A CHAPTER ON NEW TOYS.

ALL POSSIBLE "GO" PUT INTO THIS YEAR'S INVENTIONS.

Why Americans are Getting Ahead of European Makers—Novel Go-carts—Bridge Building—Traps for Hoarded Pennies.

Manufacturers of children's toys never worked so hard as they have this year to furnish children with holiday playthings on which to wreak their savage little wills, and the Christmas sun will go down on a bigger stock of broken toys than was ever before seen in America. Manufactories are running day and night, and yet the retailers and jobbers cry for more. The busiest storekeepers are the toy dealers.

Many new games and toys have been invented this year, and nearly all are constructed without regard to expense. Inventors have learned that they can sell any toy, however expensive, if it has merit and will not tumble to pieces a week after the fond parent lugs it home. As to wear and tear, however, a manufacturer said to THE SUN reporter that more pains are taken now than were formerly taken to make durable toys. It is argued that when parents find hobby-horses' heads and legs dropping off and go-carts breaking an axle immediately after they are bought, they become disgusted and buy no toys at all. On the contrary, if toys are well made more are bought, for a child's fancy enlarges faster than its body.

Each of the large manufacturers of toys has managed in the summer or fall past to secure a patent on some toy, or on some modification of a toy, and now is the time when they exhibit the new plaything, and assure their customers that it is the very thing children are crying for.

At 20 Park place, in a window, is a structure that resembles a working model of the Brooklyn bridge, and is an imposing affair. The puzzle is to take it from the small box in which it is packed and arrange the towers, approaches, cables, roadway, and suspenders. Any boy would know that the large x belongs on the approaches and not the two flags on the top of the towers. The bridge, when set up, is 42 inches long, 14 inches high, and 6 inches wide, and it is packed in a box about 15 inches long. It costs only a dollar. The same firm sells a new two story doll house for the same price. Not a nail or screw is used in the building of the house. The houses were patented in July last. Toy pistols with cartridges are sold here, but the firm say they intend to deal in them no more. The demand by retailers for these weapons of destruction is much less than it has been.

Probably the oldest dealer in the domestic toy trade is Mr. Dare, at 47 Cortlandt street. He began business at the present stand in 1858, and now has branched out into the stores on his left and right hand. Mr. Dare has a new toy this year, which he calls the Tally-ho Sulky, patented. It is a four-wheeled vehicle, with a sulky seat, and a fiery wooden horse prances in front. The motion is produced by pushing and pulling on the reins, which are an iron rod attached to the neck of the charger. Pushing and pulling on the horse's head turns a crank beneath the driver, and the healthy muscular strain produced by the exercise is like that which a man feels after driving a livery horse all day. The price is from $8 to $16.

"You would not dream that a bitter lawsuit would be waged for years over so small a thing as a shelf for playthings," said Mr. Dare yesterday. "Since 1874 the lawyers have been trying to decide to whom belongs the right to make a shelf to fit up in a baby carriage, so that the baby can be put in the carriage and the shelf shut down in its lap, to hold the child's toys and to keep it from crawling out on the tongue of the carriage. The patent claimed the exclusive right to make the lifting shelf, and brought suit against all the other manufacturers. On the 5th inst., however, it was decided that he had no just claim, as the shelf had been made before he took out a patent."

A new big toy in this shape is a wooden elephant nearly two feet long and a foot and a half high, richly caparisoned and mounted on wheels. "Tom," said Mr. Dare, "is a good text for a discourse on imported and domestic toys. We Americans send to England, France and Germany more toys than we get from abroad. The reason of this revolution is this: We make toys that have something about them which a boy can make 'go,' whereas foreigners make playthings with more tissue and flash about them, of course, but toys which have to be used them must be strong enough to be kicked, ridden, and hammered, and our large wooden toys fill the bill. There is more bulk in our playthings than in the foreign goods, and, on the other hand, the imported toys have more handiwork on them, because labor is cheaper on the other side than with us. We send, too, hundreds of boys' velocipedes to Australia."

Mr. W. A. Shelton, at 112 Chambers street, said of this subject that he was aiming to cut down the German toy trade, and was not only doing this in one or two lines, but was seeing to many. The best things in this line, Mr. Shelton said, were a horse and dumping cart, new this year; an emigrant wagon, or prairie schooner, 24 inches long, with "Go West" in black letters on the canvas, and oxen cut out of a slab an inch thick; and express wagons nearly three feet long—all "practicable" toys. The manufactory in Connecticut from which these are turned out is running day and night.

