FINER HOME DINNERS NOW

NEW YORK HAS IMPROVED IN THIS ENTERTAINMENT.

The Restaurant Dinner Useful but Not the Compliment to a Guest That the Private House Dinner Is—Greater Knowledge of All Foods and Wines.

In New York society these days there is a well defined line drawn between dinners given in private homes and restaurant dinners. Relatively the difference is about like that between a best and a second best gown.

Both are needed: it would not be easy to get along without either. There are occasions when the restaurant dinner, like the seond best gown, fits the occasion better. A dinner in honor of some one person, an honor now counted among the highest a private entertainer can bestow, must take place, provided the hostess has a house of her own, at her house. Lacking that the hostess who wants to set the highest mark on her entertainment surrounds it with almost as much privacy as if given at home, engaging a private suite of a hotel or restaurant, the best chef and the most skilled waiters and carefully selecting a special menu and certain vintages of wine. In all respects except the place this is a private dinner.

It was a society woman whose very beautiful house includes a dining room built for entertaining large companies who made these observations.

"It is less easy to give dinners now than it was even half a dozen years ago," she added. "For one thing dinners are larger. Society now is numerically so much bigger and the dinner giving season in New York is so much shorter than formerly that to continue to give dinners to only ten or twelve guests would make it out of the question to return social obligations to any considerable number of your friends during the winter. There was a time when large dinners were all the vogue, that is from twenty-four to thirty guests were seated at one table, extended if need be for the occasion into the drawing room or hall, and if a hostess gave two or three such in a season she did all her duty. But these dinners were dull, mostly—very dull.

"This led to some of the smartest hostesses curtailing the number of guests at their choicest dinners to a dozen or less. There are hostesses who continue to do this, who believe it to be the better way; but they are in the minority, and for the last three or four years the work of enlarging dining rooms in private houses has been pushed rapidly.

"One of the most conservative and smartest women in New York, with a house in Madison avenue comparatively new, had her dining room space doubled year before last. Dinners began to be larger, double in size, the guests seated at tables holding six or eight—fewer than six dinner guests at one table is not desirable—and of late the number of smart dinners with thirty to fifty guests has been remarkable.

"It was announced the other day that a certain Newport hostess was having made a table large enough to seat nearly one hundred guests. If true this proves nothing, the conduct of watering place dinners being quite different from that of dinners given in town.

"There is a reason other than the numerical growth of society for the increase in the size of the fashionable dinner, and that is the difficulty of always grouping around one table a dozen persons who are on friendly terms. Many a dinner is spoiled for one or another guest, who finds opposite or at her side some one with whom she is not on speaking terms. This is more easily avoided when only six persons are at a table, although even then a hostess may make mistakes.

"I myself came near being caught. My guests, numbering twenty-eight, were to sit at small tables, and as they arrived my husband, who did not know who was coming, got his eye on two men who entered almost together. Soon he edged over to me and whispered: 'Be sure that Mr. M. and Mr. B. do not sit near each other! Heavens!' I gasped, 'I have planned for them to sit at the same table.'

"Fortunately there was time for my husband to slip out to the dining room and have two of the place cards changed. The shuffle brought two women who are not on friendly terms together at the same table, but that was less serious. Women's differences are seldom so serious as men's and socially they rise to an occasion with greater skill.

"Put two men who hate each other at the same table and one or both is apt to have dreadful lapses into a moody silence, most discouraging.

"It is in order to lessen just such chances as this that some hostesses have taken to giving larger dinners which shall include, as is almost necessary now, a few young persons whose mothers expect for them a little special attention. Ages are not so carefully matched at large dinners as at small affairs, which leads to more fun as a rule.

"Once upon a time when a clergyman was asked to dinner he was expected to talk shop and to hear shop talked by the other guests, all of whom had been matched for the occasion. Usually the hostess would wear a dress less décolleté than usual and leave off some of her jewels.

"To-day if a minister accepts an invitation to dinner he is quite likely to sit opposite a rising member of the dramatic or operatic profession and to take in one of the butterflies of fashion whose ways are easier to censure from the pulpit than when listening to her amusing talk.

"This sounds a little as if society's dinner guests were more promiscuous now, and up to a certain point they are. Society was never more careful, however, as to the social standing of its intimates. It is a point in the right direction, I think, that some of the most noted dinner givers are glad to have at their table men unknown in fashionable circles who have achieved things in the arts, sciences and literature. Old fashioned New Yorkers were far less broad minded in this respect.

