

ARRANGING CHILDREN'S FROLICS

A FEW GENERAL HINTS CALCULATED TO MAKE THEM SUCCESSFUL

Offering suggestions for children's parties, fetes and frolics, it is well to define at the start the age when young people may be safely reckoned as children.

Children cannot too early begin their education in polite manners—not "company manners," such as are sometimes put on with one's best clothes, but in those well-accepted forms of good behavior which mark the true lady and gentleman, the kind which cannot be put on nor taken off, for they are a part of the child's growth.

The acceptance of an invitation to a children's party or fete is a pledge to the hostess that by kindness and courtesy the invited child will do all in his or her power to assist in making the party a happy and successful one.

Miss Belle Carter will receive her friends from Fairy Land on Wednesday evening, August the Tenth, from 4 to 8 at 'The Lilacs,' Lakeview Ave. Will you kindly costume as 'Stella, the Star Fairy.'

The guests shall decide what fashion of costume will suit the request of the hostess; or it is quite proper to consult her with reference to the matter. The mother's card should be sent in the same envelope with the invitation.

It is both courteous and kind on the part of each guest to dress as tastefully and suitably as possible, though as a rule it is not required of them to make their costumes expensive.

MATINEE fetes or parties are best for children under ten years. From two to six are good hours. Older misses and lads should be limited to not later than ten o'clock. Dancing at suitable hours in home parlors is a pretty and harmless diversion—far better than some of the rollicking games allowed in many homes.

In arranging for children's amusements the dramatic or imitative quality ought to be recognized. A children's party in which all go dressed in their prettiest gowns and suits is only half the good time it would be were they to wear some sort of fancy costume representing ideal people whom they have seen or read about, even though their garments may be fashioned out of the most inexpensive fabrics.

I SAW an ideal play-room not long since, where, in addition to a generous furnishing in the way of toys and games, the children had quite an extensive wardrobe made out of cheap cambric, jeans and sateens, which they donned while playing different kinds of games.

REGARDING refreshments, there can be but one safe conclusion. An abundance of wholesome food, delicately, daintily and palatably prepared—such as sandwiches, biscuits, pastries (if not heavy or too rich), ices, and sweetmeats of various kinds may be safely eaten by children even under the excitement and fatigue of a prolonged frolic and unusual hours; but nuts, raisins, French candies, and heavy fruits like bananas, dates, figs or raisins are very unwholesome.

CHILDREN'S PARTIES, FÊTES AND FROLICS

Arranged and Described by Mrs. A. G. Lewis

A TOM THUMB WEDDING FÊTE

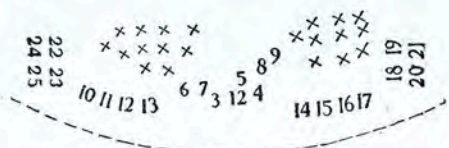
A UNIQUE AND PICTURESQUE FESTIVAL FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN

THIS festival engages the service of the youngest children. The idea is to reproduce, as nearly as possible, the interesting features of a ceremonious wedding, the party to consist of children of from four to eight years of age dressed in exact imitation of grown-up people.

The party enters the room to the music of Lohengrin's wedding march, in the following order:

Ushers (numbering four to eight), maid of honor, bride, leaning upon papa's arm, then bridesmaids (four or six in number), bride's mamma, leaning upon the arm of her eldest son, groom's papa and mamma and members of families followed by guests.

The rector in surplice, with groom and best man, await the approaching party. Papa gives away the bride, and the bride and groom take their places before the rector. The bridal party arranges itself upon the platform thus:



1 Bride. 2 Groom. 3 Maid of honor. 4 Best man. 5 Rector. 6 and 7 Bride's parents. 8 and 9 Groom's parents. 10 to 17 Inclusive, bridesmaids. 18 to 25 Inclusive, ushers. At left bride's friends; right, groom's friends.

The ceremony is represented by a succession of very beautiful tableaux without curtain:

- 1 Bride and groom join right hands, and the rector holds the book as though reading.
2 Presentation of the ring.
3 Blessing the kneeling pair.
4 Benediction.
5 Saluting the bride.

During the tableaux a piano or organ accompaniment is played softly, the music following closely and appropriately the natural changes of the tableaux.

After suitable congratulations, the wedding party is seated in small chairs upon the platform and a dainty wedding collation of cake, ices and coffee is served. Small handmaidens wearing white caps and aprons do the serving, the salvers, glasses, dishes, spoons, doilies, etc., being of small pattern.

While the serving is still going on an entertainment called "An Hour in Lilliput Land," may be introduced. This is given by the little people, and should be as varied as possible. Very small children can assist in the musical part with singing and the use of "nine wired bells," specially arranged for hand playing. They can also jingle tambourines as accompaniment to the piano. The supply of kindergarten songs and games is now so ample there can be little difficulty in finding material for an entertainment of this kind.

