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A Home Economist Can Find a Niche

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Isabel Bevier Says A Home Economist Can Find a Niche

By Virginia Garberson

"THE home economics graduate must be able to turn around 19 times a minute if necessary, if she wants a job," said Miss Isabel Bevier during her brief visit in Ames last week.

The opportunities for newcomers in home economics are varied and unexpected, Miss Bevier explained briskly, sitting in the sunny guest room of the Ellen H. Richards home management house. There are no big important fields being opened, she continued, but there are many little niches for a home economics person to fill, if she has imagination and ambition.

The child development major may find herself a job in a private home, suggested Miss Bevier, if she can't get into a nursery school. It is even possible, she went on quickly, that there may be a revival of the old-time governess, who not only had the physical care of her charges, but their schooling as well, among her duties.

AS TO the person interested in foods work—the white-haired pioneer cast her thoughts among her friends and acquaintances. "I know of several girls," she remembered suddenly, "who are making out low-cost menus in emergency relief work. One or two in particular have been working entirely on uses for salt pork, and they've proved of real service in telling needy women how to prepare their allotments of salt pork in a variety of ways for their families."

Several others of Miss Bevier's acquaintance have been working on a free milk supply problem. They gather information about the needy families and organize their method of distribution so that each family has an adequate supply according to its particular needs.

"In fact, there are all manner of little jobs to be done," affirmed Miss Bevier decisively. "I think it might even be better for a graduate to work as a maid in a wealthy home (and she could

learn a lot from doing it, too) than to stay at home and do nothing."

"It seems to me," she went on vigorously, "that things should be better by next fall. Of course, what's being done for the country is contrary to everything I've been taught as right, but I don't care just as long as we arrive!"

Here Miss Bevier smiled engagingly and drew up in the straight-back chair



Miss Isabel Bevier

which she had insisted upon occupying. "You know," she said, "people used to go to college because it was fashionable. Now they say that they really need the training to make the necessary daily adjustments of life."

It is those necessary adjustments that Miss Bevier feels are so important in connection with home economics training. "We must maintain our high standards and still be able to translate and adjust our knowledge into terms of daily life," she firmly maintained.

The present status of home economics, is, according to this leader in the field, being tested now as in wartime. Knowledge is used for the betterment of conditions. She believes that both the Great War and the present depression have been valuable to the extent that they have forced people to respect more greatly the science of home economics and to give more consideration to its study.

The trends today in the field, said Miss Bevier, are a coming emphasis on consumption, not production, education for effective home membership, training for the use of leisure, adult education, and a movement toward a more democratic family.

AS TO the future of home economics education in general, Miss Bevier refused to prophesy definitely. "Of course," was all that she would say, "it may not be called home economics, but it will be kept up under some name or other."

We need education in this line, the authority affirmed, for making low-cost, attractive, adequate meals, for bringing beauty into life, for maintaining health and preventing disease, and for the planning of wholesome recreation for all ages and classes.

Miss Isabel Bevier was a guest of Iowa State College on Thursday and Friday, December 7 and 8. Her visit was sponsored by Omicron Nu and Phi Upsilon Omicron, home economics honoraries.

While at present Miss Bevier has practically retired from active service in the field of home economics, her list of achievements is long.

She entered home economics work by way of chemistry, teaching that science until in 1900 she became director of the household science at the University of Illinois.

At this university she worked 21 years
(Continued on page 2)



Esther M. Friesth

This is the third in a series of vocations stories sponsored by Mortar Board. The writer, a former Iowa State Mortar Board member and home economics teacher, is now studying in Washington on a 4-H scholarship awarded by the Payne Fund.

TIMES never have been so stimulating, rapid and changing as they have been in Washington these past two months. Almost every day has its share of drama. I find myself in a situation which marks one period of great action in our governmental history.

The question is often asked, "Why does the Payne Fund arrange to have its students study in Washington and not at some of our fine universities?"

They have felt that there is something here that we could not find in a university. About half my time is spent in visiting various governmental institutions and attending conferences with governmental people, to gain an appreciation of the functions of our national government and the way it serves the millions of people in our nation.

