

CHRISTMAS GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN

Many Forms of Merrymaking for the Little Folks' Holiday Party.

By ADELE MENDEL.

"At Christmas play and make good cheer For Christmas comes but once a year." Christmas time the children are bubbling over with the spirit of the season and the grown folks' thoughts turn to the little ones' fun and amusement at no time more than at the happy Yule Tide.

With a little thought and preparation a children's Christmas party may be made such a joyous affair that its happy memories will linger with the young folks for many years.

Here are some entertaining games that will solve a problem for the perplexed mother who perhaps is wondering "What shall I have the children play at the party?" For when she sends her "Come to my Christmas party" invitations, she knows that a successful children's party means something more than just "ice cream and cake."

These games will appeal to all the children—the timid little girl, who is inclined to shrink in the corner, as well as the big boy, who usually occupies "the center of the stage."

Santa Claus' Reins. This game is very exciting. Three pieces of white tape, each about an inch wide, and the length of the room, are held at one end by three children. Three others are given pairs of scissors and at a signal the players cut the tape in half lengthwise. The one who first reaches the opposite end of the tape is the winner of that heat. The different winners contest until the champion is declared. Boys and girls, you know, love racing competitions of all kinds and this race is one that probably they never played before.

Magic Music. Although this is a game that perhaps the mothers and fathers played when they went to kindergarten, it still causes much laughter and is always successful.

One child leaves the room and the others decide upon something for him to do on his return. The musician regulates his playing, and the child must guide his motions according to the loudness or softness of the music. It is astonishing what different tasks are accomplished after a little practice, and the children's cries of "let me go out next" prove their enjoyment of "Magic Music."

Guessing Holly Berries. For this game the child must put on his "thinking cap." Hold a large spray of holly in your hand and allow the children to look at it for a few minutes. Then tell them to write their estimate of the number of holly berries on the branch. You might take a chrysanthemum also and ask them to guess how many petals in the flower. Great interest is shown when the petals are counted.

A Christmas Doll. The idea of this game is to see who can make the prettiest doll out of a long smooth potato, two pieces of pretty colored tissue paper, some small sticks for legs and arms, and some pins. Or if you would rather pass clothes pins and let the children fashion dolls out of them, that will also answer the purpose.

Place all the dolls in a row when completed, and have the children vote for their favorite one. You will be surprised to see what ingenious results the clever little fingers produce.

A Noisy Game. Yes, it is noisy, but the children have an idea that "the more noise, the more fun," and what mother cares if "the roof comes down" at a Christmas party?

After a child leaves the room, a proverb is chosen. One word of it is given to each child. If there are more children than words contained in the proverb, then two or more children are given the same word. When the child outside the room returns, a leader counts "One, two, three." At the "Three" all the children shout their given word. The child must guess the proverb.

Santa Claus' Grab Bag. On the invitation state that each child is to bring something to the party that he or she no longer cares for. This article is to be in a neatly wrapped and tied parcel, so as to hide its identity. It is placed in a large bag, on the child's arrival. Each child then draws a present from the bag. Uproars of laughter follow the opening of the packages, which probably will consist of peculiar articles of all sizes and descriptions.

A Christmas Mix-Up. Provide the children with paper and pencil. Give them the following list of words pertaining to Christmas. You see the letters are all twisted. It is their interesting task to straighten them out.

- Key and list: 1. Christmas—Atschsmrl. 2. Reindeer—Drierene. 3. Sleigh—Ilghs. 4. Mistletoe—Etiosmtie. 5. Holly—Oylhl. 6. Plum Pudding—Uptmdpudgnl. 7. Santa Claus—Asculatena. 8. Candles—Lednesa. 9. Stockings—Kocstlsgn. 10. Jack Frost—Kcajtrfso. 11. Wreath—Trhwae. 12. Snowball—Ownslabl.

What Santa Claus Doesn't Like. This is a simple and successful game. All the children are seated except one who says "Santa Claus

doesn't like C's. What are you going to give him instead?" The first child replies with a word that does not contain a "C." For instance: "Meat" would be a correct answer, but "rice" would not do. If a correct answer is not given by the time the leader counts "ten," a forfeit must be paid. And we all know the fun of redeeming the forfeits.

