

Social Forms and Entertainments



A Steamer Experience Party.

The description of this novel party will be in time to assist many of you who want to give welcomes home to many of your friends who have fared abroad this summer. Ocean travel and trips on the great lakes clear through to Buffalo have been very popular, as there have been some palatial steamers put on this year which have given voyagers a sense of security on our treacherous inland seas.

With all this in mind the hostess asked eight friends, every one of whom had taken a "steamer" vacation. Two of them having made the old-fashioned "before the war" trip from St. Louis to New Orleans on "the river." The guests were asked to give only fifteen-minute descriptions of what was to them the most interesting or exciting part of their trip, and thus you see two hours of the afternoon "from three to six" was beautifully filled. While one person "talked," the others had their needlework.

The affair was held on the porch and there were as many steamer chairs as the hostess could borrow. After all had arrived, the twelve-year-old boy of the household dressed as a ship's steward, served hot beef tea and "plot biscuit," and during the afternoon the time was sounded by bells. Books of travel, guide books and literature so abundantly furnished by steamship lines was scattered about, and there were many souvenir postals with a desk equipped for writing should anyone wish to send a last message back by the pilot, who came in dressed as a sailor (a dear little chap in middy suit with "First Pilot" on his capband).

After each one had had her turn with no interruptions of mal de mer, delicious refreshments were served, and everyone agreed that it had been a most delightful afternoon, as it had given good friends the opportunity of meeting and hearing each other's experiences just when they were fresh in the mind, and all were so enthusiastic. Lists of books to read were exchanged and plans begun for "next" year's vacation and the next "steamer experience" party, which was voted should be an annual affair.

A Corn Roast.

Our amusements are greatly governed by the season of the year, and right now the popular thing is a "corn roast." Of course they are not new, but there is something decidedly alluring in a moonlight night, a big bonfire, just the right crowd, and plenty of nice, sweet roasting ears, not forgetting sweet potatoes, bacon, coffee and the delicious sandwiches the girls know how to make.

Even the coffee can be having corn roasts with the smartest of the smart set as host and hostess. Motor cars are often discarded and hayracks with four horses call for the guests. If a colored man who knows "just how" is available, he may be called upon to superintend the broiling of the bacon, roasting the potatoes, corn, and making the coffee; if not, the men of the party will be found quite capable. Banjos, guitars and the cushions from the wagon add to the enjoyment after the repast, then the affair usually winds up with an informal dance at the home of the hostess. These are delightfully informal affairs. Here is a list of sandwiches that the girls tell me are especially nice for such occasions. I cannot give the recipe as I am sure you all will know how to go about making them just from the names. They should be wrapped separately in waxed paper:

- Stuffed olive and egg sandwich.
- Olive and English walnut sandwich.
- Pimento cheese sandwich. The pimento cheese comes in jars already prepared for use.
- Sardine sandwich, made with mayonnaise dressing.
- Mixed ham and chicken sandwich.
- Take a goodly supply of paper napkins and drinking cups.

A Peach Luncheon.

A peach luncheon will be reasonable as long as peaches are ripe and the weather favorable, for the invita-

tions say "luncheon served on the lawn." But the hostess has provided the decorations of the house so as to give an outdoor effect as much as possible should the day prove inclement. If the day is fine a round table spread with white is set under a canopy made of awning material, supported at the four corners by stakes driven firmly into the ground. Rows of Chinese lanterns will decorate this outdoor dining room. The table centerpiece is to be a pink enameled basket laden with peaches, leaves and vines. For place cards there will be cardboard peaches done in water color with a green leaf or two. Here is the menu, which is unusually dainty:

Tomato and caviar canapes, jellied veal or tongue with potato croquettes, olives, shrimp in aspic with a mayonnaise dressing, cheese wafers. A delicious peach omelet comes next served with brandied peaches. The dessert is to be peach ice cream in shape of the real fruit, the leaves being made of pistachio ice cream. They will be placed on plates covered with real peach leaves. If desired tiny liquor glasses may be filled with peach brandy. The hostess is to wear a pink gown with a stock and belt of yellow. This is a very good combination providing just the right shades are selected.

A Bonnet Party.

Now do not say that bonnet parties are old, until you hear about this one, which was given for twenty children. When all had arrived the hostess passed three sheets of colored tissue paper, some squares of crepe paper of gay color, and two fancy paper napkins to each child. On a center table she puts pins, scissors, tubes of paste and little towels and a bowl of water for wiping the paste off of finger-tips. She said a half-hour would be allowed for making any kind of a hat, cap or bonnet, the maker to don the headgear and when time was called they were to form in line and pass before the judges, who would award the prizes.

