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Men Explore Homemaking

Eleanor White
Iowa State College

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Men Explore Homemaking

Men use homemaking training as well as women in the modern home today states Eleanor White

TODAY, more than ever before, there is need to train men as well as women for the task of homemaking. A man once worked from daylight to dark. Now, with shorter hours, he's bound to spend more time at home.

It is realized more and more that such courses as psychology in the home and family and personal finance, formerly deemed necessary only for girls, are just as imperative for boys. More time at home for father means greater time with the children. Men must understand the principles of child psychology if they are to successfully assist in their upbringing.

If there is to be happy home life, harmony and unity, men must develop an interest in the home. They must be able to share the problems of home management.

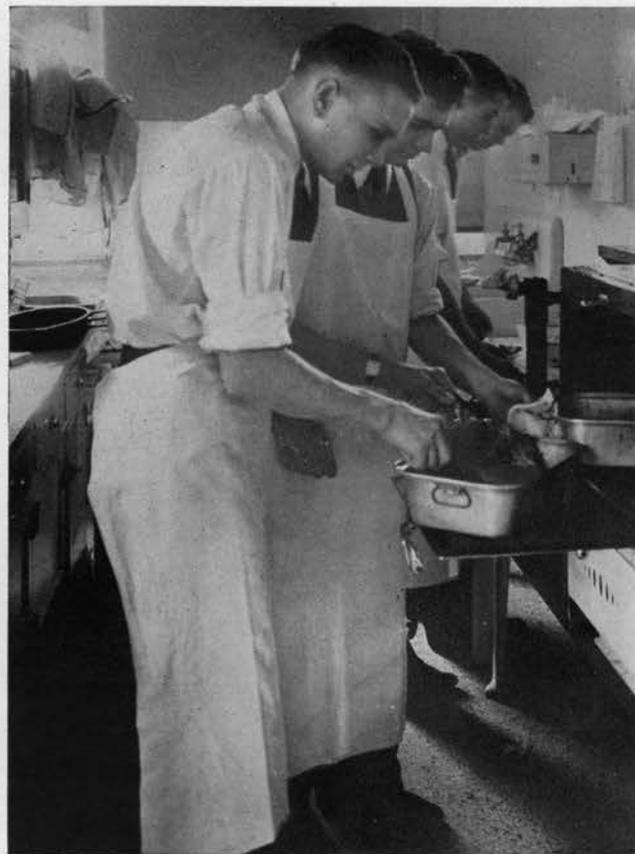
Some persons have felt that boys can become sufficiently familiar with the workings of a home in their boyhood. But not every boy has a happy home life. Often parents themselves lack the training to set a good example. They have not kept abreast of progress in the world, or they are not skilled in offering advice to their children. Therefore, the schools must supplement the home in this training.

Extensive studies and investigations have been made by noted educational authors, state and national officers of education and individuals writing theses on this subject for their master degrees. Without exception such studies have shown that extending specific instruction in home training to boys would be of great value in bettering American home life.

Proof of increased male interest in homemaking is the fact that approximately 30,000 boys are registered in home economics courses in public high schools of the United States.

Over twenty-four courses of study have been developed by high schools over the country, each type developed only after a request was made by the boys themselves. Of these courses five seem to have proven most popular. They are the courses in human and home relations, personal development, clothing, nutrition and family and personal finance.

The personal development courses include manners and personality. The boys are made aware of the fact that good health plays a major part in their per-



These boys have enrolled in a high school home economics course and are anxious to obtain some basic food knowledge

sonality. Thus they develop a desire to study good health habits and find methods of acquiring them.

In class discussion they realize that their appearance is the first cue to their personality. They want to know how to be neatly and suitably dressed. It is strange that men have not previously received help. A short stout boy has the same right to know that he should avoid plaid suits with belt and yoke as a girl of similar stature has to be warned against full skirted dresses with puffed sleeves and ruffles.

The boys' clothing courses now offer instruction in choosing garments that are suitable to the individual's build and personality both in color and in style. Opportunities for studying fabrics enable them to know durable, suitable and inexpensive clothing materials. Good grooming classes include such topics as removal of spots, cleaning and pressing of trousers, ties and coats, care and washing of sweaters, care of hats, shoes and leather.

Courses in family and personal finance for the most part aim to make a young man a more intelligent buyer. A study of the methods of buying and the basis for selecting foods and other household commodities is made. Boys receive training in methods of judging quality so as to reduce operating expenses.

To develop understanding of the need for proper planning for a family, they are allowed to study their family's budgets. The boys are thus able to figure for themselves just what part of the family income is used for them as long as they are dependent. They gain an appreciation of the amount of money on which it is safe to marry and decide upon a fair method of handling money in the home.

Home and human relations courses suggest ways to make home life worthwhile. Study centers around the boy and his relation to his family, friends and society.