

# A New Crop of Housekeepers

By FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

With the rolling around of another term, the Agricultural College of Manitoba has turned out a fresh crop of scientifically trained housewives. Most of the girls who took their leave of the college with the closing exercises on March 26, took the Homemakers' course, which means that they were simply qualifying themselves to do better housekeeping in their own homes. The course is two years long and very comprehensive, the first year's program including cooking, theory of foods, English, mathematics, home management, physiology and hygiene, sanitation, home nursing, home planning, laundry, drawing and design, millinery, plain sewing and dressmaking, and physical culture. The second year's work reaches out and touches a wider assortment of the sciences relating to housekeeping, such as dietetics, bacteriology and chemistry.

During the year each girl has a week's actual experience in buying, planning and serving meals to a number of people equal to a moderate sized family. There was a time when our mothers thought that any woman who could make rich flaky pastry, cakes that were light and bread that rose high and white had nothing to learn about cooking. When domestic science was first mooted many people sniffed; mother's way of cooking was plenty good enough for them, thank you, without any of these new fangled notions. Now, it is generally recognized that a woman may be able to do all these things and yet feed her family badly. She may provide them at one meal with foods all of which provide heat for the body, and at the next with tissue-building foods instead of mixing the two in a well balanced menu. It has been discovered that the business of keeping this complicated machinery of the body supplied with fuel is one of the most important sciences of the day and requires intelligent study. A successful housewife must be more than a good cook, she must know how to group the foods prepared so that they provide the body with tissue building, heat supplying and bone-making materials; a good large sized job that and deserving of protracted study. This is one of the primary objects of instructing girls in domestic science.

## Science in the Laundry

It may perhaps seem that such commonplace subjects as laundry do not need to be learned or can very quickly be acquired over the wash tub at home, but laundry work in the sense that it is used in the Agricultural College is a science. In connection with it one looks into the family history of textiles and learns exactly what method of cleaning preserves best the color and texture of the article to be renovated. The girls are taught how to wash the most delicate and fragile tissues so as to preserve their integrity and to cleanse the softest woolens so that they do not appreciably shrink.

It is a part of the college course to teach the students the composition of

textiles so that they know when they are getting full value for their money. They learn to distinguish wool from a wool and cotton mixture, and to know when cotton is trying to masquerade in the guise of linen. In short they come to realize when a bargain is not a bargain, but a substitution of something very much poorer in quality for a very little lower price.

But the efficiency of the home does not comprise merely a satisfying menu, well cooked and properly served. It includes also the general comfort and beauty of the home surroundings and this branch of study is called Household Arts.

The study of the home begins with planning a farm house adapted to the requirements of each girl's own family. From this the girls go on to designing the furnishing of the home, simply and tastefully, the color scheme being worked

insistent and difficult subjects that confront women.

The sewing lessons begin with the making of underwear, and the piles of snowy undergarments in the closing exhibition testified to the thoroughness with which this part of the work was covered before the students passed on to the more difficult subject of dress-making proper. It is regrettable that the illustrations shown here do not picture the exquisite needlework in these frocks and hats, but the excellent cut and style of the garments is obvious to the most casual observer. They haven't that home made look which makes so many girls hate to be their own dressmakers. The skirts hang properly and the bodices sit as bodices should sit and they have altogether a real dressmaking look, which is the great ambition of every home seamstress.

The hats, too, possess that peculiar

only with college life—perhaps one can best describe it as community spirit. The social side of college life is invaluable to girls who have been more or less isolated in country homes. There are the literary and dramatic societies, skating and snowshoeing and the gymnasium, which teaches the shyest and soberest girl to abandon herself to having a good time.

Recently the domestic science classes have given two evenings entertainment to which groups of the college boys were invited. The object of these evenings was to teach the girls the art of entertaining in their own homes, and for them the girls had to think up original amusements and execute their plans for the evening themselves. For all of these things, which cannot be measured in dollars and cents and which cannot be shown on exhibition day at the college, this institution will surely be held in grateful memory as the years go by.

If any readers are thinking of sending their girls in for the next term, now is the time to begin planning for it and making arrangements with the college authorities, as a hint has been dropped that applications are already coming in rapidly, and the capacity of the institution is not unlimited.

