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A Greeting to Iowa Homemakers

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"A Magazine for Homemakers from a Homemakers' School"

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A Greeting to Iowa Homemakers

By LOUISE STANLEY, Chief of the Bureau of Home Economics

THE NEW Chief of the Bureau of Home Economics is very glad to have this opportunity to extend her greetings to the Iowa Homemakers, not only to those of you who are going on in this field professionally, but to those who will apply their home economics studies to the practical problems of their own homes. We want you to know the ideal we are setting up for the development of home economics work and to pledge yourselves to do your part to further it, be it in your home or in the field.

Iowa women should have special interest in the new bureau. It was formed on the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Honorable Henry C. Wallace, an Iowa man whom you all know. A former professor from Iowa State college, Dr. E. D. Ball, who is now director of scientific work of the department of agriculture, has also had a very active part in the inauguration and the development of the plans for the new bureau. It is largely due to the vision and foresight of these two men that the bureau was established and given an opportunity to develop in the way which we hope will benefit home economics to the greatest extent.

By comparing home economics and agriculture I think I can show you more clearly what we are trying to do in this new bureau. There are in both these fields three lines of work, resident instruction, extension instruction, and research. I am putting them in this order because this is the order in which they have developed in home economics. This is unfortunate, for sound programs for resident and extension teaching should be based upon fundamental research. In agriculture this was recognized sooner than in the case of home economics, and very soon after the establishment of the land grant colleges, money was appropriated for the study of agricultural problems thru state experiment stations. Unfortunately the acts appropriating this money were not so broad as the act establishing the land grant colleges and did not include the research study of other lines of work. Later, in 1914, the Smith-Lever act created extension work in agriculture and home economics.

We are all proud of the extent to which the home economics phase of this work has grown, but this expansion has served to make even more necessary the scientific study of home economics problems in order that there might be a more valuable fund of information to extend. By this I do not mean to imply there has been no research in home economics fields. It has been possible to apply research in certain other technical fields



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very directly to home economics problems. Also there has been in the last 10 years a growing realization of the necessity for fundamental home economics research and the beginning of a considerable amount of creditable work.

The bureau of home economics was established as a recognition of the need for more research in home economics, and as a means of coordinating and stimulating work now under way. This is the first government bureau to be given over entirely to the research study of the problems of the home. We have had much valuable work done in the office of home economics under the direction of Dr. C. F. Langworthy. This has been confined largely to the study of food utilization, preparation and preservation. Much of this we hope to continue in the bureau of home economics while some which seems to be more intimately associated with the work of other bureaus will be transferred.

The beginnings at the present time are necessarily small. We are trying, however, to map out the field and establish a plan for the work to which it may grow. A group of home economics workers called in to Washington early last June discussed very thoroughly the field of home economics. They decided that in order to cover all the problems the bureau should have six divisions of work as follows: food and nutrition, econom-

ics, textiles and clothing, housing and equipment, home relationships, arts in home life.

At present we are doing work in only two of these fields, in foods and nutrition and in economics. In the first division we have the work of the experimental kitchen under Dr. Denton. Associated with her there are Miss Belle Lowe whom many of you know, determining the physical constants of fat most desirable for pastry making, Mrs. Yeatman testing methods of cooking and seasoning vegetables for a new bulletin on that subject, and Mrs. Tisdale working out directions for making the most satisfactory bread from soft wheat flour.

Miss Caroline Hunt is working upon some new bulletins on food selection. Her aim is as she expresses it, "to restore the joy of eating." She is working out a scheme to show that within a limited portion of the diet the essentials must be provided from restricted groups of foods. After that you may within your calorie limit indulge your appetite.

In the field of economics less has been done, but we believe that a good beginning has been made. Miss Ilena Bailey has been working some years on time studies and more recently in cooperation with the bureau of agricultural economics on studies of the economic conditions in farm homes. A report of the first of these, made in Livingston county, New York, has been published in department bulletin 1214, under the title, "Family Living in Farm Homes." You have probably seen the ingenious device Miss Bailey has worked out to enable the housewife to keep account of how every five minutes of the day has been spent.

After the first of July we are planning to extend our studies so as to include textiles and clothing, and housing and equipment. The divisions on home relationships and arts in home life will probably not be touched until another year.

The reports of these investigations will be available to the technical home economics worker in the form of technical bulletins. The bureau will probably furnish this same material to the housewife in a popular form in the familiar farmers' bulletins.

The work of the bureau should not stop with that being done here in Washington. It is to be hoped that the establishment of a research bureau here may have a direct influence in helping with the development of research work and research spirit in all the institutions in the country offering home economics. Each and every one of you should do your part in cultivating "this seeking after truth" which is after all the foundation of this research spirit.