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American Home Economics Association Convention

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American Home Economics Association Convention
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, JUNE 20-25

General Meetings
By Miss Frances Sims

Eleven hundred home economics workers made the pilgrimage to Asheville, North Carolina in June to attend the 20th annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association. Something less than that number attended all of the meetings for the lure of the beautiful country made truants of some of the most ardent of the pilgrims.

True southern hospitality, delightful weather, beautiful scenery combined with well arranged and interesting programs were outstanding features of this meeting.

The first council meeting was held Tuesday, June 21, with the president, Miss Lita Bane, of the University of Wisconsin, presiding. At this meeting reports were made by the Executive Secretary of the Association, the Editor and Business Manager of the Home Economics Journal, the treasurer and controller, and by Miss Anna E. Richardson, field worker in Child Development and Parental Education.

The afternoon meeting was a general meeting where a new feature was tried out most successfully. This was the giving of a progress report of the efforts of the home economics women in commercial work.

Miss Evelyn Mitzger of Kansas State Teachers College reported for the Related Art Section while Miss Anna Richardson told of the work accomplished by the Committee on Child Development and Parental Education.

The Committee on Economic and Social Problems of the Home has undertaken some consumption studies and has compiled information as to the type of courses in Economics and Sociology offered to home economics students in colleges.

The evening meeting was a general session open to the public, the main address of which was given by Will Durant, author of the "Story of Philosophy." In his address "Is Life Worth Living?" Mr. Durant sketched the steps in human progress that have led to our present civilization calling the recent flight to Europe the latest step.

Meetings of the various sections were held Wednesday with special reports and speakers followed later by business meetings.

The most important event of the business meeting of Friday so far as Iowa members were concerned was the announcement that the 1928 meeting would be held in Des Moines. This places a distinct responsibility on every home economics woman in the state. We have had a wonderful precedent to follow and if we can in any way measure up to the fine organization of the North Carolina women who made the meeting such a success, it will mean that everyone must put forth her best efforts to show the hospitality of the Corn State to the home economics women of the country.

Foods and Nutrition Section
By Dr. P. Mabel Nelson

Through the courtesy of Dr. Sybil Smith, chairman of the publications committee, abstracts of the research conducted by members of the section during 1926-27 were presented in mimeograph form to the section.

The reports of the research were classified into four general groups. Miss Lucy Alexander of the U. S. Bureau of Home Economics was the leader in the discussion of the research in "The Factors Affecting the Quality and Palatability of Meat." Miss Alexander outlined the general plan of research being conducted on this Purnell project and also the method being used for the cooking of the beef.

At least 10 schools reported experimental work in the cooking of meat. The problem of the relation of age, sex and length of hanging to the quality and palatability of meat is being studied at Iowa State College. This study is cooperative with the Animal Husbandry Department. Twenty-six roasts of beef from 13 different animals, ranging in age from yearlings to two-year-olds, have been roasted according to the directions prescribed by the national committee. The data for the changes in weight during the cooking, and record of scores for aroma, texture and flavor of fat and lean have been secured.

Metabolism was the subject of the second discussion, which was led by Miss Static Erikson of the University of Kentucky. Nine metabolism studies from seven schools were reported. From Kansas State Agricultural College was reported an experiment conducted on 12 college girls, 10 of whom were anemic, in which a teaspoon of cod liver oil given daily caused eight of the ten anemic girls to show a rise in the free and total gastric acidity and a corresponding increase in red blood cell counts. The cod liver oil seemingly favored an increased rate of blood regeneration.

Twelve studies on "Dietary Habits in Relation to Health" were discussed under the leadership of Dr. Ellen A. Reynolds, Virginia Agricultural College.

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Experiment Station. A study of the abnormalities of pre-school children examined under the supervision of the Children's Bureau of Kansas City, Missouri, showed that of the 1,447 children under four years of age, 22 percent were 7 percent or more underweight; 35 percent of all the children were 20 percent or more overweight; 60 percent of all the children had one or more abnormalities, of which rickets was the most common. These children were from families having an average income of $5,000 or more, and most of them came from uncongested districts.

