



Drawing of the proposed building for the School of Home Economics

Homemaking Becomes an Art and Science

By Dr. Helen B. Burton

MOST people recall the time when the only work offered in Home Economics was cooking and sewing. It is logical that those types of work should have been the first ones, for they represented the main activities of homemakers.

One of the problems in home economics teaching today is that many people still believe those courses are the only ones offered. They have lost sight of the fact that the homemaker's job now is a larger one, a more varied one. She must not only know how to cook and sew, but also how to use her time, money and energy efficiently, to select and care for food and clothing, to select, furnish and care for a home, to guide the children and other members of her family so that each one can develop to the fullest extent without harm to the rest of the family, to maintain satisfactory relationships in spite of the troubles of a changing world and to help her family see the importance of good relationships and of making the best of a situation regardless of what it is.

The homemaker's job is the most important one there is and deserves every assistance we can give it.

We should remember that the husband and father also is a homemaker. He too needs help, possibly more than the wife and mother for it is only recently that we

have accorded him any responsibility other than providing the money and being the "boss."

The staff members of the School of Home Economics believe they have a service to render the students at the University and while they are able to do a fairly satisfactory piece of work under the present conditions, we feel a more nearly perfect job may be performed if the setup is improved. The Home Economics Department is housed in about the oldest building on the campus. The arrangement of these rooms, the equipment, the appearance of the building, in fact everything about it is contrary to what we are teaching. Rooms having related functions are too far apart, and storage space is in the wrong place and is insufficient. The fact that the building is very old makes it difficult to keep it clean.

NO doubt every student in our classes lives in a more modern home than our building. Many high schools have more attractive quarters than ours. It is surely difficult to teach students what is the best type of equipment, the correct arrangement, good taste, and sanitation, when conditions about them are the very opposite. Every effort is made to keep the building in repair and as attractive look-

ing as possible but any one who has seen it realizes the tremendous handicap under which we work.

The space allowed is inadequate. The laboratories, built years ago and equipped for twenty students, are too small. It is impossible to put forty people in these small laboratories, or to have eighty in a lecture room seating forty people.

The ideas both in laboratories and classrooms have changed radically during the last few years, the purpose now being to make the situation as nearly as possible like that in the home, and thus make it easier for the student to use what she has learned. Our present laboratories do not carry out these ideas, and the teaching is therefore difficult.

One very serious drawback of the building is that it is unsafe. It is so old that it would burn with very little effort. The central stairway is a type that would furnish excellent draft for any fire. Several years ago the building was declared structurally unsafe and, to improve the condition, tie bolts were placed through the building from wall to wall, to keep it from falling apart.

Three divisions of the department's work consist of laboratories for studying at first hand some of the problems concerned with homemaking.

The first of these, the University Practice Home, was open for one semester in 1919-1920 and now is maintained not only during the regular session, but also during the summer term. Next summer it will be necessary to have two Practice Homes. Six senior students reside there for nine weeks with the faculty advisor. Some of the goals are to teach the students what we mean by satisfactory family relationships, consideration for others, the economical use of time, money and energy, maintaining an adequate diet for college women, and buying equipment and furnishings.

THE Nursery School, started in 1936, has an enrolment of twenty children from two to four years of age. Every attempt is made to provide satisfactory conditions for play, sleep, eating the noon meal and other activities. There are observation booths for the home economics students and the parents as well as students in other departments to study the behavior and development of children. The advanced home economics students also participate, under direction, in some of the activities of the children. The third real laboratory of the department is the High School Home Economics laboratory. It is an efficiently planned and arranged and artistically furnished room and is a guide for our home economics education majors as well as home economics teachers in planning their home economics rooms.

The Practice Home, Nursery School and High School Home Economics room are laboratories as much as the foods, nutrition, clothing and related art rooms are laboratories. Possibly they serve the purpose even better, for they more nearly approximate life situations, and allow for integration of the various phases of home economics. They represent one of the newer trends in home economics teaching.

Some new courses recently added also follow the newer trends in home economics. This year a course in family relationships and one in consumer buying of textiles and clothing have been added. Advanced courses in the teaching of home economics, curriculum problems, supervision of home economics teaching, teaching adult homemaking, and nursery school procedures are now offered as well as advanced courses in costume design, home decoration, nutrition, institutional management and quantity cookery.

Furthermore, a greater attempt has been made to offer work to the non-major student, for the Home Economics Department, in addition to promoting the interests of its own majors, is a service department for all students in the University.

The needs for the School of Home Economics as we see them are a new building, a new Practice Home and an increased staff. Plans have been drawn for a building to be erected on the South Oval opposite the Biology Building. It is to be Gothic in design to match the other buildings on the campus, but, because of its

specific purpose, it is to be more informal. It will be of red brick, with limestone trim, and will have a cloister and garden and an entrance hall that will portray the spirit of the building, an atmosphere of friendliness, of good taste—in other words, the spirit of a home. It will carry out the best ideas for a building of its type.

The building will include an assembly room opening onto the garden, an institutional management laboratory, household equipment laboratory, clothing laboratories with facilities for displaying the garments made, a home furnishing laboratory that may be arranged by the students, food laboratories with equipment for meal service, research laboratories, a nutrition laboratory equipped for special research problems, a textile laboratory, and adequate office space.

High school rooms portraying the best ideas for high school equipment and arrangements will be included. It is also planned to move the Nursery School to the new building, for, while its present location is fairly satisfactory, the quarters are a little small, there is insufficient room for observation, and research is limited.

