

Children and Old-Fashioned Toys



"CHILDREN are conservative beings, even old-fashioned, when it comes to choosing toys. They aren't up to date and as full of the modern spirit of progress and invention as the toymakers believe them to be."

Thus spoke one who is a sort of professional Santa Claus—that is, he has played the part at so many Sunday school Christmas parties that he sometimes imagines he is growing cotton whiskers.

"They display the same quaint, simple, old-fashioned taste as their grandfathers and grandmothers when they were children," he continued. "Most of them, do, anyhow. Every year the toy manufacturers break loose with a new crop of automatic racing cars, aeroplanes, submarines, fire engines and kicking donkeys. If the children were constructed on the same nervous clock-work plan, they would give old Santa Claus no rest unless he kept up with all the modern inventions. Instead of toy soldiers they would demand mortar batteries, and they would not be satisfied with mooley cows, but would demand that they have pedigrees and give only certified milk and cream."

"They would not accept a Noah's ark unless it was a combination of the steamship Lusitania and a modern cement bungalow, with sleeping porches, twin-screw propellers, electric searchlights, wireless apparatus, second chattel mortgage—in fact, all the comforts of ship and home complete. They would require Mr. Noah to carry a pilot's license as well as a college degree in natural history. All the animals would have to be trained to do tricks, and poor Noah's family would have a fine time herding them while wearing wooden raincoats and stove-pipe hats."

"Fortunately children, real children, are not constructed that way. They want their arks on the old-fashioned plan, whereby you lift off the roof and find Noah minus his head, and most of the animals trying to hobble on three legs."

"Automobiles in miniature, with real

upholstered seats and rubber tires may fascinate a small boy for a few hours, but you'd better place your faith in a good, old-fashioned rocking horse, with saddle and stirrups, and a mane and tail of real hair. The rocking horse is not going out of fashion by a long way, and I predict that in the horseless age, if that time ever comes, our children's children will be jerking the mane of a wooden 'horse' and whipping him on his painted flanks, and trying to feed him crackers. Also, they'll be falling off his back and bumping their little foreheads in the old-fashioned way, and 'horsey' will have to be thrashed and locked up in the clothes closet for his bad behavior.

"And as for dolls, you've got to give them real 'baby dolls' and not grand ladies in the latest tango gowns and hats. For the last 50 years or so dotting parents who are well to do have been trying the experiment of presenting their little girls with waxen fashion models—only to find the precious one crying for the rag baby of the laundress' daughter. Children show the real mother instinct when they spurn the 'play-child' which is too dressy and up to date."

"I have one friend, the father of a large and lively family. I make him happy every Christmas time by presenting his kids with a bunch of cheap, mechanical toys. After about half an hour of winding them up, the little ones tire of the clicking wonders and return to their woolly dogs, rubber dolls and other simple favorites. That is when father's fun begins. He insists on winding up the toys and running them all Christmas day, ostensibly for the pleasure of his youngsters. He does not cease winding until the toys begin to get out of order, and then he has the additional pleasure of trying to repair them."

Sometimes I think that a manufacturer could make a fortune selling toys just for grown-ups. Seeing a bunch of adults busy working mechanical toys reminds me of the time when the whole family insists on taking little Johnny to the circus.

TO KNOW FUTURE HUSBAND

Many Old English Customs and Superstitions Center Around Christmas.

All down the ages girls have been eager to find out their future destiny—whether they will be "old maids," or, as they are now called, "bachelor girls," or wives and mothers. Christmas, as well as all the other festivals, has been allotted its customs and superstitions through which the secret of the future may be learned.

To find the answer to the important question, wife or old maid, a girl had to go alone on Christmas eve and knock on the henhouse door. If a cock answered her knock by crowing, she would be married, but if no cock crowed in answer, then she would be an old maid. This undertaking would require a good deal of courage in the old days of superstition, as on Christmas eve evil spirits were supposed to have increased power and ghosts were supposed to prowl around.

If a girl wished to know the name of her future husband she took four onions and named each one after a boy friend. She then placed one in each corner of a room and the one that sprouted before January 6 bore the name of the man she would marry.

In some districts this was carried out rather differently. Several onions were selected and named and placed close together, and the one that sprouted first gave the name that was to be hers. We can imagine how carefully the warmest place would be chosen for some special onion.

