

## Hints and Advice on Social Forms

By MME. MERRI

### From "An Anxious Girl."

I have been reading your part in the paper every Sunday and am wondering if you can help me. I am sixteen and a half years old and engaged to be married to a young man twenty years old. My parents have consented to my engagement. Do you think it would be wise to get married when I am seventeen? I would like you to tell me next Sunday, please. "ANXIOUS GIRL."

I am truly sorry that I could not tell you "in next Sunday's paper," but when your letter came it had already gone to press. I am very much afraid you will not like my advice, for I most certainly think seventeen is too young for any girl to be married. Wait at least until you are twenty. You will then have had some girlhood and realize a bit more the responsibility of the step which, you know, is for life, and for better or worse. Enjoy these next few years and you will be better fitted to be a wife.

### Two Questions.

Will you please tell me the best thing to use in polishing a brass bedstead? What is the most stylish goods for spring suits? MRS. O.

Neither one of your questions come under my department, but as I always dislike to disappoint a correspondent I will say that I was told not to attempt to polish a brass bed, but to wipe it carefully with a soft cloth. Most brass is lacquered and only needs care; if in the process of time the brass wears off it should be relacquered.

Whipcords, lightweight broadcloths, serges, shepherd's checks, all sorts of novelty suitings, are being worn; also Ottoman silks and taffetas made into suits.

### Proper Way to Leave Cards.

Kindly tell in your "Questions and Answers" how to leave cards in paying an afternoon call, if there is no maid to answer door. HELEN.

If the lady of the house comes to the door do not hand her your cards, but lay them quietly on the table in hall or living room as you are taking your leave. If a child or an unknown member of the family should answer the bell you may hand your cards and ask that they be given to the one on whom you intend to call.

### Reply to "Pussy-Willow."

Is it ever proper to send a postal card to a boy before he sends you one? Do you consider it wrong for a boy to kiss a girl good-night when they have been chums all their lives? How can a girl refuse a boy's invita-

tion to the theater when she just prefers going with her girl friends? "PUSSY-WILLOW."

You may think me very strict, but I most honestly do think it wrong for girls and boys to kiss each other, unless they are relatives. A girl cannot be too careful, and I wish I could explain just what harm might come. Won't you ask mother all about it? I see no harm in sending the first postal, especially if you are on a trip. Just tell the boy that you are obliged to him, but you girls would rather go together; but how about coming home? You know I do not approve of girls being unprotected on the street at night.

### Suggestions for a "Shower."

I'll be very thankful if you will please help me. I want to give, in honor of a friend of mine, a "White Shower." Please tell me how to decorate, just what would be nice to serve and some games to play. HOPEFUL.

As far as possible use white flowers, and you can serve vanilla cream or pineapple sherbet with white iced cakes. I do not think you will need any special games, as opening the parcels usually furnishes enough excitement. If the guests like cards you could have a few rubbers of "Hearts."

### Tin Wedding Dinner Menu.

Please suggest refreshments for my tenth wedding anniversary next month. We want to have dinner about seven. M. E. H.

I am afraid you want something more than "refreshments" at a dinner, so I would start it with soup, then a meat course with vegetables, a salad, and dessert with a cake bearing ten candles in tin holders. I would use tin cups for coffee, have a tin wedding bell over the table and a tin breadpan to hold fruit and flowers for a centerpiece.

### Mystical Letters.

I am a constant reader of your column, and will appreciate it very much if you will answer the following question: In a recent note of thanks I received, at the close were the following letters, S. Y. L. Will you please give me their meaning? TOM.

I do not know the meaning of the letters; the best way for you to find out is to ask the writer of the letter.

Send Addressed Stamped Envelopes. I wish to procure an up-to-date book on social forms. Can you suggest a book of that kind? H. E.

Please send me a self-addressed envelope in care of the paper, and be sure to stamp it. It is against the rules to give names of books or firms in this department.

### MADAME MERRI.

### Let the Hair Show.

Don't make the mistake that many do of putting their hats down over their foreheads without letting a lock of hair show. It is really necessary to have the hair arranged around the face to soften the features as well as the line between the hat and forehead.

## Their Dinner Party

By Rosalie G. Mendel.

"I have an idea," exclaimed Marjory as she burst into the room, throwing her hat on the table, her coat on the chair and her gloves on the couch. The "B. A. C." sewing circle prepared to listen.

"Well," the boys of the 'X. Y. Z.' have been so perfectly lovely to us that I thought it would be nice for the 'B. A. C.' to give them a dinner party. What do you think, girls?"

"Splendid!" "Fine!" "Just dear!" "Good!" "Delightful!" were the replies.

"But let us make this a progressive dinner party," suggested Marjory.

"Never heard of a progressive dinner," put in Lulu.

