

Councillor's Report of A. H. E. A. Convention

MISS FRANCES ZUILL

State University of Iowa, Iowa City

THE nineteenth annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association was held in Minneapolis June 28 to July 1, 1926. The Council of the American Home Economics Association is made up of one councillor from each state. It is the duty of these councillors to take a message from their State Association to the National Association, and to bring back to the state associations a full report of the annual meeting. All State Associations are asked to include the councillors' reports as a part of their programs at their annual meetings, in order to keep the members in touch with the work of the parent organization. It would be difficult, if not wholly impossible, to make a complete report of the convention which was held in Minneapolis. This has been made unnecessary because the detailed proceedings of the convention appear in the October bulletin of the American Home Economics Association. Formerly the proceedings of the annual meeting were printed as a number of the Journal of Home Economics, and therefore all subscribers to the Journal received the proceedings number. The new bulletin was sent to every member of the American Home Economics Association, so that the majority of the group present at the meeting of the Iowa Home Economics Association has had an opportunity to read the detailed account of the business of the national association. It is to be hoped that every member of the State Association has read both the September and October numbers of the Home Economics Journal, as well as the proceedings bulletin. Both the September and October numbers of the Journal contain particularly good editorial comments on the meeting, and the October number of the Journal contains some of the outstanding papers which were presented at the national meeting, as well as a large number of abstracts from papers presented at section meetings. A better picture of the nineteenth annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association can be had by reading the proceedings bulletin, the September and October Journals than any councillor could possibly give to her state association in a brief report.

It might be possible to give a brief report of the business which was transacted there, and even to give brief extracts from the outstanding addresses, but how can one describe the joy of meeting old friends and making new professional contacts, the stimulus she received for better work, and the pride she felt in her association when she saw such a large number of splendid women together all working toward the same goal? There is but one way to know the value and power of the American Home Economics As-

sociation, and that is by attending an annual meeting yourself.

The program of work for the American Home Economics Association contained one section which particularly referred to state programs, and I wish to read that section.

- "1. A continuation of the following lines of work endorsed in previous programs.

Continued effort to secure and maintain 100 percent membership.

A deepening sense of obligation by the state association of their responsibility for promoting the effectiveness and influence of the Journal of Home Economics.

Active participation in the national legislative program and acceptance of definite responsibility for state legislation in our field. Active cooperation with other organizations whose work correlates with our own.

Active support of the national program of publicity.

- "2. Emphasis on the following special activities:

Construction of Curricula. The state associations should take definite steps to formulate standards for home economics curricula of elementary and secondary grade to the end that the work given may meet not only the requirements of the girl for home training, but may also receive satisfactory recognition from qualified agencies. A suggested procedure is to devote at least one meeting a year to a working conference on this subject.

Ellen H. Richards Fund. The successful completion of the Ellen H. Richards fund this year is most desirable. Each state must accept its full responsibility if this is to be accomplished."

The first item mentioned is in regard to promotion of membership. It is interesting to note that the membership of the National Association is now 8,312. That is a gain of 1,467 members for the year. An interesting item about the increase in membership was presented by the president of the association. Seventeen and a half years back the association had something over seven hundred members, and it continued with a steady but not striking growth until the initiation of the plan of affiliated state associations, which occurred just five years ago. Five years ago the association had fewer than 1,200 members and today it has seven times that number. During the current year there was a fifteen percent increase in membership. The goal set by the national association for membership is 10,000, so that the asso-

ciation still has a goodly number of memberships to secure. Eleven states have more memberships than Iowa. While the Iowa membership has increased during the current year we still have many less than we should in proportion to the number of home economists working in the state. There are between fifteen and eighteen hundred home economists working in this state and there are fewer than twenty percent of that number in the Iowa Home Economics Association. The Membership Committee made commendable progress, but it is easy to see that their work has just begun. One of the important pieces of work for the Membership Committee and for members of the association is to reduce the turn-over in membership per year. There was a forty-one percent turn-over in membership in the American Home Economics Association the past year. We can all help to reduce that percentage by renewing our memberships without solicitation from the membership committee.

The business manager of the Journal of Home Economics has been authorized to conduct a strenuous campaign to increase subscriptions to the Home Economics Journal during the year 1926-27. The President's address contains this statement in regard to Journal subscriptions:

"A rather disturbing thing that I do not quite understand is that the subscriptions to the Journal have not increased nearly so fast as has the membership in the association. Only about half the members are subscribers, and on the other hand only about half of those on the subscription list are members. I think that in our highly praiseworthy efforts to increase membership we have omitted stressing the Journal. With a larger list of subscribers, we could afford more papers every month and so more frequent articles for every group of interests. Your council has just authorized a special effort toward subscription increase. The line on the new membership card for Journal subscriptions is a step in this direction."

During the year 1925-26 thirty-two states have increased their Journal subscriptions. Nineteen states have decreased their Journal subscriptions. I regret to say that Iowa is in the latter group. On the last page of the October association bulletin there is a table which gives the number of subscriptions in June, 1925, as compared to the number of subscriptions in June, 1926, with a question mark for January, 1927. It then says, "What will your state do with the question mark?" If our state does anything worth while with the question mark the state association council will have

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to make a definite plan for increasing the number of subscriptions.

Another item which is mentioned in the program of work for state associations is the successful completion of the Ellen H. Richards fund. Each state is asked to accept full responsibility for its share in this work. The goal set for the Ellen H. Richards Memorial Fund is \$25,000. It is the hope that this can be raised through contributions from state associations, affiliated student clubs, and contributions from individuals. The councillors are asked to bring this before the association so that it can be made a part of the program for Ellen H. Richards Day, which is December 3. Every teacher in the state should take this opportunity to recognize the contribution of Ellen H. Richards to home economics.

