

Saint Lucia Day

by Erma Reynolds

DO YOU BELIEVE that Christmas is the only gay holiday in December? Ask your Swedish friends and they'll tell you differently. Look them up on December 13 and chances are they will be observing Saint Lucia Day and will let you have a share in their celebration.

Who is Saint Lucia? She was a virgin martyr, who lived about 300 AD.

During the persecution of Christians by the Roman emperor, Diocletian, Lucia was put to torture but, strangely enough, nothing seemed to hurt her. In fact, it was her miraculous behavior while being cruelly abused that created the phrase that has been used throughout the years, "as impervious to pain as Saint Lucia." The stoic Lucia was finally put to death with a sword.

The name Lucia means, "bringer of lights," so the good saint is revered as the patroness of persons who suffer with eye afflictions. Artists have painted her symbolically bearing her eyes in her hands, or on a salver.

In the medieval days, folks believed that the night before December 13 was the longest period in

the year, but come Saint Lucia Day there would immediately be an increase in daylight. Saint Lucia has always been a big day in the northern countries of Europe.

In Sweden this day is put aside for traditional festivities. In homes where there are daughters, one of the girls is chosen to be a "Lussibrud" or "Lucia Bride," and she is called by this name throughout the day. "Lussibrud" wears a special costume, a white flowing gown, and a wreath of greenery to which lighted candles are fastened.

This is not only an important day for the "Lucia Bride;" all the rest of the Swedish folk have a gay time also. They visit from home to home, singing carols, with many of the carolers appearing in Biblical costumes. There are games, sleigh rides, hunting and fishing for the sports-minded.

Here in America, many Swedish communities celebrate Saint Lucia Day with special church services, winter sports, dances and the ever-popular smorgasbord parties.

Visit some Swedish friends on December 13. They may be observing Saint Lucia Day and you can share their fun.

Armageddon and Eternal Life

*In nuclear science's conjuring of cataclysmic tools of war,
can man at last have found, also, the reality of God?*

by George E. Deatherage

PARADOXICAL AS IT MAY SEEM, what is occurring today in the world of science—the giant step of a breakthrough into space—constitutes one of the greatest revelations in human experience. The fact that these discoveries have been employed largely, so far, for the purpose of enabling mankind to destroy itself swiftly and completely does not lessen their revelatory significance.

As everyone is aware, within the last decade the scientific genius of every country in the world, bolstered with the greatest technological resources and financed by the largest amount of money ever assembled for a single purpose, has been concentrated on discovering, assembling, and tabulating new facts about stellar and inter-stellar space.

What the world has failed to realize, however, is that this assembly of genius and resources has also resulted in pushing aside the nebulous cloud barriers between science and religion, thus undermining the very foundations of the scientific materialism which, for so long, have

held back the progress of human thought and aspiration.

It is a fundamental law of nature that each action brings about an equal reaction. The paradox of the present situation is that in trying to achieve knowledge of the means to maximum death, science, of necessity, must have uncovered certain of the mechanics of life and its creation. Nuclear physicist William J. Adam, in *The Cybernetics of Creation*, says: "The fundamental reality in creation is primordial energy; and that derives not from the physical world but from the cosmic realm"

Although science has known for centuries that the most fundamental law of nature is that nothing is ever destroyed but only changes form, the mechanics of the subject matter has never been more closely and clearly understood than now. Life is eternal!—it being clear that the primordial energy of the human identity, personality and spirit lives forever.

Mankind's mind has always sought a clearer picture of the mechanics of creation. Through the