

FOR THE CHILDREN

By AUNT EDITH

THE WICKED WITCH: AN OLD FAIRY TALE.

Once upon a time, long ago, there lived a king and queen who, like every other king and queen in a fairy story, were very handsome, popular and happy.

Not long after they were married the king had to go on a journey to a far-off country. They were very sad at parting from one another, and in order that no harm should come to the queen, the king made her promise never to leave the castle, and if you stay here with your ladies-in-waiting, he said, "I shall know that no harm can come to you, and I shall be quite happy."

So while the king was away the queen shut herself up in the castle reading and weaving. One summer day, when she was seated near an open window looking out into the park surrounding the castle, an old woman passed by.

"It is a pity," she said, "to see you looking so sad and miserable, I am sure the king would not wish it. Why not come out into the garden for a little while, the sunshine and air would do you good."

At first the queen refused, but after a time she thought to herself, "What harm is there just to take a little exercise in the garden? I am sure it would do me good."

So the queen slipped out, and did not say a word to her companions, but followed the old woman into the garden. For some time they walked down the paths, across the lawns, admiring the flowers and birds till they came to a pond.

"Isn't this beautiful?" said the old woman, pointing to the water. "I wish I could bathe. Would you like to?"

"I should love to," answered the queen; "but I must not in case some harm should come of it."

"Nonsense!" said the old woman. "What harm can come of it if I stay here and keep watch? Don't you trust me?"

The queen did trust her, but she ought not to have, because the old woman was really a wicked old witch, and as soon as the queen's back was turned she gave the queen a push and she fell headlong into the water, and immediately she turned into a white duck.

The witch at once put on the queen's clothes and made her way back to the castle, and she arrived back only just in time before the king returned.

There were scenes of great joy when the king and queen were reunited once more. You will wonder why the king did not notice the queen; was not the real queen. He did notice she was not so beautiful.

"It is because I have been away," he said to himself, "and she has been sad and miserable shut up by herself in the old castle."

Meanwhile the white duck was swimming up and down on the pond. She made a nest for herself, and if you had peeped inside you would have seen three little eggs. One morning out popped three little fluffy heads. They had a lovely time together swimming about and catching flies and chasing themselves on the grass. As they grew bigger their mother warned them not to go near the castle.

"A wicked old witch lives there," she said. "Be careful."

But they did not heed her warning, and one day they wandered right up near the castle, and there they met the witch. She talked to them nicely, and persuaded them to go inside, where she fed them and gave them some soft cushions to lie on. After their long walk they fell asleep. This was just what the witch wanted to happen. When night came, and no one was about, the old witch crept out of bed and killed the three little ducklings. In the morning, when they did not return, their mother, the white duck, got very worried, for she knew that something dreadful must have happened, and so she flew to the palace, and there, in the middle of the courtyard were her three dead children. She flew round and round distracted and crying. It made such a fuss that everybody turned out of the castle. When the king heard it he said, "There is something peculiar about that duck. Who will catch it for me?"

outside the glass the needle will float about. Perhaps if you drop the needle in rather heavily it will sink, but having wiped it dry, and rubbed it on the magnet again, try more carefully, and you see the success of the effort.

FOR THE BOYS.

Borrow father's pipe, and on top of the bowl place a small visiting card, putting a pin through the centre to prevent it slipping off, and then try to remove the card by blowing down the stem, keeping the pipe level all the time. The task seems a very easy one, but it is not so easy when you try it!

NIGHT-SHY BOBBY.

A NONSENSE RHYME. The owls did hoot, And stars did shoot— It was a lovely night, But Bobby shook, And could not look, They both gave him a fright.

Do not go out To walk about, My little night-shy boy, If owls that call, And stars that fall, Are not a cause of joy!

A FIGURE SENTENCE.

Now for a curious sentence. Can you make sense of the following? "She talked from 2222222222 people."

Here is the solution: "She talked from twenty-two (minutes) to two, to two* (minutes) to two, to twenty-two people."

THE MATCHBOX RACE.

The players must stand in a line with their hands tied behind their backs and an empty matchbox balanced on each one's nose. On the word "Go" the players have to run to the winning post as fast as they can, still balancing the matchbox. If it should fall they must go back to the starting point and try again. This game will cause much laughter both to the onlookers and the players.

SOME RIDDLES TO ASK.

