

"THERE'S A WAY"

A Page for Our Inquiring Correspondents

Edited by EVELYN HOPE HALL

THERE is an old bit of proverbial advice, to the effect—"When in Rome, do as the Romans do." So far as matters of mere conventionality are concerned, this advice is good and sound. Women, especially, need to remember that the conventionalities are always worth observing. A convention is not, after all, a matter of idle form. It is usually the outgrowth of centuries of experience, and is the wisdom of a certain community in its tersest form. There are times, of course, when the conventions may be safely ignored. For instance, in the case of accident or distress, one would not dream of waiting for an introduction to the unfortunate person, but would hasten to give aid, regardless of being unknown and uninvited.

One of our correspondents has written to ask if it is wise to make acquaintance when travelling. Here is an instance when the hackneyed reply must be made—"It all depends on circumstances." A mature woman may be pleasantly responsive to the advances of a casual acquaintance where it would be utterly undesirable for a young girl to encourage exchange of remarks. If one is making a long railway journey, it is somewhat difficult to avoid more or less intercourse with the fellow-travellers. However, while one cannot lay down hard and fast rules, it is advisable for the youthful traveller to shun forming such acquaintanceship. Anything like personal curiosity or impertinence should be discountenanced at once. Should a stranger manifest the slightest desire to know one's name, circumstances or destination, such a disposition is almost certain proof of deliberate and insolent curiosity. In fact, in this connection, common-sense must be the guide; but it is better to exercise extreme prudence than to form an acquaintanceship which proves embarrassing. There are some persons who depict travelling alone as a most dangerous proceeding for either a girl or a woman. In this country, there is practically no danger or even embarrassment for the girl or woman who has a reserved and dignified manner, as she can easily rebuff impertinence by a cold civility which is usually more effective than the more decided snub.

The girl from the country or from the small town is likely to have a more friendly and trusting attitude towards the stranger than the city girl. In the village, everyone is known and there is a general air of "neighboring" which is impossible and undesirable in a larger community. In a city you may live for years in a certain locality without becoming acquainted with the neighbors or even with the dwellers in the next flat. It is absolutely necessary, in the street cars and on the city streets to cultivate a business-like and reserved manner, and, the larger the city, the more desirable is this total ignoring of strangers. Hence, a country or village girl, coming to the city as a student, or in search of employment cannot be too careful to avoid promiscuous acquaintances in travelling and to refrain from discussion of her personal affairs. The choice of a boarding-house should also be most carefully made. However, there is no reason for the would-be aspirant to a good position becoming nervous over the prospect of facing city competition. There are many organizations ready to help and protect the newcomer, and application to any of these beforehand will make the way of the novice, in the early days of self-support, much easier than it would be without any such assistance.

WINNIFRED asks about mayonnaise dressing, and the best method of making it. The word "mayonnaise" is frequently misapplied, and the following items of information may be of help to Winnifred.

A mayonnaise dressing is commonly supposed to be made of olive oil and uncooked eggs, and the thickening of the mixture is accomplished by a gradual and thorough blending of the two materials, instead of by the heat of boiling or steaming.

But we often see the name applied to any thick dressing by those who are not conversant with culinary nomenclature.

Many devices for accomplishing this blending of egg and oil in the surest and quickest manner have been invented—a few of them are real valuable for some workers and under some conditions, but personally I prefer this simple method, with only a wooden spoon and saucepan.

The wooden spoon is light, smooth, easy to hold, noiseless as it comes in contact with the pan, and scrapes the mixture from the pan far better than can be done with an egg-beater.

The latter is very difficult to turn when the dressing becomes stiff.

The saucepan, having a handle, is easier to hold than a bowl; the hand is not cramped or chilled as it is in clasping a bowl. If a whirling beater is used, either a bowl or a part of the beater must be stationary.

Ice is not necessary, except in a very hot room, but it certainly expedites matters, but when the mixing is done with the pan in ice water, it is not necessary to chill the oil, egg, bowl and spoon beforehand.

The seasoning I prefer to add to the egg in the beginning, and if more is needed it may be mixed with the salad material.

An egg which will make a good mayonnaise will usually thicken as soon as blended with the seasoning, but a thin egg, or one which persistently runs all over the pan the moment you stop beating, will require a long time for the oil to become incorporated with it, and is quite likely to separate.

Keep the bottle of oil on a plate to catch the dripping oil, and if you work alone, and have no John or Katy to hold the bottle, and pour while you stir, the same result may be accomplished by turning in a teaspoonful at once, tipping the pan so the oil will run down to one edge, and then carefully stirring in a few drops of it at each stroke.

Next time add two spoonfuls—and increase the amount of oil added, in the same proportion that the thickened egg increases.

