

their uniform in a well-ordered hotel) to send a clerk. She can then make all her arrangements with him and let him register for her. It is not necessary, if one has luggage, to pay in advance.

It is customary, while travelling, to fee all who render one especial service,—waiters on boats, stewards, etc.

Never say "Mrs. Doctor Brown," "Mrs. Professor Smith," etc.—a very common vulgarity. Say "Mrs. Brown," and, if absolutely necessary to explain, add "the doctor's wife." When writing to a doctor's wife, if necessary to designate especially, address the envelope, "Mrs. (Dr.) Brown."

Really refined people avoid talking about themselves. Boasting is very vulgar, and, however good an opinion he may have of himself, a boaster is always disliked. The best conversationalists are those who try to draw others to talk and feel at home. To be a good listener is a strong asset; an absent-minded person, or one who waits, in evident impatience, for his turn to speak, is never a favorite. It is never a bad fault to sit quietly, saying little, but to ramble on and on, when one is not sure of what one is going to say, as some do, may put one at a decided disadvantage. An even worse mistake is to monopolize a conversation. Monologues are always tiresome.

If one is talking to others on a topic, and someone else comes up in the midst of the conversation, it is only polite to explain to the new-comer, in a few words, the subject under discussion.

Slang and flippancy should be avoided; so also should extreme precision and stiffness. To be refined, natural, and unconscious of self, is the ideal. Artificiality or "airs" are always ridiculous.

Don't tell anecdotes and jokes that are as old as the hills; don't interrupt when anyone else is speaking; and don't laugh hilariously at your own jokes. Don't try to show off in any way. People who do these things are almost invariably unpopular.

Arguments are to be avoided, if possible. They often stir up a little hardness of feeling, and seldom do any good, as the arguer seldom changes his point of view. One may, of course, express contrary opinion, but this should be done tactfully, so as to generate no resentment or ill-feeling.

Quarrelling, in the home or out of it, should be fought off as though it were the embodiment of evil. Even were it not for the heartaches which it causes, it is low and "common." This should be impressed upon children who, as a rule, do not wish to be little boors, but may drift into being so if not checked.

A man should always stand when women with whom he is talking arise to leave; a woman need not do so unless those leaving are very much older.

Some people are puzzled to know just how to begin, end, and address letters. To a stranger, the letter should begin, "Dear Sir," or "Dear Madam," or, if one wishes to be very formal, "My Dear Sir," "My Dear Madam"; the closing may be simply, "Yours truly," or "Yours sincerely." When writing to acquaintance or friends, the formality is, of course, somewhat relaxed, and one begins, "Dear Mr. Smith," "Dear Miss Jones," or more intimately still, depending on the friendship,—"Dear Jack," "Dear Minnie," etc. . . . A married woman, or a widow, signs herself "Mary Smith," or "Mrs. Mary Smith," with ("Mrs. John Smith") following below in brackets, if it be necessary that such a designation be made. An unmarried woman signs "A. H. Smith," or "Helen Smith," with ("Miss") preceding if necessary, as when in writing to strangers. . . . When addressing an envelope to a married woman, one writes "Mrs. John M. Smith," or to an unmarried woman, "Miss Helen Smith," the brackets being omitted. One should be careful, when addressing an envelope, to write very plainly, and to begin half-way down the envelope; an address looks very awkward when scribbled away up near the top, or cramped below in one corner. Writing-paper and envelopes should match, and for social correspondence, should be of good quality, quite plain, without fancy edges or embellishment. The color should be white, cream, or very light gray-blue, and the paper should be unruled. . . . One's name should never be signed to any note, invitation, or reply, etc., written in the third person.

At a funeral, the family of the deceased should take their last sad look before the arrival of strangers, then they should go to a room by themselves, not being seen again. When one wears mourning for a near relative, the rule is a year of black, then six months of "half-mourning." In the United States—at least in many parts of it—heavy mourning is not seen now at all, black and white, gray and lavender, being worn from the first, instead of the depressing black throughout.

(Concluded.)

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The Ingle Nook.

[Rules for correspondents in this and other Departments: (1) Kindly write on one side of paper only. (2) Always send name and address with communications. If pen-name is also given, the real name will not be published. (3) When enclosing a letter to be forwarded to anyone, place it in stamped envelope ready to be sent on. (4) Allow one month in this department for answers to questions to appear.]

The Home Nurse.

Dear Ingle Nook Friends,—I really must tell you about a little volume that came into my hands recently, which seems to me so useful that I cannot but recommend it to you. There are three books which, leaving those that are purely cultural aside, should surely be owned by every housewife,—a dictionary, a good cook-book, a book on home nursing. The cook-book one may make for herself by collecting best recipes from friends and magazines, but it would take a long time to gather enough items on nursing to be of real use in case of need.

Now, this book to which I refer is one on this very subject,—"The Home Nurse's Handbook of Practical Nursing," by Charlotte A. Aikens, formerly director of Sibley Memorial Hospital, Washington, D. C.; for a time Superintendent of Columbia Hospital, Pittsburg; author of "Hospital Training-School Methods," "Primary Studies for Nurses," and other volumes.

Through her long experience in hospitals, Miss Aikens has realized the awful mistakes often made in the homes in regard to health and care of the sick, through ignorance—not once in a thousand cases because of wilful indifference or neglect. In her own words, "A lamentable fact to consider is that so many ailments which are, in the early stages, apparently trifling, readily curable, result fatally because of ignorance and lack of proper home nursing. Thousands of children and youths, and others in early middle life, go to premature graves every year, who need not have died had their mothers or wives known the bare essentials of proper care of the sick. The most ardent love, the most untiring efforts, the best of intentions, will not undo the results of ignorance."

Realizing all this, realizing, also, that women are the "nurses of the world," and that practically every woman, at some time of her life, finds thrown upon her the responsibility of caring for some sick one, Miss Aikens prepared her book for the people,—a book that is not too technical, that is simple, clear, and interesting, and that takes count of almost every necessity, in regard to the subjects dealt with, that can arise in the ordinary homes of to-day.

The first part is devoted to the question, "How to Keep Well," and covers, with reasons, as might be expected, the