- Plant tight shoes, and what will you raise?—Corns. How can you make yourself four-handed?—By doubling your fists. What is always at the head of fashion and yet always out of date?—The letter F. Why is a watch like a river?—It never runs without winding. Why is it dangerous to sleep in a train?—They run over sleepers. Why are sheep-shearers such dunces?—Because they are always wool-gathering. Why is a flower garden never a very quiet place?—Because of all the flowers' stalks there. What can you keep after you have given it?—Your promise. When must a dishonest man keep his word?—When no one will take it.

SUMMER-TIME MUSIC.

By ARTHUR MASON

Music is, of course, an all-the-year-round pleasure. Certain kinds of music, nevertheless, are best suited for certain seasons of the year. We in this country have good reason to value music for what it means to us in months when cosy rooms and the warmth of the fireside invite us to home music-making. And in these days of summer-time there is special invitation to music out-of-doors, to open-air music. It is the season of the music of bands, and the portable gramophone and wireless receiving set, music on the river, and by the sea, the gay music of picnic parties, the music of any kind of gathering as long as it is appropriately light-hearted music of the holiday mood.

Holiday Music.

Music of that mood is putting forth its invitation just now with the full strength of its many instruments, and millions of holiday makers are in touch with it. There is, for instance, the seaside band, now at the top of its appeal, with the bandstand on the sea-front a daily and nightly magnet drawing crowds to listen to a music that helps them to make holiday. And there are the bands in a thousand other places, in every place where a park and bandstand exist—the one to draw the people into the healthfulness of the open-air, the other to prove to them the power of music to provide its own unalloyed pleasure for them.

A Music of Value.

And the bands represent only one kind of summer-time music. Few are the holiday-makers, wherever they be, who are not equipped with the means to make music of one sort and another. All of it is music intended to please, to entertain, to amuse. It is not—at any rate, little of it is—the great music of depth and significance. It has another function. It belongs to that order of pleasant things which contribute to our gaiety, our ease of mind, our taste for agreeable listening. And the public for it is immense—a fact not to be wondered at.

Summer-time music, open-air music—it is by no means the least loved music, nor is it the least valuable. It is essentially holiday music—and it adds in no small measure to our enjoyment of these days of our escape from the workaday world.

BANK HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

L.N.E.R. ARRANGEMENTS.

No fewer than 7,000 L.N.E.R. locomotives and 13,000 carriages will be in almost constant use during the period from Friday, July 31st, to Tuesday, August 10th, to enable holiday makers to reach the seaside, country and Continent.

Before the rush of holiday passengers there is an equally active time for the railwayman in the goods departments; strenuous efforts are made to get all goods (found well out of the way before the holiday expresses are due to start so that as many paths as possible may be ready for the passenger trains.

Amongst the travellers to be cared for by the L.N.E.R. during the August holiday are several thousands (including a special trainload) of pigeons which will travel from the West Riding or Yorkshire to Lancaster, Nottingham, Newark, etc., numerous racehorses from the South and West of England to Wood Green for Alexandra Park Races; Boys' Brigades from Sheffield to Skegness; and passengers travelling de Luxe for Norwegian cruises.

The new "Holiday Return" tickets will be issued from London (King's Cross, Liverpool Street and Marylebone) to more than 60 stations on the L.N.E.R. in England and Scotland; similar tickets will also be issued between provincial towns and seaside resorts, from the provinces to London and between various provincial towns.

Third class sleeping carriages will be available for excursion passengers on all the night trains between King's Cross and Scotland.

In many cases these cheap holiday tickets are issued for through journeys by rail and road, or rail and steamship; restaurant cars and refreshment saloons being available to holders of excursion tickets.

Period excursion tickets will be issued on Friday, July 31st, and Saturday, August 1st, for return any time between Friday, August 7th, and Sunday, August 16th, inclusive; these tickets will also be issued to Scarborough, Skegness, Cleethorpes and other seaside resorts on Sunday, August 2nd. The return tickets will be available by any ordinary train except on Fridays and Saturdays.

Passengers wishing to make the most of a long weekend will be able to obtain tickets (at approximately the excursion fares) enabling them to travel onwards by ordinary trains on Friday, Saturday or Sunday for return by Tuesday evening. These tickets will be issued between any two stations in Britain, including Irish ports.

Holiday-makers wishing to stay for more than 17 days can obtain tourist tickets available by any train any day for return within three months.

