

NOVEL ENTERTAINMENTS

(EDITED BY MADAME MERRI.)

Devoted to Art of Entertaining—Etiquette of Entertaining, Home, School, Club and Church Entertainments.

Inquiries for Advice and Suggestions Answered by Personal Letter.

For Candlemas Day.
(February 2.)
Next week brings us "candlemas," and with it the old Scotch saying:
If Candlemas day be bright and fair
Winter will have another flight.
If on Candlemas day it be shower
and rain
Winter is gone and will not come
again.

We have familiarly known the second of February as "Ground Hog" day, and if this little denizen of the forest came out of winter quarters and saw his shadow he retreated for another six weeks while the cold weather continued, if on the contrary it was cloudy and he failed to see his shadow the approach of spring was at hand. In these enlightened days we do not pin our faith to these old adages, preferring to rely upon the weather man and his delicate instruments that foretell the skies and read the lessons in the winds with such accuracy that thousands plant the day's business and pleasure on his report.

All this leads up to the fact that Candlemas day brings an opportunity to give a touch of novelty to any social affair we may be giving. Like most of our festival days, candlemas was and is still a church feast day, kept in memory of the purification of the Blessed Virgin, the candles burned showing that Christ is the "light of the world."

It was also an ancient custom to have a bountiful supply of candles on this day to ward off evil spirits from the dwelling during the ensuing year. The dainty snoddroy is the flower for the day, but if not obtainable use the Roman (single) hyacinths; they are lovely combined with feathery ferns. Have a small white candle in a glass holder (the latter may be found in the doll section) at each place with a tiny box of wax matches, and for place cards have white ones decorated with a candle, the name of guest traced in the smoke from the candle.

This is a most fitting time for a girl's sluncheon at which an engagement may be announced. A white menu may be served by having any of the cream soups with whipped cream on top, chicken breasts creamed on toast squares, new potatoes, corn fritters, pear salad, with whipped cream dressing and cheese balls; vanilla cream frozen in ring molds (the engaged girl's may contain a diamond ring purchased at the ten cent store); white iced cakes and heart peppermints complete this simple but delicious spread. Before leaving the table the candle may be lit and this test tried: Let each girl place off three steps from the table and try to blow out her candle with as few puffs as possible, for each puff delays her marriage one year, thus the maiden who extinguishes hers with one blow will be wedded in one year, etc. Perhaps a caterer may have candle molds in which to serve ice cream. If so a blanched almond may be inserted in the top for a wick and lighted just before bringing to the table; it will burn for several minutes and the effect is lovely.

A Winter Outing Party.
Do you know that one of the most popular parties is the outdoor affair with skating, coasting, sleighing and even walking, for the pastime. The hostess provides a piping hot supper and the sleighs, and the guests wear heavy suits. The charming knit and crocheted hoods are worn by the girls, with heavy sweaters, and polo coats; the men have the ray plaid "macinaws" and many of them don the knitted stocking caps. Charming fish suppers with coffee and sandwiches are the mainstay of the feast and sometimes an old-fashioned candy pull winds up the evening. Oyster soup with cabbage salad with coffee and doughnuts are favorite with the young people, and once an enterprising man has had and lasses and a big bowl of punch and a skating pond and a few scones and potatoes, carrying hot chocolate in thermos bottles. The thing is to have lanterns to the trees and had a regular winter picnic. It was a beautiful sight and they all reported a jolly good time. Afterward they had an informal dance at the home of one of the girls.

A Chinese Social.
Mrs. Herbert B. Linscott tells of this very interesting Chinese affair which I am sure will help many to solve what to do at your next money-making church social. She says:
Invitations should read as follows:
Come to the Chinese Tea Party and help eat Rice and Rats Prepared and Served by Chinese Girls at _____ Church Monday evening, January 4.
You can stimulate interest in the heathen wonderfully by inviting them to come, with all their bag and baggage, and pay your room a visit. Have booths in the room representing the countries in which the church is doing missionary work. Let the attendants be costumed like the natives, and all the appointments of the booths suggest the life of the countries represented. When curiosity is thus piqued, information about these mission lands may be circulated by the help of questions on cards to be passed around. Write the questions in black ink, and underneath, in red ink, the answer to one of the other questions. It will require a pretty interchange of cards for each one to find the answer to his question.
The committee should try to make this evening as attractive as possible, and if it can be arranged all the members should appear in Chinese costumes. In the center of the church room, fit up a bath, covered with

