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CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS turns our thoughts to values that are expressed by such words as home, children, friendship, love. Its coming makes us realize that the aim of progress is the protection and revelation of these values. Whatever in civilization contributes to the happiness and well-being of home and children is good; whatever threatens them is bad.

There is no substitute for the joys of the Christmas season. They are the essence of life, and all that gives meaning life.

And so we give expression to the usual greeting, and sincerely wish that every customer and friend may enjoy A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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Women's Page

BY A WOMAN



A CHRISTMAS STORY

"No, children, we will not have Christmas this year. Now that mother is gone we do not want any Christmas. Go to bed and do not bother any more." So the children stole quietly away, Joan and Donald, with an agony of disappointment on their sweet faces. No Christmas: and mother gone! What a change had come into their lives. Their father, always so merry and ready to play and listen to them, now so silent and stern, since their bright laughing mother had been taken away. In their nursery they found their faithful nurse, Maggie, who had been with them since they could remember, and who loved them as her own, "Oh, Maggie, we are not going to have any Christmas. Father says so," wailed the children. "But, yes you are," said Maggie brightly, "just you kneel down and ask the good Lord what you want, and then hang up your stockings and see."

The father, even in his bitter grief for his lost one, had noticed the children's sad faces, and self reproachful for his neglect, he crept upstairs and then he heard their sweet treble voices asking God to send Santa Claus to them. And tell him to bring me a sled, a tool chest and wagon, he heard Donald say, while Joan wanted a doll and other things dear to a little girls heart. He staid outside and heard Maggie putting them to bed, then went down and ordered his car. When much later he crept upstairs again, his arms were loaded with bundles. But when he went into the room where the stockings were hanging, there was one there before him. Maggie was placing under each stocking the things she thought would please her darlings most, "And so he whispered to Maggie, "God has sent them two Santa Claus."

It was a happy Christmas for the children. The father had called in his old bachelor friend, who had anticipated having a lonely Christmas, and the two men did all in their power to make the children enjoy the festive season. Together, in the bright cheerful room they all enjoyed a merry time and when the children left the room, his friend touched him on the shoulder and said, "After all, Donald, though you have been so sorely hurt, yet you are much better off than I for you have your lovely children," and Donald answered, "I know it, old boy, and hereafter I shall see that happiness after all comes from making others happy."

HEALTH

There was hardly a better law passed than the pure food law. We can hardly appreciate how much Dr. Wiley and his able assistants did for the public health, how they found out that certain preservatives of canned goods. were harmful and having them done away with. Now when we buy canned goods we are pretty sure that they are a healthful food, though, of course, we all know that fresh vegetables and fruits are much more to be desired. At this season of the year when every thing that can tempt the appetite is set before us, it is needful to be very careful. Never are we more apt to catch cold than when our digestive organs are overworked. Therefore, the warning. "Do not overeat," It is a fine thing to take a brisk walk after a feast, and thereby avoid the heavy dull feeling that is apt to follow. Perhaps that is one reason why lunches have taken the place of dinner at noon, as we are apt to be more efficient at our work after a light repast. And, as all the beauty specialists advise, "Beware of constipation." Like every other ailment, if taken in time can be prevented, or cured, but allowed to run on, will cause disease and discomfort.

RECIPES

Gifts, large and small, are being sent on their way to wish friends a Merry Christmas. No carrier of the season's greetings is appreciated more than those created within the home.

So many surprises can be combined within the pantry. For a lone friend and for an apartment acquaintance the individual plum pudding, concealed in Christmasy paper and decked with a spray of holly, will bring all kinds of cheer. Small tins of kitchen varieties are suitable for cooking the individual mold.

Individual Plum Pudding

Two cup dry bread crumbs, 1 cup hot milk, 2 egg yolks, 3-4 cup sugar, 1 tsp. salt, 1-3 cup flour, 1-2 tsp. soda, 1 tsp. mace, 1 tsp. cloves, 1½ tsp. cinnamon, 1 cup suet, chopped fine; 1 cup nut meats, 1 cup raisins, 1 cup currants, 1 cup dates, 3 egg whites.

Soak the crumbs in the milk for 5 minutes. Add egg yolks, sugar and salt. Beat for 2 minutes. Add flour, soda, mace, cloves and cinnamon mixed and sifted. Add all the other ingredients except the egg whites and mix very thoroughly. Add the egg whites, stiffly beaten. Fill well buttered pudding molds half full. Tie papers over the tops and steam for one hour. Serve with hard sauce. If one mold is used steam for 3 hours. To reheat steam for 45 minutes.

One fruit cake may be divided into several gifts. Such a present improves with the keeping. This cake causes a bit of extra work but all the trouble will be repaid when your friends acknowledge its receipt.

If salted nuts are used in this recipe no other salt is needed. The seeded raisins give a good flavor and are best cut fine, unless you are like Jack Horner and like to "pull out a plum." A little vanilla also improves the cake.

