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Personality and Popularity

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SATURDAY night! Since noon the scent of polish remover and fragrant bath salts have been wafted down the hall. After dinner the bath tub rush began with house coats dangling limply in the shower room. Down the steamy, scented corridor, girls dash and call “Have you any . . . would you?” And every time the phone rings, you jump and cross your fingers.

Around 8 o’clock the buzzers start ringing, and one by one the more popular coeds trail out in their borrowed finery, laughing gaily and hugging their corsage boxes proudly.

What is the indefinable something that one girl has that makes her more popular with fellows and fellow classmates and roommates? Whether it is called “it,” in the Clara Bow fashion, or “glamor” from Hollywood influence, or “umph” from yesterday’s “slanguage,” that abstract something cannot be purchased at the corner drug-store and it is a composite of many things.

Don’t say “poof!” to the old copy-book adage about health being the basis of beauty. Every coed has to tackle the problem of sleep. Most of us try to squeeze in a few hours here and there, and then wonder why our beauty droops as badly as our spirits. Eight to ten hours of sleep snatched from even the heaviest schedule will give you the complexion of a magazine cover baby, and your eyes will sparkle till you can count carats. A well-balanced diet (and I hope you aren’t subjected to too many five-pounds!) will do the rest for your beauty score.

Most of us just accumulate our figures and then take ‘em or leave ‘em. However, it is 99 percent posture so stand up straight! Don’t scrunch if you are taller than the rest of the crowd. Just remember that height can never be bought by those who don’t have it, and usually the little short miss feels like a penny waiting for change when you tower above her.

When you have taken care of complexion, figure, hair, nails, clothes and general good grooming, you should look spic and span (if not the queen type) and up-to-the-minute. Then you are ready to bring your personality up to the same standard.

Ambitiously knitting on date nights is Miss Efficiency Expert. She was voted the most-likely-to-succeed in high school and has never recovered. Efficiency is marvelous for streamlined study, but doesn’t help your charm score. Most men are conceited enough to enjoy tinkering masterfully with a car when it stops for some mysterious reason, and would rather not have you point out that the feed line is probably plugged or the timer needs adjusting.

Miss Silent Siren wore black satin and pearls for a “coke” date, then sat sipping her coke without saying a word—merely lifting and lowering her eyelids when spoken to. Her date grew tired of this monologue and she was taken home early.

Theoretically, the “flirt” went out with bustles, but there seem to be a few hang-overs. The coed who can’t resist rolling her eyes at a handsome man she isn’t with, will make her date feel as welcome as a Black Widow spider. This bright young thing will ruin her chances with any man by devoting her attention and coquetry to some other fellow who just happened by.

Also listed on the those-who-didn’t-succeed list as worthy candidates for spinsterhood are Miss Insincerity, the little-white-lies-don’t-matter girl, who found out too late that they do; Miss Tomboy, whose lusty vitality wore her dates out before the seventh inning; Miss Know-It-All, the girl who got four-point grades and never let her date forget it—she found out too late that men would rather not know if you continually beat the rest of the crowd in geol., hist., econ. and what-have-you; Miss Sleekly Sophisticated, who only impressed her friends as being stiff and bored, and they knew anyway that at home she washed stacks of dishes and made her own bed; and lastly there is that poor, misguided waif who was the belle of her home town (population 132) and thought that her small-town airs would put her across at college.

College is for growth—in mentality, physical fitness and personality.

Having discussed the those-who-didn’t-succeed category, what about Miss Popularity? This wise miss knows that for true happiness, which is success, every coed’s life should be well-balanced as the quint’s daily diet, and contain equal amounts, proportionately, of dates and activities and studying.

Decide into what category you would be rated, then strive—not for success, but happiness—and growth.