

CHRISTMAS GAMES

Tricks With Sheets to Divert the Christmas Company

ASHEVILLE should always be provided for children's Christmas games. Arranged as a screen it serves many purposes besides shadow pictures and lantern shows.

Two capital games are played in this manner. For one an opening about six inches wide should be cut in the sheet at a convenient height for different persons to stand and show only their eyes. No light should be back of the sheet, and the company seated in front must guess whose eyes are staring at them.

A variation of this idea may be even more amusing because it affords opportunity for misleading the guessers. Instead of an opening the sheet is drawn up a few inches from the floor in order to show the feet of those who stand behind it. Boys accordingly put on skirts, and girls slip their hands into their fathers' shoes, getting down on all fours in order to deceive.

Another mirth provoking trick for children of all ages and one that will be heartily appreciated by adults is called mesmerism. Blacken the center of the under side of a small plate by holding it over the flame of a candle, being careful not to soil the edge or top. Put this plate upon another and place them in front of you. The person to be mesmerized must be seated so that by no possibility can he see his reflection in the glass, but must be in full view of the audience.

The mesmerist says impressively: "You must look me steadily in the eye all the time. Don't remove your eyes an instant from my face, but do just as I do slowly—see glancing up at the blackened plate and handing it to the victim so that the black is toward the spectators. Hold it so (taking up the other plate and holding it with the concave side toward himself). Now this way (rubbing his finger round and round the back of the clean plate and the one who is mesmerized drawing his round the blackened one unconscious of its condition), now so (drawing the finger down the right cheek). Never mind how they laugh. You must not look down. Steady. Now again" (rubbing the finger as before and drawing it across the other cheek). The operation may be repeated until the face of the one mesmerized presents a most comical appearance and the audience is convulsed with laughter.

SNIGGLE THE SPRIG.

"Sniggle the sprig" means simply snare or catch the sprig. Any bit of green plant will do for the latter, and any number of children can play the game. Some one who is not playing hides the sprig, and all search for it. When found it has to be carried to a fancifully trimmed pole and tied there. This is no easy matter, for the sprig must first go through the hands of every player, and it is every one's aim to catch it before it reaches the pole. No attempt to do this can be made, however, until the sprig has returned to the hands of the finder and that player is running for the goal.

In the midst of the general search, when the finder has found the sprig, he approaches his nearest neighbor and quietly hands it to him. At the same time he gives his neighbor No. 2, which means that this one is the second person to hold it. The latter in turn as carefully passes it on and numbers this player a unit higher. So the game goes on until the last of the players has held the sprig. This one knows that he is the last, for the runner that before the game began a count was taken, and each participant knows just how many persons are taking part.

When the number is given to each player the first name of the finder is whispered also. As soon as the last player receives the sprig he passes it to the finder, who at once runs for the goal with it. All follow and give chase except the last player, who is not permitted to run.

In the scrimmage that follows the sprig may be snatched a dozen times. That one is victor who succeeds in placing it on the pole. Should it be the finder, then his triumph will have been so much the greater, for he will have had the most difficulties to overcome in doing this.

A CAROL CONTEST.

A carol contest affords exercise and fun. A young lady is requested to take her place at the piano and play gay Christmas music. Some chairs are placed down the center of the room, back to back, just one less in number than the players. Suppose there are eleven children to play. You place twelve chairs, two back to back, one extra. Then the twelve children dance hand in hand around the chairs in time to the music.

Suddenly—sometimes in the middle of a car—always just when you do not expect it—the player lifts her hands off the piano. Everybody must then attempt to get a seat, and, as there are only eleven, one person will, of course, be left out. She or he is then out of the game and must sit down and watch.

ing left. The dancers resume their dance as soon as the music begins. The moment it stops they try to get a chair each, and one is, of course, again left out. Then another chair is taken away and the dance resumed.

IVY AND HOLLY.

A Rhymed Game For the Older Boys and Girls.

