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Woman- In Dollars and Cents

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Woman—in Dollars and Cents

Lenore E. Sater, Fellow in Household Equipment

"The value of the sexes"—these were the words that caught my attention. Being a woman, and of a curious disposition, I immediately wondered, if by chance some bright genius had succeeded in proving that woman was scientifically worth more than man. Much to my surprise, here is what I found.

The wife of a prominent professor in one of the western agricultural colleges attended a lecture one morning. In the course of the talk, the following facts about the value of a man were given:

- He has fat enough for a bar of soap;
- Iron enough for two nails;
- Sugar enough to fill a teacup;
- Phosphorus enough for a box of matches;
- Sulphur enough to rid a dog of fleas.

This could all be purchased at the corner drug store for 89 cents. Iron enough for two nails; Sugar enough to fill a teacup; Phosphorus enough for a box of matches; Sulphur enough to rid a dog of fleas, could all be purchased at the corner drug store for 32 cents.

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The woman in question was so affected that she lay abed a long time the next morning, pondering over the facts, while, the story said, the professor prepared his own breakfast.

I, too, was impressed. So much so that I went back and re-read the article to be certain I had read correctly. Then suddenly the truth dawned upon me. The college to which this professor belonged did not have a household equipment department. He did not know about household equipment women, or he never could have made such an analysis.

Do you know about household equipment? Not long ago I talked to a group of home economics teachers in a near-by city school. I made the statement that I was very much interested in the household equipment work. I noticed a very peculiar expression pass over their faces, but no one responded. Finally one woman ventured, "Well, I do not know anything about it. Is it a new department in home economics?" Perhaps you are asking the same question. Comparatively speaking, I may answer in the affirmative. It is so new that few of the universities and colleges teach household equipment. Among these are: Columbia, Cornell, Chicago, Nebraska, Oklahoma A. and M, and Iowa State College.

The department at Iowa State College was organized in 1915, and until the building of our new Home Economics Hall, was partially housed in the Agricultural Engineering Building. The work in its infancy was considered to be of much less importance in comparison with the other departments of home economics. On our own campus it was known among the students as "Scrub Lab." Just before moving into the new building in 1925, the department was reorganized by Eloise Davison, now of the National Electric Light Association. Since that time, it has grown rapidly, until now we have a staff of three full time instructors, a consulting engineer and two fellows.

Did I hear you ask, "But what do they teach?" Before I answer this question, let me draw for you a picture of where they teach. Can you imagine stepping into a long room and finding it just filled with the most interesting looking things? White and black ranges, gas and electric ranges, refrigerators, water-softeners and cabinets filled with every conceivable kind of small equipment—everything from an egg beater to a floor waxer and polisher. In fact, so much that it just makes a woman's heart stand still. Through another door you glimpse an equally large room with washing machines, ironing machines, dish washers—in fact, you didn't really know there were so many kinds.

Immediately you ask, "Where did they all come from?" The greater part of the equipment is consigned; that is, when a piece of equipment is put on the market, the firm lends us samples. These may be kept until we are through using them, or until the firm replaces them with a new model.

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EVENING DRESSES
American Beauty shade
Maize—Jade—Peach
White—Black—Orchid—Blue
Materials of Velvet, Taffet, Silk Net, Georgette.
THE RIEKENBERG SHOP
STYLE SHOP
West Ames

Allen A Semi-Service Silk Hose
Every thread of this chic hose is extra fine Japanese silk, woven into a matchlessly clear sheer weave, and being full-fashioned the hose clings tightly to the ankle and molds softly to the curve of the knee in a most flattering manner in the newest and most popular shades for the season. The price is $1.50 a pair, 2 pairs for $2.75 and guaranteed to give service.

FAIR STORE

The New Vogue in Personal Writing Machines
Portable Typewriters
You can now buy these machines in brilliant colors to harmonize with your room. Six different colors, and you will like all of them. May we have the pleasure of demonstrating any of the following: CORONA, REMINGTON and ROYAL—the three leading portables.

Student Supply Store
West Ames. Next to Theater.

Woman—in Dollars and Cents
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Now that we have an imaginary picture of the equipment department, go with me to visit a class. You enter quietly and look around expecting to find a seat and listen to a lecture about equipment. “But certainly this isn’t a class,” you say. “The girls just seem to be sitting about in groups chatting. What in the world are those girls doing out in the middle of the floor walking back and forth?” You approach and listen carefully to their discussion. Suddenly you become interested. You find they have a kitchen laid out on the floor and are testing out the efficiency of different arrangements of equipment. They are actually going thru the different steps in the preparation of a meal, and are keeping count of the time and steps used in the various arrangements.

