Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., December 18, 1914.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN DAILY THOUGHT.

The Dear Old Tree.

There's a dear old tree, an evergreen tree, And it blossoms once a year, 'Tis loaded with fruit from top to root, And it brings to all good cheer.

For its blossoms bright are small candles white And its fruit is dolls and toys,

And they all are free for both you and me If we're good little girls and boys. -Saint Nicholas

Is the movement for a safe and sane Fourth of July to be followed by one for an economical Christmas? Do the majority of people feel that the Christmas present has been as much overdone as the firecracker, the toy cannon and the pinwheel?

It must be understood in the outset that the movement to curtail Christmas giving has no relation to the children. The joy of the little ones in their Santa Claus and his bounty is too beautiful a thing of a sprinkle with sugar and add a few thing to disturb. It is only the presents grains of salt. Cover with boiling water, and let simmer until apples are soft, Harry with whom one happens to be ac-quainted, the presents that are a burden and a bore both to giver and recipient,

that it is proposed to abandon. Frequently these are given through a sense of duty and cannot be afforded by the donor. Just as frequently they are not the donor. Just as frequently they are hot needed by the one on whom they are be-stowed. Thus the outlay is not justified. It is a deprivation to one without any tris a deprivation to one without any

that end it is still being dropped by mu-tual consent. A has reached the point of insurgency where he doesn't give a hang whether B remembers him or not. He will not rack his brain and deplete his pocketbook buying unwelcome things for B, only to cause B in turn to hurl, per-

Novel Toys for the Baby .-- Ra

A smaller music box has on top a boy with a whip in his hand and several geese near him. As soon as the music starts the geese begin to eat, while the boy tries to drive them away. Older baby boys have their worsted reins with bells and such toys as a clap-

reins with beils and such toys as a clap-ping clown, who has a pair of cymbals in his hands, which he claps together as he closes his eyes. The older baby girls can play housekeeping with toys that are not only novel but marvelous, as, for instance dishes which contain the most instance, dishes which contain the most natural looking food imaginable-poached eggs,potatoes,meat, celery and vegeta-bles of all sorts in dainty portions, which help to carry out the make-believe idea.

CHRISTMAS DINNER. Pulled Bread Salted Almonds

Radishes Roast Goose Chestnut Stuffing *Apple Frappe Potatoe Molds Creamed Cauliflower *Baskets of Plenty

Wheat Crispies Hard Sauce *English Plum-Pudding Vanilla Ice Cream Fancy Cakes Demi-Tasse

Consomme

Apples seem an indispensable accompaniment to the Christmas goose, and may be well introduced in the form of grains of salt. Cover with boiling water, and let simmer until apples are soft, when water should be nearly evaporated. day was again celebrated, though never of the old English days. Rub through a seive, add two thirds cup-ful of cider and two tablespoonfuls of lemon juice. Freeze to a mush, using

equal parts crushed ice and rock salt. and serve in cups made from bright red

recipient in turn feels it a duty to make presents to the giver, presents that per-haps he can as little afford and that his friend an little afford and that his haps he can as little afford and that his friend as little needs. Thus both have have received no equivalent good. It is this sort of giving when we expect a re-turn, this giving through a sense of past or prospective obligation, against which there is widespread revolt. It is not in harmony with the Christmas spirit. It is commercial. onerous and lacking in Fortunately the habit is dying out. Scoop out a small quantity from centre of each and fill with celery cut in small Julienne-shaped pieces and marinated with French dressing. Arrange for individual service on nests of crisp lettuce

leaves. English Plum-Pudding is found on all Christmas dinner tables where old-time B, only to cause B in turn to thaps grudgingly, equally unwelcome things at his own head. All unknown to A the same insurgency has been working in the heart of B, and the irrational custom falls of its own weight. In consequence the day on which we celebrate the birth of the Son of Man ceases to be a bargain counter exchange. With the children it is different. We give to them for the pure joy of it, withtheir joys and partake of the Christmas spirit by sharing it with them. Thus we unconsciously fulfill the command of him in whose honor the day is celebrated and veritably become as little children. In the tay is customs. The tay is customs. To this class, whatever his craft or trade, the master is expected to person-ate Santa Claus and render substantial third teceptophil of mace, and one and

"LET EVERY MAN BE JOLLY."

"So now is come our joyfull'st feast; Let every man be jolly.