Such a busy time as those children had; they were really most clever, too, in building their hats. The oldest guest was eleven and the youngest eight and some of the work was excellent. The prizes were doll hand boxes containing lovely hats for dolly and the ice cream was served in the dearest straw hats (doll size) lined with waxed paper. The children enjoyed the novelty and each one went home with her creation on her head. It is needless to say that there were no boys at this party. The young hostess declared that boys from nine to twelve were "no fun." I do not know what our boy friends will say to this; perhaps some of them will mend their ways a bit, so as not to be left out of parties.

MME MERRI.

Smart Blouses.

The satin blouse is still very smart, especially in white, and buttoned in the front with large bell shaped buttons in satin or ivory, and either very apparent buttonholes or else thick satin loops. A little embroidered pocket breaks the simplicity of the corsage on one side, and the little silk handkerchief placed there gives a pretty touch of color.

Lace and embroidered blouses will be always pretty. Fine allover Valenciennes lace, which does not crush and which gives such flimsy effects, makes exquisite blouses, mingled with Irish lace, dotted net, etc. A narrow satin collar makes a pretty finish. A delightful chemisette of India lawn was seen in one of the big lingerie houses. It was embroidered with dots in high relief, after the fashion.

Bright Buttons.

Buttons come in solid colors, in brilliant reds, blues, vivid greens and yellows, with novelty tones such as terra cotta, flame and reds of the Pompeian order. The tones are sometimes softened by a tracing of dull gold in Chinese or Japanese characters. This tracing is sometimes in black. The result is so good as to indicate a great vogue for these buttons.

Gaithth copies of the striped china buttons which have been so fashionable this summer are being brought out for fall, and have already been heavily ordered.

Scald the Wool.

Before mending stockings with ordinary darning yarn, it is a good plan to scald the skein or card over the spout of a kettle of boiling water. By this means the steam effectually shrinks the wool and when the stocking is sent to the wash there will be no thought of the mended portion shrinking away or tearing the surrounding part.

FORMER ATHLETIC STAR AS PEACEMAKER



Harry Davis, Veteran Star First Baseman.

It pays to have a successful peacemaker on a ball club. Many baseball followers throughout the country probably are wondering why the Athletics, with practically the same players of last year, are making a near runaway race in the American league this season. Of course, the Mackmen have won most of their games by good hard hitting but there is one great leader, who sits on the bench and helps Connie Mack direct his team. It is the appearance of this veteran that has brought peace to the family of a great ball club. Harry Davis, who failed to give Cleveland a winner last year, is back in Athletic harness, and the White Elephants again are showing the form they displayed in 1911.

PINCH HITTER QUITE USEFUL

All Baseball Clubs Now Have Their Relief Batters for Deadly Work—Job is Not Easy.

The pinch hitter in major league baseball has become an institution, due in a great measure to the success attained by McCormick of the New York Giants, who, for three seasons, has added game after game to the Athletics' roster by his ability to drive in runs when they are needed. Now McCormick is doctored, and the two Philadelphia teams, the Phillies and Athletics, owe their high place to the ability of their pinch hitters.

Danny Murphy of the Athletics is doing the relief batting for the American league leaders with deadly effect, while Doc Miller is serving the same end for the Phillies. It takes a peculiar ability to fill such a role, and both these players possess it.

Peculiarly enough, not all high average hitters are good pinch hitters, and, conversely, few good pinch hitters are high average hitters.



"Doc" Miller of Philadelphia.

They are high average hitters when played regularly. Celebrated pinch hitters who have received much prominence in the past solely through their ability to step up to the plate in a tight place and relieve the hitter with a safe hit, and yet who were valueless as regulars when played regularly were Dode Criss of the Saint Louis Browns of 1908 and Harry McCormick of the Giants.

In 1908 Criss was used entirely as a pinch hitter and he batted for an average of .341, winning game after game. The following year he was tried as a regular and proved a gloomy failure. Last year McCormick had his best season as a pinch hitter. During the season he came to bat 39 times for other hitters and batted out hits thirteen times, for an average of .335. In addition, he drove in a number of runs on flies and outs to the infield. He also figured in the world's series.

world's champions were fairly well organized as far as friendship was concerned. The taste of defeat was a bitter medicine, and the players on Mack's payroll were peevish and not working together like the machine that rolled over the New York Giants in the fall of 1911. The reason for the poor showing of a team doped to run away with a third pennant, was that Harry Davis, peacemaker, was not there to settle the disputes of the players. This fellow Davis knows how to keep his team mates working together and his return to Philadelphia has had something to do with the great showing made by the conquerors of the Cubs and the Giants.

NOTES of the DIAMOND

Catcher McKee is showing some good work with the Tigers, both behind the plate and at bat.

Pitcher Cottrell, the young heaver sent to Baltimore, by Connie Mack, is pitching winning ball.

