

DOMESTIC SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OF THE CORN SHOW

School for Housewives Under Direction of Miss Jessica Besack in Connection with the Great National Corn Exposition Will Prove One of the Most Attractive Features of the Show



CORNER IN THE SEWING ROOM.



MISS JESSICA E. BESACK.



MIXING CAKE WITHOUT EGGS.

HOT CORN MUFFINS, ten dollars apiece. Right this way, gentlemen, right this way. "The man is crazy. The idea of asking ten dollars for a corn muffin!" "Yes, but corn, you know, is high, 50 cents a bushel, isn't it?"

"Well, suppose it is 50 cents a bushel, that oughtn't to make one little old corn muffin worth \$10, and doesn't, either." All of this is hypothetical. There is no man on an Omaha street corner offering corn muffins at this fabulous price—\$10, but, just the same, there will be corn muffins made in this very city worth, or at least that will bring, \$10 each, and a certain ten of them will bring \$100.

Girls, women, think of it! A chance of a lifetime! This is only one of the great advantages offered to the girls who patronize the domestic science department of the National Corn exposition. Of the \$800 given away in prizes by that department \$100 will be presented in cold cash, in glittering gold, to the young woman making the best corn muffins—just ten.

A waste of money, you say? Oh, no. Is it a waste of money to teach the housekeepers of tomorrow, the girls of today, how to make the most and the best of what is furnished them to furnish the table? Is it a waste of money to teach these young women the science of getting out of the food materials the best that is in them? Aside from the mere culture and refinement and mental training that comes from the crucible of such a test there is an advantage that is counted in dollars and cents. Getting the best out of the raw material is economy, and economy is money. So, for the matter-of-fact materialist, who does all his reckoning on the dollar and cents basis, the \$10 muffin has plenty of interest for him.

But there is yet another side to the case. What is that that promotes domestic felicity? Whatever it is, the plain, old-fashioned element of good cooking forms a part of it. Every man who has sense enough to think of such things is an epicure and many of them are connoisseurs—all, at any rate, like good things to eat and good things to eat have a tremendous influence on the man in more respects than the mere academic function of appeasing his hunger.

Money-saver, palate-tickler, means of education, leveler of domestic tranquility—Is there anything else that need be said for the \$10 muffin?

Women Are in Earnest

This part of the National Corn exposition is no jest; like every other part of this great institution, it is a most serious fact. And the women in control of it are in deadly earnest. They are women who have spent years of faithful study and practice in the preparation of their professions and have come to be recognized the country over for their skill and ability. Fortunate indeed is any young woman to have the opportunity which this exposition thus presents.

What might be termed "woman's department" of the Corn exposition this year is divided into the domestic science and domestic art departments, where cooking, sewing and setting and service of the table will be taught. Miss Jessica Besack of Columbia college is in general supervision of the domestic science bureau, and Miss Margaret Blair of the University of Minnesota of the domestic art department. The other instructors are Miss Eva Barton, Humboldt college; Miss Clarissa Clark, Ames; Miss Lucia Elias, Wooster; Miss Alma McCullis, Ames. These women have all been selected because of their special superiority in their various lines of work. They are leaders in their profession. Miss Besack, who had charge of the work last year, has been the organizing spirit of this faculty.

Very naturally some limitations had to be made in the numbers of young women admitted to the domestic science and art departments, so some systematic basis of selection was necessary. The original method was for the county superintendents in the various states to name a young woman and the various farmers' institutes name others who should be eligible to this school. That method still obtains, but in addition to it this year girls and women living in Omaha, South Omaha and Council Bluffs may be admitted in special classes at nights for those unable to attend during the day, or during the day for those not able to attend at night. The exposition management is anxious to expand the influence of this work all it possibly can and to admit to its benefits all the girls and women who can be accommodated.

And this means 1,000. Yes, 1,000 girls and women may attend this unique school of domestic science and art this year if they wish, for the facilities will be there.

