

Decorations for Christmas Tree.

Cut strips of colored paper into four-inch lengths, and one-inch widths. Gum the edges and join into rings. By another loop join these into chains, any length required, and loop from the tops to the tips of the branches. They may be made of white and pink, or blue and white, or all one color. Silver or gilt paper may be used. String long rows of pop-corn and use in the same way, or a lot of small flags of all devices can be made of colored paper. This paper can be procured at any newspaper office for a trifle. Red berries strung in long rows make a pretty effect looped between the branches. Even a small bit of silver cut into fine fringe and tied at intervals close to the branch, produces a sparkling effect. The small flags should be gummed to a small stick and inserted in the branch with pen-knife. These Christmas trees are a pleasing device from which to distribute the gifts to a Sunday school.

Queer Old Customs.

It will be news to many in this day that there was once a time, a long time, too, extending over several centuries, when there was a salaried official

IN CHURCH

to waken sleeping members of the congregation, and to expel sleeping dogs from the sacred edifice.

These individuals are alluded to in the records as

SLUGGARD-WAKERS AND DOG-WHIPPERS, and the fees paid them were very liberal, their annual salary being a mere pittance.

The custom, which was frequent in England, was also practiced in America more than two centuries ago. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Whiting, a minister of Lynn, Mass., was provided with a sluggard-waker, one Allan Brydges, who brushed the faces of those inclined to sleep with a fox's tail fastened to a long staff, "likewise a sharpe thorne, wherewith he may prick such as be most sounde."

Women, as well as men, also served in this capacity.

BETTY FINCH,

of Warrington, occupied this position at Holy Trinity Church in 1810, a comparatively recent period. She walked majestically up and down the aisle during the service, armed with a long stick like a fishing rod, with a "bob" on the end of it. With this she angled for sleepers. The term "bobbars" was used for this service, and Betty's son, one of a family of officials, used to recite for the amusement of the tavern goers:

"My father's a clark,
My sister's a singer,
My mother's a 'bobber,'
And I am a ringer."

The dog-whipper was to be found in every county in England, and is still at his work in the churches of some remote places. Indeed, there is a church in Wales where

"LAZY TONGS,"

with spikes in the ends, are still used to drag the unconsecrated animals from the sacred edifice.

The dog-whipper at Bray, in Berkshire, was provided with a "jerkin" to indicate his official position, at a cost of six shillings and four pence. The item paid to Richard Turner for whipping the "dogges" out of a church at Morton, in Derbyshire, in 1862, was one shilling.

It is believed that the well-known sexton of Peterborough, Old Scarlett, was one of the first dog-whippers in the country. His portrait on the wall of the cathedral depicts him with a whip in his belt. He died in 1591.

In some of the churches the dog-whipper was only allowed to drive out truant dogs, the dogs of the gentry being furnished with a pew, where they were admonished to keep order.

In Northrope Church, which was a dependency of Northrope Hall, there was a hall-pew for the Northrope canines, who were of bluer blood than the collies of the shepherds, and were more highly accommodated, as well as being safe from the taws of the dog-whipper.

A Few Suggestions for Entertaining.

BY EVELYN L.

Now that the busy season is over upon the farm, and the short winter days, with their long evenings, have come, there is more leisure to consider how these evenings shall be spent and hospitalities exchanged. Uncle Tom, in his letters to nephews and nieces, has from time to time alluded to pleasant ways of spending these evenings in the home circle, so I will not touch upon these, but will offer rather a few suggestions for entertaining. It is perhaps hardly necessary to say, in passing, how essential it is that we mingle with those about us, as this enlarges our thoughts and ideas, makes us bright and cheerful, and keeps us akin to the spirit of the times.

In country districts, where guests will drive several miles, it is well to serve refreshment upon their arrival, and for this reason teas are very popular. The old-fashioned plan of seating all the guests around the one long table, groaning under the triumphs of culinary skill, may have its advantages, but the newer way of using small tables will be found much pleasanter. Place your tables, three or four in the parlor, two or three in the sitting-room, etc., according to the number you entertain, four being the best number for each table. If you can obtain them delicate sprays of green, artistically arranged, have a pretty effect on the white linen covers. On each table have a cream pitcher and sugar bowl, a dish of olives or pickles, some salted almonds, and forks and spoons, according to what you intend serving. After the guests are seated a plate of thin bread and butter, or bread and butter sandwiches should also be placed on each table, and then serve the tea, beginning, we will say, with fried chicken, cream potatoes, cold sliced tongue or ham, celery, and tea or coffee, as may be preferred. After these plates have been removed, have cheese, salad and crackers, while for a third course ice cream is always acceptable; but where this cannot be obtained jelly or canned fruit must take its place, aided by the light and dainty cakes, the pride of every housekeeper's heart.

