

- Woman and Her Interests -

FOR EASTER BRIDES



AMONG the social events which follow close upon one another in the few weeks after Easter, weddings take first place. The girl who is to be numbered among the Easter brides is the 'raison d'être' of any number of social affairs in her own little world. Luncheons, teas, and dinners are given in her honor, she is 'show-ered' and fêted, and entertained generally, to say nothing of the presents that arrive by every mail and at every ring of the door-bell.

The Easter egg motif, so to speak, can be carried out with effect in the arrangement of a 'shower' for the bride-elect of early April. A linen shower which some girls are arranging for the bride in their circle illustrates one way of developing the idea. The shower is to consist of all sorts of small linen articles, from a doiley to a hand-embroidered corset cover. One of the girls will give a luncheon, and, with the coffee, will be brought in a huge nest built of straws such as are used at the soda fountains. The nest is lined with white cotton wool, and rests in a bed of greenery on a tray. The eggs are, of course, the linen articles which have been folded and padded out with tissue paper into oval shape, then enclosed in paper of different colors, pink, blue, green, mauve and yellow. Instead of being tied with baby ribbon the packages are sealed by a strip of writing paper pasted around the egg, on which is written a couplet, the production—sentimental, witty, or of would-be wise counsel—of the donor. The tray is to be placed in front of the guest of honor, who will read aloud the lines and break open the 'eggs,' and, one can be sure, much merriment. Another hostess has planned a club breakfast for twelve girls, one of whom is soon to be married. Each of the guests will bring a dainty handkerchief, which, with the one the hostess herself contributes, will make up the dozen, all worked by hand and marked with the bride's initial. The table centre-piece is to be a large egg with wire frame-work covered with smilax and bits of asparagus fern, and dotted over with pink carnations, nestling among folds of white tulle over pale green silk. The egg is constructed with an opening in the larger end, and within it will be placed the handkerchiefs, each fan-plaited and caught around the centre with a piece of baby-ribbon, all being attached in this way to a three-inch wide pink satin ribbon, which reaches to the bride's plate. Narrower satin ribbons run from the centre to each of the other covers, and when these are pulled each has on the end which has been concealed under the silk some small souvenir, while the bride, of course, pulls her shower of handkerchiefs.

Among the most useful and welcome of 'showers' is one for the kitchen, to include the numerous small utensils, of great convenience to the house-keeper, and which are apt to be overlooked in the furnishings until they are wanted,—such as measuring cups and spoons, vegetable knife, biscuit cutter, wire toaster, gem pans, wire basket for boiling eggs, gravy strainers, and so on, the givers of the shower vying with each other in the discovery of the latest inventions for the kitchen.

In the decoration of the house for an April wedding reception, plants of a bulbous nature—hyacinths, tulips, and the like—give a delightfully spring-time effect. Easter lilies are

preferred to other flowers, for their puny and beauty of form, but it is often impossible to procure enough of the lilies to make them the chief part of the decorative scheme, where the plants would require to be banked, or arranged in masses, to get the best effect.

When the services of a florist are not available, it is well not to attempt an elaborate plan of decorations with spring flowers. When potted plants are used they should be massed together at one or two chief points, as in front of an unused fire-place, or in a bay window. With a sufficient number of pots of Easter lilies, white hyacinths, and other white blooms, supplemented with ferns, foli-

age plants, palms, or any other greenery to be had it is possible for the home decorator to build up a green and white bank at that part of the room where the bride and groom will stand to receive their friends. What is aimed at is to have an unbroken arrangement of flowers and foliage from the floor up to whatever height it is desired to carry it. Boxes and inverted flower pots of different sizes can be used in grouping the plants at the various heights required. Begin by covering the background with solid green—using small branches of evergreens if there is not enough of other greenery at hand,—and against this bank its plants at graduated heights. Build so that the foliage of the lower plants will conceal the pots and boxes of the upper ones.

The Wife of the Minister of the Interior



The Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior, married in 1881 Miss Harriet Dunlop, daughter of Mr. Thomas Dunlop of Prairie Grove, Man. Their western home is in Edmonton, Alta. They have resided through the past winter in Ottawa, where Mrs. Oliver has entertained frequently during the session.

Many cut flowers of the kinds that come in spring are more effective in big bowls and low receptacles than in tall vases. It should be remembered that low vases or bowls should be used for any kind of cut blossoms when

they are to be placed in some high position. A broad, jar-shaped vase of pink and white, or yellow and white tulips—according to the general color scheme—arranged rather loosely, is an effective decoration for the mantel, or the top of any moderately high piece of furniture, while long-stemmed flowers in a tall vase may be effectively placed on a small table of the ordinary height, on which there is no other floral decoration.

While on the subject of weddings, one is glad to note that the barbarous custom of playing jokes on the newly-wedded is falling into disfavor. It is hard to see what 'fun' there can be in placarding the bridegroom's carriage and suit-case, hiding his hat, pouring rice into his umbrella, and the other so-called jokes which cause the newly-married couple annoyance, and sometimes humiliation. People of any claims to culture are coming to regard such 'play' as silly, to say the least. The throwing of rice, after the old custom to betoken prosperity, is attended with real danger from the hard little pellets. For this reason, confetti and flower petals are often substituted for the rice with which to give the emblematic 'shower.'



Concerning Introductions

The ability to introduce one person to another gracefully is an accomplishment not so common as it ought to be. A taken-for-granted manner of making the introduction is an ordinary fault, leaving the persons introduced still in ignorance as to each other's name, unless they happen to have known it beforehand. Essential points are to speak the names distinctly, and to make the introduction in a way to put the stranger at ease.

It is understood, of course, that a man is always presented to a woman, and an unmarried woman to a married one—unless the former is considerably the older of the two—and a young man to an older member of his sex. When there is a marked difference in rank, the presentations are made to the person of higher rank. It is considered an indication of lack of good breeding to use elaborate phraseology, or gestures of the hand, in introducing any one. The few words, 'Mrs. A., let me introduce (or present) Mr. B.' or simply 'Miss A. Miss C.' will usually be quite sufficient. Sometimes, however, when two persons are to be left to talk to each other for awhile as at a dinner party it may be well to add some remark on a mutual hobby or interest, to set the ball of conversation rolling. The clever hostess knows when to do this, and when to leave people to make their own discoveries.

Whether a woman should shake hands with a man, or with another woman, who has been introduced to her, is a question often asked. In her own house she should always do so. It is gracious, too, for her to shake hands with a person who is introduced by an intimate friend of her own. An ordinary formal introduction is sufficiently acknowledged by a pleasant bow; it is the part of the man to express pleasure at the meeting, although when he is being introduced to several at the same time, he omits any conventional remark.

The introduction of people who meet casually is a matter that cannot be settled by rule; casual meetings happen under so many different sets of circumstances. When with a friend, one does not usually introduce to her acquaintances whom one may meet on the street, or in a shop or car.