"When I say that it is less easy to give dinners now than it was a few years ago I mean that guests are far more critical. The young hostess trying to establish herself in society is judged by her dinners. If her dinners are poor or are not enjoyable she will find it anything but easy to get the guests she wants. She won't get them more than once. That's all there is to that.

"What with travelling and sampling the best food of every country and importing expert cooks New Yorkers have become wonderfully critical judges of food and in my opinon the dinners given in the homes of New York's wealthy class can't be excelled anywhere. While in London last year, I dined with several of England's first families in their homes and I was surprised to find that the menu, although excellent in quality and well cooked, included fewer choice out of season tidbits than Americans include in their formal dinners. Other Americans have observed it.

"A great deal is expected these days of dinner givers not only as to the menu but to other entertaining features. Few hostesses dare now to give a dinner without an afterpiece of some sort—bridge or music by specialists, or vaudeville or something else equally diverting. This is the feature which worries me the most.

"When, as happened not long ago, an artist who was to come in at 10-o'clock to sing sent me word at 6 o'clock that he was indisposed and could not keep his engagement a hostess is likely to experience a sinking of the heart. On this occasion I telephoned to two or three other entertainers and couldn't get one of them. The only thing I could do therefore was to fall back on bridge, and this I did knowing perfectly well that my guests surely expected an afterpiece of some kind.

"The restaurant dinner served in public is in quite a different class. It is informal, the hostess is not held responsible for the quality of the menu and the service and no matter how sumptuous it may be it does not count in the entertaining scale as the dinner in a private house does; but without the restaurant dinner I really don't know what some of us would do. We can show attentions of this sort to acquaintances we don't care to have on our intimate list; we can sample new acquaintances by this means.

"When my husband tells me he would like to show a little attention to a business associate and his wife whom I do not know we plan for a restaurant dinner perhaps and the play afterward. The play can be made an excuse for having a hurried restaurant dinner. If our guests turn out not to be the sort I care to entertain at my own table no harm is done. If they turn out to be the sort I should be glad to welcome to my table the way is pleasantly paved for more intimate relations.

"Nowadays when so many new people are continually appearing on the social horizon and business deals are being formed with men new to New York who expect some attention paid to the women of their families the restaurant dinner is a boon, for it is possible now to order a very choice menu at any of the leading restaurants."

"At the present time," said a caterer who on occasion helps out at private house dinners with extra waiters, decorators, &c., "the dinners given in the private houses surpass in the quality of food, cooking and wines anything I have known, and I have been in the business twenty-two years.

"At one time there was a lot of criticism about dinners given by rich New Yorkers being show mostly with bad cooking and not any too much or too good food to eat, and it was true. At that time there were very few really good private chefs employed by private New York families, not very many in fact to be found in hotels and restaurants. As a general thing when a formal private dinner was given it was ordered from a caterer who sent his men to serve it. In some cases a cook hired for the occasion went to the house and prepared the dinner there. Connoisseurs of game, fish, meats, &c., were very few in private families twenty-five years ago. Hostesses took what the caterer advised and what the market man delivered was seldom questioned.

"No one then dreamed of spending a couple of thousand on a small private dinner, as hostesses do now night after night if it includes a little music afterward, more in fact if the musician happens to be an operatic star. In some of the best New York houses wines used to be served of a quality which the same people or their descendants wouldn't dream of offering to guests now.

"The New York palate has been educated tremendously in a quarter of a century and the habit of spending more and more money for the best has kept pace with it, fortunately.

"The accessories of the first class private dinner now cost double, even three times, what they once did. Take, for instance, Mrs. Blank's dinner given a few nights ago. Nothing but orchids was used for decorating, not a skimpy few either. Each table was wreathed with them laid inside the plate line, and what looked like a shower of the same blossoms was suspended above the table. The guests went into ecstasies over the effect, and no wonder. But think of the cost. Twenty-five years ago few hostesses would have dipped into their pocket like that for flowers.

"Personally I don't believe the great folks of other countries can give New Yorkers lessons any more about how to give fine dinners."

NOT DEAR AT $230,000.

A Necklace of Forty-five Pearls Which Was Three Years in Assembling.

Lying in shallow, velvet lined trays in a showcase at this jeweller's establishment were a lot of pearl necklaces. All were beautiful, but there was one in particular that caught the eye.

"How much is that?" the visitor asked, pointing at it through the glass.

"That?" said the salesman, opening the door at the rear of the case as he spoke to get it, and then he laid a couple of thicknesses of soft and slightly crumpled tissue paper on top of the case and laid the necklace down on that to keep the pearls off the glass. "Why that," he said, looking at the price marked in plain figures on the tiny tag attached to it, "is $230,000."

