For The Christmas Party

BY LUELLA KINGSLEY.

Tiny, mysterious packages, on an eight inch tall Christmas tree— an absurdly gay spot for the informal Christmas dinner—either for the family group of for guests—for grown-ups and kiddies. All will enjoy the amusing gifts it holds.

And if there is no group, and no traditional Christmas dinner, a little tree helps make the day festive—and makes a bright and comforting companion for a sick child or a lonely person.

An imitation evergreen about eight inches high can be obtained at a candy and Christmas favor shop, or at the novelty counter in a larger store. Trees with tiny candles are more effective, but of course, must be lighted with care, and the little flames blown out before a package is taken from the tree.

If the base of the tree is attached to a small box, fill the box with heavy nuts or candy. Streamers of tinsel thread or silver paper make sparkling decorations for the branches. "Snow" and a silver shower may be bought anywhere where Christmas decorations are sold, but strips cut from tinfoil, not necessarily new, or colored paper, do very well and cost next to nothing.

If the tree is not in a holder, place it in a box for convenient handling. The heavier packages on the lower branches, on opposite sides, of the tree will balance it.

Wrap everything. Cut small squares from colored wrapping paper, or bright colored scratch pad. Tie these with colored string, knitting silk, tinsel thread, or bits of narrow ribbon. The brighter and gayer the colors, the better, but if one has time to work out color schemes, here are two suggestions.

Packages wrapped in blue or pink or white paper, and tied with silver or gold thread, the white packages with pink and blue thread, or string. The blue and pink packages with the tinsel thread, or packages wrapped with red, white, or green tissue paper and tied with tinsel thread or red ribbon.

Tiny "poppers" may be imitated by rolling some small object in tissue paper, frilling the ends and tying in two places with the gift between.

Eatables should be wrapped in wax paper—then in colored paper. In tying all packages leave enough string to loop over branches of tree and tie firmly.

In selecting gifts miniature size and light weight are important. Some suggestions follow for presents for an inexpensive tree. Five cents worth of peanuts or animal crackers would supply many trees. Animal crackers, etc., can be wrapped two together. Large nuts may be wrapped in silver or colored paper—making bright spots on the tree. A handkerchief may be folded as small as a postage stamp. Everything on the list may be obtained at a five and ten cent store, an art shop, or a candy and favor shop. Crackers and nuts of course may be obtained from the grocer.

Tiny calendars, colored thimbles, art gum, beads for stringing, beauty pins, lingerie clasps, invisible hairpins, needles, paper clips, elastic bands, water flowers, tiny wooden tops, tiny scissors, dolls and dolls' accessories—these are just a few of the things which may be placed on the tree.

This same plan, of course, may be elaborated upon as much as one wishes. Instead of the artificial tree, a real tree, in a very, very small size may be used. And gifts of more value may take the place of the amusing, inexpensive gifts outlined above.

And where there are no kiddies—or where Santa overlooks bringing the kiddies a tree— the tiny miniature one will be doubly appreciated.

Christmas for the Birds.

Among other delightful traits of the Scandinavian people is their custom in their Yule festivities of thinking not only of the happiness of their little ones, but of teaching these children to bear in mind the happiness of others and in particular of the animals about them. We have seen that they never omit to provide the trusty household *nisse* with his Yule dinner of porridge. But they also remember the birds. At the Yuletide season the market-place of Christiania (now Oslo) presents a very gay aspect, filled as it is with spruce trees of all sizes for the children's festival. But there is a feature in the Norse Christmas that I have not heard of in any other country, in that in this market-place there is for each Christmas tree a *Juleneg*, or little sheaf of barley, each person who buys a tree buying also a sheaf. Then, when the tree is set up in the main room of the house at Yule-tide for the bairns (born, as they are called in Norway), the sheaf of grain is fastened on the end of a pole and put out in the yard for a Christmas feast for the birds! If the degree of civilization of a people can be measured by its behavior to the animals about it, then this custom denotes in the Norsemen a very high plane indeed.

Holly Berries.

In some parts of Ireland holly is regarded as the special tree of the fairies.

In Rutlandshire there is a superstition that it is unlucky to take holly into the house before Christmas.

Holly is valued as a wood by cabinet makers. It is white and hard.

Holly trees are grown in almost every part of the world. The leaves on a holly in the Himalayas are from eight to ten inches long.

