

# OVER THE TEACUPS

Boudoir Gossip for Lady Readers

## Shall the "At Home" Day Perish?

### OLD-FASHIONED COURTESIES FALLEN INTO DISUSE.

A young hostess of some originality of disposition whose home is in the suburbs, has announced to her friends that she will be at home on wet Mondays. The arrangement is not without advantage to herself, for a wet day does not tempt the average woman to gad about, but she excuses the apparent selfishness of her plan by urging the desirability of something tempting to take her acquaintances out in bad weather and prevent a fit of the blues at home.

The regulation At Home day is certainly going out of fashion everywhere, and has quite departed from society circles. The old habit of paying calls has also been banished by the smart set from the programme of social duties. The telephone is to blame, if blame be deserved. It is so easy for one friend to ring up another and discover whether a visit will be convenient upon a certain afternoon, and at a certain time, and as for mere acquaintances, they can be met in other ways, at luncheon parties, restaurant dinners, and so forth.

There really does not seem much use in trying to preserve the At Home day, nor in endeavouring to resuscitate the fashion for paying calls. Too often both observances are synonymous with utter boredom both to the hostess and to her guests. Numbers of people come to the house regarding the affair as an utter weariness of the flesh; a few banalities are exchanged, and their departure takes place after tea in various stages of strength and weakness, heat and chill has been drunk, and cakes of any number of patterns have been eaten.

How much better to invite a few kindred spirits by telephone or letter to a pleasant hour dedicated to real friendship, than to endeavour to galvanise an old custom that bore a real meaning and a good use once, into a vitality that can never again really be healthy!

There was much more implied by the visit in older days than mere politeness. People would never have met at all if they had waited for telegrams and telephones, which were not invented, and existence would have been very dull if a round of calls had not enlivened the daily life of women who knew not the enthralling joys of golf, bridge, motoring, or constant shopping.

The regulation call that was expected by the hostess after a dinner party or ball was the outcome of her anxiety to hear whether her guests had got home in safety, just as much as a tribute on the part of her guests to her hospitality.

Footpads are happily scarce in these days, and even if one's motor does come to temporary disaster, the news will be quickly spread without a formal call being made to announce the fact. Wherefore it is not needful, as it once was, to report one's self in the land of the living, after the trials of an evening spent outside one's own home.

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## The Oriental Note in Trimming

It is surprising how the Oriental colourings and effects have crept into the winter trimmings. Bands of trimming for collars and belts, also for introducing a vest effect for waists, have been received with great popularity. This, of course, is done on silk or flet net, in beadwork, or in a combination of beads and silk floss, or just coloured silk floss with a bit of gold and silver.

It is a great help to the girl or woman making over her winter gown to work in a bit of trimming for her veiling dress, and the only expense attached is a strip of flet mesh on which a simple arabesque design is worked with a few skeins of heavy silk floss. Also for her new hat one cannot imagine anything more attractive than a band of ecru flet done in the beautiful Oriental colourings.

A word as to colourings. The trimming should be in tones of distinct contrast to the dress. If the body of the dress is soft or dark in tone, the trim-

ming, if only a small quantity is used, may be brilliant in colouring. If the dress is of a bright colour, the same tone can be worked into the trimming merely as a note, while the body of the trimming should be of soft or dull effects. The best effects are obtained when the softer shades are used, giving a rather neutral effect to the gown, as they wear better, show spots less, and are generally more satisfactory for all use, both evening and day. Besides the neutral tint, a small quantity of rich trimming gives a distinctly smarter effect to the costume than the vivid colours of which one grows so weary.

Many attractive bags have also been seen embroidered in the Oriental colourings, and add a pretty touch to a costume, to say nothing of the convenience of the bag for the woman who carries it, as it holds all of her little belongings, as pins, handkerchiefs, etc., while those seen in lighter shades are adapted for theatre use.

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## Lady Couriers.

### A NEW PROFESSION.

The female courier must first of all be a gentlewoman, well educated, with a knowledge of foreign languages, and with a retentive memory for interesting historical and other facts connected with the particular part of the world she selects for her tours. Besides, she must be gifted with an endless supply of patience, much tact, and organising ability, to shape and carry out successfully her itinerary. Her party must be able to trust her implicitly; she must be responsible for all worrying details, luggage, and hotel arrangements. This priceless treasure must also, one supposes, be gifted with a perfect temper and be sound in wind and limb. She must, if she ever comes to New South Wales, know exactly what to say when she discovers that luggage which she has booked to Kosciuszko goes gaily on to Melbourne per express. What not to say at this crisis should also form part of her special education.

