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Good Form

A Girl's Manners.
There are many small and unseen reefs upon which the girl seeking social success may come to grief, and one of the most dangerous is that of broken social engagements.
In the present day old fashioned courtesy and consideration seem to be asleep or else to have left society entirely. The modern hostess only too frequently receives a telephone message from some guest at the last moment saying without the least compunction, "So sorry, but it is impossible."

As a rule, this sort of thing is inexcusable. Of course conditions may arise under which nothing else can be done, but the girl who usually sends a message of this kind is of the selfish type and rarely succeeds in attaining popularity. She is thinking more of her own caprice than of her hostess.
It is not an easy matter to fill in at dinner or luncheon or bridge. No matter how well poised a hostess may be, a disappointment of this kind is upsetting, and the selfish or thoughtless girl who is the occasion of her embarrassment is apt to have a black mark against her name in that particular hostess' mind.

The trouble is that the girl of today is too careless in her acceptance of invitations. On the spur of the moment she accepts and then frequently decides that the whole thing is a bore, or something else comes up that she would prefer doing, and she finally ends by declining the invitation at the last moment, thus arousing an antagonism that cannot help but handicap her in her social career.
It is a simple matter to decline in the first place. A declination of this sort a hostess has no right to resent, but once her list is closed it is another matter.

Telephone of One Cause.
A young girl recently remarked that she accepted every invitation which came to her, then picked those she preferred, throwing over the others. This sounds well, but sooner or later it will result in unpopularity. Neither courtesy nor consideration justifies such a course.
Naturally one has preferences. There are certain things one would rather do. A girl should make up her mind what these things are and accept them before everything else, but she should not play fast and loose with invitations she does not want.
Let her decline them definitely the moment they are presented to her and she will find she makes fewer enemies, while at the same time she pleases herself.

One hears the impulsive girl say, "Oh, that is all very well, but what can one do in this day when people call you on the telephone and fire invitations at you point blank and your mind is as destitute of excuses as an empty birdcage?"
The best advice for this situation is to learn to think quickly and decline definitely if it is a thing one does not care to do. One can always have an engagement to sit at home and cultivate one's mind.

Courtesy Always Pays.
The average girl will say that this is a trivial subject, and if courtesy and consideration are trivial then it is, but it is the little things that so often get us disliked and land us in the lonely land.
The girl who accepts an invitation as an evidence of good will and treats it with perfect courtesy will find her social path smoother and her own pleasures less complicated.

The Rolling Stunt.
Not known to the multitude is the fact that almost every rich and portly dame has a "rolling suit," which very much resembles the small child's flannellette nightgown or the unstuffed covering of a rag doll.
When one of the aforementioned dames climbs into her suit it is very much stuffed, and the extent to which her avoirdupois has been reduced is gauged each day by the fit of the suit. Worn with it is a cap that ties on like a bathing cap, for madam's hair is apt to collect dust from the floor space where the rolling stunt is performed.
Fifteen minutes before breakfast and again at bedtime is the allowance for this pastime, which includes 100 turns over and back each time. This means all the way over and twice over if space allows. Little or no effort is required for the turning, and if the exercise can be followed by a hot bath so much the better.

Those who wish to reduce more rapidly than is accomplished by rolling alone have recourse to touching the finger tips or palms of the hands to the floor without bending the knees, as additional efforts, and also to the equally old and reliable method of lying on one's back on the floor and raising each leg straight up from the body for fifty consecutive times and then both together for as many more times.
These natural motions and walking, though slower and requiring greater hope and patience on the part of the robust one, are much safer than drugs, for medicines powerful enough to dispel adipose tissues have an injurious effect upon the organs of the body, and too many cases of "heart trouble" have resulted from trying some little pellet recommended by a formerly fat friend.

POULTRY NOTES
BY
C. M. BARNITZ
RIVERSIDE
PA.
CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED

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THE SLY OPOSSUM.

When snow piles up and zero winds whistle it's then the sly opossum sneaks down from the woods to rob the henroost. In summer he is busy, in leafy tree and thicket, robbing birds' nests, gathering berries and fruits and



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

MR. OPOSSUM HIMSELF.

rearing a big family of chicken sneak thieves, and when Jack Frost ripens the persimmons he hangs by his retractile tail among the golden fruit and stuffs all day. But the birds wing south, deep snow cuts off his food supply, and this pig headed, ratty tailed, dull white marsupial is forced from his haunts to seek food.
He is a "night raider," shows little fear and appears in unexpected places. You are apt to find him upstairs under the bed, down in the cellar feasting on pumpkin pie and apples or out in the henhouse sucking eggs and skinning roosters.

His appetite for chicken is only surpassed by that of a fully matured dominie. He has the trick of getting into a place without keys, of mysteriously escaping when thought to be securely caged and of playing dead possum so well that the elect can hardly tell.
Twelve generally constitute a litter, three families a season to the pair. Kangaroo style, the mother carries her young in a pouch and is sometimes found with newborn young in her cran-

die and twelve, half grown, on her back, with tails hooked to her arched caudal appendage.
The possum here shown made a raid on Riverside roosters and pumpkin pie; and met his finish.
On prying open his strong jaws fifty sharp teeth were disclosed, the death trap of many a fat hen.
These fowl fiends are easily tracked and trapped, and when one is killed fowls' furry foes are not only fewer, but, oh, you roast possum an' sweet petaters!



Photo by C. M. Barnitz.

NOW FOR A ROAST.

Don't let litter in the duck house get rank. Dump means lame ducks and their finish.
Don't forget that turkeys are not far removed from the wild and must not be shut up in a hot box.
Don't fall to scatter grain evenly over the litter so all have a chance, and keep the litter even on the scratching floor.
Don't expect to keep breeding geese right on a straight grain ration. Geese are vegetarians and to keep healthy and be prolific must have vegetables regularly.

DON'TS.

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