

tors, or placed in charge of the street cleaning department.

Before the United States National Pure Food and Drugs Act went into effect five years ago, a demand came from the people in general, and the women in particular, for a pure food law. They had the aggressive assistance of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, who made public the extent of food adulterations. Some states, like Massachusetts, New York and Indiana, had most stringent pure food laws, thus setting a precedent for the state laws and a standard for the National law.

While this National Law is defective, it has placed a check on the most serious abuses, especially regarding imported products and interstate commerce. It has tended to purify foods by exposing contents, adulterations and preservatives used in manufacture.

The public school domestic science departments have taken up the problem and are creating a demand for pure foods. Some schools buy foods in the open markets, test them for their purity, and place them on their white list or their black list. Sometimes they go farther, and place stores on their white list or black list. In a certain city the dealers learned this, and made an effort to get on the approved list, for they know the power of public opinion and the law of supply and demand. Naturally this has resulted in students demanding goods of certain brands that fulfilled the requirements for purity. That unscrupulous manufacturers fear investigation is shown by a specific case in the southern part of California, where the manufacturers went to the city superintendent and requested that such investigations be discontinued in the high schools.

This is very different from the manufacturer who is willing to have his place inspected. A certain candy manufacturer will frankly tell you he is using glucose and artificial colorings in his candies, and that his chocolate coatings are of many grades. He will also show in what ways he is complying with the pure food laws in regard to gelatine and grain alcohol. The girls in visiting such places learn to compare the value of factory-made and home-made products. They get new ideas of wholesale and retail cost, new ideas of the commercial value of the cleanliness of production. After visiting an unsanitary

bakery they have a new appreciation of bread made under clean conditions. They voluntarily advertise the clean place and condemn the dirty place. Honest manufacturers know this, and those factories that are run under model conditions appreciate the value of this voluntary advertising. Thus an indirect influence in the community is being felt in enforcing pure food laws and sanitary surroundings.

The public school girl of to-day studies city ordinances regarding the sale and exposure of foods and sanitation. She quietly investigates the grocery store, the butcher shop, the bakery, the dairy or milk depot patronized by her family. She makes reports in class and is given moral backing in patronizing the clean place and condemning the dirty one. Sometimes the boycott is used most effectively. But this is rare; more often supplies exposed to flies and dirt are simply refused. This is carried out in a certain country town in California, where a small community makes it difficult to eliminate the personal equation and the work must be done diplomatically.

The girl of to-day has discovered that while the ordinances are good they are often difficult to enforce for lack of enough inspectors. She realizes that public opinion and community interest, aggressive and persistent, must enforce these improvements.

Public school children and the community as a whole found how much they could do in exterminating the rats and mice in San Francisco and the bay cities three years ago. They learned that even the crumbs from their lunch boxes drew mice and flies to the school yards and the buildings. They learned a most vivid lesson of individual responsibility for the health of the community and what systematic and intelligent co-operation could accomplish.

Another field that is open to large results is the war against flies. Not only girls, but all the pupils of the schools, are being taught the danger of the common house fly. The State Inspector of Washington has just placed 20,000 circulars in the hands of the school children of that state to assist in fighting and exterminating flies. They take one to the first principles of civic sanitation — the destruction of all waste.

The high school girl learns through the