” team follow his example, and now the leader must say under which hand the quarter is concealed. Crying “off,” which means off the table, he touches each hand which he thinks is empty and leaves the hand which he suspects has the coin until the last. If he is mistaken and the coin is beneath one of the hands he has ordered

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“off,” his side loses and the other team is “in” and his “out.” If the last hand should happen to have the quarter, the game is won and another turn is taken. The side that is “out” must follow the opponents’ captain, only if he says “Up Jenkins” while his hands remain on the table and the hands of his team go up, the opponents take no notice of the order, when if all hands are held up and he calls “Down Jenkins” without his suiting the action to the command, the leader’s example only is followed, not his words, and here is where many players get caught. For all mistakes made by the “out” side a forfeit is paid to the “in” team. The hands are brought down on the table hard so that the ring of the coin will not be easily detected.

XXXVII

Indian Geographical Names

THE red men as a race are rapidly disappearing, so that to children of the next generation they will be mostly known through traditions, songs, and stories, but how many of us realize that they have left enduring monuments behind them, inasmuch as nearly half the names of our states and territories bear names of Indian origin. I append a list that may be interesting to read aloud at the dinner table or a party. It’s an interesting bit of information to have on hand:

Alaska means the great land; Alabama, here we rest; Arkansas, bow on the smoky water; Connecticut, long

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river; Dakota, friendly; Idaho, gem of the mountains; Illinois, the men; Iowa, drowsy ones; Kansas, smoky water; Kentucky, at the head of the river; Massachusetts, the place of great trees; Missouri, great muddy (river); Michigan, a fish-weir; Minnesota, whitish water; Mississippi, great river; Nebraska, shallow water; Ohio, beautiful (river); Oklahoma, red people, or beautiful land; Oregon, great river of the West; Tennessee, river of the great bend; Texas, friendly; Utah, dwellers in the mountains; Wisconsin, wild-rushing river; Wyoming, broad plains.

XXXVIII

Christmas Tree Party

SEND out invitations like this:

Come and see
Our Christmas tree,
Wednesday next,
At half-past three—

AT FRANK AND SUSIE’S HOUSE

Decorate the invitation with a row of trees across the top. Next, after you have delivered or mailed the cards, proceed to make a circle of four cards of white paper cambric to be pinned or tacked down to the floor around the tree. Next, draw or paint Roman letters or plain figures and place to represent the face of a clock. Have

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the favors or gifts wrapped in red paper, tied with gold or silver cord at each number. When the children enter tell them to join hands and circle around the tree singing to the tune of “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush”:

Here we go round the Christmas tree,
Here we go round the Christmas tree,
Here we go round the Christmas tree,
With merry hearts and Christmas glee.

At a given signal agreed upon they halt suddenly and each child picks up the parcel before which he or she stops. A guessing game like this follows, to last only a few moments or as long as the youngsters seem interested:

Send one person out of the room while the others decide upon a figure on the clock’s face; when called to enter, the outsider has two guesses to see which was the lucky number. If rightly guessed the place is taken and the one having it goes out. If not guessed the unlucky one retires and sits down. Before going home sing this song; it may be set to most any tune the children like. I once heard it to “Yankee Doodle.”

Oh! dainty Christmas tree!
You came from woodlands deep,
Where winds were blowing chill,
And flowers were asleep.
Now on your branches wide,
The strangest fruit you bear,
With pretty toys for girls and boys,
For children everywhere.

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Christmas tree! Christmas tree!
Shining bright and fair,
The dearest tree in all the world
To children everywhere.

Serve gingerbread figures trimmed with colored icing, and hot chocolate, or ice cream, if you like, and the children are not already too full with Christmas stuffing.

XXXIX

Old-Fashioned Games

MOST mothers will recall the tunes to these old game songs; they will delight little children, who generally enjoy playing the same things that mother used to.

For “Here We Go ’Round the Mulberry Bush” form a circle, with a leader in the center, and sing the following:

Here we go ’round the mulberry bush,
The mulberry bush, the mulberry bush,
Here we go ’round the mulberry bush,
So early in the morning.

All stop and rub faces with hands and sing:

This is the way I wash my face,
I wash my face, I wash my face,
This is the way I wash my face,
So early in the morning.

Joining hands again, all sing the first verse; then, “This is the way I brush my hair,” “This is the way

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I wash my clothes,” “ This is the way I iron my clothes,” each illustrated with appropriate movements. The last two verses are: “ This is the way I go to school ” (slow steps), “ This is the way I come from school ” (quick steps). Children love action plays and this is a general favorite.

“ I sent a letter to my love ” is another beloved game. A handkerchief is folded like an envelope, the leader gives it to a child, who walks around the inside ring, singing:

I sent a letter to my love;
I lost, I found it.

Illustrating by first holding the envelope behind and then in front of her.

I sent a letter to my love;
Oh, what is this around it?

Looking wonderingly around the circle, the player sings:

Who will take my letter, my letter, my letter,
Who will take my letter to my love from me?

Choosing a boy, she approaches him, singing:

You will take my letter to my love from me.

Dropping the handkerchief at his feet, she runs across the other side of the ring, the boy runs and breaks through the ring after her. If he can touch her with the letter before she gets into his place, she must send the letter back again; if not, the boy sends it, etc.

XL

Shut-in Day Amusements

AS soon as a child, girl or boy, is able to handle round-pointed scissors, provide a pair, with quantities of colored pictures to cut out. Then, if there is no handy man available, get the nearest carpenter to make a screen or the frame for one; tack cheap paper cambric on the back. Cover the youngster from top to toe with an apron, spread a sheet on the floor, give him a bottle, or, better still, a tube of library paste (they dearly love to squeeze it), and you happily may go your way rejoicing, knowing that several hours will elapse ere the charm of cutting and the joy of pasting will have been lost.

When the screen is full take it out and replace with a fresh piece of cambric. This amusement gives the child ample scope to exercise his originality, and the enjoyment of not being assisted is keenly appreciated by the little soul. If a box of water color paints is added to the outfit, so much the better. And, by the way, those colors are made harmless for these embryo artists, so if the brush should find its way into the little mouth no serious consequences will follow.

XLI

A Bluebird Party

CUT the cards on which to write the questions from blue water color board or from heavy blue paper, and they should be bird shaped. The answers are all birds, and children will love this game. As a reward a “bluebird” pin might be a suggestion: 1. A child’s plaything. (Kite.) 2. What you do at every meal. (Swallow.) 3. Nothing, twice yourself, and fifty. (Owl.) 4. Less than the whole and the top of a house. (Partridge.) 5. Equality and decay. (Parrot.) 6. A celebrated English architect. (Wren.) 7. A tailor’s implement. (Goose.) 8. Part of an ancient fireplace. (Crane.) 9. A girl’s nickname and a baked dish. (Magpie.) 10. A turbulent country. (Turkey.) 11. To spoil and half a score. (Marten.) 12. A bit of wood and a disturbance. (Sparrow.)

XLII

A Caramel Hunt

AT a party for children aged from seven to twelve, they had this jolly “hunt,” the happy little guests taking home the booty in dainty tissue paper bags made by “mother.” She took the smallest size bag and covered it neatly with pale pink crêpe paper, then lettered

the initials of the young hostess in gilt. All kinds of caramels (wrapped in waxed paper) were hidden in the rooms and ten minutes were allowed to find them. The ones having the most and least were awarded quaint paper caps. No candy was eaten and the bags were put away until going-home time.

At this party an innovation was the serving of refreshments soon after the guests arrived, and thus the dinner hour was not so greatly disturbed. The hours were from “three to six.”

XLIII

Fun with Soap Bubbles

HERE is a pretty way to amuse one child or any number of children: For a real party, cover sewing or card tables with old blankets, shawls, or pads of cheesecloth and wadding—anything to make the table top soft. Then get little bowls of blue, yellow, or so-called “Dutch” ware, a quantity of baby ribbon and a plentiful supply of clay pipes to allow for breakage. the penny-a-yard quality of ribbon is good enough. Wind the pipe stems with the ribbon, tying a jaunty bow at the bowl. Of course it will get wet, but it looks pretty when the pipes are passed.

Next fill the bowls with a mixture made from boiling shaved castile soap with water; to every pint of this liquid add one teaspoon of glycerine. This recipe produces gorgeous bubbles. Offer prizes for the largest

bubble, for the one lasting the longest and for the one with the most vivid colors. By the way, grown people have been known to indulge in “soap bubble” parties with great satisfaction. The bubbles may be blown or fanned about the room.

XLIV

Chinese Game for Children

ACTION games are enjoyed by children and they gladly welcome any new idea, especially when it is an out-door stunt, so I am very glad to describe this pastime so loved by little Chinese girls and boys. It has been dubbed the “chicken” game, and most appropriately, I think. The requisites are as many rows of sticks of wood as there are players; kindling wood is just the right thing. Each row must have ten sticks placed within easy hopping distance apart.

Each player or “chicken” takes his or her position at the head of a line and at the signal “Ready” begins to hop over each stick with only one foot. It is not so easy as it sounds. When the row has been successfully “hopped,” the last stick is removed and the return trip is begun and at that end the last stick is kicked out of the line. Then the start back is made and the return made until there is but one stick of wood left in the line. The player who first reduces the line to one, wins the game. School children can play this at recess. At a home party, a prize could be offered to add interest to the game.

XLV

Advertising Pictures

ADVERTISING pictures is a new rendering of the old and beloved “bird, beast, fish.” A child stands in the center of a circle with a sofa pillow, which is thrown at a child, who must reply with an advertising picture before the one in the center can count ten. The fun of this game is that advertisements cannot be named twice. This makes the players keep their wits and adds interest to the game. It is best fitted for youngsters from twelve to fifteen. Even grown-up people enjoy this pastime. In fact, grown-ups should be a factor where it is possible in all children’s plays, especially at parties.

XLVI

Drummer Boy

THIS is a game that boys love and I think girls would like it, too. The players form in a circle an arm’s length apart. The leader is in the middle with a basket ball. He says: “Rah, rah, rah, run, boys, run; you with the red coat follow the drum.” As the word “drum” is said the leader throws the ball at a boy in the circle, who, if he catches it, takes his place as leader. At the word “drum” all those in the circle take very short steps to the left and clap their hands in time like the beating of a drum. Of course, good lively music adds to the charm of this game.

XLVII

A Scotch Game

THE game is called “King-a-be-low,” or, as it has become in this country, “Kinggalo,” and is played by the children in the lowlands of Scotland. The players form at one side of the lawn, and a player is chosen to be king. His duty is to stand in the middle and when he calls “King-a-be-low, who shall come through?” the other players try to run by to the opposite side while he endeavors to touch them on the head, or, as it is called, “crown.”

XLVIII

Letter Game

THIS is a very old game, but I have no doubt that it will be new to many, and I am sure those of us who knew it in our youth will be glad to renew the acquaintance. Any number of players may participate.

The one who proposes the game explains that the letter chosen must begin the answer to the question; for instance, suppose the letter “A” is agreed upon and the leader says “Mention the name of an American city beginning with ‘A,’” (Atlanta). A foreign city, (Amiens); an American river, (Alabama); a mineral, (amethyst); a vegetable, (artichoke); an animal, (ape); an article to be worn, (arctics), etc., are some of the innumerable questions which may be suggested.

XLIX

A Fairy Gift Bag

A FAIRY gift bag is somewhat newer than the Jack Horner pie. It is a pretty way of dispensing souvenirs to the children and adds an element of mystery that youngsters love. They may be just as expensive or cheap as the hostess wishes. First select the requisite number of toys or favors, wrap neatly in tissue paper of two colors, one for boys and one for girls; tie very securely with colored cord or ribbon. Pale green and pink or red and white make good combinations of colors. Get a large brown paper sack from the grocer, one that will hold all the parcels without crowding. Now cover this bag with a dainty crêpe paper and make two bows of ribbon; fasten on either side of the bag quite low down. Attach a ribbon to each parcel (very narrow) three-quarters of a yard long. These ribbons fall over the top of the bag when it is tied up and look very pretty. Next blindfold each child, one at a time, and let him walk to the bag and select a ribbon, standing perfectly still, then when all have ribbons they are pulled good and hard, the bag bursts and each one has a favor. Sometimes the children are given a stout cane and each allowed a strike at the bag until it bursts. A hostess may choose her own method. For very small children a little tale may be told of how a good fairy has filled the bag for the party, and interest will rise to fever heat by the time the bag is opened.

L

Passing Pennies

THIS is a jolly pastime much enjoyed by children and hailed by mothers as something new. Place five chairs in a row and five chairs opposite them with a small table or taboret at each end. Ask ten children to take the seats thus provided, with a captain at each head of the line. Then the captain takes five pennies that are given him and lays them on the head table. Every other child must hold out his hands for the penny to be dropped into them, the palms flat and close together. Now the captains sitting beside the head tables start sending the pennies to the other end. They pick one cent off the table, drop it in the next child’s hand, then the third person picks it out and drops it in the next hand and so on until the last player is reached and the coin is laid on the foot table. As soon as the fifth cent reaches the foot table it is sent back by the same process. The side getting the five coins “home” first wins. The faster this game is played the more exciting it is and the children always want to do it over and over.

LI

A Cranberry Hunt

A THANKSGIVING DAY GAME

HIDE cranberries, either outdoors or inside, just as the powers that be decide. Provide bags or baskets for the spoils, and award a box of goodies for the prize.

Instead of the time-honored “pinning the tail” on the donkey, they have gotten out a pumpkin pie, and the trick is to put a slice of pie back in place. And another good stunt is to draw or paint a turkey gobbler and give each child a feather to be pinned on. The reward may be a turkey candy box.

LII

A Field Day Party

THE guests may be any number, but twenty-four I find is just about right for the competition. This affair is fine for children, young people, and those who are older grown.

Egg and spoon races are great fun, as well as the “needle and thread” contest. Then there should be running races, forty-yard dashes, interspersed with three-legged and sack races.

Rope climbing is most laughable, as well as the merry “obstacle” race.

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A timekeeper, referee, and a “judge” add to the interest and the prizes may be as many and elaborate as the hostess wishes. In some of the races blue and red ribbons may be awarded.

Perhaps tennis, croquet, archery, and baseball matches may be arranged.

Refreshments or supper should be served on the lawn or porch.

It would be a jolly thing to have the guests conveyed to and from the place in a hay wagon drawn by four horses. Provide horns and have bells on the harness.

It is needless to say that outing suits should be worn. From four to ten are good hours, but the time should be set to suit the convenience of the largest number.

LIII

An Easter Party for Children

NO party is a real Easter affair without the time-honored egg hunt, and the eggs may be genuine ones colored, or the pretty candy ones that come in all sizes. Provide little baskets or bags for the finds, and zest is added by having prizes for certain eggs, say one of gold, one silver, and one royal purple. The rewards may be pretty boxes filled with bonbons or a big, fat “Benjamin Bunny” candy box. Large sized egg-shaped boxes come ready to be filled with bonbons or any little favors the hostess may wish to bestow.

A jolly game is to set up Easter chickens or rabbits

like tenpins and roll Easter eggs instead of balls. Play it just like tenpins; keep score and have a prize.

Children always adore the blindfolding game, when something is pinned on, and in this case draw a rabbit on the sheet or paper and have an egg-shaped bit of paper to be pinned on in his front paws. Have each paper numbered and caution the children to remember what number they had. Have a large Easter cake decorated with white and yellow frosting with a circle of wee chicks around the edge, so when the cake is cut there will be one on each slice.

If a Jack Horner pie is to be part of the attraction, have it of yellow and white crêpe paper, nest-shaped, with a rabbit on top holding the yellow and white ribbons in his paws. Let each child pull a ribbon and draw out a favor.

The ice cream may be served in nests of candy such as confectioners have at this season.

