

# THE WITCH'S HOUR

GAMES FOR YOUNG GIRLS' HALLOWE'EN PARTIES—ATTRACTIVE NOVELTIES IN FAVORS AND DECORATIONS

A PAGE FOR MISSES



**N**OW approaches the witch's hour, when, hand in hand with jack o' lantern, she is prepared to scamper across the curtain for an interlude of harmless frolic.

The black cat is with us again, and the bat, and the owl. The caldron bubbles, the chestnuts burn upon the hearth, the halloween cake gives up its ghostly prophecy of wealth, matrimony or a life of single blessedness.

In a thousand boarding schools a thousand girls will creep down the cellar stairs holding a mirror and a candle as the hour strikes 12, looking fearfully for the reflected face which is to tell them of the future; and in more than a thousand apartment houses—where there are no cellar stairs—young women will eat an apple before a mirror and hold a candle by whose light they expect to see that same prophetic vision.

If it weren't for jack o' lantern the celebration of halloween might be rather a gloomy affair, for looking into the future in darkened rooms and watching one's fellow chestnut hop away from one on the hearth are not always cheerful diversions; but jack o' lantern, the king of the night, is the jolliest of presiding genies, and, besides, there is the halloween feast, a most tempting repast, to keep one's spirits from flagging in the midst of the general unloosing of the black arts.

**H**ALLOWEEN festivities are always very popular with girls, and they are possible for every one, for the celebration of the night has its great advantage in the fact that its mystic rites and ceremonies can be just as well and happily performed by three or four persons as by a large number. Naturally the sort of halloween entertainment which is arranged for a small gathering is not satisfactory for a large one. It has usually been found that there is more fun to be had by going through the oldtime halloween rites quite seriously when the party is small, while for a large affair this sort of diversion is hardly sufficiently general, and instead there is dancing, possibly a halloween cotillon and a supper with quaint and grotesque favors.

Masquerade parties are also popular for halloween, especially in girls' boarding schools, and afford no end of fun if the masks are kept on until the close of the evening, so that identity of the dancers cannot be positively known.

There are so many halloween symbols that whether an ordinary dance, a cotillon or a masquerade is being arranged there is abundance of picturesque material upon which one can draw for decorative materials, favors, costumes, etc. No halloween masque is complete without its witch, its jack o' lantern, black cat, owl and bat, all to be represented in some way or other by the men or girls taking part. Brownies are also halloween characters. Goblins and fairies of all kinds are suitable guests for a halloween frolic.

**M**OST successful was a halloween masquerade given at a girls' school last year. Fairlyland was boldly raided for the characters, and every girl was asked to come as some one of "the little people," either as a historical character or some particular sort of a sprite. The result was not only most amusing, but beautiful as well, for there were elves and pixies, water sprites, fire fairies, cloud fairies, quaint gnomes, naughty brownies, sharp chinned witches, etc. Queen Mab, Oberon, Titania and Puck were all there, and there was a most charming dryad, who set up her tree in a corner—it was made of paper bark—and emerged at intervals through a sunningly concealed door.

The witches told wonderful fortunes for everybody, and a large witch, who occupied a central post, stirred a caldron from which she continually distributed favors.

The gnomes and brownies roasted the chestnuts on the large hearth, and the fairies danced around their favorite teacher and presented her with three

magical gifts—an Italian coral to keep off the evil eye, a good luck penny as a foundation for her fortune and a pair of rose colored glasses, through which she might always see the bright side of life.

These fairies were not the ordinary tarlatan and spangled creatures that we have grown accustomed to hear designated by that name, but were, as far as possible, faithful reproductions of the little people of famous fiction, the creatures of the Irish woods and bogs, the Scotch highlands and the German forests, as they have been depicted by poets, painters and prose writers. It took some trouble to evolve the costumes, but not as much expense as might be thought on first consideration, for many of the costumes were made entirely of crepe paper, and in all of them this material entered largely.

Black paper was most effective for the witch's costume and for that of the owl and black cat. Poor pussy had quite a difficult time—one of the smaller girls was chosen for this part—frolic insisted on her going on all because the other guests at the four a large part of the time, which, in spite of her gymnastic training, was not altogether agreeable.

**E**QUALLY amusing is a dance where the guests all appear as fruits of the autumn. There must of course be some liberty permitted in this sort of character costuming, for while it is comparatively easy for a properly built young person to appear as an ear of corn, it is rather difficult for her or him to assume the exact proportions of a tomato. A lettuce girl, with full shaded green skirts of crinkled paper and some gracefully arranged lettuce leaves for bodice and headress, is a most fascinating creature, and the grape costume, the autumn leaf costume, the pumpkin vine costume, etc., are all the more attractive. It is usually considered wise for the girl to select fruit and vegetable costumes which are pretty and becoming, while the boys, with their customary gallantry, volunteer for the grotesque parts.

