

CHRISTMAS GAMES.

The Kind of Jollity That is Appropriate to Holiday Time.

With Book and Whistle—Fun with a Pair of Plates, and the Mind-Reading Trick—A Round of Fun.

It may be promised that a Christmas party should not be forced into merriment. That is, when some day the guests evince an unwillingness to "play" let them look on. It is not likely that anyone can witness the hilarity and downright fun the following games afford without a longing to participate in them.

The first strictly Christmas game ever invented is appropriately enough styled "going to Jerusalem." The players sit at first in two rows of chairs placed closely back to back in the middle of a room. A march is played on the pianoforte, or some one

not in the game may sing or whistle. As soon as the music begins, all rise and march in line around the chairs. While they are marching, some one who is not playing takes away one chair from the end of the line. The music stops suddenly and all who can do so sit down. Of course one player is left standing as one chair has been taken away, and that player is out of the game. The music begins again and the game goes on a new chair being taken away each time until only one player is left. He has then "got to Jerusalem." The rules of the game are: (1) that no one must touch a chair while marching on penalty of being put out of the game; (2) that if two players sit on the same chair at once the umpire shall decide which has the right to it, and, in case of doubt, may



THE KNIGHT OF THE WHISTLE.

order the players to march again, and, (3) the person who removes the chair shall act as umpire. The "Knight of the Whistle" is the name under which a far more amusing game is known. The game is really a "game" consists in passing a whistle around a circle of players, who are seated, while one, standing in the middle, is required to find it by its sound as it is blown from time to time. Whoever "counts out" for the game help, showing the others, by unconscious muscular movements, what is to be done. It is generally found that certain players succeed better when they are leaders, and others when they are led. Instead of merely taking hands the player who goes out often holds the back of the other's hand against his forehead. Sometimes the one who goes out holds no one's hand at all, but the entire company think very earnestly of what they have agreed he shall do. So the round of fun is run. It rarely happens that Christmas games will end without all sorts of tricks and plays arising out of them or being suggested thereby. The real difficulty usually lies in making a beginning.

Filling in a Place. "One does not like to appear stupid and spiritless when in society," said a pretty girl to an amused listener so her prattle, "and I have discovered a capital recipe against looking dull which I will give you gratis. At a big luncheon the other day, on making my place at table, I was dismayed to find one of my neighbors was an elderly woman and a total stranger, who turned her shoulder to me during a greater part of the repast, and the other was Milly Hank, who is a dear girl but has not an idea in her head. After the first few minutes had passed in total silence, a light idea struck me. 'Milly,' I said, 'let's count; we will look just as if we were talking and it's ever so much easier. When I leave off you begin.' And I began, in my most vivacious manner, 'one, two, three, four, five, six, seven,' then I named and Milly, showing her little white teeth with bona fide merriment, went on, 'eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen,' and we both ended with a burst of genuine laughter. 'What a good time these girls are having!' I heard our vis-a-vis saying to her neighbor, rather enviously. I thought, 'I wonder what they are talking about.' 'Waverly Magazine,' talking about."

To TAKE FROM MOUND OUT OF BILL. hold the spoon over a tankard of boiling water and rub with juice of sorrel and salt, and when the cloth is thoroughly wet dip quickly in lye and wash at once.