ANNIE.—I shall be very pleased to give you some suggest-

ions for decorating your dining-room. Shades of fawn, brown and green will make an attractive color scheme, brightening your dark room and making it possible to use your green velvet portiere. If possible let the fawn and brown incline to yellow as this will give the brightest effect, but it must depend on the shade of green. I would suggest a rug combining the three colors in their deepest, richest shades, the brown predominating.

Either a plain or figured fawn paper would be best for the walls. If you prefer to use the plate rail you will find the plain paper behind it most attractive, but I would suggest that you let the paper run from the base to the ceiling without interruption and finish with a very narrow gilt moulding just below the cornice, unless the ceiling is extremely high. In that case dividing the wall with a plate rail will make it appear lower.

Your windows suggest two treatments, either one of which should be pretty. You could use inner curtains of figured silk or linen with a pattern of brown and green on a fawn ground—the general effect being a little darker than the walls. With these use casement curtains of ecru net. The rod might extend beyond the casement and the inner curtains be hung to give your window the effect of greater width. A single set of curtains would give rather more light—sheer madras in fawn with a suggestion of brown and green would be best. Let your curtains end just below the sill unless the casement extends to the floor.

Fumed oak furniture would be appropriate, with woodwork stained to match.

HESTER.—The ordinary tap water should be used for gold fish and should be changed every two days to ensure cleanliness. The directions for feeding you will find on the package of food. If you will send us a stamped, self-addressed envelope, we will send you the name of the firm where you can obtain a small book on the care of gold fish.

ENQUIRER.—It is quite advisable to have moles removed by electrolysis, and the treatment is practically painless. It is very important to employ only an experienced operator, who can apply this treatment properly, otherwise scars may be caused. If there are hairs in the Moles allow them to grow for at least six weeks before beginning treatment.

MRS. H.—Soap should never be used to clean Carrara marble, as it turns it yellow—merely clear, cold water or a thoroughly reliable cleaning solution. Care should be taken that only a new, clean piece of cheesecloth or sponge be used. A cleaning fluid for this purpose is put up by the trade.

DIXIE.—Treat the scratch on your piano as follows: Rub a good amount of vaseline on the scratch and leave it on overnight, and in the morning wipe it off with a soft cloth. It will take very good eyes and close inspection to find the place at all.

GIRLIE.—Clean your white felt hat with the moderately soft inner part of a stale loaf of wheat bread. You will find that it does the work perfectly.

MRS. E. M.—In cleaning your lacquered brass candlestick use the simple old-world remedy of sour milk and salt. And see how it will shine!

AGNES L.—You wire clothesline may be cleaned perfectly by rubbing well with a woollen cloth saturated with coal oil and afterward with the same cloth liberally sprinkled with cleansing powder. The result is a bright, shining line that leaves no mark on the clothes.

E. A.—A black China silk dust ruffle, in place of the cotton one found on the average-priced silk petticoat, reduces friction; consequently the skirt wears longer. It also sheds the dust, instead of holding it as the cotton one does, washes nicely, and if of good quality will outwear two petticoats.

SILVER.—Put your silver in sour milk, putting the milk in a tin or aluminum vessel, let it stand for a few hours, take out, rinse and rub dry. The silver will look like new and there is no powder to get in the engraved portions of the silver. This has been successfully tried by several, who report enthusiastically concerning it.

COOK.—I think you will find this plan a complete success for keeping the juice of berry pies from soaking the under crust: Mix a tablespoonful of flour with the sugar to be used and the crust will keep crisp and will not become soft or soaked with juice.

MABEL A.—There are several materials which would be desirable for a sleeping car robe. China silk made double would probably be the prettiest, but if warmth and durability are to be considered, then we would suggest a wool challis, with wash silk in harmonizing color for trimming.

AMATEUR TAILOR.—To shrink any wool fabric intended for coat suits or separate coats, lay the material between wet sheets and roll tightly. Set aside until dry. Use light-weight linen canvas for interlining, first shrinking it by placing it in hot water and allowing it to dry without wringing or by pressing it with a hot iron.

BEATRICE.—Here is a new and novel way of entertaining your young friends. Send the invitations requesting each guest to come representing some character in a book that had gained the distinction of being a "best seller." In order that there might not be duplicates, the hostess named the character which she wished each guest to represent, asking him at the same time to keep it a secret. The invitations were issued at an early date, in order that the unread "best sellers" might be looked into. The evening brought forth some clever representations and some excellent impersonations of the characters in the books.

MRS. S. J. J.—Make a weak soap suds with a fine white laundry soap, and carefully and lightly sponge off the plaster cast; it will be cleaned without hurting the polish. Take a soft cloth and wipe lightly all over the cast, sponging out the corners. Then dry with another soft cloth, patting, not scrubbing. If this proves unsatisfactory, and color is desired, take it to some dealer to stain.

SCHOOL TEACHER.—One of the prettiest materials to use for tailored shirt waists is the plain white percale. It launders beautifully, looks like linen, and wears like iron.

