



Conducted by "ISOBEL"

Domestic Science in Agricultural College

A visit to the Domestic Science Department of the Manitoba Agricultural College on the morning of May 16, revealed a very interesting and pleasing room scene. Miss McDonald, a bright young teacher, gold medalist graduate from the Domestic Science School of Toronto, dressed in spotless stiffly starched white, had the class of some twenty-odd girls, who, garbed in the prescribed uniform of pale green with white aprons and collars, each seated at her own particular table-cabinet, furnished with individual granite-ware utensils all exquisitely clean, presented a feature most satisfying to the artistic sense. The cabinets are, to a casual observer, really heavily built tables, with a top surface area of about 27 by 40 inches, inclosed below and containing small drawers and cupboards, with shelves every inch of which are occupied. Indeed, it is safe to say that nowhere short of on shipboard could you find so much in so little space with easy access and with such perfect order.

These cabinets are ranged end to end round three sides of the room, leaving an aisle between them and the walls, and of course there is a space in the middle of the room bare except for a small table for demonstrating purposes. The girls all sit facing the centre. Each cabinet is surmounted by a gas fed small iron frame not unlike the nickel teapot or kettle stand on your own range or kitchen stove. On these frames the girls do their cooking. Their baking is done in a regular range oven set up in one corner of the room.

The work under way this morning was the cooking of fruits, dried and green, and a cereal. The girls were taught the difference between fruits and vegetables. Prunes were in process of cooking as a sample of dried fruits. The prunes had been carefully washed and left soaking over-night in clear cold water, then cooked slowly in this water, till tender. Then a little lemon added and sugar to taste and a final boil of three more minutes and you had a dish fit for any king. The rhubarb stalks washed, some peeled and some unpeeled, cut into inch lengths and sprinkled with one-third of their bulk of granulated sugar; left for a time, that the sugar might draw the juice, so that cooking could proceed without any water being added. It was noticed that the sugar acted more quickly on the peeled than on the unpeeled rhubarb, though the unpeeled kept shape and color and flavor better during the cooking process.

This cereal, cream of wheat, was cooking in small double boilers at the same time. When nearly ready to serve, a few dates were washed and pitted and dropped in with the cereal and all boiled up together. The dishes were all so daintily managed that the danger would lie in over-tempting the appetite, though the foods treated were of the most commonplace kinds.

The Sewing Room

However much one would love to linger in the well-lighted perfectly appointed kitchen, with its quota of interested and interesting embryo cooks, there were other regions waiting the explorer and the sewing room was next in order. Here were found three new sewing machines and a requisite number of work tables partially enclosed below, where materials and garments under construction can be safely locked up. In this well-lighted roomy room Miss Kennedy from McDonald Institute, a competent instructor in millinery and practical garment making, has charge of the class for certain periods. It will be seen that hard common sense and practical utilities direct every plan and feature of the domestic science work. The girls will purchase suitable materials

and being taught to draft their own patterns and take measurements, make real necessary clothing for themselves, which they will take away when they finish in the school. They have the chance to go to the city stores and buy these materials under supervision of experts, after comparisons of qualities and prices.

The same sound judgment governs the millinery work. As in all other lines the girls begin at the very foundation of the work. For the summer hat they start with the wire in the coil—and the braid in the bunch. From that starter they work up to the completed hat, learning every step as they go.

Many tales have been told and stories embellished by reported feats of needle-work performed by our great-grandmothers on ancient silken samplers and venerable laces. Without desiring in any degree to detract from the respectful awe in which the average descendant justly regards those erstwhile works of needle-craft, it is safe to say that samplers of ordinary patching performed by pupils in the science class would surely equal if not outclass them. Certainly the patching was beautifully done. It has become a fine art.

No one will be sorry to drop back for a moment into the fascinating kitchen again, while a brief account of one of the most important sections of the experimental work in cooking is being mentioned. The principal and her two assistants reside in a private house in the college

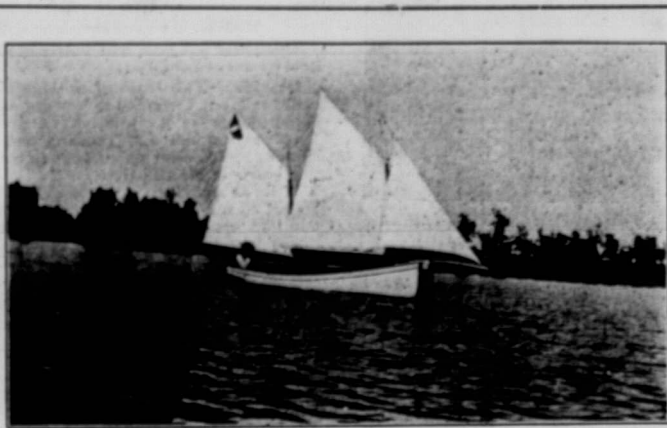
of management, at which presumably the rest of the class and the teachers are entertained. The value of this experience will be understood by every housekeeper who remembers how she shrank and quailed before the awful responsibility of entertaining for the first few times.

Now, we'll really have to say good-bye to that kitchen, with its happy hopeful cooks, because there is literally no end to what can be said about its possibilities and one may just as well stop now as twenty pages so far as reaching the end is concerned. It would surely be a "long bow" to intimate that the Government had any ulterior ideas of developing a sort of sub-conscious matrimonial agency in the now approved Domestic Science course; but the natural effects cannot fail to tend that direction, for what real, womanly woman could resist the instructive attraction towards the successful manipulations of food-stuffs, spotless kitchen tables and utensils and faultless garb, or resist the equally natural desire to reign alone in woman's kingdom. And this altitude attained, entails the necessary adjunct of a willing subjects appreciative obedience—and from obedience to equality is one short step, and from equality to matrimony shorter still. It begins to look like a clear case against the Government.

