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AMUSEMENTS

Conducted by MARION DALLAS

Fun for the Long Fall Evenings

IN the woods squirrels chatter, nuts rattle to the ground, the dry leaves rustle beneath our feet, and the chill November wind sighs through the bare branches. They are telling us it is fall. How loth we are to give up our outdoor pleasure. Why not have "An Indoor Nut Party?" This will help us to prolong the spirit at least for a while. Decorate the house with evergreen branches, cut out squirrels and leaves from brown and red paper, and pin these on the branches.

Illustrated Nuts

The guests are invited to go "Gathering Nuts" when they all have arrived. This means to find the names of the nuts and fruit which are represented upon cards placed around the room. The names may be illustrated by pictures cut from magazines and mounted on cards. For instance, Seashore (Beechnut), stone wall (Walnut), woman churning (Butternut), two persons (Pear), girl serving cocoa (Cocoanut), figures 1915 (Dates), pine tree and an apple (Pineapple), the letter P and a can (Pecan), plumb-line (Plum), a straw hat and a berry (Strawberry).

Matching Partners

Partners may be secured by placing two large branches in the front of the room, one decorated with yellow leaves, the other with red. The man picks a yellow leaf and the girl a red one. They should be numbered to correspond.

Nut Contest

Pass acorn-shaped booklets with the following questions (the answer is the name of a nut):

1. Its first syllable is a spring vegetable?—Peanut. 2. The penalty of tight shoes?—Acorn. 3. A souvenir of South America?—Brazil nut. 4. A barrier of stones?—Walnut. 5. Makes our daily bread acceptable?—Butter nut. 6. Its first half is a beverage? — Cocoa. 7. Two boys' names?—Phil-bert. 8. Part of the human body forms first syllable?—Chestnut. 9. A letter of the alphabet and a tin?—Pecan. 10. First syllable is a color of the eye?—Hazel nut.

After this contest there might be a Peanut Hunt. The hunter who finds the most nuts might be given a copy of "Opening of a Chestnut Burr."

Refreshments

Nut ice-cream, nut cakes, nut candies, and salted nuts served with cocoa would be very suitable.

Word Building

This is a game capable of endless variation, and is splendidly adapted for a small gathering in the home. Each person is given a sheet of paper and pencil, on the top of which is written the word or motto from which the letters for building are to be obtained. In making words, no letters must be used twice, unless it is written twice in the motto

The contest is to see who shall make the longest list of words from the given motto. Suppose the motto was "Memories of Childhood." Write all the words beginning with M—moose, moor, me, maid, and so on. Then words with E, until there are over a hundred words. As the list grows, the interest will grow.

A Spoonful of Fun

In this game the players form a circle, while one of their number is blindfolded and put in the middle of the ring. He is given a large spoon as a wand. The players take hands and go round in a circle to music. As the music stops they stop. The player then gropes with his spoon until he touches one of the other players. The blindfolded one tries by deftly touching here and there to discover who is caught. If he guesses correctly, that one takes his place. All try to disguise themselves, for it is easier than you imagine to discover a person's identity by this spoon touching, and it is lots of sport.

An Evening of National Songs in Costume

This is a novel and delightful entertainment, and if properly conducted should greatly enrich the treasury of the society which undertakes to give it. The idea is to have an evening of readings and songs in costume from every nationality possible. Drape the hall with flags of every nation represented. If you are fortunate enough to have an orchestra, that will help greatly. Have the different national anthems played. Several of these will be found in the "March of the Allies."

The first number might be "Rule Britannia," sung by a jolly sailor and carrying a "Jack." A lassie in Scottish tartan and Tam o' Shanter next sings "Annie Laurie" or "Loch Lomond." Readings from "The Bonnie Brier Bush" could also be given. An Irish singer follows with "A Little Bit of Heaven Shure They Call It," "Ireland," or the old song "The Wearin' o' the Green." The "Marseillaise" might be sung by a quartette of girls in peasant dress and wearing red caps. Following this comes "O Canada," "The Maple Leaf," or any of the very popular war songs which have been writen lately, "Do Your Bit" or "We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall." Interspersed with the songs could be a reading or two from Drummond or Service or Pauline Johnson. "Il Trovatore" may be sung or rather selections from it, to represent Sunny Italy. If a hand organ can be procured, it will represent Italy as nothing else can.

The Armenian national song is so strongly accented that even if sung in an unknown tongue, it stirs the blood like the challenge to battle. In many of our communities there are Armenians who would be pleased to be invited to help with any entertainment. Spain may be represented by a senorita with lace mantilla, playing the guitar or mandoline, or singing "The Spanish Cavalier." A large picture frame could be erected and the singers stand in the frame, the rest of the room being dark.

"Say Something Good" Social

Did any of "Our Readers" ever hear the story of the Irishman who one morning met a friend, and exclaimed, "Is that yez, Mike? I thought yez was dead." "Shure an' I'm not dead," Mike replied. "Phwat made yez thing I was?" "Well, I'll tell yez," he answered. "Everybody I met this mornin' said somethin' good about yez."

This little story suggests a social I heard of, which was very amusing and also very helpful to the social life of that community. Each person was requested to write something good about the one whose name was on the sheet of paper given to him. After they were all finished, the papers were passed on to be read out loud. Will some of "Our Readers" try one this fall, and write and tell us about it?"

* * *

In Close Companionship

LITTLE Mary had been sent to the store to get some fly paper. She was a long time in returning, and her mother began to feel anxious. Going to the door she spied the little girl coming up the street, and called:

"Mary, have you got the fly paper?"

"No, mother," replied Mary, "it's got me, but we are coming together."