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**WHY?**

## GOOD TOYS FOR CHRISTMAS

Ruth L. Corbett, Home Demonstration Agent

Toys, as the child's constant, most intimate companions and most used implements during these impressionable years, inevitably have a marked influence upon his character and development. Great care should, therefore, be exercised in selecting toys for children. Doctor G. Stanley Hall comments: "It is a striking feature, to which I have observed no exception, that the more finished and like reality the objects become, the less interest children have in them." Durable, washable and "playable" dolls mean much more to the little girl than French dolls with silk dresses mean to her. The boy gets much more benefit from building blocks than from a ready made house or bridge.

Here are some tests of good toys:

1. Loveable.
2. Durable in composition and workmanship.
3. Stimulating to imagination, analysis, invention, initiative, activity, workmanship.
4. Adapted to experimentation, investigation or constructive purposes.
5. Adapted to the child's stage of development.
6. Sanitary, washable; without inaccessible corners to harbor dirt and germs.
7. Artistic in form, color, expression; that is, simple in design, harmonious in color, genuine, without either sentimentality or thorough realism.

The purpose of toys is not merely to amuse the child but to call forth fuller expression of his self-activity.

(Note: The material for this article is taken from Read's Mothercraft Manual.)

## CANNED PUMPKIN AND SQUASH

Prepare and cut into convenient sections. Blanch in boiling water three minutes. Cold-dip; pack closely in hot jars. Fill with boiling water. Add level teaspoonful salt to each quart. Put rubbers and caps of jars into position, not tight. Process for two hours in water bath, having water come at least an inch over the tops of the jars. Count time from the time the water begins to boil and keep boiling steadily the entire time. When done, remove and fasten jar tight. Cool as quickly as possible without allowing a draft to strike the hot jars.

Why send to Washington for bulletins? Your Home Demonstration Agent has a supply of most of the bulletins a housewife would want, and you can have them for the asking and in much less time than if you send to Washington for them.—Josephine County Farm Bureau News.

## Home-Made Toys



The perennial rag doll that appears this year is made of any ribbed goods—as a ribbed stocking—tinted pink. It is cut out by a pattern, sewed and stuffed with cotton. The face and hair are the result of red, black and white water color. The doll is then dressed up in blue cotton crepe and a blue stocking cap.

A ball made from scraps of velvet is a fine gift for a very little boy. It takes twelve pieces, measuring three inches across at their widest part to make it. They are sewed together, leaving an opening for stuffing with cotton, and the brighter the colors used the better.

## The Bread of Persia.

Native bread today in Persia is very little different from that of a thousand years ago. The oven is built of smooth masonry in the ground, and many of them have been used for a century. The dough is formed into thin sheets about a foot long and two feet wide and pressed quickly against the side of the oven. It bakes in a few minutes.

## GERMANY'S NEW FIGHTING MEN IN TRAINING



Members of the German volunteer corps doing their running exercises during a recent tournament held in Berlin. Germany's new army is small, but nothing is being overlooked in making it one of the best trained.

## MANY KINDS, AND ALL GOOD

That Would Seem to Be the Verdict  
of Humanity on the Great  
Question of Pies.

They were talking about pies and discussing which was the best, and what we gathered from the cheerful controversy, all were the best.

The person who stood up for the good old apple pie was just as eloquent in his references to the peach or pumpkin pie. In fact, each person would hurry through the praise of one kind of pie in order to champion another, which convinced us that of all the varieties of food in this world the pie is the blissest.

Sometimes you will find a man who doesn't eat pie, but watch him. Pie is a remedy for many distempers. We one time cured a ferocious sick headache with a quarter of mince pie, and that, too, on the advice of a physician.

One of the party never heard of a mulberry pie, and what a barren life she must have led. We are through with the cherry pie era and with what joy it has filled the world! We come to the berry era, and first of all there is the huckleberry pie, which berry has rescued from sunshine and soil all the grace of the earth. If a man does not like a huckleberry pie, it is because the pie or himself has not been well made. The black raspberry pie stands away up on the snowy peaks of perfection and for picnic purposes it is unparalleled. When we eat raspberry pie in the woods we feel that the Dryads are feeding us from their lily white hands.

There are other glorious pies, of course, but we must have room to say that the glory of a pie is in the grace and charm of the cook. The pastry depends upon her temper, and the pastry is three-fourths of a pie. If we were going to get married again, we would arrange a pastry-making contest, and the damsel that made the best pastry we would marry—if we could.—Ohio State Journal.

## UNABLE TO ANALYZE DRUG

Intoxicating Principles of Powerful  
Narcotic, "Cohoba," Remain a  
Mystery to Chemists.

When Columbus arrived at the island of Haiti he and his followers were interested to observe a curious practice of the natives, who were accustomed on ceremonial occasions to make use of a narcotic snuff productive of a sort of hypnotic state, with vision supposed to be supernatural.

The tribal wizards, or priests, while under the influence of the drug, were accustomed to hold communication with unseen powers, and their mutterings were construed as prophecies and revelations of hidden things.

The snuff was called "cohoba," and, in the form of a fine powder, was inhaled through a forked wooden tube, the forks being inserted in the nostrils and the lower end of the tube buried in a little heap of the snuff, which was held on a tray of carved wood. Sometimes large snail shells were used for snuff boxes.

The mimosa-like tree from which the snuff is obtained is plentiful along the banks of the Orinoco and the Amazon. It grows in Haiti, Porto Rico and other islands of the Antilles. The seeds yielded by its pods are dried, roasted and ground to powder, which is sometimes mixed with lime from calcined snail shell.