The South American native drink, mate, is made from the leaves of a species of holly.

Holly has been popular for decorations since the time of the Druids.

Ideas bring in nothing unless carried out.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND DECORATIONS

BY FLORENCE TAFT EATON.

There is surely an interest and enthusiasm in planning Christmas house decorations that will carry on into the winter, far exceeding that of any other season.

The most stolid person in the world will feel a thrill at the thought of Christmas greens, and the least sentimental will glow at the sight of holly and mistletoe.

When we go for our Christmas things we take cutters, twine and a couple of big baskets. We go first to the big pitch pines, for we covet a few twigs of its brilliantly green needles, selecting branches bearing the rough, chubby cones. Here we also find a certain variety of rich brown heads of seed vessels of a wild grass, heads that are very effective in winter bouquets.

We then go to a certain hillside where we can find nearly everything else necessary for our purposes—princess pine, tree evergreen, barberries, bayberries and so forth; and we clip branches of juniper and cedar and white pine, and twigs of glowing sumac berries, which retain their glorious red color through the winter and are very effective in wreaths and baskets. For sprays of cone-fringed hemlock—one of the most decorative of the winter greens—we visit the grounds of a friend, where we are also allowed to collect a few twigs of the more unique cone-bearing evergreens. Everything, except the sumac berries and the seed vessels of the grasses, we clip most carefully, with conservation in mind; and we never cut the slow-growing and diminishing laurel or pull the rare creeping staghorn.

With all this wealth of greenery and glowing color at command, it is easy to wreath pictures with the trailing evergreens, branches of white pine, cedar and juniper, and to make exquisite wreaths, baskets and window sprays that contribute to the charm of Christmastime. Beware, however, of using hemlock for permanent wall decoration; it soon begins to dry and drop.

For window sprays arrange a flat oval bouquet with stems overlapping and concealed in the middle, of arbor vitæ, cone-fringed hemlock, holly and bright berries; tie a red bow over the stems—wide paper ribbon is all right—and hang between the inner and outer window sashes. These are rapidly made and exceedingly pretty.

For the baskets, select one of graceful shape and effective color; place in it a container for water, and fill with cone-bearing hemlock, sumac sprays, blue-berried cedar and juniper, sprigs of everlasting and bayberries.

For the "Welcome" wreaths make a round of a stiff but pliable twig; take a pair of scissors and a ball of soft twine and go to work. The foundation is prettiest made of all sorts of greenery of the varieties suggested, including as many cones as possible. Intersperse the white everlasting and as many varieties of berries as you have at hand, using sprigs of bayberry liberally. Bunch a mass of evergreens, cones and berries at the top if you wish. Hang on the front door with a big red bow.

Small pine or cedar trees or tiny junipers, potted, are charming.

Then there is a moss garden made in a big flowerpot saucer. This I fill with leaf mold over bits of charcoal, then cover with rich green moss. In which I set all sorts of tiny wood growths—partridge and checkerberry, gold-thread, bits of ferns and so forth. This is sprayed every day, set in the sun occasionally, and in it appears all sorts of minute growths. Acorns and chestnuts sprout into tiny trees.

One of the very prettiest and most effective Christmas decorations I know is made by rapidly wiping over irregular and attractively shaped bare twigs with paste, sprinkling them sparsely with white confetti, a few of which will adhere, and then sprinkling thoroughly with the glittering silver mica dust used for showering Christmas trees. This results in an arrangement exactly resembling a handful of branches covered with hoar frost. Two or three sprigs placed in a glass or silver holder make a beautiful Christmas decoration.

A SUGGESTION

On your Christmas list, like that of everyone, there are names which present difficulties. Perhaps a friend in hospital, or a nephew who cannot get home for Christmas, or some far away friend. You search the shops in vain and in despair you turn home—home to your kitchen perhaps, to prepare the evening meal, and then the idea comes—why not send a box or hamper of home-made Christmas dainties to bear your Christmas greetings of cheer. Of course you will want Christmas Cake in it, some Shortbread, some home-made candy and nuts. These boxes daintily packed and tied with a bright bow make attractive gifts.

SHORTBREAD.

7 cups flour,
2 cups butter,
½ cup fruit sugar,
½ cup brown sugar.

Cream butter, add sugar gradually. Add flour gradually and mix well. Put out on floured board. Knead until it cracks and is of even consistency. Shape into desired sizes. Bake in moderate oven, 350 degrees, for 20 minutes.

