Are You a Successful Hostess?

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There arises, therefore, an independence of thought and action which may result disastrously or may be made to contribute to successful family life, according to the type and strength of the organization in the household. The very complexity of the business of the household is often the cause of suspicion and dissatisfaction.

The problem of modern home making, therefore, requires an intelligent application of all available knowledge relating to the science, art and business of home making.

Who should secure this knowledge and apply it in the home? Lowell said: "The many make the household, but only one the home." Is the wife and mother this one, or is home making in its new development a group problem? It would seem that the reply should be that household organization should be carefully worked out by all members of the family under the leadership of the parents. The household expenditures, for instance, should frequently be better adjusted if each one realized his or her relationship to the amount of the income and the responsibility for the outgo. For the average family the problems of clothing, food, health, shelter, education, recreation, savings and the promotion of the social and religious life offer a challenge which calls for intelligent consideration and the highest type of service from each member of the family.

In order that these and other home problems may be successfully worked out, not only is it essential that girls should receive training for home making, but also that somewhere along the line boys should receive adequate instruction for home making suited to their particular needs. The men as well as the women should receive instruction and training for home making in high schools, colleges and universities. These courses should meet the specific needs of each group.

In the last hundred years economic and social changes due to modern industrial development have considerably changed the material problems of home making. It is essential to recognize the foundation principles upon which a home is founded and developed if we are to preserve and improve the foundation upon which honesty, sincerity and integrity in American life.

Preparation for home making should be a necessary part of educational equipment for men as well as women, and courses providing suitable training should be available in our schools, colleges and universities.

While the burden of responsibility for successful home making rests upon the knowledge, skill and judgment of the wife and mother in the home, yet the husband and father as well as each member of the family must contribute not only to the financial success of the home, but also to the higher spiritual ideals of home life. Since modern conditions tend to draw the family away from the home it is much more necessary that strong home ties shall be developed in order that the nation of tomorrow may depend upon the characters built in the homes of today."

Are You a Successful Hostess?

By BETH BAILEY

pardon my bluntness but what kind of a hostess are you? Do you wear yourself out with pre-occasion sweeping, dusting, cooking, fussing and worrying? Do you sit at the table with your mind and heart in the kitchen? Or do your actions say to your friends—"Because you are our friend, we are always glad to have you come to us as we are. We are glad to share what we have with you."

Too often in attempting to put on "company-style" we pattern after the formal dinner service with its retinue of servants. The truth is that the formal service is of no value to the modern woman, because she has no servants. The woman of today is chief, butler, waitress, all in one. How can she, then, perform all these functions and yet be a perfect hostess? The secret lies in simplicity. "Entertain simply, but often, so learn to excel." The spirit of the hostess is of far more value in the success of a meal than the number of dishes served. By choosing dishes that can be prepared largely in advance and attractively served at the table, the absence of a maid is not felt.

The hostess should meet her guests with a well-groomed composure, not flustered and red from late preparations. From then on, the place of the hostess is with her guests, not in the kitchen. The service table and tea wagon make this possible. Of course it is always necessary to be excused for a few minutes to put the food on the table prior to announcing the meal but all food should be served from the table by the host or hostess. If it is necessary for the hostess to leave the table, a tray will be a help. During prolonged trips to the kitchen, when sounds of the egg-beater, the running of water, and the clatter of dishes filter into the dining room, comes the prolonged pause in conversation—that awkward silence.

Two women I know illustrate extremes in the scale of success as a hostess. Mrs. W. by every act conveys the impression that she has worked long and waited the banquet just for you. The occasion is often most informal and on the spur of the moment. On entering the table, Mrs. W. meets you graciously and invites you to make yourself at home, to read, or possibly to come into the kitchen to help with the meal preparations. The meal is served as simply as it would be served if any guests were not present. A service table holds the desert and any extra silver or dishes that may be needed during the meal. Mrs. T. serves without ostentation, and perhaps allows you to help serve the salad, or pour the coffee. She leads the conversation, and gets everyone into the (Continued on page thirteen)