A Peanut Race. At one end of the room place two bowls of peanuts, and at the opposite end two empty bowls. Two children are each provided with a knife and at a signal they place as many peanuts as they can on the blade of the knife, and carry it to the empty bowl with one hand. Depositing the peanuts, they return for more. Each child is allowed three minutes. A score is kept and the one who has the largest number of peanuts credited to his name wins the prize.

Puzzle Pictures. Pretty pictures taken from magazines, advertisements and discarded picture books are cut up into several pieces and placed into envelopes. A good idea is to write the same number on the back of the envelope and all pieces belonging to one puzzle, so that if a piece gets mixed with the others it can be readily returned to its own set.

Each child is handed a puzzle, and as soon as he succeeds in placing the pieces in their proper position he is given credit for it by the score keeper, and receives another puzzle to work with. The one who succeeds in putting together the most pictures in a stated time receives a well-earned prize.

Snowballs. This is an amusing game. Snowballs made of cotton batting and covered with white tissue paper and a small basket are required. The players stand about eight feet from the basket. The one who tosses the most balls into the basket is the prize winner. Each child might be given three snowballs to start with.

A Christmas Spider Web. Take as many balls of twine as there are children expected at the party. To one end of each ball attach a card bearing the child's name and to the other end an inexpensive gift. Twist the twine around the different objects in the room. Give each child the twine and card bearing his name. At a signal all begin to unwind the entangled web. Great is the fun and loud the exclamations when the young people arrive at the end of their string and find a gift awaiting them.

A Pop Corn Party. If you don't mind the "muss," and of course you won't, have a pop corn party. Have the children sit in a circle on the floor and provide each with a bowl of popcorn, a needle and some coarse white thread. Tell them that the one who strings the longest popcorn chain before the time is up will win the prize. Each youngster takes home his own string of corn.

An Impromptu Entertainment. When the children are tired of romping, let them sit on the floor in a circle and tell them you are going to have an entertainment, and that each child must do something to help make it a success. The youngsters will provide a variety of numbers for your impromptu program, from nursery rhymes to fancy dancing.

Artists. Bring in a good sized blackboard and have the children see who can draw the best Santa Claus. This will afford much pleasure for the little folks. (Copyright, 1912, by W. G. Chapman.)



A Christmas Stocking. It is not always the gift itself, but the way in which it is presented that commends itself particularly to the recipient. To the girl who thinks she is too old to hang up her stockings, send a pair of silk stockings, using one to fill, and roll up the other and stick it in the foot. The rest of the stocking should be filled with inexpensive trifles—a home-made jabot, tie or collar, a handkerchief, some candy, nuts, raisins, crab apples, a card or a calendar, perhaps some little kindly hints at her hobbies that will amuse her. Each of these articles should be wrapped separately in tissue paper and red ribbons, and the excitement of opening the mysterious small packages will often exceed the pleasure taken in one large gift that would have cost no more than the numerous small ones.

Just a Warning. If you are going to spend the Christmas holidays with the family of your small niece and nephew, don't forget to make the youngsters a present of a drum and trumpet.

AN OLD TIME CHRISTMAS. THE daisies danced her kirtle sheen. The hall was dressed with holly green. Forth to the wood did merry wren go To gather in the mistletoe. Then opened wide the baron's hall To vassal, to tenant, serf and all. Power laid his rpd of rule aside, And ceremony doffed his pride. The heir, with roses in his shoes, That night might village partner chuse! The lord undergating share The vulgar game of post and pair. All hallooed with uncontrolled delight And general voices the happy night That to the cottage as the crown Brought tidings of salvation down. The fire with well dried logs supplied Went roaring up the chimney wide. The huge hall table's oaken face, Scrubbed till it shone, the day to grace, Bore then upon its massive board. No mark to part the squire and lord. Then was brought in the lusty brawn By old blue coated serving man; Then the grim boar's head frowned on high, Crested with bay and rosemary. Well can you remember tell How, when and where the monster fell; What dogs before his death he tore And all the baiting of the boar. The wassail round in good brown bowls, Garnished with ribbons, blithely trowls. There the huge sirloin reeked; hard by Plum porridge stood and Christmas pie. Nor failed old Scotland to produce At such high tide her savory goose. Then came the merry maskers in And carols roared with blithesome din. If unmelodious was the song It was a hearty note and strong. Who lists may note in their mumbling see Traces of ancient mystic board. White shirts supplied the masquerade, And smutted cheeks the visors made. But, oh, what maskers richly dight Can boast of bosoms half so light? England was merry England when Old Christmas brought his sports again. 'Twas Christmas broached the mightiest ale. 'Twas Christmas told the merriest tale. A Christmas gambol oft would cheer The poor man's heart through half the year. —Sir Walter Scott.