LIV

A Spring Paper Chase

THIS is a jolly outdoor sport for a bright, warm day and may be arranged for after school or a Saturday, just as “mother” deems best. Children from the ages of eight or nine up to thirteen or fourteen may be invited. Outing clothes and stout shoes must be the costumes, and it is a wise thing to ask each child to

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bring an extra pair of stockings and a pair of slippers to put on when they return from the chase, for there is no telling what may happen and shoes will be sure to be more or less muddy.

The “meet” should be on the lawn at the hour appointed, and only one “hare” will be necessary for a small party, say twelve; if there are twenty guests there should be two. If just one is sufficient it should be a boy; if two, choose a boy and a girl. It will probably be best for the mother or whoever acts as hostess to assign the parts of the “hares,” who should be well acquainted with the country for several miles around; then there must be one of the older boys for “whipper-in”; he belongs to the hounds; and one of the smaller lads may be the huntsman and have a good, loud horn.

The hares have sacks (a stout clothes-pin bag or a pillow case will do), with a cord to go over the shoulder. Fill the sack with well-torn newspaper or white paper with which to make the trail.

All being in readiness, the hostess produces her watch and at a word the hare is off, and he has a ten or fifteen minute start. No one knows what he will do or where he will go, but he must leave the paper trail.

At a given signal the “hounds” are off, and the only rule is that every one must be back at a certain hour, the hare included, whether he has been caught or not.

Boys and girls love this kind of a party, and it is truly very exciting when the hare is seen and the hunter blows the horn; if a “killing” is made the “hounds” are jubi-

lant and all troop back to the house ready to do full justice to the “hunt” tea, or luncheon. Red is an appropriate color scheme and simple refreshments should be served, but be sure to have plenty of everything.

LV

A Merry April Fool Party

HERE is a bit of jingle for an invitation to a First-of-April party:

For merry jests,
Do be my guest
On Wednesday,
“All Fools’ Day;”
The hour is eight,
So don’t be late,
And do not say me “nay.”

Please reply to Miss Annabel Scott.

If you should wish to entertain at a card party have the “Jester’s head rattles,” to be found in the toy department, for the scores and keep track of the games by letting the winners attach little gilt costume bells to the rattle by gilt safety pins. By tying the rattles with ribbons, two of each color, partners may be found; the blues playing together; the reds, etc. When refreshments are served you may have a surprise menu by serving well-known viands in the most unexpected forms, such as:

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Potato salad arranged as cream puffs; English walnut shells as receptacles for olives; sandwiches as slices of cake with nut filling; ice cream as croquettes, cone-shaped and plentifully sprinkled with toasted cake-crumbs; cake as sandwiches, with ice cream between and tied with ribbon; coffee served in bouillon cups; bonbons served in artificial fruit candy boxes.

A dish filled with this joke fruit makes a lovely centerpiece. Pass it after the dessert, and I want to tell you that real banana skins may be filled with salad or ice cream, and neatly baked Irish potato shells, scooped out and lined with waxed paper, may be filled with salad or ice cream, or even creamed chicken, the halves being carefully put together. Of course, we all remember the April Fool bonbons of our childhood—chocolates stuffed with cotton, button molds coated with chocolate, marshmallows dipped in quinine, maple kisses made from salt and molasses, and little pill boxes filled with flour and iced like small cakes.

All this and more, too, is permissible on the first day of April. The French call this day “La Poisson d’Avril” (The Fish of April), so why not have fish-shaped place cards and see who will be the first to be “caught”?

LVI

Fire Buckets

FIRE buckets” is a jolly game, so called from the old way of passing buckets of water from hand to hand in the volunteer fire companies. The players are formed in two long lines opposite each other with captains at the head, each having a basket or box filled with all sorts of hastily collected articles—handkerchiefs, balls, hats, hair ribbons, pocket knives, etc., which are to be passed on one at a time until the end of the line is reached. The last player, depositing the objects on the ground beside him, begins at once to pass them back. The line first accomplishing the task wins.

LVII

Stagarino

THIS may be played on the lawn, porch, or seashore. Have two bases opposite each other. The players are on either side with “It” in the middle (the latter being chosen by drawing lots, or the old-time method of “counting out”). The game is to run from one goal to the other without being caught. When once touched he or she joins in trying to catch the others.

LVIII

An After-Dinner Trick

THIS sounds very easy, but try it and see. Boys will enjoy it, and I am told even men are not averse to attempting what is apparently so simple. Tell the victim that he is to brush a coin out of your hand. Proceed to lay a quarter in the middle of the palm and hand “him” a whisk broom. The motion used must be only a brushing one, no fair digging the coin out with a corner of the broom. Sometimes as many as a dozen people will try to brush the quarter out and not one will succeed.

LIX

Deft Finger Test

I HARDLY know what to call this amusing stunt that a hostess sprang on her guests after a dinner party. It will serve for any age and is very easy to get ready. All required is a new paper of black and white pins; tear off a row of white and a row of black for each person, and provide a little tray to hold the pins. At the ring of a bell or the word “go,” all take the pins out of both rows, put them in the holder and go to work to replace them “as was.” The one who finishes first wins the prize, which may be a fancy box of assorted pins, beauty pins, safety pins, or whatever the hostess wishes

LX

Character and Object

TRY this little game and see how amusing it is. Send two persons out of the room, then select a character and an object which are closely related to each other—for instance, “George Washington and his hatchet,” “Sir Walter Raleigh and his cloak,” “Cleopatra and the asp.” Then call in the persons and tell one to be the “character” and the other the “object.” Questions must be asked by them which must be answered by either “yes” or “no.” After much adroit questioning they usually ascertain “who” and “what” they are. Persons and objects may be of local fame, and provoke much good-natured merriment.

LXI

A Bird Party

BIRDS drawn in sepia ornamented the invitations and the favors were Japanese paper birds that chirped in a most natural manner.

On the wall a peacock was drawn without the tail, which was to be supplied after the manner of the old-time “donkey” party. Each child was blindfolded and had three chances to supply the missing glory to this vainest of birds. The prize to the one pinning on the most tails in the place where they should go was a copy of the “Birds’ Christmas Carol.”

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The next contest was headed, “Birds You Ought to Know.” The questions were as follows:

- A jolly outdoor time? — A meadow lark.
- What hunters sometimes do? — Killdeer.
- A quaint, old-fashioned name? — Phoebe.
- Used in decoration? — Bunting.
- From whom do you buy meat? — Butcher bird.
- A color Quakers like? — Dove.
- An unsteady light? — Flicker.
- Material for summer trousers? — Duck.
- A stupid fellow? — Booby.
- A boy’s name? — Bob White.
- What friends do? — Chat.
- A bird never seen in summer? — Snowbird.
- An amusement for children? — Teeter.
- What farmers need in summer? — Thrasher.
- What a dog does when happy? — Wagtail.
- A colored tool? — Yellowhammer.
- A celebrated artist? — Whistler.

LXII

“Buzz”

THE players sit in a circle and the one designated begins to count, his neighbor says the next number and so on until 7 is reached, when, instead of giving the next number, the player says “buzz.” The next says “8,” and so it goes until 14 brings another “buzz,” and so on. For every number having a 7 or a multiple of 7

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the word “buzz” is substituted. The player who forgets is left out of it, or must pay a forfeit.

The thing to remember is 7 or the multiple, like 14, 21, 28, 35, etc. The one who holds out the longest may receive a prize.

LXIII

“Lady Jane”

DO you know her? If not, introduce her to the children the next time they ask you “what to play.” It is done by forming a circle, then giving each child the name of an article of a woman’s belongings, a parasol, a fan, a hat, slippers, and so on. Another player spins a plate in the middle of the floor and says, “Lady Jane is going a-visiting and needs her hat,” or some other article, and the person to whom the hat was given must seize the plate before it ceases to spin, using as he twirls it the name of another one of Lady Jane’s possessions.

LXIV

The Minister’s Cat

WHY the minister’s cat I know not, only I do know that this game is just as much fun as the children make it; all depends upon how fast they can think and how long they can make one letter last.

One begins by saying, “The minister’s cat is ambitious.” The next one states, “The minister’s cat is

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anxious,” and so on until all the a’s are exhausted and the next letter is taken up.

It is very much like the old game beginning, “I love my love with an A,” and some one says “Apple,” and then “B” is taken and so on down the alphabet or until the players are tired.

LXV

Novel Birthday Party Decorations

IN search of something new to amuse a bevy of a dozen youngsters invited to celebrate her daughter’s tenth birthday, a mother had a glass bowl of goldfish for the centerpiece, surrounded by tiny nosegays of flowers, from which ribbons ran to each place. At the close of the repast the ribbons were pulled and each child found a fish candy box attached to the flowers, to be taken home.

Sets of toy fish that float after a pole may be purchased, and they were provided for amusement, much to the delight of those embryo Izaak Waltons. Large bowls furnished the water, and the children fished in pairs. The prizes were candy box lobsters.

This menu was served: Bouillon in cups, chicken sandwiches, ice cream, and lovely little frosted sponge cakes.

Besides, each one had a slice from the birthday cake, which was on a side table by itself surrounded by candles. The guests each blew out a candle, wishing the birthday girl many happy returns of the day. Then there were gay snapping motto caps, without which no party is complete.

LXVI

The Daisy Chain

THIS is a good exercise for little girls from six to eight years old for their closing day at school. Have them dressed in white, with garlands of daisies and wreaths of daisies on their heads. Let them sing this verse to the tune of “The Old Oaken Bucket:”

How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood,
When fond recollections present them to view;
The orchard, the meadow, the deep-tangled wildwood,
And all the broad fields, where the wild daisies grew.
How eager we gathered the fair, blooming flowers,
And plucked off their petals our fortunes to tell;
Or quickly in garlands we wove them for bowers
Or wreathed them for crownlets youth’s beauty to swell.

CHORUS

The daisy, the daisy, the bright blooming daisy,
The white-petaled daisy, we all love so well.

LXVII

A Football Party

BOYS, and incidentally the girls, are greatly interested in football these days; in fact a little chap only ten who had to go to the hospital for an operation was so keen about a forthcoming game that his one desire was to “get back” in time to witness it.

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I must confess I am not a “fan,” so have no personal knowledge of how to use the terms correctly. I do know that the favor departments of the stores show cunning little footballs to be used as containers for nuts or candies, and there are pennants galore, so all well-known colleges and many high schools are represented. A large football may form the centerpiece, from which ribbons (team or school colors) may run to smaller footballs at each place. The names of guests may be printed on the sides and so be used for place cards.

To choose partners for any desired game, have a basket or plate with cards (one for each person), half of them being of the color of one team and half the color of the opponents. Thus the guests will be divided into teams according to the colors drawn. On the cards write the positions of the players; for instance, the one drawing “right end” will hunt for the one having “left end” and the one who gets “right tackle” will hunt for “left tackle”; the right guard and the left guard, and the right halfback and the left halfback, the quarterback and the fullback, the center and the referee, the umpire and the field judge, may be partners. The hostess and her partner may be the captains.

Another pastime may be finding how many words may be made from “football,” the one having the most at the end of a stated period to receive a prize. A good way to end the evening will be to have a rousing “sing” of college songs and an impromptu dance.

LXVIII

A Knickerbocker Party

A MOTHER who was about to put her small son into his first trousers conceived the clever idea of holding a party in his honor on the eventful day. On her card she wrote: “Come to meet our little man Jack at three on Saturday, September 10.”

The first game is for the amusement of the children and is called “menagerie.” A picture of an animal is pinned on the coat or dress of each as they pass in line. The leader should be a ten-year-old boy, who will be able to manage better than a younger child. He says he wishes to catch a menagerie to go with a circus, and then the children scatter over house and grounds, each making the noise of the animal he is supposed to represent. All the animals must be caught, and if they are especially wary the hunter may employ those already caught to help get the others. When all are caged (placed in a corner designated) he forms them in line, two by two, and they march around to the owner of the circus, who removes the animals.

This is a lively game, keenly enjoyed by all children. For favors have little clowns and serve pink lemonade, ice cream in shape of animals, and animal cookies; of course, have the snapping motto caps which all children love.

LXIX

Bobbing for Apples

IN a light zinc tub which may be brought from the laundry put at least a dozen red apples, and in four of them conceal a ring a thimble, a button, and a coin. Just press the articles carefully into the fruit and the mutilation is not discernible in the water. The boy or girl getting the ring will be married or engaged within the year. The thimble means no such luck; the one getting it must remain single or unattached for another twelve months. The coin means wealth and the button means one must win fame or fortune by one’s own exertions.

LXX

The Flour Stunt

WHO remembers the old trick of trying to get a coin out of a pan of flour with the teeth, the hands being tied behind the back? This is a laughable sight. Sometimes a wedding ring is concealed in the flour, and the one getting it will be married within the year. Of course, the coin denotes wealth.

LXXI

A Ship Party

THIS affair was given for a boy's eighth birthday and he just loved boats better than anything else, so his mother had the tinsmith make an oval pan four inches deep, which she filled with water and put in the center of the dining-room table. Around the edge she arranged ferns and vines with moss, and in the water she placed the gold fish from the aquarium. At the toy store she bought ducks, miniature rowboats, sailboats, a little steamer, swans, frogs, and play fish. There was a five-cent sailboat at each place with the name of child on the side. The cake had a sailboat done in pink icing for decoration, with the boy's name, date of birth and present date underneath. All this had been kept a profound secret and all the children were wild with delight. This mother is noted for her successful children's parties and she says it's because she has just the same things for each child to take home, and she usually serves refreshments first, as ice cream and cake are after all what make a real party to the average child, and, served early, the supper hour is not interfered with. Then, too, she says children are much happier and easier to manage when their stomachs are full.

LXXII

Fairy Party

THE world of “Make Believe” is a most fascinating one to both old and young, so you who are contemplating giving a party for children try this. First, I would advise you to consult some of Andrew Lang’s fairy story books, as well as Hans Christian Andersen and our well-beloved old Grimm; then your guests will not be so long forgotten when they announce themselves as “Snow White,” “Sinbad,” “Titania,” etc. Let me tell you that “Fairy Tale” parties with costumes and characters for grown-ups are not to be tabooed, as one of the famous eastern hostesses, a society leader, has just given such an affair. But I always think first of the children when planning a party, so ask them all to come representing some favorite fairy tale hero or heroine.

These delightful creatures are invariably wood folk and water folk, and the boys will surely come, many of them as Brownies, and they will not forget the Kewpies either. If the hostess represents “Titania,” the fairy queen, she may have several pages and ladies in waiting.

Crêpe paper, silver and gilt paper, with yards of parti-colored tarlatan, will evolve gorgeous costumes. Have a fairy “gift” tree on the lawn from which the guests will clip favors to be taken home. This tree may be festively trimmed with paper chains, lanterns, and dainty wands for each child.

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Then there can be a hunt for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, which may be arranged “spider web” fashion with gold and silver cords (Christmas parcel cords) wound in and out of the shrubs and trees until the end comes under a rainbow canopy made of the seven colors (crêpe papers), where favors are found, which should be little steins wrapped in gilt paper, filled with tiny bonbons.

Queen Titania may then assemble her court and command a certain subject to suggest a pastime to be played; this may continue for an hour, then serve refreshments. These may be elaborate or simple. Ice cream may be frozen in individual molds if expense is not to be considered; mushrooms with tiny figures are most attractive.

LXXIII

Blowing the Cone

MAKE a large cone of stiff paper and slip it on a string stretched between two trees, about three feet from the ground.

Give each child a try to see if by blowing into the large end of the cone he can send it across the string. The art is to see who can send it over with the fewest “blows.”

Another very good amusement is to tie a knot in a clothesline and stretch it conveniently high between two trees or posts, blindfold each child in turn and give him

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three clothespins. Then see who can come the nearest the knot. Each pin is marked with the player’s number; for instance, three will be marked “1,” three “2,” etc. This gives each one three trials. If the party is a large one it will be best to let each child have just one pin and instead of numbering the clothespins have colored ribbons tied to them, each child to remember his or her color.