It was a little more costly than this looker had thought, and he asked how many pearls there were in it, and it turned out that the salesman had never counted them, but he did so now, lifting the necklace and running the pearls over between his fingers in what appeared to be the professional way of counting pearls thus strung in groups of five at a time.

There were forty-five pearls in this necklace, which was eighteen inches in length; and surely it was beautiful, but wasn't $230,000 a good deal to pay for any pearl necklace?

"Not for such a necklace as this," the salesman said, and it could not be bought for a dollar less, and incidentally he mentioned that they had at times necklaces still more costly.

This particular necklace, it seems, it had taken three years to assemble in Europe. The pearls are all large and every pearl is absolutely perfect in skin and perfectly spherical in form.

From the pearl at the middle of the necklace they diminish in size gradually but with perfect uniformity to the two ends, so that if the necklace were doubled together it would be found to contain, besides the middle pearl, twenty-two pairs of pearls perfectly matched, while these pairs run down in size with a perfect graduation. It is a necklace of extraordinary beauty, and for such a necklace of such pearls $230,000 was considered not an unreasonable price.

PRESENT OF SACK OF COFFEE.

In Brazil Set Aside for Child at Its Birth—Opened On Wedding Day.

From the Washington Herald.

"We have a custom in the coffee raising countries," said Ricardo G. Muller of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who is interested in coffee plantations in that country, "which is unknown in other parts of the world. When a child is born in the coffee country a sack of the best grain is set aside as part of the inheritance to be received on attaining its majority.

"Usually the sack is the gift from some close friend or relative, and it is guarded as sacredly as if it were a gift of gold or bonds. No stress would induce a Brazilian parent to use coffee which was made the birth gift of a child.

"As a rule, it is sealed with the private seal of the owner and bears a card giving all particulars about the variety of grain, its age on being sacked, and the birth of the child to whom it is given, and other details, which are very interesting when the gift is due.

"Generally, the coffee is opened for the first time when the child marries. The coffee for the reception or marriage feast is made from the legacy, and according to precedent, this must be the first time the sack is opened. After the coffee is made for the wedding feast the sack is carefully closed and sent to the new home of the young couple, and should keep them in the staple for a year at least."

MAKEUP FOR PICKET DUTY

A SHIRTWAIST VOLUNTEER'S PREPARATION FOR WORK.

Belgian Treatment for the Feet, Russian Treatment for the Complexion, Aeroplane Treatment for the Hands—The Coiffure Made Genuinely Windproof

"What next?" asked the beauty specialist as she ran a professional eye along a line of bottles, selecting one here and there. "I thought I had run the gamut of strange customers, but now I've a new field in which to work.

"One morning I had a hurry ring on the telephone. The call was to come uptown to a house on Riverside Drive.

"'I've promised to act as a shirtwaist picket,' said the voice, 'and I want you to come up and get me ready.'

"'What are you going to do' I asked, knowing well that a beauty specialist must go out equipped for her work.

"'I'm going to stand on a corner for six hours. I want my hair and complexion made up.'

"'All right,' I promised; 'but excuse me if I am a little late.'

"The truth was that I knew I would have to study up a bit. I have made up women for a constitutional walk, and I understand the business of preparing a golfer for her drives. As for autoing, there is nothing I haven't done for the automobilist; but when it came to making up a shirtwaist picket I was at a standstill.

"'I'm only one of a dozen girls who are doing picket duty,' continued the voice, hanging on to the wire after I had tried to say good-by; 'and I assure you that we are, one and all, sights to see, after a day's work. Bring everything you can think of to get me into good shape.'

"When I arrived at the house on Riverside Drive I was prepared for my task, and well it was that I had taken the trouble to consult a working girl picket before setting out to see my customer.

"I found that the work was hard on the hair because of the street dust. It was also hard on the coiffure because of the wind, which disarranges it and whips it to pieces. Picket work is hard on the hands. It is impossible to carry a muff on account of handling the literature and the hands get stiff and cold and chapped.

"Then picket duty is hard upon the feet. You begin to shift feet, which means that the weight is unequally divided, and this is the beginning of aching feet. To keep the feet comfortable is one of the duties of the successful beauty missionary. The matter of the complexion is also very serious.

"When I reached my patient I found her getting dressed to go to her task. She was to go on duty at noon. Naturally she was putting on plenty of clothing, for the day was snapping cold.