The other groups are each working on kitchen plans. One group you find is rearranging and furnishing a kitchen for a friend who is to be married. They are planning the exact size and type of the equipment that will fit her particular kitchen and giving her an approximate cost of the total.

You enter the adjoining room and you wonder if you have been dreaming. You thought it was Friday, but this looks like Monday. The girls are having their washing lessons. They are taught how to judge the machines, as well as to use them efficiently. In fact, the entire course is handled on this basis—to teach the girls how to select, operate and care for equipment.

Besides this, there is another phase of the work. The girls are taught how to make small electrical and plumbing repairs, how to change the burners on their electric ranges, or even put in new coils. Thus the girl becomes a household engineer, so she may reign supreme in her own kitchen. She need not depend on a mere man even though he is chemically worth 67 cents more than she.

“But why should a girl who is not expecting to go into a home of her own take such a course?” you ask. In the past generation, it is true, the only avenue open to a girl who had a preparation of this kind would have been in the home. It the last few years we have had a change in the commercial field. Manufacturing concerns are beginning to appreciate a woman’s viewpoint. It is the women who use
the equipment who should be considered in its construction. Thus is opening up a commercial field for the woman who is trained in engineering.

Another commercial field open to women is that of demonstrating equipment. Many gas and electric companies are employing home economists or home equipment specialists who are conducting classes for women of the city, teaching them the proper use and care of the equipment. They also go into the homes and help solve the household problems. Besides these commercial types of work, there are numerous others, such as radio work, and advertising. There are also numerous calls for teachers, research workers and extension specialists, as more and more the public is beginning to realize the possibilities of these various fields.

So, perchance, when our western college installs an equipment department, our professor friend will find his chemical analysis is useless data, and that in the women are substances of which he knew nothing, and which are priceless beyond measure.

Turkish College Girls

(Continued from page 2)

match games with the teams from the English High School for Girls. The hockey field is a plateau above the Bosphorus and playing there with the blue sea below and the hills of Asia beyond is a delight. No matter what the weather, snow or wind or rain or sun, there are girls walking around.

During the day the girls wear simple school clothes, wash dresses when it is warm enough and wool ones in cold weather. My home economics classes last year made middy blouses and wore them proudly, and copied them for their friends. Most of us changed for dinner into something thinner or gayer but not an evening dress. For a special party, some "dressing up" is done and when they go to the city, the girls look very trim and smart in suits or coats. I do not think time and attention are given in the extreme to clothes.

Arranged marriages are passing, too, with many of the old customs. I attended several weddings where the bride wore white satin with a veil, exactly like my sister's a few years ago, up to the minute in fashion, and the bridegroom was present at the ceremony. Engagements are announced and the happy pair are often seen together. There is a marked feeling of respect for older members of a family and probably the parents' wishes influence their daughter's choice, but very few young people are coerced into doing things nowadays.

Turkish women have always been educated, though perhaps not according to our standards. Theirs has been the training prevalent in Europe and in this country in its early days, to educate a "lady." Girls were taught at home; music, literature, languages and embroidery, perhaps. Sometimes they studied in groups and the children of employees shared the advantages of the heirs of the household.

The spirit of democracy in family life is very striking in Turkey. Old and trusted servants are treated as friends. And while I have an opportunity, I would like to correct a prevalent idea of harem. The "haremlik" was the part of the house in which the women lived; grandmother, mother and children; and the "selam lik" was the men's quarters. For an excellent description and explanation of education in Turkey today, I refer you to "School and Society" for Nov. 17, the article by Dr. Lucy Wilson, who spent the summer of 1928 there.

More women in Turkey are being given education today in public and private schools, and undoubtedly their influence will be great.

Homemakers Yesterday and Today

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every other way, the nursery school has an important part to play.

Apart from these things which have been taken from the home, what has the mother left to do, or what effect will this have on the home?

The mother can be either a bridge fiend, a club manic, or a happy medium, who spends her time educating herself to be better able to care for her child and perform her job of homemaking rather than housekeeping.

The mother must be more than a cook today; she must be a dietitian, so she can select the proper foods, whether she prepares them or not, so that from the standpoint of health her children will be an asset to the community, instead of a liability.

Besides these, the mother must be a companion to the children. She must have a knowledge of psychology to understand their actions. She should