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New German Architecture

By LOTTE MATSCHOSS
Fellow in Household Administration.

EVERYONE who travels in Germany visits the nice old towns and villages and enjoys the loveliness and privacy of their astonishing old houses and buildings. People who come to Germany now will be surprised to find quite a new style of houses. They are very strange looking in comparison with the architecture of centuries ago. At first you will say what we all said when we first saw those houses in our own country—"how terrible." This is just because you are not accustomed to such an appearance and do not expect it. They do not look like houses at first, but rather like plain, stiff, straight boxes, bright colored, no ornaments, nothing but straight lines, large windows, roof-gardens and terraces.

When you are invited to enter, you do it somewhat hesitatingly. You come to the first room, the living room, and you think it, at first, rather empty and plain. Yet the bright light coming through the largest window you ever saw impresses you. And then you are attracted by the beautiful view you get from this window. And by and by you just get a desire to live and to breathe in such a room. It is all so bright and airy, the simple lines of all the furniture and the proportions of the building begin to attract you. There are other rooms you are interested to see. There is a large roof-garden, just a paradise for spending hours of recreation, for plays and sports.

You get more and more the idea that in such a house must live very healthy people, and that it must be the best place for ill or tired people to recover. After you leave this house, you will turn and look again at its outside, which you disliked so much a while before. And now you will think: "Oh, it isn't so bad." Since you have the idea of the house, you know now that a house devoted to health and simplicity should look like this. It shows its true character, and all things true and suitable have an inborn beauty.

And after a while, when you have seen these houses more often and have become accustomed to them, you will like them much and think them best to live in. This is the same thing that has happened to us in Germany. After having gotten the idea of these houses and after getting accustomed to them, we like them and enjoy them.

Now you are perhaps wondering how we happened to get just such houses into our old Germany. There was already a desire in German arts and architecture to create more simple styles and see beauty more in lines and proportion than in ornaments. Then came the time when Germany had to suffer under the very hard post-war conditions. And we still have many economic difficulties. The costs of our foods are still 60 percent higher than before the war, and the wages are only about 20 percent or less higher.

One of the greatest difficulties is, we don't have enough houses and residences for our people to live in. Just now there are 1,700,000 residences less in Germany than are needed. Nobody has the money to build houses, unless they could be built at a very remarkably cheap price. So our architects were thinking about the cheapest and quickest way to build houses. These new houses were the result. They are not made out of brick or wood or stone. They are made out of a very inexpensive, but good, material, which insulates well and which can be produced in large plates in a very short time. These plates are brought to the building place and the new house is put together. We need a lot of new houses, and so large groups of houses are built, and of course the more that are built at one time, the cheaper they are. After all, they are attractive in line and proportion. So I think that Germany has met this problem of her's in a rather satisfying way.

It is very interesting to see how much all these questions are connected with the development of home economics in Germany. These new houses, of course, have modern kitchens built in to make things as convenient and suitable as possible, according to the whole idea of these houses. The necessity of good home economics is (Continued on page 16)
After Graduation—What?

(Continued from page 13) positions for women with thorough training in chemistry, physiology, nutrition and dietetics. Elsie Maxson is with the Red Cross in Wyoming.

Clothing and art fields are open to women of ability, but there are not as many positions in these lines as in foods. The clothing manufacturers have been slower to accept home economies trained women, but this field is growing.

In the past, emphasis has been placed upon the acquisition of skill. The newer idea is that home economies teaching must function in the life of the individual—in improved living conditions and control of environment. There is a marked trend toward more scientific homemaking. The growing tendency toward group living causes a demand for trained experts in institutional management. Opportunities in business are rapidly opening and extension work is growing. This development means that more teachers are needed. The field of home economics will offer still greater professional opportunities in the future than it does at present and will require more women thoroughly trained in home economics.

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(Continued from page 4) comprehended, and now the efforts to realize it are increasing every day. Of course, there is still a long way for us to go, and we have to learn in home economics much from America, who is far ahead of us. But we have the increasing interest of all Germans in these questions. Our new architecture made a good start in realizing this by building the house not from its facade, but with its purpose in view, and in making the modern home economics true not only in a step-saving kitchen, but in building the whole house according to economic laws, thus getting a purposeful beauty into the modern house.

Modern Phraseology

A long sentence—20 years.

A question of the hour—What time is it?

Can't be beat—A broken drum.

How to get fat—Buy it at the butcher's.

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