Division of Home Economics

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Division of Home Economics

BY MARCIA E. TURNER

Once a little basement room where a single teacher with a vision of prophecy taught a small group of girls to cook and serve, and now a great white building, where 1,400 girls in home economics classes are learning how best to live happily and usefully as homemakers or as professional women! What a great contrast!

In the fifty odd years since home economics was established at Iowa State College, that department has developed consistently with the unfolding conception of education for homemaking, and always the women of its faculty have been of that group of prophetic leaders in home economics who have watched for the daybreak and have marched ahead with each new dawning.

One of the five great divisions of the College, the Division of Home Economics now constitutes eight departments: Applied Art, Foods and Nutrition, Home Economics Vocational Education, Houschold Administration, Institutional Administration, Physical Education, Textiles and Clothing and Homemakers Unit Courses.

Within the past three or four years expansion within the departments has been unprecedented, thru closer alignment with national programs, intensive development in the various fields, old and new, and growth of facilities for advanced study and research. The faculty has grown to number 65 persons.

The Applied Art Department, which offered in 1901 its first course in interior house design with one class and one room, now has ten art laboratories in the new building in which are taught the various design courses, hand crafts and art appreciation. Miss Joanna M. Hansen is head of the department which numbers ten other staff members.

Foods and Nutrition, one of the older established departments, has grown until it occupies most of the space in the original building, which has been incorporated as the west wing of the new structure. In this space are unit kitchens for meal planning and special laboratories for marketing, dietetics, experimental cookery and special research. There are 12 members of the department, with Dr. Mabel Nelson as acting head as well as director of research. A member of the staff serves also as dietitian for the College Hospital, and this joint affiliation makes possible some good work in dietetic studies. The special research laboratories, with their excellent facilities for work, are affording impetus to a number of nutrition problems now under way.

The Household Administration Department only a few years ago consisted of a single course and one home management house, administered by the Foods and Nutrition Department. Now there is a faculty of 12 members with Dean Anna E. Richardson at the head, and several sub departments. One of these sub departments, Child Care and Training, directed by Mrs. Lulu R. Lancaster, has its own building, a modern nursery school, with an enrollment of 35 pre-school children. The child care program is planned to fulfill several purposes—one of preparental training for home economics students; another to assist parents in the rearing of their children, and third, to help children toward their rightful heritage of normal development.

Another unit within the Household Administration Department is that of household equipment, the controlling purpose of which is to simplify routine processes of the home.

The home management courses, which have their culmination in a six weeks residence period in a home management house, are in charge of Miss Ruth Lindquist. There are now three home management houses on the campus, each bearing a name allied with the development of home economics, Mary B. Welch, Ellen H. Richards and Isabel Bevier. In each of these houses a child under two years is a much loved member of the family.

The Home Economics Vocational Education Department has a staff of ten members, with Miss Cora

A Doorway in MacKay Auditorium

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NOT a few, but many persons shared in the development of new Home Economics Hall. It took on its final form slowly, and not until many different suggestions had been considered and used in whole or in part in the making of the plans. The committees of the eight departments of the State Board of Education, Proudfoot, Rawson and Somers, carried the chief burden of designing. It rested with them to take the miscellaneous approved suggestions of the Home Economics Division and work them into a structure which could be built to meet the limitations of finance, location, building materials and the like. It was an especially unique part of their task to utilize the old brick Home Economics Building as it stood and make it a part of the new without impairing the beauty or efficiency of the old structure. That was a stroke of economy which meant large savings to the state.

But back of what the architects had an interesting story of what was done within the division.

On April 25, 1923, President Land Spence announced the first tentative plan for the proposed new building and by the time the building committee met on May 5, the plans had been made and the architects had been engaged.

The building committee consisted of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Tilden, Mrs. Earle, Mr. and Mrs. B. Miller, Mrs. M. L. Brown, and Miss Winifred Leach.

