1945

Home Economists Consider Family Problems

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FOUR Home Economists represented Iowa State at the American Home Economics Association planning meeting held at Evanston, Ill., in June. They were Miss Florence Fallgatter, newly elected vice-president of the AHEA, Miss Rosalie Rathbone, head of the Textiles and Clothing Department of the AHEA, Miss Paulena Nickell, consultant on housing and myself as chairman of the college clubs.

Nancy Lockery of the University of Kentucky, Lexington, who is vice president of the college clubs and I were the only college students among the 50 delegates. The group included national AHEA officers, chairmen of divisions and departments, chairmen of national committees and regional councils. The purpose of the meeting was to develop plans for the 1945-46 program of work: what, why, and how to mobilize the entire membership of AHEA to work on critical family problems.

James S. Bossard, professor at the University of Pennsylvania, opened the conference with a general address on the critical situations which will affect the family during the coming year. This was followed by a panel consisting of prominent University of Chicago and Northwestern University authorities discussing means of bettering relations among cultural, racial, economic and national groups.

The program of work developed around three main points: furthering the improvement and building of houses and communities to better meet family needs; facilitating social, emotional and spiritual adjustments in the family and the community; assisting families with planned saving and spending and developing an intelligent demand for postwar goods and services. Four hours each day were devoted to these discussion groups. Amid board meetings, individual discussion groups and special meetings the program of work was finally decided upon.

Sunday morning Nancy Lockery and I were in charge of a worship service which was held in Harris Hall overlooking the Northwestern campus and Lake Michigan. Nancy gave a short talk on friendship and fellowship and I led the prayer, singing and read scriptures.

Following the AHEA meeting, Miss Lockery, Miss Gladys Wyckoff, the field secretary, Miss Dyer, the college club adviser and I went to the Hotel Stevens where we met with five other college women and a group of twelve advisers. This group represented people from all over the United States.

Miss Wyckoff opened the meeting with an installation service for the four college club officers. Mrs. Dora Lewis, national president of the AHEA, spoke to the group on the challenge of the year ahead, pointing out that we should deepen our respect and interest toward Home Economics and begin to think of what contribution we will be able to make to the AHEA in the future. Leading a short discussion of the student club magazine, Miss Helen Hostetter, the editor of the Journal of Home Economics, explained the manner in which the publication could be changed both in page content and manner of circulation. The name of the magazine has been shortened from the National Magazine of Home Economics Student Clubs to the Colhecon.

At noon we met with the Chicago Home Economics Women in Business for luncheon at Carson Pirie Scott. Mrs. Mary Lowell Schwin, the vocational director for the Home Economics Women in Business Society, gave a talk on careers for the Home Economics trained woman. Many other prominent Home Economists were there, each adding something interesting about various fields of work.

Wednesday afternoon in a joint meeting with the advisers we discussed the success of the workshops held in each of the 16 provinces throughout the year. The college students met to formulate a program of work which will be incorporated by each club into their individual plans. Miss Lockery summed up the discussion and we submitted our plan to the advisers. Suggested changes were discussed, and thus the final plans for the 1945-46 program of work were drafted.

Thursday morning’s meetings consisted of a discussion of the college club department policies. We decided upon the manner of electing club officers, nomination of candidates, number and duties of each office. Revising the college club handbook was another of our problems. This was originally written to include both high school and college clubs. A design for the letterhead of the college club stationery was submitted by La Nell Doshier of Texas.

Luncheon that noon was at the Chicago Art Institute. One exhibit that we found particularly interesting was on early American household utensils which the pioneer women used in their kitchens. After dinner the whole group went to the Selwyn theater to see the delightful production "Voice of the Turtle.”

Friday in a joint session, the college club representatives gave the advisers a full summary of all that they had accomplished during the meetings, incorporating their suggestions into a final report. The planning meeting was brought to a close with a luncheon and style show at Marshall Field and Company.