a large Chinese umbrella, and around it place small tables on which to serve refreshments. This can be made to look like a Chinese garden. Rice and rats can be served as follows: Boil rice until rather stiff and turn it into cups to cool. After ready to serve, turn upside down in dishes and serve each dish with a candy rat on top. The rice should be served with cream and sugar. Also have tea and wafers. A small ice can be charged for refreshments to go to missionary purposes. Of course no one but the committee should know what the "rice and rats" is to be, as it would spoil the fun. A nice idea would be to give chopsticks as souvenirs.

A Mysterious Menu.
There is really nothing new about having a "Cafe Mystere" as a drawing card for a church supper, but it never fails to please. A set sum may be charged for each article "a la carte," or a fixed amount charged for the supper; this to be decided by the committee in charge. Other articles may be substituted for the ones mentioned on the list.
1. A survivor of the flood (Ham.)
2. Woman of grit (sandwich.)
3. Cattle in a railroad disaster (dried beef.)
4. Impertinence (apple "sass.")
5. Spring's offering (water.)
6. For old maids and bachelors (pickles.)
7. Tabby's party (cat sup.)
8. Boston's overthrow (tea.)
9. What all people need (bread and butter.)
10. New England brains (baked beans.)
11. Young man's sweetheart (honey.)
12. An unruly member (tongue.)
13. Sahara (desert.)
14. Tree cake (cocoanut cake.)
15. Love's symbol (doughnuts.)
16. What I do when I wash my nigger (ice cream.)
17. A mass of types (pie.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Frim a Bride-Elect.
I am nineteen years old. I have had only a high school education. I am engaged to a young lawyer and am to be married next June.
Do you think that is sufficient education?
What things would you suggest as proper and necessary for me to get for my new home? For instance, what linen, etc?
Also what things are proper and necessary for my complete bridal outfit?
I enjoy reading your pages.—
Frenchie.

A high school education supplemented by a good fund of general information and keeping up to date with the best in art, literature and music should make you well-informed and fitted to be the wife of your lawyer fiance. If you wished to wait longer before being married you could take a year away in special study. Much depends upon what one's future is to be as to what is necessary for household and trousseau. It is difficult for a stranger to suggest, for in some instances a number of party and dinner gowns would be required and in others more street suits and house dresses. It is necessary to allow six sheets and three pairs of pillow cases for each bed to be used, and a dozen towels to each person, a half dozen bath towels and six wash towels, adding the same quantity for the best room.

The Proper Thing to Say.
When complimented and told I look well, or play well, must I just say, "Thank you?" Please reply by Sunday if possible. With best wishes for your success in the work you are doing, I am your loyal well wisher.—
Blue Eyed M.

Too bad to disappoint you by not replying in the next issue after your letter was received; it was only one of many and you see only just so many can be answered each week because the space is limited. All you can say is "Thank you" or "You are very kind to tell me so." I am glad, indeed, if you think this corner is a success and come again if I can assist you in any way.

Riddles and Partners.
Please print seven riddles and answers in Sunday's paper. Also an idea for matching partners for a dinner party.—
Constant Reader.

I wonder if you have ever had these riddles, and below them is an idea for choosing partners:
Where could a square house be located so that all the windows face south?
At the north pole.
What is that which has a mouth, but never speaks, and a bed, but never lies in it?
A river.
"How much are nine and nine?" asked the teacher of the juvenile class.
"Ninety-nine," promptly answered the boy at the foot.

If an ice wagon weighs two tons, a block of ice 200 pounds, the team 3,000 pounds and the man on the front of the wagon 160 pounds, what does the man on the back of the wagon weigh?
The ice.
What letter of the alphabet is necessary to make a shoe?
The last.

