

Maxims for Summer Guests.

By MARIAN V. DORSEY.

It is always assumed that a guest is invited for her own pleasure and the pleasure of the hostess, consequently the obligation is a mutual one to make that anticipation a reality on the part of each.

If you receive a definite invitation to a country house to make a visit of a certain duration do not, above all things, if you are obliged to decline, say that you will come some other time soon, leaving your would-be hostess to fear you may drop in when least expected and when she has no room for you in her plans.

It takes a very close friendship indeed to stand this sort of putting to the test, but if one's invitation is accompanied by the assurance that "if you can not come at this time I shall be very glad to know when you can give me that pleasure," the letter of acknowledgment may most fully explain the whys and wherefores of declining and say when the writer would have an opportunity to be with her friend.

The servant question of today makes these formalities necessary, even among the closest friends, for the hostess must know something definite about the coming and going

of her guests so that any depletions in the ranks of servitors may be corrected and the domestic machine be in perfect running order when visitors arrive.

If visiting wealthy people so much forethought about minor matters is not required as if visiting people of moderate means and a simple mode of life.

In the latter case plan to give as little trouble as possible, and to seldom require the special services of the housemaid or the one general servant, if there is but one kept. If there are two servants their time is very fully occupied when there are guests in the house and, if only one, every minute of her time is pre-empted by her taxing work and she may not, considerably, be called on at all times and seasons to "hook you up."

Take two medium size trunks instead of one huge one and a suit case along with you for immediate needs.

If you have them, take your own golf sticks, racquet, and riding habit.

While the guest rooms of wealthy hostesses are always found to contain a desk which is furnished with stationery and

stamps, one cannot rely upon finding these conveniences in the average home, and should carry them along, not forgetting a pen, but relying upon the hostess for ink which no good travelers ever carry in their trunks.

People whose visits are enjoyed are those who convince their entertainers that they are quite content to do nothing at all—those who know how to "loaf and invite their souls."

The considerate guest has some needlework or a book that she takes out of doors to some shady nook, leaving the hostess for a while each day in order that she may arrange household matters.

But while the right sort of summer guest expects nothing more than the pleasure of enjoying the country in a quiet way, it is always possible for an attentive hostess to plan many little drives and jaunts within the radius of her environment.

There are women who have no right to the gracious name of hostess who invite people to visit them and then act as if the mere privilege of coming and staying under the roof was all that was due a guest, being perfectly indifferent to the obligation of reasonable entertainment. But these, happily, are rare.

Clipped By:



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