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Follow the Leader

By ALENE BELL

Recently you received a letter from the president of the Iowa State Home Economics Association in which there was a reminder of the Ellen H. Richards Memorial Fund. The raising of this fund is a state privilege and responsibility and your help is now needed to complete Iowa’s quota.

Perhaps you wonder why there are frequent calls for contributions of one kind and another, and perhaps you ask yourself the question, “What is my responsibility in regard to this matter and what does this mean to me personally?” Before answering this question, let us consider some of the following thoughts in regard to this matter:

Homemaking education probably received its greatest single stimulus thru the influence of Ellen H. Richards’ life. Her career was given to the planting of seed which represented various types of worthy investigations for improving American home life. “Ere the light of her life paled, it lit a hundred torches’ flames” and thus gave to women of America an opportunity to enter hitherto closed gates. This accomplishment of paving the way for educational privileges for women not only developed a broad vision in the field of possibilities, but also ways and means for obtaining valuable results.

Mrs. Richard’s Challenge

The life of Mrs. Richards was dominated by a desire and a determination for exploring and conquering many forces which hampered the truest and best developments of human life. This fact is emphasized by her belief in the motto, “Where anyone else has been, there I can go.” She did not stop where others had been, but pressed beyond where others dared to go. There seemed to be in this brave spirit a great desire and joy for attacking common problems with a scientific mind. This she did with unremitting enthusiasm throughout her life. By advancing in her investigations where others dared not, she hoped to open a way in which we might follow and so “To you from fallen hands we throw the torch; Be yours to hold it high.” Can we women of today all our unlimited privileges and opportunities afford to break faith with the greatest leader our profession has ever known?

Having overcome struggles of poverty, ill health and limited securities for securing a well-rounded education, she directed a large part of her energy toward bringing opportunities of scientific study within the reach of other women. The vision of Mrs. Richards was thereby manifested in two main types of endeavor, namely; leadership and scientific research.

At a time when women’s education was at a critical stage she appeared well armed to mold opinion to meet the future needs. Thus she played the part of an active construction engineer in paving the way by turning to good account all the knowledge which she had acquired.

Mrs. Richards’ power for organization was a valuable contribution to institutions with which she came in contact. At all times giving herself wholeheartedly, she came to be known as an outstanding personality to whom many leaders in various fields came for guidance.

To individuals as well as groups she gave generously of her time and council. This is confirmed by reports of many ambitious and deserving young women who went high in the profession as a result of her influence.

Mrs. Richards Aided Others

Perhaps the activity which Mrs. Richards loved most was scientific research to which she gave much energy, time, thought and even her own money. She was constantly guided in the work by a desire to make definite contributions to the solving of problems concerning health and happiness of individuals and homes. That her ideas were far in advance of her time is shown by her vivid description of “The College Woman of 1956” in which she made many prophecies—numbers of which are present-day accepted forms. It is interesting to note that many theories which she advocated are now essential parts of our homemaking program.

It is not often that a personality as forceful and efficient as Mrs. Richards’ times to the field of homemaking with the contributions which she has left us. In receiving them, the least we can do is to accept the privilege of carrying on her work. “To have a right start in life is a great advantage, and, so, our grandmother saw to that.” With our rich inheritance, we can not selfishly accept everything without in turn making the best use of our wealth.

She said that she had tried to show what an average American woman could accomplish, and no better example can be ours than is the picture of her worthwhile life.

With her zealous interest in discovering ways of breaking down barriers, her greatest wish was that others might continue her work. Thus we can honor our leader in no more fitting way than to put our shoulders to the wheel in aid of our bit to the fund which is only a small tribute at best. It takes no great play of imagination to realize that perhaps nothing could have made this woman more happy than to know that a way was being made by which young women might be given training for carry on her work.

We, as home economics women, are charged with the responsibility of assisting our fellow-workers who are striving towards the solution of some of our numerous present day problems by means of research.

