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Graduating Seniors Know

What a Magic Word—Job

by Gretchen Prouty

ONE senior graduating last year settled back for a moment after landing a job and said with ringing tones of relief, "Why, I'd have been embarrassed to tears to go back to my community without a job."

A job-magic word! It is the aim of almost every Iowa State College co-ed's career these days—even though she may have acquired a jewelled pin—and as senior year rolls around it looms as a very important problem indeed.

What about it? What are her chances for successfully finding work in her chosen field? What happened to last year's graduating class? Whether actually voiced or not these are the questions that the college woman asks, is she senior or not—and the best place to turn for the answers to them is Mrs. Mary Elva Sather, assistant to the dean, and in charge of that very important and busy organization called the Home Economics Placement Bureau.

From statistics collected in her office, real encouragement may be offered to the seniors this year. In a survey taken January 1, 1934, covering the placements of 1932 and 1933 graduates, it was found that only 54.8 percent had jobs. A survey taken the first of November 1934 shows that 87.4 percent of the 1933-34 graduates have been placed. This is a decided improvement over last year particularly since the survey of the 1932-33 group was taken 2 months later than the recent one. Not only has this year's graduating class been very successful in finding jobs, but approximately 60 graduates of other years who were out of work have been placed.

THE next query the interested senior will make is: Where are these girls working and what are they doing? Out of the total of 151 graduates, 56 are teaching in high schools, 13 are doing some type of institution management work, 12 are carrying on graduate study, 1 is in the extension field, 2 are in commercial demonstration, 1 is teaching in college, 36 are taking hospital dietetic training, 3 are in nursery school work, 1 is a journalist, 7 are married or at home, and 19 are not employed. Few if any of these 1934 graduates are employed in any type of relief work.

The really discerning senior will scan these figures closely to see which major field of home economics has the most placed graduates. Of the 6 applied art majors in the 1934 graduating class, 83.33 percent are placed. The other departments are as follows: Child development, 6 graduated, 83.33 percent placed; foods and nutrition, 49 graduated, 100 percent placed; home economics, 67 graduated, 91 percent placed; household equipment, 4 graduated, 100 percent placed; institution management, 17 graduated, 88 percent placed; technical journalism, 2 graduated, 50 percent placed; and textiles and clothing, 9 graduated, 11 percent placed.

It is all very simple to say the girls "have been placed," but the inquisitive senior and for that matter all her undergraduate sisters should have an understanding of the machinery behind the phrase, so that they may obtain as much help as possible in this quest for a job.

All these statistics come from the office of Mrs. Sather, chief of the Home Economics Placement Bureau. This efficient and powerful bureau, organized in 1926, tried to centralize all recommendations and appointments, which before that time were handled by the individual instructors if the girls wanted any work other than high school teaching. Caring for graduates of all years, not merely the outgoing seniors, is its aim. It now takes charge of the placements for every type of position for which a Home Economics woman is trained with the exception of high school teaching. This is handled by the Committee on Appointments in the Vocational Education Department.

With everything centrally located and focusing at one definite point, much more can be accomplished and many more good contacts made. A hasty survey of the variety of wide-flung locations of the jobs of the recent graduates attests to these facts.

They may be found in all types of institution management positions: Hotel bake shops, Y. W. cafeterias, restaurants, tea rooms, the International House in Chicago. Others are trying their talents at university teaching, as hospital dietitians, as dietitians in colleges and in federal camps; as teachers, dietitians and cottage mothers in juvenile homes such as the one in Toledo. Commercial positions seem attractive to another group and these graduates may be found in testing kitchens, as demonstrators in large companies and in experimental kitchens with meat packing companies.

Still others find employment as supervisors of canning centers; in social work such as that of the American Friends' Service; as nutritionists in the field of social service and extension; as directors of dormitories; in food departments, and in nursery schools at universities; in extension service; at child welfare research stations, and as teachers of weaving in settlement schools.

What about the girls of past years for which the Placement Bureau is so happy to have found employment? Many are doing Federal Emergency Relief work. Minnesota has employed a great many Iowa State women as investigator-nutritionists. Nebraska has taken a number under the title of home advisors. They visit families on relief and advise about diets, conduct nutrition classes for mothers and help with any social problems, open clothing and sewing classes for mothers, and organize nursery schools. Iowa's relief plan is not fully organized yet, but two Iowa State girls already are doing some work among the unemployed families of Ames.

