

English Women Who Will Entertain



MRS. GEORGE KEPPEL.



COUNTESS OF WARWICK.



LADY GREY-EGERTON.



DUCHESS OF WESTMINSTER.

THE brilliancy and success of the present coronation season in London rests wholly on the shoulders of the fashionable English hostesses. The king may provide the glitter and grand shows, but it is "up to" the feminine leaders of society, so to speak, to second his efforts and satisfy the many hundreds of thousands of foreigners with the sort of hospitality that lingers warmly in the memory of strangers. As long ago as last autumn some of the women, who have already assumed leading positions as entertainers, began to set their huge Park Lane and South Kensington houses in order for this spring's campaign.

The grand city mansion belonging to the duke of Westminster was, for example, done over from top to bottom for the exceedingly handsome young duchess, whose marriage made such a social stir a year ago, and who promises to become the most powerful hostess in English society. This lady is the second daughter of Mrs. William Cornwallis-West, who was a famous beauty in the day when Mrs. Langtry first appeared. The duchess' elder sister is the beautiful Princess of Pless and is one of the great ladies and leading beauties of Emperor William's court. All things considered, however, Miss Constance Edwina Cornwallis-West made a more brilliant alliance than her sister, when she married the richest of the English dukes.

His grace of Westminster met with sharp family opposition when he announced his desire to marry Miss Cornwallis-West. He is even now only 23 years of age, his wife's junior by five years, and his stern, simple old grandfather, whom he succeeded, was bitterly opposed, not only to such an early marriage, but also to an alliance with a family whose achievements and ambitions have been no more strenuous nor intellectual than those of a flock of butterflies. The young duke has, nevertheless, followed the inclinations of his heart, and though his wife may not be a marchioness of Salisbury for brains, she is a beauty of the first-class, a lady of wit, ready tact, great enterprise and blessed with the looks and the gifts that will give her the leadership among the queenly hostesses of this regal season.

The Americans now in London take an infinite pride and interest in one of the smart hostesses who hails from the United States, and who does the land of her birth every credit. This is Lady Grey-Egerton, who, as Miss May Carolyn Cuyler, married Sir Philip Grey-Egerton in 1893. Lady Grey-Egerton's beauty of feature and coloring is beyond criticism and she has all the crisp wit and sweet friendliness of manner typical of the well born American



LADY ANNESLEY.



MRS. CECIL POWNEY.

woman. Usually she lives at her husband's country seat, Oulton Park, near old Chester, but last winter she rented and set in order a splendid old house in Berkley Square that is said to be quite incurably haunted, and for the coronation season she is going to entertain her American friends especially. Very often this fair lady has been seen of late driving in Hyde Park, accompanied by her remarkably

beautiful twin sons, whose romantic names are Philip de Malpas and Rowland de Belward. These boys were born in 1895, and have inherited their mother's features and coloring.

Another woman whose personality is of intense interest to London's visitors, is that blonde and enterprising social favorite and hostess, the countess of Warwick. Though her eldest son, Lord Brooke, was

sent out to South Africa a year ago, and though her only daughter, Lady Marjorie, is just about to make her debut at one of the court receptions, Lady Warwick is as fresh as a girl and maintains her youth as marvelously as does Queen Alexandra. So hospitable is this countess and so pleasing her manner that it is said she wins first the acquaintance and then the friendship of every person worth knowing

who visits England. She even persuaded the unsociable Cecil Rhodes to visit her at Warwick castle, the critical Marie Corelli adores her and Lady Warwick boasts that she never saw the American whom she could not win to complete friendship in half an hour. Lady Warwick is no respecter of money or blue blood as a claim to her liking and hospitality, and her tiny London drawing room is filled with people whose clever minds, interesting achievements or charming personality have recommended them to her favor.

Lady Annesley is an Irish beauty whose dinner invitations are regarded in London society as though they were prizes. She is the young wife of the aged Earl of Annesley, one of the few rich Irish peers, and socially she is most ambitious and successful. She is one of the few close friends of Queen Alexandra, and, unlike Lady Winborne and the marchioness of Londonderry, the other two most famous dinner hostesses, she never gives what are called "great spreads." Her guests are rarely more than twelve in number and her menus are short, but very wonderful.

