Forward March With Confidence

Eleanor White
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol20/iss2/4

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Eleanor White suggests increasing your social repertoire by attending many varied functions

"I WANT a woman with 'social poise'," requests the employer. College graduate notwithstanding, a young woman is seldom considered for a position if she lacks such poise. Large business concerns have established personnel departments with individuals whose sole job is to interview and judge applicants on just such a score.

How, then, can students acquire this essential requisite for their professional and social success? By associating with and observing people who know the subject thoroughly and apply it in daily living, the student can develop such graces for herself.

The laboratories where these so-called teachers of gracious manners are available are not in Postville, but on this campus—right in your classroom, in your dining room, auditorium or dance hall. Authorities in social grace are easily recognized. What they do is natural and pleasing.

Find someone who exhibits those social graces you would like to be able to possess, and secretly adopt him as your teacher.

At teas and dances you have another opportunity to increase your social knowledge. Here's your opportunity to combine recreation with learning. No one produces the kind of poise that is the product of careful study. The sure and steady way to develop poise is to study it, to observe it, to practice it. As you observe, you should be interested in the mannerisms of the people you are studying. You may wonder why they act as they do, and why they are better than you. If that is your attitude towards poise, you are well on the way to developing it.

It is a matter of pride to let people see that you are interested in poise and that you are going to make the best of it if you can. The people you are studying are nearer you than one would think.

To be confident and gracious at all times, good manners must be practiced constantly; their naturalness comes through use.

Coed is bored by observing what others wear, is she? And yet this is a major part of your training. If you'll make a few mental notes at these social events, you will soon be an authority on proper dress for teas, formals, semi-formals and informal dances for each different season. You'll know so thoroughly what is right that you'll never have occasion to be embarrassed by dressing inappropriately.

Practice the general courtesies that your Professor E. T. Quette suggests. Meet the honored guests; chat a few minutes with the chaperons—you may be one yourself some day and you wouldn't want the socially inadequate students to congregate in the farthest corner from you; be sure to consider your escort at all times, and not the other girl's, especially his interests in your conversation and his pocketbook when choosing the entertainment for the evening.

Will concerts or lectures serve as laboratories, or shall we "skip" them? No, indeed. Every courtesy is due the celebrity, be he dramatic artist or speaker, and if you're on the alert you'll be quick to take part in these courtesies. Noisiness, late arrivals and early departures are probably the worst offenses that can be committed at such events.

Attending these events with a date involves other problems, such as—who leads the way to the seats, who chooses where to sit, who sits nearest the aisle and when. Watch! Then do it right. Aside from the satisfaction you feel from being able to do things the right way, you make yourself extremely attractive to him. He'll be proud to take you to nice places. You may even become his silent teacher on certain occasions.

Take the lead in introductions at your dining table; consider mealtime as a pleasant interlude to relax and enjoy yourself. Be the hostess. Offer to help; they are almost sure to decline, but be prepared to accept. Serve yourself in small quantities. Be thankful for your food. Be sure to nap yourself at mealtime. Be sure to show appreciation for the effort put into the meal. Be sure to eat slowly and enjoy it. Be sure to show appreciation for the effort put into the meal. Be sure to eat slowly and enjoy it.