

# LOOKING FORWARD TO 1927

BY CAROLINE R. KING.

I always look forward eagerly to the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. It is the most blissful, serene week of the whole fifty-two to me, a time I can spend just as I please, a peaceful interlude between two great days, a sort of clearing-up period before I return to the comfortable routine of everyday affairs, which I shall welcome also, after all the festivities, just as I welcome the joys of home and shabby familiar clothes and humdrum pleasures after an exhilarating journey.

I like to spend these last seven days preparing for the New Year, clearing away all the odds and ends, solving the left-over problems, and banishing the bothers and worries I've saved up so long. I like to check up with myself and decide what sort of house-maker I've been the past twelve months, what sort of neighbor, what sort of citizen.

It's a splendid way to clear the mental atmosphere, and when I have finished I feel I'm all ready to make a brand-new beginning. New Year's Day is not the world's birthday alone, it's everybody's birthday and we all have a chance to begin over again. The new milestone is clean and white and just filled with possibilities.

One of the nicest things about this kind of stock taking is that it can go right on while one is dusting or darning or even cooking. I manage to go through my whole house—to be sure it's not very big—during my mental check-up, putting in a stitch here, a little patch there, making over half-worn sheets, transforming old tablecloths into excellent everyday napkins and table runners, getting some useful and very good-looking aprons from out-of-style gingham dresses, making dusters and holders from old and all but hopeless stockings, and getting as much fun out of it as though I were doing a piece of needle-point embroidery.

Incidentally, I make a very careful list during my mending and make-over orgy, so that I know exactly what the home requires; now I am prepared to buy intelligently and economically when the January white-goods sales take place, and, by the way, I intend to include in my purchases then several unbleached muslin sheets of the best quality. They are durable, launder beautifully and wear indefinitely.

One of the very first things I am going to do, however, after the New Year festivities are over, will be to supply myself with a little household kit of tools. It will contain a small supply of casters, an oil can filled with a good oil, a bar of hard yellow soap, a hammer, an assortment of nails and tacks, a jar of paste, some pieces of clean cloth and a screw driver. Perhaps later I'll even add a

small plane and a saw. Then, once a month or so, I'll take my little kit on a tour through the house, easing squeaky doors, oiling hinges, sweeping drawers that stick, mending torn wall paper, and doing all the little odd jobs that usually wait and wait until one's nerves and patience and sometimes temper are worn out.

I'll spend one day this month looking over the contents of my preserve chest and examining the canned fruits and vegetables. Some of the jars or cans may require attention and prompt action may save them. Then, if I find my stock of jams and marmalades is getting low, it will be really good fun some stormy day to replenish it with a few sweetmeats made from dried fruits, cranberries, raisins and apples.

The days will just fly, I'm thinking, and before we know it the fascinating seed catalogues will be making their appearance. I always like to have as much of the big midwinter work as possible out of the way when they arrive, so that I can give my whole attention to their glowing pages, make my seed and plant lists, and perhaps plan my garden on paper. I never realized until recently what a help a paper plan is in garden making. It saves both time and seeds when the planting season comes, and one doesn't have to be either an artist or a landscape gardener to do it, I've discovered.

One of my friends has asked me to suggest a way for her to spend her Christmas-gift money. She says there isn't anything she needs at present, but very evidently the dollars are beginning to burn their proverbial hole. I wish she would put some of them in into the bank, and then try to add to them regularly each month. It's such a comforting thing to have a little nest egg all your own. You feel so secure to know it's there all safe, waiting to be used when some need arises, and perhaps, while it is waiting, it is gathering up a few more dollars in the way of interest. It's surprising how soon a mickle becomes a muckle when one gives it a chance.

Of all the letters that I have received for many a month, the one that appeals to me most, perhaps, is from a young housewife who writes:

"I don't think I'm a very good housekeeper. I know I do let the children get the house very untidy, and perhaps don't clean up as often as I should, for the children do so like to have me with them in their play, and they like to be with me helping when I cook and generally messing things. But I always feel that when they're all grown men and women they won't remember whether the house was always in apple-pie order, but they will remember, I know, that they had a jolly home." Isn't she a wise woman?

## The New Year.

What did the old year bring you—A heart that was grave, or gay?  
It brought good luck and joyous hours  
Of happiness each day.  
A race well run, a victory won,  
And love to light my way.  
The New Year comes: may fortune still  
Be yours, and with you stay.

What did the old year bring you—  
Good fortune—loss or gain?  
It brought the pang of vain regrets  
And heartache in its train;  
The sting of longing unfulfilled,  
The failure's endless pain.  
Courage: A New Year comes, my friend,  
And time brings peace again.

Whatever our fortune may have been,  
The year has passed away.  
Let's start again with heads held high  
In hope, this New Year's Day.  
—S. A. Maycock.

## APPLE STUFFING FOR GOOSE.

1½ cups boiled chopped onions  
1½ cups chopped sour apples  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 cup bread crumbs  
1½ teaspoons sage  
Pepper and salt.

