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Housework Is Faculty Home Work

Hazel Moore  
Iowa State College

Grace Raffety  
Iowa State College

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Between labs and lectures, faculty meetings and committees, our Home Economics faculty find time for housekeeping by devising labor and time saving shortcuts.

Some of them do all of their work and care for a family besides. Others have only a small apartment to keep up.

Dr. Peet, of the Household Equipment Department, is one who does her own housework, and takes care of her 14 year old son. She says that one way she saves time is by having her son help her. This relieves her of part of the responsibility. He receives a daily allowance of 5 cents for his part in the work, and a larger sum on Saturday if he has made his bed and kept his room clean all week. Neither Dr. Peet nor her son likes a hearty breakfast so this meal usually consists of fruit and milk. If either one wants more he gets it for himself.

On Sunday Dr. Peet takes a day of rest from work by always going out for the noon-day meal. She also economizes by preparing a large roast once a week, and then she uses it in various dishes throughout the week’s menus. While fixing the evening meal, she prepares a luncheon dessert for the following noon. Occasionally she buys a cake from the institutional classes.

Miss Kirkpatrick, who lives in a small apartment, says she finds the easiest plan is to do a little work every day so that she does not have to face an appalling amount of piled up work on weekends.

In her tiny kitchenette she makes the most of her space by using jars, tin containers and saved paper bags for the storage of food. She utilizes scissors for cutting a multitude of foods from eggs to vegetables. Wax paper is always available for covering foods in her electric refrigerator. Her biggest problem because of the limited space in her kitchen is to find serving room. At present she has a plan to put a drop leaf shelf above her sink and one on the inside of the cabinet door. These shelves can be raised up and down to meet her needs.

The service director of Home Economics Building, Miss Madge Harding, advocates the use of electrical contrivances for convenience. Her latest acquisition is an electric biscuit baker. She has been enjoying biscuits made during the meal and has found hot shortcake served with left over fruit a delightful dish. Besides this she has in her kitchen an electric mixer which she uses for mixing everything, and finds it a handy labor saver. Toasters, waffle iron, and grill are other means of short cuts.

Because Mrs. Hopkins is a textile and clothing instructor, she can frankly say that she uses “Bisquick” for all her biscuits, muffins and waffles. She also saves scouring by lining her muffin tins with crinkled paper cups, which at the same time, give an attractive product. She says that she tries to keep soup stock on the shelf so that the leftovers of the evening may be used the next noon.

Miss Louisa L’Engle finds that large mesh cloths sewed together make a handy bag for keeping lettuce, carrots, and other vegetables together in the ice box. In her kitchen she has a supply of newspapers. It is on these that she peels her fruits and vegetables; afterwards the paper is rolled up with the peeling and disposed of. She tells of a friend who uses old magazines and tears off a page as she needs it. She saves her big paper bags to use as lining for her garbage pail. This way the pail requires less attention.

Dean Fisher’s secretary, Mrs. Maude Sharp, told us of the practical plan she uses in purchasing two pairs of stocking of the same kind. She folds them together so that there are at least two stockings which may be mated. She finds it a good idea to darn and wash hose before retiring; then they will be ready for wear the next morning.

Physical education people love manual labor, was the expression of Miss Madge Hill and Mrs. Myrtle Foster, of that department. They prove it by doing all their own housework. They find that more time is saved by washing the dishes immediately after each meal, not only in keeping the kitchen clean but in preventing the accumulation of work.

One of their favorite practices is keeping a raw mixture of cookies in the refrigerator and then baking them during the meal. Neither Miss Hill nor Mrs. Foster have a regular schedule of work, but both cooperate to the nth in getting their work done.

Miss Alice Dahlen and Miss Hazel McRibb, of the Home Economics Education Department, share an apartment. They think they save the most time by doing the dishes just once a day. After each meal the dishes are rinsed, stacked, and set out of sight.

They have a scheme of cooperation, too. One of them plans and prepares the dinners for a week, while the other plans and prepares the breakfast. They find it more economical to let the one doing the dinner work order the groceries for breakfast. Like Dr. Peet, they have a big roast once a week and then camouflage it in many dishes during the week.

Mrs. Bywater makes a pleasant Sunday evening at home a practical one. She jots down menus for the ensuing week while she listens to the radio.

Interesting variations of the French omelet may be made by spreading the cooked omelet with jelly, jam or any suitable fruit marmalade before rolling and serving.