"'Begin with your feet,' said I, 'for I am going to give you a suggestion of the Belgian beauty treatment. The Belgian women are dangerously lovely and their prettiness lies in the complexion; but they treat the complexion not so much through the face as through the the feet.'

"I once asked a beautiful Belgian woman what kind of cold cream she uses on her face. 'I don't use cold cream on my face,' said she, 'but I use plenty of it on my feet.'

"The theory is that cold feet make the nose red. Tired feet make wrinkles in the forehead. Burning, aching feet bring out defects in the complexion. Corns and bunions are responsible for headaches and premature old age.

"So to this prospective picket I said: 'Put your feet in hot salt and water with the juice of a lemon squeezed in. Then rub them with vaseline. Then put on a pair of silk stockings and over these put on a pair of ordinary stockings.

"Next place your boots on the radiator and when they feel hot put them on your feet. As soon as you have laced them stand upright and jump. Walk rapidly around your room; get the blood to circulating, and I'll bet you a Lincoln cent that your feet will stay warm all the afternoon, no matter how much picketing you do.'

"While this was going on I tackled her hair. I brushed it with the stroke known as the New York stroke. New York girls have pretty hair and the prettiest of them have learned to stroke the hair with a soft brush held at a certain angle.

"The hair is brushed out from the head so as to air the scalp and make the hair fluffy. After such a brushing as this each hair stands on end, so to speak, yet is perfectly pliable. I brushed for five full minutes, lifting out the hair at each stroke. Then I parted her hair off in the middle across the skull from ear to ear. Part of it I brushed forward and this I very slightly dampened.

"Next, taking a handful of thin hair pins in my hand I pinned the hair down fast to the head. The line of pins ran all the way across the head. Then I threw the hair back again and pinned it flat. This made a curious looking coiffure, but I knew that it would make for wavy hair.

"Once my patient advised me that time was flying, but I well understand that in matters of beauty culture you must work slowly and that is why I took so much pains with the hair.

"In less than an hour it was dry, for I held hot towels upon it. Then I pulled out the pins and combed the hair all back. It fell in great natural looking waves that delighted my soul. There now remained nothing except to do it up, which I did by first putting the young woman's hat upon her head.

"I took the hair and twisted it in a great fluffy knot right at the back and on this knot I fastened a coil of ready to wear hair. I put enough pins in the coil to insure its staying there forever or until taken off. Then I heated the Marcel wavers and put just a few tiny waves in the sides of the hair.

"'Why, it feels as light as a feather,' said the young woman; 'and I believe it will stay in place all the afternoon.'

"'It will stay in place forever,' I replied, 'and if you want to put a finishing touch to the matter and at the same time help your complexion a little you will twist a brown veil over your hat in such a way that its shadow falls just a little over the face.

"'Brown is very beneficial to the complexion. It keeps the winter sun from searing it and it prevents the north winds from cutting into it. No one knows why brown is so healing to the skin, but every beauty specialist knows that it is so. Our grandmothers with their brown veils understood the beauty problem.

"'Now for your skin,' I said next, for I knew that a red nosed picket would win no sympathizers. 'You must be careful as to your color scheme. At this season the holly colors are good, but holly makes for a red nose. Roses are too delicate for outdoor exposure and the artificial rose looks too artificial.

"'Violets are always good, but unfortunately they make a red face look purple. Women who pin violets in the corsage had better be careful to pin them quite low. If they are within a foot of the face they will certainly give the wearer a purple nose.

"'But there is the gardenia. Could anything be lovelier? It makes the skin look lilylike and its waxy texture gives the complexion a more perfect composition. I think I would plant gardenias all around my face if I were a society woman. They make the face look soft and childlike, tender and pure. Wear a gardenia!'

"The young woman chose a gardenia, and artificial at that, for it is the artificial gardenia which is profitable these days. True it costs, with a few leaves, something like $2, if you get the best, but it is worth while, for it lasts a dozen or more wearings. A real flower would turn black in a few hours.

"The really serious consideration was the complexion. To preserve it I determined to give her the Russian treatment.

"I sprayed her face with hot water and rubbed some scented cold cream into it while the skin was hot. This I followed with a spray of ice water so cold that it made the flesh tingle. It closed the pores and made them impervious to weather. Nothing now needed to be done for the skin except to give it a cloud of powder, which I did with liberal hand.

"'Don't brush it off,' I commanded. 'Let it remain on and adjust itself to the skin. If there is too much on it will sift off.'

