

# Hints to Hostesses

By W. E. Hill

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Many a hostess never knows what to do with a guest who happens to be a musician. She feels she ought to get him off in a dark corner and say: "Isn't music simply gorgeous?" or "Scriabine certainly is the cat's, isn't it?" This is all wrong. A hostess who knows her sharps and flats will plump the musician down at the baby grand and let him play and play like a hired orchestra, so that her other guests who may have secrets to tell can do so without the whole room hearing. From time to time she should pat him on the head and say: "Play some more Bach, Jackie," so he will not feel out of it.

"I've only played one game of bridge in my life, but I'll do my best. It's like euchre, isn't it?" The fourth in a game of bridge is something that even the most careful hostesses have to provide in a hurry. The only thing to do in a case like this is to send the other three home.

Doctors love their chosen profession. So when entertaining a doctor, always talk about medicine or surgery. It will warm his heart to hear about Cousin Etta's gastritis and the tumor as big as a Hubbard squash that Uncle Toby had taken out of his gizzard.



Very few hostesses realize that dentists, even the extractionists, are painfully shy outside of office hours. The best way to break down a dentist's diffidence is for his hostess to take him aside and show him her bridge work. She might even compliment him on his fillings and ask to see his bicuspid at close range. From then on he will feel like one of the family.



A hostess should never be too informal with the male guest. Above all, she should never help him into his overcoat. It embarrasses him. She should make her regard known in other ways. We show, this week, the right and wrong ways of saying good night to a male guest.



If the dinner guests include among their number a school teacher or two, they can be made happy for hours by simply dragging out the home movie machine after dinner and showing the cute film papa took of the children playing. Slow motion, if possible. Because a school teacher who has been with children all day long will enjoy, above anything else, looking at pictures of kiddies.

A clever hostess should never wait for an attractive male guest to say, "When shall I see you again?" because it is possible that he is prematurely bashful. She should, ere he departs, ask him to dine. If he pleads a previous engagement, she should say immediately, advancing upon him, "Then how about Thursday? No? Well, Friday? No? Saturday? Sunday? No? Any night next week? No? Well then, make it week after next?" etc., etc., etc.



An interior decorator is very easily amused. Ten to one she is thinking all through dinner, "What wouldn't I do to this room if it were mine!" so why not let her do it? For instance, if the lady decorator says, on being asked, "Personally, Mrs. Kidney, I should prefer the chest of drawers over there!" Then the hostess should clap her hands and say, "O, goody; Maude's going to rearrange our living room!" Let her push the furniture hither and yon as her trained fancy dictates. It is considered good form to appear charmed with the result, even though her taste may not be our taste, and one should make haste to compliment her by saying, "It must be wonderful to be so strong!" or something equally nice.



Sometimes dinner guests are just out-and-out uncongenial, and then there is nothing to do but make them one big jolly family. It will take about ten or twelve cocktails—good stiff ones—to do this. And by the time dinner is announced everyone will be crazy about everyone else!