

THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

"A Magazine for Homemakers From a Homemaker's School"

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NO. 1

Inside the "Y" . . .

By Regina Kildee

OTHER activities may come and go, but the work of the Y. W. C. A. goes smoothly on, year in and year out, hard times and good. By no means, however, does the "Y" go along in a self-satisfied, never-changing manner. Changes in its work and methods are made as continuously as the need for them arises.

The "Y" reaches many girls on the campus who would not otherwise develop the valuable quality of leadership; and faculty members, as well as girls, participate in its work. Last year 61 faculty members were used by the "Y" in contacts other than the purely social; this number would easily be doubled if social meetings were included. During the past year the local Y. W. C. A. has given direct aid in furnishing ideas, plans and so on to 20 different "Y's," including groups in 11 states and Hawaii.

Who is back of this large, ever-moving organization? Who brings together so skillfully the varied and complex elements into a compact, unified group?

That question is easily answered by anyone at all familiar with college affairs, for everyone on the campus knows and likes Grace Hoover, general secretary of the Iowa State College Y. W. C. A. Seated at her desk in the cheerful "Y" rooms, Miss Hoover keeps the Y. W. C. A. affairs in smooth, successful running order. But she doesn't deprive student "Y" workers of the valuable results of assuming leadership and responsibility; she suggests, advises and molds until the organization functions as an efficient, worthwhile whole.

BEFORE attending college, Miss Hoover spent four years in an advertising office, an experience which, she says, has proved extremely valuable to her. In 1927 she graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University, where she majored in English literature and English Bible and minored in public speaking and philosophy.

After doing graduate work in New York the summer following graduation, Miss Hoover was, for two years, secretary of the Y. W. C. A. on the agricultural campus of the University of Minnesota. From Minnesota she came to Iowa State College, where she is now completing her fourth year as general "Y" secretary.

It isn't only on our own campus that Miss Hoover is appreciated and ad-



Grace Hoover

mired; she has received much recognition from outside sources. For example, she is on the general committee of the World Student Christian Federation, whose conference she attended last summer in Holland. While abroad, Miss Hoover attended also the British Student Movement Conference at Swanwick, England, and the International Student Service Conference at Brno, Czechoslovakia.

LAST summer at the annual Y. W. C. A. Geneva Conference at Lake Geneva, Wis., Miss Hoover met the whole membership of the conference in technique hours, in which certain skills of leadership, such as discussion group leading, were studied. This summer at the

Meet Grace Hoover

Geneva Conference, which will be held the last 10 days of June, the Iowa State delegation will be in charge of the International program.

Miss Hoover also serves on the committee for the state Y. W. C. A. conference, which will this year be held at Cedar Falls on April 1 and 2. She will speak at the banquet of this conference.

Most people have heard of such "goings-on" at the "Y" as "Plumage and Personality," "Campus Paramount," bake sales, and so on, but many may not know the common purpose back of these projects. The purpose of the Association is thus expressed:

"We, the members of the Young Women's Christian Association of Iowa State College, unite in the desire to realize full and creative life through a growing knowledge of God. We determine to have a part in making this life possible for all people. In this task we seek to understand Jesus and follow Him."

THROUGH the various kinds of activities it carries on, the organization tries to make religion the very center of the educational life of the college—to develop Christian attitudes toward ordinary incidents in life. In order to best carry out this aim, the organization is divided into several groups, open to any girl on the campus interested in working in them. Though these groups are constantly changing to fit changing needs, it is interesting to note a few of the groups now existing.

The social service group, in common with other Y. W. C. A. groups, has both a thought and an "activity" life. For example, it studies the situations bringing on the present economic distress and then does something about the discomfort. It is this group, also, which gives the annual Christmas party for the underprivileged children of Ames and which makes the timely favors put on trays

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DOWNTOWN—AMES

Inside the "Y"*(Continued from page 1)*

in the college hospital. Not only do members of the social service committee send paper jack o'lanterns, turkeys and hearts to the hospital; they often make visits themselves to help cheer and entertain the patients.

THE international relations group has this year studied student movements all over the world, and the members have attempted to relate themselves to important world issues. This group maintains the current events map in the lower hall of Central Building, and the current events bulletin board in the Y. W. C. A. rooms.

The dramatics group was formed because of numerous requests on the part of girls; the group furnishes an opportunity for many girls, who might not otherwise get the training, to participate in dramatic activities. Audiences at many different functions have been delighted by one-act plays and pantomimes presented by this group.

The social committee of the Y. W. C. A. plans informal parties—spontaneous affairs—for particular groups. Its aim is to establish more informal relationships between students and faculty members, and to provide opportunities for girls to form new friendships with other girls and with men. The annual Homecoming barbecue, which was started by this group, is an example of the sort of thing on which it likes to work. This spring the social group hopes to sponsor a week-end house party at the Ledges for a "cross-section" of Iowa State College girls.

The race relations group is an interracial organization and is striving to better the relationships between the different races on the campus. This year the group has been reading novels about the negro and studying various arts of the negro race. It has taken an interest, also, in such current issues as the Philippine question, the South African race situation, and so on.

The personnel group is really the program and membership group of the Y. W. C. A. Its duty is to study the needs of the campus and the resources of the "Y," and to relate the two. It is instrumental in inviting girls to join different groups of the "Y" in which they would be interested.

The town girls' department may be considered almost a personnel group among town girls. It aims at establishing informal, personal contacts with town girls, at planning informal social affairs for them from time to time, and at letting them know what is going on on the campus.

THE freshman department, which supplements the Campus Sister work and arranges for the Y. W. C. A.'s freshman Charm School, gives freshmen a chance

to form a unit in the work of the Y. W. C. A. and to orient themselves in campus activities.

Although the chief purpose of the finance group is to raise the Y. W. C. A.'s budget, it also makes interesting studies into the economics of the campus, including surveys of the personal budgets of coeds in different living situations.

The voice and conversation group, a temporary group begun on recommendation of the personnel committee, has given aid to many girls in cultivating a pleasant speaking and reading voice.

Literary teas have recently been given by the "Y" in order to fill a need expressed by many girls for dipping into as many types of modern literature as possible. As well as being informative, the teas have been a means of informally bringing together students and faculty members.

One girl from each of the groups of the "Y" serves on a sub-committee for publicity. Publicity for the work of the Y. W. C. A. is also obtained through the "Y's girls," one of whom is found in each organized house and dormitory, and whose duty it is to keep the other people in the house informed on what is going on at the "Y."

The local Y. W. C. A. has a cabinet of about thirty girls headed by the president of the organization—formerly Margaret Marco, H. Ec. Sr., now Helen McCollough, I. S. Jr. The Membership of the cabinet consists of the officers of the Y. W. C. A., the heads of the various groups, members of the personnel department, and at least six members-at-large. The latter participate in the "retreats" and meetings of the cabinet, and will be qualified for their duties in heading such new activities as may come up by their complete knowledge of the origin and purpose of these activities. The president, vice-president and secretary are elected annually by all women in college. The other cabinet members are chosen by the old and new presidents and the old and new vice-presidents upon recommendations from outgoing cabinet members. Each girl on the cabinet has a weekly conference with Miss Hoover and keeps "office hours" at the "Y." At the beginning of each quarter the cabinet holds a "retreat," in which the aims for the ensuing period are drawn up.

Such a complex organization! And yet how simple and orderly it all seems when you're in the "Y" atmosphere. The Y. W. C. A. is making a success of its aim to find a place for every girl who wants it and has given to many girls the help and encouragement which have enabled them to make a success of college.

Galoshes may safely be worn over light-colored slippers if an old pair of stocking feet is slipped over them first.