"A progressive dinner progresses—that's all!" explained the instigator of the plan. "You see, we all start at one girl's home and partake of the first course of a dinner. They proceed to another's for the second course, and so on until we finish with the dessert at the last house. See?"

"A perfect inspiration!" "Jolly!" "Simply wonderful!" "Marjory, you are a genius!" declared her friends.

"I'm glad it's going to be a dinner, because Dan is so fond of good things to eat," said Louise. "I'll take the dessert course. Our cook makes splendid meringues."

"Indeed not!" dissented Marjory. "Each girl must prepare her allotted dish without any assistance whatsoever. No mother, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, friend or servant will be allowed to help the hostess in preparing our dinner. Those X. Y. Z. boys think we can do nothing but golf and dance. Let us show them that we also know something about the culinary art!"

"Yes. Remember what the poet said about reaching a man's heart through his stomach," sighed the romantic Irma.

After much lively discussion in assigning the dinner course to the members, naming the escorts and issuing the official invitations to the X. Y. Z. club, the B. A. C. adjourned its weekly meeting.

The following Tuesday evening as the X. Y. Z.'s and the B. A. C.'s entered Lulu's house they found her in tears. She explained between sobs:

"I just feel perfectly terrible! It's most embarrassing! But they never came! The artichokes, I mean! I've been telephoning frantically. Can get no satisfaction! Oh! it's dreadful!"

"Never mind!" said George soothingly. "We can live without artichokes. Don't worry, little girl. Let's proceed to the soup."

So with one accord they started for Irma's home.

The bouillon was brought in and the bouillon was taken out—tasted, and only tasted.

"I don't see how it happened! It's a mystery! Don't be polite and try to drink it, I beg of you. It's burnt, irrevocably burnt. The gas range is to blame. I'm mortified."

The guests consoled Irma as best they could.

Forward! Onward! was the watchword.

"I'm getting kind of nervous," whispered Marjory to Lulu. "I hope my ducks are all right. They ought to be. I haven't thought of anything else for a week! I've seen ducks running around even in my dreams!"

Marjory's expression was a study as the crisp and brown fowls were placed before her at the dinner table.

"My goodness! Impossible! How awful! What made me do it? I completely forgot to draw my ducks before placing them in the oven!"

A hungry crowd left Marjory's ducks and started for Louise's desert.

"It was meant for ice cream meringue, but the ice cream just wouldn't get hard," apologized Louise. "If you drink it like frappe it won't taste so bad! Our cook's meringues are always dreams!"

"Say, fellows, I'm beastly hungry!" declared Bob. "Let's go down town and give the girls a real dinner. They're all right, even if they don't know how to cook. Come on, before we perish with hunger."

As the B. A. C.'s and X. Y. Z.'s entered the restaurant the head waiter overheard Marjory suggest to her friends:

"Girls, suppose we change our sewing club into a cooking class?"

And the answer quickly came, "Suppose we do."

### Cradle-Robbers.

Two or three young men were exhibiting, with great satisfaction, the results of a day's fishing, whereupon this young woman remarked very demurely:

"Fish go in schools, do they not?" "I believe they do; but why do you ask?" "Oh, nothing; only I was just thinking that you must have broken up an infant class."

### Momentous Event.

"Confound his picture! Where is that office boy of ours?" "What time is it?" "Four-thirty. Why do you ask?" "A train from the east is due at this hour. The office boy has probably gone to the station to see a new baseball pitcher arrive."

## SUPERSTITION.

"For downright idiotic, superstitious, weak-minded gullible credulity," growled Jenkins, recommending me to a woman! Gave away a pair of my trousers to an old peddler to charm warts off the children's hands! Madam, you are aware that this is the twentieth century and not the middle ages!"

"It does seem a little silly," said Mrs. Jenkins, mildly, "but I've heard of such things being done. You know those trousers, John, were the pair you tore on the lawn mower the other day and threw aside."

"It's not the trousers, madam; it's the childish, imbecile, fatuous, puerility of the thing. Besides, I left a hare's foot in one of those pockets, madam, that I've been carrying for rheumatism the past three years."—Tit-Bits.

## No Way Out.

"Papa, wasn't that the man that cheated his sister out of a farm one time?"

"Yes, Bobby."

"Didn't I hear you tell mamma the other day that he was an old rascal?" "I presume so."

"Then why did you tell him you were glad to see him?" "My son, I—I lied to him; that's all."

## HOW IGNORANT.



She (who is quite a reader)—Which do you think, Mr. Dumbly, is mightier, the pen or the sword?" "He—Well, I've never been in the pen."

## Plenty of Gossip.

The bridge clubs meet. Few games are played. But all repeat What there was said.

## His Connection.

"You talk about this being a government of, by and for the people," sneered the visitor from abroad. "Tell me, what connection with the government have you personally?" "I have \$2.75 in the postal savings bank," replied the loyal citizen, proudly.

