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From "Third Floor Back" to Front Line Rank— Growth of Home Economics at Iowa State

By CLARA JORDAN

FROM a room, third-floor back, and tucked far away in the rear of one of the dormitories, to the long two-staired red brick building now standing, is a scale by which the progress of home economics at Iowa State College may be measured. Standing as it does the best and most famous of all schools offering collegiate courses in home economics, Iowa State presents an interesting aspect in reviewing the history of its growth, progress and development.

Home economics at Iowa State had its birth in the year 1872. In the room just mentioned, far away in a secluded corner of Margaret Hall, the oldest dormitory of the campus, a series of lectures was given to women about the campus on subjects pertaining to home economics and home-making. This was brought about and made possible through the investigation and enthusiasm of Mrs. Welch, the wife of the president of the college. For a time, she herself gave the lectures but as the course attracted more to it and was opened to college students, women from away, who were authorities on the subjects came to talk and finally regular instructors were installed.

The room in Margaret Hall was made over into a regular class room. The wood work was done over, stoves installed and cupboards built in to hold the dishes and utensils or cooking. With this meager equipment, and such limited space, the home economics course at Iowa State was launched on its way to success and fame, under guiding influence of one or two faithful souls.

At this time there were very few women students at Ames, but the course attracted more from year to year so that in a short time there was a goodly representation here. As the classes became larger more space was needed and other rooms in other buildings on the campus were utilized to accommodate the students. Finally the need became so urgent that the legislature was petitioned for an appropriation for a new building. In due time this was



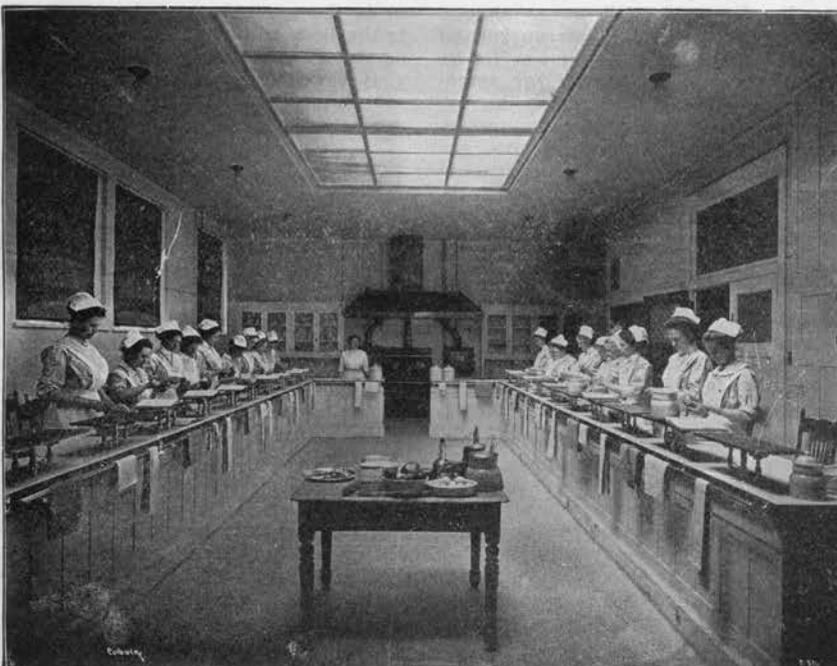
Breadmaking in 1880 in the first home economics classroom—the "Mag-hall Annex."

granted and in 1912 the Home Economics building of today was dedicated.

The buildings stand as a memorial of the rapid progress of home economics and it was only fitting and proper that with so many students enrolled in the course, a separate division with its dean and various heads was made. So home economics became a college in itself and has grown wonderfully well ever since.

This edifice which at that time seemed so large is fast becoming too small with the numbers that are flocking to Ames each year. Every corner and nook is used to accommodate the classes and even then many have to be held in other buildings. Three floors are used, the lowest one being devoted to lecture rooms, offices, locker rooms and one laboratory where the class in care of the house learn all the intricacies of laundry work, ironing and refinishing furniture. On the main floor we find offices, also lecture rooms and several of the large airy spaces used for the sewing laboratories. The second floor is given over to cooking classes. Here are not only the laboratories where the actual work is done but the dining rooms where the finished products are served.

Aside from this building three studios have been built which are to accommodate the classes in art, applied design, costume design, house planning, interior decoration, and institutional management. Some rooms in the old agricul-



Twenty-two years later, almost a second generation, shows the first cooking laboratory in the new building.



