



**GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS**

AT CHRISTMAS it seems especially appropriate to resurrect all the old games, that have amused children for ages past. Some of them are best played out-of-doors, while others may be played either within or without.

One of these, a general favorite, is mentioned in one of the Christmas celebrations in Dicken's "Pickwick Papers," and still earlier in Washington Irving's "Sketch Book." This is "Blind Man's Buff." Every one is so familiar with this good old game which will never lose its ability to amuse, so that the rules for playing it need not be given here.

"Hide and Seek" is another of these old "standbys." One variation of this game might be mentioned here. We children called it, "Cheese It." One child was "It." At goal he covered his eyes while he counted ten calling out "Cheese It" at the end of ten. He then opened his eyes and anyone he saw moving had to return to goal. When all had disappeared from sight he hunted until he found one of them, whom he must precede to goal. This child then became "It" and the game continued.

This game of course, is equally interesting whether played indoors or out. "Fox and Geese," another old favorite, is best played out in the snow. A large circle is tramped in the snow, with two diameters crossing it at right angles. The center thus formed is "Safety." The Fox is chosen and is "It" as in other games. He must catch one of the "geese." The other children and the "geese," run around and across the circle, no one leaving the beaten paths, of course. Any one standing at "Safety" cannot be tagged, but he must leave at once on the approach of another "goose." Once a goose is tagged, he becomes "fox" and must chase the others in turn.

Several of the old games involve running, which makes them just right for out-of-doors in cold weather. Where there is a large group of children, that ancient pastime "Run, Sheep, Run" will be found lively and full of interest.

The children are evenly divided each group selecting a captain. Then there is held a secret consultation of each side with its respective captain, in which signals are arranged. Then one group with its captain leaves for hiding. They travel for some distance, marking their course with arrows in chalk on side walks, fences, or buildings. When they are safely hidden, their captain returns to the other group. The second group starts out to find them, guided by the arrows. As they continue, the captain of the hidden children, calls signals which indicate how near the pursuers, are ap-

proaching. When he thinks the pursuers are far enough from goal, he calls "Run Sheep Run!" The hidden group then run into goal, while the others try to arrive first. If they so arrive first, it then becomes their turn to hide.

There is something so fascinating about this game that children will play it for days running.

Young people of high school age are all familiar with "Last Couple Out." This is often played in summer but can be just as interesting in winter. Where a barn dance was being held this game could be easily managed indoors, just so there was plenty of space in which to play.

For those who may never have indulged in this sport the simple rules are here given. Boys and girls line up as for a march, in pairs. The front couple calls, "Last Couple out!" The end couple of the line separate and run for position at the front of the line. The couple there try to tag them before they reach it. Failing this, they drop out of the game. If they do tag the last couple before they reach the front position those two then drop out of the game. Thus the game continues until one couple is left triumphant.

For indoors, one form of charades is called "New York." Here two groups are necessary, each with a captain. One group leaves the room, and selecting a name, or a word of several syllables, arranges to act out the syllables in sections. For instance take the name "New-found-land." The first syllable can be handled in dialogue in which the word "new" is mentioned prominently. The second can be done in pantomime, a person "finding" something. The last, "land" can be discovered in pantomime.

Having decided on all the details, the group returns to the room where the others are waiting. The captains then carry through this dialogue.

First, "Here we come!"  
Second, "Where from?"  
First, "New York."  
Second, "What's your trade?"  
First, "Lemonade."  
Second, "Give us some."

This is the signal to start the dialogue, or pantomime. The opposite group try to guess the word which if they do they immediately try to catch or capture the first group. It is now the second group's turn for pantomime.

If one starts to think of these old games for use with children at Christmas several more will occur to him. For instance "Farmer in the Dell," and "Duck on the Rock," and many, many more. Games in which all can enter seem the best, for that brings up the Spirit of Christmas, a jolly good fellowship, a happy companionship of old and young together.

**True Status of Affairs at the Big Chief Well**

As is usual in such cases, a number of rumors have been circulated concerning the Big Chief oil well recently brought in near Rushville by a syndicate composed of several hundred small stockholders. Late rumors have been to the effect that the well had been sold to the Midwest Refining company, but the following, from the pen of C. L. Mayes, editor of the Rushville Standard and a director in the syndicate, gives the true status of affairs:

"When word was sent out to the world that oil had been struck twenty-six miles northwest of Rushville, it caused a commotion such as is always the case on the discovery of 'gold.' Men of wealth and men who wanted wealth began pouring into Rushville with all sorts of propositions. Some of these fellows were small Murphys who imagined that by the gift of gab, combined with a pot full of taffy and brass tacks, they could close a deal with the board of directors instantly. The board, however, was 'next' to these flimflabbers and hearkened to their breathings with a grain of salt. At no time was a majority of the board over-enthusiased, so acted carefully and considerably. They, at least a majority of them, desired a proposition that would relieve the Big Chief of an embarrassing situation and make every unit holder some money, provide there was a dollar to be made out of the project.

