

Novel Entertainments

(By MME. MERRI.)

Novel Potato Party.

The hostess passed to each lady a well-washed potato of rather long slender shape. Then each one was given four small wire hairpins, four small black tacks, two fancy paper napkins with gayly colored borders, and a supply of pins. There were scissors and tubes of library paste.

The order was to construct a doll with prizes to be awarded for the best and poorest specimens; the ladies worked with amazing zeal. This going back to childhood was thoroughly enjoyed, and while none had manufactured "potato" dolls before, nearly everyone confessed to the "clothes-pin variety," and it was surprising the array of attractive little figures that emerged from the hands of these erstwhile creative artists.

The hairpins were used for arms and legs, the tacks made eyes, nose and mouth, and it was astonishing variety of facial expressions were made from the napkins, which were pinned and pasted into shape. There were babies, children, japs in kimono, sun bonnet toddlers, ladies of high and low degree, all acknowledging a common potato for their origin.

The prizes were in keeping with the novelty of the pastime. The first one was a large sweet potato pie piled high with fluffy meringue; the consolation offering was several quarts of green potatoes in a most charming new basket.

To Announce an Engagement.

At a luncheon given for a dozen girls the guests were astonished to find a dainty little blue satin bag at each place, the silk cord drawing the top tightly together. Of course all were curious to see inside and found a wee toy pussy cat with a tiny card tied by narrow ribbon around its neck, saying "Miriam James, Jack Jones, engaged."

Thus the cat was let out of the bag and congratulations followed. Oh, yes, I forgot to say that a little wedding bell was tied to the ribbon around kitty's neck with the cards.

At a card party some of the guests noticed that the ace of hearts in each pack had initials in gilt on it and it took some time to make out that these initials were those of the hostess and a young man whom they had all been questioning about. So here are two new ways of making the glad tidings known.

A Novel Nut Card Party.

A hostess wishing to add a touch of novelty to her afternoon card party, which was to be given upon the broad enclosed porch, did so in this manner: She issued invitations enclosed inside an English walnut shell; these were sent by messenger to the nearby places and put in tiny boxes and sent by mail to the town guests. The score cards were nut shaped and the number of games won were kept by dropping nuts into small silk bags of nut-brown satin. Cards backed with acorns were used. For refreshments, nut sandwiches, with chicken salad and cheese nuts were served with nut ice cream and nut cake. Glazed nuts were the sweet, and salted nuts were passed.

The prizes of which there were four, were a nut-shaped silver vanity box, a nut-shaped thimble case, a fancy box filled with glazed nuts, and a box of candies in exact shape of peanuts. It is astonishing how many appropriate articles may be found to use at a nut party.

A Splendid Toast.

Perhaps I am asked more often for a good toast to our girls than for anything else unless it be for the omnipresent "guessing contest" for which there seems to be an unending demand. In looking over some papers I find this excellent tribute by William Cary Duncan, which I am delighted to print in our column:

A Toast.
A health to the girl that can dance like a dream,
And the girl that can pound the piano;
A health to the girl that writes verse by the beam,
Or toys with high C in soprano;
To the girl that can talk, and the girl that does not;
To the saint and the sweet little sinner—
But here's to the cleverest girl of the lot,
The girl that can cook a good dinner!

Below Zero Luncheon.

The hostess issued her invitations on blue-white cards, the letters outlined with diamond dust. She did this by writing with a heavy pen in gilt ink, then went over the letters with liquid glue, then dipped the card in the diamond dust, and the sparkles adhered to the glue. A polar bear clasping a thermometer which registered "10 below" was in the corner of this card. "Please wear a white frock" was in the lower left-hand corner.

On arriving iced grape juice with a dash of lemon was served. In a few moments the dining room doors were opened, revealing the coolest place imaginable. The chairs were covered with white cotton cloth, the curtains were white and the floor had been covered with sheets tightly stretched and fastened down with large tacks. A huge cake of ice was the centerpiece, surmounted by a group of toy polar bears. Ferns and vines were massed about the base. Two small globes of goldfish were on either side. The chandeliers were white, also the shades. Diamond dust glistened on the tablecloth and glass icicles hung from the chandeliers, while the dearest of tiny dolls drew sleds inscribed with the name of each guest, forming the place cards.