Great care should be exercised in the seating of guests, and the hostess must summon all her tact to her assistance in arranging the tables, in order that those who sit together may be congenial company. Designate each guest's place by a written or painted card bearing his or her name, and there will be no confusion in seating.

After tea it is well to have some settled form of entertainment. Progressive conversation has become very popular. If you have six tables make out a list of twelve topics, varied to suit the probable tastes of your guests. The following list is offered as a suggestion:—

1. School days.
2. Friendship.
3. Blunders.
4. Cholera.
5. Cranks.
6. Travel.
7. True Patriotism.
8. Physical Culture.
9. The last book read.
10. What gift, as a woman, would you prefer before all others?
11. What city is the most beautiful that you have seen?
12. Whom do you consider the greatest living statesman?

On prettily decorated cards write two subjects, placing one on each table. Let it be understood that five or ten minutes, as may be thought best, will be allowed for the discussion of each subject, and have a small bell to ring at the expiration of the allotted time. After the first topic on each card has been discussed one lady and one gentleman from each table progress, the former to the table above, and the latter to the one below that which they formerly occupied, and the second topic is talked over. Then those who remained at first progress to another table, and in this way each guest has an opportunity of conversing with everyone present, and every topic is discussed in turn. At the close of the conversation a vote is taken as to the best conversationalists, and prizes presented to the lady and gentleman securing the greatest number of votes.

"Observation" is a pleasant finish for an evening's enjoyment, and is carried out as follows: Cover a large tray with bright tissue paper, and place upon it a collection of from one to two hundred small articles of every shape and variety which may be collected from every department of the household. Place the tray on each table in turn, allowing one minute for observation. When all have looked at it distribute pencils and paper, and allow five minutes for writing down all that can be remembered. The one having the largest correct list is entitled to a prize.

"Salamander" will also be found interesting. Provide each guest with a pencil and sheet of paper with the word "Salamander," or any other which may suggest itself, written at the top. Then allow ten or fifteen minutes for writing the words which can be constructed from the letters forming the word on the paper, and the person having the greatest number is declared the winner.

Progressive verse making, if not considered too difficult, may be made very entertaining and amusing. Upon a small slip of paper, provided for the purpose, each person writes a noun, after which the slips are folded up and distributed, so that every one receives a noun written by some one else. In the same way questions are written and distributed, and then it is the pleasing task of each individual to compose a verse of poetry, bringing in the question and noun which has fallen to his share, no matter how incongruous they may be. A stated time being given for their composition the verses are read aloud, those having the best progress, as in the conversation, and those making the greatest number of progressions being the winners.

Pink teas and rainbow teas are very pretty and appropriate for the holiday season. For the former make the small table-covers of a suitable shade of pink silecia; if the white be preferred, a large pink bow is a pleasing addition. Tie the bread and butter in tiny rolls with pink baby ribbon, a bow of which on the cards for the guests' names has a very pretty effect. The color may be carried out in any way that fancy suggests—pink jelly, pink icing for cake, pink ice cream, etc., etc. At a rainbow tea lately given, soft draperies for the room were made of long strips of inexpensive material of different colors, sewn together to give the rainbow effect. Pretty ribbons decorated the tables, harmonizing and blending in their arrangement, while the cards had the rainbow colors daintily shaded in one corner.

An Artist's Bill.

An artist employed in an old church in Belgium, being refused payment in a lump and asked for details, sent in his bill as follows:—

	FR. C.
Corrected and renewed the X. Commandments.....	3 12
Embellished Pontius Pilate, and put a ribbon on his bonnet.....	3 00
Put a new tail on the rooster of St. Peter, and mended his comb.....	3 20
Replenished and gilded the left wing of the Guardian Angel.....	4 18
Washed the servant of the High Priest, and put carmine on his cheeks.....	5 12
Renewed Heaven, adjusted two stars, and cleaned the floor.....	7 14
Renewed the flames of Purgatory, and restored souls.....	3 08
Revived the flames of Hell, put a new tail on the Devil, mended his left hoof, and did several jobs on the damned.....	7 17
Rebordered the robe of Herod, and adjusted his wig.....	4 00
Put new spatter dashes on the son of Tobias and dressing on his sock.....	2 00
Cleaned the ears of Balaam's ass, and shod him.....	3 40
Put earrings on the ears of Sarah.....	3 04
Put a new stone in David's sling, enlarged the head of Goliath and extended his legs.....	3 02
Mended the shirt of the Prodigal Son, and cleaned his ears.....	4 00
Total.....	54 46

Camphor gum burned on a stove or volatilized over a lamp is recommended as an excellent means of driving away flies or mosquitoes.

If any foreign substance is swallowed which is sharp, a needle for instance, do not give an emetic, but confine the diet to mashed potatoes for two days.

Tar or paint may be removed by first applying oil of some kind, or lard; then, after scraping off the loosened substance, apply a mixture of turpentine and benzine, and at the last use benzine alone.