Cost of the Course

There is a cost side of this education to the students, but it is so trifling that except for the matter of information it seems not worth mentioning. The tuition for the entire term's work is \$2.50 for each student. For this little \$2.50 the exposition furnishes all the equipment and facilities and even provides each young woman coming from abroad with dormitory room and free admission to the entire National Corn exposition. So that she will have comfortable living quarters and means of entertainment and enjoyment for her spare hours. And those young women who want to board at the exposition may do so for a small sum. Last year the exposition did not make all these concessions. It did not, in fact, admit the domestic science girls free of charge to the exposition. This, of course, entailed additional expense on these young women, but the management desires to make them a part of the institution and wishes to give them every advantage within its power to offer. Therefore, it has arranged—and this is a big concession—to provide every one with general and specific tickets, admitting them, free, to every exhibit, every nook and corner, of the exposition.

"What we want to do," says T. F. Sturgess, general manager of the exposition, is to make these young women feel that the moment they get on the inside of the National Corn exposition they are at home, and we believe this will tend greatly to enliven their interest and enhance the value of the benefits they derive."

Laboratory and lecture work will be done. In both science and art every young woman will be taught by precept and example. In the domestic science the cooking will cover baking, plain and fancy, invalid cooking, canning fruit, making salads, pastry and desserts and the setting and serving of the table in the dining room. In the art department the curriculum embraces various kinds of sewing. Each girl in both departments will be equipped with all the facilities necessary to her work and the girls learning to sew will be permitted to keep the cap, apron and cotton dress they make. There will be a class in cooking and a class in sewing each morning and afternoon, and then there will be the evening hours devoted to the girls and women of the Tri-Cities. In these classes, and those during the day also for the local folk, it is expected to enlist many members of prominent society families. It has become popular for daughters of wealthy parents to want to escape the odium of being called "Idle Rich," and many of these young women are counting on a course in these instructive branches of household art and utility this year. Already many of them have taken up such a work at the Young Women's Christian association on less pretentious scientific lines and some are ambitious to extend their inquiries into the more scientific channels, while they have the opportunity this winter, with women whose lifework it is to teach such branches of study.

The exposition management this year has secured a greater area of space than it had last year. It will be able, therefore, to devote larger and more commodious rooms to the domestic science and art. The young women will be where the exposition sight-seers may view them in their splendid pursuits. A large glass partition will separate them from the public and by this means the people who pay to see the rest of the exposition may also get good insights into this most interesting corner of the great institution.

Some Home Work

In addition to the laboratories and lecture rooms a model dining room will be prepared. Here the young women studying domestic science will be taught how to set a table properly, giving it the most attractive appearance, and then how to serve guests as they really should be served. To enable them to get practical experience in this important part of their work they will have opportunities of entertaining the officers and notable guests of the exposition. A large dining room will be equipped where these men will dine by the grace of the young women.

"Taste and decorum form a large part of any science," says Miss Besack, "and particularly of domestic science."

So propriety and attractiveness are two of the essential features of this domestic science instruction.