Follow Our Leader

Let us pause in our own busy highways long enough to consider the far reaching influence of Mrs. Richards’ life which we at present are enjoying—perhaps unconsciously. Then let us think of our past as more links in a very large chain which is being formed throughout this country of ours to pay tribute to our great leader. Can you wisely spend your earnings and omit a mite for a tribute to the one who has helped to make your earnings possible? No—the teachers of home economics in Iowa will not break faith, but will do their part in honoring the memory of Ellen H. Richards.

Those who wish to follow the leader are given the opportunity to join with the host of the home economics women in this undertaking which will not only honor the memory of our leader, but will also further research in our own profession. In order that Iowa’s quota for this fund may be col-

(Continued on page 13)
her summer in Ames and plans to devote much of her time to the writing of her book, "FoodBuying Manual." She will be assisted in her work by Miss Willetta Moore, who is an assistant professor in food and nutrition at the State College at Corvallis, Ore. Miss Moore is at Iowa State College for the summer.

Miss Marie Stevens left Monday, June 13, for California. She will attend the Kappa Delta convention at Asilomar and will spend some time in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and will return home by way of Portland, Ore., and Salt Lake City.

Miss Florence Faust, who has been teaching at the University of Nebraska during the past year, will teach cloth­ing and millinery during the first six weeks of summer school at Iowa State and will spend the remainder of the summer with her sister in California. She will visit Ethelwyn and Emma Dodson, H. Ec., '22.

Miss Iva Brandt, H. Ec., '05, will take a trip in her Ford sedan to St Cloud, Minn., and Lincoln, Neb. She will teach in Ames during the second session of summer school.

Miss Mabel Fisher, associate professor in Applied Art, will spend her vacation with her mother at 1102 S. Columbia street, Frankfort, Ind.

Miss Elza Wertheim, instructor in Applied Art, and Dr. Elizabeth E. Hoyt, associate professor in Home Administration and Economic Science, will leave New York on June 18 on the steamship Caroma, bound for Havre, France. They will spend some time in Paris, Switzerland, Rome and Florence and will visit the caves in Dordogne, where the earliest pre-historic mural paintings have been found. After a month of travel, Dr. Hoyt will go to England, where she will conduct a research problem which concerns the determining of the rural standards of living, and Miss Wertheim will remain in France or Switzerland to do some landscape painting.

Miss Helene Heye has recently completed her thesis on "The Marketing of Milk from the Standpoint of the Consumer." The thesis is of special interest because it correlates the work of the dairy, economics, foods and marketing departments.

In Londontown

(Continued from page 3)

establishment. Sales women did not hover uneasily about, yet were ready to answer questions in a most friendly and helpful way. And to my great astonishment, I saw many lovely Liberty designed articles quite within the reach of even a poor student.

State Association Page

(Continued from page 8)

lected promptly, you are urged to mail your contribution to Miss Olive Morris, 4228 Hickman Avenue, Des Moines.

The normal training committee, with Miss Louise Adler, Iowa State Teach-ers' College, Cedar Falls, in charge, has prepared a bill as suggested reading for use in the Home Economics departments of normal training high schools. This bill is based on the wishes and recommendations expressed by the teachers of Home Economics in normal training high schools in the state.

There are now 17 affiliated Home Economics Clubs in the state. This shows a large increase over last year. There are also a great many clubs that have been organized and are functioning, but that have not yet affiliated.

The HOMEMAKER is now sent to 365 members of the Iowa State Home Economics Association.

Newly elected Home Economics council members of the state are:

North Central Miss O'Leary, Mason City
Central Caroline Wetstein, Victoria Hotel, D' Moines
South Central Bernice Stillman, Clarinda
South West Mrs. May Larson, Council Bluffs
South East Elizabeth Lamb, Burlington
North East Blanch Beek, Dubuque
North West Lillian Orr, Sioux City

"One great strong unselfish soul in every community would actually redeem the world."—Elbert Hubbard.

"Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you may choose them as your guide, and, following them, you reach your destiny."—Carl Schurz.

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