### HER STRONG POINTS.

Here are the strong points of the lady courier as an enthusiastic writer in an English exchange sees them.

A man courier travelling with ladies can only be a courier pure and simple. A cultured gentlewoman, who undertakes to guide ladies travelling alone, can be useful in a thousand small ways. A woman understands women's ways, and can ascertain a woman's little peculiarities very quickly if she is gifted with an insight into character. Therefore, she can save her travellers many little annoyances, and avoid awkward little contretemps, which a male courier would be powerless to avert. She can accompany lady tourists on shopping and other expeditions, where a man would be hopelessly de trop.

It seems that a great sphere of usefulness is open to the lady courier. She can, besides organising prolonged tours in any part of the globe, also undertake walking, cycling, or motor expeditions. Then in London she can meet girls from school coming to town for a day's shopping or amusement.

### RECOMMENDED BY HOTELS.

The leading London hotels are equally enthusiastic on the subject of the lady courier. Claridge's, the Savoy, the Berkeley, the Grand, and others are recommending their guests to employ ladies in this capacity. American organisations here are arranging to supply lady couriers to parties of American ladies travelling alone this summer, and it is anticipated that their services will be in great demand. Short excursions to interesting bits of old London are to be organised, and also week-end trips to Stratford-on-Avon, Stoke Poges, Oxford, Windsor, and other places of literary and historic interest.

The daughters of professional men, clergymen, military and naval officers are most suitable for the position, and when a woman is bright and entertain-

ing, and capable of telling her travellers the most interesting facts about the various places they visit in a chatty way, in contradistinction to the dry-as-dust professional guide, her services are sure to be greatly in demand. Women will be glad to learn that the fees for lady couriers are on the same scale as those paid to men, therefore they cannot be accused of entering the profession with the intention of working for anything or nothing, as unfortunately is sometimes the case with women in other walks of life.

Who knows what Mr. Percy Hunter may bring home with him? Or will the department look for local talent?

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## Birds of a Feather.

There was a poetic appropriateness in two weddings which were celebrated in London the other day, in which Mr Bird led Miss Linnet to the altar, and Mr Wren was linked to Miss Nightingale. Although it is seldom that one comes across two of these "ornithological" weddings in one day, they are by no means uncommon. Not long ago a church near Dublin was the scene of an interesting marriage, in which a Mr Crowe was united to a Miss Crowe by the Rev. George Peacock, the wedding march being played by Mr Rook. Much more remarkable, however, was a match which set Edinburgh in a flutter some years since. The bride was Miss Henrietta Peacock, and the bridegroom was Mr Robin Sparrow. The Rev. Mr Daw performed the marriage ceremony, Mr Philip Hawk officiated as best man, and Miss Larkins as principal bridesmaid; while the marriage lines were extracted by Mr John Crow, session clerk. "It is worthy of further remark," adds a reporter, "that the sexton's name is Raven, one of the pew-openers is a Gull, and the assistant sexton is a Henry Lay-cock."

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## Does Politeness Pay?

### A PRACTICAL EXPERIMENT IN A COLONIAL CITY.

Does politeness pay? There is at least one woman who is convinced that it does not, and Carolyn Prescott tells of one day in this woman's life that seems to support her theory.

Two women started out one day to experiment, No. 1 to substantiate her theory that politeness does pay, the other to refute it. Woman No. 1 promised Woman No. 2 that she would stand the expense of a box of chocolates, a bunch of violets, and a theatre ticket if her friend could prove that politeness really did not pay.

Woman No. 1, the polite one, was early, and was forced to wait while Woman No. 2 put the finishing touches to her toilette. Being polite, of course, she did not complain at the delay, though she was somewhat vexed.

At last they started. Reaching the street car, the two women boarded it, and found it crowded. Two gentlemen rose and offered each of them a seat, which each accepted.

A little further along a woman, old and carrying a bundle, entered the car. She was plainly a working woman, not handsome, and not remarkably clean. Seeing that no man rose to give this woman a seat, Woman No. 1 rose and politely proffered hers to the working woman.