- Each room with yule leaves is drest. And every post with holly. Now all our neighbors' chimneys smoke
- And Christmas blocks are burning; Their ovens they with baked meats choke,
- And all their spits are turring. Without the door let sorrow lie, And if for cold it hap to die,
- We'll bury it in a Christmas pye, And evermore be merry."

The spirit of Christmas has ever been a merry one, celebrated by feasting and giving. The Christmas dinner has been and, we hope, will always be, a yearly feast of joy.

The old English Christmas was more elaborate than ours of today, lasting from the 6th of December to the 6th of from the 6th of December at least January, in the church calendar, at least, and called Yuletide. Then the waits sang carols on Christmas eve, great logs burned in huge fireplaces, Christmas burned in huge fireplaces, Christmas greens hung everywhere, and the wassail bowl circulated merrily around. Our Puritan ancestors disdained the celebra-tion of Yuletide, as it "savored of popery." However, some of them allowed their wives to make the English Christmas pie, calling it "mince," to avoid the pop-ish term Christmas. But in the latter part of the eighteenth century, the holi-day was again celebrated, though never

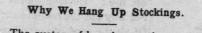
In olden times, the boar's head, garnished with rosemary, with a lemon in its mouth, was a typical dish. Great roasts of beef were also served. Our substitute is the turkey, making, per-haps, quite as noble a dish as the boar's

head. Our plum pudding is a relic of old England. To be properly served it should be large and round, with a sprig of holly stuck in the top; just before be-ing carried to the table, pour brandy over it and set it afire.

harmony with the Christmas spirit. It is commercial, onerous and lacking in spontaneity. It makes us dread the re-the holidar when we should wel-that when taken out shapes may have a molded in small cups and placed at each cover, gives more of real color. Another pretty table decoration has in

the center, a bed of poinsettia, the Mexican Christmas flower, and at the table corners bunches of holly. From the chandelier above the table is suspended a bunch of mistletoe and one of holly tied together with a bow of scarlet ribbon.

third teaspoonful of mace, and one and Christmas" greetings shower



visit, which was also on a Christmas Eve, before going to bed, he asked each of the nuns to lend him a stocking, and he filled the stockings with sugar plums in return for their hospitality. The custom of hanging up the stocking on Christmas Eve arose, it is said, from an incident in the life of the good Saint Nicholas. One day, when he was overtaken by a severe storm, he took refuge in a convent, and the next day being Christmas, he preached a sermon to the nuns which they liked so much that they asked him to come the next year and

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Plumbing.

still the joy and consolation of babies everywhere, but they are of quite a different sort from the old-fashioned rubber cases used in our grandmothers' days. Nor is his Babyship confined to one particular kind, for the variety is endless. The musical rattle is doubtless the fa-

vorite. This toy masquerades in a variety of forms, one of which is a beautiful doll dressed in bright colors, with a handle in place of legs. When baby grasps the handle and shakes it, the music box concealed inside plays a tune, which it will continue as long as the doll is kept in motion.

Another popular rattle is the Punch doll, which also has a music box inside, and which is manipulated in the same manner. An amusing rattle has two clowns astride a mule, each of which performs all sorts of queer antics to the time of the music as long as the baby keeps hold of the handle.

One of the daintiest rattles is made out of an ordinary embroidery hoop about five inches in diameter. It may be fashioned in various ways. For instance, blue and pink baby ribbon may be used alternately for winding the hoop. When it is covered stretch the ribbon across the hoop in some pretty patternstar, diamond or shell-and sew silver or gilt bells here and there about the circle.

Celluloid rattles are liked because they are light, as are also the straw basket, the drum, the ivory and the chicken ones

When baby takes his bath the task is lightened for the mother or nurse and made attractive to him by all sorts of objects. He forgets his fear of water in watching the celluloid frogs, gold fishes, seals, mud turtles, ducks, swans or lobsters in natural colors floating on the water.

Sometimes when the bath is particularly obnoxious to the youngster his moth-er can save much wear and tear of nervous energy by placing a non-destruc-tible celluloid doll in the bath beside him, or by winding a mechanical fish which will swim about like a real one until it runs down. until it runs down.

Then, too, a mechanical duck or boat may serve a double purpose, and baby be none the wiser if one is purchased which has a thermometer attached.