## Omissions of History.

Gutenberg had invented printing. "How else," he said, "could the average congressman ever get his speeches out of his system?" For in the olden days the minutes of the meeting contained nothing but the actual proceedings.

## Inured to the Cold.

"I have begun preliminary practice." "What do you mean?" "I go out every day and sit for a few minutes on the bleachers. I want to harden myself for those opening games."

## Explained.

"I met Nippers just now and he exclaimed, 'This is a good old world!'" "As a rule, Nippers is not at all optimistic." "I know it, but it seems that he recently swindled a neighbor in a shrewd business deal."

## OF COURSE.



Agent—I have here a small device that will enable you to save at least two-thirds of your coal bills. Mr. Cutting—What is it, a bill file?

## Quite So.

"Killing Time" Is hard to do; Sooner or later, Time kills you.

## Bankrupt.

Miss C. Sharp—The understudy seems to be making a flat failure. Miss Bebat—Yes. Most of the audience are protesting her notes.—Judge.

## Getting It Right.

"He is a great egotist." "No, you are mistaken. He is merely an egotist who thinks he is great."

## Madame Pompadour Hat Is One of the Very Latest Creations



Photo. Copyright, by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

This white Neapolitan hat is one of fashion's very latest creations. The crown is covered with rare silk figured in the delicate shades of pink and green, the pompon being of pink roses with green leaves, being the ruling style for these hats.

## CHARACTER SHOWN BY DRESS

Value, as a Setting for the Personality, Varies With the Moods of the Wearer.

No woman can afford to be indifferent in the matter of costume, and all women are more or less influenced by what they wear.

One dangles swagger about in masculine effects, heavy boots, stiff collar, tailored coat, etc., another is sweetly feminine in fluffy ruffles, picture hat, chiffons, laces and parasol, and the indifference to appearances is almost invariably exactly what she looks—straight-laced, prim, severe, cold, incapable of any flight of fancy, lacking the power of sympathy, and with no intricate uncertainties to soften the hardness of her character.

Equally true is the fact that a gown which is extremely becoming today is very mediocre tomorrow. Its value as a setting for the personality varies with the moods of the wearer. When discouragement, depression and a general feeling of dullness envelops one in a gray cloud the tendency is to don black, a gray or a dull brown gown. Such a choice is a great mistake, tending to accentuate the gloom about the wearer. Crush such a choice under foot and choose instead the liveliest dress in your wardrobe. Something with red, brilliant green, bright blue or any vivid tone.

## SOMETHING OF A NOVELTY

Inexpensive Lamp Shades May Be Designed From the Ordinary Japanese Lanterns.

An inexpensive, novel and pretty way of making lamp shades, especially for the summer cottages, is to utilize Japanese lanterns. The kind used are the rather large, oval-shaped ones in either a solid color or half one and half another. The upper part to the desired depth is cut off, guided by the small bamboo bands which stiffen and fold it, and is neatly trimmed off. At the top, which is finished by a black wooden band, the wire hanger is removed and in place of it one of two or three supports substituted. One consists of three wires, equidistant around the top, and bent so as to hang over the top of the lamp chimney. Another method is a regular support fitting the top and attached to the lamp at the base of the chimney; or else the lower edge of the shade may be wired and the usual tripod support be used.

I made two like this, using the first mentioned style of hanging just for fun this summer, and the cheerful, red-figured Japanese lily shades made such a hit that all my neighbors made, or had me make, the same things for them.—Harper's Bazar.

## PRETTY SILK WAIST



This pretty waist is of light silk piped with black and ornamented with little straps and buttons. The yoke is of lace finished at the neck with a frill of embroidered muslin, and similar frills finish the sleeves.

## Many Shades of Red.

The new combination in smart afternoon and evening gowns is tomato red, with the purple of Hamburg grapes. This red is one of the new shades of the fashionable color and is a lovely one, indeed.

Among its rivals are raspberry, water melon, flame and geranium. Among the purples are grape, night, royal, Vatican or cardinal purple and amethyst purple.

It is not a new fashion to mingle purple and red, but for a while it went out; now it seems to have returned, through the insistent influence of Paul Poiret, who has never ceased to love and use it, so that it has become more credited to his name than to any other great designer.

## Simple Home Dresses Will Look Well in Appropriate Materials



The first is quite charming in its simplicity, and might be made in any fine woolen material. It has the skirt trimmed at foot by a band of darker material, which is continued by in a point at the side of front; buttons are sewn here.

The cross-over bodice has a braided material vest and under-sleeves to which the over-sleeves are edged with a matching frill. The waist is made of the darker material with buttons.

Materials required: 4 1/2 yards satin 44 inches wide, 3/4 yard tacked muslin 18 inches wide.

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