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# Home Economics Research

By Melba Nisewanger

## New Research Laboratory for Graduate Students

Room 1 in Home Economics Hall, which has heretofore been used for a lecture room, has been remodelled and fitted up into a very complete laboratory for housing the rats which are being used by Margaret House in the Purnell Research experiments, and also those being used by graduate students in Foods and Nutrition.

The new laboratory is now housing about 300 rats but has the capacity for caring for 500, and replaces the two smaller laboratories on the second and ground floors, which were formerly used for animal research work. The room measures 38 by 24 by 10 feet, and has a series of 3 metal shelf-units, each of which provides space for 168 cages, and in addition, one half-unit of shelving which holds 84 cages. A sterilizer, fitted with steam connections is used for cleaning cages and other equipment, and a refrigerator furnishes proper storage for the vegetables and other foods used in feeding the rats.

Several pieces of new equipment have been installed which add greatly to the efficiency of the laboratory. One of these is a stone sink with double tubs, especially constructed the correct height and depth for washing and rinsing the rat cages. A chemistry bench has also been set up for use in making up the individual rations and will make the work of feeding the rats much easier and quicker than formerly. In addition, a Precision Still which furnishes a continuous supply of distilled water, is in operation. Distilled water is more desirable than tap water in the drinking cups, according to Miss House. She expects that some very fine work can be done with the aid of the facilities provided in the new laboratory.

Two graduate students in Foods and Nutrition, Iva Mullen and Mrs. Lena Gilbert, are now working in the laboratory, making a quantitative study with rats to compare New Zealand spinach with native-grown spinach as to its vitamin content.

Miss Mullen is attempting to discover Vitamin B content of the spinach, while Mrs. Gilbert is demonstrating Vitamin A content. Both students

are handling about 60 rats, and are feeding the same basal diet with the exception of the casein. They are using different methods in preparing the casein: Miss Mullen is extracting the Vitamin B before feeding to her rats; Mrs. Gilbert is extracting the Vitamin A from the casein.

## Applied Art

Three graduate students in Applied Art, Mary Hazel Stewart, Irma Gardner and Edna Rhoads, are working upon the problems for their theses. They have chosen very interesting although very different subjects.

The subject of Miss Stewart's thesis is: "Artistic Lighting Fixtures for the Small Home, With Regard to Adequacy." The major problem consists of several smaller problems:

(a) To study the types of light fixtures which are available to the homemaker of moderate means in the smaller communities. From this study, a suggestive plan will be worked out whereby the homemakers and the light fixture salesmen can cooperate in the furnishing of homes of no particular type, with artistic lighting fixtures. Also a study of light fixtures in relation to the style of architecture will be made in order to consider the problem of homemakers who have homes built in some particular style of architecture.

(b) To investigate the styles of light fixtures available to the public in cities and towns of different population in order to discover whether electric shops are displaying the most artistic fixtures which can be secured. The cities in which Miss Stewart is making her survey range in population from 2,000 to 150,000 and include Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Perry, Carroll, Jefferson, Grand Junction, Nevada and Collins.

(c) To secure artistic lighting fixtures, and at the same time to supply the maximum amount of light necessary for a room of given size, lightness and darkness, color and texture. In working out this problem, Miss Stewart is making a study of period decorations and ornaments, then selecting one of these motifs and developing from it a design suitable for a light fixture.

(Continued on page 16)

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### Veishea, 1928

(Continued from page 3)

a more uniform ability than he had ever seen heretofore.

Friday, May 18, there will be a baseball game between Missouri and Iowa State. Saturday morning and afternoon will be the High School District Track Meet. Ray Conger, nationally known track star, will run during the meet.

Each day plans are being completed for Veishea, assuring a real festival for Iowa State alumni, friends and under graduates. Each person coming under any one of these three groups should avail himself of this opportunity to see Iowa State College as it really is.

### Applied Art

(Continued from page 10)

Miss Garner has chosen as her thesis subject: "A Study of Textiles Suitable for the Home, with Emphasis on Good Design." Her major problem is to attempt to determine what constitutes good design in textiles for the many purposes for which textiles are used in the home. Miss Garner's plan of work includes a study of pattern-textiles and how to know them, a study of textiles with regard to their suitability to various types of rooms, and experimental work in dyeing textiles.

Miss Rhoads, who has worked with girls of from 12 to 20 years, in 4-H clubs, and is particularly interested in their problems, has taken as the subject of her thesis: "A Study of Home Furnishing Problems in 4-H Club Work."

Through interviews with 4-H club girls and their leaders, Miss Rhoads has found that they most need help on problems in color, texture, pattern, line and mass. Her thesis will deal with some specific problems in home furnishing which will attempt to show how simple furnishings, which a girl may possess, can become the basis of a room in which all the elements and principles of art are applied.

Miss Rhoads is preparing a number of illustrations, drawn, for the most part, from actual pieces of furniture and other articles, either in the possession of the girls or possible for them to own. The illustrations are hand-colored so that they will probably show the solution of the problem in each case.