1926

Councillor's Report of A. H. E. A. Convention

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T he nineteenth annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association was held in Minneapolis June 28 to July 1, 1926. The Council of the American Home Economics Association is made up of one councillor from each state. It is the duty of these councillors to take a message from their State Association to the National Association, and to bring back to the state associations a full report of the annual meeting. All State Associations are asked to include the councillors' reports as a part of their programs at their annual meetings, in order to keep the members in touch with the work of the parent organization. It would be difficult, if not wholly impossible, to make a complete report of the convention which was held in Minneapolis. This has been made unnecessary because the detailed proceedings of the convention appear in the August bulletin of the American Home Economics Association. Formerly the proceedings of the annual meeting were printed as a number of the Journal of Home Economics, and therefore all subscribers to the Journal received the proceedings number. The new bulletin was sent to every member of the American Home Economics Association, so that the majority of the group present at the meeting of the Iowa Home Economics Association has had an opportunity to read the detailed account of the business of the national association. It is to be hoped that every member of the State Association has read both the September and October numbers of the Home Economics Journal, as well as the proceedings bulletin. Both the September and October numbers of the Journal contain particularly good editorial comments on the meeting, and the October number of the Journal contains some of the outstanding papers which were presented at the national meeting, as well as a large number of abstracts from papers presented at section meetings. A better picture of the nineteenth annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association can be had by reading the proceedings bulletin. The first item mentioned is in regard to promotion of membership. It is interesting to note that the membership of the National Association is now 8,512. That is a gain of 1,467 members for the year. An interesting item about the increase in membership was presented by the president of the association. Seventeen and a half years back the association had something over seven hundred members, and it continued with a steady but not striking growth until the initiation of the plan to increase associations, which occurred just five years ago. Five years ago the association had fewer than 1,200 members and today it has seven times that number. During the current year there was a fifteen percent increase in membership. The goal set by the national association for membership is 10,000, so that the association still has a good number of memberships to secure. Eleven states have more memberships than Iowa. While the Iowa membership has increased nearly so fast as has the membership in the association. Only about half the members are subscribers, and on the other hand only about half of those on the subscription list are members. I think that in our highly praiseworthy efforts to increase membership we have omitted stressing the Journal. With a larger list of subscribers, we could afford more papers and more frequent articles for every group of interests. Your council has just authorized a special effort toward subscription increase. The line on the new membership card for Journal subscriptions is a step in this direction.

During the year 1925-26 thirty-two states have increased nearly as fast as the association. Seventeen and a half years back the association had something over seven hundred members, and it continued with a steady but not striking growth until the initiation of the plan to increase associations, which occurred just five years ago. Five years ago the association had fewer than 1,200 members and today it has seven times that number. During the current year there was a fifteen percent increase in membership. The goal set by the national association for membership is 10,000, so that the association still has a good number of memberships to secure. Eleven states have more memberships than Iowa. While the Iowa membership has increased nearly so fast as has the membership in the association. Only about half the members are subscribers, and on the other hand only about half of those on the subscription list are members. I think that in our highly praiseworthy efforts to increase membership we have omitted stressing the Journal. With a larger list of subscribers, we could afford more papers and more frequent articles for every group of interests. Your council has just authorized a special effort toward subscription increase. The line on the new membership card for Journal subscriptions is a step in this direction.

The Councillor's Report of A. H. E. A. Convention

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to make a definite plan for increasing the number of subscriptions.

Another item which is mentioned in the program of work for state associations is the successful completion of the Ellen H. Richards fund. Each state is asked to accept full responsibility for $300 to be applied to home economics, student who desired to do graduate work in research in this field. The first award was made for the school year 1925-26. Miss Lita Bane, who is the incoming president of the American Home Economics Association, received the first award. This year the award was made to Miss Ruth Cowan, who is doing research in nutrition at the University of Chicago. The council voted to increase the scholarship from $300 to $500 for the year 1928. This makes more adequate provision for a person working under the scholarship. Any graduate of a home economics department in a recognized institution who is qualified to do research work is eligible for consideration by the committee on awards.

