

hours' notice, make special preparations, display your best of everything, and ask in an agreeable outsider to meet the guest to whom you wish to show particular honor.

In case the client is unmarried, and at least not an antiquated person, balance him at the table with some nice, youngish woman. You might prefer, for your own pleasure, to ask in your maiden aunt, or the long-haired musical genius who lives down the street and plays the violin quite marvelously. You must not consult your own pleasure. Remember, you are striving to please others—to be agreeable.

Consider first, last, and always, the probable preferences of your guests.

Strive to get together the persons between whom you have reason to believe congenial tastes and temperaments exist.

A SPECIAL COMPLIMENT.

This is implied by the way you give your invitations for a small, and even semi-impromptu, dinner. Write them always. I hold no brief for the verbal bidding. It is dangerous; it opens the way to really heart-breaking misunderstanding as to the day and the hour. Also it is not civil, save when offered a very, very intimate friend, whom you ask to make one at the family board.

We all know that the big dinner calls for an engraved or written invitation, expressed, as a rule, in the third person. The little dinner demands less formality. The brief and friendly note is the proper medium.

Whether you have, or have not, met the man whom your husband desires to entertain, it is still your duty to send him a short note, expressing a hospitable desire to see him on a spec-

ified day, and at a certain hour, at your board.

If he is a gentleman born and bred he will appreciate the compliment. In case he is a married man, stopping with his wife at a hotel, you must send your invitation to her, and send your card with it, if the time is too short to allow you to first leave a card for her yourself. Send the note by hand, and appoint your own time for your dinner.

Please do not make the mistake of thinking that these are empty formalities. They are the indications of good taste, good heart, good breeding. They also simplify matters for you, and are instrumental in making your guests very happy.

SOME PRACTICAL DETAILS.

There is so much stress laid on the importance of a daintily, invitingly decked table, that I insist no woman can give a proper little dinner party without her recipe-book in one hand and her Manual of Good Form in the other. From the latter she will learn probably all the rules for spreading her hospitable board, with perhaps the following exceptions, which I wish to emphasize.

Put only the essentials and a few flowers on a white cloth.

A small table is always at its best when white and but one color are employed in decoration.

Lay knives and forks perpendicularly side by side, to right and left of the cover. Do not place the oyster fork at right angles with the others, and lay no flat silver at the top of any cover.

Water glasses are never turned upside down, and napkin rings have been laid on the shelf.

An abundance of light pleases the men, while the women are grateful if the rich glow falls through tinted tissue paper or silk shades.

An impenetrable barrier of flowers between guests on opposite sides of a table is a mistake. A low and simple floral decoration suits a small table best.

It is incorrect and pretentious to have a man in to wait on the little dinner. A maid in black gown, white apron, turn-over cuffs and collar, and diamond-shaped tarleton cap, serves to greater advantage.

FIT FOR A KING.

This is what each dish should be. The ideal little dinner, the dinner that maketh glad the digestion of your guest, redounds to your everlasting credit, is simple and well cooked, and is a stepping-stone to higher things.

The perfect little dinner consists of four courses: Soup, roast, salad and sweets. To serve more than this is to overload the occasion. Many misguided women attempt the game and Roman punch, the entrees and rounds of hors d'œuvres, merely to fail.

Pour only one wine, claret, sauterne, or sherry, and place that in a decanter on the table.

Make assurance doubly sure that

the hot things are served hot, that the cold things come on in a state of perfect refrigeration, and place emphasis on the perfection of your coffee.

THE REALLY FESTAL BOARD.

It is the table whereat the hostess presides with ease and grace. Her influence, her manner make for success or failure.

As hostess, your first ingratiating impression is made by greeting your guests as though their arrival was for you the fulfillment of a long cherished desire.

It makes no difference how hard a day yours has been, how many trials and disappointments it has held, those you entertain must not for an instant suspect that you are in anything but a most radiant humor.

There are would-be hostesses, who don't seem able to understand that their role calls for some of the talents and the self-sacrifice of the actor who comes before an audience. Cheerful agreeability is the watchword of the aspiring hostess.

By the same token, your gown must be bright and becoming. A frock that is open in the throat and elbow-long in sleeve, is the costume for the hostess of a little dinner. Wear no gloves.

TWO Voices are there, one is of the Sea,
 One of the Mountains, each a mighty voice:
 In both from age to age thou didst rejoice,
 They were thy chosen music, Liberty!