It has been my privilege to meet Secretary Henry Wallace and to hear him talk on the rehabilitation of American agriculture; to hear lectures and see exhibits which the Food and Drug Administration is preparing for the legislation of the new Copeland Food and Drug Act, in which we home economics people are vitally interested. (I am making a thorough study of the present proposed bill for the purpose of following the legislation of it this winter. It will be possible for me to attend the first hearing in the Senate committee on December 7 to gain a conception of how bills are treated on their way through congress).

I recently visited the United States Supreme Court and was greatly impressed with the solemnity and dignity of the court room. It is part of our work here to confer with regional extension agents, who give us a comprehensive picture of the organization and administration of our extension work in the

whole United States. There are opportunities to attend many meetings of organizations that visit Washington for their annual conferences. At the Anti-Crime Conference I heard Hon. Homer Cummings, United States attorney, and Hon. Patrick Hurley, former Secretary of War, speak on the menace of crime.

I had the pleasure of attending some of the many concerts that come to Washington, including Lawrence Tibbet, master baritone, Heifetz, the great violinist, Jose Iturbi, Madame Jeritza, Vein-a-Saengerknaben, Don Cossack Russian Male Chorus, National Symphony and John McCormack. And there are many other worthwhile things, including art galleries, monuments, museums, lovely parks and many historic places in the vicinity of Washington. These activities explain to some extent why the Payne Fund wishes to have its students receive the fine opportunities of our national capital.

The other half of my time is spent with studies and the writing of my thesis, "Teaching Child Development Through the 4-H Club Program." Here I have at my disposal all the annual reports of extension work kept on file, many fine libraries and the opportunity of doing research work at the National Child Research Center. I am very fortunate in having these finely prepared people—Dr. Louise Stanley, chief of the Home Economics Bureau of the Department of Agriculture, Miss Gertrude Warren, national 4-H Club organizer, and Mr. M. C. Wilson, head of extension studies and teaching—on my thesis committee.

WASHINGTON, aside from being a great center of political, cultural and educational life, is also a center of much social life. Several weeks ago I was thrilled beyond words to have the privilege of attending a reception in honor of Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. It meant so much to meet her if only to have her say, "How do you do? You have a hard name." This inspiring person, whose winning smile seems to be perpetual, has time to meet hundreds of people at tea, attend to civic and domestic affairs, hop in a plane for New York and make a speech all in one day with the greatest calmness and lack of fatigue.

At a tea given by Mrs. Bowman, hostess at the National Little Girl Scout House, I met Mrs. Dolly Gann, sister of former Vice-president Curtis, Mrs. Walter Newton, wife of the secretary to President Hoover during his administration, and Mrs. Bruce Horsfield, wife of

Esther Friesth, '32
Tells Her Experiences

In Washington These Days

the artist for Nature Magazine. Dolly Gann is a very enthusiastic person and has just completed a book, "Dolly Gann," which relates her experiences here in Washington life.

Then there was the Delta Delta Delta Founders' Day banquet, where I met Mrs. Henry Wallace, wife of Secretary Wallace, who is regarded as one of the loveliest women in Washington society this winter. One has opportunities of meeting many interesting people without realizing who they are until someone explains their positions in Washington.

The opportunity of spending a year in Washington studying the historic places of the Capital City and surrounding country is going to give me one of the happiest and richest experiences of my life. I shall always remember the thrills I experience as I walk past the White House on my way to school every morning. Not infrequently I see a bright blue roadster pass and find that it is none other than the First Lady of the Land on her way to attend to the many activities of her busy life.

Isabel Bevier Says

(Continued from page 1)

to give home economics its present respected place in the curriculum, and her studies have served as a pattern for many other home economics departments.

Miss Bevier was active in conservation work during the War. She was home economics director of the food administration of Illinois, and was one of the six chairmen of the Home Economics Division of the Food Administration under Hoover.

After retiring from active work at the University of Illinois, Miss Bevier established the Home Economics Department at the southern branch of the University of California.

In addition to her academic work, Miss Bevier has served as president of the American Home Economics Association for several years and has written several books, the best-known of which is "Home Economics in the Higher Education of Women."

What a lot of good you'd do

If you'd smile,

As this world you travel through,

If you'd smile.

Though you're neither rich nor clever,

Though your youth be gone forever,

Yet one thing you can endeavor,

You can smile.

—Grace Arundel.