In the fall semester of 1923, the plans were ready for presentation to the Board of Regents and on November 10, 1923, the committee made their report.

The plan was a large one 

 Laird 1200 

A STRAIGHT ROAD FROM PAST TO PRESENT

By HERMAN KNAPP

Acting President

THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

IOWA State College had the temerity to open its doors to women from the very start, quite contrary to the practice in the eastern colleges and in many of the western colleges. Early in January, 1866, it was proposed by the Committee on Organization of the State Board of Trustees to admit women to the college on the same basis as the men. This proposal was followed by the Board by a vote of nine to three. Since that time the road has run straight and uninterrupted.

I have known personally every home economics teacher of the past administrations, from Mrs. Welch to Dean Richardson, and therefore can testify to what splendid types of women they have been, because every one of them shares to bring the division up to its present high standard. The personnel today is the outcome of a gradual gathering here of interested, wide-awake women who are ambitious to develop and maintain the finest school of Home Economics in the country.

A careful review of the work that our home economics graduates are doing brings out the fact that they are succeeding in many ways and in many fields. These women had ability to begin with, of course, but they have been given credit for a training and culture which we believe have benefited all of our graduates. As a result, thousands of young people whose mothers whom have permitted them to be with us only a year or two. In this new building we bespeak a continuation of a great educational work which builds for strength and leadership.

The eight departments in the Division of Home Economics are all closely bound by a common purpose—

DIVISION OF HOME ECONOMICS—(Continued from page eleven)

The Department of Textiles and Clothing has advanced far beyond those days when its students would be expected only to "sit on a pillow and sew a fine seam." It seeks to teach home economics students to 

weep and judge clothing values in money, in time, in health and in beauty and appropriateness. The second floor of the building is given over largely to its laboratories. Miss Frances Sims is head of the department and there are nine members of the staff.

The Homemakers Department is an outgrowth of the original two-year home economics course and provides especially for the needs of homemakers who wish to supplement their practical experience with further training and also of young women with no previous training in Home Economics. Two hundred girls each week come thru the gymnasiums in Margaret Hall or Old Agricultural Hall, or on to the playgrounds near the women's residence halls. Miss Winifred Leach, head of the department, has a faculty of six members and the courses offered include such subjects as cooking, sewing, home economics, and the like.

The Physical Education Department is the only one not represented in Home Economics Hall. Four hundred girls each week come thru the gymnasiums in Margaret Hall or Old Agricultural Hall, or on to the playgrounds near the women's residence halls. Miss Winifred Leach, head of the department, has a faculty of six members and the courses offered include such subjects as cooking, sewing, home economics, and the like.

The eight departments in the Division of Home Economics are all closely bound by a common purpose—

Twas Team Work That Did It

the probable increase in enrollment for a period of 15 to 25 years. Then she figured the cubage required to meet both the present and the future needs of the division. With this data in hand she made the first tentative plan for the proposed new building and by the time the night had it ready on time.

From that day on Miss Hansen had a vital part in the development of the building as a thing of beauty as well as of use. Plans for the interior decoration of the building were prepared by her, down to the working out of samples of color for woodwork and walls in every room. She chose the design for the stone carving of the fireplace in the auditorium, the tiles in the tea room, the interior decoration laboratory and exhibit room on the third floor, and indicated their arrangement. She also worked out with Dean Richardson and heads of the departments the scheme for the general equipment of the building.

Endless in number, were the conferences called by Dean Richardson, to confer in detail every step of the project, and department heads and their associates gave much time to them. But they came to an end finally and the plans resulting were prepared for bidding and the contracts let. After that a new group of workers took up the project—the contractors and their skilled workmen. How well they organized and carried out their work is testified to by the fact that no large structure of that size ever went up more rapidly; most of the time it was much ahead of schedule.

The building of the new Hall, exemplifies the thought of a famous Kipling poem, that to bring to perfection any great enterprise it takes "the everlastin' team work of every bloomin' soul."