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War Activities Recruit Women

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War training offered on the campus is keeping Iowa State women busy, says Patricia Galligan

ON THE “campus front” the war’s challenge is being met by Iowa State women who are busy with Red Cross sewing, home nursing and first aid training. New courses related to the war are added to the home economics curriculum.

Clothing construction classes combining an understanding of construction fundamentals have taken over some of the garment construction work of the local Red Cross chapter. Women in beginning classes made blouses and bed jackets, while those in advanced classes made men’s shirts. A total of 150 garments was completed fall quarter. Mortar Board, Textiles and Clothing Club, Phi Upsilon Omicron and other groups have held several of their weekly meetings in the campus sewing room making garment construction their special project for those periods.

Work of the Red Cross Sewing Club, a student organization which was begun last year, is continuing on a broader scope. This auxiliary student organization is responsible for making a large proportion of the comfort articles included in the quota of the local Red Cross chapter. During fall quarter work was completed on 40 bed jackets, 50 navy kits, 15 hot water bottle covers and 40 muslin gas masks. Several dozen pillow-case covers and pillows for wheel-chair and fracture cases also were made.

Members of the Sewing Club are women students who have had some sewing experience and who wish to spend their extra-curricular time in this way. Twenty-five volunteer supervisors are assigned certain hours during the week when each will have charge of the organization’s work. The supervisors keep on file the number of working hours of each participant; upon attainment of 18 hours of service each worker is entitled to a service badge. The presidents of Home Economics Club and YWCA act as co-chairmen to formulate the club program.

A beehive of activity is the hospitalized recreation room of Roberts Hall. Into this room have been moved hospital beds, ranges and various other equipment necessary for the home nursing course which is being taught there. Every freshman woman is required to take this training which is now a part of the regular three-credit-hour course in hygiene. Upon completion of this work she receives a Red Cross certificate in home nursing. In this course training is given in preparation of mustard plasters, poultices and hot packs, in infant care, in sick care and in other phases of home nursing.

Offered to senior college women this year is a similar two-credit-hour course in home nursing for which a Red Cross certificate is given. All of the bandages and dressings for the local hospitals are being made by the members of Women’s Health Council, a student organization with a leading position in the campus war effort.

Upperclass women who have completed their 2 year physical education requirement are entitled to take the Red Cross standard first aid course for which the standard certificate is given. During fall quarter 150 students learned from this work techniques in bandaging, in care of burns and fractures and in artificial respiration and proper transportation of the injured.

A student volunteer physical fitness program has been established through the efforts of Marguerite Heusinkveld, chairman of the student war council health committee, and Dr. Germaine Guiot, head of the Women’s Physical Education Department. Cooperation in this program has been shown by all dormitories and organized houses through daily participation in periods of supervised physical exercise. Special conditioning periods are now a part of all classes in women’s physical education with the exception of rhythm and swimming.

New courses offered to home economics students as a means of preparing them for war work include instruction in engineering drawing, photography, advanced home nursing, nursery school planning for the organization of war time nursery schools and school lunch preparation. A general course in mathematics has been recommended especially to household equipment majors in preparation for their replacement of men in war industries.