LXXIV

Matching Partners

A FUNNY way to match partners is to write halves of Mother Goose jingles on cards and pass one half to the boys and the other to the girls, and when the jingles are completed, the partners are found. Another way is to hide pairs of animal crackers and tell them to hunt for their mates.

Matching flowers is always a pretty way to find mates.

LXXV

A Birthday Custom

A PRETTY birthday custom is observed by a family rejoicing in the possession of six beautiful children. On the first natal day of each child a tree is planted, and each succeeding year the same custom prevails. When the tenth birthday is reached a real

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festival is held. The “birthday” child is permitted to choose the variety of tree to be planted, and, if possible, it is obtained, and the tree planting is made the feature of the occasion with a procession around the lawn. Oftentimes there is a “tree guessing” contest of some kind, or the refreshments will all be from “tree” products. It is needless to say that these children are devoted to their own special trees, and watch their growth with scrupulous care. It is certainly a custom worthy of emulation, and not expensive, so it is within the reach of almost everyone.

LXXVI

An April Party

My name is April; and I
Often laugh, as often cry;
And I cannot tell what makes me;
Only as the fit o’ertakes me!
I must dimple, smile and frown,
Laughing though the tears roll down.
But ’t is nature, sir, not art;
And I ’m happy at my heart.

WE are all happy “at our hearts” when planning good times for children, and none more so than the little mother who had this party for the children of the neighborhood, her own boy and girl being the host and hostess. The usual invitations were sent out, save that in one corner were the words “Soap-Bubble

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Party.” The decorations were umbrellas suspended from the ceiling. Under each was a small table holding two pipes ornamented with bows of rainbow colors, a bowl and a bottle containing soap-bubble water. This mixture was soapsuds with the addition of a tablespoon of glycerine in every pint of water, which gives luster and stability to the fairy bubbles. Prizes were offered for the largest bubble, for the one remaining longest in the air, for the one with the most vivid coloring, and for the one soaring the highest.

A pretty game was arranged by stretching a broad ribbon across the room like a tennis net, providing fans to blow the bubbles. The contest was to see which side could blow the greatest number of bubbles and get them over the ribbon. Two persons played at a time, or four, as in tennis.

The table was gay with a circle of candles in the seven prismatic colors around a large crescent-shaped cake. The flowers were hyacinths in delicate pink, lavender, white, yellow, and purple. One stalk in a tiny pot at the plates made a beautiful table.

LXXVII

“Bell” Blind Man’s Buff

HERE is a new version of blind man’s buff: Divide the players into sides; all on one side are blindfolded and those on the other side are given little bells. No running is permitted, and only a certain

space allowed to play in. When caught, the bell is surrendered and the captive is blindfolded. A most laughable stunt is to seat two persons opposite each other on the ground. Blindfold them and see who can feed the other a small saucer of rolled cracker crumbs first. This is a popular game with the birds, for they are assured a most luxurious meal after the merry picnickers are gone.

LXXVIII

A New Blind Man’s Buff

TRY this innovation on the old way of playing blind man’s buff. Count to see who will be the blind man, then tell him to imagine himself in a barnyard. Let each one in the ring choose silently what animal he shall be. Hand the blind man a wand or cane and when he touches a person such is to take hold of the stick and imitate some barnyard creature, disguising the voice as much as possible. If guessed correctly, the child takes the place of the blind man. Sometimes two trials at guessing are allowed, this to be decided before the game is commenced.

LXXIX

Bag and Wand

THE game of “bag and wand” is always welcome. Suspend a good sized paper sack from the center of the room. Fill the sack with paper-wrapped candies, snapping mottoes, English walnuts wrapped in gold and silver paper, and any other small articles that will be unharmed by falling. Blindfold each child in turn, hand the striker a stout cane with which he makes three strikes in an attempt to break the bag. When the bag is broken all the rest of the children scramble for the goodies as they fall.

LXXX

“Number” Blind Man’s Buff

HERE is a new way for you to play “blind man.” Form a circle and “count out” to see who shall be “it.” Number each player, and the “blind man” remains in the middle trying to catch the two whose number he calls, when they must take each other’s places. When he has called on three or four couples to change and has caught no one he says “one hundred,” when everyone must change, and the chances are there will be a victim.

LXXXI

Playing Menagerie

CHILDREN love this game. This is the way it is done: Each person is given the name of an animal; a circle is formed with someone in the middle, who is “it;” he calls the name of the animal a person represents three times, and if the one called does not respond by saying the name once, he or she must take the middle and catch the next victim. It sounds simple, but just try it. Here is a list of animals: Horse, cat, bear, donkey, bison, muskrat, leopard, camel, elephant, alligator, snake, pig, mouse, opossum, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, sheep, tiger, monkey, frog, toad, squirrel.

LXXXII

Chestnut Brownies

FROM a friend over the ocean comes this suggestion, which is fine for Hallowe’en: Procure shiny horse chestnuts, select a small one for the head and a larger one for the body. Then provide for the guests some good wire hairpins, some yarn or heavy silk with which to wind the pins, and some sealing wax from which to fashion hands and feet. Hats should be made from acorn cups, pins will fasten them on; also secure the head to the body. Make the faces with water colors. These

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little Brownie folk are great fun, so our English friend who made them says. They could form part of a contest with a prize for the best one.

LXXXIII

A Hallowe'en Party Invitation

USE a Hallowe'en post card or a pumpkin-shaped card and write the following jingle for an invitation to a party on October 31:

At our house on Monday night
You will surely see a sight.
Ghosts, and goblins, witches, too,
Are busy preparing fates for you.
The hour is eight, don't be late,
But come — be brave at any rate.

LXXXIV

Patriotic Entertainment

HERE is the description of a successful entertainment given by a boys' military company, to which the G. A. R. of the town were bidden as honored guests. The affair was given on Washington's birthday. First the fife and drum corps played "Yankee Doodle," and then there was a pretty drill by the boys, followed by

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a tableau which showed a group of soldiers round a camp fire made by a brazier of burning charcoal, a large mat of asbestos being underneath it. They sang “When Johnny Comes Marching Home,” “Marching Through Georgia,” and “Tenting Tonight.” The background had dark green paper cambric hangings and there were several evergreen trees to one side. After this some one read, “The Blue and the Gray,” and the next tableau showed “Barbara Frietchie.” She stood upon a concealed ladder and looked through a window frame, and while a portion of the poem was read she waved a flag. Then “Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys Are Marching,” and “America” were sung, in which all joined. All were now seated and these tableaux were shown.

1. *The Bivouac.* A darkened stage and a small fire burning low; soldiers wrapped in blankets lie sleeping under the trees and in groups; a sentry softly pacing up and down.

2. *Writing Home.* A soldier sits in the foreground on a log writing on his knee, using a pencil; in the background soldiers are moving about, passing in and out, talking in pantomime; a horse or two may be led across the stage; a general air of confusion and hurry, but everything done without words. The stage is lit for this picture.

3. *The Picket.* A darkened stage, with trees; a solitary soldier pacing slowly back and forth and listening; he stops, seems to hear a noise, and brings his gun to his shoulder.

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4. *The Hospital.* A very large tent, the flaps fastened back; rows of cots on either side with men in the beds; bandaged heads, arms, etc.; table with medicines; army nurse in costume passing back and forth. Trees arranged at the ends of the platform.

5. *The Leisure Hour.* Trees scattered irregularly; leaves on the ground. In the background and at the sides of the tableau men sitting in pairs or alone; one mending his coat, one polishing his gun, one rubbing up a horse’s bridle, one writing, a couple playing cards, in front two men playing checkers on a large drum.

6. *The Soldier’s Return.* A cottage (made of gray cambric tacked on frames, window and door open, vines, flowers and trees all about). In the door stands a gray-haired woman in simple gingham dress with apron, looking as though down a road; presently a soldier appears, lame, ragged, very tired, and as he approaches the door his mother, who has gone in, comes out and catches him in her arms as he falls on the threshold.

After these had been applauded the manager announced a series of living pictures representing famous soldiers in the world’s history. I give the list, which may be changed to suit those in charge: Richard Coeur de Lion in Crusader’s dress, Cromwell, Frederick the Great, Napoleon, Washington, Grant or Lee, and Roosevelt. A bugler could blow a blast as each picture is ready to be shown to attract the attention of the audience. I am sure school teachers could easily plan and carry out this entertainment.

LXXXV

Sunday Pastimes for Children

IN the first place, after the usual duties are attended to and church service over, there should be an hour in the afternoon — more, if the time can be given — that belongs to the children alone. It may mean giving up a nap, a walk, a call, but do it faithfully. Then use a part of this time for holding a little “court of appeals”; encourage each child to tell all the troubles and grievances of the week, condole when necessary, and smooth out knotty problems in the fairest manner possible. After things have been satisfactorily adjusted, have a chapter in some interesting book known as the “Sunday Book,” and never used any other day.

To induce Bible reading, let each child spell his name with verses from this holy book, making acrostics and memorizing those especial verses. Illuminating favorite texts with a box of water colors is another Sunday pleasure.

A never-failing source of amusement for young children is a good-sized Noah’s ark. Tell the story of the flood and give a little history of the animals, their homes, and habits. Then at the end pair the animals and put them away in the ark.

It is the exceptional child who does not enjoy music, and the earlier the singing habit is cultivated the better. Teach the good old hymns which will never be forgotten. The melodies learned on Sunday afternoon will echo

through the busiest day and soothe the darkest hour in the years to come.

So few parents stop to think that it is in the earliest years that the memories are being made which will be most vivid the latter days of their children’s lives.

One mother of sound sense and farsightedness in bringing up her children makes it a rule to permit each child a turn in planning the Sunday night luncheon, giving the order on Saturday so ample preparations may be made.

Much depends upon how Sunday is observed whether a child looks forward with pleasure or dread to the first day. It should be such a dear, happy time that the little ones welcome its advent with delight.

LXXXVI

A Baby’s Birthday Party

IF possible, rent or borrow enough high chairs to seat the small guests around the table. Have a birthday cake iced in white, with a pink candle and “one to grow on.” Of necessity, the beverage for these little ones must be of milk, but there can be a variety of crackers. For souvenirs and amusement nothing will be more pleasing than toy balloons or bouncing balls fastened to the chandelier over the table by baby ribbons. The balls may be made of worsted and will delight the babies. Have a generous supply of rattles, jumping jacks, and rubber dolls for playthings, and with plenty of assistance

the party should be a great success. Rosebuds, either pink or white, are the most appropriate flowers to use. For the mothers and grown-ups, serve cocoa, whipped cream, chicken sandwiches and charlotte russe, nuts and bonbons. The babies will provide all the entertainment necessary.

LXXXVII

Hallowe'en Fun

HOW many have ever tried an “owl hunt”? To each guest give a wooden gun such as may be purchased at a toy shop for a few cents, and tell him to hunt owls. First, of course, these funny little gray paper owls decorated with water colors must be hidden throughout the rooms. Ordinary gray owls count five, white owls count ten, and horned owls count fifteen. Each bird has a looped bit of red string tied through a punched hole, so it may be hung on the gun. This makes great sport, the one bagging the most owls and the one who has the fewest being awarded a prize.

I have not tried this next trick, but I am told that fortunes may be written on white paper with milk. When held over the heat from a lamp or gas jet the letters turn brown so the writing is perfectly plain. The fortune slips can be distributed by a little fairy, then each guest takes one at a time into a room where a wizard is hidden who, with a magic lamp, interprets the writing. All such things add to the mystery of a party.

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Provide each guest with a neat bundle of fagots and tell him he must tell a mystery story while they burn. This is only practical where there is a large open fireplace around which the guests may gather. Have plenty of cushions and no light save perhaps a candle or “Jack” here and there. If some of the guests have been asked to prepare for this part of the program, so much the better, but many people do their best on the spur of the moment.

Making tissue paper pumpkin caps is a favorite stunt. The hostess provides stiff cardboard for the rims and plenty of orange crêpe paper with some green paper and tubes of library paste, some coarse needles and thread. This is especially good for young girls of twelve to fifteen, as they are just at the age when they love to make things. The caps are worn the rest of the evening.

LXXXVIII

Games for the Sand Pile or Beach

THE sand games were arranged by Patten Beard. They are adaptable not only to the beach, but some of them to the sand pile which many children have in their back yards.

CLAMSHELL SCUD

A good race that can be played upon the beach is clamshell scud. To play this, gather at least thirty large clam-

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shells that you will find strewn around upon the sand. Find a smooth strip of beach about fifteen feet long and arrange these clam shells in a double row of fifteen each, each row with its shells about a foot apart.

At a given signal two players start to pick up the shells, each in his own row. The one to gather all his first wins the game.

BURIED TREASURE

To play this, find a large handful of shells. Mark out upon the beach a circle three feet round. Count out for “leader” and give him the shells. The other players must then go and hide in the sand dunes till they have counted 300, and the one who is “leader” must hurriedly dig a deep hole somewhere within the circle and bury three shells. He must then seek to cover up the traces entirely, and as soon as the other players return they start to work to hunt for the “treasure” of the three shells. The one who finds them first becomes leader. The game may be continued till one player has obtained six shells.

CIRCLE SAND

Make a hole in the sand deep enough to sink a tin sand pail. Place your tin pail in it and draw about the hole a circle that is about two feet in diameter, with the pail in its center.

Gather a handful of pebbles and sort out the light and dark ones. Each player may take the kind he prefers— one chooses dark ones and another light ones. Each

player must have ten pebbles and must sit four feet from the circle’s edge.

All play is made in turn, and the object of the game is to see who can make the highest score trying to throw the pebbles into the pail.

Each pebble that goes into the pail scores the count of two and entitles a player to one turn more.

LXXXIX

A Baby Parade

AT a New Jersey resort famous for its beach and board walk, a very pretty custom has been carried out with great success at the close of each season. The “baby parade” is a feature unique and as yet exclusive with the resort, but I see no reason why the idea is not adaptable to other places, and even as a drawing card for an indoor bazaar where there is ample room.

All the children under seven participate. They are in costume or not, just as their mothers wish; those unable to walk are in flower-decorated perambulators and go-carts. Pony carts are sometimes pressed into service drawn by little boys harnessed with garlands of flowers and blue ribbons. The children are entered in classes according to age, and there are various committees and judges. Prizes are given, bands play, and it is altogether a gala day. The line of march is on the board walk only.

XC

An Unique Musicale

A DECIDED novelty in the way of musicales was given recently by a charming musician and her husband. They have done and are doing a wonderful work for children. The invitations were issued to the youthful guests with the request to bring “the dolly you love the best to the doll musicale.”

The hostess was assisted by a much-beloved corn-husk dolly who belongs to this musical household.

On the day appointed there were over 30 dolls of various ages and stations in life assembled in demure silence to listen to the following clever program:

- “Dolly Lost and Dolly Found.” MARTIN.
- “The Japanese Doll.” SWIFT.
- “Sleep, Dolly, Sleep,” and “Dance, Dolly, Dance.” REINECKE.
- “Dolly Goes to Sleep.” GOODRICH.
- “I Love the Old Doll Best,” Song. GAYNOR.
- “In Dolly’s Kitchen.” HOLLANDER.
- “Doll’s Dance.” TSCHAIKOWSKI.
- “Dance of the Marionettes.” MRS. CROSBY ADAMS.
- “Overture to the Marionettes.” GURLITT.
- “My Dear Jerushy,” Song. GAYNOR.
- “Now Go to Sleep, My Dolly,” Song. MRS. CROSBY ADAMS.
- “Teaching Dolly to Waltz.” BARTLETT.
- “Funeral March of a Marionette.” GOUNOD.
- “Poupee Valsante.” POLDINI.
- “Dancing Doll.” SEEBOECK.
- “Doll’s Reverie.” MRS. CROSBY ADAMS.

