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The Woman's Quiet Hour

By E. Cora Hind

The season of 1916-17 in the Manitoba Agricultural College promises to see the proportion of male and female students about equally divided. This, alas, is not due to any increase of the women students, but to the very painful decrease of boy students on account of the war. The attendance may be better as the year advances, but at the time of writing there is not more than 120 students in sight all told. Perhaps this is one of the most eloquent reminders that war is with us.

Opening the Agricultural College

So far as the girl pupils are concerned, the classes promise to be more interesting than ever, and in the section of household arts, a small suite of rooms, corresponding to a bungalow house, will be available for the students to furnish, very simply, but very artistically. This is certainly a long step in the right direction, and should prove a very fascinating part of the year's work. Last year and the year previous the girls did excellent work in house planning, and some of their house plans, framed and hanging in the various rooms, should be an inspiration to the erection of better and pleasanter homes in the country, and towns, too, for that matter.

In travelling over the country this past season, I was struck with the number of bungalows which have been erected as farm homes. Surely a very pleasant change from the packing box style of house which has so often prevailed, and indeed, from very high houses of any kind. In our country

**Bungalows
on the Farm** has so often prevailed, and indeed, from very high houses of any kind. In our country

and has since found himself possessed of an accomplishment that not only gives great pleasure to himself, but makes him of use and pleasure to others. The domestic atmosphere created in an institution like the College by women of the type of Miss Spackman, has a value that can never be measured by dollars and cents.

People in both town and country are much stirred up over the increased cost of living. Probably people in farm homes realize this much less than town and city dwellers, but even to them the price of sugar and similar articles of daily use has advanced to a point which makes a very material difference in the household bills. I have been following this question of cost of commodities for a number of years, and have been looking into it even more closely within the last two months, and in the matter of the price of flour and bread, meat, sugar and milk, the business is so intricate and there are so many questions involved that it seems almost impossible to arrive at any authoritative statement as to whether or not the present prices are justified by conditions created by the war. There is one way, however, by which the cost of living can be reduced and that is more economical housekeeping. I do not know how my readers in the country will feel, but when I made that suggestion to a number of housewives in Winnipeg the other day, they bridled and bristled as if they had been insulted, but the fact remains that Can-

The High Cost of Living

adrian housekeeping is on an extremely extravagant basis. Probably the most extravagant housekeepers in the world are the Americans to the south of us, but we are not very far behind them, and with all, from a standpoint of actual health and nourishment, we are not an especially well fed nation. Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, who for so many years and with such conspicuous success occupied the position of Agricultural Commissioner for Canada, made the statement years ago that Canada produced the best food stuffs in the world, and that Canadians were one of the worst fed nations in the world. The trouble with our housekeeping is that we have been trained rather by inference than speech to despise small economies, and to feel superior because we do not eat the cheaper classes of food. In our foolish pride we have not seemed to realize that there is nothing particularly smart or high class in wasting anything. In a great business, such as the running of a railway or a big manufacturing plant, they consider long and carefully the saving of one-eighth of a cent on quantities of material either purchased or sold, and which is important to the big business is equally important in the small. I know that in many farm homes the throwing out of large quantities of palatable food is excused on the ground that it goes to the pigs or chickens, but that is not any real excuse, because there is plenty of cheaper food for both pigs and chickens.

Really high-class housekeeping consists in providing nourishing and palatable meals at a reasonable expenditure of time and labor, and with the minimum amount of waste, and in these particulars we might



A noon-tide siesta

of many winds, the high, exposed house not only never looks cozy or warm in winter, but it almost invariably requires more fuel to heat it. I am glad to say that in a number of places this summer I found not only charming bungalows with good sleeping porches, but also these houses had their own system of water-works, and their own electric light plants, the storage for the latter supplied by the little gasoline engine, which at other times chopped feed, turned the separator or the washing machine. Homes of this kind in the country, combining as they do all the advantages of the city and the country home, are surely the ideal place in which to bring up families. Another thing which struck me pleasantly was the coloring of these houses, warm browns with red or green roofings are particularly effective, even against the open prairie, and doubly so where a few trees have been planted and have got a good start.

It will be good news to former students of the M.A.C., not only in Manitoba, but in all the western provinces, that Miss Agnes Spackman once more reigns over the dormitory buildings. She should never have been allowed to leave, but "that is another story." She is back in her old quarters, and the students, both girls and boys, will be the better for her mothering. The fact that Miss Spackman is an accomplished musician, both vocal and instrumental, is an immense addition to her other valuable qualifications for her post. Many a shy lad with a latent turn for singing was encouraged by Miss Spackman to try,

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