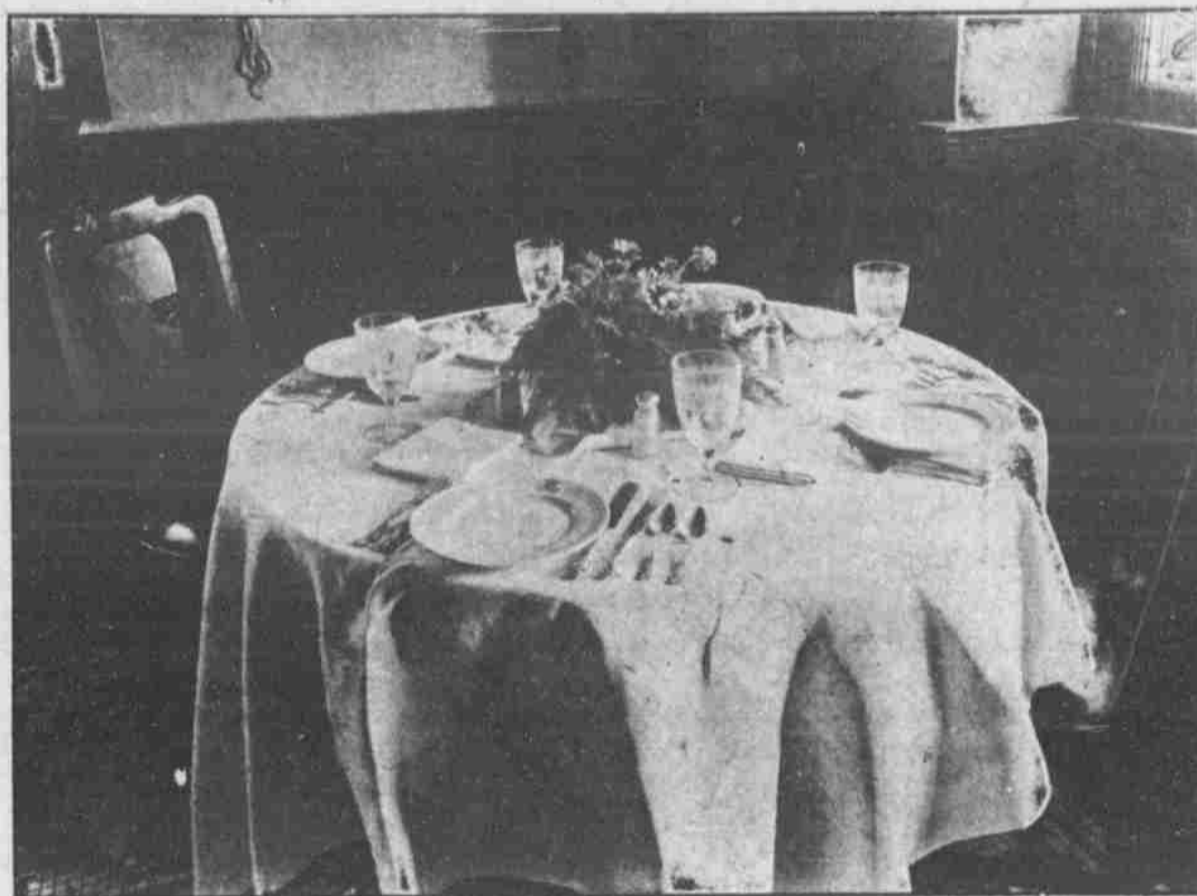
This effort of teaching young women and girls the proper ways of cooking and keeping house is an effort that has become national in its scope. Large sums of money are being devoted to its exercise and some of the most serious minds of the country are giving their best thought to it. Leading institutions of learning are taking it up and in every way calculated to impress a serious-minded man or woman the idea of practical usefulness in woman's training as a vital and essential factor in the economics of the home and the nation, is being sown broadcast. Long ago this thing passed the speculative stage of inquiry as to its need. Men and women are no longer concerning themselves with that phase of the question; the purpose now is how may they best inculcate a principle they know to be sound and valuable. It is just such people who have come to recognize the utter impracticability of so much of the education that a girl gets in many of the leading female colleges; come to realize that too many of these institutions are turning their backs to the realities that give a girl a genuine training that will fit her for the homely duties of every-day life, that will make her an intelligent housekeeper and practical helpmeet.

It is decidedly within the eternal fitness of things that the National Corn exposition should take up this character of work for the woman, since it has based its existence upon a similar work for man. The underlying, all-pervading principle of the exposition is education. It seeks primarily to educate the farmer in the ways of making two blades of grass grow where but one grew before, so to speak, and those two blades must be of better quality than the one blade. Intensified farming, in a word, is what brought into existence and what is perpetuating this exposition.

What It Means in Money

Now then, bring this matter of domestic science and art down to the sordid basis of money consideration, if you please; look at it only from that standpoint, if you will. What does it present to you of tangible, living interest? Well, for those of you who have not given the matter serious attention, let's take the word of one who has given to it years of serious attention.

"The American girls on the farms alone, if thoroughly schooled in domestic science and art, would be able to save this nation every year the tidy little sum of \$1,000,000,000," asserts Miss Besack.



PROPER WAY TO LAY A TABLE FOR FOUR.

Is that serious enough to arrest your attention, you man of affairs, who are protesting against the prices you pay for the necessities of life? You say this is ethereal? The United States' total annual plant and animal production is \$7,500,000,000. One billion of this is credited to agricultural science. If a few years ago Willett M. Hays had told the American farmer that by practicing the principles of intensified farming or agricultural science he could increase the sum total of his harvest \$1,000,000,000 the probability is the American farmer would have told Mr. Hays he was ethereal. Mr. Hays, who is assistant secretary of agriculture, affirms today that, while agricultural science has done this for the farmer, so will domestic science do as much for the farmer's wife and daughter, and by so doing will bring the annual wealth of the farm up to \$10,000,000,000.