leader can make this game very exciting if he run quickly from one to another, pretending to take up one book and then seizing another, thus keeping the players constantly on the lookout. Sneezing is an amusement rather than a Christmas game. It is played by having a chosen leader to give to each player a syllable, ending in "sh" or some similar one sounding like part of a sneeze, as "ash," "esh," "ish," "osh," "oush," "uish" or "ashook." At a given signal from the leader, all the company pronounce their syllables together. The effect is laughable, sounding exactly like a sneeze if properly played. Resembling the whistling game in that it has a victim but differing totally from it in every other way, is a play called meemerm. The one to be meemered, called the subject, who must be unacquainted with the trick is told to sit opposite the operator while the other players merely look on. The operator sits for two soup plates. By previous arrangement with the others, the bottom of one plate has been blackened by holding it over a candle and this one has been given to the subject. The latter is directed to fix his eyes steadily on the operator's face and to imitate every motion, as exactly as possible. The operator then dips his fingers in the water in his plate, rubs it on the bottom and then draws a line on his face. The subject does the same, except that as the bottom of his plate is blackened he thus makes a black mark on his face. As his eyes are fixed on the operator's face, he does not perceive that his finger tip is black. When the operator has thus caused him to decorate his face as much as he chooses, he tells the subject that his will must be very strong, as he finds it impossible to place him under the meemering influence. The subject may then be shown his face in a mirror. Mind reading is both a game and an experiment and played by any number of persons, one of whom leaves the room, while the others agree on some simple thing for him to do. The player without is then called in and one of the company takes him by the hand, at the same time thinking intensely of the thing agreed upon. He must not move unless the first player moves. The player who went out must keep his mind quiet, trying to think of nothing in particular, moving in any direction as his feet impel him to move, and doing whatever he feels impelled to do. The

player will very often do the very thing he was required by the company to do. There is no general agreement as to why this should be the case. It is argued by some that the player's mind is really influenced by that of the one who holds his hand. Others maintain that the success of the experiment is usually the result of chance. Again it is alleged that the player, who has his mind bent upon the net in question, thinks of it so intently that he cannot help showing the others, by unconscious muscular movements, what is to be done. It is generally found that certain players succeed better when they are leaders, and others when they are led. Instead of merely taking hands the player who goes out often holds the back of the other's hand against his forehead. Sometimes the one who goes out holds no one's hand at all, but the entire company think very earnestly of what they have agreed he shall do. So the round of fun is run. It rarely happens that Christmas games will end without all sorts of tricks and plays arising out of them or being suggested thereby. The real difficulty usually lies in making a beginning.

sonable as to blame the establishment for what was the fault of a painter employed by it. "You should employ only painters who understand their business," snarled the colonel in a fine frenzy, and I will teach you that paint cannot be poured upon me with impunity, sir." "We are willing," said the clerk, "to do what is right in the matter. We will pay for having your clothing cleaned, or we will buy you a new suit if necessary." "You cannot get out of it on any such basis as that, sir. I am going to make an example of you, sir, and made of 24 hours, too, sir." And having made this threat, the colonel bowed out of the building and up the street.

Upon the following day the colonel sent his legal representative to talk the matter over and see if it could not be adjusted to his satisfaction without the worry and expense of a legal contest. It happened that the hotel's attorney was present when the colonel's legal friend arrived, and the former said: "We are perfectly willing to do the fair thing by Colonel Smith. We admit that the colonel's clothing was ruined through the negligence of one of our employees, and we are willing to pay for it. We will give him a sufficient sum to purchase himself a new suit of clothes. How does that strike you?" "Such a proposition would not strike the colonel at all," replied the friend of the ex-warrior. "It is not the amount of money involved in this thing that is making him miserable."

"Then what is it?" asked the hotel's attorney. "It's his feelings," replied the other lawyer. "His feelings. We admit that the colonel belongs to one of the oldest and proudest of all the old Virginia families, and he is as haughty and hypersensitive as any

other bearer of his name. His feelings have been deeply wounded, and they can never be healed by the price of a suit of clothes."

"It is pretty hard to ask us to pay for his feelings," said the hotel's attorney, with a smile, "because I do not see how we can appease them in order to reach an intelligent idea of their monetary value."

"And then," broke in the other lawyer, "we have a sudden aunt who is

RECOMPENSE.

BY R. K. MUSKIEVICH.

It was about a week before Christmas when Colonel Smith was wandering homeward upon the main thoroughfare of the city of his adoption. The school was as full of the spirit of the merry season as was the very air itself. He thought of the presents he was about to make and of those which he expected to receive as he cast his eyes about him and saw the shop windows full of the latest novelties in toys.