"'I'm going to give your veil the automobile tie, just down over the ears. It keeps them warm, and warm ears mean a nice warm nose. Few women understand this. They let the ears get frosty and the minute the ears tingle the nose sympathizes and becomes unruly.

"'But the after consequences will come in your hands. They will get cold, and that means chap. I must give them some treatment.'

"The best treatment for the hands is the farmer's treatment. The farmer, off in the wintry fields, suffers from icy hands. His gloves, no matter how heavy, will not keep his hands warm, so he warms them in a way all his own.

"He holds them under the pump and the cold water warms them. At the same time it starts the circulation in them and makes them supple. To dry his hands he thrusts them in the meal bin and he rubs them hard and brisk with the dry meal. For hours his hands are warm. In texture you will find them soft, softer often than the hands of the woman in her boudoir.

"I took the hands of my picketer and I dipped them in cold water, massaging them afterward with the roughest and cheapest of Indian meal, and then I did a stunt with them which is done upon hands that are to guide an aeroplane.

"I am quite in earnest when I say that the Parisian beauty doctors have special ways of treating feminine aeronauts. Particularly do they treat the hands, which must keep warm no matter how cold the altitude.

"I have a cream which is rubbed on hands that are to guide an aeroplane. I took this cream and rubbed it into the soft, cool, white hands of my customer. Over this cream I drew a pair of thin chamois gloves, and over these gloves of wool with fingers in them. Mittens would have been much better, as the fingers keep warm together; but mittens are out of style even for pickets.

"I would have preferred as a preservative for the hands to use three pairs of gloves. The first gloves should be of very thin, soft, fine, loose suède. Then should come a pair of castor gloves which are quite warm, and then a heavy pair of doeskins. Motormen's gloves are all right for the motorman, but the trouble is that the pretty girl picket will not wear them. She wants her hands to be small looking.

"I don't know anything about the merits of the strike. I don't know anything at all about anything except the beauty business. But I do know the power of a pretty woman. 'Do you think I'll win sympathizers?' asked my customer anxiously as she stood up to go.

"She was tall and dressed so as to look slim. Her hair was coppery with its setting of brown veil; her complexion was just pale enough, and on her breast there lay the pure gardenia. Her delicately poised hands fluttered over the literature which she was to distribute to the unconvinced.

"'You'll win anything you try to win,' said I, 'and I'm proud to have had a hand in your manufacture.'"

AMERICAN WOMEN IN A HURRY.

So Paris Frocks Come Here Poorly Finished—Belts Just Above the Knee.

Before a favored group of patrons in a fashionable Fifth avenue dressmaking establishment the model was appearing and reappearing, displaying the precious new linens and lingeries and other hints of the season to be which were just over from Paris.

As she entered garbed in a lovely though curious lingerie frock with a Russian blouse a member of the group remarked a pronounced unevenness in the hanging of the skirt.

"Why is it, madame," she asked, "that so many of the early imported models, beautiful and teeming with style as they are, yet show such carelessness in finish? I've often noticed it, that the skirts hang zigzag, that the sleeves may not even match in size."

Madame smiled.

"That is the disavantage of being an American, or the advantage, whichever way you look upon it," she replied, "and, being an American, I think that you will choose the latter. Over in Paris they have a way of saying, 'Those models for America, they must be rushed, rushed. They want them in a hurry, and just so they get them quick, they can fix them up afterward.'

"So you see we get the very earliest models and can give our customers the very first choice of designs. The Paris houses give us the styles and we have to furnish the workmanship ourselves. But you must admit that the Americans are really the best off of all with this combination.

"What is more typical of the hurry, hurry of our people," continued madame, "than the exposition of such frocks as these right here in the midst of our spell of real winter? It is the first genuine sample of winter that New York has had for years, but does the New York woman of fashion allow herself to enjoy it? Indeed, no!

"Even when she is wrapped up in her furs—comfortably, for the first time in many a long day—she puts them on to come to the modiste to order her thin frocks for summer. These models you have just seen were brought in only last week, and yet we have taken countless orders from them.

"Oh, yes, many of them are for people going South," continues madame in answer to a question, "but many of the orders are from people who do not intend to go at all. It is merely the habit of living in the future, the custom of the time and place in which we live, and there is no changing it.

"We dressmakers know that when the snow begins to fall we have to begin to plan hot weather gowns. It is demanded, it is the time. But it is never a hardship to work out summer ideas," she went on, "and never was there a more enviable task than the developing of the ideas contained in the early models for the coming season."

