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Gaynold Carroll
Iowa State College

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Iowa State Women Gain Recognition
Gaynold Carroll finds six home economics faculty members listed in American Men of Science

IOWA STATE'S women—as well as her men—are definite contributors to timely scientific research. Listed in the latest edition of American Men of Science are six women from the faculty of Iowa State's Home Economics Division. Included in the roster are Dr. P. Mabel Nelson, Dr. Pearl Swanson, Dr. Louise Peet, Dr. Margaret Ohlson, Miss Louise L'Engle and Miss Belle Lowe.

Contributing to the advancement of science, the work of these women has been calculated to be most valuable in each particular field. Some have advanced science by teaching, others have done administrative work and still others have prepared text books or other compilations—all carrying on research work in natural and exact sciences.

A star is prefixed to the subject of research in the case of about a thousand of the biographical notes. These are the thousand students of the natural and exact sciences in the United States whose work is judged most important. The star means that the subject of the biographical sketch is probably among the leading thousand students of science of the United States. Selections are made by a vote of men competent in each science.

Present members in American Men of Science number more than 28,000 as compared with 4,000 in the first edition. Vassar, Smith, Mount Holyoke, Wellesley and Bryn Mawr—together furnish 25 percent of all women listed. Chicago and Columbia Universities alone contribute 30 percent of all advanced degrees in which the doctor of philosophy leads.

Chief fields of interest for women appear to be botany and psychology with zoology following. North Central and North Atlantic states produce 75 percent of all women listed. New York and Massachusetts, in gross numbers, are the most productive states.

Receiving both her bachelor of science and master of science degrees from the University of California, Dr. P. Mabel Nelson completed work for her doctor of philosophy at Yale University where she was an assistant in physiological chemistry. Coming to Iowa State in 1923, Dr. Nelson served as associate professor in the Foods and Nutrition Department as well as being in charge of graduate and research work. She became professor and head of the department in 1926.

Fields of the publications to which Dr. Nelson has contributed are dietary studies, experimental cookery, diet and lactation, vitamin content of vegetables, meat cookery, home canning of meat and vegetables, heat penetration and indices of spoilage, unidentified food essentials, vitamin techniques and nutritional status of college women.

Credited to Dr. Pearl Swanson is research on the effects produced in the rat by a diet deficient in inorganic constituents, method of assay of vitamins and the role of meat in nutrition. Coming to Iowa State in 1930, Dr. Swanson has had the rank of professor in the Foods and Nutrition Department since 1936. She received her bachelor of science degree from Carleton College, her master of science from Minnesota and her doctor of philosophy at Yale, where she was an Alexander Browne Cox fellow. Before coming to Iowa State, Dr. Swanson taught in the Minnesota high schools, at Carleton College and at Montana State College.

After receiving her bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees at Wellesley College, Dr. Louise Peet spent a year at Constantinople College where she taught chemistry. She took work for her doctor of philosophy degree in the Foods and Nutrition Department at Iowa State, later becoming associate professor in that department and finally head of the Household Equipment Department, which position she now holds. Dr. Peet taught chemistry at Istanbul College, Istanbul, Turkey, last year. She has published several papers and bulletins including meat in nutrition, application of heat to cooking utensils made of various materials, and care of meat in household refrigerators.

Iron and copper metabolism was the special topic pursued in graduate work done by Dr. Margaret Ohlson who came to Iowa State in 1935 from Michigan State College. Dr. Ohlson took her undergraduate work at Washington State College while her master of science as well as her doctor of philosophy work was done at the University of Iowa. She has taught at the University of Indiana and has been a dietitian in Spokane, Washington.

Miss Louise L'Engle, active in nutrition service both for the American Red Cross and Emergency Relief Administration, received her bachelor of arts degree from Goucher College and her master of science from Columbia University. Miss L'Engle has long been prominent in student club activities in state and national Home Economics Association work. She has been assistant professor in the Foods and Nutrition Department at Iowa State since 1929.

Accepting an appointment to come to Iowa State as an instructor in 1918, Belle Lowe is now a professor in the Foods and Nutrition Department. She earned her doctor of philosophy and master of science degrees at the University of Chicago. Professor Lowe spent two years in the Home Economics Bureau at Washington, D. C., doing research work and has completed several experimental projects in frozen foods including meat, poultry, fruits and vegetables. She is the author of Experimental Cookery, the second edition of which was published in 1937.

Other Iowa State women listed in the last edition of American Men of Science are Dr. Erma A. Smith, professor of Zoology and Entomology, Dean Maria Roberts, dean emeritus of junior college and chairman of Student Loan Committee, Professor Gertrude Herr of the Mathematics Department and Dr. Edith Swingler, instructor of bacteriology.

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