

Chat to . . . Boys and Girls.

At this season of the year when out door sports are on the wane, especially during the evening; when skating, sleighing or tobogganing are no longer possible, through lack of ice and snow, I am sure my young folks will be glad to find pleasant recreation indoors and games either quiet or merry, will serve to wile away most agreeably the winter evenings and keep restless hands and brains "out of mischief."

I have promised to give my boy Jimmy a few round games; something not too noisy as dear old grandma's room is next to the family sitting room where he and his brothers and sisters, with two or three cousins, gather on cold or stormy evenings, about the long table, so well suited for what they call "sitting still games." Well Jimmy, I should like to give you something new if possible, of course you have all played "Simon says thumbs up" and written "Consequences." But have you ever tried "The pig book?" If not, you will find it great fun, not only at the time, but to look at, and laugh over many times long after; and you will be the possessor of an album, full of extraordinary and most curious pictures. All you need for your artistic effort will be a common blank-book and a few sharpened lead pencils. Each member of the circle is required to draw in the book, the outline of a pig, and add his name thereto, both drawing and writing being done blindfolded. The productions are certain to be very laughable, and well worth preserving; if there is a party of young folks, a prize may be offered for the best and also for the poorest drawing. A candy pig would do for the latter, and a match safe or pen tray in the form of a pig would be very suitable for the other.

Another game, and one which sharpens up your wits is called "The Ant and the Cricket."

One of the players must be the cricket and all the others who are ants, sit around him in a circle. The cricket writes on a slip of paper the name of some kind of grain—then he says to the first ant "My kind neighbour I am very hungry, and come to you for food, what have you to give me?" The ant names any grain he likes, such as wheat, oats, rye or corn, etc. The cricket asks the same question of each ant in turn, until one of them offers him the grain that the cricket has written upon his paper: the cricket is then satisfied and changes places with the ant. If, however, the name of the crickets favourite grain is not guessed, the same cricket keeps his place. Next the cricket writes upon his paper, the name of a dance and says to each ant in turn "I am no longer hungry, but I would enjoy a dance, what shall it be?" The ants name different dances, and when the right one is mentioned the cricket is released as before. The cricket then declares he cannot dance without music and asks each one, "What kind of an instrument would you recommend?" The ants reply as before, and when one of them has answered correctly, the cricket says he is tired of dancing, and asks the ants where he shall sleep. "On a mossy bank," "In the heart of a rose," or on a lily leaf," and other such beds they will answer, but until the name written on his slip is mentioned, the cricket still keeps his place. After this round the cricket says he is afraid some fierce bird may devour him while sleeping, and when this has been answered the game is ended. Of course the crickets object is to get some one to take his place, while the ants try to keep their positions as long as possible.

I remember we had a good deal of fun

once at our house, in playing "Birds fly." This game requires one for leader, then all the players being seated around the table the leader calls out "Birds fly" at the same time raising both arms to imitate wings and all the players must raise their arms in the same way. The next time, however, the leader may call out "Trees fly" moving his arms as before; but as trees cannot fly the players must keep quiet; however, some are sure to make a mistake, and the faster it is played the more confusing and if the leader says "Pigs fly" somebody is sure to imitate the motion, tho' it would be a funny sight I am sure. A forfeit may be taken from those who raise their arms at the wrong time, and it is interesting to give some little prize to the one who continues longest in the game.

Have you ever played "Repairing the donkey?" If not I will tell you all about it another time; and also the "Robber's story," which I am sure would delight the boys, and now just one more game for this week, and I sincerely hope you will enjoy them and ask for more.

This one is called "Whirlwind" and it is very well named. All the players sit in a circle, the chairs being placed closely together, and facing inward. One of the players will rise and stand in the centre of the circle; this leaves one chair empty. At a signal from this person, all the players move on, one chair to the right, then to the next and the next the whole circle moving as fast as possible. While this is going on the player who stands in the middle, tries to secure a seat, and when he or she does so, the player who is left without a seat takes his place. This is by no means a quiet game, as there is sure to be a good deal of rushing and laughter.

A dear little girl who has a birthday in April, asks me to tell her from our corner how to arrange the party her good mamma is going to give her on that day; what she shall do to amuse her guests, what refreshments they should have and everything else needed to make the occasion a success and a pleasant remembrance. Well, I am sure I shall do my best to plan for these young folks such an evening as will send them home saying from the bottom of their happy little hearts "we had a perfectly lovely time." Yet after all, no one however willing or hardworking can make a birthday party or any other festival a success unless the little host or hostess forgets his or her own pleasure in seeking the pleasure of her guests, and unless each member of the united party tries to join happily in the amusements provided, and to be gratified by the kind efforts of her entertainers to make her enjoy herself. Always remember my boys and girls that your behavior reflects upon your parents—if you are gentle and unselfish, kind and polite, your elders will be very apt to say, "what a little lady that girl is," or "what a nice gentlemanly boy." So try and do credit to your home training.

