

satin bow tie, broad cuffs held with link-buttons, and light-weight patent-leather ties, or pumps, is the costume de rigueur for a dinner in summer or winter. The tailless dinner jacket, always worn with a black bow tie, is only permissible when dining at home without guests, or in the company of one or two intimates.

For women, the essential dinner costume is décolleté. The hair is elaborately dressed, and jewels are advantageously utilized. For a less ceremonious dinner, a high-necked and long-sleeved gown is suitable, provided the dress is of a light color or is a rich dark silk handsomely garnished.

Guests are privileged to leave at any moment after the dinner is concluded. It is not polite or flattering to a host and hostess to accept their invitations to a ceremonious dinner and hurry away to meet another engagement; but in the gay season, in a big city, where one or two entertainments take place in an evening, a man or woman greatly in demand may linger but ten minutes in the drawing-room after dinner, and then, with explanations and adieux, go on to the next festivity. As a rule, however, at a dinner beginning at seven or half past seven o'clock, it is well to order one's carriage or rise to leave at ten; at an eight o'clock dinner, to leave at half past ten would be most discreet, though this rule becomes liable to a very elastic interpretation when a dinner is made up of brilliant, congenial persons, and the talk in the drawing-room is prolonged irresistibly until eleven. The lady makes the first motion at departure, when a husband and wife, brother and sister, or betrothed couple, dine at the same house. No matter how numerous the company, and how engrossed the hostess may be, when a guest prepares to retire, he or she must seek their entertainer out and bid her adieu, with polite thanks for hospitality.

PROPER SEAT AT TABLE.

Sit erect, neither lounge back, nor reach forward to catch mouthfuls.