

# You Can Easily Be Charming.

By MARIAN V. DORSEY.

Frequently it happens that when a woman of no great beauty makes her adieus to a group of friends, leaving a decidedly pleasing impression of herself, the foolish question arises whether the nameless charm of personality, which they all accord her, can possibly be cultivated if not bestowed as a gift of the gods, and the thoughtless ones unite in declaring in the negative.

The fact is, however, that the woman whose charm they are envying as the benign bestowal of heaven has created it for herself, first by perceiving what constitutes it, and then persistently developing it to the full extent of her powers.

It must, of course, be developed along the lines of one's own individuality, for the charm exerted by the athletic girl, for instance, is essentially different and has a different appeal from that of the girl of artistic temperament or that of the woman specially gifted with the home making faculty, though each be thoroughly captivating.

Some young women of excellent social opportunities seem utterly hopeless aspirants for this distinction of charm, simply because they have no perception of what repose means, entirely unconvinced that the woman who wishes to attain charm must learn to be quiet in her movements and not put so much swish in her garments that she announces her coming while yet a great way off.

These will drop in to see you for a half-hour, and the whole time be pulling up their collars, pushing down their belts, tossing back their straggling locks, and readjusting all the small belongings of their toilet till one cannot get their undivided attention for five minutes of their stay; and, unless they are quite formal acquaintances, paying brief calls with the utmost decorum, these unrepentant—nay, fidgety—young women will feel impelled to sit in every comfortable chair in the room before taking their departure.

It cannot be too often reiterated that the voice has more to do with charm than any other one attribute, and the woman who schools herself to retain the medium or low range scores a success, for the strong impulse is to raise the feminine keynote higher

and higher as the "tea fight" wages until it fairly reaches the crescendo.

Especially is there charm in the broad A, which can be cultivated if not one's natural pronunciation; and the dictum of the colleges has not only made its use increasingly widespread among people of exceptional advantages, but has at last led to its adoption, in many words, in the public schools; so that in the near future we may hope to hear a soft, musical intonation which is quite impossible of attainment with the flat sounding of the vowels.

The woman of charm is a good listener—and this by no means consists simply in refraining from interrupting or looking bored. Neither is it true that good listeners, like artists, are born, not made.

One may cultivate responsiveness of eye and of smile and show a pleasing interest in what is being said just as readily as one cultivates any other grace of deportment, and the woman of charm does not show undue eagerness to seize advantage of the pause after some dull narration to immediately eclipse it with a more interesting experience of her own.

The charming woman also knows that an exit should be effective, and she is not unmindful of the way she enters a room and stands or sits down.

Not only is the unrepentant, the fussy, or the gushing manner not conducive to charm, but incessant laughter kills it entirely. Yet there are women who give a laugh with nearly every sentence they utter, and the effect on the listener is rasping, for while a frequent smile is charming, a too frequent laugh is utterly wearying.

Rich elements of charm are possessed by many who are not credited with it because they do not develop their gift, and it is equally true that those who have not the gift as a birthright may win it by cultivation.

While to foreigners the American woman's vivacity is her greatest charm, as contrasted with their own less adaptable and slower witted maidens, we who see it always at close range are beginning to weary, sometimes, of its excess.

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