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Modern Silver for Modern Homes . . .

By Barbara Apple

Silver, like almost everything else these days, has gone modern. The modern girl with modern ideas finds herself planning her home as a harmonious whole. She knows the importance of relating her decorative scheme to the architecture of her home, and she realizes that character is created in the room where furnishings and decorations express the feeling or reflect the period that inspired the builder. Whatever style her home, she chooses her sterling silver lines. The lines of decoration follow the shape of the handle, giving streamline and skyscraper effects.

Modernistic homes require modernistic silver, and as a result many new designs in silverware are being created for them. Coronet, a Treasure design fashioned on simple, graceful lines, interprets in fine sterling this latest trend in design. It harmonizes beautifully with the most favored decorative styles of present-day homes.

Especially favored among modern girls is the Lady Diana, designed by Towle. Its charm lies in its simplicity and refinement, its soft contours and smart lines. The Chased Diana, an enrichment of the Lady Diana, is an excellent example of finely wrought craftsmanship. The pattern is so different from the usually accepted designs that it may be said the Chased Diana has created a new style in table ensembles.

Rose Marie, the most recent creation of Gorham, is a charming youthful design of delicate contour and slender symmetry.

In the contemporary spirit of design, Reed and Barton have created Contempora, a pattern which fits harmoniously into the decorative treatment of modern tables. This pattern received the acclaim of art critics as well as the public when it was exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. It is new, dignified, fashionable.

The simplicity of Lotus, by Watson, the fashionable hand-wrought originality of each piece, beautifully designed and correctly balanced, arouses the admiration of all who see it.

The designs engraved on silverware were once considered of little importance. Silversmiths purchased their patterns from obscure artists and paid a very nominal price for the designs. Today conditions are quite changed. The buying public demands the best in design and as a result men trained in the art are constantly creating new and beautiful patterns.

Several patterns, though older than these very modern ones, have carried the lasting simplicity of Greek designs and for this reason are still considered modern in feeling.

Speak

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your hostess so when you have a chance to do it inconspicuously.

Here, above all places, you don't take on a solo part, and again of all places you don't eschew all conversation, and simply sit and eat. The trouble with a monologue is that one cannot talk and eat at the same time. So no matter if you're a personage such as the minister or the school superintendent, or if you have a long tale you just must tell, wait till you return to the living room.

People who devote themselves exclusively to eating are guilty of two mistakes. First, there is a discourtesy to your hostess, who has a right to expect that you will enter into the spirit of the occasion. Second, if you don't talk, you are very apt to present the unlucky picture of eating too fast and finishing before the others. It is a very good plan to watch your host and hostess and follow any lead they may give you. If they are skilled, you may notice that they will, if necessary, draw each guest briefly to the center of the stage, using for wires the particular interests or experiences of the guests. If they are very skillful they will do good teamwork, sharing equally in the responsibility for directing conversation.

Of course, while your host is carving, especially if he looks the least bit unhappy, as he may very likely do, you all become very much engrossed in each other and don't see him at all. If you overturn the jelly, it is just too bad, but if the awful thing does happen, you should follow Benjamin Franklin's advice: "In case of accident, simply express regret—be not too profuse," and your hostess will bless you forever. And lastly, there is the rule that if there are children at the table, you give them the same courteous attention that you give other guests—no more, no less.

Then there is the telephone. Of course, you use the same gentle, expressive voice that you cultivate for all occasions—the voice that is you. As usual, too, you speak distinctly. It needs mentioning here only because without the help of gesture or facial expression your voice must do all the work of carrying your feeling; and any possible edginess that may be afflicting your disposition stands out greatly magnified. And for the very same reason, be natural—don't overdo sweetness to the stage of sirupy.

When you answer a ring, you may say, "This is Mrs. Black speaking," or you may simply repeat your telephone number or the name of your business office. Some people prefer the formula with the friendly "Good morning." The term "Hello" is not used as much as formerly because it is obviously less efficient.