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The children were perfectly delighted and took in the ideas expressed to the great satisfaction of the hostess. It was a revelation to find that all the world loves a doll, as is evidenced by the fact that “music-makers of every clime” have “told the doll’s own story in song and rhyme.”

This suggestion may be carried out easily, as the selections are within reach of the average musician.

XCI

Guessing Noses

DID you ever let the children try to guess whose nose belonged to whom? It is very amusing and this is the way to proceed: Hang a cloth in front of a doorway and place one-half of the company in each room, only one of which is lighted. Cut a V-shaped hole in the cloth and let those in the dark room place their noses through it, one by one, while those in the light room guess whose nose it is. When a right guess is made, the owner of the nose must join the guessers, but should the guess be wrong the one making it must join players. The game ends when all are in one room, unless there are too many children and they will tire before all have been successful. It is a better plan to stop one thing and go to the next amusement before anyone wearies.

XCII

Portraying Nature with Bible Verses

HERE is something that will interest the children in looking up Bible references; it could be used on “Children’s day,” which is observed in so many churches early in June.

1. Lily (Luke 12:27). Bouquet of lilies, anemones, or some lilaceous flower.

2. Grass (Luke 12:28). Bouquet of long grassblades tastefully arranged.

3. Star (Matthew 2:9-10). Large star.

4. Vine (John 15:1, 5). Long, graceful cutting of a grapevine.

5. Cedar (Psalms 92:12). Branch of cedar.

6. Wheat (Matthew 13:24-30). Stalks of wheat.

7. Flower (Isaiah 40:8). Bouquet of any flower in season.

8. Palm (John 12:12, 13). Palm branches.

9. Mustard (Matthew 13:31, 32). A mustard plant from some wheat field; the larger the plant, the better.

10. Willow (Psalms 137:1, 2). Long willow branches.

11. Barley (Ruth 1:22). Stalks of barley.

12. Fir (Psalms 104:16, 17). Branches of fir.

13. Rose (Isaiah 35:1). Bouquet of roses.

14. Rushes (Isaiah 35:7). Handful of tall rushes.

15. Oak (2 Kings 13:14, revised version). Some oak branches.

16. In concert: Psalms 96:11, 12, 13.

XCIII

Pastime for February Twenty-Second

FOR a children’s Washington party decorate the room prettily with flags and pictures of Washington and Mount Vernon. Have a paper hatchet in which there is a pin for each child. Blindfold each child, one at a time, and have him pin the hatchet on the nose of Washington. A large cheap print may be obtained for this purpose. This will make lots of fun. Award a cherry log cabin box filled with candied cherries.

XCIV

For a Birthday Child

THESE charming verses by Alice Corbin were written on a card, the initial letter of each being done in gold shaded with pink:

FOR A BIRTHDAY CHILD

What shall we give to the birthday child?
A blessing, a kiss, or a golden ring?
A kiss lasts only a second or two,
The ring is lost ere the year is through,
But the blessing of God is a precious thing,
So the blessing of God is the gift we bring
To the child that is gentle and sweet and mild,
To the dear little, good little birthday child!

XCV

“Catches” for Idle Moments

ON a rainy Sunday afternoon at a hotel when the children, and grown-ups too, were wondering what to do next, the clever lady came in with a pencil and twenty slips of paper and set them to working on these stunts, and so the hour passed and the storm was over and every one happy again.

First she told us to punctuate this sentence so as to make sense: “He that is is he that is not is not.” After some moments and no one getting it she came around to each one, and here is the way the sentence read: “He that is, is; he that is not, is not.” Next she wrote these seemingly meaningless letters on our slips and asked us to make a readable translation: “i i u r i i u b I c u r i i for me.” Here it is: “Too wise you are, too wise you be; I see you are too wise for me.”

The following mystical message was translated this way:

stand	take	to	taking
I	you	throw	my

“I understand you undertake to overthrow my undertaking.”

XCVI

For a Child’s Christmas

MAKE a large bag of white tarlatan, sew it up with red wool. Now make a trip to some toy department, or “five and ten cent store” and purchase about a dozen or two of little trinkets that children love; a colored pencil, a miniature flatiron, a baby doll, a doll’s jewelry set, a ball, a knife, anything small that would please a child. Wrap each article in different colored paper and tie with ribbon. Then fill the tarlatan bag.

This interesting looking grab bag delights a child more than I can tell, and a wise mother will limit the number of grabs a day, thus prolonging the pleasure and giving the child something to which to look forward.

XCVII

A Snowball Christmas

ROLL each gift in a ball of white cotton, dip lightly in mucilage or gum arabic water, then sprinkle plentifully with diamond dust. Pile these balls in a pyramid in the center of the table or in the middle of a room with a wreath of holly around them.

The child dressed as “Santa Claus” may distribute the balls and carry the larger packages in a pack on his back.

XCVIII

“Bird Sellers”

GET the players in a row, leaving two outside. These two represent the bird buyers. Give each child the name of a bird, one being a crow, one a crane, another a canary, etc. One bird dealer says to the other:

“I wish to buy a bird.”

“What kind?” inquires the other.

“A bird that can fly swiftly,” says the first buyer.

“Very well, take what you wish.”

“Then,” says the first buyer, “I’ll take a robin.”

As soon as he says this the “robin” child must jump out of the row and run around, trying to escape. If the dealer catches the bird the captured one stays until the other “birds” have been selected and caught.

XCIX

At the Sign of the Holly

AMOTHER issued these invitations, written on holly-decorated paper; the envelopes were tied around with silvery cord, through which a spray of holly was thrust. The seals were decorated with holly:

At the sign of the holly, my friends, I’ll await.
I think ’t will be jolly, so don’t you be late.

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As each guest arrived a spray of holly and a long pin were handed out by an attendant in the dressing room. I forgot to say this was a party for children from seven to ten years of age. The first thing all were ushered into a room which was called the “Christmas Garden.” Here on a long table was a small artificial tree for each child and a holly paper-wrapped box which, when opened, was found to contain very small tree ornaments, colored papers, paste (tubes), and a pair of scissors.

Fifteen minutes were allowed in which to decorate these miniature trees. At the expiration of the time a prize was awarded for the best trimmed tree. Then all made a trip to the “postoffice,” where a big, fat Santa Claus distributed Christmas postals to each one, on which instructions were given where to look for a parcel. Then such merriment! The packages had been cleverly hidden, each marked with the child’s name.

The refreshment table had a tree in the center with red ribbons running to each plate, where there was a little gilded basket in which to take home the goodies. A white iced angel food cake had “Merry Christmas” in red candies. The ice cream was in the shape of snow balls, on top of which a wee Santa stood.

C

Santa Claus Puzzle Game

CHILDREN like puzzles, so try this as part of your Christmas fun. Give each child an envelope containing a picture of Santa Claus dissected; also a sheet of cardboard and a tube of paste, or have a bottle of mucilage accessible. The one who first completes the picture is the prize winner.

CI

Christmas Fun

MAKE a Santa Claus figure about three feet high with a tall, peaked cap on his head (a mask and a beard make the head); provide five soft rubber balls and see who can knock the hat off with the fewest balls. When the hat is off, a ball for each one in the party will roll out, and on these balls numbers will be pasted. Next each child is told to hunt for a parcel bearing his or her number, which is hidden within a prescribed space to be explained by the hostess, whether upstairs or down, and in which the package will be discovered. This is a merry way to present the favors or gifts, which may be Christmas boxes filled with sweetmeats.

CII

May-Day Fun

GIRLS and boys who have read “Jack and Jill,” by Louise Alcott, will remember what a fine time they had going on a hunt for wild flowers for their May-Day baskets and how the flowers were so scarce that some of them had to resort to paper blossoms. The first day of May has always been a festive occasion in England, with its dance around the Maypole, plays on the green, and all sorts of revels in which young and old alike took part. All children enjoy filling and hanging baskets or even nosegays on the doorknob, ringing the bell, and then slipping noiselessly away out of sight. This occasion is another opportunity for sending flowers to the sick and shut-ins, and perhaps a more substantial gift may be concealed among the posies. I hope some of you are going to have parties and will send the invitations in little baskets filled with spring flowers; the notes may be tied to the handles. If possible, have a Maypole on the lawn with streamers of rainbow-hued cheese cloth or tarlatan fastened to the top, one for each child. When all have arrived, let a boy and a girl alternately take hold of an end, all facing the pole, and skip around, in and out, thus weaving the streamers as they go, and the pole will soon be covered with a network; when down to the end of the streamers, reverse and unwind.

For the table centerpiece, a small Maypole is very effective. Three feet of an old broomstick gilded and

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fastened into a piece of wood concealed by moss and flowers will answer admirably. A small, round embroidery hoop on top makes the crown from which the ribbons radiate to around the edge of the table, where they may be tied to very tiny baskets filled with white enamel paint. It makes a pretty effect to sprinkle the table with small flowers and ferns. Serve chicken sandwiches, cocoa or lemonade, orange ice or cup custards, and sunshine cake. Individual sunshine or angel food cakes iced are delicious. I really think small, fancy cakes are nicer than layer ones for parties and so much easier to serve, also to eat.

If the weather should be unfavorable, a cobweb party could be arranged indoors, using gaily colored twine, as ribbons are rather expensive unless the half cotton is procurable in fifty-yard spools. Children like to untangle these webs and the only rule to be strictly observed is that no string shall be broken. It adds zest to have little favors here and there on the strings. Start all from a common center, marking the end with the name of the child who is to untangle it, and have them end any and everywhere. The one finishing first receives a prize, and the one last should have some kind of a “consolation.”

CIII

An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving

AT a real old-fashioned Thanksgiving party they played games, and grown-ups and children and every one had a lovely time. I jotted down some of the games in my memory book, which I give here. We played “Airship” just like “Stage Coach,” and it was astonishing to see how glibly the children named the various parts, like propellers, engine, wings, wheels, steering gear, etc. When the ship fell into the “Atlantic Ocean” everybody changed places and there was a grand scramble. Wireless messages were sent, and I just wondered how the shades of our forefathers felt if they were within hearing distance. They must have been impressed with the changes wrought in comparatively so few years.

Next they placed a sheet upon the floor and blindfolded the sedate professor and the maiden aunt, gave each a saucer of rolled cracker crumbs and a dessert spoon. The one who first fed the other the contents of the saucer won a prize, a box of fancy crackers. It was the most laughable sight. Then there was a whistling contest. The company was lined up, each one given a small soda cracker to eat, then the first one who succeeded in whistling “Yankee Doodle” clear through in the shortest space of time won a prize. Just try to pucker and whistle after eating a dry cracker, if you think it’s easy. Next there was a “One-Yard Penny Push,” in which only

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those under twenty participated. This consisted in pushing with one’s nose a bright copper cent across the floor the space of one yard. Such fun, and the reward was the penny!

The “Tug of War” came next on the program, and consisted of tying a good bit of molasses candy in the middle of a three-yard piece of clean white crochet cotton. The pair chosen to contest took hold of each end with their teeth, hands were tied behind them, and they had to see who could chew up the string the quickest and get the candy.

Then came the “High Jump” for men and the “High Jump” for women. There were three aspirants for honors in each class, and three hard cookies with holes in the middle, known as jumbles, were suspended from an archway about five inches above the heads of the contestants. Doughnuts or crullers could be used. The successful biters got the cakes to eat.

A “Needle-Threading” contest for both boys and girls made loads of fun. The first in each class who succeeded in threading six needles, all the same size, in the shortest space of time received a reward of a stuffed turkey candy box. By this time every one was in a holiday humor, and it was not difficult to make entries for the “Broad Grin” contest. The one whose smile measured the largest received a prize, and the “Foot Race” brought out a hearty laugh when the one in charge came around with a real foot-measure such as is used in shoe shops, and the girl with him recorded the length of every stock-

inged foot. The last contest was called a “Drinking Race,” and the contestants were given tumblers of water that were to be consumed by the spoonful.

CIV

May-Day Parties

THERE has been a delightful revival of many old-time dances which were given on the green-sward, among them the “Morris” dance, which is still danced in Warwickshire. May Day meant in England all sorts of pleasant plays and dances which were indulged in by both old and young. This “Morris” dance had a gay jingling of bells and a clashing of staves and swords. It was supposed to have been named from the Moors and several certain characters always participated—a fool, a piper, Maid Marian, and a hobby horse. There is an old saying that the hobby horse was really the “king” of the May.

A dance around the May pole is one of the prettiest sights imaginable. Instead of ribbon use streamers of tarlatan. Each child should have a crown of real or artificial flowers, the little queen to have a gilt circlet besides. A flower hunt is a good stunt, hiding the blossoms in all sorts of places, providing little baskets to contain the spoils. In a sand pile each may take his turn in laying out a garden, dividing off the beds with shells and pretty stones, the best design to receive a prize of a

package of flower seeds. At this May-Day party, plan for all sorts of races, with a timekeeper and judge, all the prizes to be flowers in pots or single blossoms. The ice cream should be served in little pottery flower pots, small size, lined with waxed paper. Plant a flower in each pot, one of the straight, stiff-stemmed variety, like tulips or jonquils. Sprinkle chocolate over the top to look like earth. The children will be delighted with this method of serving.

CV

Russian Hole-Ball

AS many holes as there are players are made in the ground in a straight line, one beyond the other, about three feet apart. Each player has a number corresponding to a hole. About ten feet from the first hole is drawn a line facing it. On this the first player stands, in line with the holes, and tries to throw a ball into one of them. If the ball falls into the fifth hole, he scores five, and the player who is No. 5 takes his place on the line and pitches the ball. A score of twenty-five or fifty is made, and the one who obtains that amount first wins.

CVI

A “Grandmother’s” Tea Party

THE invitations, which portrayed a dear old lady in a pen-and-ink sketch, read as follows:

If you’re quite fond of your cup of tea,
Do come and have one or two with me.
Please dress yourself as your grandmother dressed.
In her every day clothes, or in her best.
Grandma Brown at home will be
On January third, precisely at three.

And the quaint grandmothers who responded!

And quainter still were the dear little mannerisms of each delightful old lady. The costuming would have afforded amusement enough, but the mother of the thirteen-year-old hostess had provided little slips of paper on which were written questions about each grandma present; the tea she used or did n’t use. The first question was: Of what tea is Grandma Graham fond? Answer: Honesty.

Another question was:

Of what tea did Grandma Holmes drink too freely in her youth? Answer: Naughty.

Other questions were:

What brand of tea do Grandma Hall’s guests drink often? Answer: Hospitality.

What tea does Grandma Gray dislike? Answer: Partiality.

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What tea does Grandma Biddle drink too often?
Answer: Frivolity.

And so on through as many brands of tea as there were grandmas present. The answers were given as charades, which added to the fun. The refreshments were old-fashioned, and tea was indulged in by those charming little grandmothers in a manner which proved the art was by no means a lost one.

CVII

A Buttercup Party

SOMEHOW children and buttercups always seem to go together, so in a locality (and there are many) where buttercups grow try this pretty party. Use this merry little jingle for the invitation, which may be written in gold ink on a white card:

My dear little friend,
A welcome most hearty
To you I extend
To my buttercup party.

If skillful with water colors, do a row of tiny figures across the card with buttercup caps and buttercup wands in the hand. Decorate with the showy blossoms combined with feathery grasses.

The first diversion may be a “buttercup” contest, managed like the time-honored donkey party, only instead of

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the stubborn little beast minus his tail have a large yellow buttercup pinned on the sheet, made from cambric or drawn with yellow crayons, minus the stem. Blindfold each child in turn and see who comes the nearest in pinning on the pasteboard or cloth stem. Award a prize.

