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Living in a Cooperative House

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In the extreme northwestern corner of the Iowa State College campus stands a gray, three-story frame house, unappropriately called West Gate Cottage. It is one of the places of residence for the college girls, but it is different from the dormitories and home-management houses in that it is conducted upon a cooperative basis. The building closely resembles a family home on both the inside and the outside. The first floor consists of five rooms; a parlor, dining room, kitchen, the advisor’s room and her office. The furnishings are of as good, if not better, quality than those in any ordinary household.

The rooms on second and third floors are furnished in much the same manner as are the college dormitory rooms. There are six double rooms on the second floor and seven single rooms on the third floor.

The basement is an unusually large airy one. It is divided into three sections, a trunk room, a laundry room and a store room for canned and fresh fruits and vegetables. The laundry room is entered directly by steps which lead down from the kitchen. It is furnished with two white porcelain tubs, an ironing board, an electric iron and several yards of clothes line. There, at any time of the day or week, may be found all sorts of laundry, from a handkerchief to a sheet, waiting to be ironed the next day or any time within a week, depending upon how its owner has planned her week’s work.

To the west of the laundry room is the trunk room. There trunks, suitcases, traveling bags and laundry cases wait in orderly rows for the next vacation or a trip home.

North of the trunk room is the store room which has the appearance of a small wholesale grocery. On the shelves are canned fruits and vegetables of many kinds. These are arranged in groups, and the price of each can is marked so that the girls can easily determine the cost of meals which they serve. In bins below the canned goods are kept such vegetables as potatoes, carrots and parsnips.

All of the work in the house is done by the girls who live there. They follow a very definite schedule, and each girl of the working force of eight knows exactly what her duties are for every day. These girls have charge of the floors which are cleaned daily and are kept in as good condition as possible. This is difficult work during the winter months. Just before Christmas, one girl was annoyed by the numbers of pairs of overshoes and rubbers which were left in the hall. One morning she gathered them all into a corner and put up this sign: “Do your Christmas shopping early! Rubbers and Golashes at reduced prices” which did the work for even:ng the offending shoes had all disappeared.

The other five girls do the kitchen work which consists of preparing the meals and washing the dishes after breakfast and lunch. Four other girls wash the dishes after the evening meal.

At the head of the kitchen force is the manager. She has charge of the entire house and she serves as manager for four days. Her duty is to see that all the work is done, and that each girl does her share. The girls are responsible for the work that they do, and she, in turn, is responsible to the advisor. At the end of four days, the duties of every girl are changed in a regular routine so that the work may not become irksome.

The life in West Gate Cottage offers a number of advantages. It gives supplementary work to the girl who is
The Lure of a Shawl

Rarely do you find a girl or woman who has not at some time dreamed of herself as leaning over a wrought iron balcony in Spain wrapped in a bright Spanish shawl, while a devoted admirer strums a guitar below in a dream garden. Some taking Home Economics for any length of time. The two had been provided were broken before another could be purchased and in an emergency one was borrowed from the Home Economics Division. This was cracked before the dishes were put away after the first meal and three more which were purchased by the advisor were broken before the jinx was lifted. Water glasses also are hard to keep.

The necessity of performing definite tasks develops a sense of responsibility. Besides this there is a distinct financial advantage to living at West Gate Cottage. All but the perishable supplies are purchased in wholesale lots, and by this means there is considerable saving upon the price of food. There is a homelike atmosphere about the life in the cottage which makes it easier to become adjusted to college life and firm friendships are made in the smaller group.

Altho they do their own house work, the girls have plenty of time to have parties and picnics and to entertain guests. Last year a hiking club was organized which frequently enjoyed breakfasts that were cooked out on a trek.

Paintex running.

The idea of establishing a cooperative house for college girls is a relatively new one, but it has already found favor in some of the large colleges and universities. As yet, it is only an experiment at Iowa State College and the working out of the experiment is being watched with interest by both students and faculty.

Mies Susan Bates of the Textiles and Clothing Department is not quite this year. She is attending commercial work in textiles. While she was at Iowa State College she built up the course in Children's Clothing to a well organized unit that was popular with mothers and students.

Some of the latest shawls are made of squares of lace to blend and match evening frocks of the same fabric. Looms are daily producing lamine and gold and silver cloths that make sumptuous shawls for special occasions. They are weaving lovely designs into fabrics now. Fringe used on the shawls matches the fabric as nearly as possible; a gold lame shawl will be fringed in beige and a silver one in a soft gray. Reproduced in a cheap, poorly woven fabric these shawls lose their golden air and soon become bedraggled and stretched. A shawl that depends on fabric alone for its beauty must be of a lovely texture and color. Some shawls are woven with the background can be made any color you desire. Batik work takes much longer; there is the necessary time to put on and wash out the wax after each application of a different color. A more elaborate design and color scheme can probably be worked out by batik. One lovely shawl was put together with a bromo dyed fabric on which appeared gorgeously colored flowers of strange design. Black fringe was used. It was a perfect complement to a white evening gown.