The trustees of the Ellen H. Richards Memorial Fund created a scholarship of \$300 to be awarded to a home economics student who wished to do graduate work in research in this field. The first award was made for the school year 1925-26. Miss Lita Bane, who is the incoming president of the American Home Economics Association, received the first award. This year the award was made to Miss Ruth Cowan, who is to do research work in nutrition at the University of Chicago. The council voted to increase the scholarship from \$300 to \$500 for the year 1928. This makes more adequate provision for a person working under the scholarship. Any graduate of a home economics department in a recognized institution who is qualified to do research work is eligible for consideration by the committee on awards.

The national program of work also stresses the importance of student clubs. The statement reads, "The importance of student clubs cannot be over-emphasized at this time. The association must turn its attention to the development of a program and the guidance of this work." Each state as-

sociation has been asked to make a definite plan for development of student club activities. Iowa has a plan under way for student club activities. A state student club committee has been organized and has had one meeting. The report from the executive secretary in regard to the student clubs brings out the fact that there were but fourteen affiliated student clubs in 1922, but that there are 342 affiliated clubs in 1926. Iowa is able to report but eleven, four college clubs and seven high school clubs. This is entirely too small a number for our state, for we have approximately 788 towns and cities where home economics is taught. Texas, Virginia, Illinois and Michigan lead in number of student clubs. What Illinois can do, Iowa can do also.

Dr. Katherine Blunt said, "The chief single event of the year, a great unifying force for us, is the initiation of our work for child study and parental education. We have all been rejoicing in our four year grant from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, and just recently the executive committee has consummated the appointment of Anna E. Richardson as child study field worker. Her ability, her well-known interest in the problem, her work for courses in child study at Iowa State College, her inside knowledge of the administrative machinery necessary for the development of any new venture, her contacts with a great variety of workers in this field, her experience while with the Federal Board for Vocational Education in a nationwide enterprise, all make her a most fortunate choice for the association."

The Iowa Association was fortunate enough to have Miss Richardson with us to tell of her plan for child study and parental education.

For the past two years our national association has sponsored a contest for designs for an association seal. At the annual convention this year the best design was chosen, and it is to be used for the association's seal and pin. The

motif used is the Betty lamp. "This was considered a happy choice, for it is the lamp which in Colonial days gave light for all household industries." Two styles of pins are to be adopted: one for association members, and one for members of affiliated student clubs.

One of the interesting features of the meeting this year was the commercial exhibits. It was not only a source of income for the association, but it was very profitable for the members who were present.

The American Home Economics Association has many other interesting activities. Its international relationships, such as its affiliation with the international office of Home Economics Instruction in Switzerland, the affiliation of the New Zealand Home Economics Association, the affiliation of the Edmonton Home Economics Association, its connection with the Constantinople Women's College, and others are of interest. Its activity in matters of legislation, such as the Child Labor Amendment, the Mis-branding Bill, and the Fess Amendment to the Smith-Hughes Bill is of vital importance to us. Its provision for the census study of American families will, no doubt, bring a valuable contribution to her field of study. Its provisions for the work of the eight sections and the three committees makes it possible to provide for all home economists no matter what phase of the subject they have chosen. Its cooperation with such organizations as the Federation of Women's Clubs, Better Homes in America, the National Child Health Association, American Red Cross, Division of Simplified Practice of the U. S. Department of Commerce, Women's Joint Congressional Committee, the National Restaurant Association, and innumerable others are of interest to all home economists.

The 1927 annual convention of the American Home Economics Association will be held the latter part of June in Asheville, North Carolina.

Homemaker's Committee Report

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ginning, however. By what standard are we to judge whether the time spent is or is not excessive? We need carefully worked out standards of performance of various tasks under various conditions of living. A beginning toward such standardization was made by Miss Elizabeth E. Hoyt, a member of the Committee, this summer, as a part of her work in Household Administration at Iowa State College. Miss Hoyt started with a specified menu for one week and a specified standard of the number of times cleaning and other tasks should be performed in one week, and on this basis went through the household work with a family of two adults and two children for two weeks on a farm without modern conveniences, and for two weeks in one of the home management houses on the Iowa State College campus. The full

results of this experiment will be presented in a forthcoming number of the Journal of Home Economics. She found that on the farm where she drew water from a well, cooked in a kitchen range, used kerosene lamps, and had no modern conveniences, her average time per day, including laundry, was 4.3 hours.

It is impossible to compare satisfactorily the results of such an experiment with the average results of such a small group of housewives as the home economics graduates or with the reports of the farm housewives. The housewives were reporting only everyday conditions, whereas the experimenter was working under unusual conditions—a very definite stimulus to help to establish standards. Further, of course, the experimenter worked with a definitely planned menu and

definite specifications as to cleaning, while the Iowa housewives in both groups used many menus and had varying practices with regard to cleaning, and a few of them spent considerable time on their children.

Nevertheless, the Iowa State College experiment is very suggestive. The standards in this college experiment were in conformity with hygienic requirements and good standard practice, and the menu, though simple, was excellent from the nutritional viewpoint. The fact that the number of hours for all tasks, including laundry, was only 4.3 for a family of four, even in the old-fashioned farm house, leads us to believe that the organization of work and the incentive of leisure can yet do much for our Iowa homemakers. Further work and experiments along this line are greatly needed.