

A Christmas Brownie Hunt.

It is sometimes an advantage to have a change in the method of distributing the Christmas gifts, and those who have never tried it would enjoy a Brownie Hunt, for though the quaint little fellows are no new friends, they are always popular. The following description by E. B., in the Boston 'Congregationalist' will tell you how to manage it.

All the small boys of the family, or of all the families if two or more combine their forces for the festivities, will be delighted to help by representing brownies. Mamma will supply the brownie suit, consisting of a loose, short jacket, filled out artificially to give a square appearance to the upper part of the body, with close-fitting or short trousers of black material to make the legs look as small as possible, and a pointed cap, or if the different nationalities are to be represented, the suitable cap in each case. Where there is a dearth of boys Palmer Cox may be improved upon by impressing the little girls into service, who should be dressed like their brothers, only adding a short, scant skirt. A judicious use of burnt cork will enlarge the eyes to a brownie-like roundness and give a droop to the corners of the mouth.

Sister or auntie will drill the brownies in a fancy march, so that when the long-looked-for day arrives the brownies will enter the room set apart for the hunt to the music of piano or other instrument, in single file, the right hand of each brownie, except the leader, on the shoulder of the one in front. After getting fairly into the room they will take a few steps, obliquely, then stop and pose, looking up into the corner of the ceiling as if hunting for something, then a few steps in another direction and pose again, gazing into another corner. By wheeling, backward and forward, marching and counter-marching, occasionally striking attitudes, a chance is given to see and admire the brownies before the hunt begins.

When the music ceases at the last posture of the little imps, each brownie gives one whirl, claps his hands and then sets to work to hunt for the Christmas gifts which have been hidden in the room in all sorts of places, each article having been wrapped in paper and then plainly labelled with its recipient's name, to whom it is given as soon as found. It requires no little skill to find concealment for numerous packages of various shapes and sizes. But by adjusting screens, curtains, draperies and throws, hiding places may be multiplied beyond one's expectation.

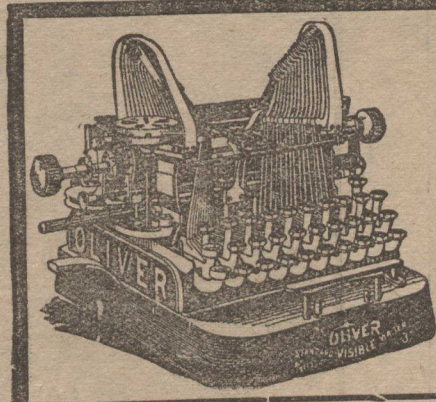
The charm of such an affair consists in keeping it as much of a secret as possible by those who manage it, so that it may be a perfect surprise to the rest of the family and to all the guests.—E. B., in the 'Congregationalist.'

Selected Recipes.

Maple Sugar Cookies.—One cup of sugar, one cup of crushed maple sugar, one cup of butter, two well-beaten eggs, two tablespoons of water, two teaspoons of baking powder, and flour enough to roll out. Do not make too stiff. Bake in a quick oven.

To Prevent Stewing Out.—To make sliced apple pies without stewing out in the baking, wet a thin piece of old cotton cloth or thin cheesecloth, about two inches wide, and long enough to wrap once and a half around the pie. This should be wound around the pie, where the two crusts join. With the customary openings in the top crust, and the pieces of cloth wet in cold water and wrapped around pie, I have never known juice to run out when baking, and have baked many this way.—This also applies to berry pies.—Miss C. B. Morse.

Baked Tapioca Pudding.—Soak a cup and a half of tapioca two hours in a quart of rich milk, put in a double boiler and cook until the tapioca looks clear. Remove from the fire, stir into it two slightly heaped tablespoonfuls of butter and a scant half cup of sugar. When cold, add four eggs, beaten very light, and flavor with vanilla or the rind of a lemon grated and added when the tapioca is cooking. Butter a mould, sprinkle with dried bread crumbs, turn the mixture into it and bake. Turn out on a platter and serve hot with a foaming sauce.—Washington 'Star.'



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