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Does It Work?

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Does It Work?



Iowa State equipment laboratory—where curious students learn to make controlled tests of gas and electric equipment, as well as all kinds of appliances.

IDEAS are worth passing on only if they really work. To break into print a *Woman's Home Companion* idea must have its worth tested. That is the why and wherefore of the Home Service Center.

Each new appliance that comes to the Center is examined and tested under the direction of an Iowa State woman, Elizabeth Beveridge, M.S. '34, and Equipment Specialist for the magazine. Then the appliance is put into regular use in the kitchens, laundry or living room, as the case may be.

Ruth Whiting, B.S. '31 from Iowa State, has been working with new food products and developing new uses for well known foods and appliances. She has been assembling material and testing recipes for booklets.

The preliminary testing of an appliance determines how it operates and

what may be expected of it. Electrical appliances from clocks to ranges are connected to a test panel in which the various test instruments are mounted in a way to make their use an easy matter. The instruments show very clearly how the appliance functions and what its power consumption is.

Manufacturers are informed of the results of the appliance tests, and often suggestions are made for improvement. Readers are given information of the use of the appliances via magazine articles and supplementary booklets and bulletins.

Of course many letters come, full of questions, from readers. Any questions which are not definitely food, entertaining or decoration find their way to the equipment department and to Miss Beveridge.

Many of the queries are concerned

with kitchen planning or improvement. Every kitchen is a special problem and an interesting puzzle. The more difficult kitchens are built in miniature and the parts of the model are moved and juggled until a satisfactory solution is found. So the consultants literally play with blocks.

These building blocks can be put together in any proportions to build any room in exact scale. Ranges, refrigerators, sinks and cabinets of cardboard are arranged like furniture in a doll house. This planning is a real game.

Food preparation, meal planning and serving, house cleaning and care, laundering, kitchen planning—all receive attention. A staff of trained and experienced workers develops and tests the recipes, plans and prepares the meals, and prepares the food for photographing.

All of this activity goes on in the two kitchens, the large living-dining room and the offices. In the laundry all sorts of problems—from the family wash to delicate fabrics and treasured heirlooms—are solved.

Modern homemaking can be done with equipment which is designed and developed to produce better and more satisfying results, as well as to save labor. The Home Service Center keeps up-to-the-minute with modern equipment and new appliances.