A "PRO AND CON" PARTY

IN WHICH THE EDUCATIVE ELEMENT IS MINGLED WITH PLEASURE

REQUIRE that the company be divided into two sets. They "choose up" after the fashion of a spelling match, then stand in opposite lines. A story is started at the head of the line by one of the Pros, who must begin each sentence with a word whose prefix is "pro," and not use the same word twice. He may go on as long as possible in this way. But at the first moment of hesitation a Con catches up the story, beginning every new sentence with a new word prefixed by "con."

This seems to be a very simple game, but with a company of bright students there is an unlimited scope for the enlargement of one's vocabulary, and the contest becomes one of deepest interest. If a word is wrongly chosen, or incorrectly classified, or mispronounced, it omits the player from the game. When the speaker hesitates simply, and the narrative goes to the other side, he may still stand in line and take up the story when his turn comes again. When the number is narrowed down to one or two upon either side the contest grows exciting. The one who is last to fail wins for himself, also for his side.

A FAIRY FOLK FROLIC

A PRETTY PICTURE OF COSTUMED FAIRIES IN A FAIRY WORLD

SUPERSTITIOUS All-Hallow-E'en invites the fairy folk for a frolic en costume in all the glory of tulle, tarletan and spangles. The "Brownies," too, are called from their mysterious haunts to take part in this delightful revel.

Home rooms may be so transformed that one may well believe that fairy world and fairy folk are a reality. Many houses are arranged with three rooms connected by folding doors—double parlors and a room in the L. The L room is reserved for the fairy grotto, and is decorated thus:

Cover the side walls with green cambric—not too dark nor too smoothly placed. Loop the same in easy festoons to cover the upper wall. Then among these festoons fasten trailing vines and small tree branches. Upon the cambric covering the side walls make rough, free, charcoal sketches of rocks, recesses, caverns and smaller grottos. Intermingled with and covering the sharper outlines place with judicious taste small trees, branches and vines, liberally decorated with spangles, shining pendants and baubles. Arrange also glittering draperies of fabrics, known as cloth of gold and silver, with silver and gold fringes. Stars, diamond and heart-shaped figures cut from gilt, amber and silver paper should be added. These decorations may be pinned lightly to the cambric. Place a few lamps with chimneys of red, blue and yellow glass, and, under their soft tinted light, the scene is indeed beautiful.

The parlors can be similarly arranged if desired, otherwise the rooms should be cleared, the carpet covered with white cloth and the general decorations may well consist of bright colored tarletans and flowers. In the center of the room suspend a bright-colored hoop to which gay ribbons, not less than three yards long, should be fastened at equidistant points. With these, each claiming a color to match their costume, the children perform the fairy frolic, the changes of which are similar to the May pole dance, except the final braiding of the May pole. These same ribbons may be used later in the scarf revel—a beautiful melange of music, color and motion.

Fairy costumes for little girls are of tarletan or tulle, liberally ornamented with glittering fringes and spangles. The queen ought to wear a crown and elaborately fashioned dress; the wee godmother a somber costume, brown bonnet and spectacles. Little boys as "Brownies," wearing closely fitting suits of brown jean with hoods of the same fabric, upon which a pair of upright rabbit-shaped ears four inches long are sewed.

HALLOW-E'EN PLEASURES

A FROLIC FOR THE EVENING WHEN THE SPELL OF THE FUTURE ABOUNDS

THE following suggestions for an American Hallow-E'en reproduces many features of a delightful party given by a young farmer and his wife among the Donegal Glens of Ireland:

Over every door of the house and rooms apple parings hang, and beside each a maiden watches eagerly the lad whom the fairies have chosen to pass under it first. Meanwhile she sits busily cutting out letters of the alphabet, which later are to be set sailing in basins of water. With inflated cheeks she is to blow the letters into line so they shall spell the charmed name of her dearest friend.

Groups of lads duck their heads deep into buckets of water to bring out with their teeth small coins scattered over the bottom of the tub.

Others still test apple charms—first peeling the apple, then winding the peel about the head three times the while "wishing a wish," and throwing the peel backward over the left shoulder. The initial letter it forms begins the name of the future sweetheart. Then the apple must be eaten and the seeds stuck upon the palm of the hand. These are named for as many different friends, then tossed over the left shoulder—the one remaining is the true heart chosen by fairies.

Again, salt herring (in Ireland they must have been playfully stolen) are broiled without turning, eaten with hot tongs, then "dreamed on" without drink. The dreams, supposed to be ruled over by fairy folk, are "sure to come true." Then bannocks are fried upon a griddle by the lads, and whoever turns one without breaking it will some day win the maiden who mixed the batter. Hazelnuts are burned and their ashes carefully done up in packages. These are hidden under the pillow to ensure happy dreams.