Why is "O" the most charitable letter in the alphabet?
Because it is found oftener than any other in doing good.
Here is a new way to choose partners. Ask each girl to bring a picture of herself when she was not over ten years of age. Lay them face downward on a tray, pass to the men and tell them to find the originals. This makes lots of fun, and it

often takes some time before all are rightly mated. This will do for table partners for dinners or refreshments.

A Church Entertainment.
The Young Ladies' Society of a Baptist church are thinking of giving an entertainment at one of the members' home. It is to be a pay affair for the benefit of the society. Please suggest a unique way of sending out invitations calling attention to admission, also please suggest games, refreshments, etc. All the young people of the church are included in the invited list.—
A Reader.

Try this the first real cold day and you are wondering how to warm up a church social which promises to be an icy affair. Issue posters on scarlet cardboard, decorated with red cheese cloth, red shades, and train a good lusty chorus to sing, "A Hot Time." Dress the reception committee and waiters in red, have the admission "five red cents." Serve "red hots" (wienerwurst) uncased in hot rolls, pickles and coffee with doughnuts for sweets. This word making game as described by "E. H. G." might help you:
"The company was told to make as many words from the letters composing the name as they could in 20 minutes. A prize was awarded for the longest and shortest lists. This proved a very pleasant introduction and served as an ice-breaker, as the people were almost all entire strangers. This scheme is a good one for church socials, which are apt to be stiff if not conducted along the same lines as a private party."

I am sure the following account of an "Around the World Tea" would help you plan a splendid money making evening:
"A young ladies' mission band got up the following very successful tea. A house represented each of these eight countries and several automobiles conveyed the guests to and from Greece, Italy, Germany, Russia, England, America, France and Japan.
"A five-minute paper about each country, with music, furnished amusement and the attendants were in costume. Flags of the country made the decoration with whatever characteristic article obtainable. A very small admission fee was collected by the courier as guests entered the auto and small fees were charged for refreshments, which were peculiar to the country as the menu shows:
Greece, olives.
Italy, spaghetti.
Germany, kaffe kuchen.
Japan, meshi (rice.)
France, vin di rouge (red punch.)
Russia, caviar canapes.
England, plum pudding.
America, pie.

With good committee this scheme may be enlarged upon and a most interesting entertainment. I would suggest that the invitation be extended from the pulpit.

Reply to "B."
I am sorry to disappoint you, but your questions cannot be answered in this department. If all correspondents would study the character of queries in this column they might be guided as to what is and what is not answered. To requests that are personal or requiring haste I will reply privately if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is inclosed and sent to me in care of the paper.

Questions Gladly Answered.
Will you kindly answer a question or two for me? I am a young married woman of twenty-seven, of very quiet disposition and as I have never gone out among other people much, am few friends, but for some reason, do rather backward or ignorant about how to act or what to do. I get very lonesome at times and long for a not seem to take very well with others, although I always try to be pleasant. What shall I do?—
Lonely.

Your letter strikes me as very pathetic, for with so much to do in this busy world it seems almost (to me) impossible to be lonely. I would advise that you identify your self with some church and get in touch with the active works connected with it. A new member would be welcome to the Guild or "Ladies' aid," I am sure, and very soon you will forget all about yourself or being lonesome. Try it.

Words for Charades.
Will you kindly suggest some words which we can use in playing charades? The children have great pleasure in this amusement.—
Teacher.

Most of these words come back to me from the years gone when I, too, was a child and found the keenest enjoyment in playing charades: Sincere, dramatic, Singapore, Turkey, Japan, ingratiat, homespun, Montreal handkerchief, petticoat, newspaper, Caroline, Massachusetts, lioness, Stewart, typewriter, are all good words.

Reply to a Subscriber.
The space is so limited that I cannot print recipes or I should be completely overwhelmed with requests. If you will ask some good housekeeper or look in a reliable cook book I am sure you will find a rule for boiled dressing and that kind never has oil in it.

Reply to "Lucille."
I regret that I could not reply to your request at the time you desired, but it was impossible, as the department for that date was made up. I will be glad to tell you now for future use that no acceptance is necessary for an "at home," but cards are sent to arrive during the hours of reception if one does not go. The suit and white gloves will be suitable and the coat may or may not be removed.



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