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Faculty members trade

Rollbooks for Hobbies

by Mary Ellen Watt

Hobbies of professors in the Division of Home Economics offer a true picture of the faculty members themselves. While each has some favorite pastime, some of the professors prefer more unusual hobbies.

A photography fan, Miss Belle Lowe, of the Department of Foods and Nutrition, has made wide use of her hobby in her work. To help illustrate more clearly problems done in experimental cookery and research work, she photographs the food. During the war she did research for the army. In this work Miss Lowe's photomicroscopic pictures of foods were useful. By using a highly magnified camera lens she was able to show the actual tissues of foods.

Aside from photography in connection with her work, Miss Lowe takes both still and moving pictures in color and in black and white. The war temporarily stopped her yearly trips which she recorded in color. With more travel and film she hopes to resume this phase of her hobby.

Well-known to many of her students is the hobby of Miss Mabel Fisher of the Department of Applied Art. Her hobby is experimentation in the fields that she teaches. Before suggesting new projects to the students in crafts classes, she tries them out first to see if they are practical. Results of these experiments can be seen in Miss Fisher's own home which she bought to house her finished articles. An entire room suite was made as a practical example for the students.

Before she makes a piece of furniture, Miss Fisher plans it for functional use, style, comfort and height. In this way she develops a project which will be useful and will also serve as a good example to her classes of what can be done with planning, handwork and a few materials.

Weaving material on a foot-power loom and making the fabric into clothes is the hobby of Miss Alice Waugh, of the Department of Applied Art. Several years ago a friend brought a loom and the necessary material into Miss Waugh's home. After watching the process, she decided to order one for herself. Since then she has woven more than a hundred yards of woolen, cotton and linen material. She makes them into suits and dresses for herself and gives much of the material to friends.

"This is my favorite suit," said Miss Waugh, displaying a handsome black wool dressmaker suit, interlaced with wool threads. Often she experiments with the loom and its several shuttles and foot treadles to develop new patterns. This experimentation helps relieve any monotony of the weaving process and makes the hobby the novelty it is.

To satisfy her friends' curiosity as to the length of time she spends, Miss Waugh timed herself on a straight piece of material. She found that it took her one hour to weave one yard, while material with assorted threads took longer. Miss Waugh's hobby is one that not only is a spare-time amusement, but also provides dividends in wardrobe creation.