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Equipment Students Travel
by Virginia Berry

THERE IS ROMANCE in the kitchen! Such is the decision of the 16 juniors, seniors and graduate students and Miss Enid Sater, instructor in household equipment, who went on the 10-day trip through factories and laboratories of leading manufacturers of household appliances during spring vacation. The shining cleanliness of white enamel, the gleam of polished metal and bright bits of the color, combined with the work of engineering skill and research, make Mrs. Modern's kitchen a place of beauty and happiness where work becomes a pleasure.

The first visit of the trip was to the General Electric Kitchen Institute, Nela Park, Cleveland. After a trip through the factory which carries on experimental work in the development of new lighting equipment, the group was entertained at a luncheon in the manager's dining room. In the afternoon, talks were given by the engineers who work on the development of the General Electric refrigerator, dishwasher and disposal, by the engineer who developed the Calrod unit for the General Electric range and by the architect in charge of kitchen planning. Miss King, lighting specialist, showed various types of lighting for the home and the benefits of indirect illumination. Panel lighting, lumiline lamps and colored decorative lights were shown.

One morning was spent in the equipment departments of some of Cleveland's larger department stores where many makes of appliances could be compared.

At the laboratory of the American Stove Company, Cleveland, every model of the gas ranges manufactured there is subjected to tests directed by Miss Dorothy Shank, home service director of the company, who recently visited Iowa State College.

At North Canton, Ohio, the group visited the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Company's factory and laboratories. From a mass of metal to the finished cleaner there are hundreds of intricate processes. The winding of the armature and the assembling and testing of the motors were fascinating procedures. In one section of the factory old cleaners were rebuilt and reconditioned. After lunch in the employees' cafeteria, the group visited the metallurgical, chemical and rubber laboratories where both Hoover-made parts and parts bought from other manufacturers are tested. All kinds of strenuous tests are given the finished cleaners to see where improvement may be made.

A huge exhibit of cleaners, both those of Hoover manufacture and other makes, showed the evolution of the electric cleaner from a huge awkward affair that was taken from house to house to clean rugs and carpets down to the newest model with its set of dusting tools.

At the Westinghouse factory in Mansfield, Ohio, one of many Westinghouse factories, refrigerator cabinets are manufactured and assembled, ranges, roasters and toasters are built. After having luncheon in the company cafeteria, the visitors were shown the refrigerators, laundry equipment and various small appliances by staff members.

The Westinghouse kitchen planning was discussed by the architect in charge of the work. Unit kitchens are maintained for the test work on ranges, refrigerators and small equipment. A small laundry test Westinghouse laundry appliances.

In Chicago a half day was spent in the laboratories of the National Board of Fire Underwriters. The purpose of the laboratories is to test electrical appliances. Everything from refrigerators and ranges to switches and lamp cords is tested here. Other classes of products tested include firefighting materials, building materials designed to resist or prevent the spread of fire and products the construction or use of which there is some element of life, fire, accident or theft hazard. These include sprinklers, safes, furnaces, automobile parts and many other products which involve peril to life and health.

The Sears Roebuck laboratory maintains textile, chemical, mechanical and electrical laboratories. They test drugs, textiles, electrical equipment, gas equipment and many other products for durability, safety, ease of operation or other qualities. All kinds of household appliances are given practical tests in the kitchens maintained as part of the laboratory.

The much discussed "fair-trade practice laws" which permit manufacturers of trade-marked and labeled products to fix prices below which their goods may not be resold now have the recent favorable decision of the Supreme Court of the United States to increase their effectiveness.