Gas and It's Family Tree

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The gas which we use in our kitchens today, has a long and honorable ancestry. Women first became housekeepers when fire was tamed. They became responsible for its keeping and for the preparation of food for their hunter-husbands and their broods. It was the first development in the art of cookery.

The stone fireplace which served humanity for over a thousand years was followed by the coal and wood stoves, by the kerosene stove and by the gravity-fed gasoline stove. This brought about a new era in cooking equipment and cooking methods, which gave women the dominating place in the kitchen.

During this time gas was slowly growing in popularity. Altho it had been discovered in 1665, for over 200 years no steps had been taken to make gas serve any practical purpose. "The Wild Spirit," as it was first called, was surrounded by a veil of mystery and superstition.

Murdock, an Englishman, is recognized as the father of the gas industry. It was thru an accident one day that he got the idea for the invention of a gas burner. In an attempt to stop the flow of gas from an open pipe, he clapped a thimble over it. The holes, which had been pierced in the thimble, brought the escaping gas into contact with more air and naturally a better illumination was given.

Winsor, a German, was the first to advocate the distribution of gas for lighting purposes from central sources. He obtained the first English patent for gas making and the first gas company came into being.

Baltimore was the first city in the United States to use gas. This was in the year 1816. Proposals to introduce gas lighting in New England cities brought storms of protests.

Some of the arguments representing the best and most serious thought of that time were printed in a New England paper as follows:

1. A theological objection. Artificial illumination is an attempt to interfere with the divine plan of the world which had preordained that it should be dark during the night time.
2. The medical objection. Emotions of illuminating gas are injurious. Lighted streets will incline people to remain late out of doors, thus tending to increase of ailments by colds.
3. Moral objection. The fear of darkness will vanish, and drunkenness and depravity increase.
4. Police objection. Horses will be frightened and thieves emboldened.
5. Objections from the people. If streets are illuminated every night, such constant illumination will rob festive occasions of their charm.

Gas was first used for street lighting, then for lighting of public buildings and some wealthy homes. Gas for home lighting did not make any great progress until between the years 1865 and 1875.

Slow as it was in development, gas lighting was well advanced before people began to use gas for cooking and heating purposes. It was not until after 1859 that gas was thus used in the United States, and then only stoves manufactured in England were used. The high price of gas retarded the growth of gas cooking appliances.

About 1880, American manufacturers timidly began the manufacture of gas stoves. Crude as these were, the American housewife welcomed them, for they brought about a new era which did away with carrying fuel, feeding the fire and hauling the ashes.

Soon came improvements in the appearance and construction, but no extreme changes were made until 1913, when an oven heat regulator was invented. The first regulator-equipped gas range was sold in 1915.

The last 10 years have been years of refinement for gas stoves. Appearance and construction have been improved and the modern touch added by the use of color. What, we wonder, will be the next step of the manufacturers toward making the homemaker additionally "gas conscious?"

Dance Your Way to Happiness

We all have it! The desire to possess grace and poise, gracious mannerisms and a feeling of being at ease on all occasions is held by every woman. As college girls, we are the luckiest persons on earth. Co-ed days are bubbling with opportunities to satisfy desires. Let's wake up, find ourselves, "live"—and be happy!

When we enter college we enter a new world, the world of "you have to do it yourself." In this new world there are chances on every corner to meet the "other self." We may learn to express our "new selves," develop our personalities and be successes, or we may travel on with the mediocre mob to no definite destination. Before coming to college many girls have never had the time, chance or encouragement to satisfy their desire for self-expression. Perhaps until now they were the center of affairs without exerting themselves. Here, however, they must put their best selves forward if they would be recognized at all.

To live happily with those around her a woman should be good company, a gracious guest and an entertaining hostess.

Dancing is one means of developing these requirements. Chalif, the Russian master, says, "To dance is to live." Dancing is more than doing steps, manipulating the arms and swaying the body in rhythm to music. Dancing is a means of acquiring grace and poise and of finding a greater appreciation of music. It is the best way of satisfying that urge for self-expression. The dancing offered to the Iowa State girl is not a course of dances to be memorized. It is a course of music and feeling to be acquired and (continued on page 7)