AN UNORTHODOX CHRISTMAS. I WENT to spend the day with Rose, and then A Christmas greeting passed between us two, But 'twas not "Peace on earth, good will to men." We only said: "Good morning!" "How d'ye do?" AND then to her I offered smilingly The present she expected me to bring. There were no hanging hosi, no Christmas tree. The box was tied in paper with a string.

WE didn't sit beside the Yule log's blaze. We just turned on the radiator's steam. And dinner, unlike those of storied days, Gave no plum pudding, but some blasphemous ice cream.

WE didn't hear the church bells' solemn toll, And when we had our Christmas evening lunch We didn't have a steaming wassail bowl, But just a jug of simple claret punch.

WE trampled on traditions, I suppose, Yet one rite we observed with care—but, no; Although I well remember kissing Rose, It wasn't under the mistletoe. —Life.

A WONDERFUL TREE. THERE'S a wonderful tree, a wonderful tree, The happy children rejoice to see, Spreading its branches year by year. It comes from the forest to flourish here. Oh, this wonderful tree, with its branches wide, Is always, is always blooming at Christmastide! But not for us children did this tree grow. With its strange, sweet fruit on each laden bough. For those we love we have made with care Each pretty thing you see hanging there. May this wonderful tree, with its branches wide, Bring joy to our friends at Christmastide! For a voice is telling its boughs among Of the shepherds' watch and the angels' song. Of a holy babe in the manger low— The beautiful story of long ago, When a radiant star threw its beams so wide To herald the blessed first Christmastide. Then spread thy branches, wonderful tree, And bring the pleasant thought to me Of him who came from his home above, The richest gift of his Father's love. He came to show us how to spread far and wide The joys of the holy, sweet Christmastide. —Songs and Games For Little Ones.

The Universality of Christmas. Primarily, of course, Christmas is a religious festival. In the Christian, with a sincere belief in the Christ, who is the foundation rock of his religion, the words of priest and pastor, exhorting his flock to observe the day with ceremonial observances, find a fervent response. From every pulpit is told anew each year the story of him with-out whom Christmas had never been. But Christmas appeals also to the nonbeliever in Christ, to the men and women who cannot subscribe conscientiously to the doctrine of his divinity. It is trite, perhaps, to say that as Christmas approaches the Christmas spirit is "in the air," but it is true none the less. "Peace and good will" pervade the air that is breathed alike by churchgoer and nonattendant. In the big cities Christmas is celebrated by Christian and Jew and Mohammedan as well as by those with no religion. In the outermost corners of the earth, wherever men of Christian faith have borne the standard of civilization, the native heathen in intimate contact with them feel the coming of the spirit and rejoice. It is well that this should be so, for the spirit of Christmas is the spirit of belief not only in Christ, but in one's fellow men. Every one may share in it if he will. Every one may find in the story of the life that was lived in Palestine nineteen centuries ago, of the death that was met on the cross and of the resurrection that followed, something of personal application, something of uplift.

What of Your Christmas Spirit? The spirit of Christmas, as the idealists have it, is not recognizable by the real thing, according to modern methods. Theoretically everything is bright, gay, full of peace for oneself and good wishes for the rest of the world. Actually Christmas may mean anything like this: Grudging giving and discontented receiving. Splurging on one's rich friends and stinting where it is not likely to count. Overgenerosity to the point of extravagance. Rushing until you detest Christmas and everything connected with it. Overworked nerves and overwrought tempers from a false conception of Christmas giving. A generous spirit for your own immediate circle and utter indifference to whether any one else has a happy day. Gorging oneself in the interest of Christmas cheer with no thought of a tortured digestion and rockiness of the day after. A Christmas with not one thought to the real meaning of the day and what the world would have been had there been no "birthday of a king" to celebrate.