In the next stunt, provided the children can spell, pass cards with the word “buttercup” at the top, and see how many words may be made in ten minutes, no letter to be used more times than it appears in the word. The best fun is the last, when little baskets of yellow, tied with a yellow ribbon on the handle, are given to each with orders to find all the “buttercups” (candy) possible. Of course these have all previously been hidden, and if very hot weather each buttercup should be wrapped in waxed paper.

These candies come in all colors, so additional interest may be added by having so many of a color counting so much in way of points for the prize; besides, each child is to keep all that are found to eat.

On the table have a mound of buttercups combined with ferns; at each plate, if obtainable, get the small doll-size jardinières, put a wee cluster of buttercups in each one for favors to take home. Serve chicken and lettuce sandwiches, lemonade, orange cake, and cream.

If a small maiden is to be the hostess at such a party she could wear a frock with a yellow sash and hair bow.

CVIII

Sweet Pea Tea Party for Children

THE invitations were written on diminutive note paper and said: “Prepare yourself for a ‘Sweet Pea Tea.’ We’ll look for you exact at three.” Day, date, and street. Place name of little host or hostess in lower left-hand corner. Paint a spray of sweet peas across the top of page. After all had arrived the following flower contest was played (the guests were all over ten years old):

1. The flower which reminds us of the meadows and gold.
2. What did the soldier say when he bade his sweetheart good-bye?
3. The name of what flower is used every day in a slang expression?
4. The name of what flower did Johnny’s mother use when she told him to rise?
5. What hotel in New York City bears the name of a flower?
6. What flower is most popular in April?
7. The name of what flower means comfort?
8. What is the saddest flower?

The answers are: 1. Buttercup. 2. For-get-me-not. 3. Daisy. 4. Johnny-jump-up. 5. Aster. 6. Easter lily. 7. Heartsease. 8. Bleeding-heart.

To find partners for refreshments, baskets of sweet pea blossoms were passed, two of each kind, and the children matched colors. The table centerpiece was of sweet peas in a clear crystal vase with loose blossoms scattered over the cloth. The effect was lovely. A small bouquet of the same blossoms was laid on each napkin for the children to take home.

CIX

The Glad Thanksgiving Time

The elm trees are yellow,
The apples are mellow;
The corn is ripe on the ear,
The time of the clover
And wild bee is over,
For this is the fall of the year.
The crickets are calling,
The red leaves are falling,
The meadows are now brown and sere.
The birds are not nesting,
The earth begins resting,
For this is the fall of the year.

IN preparing for Thanksgiving one naturally thinks first of the dinner, but after that happy repast is over and conversation lags there must be something to do, so I am going to tell you about a pumpkin party that would be nice for the evening if you want to ask in some children to help celebrate. You may call it a “pumpkin party,” for somehow we always associate this gorgeous yellow vegetable with Thanksgiving time. So we’ll have

“Pumpkins large and pumpkins small,
Pumpkins short and pumpkins tall,
Pumpkins yellow and pumpkins green,
Pumpkins dull and those with sheen.”

Use one cut in halves, lengthwise, for the centerpiece (just half). Fill it with apples, bananas, red apples, and

white grapes, purple ones, too, if you can get them. Around the top stick Christmas tree candle holders and fill with small white candles. When lit the effect is lovely, and as pretty a centerpiece as you can imagine. Yellow crêpe paper may be fashioned into adorable pumpkins for holding salted nuts, and the lights may be shaded with paper pumpkin blossoms. Have a huge paper pumpkin for a “Jack Horner” pie, with yellow ribbons, one for each child. For favors you may use pop corn put up like ears of corn in green oiled paper with green paper corn leaves. For this informal occasion I would suggest using the pretty “Thanksgiving” paper napkins, and if you do not mind extra trouble each child may have a yellow crêpe paper pumpkin cap to wear. Serve very simple “eats,” consisting of cold turkey sandwiches, cocoa, popcorn, molasses candy, and wee pumpkin tarts with a spoonful of ice cream on top.

CX

A Kite Party

CASTING about for something to amuse the guests of her son’s eighth birthday party, a clever mother evolved this exceedingly pretty party. The obliging man of the house saw to it that there was an abundance of sticks on hand suitable for frames, also strings and plenty of gay papers. The invitations were kite-shaped, with cunning little thread tails, with baby ribbon

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for weights. Across the kite’s face there was this “jingle:”

Come fly a kite
With me at three,
On Wednesday next,
Much fun you’ll see.

BOBBY JONES.

Of course, this was an outdoor party, or mostly so, for the children wore play clothes and sweaters, in case they were chilly. They worked on the big inclosed porch, and what fun they had; those not very skillful had some assistance and “mother” saw to it that when the hour allotted to kite building was up, each child had a flyer ready to sail up into the bright blue sky.

Out on the lawn there was a “Jap,” “bird,” or “fish” kite for each guest, flying on short lengths of string from the trees and bushes. These were the favors and distributed at supper time. If there were any kites returned from their journey into the air with safety, they were taken home, too.

All the children said they liked this party. Competition ran high, and a prize of a box of candy was awarded to the owner of the kite that went up farthest into the blue sky.

CXI

Following the Flag Contest

CHILDREN like this and it's quite the proper thing to do on Washington's birthday. Get little paper flags by the dozen or hundred, according to how many kiddies are to be entertained. The flags have pins attached; hide them throughout the rooms and let the children hunt for them; as they find them stick in the front of dress or coat. When a horn is blown at the expiration of the time limit the ones that have five flags pinned on will receive a flag in a standard (price ten cents), and those who have more will get flag-decorated boxes containing candied cherries, which they are to share with those less fortunate. Candy boxes come in the shape of logs with wee hatchets which may be used as favors, and manufacturers of crêpe papers have most charming designs just for patriotic occasions.

CXII

A Wonder Box

DID you ever make one? Well, if not, after you read this, I know you will want to start one right away. I was asked to go and see the contents of one prepared for a little twelve-year-old girl who had been very ill and was now forced to lie quietly many

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hours a day; so her relatives prepared this wonder box. They all happened to be staying at the same hotel I was, and all wished to do something to help amuse Phyllis and make the days less monotonous; hence the wonder box. They went shopping and selected thirty articles, one for each day of the month of September; each object was daintily wrapped in tissue paper and marked with the giver’s name.

Then all the parcels were packed in a box and sent by parcel post. A letter instructing the recipient to open one package each morning after breakfast, was sent by the same mail. Now don’t you think a “wonder box” is a very nice idea? Here are some of the things in this one: Two books, a box of note paper, bottle of perfumery, two enamel pins, a sachet, three handkerchiefs, a hair ribbon, a bonbon box (filled), a dainty apron, box of crayons, pretty plate, box of candy, “blue bird” ring, pink celluloid comb, little locket, trick pencil, a guest towel, two blue-bordered wash cloths, a fountain pen, cup and saucer, and a fancy basket.

Sometimes very small articles are used and wound into a ball of worsted or yarn, and one gift a day unwound. These are called “wonder” balls, and may be filled with seven articles, to last a week, or for any time desired. These boxes and balls are sometimes given as “bon voyage” presents, and are enjoyed by both children and grown-ups.

CXIII

Legomachy

THE regular “Legomachy” sets may be obtained, and “Anagrams” may be used. The cost is very small. Home-made sets are quickly constructed by taking letters from the top of a daily paper (as they are usually good-sized letters). Mount them on squares of cardboard or very thin wood. With a scroll saw, these are easily managed. Make about three dozen of the letters most commonly used, with a few extra vowels; a half dozen each of “Q,” “X,” and “Z” will be enough.

To play the game, give each one the same number of letters, the faces turned downward on the table. Each one in turn places a letter face up in the center of the table, and if he can form a word of not less than three letters from those collected, he takes them. This may be done either before or after the player has turned up the letter. The one playing continues to draw new letters as long as he can add them to words already made by himself or any other person. The one who turns up the last letter is permitted about twenty seconds to claim the word, after which any one may take it by first naming it.

Any player may take from another a word, if by adding another letter he can make a materially different word from it.

A change of verbs into their own participles or nouns to adverbs or adjectives, is not counted. Proper nouns and abbreviations are not counted. A standard dictionary

should be agreed upon as an authority for settling any controversy.

If one player has a word which may be changed into another he must name this transposition; if he does not do so, one of the others, upon announcing it, may capture the word for himself. When any one player has ten words, all must count the number of syllables their words contain and the person having the greatest number of syllables wins that game.

Some players count the one who first has ten words as the winner. This point may be decided by those playing, before the game is started.

CXIV

June Birthday Party

A LITTLE girl whom the gods favored by ushering into this mortal sphere on a sunny June day always has her birthday celebrations on the lawn. Each year this affair, which was always a costume party or a character party of some kind, was looked forward to not only by the participants in the pretty pageant, but by the grown-ups who were asked to view the scene from the broad piazzas.

The invitations, which were issued two weeks in advance, requested the guests to come costumed as an accompanying flower designated. These notes were written in gold ink on pale pink paper, tied to a pink

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rosebud; they were delivered from a rose-trimmed basket.

The girls came as roses in all varieties. Then there were lily of the valley, violet, tiger lily, daisy, pansy, black-eyed Susan, etc. The boys were sunflowers, bachelor’s buttons, tulips, red carnation and chrysanthemums, and nasturtiums. Jack-in-the-Pulpit and Johnny Jump-Up were also represented. Crêpe tissue paper and cheap gauzes, tinsels, and cambrics entered largely into the construction of the costumes worn.

Soap bubbles occupied the first part of the afternoon, the tennis court being the place selected for the contest. The girls blew the bubbles and the boys fanned them over the net; the opposite side tried to keep the bubbles from going over. The side getting ten bubbles over the first won a prize. Then things were reversed, and the boys blew and the girls fanned. Glycerine in the proportion of a tablespoonful to a pint of water was used for blowing the bubbles and the pipes had a rim of soap around them inside the bowl, which causes the fairy balls to grow to immense size; the glycerin gives lasting qualities unknown to plain water. There were prizes for this contest, consisting of flower-shaped candy boxes filled with candied violets and rose petals.

At five o’clock supper was served from a long table over which a canopy of paper roses had been made by putting up tall stakes at regular intervals from which these garlands were festooned; the roof was made by criss-crossing heavy wire and covering with vines. The

roses were suspended by fine wire. The effect was excellent.

Making the roses had furnished the children of the house pleasant occupation for more than one rainy spring day; having helped in the preparations, they were most keenly interested in the success of the party.

The refreshments consisted of minced chicken sandwiches, lemonade, sugar wafers, strawberry ice cream, and a huge birthday cake wreathed in pink roses. Pink rose holders held the candles and each child had a wee pink iced cake with a wee pink candle in front of his place to take home.

CXV

A Clothespin Party

A MOTHER of a twelve-year-old daughter was at a loss just how to entertain for her. The doll and playing at house and “Come to See” period was past and she was too young for a card party, so her mother’s clever brain evolved the clothespin party which I am about to describe.

The invitations were written and folded, held fast by a wee gilded clothespin, and delivered by an obliging young brother. When all had arrived a big basket of ordinary clothespins was placed in the middle of the room and all were told they could have ten minutes in which to build a block-house on the floor, following these instructions, which the mother read aloud:

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Start the house foundation with two clothespins laid down parallel and sufficiently far apart for two more clothespins to bridge this intervening space. Be sure to place the clothespins so that they rest on the open edge of the prongs and lie steady, for the round edge is apt to roll and slide.

Lay the second two pieces across with their ends on the first two pins. Build up the lower part of the house in this way, eight layers high. The upper part of the building will need longer logs, which may be made by taking two pins and fitting the prongs together; with these cross the top of the house so the edge projects an equal distance on both sides. After the four logs are adjusted proceed with the second story the same as the first. Use all long logs and continue until it is ten “pins” high, then make a brown paper or pasteboard roof.

Next take clothespins, dress them like “early settlers” and see how good and lifelike they appear. Plenty of black, white, and colored tissue paper must be provided, and paste, scissors, and thread. Prizes are awarded for the best little men and women manufactured by the young artists.

The table centerpiece was a clothespin house in a yard with miniature “pin” figures; small trees, animals, and chickens completed this most realistic scene. The napkins were pinned together with gilded “pins,” the name card tied to the top.

CXVI

A Baseball Luncheon

A MOTHER who had two sons in a local baseball nine gave this original luncheon, inviting the “nine” as her special guests. The invitations went out on diamond-shaped bits of pink papers and were received with great enthusiasm. The hour was one o’clock, after which there was a practice game for the approaching “big” game which was to decide a championship; so all were told to come in their baseball suits.

The center of the table was laid out for a game with miniature figures on a “diamond” made from green paper; a wire mask held flowers and the place souvenirs all represented names of famous baseball nines. There were the “Cubs,” little stuffed “Red Socks,” the “Pirates,” represented by skull and cross-bones, the “Tigers,” “Giants,” and “Indians.” There were also miniature bats and balls and the “nine’s” mascot, a dog, was not forgotten. A hearty meal of beefsteak, spaghetti with tomato sauce, scalloped potatoes, olives, brown and white bread, salted nuts, fruit salad with hot cheese sandwiches, individual apple pies, and generous cups of cocoa delighted the youthful guests. Molasses candy and peppermint sticks were the sweets. The boys went off with three cheers and a tiger for the popular mother, and she declared she never had more appreciative guests.

CXVII

Stool-Ball (England)

THIS game originated first in Merrie England, and was played by the milkmaids.

A certain number of “stools” (flat stones in the open air and cushions indoors) are set up in circular form, at a considerable distance from each other, and every one of them is occupied by a single player; when a ball is thrown with the hand high in the air by “it,” who stands in the center of the circle, every one of the players is obliged to alter his situation, running in succession from stool to stool, and if he who threw the ball can regain it in time to strike any one of the players before reaching the stool to which he is running, “it” takes his place, and the person touched must throw the ball until he can in like manner return to the circle. Rising quickly from the stone or cushion requires considerable agility on the part of the players.

CXVIII

A Juggling Match

AT English country fairs this amusement used to be in great favor:

A large circle, inclosed by a rope, was occupied by nine or ten people, and all except one were blindfolded. This one was called the “jinger,” because he held in his

hand a small bell, which he rang incessantly. His companions, following the sound of the bell, tried to catch him. If at the end of an allotted time he was not caught, he received a prize; otherwise the prize went to the catcher.

CXIX

Pebble-Chase (Greek)

IN this present-day amusement of the Greek children, the leader stands amongst the players, holding a pebble between the palms of his hands. Each player extends his hands, palm to palm, and the leader puts his hands between the palms of each player, ostensibly to drop in the pebble he is holding. The player who receives the pebble is chased by the others, and may only be saved by returning to the leader and giving the pebble to him. The chase may begin as soon as the players suspect who has the pebble, so each player should carefully watch the hands and faces of the others to see who gets it, and as soon as he suspects one, start to chase him. Leaders and players must exercise ingenuity to keep the secret of the whereabouts of the pebble, but not after the last pair of hands has been passed.

CXX

Buck the Indian

TWO captains are chosen, and each captain then chooses alternately from the remaining company until two long lines are formed. They face each other, holding hands tightly. One captain calls the name of one of his strongest boys, and this boy runs and hurls himself between two boys of the opposing side. If he succeeds in breaking through, he takes back with him to his own side all the boys on the line below the place where he broke through. If he is unsuccessful, he must join the enemy’s side. This is kept up, each side taking a turn until all the boys are on one side, the captain included.

The strongest boys should be stationed near the top of the line, near the captain, and strategem is shown in trying to catch the strong boys off their guard, by pretending to tackle the weak boys at the bottom of the line.

CXXI

Three Chinese Games

LET OUT THE DOVES

AT the cry of “Let out the doves” one of the larger girls takes hold of the hands of two of the smaller girls, one of whom represents a dove and the other a hawk. The hawk stands behind the big girl, and the dove in front of her. She throws the dove

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away as she might toss a bird in the air, and as the child runs she waves her arms as though they were wings. The hawk is then thrown in the same way, and it follows the dove. The big girl then claps her hands as the Chinese do, to bring their pet birds back to them, and the dove, if not caught, returns to the cage.

