

room were opened, revealing the brilliantly lighted tree. This same committee of children, in the name of the class, then distributed the gifts to the children from the Orphans' Home, who were present, having been invited to share the entertainment and receive the gifts. The pleasure the class derived from witnessing the enjoyment their gifts gave will not soon be forgotten.

But the class were also remembered. The stores had been haunted for weeks for something that would delight them and still be inexpensive. Toys of all sorts, books of every description, pictures, purses, cologne, handkerchiefs, etc., were duly inspected. The teacher's thoughts turned longingly to the little white swans containing a tiny fern or miniature palm that had been given the previous year; not only on account of their beauty, but because their daintiness had been so helpful in some of the tenements receiving them. But they cost twenty cents each, so were out of the question again. At last small china plates were purchased at twelve cents each, wholesale, to match cups and saucers previously given. Each plate, with the usual small box of candy, was carefully wrapped and stoutly tied in one package, and the pupil's name written plainly thereon.

When the children had disposed of the gifts from the tree, the light was again lowered and the picture, "The wise men and the infant Jesus," thrown upon the screen, while the children recited, "And they presented unto him gifts," followed by another, "Christ blessing little children," when, to the surprise of all, the children themselves said, "Suffer the little children," etc. After a song the guests were dismissed first, and then the class, each pupil receiving his gift on passing out, no opportunity being given, however, to examine the package.

The gifts to "others" being made more prominent than the gifts received, the impression on the class was necessarily helpful.

The packages being marked with the name enabled the teacher to give the children the privilege of inviting their little friends to the entertainment, and the number assembled made it evident that they had acted upon the suggestion. Such an array of children of all sorts, kinds, and conditions—little ones beautifully and warmly clad, others blue and pinched with the cold, many of them little street waifs present out of curiosity. But they enjoyed it all, their evident delight contributing not a little to the pleasure of the class proper. On account of the exercises the class was seated in the front, and their guests directly

behind. In passing through the class it was encouraging to hear, "That's the little boy I invited; he is in my father's store;" or, "That boy over there brings our paper; I asked him;" and, "That little girl's mamma washes for my mamma; I brought her;" "I brought the boy from the peanut stand; there he is," etc., showing that they had not confined their Christmas greetings to their own circle.

The influence of this placing of "others" before "self" has been felt in the class through the year, and they are now busily planning for their "Give away" for this coming month.

Sometime ago the teacher was stopped by a little newsboy and asked: "Be you going to have pictures of Him [pointing up] this Christmas, and can I bring the fellers?" and on a visit to a tenement the other day a boy was discovered fashioning a toy, as he said, "For the Christmas tree for one of them little chaps what ain't got a dad and can't have good times like we does."

While the ways of observing Christmas will vary in every school, the result will be satisfactory if the plans are measured by the standard of the motto: "Christ first, others next, and self last."

Christmas Stories.

BY ALICE M. GUERNSEY.

[THOUGH designed for a class exercise, several parts may be given to each speaker, if necessary.]

1. Let's tell Christmas stories. I know a lovely one about how they do in some countries way up North. It's very cold there, and snow is on the ground, and the birds have a hard time to find anything to eat. So the people fasten a great sheaf of grain to the tops of their barns on Christmas Eve, to make a happy Christmas for the birds.

2. I know some little German boys and girls who think Kriss Kringle comes to all the children at Christmas time, and that he knows whether they've been good or naughty all the year. He brings presents to the good ones, they say, but only bundles of sticks to those who've been naughty.

3. I'd like our Santa Claus best. Don't you remember how we saw him last year, with a long white beard and a fur coat, and heard his bells go jingle, jingle?

4. Why, that was only Uncle Ned all dressed up.