

FAIRY-TALE GAMES

(By Regina Hanson Wescott in the Delineator)

When the snow flies and the nursery fire crackles and glows, and you wish for something new and beautiful to play—listen, something happens!

Out from between the green-and-gold covers of your most precious story book step your most precious story book friends. How merry! Here are Red Riding Hood, old Rip Van Winkle, Cinderella, and Robinson Crusoe, and each has a new game to play with you.

Little Red Riding Hood

Just think how many things there were to perplex Little Red Riding Hood when she found such a queer-looking Grandmother in bed. The children playing this game realize that it was a perplexing matter.

One half of the players are Little Red Riding Hood and her sisters; the other half are wolves. One of the Wolves is selected, secretly, as the Wolf who followed Little Red Riding Hood. It is very important that the opposite children do not know who is chosen. Two chalk-lines are drawn upon the floor about ten feet apart. Each side takes its place behind one of these lines. Then the words of the story begin:

Riding Hoods—"Oh, Grandmother, what big ears you have!"

Wolves—"The better to hear you, my dear!"

The story continues thru "the eyes to see you" and "the hands to catch hold of you." Then the Red Riding Hood line says:

"But, Grandma, what big teeth you have!"

The Wolves answer: "The better to eat you!"

With this warning the Wolves run after Little Red Riding Hood and her sisters. Each Wolf tries to catch one, but as soon as the Wolf tags one, he calls, "Little Red Riding Hood is caught." After this no Wolf may catch any one.

The Wolves take their captives back to their line and surrender their places to them, that is, each Red Riding Hood caught takes the place of the Wolf who caught her, the Wolf joining the other side. Another player is chosen secretly, as the Wolf was chosen, and the game is repeated. That child wins the game who is caught least often by the Wolves, and the Wolf who caught no one must pay a forfeit.

Rip Van Winkle

The child chosen to play the part of old Rip Van Winkle goes off to the woods for his sleep. He only leaves the room, of course. While he is asleep the various players, who were children when he left, grow up and begin to do grown-up people's work. Each chooses what he will represent—a carpenter, a baker, a cobbler, a housekeeper, a teacher, a dressmaker, a blacksmith, an artist—and shows all the others what his choice is and how he will represent it. These representations must be honest; yet they may be puzzling, as a cobbler sewing a shoe might be mistaken for a dressmaker at work.

When every one is ready they call, "Wake up, Rip!" Then Rip Van Winkle, stretching and yawning, appears in his town of long ago and is surprised to see the children so changed and all working at trades. He tries to guess what trade each one is following. All goes well until he makes a false guess, then immediately all his friends are upon him, chasing him until his stiffened bones ache.

The player who catches him becomes the new Rip Van Winkle and goes off to sleep as before, while his friends choose new occupations. If all of Rip's guesses are correct, he may choose the best workman as his successor.

Cinderella's Slipper

Thru the hemmed edge of a circle of stout cloth, eighteen inches in diameter, a drawstring is run. It is necessary that the string work very freely.

A circle is formed around two players, one of whom is called the Prince, the other his Servant. The Servant holds the cloth, which is Cinderella's Slipper. This player, kneeling just inside the circle, places the cloth flat upon the ground, holding its drawstrings firmly in his hand. The Prince stands behind him as referee. The players circle about very slowly, singing:

"Oh, Cinderella, oh, Cinderella, oh, Cinderella, where are you?"

"I'm not Cinderella, I'm not Cinderella, I'm not Cinderella, neither are you!"

Whenever the word "Cinderella" is sung, the player who at that time is opposite the Servant and the cloth must put one foot flat upon the cloth. The object of the Servant is to pull the strings quickly enough to prevent the foot's being withdrawn. When he succeeds, Cinderella is found. He does not have to draw it up for each foot, consequently the players do not know when he will choose to and they become more and more daring. The Prince watches to see that each foot is placed flat upon the Slipper. If he catches some one slighting the task, that one becomes Prince.

When the Servant has caught the foot of Cinderella, the player caught becomes the Servant and hunts a new Cinderella.

ARE WOMEN'S INTERESTS CHANGING?

(From The Delineator)

The General Federation of Women's clubs represents one million and a half women of this country, and at each general conference of this great organization it has been easy to mark a notable shifting of interest. Clubs that were formerly pre-occupied with self-improvement have become clubs interested in the general improvement of human conditions. Women are beginning to realize, as Shaw says, that it is difficult to be more moral than one's environment. Four thousand clubs of this federation are now studying civics, either departmentally or entirely. Most of the clubs so engaged are sharing in a general civic activity. At the civic conference of the last biennial, President Charles Zueblin, in his address, said:

"Go home and study our fundamental

women are bending their energies toward the social betterment of their environment, civic and rural.

Even more important is it to realize that a truly valuable judgment upon current matters must be founded on a wide and broad knowledge of the past, its history, its culture, its slow development of thought. While efficiency is based on civic information and interest, true sagacity is and must ever be based upon knowledge of the past, its conscience and its consciousness.

A SUFFRAGE WEDDING

On October 15 an event, very interesting to the members of the Political Equality League, took place. It was the marriage of Miss Winona M. Flett to Mr. Frederick J. Dixon, M.P.P. for Centre Winnipeg.

Mrs. Dixon has been an active and enthusiastic member of the league since the first and has, since last May, been secretary of literature for the whole society. Many of you will have communicated with her in this capacity. She is a very beautiful and charming young woman and amazingly capable.

