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"Campusing" in Our Own Tea Room

By HELEN EASTER

"Too many cooks spoil the broth
they say,
They say, but they don't say
why."

They don't say why because it's a rule that doesn't always hold true, as for example in the Campus Tea Room at Iowa State College.

"Don't the girls ever have bad luck?" a college professor, a mere man, innocently asked after a delightful luncheon in the Campus Tea Room one day. "I've been eating here for over a year and I've never been able to find fault."

The Campus Tea Room was the realization of a dream of Dean McKay. For several years it had been considered. Members of the Home Economics faculty wanted it because it would help to solve the problem of a warm noonday lunch. Home Economics students wanted it because of the opportunities for young women with experience in such lines of work.

And so in 1918, in Home Economics building, a third floor reception room was converted into a pretty little tea room, and Miss Eda Lord Murphy was secured to take charge of the new work. The tea room itself was very attractive but the kitchen equipment was very meager for such a purpose, and there were very few students who felt that they could give the time from their graduation electives to pioneer in the work. They began by serving to ten or fifteen of the faculty each day, but the numbers grew rapidly and before the quarter forty were being served and more were waiting patiently for some one to drop out so that they could patronize the new tea room.

That summer the college erected a temporary structure to take care of the applied art courses and a wing was given over to the little tea room.

Since then the work has gone merrily on until no home economics student feels she has completed I. S. C. without a quarter's experience in "institutional management."

It is a pleasant place to come to, a relief from the laboratory and class room. Restful gray walls, soft toned rugs, charming curtains brightened by gay hollyhocks, all help to make the hour a pleasure, a respite from the hurry of a big institution.

The black enameled tables, forty pretty Windsor chairs to match and several service tables—these complete the Campus Tea Room. At noon the tables are set with pretty silver, dainty paper doilies, gay old Haarlem china, and a bowl of cheery flowers. The luncheon is served in two courses and the girls themselves



"Chem." Professors, Army Officers and Engineers, As Well As the Home Economics Faculty Members, Count Themselves Lucky When They Are Able to Secure a Table for the Quarter

in fresh pink gingham dresses and white aprons wait tables.

At four o'clock tea is served and the college students drop in for tea and sandwiches, or ice cream and cake or (delicious to taste on a wintry day) hot waffles with maple sirup. It has become a place for quiet committee meetings where business can be combined with pleasure; or where friends can rest and chat a while after school hours.

The tea room has been useful in bringing faculty members from different departments together. It is true that the patronage is made up more of women than of men, but only because the Home Economics department has perhaps the advantage in being so close to the Tea Room. "Chem" professors, army officers and engineers count themselves lucky when they are able to secure a table for the quarter. Why? Because there is well cooked food, daintily yet generously served and the luncheons are not monotonous. In fact in the two years of its existence no menu has been exactly duplicated. They are carefully planned for that is part of the student's problem. They suit the season and the aim is to please.

A few typical menus are:

Fall—Potato soup, banana salad, graham bread and butter, date cakes, tea or milk.

Winter—Escalloped tomatoes, French friend potatoes, bread and butter, caramel custard, tea or milk.

Spring—Creamed eggs on toast, asparagus salad, French dressing, pineapple ice, sand tarts, tea or milk.

Moreover there is "atmosphere" for always when you enter or leave a room you take with you a certain impression. If it is a tea room, you are usually conscious of the personality of some one of its executives. To be able to add personality to such a place is an invaluable accomplishment, worth perhaps as much as the knowledge of foods, of costs or the hiring of help, and the girls strive hard to create such an impression.

The kitchen must not be forgotten, for that is the real laboratory for this class. It is a miniature of the larger institutional kitchens with its sinks, steam counter cupboards, pan rack and well stocked store room.

About forty girls each quarter elect the
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that he tasted it and found it very palatable. The new vegetable was thus rescued, but for a century after it was only cultivated in his garden, and in 1600 the Queen of England made the remark in her house book that a pound of potatoes cost two shillings (about fifty cents).

**"CAMPUSING" IN OUR OWN
TEA ROOM**

(Continued from page one)

course and spend three hours twice a week in the laboratory, learning to plan meals, and to cook and serve them properly. However, the course is not confined to the cooking and serving of foods. The managerial side of it is stressed and other courses take up the selection and cost of equipment. The classes visit the dormitory, hotel and hospital kitchens in Ames, Boone and Des Moines, learning the equipment and standards of such institutions. They study the management problems and legislation pertaining to hotels and eating places. The economic science department offers a course in hotel accounting.

Real tea room or cafeteria work cannot of course be replaced by the class room, for no cafeteria can be run exactly like any other because of differences in location, patronage or equipment but the purpose of such a course is to give the girl an idea of the problems that will confront her should she decide upon that line of work. Actual experience in such work is invaluable.

Several Iowa State young women lately have been doing work along this line. Two graduates last summer managed a club at one of the lake resorts for ten weeks and made a decided success of it. Another graduate is in Washington, D. C., buying the food for one of the government hotels. So there is opportunity, plenty of it, for girls interested along this line and Iowa State women are taking advantage of these opportunities to enter lines of work other than teaching.

**THE REALIZATION OF
YOUR OWN DREAM ROOM**

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blue and bright yellow and even green. Nature's color, as green is often called, when transferred to a wall in its fullest intensity is not the most restful or the most becoming background. In fact no background should be intense in color. It should always be greyed and preferably light.

If your room is towards the north or in a position where it will get little sunlight it is better to use warm colors such as tones of grey orange, grey yellow, soft rose, etc., but of course never in their fullest intensity. Always remember to use tints or greyed colors for a background. Intense colors may be used in very small spots but like pepper in the soup, a little adds a pleasing flavor but too much will ruin it all.

There are many ways of obtaining good color schemes. If you have not studied color sufficiently to work out a pleasing scheme of your own, you often may find one in a lovely picture or in a beautiful textile. Choose one good neutral tone as your background color, then another color can be for the furniture, another for draperies, and the brighter tones for books, lamps, etc. These color schemes, which have often been worked out by peo-

ple who have spent years in color study, will, when well-chosen and intelligently applied, make the most charming of rooms. But we have to remember our rules even when borrowing a color scheme.

I hope you have a room now that you may do with as you choose. Or, if you are not so fortunate, I hope you still have that dream-room which is for you and you only. Perhaps, if it is a dream-room, you are even more fortunate than if it is a real room because how simple it is to change it. And, as you grow and your ideals expand and a love for the beautiful more and more fills your life, this dream-room will grow too, until, in perfect harmony with decorative laws, with you, and with your highest ideals it will stand for attainment.

**HOW TO KEEP LIME FROM FORMING
IN A TEA KETTLE**

Lime can be kept from forming in a tea kettle by the simple expedient of placing two or three common marbles in the tea kettle. It will be found that the lime will be attracted to these moving objects rather than to the sides of the kettle. The lime can be cracked from the marbles at intervals and the marbles reused.

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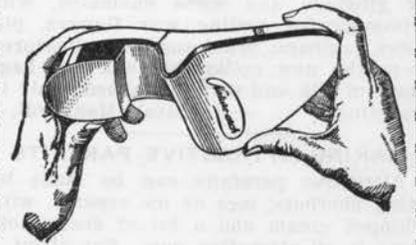
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