But domestic science and art are to effect their results by the process of elimination—eliminating the fatal factor of waste. "A dollar saved is a dollar made." Trite, but true. Some years ago eastern or mid-west people who took up homes in California observed that the average California family wasted enough in the course of a year to keep the ordinary eastern household that long. And when the panic of the early '90's came a great many, a distressing number of these average California families, went into bankruptcy. No farm in the country is on a firm footing that does not pay diligent heed to the possible channels through which waste may filter. The woman who can get all there is out of a food article is the woman who is going to help her husband increase his income. The woman who can go to the store and intelligently buy a piece of cloth, a suit of

clothes or a beefsteak is the woman who is going to increase the annual output of this nation's farms \$1,000,000,000 a year. But women can't know these things without studying them. That's the reason for the domestic science and art school today. Miss Besack is credited with knowing 301 ways of preparing corn for table use. Now, of course, if every woman in the land knew as much probably that billion dollars could be multiplied many times, but even if this standard of versatility in the art of cooking is not within the scope of every woman, the possibility of saving on a large scale is within the reach of all.

Miss Besack probably, after all, is low in her estimate of what domestic science and art may save for the farms of the country and put onto their incomes and Mr. Hays is too conservative, perhaps, in his. Suppose intensified farming and domestic science and art were brought to the maximum of their powers, who could estimate the possibilities of their resources? With the farmer tilling the soil to its utmost possibility of production and his wife in the house conserving to the maximum degree the qualities of the plant he produced, there is no way of telling what the result would be. This is the goal toward which the men and women of the National Corn exposition are moving.

Problem of Beef Shortage

Beef shortage is a big problem in America. It is a problem with which every household is concerned; a problem that touches the rich and poor alike. And it is a problem that good men are honestly striving to solve. So far they have not succeeded. Meat prices are steadily rising. Some parts of the beef are almost beyond the reach, not merely of the poorer classes, but of the medium class. Many a man's salary is conversely cut by the very fact that his beefsteak—to say nothing of bacon—is so abnormally high. It is a distressing and irritating problem.

The Beef Producers' association of America is a strong organization and its prime purpose is the solution of this very problem. That association, national in its scope, has recognized the advantage of the domestic science department of the National Corn exposition as a medium of disseminating the information and giving the instruction that it is trying to put forth the year round. So this organization has arranged to co-operate with Miss Besack's department for the three weeks of this exposition and lay before the people in most impressive array facts calculated to arouse them to intelligent action.

Involved in this problem of beef shortage are many factors, making an intricate question. Our exports are decreasing and imports increasing; receipts at the slaughter houses show that we are killing more calves and fewer cattle all the time. The ranger complains that recent laws subdividing the territory over which his herds formerly grazed militate against him; that the big ranger is being driven out by the settler. All these are factors in this complicated situation. But back and underneath it all lies a fact of which the people are either densely ignorant, or knowing, have never sought to treat. This fact is that the consumer has come to regard but two parts of the beef as desirable—the loin and ribs—and the result is he has magnified their value with himself and the seller to the injury, if not the exclusion, of the other parts. This in turn brings about a waste of other portions and finally creates a demand which the range cannot supply, and the whole produces prices that are scandalous.