A curious toy, which cannot fail to at-tract the attention of the baby, is the papier mache roly-poly, which is light at the bottom. It represents the figure of a woman which sways in all directions, but

never topples entirely over. Of animals there is no end. Crocheted Spitz dogs, with blankets and collars, sit and stand in all sorts of positions. Velvet rabbits in natural colors, the ears lined with red velvet and with red ringed eyes, kneel bunny fashion. Mechanical ani-mals and dolls with voices move around and bend their joints to suit the occa-sion, all of which helps to keep the baby good natured.

good natured. One of the cleverest things shown is a music box, the top of which is supposed to represent a back yard scene. As soon as the box is wound the music and per-formance begin simultanoously. A bear turns a miniature hand organ, which gives the impression that music comes gives the impression that music comes from that source. Meantime a cat and dog perform on a trapeze, while another cat dances a jig in the corner. All of these animals have voices.

easpoonfuls of salt. Thoroughly combine mixtures: then add a teaspoonful of vanilla and the whites of four eggs, beaten until stiff. Turn into a buttered mold, place on a trivet in a kettle containing boiling water (having water half cover mold), cover closely and steam six hours, never allowing water to stop boiling. Remove to hot serving dish,

Birthday of the Saviour.

and garnish with Christmas greens.

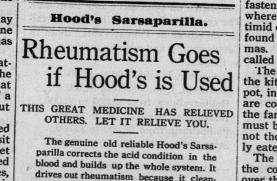
The observance of the 25th of Decem-ber as the birthday of the Saviour is ascribed to Julius, bishop of Rome, A. D. 337-352. The eastern church had previously observed the 6th of January in commemoration both of the baptism and of the birth of Christ.

Before the end of the fourth century the east and west had exchanged festivals, the west adopting January 6 in commemoration of our Lord's baptism and the east adopting December 25th in

commemoration of our Lord's birth. The exact date of Christ's birth appears not to have been known in the early church and cannot now be de-termined. Between the middle of December and the middle of February there is generally in Palestine an interval of comparatively dry weather, preceded and followed by the early and later rain. Thus there might have been shepherds on the plain of Bethlehem watching their flocks at night.

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59-50

by these people who throng his house, without protest or denial, all day. As a compensation, however, for self-

denial and enforced generosity, he looks forward to the great Christmas feast that is served on Christmas night.

All day long the mother, daughters and maids are busy preparing for this meal, and the appetizing odors which issue from the kitchen must be tantaliz-ing to the fasters. The meal is simple, as the winde, but ample. At support as to viznds, but ample. At sunset, when the last guest has departed, the angelus rings out its welcome announcement that the day's fasting is at an end. All deck themselves in their finest holiday attire and gather round the festive board; first asking, while all remain standing, a blessing on the food.

The menu that is usually served, with very little variation, consists of :-

Fish Soup. Dried Mushrooms, Boiled in Gruel. Butter Cakes. Prune Marmalade. Pancakes with Poppyseed or Honey. Hot Carp, Fried or Baked. Cold Carp, in Black Sauce. Cakes. Coffee. Sweetmeats. Fruit.

The German menu consists of heartier viands; such as roast goose stuffed with chestnuts, pork and sauerkraut, sausages, beef with sour sauce, black puddings, smoked goose, baked apples, and an un-limited supply of beer and the famous German Christmas cakes, especially the pfeffer nusse, weise Lebkuchen and Mandelkrænze.

The Swedish Christmas Feast .-- Sweden celebrates Christmas with more joy and enthusiasm than any other nation. The preparations begin weeks before the day of celebration and one of the most important features is the brewing of the Christmas ale; as this is offered with generous hand to every guest or caller.

generous hand to every guest or caller. No creature is forgotten on this festive occasion, even the beasts and the wild birds of the air have their Christmas feast. They have a pretty custom of fastening sheaves of grain on tall poles where it will be accessible to the most timid of the feathered throng, sure to be found near every farm-house on Christ-mas. The Swedes have a curious custom called "dipping in the pot."

called "dipping in the pot." The Christmas eve dinner is taken in the kitchen. Over the fire hangs a great pot, in which meat, tongue, ham, etc., are cooked together. Each member of the family takes a pice of h the family takes a piece of bread, and it must be white bread, for Christmas, and not the coarse brown cakes so universally eaten.

The slice of bread must be dipped into the contents while the pot still hangs over the fire, and removed without its breaking. After each one has attempted this feat the stew is eaten, followed by rice and apple sauce. The great Yuletide dish is served later in the evening and is made of codfish and potatoes, fol-lowed by another dish of rice. The Swedes are famous for cooking rice and it is a very popular dish.

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-----They are all good enough, but the WATCHMAN is always the best.

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