HE WAS THANKFUL.



"John," said the Loving Wife, "I intended to get you a nice new necktie for Christmas, but I am ashamed to acknowledge that in the rush of the shopping I completely forgot it."

"Thank you, nevertheless," said the Happy Husband.

ANNUAL "HOLLER" DAY.

When children have their Christmas toys the house will ring with laughter say: And thus, in truth, by girls and boys, is Christmas made a "holler" day.

A Christmas Carol

by HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

I HEAR along our street
Pass the minstrel throng;
Hark! They play so sweet,
On their hautboys, Christmas songs!
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

IN December ring
Every day the chimas;
Lead the gleemen sing
In the streets their merry rhymes.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

SHEPHERDS at the manger,
Where the Babe was born,
Sang with many a change
Christmas carols until morn.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

THESE good people sang
Songs devout and sweet;
While the rafters rang,
There they stood with freezing feet.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

NUNS in frigid cells
At this holy tide,
For want of something else,
Christmas songs at times have tried.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

WHO by the fireside stands,
Stamps his feet and sings;
But he who blows his hands
Not so gay a carol brings.
Let us by the fire
Ever higher
Sing them till the night expire!

HANGING MISTLETOE

Origin of Custom Associated With Christmas Festivities.

Plant Is Surrounded With Many Superstitions in European Countries—Sign of Ill Omen in Some Parts of Ireland.

THE good old custom of hanging mistletoe from the ceiling at the Christmas festivities is said to have its origin in the idea that since the plant did not have its roots in the ground no part of it should ever be permitted to touch the earth.

Among the Saxons the fact that mistletoe was suspended from the roof of a dwelling intimated to the wayfarer that the hospitality of the house was at his disposal, and beneath its branches friend and stranger, vassal and lord, gathered in comradeship and good cheer.

The religious aspect of the mistletoe tradition, which had its origin in the Druidical rites and the gathering of it by the archdruid with his golden sickle, merged later into a purely social symbol, and the idea of simple hospitality developed into one of merrymaking and a somewhat riotous entertainment.

The kiss of the Scandinavian goddess expanded into the custom of a kiss given for every berry that grew on the bough. Small wonder that, in spite of the mistletoe having originally existed in the odor of the sanctuary, the church came to regard it as an entirely pagan symbol and refused to allow it to participate with the lily and the evergreen in the Yuletide decorations.

There is an ancient belief that the mistletoe was the tree from which the holy cross was hewn and that after this was made the plant withered and ever afterward became a mere parasitic growth, clinging for support to other and sturdier trees.

Other stories, however, credit it with divine gifts in the healing of diseases and the expulsion of evil spirits.

Ram, the high priest of the Celts, received in a dream the intimation that by means of the plant he would be enabled to save his people from the plague which was decimating them. To celebrate their deliverance he instituted the feast of Noel (new health), a midwinter holiday, which has come to be considered coincident with the new year.

In many parts of the United Kingdom the silver berries and the gray-green leaves of the mistletoe are looked upon as anything but an emblem of good cheer; on the contrary, the plant is regarded with dread as being the bringer of ill luck and the sign of ill omen. This superstition exists both in Devonshire and in Ireland, and, strange to say, in neither of these places does the plant flourish, owing, report has it, to the fact that both incurred the displeasure of the Druids and were in consequence cursed in such a way that their soil became incapable of nourishing the sacred growth.

In the sixth book of Aeneid a lengthy description of the mistletoe is given by Virgil, who makes the Sybil describe to his hero the exact spot in hades where he will find it growing. There is little doubt that the strange ethereal appearance of the little opaque berry is largely responsible for the mystic character it has enjoyed among the people of diverse nations from the earliest historical times.

REV. C. H. DURHAM IS AGAIN PRESIDENT

NEARLY ONE THOUSAND DELEGATES AT CONVENTION IN RALEIGH.

MEET NEXT AT CHARLOTTE

Foreign Mission Report is Very Grati-fying.—One Session is Held at Wake Forest.

Raleigh.—There were present for the organization of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention 435 delegates with every indication that the attendance will reach 1,000. Rev. C. H. Durham of Winston-Salem was re-elected president for a third term.