The national program of work also stresses the importance of student clubs. The importance of student clubs cannot be over-emphasized at this time. The association must turn its attention to the development of student clubs. Each state association has been asked to make a definite plan for development of student clubs. The state club committee has been organized and had one meeting. The report from the executive secretary in regard to the student clubs brings out the fact that there are 14 affiliated student clubs in 1922, but that there are 342 affiliated clubs in 1926. Iowa is able to report but eleven, four college clubs and seven high school clubs. This is entirely too small a number for our state, for we have approximately 785 towns and cities where home economics is taught. Texas, Virginia, Illinois and Michigan lead in number of student clubs. What Illinois can do, Iowa can do also.

Dr. Katherine Blunt said, "The chief single event of the year, a great unifying force for us, is the initiation of our work for child study and parental education. We have been rejection in our four year grant from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, and just recently the executive committee has consummated the appointment of Anna E. Richardson as child study field worker. Her ability, her well-known interest in the problem, her work for child study at Iowa State College, the inside knowledge of the administrative machinery necessary for the development of any new venture, her great variety of workers in this field, her experience while with the Federal Board for Vocational Education in a nationwide enterprise, all make her a most fortunate choice for the association." The Iowa Association was fortunate enough to have Miss Richardson with us to tell of her plans for child study and parental education.

For the past two years our national association has sponsored a contest for designs for an association seal. At the annual convention this year the best design was chosen, and it is to be used for the association's seal and pins. The motif used is the Betty lamp. "This was considered a happy choice, for it is the lamp which in Colonial days gave light for all household industries." Two styles of pins are to be offered: one for members of affiliated clubs, and one for members of affiliated student clubs.

One of the interesting features of the meeting this year was the commercial exhibits. It was not only a source of income for the association, but it was very profitable for the members who were present. The American Home Economics Association has many other interesting activities. Its international relationships, such as its affiliation with the International Woman's Federation of the U. S. Department of Commerce, the American Home Economics Association, and its affiliation with the American Home Economics Association, is of great importance to us. Its cooperation with such organizations as the Federation of Women's Clubs, Better Homes in America, the National Child Health Association, the American Red Cross, Division of Simplified Practice of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the American Home Economics Association, and the American Home Economics Association, is of great importance to us.

The 1927 annual convention of the American Home Economics Association will be held the latter part of June in Asheville, North Carolina.

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gaining, however. By what standard are we to judge whether the time spent is or is not excessive? We need carefully worked out standards of performance of various tasks under various conditions of living. At the beginning toward such standardization was made by Miss Elizabeth E. Hoyt, a member of the Committee, this summer, as a part of the Household Administration at Iowa State College. Miss Hoyt started with a specified menu for one week and a specified standard of the number of times cleaning and other tasks should be performed. She went on this well planned menu, and on this basis went through the household work with a family of two adults and two children for two weeks in a home without modern conveniences, and for two weeks in one of the home management houses on the Iowa State College campus. The full results of this experiment will be presented in a forthcoming number of the Journal of Home Economics. She found that on the farm where she drew water from a well, cooked in a kitchen range, used kerosene lamps, and had no modern conveniences, her average time per day, including laundry, was 4.3 hours.

It is impossible to compare satisfactorily the results of such an experiment with the average results of such a small group of housewives as the home economics graduates or with the reports of the farm housewives. The housewives were reporting only every-day conditions, whereas the experimenter was working under unusual conditions. She had a marked stimulus to help to establish standards. Further, of course, the experimenter worked with a definitely planned menu and definite specifications as to cleaning, while the Iowa housewives in both groups used many menus and had varying practices with regard to cleaning, and a few of them spent considerable time on their children.

Nevertheless, the Iowa State College experiment is very suggestive. The standards in this college experiment were in conformity with hygienic requirements and good standard practices, and the menu, though simple, was excellent from the nutritional viewpoint. The facts collected in 42 hours for all tasks, including laundry, was only 4.3 for a family of four, even in the old-fashioned farm house, leads us to believe that the organization of work and the improved methods yet do much for our Iowa homemakers. Further work and experiments along this line are greatly needed.