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Iowa Staters Go Conventioning

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Helen Greene is an enthusiastic delegate from the National Home Economics Convention COLLEGE and high school students from 41 states met at the National Home Economics Convention at Cleveland last June. Iowa State's club, the largest of 54 similar organizations throughout the country, was represented by seven students. Delegates toured the city, visiting places of special interest in their future profession.

To witness activity in full swing, they inspected a large wholesale food terminal at 6:30 one morning. The visitors were intrigued by the tremendous scale on which products such as eggs were stored and fruits and vegetables boxed. They even crowded their way into the auction for wholesale retailers.

Especially appealing to a feminine group was the style show presented by a large department store in Cleveland. Attractive as well as serviceable wearing apparel was featured, priced to meet a student's budget. Every delegate touring the rayon plant in Painesville, Ohio, was fascinated by the complicated process involved. Unbelievable was the transformation of cellulose wood pulp, treated chemically to spin a viscous liquid into white rayon thread. Varied equipment and the speed of the organized labor added to the mystery of spinning the thread.

Highlights of the program were recent and significant developments in the field of home economics. The N.Y.A. project in Alabama, which is intended to give a variety of people an education in homemaking, was explained. These rural and urban projects were supervised by home economics specialists in child development, textiles and clothing, dietetics and education.

Recognizing the definite need for community programs in which homemakers can learn buying, cooking and serving food, the delegates were told of the progress of the Cleveland Health Council in this work. Volunteer workers throughout the city conduct adult classes for homemakers to aid them in meal planning and preparation.

The cost of success was discussed by a panel. As future homemakers and professional home economists, delegates agreed that success in life and the chosen career is uppermost in the minds of the students.

The possibility of work in a profession after marriage, especially with children, was discouraged. However, it was advised that one keep alert in her chosen profession so that she could enter it as an occupation if the need should arise.

The tendency for a home economist to lose her femininity in professional work was discussed. Life in a commercial field involves all types of contacts. Companionability is essential as well as the ability to direct and supervise.

Lively round table discussions were a valuable part of the convention. Opinions expressed in these meetings were often carried to the delegates' rooms where they were argued and supported into the wee hours of the morning.

A colorful peasant costume display was presented at the convention by Miss Elma Pratt, who has made frequent visits to the Iowa State campus. Costumes were modeled by selected delegates. The demonstration concluded with movies of the Scandinavian people depicting their native dress and dances.

At the Iowa State Alumnae dinner, graduates of last year and many years previous relived past times and discussed their various positions. Every year there is a strong representation of the 4,362 home economics graduates of Iowa State who are making a notable contribution to the profession.

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