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Hardships

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THE LIFE of Catherine MacKay, first Dean of Home Economics at Iowa State, was not an easy one, but her accomplishments were many. Her name will always be remembered here and the naming of the auditorium in Home Economics Hall after her is but one of the many tributes paid this woman in appreciation of her work.

The story of Dean MacKay's life is the story of the fulfillment of a purpose. The Canadian-born woman wanted an education, and though her earlier years were taken by family responsibilities, she would not change her goal.

HARDSHIPS tell the tale of a HOME ECONOMICS DEAN

"The future of our senior girls means so much to the future of our state and country. Their responsibilities are greater than have ever fallen to the lot of young people. The world is in a state of chaos. It needs trained men and women of sincerity, of good sound judgement, of vision and of constructive energy."—

Dean MacKay, 1921

Born February 24, 1871, in Ontario, Canada, Catherine Jane MacKay moved 13 years later with her five brothers and two sisters to a homestead farm. The nearby 24 foot-square schoolhouse was a three mile walk for her, but as she grew older she was sent 20 miles from the homestead for instruction from a teacher who had a first class certificate which was then a rare qualification for a country school teacher.

When Catherine was 16, her formal education came to an abrupt close with the death of her mother. Two younger brothers and two little sisters needed "mothering," so their elder sister took over the duties of housekeeper and mother.

About the time the four younger MacKays were ready to graduate from grade school, their uncle died leaving Catherine with another little girl to rear. In 1901, the wife of Catherine's elder brother died; the girl who wanted an education then assumed the additional duties of caring for a three-year-old nephew.

All this time, Catherine MacKay was gaining valuable practical experience in homemaking. The realization of the importance of this background led to her establishment of "practice houses" at Iowa State when she became Dean.

Catherine's enrollment at Drexel Institute in Boston for graduate work in 1905, was financed by an elder brother. It was at Drexel where she met Virgilia Purmort—the two forming a friendship which resulted in Catherine's assistantship to Miss Purmort when the latter became head of Domestic Science at Iowa State.

During the interval between graduate school and her Iowa
State position, Catherine had taught in the YWCA at Minneapolis for one year and had then become supervisor of Domestic Science in the public schools of Winnipeg.

In 1912, following Miss Purmor's marriage, Catherine MacKay was made head of the Domestic Science Department at Iowa State. A year later, by action of the State Board of Education, the Domestic Science work was reorganized and it became the Division of Home Economics with Miss MacKay as Dean.

During her administration, enrollment in the department jumped from 95 to 800, and the number of degrees granted multiplied 60 times. In 1916, Dean MacKay was elected president of the American Home Economics Association.

Dean MacKay's contribution to the field of home economics and Iowa State College are unsurpassed in the college's history. She was ideally equipped for her chosen work—the instruction of the younger generation in the greatest vocation on earth—the making of a home.

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Learn to Play
(Continued from page 4)
of you taking part in the athletic program. Since 1940 the number of intramural tournaments for women has increased from 9 to 12, and the women participating in those tournaments from 663 to 1466 according to Dr. Guiot. It's no longer fashionable to be so feminine you can't catch a baseball.

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