

NOVEL ENTERTAINMENTS

EDITED BY MADAME MERRI.

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Living Pictures.

One of the schemes to fill in part of an evening is to have charades or tableaux acted without a word being spoken. An unusually attractive scene is called "Reveries of a Bachelor." The first picture shows a man in his den before a great fire (if that is possible to arrange), pipe in hand, meditating on the past. Then a curtain is pulled before a large frame and a young girl appears, a basket of roses on her arm and a hat tossed back from her forehead. "His first love" is the title on the frame. The curtain falls to rise on the "College Girl;" then the "Debutante;" next a Young Widow" claims his attention; and finally the little "first love" appears in full bridal gown and the title appears "His Wedding Day."

Living pictures may be adopted from book titles, song titles, the Christy and Gibson pictures offer great possibilities, and an entire evening's entertainment may be evolved from these lines and prizes awarded to the one guessing the most subjects correctly. Some years ago Mrs. Jarley's wax works was a very popular series of the so-called "living pictures," only these figures were supposed to be of wax and were on a more elaborate scale than charades.

A correspondent asks how table silver and linen should be marked when invited for wedding presents.

Custom decrees that everything given before the marriage ceremony should bear either the full name, monogram or initials of the bride. On silver the date may be added, but it is not necessary.

For Elderly Ladies.

Parties for elderly ladies are fashionable this season and one hostess has asked a dozen guests for an afternoon, the youngest being 65 years old, or should I say "young?" Tea is to be served at early candle light, a heated wagonette going for and conveying the guests to their homes. Each one is to bring with her some old time measure to promote reminiscent conversation.

At 5:30 o'clock "tea" is to be announced and the dining-room table is to be fairly groan with good things, jelly and chicken, cold ham, baking powder biscuit, hot and fluffy muffins; hashed brown potatoes, jelly and preserves.

spiced peaches, cucumber pickles and candied fruits.

Tea will be poured at the table from an old-fashioned china tea pot, with a sugar bowl and cream pitcher to match. Butter will also be passed and put on little butter plates, another old-time custom. For dessert there is to be cup-custard, canned cherries un-frosted sponge cake and several varieties of layer cakes.

A revolving castor, belonging to the hostess' grandmother, will stand in the center of the table with a fruit and flower pieces at either end. A bunch of flowers, "thoughts" with the quotation "For the pansies send me back a thought," will be at each place, tied with lavender ribbon, the stems wrapped in tinfoil another old-time custom.

The candles are to be brass and gold-band white china, the pride of our grandmother's heart, will be used, with goblets instead of tumblers. The teaspoons are to be in an old-time revolving spoon holder an heirloom in the family.

St. Patrick's Day Party.

A pretty party for the seventeenth of March may be given by having all the decorations green, using cheese cloth of that peculiar green, sacred to St. Patrick. Harps, potatoes, shamrocks and even the Japanese jointed snakes may figure in the decorations. The Irish flag may be purchased in all sizes and adds much to the attractiveness of a room.

Cards may be the amusement, or the affair may be a luncheon at which the following green and white menu be served:

Cream of celery soup, sprinkled with chopped parsley, breasts of chicken fried and served with fluffy mashed potatoes over which parsley is sprinkled; celery sticks, stuffed with cottage cheese and chopped nuts; creamed cauliflower. The salad is of white grapes, blanched almonds, celery and apples and the dessert is the palest green pistachio ice, served in cloven forms. Tiny silk shamrock pins ornament the napkins and candy boxes are the most realistic imitations of Irish potatoes. Carnations and maiden hair ferns form the center pieces, with four candles in glass holders and green shades.

Three French Games.

Some time ago a correspondent requested games such as young people

play in France. These three amusements may answer her purpose:

In the game called "Portrait" one person leaves the room, while the others choose the name of some one they all know. The person on entering the room has to guess the name selected by asking questions to be answered by "yes" or "no." For instance: "Is it a man?" "No." "A woman?" "Yes." "Is she married?" "No." "Have I seen her to-day?" "Yes." Has she fair hair? "No." Sometimes the company chooses the one who went outside for the "portrait" and the guessing is more difficult.

The "Falling Soldier" is another diversion. The whole company stand in a row like soldiers. The order is to stretch the right arm forward, then the left one; second kneel down on one knee only with the arms still outstretched; then push your next neighbor and the whole file will collapse like a house of cards.