Boys and girls enjoy a rhymed pastime called ivy and holly. Suggest the plan of it to them and they will amuse themselves with the adventures of the two heroines for quite awhile.

Chairs are arranged in two rows, and the children sit facing each other. One youngster begins with some adventure, as "Holly and Ivy went out to a party." The child sitting opposite must complete the rhyme with another couplet—for instance, "Holly and Ivy came back hale and hearty." Then there is the fun provoking contest called dramatic adjectives. Here the company is divided up into two bands, one of which retires, while the other remains in the parlor and decides upon some adjective to be acted out in gesture language—for example, gay or doleful or vivacious. When the word has been decided upon the absent members must be summoned, and they are called upon to guess from the pantomime of the others what the adjective decided upon may be. If they can guess it in three minutes a point is won by their side, and the others withdraw. After three minutes the pantomime can be kept up if the opposition is determined to discover the right word, but a success point no longer represents a point won. As soon as the word is guessed players turn about, and those who have guessed become actors. Several rounds are played, and the greatest number of points won by either side wins the game. All those who belong to the winning side might draw for a prize if it is desired to make an award.

HURRAH FOR 'SNAPDRAGON'!

An Old Game That Always Commands Applause.

Snapdragon is a diversion of Christmas time in England. The requisites are one or two large platters such as roasts are served on, some large, fat raisins, a little brandy or gin, a match and a darkened room. The platters are arranged thus: If there is but one and the party is of moderate number it is laid in the center of a dining table; if the number of players is large, then two platters are laid, one at each end of the table, or there may be two small tables, with a platter on each. Next the raisins are laid over each platter, singly and at short distances apart. A small quantity of brandy or gin is then poured over each platter and lighted. Out go all the lights in the room, leaving none but that from the dancing blue flames in the platters. Everybody shivers and feels uneasy, and the fun begins. Each player "snaps" at a raisin on the dish, and, hit or miss, the blue flame elings to the fingers in writhing, forked tongues, thus providing the "dragon." The raisins are all finally secured, the flames die out, the lights are turned on, and the company is ready for other amusements unless, as is often the case, there is a call to repeat the fun just ended.

A SUGAR PLUM SHOWER.

Scrambling For These Dainties a Jolly Romp.

Make a large bag of thin white paper, fill it with sugar plums and tie a string around the top to keep it tight. Then suspend it from the ceiling or from a large door frame and provide a long light stick.

Each child is blindfolded in turn and the stick put into the child's hand. She is led within reach of the bag and told to strike it. If she succeeds in her aim and tears a hole in it the sugar plums are scattered on the floor, and the little ones scramble for them, but it is by no means easy to strike a suspended object blindfolded. Generally many attempts are made unsuccessful.

A SEARCH GAME.

Hunting Holly Leaves All Over the House.

For a pretty Christmas search game, which young children as well as the older boys and girls enjoy, cut several hundred little holly leaves from green tinted paper and hide them all round the house. At a given signal the young people scamper off in search of these symbols of the season.

The youngster finding the greatest number of them in the ten minutes allowed for the search should receive some inexpensive prize decorated with a design representing holly.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR CHRISTMAS PHOTOS

All photos taken by Dec. 23rd will be finished for Christmas. Electric printing machines and increased force of skilled finishers enable us to do your promptly. Finest results and no delay at

How Toy Fairies Make Christmas Gifts

COME; hurry up, my dears. Our friend St. Nicholas will soon be here to look over our latest Christmas toys. And you know what a busy man he is, never having a moment to spare this time of year."

So spoke the queen of cloud fairies to her many subjects. Now, maybe you children do not know that these cloud fairies live up at the north pole in the clouds that are always full of snow. But always having lived there they never feel the cold and enjoy a frolic each morning on the great icebergs, to which they come down in sleighs drawn by reindeer. Cloud fairies, so it is said, make all the Christmas gifts Santa Claus gives to the little ones each Christmas eve.

The season had been a busy one for the cloud fairies, for they had done their best to make up games and design toys that they might have many nice new ones for Santa Claus. He was to visit them any minute, the queen the queen had for begging her subjects to hurry with the work in hand.

