

S. L. B. All right, and I'll wind them up so you can see what clever dolls they are. (*Goes out and returns with ten of the smallest children.*)

S. L. B. Now, just you wait a minute, and we'll be ready. (*Winds them up and dolls straighten out in one line across stage.*)

S. L. B. Now, dollikins, are you warm, and ready to help these children have a merry Christmas? (*Dolls nod. They obey all orders given.*)

1 You may stand like soldiers. 2 March front. 3 March back. 4 Whirl. 5 Look pleasant. 6 Look cross. 7 Laugh. 8 Cry. 9 Face right. 10 March around once. 11 Dance. 12 Straighten your line and tell us some of the things you learned at school. Give me the cross kitty sound. (*Dolls sound f.*) 13 The wind sound. (*Dolls raise arms, sway from side to side, and sound w.*) 14 Now be grandfather frogs. (*Dolls sound g.*) 15 The old cow. (*Dolls sound m.*) 16 The tired dog sound. (*Dolls sound h.*) 17 The clock sound. (*Dolls make movement of pendulum with right arm and sound t.*) 18 The cross dog sound. (*Dolls sound r.*) 20 You may sing your song. (*They sing.*) 21 Well done, dollikins. Wish the children a Merry Christmas, then we must travel along or we'll never catch Santa Claus.

Dolls: Merry Christmas, children.

Children: Merry Christmas, Dollies.

S. L. B. Good-bye, children.

Children: Good-bye, little boy, come again next year.

(*S. L. B. and dolls march out.*)

—Primary Education.

A Christmas Surprise.

Last year, as Christmas drew near, a certain little teacher tried to think of some treat for the last day before the holidays for her pupils who were second and third grade children.

There had been a programme for the parents at Thanksgiving, so at Christmas she did not have the pupils make presents for their mothers and fathers. The drawing periods for several days were devoted to paper cutting and drawing suitable to the season; beyond that the little folks made no preparation at school for Christmas; but their teacher urged them to be present on Friday before the holidays. She wanted each one to be there.

On Thursday after school, one of the older boys tacked curtains made of dark red percale over the windows and covered the two transoms. The curtains were looped back, letting the light enter as usual, and the schoolhouse was closed.

That night at home the teacher and her very loyal family made for each child a pretty paper package of candy and popcorn, and a half pound Christmas box was filled with animal cakes for each one. These were put in two baskets and carried to the schoolhouse early the next morning and covered with the teacher's raincoat.

School opened, the children seeing nothing unusual. After the morning exercises and the roll call, the teacher told the story of Christ's birth as Saint Luke records it. This was followed by the reading of two Christmas stories. Some Christmas songs and some good-night songs were sung, and the teacher went about the room dropping the dark curtains,

and then she lighted four pretty wax candles and placed them on her desk. As the good-night songs continued, each little head dropped on its owner's desk and all "went to sleep."

The teacher sang alone "The Slumber Boat" and went quietly about the room, leaving on each desk a box of cakes and one of the tissue paper packages of popcorn and candy. She clapped her hands and all awoke. What a pretty scene the candle-lit room filled with children with surprised, happy faces made!

Good wishes were exchanged, some songs were sung, a short prayer, asking for God's care over each one while they were separated, was made, and the children were dismissed; but they lingered long enough for the teacher to know that her plan had been successful—*Exchange.*

Shoe or Stocking.

A dialogue suitable for two little boys or girls. The chorus of children speak from their seats in the audience.

First Child:

In Holland, every Christmas Eve
Are set outside the door
Queer wooden shoes, which Santa sees
And fills them from his store.

Second Child:

But here, we hang our stockings up
On handy hook or nail,
And Santa Claus, when all is still,
Will fill them, without fail.

Chorus of Children:

Come, tell us, little girl; be quick,
There is no time to lose.
Between a stocking and a shoe
Which do you think you'd choose?

First Child:

If Santa Claus asked which I'd like
I'd soon a stocking fetch;
It seems to me a stocking's best,
For wooden shoes *won't stretch!*
—Adapted from verses by Edith M. Thomas.

Christmas Dolls.

A recitation for ten or more little girls, each holding a doll, except one, who holds a Teddy Bear behind her back until her turn comes to recite. As each child recites, she steps forward, holds up her doll and points to each article of dress as she names it.

All sing: Tune, "Here we go round the Mulberry Bush."
Here we come with our Christmas dolls,
Christmas dolls, Christmas dolls,
Here we come with our Christmas dolls,
Wouldn't you like to see them?