Squashes, radishes, potatoes and apples all fall to the lot of the boys. With the vegetable through there should mingle a sufficient sprinkling of the traditional halloween characters. Nothing could be more amusing than the pairing off of such an assemblage. Miss Lettuce and Jack o' lantern dancing together, followed by the witch and the tomato boy, the grape girl and the owl, picturesque Miss Autumn Leaf and a jolly brownie, make up a procession of quaint contrasts.

Pumpkin vines and autumn leaves are charming decorations for large rooms in which halloween frolics are to be held, and there are also paper draperies stamped with appropriate designs which come especially for the walls and tables. Large witches' black cats and owls made of black paper are used here and there among the decorations or perched on chandeliers, lamp shades or over doorways. Jack o' lanterns, real or imitation, are the most popular lights for the festivities. If real they may be set on the table or hung in different quarters of the room. The imitation ones are in the form of lanterns, lamp shades and candle shades.

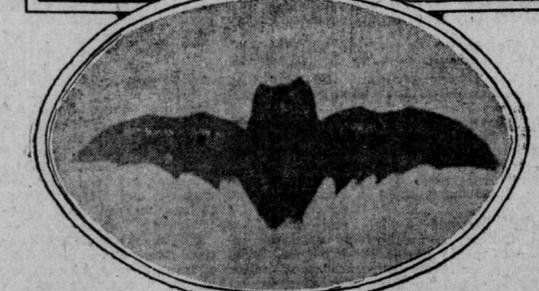
**A**LL the fruits, vegetables and nuts are used for halloween decorations. Branches from nut trees with the nuts still on are the motif of some of the draperies to be found in paper, and corn stalks, tree bark, etc., are all considered suitable. For favors there are a great number of fascinating boxes, baskets and bundles containing bonbons, and there are ice cups also in a great variety of designs that are attractive and novel.

Among the favors which are to be filled with bonbons there are quaint little brown baskets with vegetables of different sorts on the lid, all sorts of fruits and vegetables, with many small pumpkins especially noticeable, witches riding broomsticks gayly attired in red and black, and brown witches' brooms, the broom part of which lifts off, dis-

gathers together at the edges; then sew over the gathers a large flat button mold covered with the chiffon. A rather neater and flatter way to finish this top is with a small thick ring, but it is more trouble. In this case the chiffon must be turned over the ring like a hem and sewed down, and as the whole width of chiffon must be sewed on a small ring it is not very easy to do. The effect, however, is worth the trouble if one has some skill in sewing.

The veil is put on with this gathered center near the front of the hat (or head if worn without a hat). The beginning of the slit comes at the back of the neck, and the two ends are drawn around the neck, knotted in front and allowed to hang down, or put around the neck a second time when a little extra warmth is needed.

**The Revived Jersey Waist**  
THERE are indications of the revival of the jersey waist, which came into vogue 30 years ago, shortly after the Jersey Lily (Mrs.



The Growsome Halloween Owl

**Vegetable Embroidery**  
A VERY pretty kind of fancy work is the vegetable embroidery that is now one of the most fashionable styles of trimming for dresses. It is easy to do and goes very quickly. A girl with only a little time to spend on embroidery can very soon make a lovely trimming for her next new gown, be it one to wear to a dance or a cloth one for the street. For a little of the vegetable embroidery can be used on almost any kind of gown. It is made either in straight strips like an insertion, or in the brassiere shape. A young girl's evening gown in some soft white material, with a brassiere of vegetable embroidery in white and gold, is so charming that it will pay any girl to do the embroidery.

**New Hose Supporter**  
A MONG the novelties in stock supporters that are made up in a heavy quality of satin and silk elastic in delicate hues as well as in black and white is one which has a yoke shaped belt which curves sharply at the sides and lends a flat appearance to the hips. This belt is joined by an elastic band crossing the back and affording full play to the stockings supporter straps.



Favors and Bonbon Boxes



The Pumpkin and Lettuce Boys on Parade

## SOCIAL AMENITIES FOR THE SCHOOL GIRL

**A**HABIT of punctuality will do more to win popularity and will bring in its path more fun and pleasure than any other one characteristic. Once a girl is known to be unpunctual she will be left out of many a spree arranged on the spur of the moment and requiring an instantaneous start. "Oh, no, there is no use in asking Anna, she would always keep us waiting and make us miss seeing so much"—how often one hears that in connection with a contemplated trip. The sad part of it, too, is that if only poor Anna heard it she would undoubtedly promise to be very good and be ready well on time for everything if only she might be allowed to go. But her habits are well known and all feel they can not risk spoiling the pleasure of an entire party just for her, so some one else is asked instead, some one who, perhaps, for many reasons will not make so congenial a companion, but who nevertheless has long ago discovered that one of the most selfish beings in existence is an unpunctual person and who has in consequence herself formed the habit of always being on time.

