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### Christmas Magic to Try on Your Guests

WHEN the family or friends are gathered around the table in the Christmas season a pleasant and instructive evening can be passed by introducing the following easy but perplexing experiments, which "Discovers the Great" often performed for the amusement of his guests after a social dinner.

**"The Suspended Plate."**  
Many a boy has had an immense lot of tin from the use of what he terms a "sucker," generally made from a piece of leather, to which through a hole in the center he attaches a string, and with this bit of leather, when wet, he is enabled to lift stones and other heavy materials; but here is a sucker as never dreamed of. Take an ordinary rubber—if you can get a large one—wash the better—cut it away at the bottom, leaving a flat surface. Apply this to a dinner plate, and you will find that they will become attached friends.

**"The Jumping Coin."**  
A coin is placed on the table and a magnet is made for the coin to be attached to in a person's hand, but they are not to remove the coin from the table by using hands, feet or picking it up with the mouth. Now, this seems a puzzle, but it is as simple as A. B. C. All the person has to do is to blow its mouth within a short distance of the coin, and giving a strong blow with his hand, directing it at the coin at about an angle of forty-five degrees, causing the air to pass under the coin and propel it into the air, where it is caught in the hand which is ready to receive it.

**"The Demon of Champagne."**  
While at the dinner table, if champagne has been served, a rather amusing little experiment can be performed. Cut a little demon out of paper and attach it to one end of a toothpick or a match, to the other end tie a piece of thread, at the opposite end of which is fastened a raisin. Now through the center of the match push a pin and then attach with this pin to a cork on a bottle. Screen this from view by means of a napkin stretched

over a couple of bottles and drop the raisin into a champagne glass. All that is now to be seen is the little demon. If the glass is now filled with champagne we will see some fun. The little globule of gas from the champagne



How the Demon Works.

attach themselves to the raisin, and after awhile, when quite a number have accumulated, it will be found the raisin will rise to the surface of the liquid. This causes the little demon to vanish. As soon as the raisin has reached the air the globules of gas expand and the raisin sticks to the bottom of the glass again, and once more the demon is seen. Again the raisin becomes covered with the little globules of gas, again it rises, again the demon disappears, and this continues as long as there is effervescence of life in the champagne.

**Use Little Santas.**  
The Christmas house decorations should, of course, include plenty of holly and Christmas greens; but, if possible, small santas should play a conspicuous part in the scheme. If a pier or china or cloth—whatever they are—they should perch over the doors or windows, cling to holly wreaths and hide themselves in the holiday greens.

The doors and windows should have small santas perched or printed or pasted at their heads. These orders can be bought decorated in many stores, but any business who can use water colors could make them herself, and use the same sort of little gummed Santas or Santa Claus heads for these orders that she used for the seals of her letters.

### Lively Indoor Sports

If the Christmas fun should lag try these sports:  
Rubber balls are always delightful indoors. If the disk holding the peg is of iron or lead or lead weighted so that it will not slide when hit with a cue, the game is very satisfactory.

Shuffleboard on the extended dining room table is also a dandy game. There is a narrow strip of cloth stretched from end to end, and on this the smooth, round wooden disks are shot. A cross line five inches from each end counts two for disks entirely beyond it; a disk hanging over the end of the table counts three; a disk that touches the edge of the cloth anywhere or that does not come entirely inside of a line two and a half feet from the end counts nothing. The trick is to knock your high scoring opponent's disk or to score past him, and only the most advanced disk counts.

### Don't Open Till Christmas

A certain chap in Chicago last Christmas almost made a reputation as a joker by using the tags marked "Don't open till Christmas." But he didn't use them on packages that cost money. Not much! What he did was to buy a lot of penny Christmas post cards, and on each one he stuck a tag, "Don't open till Christmas."

Then he sent them to all his friends, and they were delighted with the idea that they might thought about how cheaply he had sent off. Mind over matter, see?  
And nearly as funny as the joke was the fact that a lot of women who received these cards soaked them in warm water and split them open, or tried to split them open, in the firm belief that the cards could really be opened.