SEEK FOR GOLD

This is a variation of our popular “Jacks.” Several girls gather up some pebbles, squat down in a group, and scatter all the pebbles. Then one draws her finger between two of the stones and snaps one against the other. If she hits it, the two stones are taken up and put aside to her credit. She is entitled to draw her finger again between two more and snaps them. When she misses another girl takes up what pebbles are left, scatters them, snaps them, takes them up, and so on until one or another child gets the most of the pebbles and the game is won.

KICK THE MARBLES

Two boys and two marbles are required. The first boy says to the second: “Kick this marble north (south, east, west),” pointing to one of the marbles. Only one kick is allowed. If he succeeds, he wins; if he fails, the other wins. If he puts it north as ordered, he may kick again to hit the other marble, in which case he wins again. If he hits the marble and it goes north, as ordered, at one kick, he wins double.

Each boy tries to leave the marbles in as difficult a position as possible for his successor ; and here comes in a peculiarity which makes this game unique among all games. If the position in which the marbles are left is too difficult to play, he may refuse to kick, and the first boy is obliged to play his own difficult game.

CXXII

New Version of a Peanut Party

ARRANGE tables as for a progressive card game, only place a generous handful of peanuts (in the shell) in the center of each table and provide a pair of tongs like those that come in boxes of candy, for each player. After the fashion of jack straws, the game is to see how many peanuts can be removed without disturbing another. When one is moved the player gives up and the next one tries. At the end of twenty minutes a bell is rung and the player at each table having the most peanuts progresses. The winners at the different tables play another round until there is only one winner, who receives the reward, which may be a large peanut candy box filled with salted peanuts.

The main thing is to impress upon the children that they must play fair.

CXXIII

A Lottery Bag

THIS is a game enjoyed by children and makes an interesting feature for a party. A large vase or jar that will admit the hand is required, or a bag with a drawstring. Fill this receptacle with peanuts. Give the guests slips of paper and ask them to put down the number of nuts which they think they can draw out in one handful.

A turn is granted to each one and he puts down the number actually taken out. The one who comes nearest his or her original number is given a prize and the one farthest away from the number receives a consolation prize.

Serve salted peanuts of the “Jumbo” variety if obtainable, sandwiches filled with peanut butter and chopped pimentos, a salad preferably of sweetbreads, and peanut ice cream. If desired, a soup prepared by adding crushed peanuts to a cream soup may be served as a first course in bouillon cups with whipped cream on top.

CXXIV

Japanese Tag

OBSERVING a bunch of children going through all sorts of comical stunts, I asked what the game might be and was told it was Japanese tag. The child who is tagged must place his or her left hand on the spot touched and keep it there until he is fortunate enough to tag someone else. Then the one who is “it” tries to tag someone on the knee or foot, so that his endeavors to tag the next one with the hand on that part of the body will be most difficult as well as very amusing.

CXXV

The “Sandpiper” Game

DID you ever watch a dozen youngsters on the beach in their bathing suits playing “sandpiper”? Here are the rules of the game: The children, excepting two, turn themselves into a flock of sandpipers, hopping up and down the beach. Two are “hunters,” who try to catch the birds, crying:

Sandpiper, sandpiper, hopping on the sand.

Come, let us catch you, and join our band!

The hunters catch the “birds,” who are at once turned into hunters. The only way a sandpiper can escape is to stand on one foot or hop on one leg. So long as he

or she remains thus the hunters cannot take him. The children love this game, and they look very happy trotting around in their little flannel bathing suits.

CXXVI

Giving a Pea Party

IT was out in the country when little Ted’s birthday came and the children begged for something new, something different from any other party. Thus it is that even the six-year-olds of this day and age are becoming blasé and actually demanding novel methods of entertainment!

The mother, always equal to any desires expressed by her young hopefuls, cast her eyes over the garden and exclaimed: “I have it.” She immediately issued notes ornamented with a bright green pea pod at the top of the page, asking the neighboring children to come to a “pea party” on the day and date mentioned.

Here is what they found: A great tin pan filled with peas which were shelled by the expectant guests. Then each took a small bowlful of peas and a bunch of tooth-picks. Directions were given to make whatever articles they wished. Sewing tables were provided for the little architects, and it was surprising the variety of things they built in the allotted time.

There were ladders, chairs, hairpins, furniture of all descriptions, dolls, animals enough to stock a farm, and

queer contraptions without any names. The refreshments which were nut sandwiches, gelatine with whipped cream, individual birthday cakes, each with a tiny lighted candle delighted the small guests immensely.

CXXVII

A Jolly Easter Party

THE invitations to this pretty party were issued in a unique way. Wee baskets, each containing an egg tied in the middle, carried the following, neatly written message:

Lillian Whiting,
33 Chestnut Street,
Easter Party,
Monday, April 12, 1914,
2:30 to 6.
Egg Rolling,
Rabbit Hunt,
Lots of Fun.

The names of the children invited were written on Easter cards tied to the handles with white and yellow ribbon. Partners for refreshments were found by matching eggs of the same color. The ice cream was in the form of yellow chicks on nests of green spun sugar candy. The best of all was the rabbit hunt, which took place just before the children went home. Real live rabbits (one for each child) were in a screened corner of the porch in straw and leaves; the children went one

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at a time and took a bunny by his ears, put it in a little covered basket, and took it home.

CXXVIII Easter Tree

THIS novel device was thought of by a mother whose children were continually demanding something new. There was a merry little Easter party. Suddenly the doors were opened into the dining room, disclosing a tree on the center of the table with a pert bunny on top. Then all over the branches were chickens, ducks, and bunnies, both brown and “cotton tails.” There were nests of eggs at each plate, and in the egg hunt which preceded the feast the prizes were “Peter Rabbit” and “Mr. Benjamin Bunny.” The name cards were charming Easter postals with the child’s name on the address side. The children were perfectly delighted with this party and the mother kept the tree a surprise even from her own children.

CXXIX For a “Track Meet”

THESE ideas are adaptable to an outdoor or indoor affair and the stunts will add greatly to a school party when one class entertains in honor of the others.

This famous “One Yard Dash” will be for “Men

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Only.” Lay off just one yard, give each contestant a bright copper cent, which must be laid on a line. At the word “go,” the boys get down on all fours and push the cent the yard with their noses. This is very amusing, as may well be imagined. The one getting in first wins the prize.

The “Tug of War” may also be for boys only unless the girls wish to try. They must all make their entries in the regular way. Tie a raisin firmly in the middle of a long piece of twine; each victim takes hold of one end with his teeth and begins to chew up the string for the raisin. Hands must not assist in any way.

Next try the “Standing High Jump.” Suspend three doughnuts in a doorway about four inches higher than the mouths of the contestants. Tie hands behind the back with handkerchiefs. Then see who gets the first bite from the doughnut.

There will be loads of fun for both girls and boys in the so-called “Hurdle Race.” The aspirants are seated with six needles on a table in front of them; the one who first threads them all has the reward.

The bunch will probably be thirsty by this time, so try this “Drinking Race.” Each player is given a tumbler of water to be consumed by sipping from a spoon. There must be no spilling, as that accident bars the contestant from the race. The one who drinks it down first is the winner.

The “Bun” race may also be indulged in by both sexes. Set up two poles a good distance apart, connect

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with a new clothes line from which hang strings of different lengths, according to the heights of the players. Tie a bun at the end of each string. The players line up with hands securely fastened behind them; at a signal each tries to eat the bun. The bobbing line makes this difficult, but the lucky one who holds the bun in his teeth may get it on the ground and in a prostrate position consume it.

Next have the “Cracker” contest, for girls only. Let the players choose sides, then line up opposite each other. The plate of crackers is passed, the girls to eat and swallow, then see who can whistle first. Not so easy at it sounds.

Last of all comes the “Rainy Day” race for girls. There must be at least five to make it really worth while. Stand them in line with a closed satchel (grip) in front of each one, in which has been placed a pair of rubbers, pair of gloves, and an umbrella beside each bag. When “three” has been counted by the starter, the girls open the grips, take out the rubbers, put them on, put on the gloves, button them, open the umbrellas, close the grips, and walk deliberately about 100 feet to the line set as the goal; here they shut the umbrellas, take off rubbers and gloves, replace them in the grip, close them, and return to the starting place, carrying the umbrellas closed and the grips. The one arriving first wins.

CXXX

A List of Forfeits

TELL the culprit to grasp the right ankle by the right hand while standing on the left foot, bend it until the right knee touches the floor, then slowly rise to a standing position again. Keep the left hand extended, touching nothing. The right foot must not touch the floor nor the ankle be released from the right hand.

Now for this test in balance. Seat the forfeit player upon a large gallon bottle which is on its side on the floor, the heel of the right foot resting on the floor and the heel of the left against the toe of the right. Then hand him a darning needle and a coarse thread with which he must thread the needle without losing balance.

Put one hand where the other cannot grasp it. Do this by grasping the right elbow with the left hand.

Place an object on the floor so no one can jump over it—do this by placing the article in a corner.

Hold the foot in one hand and walk around the room whistling “Yankee Doodle.”

Pose as “Liberty Enlightening the World.”

Stick a pin in the center of a ball of yarn, allowing it to stand up so as the victim can catch it with his teeth. Black the top of the ball with burnt cork. Play this only on a person who will take the joke without getting angry.

Put “Mary” through the keyhole. Write the name on a bit of paper and poke it through.

CXXXI

A Paper Party

THIS party had an unusual degree of novelty. First on the program was a “paper” race conducted as follows: Have as many ten-yard strips of paper (such as come around bolts of ribbon) as there are guests, also several pairs of blunt scissors. Choose three or four as jockeys, placing paper jockey caps on their heads. To all the others give twenty paper gun wads.

Line up the jockeys with a number pinned to the sleeve of each. The others begin to bet on them with their gun wad money. Stretch the rolls of paper ribbon across the room, each one held at the opposite end by a person selected from the guests. The jockeys have their end and a pair of scissors, and at the word “go” they start to cut the ribbon straight down the middle, going as fast as possible. If they run off they are disqualified and have to drop out. The one who reaches the other side first, with both bits of ribbon intact, is winner. This act may be repeated until all have tried or as long as the hostess deems best. First, second, and third prizes may be awarded, and bets are to be settled at the end of every race.

Next the hostess presented each guest with a clothes pin and a roll of colored tissue paper, some twine, pins, needle, and coarse thread, and said: “See who can make

the best doll in fifteen minutes.” The results were laughable and very creditable in some instances. All the decorations throughout the house were of paper, and paper napkins and dishes were used when refreshments were served. Paper chains could be made for another contest, also a prize for the best articles cut from paper, like the hand dolls we used to make in our childhood days. Caps are quickly made of paper and also very good looking hats.

CXXXII

A Doll Fete

THIS is a charming affair which was given by children and superintended by older people, but the girls and boys, too, regarded it as their special entertainment. There was a sale of dolls, doll house furniture, and clothes, and a complete doll house was awarded to the child whose turnout received the most votes in the parade, which was a feature of the evening. Only children under ten years of age participated in this and each doll was in a doll buggy trimmed with flowers, or in any manner that suited the owner.

The judges were youthful, too; fourteen was the age. The interest in the affair was widespread; fathers arranged to be present, school teachers caught the fever; in fact, the “doll festival” was in the air and some one remarked that the way to success lay in interesting the children. One especially interesting booth was entirely

in charge of boys. They displayed all sorts of home-made toys, orders were taken for doll house furniture from samples, pictures framed, etc.

There was a clown doll in a wheel-barrow in the parade. Popcorn, salted peanuts, home-made candy and “light” refreshments were on sale, and canned fruits, jelly, and other delicacies for sick children were received; also contributions of pictures and cards suitable for making into scrap-books.

CXXXIII

Easter Party for Little Folks

THE invitations for this pretty party are china nest eggs on which the name and place are written with India ink or gold enamel paint. They are placed in small handled baskets, which may be purchased by the dozen for a trifling sum. Delivering these novel invitations affords much pleasure to the children.

An egg hunt will occupy a good share of the time from three until six. Procure the dainty eggs made at the candy-shops at this season of the year, hide them every place, then let the children hunt for them. Make egg-shaped bags of tarlatan to hold the spoils or have small baskets. Award prizes of yellow chicks, rabbits, butterflies, and any of the many charming novelties provided by the stores for the joyous season.

After this seat the little folks at tables with boxes of

paint, brushes, and fancy pictures. Give each one an egg with the privilege of decorating it. Now for the refreshments, which are to be served at six o'clock, so the children will need no other meal when they return home. First serve “magic” eggs, made by selecting good smooth potatoes; bake until almost done, then carefully scoop out a hole large enough to hold an egg, tie the top on, and replace in the oven to finish baking. These are wholesome and furnish a mystery as to how the egg got there. Pass sandwiches and cocoa, and then comes the best of the feast—vanilla ice cream in the form of eggs in nests of candied orange peel strips. A green wicker basket drawn by two rabbits makes an attractive centerpiece for the table.

CXXXIV

An Animal Party

AS each child enters, a slip of paper containing the name of an animal is to be pinned upon his back and he is told he must guess from the conversation of those around him what animal he is supposed to represent. Then pass booklets ornamented with cute little “Teddy” bears and pencils. On a door have a poster of the animals going two by two into the ark and the words, “This way to the greatest show on earth.” Admit the guests in groups to this room, where the cages containing the animals will be found, allowing ten minutes for each group to guess what the cages contain. Here

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is a list of animals, which may be added to by individual hostesses: “Kid” (a glove of kid), “lynx” (links of a chain), “rat” (hair rat), “monkey” (letters M O N and a door key), “chamois” (a piece of chamois), “lion” (a doll’s pillow), “goat” (a small piece of butter), “peacock” (a dried pea and a toy rooster), “bear” (a tiny undressed doll), “eagle” (the letter E and a picture of a sea gull).

The cages (boxes crossed with wire) are numbered and the guests write down what they suppose the animal is in the booklet opposite a corresponding number. Animal candy boxes are good for prizes. Then have a contest to see who can come the nearest pinning a goat’s whiskers on in the proper place, the contestant to be blindfolded.

Serve an ice, “animal” cookies, and barley sugar animals.

CXXXV

Circus Suggestions for Parties

CLOWN cakes will be much appreciated by youthful guests. Bake a simple cake mixture in small round muffin pans. Frost some with white, some with chocolate, making eyes, nose, and mouth of contrasting color. Around each put tiny frills of colored crêpe paper and the cakes will look like funny faces beneath little bonnets.

With these serve circus lemonade. Take large smooth-

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skinned lemons, cut off one end, hollow out and place in ice water. Cut black court-plaster eyes, nose, and mouth, dry the shells, and paste these on in as grotesque a manner as possible. Then make little dunce caps of red and white stiff paper, leaving a hole at the top to receive a straw; fill the cups with lemonade, put on the caps, stick in the straws, and they are ready to serve.

For a centerpiece have a tiny tent, with miniature animals in a procession. At each child’s plate have a wee tent of paper, a flag on it, with a rail fence of opera sticks around it. Under each tent have salted peanuts.

Have striped paper bags filled with popcorn and the small guests will be perfectly delighted with the “circus” party.

CXXXVI

Moon and Morning Stars

HERE is a Spanish game that I am sure the children will enjoy. One thing is necessary, and that is bright sunshine, for this pastime. The girl who represents the moon stands in the shadow of a large tree or building and she cannot go out into the sunshine. All the other players are the morning stars, and belong in the daylight, so they stay out in the sun; occasionally they venture into the shadow, calling alluringly:

Oh, the moon and the morning stars,
Oh, the moon and the morning stars,
Who dares to tread, oh!
Within the shadow?