And continued unpunctuality does resolve itself into just that—selfishness. The girl who is willing to keep a whole luncheon party waiting, hungrily and her hostess nervously while she calmly prinks at home, or does not stop what she has been doing in time to dress herself and get to her entertainment, is certainly thinking of herself before any one else.

It is far better to waste a little time in waiting for an appointment than to keep another waiting who perhaps can ill afford the extra moments in a busy day. And then think of the possibilities of trouble that can be caused by one girl being somewhat late, say, for some morning appointment, be it only at the dressmaker's. Because she is just a little behind time the next appointment must be put back somewhat, and perhaps the next person to be fitted is a business woman to whom short here and there wherever possible. Soon it will be easier to plan the day and put into it all the same amount of work and pleasure as before, but at more possible intervals. It is a splendid thing for a girl's life to be a full one—full of pleasure and work combined—for there is no life so happy as a busy one; but even a busy life can be a selfish one if others can not be taken sufficiently into consideration in the day's scheme that they shall never be forced to lose any of their time by one's own tardiness.

**Use for the Rubber Bag**  
If you have an invalid in your family or an elderly person who suffers excessively from the heat you can contribute immensely to their comfort by keeping a rubber bag filled with cold water under their heads when they are resting, either in a bed or reclining in a chair. The water, just as it comes after letting the faucet stay open a little, is cold enough to be most refreshing, but on an excessively warm day it will become tepid after an hour or so. It is small trouble, however, to refill the bag and contribute in this way to the comfort of a sufferer. Mothers who feel the heat would often find an afternoon nap more refreshing if a thoughtful daughter brought a bag of cold water and tucked it under the head that the temperature of the body might be pleasantly reduced while sleeping.

closing the box. One of the most attractive designs for the ice cups is a small gilt wheelbarrow filled with vegetables of many colors, among which the ice cup itself is adroitly concealed.

There are also cups held up by three ears of corn or three radishes or any of the tall thin vegetables. There are very pretty place cards made with little vegetables tied up in one corner and some perfectly charming ones have endearing black kittens fastened up in the corner with a bit of yellow ribbon. One of the nicest and funniest favors is the lettuce and pumpkin boy, who has a lettuce body and a pumpkin head, all made of paper, and a curly green queue made of wire twisted with green paper.

Oldtime halloween rites include the mirror gazing, the burning of chestnuts, apple paring, carrying the candle and cutting the halloween cake. There are also bobbing for apples and the game of biting the apple, which, however, are not necessarily halloween sports.

Mirror gazing must take place at midnight. The person who is performing the rite must be quite alone in the room, which should be dark except for the candle she holds. She eats an apple and looks straight in the mirror as the clock strikes twelve. She is rewarded by seeing her future husband's face in the mirror.

The other method of practicing halloween mirror gazing requires even more courage. The girl takes her candle and a small hand mirror and goes alone down the cellar steps. At the mystic hour she also sees her future husband's face.

**B**URNING or roasting chestnuts on the hearth is a tried old custom. The girl names a chestnut for herself and one for the young man she supposes may probably be her future fate. The nuts are then placed side by side on the hearth. If they burn quietly away together it is prophetic of a happy marriage. If they pop away from each other it is a sign that they will not be happy with each other. Whichever one pops away first is the least devoted.

Apple paring—and paring is rather difficult. An apple which has a smooth skin should be selected and a large one is best. It must be evenly pared, so that the skin holds together and is about the same width. When finished the paring is taken by one end and tossed over the shoulder. As it falls on the floor it may form a letter. If so, this is the first letter of the christian name of one's future husband or wife.

Carrying the candle should take place outside the house. This would of course be difficult in a city, but in the country or suburbs could easily be managed. Each guest is supplied with a candle, which is lighted, and they start around the house in two processions, the boys on one side, the girls on the other. If they get back to the point from which they started without having the candles go out they are sure to be married.

At small or informal halloween affairs the supper provided usually includes sandwiches, nuts, fruits, cider and the halloween cake. If the affair is more elaborate salads and less may be added. Halloween revels are apt to be late and the repast should be rather substantial. Salads made of apples or nuts are particularly suitable and the ice should be in the form of apples, pumpkins or nuts. For the more simple halloween banquet it is amusing to have plain cakes, ginger cake and cookies, cut in halloween shapes.