More Knowledge for Women

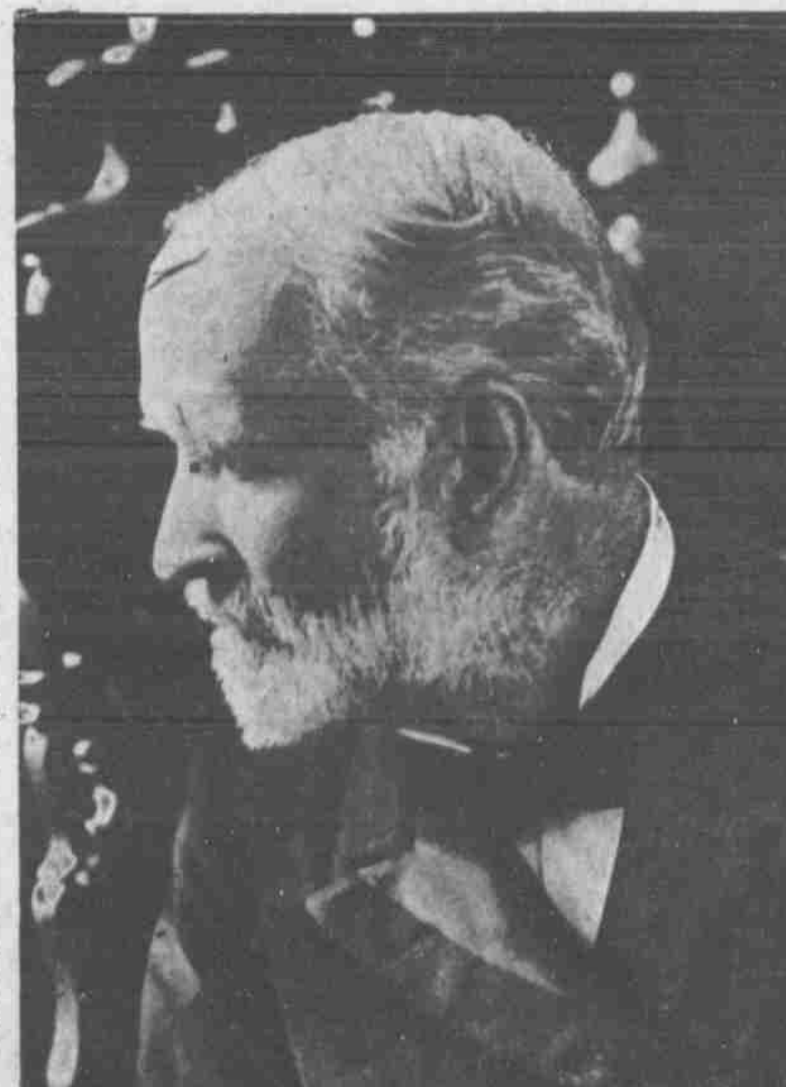
In the rudiments, then, of the simple process of cutting and buying beef this domestic science department, through the instrumentality of the Beef Producers' Association of America, proposes to instruct the women and girls. The Beef Producers' association contends that every part of the beef is good and desirable and that some parts now all but discarded may be made just as palatable as the coveted ribs and loins. But it will take intelligent and systematic drumming of this fact to get it into the heads of the rank and file of people. It has, therefore, not stopped at the National Corn exposition, but it has projected this line of learning into some of the leading domestic science schools of the country.

To accomplish its purpose the Beef Producers' association has divided the carcass into nine commercial cuts and the domestic science department will take up these cuts, show their quality, how to buy and prepare them and show that each may be made highly desirable. About the only thing that the average woman who buys the family meat knows concerning the beef is that the loins and ribs are the choice parts; she does not know that they form only about 25 per cent of the carcass, nor that about 80 per cent of the purchasing public is demanding that 25 per cent, or the small portion of the beef. The average woman goes or telephones to her butcher for a "good steak," or "a good roast," and if she gets a rib or loin she thinks she has been satisfied. Maybe she got a rib or loin that was far from fresh, while a fresh chuck, or round or flank, lay on the same block. If the woman knew about the various portions of the beef and went to the shop to make her purchase she could save her money and get meat that would do her and her family far more good than under present conditions.

"Disabuse your minds of the fact that it is not fashionable to place the cheaper cuts of beef or your table," says Miss Besack in one of her lectures.

This matter of cheap or expensive meat is purely an arbitrary proposition. The demand creates the supply, but does not change the quality of the beef. Those parts made cheap by the insistent demand for those parts made high in price might be regarded as the dearer cuts if only it should become stylish to give them preference.

Unless conditions are changed, unless the people give intelligent heed to this question, the cry of beef shortage will become one pandemonium of despair and the cattlemen on the range and the packer in the city will be powerless to help the situation. The solution, so these authorities urge, rests entirely with the consumer. If he (or she in this case) will cease boycotting parts of the beef by her ignorant purchasing and cooking she will contribute very vitally to the redress of her own grievances and to that of the man who is trying to supply the demand for beef.



JAMES WILSON, Secretary of Agriculture.