### Organ Builder

An interesting Christmas game that is played by the little German children is called the "organ builder." One of the number is chosen to be the organ builder and all the others stand in a straight row with their hands folded. As the organ builder goes along the row he says: "These are good pipes," and taps the hands of the players as he passes, and each player as his hands are touched must give forth a long sustained sound to represent the note of an organ. After he has heard a sound from each organ pipe the builder is blindfolded and while this is being done the players all change places, and the builder says: "Alas, how will my organ be, now I am blind and cannot see?" Then he taps the hands of a player, who gives the same sustained sound as before, and if the builder demands, he must repeat three times. The builder then guesses the name of a player. If he does not guess correctly, the players all dance around him and sing:

What a builder have we here,  
What a wretched, wretched ear,  
Though the pipes sound out so clear,  
After which they all change places and the builder must try again. If however, his guess is right, the players sing:  
Though the master have no sight,  
He can tell his pipes right,  
See your organ with delight.  
The hands are then taken off, and the player whose name he has guessed must take his place.

**Do Your Shopping Early.**  
What a wretched, wretched ear,  
Do it early, another year,  
To escape the hurry hurry  
You've run into every year.  
Do your Christmas shopping early.  
You should not procrastinate.  
Or you'll struggle with the hurry  
Crows that do their shopping late.  
Get the present for the cousin.  
For the aunt and uncles too.  
Other relatives by scores.  
Look for pleasant gifts from you.  
If you've got dough you must spend it.  
Don't postpone the Christmas day.  
Get the order over—EODIT.  
Have the things all packed away.  
Then when others hurry, hurry,  
You can rest in peace serene.  
You can murmur, "I should worry."  
And enjoy the holiday scene.

### The Principal Festival

Christmas in Anglo-Saxon days in England was celebrated as the principal festival of the year, the Anglo-Saxons for a long time delighting in the festival of the holy month, as they called the month of December. At these times the Anglo-Saxons and afterwards the Danish kings of Norway and Sweden state and were surrounded with all the great lords of their kingdoms, who were highly entertained. There were also many other magnificent feasts held during the year.

During the reign of Alfred the Great a law was passed which related to holidays by virtue of which the twelve days after the Nativity were set apart for the celebration of the Christmas festival. It is said that not for Alfred's strict observance of the "twelve days" rule, he would not have been defeated by the Danes.

### An Eskimo Yule

A SEA captain once said that when he was creating the world he threw all waste material aside in a heap, and that was Labrador. God never intended it to be inhabited, maybe. But his intention, and into that waste of ice and cliffs and crags Norwegian missionaries have been sent, and the Christmas festival is celebrated.

An Eskimo from Norway, high all, old and young, the men on one side, the women on the other, are waiting in eager expectation. By 4 o'clock it is quite dark, and the bell rings. All come trooping in, clad in the best clothes they can muster. They say all for not one will be wanting, unless kept at home for serious illness. Even those who are ill, if not too sick, will be brought on sleds and carried into the church, and those who really cannot come, meet at home.  
For the little children the happiest part of the service comes later, when each child receives a lighted candle symbolizing the light of the world. Each candle stands in a white turban, which has been saved from the hard

winter wrong from that inhospitable soil. A hole is cut into the turban and the candle inserted, so that it serves as a candlestick. In former years, when deer hunting was more successful, the Eskimos brought the deer tallow to the missionaries, who made the candles out of it. Then after the service the children had not only the turban to eat, but also the rest of the candle which had been brought home unburned. But now imported candles are used, and they are not fit to eat, so the children have only the joy of seeing them burn.—Rev. Adolf Stecker, Moravian Missionary in Labrador and Alaska, in New York Evening Sun.

### Christmas Poetry

WITH gentle deeds and kindly thoughts  
And loving words withal,  
Welcome the merry Christmas as  
And hear a brother's law.  
—F. Lawrence.

Christmas comes, he comes, he comes  
Ushered with a rain of plums,  
Hollies in the windows greet him,  
Every mouth delights to name him,  
Schools come driving home to meet him,  
Wet and cold and wind and dark  
Kiss him but the warmer mark.  
—Leigh Hunt.

Long ere the dawn can claim the sky  
The tempest rolls subservient by,  
While bells on all sides ring and say  
How Christ the child was born to-day.  
—Lord Houghton.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,  
God is not dead, nor doth he sleep,  
The wrong shall fall, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.  
—Longfellow.

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