AUNT BELL.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

Very pretty petticoats are made of plain satins cut with a circular flounce which is nearly covered with rows of black velvet an inch or more wide, alternating with three rows of black and white velvet ribbon of the narrowest width.

White tulle neckties covered at the ends with rows of narrow tulle ruffles are very pretty and becoming.

A new variation in color is duck-egg blue, which is both gray and blue.

Fishnet veilings without any spots at all are said to be the latest novelty and are recommended for being cooler than the dotted veiling for summer wear.

Nun's veiling, more sheer and soft than ever before, is one of the most popular dress materials. It lends itself charmingly to the season's various modes of decoration, of which none is more in evidence than the lavish use of fine tucks.

If you want to have your new spring gown cling and hang in the most approved fashion, wear a divided skirt of soft taffeta or China silk. This is fully trimmed with ruffles at the bottom and is the only petticoat required by fashion.

Something altogether novel in combination is a white pique chemisette vest in a foulard gown, which is trimmed on the bodice with a fine batiste embroidery.

Floral boas are one of the novelties for summer neckwear. They are made of rose leaves and leaves of gathered gauze.

The new artificial flowers are made of velvet and gauze.

Boleros of renaissance lace are a feature in dress and are very effective over the soft nun's veilings and crepe de chine.

Fashionable dress and economy are as

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widely separated as the ends of the earth if the advance models of summer gowns give any indication of the policy Dame Fashion intends to pursue. Bewildering luxuries of dress in all their phases meet your eye at every turn, and to remember the moral science of spending a limited dress allowance in the midst of so much temptation is a trial and vexation of spirit. If you mildly venture to suggest that you want a stylish but simple and inexpensive gown, the models brought out for you inspection are so intricate in design, so elaborate in the detail of finish, lavishly trimmed with lace and generally elegant that you wonder how you ever had audacity enough to ask for anything but the most extravagant gown in sight. All your worthy ideas of economy fly to the four winds, and you promptly begin to reform and expand your ideas of a summer gown.

One of the distinguishing features of the new costumes is the popularity of foulard and the varied combinations of this material with plain silk, lace and chiffon. As an elegant accessory of dress there is nothing to compare with lace, which appears in every imaginable form, and color too, since it is often dyed to match the gown. The dull ecru tints of lace are especially fashionable and vary in shade to suit the material they trim. One of the new fads in Paris is to trim light cloth gowns with lace matching the cloth in color. Any means of decoration which can beautify the surface in flat effect without forming a contrast of color seems to be the object in view. Lace of some sort is certainly a universal trimming for morning as well as afternoon gowns, and for women of all ages. Black chantilly is very generously used for trimming foulard gowns, and the irregular edged insertions are quite as popular as the edging. Tunic overdresses are finished around the edges with one or two rows of this insertion, and bodices are encircled with it in three rows of points, scrolls or straight lines, as the case may be. It does not seem to matter what color the foulard is, black lace is the thing, with a touch of white or not, as you like.

Many of the new foulards are trimmed with cream lace, and quantities of white chiffon are used for plaited tablier fronts, and entire waists striped around with black Chantilly insertion. In one model of blue and white foulard the chiffon tablier extends around the hips in flat plaits, four inches below the belt, giving, with the white chiffon bodice, almost the effect of a basque. The chiffon is all used over white of course, and black Chantilly, which finishes the edge of the tunic all around, outlines the white portion at the top, and is set in across the tablier at the bottom. A novel addition to this costume is a sort of bolero jacket of fine white cloth piped around with white satin and trimmed narrowly above with applique lace. This is a detached jacket, to be laid aside, like a coat when it is too warm.

Some of the new ideas in foulard gowns can be turned to good accounts in making over the old ones since plain taffeta or foulard is combined so effectively with the figured. It is used principally for the ruffles at the bottom of the skirt with a figured foulard overdress, and for the plaited tablier in front when lace and chiffon are to dressy. This adds enough new material to remodel the skirt on the new lines, and if the bodice is worn out it can be replaced by one of chiffon or lace, which is also used with the foulard skirt. A pretty finish on a blue and white foulard, trimmed elaborately with cream lace insertion, is very narrow black and white striped ribbon gathered into the familiar frills and sewn on both edges of the insertion.

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There are all sorts and kinds of patterns in foulard, all possible combinations of color, but the polka dot in varied sizes is one of the most popular designs. Two or three dots surrounded by clusters of small ones sprouting out over the surface like a series of constellations form one of the most stylish patterns, while another is closely covered with dots about as large as a small pea. Liberty foulard is one of the most desirable varieties, but anything in India silk will triumph over taffeta this season.

While foulards are in the ascendant just now among the orders for gowns to be worn in the first warm weather, there are no end of pretty soft materials for the thinner dresses. Something pretty for an odd waist, to wear with pique and silk skirts, is a batiste in any light tint striped with black Chantilly insertion and embroidered between the stripes. Batiste challies, poplin grenadines, and all the crepe finished materials are to be much worn, with pique and organdie bringing up the line. The piques and linsens come in charming dainty colors, and in dark blues and reds as well. They are made up in the coat and skirt style or in combination costumes, with the underskirt of one color, possibly white striped with black braid, and an overdress and jacket of dark blue with white braid trimmed revers. The Eton coat, rounding or pointing down below the waist in front, is one of the models for this material, while another has a very short basque cut in shallow scallops on the edge and around the revers, finished with rows of stitching.