Other officers elected were: Vice presidents, J. E. Vann, Winston-Salem; O. A. Tate, High Point and H. P. King, Mount Airy; secretaries, Dr. Chase Brewer, Wake Forest College, and Rev. W. M. Gilmore, Louisburg; corresponding secretary, Rev. Livingstone Johnson, Raleigh; auditor, P. H. Briggs, Raleigh; treasurer, Walters Durham, Raleigh; member of board of trustees to succeed Rev. W. C. Tyree, who has left the state, L. R. Pruett, Charlotte.

The Convention selected Charlotte as the next meeting place and named Doctor O'Kelly, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Raleigh, to deliver the annual sermon. The report commending Charlotte as next convention city was read by G. P. Harrill of Franklinton and was adopted unanimously in view of a pressing invitation that came from Charlotte.

Foreign missions were up for special consideration in the Baptist State convention with an interesting report presented by Rev. Bruce Benton and stirring talks on mission and several mission fields by Rev. J. F. Lowe of the Foreign Mission Board, Rev. D. W. Herring and Rev. W. E. Crocker missionaries to China, and C. J. Thompson, district secretary of the Mission Board.

The report presented by Mr. Benton showed Southern Baptist mission work in the papal countries of Argentina, Brazil, Italy and Mexico and the pagan countries of Africa, China and Japan; that there are 278 missionaries with 635 native helpers; 380 churches, 339 schools, 9,376 students, 12 medical missionaries and eight hospitals and 13 dispensaries that treated the past year 74,899 patients. North Carolina paid to foreign missions \$54,318 and is asked this coming year to raise \$60,000. The foreign missionaries reported the past year—5,252 baptisms, a gain of 1,831 over any previous year, the biggest gains being reported from China.

The convention considered Baptist educational matters at the sessions in Wake Forest, especially gratifying reports on Wake Forest College, Meredith College, Chowan College, Oxford Seminary and the various secondary schools. The report as to Wake Forest College showed annual expenses of \$62,850 of which 40 per cent is taken care of by the student fees and the remainder covered by endowment. The eighteenth year of the college finds it with an enrollment of 445, a gain of 11 over last year.

The report on Meredith College showed 355 students enrolled and the endowment grown to \$90,000.

Chowan College reported 95 students, and Oxford Seminary 100. The report in secondary schools showed \$60,000 raised during the last five years to pay off indebtedness and the property valuation of the three colleges and 15 country schools controlled in North Carolina by the Baptists of \$1,394,210, 194 teachers and 4,000 students.

Inspect New Hanover's Health Work.

Wilmington.—Dr. C. W. Stille of the United States Public Health Service, and Dr. L. L. Lumsden, one of the foremost sanitation experts of the public health service, spent some time in Wilmington and New Hanover county inspecting the fine work that has been accomplished, during the past year especially during the past six or eight months. Doctor Lumsden is a typhoid expert and is connected with the public health service.

Encouraging Farmer Boys.

West Raleigh.—In order to encourage farm boys to equip themselves for farm work some handsome prizes in the form of A. & M. scholarships are being offered by business houses of Raleigh and elsewhere. In a number of other counties of the state the idea of scholarships to corn club boys is becoming popular. In case the winner of a scholarship is not old enough to enter college the equivalent sum of money is deposited to the credit of the boy at interest until he is old enough to use it.

\$40,000 Fire at Asheville.

Asheville.—Damage to the amount of \$40,000 was done by fire a few nights ago to the plant of the Asheville Milling Company, on Haywood street, the loss being covered by insurance to the amount of \$25,000. The fire had its origin in the motor room at the southeast corner of the building and spread with such rapidity to all sections of the structure that laborers on duty at the mill were unable to use the fire extinguishers which had been placed to every floor.

Coinage.
In the fifteenth century a skilled colner, of whom there were but few, might be able to turn out by hand fifty or sixty coins a day, a result totally inadequate to cope with the vast quantity of treasure, chiefly silver, that shortly began to arrive from America. To multiply coins was to multiply forgery, and thus the coining machine became a necessity of state. A laminating mill and screw coining press was invented in Italy, 1547; Spain, 1548; France, 1553; England, 1561, reign of Elizabeth. After several trials and abandonments the mill and press were established permanently under Charles II, whose golden guinea, struck in 1662, were the first regular issues of machine coins made north of the channel.

