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Home Economics Research

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Home Economics Research
By Mildred Deischer

Refrigeration for the Iowa Farm Home

A very interesting comparison of possible types of refrigeration for the Iowa farm home has been made by Miss Grace Pennock, a graduate student in the Household Equipment Department, in her thesis, "Refrigeration for the Iowa Farm Home." Miss Pennock cooperated with Prof. J. B. Davidson, head of the Agricultural Engineering Department, in carrying out her study, and obtained much of her experimental data from the electrical project which is being carried on at Garner, Iowa.

In discussing each of the types of refrigeration considered, four main points were taken up, from the point of view of the housewife. They are as follows:

1. The degree and uniformity of temperature that the system will maintain.
2. Time, energy and attention required to keep the refrigerator in operation, and its convenience.
3. The cost; initial and operating.
4. The availability of the system.

Miss Pennock discussed the following systems of refrigeration, as practical for the Iowa farm home:

(a) The evaporation system.
(b) Cellar or cave.
(c) Ice refrigerator.
(d) Electrically operated units.
(e) Icyball refrigeration.

Disregarding cost and considering only systems giving desirable temperatures, the order of preference for these systems seems to be as follows:

1. Electrically operated or automatic absorption refrigeration.
2. Ice refrigerator.
3. Icyball refrigeration.

When the question of cost is considered, the electric refrigeration systems may have to assume a lower place. Of course, the initial cost of the electric refrigerator is high, but a well made system requires very little repair, and the yearly expense depends greatly on the rate paid for electricity. This type of refrigeration, however, answers most satisfactorily the requirements of temperature, and ease of handling, and where electricity is available at a moderate rate, proves a very desirable solution to the refrigeration problem.

The ice refrigerator, if well made and kept well filled, maintains a sufficient and uniform temperature for the care of food, and is reasonably easy to take care of. If a drain is attached to the ice refrigerator, the only time and energy required to keep this system in operation is that for cutting and storing the ice in winter, if it is available, and for keeping the refrigerator filled. If the ice is purchased commercially, the cost is somewhat greater than when it can be secured and stored on the farm.

The Icyball system, although advisable in case neither of the other refrigeration plans is possible, is much less desirable on account of the attention and energy which are necessary to keep it in operation. This system has a cooling unit which must be heated every day, in order to keep the refrigerator at a satisfactory temperature. While being heated this unit must also be cooled down by inserting one half of it in a tub of cold water, which either has to be kept in the kitchen at all times, or emptied and refilled daily at a considerable output of labor and time. It is a satisfactory supplement to a cupboard in a deep well or cellar, if this plan of refrigeration is used. As far as temperature is concerned, the icyball maintains a satisfactory uniformity with the exception of about one hour out of twenty-four, when the temperature rises to 50 degrees F. or more. The cost is very little for the operation, costing less than two cents a day, and the initial expense is about the same as for a good ice refrigerator.

If a constant temperature of 50 degrees or below can be obtained the year around in the cave or a deep well, this form of refrigeration can be satisfactory from the standpoint of temperature. It is usually one which is much less convenient for the housewife, however, although this difficulty can often be minimized by the installation of a cupboard on pulleys, or some kind of dumb waiter arrangement. The cost of installing and operating such a system is, of course, small.

In this study made by Miss Pennock,

(Continued on page 16)
Irate Customer: Waitress, there's a fly in my soup.

Waitress: Don't know what else it could be, sir, unless it's one of those vitamin bees we hear so much about.

—Selected.

Edith Bridenbaugh, who will complete the requirements for the Bachelor of Science degree in home economics in December, 1928, has received an appointment as student dietitian in the Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, beginning Jan. 1.

Josephine Chambers, '26, who has been assistant at the Maples Tea Room, has accepted a position in the Institutional Administration Department of Drexel Institute, Philadelphia, for next year.

Daisy Ellen Davis, '28, was married on Aug. 11 to Dr. Marion H. Veazey of Cleveland, Ohio. Mrs. Veazey has been assistant to Miss Gudrun Carlsson of the Institute of American Meat Packers, Chicago, for the past two years and will be connected with the home economics department of the Cleveland News next year.

Thelma Lucile Oswalt, a March graduate, has a position with the Wieboldt Stores, Chicago.

Florence Perkins, who graduated in March, is a home demonstration agent in Muscatine.

Helen Hunt, M. S. '26, is to be head of home economics at Des Moines University. Miss Hunt has been teaching in the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, La.