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American Home Economics Association Convention

By KATHERINE L. GOEPPINGER

MONDAY morning, June 28, Minneapolis welcomed over 1,500 women to the nineteenth annual American Home Economics Association Convention, which met at the Hotel Radisson. Practically every state was represented by delegates, which included educational workers, teachers, homemakers, journalists, women in business, institutional workers and women (as well as a few men) interested in economic phases of the American home.

Monday was devoted to registration and educational trips in and near the Twin Cities. Tuesday the program opened formally, Dr. Katharine Blunt, national president, presiding. In an address on "The Unity of the American Home Economics Association," Dr. Blunt said:

"The growth of the association has been phenomenal. Few organizations can boast a seven fold increase in five years. What holds the 8,200 people together? What are the bonds of unity? The American Home Economics Association is the only organization in the country that includes all varieties of home economists. One of the strongest bonds is the similarity of the state organizations, which makes it possible to formulate a national plan. The student club organizations through the country are promising sources of future members with a national acquaintance of home economic problems. The chief single event of the year as a unifying factor is the initiation of our work for child study and parental education under the able leadership of Miss Anna Richardson, Dean of Home Economics at Iowa State College. Alice L. Edwards, executive secretary, stated that the American Home Economics Association is seeking to define the place of home economics in the program for human advancement. "Only as imagination is stimulated to visualize the possibilities, and minds held to thinking clearly may we hope to project plans which will be worthy of the cause which we seek to serve," said Miss Edwards.

At the meeting of the Committee on Economic and Social Problems of the Home, Miss Hazel Kyrk, University of Chicago, discussed the Field of Research in Economic Problems of the Home. The problems centered about income, expenditure, cost of living and housekeeping or management. She emphasized the need of research on the two problems, expenditures and housekeeping, as these are under the homemaker's control and have as yet been little studied.

Chase Going Woodhouse of the United States Bureau of Home Economics discussed the various methods employed in the study of household expenditures and the aims of this study.

Eloise Davison, Iowa State College, discussed Electrical Equipment in Farm Households; Maude Wilson, Oregon Agricultural College, reported on "The Homemaker's Use of Time;" Lucy A. Stidley, University Farm, summarized the results of her research on "The Expenditures of Minnesota Farm Families; The Relation Between Income and Standard of Living" was discussed by Andrew Boss, University of Minnesota.

The Committee on Child Study held its meeting Tuesday afternoon with Miss Anna E. Richardson presiding. A digest of the state program of the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station was presented by Bird T. Baldwin, director. The keynote which Dr. Baldwin sounded was "better children make a better state." The state of Iowa is convinced of the value of preventing mental, moral, physical and social defects in children and thus influencing child behavior thru parent training. Information and courses of study are available to parents thru the State University, State College of Agriculture, State Teachers College and the cities of Des Moines and Council Bluffs. Study groups are already organized thruout the state. Others besides mothers are recognizing their responsibility and taking advantage of these opportunities.

Mr. John E. Anderson, Institute of Child Welfare, University of Minnesota, presented the topic, "The Value of Nursery School Education for the Child." The outstanding influence seems to be the development within the child of resources with which situations may be met. This is sound mental hygiene. Parents feel that after a nursery school period children are more easily controlled at home, that they play more effectively, that they cooperate more effectively and cooperate better with other children.

At the Textile Section meeting, Alan A. Phillips of the Dayton Company, Minneapolis, spoke on "Why All Your Clothing Is Not American Made." He declared that the style consciousness of the American woman which makes her continually hanker after "what's new" is one of the prompts for foreign trade. "The fact that there is no such thing as commercial isolation is another reason for buying in Europe. A third big reason is the demand of a wealthy nation for what is exclusive and unusual," said Mr. Phillips.

Problems of homemakers and their children was the theme of discussion at the general session Wednesday evening, at which Frances Swain presided. Anna E. Richardson, newly appointed field worker in Child Care and Parental Training, presented the program of the association in its promotion of this recently developed field, under the grant of the Laura Swan Rockefeller Memorial. It is the plan of the field secretary to make a study of the newer trends in Home Economics as they relate to the problems of child care, family life and parental education; to cooperate with representatives of other organizations or associations working to like ends; to analyze and make available the work that has been done, pointing out experiments and principles which should guide in organizing new undertakings and in more successfully reaching girls and women thru Home Economics institutions.