When he was lost in such a pleasant Christmas reverie he hadn't had time to be a realist when he happened to pass along in front of a great marble hotel. At the time he was passing a painter was engaged in the act of retouching some of the inside blinds at an open window. It is not likely that it will ever be known just how it happened, but the painter, while probably preoccupied with dreams of the approaching holiday, toppled the pot of paint of the window sill, from which point it fell through the chilly open air and deposited about three-quarters of its contents upon the colonel.

The latter was red with rage as he was with pain when he drew into and through the main entrance of that hotel and presented himself at the office. "Sir!" exclaimed the colonel in a towering rage. "What kind of treatment do you call this, sir?" "Zetty rough," replied the clerk, not knowing exactly what to say, because he was ignorant of the accident that had just happened.

"I am glad," snarled the colonel, with beautiful irony, "that you are at least kind enough to assume an attitude of sympathy, but I am here, sir, to demand satisfaction for damages. As I was passing, sir, one of your painters, sir, passed a pot of red paint upon me, sir."

"Have the colonel paused for breath, and the clerk, learning the cause of his trouble, became very profuse in his apologies. "I am sorry it happened, sir, very sorry, but you should not be so unrea-



PRETTY ROUGH TREATMENT.

sonable as to blame the establishment for what was the fault of a painter employed by it. "You should employ only painters who understand their business," snarled the colonel in a fine frenzy, and I will teach you that paint cannot be poured upon me with impunity, sir."

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This is only a partial list of the thousands of gifts for the little ones to be found at WM. F. GABLE & CO.'S.

Also a very dignified and proud spirited person. And when she saw the colonel enter the house belauded with red paint and heard that he had been glibbed at by boys as he passed along the street she was completely undone and her feelings were galled to her bed. Her feelings have got to be paid for too. The colonel is really more distressed over his aunt's feelings than anything else connected with the unfortunate affair, and he proposes to fight it out on the basis of their feelings and wounded pride. "See here," said the hotel's attorney, "I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll settle the thing for \$20.00, and not a cent more. If this does not give you a view of a fair compromise, you must seek your remedy in the law, and then you will find what your client's feelings are worth."

"Is that the best you will do?" "It is," replied the hotel's attorney. "On Christmas morning, when the bells were ringing merrily in the frosty air, Colonel Smith appeared in a new suit of clothes to celebrate the occasion, for he had accepted the hotel's terms of \$20.00 for his ruined clothing, and \$25.00 for his feelings and those of his dear old aunt."

TO CHRISTMAS GIVERS. Suggestions as to Appropriate Holiday Presents. The gift which harmonizes with its festive surroundings and just fits in a vacant spot is the one which is most valued. The same rule applies to articles of dress. To the young brunettes whose evening gowns are generally pink or crimson, the pale blue fan, although lovely in itself, would not be as serviceable as a plainer one which she could use with her existing wardrobe. Before you embroider the dollies or centerpieces for the housewife's table consider the color of her china and try to bring your work into harmony with her possessions. The friends in mourning and the invalid appreciate the thoughtfulness which adapts the gift to their saddened lives. The book, with its comforting message, the potted palm to brighten the darkened room, the soft knitted shawl or slippers—in fact, anything that evidences consideration for their feelings, and does not jar by incongruity, is precious.

It is astonishing to note how much is frittered away on perishable trifles when the Christmas gift of all others, should be something enduring. The elaborate card and beribboned booklet are practically useless, aside from the return-ance which prompts their giving. Almost every one has a collection of satin hand painted valentines, lovely to look at, but the care of which is the despair of both mistress and maid. But some say "Other times are beyond my means. I cannot afford to give substantial presents." It is a fact that the shops, especially during the hot months, are filled with at least three articles which delight the hearts of home-makers the world over, and which many young girls love to collect against the wedding day. What are they? Dainty individual coffee cups, hairpin spoons and single plates, suitable for the serving of fruits, cream or salad.

