

THE BABY'S CHRISTENING

BY FRANCES E. LANIGAN



INVITATIONS to these important events should be written upon heavy dull-white cards. The following is the accepted form: Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Lee request your presence at the christening of their infant son on Thursday, October eighth, at one o'clock.

36 Oxford Place, Cambridge.

Invite only your most intimate friends, and select the godparents from those of them who are likely to have leisure sufficient to enable them to keep the promises they are called upon to make.* A boy should have two godfathers and one godmother; this order should be reversed in the case of girls.

It is always well to have the christening take place soon after the baby's birth, as the younger it is the less likely it is to be troublesome before strangers. Try and arrange the hour so that it shall not interfere with the child's regular sleep, and do not have it brought down from the nursery until everything is in readiness. Have your drawing-room decorated simply with greens and a few dainty white flowers; clear the space in the center of the room so there shall be room for the christening party to stand before the clergyman, for whose use have a table covered with a fine white linen cloth, upon which should rest a cut glass or silver bowl of water. The baby's nurse should wear white for the occasion, her apron being of soft white mull, and her cap adorned with a large white satin bow. The baby's christening robe should, if possible, be made of some material, or trimmed with lace that has family or other associations. It should be made with a very short waist, and a very long skirt, and trimmed at the shoulders and either side of the waist with small white satin rosettes. Endeavor to have the baby's clothes appear soft and fluffy, not stiff and starchy, and see, above all things, that they are comfortable.

When the clergyman shall have arrived, and the guests have been comfortably disposed about the drawing-room, the nurse, carrying the baby, should enter the room, followed by the parents and godparents. The party should then stand before the clergyman, who should be waiting to receive them, the baby being the center of the group. When the clergyman reaches that portion of the service in which he must take the child in his arms, the godmother should take it from the nurse and hand it to him, repeating in distinct tones the name which the baby is to be given; and when it shall have been sprinkled with water, and the final prayer said, should again take it in her arms and hold it until the conclusion of the ceremony.

Should you desire to have the christening take place in church, the name of the church should be indicated upon the invitations, and the christening party should stand before the clergyman in the same order; after the ceremony the invited guests might return to the house. As soon as possible, in either case, the baby should be sent back to the nursery, after which some light refreshment, or an elaborate dinner or luncheon, should be served. The table decorations for this repast should be altogether of white, and the china used be of white and gold. The following menu, in which everything is white but the coffee, will answer for a breakfast or luncheon.

MENU

Cream of Oyster Soup

Sweetbread Patties in White Cases

Supreme de Volaille

Potato Balls, Cream Sauce

Cauliflower, White Dressing

Celery Salad, White Mayonnaise Dressing

Wafers

Neuchatel Cheese

Meringue Glace (individual)

Angel's Food

Coffee

Whipped Cream