The fourth and largest group of papers, 25 in number, on “The Vitamin Content of Foods in Relation to Human Nutrition,” were summarized by Dr. Louise Stanley of the U.S. Bureau of Home Economics. The reports showed, among other things, that pears do not lose their vitamin C on storage; that the cold pack method of canning destroys vitamin C almost entirely; that apples show a loss of vitamin C on storage; that rhubarb is a better source of vitamin C than are apples. The tests for the vitamin content of kale showed that the vitamin A content is low; the vitamin B content is rather high; the vitamin D is very low and the vitamin C content had not been determined. Burbot oil, from fish, was shown to be better than cod liver oil as a source of vitamin D.

Twenty-five additional miscellaneous papers were included in the mimeographed report, making a total of 85 studies reported for the year.

The section meeting was well attended. A great deal of dissatisfaction was expressed by members of the other sections who desired to attend the foods research section, but were unable to do so because the other sections met simultaneously. The program for next year promised that all of the papers will have to be eliminated or more time allowed for the group discussions.

Textile Research Section

By Miss Katherine Cranor


This was one of the most interesting of the association programs. Last year only seven or eight people were present at the meeting, and the entire group was made up of people reporting research. This year a large room was packed with men and women; many were standing. Great interest in the work was indicated by the number of questions asked, the taking of notes and interest in the materials.

Of twenty-four pieces of research reported, fourteen were done at Iowa State College. The following are the problems as listed on the program:

3. Costs of clothing as furnished for women and girls in Kansas state charitable institutions. Elizabeth Cox and Lillian Stevenson.
5. A comparison of the relative durability of silk and rayon when used in knit underwear fabrics. Mary L. Goyd and Lillian Stevenson.
6. Silk versus cotton as an underwear material. Margaret Grant and Katherine Cranor.
7. The effect of dry cleaning and pressing upon woolen materials used for men’s suits. Marion Griffith and Katherine Cranor.
10. The study of the quality of material and relative cost of women’s coats from typical retail stores of South Dakota. Anna Halgrim.
11. Physical and chemical tests determining the wearing quality of silk fabrics. Manetta Heldman and Katherine Cranor.
12. Protection afforded the body from fabrics when air is in motion. Katherine Hess, E. V. Floyd and Lilian Baker.
14. The ash content of various grades of wide cotton sheetings. Frances Jones and Rachel Edgar.
17. A study of the effect of various types of shoes upon the feet of the high school girl. Maude Eastwood Little and Katherine Cranor.
19. College clothing work on the problem basis. Alice Rosenberger and Katherine Cranor.
20. The value of buying well-known brands of yard goods and household textiles. Clarice Scott and Katherine Cranor.
23. Modern moth prevention as adapted to the needs of the home-maker. Helen White and Katherine Cranor.

Reports of standing committees were made at the business meeting on Thursday. These were followed by the election of officers for next year, Mrs. Pauline Beery Mack of Pennsylvania State College was elected chairman of the Textile Section. In case she did not accept, Miss Ethel Phelps, the University of Minnesota and Miss Grace Norton, the University of Nebraska, were chosen as alternates. Miss McCalla was made secretary of the section.

Miss Lilian Baker of Kansas State Agricultural College was elected treasurer and chairman of the research section with Miss Ruth O’Brien of the Bureau of Home Economics acting as chairman of the round table.

Dr. Rachel Edgar of Iowa State College and Miss Rosamond Cook of the University of Cincinnati were made chairmen of the standardization committee. Members of the committee are to be appointed later.

Vocational Education Section

Miss Ival Spafford, state supervisor of home economics of Alabama, presided at the meeting of the Vocational Education Section. Papers were presented and a discussion of them followed.

