When you Give a Dinner to the Japanese.

In a Foreign Hotel.

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The Japanese dine at six V'clock so they will come expecting to dine at that hour unless the time is specified. They will arrive from half an hour to an hour before the dinner hour as they do their visiting before instead of after dinner.

Your guests are ushered into the drawing room where you find them. You receive them with great ceremony, bowing from the hips. Gentlemen always precede the ladies, so you insist that they precedehyou in leave ingythe room.

In the dining room you place your honored guest at the head of the table, the second seat is at his left. The guests sit at the top of the table and the hosts at the foot. If there is an alcove in the room, the upper end of the table is the end nearest to the alcove. If there is no alcove, then it is at the end of the room furthest from the entrance.

Your guests are seated first. The gentlemen do not seat the ladies nor wait until the ladies are seated. When the first course is served, you bow to your most honored guest with the request that he please begin, and you wait until he starts to eat. This same ceremony is carried out with each course.

The dinner over, you all return to the drawing room, where your guests soon take their leave with many thanks for your kindness. If the dinner is given in a private house, you will accompany them to the entrance and wait there until they have taken their departure.

Instead of making the dinner, they may write you a note of thanks for your kind entertainment.

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Etiquette.

(Notes)

In visiting Japanese people are particular to wear new tabi as a mark of respect to their host. However, in every day life the tabi are darned and worn the same as our stockings.

We would be the considered occasions when the wear white are considered men wear dark blue or black tabi, but women should wear white.

Tea.

Tea is brought in two ways, either on a stand or with the cup placed on a little under dish corresponding to a saucer. When brought on a stand, the guest should take the cup from the stand and place it in front of his right knee. When brought in dish, the maid places it before the guest.

When the cake is offered do not take it the first time, bow and hesitate a moment. The hostess will again request the guest to take cake. Then take out small piece of paper which should be carried along, and put it of left knee, then take cake and place on this paper. Divide cake into two pieces, take one piece in right hand and eat. Chopsticks are generally served with cake, and guest should use same in helping himself. Chemselves

Always hesitate before accepting anything offered, but do not refuse to take it finally. If you cannot eat it at the time wrap it in a little piece of paper and take home with you. Unless you desire several helpings it is best to leave a portion on your paper until the last, which indicates that you have had enough, otherwise the host will keep urging you to a second helping. When taking oranges or any kind of fruit, if you eat do not leave any of the refuse, wrap up skin or leavings and take away with you, unless of course fruit is served in a dish with knife, then skin may be left in dish, foreign fashion

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When guest leaves it is the usual custom for the master of the house to come to the front of the house and wait until the guest takes his departure. Guest on getting in his richsha should salute the host before leaving. If there are other guests, the departing one should request the master not to come with him. Sometimes the hostess or daughter come in the place of the master when there are others present.

When leaving guest should first bow to his host, then to any other guests present.

It is a common custom to take a little present with you when calling. If there are children, some little toy for them. Sometimes fruit or something of that kind. The present is usually taken in some kind of a dish or box. Guest should request the return of this receptacle before leaving. If not, the host will be forced to send it back, and as it is had form to return an empty thing, the host is forced to send a present back. So it considered good manners to ask the return before leaving.

The best time to visit a Japanese household if in morning, not later than 11 oclock. In afternoon not later than 5 oclock. The idea is not to arrive near a mealtime, as Japanese politeness requires that a guest must always be invited to a meal, whether they are prepared or not, if near that meal time.

It is considered bad form to leave in less than ten minutes, and the visit should not be prolonged over one hour.

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· The custom among Japanese people is generally speaking, for the men to entertain men, and for the women to entertain women. This however, is modified when foreigners are among the guests.

When you and your husband go to dine at a Japanese home please remember to wear your high necked and long sleeved gown. Preferably a silk gown because only silk gowns are worn upon dress occasions by the Japanese, but in any case the material should be heavy enough so that the skin does not show through. This is the way according to the Japanese idea that a perfect lady should be clothed.

Bearing in mind that you will be called upon to remove your shoes or slippers, select stockings that have not been darned, as armed stockings are a badge of poverty. This idea comes from the custom of wearing the heavy Japanese Tabies that have to be discarded when they reach the mending stage. These tabies are not woven like stockings. They are made of heavy drill and are sown together, having a separate opening for the big toe similar to the thumb in a mitten. These tabies are very durable, but when a hole appears they are thrown away.

Arriving at the home you remove your shoes before stepping up onto the polished floor. When you reach the reception room, in lieu of chairs, straw or silk mats have been provided for each guest to sit upon. Sitting in this instance means kneeling with the body thrown back so that you are sitting on your heels, and thus installed you await your hostess.

When she enters you do not rise, but removing the mat from under you, and placing it to one side you greet her from the kneeling position, bending way forward until your head rests upon your hands that are extended in front of you. You replace the mat at the request of your hostess, just as with us our hostess would ask us to please be seated.

When you rise and are about to be ushered into the dining room, remember the ladies follow the gentlemen. Japanese gentlemen always fefer to one another to lead the way, but finally the guest of honor passes out of the room first.

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occupy this seat. It would be a breach of etiquette for anyone but the
guest of honor to occupy the seat of honor, so all thank him but decline.

Here again you place yourslf on your mat only at the request

/ A small individual table with about five different dishesnupon it is placed in front of each guest. These dishes are of different size design and color, no two alike, but the same set is given to each guest. There are two covered bowls, the larger is of a dark laquer, and is placed next to you on the right hand corner of your tray. This contains soup.

The other covered bowl is of porcelain and is placed at the op posite left hand corner. This is for your rice.

When all are served mine host requests his guests to please

You remove the cover from your soup bowl and place it upon the floor at your right. You drink the soup from the bowl holding back any solids such as fish or vegetables with your chopsticks. Instead of drinking all your soup first as we do the Japanese take a sip or two, then replace the bowl upon the table and turn to the other dishes tasting all in turn.

The maid comes with a wooden or laquered keg of hot rice. She extends her little tray towards you, you place the cover of your rice bowl rim up upon the floor and then with both hands place the bowl upon her tray. When she returns it filled with rice you receive it with both hands and replace it upon your little table. Tour soup bowl and your rice bowl

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while you are eating. The other dishes remain where they were originally placed, just as with our plate is left upon the table and our tea or coffee cup is lifted. A dimensional of the confidence of the confidence of the cup is lifted.

It is a breach of etiquette to drop food upon ones clothes or upon the floor and you have no napkin. For a person who is unskilled in the use of chopsticks it is suggested that you take up your rice bowl in your left hand placing the hand under the bowl, then with your chopsticks in your right you break off a portion of fish or other food, and while carry ing it to your mouth you follow the morsel with your rice bowl, thus preventing any possible mishap.

With the exception of the rice, it is permissible to eat as much or as little of your food as you desire. It is necessary however, to eat at leat two bowls of rice. To decline a second bowl is considered a very bad omen, something like the breaking of a mirror with us. The last bowl of rice must be eaten down to the very last grain. A little teamay be poured into the bowl and drunk to facilitate the gatherings up of these Last grains.

Only one bowl of rice is offered to the Gods. If you take but the one bowl full, you are eating as the Gods are supposed to do, and consequently some one in the family is sure to die. Such is their superstition.

At the end of the meal tea is always served.

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