

in it a pound of pork and a dozen hard-boiled eggs, taken out of their shells. She wraps the pot in red, for joy, and sticks a branch of pomegranate in the spout. Then she sets it in the centre of a large, flat basket, and piles round it a hundred ducks' eggs and a hundred hens' eggs, all uncooked—but not necessarily fresh, for the Chinese prefer eggs, often, of ancient date and flavor to the tasteless, new-laid variety. This present is solemnly carried to the baby boy, and then his grandmother goes home to get another ready, which is to be presented when he is a month old.

This second offering to every boy baby is far more elaborate and varied than the first. It comprises at least four jars of bean catsup, one jar of confectionery, one jar of pastry, one of sugar and one of dried fruit. These are for his nurse and parents. Then come a primer, an inkstand, two pens and two cakes of ink, ready for his future schooling. Five hats, twelve sorts of garments, and two scarfs in which to sling him over his mother's back, are added, besides two razors, two rolls of cotton and two eggs colored red.

These last are used immediately in necessary ceremonies. First, the baby's round little head is shaved in spots. Every tuft of black hair left, the gossips believe, stands for one trunk that his future bride will bring him, filled with her trousseau; so the more spots left the better, and his tiny poll is tufted to the limit. The two cotton rolls are next used to sponge it off, and then the two red eggs are rubbed over it, their shells removed, and they are cut in small pieces, most carefully, with a thread, and the pieces put into a bowl. All the relatives on both sides are gathered to witness these ceremonies, and all the children of the neighbours are invited in. Each one eats a piece of the egg out of the bowl, so it will be seen why the pieces must be very small, or the two eggs would never go round. This eating of the eggs means a pledge of kindness to the boy by each partaker, and an expression of love for him, and so he starts amid family and neighbourly joy. At the birth of a girl no such festivities take place, and disappointment reigns in the home.

As the boy grows, he enters into many games and sports. The girl has her play, too, but not with dolls—no, indeed. Very few Chinese girls know what dolls are. Balls and marbles are what they play with, tossing them up, and keeping several in the air at once. All the toys, really, are those of boys, but the girls



**WINDSOR TABLE SALT**

**"You are very lucky girls to have Salt like this**

**"When I was just starting housekeeping, the only good thing about the salt we had, was its salty taste.**

**"But you girls can get**

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**—that excellent salt which stays fresh and dry in all kinds of weather—and never "cakes" or "hardens." You will never have any trouble with Windsor Table Salt.**

learn to play with them, too, after their own fashion. Girls can play at battledore and shuttlecock, and engage in various games. But only a boy can fly a kite.

Some Chinese games for children are quaint and pretty. The "water-wheel," for instance, is played by forming a good-sized circle of children, facing inward. Two of the children raise their clasped hands to form an arch, and those just opposite them in the circle pass under the arch, forcing the rest of the circle through after them, without ever unclasping hands. The circle, having all passed through, find themselves in a circle still, but facing outward. Those who first passed under the arch now make an arch of their arms, and those opposite pass under, until the circle is reversed again and faces inward once more. All the while the children are singing a little song about a creaking wheel in the babbling water, and the whole effect is very pretty.

Another game is the "centipede." The children join hands, the tallest

at the head, the others ranged in order of height down to the smallest one. Each child then puts his head under the arm that is nearest his taller neighbour, and the line follows the leader, blindly, turning and twisting, indeed, very like a distracted centipede.

"Turning the wheel" is a game that requires a smooth, round jar or stone, on a solid surface, as the hub of the wheel. On this stone stand four or five children, close together, to represent the spokes. Four or five others, standing on the ground, are the felloes. The spokes and felloes join hands, the felloes walk around, marching in step, and the wheel turns, revolving on the hub. Our "Puss in the Corner" is called by Chinese children, "The Water Demon Seeking a Den," and is played exactly as American children play it, and "Cat's Cradle" is also familiar to all Chinese boys and girls, but is called "Sawing Wood."

Only the boys go to school. About one girl in a thousand learns to read, because her father or brother makes a pet of her and teaches her. There is no public-school system in China, even for boys. Any man who has a son to educate is likely to make himself a school trustee, on his own recognition. He goes round among his neighbours, and gets others who have sons to agree to pay a teacher for ten or twenty boys. The trustee provides the schoolroom, and becomes responsible for the payment of the salary, and for rice, fuel, tea, tobacco and paper enough to keep the teacher alive and at work. An old ancestral temple often is used as a schoolhouse. On a temporary altar, on the opening day of school, are placed candles, incense, three cups of tea and some molasses candy. On the wall above is a sheet of paper on which the teacher has written the name of Confucius.

To this name of Confucius obeisance is made by all the pupils, and the teacher prays, bowing his forehead to the floor, and informing Confucius of the day, month and year in which school is opened. "O greatest and holiest of sages!" he implores. "bless these thy disciples. Open their understanding, and make it easy for them to learn. When they write, make their wrists flexible as willow wishes. When they recite, make their words to flow like water in a mountain brook. Help them to compose both in prose and verse and to attain literary degrees." This is thrice repeated, while the boys bow and kneel. Then the teacher drinks the tea, and the boys take the molasses candy home to their relatives and friends. After this, school keeps on, more or less, for eleven months of the year. The teacher takes a vacation every now and then, to go to his native place, whenever there is a festival there, or a funeral in his clan, or a wedding, or any other ceremony of family importance. The pupils also get vacations in the same fashion.

The girls, all this time, are learning at home how to spin, weave, embroider and cook. The more a girl

knows, the better her chances as a wife will be; for she will have to please her mother-in-law as her first duty in her new home. Married she must be, and married early. She cannot marry in her own clan, either, nor will she ever see her husband, before the wedding day. Some mothers, anxious for happiness for their sons, secure a girl baby from some other clan, and bring her up themselves in their own households. In most cases, however, the girl goes among strangers, who have never seen her, nor she them. No wonder that each girl spends the weeks before her wedding in melancholy, and that some allude to their coming life as if it were their death.

Poor girls! poor China! Yet a different day is coming, a day of mission schools for girls, of Christian training for boys, a day of new ideals and transformed homes. The children of the new China will have a chance in the world, for wherever Christianity comes, the children's feet are set in new paths of hope, toward new goals of progress.—Barbara Griffiths, in S. S. Visitor.

**Crippled With  
Lame Back**

**THIS RESULT OF LONG STANDING KIDNEY DISEASE WAS OVERCOME BY**

**Dr. Chase's  
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This letter gives you some idea of the definite and certain results you obtain by using Dr. A. W. Chase's Kidney and Liver Pills for kidney disease.

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Mrs. Richard Patterson, Haldimand, Gaspe Co., Que., writes:—"I want to tell you that I was cured of kidney disease of long standing by the use of Dr. Chase's Kidney and Liver Pills. I used to suffer a great deal not knowing just what was the cause of the trouble and got so bad that I was almost crippled with lame, sore back.

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