

Graduate Credit Conference for Vocational Home Economics at Iowa State

By ELEANOR MURRAY

IN co-operation with the Federal Board and the State Board of Vocational Education, Iowa State college offered during the summer session the first Home Economics vocational conference which was primarily interested in serving women who would occupy supervisory and teacher training positions and which gave graduate credit in vocational Home Economics. Iowa State is approved by the Federal Board for vocational education and was especially fitted to hold this conference.

The aim of the Home Economics division has always been to train for real homemaking—homemaking in the broad sense that it is more than training in feeding and clothing the family, that includes business training, care and management of children, recreation in the home, the maintenance of a happy home atmosphere, physical care of the sick and the establishment of the home as a definite unit in a social organization.

The possibilities for even larger development are right here on our campus and have been but they must be even better co-ordinated. We have our child psychology courses including child nature and training with recognition of the right and place of a child in the home and the mother's responsibility to the child of pre-school age with its training and recreation as well as the child of school age, for we have come to realize that children are no longer playthings or possessions but real humans with the same rights for development and growth that we ourselves have. We have our sociology courses and the home is one of the most important factors in a complicated social organization. We have our physical education courses for physical development of the girls who are being trained as well as providing training for better physical health and development of children. In the home economics department are found the home nursing, dietetics and family health courses in addition to all the art, clothing, foods and household management courses with finally the practice cottage for practical application of scientific facts.

These are not new courses, but courses already in existence which must be brought together and applied to one

big problem. No homemaking course is complete without this co-ordination which tends toward high standards of family life based on scientific care and management.

Out of this first summer conference there is the plan for permanent graduate work in Vocational Home Economics Education that our own graduates who are now teaching may come back for special work.

At the conference this year all were women of experience as supervisors and teacher trainers. They gathered around long tables and attacked a real problem in real conference manner.

The big problem of the conference was the job analysis of homemaking and the homemaker's responsibilities handled by Miss Mabel Campbell, a former graduate of Iowa State, who is now with the federal board and by Dean Richardson. Dean Richardson was formerly chief of the home economics service of the federal board and worked several years on job analysis. The job analysis is to make possible to teach as well as possible by an investigation of the responsibilities of the homemaker and a consideration of working out these responsibilities, how to organize units of instruction that will include those things the girl needs to know that are interesting to her and to so arrange these problems to get an effective instructional order.

The homemaker has other needs than training in feeding and clothing the family. We are coming to realize this more and more and such analysis is proving most valuable from the standpoint of emphasizing the size of the homemaker's responsibilities and the big field of management, for the successful homemaker must be as much a manager as a worker and prospective homemakers must be trained in such a way that they will be better managers.

Miss Alma Binzel, a child training specialist who does part time instruction at Minnesota and Cornell universities and lecture work the rest of the time, took up the problem of training for parenthood during two weeks of the conference. She urged strongly that training for parenthood should be given to every individual—and not alone to women. She divided the educational task into two

parts. First, we must include as part of general education such training in our public schools as well as such training for those not connected with public schools or colleges that not only those now in schools shall benefit but also those who are now parents or are no longer connected with educational institutions. Second, we must at once make provisions for the training of teachers who are in turn to teach others. This is a big field for broad training is needed for such teachers. Iowa State College recognizes this and was glad to supplement its regular work in child training by the courses offered by Miss Binzel.

Prof. Lancelot, head of the vocational education department, took up modern methods in education, emphasizing the modern viewpoint of educational methods as the basis for selection, organization and presentation of subject matter.

Special problems for teacher trainers and state supervisors were taken up daily by Miss Campbell. The work of state supervisors is comparatively new. At the time the Smith-Hughes law was passed in 1917 there was but one in the United States and now all but one state has at least one supervisor. Because it is such a new field there were many problems to be worked out together. Probably in no other field in education does the success depend more upon co-operation between teacher training institutions and the state department. For that reason the two groups were handled together.

The teacher training institution must know the proposed program for the development of work in the state, that knowing and understanding the needs, teachers may be trained to these needs. The responsibilities of the teacher training institute to the prospective teacher and to the education department were taken up and analysis made to determine the responsibilities of each supervisor and teacher trainer, their difficulties in meeting the responsibilities and methods of solving the difficulties.

This conference was very much of a success and with the development going on all the time for helping to better solve the problems taken up at the conference Iowa State will continue to stand foremost as a training school for homemakers and trainers of homemakers.

Fish That Is Appetizing

By MAXINE SMITH

THE cooking of fish depends largely on taste, for various methods may be used in preparing the same kind of fish. Halibut may be baked, boiled, fried or broiled and be quite as delicious in one way as another. This rule is also true of nearly every kind of white fleshed fish. Fish that contain quite an amount of oil as mackerel, herring,

salmon, and shad are best suited for broiling, baking or planking. They contain so much oil distributed thru the flesh that it requires a dry, intense heat to make them palatable. Salmon is an exception, being at its best when boiled. An old saying declares, "Small fish should swim twice—once in water, once in oil." It is a good proverb for the

cook to remember because it applies well to every tiny fish.

To prepare a fish for planking, it must be cut down the back instead of the stomach. There are a number of real advantages to this method of cooking; it may be done in the oven of any coal or gas stove, the wood imparts a flavor to the fish which can be obtained in no