Last year many girls got work with the housing survey. Mrs. Sather at that time went through the list of available graduates trained in home economics, made a list and sent it to the person in charge of the survey. As a result girls got jobs in Idaho, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Minnesota, as well as in Iowa. Much has been done by the Placement Bureau to call the attention of the proper persons to all graduates unemployed. People to receive such lists were: Dr. Louise Stanley, chief of the Bureau of Home Economics; Miss Adelaide Baylor, Federal Board for Vocational Education; Grace E. Fry.
Placement Bureau
(Begins on page 11)

singer, Senior Home Economist, Extension Service, U.S.D.A.; and Dr. Mary Dunlop Davis, Federal Nursery School Development.

By this method a number of girls got jobs in state canning centers where they are preserving thousands of cans of vegetables, meats and fruits to be distributed to families on relief this winter.

The placement bureau sends out more than the formal, cut and dried credentials. It tries to pick out girls who seem

LONELINESS

FORKED high upon thin, forgotten limb
All cold and still amid the falling snow,
A bird's nest sits, with frozen muddy rim,
Resigned and useless, chilled by winds that blow.

And silently upon a windswept hill,
With weedy lawn, and windows cold and bare,
In empty fields, which no one comes to till,
A farm house stands, deserted by all who care.

Nobody comes to mend the broken panes,
No friendly smoke curls up from chimney high,
Sad winds whistle softly down forgotten lanes,
And sorrow falls on those who pass by.

Yet empty nest, and house undaunted stand;
But man must have a loved one's helping hand.

—Edith Blood.

best fitted to the positions open, and send with the applicants' "transport" and "confidential information," a personal letter about her training and qualifications.

The head of a school for girls in the South requested that the Placement Bureau recommend a dietitian and teacher. One university sent 25 applications, another state college 6. The Iowa State College named one candidate and she was chosen. The reason — said the school head — was that the letters and recommendations were so well written, including all essential details, that she had a very definite picture of the applicant.

The director of dietetics at a hospital thanks Mrs. Sather and says, "Your material is so well organized and so complete that I obtained precisely the information I desired." The head of a Home Economics Department writes, "I got more constructive help from you than any other office contacted." An advertising firm makes this statement, "Your system is certainly very business-like and we appreciate your fine cooperation." From a placement agency, "Your plan is particularly clear. This is the most interesting one I have seen."

Many other such letters have been received, to further prove that the work of the Placement Bureau provides a background for the Iowa State College woman — a background of which she may well be proud.

Dietetics and institution management majors are required to file their names with the Placement Bureau. All other home economics graduates are urged by Mrs. Sather to file their names before leaving the college. Thus all recommendations and credentials are on file in one definite place and can at a moment's notice be sent out. Perhaps some day you may be in the position of a 1923 grad who had to have her qualifications before the board of a company in the South within 2 days. She wired Mrs. Sather — and she got the job. Imagine her helplessness if she had had to write to a dozen people, instructors and so on, requesting individual recommendations.

A small fee of $2 is charged for the service, but this is often carried over until the applicant finds it convenient to make payment.

If Conversation Lags
by Harriett Everts

"WHAT will we talk about at that dinner tomorrow night?"

If it has been successfully solved certain rules have been observed . . .

Do find some subject of equal interest to both parties.

Do not be too voluble a talker. Be a good listener as well as a chattering.

Do not relate anecdotes, long-winded stories, or humorous jokes which no one but yourself thinks funny.

Keep well read on daily news and discuss points of interest.

Think before speaking. Try to say only that which will be agreeable to others.

Refrain from talking about yourself or repeating yourself.

Do not let amiable discussion turn into contradiction and argument.

A twist of humor in the conversation is very delightful.

Try different topics of conversation until one is found which pleases both parties.

Avoid fulsome compliments.

Be tactful in what you say.

Personal jokes, operations, ills, misfortunes and other unpleasantnesses should be left out of the conversation.

Do not talk about other people "behind their backs."

THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

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