The "Single" (the monkey) is a popular game among young girls who enjoy a hearty laugh upon one of the opposite sex. In fact it is really a practical joke. The monkey is the man selected to leave the room. When he returns silence reigns among the whole company; puzzled by the serious attitude he naturally asks: What is the matter? They all repeat in chorus, "What is the matter?" The "monkey" probably says, "I do not understand," which is chortled after him. This continues until the monkey sees the joke which of course he accepts good naturedly.

A Silver Wedding.

For the invitations with Mr. and Mrs. John E. Beak, "At Home" on the designated day, with the hour and the date of the original wedding in one corner and the present date in the other. If expense in no object, the proper thing would be to have the invitations engraved in silver.

I should not put "no presents" in the cards, but tell a friend or two that you would rather not receive gifts and you may be sure that your wishes in the matter will become known. However, at such a time, one's friends are usually glad of the opportunity of showing their love and appreciation where a couple have lived long in the community.

On all the silver dishes you possess to hold bon bons, salted nuts, etc., and wrap the bon bons in silver paper to be obtained at the confectioners; also pretty silver cord with which to tie sandwiches and the place cards.

Use white bride roses and sprinkle with diamond dust or silvery powder that I think may be obtained at a druggist.

If possible have an original poem read, and there may be toasts; also congratulations from friends distant to be read at the table. After the recep-

tion, music is enjoyable and you might have a programme of songs of 25 years ago. There is not much new in the way of refreshments; for such an affair I should serve chicken salad, nut sandwiches, olives, coffee and chocolate with whipped cream; and a fancy cream, if possible in silver wedding bell forms, and have a "bride" and groom's cake.

Over the table suspended a cluster of silver bells, and there might be a large silver gill to stand under while receiving congratulations. Silver paper will figure in the construction of these bells or they could be of green, with fringe and clapper of silver.

Questions on any subject pertaining to this department will cheerfully be answered. A reply will be sent by mail if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed; otherwise answers will appear in this column. Address Madame Merri.—The News

Brides of The White House.

Appropos of the wedding of the President's daughter, it is interesting to recall other affairs of a like character that have taken place in the Executive Mansion. One of the leading articles in the March Delineator is "Brides of the White House," by Mrs. Schuyler Crowninshield. It is illustrated with a handsome portrait of Miss Roosevelt never before published.

Miss Todd, a niece of the lovely Dolly Madison, was the first bride to pronounce her vows beneath the ancient roof, writes Mrs. Crowninshield. "She married Congressman Jackson of Virginia. Little is told in history about Miss Todd, but she was as charming as her distinguished relative, the fascinating Dolly. Congressman Jackson was a lucky man indeed. One may in fancy see Miss Todd watching from the windows of the old Executive Mansion, which was afterward burned by the British, for the arrival of her lover; and the lovely Dolly herself, hardly less excited, peering over the shoulder of the girl by her side. Congressman Jackson would presently arrive in one of the old Virginia coaches driven by a yellow or black boy, his body-servant sitting with the coachman, anxious to attend upon his master in this the most interesting and vital moment of his life. One can fancy Congressman Jackson approaching, taking his slip of negus or toddy in the great hall before being ushered into the presence of his beloved; and from the accounts of the time one may imagine the brilliant nuptial ceremony, which historians say, was attended by every one who had any claim to social distinction.

A good way to make money is not to lose it.

SCHOOLGIRLS' CLUBS

Nature and Literary Societies Afford Pleasure to Many Schoolgirls Out of School Hours—Clubs for Recreation Just as Helpful in Their Line—Mrs. Sangster's Correspondence Club—Latin Names, Letters and Flowers—Appropriate for Club Names.

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

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Your mothers and sisters and all your grown up friends are members of clubs. The lady who has never belonged to a club, never attended a club function, and never known anything about the pleasure incidental to study and work in a literary, or social club, is so exceptional that we have to look for her with a microscope. Every town and village has its Mothers' club, or its Four O'Clock club, or its Monday Afternoon club, or its club with the name of one of the muses, or its association of dames and daughters, so unless the girls have their clubs, too, they will really be rather out of date.

You may, if you like, have a club just as the elders have and for much the same purpose. We will suppose that your club has for its object nature study. This particular study has had what we may call a boom of late. The birds, the flowers, the trees, the rocks and stones, and everything that has to do with outdoor life afford interesting subjects for those who study nature.

If, in your class work, you have taken up zoology and botany, a club for nature study will help along by way of supplementary information and will be greatly approved by your instructors. You will have certain days for meetings and certain other days for long and pleasant walks, for visiting nature in her own haunts, watching the birds, the butterflies and the bees, and seeking the wild flowers where they grow. When you think of it it is a shame that we should live in a beautiful world with so much that is fascinating to engage our powers, and yet shut ourselves up within the bounds of four walls and know so little as we do about nature's wonderful works and ways.