"Yes, dear queen," answered a girl fairy, dancing on the silver edge of a cloud; "I have all the dolls on the south end of the rainbow, where his greatness St. Nicholas of All Lands may view them without a moment's delay."

"And I have all the drums, bagles, horns, flutes and other musical toys placed to great advantage on the north end of the rainbow," said a gay fairy, flapping his wings as he sat on the point of a stray starlet that had got tangled in the clouds.

Just as the fairies ceased speaking there came through the frosty air the sound of sleighbells and the tooting of a bugle.

"Ah, there he is now!" cried the queen. "Let's all go to greet him."

In rushed four beautiful reindeer drawing a sleigh in which was seated



SANTA BOWING BEFORE THE QUEEN.

Santa Claus. With a bound old Santa was on a cloud, bowing low before the queen and kissing her hand.

Then he gathered a dozen or more fairies in his arm and hugged them as a great bear would hug his cubs. He laughed so loudly and so merrily that the icebergs began to melt.

"Now," he cried joyously, "show me what you have made for my hosts of earth children. You know this time of year brings me millions of letters, and I must hurry to my postoffice and run through my mail."

After looking at the Christmas toys Santa Claus said he was more than pleased. Then, giving his order for 10,000 bags full of the beautiful things, he told the queen that he must go.

"But before I go," he said, "I must beg you to be prompt in filling my order. There can be no delay on Christmas, you know, my dear queen. That would mean to break the heart of some of my little ones, and that would never, never do. So farewell till earth's sundown on Christmas eve. I'll be here myself to get my toys."

After kissing again the queen's hand the jolly old saint sprang into his sleigh, blew his bagle and was away on a breeze.

As two fairies stood watching him one said to the other, "For one reason only would I be an earth child."

"And what is that reason, pray?" asked the fairy.

"That I might be in, one of those houses on the earth and see old Santa Claus come down one of those chimneys with his pack on his back and then to watch him fill the family stockings with toys and bonbons. I'm sure it would be quite a treat."

"Oh, but it happens only once a year," replied the other fairy. "You'd get good and lonesome during the long waits between two Christmases. I'm thinking, but, come, let's be over and play in the northern lights. They are very bright tonight."

"Don't be gone long," called the queen after them. "For you know there are 10,000 bags of toys to make for the earth children's Christmas day."

If you live within 300 miles of Asheville it will pay you to come on and see the bargains we are offering. We can not promise delivery unless you order immediately.

A selection of very special values in China, Glass, Crockery, Tin and Enamel Ware, Toys, Dolls, Brass, Nickel and Silver Ware. The best chosen stock in the city.

News From Headquarters Holiday Sale

We are closing out every Toy and Doll. Cut to the quick, to sell 'em quick.

We Wish

You could cast your eyes over the long reaches of counters on which bargains are displayed. But if you can't do that. The next best thing is for you to read descriptions and note our lower prices. Why don't you?

Promptness Never Misses an Opportunity

Dinner Sets, \$20.00 and \$25.00 for \$14.85
Chocolate Sets, \$2.50, for \$1.85

THE I X L DEPT. STORE

22 Patton Ave. Phone 107

The Scrap Book

An Innocent Abroad. James Morro, day clerk at the Hotel Edward, in Kansas City, Mo., encountered a "new one" recently. The night before the "new one" was sprung a rural citizen from another state registered at the hotel and was given the only unoccupied room in the house, one with a private bath in connection with it.

The next time Morro was approached by the guest was when the latter was ready to check out.

"Well, did you have a good night's rest?" the clerk asked.

"No, I didn't," replied the rural innocent. "The room was all right, and the bed was pretty good, but I couldn't sleep very much, for I was afraid some one would want to take a bath, and the only door to it was through my room."