The skirts of both pique and linen gowns are cut circular in shape, or gored as you may prefer, and some of them show the circular flounce. Bias bands of white pique with narrow black braid sewn on either edge are used for trimming colored piques, and so are bands of the same stitched on after the manner of cloth gowns. The thin sheer ecru linsens with colored satin stripes make very pretty summer gowns trimmed with heavy lace matching the linen in color. A plaited silk vest should match the stripes. The plain sheer linsens are also pretty made up over a color and trimmed with rows of wide lace insertion encircling the upper skirt and bodice. The lower skirt may be a series of lace edged ruffles or one wide accordion-plaited flounce. The dark-blue linen of the heavier sort makes very serviceable street gowns for morning wear in summer, and the special novel idea is to trim them with red and white embroidery or white insertion with red pipings. The Eton coat with a skirt is the prevailing model and a red vest or silk shirt waist complete the scheme of color.

Ribbons are evidently in for their share of usefulness among the summer dress trimmings if the varied assortment displayed in the shops signifies anything. There is no end of narrow ribbons—striped, plain, fringed, and lace edged, made with a gathering cord on one or both sides all ready to be drawn into the little frills so much employed. Narrow, plain satin ribbon frills are quite as lavishly used on the organdie gowns as they were last season, especially on the plain tinted organdies, where the ribbon is of the same color. It is the wide ribbons, however, which displays all the beauties of decoration in shadowy flowered patterns, fancy stripes and checks and dainty embroidered flowers scattered over the surface. The fringed and lace edges are especially effective, and with embroidered varieties are set forth as the special novelties of the season.

Queen Wilhelmina seems to be conducting herself with a degree of common sense not always characteristic of youthful sovereigns. Her mother, Queen Emma, lives with her, and is consulted upon every point. The people understanding that this community of sovereignty is at the wish of Wilhelmina often send letters and petitions addressed 'To Both Queens' Wilhelmina, is said to resent it if people speak of her mother as the queen Dowager, and to declare with emphasis that she is 'Queen Emma of the Netherlands.' The young Queen is said to be exceedingly fond of dancing and to carry herself with more grace than most women of her nationality.

Everyday life for the English woman in Calcutta is said to pass about as follows: About 7 o'clock in the morning comes the light bread-and-butter breakfast, followed by a drive or a ride. When she returns she makes one of the changes of dress with which the Anglo-Indian day is punctuated, then has a real breakfast at 10. After this comes a long morning of industrious idling before 2 o'clock, the hour for tiffin. Calls are made between 12 o'clock and 2, for after tiffin Calcutta goes to sleep. Four o'clock tea is the signal for them to be up again and dress for the afternoon drive. At 8 everybody dines, and then follow cards, dancing, billiards or the theatre.

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the woolly portions of the West into their State Legislatures have some weird ideas of their new duties in life. There was Daggett of Wisconsin, who wanted to legislate the feminine corset into relaxing its hold. And now there is a Senator Creel, out in North Dakota, who has introduced a bill providing that all applicants for marriage must first pass an examination before a board of physicians. The bill passed in the upper house.

Mrs. Langtry has been giving her reminiscences. She was one of seven children, the others all boys. She was put through a course of manual sports by her brothers, who, when her mother interfered, proudly observed that they were making a man of her. Among other pranks, she was mounted on stilts one time, enveloped in a sheet smeared as to her face with phosphorus, and sent at night with her youngest brother, similarly adorned to make a blood-curdling demonstration in the neighboring churchyard. She always loved horses, and began her sporting career at 11, when she became part owner of a mare named Flirt, uncertain both as to age and forelegs, but winner of a £30 race.

The great granddaughter of Lord Byron was married not long ago, and forthwith entered upon a honeymoon quite romantic enough to have suited even her famous ancestor himself. Miss Blunt—that was her name—married Mr. Neville Lytton at Cairo, and the couple then drove ten miles across the desert to her father's place near Heliopolis. They were met by a picturesque train of Arab horsemen and Bedouin camel riders under the leadership of the oldest Sheikh of the tribes. The villages were decorated, a whole flock of sheep were roasted, and there was an Oriental cast to the occasion which is not customary in English weddings.

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Unforeseen.

Mrs. Hayrick: You oughter be more keertul Josiah! The almanack said it was going to freeze.

Mr. Hayrick: 'Yes; but so did the Weekly Bugle, and I never knowed both of em to be right before!'

Husband: 'Why don't you wear your cloak?'
Wife: 'It's last winter's.'

Husband: 'It's just as warm now as it was last winter.'

Wife: 'True, but I don't need it so much. When I see all my neighbors with new cloaks, I'm hot enough without any.'

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