Two of the most potent and popular ladies in London society whose entertainments are as carefully chronicled as the hospitalities dispensed by royalty itself are lacking both in titles and in great city homes. Mrs. George Keppel and Mrs. Cecil Powney are possessors of small houses, crammed, however, with objects of art, and they are both the friends of royalty. The king himself stood godfather to Mrs. Keppel's little boy, and under the new and exclusive regime Mrs. Powney is invited to court quite as though she was a duchess. Mrs. Powney, as is now the fashion for specializing among hostesses, gives the most perfect little musical entertainments in London. She is herself an accomplished violinist, and Jan Kubelik, Joan de Reszke, etc., come to dine or breakfast and play and sing afterwards, quite in a friendly way.

Mrs. Keppel's specialty is for lions of the first magnitude. She knows more famous folk and more royal men and women than any other woman in England. She does not assume to be witty, particularly wise, nor beautiful, but her grace of manner is said to be so irresistible that crowned heads unbend in her presence, and her popularity is so great that even in critical gossiping, envious society she has few, if any, enemies.

Princess from Punjab Studying in America

THE Princess Duleep Singh, with her great Siberian hound and her equally Great Dane, forms perhaps the most interesting of the foreign personages in America today. The princess' history, if so it may be called, is unique; her purpose in this country is unusual. She herself is altogether charming.

As a daughter of the old king of the Punjab, she belongs to the highest cast among the East Indian royalties. To those versed in such genealogy her personality proclaims her exalted birth, while from her soft, large eyes sometimes flash sentiments akin to those of her famous grandmother, one of the greatest insurrectionists against whom England ever held a restraining hand. The almost perfect type of features, often identified with these people, belongs also to this princess and seems somehow to be accentuated by the copper color of her skin and her exquisitely long taper-pointed fingers.

At the time of the suppression of her father's power he and his family were taken to live in England. India then became a forbidden land to them. Thus it is

that the princess has never seen her native country, she later having been born in England. Some time ago her parents died, but still she, her two brothers and two sisters are each supplied with unusually large incomes by the English crown and given a residence at Hampton court. There, during the long, delightful summers, the princess and her sisters remain together; but when the winter comes she can not stand the damp, foggy atmosphere of England, so she gives full rein to her keen desire for travel and adventure. Sometimes her younger sister, who, however, is intensely fond of society, goes with her; or again, as this year, she ventured alone to America. Twice she has been around the world, but never stopping on Indian soil, in accordance with the supervision of the English officials. At present the princess is making her second visit to America and this time she has come with a purpose.

It has been for a long time her earnest wish to study medicine, that eventually she might practice it for the relief of the poor. In this noble ambition, however, she is hampered by the traditions of her people, which prevent her from regarding it as

proper to study in any of the co-education colleges. To her there lurks the taint of immodesty in receiving medical instruction with and from men. Her desire is to receive all her teaching from women. In England or any other foreign country this prejudice would have prevented her from receiving instruction, and in America it still remains a problem to know just how far she will be able to progress in the four years' course of study.

At the medical college in Chicago, where there are women able to give her the full instruction for the first year, she is now studying diligently. Her second year she plans to spend in Philadelphia, where, at the college, instruction for that term can be taken from women. In Philadelphia, also, the princess found, when investigating this subject, that there was one woman on the board of college directors, and from this incident she argues that ere long many more women will hold similar positions in the medical world of America.


The question which still perplexes is whether or not the princess will be able to get instruction for the last two years from women, and even if so, whether

under these circumstances, she will be able to obtain a degree. Without this, of course, she would not be allowed to practice.

It is only recently that the princess has returned to Chicago from a trip on which she paid flying visits to Toronto, Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia. Her intention was then to find out just what were the possibilities of achieving her medical studies under the self-imposed conditions. Through most of these cities she passed incognito, her beautiful face and the unusualness of her questions attracting, however, attention to her wherever she appeared. Interest also was centered in the great dogs which shared her cabs, her railway carriages and even accompanied her to the hotels.

Since her return to Chicago it has been learned that in New York the princess met, under social circumstances, a number of eminent physicians, who have determined to smooth out all possible difficulties which might stand in the way of a degree. She, they argue, is animated by too intense a desire to learn, is altogether too much in earnest not to have the advantage of every able woman teacher in the country.

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