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The watchful moon keeps her eyes open and pounces upon some too venturesome star, catches her and takes her place among the stars, and the victim becomes the moon.

CXXXVII

Cobbler Game for Wee Tots

HERE is something the little kiddies will enjoy: Tell one of the children to call himself the “cobbler” and sit on the floor, while the others join hands and dance around him. The cobbler says:

“Now is the time to try on your shoes,” and at once, but without leaving his seat, reaches for the feet of one in the ring, while the players, who must not let go of hands, endeavor to dance out of his reach. If one is caught, he, or she, becomes the cobbler.

CXXXVIII

A Bonnet Party

DO not say that bonnet parties are old, until you hear about this one, which was given for twenty children. When all had arrived, the hostess passed three sheets of colored tissue paper, some squares of crêpe paper of gay color, and two fancy paper napkins to each child. On a center table she put pins, scissors, tubes of paste, little towels, and a bowl of water for

wiping the paste from finger tips. She said a half hour would be allowed for making any kind of a hat, cap, or bonnet, the maker to don the headgear. When time was called they formed in line and passed before the judges, who awarded the prizes.

Such a busy time as those children had! They were really most clever, too, in building their hats. The oldest guest was eleven and the youngest eight, and some of the work was excellent. The prizes were doll band boxes containing lovely hats for dolly. The ice cream was served in the dearest straw hats (doll size) lined with waxed paper. The children enjoyed the novelty and each one went home with her creation on her head. It is needless to say there were no boys at this party. The young hostess declared that boys from nine to twelve were “no fun.” I do not know what our boy friends will say to this; perhaps some of them will mend their ways a bit, so as not to be left out of parties.

CXXXIX

A Gypsy Party

IF any of you have any bits of birch bark or can get paper in the imitation of wood, use it for invitations to a gypsy party. Ask the guests to come in costume. You may word the cards something like this: “There will be a meeting of the ‘Romany Rye’ two hours after

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sundown at (Give place, day, date). Please come wearing the costume of your tribe.”

Read up on gypsies and have the time of your life at this very picturesque party. Beads, buckles, bracelets, white waists, gay skirts, and velvet bodices may be worn by the girls, with low shoes and hose to match the dress skirt—a broad brimmed hat or a red and yellow kerchief on the head with hair loose or in braids down the back. Boys should wear high crowned hats with quills and maybe a feather, gayly striped shirts, velvet jackets, long waistcoats, full trousers with long stockings and buckled shoes. Bright ties or handkerchiefs should be knotted around collarless necks.

A gypsy kettle may be the centerpiece with wee kettles for individual place favors. A picnic lunch may be served.

CXL

Widower, or Last Couple Out

FIFTEEN to twenty-five boys and girls may play this jolly game. The first thing to do is to choose partners and stand in couples behind each other. One player called widower stands in front of the line facing in the same direction. He calls “Last couple out,” and immediately the last couple, running one to each side of the line, endeavors to join hands in front of the widower, who endeavors to tag one of them before they clasp

hands. If successful they return to the line as first couple, and the widower again takes his place in front of the line and another couple runs from the end of the line when he calls. If the widower tags some one, that player becomes the widower, and the former widower returns to the head of the line with the other player. The widower must not look around as he calls nor run back along the line of couples to catch a player.

CXLI

A Hunting Game

THIS is a lively pastime for any number of children, as ten or forty can play either outdoors or indoors. A large yard with two small spaces (called dens or traps) at opposite corners are necessary. One child is called the hunter and stands in the middle of the yard. The other children are given the names of different animals (or birds), several having the same name, and stand in one of the dens. The hunter calls for a certain animal (or for two kinds), when all of that name must try to reach the other den before the hunter tags them. If one is tagged he takes the place of the hunter, and the hunter takes the place of an animal. There may be two hunters when a large number is playing, but only one must call the animal’s name.

CXLII

Duck on a Rock

ALL you need for this delightful game is a bean bag for each player, and one large Indian club. Fifteen to thirty children may play at one time. Make a large circle with the Indian club in the center and have each child fifteen or twenty feet away from the club. Each child in turn throws his bag (overhand shot) at the club, and the one whose bag falls nearest it becomes “it” or guard. The guard places his duck (bag) on the head of the club, and the children take turns around the circle in trying to knock it off. The child who succeeds in knocking the duck off the rock (club) runs to the center and endeavors to place his duck upon the rock before the guard can take his own duck and gain a place in the circle. If successful in this, the guard must return with his duck and become guard again, but if not successful this child then becomes guard. The children in the circle should recover their ducks as soon as possible, but a guard may tag them at any time and the tagged child who fails to place his duck on the rock before the guard can get his own duck and return to the circle must become guard.

CXLIII

“Sneeze” for the Children

HERE is a funny performance that children enjoy, which will add much to an evening’s program. Divide the company into three parts. Tell the first group to shout “Ish,” the second “Ash,” and the third “Shoo,” at a given signal. This conglomerate sound most resembles a gigantic sneezing. For the want of a better term the youngsters call it “sneeze,” and always clamor to “do it again.”

CXLIV

A Clever After-Dinner Trick

TAKE a dinner plate and fill with water to the depth of an eighth of an inch, perhaps a little more. Then put a small bit of candle in the center, light, and over it place a tall glass tumbler, such as lemonade or iced tea is served in. Just as the inverted tumbler touches the plate, the water will rise within the glass. The taller this covering the more effective the trick.

CXLV

An Indian Party

NOW that so many children have Indian suits, try this for a party: Put up one or two wigwams and send the invitations on paper arrows through which a feather is thrust. Have them delivered by the little Indian who is to be the host. Girls may be dressed as squaws.

There are Indian post cards, which would make very good place cards or souvenirs. For refreshments serve:

Corn Meal Mush with Milk.
Fish or Some Kind of Game.
Corn Muffins.
Indian Meal Pudding.

made in individual ramekins.

Make a contest of stringing beads and have a game of archery.

CXLVI

United States Mail

THERE is no limit to the number of players. A circle is formed and one chosen leader gives each player the name of a town or city. The leader, who is now called the “Postmaster,” stands in the middle and calls the name of the mail to be exchanged, and while

the letters are being transmitted from “Boston to New York,” the “postmaster” tries to slip into one or the other of the places vacated. If he is successful, the one who is lost in transit takes the place of the postmaster and calls two other cities; it is also permissible to call two more exchanges in rapid succession, so that two or three couples may be changing at the same time. When the postmaster calls “General Delivery” everyone changes places. You see this is just about like our old friend “Stage Coach,” only disguised with another name.

CXLVII

Charades

IT is great fun in a club to divide into sides and each side get up a charade for an evening entertainment. I will give a list of words that are very easily adapted to representation: Window, groomsman, music, breakfast, bandage, courtship, cannibal, carmine, forty, clothes-horse, crocodile, Manhattan Island, bedlam, turkey, wedlock, jackknife, illiterate, bullseye, dramatic, sinecure, manicure, ingratiate, felicity, Constantinople.

We used to work ours out quite elaborately with costumes and really clever talking parts. Impromptu productions are always good fun, using whatever is at hand for the costumes and scenery.

One that a girl did all by herself comes to me now. She was a slight, tiny creature and appeared in the door-

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way wrapped in an enormous greatcoat. “I represent two cities in France; guess me,” she said, and it was some time before the clever one exclaimed, “Toulouse and Toulon.” Good, is it not?

CXLVIII

“Hop Over”

THE players are asked to form a circle about two feet apart from each other. The leader stands in the middle, holding a long, stout string to the end of which is tied a small book wrapped in paper. He whirls the book around the circle on the floor, holding it by the string, and each time coming nearer the feet of the players who form the ring. As the book comes nearer and nearer the feet the players must jump over it. As the book is whirled very rapidly the jumping becomes more lively and makes loads of fun. If the book touches the foot of anyone, that person must take a turn in the middle and try to touch the foot of some one who will take his turn. Just try this and see how amusing it is.

CXLIX

Fun with Buttons

“**B**UT we don’t know how to play cards,” wailed the fourteen-year-old, “and we do want a progressive party with prizes and score cards.” So that is how this amusement came about:

There were sixteen guests, so four card tables were arranged with a pile of assorted buttons in the middle of each. Cloth-covered buttons and shank ones were barred. Partners were chosen by matching four buttons of a kind which were passed on trays. This made a jolly preliminary time. A fifth button was sewed to a corner of the table; thus the four white agate buttons found their table, the four shoe buttons and four black buttons and the four smoked pearls. On the table four needles were placed (No. 7) threaded with a stout white thread about eighteen inches long; longer than this will tangle. It is a good plan to wax the thread a bit, too. When the bell rang, the play began, threading buttons, using one hand only; at the expiration of the time, say four or five minutes, the ring of the bell stops work and the two having the most buttons to their credit progress to the next table. Before going the number is placed on score card and the buttons replaced in the center of the table.

Very cute score cards may be made by gluing bone buttons such as are used on underwaists to the card; they have only eyes, and the nose, mouth, hair, and eyelashes

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are painted on. Queer bodies are drawn or painted on the famous “goop” order, and the result is laughable in the extreme. Here is another button stunt: Choose partners by matching ribbons on which a button is sewed on the ends just for decoration. Then furnish each couple with a small square of cloth, six buttons, a needle and thirty inches of thread. The girl must hold the needle for the boy to thread, then she must hold the cloth for him while he sews on the six buttons. The couple who finish first win the prize. Suggestions for prizes would be a button bag, gold collar buttons, collar-button box, and at the favor counter candy boxes are obtainable in shape of spools of thread or silk, also thimbles. They would make appropriate souvenirs.

CL

A Witch and Goblin Party

CHILDREN dearly love to dress up and the party described will delight them. Ask the girls to come as witches in scarlet frocks or capes, with tall black hats, and the boys as goblins. The beloved “Brownies” will serve as models for the boys’ costumes. Just for this one occasion set the hours from “nine to twelve,” for it really would not be a true hallowe’en party if they could not stay until the “clock in the steeple strikes twelve,” that witching hour when ghosts walk, when cold chills run down one’s back, and that delicious

creepy sensation comes when trying the charms that must be done precisely at the mysterious midnight hour. It may be a little hard on mothers and chaperons, but they must all smile and look happy on hallowe'en night and do their part to placate the evil spirits. A cotillion with appropriate favors is the best wind-up for this party and the guests are supposed to be from twelve to fifteen years of age.

CLI

A Spool Party

THIS party was certainly a novelty for the twelve little guests who were invited to spend the hours from three to five with the six-year-old hostess. The oldest child asked had passed her ninth birthday, and she proved a decided help in assisting to amuse the younger ones. The mother said she had been saving spools for months, begging them of her friends, and had even done an extra amount of sewing to get sufficient spools for this party.

First, dolls were made by inserting a pasteboard nose in a slit and doing the face with a tiny brush and black paint (ink will do), toothpicks were stuck in slits for arms, and the children were greatly interested in the construction of these wooden men.

Then a bowling alley was made by elevating one end of an ironing board and arranging spools at the other

like ten pins. A prize was given to the child making the best score.

Coarse needles and colored twine were provided for a spool stringing contest, with another prize, and when refreshments were served there was a spool-shaped candy box (bought at the favor counter) filled with sugar peppermints for each child to take home. So, good mothers, save your spools if you want to provide something new for your little one’s party.

CLII

A Jolly Outdoor Party

THIS was a decided success, for the children were so enthusiastic. The affair took place in the country, but I do not think a city back yard or a park would fall short of the requirements. Of course, all depends upon the weather, for this party requires snow and a frozen pond if possible.

The hours were from five to eight, and it was quite dark when the gay youngsters assembled. The mothers had been instructed to dress the little guests, who were from ten to fourteen, very warmly with sweaters and mittens. Japanese lanterns were strung all over the lawn and twinkled brightly in the darkness; then there were huge bonfires built along the edge of the pond with caretakers to watch for sparks. There were skating races, running races, tobogganing, and a merry game of hare

and hounds, with red confetti for “scent.” The last stunt was storming a snow fort, the children being divided into two sides, white men and “Indians.” After this excitement they were called in to a supper consisting of piping hot oyster soup, hot buttered crackers, olives, turkey sandwiches, then ice cream in shape of snowballs with a little flag in the top of each ball; the cakes were balls, too, rolled in cocoanut form. A big sleigh took all the children home, each with a tin horn which was tied with scarlet ribbons.

CLIII

An Indian Wigwam Party

HALF of the players hide and have ten minutes to make their trail with cut papers (confetti) or corn. Each Indian goes a different way. Then at the expiration of the time limit the other players, who are “white men,” go on the trail and the game is to see who can return to the wigwam first with his Indian.

While these are supposed to be boys’ games, girls enjoy them, too. I speak from experience, for it was the delight of my childhood days to “play Indian.”

CLIV

Stunts for a Musical Party

THIS party was given for a class of young students about the age of twelve. First they played musical “stage coach” after the same fashion as we all used to play it years ago, only each child was given a musical term, and rose when his or her word was mentioned and turned around. The forfeits were redeemed by playing a piece upon the piano.

Then they had a novel spelling match upon the piano. The hostess said the tones would spell words. Anyone who could tell the tones in letters was to do so, writing down the words upon slips of paper. This was, of course, invaluable as an ear test. The tone combinations were played very slowly and repeated several times. The following were the words spelled: Bag, abe, abed, bad, abbé, ace, add, dad, bed, bead, age, be, aged, beef, beg, ebb, added, fag, fed, fad, deaf, fade, egg, cage, faded, dab.

The prizes were candy boxes in the shape of musical instruments. There were ice cream and cookies for refreshments, and to make fun the cookies were cut in letters, only the first seven being used, and the children had to tell the signature in sharps or flats of the key represented by the letter each took.

CLV

The Story Tent

AT a lawn fete one of the most popular attractions was a small tent that would hold a dozen children seated at one time, in which a charming young woman told stories lasting fifteen minutes. The admission was ten cents. When the story was finished the audience left the tent and another crowd was admitted. A gypsy “barker” stood outside and another gypsy strolled through the grounds selling tickets. Any child could go in a second time if another ticket was purchased. This was an easy way to add clear profit to the affair. There was absolutely no expense in preparation, as the tent was loaned and those in charge happened to have their gypsy costumes.

CLVI

The Game of Deerfoot

ALL the players represent different kinds of deer — reindeer, elk, moose, antelope, red deer, fallow deer (sometimes called mule deer) — does, and fawns. If real trees are not available, have pieces of white paper held to the ground by sharpened sticks. There must be one less tree than deer. The extra deer stands in the middle of the forest. A leader is chosen

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by popular vote or by the hostess, and then all follow him, skipping lightly around the forest. Suddenly the deer in the center calls “Deerfoot,” and then each one must run rapidly to a tree for shelter. Of course the deer in the center also runs for a tree. The deer that fails to find a tree is called “snail,” takes the place in the middle, and the game proceeds.

CLVII

Human Ninepins

THE boys are set up, exactly like ninepins, at the end of a room or, better still, on the lawn. They stand on the left foot, with the right one placed behind the left knee, arms folded. The girls roll the ball, taking turns. When the ball is rolled they may hop aside to avoid being touched; but if the ball does touch them or they put down the other foot they are supposed to be knocked down and out. This continues just like a real game. A score is kept and prizes may be awarded.

CLVIII

Barrel Hoop Bean Bag

YOUNG children are very fond of this pastime. Take barrel hoops and wind them with gay ribbon, or crêpe tissue paper; suspend a small bell in the center. Hang the hoop up and give each child a small bean bag the same color as the hoop. The aim is to ring the bell when it is thrown through the hoop. Five trials are permitted, and the one who rings the bell the most out of five receives a prize.

CLIX

Royalty

THIS game requires an equal number of boys and girls. Lots are drawn by the boys for “king,” and by the girls for “queen.” Then they sit in two rows facing each other. Each follower is numbered. At the same moment the king and the queen call two numbers and the two bearing these numbers arise and run around the circle, the king’s follower running after the queen’s.

