

Have You Had Tea?

By Alberta Hoppe

IN spite of the fact that our early American ancestors dumped 342 chests of British tea into Boston harbor back in 1773, that old English custom of "having tea" has found a place in our round of gala social events.

After all, what could be a better way to get acquainted and pass a pleasant hour than sipping tea, hot chocolate, or whatever other substitute the hostess has provided? Of course one doesn't go equipped with a full sized appetite; the tea and tidbits are just trimmings.

At their early fall teas sorority women are offering hospitality, friendliness and a chance for wider acquaintance along with the tea they serve to you who are new here. It's a friendly gesture, just like calling on the new neighbors at home. It doesn't sound quite so scary now, does it?

But, if you're still a bit doubtful about just the proper approach, a few tips from the old timers might come in handy.

In the first place, try to act as natural as you'd like to feel. Of course you may have a slight touch of trembly knees, thick tongue or clammy hands. Who doesn't at the start? Your hostesses are probably going through much the same agony—wondering if all her guests are enjoying themselves, if the tea and wafers are holding out, if this and if that. Be brave and cover up your nervousness, always remembering that your own natural self is much more charming than a covering of pretense artificiality.

Since you will be going from house to house, it would be appropriate for you to wear a fall suit, with accessories that harmonize. Or you might wear a smart "good" dress, not too frilly but a little more dressed up than a school frock. Your hostesses may wear long afternoon dresses of velvet, chiffon or crepe—they have the privilege of dressing up since they will not be out on the street.

Variety is the spice of life, especially in conversation. The weather is a big aid in a pinch, but it's not big enough to stretch out over a whole afternoon. There are other topics, the preliminaries of courses, classification and so forth, the coming football season, and oh, you'll think of lots of things once you get started. A bright friendly line of chatter, neither too shallow nor too deep, will carry a girl a long way.

Teas are like trips of exploration. You sally forth into new territory, meet new people and thoroughly enjoy yourself the while. Don't let the spirit of adventure carry you so far that you

overstay though, because new invaders are always coming.

And when you do depart, it isn't necessary to bid each individual hostess good-bye, but there'll be someone at the door to whom you can express your thanks for a pleasant half hour.

Chlorophyll green—leaf green to most of us—has been found, according to Mayne R. Coe, chemist in the United States Department of Agriculture, to be one of the most effective colors for food wrapping purposes. It greatly retards and sometimes entirely prevents the development of rancidity. Black wrappers, which exclude all light, also turn the trick.

Love Song

THERE are ships, and seas, and palm trees
On little jeweled bays,
And laughing gypsy caravans
On white highways.

There are limousines and Paris gowns,
And orchards full of bloom
But there are orange curtains
And a goldfish in our room.

I like to have a fireplace
And tea cakes made for two,
To sit here in this comfy chair
And smile and look at you.

—Alice Wortman.

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