Only recently has this tree been identified by Dr. W. E. Safford of the government plant bureau as the source of the snuff, the origin of which has hitherto been a puzzle. The chemical properties of the drug are still unknown and so its intoxicating principle remains a mystery.

## Motor Cop Hides in Boiler.

In one week 202 speeding motorists on Mission road at Los Angeles, Cal., were arrested by a motorcycle policeman who apparently materialized out of thin air. His well-chosen hiding place was a big abandoned boiler in a vacant lot, which afforded sufficient room for the machine as well as its rider.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Trade Acceptances, book of 50, \$1  
—Courier office.

## ADVISING CHINA SOFT JOB

Twenty-Five Persons Draw Salaries  
From Bankrupt Country  
as "Advisers."

Why not be an adviser to China with a good salary? All you have to do to get such a sinecure, according to Ellen N. La Motte's "Peking Dust" (Century), is to have your government bring a little pressure to bear on China. In a chapter of her book written in Peking, Miss La Motte says: "There is a quaint custom here, which, as far as I know, is unique in the history of international relations. That is the custom of giving advice to China. Any country can do it, apparently. Any country that thinks China would be benefited by a little disinterested and helpful counsel can see that she gets it—and that she pays for it, too. Any person who wishes a lucrative position can get his government to appoint him as an 'adviser' to China, and his government will see to it that China pays him a salary. As far as I know, China does not ask for this advice; it is thrust upon her unsought. But she must pay for the privilege, whether she likes it or not. So over they come, these various 'advisers' from various foreign nations, and settle down here in Peking as the official advisers of this and that, and draw their salaries from this bankrupt old government. The China Year Book for 1916 gives a list of twenty-five such advisers.

## Lizard Valued as Human Food.

In Death valley and other deserts of California there is a lizard called the "chuckwalla," which is most highly thought of as food. It is a foot and a half long, wholly a vegetable feeder, and its meat, which is white, resembles frogs' legs in flavor.

## DAY TO KEEP IN MEMORY

Particular Reason Why Civil War  
Veteran Recalls Incident of His  
Military Career.

An interesting story was told by the veteran Maj. George Haven Putnam during his visit in the city last week, says the New York Times.

Maj. Putnam served in the civil war, rose to be adjutant of the 176th Regt. New York volunteers, was captured at Cedar Mountain and confined in Libby prison.

"I was a very small factor in the army of the North, anyway," said Maj. Putnam, "and my absence from the ranks created no panic and was of very little moment to anyone except myself."

The major went on to say that one afternoon while he was cantering along a dusty Virginia highway he passed a body of Union troops at the wayside and their major saluted him. He was only 21 at the time and these attentions naturally pleased him. A little farther along he encountered another group of troops and this time an officer of considerably higher rank did the saluting.

Later on the young adjutant discovered that the major was William McKinley and the officer of higher rank was Brig. Gen. Rutherford B. Hayes.

It was a good deal later, however, before he found out that he had been saluted twice in the same afternoon by men who were to become presidents of the nation.

## What Is Civilization?

"It's all in the point of view," is true of a good many things, and one of these may be the question, "What is civilization?" As late as the seventeenth century the highbrows of England were yet to be astonished by the advent of the fork. It was introduced by Thomas Coryate, the famous wanderer and writer, who said of it in his "Crudities": "The Italians cannot by any means endure to have their flesh touched with fingers, seeing that all men's fingers are not alike clean." For this he was long ridiculed. They called him the man who "used a fork at feeding."

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## THE KITCHEN CABINET

A part of what we might term the optimist's philosophy is: If you can mend a situation mend it; if you can't mend it, forget it. Is it a good philosophy or is it foolishness?

## HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS.

If the dishes in which ice cream or frozen dishes are served are chilled in the refrigerator the problem of melting ices is practically solved.

Salads, too, should be served on cold plates to avoid wilting.

Frozen dishes molded in melon molds should be served sliced in pie-shaped pieces, cutting from the center of the mold. Serve at once on cold plates.

Cream is whipped enough when the egg beater leaves its print in the beaten cream. Longer beating will often cause bits of butter to form in the cream.

A sufficient quantity of white sauce may be made to last two or three days if kept covered in the ice chest.

Flour that has been sifted several days should always be refined when ready to use. If a cupful of flour is called for in a recipe do not dip the cup into the flour, but fill it lightly with a spoon. All recipes in the modern books call for level measurements of all ingredients.

The usual recipe serves six people amply. By cutting down the ingredients to halves or thirds it suits the needs of a small family. If fortunate enough to have a large one double the amounts.

In making French dressing use half lemon juice and half vinegar or dilute the vinegar with water or fruit juice, using three times as much oil as acid.

A convenient way of making the dressing is to put all the ingredients into a fruit jar and shake until it thickens and then it is ready to use at any time with a few preliminary shakes, and will keep indefinitely in a cool place.

In molding gelatin mixtures the chilling may be hastened by having at hand a dripping pan filled with cracked ice into which the molds may be set. A little salt sprinkled on the ice quickens the chilling.

Do not wash mushrooms but brush with a butter brush to clean them. Use the peelings cooked in a little water and drained as flavor for sauces. The flavor is in the liquor, so the peelings may be thrown away.

**Nellie Maxwell**  
SIMPLIFIED TABLE SERVICE AT  
SUCKER CREEK GATHERING

At the regular meeting of the Ladies' Aid of the White School District, which was held at the home of Mrs. S. E. White, the Home Demonstration Agent gave a demonstration on simplified table service. There were about 15 ladies present and all seemed interested in the fundamentals of good, yet simple, table service as given by Miss Corbett.

The Ladies' Aid is at present engaged in making a quilt.

Dainty refreshments were served by the hostess and a general social time was enjoyed.

The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Geo. Wells.

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