All of the reports were on some subject related to the general one of “Adapting Home Economics Instruction to the Needs of the Students.”

Related Art Section

By Miss Mabel Russell

One of the most interesting features of the Related Art Section of the convention was a talk given by Miss Rosamond Cook, of the University of Cincinnati. She is supervising the practice teaching at that institution. Miss Cook particularly stressed the many influences against which a teacher of related art must work. Many of these influences are unsuspected by the teacher. For instance, the influence of advertising, the home influence and even that of the mail order catalog are often factors that are doing more to set standards of taste than the teacher realizes.

Miss Hollarstrom, of the University of Wisconsin, read a paper on “Minimum Standards of Attainment in Related Art.” The paper was very instructive and interesting.

The committee reports of this section were very brief; Miss Warner, of Cornell, reported on an investigation in regard to the name “Related Art.” There has been considerable objection to the name at many Institutions. Since no one was able to suggest a better one and since it is coming more and more to mean, “art in relation to home economics,” the chairman rec-
From a very small beginning only a few years ago, the membership of the Business Section has grown to include 250 members.

One of the most important meetings of the Business Section was held Wednesday evening at the Battery Park hotel. The theme of each speaker's report was "What of the Future?" Each speaker was optimistic for the success of the Business Section.

The report given by Miss Ina Lindman of Ball Brothers, Muncie, Indiana, on fellowships was especially interesting because many of the commercial firms are sponsoring fellowships in our colleges and universities. Miss Lindman reported that these commercial firms, for the most part, are enthusiastic about the results they are obtaining through their fellowships, and that money so invested brings good returns.

Miss Marjorie Hesselton, of Hill Brothers, New York, was elected chairman of the section for the coming year.

**Preparation for Nutrition Research**

By MELBA NISEWANGER

**SPECIAL Problems, F & N 359, will be offered for the first time, in the fall quarter, to undergraduate home economics students who are classified as seniors, according to Dr. Rosseim M. Arnold, director of research in Foods and Nutrition.**

The purpose of the course is to develop in the student an understanding of the methods used in research work in nutrition, an appreciation of the literature and the way it is carried on in the library and the need for it. As an introduction to the choice of their individual research problem for the master's thesis, and especially conducted to develop correct techniques, as well as initiative in planning and carrying on research problems.

Heretofore the course has been open only to graduate students, serving as an introduction to the individual research problem for the master's thesis, and especially conducted to develop correct techniques, as well as initiative in planning and carrying on research problems. The nominating committee reported that of the course seven of the students decided upon the problem they wished to work out for their master's theses, of which the two following are representative of the very interesting studies made:

(a) The effect of lettuce in the diet of underweight college girls, with special reference to hemoglobin, red corpuscles, and urinary acidity.

(b) The effect of grape juice on the nitrogen retention and urinary acidity of normal adults.

In the latter study, carried on by Louise Pickens, M. S., 27, six experiments of eight to ten days' duration were conducted on two young women to study the effect of grape juice on nitrogen retention and urinary acidity. A diet of crackers, cheese, apple butter and almonds was used in the three basal experiments. Grape juice supplemented this diet through three other experiments.

"That a greater number of students interested in research work in nutrition was especially demonstrated in the urinary acidity where grape juice was used. A slight nitrogen retention was observed in the experiments, and the retention was noted during the grape juice experiments. This increase is thought to be the result of the protein sparing action of the sugar in the grape juice. Further research to confirm these findings is now in progress.

None of the graduate students who enrolled in this course had previously taken any training in research methods, and consequently the course was necessary as an introduction to the individual work for the thesis. It is, therefore, the hope of the department, in offering the course to undergraduate students, to give those girls who intend to take up graduate work later, opportunity to acquire the background in research methods and technique before entering the graduate school. "It is also desired, however," said Dr. Arnold, "that a large number of other home economics students will be interested in taking the course, since in this way the individual might discover whether or not she ever would care to do research work."