Greatness. Years of toil and years of care, Years of patient faithfulness, Years of hope and of despair, Strength and courage measured, Mercy for the weak, Bold where boldness must be shown, Brave enough to stand alone, Unafraid to act or speak When the cause is just, Knowing whom to trust, Whom to turn from in the stress Unbelieved, Finally, when sweet success is achieved, After all your foes are faced, Knowing how To wear worthily the laurels placed On your brow. —S. E. Kiser.

Nothing More to Say. John came home from the office in the evening in a rather bad humor and after a quick look at his smiling better half said:

"You must have called me late this morning, Sylvia. It was 12 o'clock when I reached the office, and I had an important appointment for 10 o'clock too."

"Why, I called you at 7:30, John?" "Was the clock right?" "Yes; I set it last night when you came home. You remember I called downstairs when you came in and asked you what time it was, and you said 10:30. The clock in my room said 1:45, so I turned it back to agree with your watch; and, of course, I called you by the correct time this morning." —Buffalo Express.

The Mule's Error. One occasion, writing Attorney Earl E. Smith of Somerset, Tazewell County, Ark., I was obliged to remain at a primitive southern Arizona ranch over night, and at about dusk I was given a quilt, a clean sheet and a pillow and told to make them to the top of a twenty foot alfalfa stack and make up my bed. Knowing the conditions of the country, I did not murmur and climbed the pole ladder to spend the night. I never enjoyed a better night's rest at any hotel. At early dawn I roused my head and saw two yearling mule colts feeding at the edge of the stack. We exchanged glances for a few moments, while the mule ears showed some astonishment. Suddenly I was to my feet, and to the top of the stack I went to get my shoulders, when upon the colts I saw the law as if the An

gel Gabriel were descending to take them to celestial pasturage. While at the breakfast table I related the incident, which was much enjoyed, but no remarks were made at the time. As one of the ranch hands was passing out of the door he said in a subdued but distinctly audible voice that it was the first time he had ever heard of a lawyer being mistaken for an angel, and nobody but a mule would have made such an error.—Case and Comment.

A Sight Unseen. Mr. Heyburn of Idaho sometimes has trouble in getting a large audience of his fellows when he speaks on the floor of the senate. One day last July he rose to make a speech, and, seeing that there were only three men besides himself in their places, he moved to adjourn. This was prevented by the assembling of a quorum of senators who had been sitting in the cloakrooms. In beginning his delayed speech he said: "I do not understand the conduct of senators. I have seen them under all phases. I have seen a senator leave this chamber when he should stay here to receive good advice. I have seen him leave this chamber when by remaining he could have given good advice. The only thing I never saw a senator do was to back out of the door in the middle of his own speech."

The Foot Astray. William F. Cody was once relating a story which concerned an Indian who had met with an accident in a Buffalo Bill show. It was necessary to amputate the Indian's leg, and in the description of this operation Cody was interrupted frequently by a young doctor who injected technical and medical terms into the straight vernacular of the scout. He was irritated, but ignored the doctor. "A few days after the operation," continued the narrator, "the Indian learned that his leg had been buried. With a whoop he leaped from his bed and jumped upon the doctor with both feet."

"Jumped with both feet after an operation," shouted the doctor, exulting in his exposure of the great scout's absurd story.

"I said upon the doctor with both feet," explained Cody, "in order to distinguish him from the other hospital physician, who had only one foot, having put the other into people's affairs so often that he lost it."

Patronize Home Industry Fertilizer

Made right here at your door and equal to if not superior to any goods of the kind on the market. We have references from those who have tried our Fertilizers and ask you to call and see them.

Parties anticipating purchase of fertilizer in large quantities will do well to see us and get our prices.

Orders taken for small quantities. We want agents in every town.

Asheville Packing Co.

Office and Factory Phone 748. City Phone 120 and 221.

SUCTION SWEEPER IS LATEST FAD

"They say we could not live without dust, that is without those tiny invisible particles of dust, constantly floating in the air. But couldn't we live without those huge particles of dust that accompany broom sweeping? Can't we? Don't we? No need to pause for reply. The question has been answered by the Electric Suction Sweeper.