If he catches her before she completes the circle he takes her to the king’s side, but she releases her number; if he does not catch her, he pays the penalty by going to the queen’s side. When all the numbers have been called the side having the most wins.

CLX

New Bird Game

SUPPLY the guests with pencils, and cards bearing as many numbers as there are birds portrayed by various methods on the walls. One clever hostess turned this into what she called “Bird Charades,” and had them illustrated from one end of the room, which was curtained off, the audience guessing them. These examples will show how the names of the birds may be demonstrated. Number each illustration, guest to write his guess opposite the corresponding number on the card. Allow a half hour for the guessing.

Blackbird: A bird cut from black paper. Redwing: A home with a wing painted red. Flicker: A candle blowing in the wind. Highhole: A hole in the top of the paper. Cuckoo: A cook and two o’s. Woodpecker: A match, a peck measure, and an R. Meadow lark: Children romping in a meadow. Yellow-breasted chat: Two men, with yellow shirt fronts, talking together. Brown thrasher: A schoolmaster in brown with a rod in his hand. Cardinal: A church dignitary. Crow: A cock in the act of crowing. Hawk: A peddler. Swallow: A child eating. Swift: A boy running. Cross-bill: A bill on which are written these words, “Pay at once!” Spoonbill: A spoon and a bird’s beak. Bluejay: A blue J. Fox sparrow: A fox and the letters S and P above an arrow. Song sparrow: A bar of a song, a

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spar, and a man rowing. Junco: A junk cart and an O. Bluebird: A bird with drooping head and wings. Wag-tail: A dog. Maryland yellow-throat: A map of Maryland and a stork with a yellow neck. Chippy: A man chopping wood. Flycatcher: A piece of flypaper. Red-start: The word “start” written in red ink. Indigo bunting: A scrap of blue bunting. Kinglet: A child wearing a crown. Pewee: A small P. Humming-bird: A spinning top. The names of other birds, such as cat-bird, oven-bird, snowflake, yellow-hammer, brown creeper, kingfisher, sandpiper, chickadee, etc., will suggest their own illustrations.

Have chicken in some form (sandwiches are always acceptable), and ices or cream in shape of birds will be appropriate. It will be easy to manage “bird” cookies, and perhaps the confectioner will make nests of spun sugar in which candy eggs may be placed.

These would be charming at each place on the table. There are many delightful as well as inexpensive bird books to give for prizes.

CLXI

Mystic Thoughts

FOR young people the game of “mystic thoughts” is a good one, and if cleverly done is really quite exciting. Two persons work together and plan their method beforehand. They tell the company that much of their success depends upon their concentration.

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One of the two then disappears out of sight and hearing. The one remaining asks the circle definitely to settle on a trade, and think of that one thing so steadily that the right thought may be transmitted to the absent one, who is then asked to come back. The co-worker asks a number of questions, such as “Is it a painter?” “No.” “Is it a minister?” “No.” “Is it a blacksmith?” “Yes.” The trick is to mention a profession just before the trade agreed upon is mentioned.

CLXII

A Tree Picnic

A PICNIC on trees is conducted in this way: When all the guests have assembled, tell each one to take a tray and go out in the yard and find all the “trees” on a card which is handed to them.

Children love mystery, and they will scamper off right merrily. Here is the list of trees, and, to tell you the truth, many of them are just bushes or shrubs:

The Paper Tree, the Bread Fruit Tree, the Egg Plant, the Olive Tree, the Cucumber Vine, the Apple Tree, the Sugar Maple Tree, the Japanese Tree, the Palm Tree, the Date Tree, the Rubber Tree, the Walnut Tree, the Lemon and Orange Trees.

On the paper tree the young folks found tissue paper napkins, pasteboard plates, and dainty paper caps and paper aprons for the girls; the “bread fruit tree” had sandwiches done up in oiled paper, the ends twisted, and

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the person in charge saw to it that each child had two (later, trays of sandwiches were passed, so everyone had plenty).

Of course the thorn tree was the one chosen for the egg plant and had a nice hard-boiled egg for each child stuck on a well-placed thorn; and how the children did laugh when they found that under the so-called olive tree was a table with a tray containing little paper cases filled with olives, and the cucumber vine presented its offering the same way! Joyfully the little hunters found the apple tree, with its red, glossy fruit suspended by strings, a pair of scissors helping the guests obtain the coveted fruit. The sugar maple was alluring with maple bonbons done up in gayly colored tissue paper, the ends fringed and twisted. On the “Jap” tree there were fans for the girls and for the boys, while under the “palm” tree (borrowed from the greenhouse) there was a quaint gypsy who told fortunes.

The walnut tree had English walnuts suspended from it, and each one contained a tiny favor like a doll, pen-knife (doll size), or some very diminutive article.

Orangeade was dispensed from the tree which bore golden oranges on its branches. Rubber balls hung from the rubber tree, and were used to play with after the feast. After all had the trays filled they sat down on rugs which had been conveniently placed and plenty of eatables were passed. The little guests pronounced this the very best of picnics, and it is one not hard to carry out.

CLXIII

Snake and Humming Birds

IN this the boys make a chain by linking arms or, as it is called on this occasion, a snake, and the girls are humming birds, darting about alone, and the trick is to prevent any of the birds being encircled by the snake. When a bird is captured she has to stand to one side and await the capture of her mates. This is a game for a large number.

CLXIV

Fox and Geese

TWO children are chosen, one for the goose and one for the fox; all the rest being little goslings hiding behind Mother Goose, each one holding the player in front so that a long line is made. Brer Fox endeavors to capture the last child in the line, and if in the efforts of the goose to protect her goslings any of the latter become detached from the line, both that unlucky gosling and all those behind her are taken by the wily fox and have to hang to him. When the two sides are about equally divided, a handkerchief or coat or piece of wood is laid on the ground and a tug of war ensues until one line is drawn over the barrier. This is a strenuous game and fatal to fine or thin clothing, so only to be played in rompers or middy suits.

CLXV

A Vagabond Party

THIS is another version of a “poverty” or “hard times” party, only the children will come in tramp, gypsy, or regular hobo costumes. Write the invitations on brown wrapping paper tied up with a string and fastened with a dab of red sealing wax; deliver them, for of course the price of mailing must be saved. There will be “umbrellas to mend” folk, “ole rags and iron” men, gypsy fortune tellers and horse traders, hand organ grinders, flower girls, match girls, street fakers of all kinds, newsboys and girls, and all sorts of house-to-house peddlers, who will have all manner of ridiculous things to sell.

Decorations should consist of milk bottles and tin cans filled with wild flowers and even tissue paper posies. For lights have lamps and candles, with boxes and rude board benches for seats. Dancing may be the amusement, as it is so universally indulged in these days, or the hostess may arrange games and contests.

When it comes to refreshments have newspaper packages tied up with string, there being a pasteboard plate, a fork and spoon and a paper napkin within. Use pans, tin cups or broken sets of cups and saucers for coffee; then have ham sandwiches, baked beans in ramekins, potato salad, cheese, peanuts, and pickles. It will be fun to let each child tell his tale of woe, explain the merits of his case and describe the wares he has to sell.

CLXVI

Clock Golf

THE first requirements are a smooth, grassy place, at least twenty-four feet in diameter (it may be larger); then twelve feet of stout string must be tied to a clothes pin which must be pushed into the center of the selected space. With this string as a radius and a bit of white chalk tied to the other, mark out as perfect a circle as possible.

Next, this circle is divided into twelve equal parts just like the face of a clock. At each division put a disc (you can buy them at any store where sporting goods are kept); lacking these a clothes pin painted white may be pushed in at each of the twelve points.

This being done, select a spot just four feet from the center of the clock face and sink a tin can, about four inches in diameter, so that the edge of the can is below the surface of the ground, so that the edge will not prevent the ball from dropping right into this receptacle when it reaches the edge.

One golf ball is required and one putter, and each player starts from No. 1 and putts to the hole. After making it, start from 2 and putt to the hole, and so on around, and the game being to see who can do all the twelve points in the least number of strokes, without touching the ball except with the putter, going from the hole to the numbers.

There may be some who do not understand golf, so

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we will explain that the “putter” is a short handled, weighted club. In using it try to gauge the length of each point from the home, and control the force of the blow so the ball will go in but not beyond it.

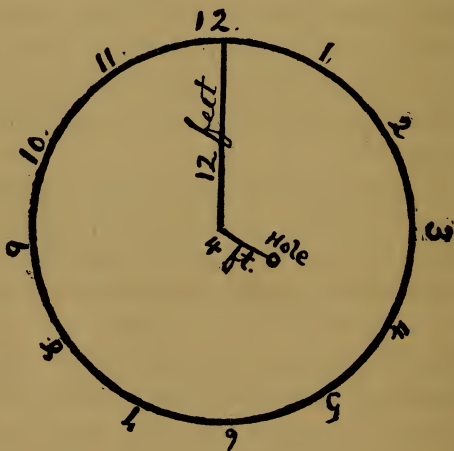


DIAGRAM OF GAME

Each player adds his score as he goes, so provide cards and pencils. This is a good solitaire pastime, for you can try to beat your own record. Those who play enjoy it and it seems to be ranking with and in some cases supplanting the popular game of croquet.

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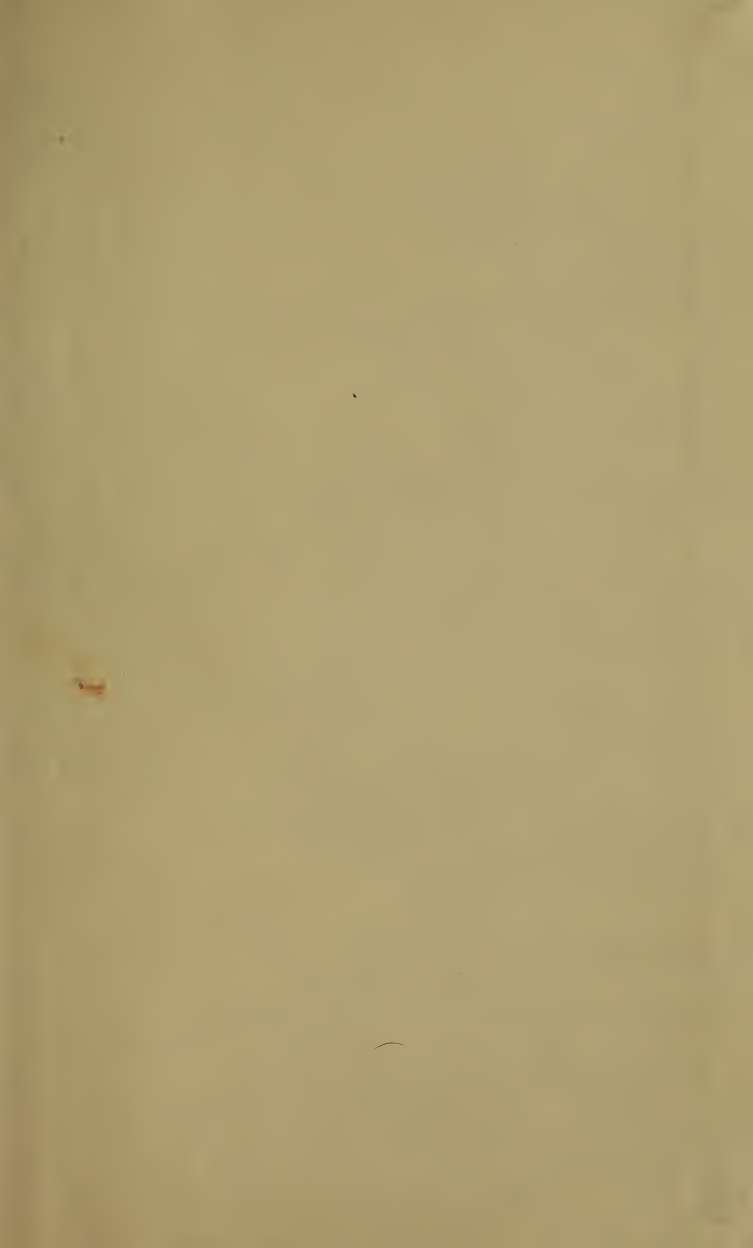
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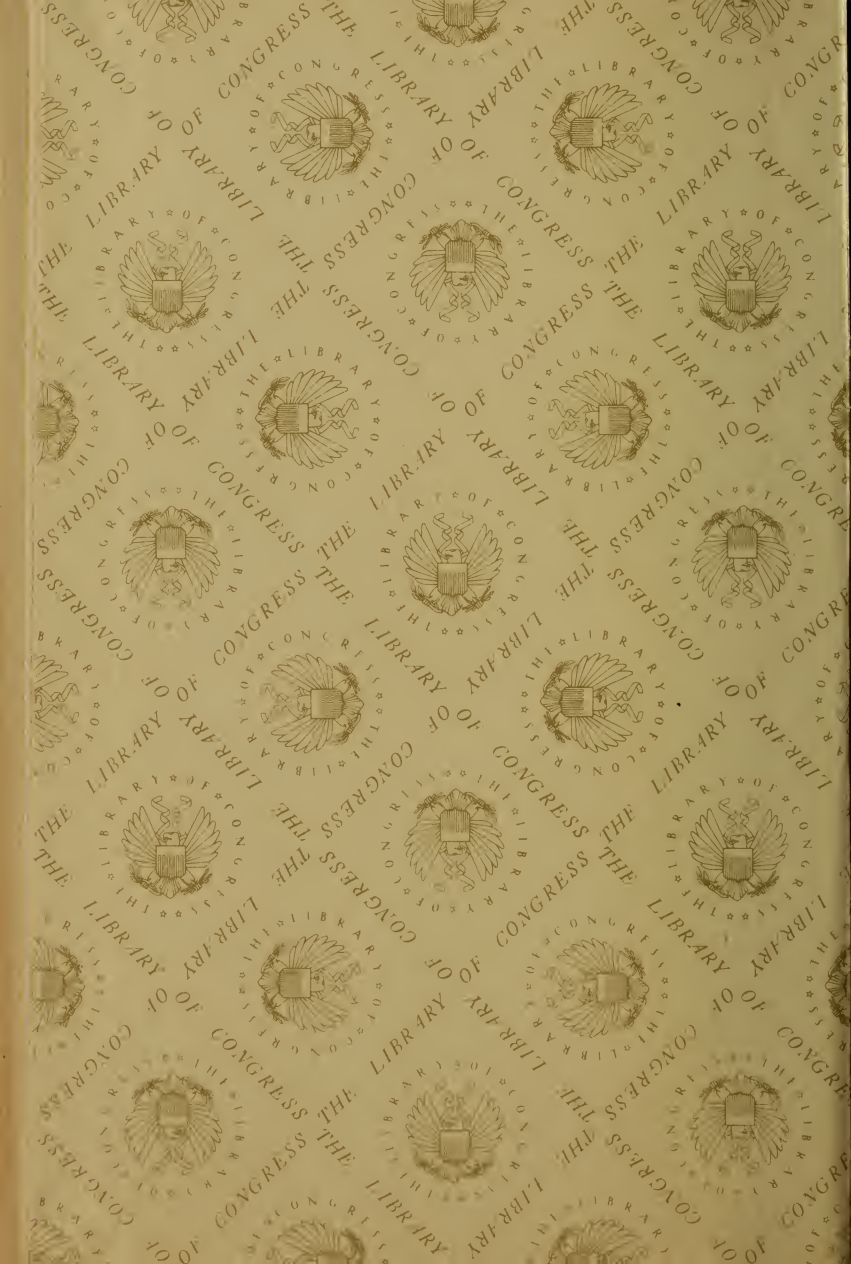
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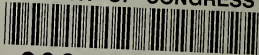








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