Your club may be organized to study English literature. In this case you will meet periodically arrange a course of reading, and very likely write papers on topics assigned to different members. I am not sure that you will find it so popular a club as one that has outdoor life for its motive. Many girls think they have done their whole duty to themselves and each other when their school-work is finished. Yet a literary club would not be a bad idea, and in it there would be room for

a good deal of what might be called side reading. Your knowledge of books and authors would be increased in pleasant reading that should be voluntary and not prescribed by professors and teachers.

I do not see myself any objection to school girls forming a club purely for purposes of fun and recreation. You have so much hard work in school and at home that you are entitled very fairly to such amusements as you like and such pleasures as you can take in company with one another. You might have a Saturday Evening club, composed of a circle of congenial girls who do not live too far apart from one another to make meetings early on Saturday evenings practicable. Some times you might assemble at five o'clock and have supper together at six, finish an hour or two afterward with games, music and story-telling. Or you might meet at seven and separate at nine. Have a programme arranged beforehand and conclude with refreshments. You might occasionally have a candy pull or make fudge, and once a month your brothers might be admitted to share in the entertainment. On the whole I recommend this idea as worth carrying out provided you can gain the consent and approval of your mothers and any other powers that be.

A Correspondence Club affords a good deal of suggestion and satisfaction to its members. I knew such a club some years ago. It was composed of seven girls not one of whom had ever seen any of the others. They made acquaintance through me because I was then writing some stories for girls which interested each of these widely separated correspondents. One wrote from Brazil, one from Syria, another from Bombay, still another from Berlin, and the remaining three from different parts of the United States. The seven sent me their letters and I forwarded them in a sort of Round Robin style until everyone had read what the other wrote. You have little idea of the amount of information and of fascinating interest such a club can convey.

A girl's club does not require much red tape. You will need a treasurer if you have anything for which money will be required. If, for example, your club does any work for the poor or engages at all in charity, you must have small weekly or monthly dues, and these you should take out of your own personal allowance, not asking your parents for them. The treasurer must keep an exact account of what she receives and what she expends and must from time to time make report to her club. A president and secretary are the only other necessary officers.

As for the club's name it may be whatever you choose. A Latin name

is often preferred because it sounds learned that everybody is not supposed to know what it means. An alphabetical name is attractive because you do not have to reveal to the outside public what the A. B. C.'s or the X. Y. Z.'s stand for. If you choose you may take the name of a flower and be known by that. The pansy, the iris, the nigella, the cosmos, the violet, are appropriate flowers for the christening of a club. When you select a motto let it be something inspiring and brief, some line of poetry or an apt quotation some bit of wisdom from Shakespeare or Emerson, that will be a sort of marching order and help you on in the day's work.

Do not belong to a club at all unless you are willing to do your duty as a member. If you undertake any obligation in this world fulfill it with conscience and punctuality. It is a great pity for any of us to grow up shirking responsibility. We have each a duty to all the others, and how to fulfill this duty is one of the things we learn in club life. We learn, too, to yield our own wishes and work agreeably and smoothly with other people. No better lesson does a club teach than just this.

A White Season.

"Despite the free use of vivid colors, these will be in the minority, and the coming season will be distinctly and emphatically white.

"The high class tailors report that white broadcloth, serge and flannel, are in unprecedented demand, for simple walking costumes as well as for visiting and driving. They advise their patrons to select only high grade material, because the cheaper varieties soil very much more readily.

"Figures are going to be worn, and they will be particularly smart for morning frocks, and also for separate coats and wraps. The piques show various styles of cording, from very fine to very heavy, and their firmness delights the heart of the ladies' tailor. Eyelet embroidery shows to advantage on pique, either by itself or in combination with motifs of 'baby' Irish lace. Hedebo or Danish cutwork is also used, and promises to be as popular as the Hardanger of recent seasons.

"The vogue for white gowns necessitates a corresponding one for white hats, both in felt and in lingerie. The white felts will be worn late into the advancing Spring. The felt is of the same fine variety introduced during the Winter and, the trimming shows wreaths of tulle voluminously plaited, and curling tips that nestle above the ear."—Helen Berkeley Loyd in the Delineator for March.

There is a lot more fun in having it if you oughtn't to be.

The Conservative Mutual Life Insurance Co.

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