

Ceremonious leave-taking at balls is not necessary, unless the hostess or some member of the family is conveniently near at the moment of departure. Gentlemen who go from one ball to another on the same night, as in London, dispense entirely with the formality.

These formalities of a private ball apply also to a public entertainment for dancing, and they must be followed in the latter case with even severer strictness.

Calls after a ball are made on the hostess on the first of her regular reception days after receiving her hospitalities, or after having been compelled to decline the hospitality. If she have no fixed reception day, a card should be left for her within ten days after the entertainment.

*Dinners and Dining Out.* The lady who purposes giving a dinner makes a catalogue of all those whom she desires to invite to her house. From these she selects and groups those whom she thinks will be agreeable to one another from similarity of tastes, station, age, or habits. Mental accomplishments should, and they do at the present day, enter largely into the selection.

When a dinner is given in honor of some one not unmistakably famous, the choice of guests is comparatively easy, those who are not invited understanding the reason to be the lack of affiliation with the chief guest, and therefore forbearing all inquiries regarding the reason.

It is customary for those who give dinners often to have cards of invitation engraved, with blanks for names and dates. On an extra card, in the same envelope, should be the following form:

*To meet*

MR. ROBERT JENNINGS,

*Of Philadelphia.*