Then a delicious white menu was served—first iced bouillon in glasses, cold breast of chicken, Saratoga chips, baking powder biscuit, pear and pineapple salad with whipped cream dressing, iced tea and cantaloupe, filled with vanilla cream completed this feast, with the usual accessories of nuts, white French bon bons and individual cases, and the most delicious watermelon preserves.

The guests were asked to relate the coldest experience they had ever had. There were large thermometers around the room with the mercury down below zero.

For the Bride.

Many years ago this sentiment appeared in a household magazine and a woman confessed that from reading it she formulated a rule she adopted

early in her married life. It is such excellent advice, I put it here for all our department brides and for those of us who are old housekeepers, too. I think the little quotation is by N. P. Willis. Be that as it may, the sentiment is one we should all adopt. Let us all try to give not only our husbands, but our children and friends "an unclouded welcome."

"The world well tried, the sweetest thing in life
Is the unclouded welcome of a wife."

Sweet Pea Luncheon.

Sweet peas are now in their prime and the fragrant blossoms lend themselves most beautifully to the skilful fingers of a hostess who loves to take the flowers that are seasonable and adopt them to her requirements.

Over a white cloth spread a cover of white net and then sprinkle all the delicious colors of sweet peas over this. For the centerpiece have a gilded basket or a low glass bowl filled with the flowers. If finger bowls are necessary, put a blossom or two in each.

The ice cream could be frozen in flower molds and served in baskets of spun sugar; these are made to order by a confectioner. Tie a spray of sweet peas to the handle and the effect is lovely. Plates may be outlined with the flowers taken from the stem; a round table shows this decoration to the best advantage.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

From "Anonymous."

1. Is it proper for ladies and young girls to appear on the streets bare-headed at any time?
2. Is it wrong for girls to attend dances, theatres and skating rinks too often?
3. What do you think of girls who chew gum publicly?

During the summer time it is very customary for women and girls to go without hats; it is a most sensible fashion and one, to be commended. It is wrong to carry any pleasure to such an extreme that health, work or home duties are neglected. Gum chewing either in public or private is vulgar in the extreme and should not be indulged in.

A Young Girl's Questions.

Am I too young (seventeen) to keep company with boy friends two or three years older than I? What is the proper way of introducing a brother's wife? When in church should a lady remove her long gloves or just keep them on? Am I too young to attend public dances, ice cream socials, etc., with an escort? Is it considered proper for a girl to wear a boy's ring if he wishes her to? Am I too young to correspond with boy friends of my own age? What should a girl tell a boy when he puts his arms around her and kisses her, when she objects to it? What should a girl say when anyone tells her that she is pretty? When out walking in the evening (in town or country) is it proper for the lady to take the man's arm or the man the lady's? Hope my questions are not too numerous.

A NORTH DAKOTA LASSIE.

You know I do not believe in a girl your age going exclusively with any one boy; have a number of boy friends and go with them all, that is the safest thing to do. In presenting your brother's wife, just say "I want you to know, Mrs. Ben King, my brother's wife, that is sufficient. I do not believe in public dances, either. I am not an old-fashioned somebody, but I do think that girls just your age want to be very careful with whom they go and how and where and when. I believe there is quite a fad of wearing each other's rings and pins. I see no particular harm in it, only I have known of some of them being lost and not replaced, so you take your chances. Now, once and for all time, never permit a boy to hug and kiss you; hands off is the only safe rule and adhere to it strictly. When walking it is not necessary to take arms at all, in fact it is very contrary and common; well-bred people do not do it. A number of young people do not go together for ice cream and to socials and give parties at each others homes.

Lawn Card Party.

For some time I have been profiting by your valuable suggestions. You certainly do a wonderful work for girls who haven't time to plan. I want to entertain about twenty girls at an afternoon party. Would like to have cards, with tables on the lawn; what do you think?

I think an afternoon card party on the lawn would be perfectly fine and I want to tell you outdoor entertaining is quite the proper thing. Garden parties with tea served under an awning or a huge umbrella, tennis, croquet and archery parties are all liked by those who are athletically inclined. So have your party and serve refreshments right on the card tables after the last game.

