

IDEAS TO TRY FOR CHRISTMAS.

[For several of the following items, we are indebted to the "Primary Education Co." Boston, by whom permission was granted to publish in the REVIEW.]

Christmas Treating.

"Salaries are low, and the cost of living is high," I said, as the teachers settled down to see what the superintendent was going to say on the subject of Christmas treats. Here every head bobbed approvingly.

"The high cost of living does not affect only the teachers. It is an unwelcome tip on parents, also, to be asked for money to contribute to a teacher's present; and the pupil who cannot contribute feels that he has not been fair to his fellows, nor shown proper appreciation of his teachers. So I feel that we ought to banish treats and teachers' presents together."

"But there are some children who have such a little Christmas, and I like to make them happy," objected a kind-hearted primary teacher.

This is the way it started, and it kept up in this vein for some time. When it was over, we had made this compromise. There were some very poor pupils who were to have little or no Christmas. We planned to make the season happier for these few, instead of giving a small amount of unappreciated candy to so many.

We bought drums and tops, horses, dolls, books, wagons, a cap, and toys of all kinds. Then there was a complete Christmas dinner for some children whose mother was dead, and a bolt of cloth for some fatherless ones.

These things came from Santa Claus; and, where it was possible, no more definite information as to the source of the gifts was given than this. They were put on the community Christmas tree.

We feel that we have helped make Christmas brighter for some little folks, and it did not cost so much as the "treat." The teachers received no gifts. The reciprocal nature of the matter seemed to appeal to all, and there were no complaints from disappointed pupils.—Belmont Farley.

Stories by the Fireplace.

If you have no fireplace about which to tell stories, try making your own.

Make a drawing on a piece of cardboard 36" x 27". It is better to use heavy cardboard. Color it in suitable colors, then with a sharp knife cut out the flames. On another paper draw flames to fit the openings, color them with yellow, red and a touch of blue and paste them on the back side of the fireplace, so that they cover the openings.

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With a paint brush, paint over the back of the flames, using melted lard. This will make them transparent.

When ready for use, draw all the shades and, having placed the fireplace on a table in front of the children, light a candle to "start the fire." This makes a dim light when placed behind the flames. Now light several from this one and the flicker of the row of candles makes the fireplace very realistic to the children. If you use candlesticks, all danger is avoided, for you can place them a safe distance from the greased paper.

Our story telling and poem reproduction was greatly improved and also this served to entertain visiting grades.—C. E. M.

The Story.

(For eight little folks, each saying a line or two, and all the last four lines.)

First A manger,
Second A star,
Third Three kings;
From afar;
Fourth A shepherd,
Fifth A song,
Sixth A bright
Angel through!

Seventh Glad tidings
Eighth And glory!
All These words
Tell the story
Of that long-ago morn,
When the Christ-Child
was born!

—A. E. A.