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Better Homes Week

By KATHRYN DAVIS

A "BETTER HOMES WEEK" has many opportunities for the home economics teacher to do some worth while work in Related Art. Some of you may have a rather vague idea as to what "Better Homes Week" means and how you may make use of it in your community.

Like the other "Weeks", that are observed in our schools and communities in which interest is concentrated on one idea, such as "Health Week," "Thrift Week," "Clean Up Week," is the week in which special thought and attention is given to "Better Homes in America." Every Home Economics teacher knows that improving the homes of America is part of her job and that every week is a Better Homes Week. But setting aside one week and calling it "Better Homes Week" gives her the opportunity to tie up her work with the homes in the community. It also gives her the cooperation of her community and the assistance of the national committee.

The national organization of "Better Homes in America," with the headquarters in Washington D. C., is very actively engaged in stimulating interest in this work. President Coolidge is chairman of the advisory council and Herbert Hoover is President of the Board of Directors. On the advisory committee are many nationally known names, among them two which are familiar to all Home Economics teachers; that of Dr. Katherine Blundt and of Dr. Louise Stanley. If you are interested in observing "Better Homes Week" in your community, the national organization will furnish you with literature on all phases of the work, such as financing the building of a home; planning, furnishing, and equipping a home; books, music and recreation in the home. Mr. James Ford, 1653 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D. C. is the Executive Director of Better Homes in America. "Better Homes Week" this year will be April 22 to April 28.

If you are interested in making use of this week to promote your contact with the community and especially as an opportunity to motivate your work in Related Art, here are some of the things you might do: Many schools have furnished a house and opened it to the public for the week. This is a big undertaking but one worth the effort. Schools with a Practice House or Home Economic Cottage often open these to the public for that week. Even a demonstration of class work might be planned to fit into the week's program. In the smaller towns why not ask for the privilege of arranging displays in the store windows? This is an excellent design problem. Principles of proportion, balance, dominance, unity and color are all used. Every store, no matter how small, carries goods which will work into a Better Homes Display. Even the smallest Dry Goods store will have percales

and other prints which may be featured as curtain material.

The home projects your pupils might undertake this week are countless. The re-arrangement of objects on the living room table, on the buffet or sideboard, on the mantle or on the top of a book case; the rehanging of pictures; the rejuvenating of curtains, rehanging, lengthening some, shortening others, new valances and new tie backs, or gay bands of trimming; making new curtains, dresser scarfs, table runners, bed spreads and slip cover for chairs and davenport. In many cases the home grounds might receive some attention.

Posters and signs are necessary if you want to interest the public in what you are doing. A good poster is simple, with good bold lettering well spaced and easily read, one simple idea. If for instance the picture of a house is used, be sure it is a beautiful house with no eccentricities in roof line or decoration and large enough to fill the space well.

These are some of the things you might do along the line of Related Art for Better Homes Week. If it is not possible to organize a "Better Homes Week" why not make this a "Better Homes Year" or a least a "Better Homes Month." There are so many things you will want to do if you once start.

"Clothing Construction"

The book, "Clothing Construction," by Brown and Others, presents very completely the fundamental processes involved in clothing construction. The plan of the authors in presenting fundamental principles and processes rather than in giving directions for the making of specific garments which may be out of style in a few years, will make the book of more permanent value.

In addition to construction processes, there are also directions for the repairing of garments and for the making of many decorative stitches.

The directions are given in a very clear, concise manner. The use of many photographs and excellent diagrammatic drawings helps very materially in presenting the processes clearly and in eliminating detailed verbal explanations.

The material is organized in an encyclopedic manner and is intended to serve as a reference book. For this purpose it should prove very valuable

to students, teachers and homemakers. The book is published by Ginn and Company, Boston, and is priced at \$1.72 per copy.

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