

very delicate green shades are recommended as yielding the most agreeable reflection.

A square or round table, measuring nearly or all of five feet across, is not at all too extensive for the modern dinner party, wherein at least two feet and a half of the circumference is allotted to the cover of each guest. A long narrow table never lends itself readily to decoration, even under the most skilful hand. In the case of a round table, if the ordinary family board is not large enough to accommodate the number of guests, a larger separate top can be made, to be laid on the fixed smaller one, as special occasions require.

Before the cloth is laid, a thickness of felt or double-faced canton flannel should be placed upon the board; and upon this is spread the cloth itself. A handsome dinner cloth falls in full, long drapery about the table, its four corners almost touching the floor; and as the beauty of a dinner-board depends largely upon the almost mathematical exactness with which all the furnishings are arranged, a good point to start from in determining the proper location of goblets, decanters, and so on, is the central crease in the cloth. At the middle point in this line the large centre doiley finds its proper place. A square or circular piece of fine napery, lace, or drawn work is best used here; mirror disks and scarfs and circular pieces of linen embroidered in colors are no longer the mode. Occasionally a silver tray is placed at the centre of the table, and on it is set a crystal or silver bowl, or vase filled with flowers. But where the doiley or the tray is chosen for the flat centrepiece, the flowers are still the chief ornament of every table. White blossoms and maiden-hair fern, a sheaf of gorgeous hot-house roses, a flat basket of orchids, a bowl of brilliantly-tinted sweet peas, an inexpensive dish of ferns, or a pot of blossoming violets are any of them appropriate, whether the decoration is built high or kept quite flat. It is the commendable taste of most hostesses to use pink lamp or candle shades, if pink roses have the place of honor, and yellow silk shades when daffodils shed their radiance of color abroad.

When the centre ornament has been artistically adjusted, the candlesticks or lamps are disposed about it. Four candles will thoroughly illuminate a table laid for six or eight. For