1932

Now You Mind the Baby...

Melba Acheson
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Acheson, Melba (1932) "Now You Mind the Baby...," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 12 : No. 4 , Article 2.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol12/iss4/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Now You Mind the Baby . . .

By Melba Acheson

YOU may lose weight and be ready to drop in your tracks, but you'll come out a better prospective wife and mother.

It's all a part of the home management house life. But you will leave regretfully, with many a longing look about the house where you have lived for six weeks with eight other girls. And when you meet one of the next group wheeling the baby through the campus, you will risk missing your next class to find out how Jackie, or Richard, or Peggy is getting along, and whether he or she still dislikes spinach.

You see, home management house is something that every home economics student has to look forward to in her senior year. For six weeks you will live with seven or eight other girls and share with them the fun, the work, the worries of running a large house and caring for a baby.

For in each of the four home management houses lives a baby—anywhere from six weeks to 18 months old. It is the responsibility of the girls to feed, bathe, exercise and play with the baby, under the direction of the resident advisor of each house.

While a girl lives in the house she is in turn, cook, child director, housekeeper, hostess and manager, and assistant to each. A typewritten sheet with the duties of each office is given to every girl when she enters the house. It is her responsibility to see that she does well, each item of her office, without direction.

The manager plans the meals, does the marketing, and keeps the accounts. She acts as head of the house, or host.

The cook and her assistant prepare and serve the meals that the manager plans, and wash the breakfast and lunch dishes.

The child director and her assistant take charge of the baby, bathing it, preparing the food and feeding the child, and keeping detailed records of its activities. The assistant director does the baby's washing, and keeps the nursery in order. So when you see a young coed, clothespins in mouth, pinning large white squares on a clothesline back of the home management house you may know that 'she's in the navy now'....

The housekeeper takes charge of keeping the house in order. She has four or five hours of hired labor to supervise during the week, and it is her duty to see that the girls keep their own rooms in order as well as doing cleaning downstairs, herself.

But it is of the baby that most questions are asked. During home management open house during Veishea, women guests last year could scarcely tear themselves away from the nursery door. Where do they get the babies? Who looks after the baby at night—doesn't he kick the covers off and catch cold? And hundreds of other questions.

The babies are wards of the Juvenile court of Iowa. They are only loaned to the college, and usually adopted. While the babies live in the houses they are given the best of care under the most scientific methods. They live by schedule, but that does not mean that the 'human' element is lacking. In fact, with eight mothers to love and care for the baby, he is more in danger of having too much loving than babies in ordinary homes.

Home management babies are almost never sick. Regular hours, proper food and rest are the causes of the exception-

(Continued on page 18)
You Mind the Baby
(Continued from page 1)

al good health. Because the girls must get plenty of rest if they are to carry on their school work, the babies sleep in "snuggle bunnies." These are coverings somewhat as a cross between a blanket and a wrap. The baby is slipped into this covering, in which there is plenty of room for movement and turning, the zipper opening is fastened under the baby's pink chin, and he can't possibly get uncovered during the night. He is cool and fresh. And the girls can sleep all night without wondering whether the baby is uncovered or not.

So far it sounds as though there were nothing but work in the house. But that is far from all. Carrying out duties well is only one phase of home management. Family relationships—courtesy, kindness, willingness to cooperate, cheerfulness, adaptability—are just as big, or bigger parts of it. And during the time each girl is manager she plans and takes charge of some kind of a party—a tea, luncheon, dinner, picnic—anything that she wishes to do.

Then there is the pleasant hour just after dinner in the evening—sitting around the fireplace, talking or playing bridge, or just listening to the radio.

Lots of funny things happen, lots of mistakes are made, but everyone looks back on home management as one of the most worthwhile, pleasant experiences of her college life.

All "Hecs" Belong
(Continued from page 3)

The National Home Economics Club Convention at Atlanta, Ga., during the summer. Other officers are Lorene Galbreath, secretary; Alice Neasham, treasurer, and Ellin Gertrude McMullen, chairwoman of the Catherine MacKay loan fund. Miss Helen Bishop, head of the Home Management Department, is club advisor.

Divisional study is carried on in seven sections in an effort to keep members in touch with special fields and help those in the junior college to decide on their work and select their majors. This year Donna Burris will have charge of Applied Art; Ellen Goode, Child Development; Carrie Holland, Foods and Nutrition; Ila Mischbach, Household Equipment; Frances Heishman, Home Economics Education; Dorothy Sponheim, Institutional; and Edalene Stohr, Textiles and Clothing.

There is benefit to be gained from the Home Economics Club. The club offers a better knowledge of home economics subjects, as well as training in organization work.

Betty Gets Advised
(Continued from page 3)

after we'd left her at her hotel that I'd better try a little harder to make that impression on her. I'd told him before that a lot depended on making the right impression on Mrs. Tiberly. I'm not supposed to know it, but she's thinking of taking me abroad with her next summer. She has scads of money and social position, and ever since mother died, she's been keeping in touch with me. Now she probably thinks I'm not worth her time.''

I laughed. "Betty, you poor kid! Why, that's nothing to cry over. She wouldn't consider such a little thing of any importance, I'm sure.''

"Oh, I'm just that dumb about everything, Peg. I've never been out in society much, and I do things wrong every time. And Mrs. Tiberly scares me to death. There will be a dinner tonight, and I'll spill soup in my lap and eat peas with my knife and when she leaves

FRANK THEIS
Druggist
THE REXALL STORE
217 Main St.
Ames

TILDEN'S
Co-Ed Shop
ANNOUNCES
the opening of a section devoted to
Dresses
Exclusively for College Girls
$7.50

Featuring at one low price copies of imports and original American designs suitable to the needs and whims of the young modern.

Ask to see our new College Seal Stationery
At Extremely Low Prices

College Book Store on the Campus