

At Home With...

Mrs. Artur Rubenstein



One of the likeliest spots from which to gather hints for the home convalescent is at the bedside of a busy woman who is in between a virus infection and an upcoming benefit ball for which she is chairman.

This, just the other day, was the situation of Mrs. Artur Rubenstein, wife of the world-renowned pianist.

Her sunny, southwest-facing bedroom, abloom with fresh flowers and adorned with paintings, had been made to look the essence of pampered comfort by so simple an expedient as a wealth of the freshest possible looking pink bed linen.

The patient was propped up in the king-size double bed, completely outfitted, headboard included, in pale pink sheets. There seemed to be not two or three but at least half a dozen pink pillows against which to rest. And Mrs. Rubenstein was wearing an exactly matching pale pink gown and silk bed jacket. Her ash blond hair and forget-me-not blue eyes were the only contrasting color notes in this "pleasant [pink] land of counterpane," although an oil painting above the bed showed a few blue and white flowers, as well as old-fashioned garden pinks.

"It's the work of an Israeli artist whose name is the same as the first part of ours—Rubin," Mrs. Rubenstein said.

Seated beside the bed with sheets of papers, notebooks and pencils was a secretary, for Mrs. Rubenstein is chairman of the Polonaise Ball, which will be held Saturday, Nov. 18, to benefit Polish Mutual Assistance, Inc. Her illness had made it impossible for her to attend the first of a series of benefit concerts which her husband has been giving this fall, and anxious friends, noting her absence, have kept the telephone busy asking about her health.

In addition, the Rubinsteins have only just settled down in their new apartment. "It's so new, we haven't done any entertaining yet," said Mrs. Rubenstein, "but I'm going to give a cocktail party soon, for the ball."

The Rubenstein domestic staff consists of a housekeeper-cook, a maid who lives in and another who comes in every day. The apartment is a large duplex. It is one of their homes which is not included in the big mural which covers part of one wall of the first floor foyer and gives the family's life story.

It starts with the meeting of Anlela Mlynarska and Artur Rubenstein, shows their marriage in 1932, their first Paris apartment in Montmartre, then introduces the four Rubenstein children—Eva and Paul, now married, and Alina Anna and John Arthur, still at home. Finally, it shows the current Paris house in which they live about six months of each year.

The secretary departed and Mrs. Rubenstein tidied things up by throwing a large, pink-flowered bath towel over the collections of minutiae which every sick-bed seems to accumulate. Then she talked about her favorite type of dinner party and

also about some of her husband's food preferences.

"Eight, or occasionally 12, is the right number for a dinner party," she said. "Eight is best. Then things are not chaotic and you can have conversation, and people are able to notice what they are eating. Besides, I love to improvise. I don't like things that are planned too long in advance. Circumstances change, and then moods are different from when you made the arrangements. But with eight people, you can manage a dinner

binstein said, "my husband has luncheon about 1. Maybe as late as 1:30. I plan for him a broiled steak, some potato dish, a green vegetable and a tossed salad. For dessert he will have fruit, an apple, perhaps, since apples are favorites with him.

"Then he has a high tea about 5:30 or 6. But it is not really high tea—something nourishing but rather simple. He might have consomme and very soft scrambled eggs, then a cup of tea with lemon. But not always tea, either. Sometimes, with scrambled eggs, he likes coffee."

Scrambled Eggs
A la Rubinstein

½ lb. (½ stick) unsalted butter

6 eggs
6 tablespoons half-and-half or light cream
1 teaspoon finely minced chives

Salt and pepper.

Three points are important about Mrs. Rubenstein's scrambled eggs: They are made in a heavy enameled saucepan; they must be stirred with a wooden spoon, and the chives must be minced in bits no larger than 1/16 of an inch. **Loosish bits of chive do not yield the proper flavor.**

Melt the butter in the enameled skillet, beat eggs with the half-and-half until well mixed, then pour into the hot butter and stir constantly over medium low heat. Add the minced chives and continue to stir until the eggs have the desired creamy consistency—perhaps four or five minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve immediately. **Three portions.**



party with about a day's preparation. And then, too, there are many dishes that are not good when they are prepared in quantity. No, eight is just right."

Mrs. Rubenstein has in her culinary repertoire dishes of French, Viennese, Russian and Polish origin, as well as Americanized versions of Continental ones. And it is the latter, apparently, which most please her husband on the eve of a concert.

"On concert days," Mrs. Ru-

Bridge

By Richard L. Frey
And Howard Schenken

QUIZ

When opener has support for responder's suit, he should often give a direct raise which approximates the strength of his hand.

You opened with one club, and partner responded with one spade. What action would you take with each of the following hands?

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. ♠ A J 6 5 | d. ♠ A J 6 5 |
| ♥ K J 3 | ♥ 9 |
| ♦ 10 8 6 | ♦ A Q 10 |
| ♣ A Q 9 | ♣ A Q J 9 6 |
| b. ♠ A J 6 5 | e. ♠ A J 8 7 5 |
| ♥ K 9 6 3 | ♥ 9 |
| ♦ 10 | ♦ Q |
| ♣ A Q J 8 | ♣ K Q 6 5 3 2 |
| c. ♠ A J 6 5 | f. ♠ A K J |
| ♥ K 9 | ♥ A J 6 |
| ♦ A 10 | ♦ Q 10 6 |
| ♣ A Q J 9 6 | ♣ K J 3 2 |

Answers

a. Two spades. You have a minimum hand, but should raise partner's suit with four, even with a completely balanced hand.

b. Three spades. You don't have sufficient values to bid game yourself, but should suggest that partner continue with

the slightest extra values. While not cording, this double raise is highly invitational.

c. Four spades. This hand should provide some chance for game even opposite the weakest of responses.

d. Three diamonds. You have the equivalent of a raise to four spades, but you will have easy slam if partner has a few kings in the right places. By jumping in diamonds and then supporting spades, you will announce your singleton heart to partner and he will know if his strength is in the right place.

e. Three spades. Your hand has become offensively powerful and defensively weak. There is some danger of getting too high, but if partner checks for aces, you can stay out of slam unless he holds two aces himself.

f. Two no trump. Although you have good spades, a raise to three spades would be a distortion of your distribution and your well-scattered values. If partner's hand is unbalanced, he can bid three spades and you will carry on happily to four.