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Home Economist Achieves International Fame

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The name of Dr. Hazel Stiebeling, Chief of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, is synonymous with a long list of contributions to the international field of foods and nutrition. In her full career, she has been food consultant for the League of Nations, winner of the 1943 Borden Award, representative to food conferences in Mexico and Argentina and an outstanding research worker.

Dr. Stiebeling received special recognition when she made a series of diet plans for four levels of food cost. These are master plans that can be used by the homemaker as a pattern in planning nutritive diets according to the family income. Starting with the liberal diet, the plans scale down to the emergency level. Her studies of the food eaten by people in various sections of the country have made history. Using data from the Consumer Purchases Study of 1936, she has published studies and analyses of the nutritive values of the diets in families of communities of all sizes. Dr. Stiebeling determined the amount of money the people spend for food, what they buy and how their diets can be improved.

Dr. Stiebeling has represented this country at many international conferences on foods and nutrition and agricultural planning. As food consultant for the League of Nations she went to Scotland in 1936 to the meeting of the International Society of Agricultural Economists to discuss the problems of food consumption. In 1937 she discussed dietary problems with representatives of the nutrition committees of various nations in Geneva, Switzerland. On behalf of the League she visited Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Switzerland.

When the League sponsored a conference on nutrition of the American republics in 1939, Dr. Stiebeling went to Buenos Aires, Argentina, as the representative for the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Interdepartmental Committee on Food and Nutrition. In July, 1943, she attended the second Inter-American Conference of Agriculture in Mexico City.

Since her appointment, Dr. Stiebeling has had charge of research work, including studies on food and nutrition, textiles and clothing, household equipment and family economics.

Dr. Stiebeling began her home economics career as a teacher in Findlay, Ohio, after she received her degree at Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. After four years as head of the Department of Home Economics at Kansas State Teachers' College, Emporia, she returned to Columbia for her master's degree in nutrition and her doctor's degree in chemistry. While doing her graduate work, Dr. Stiebeling was nutrition assistant to Dr. Mary Swartz Rose and Dr. Henry Sherman. In 1943, Skidmore College presented her with an honorary degree. She succeeded Dr. Sherman as chief of the government's home economics bureau in 1944.