FRUIT BALLS.

1 cup figs,
1 cup walnuts, 1 cup dates,
1 cup seeded raisins,
½ tablespoon lemon juice.

Put fruit and nuts through food chopper. Add lemon juice. Mix well. Roll into balls. Then roll in granulated sugar, powdered sugar, icing sugar, or cinnamon.

Santa Claus, Pawnbroker.

The trade sign of pawnbrokers is the familiar three brass balls. Few, however, know that the balls have Christmas origin, and owe their existence as a "loan" symbol to Santa Claus or St. Nicholas, Russia's patron saint.

He was a very rich young man, and among his possessions were three bars of gold, given to him by his parents and treasured accordingly. One night, just before Christmas, he was passing a nobleman's house, and through the open window heard him tell his three daughters that misfortune had come on him, and that the house and all in it must be sold, and that they would have to beg their bread in the streets.

Nicholas' heart was touched, and, knowing that money would be refused, he conceived the idea of secretly placing one of the bars of gold in the house. This he did and it was found and looked on as a gift from Providence. He left another bar the next night, and was about to do the same on the third night, when the nobleman discovered him. Nicholas pressed him to accept the golden bars, and after a time the nobleman agreed to take them as a loan, to be repaid when better times came.

The story—a legend, of course—spread, and gradually those who lent money took the three bars as their trade sign. Later they were changed to the "three balls."

The Oxen.

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek, mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
"Come; see the oxen kneel

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

—Thomas Hardy.

The most severe test of friendship is whether it will stand a loan.

The Sailor Prince

Prince George, youngest son of the King and Queen, was the guest for a few days of the Governor-General at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, while crossing Canada on his way from Oriental waters to England for Christmas.

YE OLD ST. NICK

We hear ye jingle of ye sleigh,
And gladly in our toil we pause
To welcome on thys Christmas Day
Ye fat and jollie Santa Claus;
He cometh down ye sootie flue
To humble cot or lordly hall
And singeth out hys loud halloo,
"A Merrie Christmas to You All."

Hys smile is broad, hys heart is warm,
He bringeth funne and right good cheer,
And be there calm or be there storm,
He cometh surely once a year.
And in our hearts he lights a glow,
Beneath hys magick spell we fall,
Till we, too, greet high and low
Wyth "Merrie Christmas to You All."

Thys day he rules the world, hys laws
Are laws of love and peace and mirth;
Ah, would thatte gentle Santa Claus
Might ever govern on the earth!
Yette are we grateful thatte he brings
One day of Joy for Great and Small,
One day when all ye planet rings
Wyth "Merrie Christmas to You All."

A Share in the Feast.

After all, the animals have a right to take part in Christmas, for did they not witness that first Christmas, when they stood around a manger, in an old stable at Bethlehem, and watched the wise men, in their great wisdom, bow before the Prince of Kindness?

There are always animals in the pictures of the first Christmas, in the stable where the Christ-child first saw the light, and on the hills where the sheep, as well as the shepherds, heard that wondrous anthem. For the most wondrous chorus of voices ever heard on earth was not sung before an assembly of princes, or where wealthy or famous people were assembled. It was sung on a star-lit hillside, where men who earned their living tending sheep were sitting about, waiting for the dawn. And then they saw that other light, and heard that wonderful song about a child born that night, who was to grow up and teach people the law of kindness.

Holiday Sweets

When planning for Christmas one should not forget the possibilities of the home-made candies which may be used as attractive gifts and are flavored with the personal touch greatly appreciated by most of our friends. Also, at the same time, one thus provides the candies to be enjoyed by the family and guests in the home during the holidays.

The small box of salted almonds and peanuts, a quarter pound size, is suggested for each person at the Christmas dinner or to accompany a card for the acquaintance one wishes to remember in a simple way.

Simple paper doileys may be used to line both the bottom of the boxes and the inside of the covers. Wax paper, a litle red ribbon, a Christmas card, or a spray of holly tucked in add very few pennies to the expense, but double the value of the gift.

SALTED NUTS.