Day and half-day excursions will be run in all directions throughout the weekend and cheap tickets between the main stations will be issued daily available by any train. Long distance half-day trips include Leeds—King's Cross; Loughborough—Huntington; Derby—Skegness; Halifax—Bridlington; etc., whilst the longest day excursion will be from Leeds to Zeebrugge via Harwich.

The Continent.

Weekend tickets will be issued from Liverpool Street and Parkston Quay on Thursday, Friday and Saturday or Sunday, July 30th to August 2nd.

To Antwerp, Flushing and Zeebrugge for return any day up to Tuesday, August 10th; these tickets will also be issued from the principal stations in the Eastern Counties and may be used (any one of the three Continental ports on the return journey.

To Rotterdam, the Hague and Amsterdam via Flushing, for return on Monday or Tuesday, August 3rd or 5th; also issued from principal stations in the Eastern Counties.

To Blankenberge, Dünkirchen, Hoyt, Kroeke, Le Cqy, Ostend, Wemdayne via Zeebrugge for return any day up to Tuesday, August 10th; these tickets may be used via Flushing on the return journey.

6 to 17 day tickets will be issued daily to all the places mentioned above, also to Cologne via Flushing.

1 to 15 day tickets available for return by any sailing up to the 15th day, will be issued on July 29th, 30th, 31st, and August 1st, 2nd, 3rd, to Brussels and Ypres via Zeebrugge.

Day excursion tickets to Zeebrugge are issued on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights and to Antwerp on Monday nights.

A Ramsgate Hospital received 1 ton, 7 cwt, 72 lbs. of sugar on its Pound Day.

CASTLE FARMERS' MART.

CONDUCTED BUSINESS.

Mr. J. P. Chairman of the Mart, presided on Wednesday at the meeting of the shareholders of the Castle Farmers' Mart, Ltd., who also present were Messrs. James Peacock, L.P. (Vice-Chairman), W. Errington, T. Metcalfe, R. G. Heslop, V. Metcalfe, J. A. Preston, W. W. Dent, directors; E. C. Bell, R. T. Tiplady, R. Tiplady, and Mr. J. H. Greenfield.

THE DIRECTORS STATED:

The directors are glad to report satisfaction of the company's business for the year despite the drop in live stock prices. The sales have been:—Cattle, 7,734 last year; sheep, 20,701, and pigs, 934, against 702, 1930-31. The profit for 1930-31 was £2,164 for the previous year. The directors recommended a dividend of 3 per cent, free of tax, and a balance of £211 2s. 6d. to the undivided profits of the year. The transfer reserve fund has been made up of the company's auditors' report, and the directors retire by rotation, offering themselves for re-election.

The directors were re-elected and Mr. J. P. Chairman of the Mart, who briefly reviewed the business of the year, and the staff for their services in the past year and for the year to come. He moved a vote of thanks to the shareholders to be given to the staff.

Mr. Peacock seconded, saying that the staff had conducted the meetings in a most admirable manner, and that Mr. Fife had missed no opportunity during the year.

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L.N.E.R. TIME TABLE.

DARLINGTON, BARNARD CASTLE AND TEBAY.

Table with columns for stations (Darlington, North Road, Piercebridge, Gainford, Winston, Bd. Castle, Lartington, Bowes, Barras, K. Stephen, Smardale, R'stonedale, Gaisgill, Tebay) and times for various services (WO, SO, X, Y, Z).

BARNARD CASTLE AND BISHOP AUCKLAND.

Table with columns for stations (Newcastle, Sunderland, Bp. Auckland, W. Auckland, Evenwood, Cockfield, Bd. Castle, Middleton, K. Stephen) and times for various services (WO, SO, X, Y, Z).

BARNARD CASTLE AND MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE.

Table with columns for stations (Newcastle, York, Darlington, Bd. Castle, Cothelstone, Romaldkirk, Middleton, Barnard Castle) and times for various services (WO, SO, X, Y, Z).

SUNDAY SERVICE.

Table with columns for stations (Darlington, North Road, Piercebridge, Gainford, Winston, Barnard Castle, Cothelstone, Romaldkirk, Middleton, Barnard Castle, Middleton-in-Teesdale) and times for various services (WO, SO, X, Y, Z).

A train leaves Kirkby Stephen at 4.50 p.m. on Sundays, calling at Bowes 5.25, Lartington 5.36, and Barnard Castle 5.42, going thence to Darlington at 6 p.m.

WO—Wednesdays only. SO—Saturdays only. X—Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays only.

This table is compiled from the best authorities, but we do not hold ourselves responsible for any error it may contain.