

Entertaining in the Home



UCH a pity, it seems, with so many charming homes scattered up and down the country, that more hostesses do not entertain in their own homes.

Hospitality is probably the oldest law in the world, and while it is true that lack of domestic help has forced many to do some of their entertaining in hotels, restaurants, and the like, it is certain it can never be so welcome, so intimate, and so flattering to a friend as to entertain at home.

It should in some measure, too, relieve the monotony of which so many young wives complain—with some justification, too, let it be admitted, where they have been taken from a large circle or big family with its varied interests. So many housekeeping helps are now at her service, that if she will only think, plan and arrange, she need not fear the extra work.

TO the would-be hostess, I would say, first of all, have rooms that do not spoil, and then don't be too fussy. If you have one large, comfortable room at your disposal, you can always entertain to advantage. Have some small tables (not the little, fussy ones, laden with knick-knacks, but reasonably-sized ones), that can be stood out of the way, when not required, or drawn up with some chairs round them, for an impromptu game, without upsetting the whole household.

While on the subject of games, while we cannot all boast a billiard table or a tennis lawn, we can keep handy a set of chessman, draughts and board, and a clean pack of cards.

A gramophone, or better still, a good radio combination, will provide all the music that is needed to set the young people dancing, and if you cannot spare a room for a stage or theatricals, cover in a part of the veranda, that opens on to a room. Even the most grown-up of young people love dressing up and acting, and if you have not an old chest of clothes for them to draw on, they will usually manage by changing their clothes with each other with equally good effect.

If you have leisure, enjoy it with them, if not leave them to themselves, but in any case make a proviso that they do the clearing up.

Do not make the mistake of going in more elaborate living than you can afford. Carry on in the usual way, introduce some novelties if you can and your own household will enjoy them with the guests. Incidentally, home entertaining relieves the strain of home-life, especially when the members of the household vary in ages, and the wear and tear of one's nerves upon the other.

SHOULD one or some of your guests be late for breakfast, don't worry about all the housework getting behind, and don't save breakfast for them. Pop it on a tray. Any square of pretty coloured linen makes a traycloth, and dainty cups and saucers are cheap enough. If they don't get enough to eat, they will get up in time to-morrow!

Flowers are an entertainment to many in themselves, and a few nicely

The Perfect Hostess has Ability to Entertain both Young and Old Successfully

arranged in the bedroom you are giving your guest will voice a welcome and show a forethought of their comfort. Also for the lazy one, put a table with writing materials in the bedroom, and see that the light is good and well placed.

It is difficult to choose books, for a

guest room, but a magazine will usually fulfil the purpose of occupying those few moments between sleeping and waking, or waking and sleeping, as the case may be.

LASTLY, if children are coming to stay, and there are none in the house to make them feel at home, it is a good plan to have a few old toys and children's books put by in a cupboard, and even a sponge in the bathroom, made in the shape of some small animal, or a floating toy for the bath, will make them feel that you know all about them.

Don't be chary, then, of issuing those impromptu invitations. There is a lot of pleasure waiting for the informal but thoughtful hostess, as well as for the guest.

Trials in Tact, or What Would You Do?

(Conducted by Savoir-Faire)

Under this heading, an every-day problem will be set week by week, and readers are invited to send in their solutions, for which marks will be awarded. Prizes are offered to those obtaining the most marks over a series of ten. First prize, £2/2/0; second prize, £1/1/0; and third prize, 10/6 for each series.

Competitors may send in their own problems for publication and solution and a prize of 10/6 will be given for the best one sent in during each series, and 5/- for each contributed problem used.

Problem No. 1.

1st Series.

Mrs. A. and Mrs. B. have been near neighbours and good friends for some time, taking tea and going into town together occasionally, etc.

After a time, Mrs. A. notices a coolness on Mrs. B's side and excuses are made when invitations or suggestions are given by Mrs. A. until finally Mrs. B. "cuts" Mrs. A. directly. Mrs. A. is unconsciously of having given cause for offence, and is hurt and sorry at losing the friendship. What should Mrs. A. do?

Suggested by Savoir-Faire.

(Answers must be postmarked not later than February 6, 1930.)

Problem No. 2.

1st Series.

Mrs. A. and Mrs. B. live in the same country town and have been friends for some years. Mrs. A's husband is one of the two dentists in the town, neither of whom is making a very good living.

Mrs. B., who is badly needing dental treatment, hears that Mr. A's work is not satisfactory, but hesitates to hurt Mrs. A's feelings by consulting the other dentist. What do you advise Mrs. B. to do?

Suggested by Savoir-Faire.

(Answers must be postmarked not later than February 13, 1930.)

A nom-de-plume may be used but names and addresses must be sent. The same nom-de-plume must be retained throughout the series. All replies must bear a postmark dated not later than the Thursday after the date of the journal in which the problem appears, and should be addressed to "Savoir-Faire," "Radio Record and Electric Home Journal," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

Savoir-Faire's decision must in every case be accepted as final.

Growth of Orchids

Accelerated by Electricity

AN interesting example of the practical application of electrical heating comes from the North of England, where a keen amateur grower of orchids with large greenhouses for these and other tropical plants has had to depend hitherto upon hot-water pipes connected to a coke-fired boiler for the maintenance of a uniform temperature and the required degree of humidity.

During the winter months many kinds of orchids die off quickly if they are subjected to a lower temperature than about 30deg. F., and so constant attention to the coke boiler is required to keep the heat of the orchid-house at that figure. Firing late at night, again early in the morning, as well as several times during the day, proved tiresome, especially as in the other houses, containing semi-tropical plants, a lower temperature was sufficient.

The obvious remedy, therefore, was to install separate heating for the orchid-house and make it independent of the remainder of the buildings. For this purpose the Industrial Heating Department of the G.E.O. was consulted and a special heavy waterproof type of tubular heater was designed. A number of these heaters were installed experimentally in the orchid-house to a total length of 82ft., with a loading of 16 kw., and connected directly to the 3-phase network. To preserve the proper saturation of the atmosphere the heaters themselves are constantly covered with water, which speaks well for their design, and accurate temperature control in the orchid-house is effected by means of an adjustable air thermostat working in conjunction with a 3-pole 25-amp. Witton Ironclad Contractor.

With the advantage of a special cheap tariff arranged with the local supply company, the orchid-grower is now congratulating himself on the general convenience and more economic advantage of these electric tubular heaters as compared with the old-fashioned system of heating they had superseded. He is now assured of equable temperature under easily-controlled conditions, plus a cleanliness that is not possible with coal or coke firing methods; moreover, there are no products of combustion or fumes inimical to plants to vitiate the air.

Potted Humour

The Problem.

An old country man was offered a pound note if he would let an artist paint him. He hesitated for a while.

"It's easy money," prompted the artist.

"Oh, I know that," was the reply. "I was just thinking how I should get the paint off afterwards."

Overheard.

"What, five shillings to see a film?"

"But this is a talkie, sir."

"Well, if you let me in for half-a-crown I'll promise not to listen."