Cooperation is a boon to the average purse. If the members of the family or a set of friends accustomed to exchange gifts unto their finances, they can give one handsome article in the place of several makeshifts. Good taste discriminates between the

needs of country and town and does not send an opera glass or party bag to the farmhouse. Neither does it give the boy a book which he ought to like, but tries to select one to complete his favorite series. Children's stockings are sometimes filled from the standpoint of maturity. Utility and not suitability governs the choice of their contents. There has been many a disappointed, sorrowful heart on Christmas morning because the towers that be, forgetting their own childhood, had catered to the tastes of those of 40

instead of to those of 4. On the principle of like attracting like, the most valuable gift too often finds its way to the one who needs it least. In some cases good judgment dictates the giving of money as the kindest thing to be done. How often some poverty stricken one has sighed over the expensive gift, "If I only had the money this gift cost." No food affords a wider opportunity for the exercise of common sense than Christmas giving. Women, by exercising judgment, not only benefit themselves, but are a positive blessing in their example to the entire sex, and yet, of 1890 will be a happy one indeed if common sense is more employed in Christmas gifts.—A. L. Fleming.

CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY. A Week of Successive Feasts and Festive Festivities. Christmas in Germany is not limited to one day, but extends over a week of successive feasts and festivities. The family gatherings are usually very large and the merriment correspondingly great. The observances are usually inaugurated on Christmas eve with a supper.

The tree, which is comparatively small, is placed in the center of the table, where it stands until after the New Year, retaining its tinsel decorations. The gifts are not suspended from the tree, but are placed in parcels about it and under the table. The presents are distributed amid great hilarity by an elder son or brother, who makes up a jovial St. Nicholas. The children, like children everywhere, enjoy their toys, which are less expensive and more practical than ours, and their elders rejoice in additions to their personal wardrobe and household belongings. The supper is a comparatively plain one. The table is set forth with beef, mutton, sausage, herring, salad, French cake or German tart and light beer or wine. After healths have been drunk and songs and choruses sung, the final ceremony is held every one "Froehliche Weihnachten," and the party disperses. The Christmas dinner is on a more elaborate scale. The piece de resistance consists of roast goose, the national dish. It is stuffed with apples or chestnuts and preceded by a soup and accompanied by Kartoffel potatoes, blumenkohl (cauliflower) or rosenkraut (Brussels sprouts) and sauerkraut, the latter cooked and seasoned, and a complete of plums or other fruit cooked with vinegar, sugar and spices. The dessert upon so important a day may consist of two dishes beside fruit, a pudding and apple krapfen. This will perhaps be of rice stewed until tender in milk and then blended while hot with fine chopped and sifted beef suet, raisins and eggs, whites and yolks both well beaten. This is a sort of German plum pudding, for it is boiled in a cloth or mold and served with hot and sweet wine sauce.

These feasts are renewed every day until the inception of the New Year, and then whoever you meet, wherever you are, the greeting is passed, "Froehliche Weihnachten" (Happy New Year), and the Christmas season comes to an end.

SUITABLE GIFTS. Don't be too particular about giving useful Christmas presents, notwithstanding that hosts of practical individuals, especially those of a philanthropic turn of mind, are forever advising just the contrary. Of course where extreme poverty is in question, when the very necessities of life are lacking, a ton of coal or a basket of provisions is doubtless a more suitable gift than would be a stilet table cover or an embroidered scarf; but, barring such extreme cases, the greatest degree of benefit and happiness experienced by the exchange of gifts at the season of "good will to men" does not, as a rule, result from those of a strictly useful nature. After all, men and women are only boys and girls grown tall, and, pray what holiday boy or girl would prefer a pair of boots to a toy pistol or a pair of skates, a doll or a box of candy, as his or her annual contribution from Santa Claus?

BELIEF IN SANTA CLAUS. "The belief in Santa Claus gave me years of unqualified satisfaction," says Mrs. Burton Harrison. "Whether it was actually swallows in the chimney top or flying squirrels gamboling upon our eaves, I believed sunny masses of the night to be the ravings of my chargers on the roof. When recently I asked a small person of 6 whether he still believed in Santa Claus and he answered me withering good English. I never believed in Santa Claus. I always thought it was a waste of time to be troubled and distressed beyond reason."