1929

What the Graduate May Do

Mary Elva Sather
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker
Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Sather, Mary Elva (1929) "What the Graduate May Do," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 9 : No. 2 , Article 2.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol9/iss2/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
What the Graduate May Do

Mary Elva Sather

When our mothers were young practically the only position open to college trained women was teaching. That profession is still a popular field but due to the rapid development of home economics training it is only one of many.

Among the positions open to graduates in home economics may be listed the following: commercial foods work, demonstrating food products and conducting research in experimental laboratories; hospital dietetics, Red Cross nutrition service, institutional management, including supervision of food service in cafeterias, dormitories, and tea rooms; demonstrators of household equipment; demonstration agents, extension service; educational directors for manufacturing organizations; department store positions including retail selling, and personnel service; positions combining home economics and journalism training.

The Placement Bureau of the Division of Home Economics is organized to assist home economics graduates and students to secure positions other than high school teaching. The placing of candidates for all high school teaching positions is in charge of the college Appointment Committee. The recommendations for college positions, are taken care of by the Home Economics Placement Bureau. Out of the 1927-28 class, totaling 218 students, 13 were placed in college teaching and research positions and 3 in specialized teaching positions. Ninety-one entered high school teaching while thirteen took up hospital and nutrition work. Ten young women went into retail stores as sales women, stylists, or comparative shoppers. Two entered commercial foods positions and three entered commercial equipment work. Thirteen were placed in extension service, ten in cafeterias and tea rooms, two in social service, two in journalism, while one did nutrition work and two did library work in the office work. Twenty-three of the class were married and became homemakers.

More requests for candidates for positions are coming to the Home Economics Placement Bureau this year than ever before. Because of the recent passage of the Cupper-Kreethen Act, additional funds have been made available for home economics extension service. As a result the Placement Bureau is receiving an unusual number of requests for home economics specialists and home demonstration agents. Recently, inquiries have come from Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Illinois, Iowa, and Nevada for county agents, organizers, and specialists in child care and training, home management, clothing, and 4-H club work. Salaries for these positions range from $1800 to $2800, depending upon training and experience.

The manufacturing world is demanding trained women in their experimental laboratories. This spring, three companies have inquired for women to do experimental work with flour and meat. Every year there are requests for mature women with experience to conduct cooking schools under the auspices of newspapers. Salaries for commercial foods work are from $35 per week for inexperienced to $3000 per year for experienced women.

The Red Cross Nutrition Service requires teaching experience. The worker is usually assigned to one locality from three to six months and receives $5 per day or $50 per week plus board, room and transportation.

A new phase of commercial work is in household equipment. Manufacturing companies want women to develop sales promotion programs, write booklets, and act as directors of their home service departments. During the year there are many openings with public utilities companies. As a rule, these positions occur later in the summer or in January. Salaries range from $35 a week to $2400 a year. The general sales manager of a store manufacturing company, describing the type of women who were needed for their firm says:

“Our Home Economics Department has a two-fold purpose. In the first place, it is supposed to investigate the operation of our range and write rules and directions for its use. In the second place it is supposed to serve our dealers with a service to assist them in selling more ranges. This service is in the nature of cooking schools, demonstrations, etc.

“It is necessary for a woman to have more than simply a college degree or a good personality to be entirely satisfactory in this work. She must be a good executive and a good correspondent. She must be able to conduct a cooking school successfully. She should be an enthusiastic worker. She should have an investigating mind, and also be able to set down the results of her investigation in simple language. She should be a worker and not a talker. She should be able to take orders as well as give them, and adapt herself to the peculiarities and requirements of our organization.”

Institutional management is practically a new field for women and offers a variety of occupations and opportunities for women with specialized training. There are many openings for assistants and directors of Y. W. and Y. M. cafeterias, Chamber of Commerce lunch rooms, and school lunch rooms. Graduates of Iowa State College have secured positions in the experimental kitchens and as supervisors of the food service in large commercial restaurants, and in employees cafeterias of banks and manufacturing organizations. In some colleges there is the possibility of combining a professorship in institutional management with administrative responsibilities in dining halls, dormitories or cafeterias. In independent business, the woman with in-

(Continued on page 14)
Mrs. Scott Takes a Vacation
(Continued from page 10)
family appreciated her more and she had many new things to give them. She felt she was actually doing her part better than ever before.

"To know what you prefer, instead of saying amen to what the world tells you you ought to prefer, is to have kept your soul alive."

—Robert Louis Stevenson.

What the Graduate May Do
(Continued from page 1)

institutional training may operate her own tea room, cafeteria, or catering service.

Department stores are using home economics trained women in their personnel work and as managers of various departments and as personal service representatives. Due to the constantly increasing importance of the style element in all types of merchandise, it has become necessary for progressive stores to employ women trained in art and clothing and household furnishings to tell the style story to the public, the sales people and the rest of the store. There is good opportunity for advancement along these lines but it does require many years of hard work. There are also a few positions open to women trained in chemistry and textiles and manufacturing companies are seeking women with applied art training as designers.

The day has passed when a man can act as home economics editor of a paper or magazine and it will soon not be possible for a woman who has not had home economics training to do such work. Magazines and many newspapers are employing trained women to head their home economics departments. Milling companies are employing women trained in journalism and home economics who are capable of writing news stories about nutrition and diets for newspapers and magazines. Manufacturing organizations are seeking women with journalism and home economics training to work in their publicity departments. Meat packing companies employ women who have had training in experimental cookery to work in their experimental laboratories and assist in their advertising campaigns and radio work. The field in journalism is unlimited to the home economics woman who has thorough training in journalism and who has ambition and the capacity for hard work.

It is still true that the largest number of home economics graduates enter the teaching profession. There is a wide variety in the opportunities open to teachers—in vocational homemaking courses, in high schools, in settlement and Y. W. C. A. classes, and in colleges. College teachers are usually specialists in some one phase of home economics and demand specialists’ salaries. The Home Economics Placement Bureau receives requests for candidates for such positions from all over the United States and from some foreign countries.

A general training in home economics is preparation for the practical application of all these subjects in homemaking. The successful administration of the home, whether it be for the family or for the larger institutional group, depends upon the wise expenditure of time, money, and effort, the maintenance of healthful and comfortable home condi-