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OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Address Letters to "The Young People's Department", The Progressive Farmer

ARKANSAS

I AM thinking tonight of the Southland, Of the home of my childhood days, Where I roamed through the woods and the meadows, By the mill and the brook that plays, Where the roses are in bloom, And the sweet magnolia too, Where the jasmine is white, And the fields are violet blue Their welcome awaits all her children Who have wandered afar from home.

CHORUS:

Arkansas, Arkansas! 'Tis a name dear, 'Tis the place I call "home, sweet home," Arkansas, Arkansas! I salute thee, From thy shelter no more I'll roam.

'Tis a land full of joy and of sunshine, Rich in pearls and in diamonds rare, Full of hope, faith and love for the stranger Who may pass neath her portals fair; There the rice fields are full, And the cotton, corn and hay, There the fruits of the field bloom, In winter months and May, 'Tis the land that I love, First of all dear, And to her let us all give cheer.

CHORUS.

OUR COMMENCEMENT

(Girls' \$1 Prize Letter)

OUR commencement began April 25, when the class day exercises were given by the senior class. This included the president's address, class history, poem, oration, prophecy, and three songs, one of which was original.

On the following Friday evening a recital was given by the music and expression pupils. Although it was the first attempt of some of the pupils to speak or play in public, the ease and grace with which they rendered the program met with approval, and showed the results of the good work done by their teacher.

Sunday, April 29, Elder C. H. Cayce of Martin, Tennessee, preached the commencement sermon to a large audience. His theme was "service."

Next came the exhibit by the domestic science, art, and manual training classes. This was given on Wednesday afternoon. That the classes had done splendid work was shown by the vast number of blue ribbons placed on the articles. One of the new and most interesting features of the exhibit was the taste with which the girls planned a room. Each girl chose her favorite room, wrote a composition on how to plan the room, and put the composition and plan on a placard which was placed on the wall.

The annual commencement play, the valedictory, was given on Wednesday evening. It was said to be the best play ever given here. The proceeds were over \$75, which will be used to defray commencement expenses and for the good of the school.

Thursday evening came the contest between the societies. Each of the girls' societies gave a pantomime while the boys' gave a splendid debate on: "Resolved, That the Government should Own and Operate the Railroads." This was a new feature also.

The Alumni meeting on Friday afternoon must not be forgotten. A short program was carried out, ice cream served, and every one present seemed to have a pleasant time.

On Friday evening came the climax. Honorable Jesse F. Stallings of Birmingham delivered the graduating address and Mr. Simpson spoke in behalf of the three-mill tax. Superintendent D. O. Warren delivered the seventh grade certificates. After diplomas were awarded to a class of twelve we separated, two of our boys leaving that night to join the army.

ETHEL VARNELL.

Rogersville, Ala.

GAMES THAT MAY BE PLAYED BY LARGE NUMBERS

BIRDS HAVE FEATHERS

THE leader throws up his hands every time he mentions a bird or animal. The players follow him when he mentions any feathered animal, but keep their hands upon their knees when he mentions a species which have no feathers. The object, of course, is to catch them unawares by naming birds very rapidly and introducing names of objects that have no feathers. Thus: Chickens have feathers. (All hands up.) Ducks have feathers. (Hands up.) Eagles have feathers. (Hands up.) Cats have feathers. (Leader's hands up.) All others whose hands have been raised pay a forfeit.—U. S. Government Bulletin.

Forfeits.—Forfeits are not collected at once, but a trinket or small object is collected from

each offender, which is held in pawn until the game has been carried as far as desired. These are then redeemed something after the following manner: Someone with originality is usually selected to impose the fines, although a good way is to allow different ones to take part, and it is sometimes planned to have a person name his own fine. The leader, or auctioneer, stands behind the person acting in this capacity, holding the trinket in his hand, over the other's head. He then says: "Heavy, heavy hangs over your head," to which the reply is "Fine or superfine?" ("Fine" signifies that the object belongs to a boy, and "Superfine" to a girl.) Some penalty is then imposed which the owner must perform before the trinket is returned to him. The object is to make these penalties absurd, and they are often more fun than the original game. For instance, a timid boy may have to sing a lullaby to an imaginary baby or give a recipe for muffins, while a girl may have to whistle a tune or tie a four-in-hand tie on one of the young men.

HUNT THE RING

THE players stand in a circle, holding a long cord forming an endless band, upon which a ring has previously been slipped.

This ring is passed rapidly from one player to another, always concealed by the hands, while somebody in the center endeavors to seize the hands of the person who holds it, who, when actually caught, takes his place within the circle. If the circle is very large two rings may be slipped upon the cord and two players placed in the center together.

A small key is often used instead of a ring, while still another variation is to have the concealed object a small whistle with a ring attached.—U. S. Government Bulletin.

THE SILENT CONCERT

IN THIS performance the company for the time imagine themselves to be a band of musicians. The leader of the band is supposed to furnish each of the performers with a different musical instrument. Consequently, a violin, a harp, a flute, a piano, a jew's harp, and anything else, are all to be performed upon at the same time. The leader begins playing a tune on his imaginary violin, or whatever else it may be, imitating the way of performing on it. The others all do the same, the sight presented being, as may well be imagined, exceedingly ludicrous. In the midst of it the leader quite unexpectedly stops playing and makes an entire change in attitude, substituting for his own instrument one belonging to some one else. As soon as he does this, the performer who has been thus unceremoniously deprived of his instrument, takes that of his leader and performs on it instead. Thus the game is continued, everyone being expected to carefully watch the leader's actions and to be prepared at any time to make a sudden change. Forfeits are, of course, in order when the player whose instrument has been appropriated fails to immediately imitate the motions which the leader has just abandoned.—U. S. Government Bulletin.

A GIANTESS

MUCH amusement may be caused by performing the following:

A tall gentleman is dressed in a skirt. Then a large umbrella is covered over with a gown and a cloak, a ball is tied on the point of the stick above the dress, and a bonnet and thick veil are put on it. The umbrella is partially opened, so that its frame sets out the dress and cloak as crinoline does. The gentleman gets under it and, holding the handle up as high as he can grasp, appears like a gigantic woman. Somebody knocks at the hall door, to pretend that there is an arrival, and a minute or two afterwards the door is opened and "Miss Little Girl" is announced. The giantess then walks into the room, bows, etc., to the amusement of the company.

A good effect is produced by holding the umbrella handle naturally when entering and then raising it by degrees, giving the appearance of a startling growth. She can thus appear to rise till she peers over tops of pictures. She may talk to the company also, bending her head down toward them and speaking in a squeaking tone of voice.—U. S. Government Bulletin.

Passenger (after first night on board ship).—I say, where have all my clothes vanished to?

Steward—Where did you put them before you got into bed last night?

Passenger—I folded them up carefully and put them in that cupboard over there.

Steward—I see no cupboard, sir.

Passenger—Are you blind, man? I mean that one with the round glass door to it.

Steward—Gracious me, that ain't no cupboard, that's the port-hole.—Sacred Heart Review.

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