Belts, belts everywhere marked the exhibition of costumes. All the imported models were constructed along the same general lines, whether of patent leather or of calfskin, and were carefully and delicately tinted so as to match or harmonize exactly with any possible shade of costume. They were decidedly pretty, as well they might be, for although very simple, none was seen which sold for less than $6.

In other than these lingerie models the belted idea was carried still further. A heavy linen in two shades of violet had a very unusual skirt which depended upon the belt for its novelty, the belt being not at the waist but just above the knee.

The effect was not at all that of the recently passed Moyen Age, for the skirt hung from a snug waistband, straight and simple and comparatively limp. But just above the knee the belt, four or five inches in width and of the deeper violet tone, passed in and out through vertical slits cut in the skirt and drew it in with a slight fulness. The accompanying coat, which was tighter fitting than those of last year, was similarly held in at the waist line with a deeper toned belt.

So the American woman is employing the chilly hours in laying in her supply of tunics and belts for the summer. She knows that they are just over and that she is getting a first choice, and, independently, cares not about unevenly hanging skirts and what the Parisian may have to say about "hurrying Americans."

COLOR IN TABLE LINENS

NOVEL LUNCHEON SETS JUST OVER FROM RUSSIA.

Bleached and Unbleached Linens From Austria—New Notions in Embroidery—Bed Linen More Decorative—The Fine Table Linens of the Orient.

Housekeeping linens, the finer grades especially, lure many thousands of dollars out of the pockets of New York women and women from other cities during the January sales, which so far as certain linen shops are concerned cannot be duplicated elsewhere in this country. The proprietors pride themselves on setting the fashions in linens by offering the latest European novelties.

As a result, they say, women who do not keep house or expect to keep house, who live in hotels and in boarding houses and flit about the country a good deal, buy linens as eagerly as housekeepers. Visitors from other cities surrender quickly to their charm. It is to these visitors in fact that retailers look for a big proportion of the profits of the January sales.

A Western woman told a salesman in a Fifth avenue linen store that she was spending far more than she ought to for luncheon and tea table fancy linens, adding as an excuse that nothing approaching them could be had for love or money in her home town. The salesman, grown old in the business, answered that probably none of the novelties she had been looking at could be duplicated in this country outside of New York, and that in Europe you would have to travel over a good deal of ground to find all the varieties grouped in this one store.

"For example," said he, "these sets are new even in New York, coming to us direct from Russia."

The sets referred to were intended for the lunch table to take the place of a table cloth, and consisted of a circular centrepiece about thirty-six inches in diameter, one dozen place doylies about twelve inches in diameter, and one dozen doylies seven inches or so in diameter. There were no napkins. The material was linen, very heavy and coarse but very closely woven, a cross between gray and ecru in tint suggesting the least bleached of linens.

Large scallops edged in turn with several small scallops, all worked with a quarter inch deep buttonhole stitch which bordered centrepiece and doylies was the only decoration. The sets came embroidered in four different colors, deep blue, grass green, golden brown, pure white, the last against the gray linen making a decided contrast. The Western woman bought a green bordered set because her table china was mostly green and gold.

Contrasted with elaborate lace luncheon sets, these Russian sets seem severe in their plainness. At the same time they are undeniably stylish and they are not expensive. The napkins recommended for these sets are of plain fine, white linen edged with tiny scallops.

Lunch cloths, with napkins to match, of Austrian manufacture are a novelty which illustrates the revival of the use of colors even among finer grades of fancy table linens. Bleached and unbleached linens are used in these sets. The table cloth is from 2 to 2½ yards square, the napkins about 18 inches square, and with few exceptions the colors and designs are ornate.

As to designs, there is a tie in popularity, it is said, between those scattered over the cloth and those in which the colors are seen only in a 12 inch border placed a few inches from the edge. In one of the latter the unbleached linen woven in a conventional rose pattern, is bordered with a set design in vivid pink tulips, the blossoms placed in upright groups about seven inches apart, stems toward the edge of the cloth and dashes of pink appearing between the groups. The napkins have the same border.

Equally vivid pink is used in a narrow band or ribbon design, which trims another cloth about ten inches from the edge, separating a section of the linen woven in narrow cross stripes from the centre of the cloth, woven in arabesque designs.

Colored designs in delft blue are among the best, one pattern forming a nine inch border, representing oval wreaths of long leaves, the wreath being open at one end and at the other end tied with narrow ribbon. There is a space of several inches between the wreaths and this is decorated with single small leaves in color. A leaf design is woven into the rest of the cloth, which is of bleached linen.

