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# Schooling for Homemaking

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# Schooling for Homemaking

by Nina Johnson, '30

A CITY supervisor's job is never lacking in variety and interest. One must be prepared not only to carry out a number of administrative details, but also to change the day's schedule on short notice to take care of unexpected needs as they arise.

Home economics is offered in the two senior high schools and four junior high schools in Sioux City, with a staff of 15 home economics teachers. Present enrollment in our classes includes 2290 girls and 325 boys. Directing the course of study for such group requires careful planning.

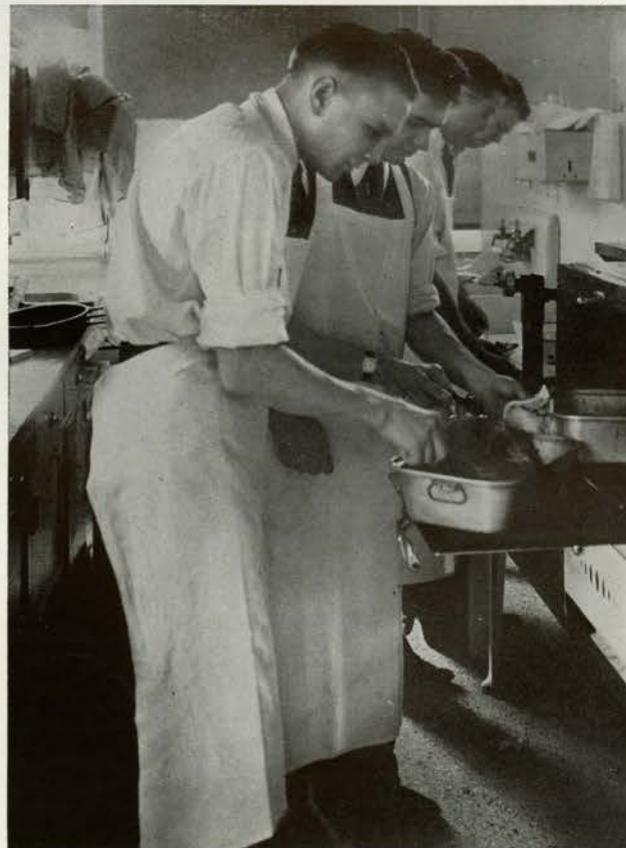
One interesting development during the past year has been the introduction of an "exchange course" in the eighth grade of our junior high schools. For one semester the boys, under the guidance of the home economics teacher, are given a course in "Problems of Everyday Living," while the girls spend the time with the industrial arts instructor studying "Home Mechanics." The course was planned cooperatively by the home economics and industrial arts departments, each criticizing the proposed plans of the other before the classes were organized.

Much of my time is spent in visiting classes, helping teachers to plan their work, and discussing their problems with them. In order that all teachers in the group may be familiar with recent publications in our field we circulate copies of new books as soon as they are received at the office.

Another problem is the improvement of our present home economics rooms and the planning of new ones. One new department for vocational homemaking was added last year, and a junior high school was completely remodeled during the summer. Plans are being completed for another new department to be put into use sometime next year.

Our home economics department operates on a defi-

nite yearly budget, which covers the purchase of new equipment and supplies as well as replacement and repair. All needs must be anticipated at least six months in advance, and a reasonable margin allowed for emergency expenses which may occur during the year. A careful record of all expenditures is kept in my office. In the spring, each teacher discusses with me her estimate of probable needs of her department for the following year, based on records of amounts used during the current year. My requisition for all articles to be used by our entire department is then made up for purchase during the summer. Many non-perishable food supplies are purchased in large quantities and kept in a central stockroom to be delivered when needed. An additional allowance is set aside for purchasing food materials not in stock, and each teacher orders from her grocer as necessary.



Supervision of our six school cafeterias is another of my responsibilities. In addition to frequent checking on the situation in each building, monthly meetings of lunchroom managers are held. At this time, questions of interest to the group are discussed, such as problems of menu planning, management, sanitation and efficient arrangement of equipment. Each month I make up a mimeographed leaflet for the managers, containing new recipes and menus, as well as a summary of ideas gathered from magazines and reports from other school lunchrooms.

Requests frequently come for assistance with meetings of various groups, women's club or study sections of American Association of University Women. In the fall of each year, some of my time is devoted to helping with organization of adult classes in different phases of home economics. It is my job to talk to groups who might be interested, explain possible study units, and see that details of organization are completed. Then I must find a suitable teacher for the class and help her to plan her work.

Opportunities for interesting participation in home economics activities are not limited to my own local situation. Often an out-of-town teacher drops in to discuss courses of study, arrangement of departments, adult classes, and numerous other problems of common interest.

My department cooperates with teachers from other towns in this section of the state in planning for home economics meetings which are held in the city each year. Careful planning and cooperation are necessary to make these meetings a maximum success. Our local group acts as hostess at these meetings. These contacts and possibilities for a wider acquaintance with home economics people outside the community who have similar interests and problems are among the most enjoyable phases of my work.