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5 or 6 doses 666 will break any case of Chills & Fever, Colds & LaGrippe; it acts on the liver better than Calomel and does not gripe or sicken. Price 25c.—Adv.

The loud snack is not always the sweetest kiss.

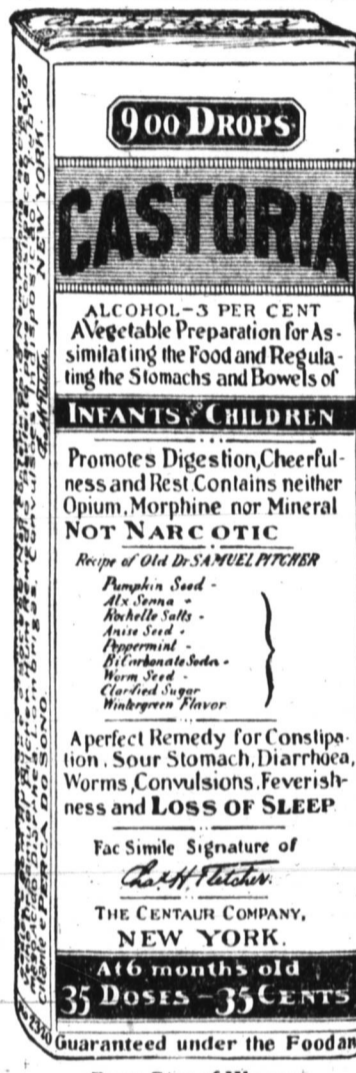
Are Your Kidneys Weak?

Do you know that deaths from kidney troubles are 100,000 a year in the U. S. alone? That deaths from kidney diseases have increased 75% in 20 years? If you are run-down, losing weight, nervous, "blue" and rheumatic, if you have backache, sharp pains when stooping, dizzy spells and urinary disorders, act quickly, if you would avoid the serious kidney troubles. Use Doan's Kidney Pills. There's no other medicine so widely used, so successful or so highly recommended.

A North Carolina Case

"Every Minute Tells a Story!"
J. L. Matheson, 8 South Park, Wadesboro, N. C., says: "I was in misery with pains across the small of my back and my kidneys didn't act as they should. My system was filled with uric acid and I felt miserable. Doan's Kidney Pills fixed me up in good shape and I have had no further signs of kidney trouble."

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No News.

"Did you ask little Jimmy Wombat about the fight over at his house the other night?"

"Yes."
"And what did you get out of him?"
"Not very much. His mother is evidently an exceedingly strict censor."—Judge.

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Bathe freely the affected surface with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Dry without irritation and apply Cuticura Ointment with finger or hand. This treatment affords immediate relief, permits rest and sleep and points to speedy healing in most cases of eczemas, rashes, itchings and irritations of the skin and scalp of infants, children and adults. Free sample each with 32-p. Skin Book if you wish. Address post-card: Cuticura, Dept. X, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

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"That so?"
"Yes. The smoking room has been enlarged three times to accommodate the husbands who don't dance the new steps."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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Will cure your Rheumatism and all kinds of aches and pains—Neuralgia, Cramps, Colic, Sprains, Bruises, Cuts, Old Sores, Burns, etc. Antiseptic Anodyne. Price 25c.—Adv.

How it Happened.

"How did the cashier of your bank get into jail?"
"Left the 's' off speculation."

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Nine times in ten when the liver is right the stomach and bowels are right. **CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS** gently but firmly compel a lazy liver to do its duty.

Cures Constipation, Indigestion, Sick Headache, and Distress After Eating. SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE. Genuine must bear Signature.

W. N. U., CHARLOTTE, NO. 51-1914.

A Suggestion.

Belle—Mamie is such a sensible girl, but she can't attract the men.

Nell—That's the reason. YOUR OWN DRUGGIST WILL TELL YOU Try Murine Eye Remedy for Red, Watery Eyes and Granulated Eyelids. No Stinging—just Eye Comfort. Write for Book of the Eye by mail Free. Murine Eye Remedy, Chicago.

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