Osborn of Louisville, with a batting average of .327, is said to be sought by three big league clubs.

Cincinnati has purchased Second Baseman John Rawlins of the Victoria Northwestern league club.

Great is the timely hitting of Connie Mack's Athletics. So far this season the Mackmen have averaged nearly six runs to the game.

Rumor has it Hugh Duffy will dispose of his Portland, Me., club and that next season will find him again piloting a big league team.

Outfielder Lobert of the Portland club of the Pacific Coast league is said to be sought by several big league clubs. He is hitting .317.

Newark gets Pitcher Beany Hall from Brooklyn to take the place of Atchison and has also secured Pitcher Ducky Holmes from Buffalo.

The Cincinnati Reds are shy on heavy hitters, Manager Joe Tinker and Johnny Kling being the only Red Birds who are batting in the .300 class.

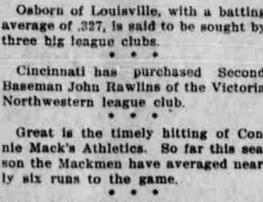
Tris Speaker, the star outfielder of the Red Sox, may accompany the Sox and Giants on their trip around the world. If he goes he will play in Calabahan's outfield.

George Tebeau denies as ridiculous the story that he was sore at the American association and organized baseball generally because it had not kept the Federals out of Kansas City.

TOO MUCH MOIST DELIVERY

Manager Chance said to be Dickering for Trade for Big Spit-Ball Pitcher McConnell.

Manager Frank Chance of the New York Highlanders has intimated that George McConnell, one of the regulars of the Highlanders last year and this,



George McConnell.

is on the market for a trade, and several clubs are said to be dickering for the six-foot, four-inch boyman. McConnell is a good pitcher, relying on a moist delivery, but Chance, believing he has too many spitball pitchers on his club, has decided to part with one, and McConnell is the man he has selected.

Jim Thorpe, former world's amateur athletic champion, as a result of his observation and coaching under Manager John McGraw of the New York Giants, is rapidly picking up valuable knowledge of the national sport. Regarding him McGraw says: "In another month or so the Indian will be a really good outfielder. He starts well now, knows how to play a ball when he reaches it, and his speed can go a long way for them. He has one of the best-throwing arms on the club. After a while he'll be a good hitter as well as a clever fielder. Already he has learned how to gauge and hit a curve pretty well. In another season Thorpe will be a seasoned ball player."

SLIDE TO FIRST BASE

Umpires Call Out Player Who Hits Dirt at Initial Sack.

Arbiters Claim It is Done to Make the Play Look Close in Hopes of Gaining Decision—Runner Loses Time in Sliding.

More sliding to first base probably would be seen in the National league if it were not for the fact that the umpires invariably call out the man who hits the dirt. They do not think it is necessary for a base runner to slide into first base, because he loses time in so doing. They also add that players do it in order to make the play close at the initial cushion in hopes of gaining the decision.

Not long ago an umpire in the American association called out a runner for sliding into first base, when he apparently was safe by five feet. That same official declared after rendering that verdict that he would call out any man who slid into first base, whether he was out or safe. He also said he would not permit any ball player to show him up at the play in the same light and say they will wave out a runner nine times out of ten when he jumps into the first base.

Sliding into first base is rather a thrilling play and in an exciting game is a feature that excites the fans. Players would like to do it, but say it would be suicide to try it, as the decisions of the umpire would be against the runner. Many instances come up in a ball game where a player believes he can beat a throw by sliding into the base, but he is afraid to try it knowing the official will call him out, and attempts to beat the ball by running.

"When you start to slide you are out," said one of the league's best players. "The umpire, in my opinion, makes up his mind that you are out as soon as you leave your feet, for he believes that by sliding you are trying to make the play close and hard for him. If you watch you will find that most of the decisions are given in favor of the basemen when a man slides. Time and again you will see men called out at second base, when apparently the ball did not reach there until the man slid into the bag. It is because the umpires know the play is going to be close and they do not favor the runner. Therefore, why attempt to slide into first base, when you know that the chances of being announced safe are against you?"

"Sliding is one of the features of baseball," said another player. "I do not think there is a part of the game better than when a man by a clever hook or fade-away, manages to escape a baseman. Often a man will score a run by his ability to elude the catcher and seldom does he receive the credit that is due him. Often you will see a man steal second by getting around the shortstop or second basemen's touch and later score on a single. Yet that man who stole is not commended for his excellent work. Knowing how to slide into a base makes up a championship ball team. Take all the championship teams of modern years and you will find they had smart base runners and sliders. "What makes the Giants so strong? Their ability to run bases and slide. That is one of the first things McGraw teaches his players, and if you ever have noticed, each one is well versed in hook sliding."

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