Mr. Dixon, who is well known all over the West, for his enthusiastic work in the interests of Direct Legislation and Single Tax, is hardly less enthusiastic in his support of Woman Suffrage and has been advocating it for many years. Great things are hoped from his new position of power in parliament, for the gentleman has a gift of the tongue, that is decidedly disconcerting to his opponents. That it will ever be used on the side of progress there is every reason to believe.

COURT OF MARITAL ADJUSTMENT

A court of domestic relations, conducted not primarily to inflict punishment



Mr. and Mrs. FREDERICK J. DIXON.

economic situation today, or you may just as well not have come here and your club may just as well disband."

The following resolution presented by the Civics Committee emphasizes the importance in which this advice is held:

"Whereas, civic workers must realize that civic work cannot touch the sources of the evils to which it gives attention, and that these evils are largely economic, be it

"Resolved, That every State chairman of Civics be asked to introduce to the clubs of her state a definite study of these economic conditions, and that literature suggesting topics on the industrial situation, labor conditions, immigration and all social legislation, both Federal and State, be distributed by the department for use in the making of club programs."

There is no longer any good reason why a club should fail to keep abreast of modern conditions, since material is accessible on all sides. Excellent outlines of this sort of work and study are available everywhere. Apart from the excellent materials to be gotten from Mrs. Winslow's department in The Delineator, compilations and synopsis of study are in the hands of all civic workers for distribution. It is important to realize that, for the first time probably in the history of the world, a million

but to adjust difficulties whenever possible, is the novel "court of hope and good will" whose work for three years in Chicago is sketched by Miss Ida M. Tarbell in the London Contemporary Review. Its establishment was due to a group of women under the leadership of Jane Addams, who, in the interests of children, involved in such cases, suggested that they should be segregated from the mixture of all sorts of city court cases. The result was not merely segregation but a plan for handling them in an utterly new spirit.

"Punishment was the key to the old treatment. If a man or woman was found guilty of breaking some one or another of the laws of marriage, the practice had been to deal to him the punishment the law prescribed. The judges of the Municipal Court knew well enough how futile as a rule the punishment was, how almost invariably the one result was to make the breach in the family wider. They now broke utterly with the old formula, and laid down a new aim for the court: 'To make itself equally as good an agent to keep husband and wife together and thus give the children the home influence, as it had been an agent in separating them.'"

The court has furnished two of the great needs of men and women in trouble—a confessional and a hand of authority.

The chief confessor is a woman, a "social secretary," since 98 per cent. of the cases come up from the woman's side of the family, frequently the story could be told by a woman only to a woman, and a woman's instinctive understanding and sympathy can best determine whether a warrant shall be issued for the husband or whether the complainant shall be persuaded to "try again."

Again and again a little sensible talk from this sensible social secretary will persuade the woman that she has no trouble compared to that which bringing her husband into court might cause her. Not infrequently it is found, too, that by asking the man to come and talk things over, the matter can be patched up. In the first year Judge Goodnow was able to keep a thousand cases out of court, over one-third as many as were tried. Judge Gemmill, who presided over the court in the second year, reports 2,462 cases disposed of without warrants to 3,699 heard and disposed of."

MAGNIFYING LITTLE GRIEVANCES

(By Zelia Margaret Walters in The Mother's Magazine)

Do you know any housewives who mourn for an hour over a broken dish; to whom the delay of the grocery boy is a catastrophe; whose children's natural offences prophesy to them a criminal career; women to whom the departure of the washwoman is a misfortune not to be borne in silence?

The housemother is in constant danger of falling into this habit of magnifying little griefs. Her life is made up of little duties, which, taken together, form a highly important whole. She knows that the comfort and happiness of her family depend on her performing these small duties well, and in time she is in danger of losing the true perspective of life. Yet, it is most important that she should not do so. The person who magnifies trifles, soon degenerates into a fretful nuisance. Anything that helps to keep the wife and mother sane and clear-sighted on the subject of the relative importance of things is to be commended.

The recreation, and perspective straightener that I am about to recommend lies at every mother's hand. It is an appreciation of the humorous in our children. The woman who can find the funny things in daily life is forever insured against becoming a nagging, trouble-hunting creature.

Not very long ago I told a funny child story that I had read to an assemblage of mothers.

"Why!" exclaimed one woman with an air of mild surprise, "I believe my children have said things as funny as that." And she told us two stories that filled the room with laughter.

Of course her children had said funny things, but she confessed that this was the first time she had ever stopped to laugh at them. Why not smile within, instead of fuming at the funny excuse that baby gives for his torn frock; or at Jamie who comes tearing home from swimming clad only in his underwear because one of the boys said there was a bear in the bushes when they were dressing; or at Anna who says to the rich, tactless aunt, "Why do you give us common, useful things like dresses and shoes on our birthdays instead of nice things like mamma gets?"

It is hardly necessary to add that we must never offend a child's dignity by laughing at him in his presence. Laugh with him whenever you can, but not at him. Save the amusing things to tell to the child's father at night when the little ones are in bed. And here is another reminder that some mothers really need. Never, never repeat the child's clever sayings and doings in his presence. As soon as a child loses his sweet unconsciousness and labors to say "smart" things he ceases to be in any degree engaging.

The child's fresh, individual outlook on life is sure to give rise to amusing incidents which the mother might well turn to her own enjoyment in the daily round of petty trifles.

Good humor may be said to be one of the very best articles of dress one can wear in society.—Thackeray.

The Guide has the following little booklets, of special interest to mothers, for sale at the merely nominal prices of 5c each for "How to Teach the Truth to Children," and "Maternity," and 10c for "The Most Wonderful Story in the World."