



JANUARY.
 The snow is falling,
 The year's begun,
 And, oh, snow-balling
 Is splendid fun!
 Poor shivering bunnies
 If you but knew
 What real fun is
 You'd snow-ball too!

A FROST FESTIVAL.

To those who seek novel ways of entertaining, the Frost Festival offers some desirable features. It is suitable for any season of the year.

The purpose of this festival is to reproduce winter scenes, and particularly the artistic handiwork of Jack Frost, by means of decorations, costumes and bill of fare, and by various features of musical and literary entertainment. The plan gives, mainly, suggestions for those who desire to entertain a large number of guests, as at church, club or society festivals, where the object in view is the raising of money for carrying on benevolent work. Hence the decorations are planned to accomplish tasteful and artistic results with a small outlay of money.

However, young people may easily adapt the idea to smaller home parties, where they may dress their rooms in Arctic fashion, and invite their guests to appear as people from "Lands of the midnight sun and eternal snows," or as representatives of such characters, real or imaginary, as belong to winter and its quieties.

It is desirable to represent, in the decoration of the walls of the room, ice and snow formations as they appear pendant from roofs, fences, and the large branches of trees after a winter's storm. This may be done with an effect of reality by asterning snow-white cotton-batting to the tops of door and window casings, pulling it downward in points and ragged, irregular shapes, and sprinkling it liberally with pulverized mica or "frost powder."

Small fir-trees and boughs loaded with

ragged bits of frosted cotton may be used to advantage. Glass icicles, such as are used in decorating Christmas-trees, are desirable. If these cannot be had, white paper, rolled into the form of ice pendants, brushed with mucilage until well-moistened, and at last thoroughly covered with frost powder, may serve for snow points. Silver paper made up in the same way gives an excellent imitation of icicles.

The room at the rear of the platform—if such an one is available—should, if possible, be converted into a snow cave. This is easily done by covering the walls and floor with white cloth. Then, tearing cotton-batting into ragged strips, pin it lightly upon the white cloth that covers the walls.

Various original features may be added to make the cave more realistic, such as drifts and ice wells, and troughs and bowls hewn from blocks of ice. These may be set upon large tubs, which should be concealed by white drappings of cotton and small fir boughs. The wells and caves may be filled with cool drinks of different kinds, from which guests may be served. A liberal use of snow powder is a necessity, and in lighting the cave a lamp with blue glass shade should be used.

The table decorations may be made very unique and beautiful with slight expense. In the first place, cover the tables with white cloths. White tissue paper, daintily fringed, serves for napkins. Snowballs made out of light, fluffy bits of cotton sheared into proper roundness, upon which short quotations—not over two or three printed lines—may be pasted by using a

touch of mucilage, are pretty and appropriate plate souvenirs.

Each table ought to have a centerpiece. Snow mounds; toboggan chutes with dogs harnessed pulling the sleds up the hill on one side of the summit, and a merry party dashing down the opposite path in imitation of the Canadian carnivals; h u g o snowballs piled in pyramidal shade; snow men; snow forts with boys in full battle, and the like, may be constructed by first shaping the figures as nearly as possible out of newspaper, and then covering and perfecting the forms with a thick layer of cotton-batting. Over all sprinkle frost powder and threads of silver fringe.

Toy dogs and dolls dressed in toboggan suits may be used to represent the living figures of the toboggan chute, and toy soldiers answer for the snow forts. No ingenious person need fear to undertake the making of any or all of the centerpieces suggested. They add much to the appearance of the tables.

If the season is warm, the bill of fare may well consist, mainly, of frozen creams and ices of various kinds, with frosted cakes and cold drinks. If a more substantial repast is desired, the dessert, at least, should partake of

and sailing," and so forth, until the last verse is reached. Here the children should sing, "We are all a-running and a-rushing," etc., and the two last lines should be repeated several times. The running grows more rapid, and the path more zigzag, until finally the snowflakes all disappear into the cave, as though blown thither by a fierce gale.

