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In Iraq They Learn As We Do

Pakiza Tawfig Ameen Agha

Iowa State College

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Food preparation courses are practiced in modern laboratories.

Third year home economics students study Physics.

Observation in the nursery is required for child development courses.

Students enjoy breakfast prepared in meal planning.

In Iraq

by Pakiza Tawfig Ameen Agha

Pakiza, daughter of a trader, is a high ranking student at Queen Aliya College. She wants to study abroad and major in H. Ec. Science.
Dr. Ercel Eppright, head of the Department of Foods and Nutrition, was sent to Iraq last September by the F.A.O. She is serving as teacher and home economics consultant for one year at the Queen Aliya College in Baghdad. Dr. Eppright arranged for the story and pictures appearing on these two pages to be sent to The Iowa Homemaker.

I AM A STUDENT in Queen Aliya College in Baghdad studying home economics for the fourth year. My age is 22 years. I was born in Mosul, which is in northern Iraq. I am now living in a boarding house situated opposite the college.

The boarding house consists of two buildings connected by a big yard which we use for playing ping-pong, badminton and skip rope. The first building contains 15 rooms, a bathroom, large hall, dining room, infirmary and office. The rooms are different sizes — the big ones containing about 20 girls and the small ones not less than 7 girls. The large hall is used for both studying and recreation. From 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. it is used only for studying. At 11 p.m. the bell rings curfew, and we are not allowed to stay up after that. Other times in the large hall we listen to the radio, records or view the television. Some girls like to dance for a while after dinner. We are allowed to go out of the boarding house on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. The second building is for cooking and washing dishes.

Our daily life in the boarding house goes in the following manner: We get up at 6:30 a.m. and take our breakfast at 7:00. It consists of either cream, butter, eggs, or cheese in addition to milk, tea and bread. At 8 a.m. we go to College. We wear a uniform of gray skirt and navy blue jacket. At 1 p.m. we usually take our lunch, which is made up of different kinds of vegetables, depending on the season, and rice, bread and fruit. Dinner is at 7 p.m. and consists of lentil soup, roast, pickles, bread and custard.

Arabic is our native language, and we take literature, composition, and grammar in it. Studying Arabic helps to strengthen our sense of nationality. The only foreign language that we study is English in which we take grammar, literature and composition. Studying English is very important because all our lessons are in English and our instructors speak in English.

One of the essential parts of our curriculum is foods and nutrition. We study food selection, composition and preparation. We learn how to cook food so that losses of nutritive value are at a minimum, and we learn the effects of different kinds of food on the body—the calories, protein, minerals and vitamins. We study the effect of lack of these elements on growth, reproduction, vitality, pregnancy and lactation. We learn also how to improve our diets within cost and availability and how to advise others.

In child development and child psychology we study the physical development of the child, the place of the child at home, the principles of child psychology and laws of growth. We learn how to handle our children, solve their problems and develop their potentialities and interests.

In textiles and clothing, we study how to make patterns and sew blouses, skirts, and dresses. We study the classification and recognition of textile fabrics and how to judge the suitability of textile fabrics for certain uses.

Our courses in home management and family living teach us the philosophy and goals of homemaking, participation in local and world affairs, how to reduce time and energy expenditures and how to manage the family income. We also study biology, bacteriology, biochemistry and organic chemistry.

We also have what we call seminars during which we visit maternal and child health center, nutrition and bacteriological institutes, the Asian Artists Exhibition (Continued on Page 18)
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hition (in crystal), museums, the water supply, a dairy products factory, bakeries, a weaving factory, the agricultural college at Abu-Ghrabe, a village near Baghdad, the juvenile court, a petroleum refinery, kindergartens, the Iraq Women's Union and other deserving exhibitions.

Home economics is so important that I believe it should be taught in both intermediate and secondary schools. It helps students to use their time usefully and to develop skills of homemaking like cooking, sewing and home nursing. It is concerned with their every day living—the food they eat, the clothes they wear and the homes in which they live.

Answers to Quiz:

1. Michelangelo reproductions of sections of the Sistine Chapel on second floor Beardshear just as you go out the front door.
2. Brugel’s “Peasant Wedding Dance” on first floor Beardshear.
3. Painting by Marjorie Garfield, head of the Department of applied Art. You can see it on first floor of the home economics building at the foot of the east stairs.
4. President A. S. Welch looks down from the wall of the faculty-student lounge in the Union.
5. Reliefs on the State Gymnasium done by our own Christian Peterson.
6. Grant Wood’s mural on the library wall. Several assistants worked on this project, too.
7. Fountain, courtyard and sculpture behind the Dairy Industry building. You shouldn’t go to the Union so much.

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