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Barbara Apple
Iowa State College

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HOME management babies have a decided flare for society.

Although the youngsters in Iowa State’s home management houses are reared in an environment that is often called “abnormal,” they’re anything but anti-social. Quite the contrary. They are seldom shy of visitors, and they seem to be particularly glad when their “mothers” have men callers.

In fact, according to studies and observations of these babies, they sometimes go so far as to stage “one-man shows” when visitors appear. And so the often asked question about their social adjustment appear to be readily—and favorably—answerable.

The child’s having to appeal for protection and affection to a new “mother” every five or six days seems to critics to be the most unfortunate feature of the plan. These critics believe that every child needs a permanent parent or parent substitute—of course this is not possible in the home management house plan. Then, too, an “only child” is often spoiled, and so some people believe home management babies may receive too much attention. Criticisms of this sort have caused sufficient controversy to induce the American Vocational Association to appoint a committee to encourage study of the problem.

This challenge was accepted by three investigators in the Home Economics Division of Iowa State College. Onica L. Prall, Ruby V. Simpson and Florence E. McLaughlin, each working independently, have approached the problem from somewhat different angles.

There were only three home management children when Miss Prall began her study during the school year 1928-1929. The results of her research were not intended to draw conclusions concerning home management babies in general. They were simply a means of comparing those of Iowa State with those of other colleges, thus gradually increasing the number of cases to the point where the results would indicate significant trends.

But how do these socially-minded home management youngsters compare with normal children of the same age from private homes of different social and economic status? This was the problem which Miss Simpson, during 1929-30, studied. For each of the four home management babies, two other children were selected, one from a home where the father was a day laborer and the other from a home where the father was engaged in one of the professions.

The ages of the children being compared differed by not more than 2 weeks. Physical examinations by the college physician showed that all of the children compared favorably in general health and freedom from serious physical defects.

WINNING honors in motor skill was a simple matter for the home management babies, but speech seemed an unnecessary item to them. Miss Simpson found that, in general, the differences in development of traits for the three groups was very slight. The children from the professional homes were a little more advanced than children from the non-professional homes. Language and adaptive behavior seemed less advanced in home management babies.

Boarding homes and a small orphanage were next searched for subjects. Miss McLaughlin observed 18 children under the conditions of the investigation. She found that the home management children were superior in intelligence, as well as in health, to all of the other children examined. The “superior environment” of home management houses may have some bearing on the relatively high standing in intelligence of the children in them.

Youngsters living in home management houses are in some demand for adoption when they are old enough to leave. An investigation is now under way to determine the type of adjustment and degree of development that these former home management children have made in their foster homes.

You can raise parsley, watercress, onions and chives indoors as house plants in the winter. Parsley and watercress are just the things for garnishes and onions and chives can do a lot to flavor soups and salads. Peppermint and spearmint, as well as basil thyme, rose geranium, nasturtium and lemon verbena, are other herbs that may be grown indoors.

The color of green vegetables may be saved by cooking them in an open kettle in boiling, slightly salted water and by serving them promptly. Specialists don’t recommend adding a pinch of soda to the water, as it spoils the flavor and usually makes the vegetables somewhat mushy, and even worse, ruins the vitamins—one of the big reasons for eating vegetables at all.

If a roast is cooked at a high temperature, shrinkage will be much greater than if cooked at a lower temperature. The more the shrinkage the greater will be the loss in juices and the drier the roast will become. Roasting at a low temperature (about 300° F.) for the most of the cooking process will give the least possible shrinkage. If you like a well-browned roast you may increase the temperature just long enough to brown it, then reduce the temperature for the rest of the cooking period.