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Advancement Through Research

The Iowa Homemaker

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Advancement Through

RESearch, that behind-the-scenes work which later forms the basis of scientific advancement, has played an important part in building the national reputation of the Home Economics Division at Iowa State. At the present time each of the eight subject-matter departments conducts a graduate program leading to the master of science degree, with the Department of Food and Nutrition offering the degree of doctor of philosophy. All the departments provide minor work toward the doctorate.

Since the initiation of graduate work in 1915, 660 masters and eleven doctors have received their degrees from this institution. By departments they are divided as follows: Applied Art, 26 M.S.; Child Development, 66 M.S.; Foods and Nutrition, 131 M.S., 11 Ph.D.; Home Economics Education, 206 M.S.; Home Management, 56 M.S.; Institution Management, 26 M.S.; Household Equipment, 48 M.S., and Textiles and Clothing, 101 M.S.

As the idea of science with practice has grown to be the aim of the graduate program at Iowa State, each of the fields of science, physical, biological, social, has supported its related home economics area. This has been a fortunate aspect of the whole graduate program in home economics.

The passage of the Purnell Act in 1925, providing funds for research in land-grant colleges to improve rural life, made possible in the Division of Home Eco-



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Research

nomics the development of research as a part of the Agricultural Experiment Station. At that time the Foods and Nutrition Department initiated a long-term research program; almost simultaneously both textile chemistry and household equipment programs were started. Since then, home management and home economics education have also developed research projects in the Experiment Station.

Under the leadership of the research staff of the Foods and Nutrition Department, a cooperative study was initiated in which the nutrition staffs of seven middlewestern colleges and universities have participated. The study undertaken was the nutritional status of the college women and is in its eighth year.

In order to supplement the research programs which were underway, the directors of research in the various departments have had the services of research or graduate-fellows. Much progress in home economics research has been made possible by these young women who have carried forward theses which have been parts of a long-time research program. Since 1922, when there were five fellows in the division, the number has grown to include twenty-two who are distributed among the eight departments.

In addition to the research carried on in the Experiment Station, a considerable amount has been carried on by individual staff members and graduate students in all the various phases of the home economics field.



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