Then corn popping, molasses boiling and chestnut roasting goes on. Sometimes but two kernels of corn are put in the skillet and over it two friends bend to take note of their future fortune. If the two kernels pop decorously inside the skillet, they are to remain friends forever. If one kernel pops outside the skillet the one toward whom it pops will be the breaker of that friendship. If both go outside the separation will be mutual.

Dancing led by rollicking music goes on until midnight. Then under a special spell the fairy folk reveal by signs, well understood among these superstitious people, their fortunes for the coming year.

RAINY DAY DIVERSIONS

PLEASURES AND FROLICS FOR THE SEASON OF INDOOR PLEASURES

IT was the mother of quite a large family who declared, "I can bring up a whole family with a pair of scissors and a muclage bottle," and he was not very far from right. Bright days, as a rule, take care of themselves, there are so many pleasant sports to be enjoyed out of doors. But the tug-of-war comes with rainy weather. Then something new and interesting must be planned to occupy the children's time and attention, and for boys and girls of varying ages there are many varieties of pleasant and instructive occupations to be enjoyed with scissors and paste.

LITTLE girls from eight to twelve may give a "Reception to Royalty," by collecting pictures of kings and queens, emperors and empresses, princes and princesses of various royal courts. While cutting them out carefully, and preparing them so that they may stand alone, mamma may tell them the story of their royal lives and something about the country and people where they live. The "standers" are made by pasting a strip of moderately thick paper or pasteboard an inch wide, perhaps, full length at the back of the picture. Let the pasteboard broaden at the heel; cut it an inch beyond the toe. When partly dry bend at the heel to form a right angle. The figures can then stand quite firmly, and be moved from place to place.

When a sufficient number of people are made ready for the reception, then the blue-room furniture at the White House (stationers sell these pictures at a penny or two a sheet) may be cut out in the same way, and, with the necessary formalities of presentation, the reception may go on. Little girls who have a taste for millinery, dress-making, or doll-dressing may cut out all sorts of hats, bonnets and garments, and arrange for a spring or fall opening.

BOYS of the same age may purchase an endless variety of soldiers. Army and navy officers, artillery companies, army wagons, ambulances, etc., also pictures of famous war generals and their staff officers; in fact, a complete set of classified pictures may be secured for representing an entire army. These cut out carefully and strengthened with "standers," as described above, furnish material for many a well-fought battle. The instruments of slaughter a couple of bean-blowers manipulated by two small boys; brigadier generals both valorous and famous; fallen heroes carried off the field in ambulances; horses and men falling on every side; the quick return to life of entire companies and the rapid "setting up" preparatory to a new encounter, are all very interesting to small boys. Fences, trees, rocks, hills, horses, tents, and the pleasant bivouac scene may all be played by preparing the required pictures. Boys who have a taste for animals and birds may prepare extensive "Zoos;" also fish, for aquariums.

DINING WITH THE POETS

A GAME FULL OF PLEASURE AND INSTRUCTION FOR OLDER CHILDREN

ALL gather about the library table as for dining. Some one who may be called "Professor," takes the head of the table. With carver and fork he begins the following discourse, the other diners giving the poets' names, which are in italics.

"I invite you to dine with me in honor of our friends the poets. I do not inform you who they are to be, but will suggest their names. When in my rambling talk I pause, understand that I have led you to that suggestion, and shall expect you to give me the required name before I can go on. If your answer is appropriate, whether or not it happens to be the one I have in mind, I shall accept it and proceed.

"Now my good friend (turning to his neighbor on the left) in behalf of our poet friends in whose honor we dine to-day, what is expected of us? —"

"Chaucer" (chaw, sir).

"Not quite what I expected, but excellent. You are indeed a wit. But, Miss Butterfly, you are even —"

"Whittier" (wittier).

"The eliding of an 'h' makes little difference in the sound of words, but it takes a philologist, Master Charles, to tell how much a —"

"Wordsworth."

"And we must remember that the real value of a friend depends very little upon his physical stature. One may save a little something from the bill of his —"

"Taylor,"

"If one do not happen to be a —"

"Longfellow."

"But the long and the short of the whole matter counts very little at a dinner. Now, my dear Miss Edith, I do, indeed, hesitate to offer you a portion of this oyster heap, for, alas, these delicious bivalves are apt to be —"

"Shelley."

"And should be avoided by geniuses with unreliable molars.

"Miss E., shall I offer you a bit of this chicken? The carver is reminded by the special rigidity of this joint that our bird is far from —"

"Young."

"Besides, I'm convinced that the cook has neglected the —"

"Browning."

"of this fowl. Usually a cook —"

"Burns."

The discourse goes on indefinitely. Notable people in any department of literature, art, or history may be chosen as special guests at a dinner of this kind.