Prepare nuts, all except almonds and neanuts must be shelled. With peanuts, remove the red skins. Almonds are placed in boiling water for about two minutes, till skins soften, and then pour off water and partly cool. Remove brown jackets and dry them. For all kinds put ½ cup cooking oil or 3 tablespoonfuls butter in frying pan. Stir in 1 cup nuts and grease well, remove from fat and drain on paper. While draining, sprinkle with sale. Grease another cup full and so on. Next place in pan and in oven till as brown as desired. Watch well while in oven and have only moderately heated oven for this work. Stir often.

PLAIN CHOCOLATE FUDGE.

2 cups sugar,
2-3 cup of milk,
2 tablespoonfuls butter,
3 ounces chocolate.

Boil while stirring till thick enough to drop from spoon as molasses will, that is, when poured back into the rest of the mixture it will pile up on itself a little and not readily mix into the rest as a thinner liquid will (about 7 or 8 minutes). Remove from heat, add 1 teaspoonful vanilla and beat till creamy and just ready to harden. Pour into buttered pan and cut when partly cooled.

Nuts, cocoanut, or bits of marshmallow may be added as it is beaten. The time of beating is about 7 or 8 minutes and this gives a more creamy result than longer boiling and less beating. In all candies thin cream or very rich milk gives smooth, velvety results, as compared with ordinary milk and part milk and part evaporated milk will give fine results when cream is not at hand.

OLD FASHIONED MOLASSES CANDY.

2 cups molasses,
1 cup sugar,
3 tablespoonfuls butter,
¼ cup water.

Boil till hard ball forms in cold water. Add either 1-3 teaspoonful of cream of tartar or 1 tablespoonful vinegar. Pour onto buttered platter till partly cooled. With wide knife fold over and over, and when cool enough, pull. Butter the hands for pulling. Cut in small pieces with shears. Wrap in wax paper.

ENGLISH TOFFEE.

1 cup white sugar,
1 cup brown sugar,
1 cup corn syrup,
1 cup light cream or rich milk,
½ teaspoonful salt.

Mix in sauce pan and stir over heat five minutes. Boil till it forms a hard ball in cold water. Add one teaspoonful vanilla and 2 tablespoonfuls butter. Pour into oiled pan. Cut when partly cooled. Later wrap in caramel papers. For chocolate toffee with butter add one ounce of chocolate. Nuts and marshmallows cut in small bits may be added as desired. Often these are chocolate coated, too.

Corn syrup is used in many candies with cane sugar. Candies poured into pans oiled with cooking oils or olive oil have a more attractive surface than when butter is used on the pans.

PEPPERMINTS AND WINTERGREENS.

1 cup sugar,
8 tablespoonfuls water.

Boil up well once, till bubbling all over surface. Put 3 teaspoonfuls confectioners sugar into a bowl and pour syrup onto this, then beat till smooth and flavor. Drop on wax paper or oiled tin.—E. M. S.

DON'T PUT YOUR HOUSE TO SHAME AT CHRISTMAS TIME

It Is the One Time Of All the Year When It Should Be Dressed Up—To Do Its Bit In Spreading Yuletide Cheer.

BY HELEN OLSON.

Even our homes, the houses in which we live, in their mute way welcome with joy the advent of Christmas and the holidays. You may not have suspected it—but that is because you have never paused to consider that the yuletide season is the only time throughout the year that our houses are "dolled-up" or allowed to wear gay ribbons and bright colors and put forth their most inviting appearance.

Howveer, houses like little girls, sometimes are put to shame by the way their mothers dress them up—some mothers, as you know, overdoing it—others by theirs bad taste— and still others who seem to think that a "hair ribbon" is enough to make one feel dressed up.

Christmas decorations in the home are not for the family and visiting friends only. Every housewife should realize this fact. Colorful decorations however are very, very essential to the development of the real Christmas spirit feeling, putting the color and action into what otherwise might merely be a drab winter week in December.

Simplicity is always a good rule in any art—and who is there who can say that arrangement of color does not call for a certain sense of the artistic?

First of all consider the size of the house when selecting the decorations that are to be used at doors, windows and throughout the home.

At the front door a fat bright holly wreath with a plentiful supply of red berries, by all means. The real holly wreath is of course to be preferred. In the Eastern States the practice is quite general of hanging the wreath on the outside of the door. This is done so that it will not wither or dry out as quickly—as it sometimes will do when hung inside and behind the glass panel. The writer knows one family from the West who were quite shocked at seeing the wreath on the outside of the door—expressing the feeling that it was too suggestive of death in the home.

However, it is a matter of choice and no doubt one can well be governed by the custom of the locality in which they live.

