



## CHAPTER IX.

### Dinner Giving and Dining Out.



DINING should be ranked among the fine arts. A knowledge of dinner-table etiquette is all important in many respects, but chiefly in this: that it is regarded as one of the strong tests of good breeding. Dinners are generally looked upon as entertainments for married people and the middle aged, but it is often desirable to have some young unmarried people among the guests.

#### WHOM TO INVITE.

Those invited should be of the same standing in society. They need not necessarily be friends, or even acquaintances, but at dinner, as people come into closer contact than at a dance, or any other kind of a party, those only should be invited to meet one another who move in the same class of circles. Care must, of course, be taken that those whom you think agreeable to each other are placed side by side around the festive board. Good talkers are invaluable at a dinner party—people who have fresh ideas and plenty of warm words to clothe them in; but good listeners are equally invaluable.

#### INVITATIONS.

Invitations to dinner parties are not usually sent by post, in cities, and are only answered by post where the distance is such as to make it inconvenient to send the note by hand. They are