"Several consultations were held and a proposition made by the Midwest Oil company wherein the Big Chief had everything to gain and nothing to lose, was accepted by a majority of the board, after consulting the best and most successful business men of the community, as well as a considerable number of the largest unit stockholders. The proposition was assailed by a few members who never made a success of anything they ever attempted to do, and they made so much noise that the elements actually trembled. The board was independent in the matter and lost much valuable time in trying to do the right thing. They gathered together and calmly considered the matter, held on-

other meeting at Dewing in order to have a full and undivided meeting, and after the meeting, which lasted well into the day, all agreed that the proposition offered by the Midwest was best, the safest and the only one that was practicable.

"The five members consisted of H. B. Brown, J. E. Ostrander, C. L. Mayes, L. W. Dodendorf and H. S. Bradley. Albert Ostrander, chairman of the Big Chief, and Ira Kelley, secretary, were also present. Brown, Ostrander and Mayes were ready to do business and prove the field. Bradley and Dodendorf assented, but refused to sign an agreement on the grounds that they had openly declared that they would not enter into an agreement of any kind without the consent of the unit holders (which is an utter impossibility) so the meeting adjourned as had several others, without accomplishing anything, and the Big Chief stands today just where it stood from the start—busted, broke, with nothing doing.

"The editor of this paper, while much interested in the development of the country, stands today just where he stood when the proposition of 'boring for oil' was first introduced. We told several of our friends that it was a good place to lose money and would never amount to anything. We based our judgment on experience and the personal behind the movement. Our opinion has never changed. A lot of monkey work will be done, and because of the attitude of a few know-nothings future generations will reap a reward that properly belongs to the men and women who in good faith invested their earnings in an enterprise that promised valuable returns."

**WEARY.**

I am weary of making change to drop into telephone slots, of women with salmon-colored stockings, of giving the excuse that I am going to Boston when I wish to avoid a dinner party, of hearing about a friend's bootlegger who --- of checking my hat in restaurants, of telling the taxi driver where I live, of cutting my chin every time I shave, of cudgeling my brains to make a new drink with gin, --- of telling women that I cannot live without them.—Life.

On the other hand, certain varieties of sharks are eaten by men and the sharks never make a howl about it.

CARL LAEMMLE takes pleasure in presenting  
**PRISCILLA DEAN**



the most Dynamic Personality in Moving Pictures, in

Stuart Paton's Tremendous Drama of Woman against Woman.



**Liar! Cheat! Imposter!**—tell these people how you've fooled 'em—how you've stolen your own mother's name and passed your self off as the great Laura Figlan.

**The Tremendous Plot**  
The hugely dramatic story of a wilful girl who deserts her husband and child and becomes the most talked-about actress in Europe; and of her child, raised in an orphan asylum, who inherits her mother's talent and beauty, plus other's identity, the leading figures in the greatest emotional drama ever put on the screen.

**The Dazzling Star**  
The most dynamic, absorbing, forceful personality in moving pictures—Priscilla Dean—who swept you out of your self in "The Wildcat of Paris"—who galloped into your heart in "The Virgin of Stamboul"—who gripped you in "Outside the Law"—and who will now give you your thrill of thrills in the greatest production that ever held you enthralled.

**The Splendid Support**  
Directed by Stuart Paton, master of screen-craft and director of some of the most suspenseful pictures ever made, will be found a great host of popular players, including such well-known favorites as Spottiswoode Aitken, Niles Welch, Harry Van Meter, Rex De Rosselli, Harry Carter and Mae Giraci.

**The Lavish Production**  
A sumptuously staged drama that carries you from an American small town to the dazzling heart of fashionable London, then down to the famous Limehouse slums, then back to America and the tremendous finale before the footlights. Dramatized without regard for expense in order to give you a moving picture that you'll remember all your life as one thrilling hour of perfect entertainment.

**Coming Imperial Theatre--2 Big Days--Jan. 26, 27**  
MATINEE DAILY 2:30—NIGHT 7:30 and 9:30. ADMISSION—20c and 50c and W. T.