Mix all ingredients well. If the goose is a very large one you will need to make a larger quantity.

The children as well as grown-ups delight to make candy. This recipe is a real Christmas one, having the red cherries and the green peel to give it the Christmas colors.

## CHERRY PUFFS.

1½ cups granulated sugar  
¾ tablespoons corn syrup  
1-3 cup water  
pinch of salt  
1 egg white  
¼ cup preserved or candied cherries  
¼ cup chopped citron peel  
¼ teaspoon vanilla.

Mix sugar, syrup, water and salt, bring to boiling point, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. When almost cooled add the preserved cherries. Continue to cook until it forms a hard ball in cold water, or 255 deg. F. Pour slowly over stiffly beaten egg white, beating all the time. Add peel and flavoring and beat until mixture will hold its shape. Drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper and decorate if you wish with bits of cherries.

## Merry Christmas

HAVE YOU PLANNED TO—

- Obey that mistletoe impulse?
- Forget old grudges and quarrels for the day?
- Tune your radio in on Christmas services?
- Fill up on good ol' turkey and dressing?
- Remember the mail man and the delivery boys?
- Join in the fun with the kiddies?
- Send greeting cards to your friends?
- Hold a family reunion?
- Attend your church services?
- Be a Good Fellow?
- Contribute to charities?
- Help those less fortunate than you?
- Attend your community festivities?
- Open a Christmas savings account for next year?
- Mail your presents before the rush?
- Wish everyone a Merry Christmas?
- Decorate your own Christmas tree?
- Fill a Christmas basket for the poor?
- Buy Christmas Red Seal stamps?
- Hang holy wreaths in your windows?
- Read Dickens' Christmas Carol?
- Sing Christmas songs?
- Visit all your local friends?
- Have a greeting for every child you meet?
- Tell stories around the grate fire?
- Go window shopping?
- Keep your Christmas tree up until New Year's?
- Remember the old folks?
- Hang up your stockings?
- Have the Christmas spirit?
- Recall the days when you were a youngster?
- Give useful Christmas presents?
- Wear a Christmas smile?
- Get up early Christmas morning?
- Place your Christmas tree near the window where it can be seen from the street?
- Enjoy the happiness of others?
- Put on your Christmas neckwear?
- Take a walk through the snow?
- Refrain from eating too much Christmas candy?
- Keep open house for your friends?
- Forget all your work and worries?
- Read the Christmas editorial in your newspaper?
- Wish "Peace on earth; good will to men"?
- Make this the best Christmas you ever had?

Store seed corn in a dry place. If it has cured thoroughly, it can be hung overhead in the granary.



## A Merry Christmas to All

### Christmas Gifts From Busy Needles.

Now is the time to get out that clever needle and make those little gifts for Christmas that have a personal touch—little gifts with good wishes sewn in every stitch.

Take for instance, those gay little beauty doctors—the powder-puffs. By means of watercolor paints, narrow ribbons, lace and tiny flowers, the ordinary powder-puffs are transformed into whimsical affairs that portray saucy flappers or demure maids. One side of the puff is decorated, while the other makes itself useful.

It never occurs to Santa Claus to leave pretty ribbon fancies out of his head at Christmas-time—he merely varies them a little each year. Garters made of ribbon shirred over flat elastic trimmed with lace ruffles and ribbon flowers. Any material that is left over can be made into small lingerie blossoms.

Always welcome breakfast caps are not to be left out of the lists of Christmas gifts even though bobbed heads are easy to keep tidy. Caps for the long-haired and bands for the bobs can be made of ribbons, silks, laces and flowers and will contribute cheerfulness to the breakfast table.

Here is a new idea in handkerchiefs and a novel way of presenting this most popular of gifts. Picot a little, tiny square in the corner of a colored linen handkerchief and put in it a little powder puff. A piece of bent wire covered with ribbon with the handkerchief tied to it makes a clever miniature umbrella ready to hang on the tree.

All the little people for whom the Christmas tree blooms will be delighted with toys and ornaments made from crepe paper printed with figures of children. These little ornaments are made by pasting the crepe paper on cardboard and cutting out the figures. A bon-bon wrapped in paper is tied with baby ribbon which also serves to hang them on the tree.

Thin, black oilcloth and a colored desk blotter will start the gift maker on the way to a successful desk set for little folks. After an oblong piece of heavy paper has been covered with the blotter a strip of oilcloth is tacked over one end of it and a triangular piece over an opposite corner. Two pieces of oilcloth make blotter and pen wiper covers.

Scenes from Mother Goose are painted on the oilcloth or a nice white duck. This makes a very useful gift for the children's desk. Every year the faithful rag doll makes their appearance ready to undertake the strenuous life that the babies will lead them. Cute little rag dolls can be made at a very little cost of stocking tops or Turkish toweling in either case their features and dress are sketched in with colors. They are filled with cotton and should look very winsome to baby.