White Fruit Cake

(Makes 6 lbs.) .....

Four cup sifted flour, 1 tsp. baking powder, 1-2 tsp. soda, 1-2 tsp. salt, 1-2 lb. each: Crystallized Citron, Orange peel, Lemon peel, Pineapple and Red Cherries cut fine; 1 lb. blanched almonds cut fine, 10 egg whites beaten stiff, 1 cup butter, 11-2 cup sugar, 1 tbsp. lemon juice, 1 lb. raisins.

Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder, soda and salt and sift 5 times. Sift one cup of this more if you need it over fruits and nuts. Cream butter, add sugar gradually and cream thoroughly. Add remaining flour mixture, small amount at a time. Add lemon juice, fruits and nuts. Fold in egg whites. Bake in slow oven 250 degrees farienheit 2 1-3 hours, then increase to 300 degrees farienheit for 15 minutes.

Boxes, baskets or tins of "home-made" candy and stuffed fruits are one Santa's prize packages. Dates, figs filled with peanut butter, fondant or dates and rolled in granulated sugar makes good candy for the kiddies while the grown ups are enjoying the heavier creams.

Dishes which are made the day before or early in the morning are the ideal ones to use for the busy days. An excellent menu for this purpose would be:

Cream of Tomato Soup
Toasted Cheese Sandwiches
Lettuce Salad
Baked apple with cream

Cream of Tomato Soup

One medium can tomatoes, 1-2 onion, 1 tbsp sugar, 1-2 tsp. soda, 1 qt. milk, 1-2 cup flour, 4 tbsp. butter, 1-3 tsp. salt.

Cook together tomato, onion, sugar for 13 minutes. Strain, then add soda. Make cream sauce by melting butter, then add flour. Stir until thoroughly mixed, add milk, one-third at a time, stirring to avoid lumps. Cook until the raw taste is gone. Just before serving and while hote, combine 1 and 2 by pouring the tomato mixture into the cream sauce. Whipped cream or butter may be put on top.

Scalloped dishes always find their place on economical menus. They may even be partially baked and reheated at time of serving. The practice of little time-savers is good shopping sense. Another busy-day dinner might be:

Scalloped Egg and Cheese
Cole Slaw, Bread and Butter
Sliced fruit
(Oranges, bananas and pineapple)
Scalloped Egg and Cheese
(3 portions)

Three hard cookd eggs, tbsp. butter, 2 tbsp. flour, 1 cup milk, 1 cup soft bread crumbs, 1-2 cup sharp cheese cut fine, 1 tsp. salt, 1 parsley.

Melt the butter, add flour and mix well. Gradually add the milk. Cook one minute, add cheese and the eggs cut in slices. Add parsley and salt. Place one half the crumbs in the bottom of a well buttered baking dish, add egg mixture and cover with remaining crumbs. Dot with butter and brown in a moderate oven.

STYLES

Never has there been more confusion in the fashion world as now. Shall the chic ones give up their short skirts and follow the dictates of the autocratic fashion man, or still cling to the short easy fitting skirt. It will be "war to the knife." Who shall conquer remains to be seen.

The Skirt War

Short skirts seem to be winning the battle, if this department is any judge. Legs are maintaining their high visibility despite all the dress-makers and style czars can do. The girls are wearing the longer skirts, if at all, at formal evening parties, their viewpoint being that if they have to be modest it will not be out in the open where perfect strangers can notice it.

Who Dictates Styles?

We rather surmise that the style-makers who are credited with leading our women like a lot of sheep have had less to do in the matter than they are credited with. The outcome of the conflict now being entered into will show whether we have guessed right or not, says the Omaha World Herald. Whether simplification has been overdone or hasn't yet reached its maximum is for better judges than we to say. A few inches above or below the knee isn't likely to make much difference to the average American woman, but we are betting that she is too strong-minded to let any Paris dressmaker hobble her again to the point of discomfort. American merchants are aparently set for this resistance. A smart Fifth avenue shop in New York, stocked with the new designs, is reported to rave them all in duplicate in the shorter lengths for women who refuse to go back to the long skirts.

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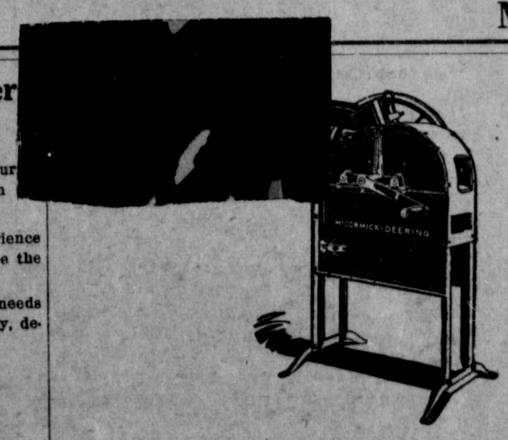
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