Residence Halls Honor Women Leaders

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Residence Halls Honor

Women Leaders

Home management houses and dormitories bear names of home economists, says Dorothy Gross

ELLEN H. Richards held the firm conviction that if women knew better, they would do better and guided her plan for adult education by this theory. The first president of the American Home Economics Association, she is given credit for making home economics a profession and also for establishing the Journal of Home Economics.

The house which bears her name at Iowa State was added to the home management residences in 1923. It was built in 1906 as a private home.

The following year a house built in 1888 by Prof. W. F. Coover, Head of the Chemistry Department, became another home management house. It bears a tribute to Alice Norton, the first to translate the scientific theory of homemaking into actual practice by distinguishing between essentials and non-essentials of every day life. She introduced home economics into the schools of the Near East.

Under her leadership the Journal of Home Economics improved in size, variety and attractiveness without loss of its scientific and professional character.

Isabel Bevier worked 21 years in order that home economics might "lengthen its cords and strengthen its stakes." It was she who made possible the wide curricula of home economics offered today in colleges.

In 1920 Iowa State conferred upon her an honorary doctorate in science in recognition of her great contribution in the field of education.

Not only home management houses at Iowa State but also dormitories honor the great home economists. Mary Lyon Hall was named for the founder and first president of the initial college for women at Mount Holyoke. At this newly established school, Mary Lyon introduced the cooperative dormitory system, her idea being one of self-help.

The hall named for her at Iowa State was built in 1914 with a $55,000 grant from the state legislature. Mary Lyon Hall was considered a credit to the architects because of its excellent arrangement and its low average cost per occupant.

Devoting her life to education for women, Alice Freeman gave years of service as president of Wellesley College and first dean of women at the University of Chicago.

From her work with the International Red Cross in the Franco-Prussian War, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross and served as its first president. Clara Barton Hall, built in 1917, was the third dormitory to be constructed at Iowa State.

Dean Maria M. Roberts' name will long be associated with the growth of Iowa State. From the time of her graduation from this college she has devoted her best to advancing it in every way possible. As chairman of the Alumni Fund Trustees of the Alumni Association and as Dean Emeritus of the Junior College, she has solicited funds responsible for many of the opportunities offered to students. Roberts Hall, one of the freshmen dormitories on the campus, was built in 1958 and named in her honor.