



## Elective Returns

by Ruth Marks

**E**LECTIVES, if chosen wisely, can be the spice of your college career.

Four or fourteen years from now are you going to be glad that you chose the elective courses that you did?

The task of selecting good, worthwhile electives isn't easy; it's hard to know just what you need to round out your education for the future position. You have a limited number of elective hours, but many courses you'd like to elect. The selection is much too important a task to guess. You want to be sure you are right. Perhaps you are a transfer student, and practically all of your elective hours are already taken. Perhaps you are an Education major, and have no idea of what subject or subjects you may be asked to teach in addition to home economics. Perhaps you are a Foods major, but wonder if, for your own use, you dare to use three of your elective hours on a clothing course which you want.

On the other hand, you may have a hobby all your own, and will want to use some of your elective hours to further develop it. There are courses you will want to take merely for fun. Craft Design is such a course, of definite value to Education majors, but many others of you will want to elect it for the sheer pleasure it affords. The course includes book-binding, leather and metal work. Advanced Craft Design includes metal working, silversmithing and jewelry.

Horticulture 146 is a two-hour course in home floriculture, teaching the principles and methods of growing house plants and garden flowers, and the arrangement of cut flowers in the home.

Additional courses in English and social sciences as well as courses in French are worthwhile, although it is considered necessary to take at least three courses in French to realize the optimum benefit. Foods majors in particular will be aided by the study of French. Perhaps you may never out-

wardly realize the benefit derived from your study of psychology, but it is well worth your while nevertheless, and equally so for any major.

Business Correspondence, which governs the writing of business letters, is a two-hour course of value to all. Many Iowa State graduates are thanking their lucky stars for the courses they

elect in public speaking; there are also those who wish frantically that they had elected additional speech courses, so consider well before deciding not to take more speech.

Radio writing, radio speech and journalism are very likely to be of value to students who are preparing for commercial positions in foods, equipment, art or textiles. You will also feel the need of electives somewhat related to your own field, such as experimental cookery and large quantity cookery for the foods or equipment majors. Foods majors in commercial positions occasionally have use for more art than has been required in their curriculum.

Home economics teachers are often asked to direct some of the extra-curricular activities in their high school, therefore, education majors may want to elect courses of this type in which they are specifically interested. Play selection and dramatic production may interest some of you. Oral reading may be of definite value to the education major. Tailoring, and family finance are also good electives for education majors.

Contact by mail with some Iowa State alumnae brings interesting as well as valuable information. Delilah Bartow, who was graduated in 1935 with a major in Household Equipment, describes her job as follows: "I am home economist in the Household Equipment section of the Technical Laboratories, Sears, Roebuck and Company. This work consists principally of testing all kinds of electric and non-electric household equipment, and preparing direction booklets. In addition I answer customer inquiries on homemaking and plan kitchens upon request." In regard to electives, Miss Bartow found these, in addition to electives in Household Equipment, most valuable—experimental cookery, large quantity cookery and catering.

"I wish I had taken these electives: advanced journalism, public speaking,

free hand drawing, and mathematics," she writes.

Lydia Cooley, '30, took her major in Foods and Nutrition, with a minor in Journalism. She is now with Swift and Company, in charge of the Martha Logan Test Kitchen. She writes, "I find my work in experimental cookery very valuable, and I believe it would be helpful to any person doing foods work, whether it be research, test or demonstration. My most helpful electives are experimental cookery, journalism and the psychology of advertising. Practical experience in cooking, and participation in campus activity are also very essential in preparing a student for commercial work."

Gertrude Hendriks, '34, who was graduated from the Home Economics Division with a major in Technical Journalism, is now assistant advertising manager of the Formfit Company. She gives this information: "I took as much as I could in psychology and as much as was being offered in advertising—a program which I heartily recommend to under-graduates. Being a transfer at Iowa State, I didn't have many hours for electives."

Lucille Manchester, '36, was graduated in Child Development. She is now teaching in the TVA Nursery School and Kindergarten at Norris, Tennessee, and says, "I believe that those electives in foods and nutrition and in psychology have been of the most value to me in the work I'm doing. I should like to have taken more electives in psychology and in clothing."

Enola Guthrie Retherford, '32, gives much of the credit for her success to her electives. She was a Household Equipment major, and is now regional Home Electrification Specialist for the Rural Electrification Administration of Washington, D. C. Mrs. Retherford writes, "The electives I have found most valuable are: the second course in journalism called feature writing, the advanced course in public speaking, and courses in craft. I wish that I had taken a second course in experimental cookery, another course in meal planning, an advanced senior sewing or clothing course, more journalism, and perhaps another course in English. I expect I had an opportunity to take more electives than most Home Economics students. It's my opinion that if a woman has to maintain financial support for herself, she should avail herself of as many home economics and journalism electives as possible for the best preparation."