

DINNER GIVING

To the hospitably inclined, the pleasure afforded by entertaining those whose society is desired is unsurpassed, and nowhere does the host or hostess show to such advantage as at the dinner table. To give a dinner gracefully, however, requires tact; indeed it may be said to be an art, to so select one's guests and so arrange them at the table that no lack of harmony will mar the occasion. The hostess must be, to a certain extent, acquainted with the peculiarities of each guest, and in placing them, she should carefully avoid seating two persons of opposite natures side by side. She should study her guests as it were; should allot the charming talker to the equally charming listener, and the opinionated person to the passive and yielding disposition. It is generally understood that all present are desirable persons, and yet an acquaintanceship begun under such auspices need not extend beyond the occasion unless so desired.

A centerpiece for St. Valentine's Day of a heart-shaped wire frame, banked up with red carnations, ferns and asparagus vine, is particularly effective. For place cards the dainty, old-fashioned lace paper valentines are appropriate, but if desired, hearts may be shaped of heavy red cardboard with each guest's name and some verse written in white on them.

"Madam, the dinner is served."

"Ah, well then, ladies and gentlemen—
Now, good digestion wait on appetite
And health on both."

—Macbeth.