

Government of the Province of Saskatchewan

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE FARM KITCHEN AND HOME-MADE COOKER

BY

MISS A. DE LURY

THE KITCHEN

1. *Desirable Qualities.*—The kitchen should be airy and sunny and should be constructed and fitted up in such a way that it can be kept clean without too much labor. It is not well to have it too large so increasing the amount of work necessary to keep it in good condition and causing an unnecessary amount of walking in the performance of duties. On the other hand, it is well not to have it so small that the movements of the housekeeper have to be cramped and it should not be so small as to be difficult to keep airy; a stuffy kitchen is very tiring. There ought to be space enough for the worker in the kitchen to sit down and sew or read or merely to sit down during intervals of waiting, however short they may be.

There seems to be a quite general impression that it is not essential to aim at attractiveness in the kitchen appointments; that, as the homelier duties are performed there, it need lend itself only to utility. But, it must be borne in mind that the housewife, and others of the household often also, spend a large part of their lives there and surely it is worth while to have the surroundings as cheerful and pleasant as is practicable. It will make a wonderful difference in the worker's attitude toward her work and in her general habit of mind and disposition whether her kitchen surroundings are agreeable or otherwise. Victor Hugo says, "The bee is a housewife; her song is a grumble." I wonder if the working surroundings have not something to do with making her song a grumble.

(1). *Fittings.* It is well to have the walls and ceiling of a kind that are easily cleaned and kept free of dust; colors cheery and soft, clean and cool-looking. Painted or tinted walls in soft colors answer the purpose very well. Sanitas or papers with varnished surfaces are prettier and daintier, are durable and kept clean with less effort than painted walls. If varnished over they keep their colors unfaded and are all the more easily washed off. Blue and white as colors seem to fulfil all the conditions necessary provided the blue is of a soft, neutral tint. Some of the patterns in these colors are very beautiful as are also some of those in green and white. Often green and white patterns have touches of brighter color, very desirable for cheeriness, especially if the kitchen happens to be not a very bright one.