For the windows, all decorations are hung on the inside. If one has large plate glass windows then a medium sized holly wreath on each window is quite appropriate. If the windows are small—then almost any wreath obtainable is too large. The most artistic touch for smaller windows is a bright red (artificial) poinsettia or small bright red paper bell replacing the tassel on the shade. This gives just the right touch of color and a uniformity which is very pleasing to passersby.

Throughout the country the practice is every year becoming more general of decorating the living fir, or evergreen trees which may be growing in one's yard. Tiny bright Christmas electric lights only are used. When the lights are turned on it is beautiful and inviting.

When one has two living Christmas trees at one's doorstep—all ablaze with brightly colored lights—it spreads the Yuletide cheer.

The most artistic touch of all—was that soul who first conceived the idea of transplanting small firs, cedars or evergreens to the flower boxes which throughout the summer had been such a riot of gay color. During the holiday week one can pin red cranberries to branch ends of these little trees—adding to the decorative value.

You will note we have touched only on home decoration for Christmas which has to do with the view from the outside of the home. Just one more point: no matter the size of the Christmas tree you may have in the home, place it where it can be seen through window, door, or glassed-in porch, so that all passersby may enjoy it too.

It gives that warm feeling to the heart to know that within that home—the Christmas spirit—joy and peace—is prevailing.

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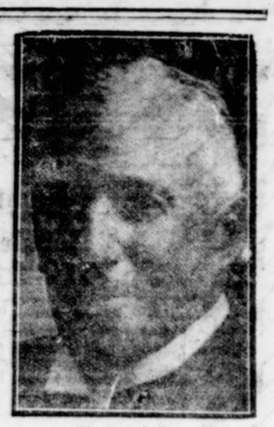

Sir Joseph Pope

Former under-secretary of state in the federal government and a distinguished figure in Canadian public life, died at his home in Ottawa, on Dec. 2, aged 73 years. Sir Joseph had player a big part in the civil service of this country during the past forty-five years. He was the son of the late Hon. W. H. Pope, one of the fathers of Confederation.

God With Us.

Oh, light the Christmas candles
And let them shine to-night
Across the span of ages,
Reflecting Heaven's Light.
A Light that brings creation
Glad tidings of good cheer;
A Light forever burning,
One pathway straight and clear.

Oh, light the Christmas candles,
While chanters sweetly sing,
For once more in a manger
Is throned our new-born King.
With myrrh of deep devotion,
And joy and things of gold,
Come spread a living worship
Where wise men knelt of old.

Oh, light the Christmas candles
And ring, ye merry bells;
Fling out the cheer and good will
Each yuletide message tells;
Forgetting years of darkness,
We walk to-day in Light.
Come, set the shining candles,
Earth sings with Heaven to-night!

—Anne M. Robinson.

Carol.

Jesu, lyte of all the worlde!
Thou to whom my hearte doth call
When the stormes affryte it,
Hede me, for it is so smalle
That a starre could lyte it.

Jesu, lyte of all the worlde!
If too black my heartes darke
For Thyselfe to handel,
Lyte it with Thy wordes sparke
For Thy Christmasse candel.

—Audley Maine.

Winter Apple-Blossoms.

The branches of my apple-tree
Seem very beautiful to me
When laden with white blooms of snow
They lightly lift and bend and blow.
The fields may lie, dark, sere and cold,
And Summer be a story told,
But snow-blooms on my apple tree,
Turn Winter into May for me.

—Mariam Ott Munson.

The Hymn.

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for Thee?
The pasture is Thy word, the streams Thy grace,
Enriching every place.

—George Herbert.

She—"I don't know how we can get out of buying a Christmas present for Aunt Ella. She's going to leave her money to us, you know."

"He—"Why not let her take it out of the amount she's going to leave us?"

Pearl-Bedecked Canoe.

Balboa, who visiter. the Pearl islands, near the bay of Panama, reported that the canoe of the chief was richly decorated with pearls.

Use of Aluminum Paint.

Aluminum paint is being used to keep structures either hot or cold, because it reflects heat and does not readily absorb it.

Grand Banks Cod Catch.

The total annual catch of cod on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland amounts to more than 200,000,000 fish, and the steady drain has continued for hundreds of years, yet the supply shows no signs of diminishing.

Whipless apparatus is now installed in 4,000,000 British homes.

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