Though more prosaic than millinery, garment-making and cooking, still quite as needful, the laundry work invited attention. In the station are white enamel-lined tubs with cold and hot water taps running into each, and a faucet below to drain off the used water. The girls are here permitted to experiment upon their own apparel, thereby combining a lesson learned and a service performed at one and the same time. The drying and ironing are done in the same room. Sanitation, house furnishing and appropriate decorating and arrangement of rooms are also taught, while the purely mental training is not overlooked either, for English, including literature, is one of the subjects on the curriculum.

The Pervading Genius

Miss Juniper, the presiding, indeed pervading genius would better express her value to the institution, is a host in herself. Under her skilful guidance, system and order are evolving from chaos.



Campers on Broken Pipe Lake, Manitoba

grounds. Here, "monarch of all they survey," each girl is given sole charge of the housekeeping for a week. A requisite sum of money is placed in her hands and a skeleton menu outlined. For instance, the dinner is outlined thus: soup, meat, vegetables, dessert. This stirs the ingenuity of the temporary cook to determine, on her own responsibility, the kind of soup, meat, vegetables, etc., and how they shall be dressed. She takes the money and buys the supplies, herself, keeps the accounts and balances up at the end of the week. If she is short she has to make it up; which furnishes a rational stimulant to discretion in buying and comparing values. A second girl is detailed to assist in the manual portion of the work, lest both labor and responsibility would discourage the beginner. Marks of merit are given for success in this work.

Have "At Homes"

In addition to this each girl is privileged to have an "at home" during her week

Some conception of Miss Juniper's work will be understood when it is known that she had to superintend the workmen in their work, had to give detailed measurements of cabinets, sewing tables, cupboards; figure out estimates of supplies foods and dishes and the hundred and one necessary items of equipment for such a varied course; teach several periods exclusively herself and supervise all the rest of the teaching done. She is responsible for everybody and everything, and is wholly devoted to a successful termination of each student's term. Miss Juniper understands girls, which is saying a great deal, and her sympathy surrounds and shelters every member of her class.

Altogether the course is a most desirable one, and if necessary a real effort should be made by the family to allow the daughters the advantages offered by this course.

Many home-loving housekeepers are prone to say "I can teach my daughters this and that," or "They can cook well enough for us," and such like, but we

should not forget that progress is being made in every line of work, housekeeping as well as the rest, and the best of us have much to learn. In the matter of orderliness alone the average house has no conception of the ease and satisfaction that must result from the trained methods of the science course.

It has not been possible for the average mother in the country, raising a family, to acquire and pursue a system of exact neatness and perfect appointments in her busy home that the specialist trained to the work with no handicap can attain, hence the daughter does not see nor realize what is possible under favoring circumstances, hence the need for the away-from-home training.

HER FIRST LETTER

Alonso Rice

"Just a line from baby," and the puzzles that perplex,
"Just a line from baby," and the cares that often vex,
Disappear and leave like mist before the sun's bright ray
When "Just a line from baby" is the order of the day!

"Just a line from baby," chants the bird upon the spray;
"Just a line from baby," sings the brook-let on the way;
All the world looks beautiful arrayed in diamond dew
When "Just a line from baby" heads the day's important news!

"Just a line from baby," and the night is gemmed with stars;
"Just a line from baby" is the music's sweetest bars;
The critic learned in lofty lore its charm will fail to see.
For no one else can read the line, I know excepting me!

DISAPPROVES OF "SLAVE"

Editor, Fireside:—I am a reader of THE GUIDE and would like to say something in answer to your correspondent "Slave." I think by the way Slave writes she must surely be the "Boss," because she appears to be watching outside work as well as inside work. She says that a woman has to cook for twenty-five men at threshing time. Now, a thresher's full gang at Bellevue is from 16 to 18 men. Where do the rest of the men come from? Oh! they are the farmers who are changing work hauling the grain to market.

Now, Slave tries to insinuate that they are all threshers. Then she says it is not three o'clock till they are looking for lunch. Now from 4 to 4-30 is the time for lunch. But then, what about the extra seven or nine men?—Oh, yes, they are farmers lined around the lunch basket, "Slave's" husband and sons included, keeping a sharp eye on it for fear there is not enough to go round and as hungry as hounds, as she calls them. She says, too, that female help is very hard to procure. Didn't she mean it was hard to keep? Then again she says that the lunch has to be "iced cakes and hot buns." My husband was a thresher, and he says threshers don't look for such delicacies, and if they did they would be disappointed if they expected such things from "Slave."

Now, regarding the threshers sending word he would be at a place to thresh one hour on Saturday evening. Threshers can't always tell to an hour when they will be at a place and even if he was an hour or so late in coming through misfortune was "Slave" not expecting then to come and wasn't the other woman expecting them to go, and if she had to give six men their supper at nine o'clock it was nothing to write about. I think we women are a little hard on the threshers. What would we do if they refused to thresh for us? Why, we would have to buy machines of our own, and then we would be the threshers and would expect to be treated courteously. I think if "Slave" had given the six men their supper and spoke to the "Boss" about it he would have paid her for her extra trouble. In conclusion, I might say that Bellevue threshers always pay board in wet weather. The farmer is supposed to keep them on Sunday even if they do arrive on Saturday night.

CONTENTMENT NO. 1

In less than a week after a bride lays aside her wedding gown she begins to wonder how she will look in black.