AS improved homemaking is one of the goals of home economists and as the Practice Home is the best agency for achieving that objective, a well planned, well arranged, attractive house is necessary. It is difficult to rent a house that meets our needs and for that reason we hope to build one. Since the Practice Home is supposed to be a model home, its design, arrangements, equipment and furnishings must be, perhaps, even more carefully selected than for other homes. We feel that residence in the Practice Home is one of our most important courses and for that reason the facilities must be right. At present they are far from what they should be.

The School of Home Economics was organized in 1919 with two full time teach-

ers and occupied one room on the first floor of Science Hall. There were four graduates in the first class. At present, all of the third floor of Science Hall and parts of the second and first floors are used by the Home Economics Department and there are ten full time staff members. This year there are 360 students enrolled of which number 223 are majors. The total enrolment in classes this semester is 500, an increase of 17 percent over last year. Thirty-two students expect to receive the B.S. degree in Home Economics and two the M.S. degree this year. Seven master's degrees were conferred in August, 1937.

FOUR degrees are offered: B.S. in Home Economics; M.S., which has been offered for several years; Master of Home Economics, first offered about two years ago; and Master of Home Economics Education, recently added to the list. The type of master's degree awarded depends upon the student's undergraduate preparation and the courses pursued for the graduate degree.

For several years the only curriculum available was home economics education. About six years ago, new courses were added and four fields made possible: Home Economics Education, Hospital Dietetics, Textiles and Clothing, and the General Course. This spring two other curricula were added—Child Development and Home Service. The University is one of the three institutions in the State qualified to offer work for the Vocational Certificate in Home Economics and has been so designated since 1917.

There are more than five hundred graduates of the School of Home Economics, located in 32 states in the United States, Hawaii, Alaska, China, and Colombia and Peru, South America, with most of them, of course, in Oklahoma. About 60 per cent of them are homemakers and 24 per cent are teachers.

We feel that the placing of graduates, an important matter to the student, has been satisfactory. Last year all of the graduates wishing positions were placed. In fact, we were not able to fill all of the requests made of us. Our graduates are being placed in the better schools of the State and are being selected for internship in the larger hospitals over the country. Every year some of the dietetic majors receive more than one appointment. These facts make us feel our graduates are successful. Eighteen graduates are teaching in colleges and universities and seven are married to faculty members at the University of Oklahoma.

At our first Alumnae Reunion held in April of this year, seventy alumnae and faculty members were present. The alumnae voted to form a permanent organization and elected officers. Their main objective is to help the School of Home Economics advance and serve the State as we all feel it should. They are especially in-

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Dr. Helen B. Burton

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anecdotes of a full and busy life on the last frontier. Through trying years his unflinching optimism has prevailed, with the result that there has been a more contented and happier staff. Always he has been the gentleman and the scholar—happy in his work and pleasant with his co-workers. His absence from the department of government will be grievously felt by faculty and students alike. His departure will leave an aching void on our teaching staff which we cannot hope to fill. There will never be another French Amos!

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Homemaking

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

interested in the proposed new building and the new Practice Home.

The increased enrolment both in major students and non-majors and the greater interest on the part of the student body make us feel that we are meeting a definite need on this campus. However, there are many things we might do if our facilities were enlarged and improved and the staff increased.

There should be an opportunity for more homemaking courses for non-majors, including courses for men, and it should be possible to provide more varied experience for the majors, particularly opportunities for laboratory work in textile experimentation, nutrition, home furnishing, study of household equipment, meal service to large groups of people, experimental cookery, research in home economics education and studying the behavior of children. Not only the laboratories and equipment will have to be increased to take care of the needs, but also the staff. Additional assistance at the Nursery School as well as for the other phases of our program is needed.

Our quarters are woefully inadequate for carrying on research. Some interesting problems have been undertaken the last few years, such as the vitamin C content of various citrus fruits and of some canned

fruit juices; the vitamin A value of feterrita; the use of the sorghum grains and of soy bean flour in batteries and doughs; ways and means of extending home economics instruction into the home; the effect of cooking upon the vitamin content of foods; the improvement in food and nutrition habits, due to home economics teaching, both in white and Indian families; the nutritional value of the diets of students doing light-housekeeping; pupil development through home projects; and an evaluation of pupil development in consumer buying. Additional room and facilities are necessary for research, as the field is broadening and becoming more important year by year.

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Weaver goes east

Resigning as director of traffic control and regulation for the Oklahoma State Safety Department, Reynolds Weaver, '28 ex, has taken a position as assistant to the director of the Automotive Safety Foundation of New York. The resignation was effective June 1.

Only 26 years of age, Mr. Weaver is said to be the youngest traffic control engineer in the United States. He is a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity.

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Former professor dies

Dr. Alfred Buice, former professor of chemistry at the University, died at Santa Monica, California, February 9. He resigned his position at the University in 1930 to accept a similar position at Washington State College. Later he was bacteriologist for the state of Washington, retiring in 1936 and moving to Chelsea, Oklahoma. At the time of his death he was serving as special bacteriologist in litigation for Spokane, Washington.

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Officers of state group

Members of the Oklahoma Funeral Directors Association have elected Russell Chapman, '17ex, of Tishomingo, secretary-treasurer of their organization, and H. P. Meyer, '30ex, of Norman, to the position of first vice-president.

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