It's What's Up Front That Counts
BY VERA MILLER

At a luncheon recently, one of the women mentioned that her children are so devoted to their dog, Skipper, that every morning before they go to school, they brush the dog's teeth! If this is necessary to teach children the habits set out in the Care and Prevention of Caries, then I'm all for it. Now, don't misunderstand me. I love animals. Each time we buy a can of ant spray I set one item higher on the check-out counter to hold for fear some animal lover will take offense at the heartless thought behind the purchase. But things have changed!

INVISIBLE SHIELD

However, not only does Skipper have an invisible shield to protect his day but he has attained a social status. "Skipper," Eileen told us, "has been invited to a Dog Party!" With his name on the invitation, his address on the envelope, and sent through the mail, the next thing Skipper can expect is to be one of a select few invited to participate in a Canine Cotillion, that'll probably be a few years away.

The Cotillion is the most elegant event in the Sweet Sixteen calendar. Many a parent has been faced with financial disaster during the sweet sixteen season buying daughter a new outfit for each event.

INVITATIONS have been attached to bank withdrawal slips. You feel the need of an explanation—why the bank should be constant for frequent withdrawals otherwise they might be able to make the public relations department for not hitting the nail on their savings promotion. As a matter of fact, some bank might even push Sweet Sixteen along with college, old age, etc.

Cotillons are the groups of 18-year-olds of one school class or club group who pool their parents and promote one party to display the fact they are now ready for the social graces of the adult world.

PARENTS are eager to take courses in charm to learn what to say and how to say it and which hand is used to shake another person's hand's parent's hand. Florida charisma's are rehearsed, and hair is lose weight to fit the commended to the waist line and Mom has to make costly experimental trips to the beauty shop until the deb, "debutante," approves of the style as fitting.

This then explains the number of exotically equipped P.T.A. members who appear at a meeting as if they just got in from night clubbing in time to hit the time-clock and make the P.T.A. meetings. Rubbies, Bee-hives and Grecian styles just look g-r-e-a-t with narcotics.

HOTEL PARTY planners have now accepted this new money-making social function along with Bar Mitzvahs, Weddings, and Earning Fund Luncheons.

The night of the great event, mother will be wise to carry a clutch bag with plenty of tissues for the tears that will inevitably flow when flower do not match dresses or last minute tinted shoes are one hue off. About the rest of the family... they stay home. Cotillons are for the debutant, her parents and a date. And of course, when Dad shells out for the clothes, the beauty shops, getting the car in shape. ("After all, Dad... we'll all be wearing new clothes!") (except Dad who'll rent or borrow) he discovers that the cotillion must be held at a prestige hotel and more costly than the biggest wedding ever held in his day, at Zappa's or Café Royal.

REACHING 16 is no longer the first visit to the sanctum sanctorum of Spetter's; nor does promise of a first date hold allure; nor does it mean the first high heel; nor does it mean a silly gathering of 15-year-olds "oh-ing and ah-ing" over little sugar cubes wrapped with pink ribbons. That era of sophistication is passe.

So maybe the day is not far off when Skipper will participate in a Canine Cotillion and add prestige to his family's status.