## WOMEN TO MEET AT THE HAGUE

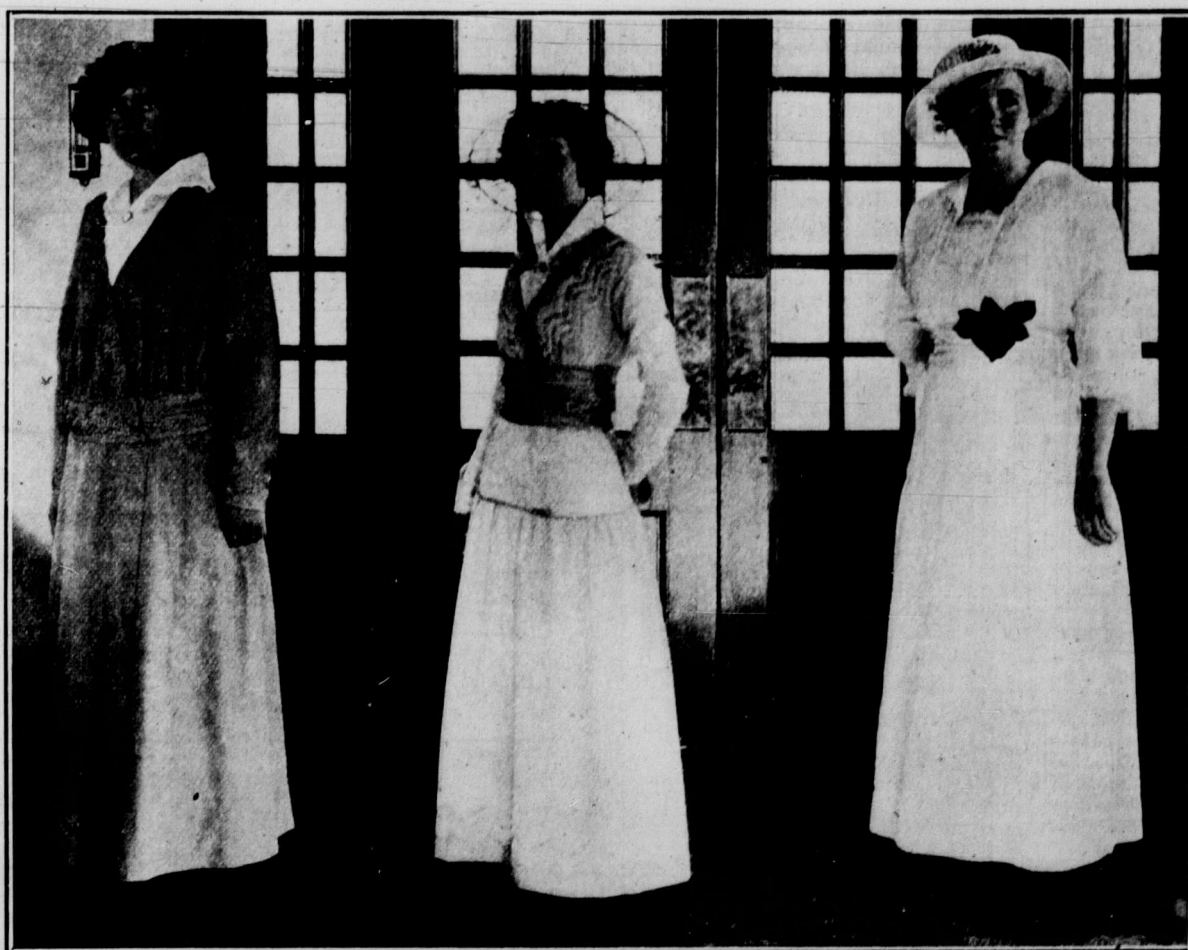
Women of neutral and belligerent countries will foregather at The Hague in April for the discussion of peace measures. It was announced last week that the Women's Peace Party in the United States would be represented at the congress. In making the announcement, Mrs. Henry Villard, one of the vice-presidents of the Women's Peace Party, gave out the text of the following telegram, which was received from Holland by the president, Miss Jane Addams:

"Meeting held February 12 with women of neutral and belligerent countries decided that Dutch women shall arrange international women's congress in April at The Hague. We cordially invite you and your whole Peace Party to join this congress. Program, with resolutions, follow. Cable us which date and how many of you could come."

"Jacobs,  
"Boissevain,  
"Manus."

Miss Addams has accepted by cable the invitation for the Women's Peace Party, stating that the end of April would be the best time.

The Kansas Senate has passed a resolution declaring equal suffrage an unqualified benefit in Kansas. Both houses have passed the "baby bill," which creates a bureau of child hygiene and which the women of the State have been working for ever since the beginning of the session. Gov. Capper has signed the bill. Both houses of the legislature have passed the bill for a women's welfare commission to protect women and apprentices. It combines the maximum hour and minimum wage ideas which have been before the legislature for several sessions past, but which are being enacted into law.



COLLEGE GIRLS WHO MAKE THEIR OWN DRESSES

Dress of Belgian blue wool poplin couched in blue and silver, collar of white organdy. Designed and made by Miss Carrie Stevenson, second year student. Cost, \$6.72.

Hat of Belgian blue silk and straw, trimmed with blue ribbon velvet to match and small wreath of shaded pink roses. Designed and made by Miss Cora Turnbull, first year student. Cost, \$4.45.

Dress of cream de laine bordered in old rose, girdle of old rose silk, net collar. Designed and made by Miss Elizabeth Stone, second year student. Cost, \$4.60.

Hat of black lace, trimmed with small, hand-made pink roses and maidenhair fern. Designed and made by Miss Florence McWilliams, first year student. Cost, \$2.10.

Dress of white voile, hand embroidered, trimmed with Cluny lace and insertion, girdle of white duchess satin. Designed and made by Miss Esther Thompson, second year student. Cost, \$3.89.

Hat, transparent brim of white meline, collapsible shirred crown or crepe de chene trimmed with wreath of small flowers. Designed and made by Miss Margaret Speechley, first year student. Cost, \$3.50.

out by each girl according to the color principles in which she has been instructed and her own personal inclinations. The girls are taught to design decorative borders and make them into stencils for the beautification of curtains and scarfs, and in the display of work on the closing day there was an interesting exhibit of such pretty articles designed in excellent taste and executed with remarkable skill.

## Dressmaking and Millinery

But perhaps, after all, the most useful thing in the course to the whole student body is the instruction in dressmaking and millinery. The teachers and students at the college have been exceedingly kind in enabling us to show you on this page some interesting examples of the work executed by the girls. It will be seen that this training in sewing is no mere superficial amateurish instruction, but a thorough education in two of the most

quality which the vulgar describe as "snap," and which is so painfully lacking in much of the millinery seen even in good shops. The instructor informed the writer that none of them cost their owners more than five dollars.

Looking away into the years when these girls go into homes of their own and have to provide themselves, and probably their families with clothes, one cannot help thinking how many and many times over they will save the cost of these two years' instruction thru their greater efficiency in this one department alone, to say nothing of the greater beauty and pleasure they will be able to enjoy as they go along.

## College Life

Yet it may well be that it will not be so much for their greater efficiency as providers, or for their increased skill as needlewomen that the girls will look back with affection to the old college days, but for that something which comes