Every one from grandparents down will treasure a portrait silhouette, especially when posed by a tiny member of the family. A camera will make the pattern when the sitter is placed in front of the light. The silhouette is cut from the photographic print and used as a pattern for others cut from black paper. Paste the black silhouette on beaver board and frame. This makes a charming gift that will be received with delight.

When the gift-maker gets to work she will be surprised to see what really delightful and novel articles can be created with just a little time, just a little thought, and just a little money.

### Shallow and Deep Ploughing.

Shallow plowing during four years at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has given as large a yield of corn and oats as has deep plowing. It is necessary, however, says the Dominion Field Husbandman in his annual report for 1925, to do good plowing, to turn all the land and to cut and cover all the weeds. A table in the report shows that at four inches deep on light soil the yield of corn after sod averaged 21.71 tons and of oats after sod 69.2 bushels. At seven inches deep the average of corn was 21.45 tons and of oats 65.4 bushels. Last year was especially good for oats after corn, the yield at four inches being 95.5 bushels and at seven inches 78.6 bushels.



He—"It cost me so much at college this fall that I haven't a cent to buy you a Christmas present. It's tough!"  
She—"Oh well, just give me your I. O. U."

Sittings From the Spice-Box.  
—"The end of the season," remarked Johnny, holding up the empty pepper-box.

"A father's advice: 'Lay by something for a rainy day,' my son, even if it is only an umbrella."

"Generous to a fault," is sometimes said of men who really are generous only to their own faults. "I am just full," as the boy said, slipping out of the preserve-chest.

### WHY NOT ALWAYS?

Christmas is easily the finest, most enjoyable day of the year, because of the gifts and feasting, and because on Christmas the best and finest of human emotions and ethics come to the surface.

Charity, tolerance, geniality, brotherhood, kindness—these are so in evidence at Christmas that they seem to be in the very air we breathe. And the reason is that all these are Christmas qualities, and that Christmas is the only day when these finer qualities are so generally present that they are a natural part of daily life.

Humanity is struggling for a goal unknown. We wonder if that goal is not the happy time when the spirit of Christmas will, instead of being confined to a day or a season, spread out to include all days of the year.

### CHRISTMAS SPELLS.

Christmas in the old days teemed with spells and omens and if our ancestors faithfully observed them all they certainly deserved to have the best of luck during the ensuing year. Here are a few of their most cherished superstitions for the coming season:

Draw water from a clear well on Christmas morning and you draw good luck to all those who drink it. Eat mince pies in as many different houses as possible during the Christmas season; for according to the number of houses so will you have good luck during the coming year.

Embrace as many friends as possible beneath the mistletoe for those who kiss beneath the Christmas mistletoe will never quarrel. A flat footed woman about the house during Christmas time will always bring bad luck.

The burning of the Yule log was a great event. It was dragged in with songs and rejoicing and placed on the fire, the larger the better, for Yule log flames out all memories of wrongs and anger, and brought peace and goodwill to all who armed themselves in its heat. None was allowed to stir the fire for fear of breaking its beneficial influence; no squinting or bare-footed person was allowed to enter the room while it was burning for this brought poverty and poor sight to the household. It was thought unlucky too for an odd number of persons to be in the room at this time and a charred piece of the log was carefully saved and preserved in the cellar during the following year; this was an infallible security against all danger of fire.

Soil acidity is a big factor in winter-killing of wheat. Experiments show that fields receiving enough lime to overcome the natural acidity of the soil came through the past winter with a good stand of wheat. Fields not receiving lime were practically bare of wheat because of winter-killing. Barnyard manure was found to a small degree to reduce the losses, but not enough to warrant dependence on it for this purpose.

### A Glad New Year.

Hear the jaybells gaily ringing on the midnight air;  
Listen to glad voices singing, singing everywhere.

'Tis a new friend we are meeting with a smile of cheer,  
Holding forth the hand of greeting to our glad New Year.

Hear all round the joyful humming mortals, at their best,  
Gladly "welcome in the coming, speed the parting guest."  
On no face is sorrow showing, not one falling tear;  
All are welcome sweet bestowing on our glad New Year.

May he bring us joy and gladness, free our hearts from care;  
May his advent banish sadness, here and everywhere;  
May he usher in a measure of contentment dear;  
May he prove a world-wide treasure, this our glad New Year!  
—Alice Wise.

### Width of Ploughing.

Comparisons that have been made for four years at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, between narrow and wide plowing—that is, between 8 and 16 inches, have shown that the latter gives as large yield as the former. With furrows 8 inches in width the yield of corn after sod on light soil has averaged 22.71 tons and of oats also after sod 64.9 tons. At 16 inches the yield of corn has averaged 21.70 tons and of oats 66.9 tons. Drawing his conclusion, the Dominion Field Husbandman in his report for 1925 remarks that inasmuch as the wider furrows usually make possible the plowing of a larger acreage per day, it will be observed that it is more economical than plowing narrow furrows.

Are the saws in shape for getting up the winter wood? If not, be sure to have them set and filed, or get a set and file and do this important job yours.