

Kiddies Sunshine Circle

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Plucking is done when the bushes are "flushing" or budding, as they do when bright sunshine follows heavy showers. Each field is plucked about once every eight or ten days. Only the young and tender leaves are of any use.

Tamil girls and children, dressed in loose white garments, with long veil-like head-dresses to keep off the sun from the backs of their heads, go up and down the neat rows, plucking the tender leaves with clever fingers, and putting them into the tall wicker baskets they bear on their backs. Twice or thrice during the day the leaves are sent down to the factory, when they are weighed and then spread out to wither on *tats* or shelves in the lofts.

AFTER that many other things have to be done, and machinery must be used to deal with so great a quantity. The leaves must be *rolled* and sifted, and then left to ferment or turn black. It is *fired* by passing currents of dry hot air over and through it, and then sifted and sorted again.

Much of the tea goes over-seas and unless properly packed gets spoiled by the sea-air. To keep it out the tea is packed in wooden chests lined with thin sheets of lead, so that the sea-air cannot get at it. When the tea gets, say, to London, it is mixed and blended and then packed up in the neat packets we buy at the shops.

John's greatest treat is to go with his father by train down the pleasant hills to the big city of Colombo by the sea, especially when the south-west monsoon is driving heavy black clouds full of rain before it, and making the sea sprout in giant columns of foam upon the long breakwater that shuts in the splendid harbour and the big ships.

He always goes to the *Pettah*, or native part of the city. For Colombo has a European quarter, with fine houses and big buildings, and a native quarter, which is thronged with shaven Tamils, white petticoated Singhalese, with big combs stuck in their hair, turbaned men from India, Arabs, Malays, Parsis, and hosts of other Eastern people.

SCORES of tiny native shops are on both sides of the way, where you can buy brightly coloured cotton cloth, pottery, curry stuffs, fruits, sweetmeats, and so forth. Huge two-wheeled bullock carts, with palm leaf thatch on them, rumble slowly along; lighter carts drawn

by a single bullock carry passengers. From the trees huge black crows swarm down for tit-bits; barbers shave heads in the open streets; and here and there is a little crowd around snake charmers and their baskets of big cobras.

Cobras and other snakes, as well as lizards, live in the palm thatch of the little one-roomed huts in which many of the poor live. No Singhalese would dream of killing a cobra, if he could help it. But if he gets too afraid of it, he traps it, pops it

beans from mother, and a yard and a half of the thread only costs a penny or two.

Soak the beans in coloured water till they are soft enough to stick a needle through them, but don't let them get too soft or they will split.

The water can be coloured by using a bit of any dye, some bright-coloured ink, or even ordinary washing blue.

When the beans are soaked enough, dry them carefully with a cloth and start to thread them, making a knot before and after each one.

Then you'll have a lovely necklace which will make a fine present for a little sister.



And they call her Winsome, too!
Snap-Shot Competitions

in a wicker basket and sets it afloat on the river.

A nice find for the person who is inquisitive enough to open the basket, isn't it?

[This story is taken from one of two delightful little books that were sent to the Editor called "Children of the Field and Forest" and "Children of the Mountain and Plain," by "Uncle Robert." These children's books come from Messrs. A. & C. Black, Ltd., Soho Square, London, and can be had at any of the leading booksellers.]

Try this Kiddies

GET a handful of small haricot beans and a long piece of silver or gold thread. You can get the

The Three Yawns

YVONNE was always sleepy at lesson time, and she used to yawn and yawn, until everyone near her began to yawn also. This worried her Mummy so much that she asked Yvonne's godmother about it. She was a fairy godmother, and knew magic. So it was always best to ask her help.

"I'll speak to Yvonne," she said; "it's such a silly trick, and most annoying for the rest of the family. Send her to the old oak tree in the wood next Saturday afternoon." So Yvonne went, and she was so excited that she quite forgot to yawn at all. Her godmother gave her a lovely time and never said anything scoldy until the end.

Then she said, very seriously: "Now, you must learn not to yawn at the wrong time, little one." Yvonne did not answer rudely, because she was afraid of her fairy godmother, but she thought to herself that when she got home she would yawn as much as she liked.

Then her godmother told her she could have three wishes, but only if she deserved them! And when Yvonne asked how she could deserve them, she said by not yawning when she was with anyone else. And she told her to swallow three little sugary pills, one for each wish. So Yvonne kissed her, and went home. The wishes were not to begin for three days.

For two whole days Yvonne did

not yawn at all, not even alone, but the third day she got out of bed the wrong way, and did not care for anyone or anything.

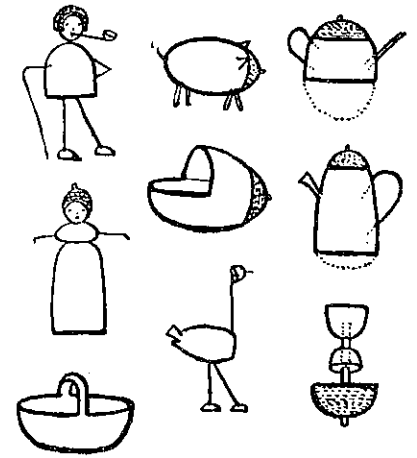
She was so idle in school that the teacher made her stand up by herself. And Yvonne was in such a rage that she opened her mouth and shut her eyes, and made a huge and quite hideous yawn.

Presents

You Can Make with Acorns

AS you will see by the illustrations, ever so many toys can be made out of acorns. Collect as many acorns as you can, a few burnt-out matches and a short length of wire, and a small drill. In April the acorns are getting rather dry, and they may split when you try to bore holes in them, so it is a good plan to soak them for a few hours to render them less brittle.

The little man with his pipe is made out of two acorns—one large one for his body, and a small one in its cup for his head. Two holes are bored at the blunt end of the larger acorn for inserting the legs, a small one at the top for the neck, and one on each side for the arms. The cup of the smaller acorn represents his hair, and is cut back in front to reveal his forehead. One fine hole is made for the neck in the lower pointed end of the head acorn, and one where the mouth is drawn for the stem of the pipe. Cut matches of the right length for the arms and legs. Join head and body by wire and cut a tiny piece of wire for the stem of the pipe.



The little lady's head is made in much the same way. Her bodice is made by an acorn placed sideways, with a hole at either end for arms. The skirt is half a large acorn.

BILL.—Some Day.

BY CHARLES GRAVE