It answers it by putting the dust, every particle of it, in a dirt bag and keeping it there for further orders. And you don't miss the dirt. In fact, you feel rather glad that it has some definite abiding place and to know it is not somewhat unequally distributed between the carpets, the upholstery, the furniture and your lungs. You don't miss it because you don't really need it.

"Of course your lungs can stand a great deal, but the children's are smaller. The children's mouths and noses are also nearer the floor. They sometimes play on the floor where countless millions (no exaggeration; ask the doctor) of disease germs exist even after it has been swept as clean as may be, by a broom. Where do they come from? From the outside, generally carried in on shoes. Once in, they proceed to make themselves thoroughly at home until they are removed by a suction sweeper.

"To remove them thoroughly and effectively by transferring them to a dust retaining bag, is the mission of the electric suction sweeper. This sweeper combines the principle of the ordinary carpet sweeper with the benefits of the vacuum sweeper. It is vacuum cleaning plus beating, which latter operation dislodges all the germs.

"The sweeper is operated by a small motor, taking current from any convenient lamp socket.

"All you have to do is to move the sweeper around over the floor and let the motor do the work. You don't have to do any dusting or you finish, because all the dust is in the bag and none scattered around the room.

The outfit is not an experiment nor a toy, but a good worker. Its low cost and small weight make it particularly attractive for use in residences. It costs about one cent an hour to operate.

Special attachments are supplied at a small extra cost, for connecting the hose to clean places inaccessible to the sweeper, such as the ceiling and walls and the floor underneath heavy furniture. With reasonable care the outfit will last a life time.

Servants are rapidly learning the advantages of the suction cleaner and are beginning to seek out the houses in which it is used. Its operation is so highly satisfactory that a housekeeper who has once used one, discards the broom for all time.—Electric World.

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

Buy your Christmas Candies at Karres Bros. Candy Kitchen. Prices 50c Boxes special 25c; 35c Boxes special 15c. Also special prices on Fruit and Ice Cream during the Holidays. 11 North Main Street. Phone 1417. All orders delivered.

WE INVITED ADVERTS AND MADE CENTS. I wish to say I have found the Asheville Gazette-News a splendid advertising medium. A 48-cent "For Sale" advertisement, run in two issues, brought me twelve orders and netted me over \$150 profit.

C. G. THREINER, 1515

We are ready for Christmas. Now is the time and this is the opportunity for economical, satisfactory Christmas buying that nobody can afford to miss. Come to us for Christmas gifts.

named by us. We solicit a comparison of our values with any.

TOYS

We buy and sell more Toys than any other twenty-five concerns. Why? Larger line and better values. We control a number of the specialties shown in toys.

DOLLS

Fresh from the world centers where the brightest brains and nimblest fingers have been at work. From 1c to \$12.50. We buy them in car loads.

HAND PRINTED CHINA

The best showing ever gathered into one line. We have everything from 5c Cups and Saucers up to Art Goods for the cabinet, Fine China Chocolate and Berry Sets, perfect as human can make them, of bone and feldspar.

Profit losing is often profitable when considered from an advertising point of view.

Phone 107

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the mayor and board of aldermen of the city of Asheville, as required by law, that the city engineer has made a survey and filed his report in the office of the city clerk, showing the amount of work done and the cost thereof in the matter of paving and otherwise improving Aston Lane, from its intersection with Church street to its intersection with Haverscroft Road in said city, and also showing the name of each abutting owner thereon, the number of front feet of each lot and the pro rata share of cost of such street improvements to be assessed against such real estate. And notice is hereby further given that at the first regular meeting of the said board of aldermen, to be held after the expiration of ten (10) days from the date, said board of aldermen will consider said report and if no valid objections be made thereto the same will be adopted and approved by said board and the liens and assessments of said street improvement will then become complete and operative.

Asheville, N. C., December 16, 1911. L. W. YOUNG, City Clerk.

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Asheville, N. C., Dec. 7, 1911. L. W. YOUNG, City Clerk.