This woman plumped herself down in it, without a word, not even a look of thanks to the woman who had given it to her. But my friend had been polite. She hugged this thought to her bosom, while she hung on to the strap and was jostled and pushed and had her toes walked upon. In the meanwhile, Woman No. 2 sat in her seat, contented and happy. Her theory was working itself out beautifully already, she thought.

Arriving in the heart of the city, the two women entered a large drapery establishment, where a sale was in progress. A pretty piece of lace caught the eye of Woman No. 1, and she reached for it just as another woman did the same thing. Being polite, Woman No. 1 allowed the bargain-hunter to appropriate the piece of lace and carry it off, although she wanted it badly herself.

Of course, she was disappointed at the loss, for it was just what she wanted, and she knew of a blouse that it would trim very prettily. But she had been polite. Again, at the tea-table she suffered because of her politeness. There was but one vacant seat, and as she was about to take it a large and very brusque

woman brushed by her, seated herself, and ordered a complete meal before my friend had even made up her mind what she wanted to eat. But she had been polite.

Walking through the shop she espied a woman who had evidently dressed in a hurry and alone. All of the buttons at the back of her blouse, with the exception of one at the neck and another at the waist-line, were unfastened. Being polite, my friend stepped up to the woman, and in a gentle manner reminded her of the fact. The woman turned, without thanks, and glared at my friend. If looks could have killed, there would have been a corpse on the spot where my friend stood. But she had been polite.

So throughout the entire day Woman No. 1 suffered through her politeness. Woman No. 2 stood by, taking what she could get without effort, and without the trouble of being polite. Therefore at the end of the day's journey the woman who had been so firm in her conviction that politeness pays was not only the loser of a box of chocolates, a bunch of violets, and a theatre ticket, but she had also lost the opportunity of picking up a good bargain, had been humiliated by a woman to whom she thought she was doing a kindness, was fagged out from standing in a crowded street car, and, worst of all, she had lost her theory that politeness pays.

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## The Mathematician.

He figured out the distance  
Of the stars up in the sky;  
He figured out our planet's age,  
And when this earth will die;

He figured out the railways  
And such things with patient skill—  
But he never saw the errors  
In his monthly butcher's bill.

# WOMAN HELPLESS WITH ECZEMA

Suffered Untold Agony for Three Years—Had to be Washed, Dressed, and Fed Like a Baby—Was in Doctor's Care and in Infirmary but Could Not Get Cured.

## CUTICURA CURED HER IN THREE MONTHS

"I had eczema for three years and I was under a doctor's treatment the whole of the time, also the infirmary and could not get cured. It would get better for a day or two, but would break out again worse than ever. At times it was so bad I had to be washed and dressed and even fed like a baby. It was only my hands and arms that were affected, but I suffered untold agony, and I got so low I was afraid to be left alone, and I had quite despaired of getting better, but at last I tried Cuticura. I used three boxes of Cuticura Ointment, and three bottles of Cuticura Pills, and in a month I was cured. That was twelve months ago, and I have seen no signs of it returning. I always keep a bottle of Cuticura Pills in the house. They do me more good than anything else, and I never use any other than Cuticura Soap. I think that no matter how bad any one was, if they gave the Cuticura Remedies a fair trial, they would cure them, for I was in an awful state. Mrs. Conley, 9, Gaven St., off Jack Lane, Holbeck, Leeds, Jan. 23, 1907."

## CUTICURA A BLESSING To Skin-Tortured Babies and Tired Mothers

The suffering which Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment have alleviated among the young, and the comfort they have afforded worn-out and worried parents, have led to their adoption in countless homes as priceless remedies for birth humours, milk crust, scalded head, eczema, rashes, and every form of itching, burning, scaly skin and scalp humours, of infancy and childhood. Guaranteed absolutely pure under United States Food and Drugs Act, and may be used from the hour of birth.

Complete External and Internal Treatment for Every Humour of Infancy and Childhood consists of Cuticura Soap to Cleanse the Skin, Cuticura Ointment to Heal the Skin, and Cuticura Resolvent Pills (Glycerine) to Purify the Blood. A Single Set of Cuticura Sold throughout the world. Beware of cheap imitations. Write to The Cuticura Soap Co., Bradley, London, Cape Town, etc.; or B. K. Paul, California. Better Drug and Book Store, New York.