The same shade of blue is used in large fleurs de lis, which are scattered over the centre of a similar lunch cloth, leaving the border plain, and less ornamental varieties have borders consisting of oblongs, stripes or ovals of varying sizes, combined in seven or eight or ten inch wide designs in blue and occasionally in red. Red is not seen at all in the more elaborate borders or all over colored designs in which a peculiarly vivid pink and a deep blue have the lead.

It is noticed that some of the newer designs in centrepieces of fine white linen which combine embroidery and filet and cluny lace are distinguished by a small leaf or flower in colors embroidered here and there irregularly in pale pink and also in the vivid shade of pink previously mentioned and in a pale shade of delft blue. Blue seems to lead. The effect is as though a flower or two had been dropped on the linen.

Bulgarian tea table covers are worked in elaborate sampler stitch done in red, rose, blue, green, only the centre of the cloth being plain. One variety of Bulgarian tea cloth although heavy and substantial is considered among the most stylish of the newer importations. In this the linen, which is not pure white, is embroidered with white silk in small floral designs alternating with small squares of openwork eyelets.

A complete contrast to these heavier examples are centrepieces, doylies and lunch napkins of Chinese linen elaborately hand embroidered. These are gaining a wide vogue among women who like to have several varieties of linens to exhibit on their lunch and tea tables.

Fine, sheer, almost silky in effect, the Chinese linen seems all the daintier in contrast with the dragons and conventionalized foliage designs wrought in the close raised stitch peculiar to Oriental embroidery which are used for ornamentation. On these lace is not used at all, the edges being finished with a scallop. Exceptions have small bits of drawn work inserted here and there fine as the finest net because of the fineness of the linen, and describing minute latticework patterns.

Japanese embroideries, of which many new designs are now seen, are different. These products are similar in some respects to Chinese embroidery, but the newest designs show a good deal of drawn work in very open elaborate patterns combined with the embroidered design, and the linen used is more substantial than the Chinese linens.

Buyers with critical eyes notice new designs in the Austrian embroidered centrepieces, doylies, sheets, pillow cases and other things. These combine embroidery and segments of openwork irregular in design which are a duplicate of filet lace minus a pattern. In other words, the openwork is a heavy square mesh net such as is used for the foundation of filet lace and firm enough to be used on bed linen, in conjunction with hand embroidery, to form a three or four inch wide band placed inside the hem of the sheet or pillow case.

The effect of this net is very beautiful, giving a touch of daintiness to tea cloths and doylies not to be had from patterned lace, and its use on bed linen indicates that the latter is more ornate than formerly in all grades. Several linen houses now carry a full line of embroidered cotton sheets and pillow cases to meet the demands of customers who don't like linens in winter. A few years ago embroidered cottons of this order were hard to find anywhere, a retailer says:

Baby Irish lace of fine quality is a feature just now of some of the higher priced table pieces. Doylies and centrepieces of the best Irish linen have a border from three to six inches wide on the former, from six to ten inches wide on the latter, of a quality of Irish lace at one time used only for costly lingerie and gowns. In these pieces a narrow vine of fine embroidery is placed above the lace.

Madeira embroidery counterpanes are among the bed fixtures which come under the head of novelties and which are ousting lace counterpanes from first place with housekeepers who can afford to have more than one set at a time. From $50 to $70 will buy one of these counterpanes worked from end to end and from side to side.

In both bed and table linen Madeira embroidery is now better liked than it has ever been, and often it is combined with Cluny and Russian laces, the latter somewhat the heavier, and also with filet lace. Frequently it is not combined with lace of any sort, an insertion of fine drawn work separating the scalloped edge from the embroidered pattern. With a Madeira counterpane a bolster cover of the same embroidery is used.

Round table cloths for the dinner table are to be had now in more sizes and designs than formerly. There is a preference for large floral designs placed inside a plain stripe from three to five inches wide which encircles the cloth about ten inches from the edge. Between this stripe and the edge the design is small, in some of the most expensive damasks merely dots or disks. The centre of the cloth for about fifteen inches is plain and between this and the stripe the space is filled with a bold design which practically covers the linen, lilies, roses, poppies, orchids of enlarged size supplying favorite patterns. Even when cut square the most fashionable style of dinner cloth shows a round design, preferably floral.

In square designs one of the best liked of the newer patterns has a twelve inch floral border, the rest of the cloth being patterned with half inch stripes which look like satin on account of the quality of the damask. Another favorite has a striped border and a centre covered with honeysuckle vine.