The snowflakes give another exercise accompanied by the piano. The musical selection is a bright number in four-four time. The snow-flakes, keeping perfect time, give sixteen strokes to each movement, in the following order:

1, with right hand; 2, with left hand; 3, with both hands; 4, clap hands; 5, clap hands above the head; 6, head thrown back, then forward; 7, head bend to right, then to left; 8, right foot; 9, left foot; 10, hop at place; 11, "hippety-hop" in a circle; 12, join hands, still keeping the "hippety-hop" step; 13, two tallest children raise hands; the two children at opposite side of circle hop under the raised hands, then separate and hop back to their former place in the circle. The other children, having followed their lead, come back to their places; the circle is again formed; they join hands, and hop around the circle once more. The tallest again raise their hands. The same movements are repeated three times, and the snowflakes h'e away to their cave.

As a pleasing accompaniment suggestive of winter, the children may wear tiny bells sewed upon their sleeves and dress skirts. —Mrs. A. G. Lewis, in *Youth's Companion*.

THE ART OF CHRISTMAS GIVING.

Give with a loving and full heart, and never under any circumstances give that which you begrudge. Such a gift will bear no fruit for you, not even the honest fruit of thanks. You can quote as many times as you want that "Unto him that hath shall be given," and so it shall, because it is just this way, my friend: You possess the gifts of gentleness and graciousness, of politeness and of goodness, and these are gifts that call others to them. If people are cross and disagreeable there is very slight inclination to wish them A Merry Christmas; if they are irritable and snappish nobody cares whether they are blessed with a Christmas present or not, but unto her who hath the graces that I have cited, will certainly come a basket full of good gifts, "Pressed down, shaken together and running over." —Ruth Ashmore.

Two THINGS you ought not to fret about; First, things which you can help; and second, things which you cannot help. If you can help them, why do you not apply the remedy? If you cannot help them, you might as well surrender first as last. —Talmage.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

The children dreamed the whole night through
 Of stockings hung to the hearth beside;
 And, bound to make each dream come true,
 Went Santa Claus at Christmas-tide.

Black stockings, red, brown, white and gray—
 Long, little, warm, or patched and thin—
 The kindly saint found on his way,
 And, smiling popped his presents in.

But as he felt his hoard grow light,
 A tear-drop glistened in his eye:
 "More children on this earth to-night,
 Than stars are twinkling in the sky."

Upon the white and frozen snow
 He knelt, his empty bag beside—
 "Some little socks must empty go,
 Alas!"—said he—"this Christmas-tide.

"Though I their stockings may not heap
 With gifts and toys and Christmas cheer,
 These little ones from sorrow keep;
 For each, dear Lord, to thee is dear!

"Thou wert a little child like them"—
 Prayed he—"for whom I would provide,
 Long years ago in Bethlehem,
 That first and blessed Christmas-tide!

"As soothed thee then thy mother's kiss,
 And all her comfort, sweet and kind,
 So give them love, lest they may miss
 The gifts I know not where to find!

"That sweetest gift, dear Lord, bestow
 On all the children far and wide;
 And give them hearts as pure as snow,"
 Prayed Santa Claus—"at Christmas-tide!"
 —Marguerite Merington, in *The Ladies' Home Journal*.

the frosty nature.

Young ladies in white dresses and caps should serve at the tables. The most suitable material for costumes is white Canton flannel, made up the push side out, since the plush retains the frost powder in desirable quantity.

It will be impossible, in a short article, to outline any considerable part of an entertainment suited to a festival of this kind. One feature, however, may be mentioned briefly.

A dozen children may be chosen to represent snow-flakes. Their costumes, without exception, are made of white Canton flannel. Jack Frost is represented as a very active little fellow of six. The "Wee Snowballman" is another equally tiny lad, while Frost Fluke, the smallest of the girls, is resplendent with tinsel fringe.

These little people, by movement songs and exercises, very beautifully represent the frolic of the snowflakes, as they come hurrying down from the clouds to cover the brown earth.

To the familiar tune of "We are all nodding, mid-nid-nodding," they sing several verses like the following, accompanying the singing of the two first and two last lines with appropriate movements:

"We are all a-floating, float, float, floating,
 We are all a-floating and flying through the air
 Just like the snow-flakes white
 Just like the snow-flakes bright,
 We are floating, floating, floating
 Just like snow-flakes through the air,
 We are all a-floating, float, float, floating,
 We are all a-floating and flying through the air."

These verses may be prolonged indefinitely by replacing "floating and flying" with "pushing and crowding," "swinging