

employment opening up to them in industrial, commercial, and professional life, owing to reorganized schemes of education, lessening opportunities of marriage, and the withdrawal of men from industrial occupations, homemaking is and will become more and more the one industry the character of which will determine the caliber of the nation.

Much has been done towards the vocational education of girls and women both for homemaking and industrial pursuits, but all educational programs have a tendency to become stereotyped, and to fail to respond to changed conditions and new demands. There comes a time when it is wise to take an inventory of what has been accomplished, to make plans for further progress in view of changed conditions, and to consider the obstacles that have to be overcome before that progress can be made. The aim of the book is to do this in the limited though very important field to which it addresses itself.

The primary purpose of this work is not to make original contributions to the subjects discussed, though it is hoped that these are not absent. The purpose has been to present condensed and clear-cut statements of problems, examples of various attempts at their solution, and critical estimates both lay and professional, in as impartial a manner as is possible, of their respective weaknesses and advantages. Little discussion of theory has been attempted. Care has been taken to give the authority for practically every important statement of fact that has been made. Although the book deals mainly with the weaknesses of this branch of our educational system it is confidently hoped that a spirit of optimism pervades the work, an optimism based on the knowledge of progress and achievement in educational affairs, inspiring us to greater efforts in the future.