CHRISTMAS. THE world his cradle is, The stars his worshippers, His "peace on earth" the mother's kiss On lips new pressed to hers. For she alone to him In perfect light appears, The one horizon never dim With penitential tears. —John B. Tabb.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Estate of EDWARD B. WHEATON, Late of Buckingham. All persons indebted to said estate are notified to make immediate payment to the undersigned; and those having claims against the said estate are notified to present them duly attested, for settlement. NELLIE E. WHEATON, Executrix. Starlight, Pa. December 8, 1913. 99w6

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Estate of ANNIE A. COLE, Late of Clinton. All persons indebted to said estate are notified to make immediate payment to the undersigned; and those having claims against the said estate are notified to present them duly attested for settlement. J. H. STEPHENSON, Executor. Waymart, Pa., Dec. 13, 1913.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE. In the matter of estate of Thomas L. Burcher, deceased. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of said estate of Thomas L. Burcher has made application to the Orphans' Court of Wayne County for an order to sell at private sale for the sum of Seventeen Hundred Dollars the real estate of said decedent, situated in the Township of Damascus, Wayne County, Pa., being the same land which Frank N. Betts et ux. by deed dated December 31, 1906, and recorded in Wayne County Deed Book No. 96, page 586, granted and conveyed to Thomas L. Burcher. Unless exceptions are filed or a higher price offered, an order of said Court will be made on the third Monday of January next at two o'clock p. m., authorizing the said Administrator to sell the said real estate for the said sum. J. C. BURCHER, Administrator. Honesdale, Pa., Dec. 11, 1913. M. E. Simons, Attorney.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHARTER. Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Court of Common Pleas of Wayne County, on the 7th day of January, 1914, at ten o'clock a. m., under the provisions of the Corporation Act of 1914 and its supplements, for a charter for an intended corporation to be called the Honesdale Business Men's Association, the character and object of which are to co-operate for the benefit of all to abate trade abuses; to disseminate useful information; to expose fraud and adulteration; to watch and influence legislation toward the better protection of our capital; to assist members in collecting delinquent accounts; to protect them against fraudulent customers, and to encourage the observance of the Sabbath and all legal holidays; and for these purposes to have, possess and enjoy all the rights, benefits and privileges conferred by the said act and the supplements thereto. SEARLE & SALMON, Solicitors. Honesdale, Pa., Dec. 15, 1913. 101w3

NOTICE OF ELECTION. Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Wayne County Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company will be held in the office of the company in Honesdale on MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1914, at ten o'clock a. m. for the transaction of general business and that an election will be held at the same place of meeting between the hours of one and two o'clock p. m. of said day, for the purpose of electing ten members of said company to act as directors for the ensuing year. Every person insured in said company is a member thereof and entitled to one vote. PERRY A. CLARK, Sec. Honesdale, Dec. 15, 1913. 101w3

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Estate of CLAYTON, YALE, Late of Lebanon Township. All persons indebted to said estate are notified to make immediate payment to the undersigned; and those having claims against the said estate are notified to present them duly attested for settlement. WILLIAM S. YALE, NORMAN TAYLOR, Executors. Cold Spring, Pa., Oct. 30, 1913.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.—Estate of Fred E. Lawyer, Late of Honesdale, deceased. The undersigned an auditor appointed to pass upon the exceptions to account and to report distribution of said estate, will attend to the duties of his appointment, on TUESDAY, DEC. 30, 10 A. M., at his office in the borough of Honesdale, at which time and place all claims against said estate must be presented, or recourse to the fund for distribution will be lost. WM. H. LEE, Auditor. Honesdale, Dec. 5, 1913. 99w3

AUDITOR'S NOTICE. Estate of Ella Gilon, late of the Borough of Honesdale, Pa., deceased. The undersigned Auditor, appointed by the Orphans' Court to hear and determine all claims on the assets and report distribution of said estate will attend to the duties of his appointment on Tuesday, December 23, at 10 a. m., at his office in the Borough of Honesdale, at which time and place all claims against said estate must be presented or recourse to the fund for distribution will be lost. F. P. KIMBLE, Auditor. 94wks4.

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