Edna N. White, in charge of nutrition work at Merrill Palmer School of Homemaking and chairman of the Council on Parental Education, spoke of parent education as the newest child in the education field.

"The movement for pre-school education which has developed so rapidly in the last few years, has turned the educational searchlight on parents," she said. "This has brought a realization of the fact that this most important job of all has been undertaken with no appreciation that training was
even desirable. Individual parents have already reached into the most remote regions; vocational and public school groups reach city parents, so reach those who are fathers and mothers. There were more representatives from the home economics group than from any other at the first conference on parent education.

"Parental education is not the exclusive task of any one group," said Miss White, "because it cannot be organized without the aid of many specialists. We are not specialists except in the sense of having abiding interest in the home."

Miss White felt, however, that although home economics trained people were probably those that the child would be the best equipped to see the problem from the parents' angle and so reach those who are and those who will be fathers and mothers. "No other educational group except agriculture," she said, "has such well organized machinery for reaching both parental and pre-parental groups. Extension workers have already reached into the most remote regions; vocational and public school groups reach city parents, colleges and universities may develop courses for the highest academic levels and now thru our newly acquired fellowship by the Purnell funds we may carry out our project at Simpson College for this purpose."

Ruth O'Brien, Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D. C., presided at the Textiles and Clothing Section. Katharine Cranor reported for Iowa State College on "Graduate Work in Textiles and Clothing."

Miss Ada Herrmann of Iowa State College was awarded the first fellowship offered by the Textile Section for research in standardization of textiles. The following research reports on textiles and clothing at Iowa State College were presented by Miss Cranor:

1. Mrs. Elwyn Cady: "Wearing and Fading Tests of Cotton Material Used for Children's Clothing."
2. Mary Alice Dunn: "A Preliminary Study of the Need for Standardization of Pattern Sizes."

"Costumes and Their Influence," given by Mrs. Sicilia Secord, "A Study of Clothing Problems for College Classes."


The following women attended the Home Economics convention dined at the Radisson Hotel Teco Inn and enjoyed a program which had been arranged by Beatrice Olson, now with the University of Minnesota.

Iowa State was well represented by faculty, extension staff, graduates and several undergraduates.

Mabel Campbell, 65, who becomes Head of the Home Economics Department at the University of Missouri this fall, acted as toastmistress.

"Studies were given by Dean Richardson, Florence Busse Smith, Kathern Ayres, representing Omicron Nu, and Ella Fae McCue, representing the Home Economics Club. During the table talks, pictures of Home Economics Hall, the Home Management Houses and Nursery School and the Home Economics Memory Book were passed among the alumnae."

Miss Richardson stated that there are now 1,765 Home Economics graduates at Iowa State College. The present yearly enrollment in the division is 1,800 (including Homemakers, 1,525). This summer 72 students are taking graduate Homemaking work. Seventy students were placed in tea room and dining room work for the summer.

Miss Richardson presented the following outstanding data on the number of Home Economics graduates in various occupations:

- Teaching positions ............... 558
- Dietetics work .................... 54
- Extension ....................... 56
- Institutional ..................... 31
- Commercial ...................... 24
- Journalism ........................ 10
- Now homemakers .................. 643

"Other occupations as welfare directors, nurses, bacteriologists, assistants to dean, etc., ....... 27

At home or occupations unknown 240

The following women attended the Iowa State alumnae dinner:

Marie Young, Marie Hanson, Esther Pond, Hazel Bown, Beulah Rogers, Mable Russell, Anita Andrews, Ethel Greenway, Ruth Freedge, Vera Waite, Pauline L. Hall, "Methods of Determining the Presence of Radium."

Virginia Messenger, "Dietary Study in a Nursery School."

Miriam Rapp, "Factors Affecting the Efficient Operation of Electric Ranges."

Ashville, North Carolina, was selected as the Home Economics convention city for 1927. New officers elected were: Juliet Lita Bane to succeed Dr. Katharine Blunt as president; Wylie McNeal, University of Minnesota, and James Ellen Harris, Alabama Agricultural College, to fill the vice-presidential vacancies left by Frances Swain and Lita Bane; Jean Kreuger, Michigan, Agricultural College, secretary and treasurer.