Banks with content attachments, to induce children to save their pennies, appear in four forms this year. Put a coin into the cracked nut a rabbit is chewing while he stands on his hind legs, and then take hold of the animal's stumpy tail, and he gulps down the coin and flops his ears in gratitude. A penny is placed on the nose of an iron bulldog, and when he tosses back his head the coin opens his mouth, and swallows the money. An owl sits by a branch of a tree; the coin is put on the branch, a string in the owl's neck is touched, the owl turns his head, sees the coin, swallows it, and looks wise. A stuffed cat stands beside a house door; when a coin is put in a mouse appears, whereupon he rises over his head into the door, and the dollar comes out and scares the donkey's nose.

The old-fashioned iron box, with "Savings Bank" across the front, is no longer made. Its place is taken by a miniature hotel iron, which the child takes by the tin and passes around among his guests.

"Spool cotton," said Mr. Shelton, "is a thing in large sales. It is put up in the shape of a picture of an animal, and at the other end of the spool an entire alphabet in the alphabet. The base ess was to build the animal, for at the same time the name of the animal was spelled with the letters. This year the spool cotton has been applied to capital letters, to nations, to circus performers, and to well-known yachts, engines, bridges, boats, steam cars, forts, churches, cemeteries, fountains, and statues.

Games of conversation cards, reading cards, and game cards with cards with fortune telling have taken on half a dozen new forms this year. One of the most curious card games is called "Popping the Question," and it is thus advertised by the manufacturer:

"This game is suited for 2 and 1. It may be played in fun, fancy, or fact. In the first it affords amusing, in the second extraordinary laughter, and in the third it exercises nervous agitation to the highest degree. The game is made up of 100 cards, which form the easiest mode of memorizing the important task which sooner or later presents itself to every man. Price, 50 cts."

A game called the alley, which is a thing compared to take the place of more pretentious dominoes, is one of the odd and amusing games. It is simply a little stuffed toy pig and an old-fashioned "fast a billiards." He stands at the bottom of an inclined board with a hollow in it, a marble at the down end of the board. When a marble is dropped down the board, the hollow, chased by the marble, drops back, gives the marble a rap, and drives it up the inclined plane toward a hole just large enough to let the marble through. Perhaps it drops in and perhaps it's odds-on not. If it doesn't it rolls back, and gets another rap. If it does go in the hole, it goes another marble at the side of the board, and thus the game goes on. A jubilee monkey dancer, also new, looks just as though it had escaped from some organ grinder. A stick that "walks," i.e., rolls, and "talks," i.e., squeaks "papa" and "mamma" in a childish treble, is very popular and expensive. An automatic walking match and an automatic bicycle race where the figures actually pass and repass each other are also new inventions.

In the largest toy shop in the city, on Broadway near Canal street, Oscar Strasburger & Co. exhibit foreign toys of new construction. Among these are life-size lambs which bleat; an elephant two feet high, which trumpets and angrily raises its trunk; life-size rabbits, which paw a wheel and act as if revolving, and a lion a foot long which, being wound up, jumps around on the floor and opens its mouth in an alarming way. But the most complete toy is a large peacock, which turns its head from side to side, struts along with a somewhat dignified air, and then spreads its tail in the most lifelike manner.

Drinks and Pistol Shots.

Jeremiah Hoagrove, a hack driver, of 237 West Thirty-first street, and Charles Marion of 501 West Twenty-seventh street, while under the influence of liquor yesterday morning, quarrelled in a barroom at 501 West Twenty-seventh street. Marion drew a pistol and drove from a revolver, none of which did any damage. He was arrested and held in $1,000 bail in the Jefferson Market Police Court.

Waylaid and Stabbed.

Louis Devarge, an Italian, living at 30 Mulberry street, while passing through Twenty-second street between Tenth and Eleventh avenues was waylaid by three men, who robbed him of $3 and stabbed him in the back and side. He was taken to the New York Hospital, where his wounds were pronounced serious.

Court Calendars This Day.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Nos. 40, 45, 46, 47, [illegible] 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205,