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Wander Into Woolworth's...

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"Take Life Lightly" . . .
By Gertrude Hendriks

Says This South African Coed

MARI E E. STEYN, Potchefstroom, South Africa, is another Iowa State coed with whom come a long way to school. By special arrangement with the National Council of Parental Education, from which she has a scholarship, she will study here for a year in addition to her summer term work.

Last summer Mrs. Steyn came to Iowa State College to study child care. Already she had had work at Merrill-Palmer in Detroit, and at the University of Iowa, since leaving a girls' school in far-off Potchefstroom, South Africa, where she was principal.

The National Council of Parental Education assigned her to the University of Toronto for study, but Mrs. Steyn stayed at Toronto just 10 days. Then by special arrangement she came back to Iowa State for a full year.

When asked the reason for her return, Mrs. Steyn said, "Iowa State College offers more work that will help me. It offers more than the psychology of the child. It offers the physical, nutritional and other set-ups with home economics background. All this fits in with my specific needs."

She will go back to South Africa in 1934 to introduce child care into high schools, rural communities, and especially into "house craft" schools.

"House craft" schools are something new to us in the United States. Mrs. Steyn, in explaining them, says they grew directly out of the desire for integration of education into life. It is customary in South Africa for a large percentage of girls to proceed from rural schools to high schools. Within a few years after they return to their rural homes, the majority get married, and their education in algebra, geometry, Latin and such subjects seems to be a useless expenditure of time and money.

"House craft" schools, started for girls who had finished the first eight grades, have the specific purpose of assisting girls who have no intention of entering a vocation or profession to prepare for marriage and family life. The curriculum is based mainly on home economics, but includes English, Dutch, German, music, dramatics, physical training, and world events.

After Mrs. Steyn has finished this year at Iowa State and before she returns to her own country, she will study in Amsterdam, Holland, and observe girls' education in London, Sweden, and Denmark.

Students at Iowa State take life very seriously, it appears to Mrs. Steyn. She is accustomed to the South African students, who are characterized by their happy, care-free temperaments, attributed often to the delightfully sunny climate. There are many summer and winter sports, although there never is snow.

"Our students work hard. Indeed, they have lots to do—but they don't take life very seriously. College life is considered not only as the time for acquiring knowledge, but a grand opportunity for social functions, and above all, a time for plenty of fun," says Mrs. Steyn.

There is a great deal of inter-collegiate life, particularly sports, debates and social functions.

When questioned about the Iowa State problem—this rut of seriousness—she suggested, "Take life lightly. Enjoy every minute of it to the maximum."

In discussing social relations, Mrs. Steyn says that young people of South Africa do not confine their companionship to one girl or one man. But "dates" are really parties—entertainment is done in little crowds. And if the standards of South Africa held in these United States, according to Mrs. Steyn, every farmer (that includes every "Ag") would be married—and men teachers would be bachelors. For a family's instructions to the daughters are, "Never marry a teacher if you can marry a farmer."

The rank of the farmer is different there. Farmers are the aristocrats of the country. In their hands are the governmental reins. They have no manual labors to do—natives do those in return for land assignments. Their life is more or less one of leisure.

Farms in South Africa are really estates—800 morgans, which is 2,000 acres, makes only a small farm. Each farm has

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FOR the infinitesimal sum of 10 cents, just what you would pay for two packages of gum, you can buy an unlimited number of things to make your home more interesting and livable place.

But you can't expect to go into Woolworth's and come out with an arm load of attractive articles with which to decorate. You have to wander in again and again and come out many times empty handed. For those charming little pieces that add so much to your home are not as a rule the dime store's usual stock. Many times they are worth a great deal more than the price charged for them because the store was able to pick up a bargain and is using it as a lead to get people into the store.

Perhaps you say, "When I go into Woolworth's I see such a conglomeratation of things; they all look like junk." Well, a good many of them are junk, but if you are lucky the first time, or if you go in enough times, you will run across something that is just what you have been wanting, although, perhaps, you didn't quite know it.

The main thing is to avoid over decorated articles. The cheap, highly decorated ornament is sure to be a monstrosity when you get it home. And be sure to get something that is pleasing in line and color. Simple as they are, the red and white polka-dot cup and saucer that so many Woolworth stores carried last winter are very lovely.

Generally speaking, don't buy imitations. For often they look like nothing so much as imitations. Don't let the fact that something is an imitation deter you, however, if it really is something worth while. A hob nail glass is a hob nail glass and can be made just as well today as many years ago. If you like it, buy it.