Answer to "Dot."

You are larger than the average, but will probably grow thinner as you grow older. Light blue, golden brown and lavender you can wear nicely. You are too young to have a beau, but several boy friends would be all right provided you go out in parties and not in couples alone. I should say you were as attractive as most girls.

From a Bride-Elect.

I'm very much interested in your column. I am to be married at home at "high noon" the latter part of August. I want a simple home wedding with about thirty-five friends and relatives. Would black velvet pumps be permissible with white crepe de chine gown and veil?—EVA H.

Do not wear the black pumps, they will not do at all. Have pumps, slippers or low cut shoes of satin or kid and wear them with white silk hose.

Reply to H. I.

You are large for your age, but probably will grow thinner in the next few years. You can wear any color with your light brown hair. Wear skirts just below your shoe tops. Have your confirmation dress made of princeps with long white sash. Your hair is worn in

good style. I should have a blue serge sailor suit for school.

For an Embroidery Club.

I belong to an embroidery club consisting of ten girls. We meet once a week and my turn to entertain comes soon. It seems rather dull to work all afternoon. What would be nice for luncheon? I could have the girls out on our lawn which is large and shady. BESSIE.

During the afternoon, say after all came, I would serve a nice refreshing drink like ginger ale, lemonade, or a fruit punch, then later I would have two kinds of sandwiches with a stuffed tomato salad, using celery and nuts in the tomato with grated cheese. It would be novel to serve on the lawn under the trees and sew out there, too, spreading down a few rugs and placing comfortable chairs for all.

Calling Etiquette.

Will you please tell me in your next issue a few rules of calling etiquette. For instance, if a man and wife are invited to a wedding reception and send their regrets and later the woman calls, leaving two of her husband's cards with her own, is it necessary for the bride when returning the call to also leave two of her husband's cards?

A CONSTANT READER.

It is impossible to reply "In next Sunday's paper" owing to the fact that it is necessary to make up the department several weeks in advance. Letters to Madame Merri which inclose self-addressed stamped envelope are answered as soon as received. When the bride returns the call mentioned she leaves two of her husband's and one of her cards. Space forbids giving anything more regarding calling etiquette. Write me personally.

Questions on any subject pertaining to this department will be cheerfully answered. A reply will be sent by mail if stamped and addressed to the Washington Star. With a smile, he resumed:

Summer Girls—and Boys.

"A seashore summer would be ideal if all the engagements really ended in marriage."

The speaker, Admiral Schley, stood on the beach at Atlantic City, says the Washington Star. With a smile, he resumed:

"A jewelry salesman once entered a seaside jeweler's.

"I must sell you," he said, "a consignment of wedding rings. Look, your stock of them is down to three or four, while here you have a whole big trayful of engagement rings."

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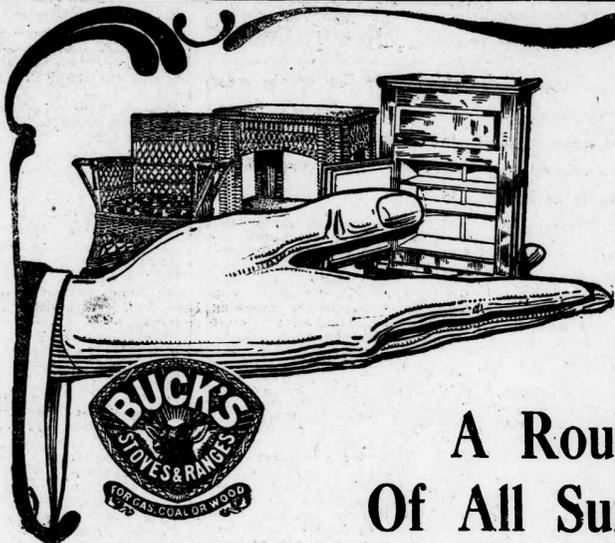
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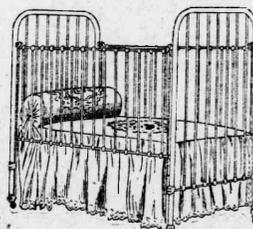
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