

Courtesy

ALMA MILLER

(This selection and the one which follows it are examples of paragraph development by different techniques. They are presented not as complete themes but as examples of a valuable type of writing exercise.)

One of the most essential qualities one needs to develop for success in any field of endeavor is courtesy. Courtesy wins friends, and with friends to smooth the way, to applaud every effort, to give encouragement when things go wrong, and to lend a helping hand when there is need, the battle for success is only half as hard. True courtesy is not, however, merely a murmured "thank you," "beg your pardon," or any of the similar phrases commonly considered as being mannerly, for these expressions, although

quite necessary as an outward manifestation of good breeding, are far too often accompanied by a look that plainly says, "Why don't you stay out of my way?" and has the effect of adding insult to injury. But the individual who uses outward forms to express an inner consideration for the rights and feelings of others, who does not laugh at another's mistakes, who sees the shortcomings in others only to correct his own, who shields the weak without calling attention to the weakness, who ignores gossip without ignoring the gossipier, who respects the opinions of others without losing respect for his own judgment — such an individual practices the art of courtesy in its highest form and has the good wishes of all with whom he comes in contact.

Memphian

JEANNE LITTERLY

A Memphian knows how to live. He saunters casually down the street at 5:30, stopping to watch a pigeon scold a competitor for a grain of popcorn. If he doesn't reach the department store before it closes at 5:45, he will get there the next evening. Meanwhile, the problem of the two pigeons is an interesting one. The sun, slanting between and over buildings, greets him warmly; passing friends greet him with the same warmth. One of them stops to ask him over for a poker game that night. No time is set for the

game. If, when he reaches his friend's home, they decide to go to the neighborhood movies instead of playing cards, no one is surprised or disconcerted. There will be other evenings for cards. Meanwhile there is a good double feature at the State. In all probability when the Dark Angel interrupts the life of a Memphian, the latter will graciously accompany him, thinking that his own previous plans will some day materialize; meanwhile, the Stranger is a kindly fellow. Yes, a Memphian knows how to live.