Even in so commonplace an article as a hand towel novelties are put forward just now which agree with the modes in finer linens. Colors are not introduced in the weave of the best grades of huckaback towels, but in the bold floral design crossing the towel just below the hem a space is left for the owner's monogram, which is now oftener worked in a color than in white. One design is water lilies, small clover leaves being sprinkled all over the towel and the hem finished with a scallop. Another style shows a hem patterned with a leaf design and having a plain space between this and a wider leaf decoration which runs across the towel.

An all over pattern of fleurs de lis decorates still another towel, finished with a scalloped hem. These towels have supplanted for the time being damask towels which once had the monopoly of floral weaves. Some of the finest huckabacks are now woven in stripes and trimmed below the hem with an insertion of heavy cluny lace, the monogram in turn placed below the lace.

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING.

Miss Louise Hirsch has been elected Deputy County Clerk of Thurston county, Nebraska.

The women of Aberdeen, S. D., cast one-fourth of all the votes in a recent election to pass on the proposal to issue $17,000 of bonds for a high school building.

Dr. Sophie Herzog of Brazoria, Texas, is said to be the only woman railroad surgeon in the world. She is a native of Austria, came to this country in 1888, studied medicine and surgery and for nine years after graduation practised medicine in New York. Soon after moving to Texas her work as a surgeon attracted the attention of the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexican Railroad, and she was appointed surgeon for the road.

The suffrage settlement to be known as the Harlem Club has been opened in East 111th street. The clubhouse is a three story brownstone dwelling, the rent of which is said to be paid by Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont. Miss Nettie Podell, who resigned her place as teacher in the public schools, is the resident secretary in charge of the house, which contains a civic and suffrage library and several clubrooms. Public lectures on civic and suffrage topics and weekly concerts will be given and rooms have been fitted up for reading and social intercourse.

Miss Sophie Wright has been declared New Orleans's best citizen and her bust has been presented to the State of Louisiana by her former pupils. She is the principal of the Home Institute, which she founded and for many years conducted without assistance as a night school for poor children. It was the first night school in New Orleans and is now one of the most flourishing institutions of its kind in this country.

Both the paying and the receiving teller in the Maiden Lane Savings Bank of New York are young women. In a circular recently issued the officials of the bank commended these two women for their efficiency, accuracy and the general excellence of their work. Since they have been in office no shortage of cash has been found and they readily detect discrepancies in signatures and are unvaryingly punctual and courteous to patrons of the bank.

Dr. Mary M. Wolfe has been appointed clinical professor of psychiatry in the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. She was graduated from Bucknell University with the degree of A. B. in 1896 and from the medical department of the University of Michigan in 1899 and was appointed assistant physician at the State Hospital for the Insane at Morristown, N. J., in August, 1899, and chief resident physician to the woman's department of the same institution in 1901. She resigned this last place last October.

Mme. Curie of Paris, who with her husband discovered radium, was elected an honorary associate member of the American Chemical Society at its recent meeting in Boston.

Mrs. M. E. Read has just celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of her service as passenger agent at Ardmore station on the Pennsylvania Railroad. She is said to have performed her duties in a manner highly satisfactory to both the public and the railroad.

Mrs. Helen Troy of Auburn, N. Y., has been received into full membership of the Six Nations. She has devoted the past fourteen years to study and research regarding the Iroquois traditions. The membership which has just been conferred on her will materially assist her in her work. With the assistance of Mr. Thomas, an educated Onondaga woman, she is now compiling a lexicon of the language of the Six Nations.

Mrs. Florence Kelley and Mrs. J. Borden Harriman of New York and Miss Grace F. Ward of Boston were the only women on the programme as speakers at the recent annual conference on child labor which was held in Boston. There is no woman among the officers of the National Child Labor Committee, only two on the board of fifteen trustees and only four among the thirty-one members of the committee, in addition to the trustees.

Tenney Hall, a community house, has been opened at Smith College. The object of this house is to help the poorer students by reducing their living expenses to the least possible amount. The students are to be housed and fed after the principles of a socialistic community. All expenses will be shared by the occupants of the hall, who will contribute just enough per capita to run the establishment. Each girl or group of girls in turn will be called on to do the housework and cooking so that the cost of servants may be avoided. The entire system will be under the supervision of the president of the college.

Miss Anna C. Hedger recently resigned the principalship of the Hebrew Technical School for Girls in New York to become the head of the new department of household economics in the University of New Zealand. She was chosen for this work by a special envoy following an investigation of the work of leading instructors in domestic economics in England, Canada and the United States.