Skip another ten years, to the latest addition to the department, the Institutional Tea Room.

tural hall, now known as ag-engineering have had to be used for class rooms and sewing laboratories. So that every nook

and corner has to be put to use. Even the first class room in which Mrs. Welch held her lecture work is still in use. Here

the demonstration classes are held and use much of the equipment that was placed there many years ago.

As the school has grown and become more popular, the course has been changed and broadened out so that now it is very flexible, and can be made to fit the needs of almost any girl. Courses in elementary cooking, sewing and design are required but any sequence can be followed that may be desired, as for instance, electives in teaching. In this sequence several courses in vocational education are required and practice teaching in the downtown schools or in towns close around as a part of the work. Then one may wish to be a dietitian, here one may take electives along this line. This is also true of sewing, tea-room work, or costume designing and even now there is some hope that a course of this kind may be catalogued for those desiring journalistic training.

The progress which home economics has made thus far is only an indication of what may follow later. For with the building only ten years old now, and crowded to overflowing, is a promise that the work will increase and perhaps double itself. With the dim prospects of a new, larger and more efficient home in sight and with the coming of Anna J. Richardson as dean of home economics of Iowa State, the history from henceforth on is a matter of happy thought and wonderful promise.

The Whys and Wherefores of Correspondence

By MILDRED BOYT

IN ancient days no one traveled, and there was no business, therefore no need of letter-writing. When Mr. Caveman was hit with the wanderlust and decided to see what was over the hills, Mrs. Caveman had no hope of consolation by mail and simply had to wait patiently her spouse's return. However, as wanderlust became a more prevalent disease those at home began to receive slabs of bark and stone from the wanderers with their adventures pictured on them. These crude missives in turn gave way to strips of parchment covered with hieroglyphics of a more or less legible nature. We owe our alphabet and much of our language to the ancient Greeks and Romans. It was they also who brought letter-writing into more common useage and developed many of the forms we use today.

Our etiquette of letter-writing consists of the best in social forms, fads, and general useage of past years that have survived the test of time. Etiquette, by the way, comes from an old English word that meant ticket. This slip of paper contained printed instructions of court etiquette and was given to persons who were to be received by the King. The word has come to mean that which is correct in social form.

The old proverb would well be changed to read "A man is known by the paper he uses." How well character may be judged by a letter! How easy to read

between lines, along the margin and across the envelope, of good or bad taste. We see the garish, loud person in brightly colored paper, and the careless person in cheap blotting paper sheets. The grasping, dissatisfied person speaks from the freaky, faddy paper for 'tis he who is always on the watch for something new. While the plain, heavy, white paper tells us of good taste springing from the sensible, conservative, nature. Ink also enters into this character reading, and although black is absolutely correct, the common blue-black ink is rapidly taking its position beside it.

Fashions in stationery rise and fall. Much of the seasons "latest" is in good taste, but the woman of refinement always avoids these styles that are exaggerated in texture, shape, or color. To be absolutely safe it is best to choose a good grade of white or palest grey paper.

There are three forms of correspondence; social, friendly and business. The social may be subdivided into the two smaller heads, formal and informal, but holds strictly to the social heading, taking care not to overlap the friendly. For the average person's social correspondence, small note paper, or correspondence cards are in most general useage. For friendly letter a medium sized note paper is best. One may be a little freer in choosing this paper, and therefore it gives more of an opportunity to show individuality. Rough finishes and framed

paper are correct, as well as pretty. One may also show character by his choice of monograms, crests or addresses. These are engraved in the right hand corner or in the top center of the sheet. Black is the best, although some colors may be used. For instance white engraving on grey paper is very effective.

For business correspondence and occasionally for friendly correspondence large sheets of white paper are used. These are never monogrammed but may have the address, cable address, and telephone number engraved on them. Of course for a business house this information is included in the firm letter head and is printed in black or color at the top of the sheet.

Envelopes for social and friendly correspondence should match the paper and be of a size to contain the paper when it is folded once. Business letters are folded twice and may be contained in a suitably sized, stamped envelope that is engraved or printed with the address of the sender.

Correspondence assumes added importance as our lives grow busier, therefore it behooves us to pay some attention to the best forms of letter writing. To be a really good correspondent is truly an art, may be a gift, but possible to cultivate. What a pity to allow a friendship to slip simply because we are too lazy or careless to keep up a correspondence.