

DOMESTIC ECONOMICS.

The Address Delivered At The Farmer's Institute By Mrs. Snell.

Prof. Margaret Snell's paper on domestic economics was an able, well written and strong presentation of the subject.

After briefly alluding to its importance and interest to good housekeepers and the embarrassments caused in many a household by waste and unthriftness, on account of an ignorance of its fundamental principles, she proceeded to show that as professor of domestic economy in the State Agricultural College, her work took more the form of a master builder of a structure, the foundation of which had been at home by the mothers of Oregon, than of the architect who could lay and plan in accordance with known and approved principles.

Facility and deftness in housework requires that it should be begun early in life and be pursued untiringly; and, after becoming almost like second nature, it ceases to be a drudgery and becomes a fine art, as truly as painting, sculpture or music.

A neat and orderly house illuminated with little acts of thoughtfulness, self-denial and patience, is a most noble and beautiful work of art. The present age is a practical one and demands of scholarship, that the fruits of the mind shall manifest themselves in visible acts.

But in laying such stress upon practical education, she did not wish to have it understood that the Agricultural College undervalued those which relate only to intellectual and mental cultivation; but, whilst fostering and encouraging these, it emphasized the value of combining both the theory and practice of life's work.

Every officer in an agricultural college should be so large souled and liberal minded, as to drive away all sense of narrowness and bigotry, the student be thus taught a love for homely duties by the example and precept of cultivated and enthusiastic instruction. It is not work that degrades mankind, but the manner of doing it; and true education can dignify any form of labor. Life was designed for something nobler than self-gratification and pleasure, and the educated mind can often cull pleasure, and even poetry and sentiment, from the most common place acts and things.

She then enumerated the studies required of the girls at the agricultural college in her department. Sewing, cooking, dairying, preserving, fruiting, dressmaking, millinery, hygiene, home furnishing and social etiquette, and showing how each student, by faithful work and study could store their minds with much valuable information, whilst becoming dextrous and proficient in their manual performance. Hemming, gathering, darning, patching and button hole making, constitute the plain sewing required, and showing how each student, by faithful work and study could store their minds with much valuable information, whilst becoming dextrous and proficient in their manual performance.

The course includes illustrations of every principle involved in the preparation of food, the work being done by the students under her direction. The food thus prepared is then served and eaten by the students, thus giving practice for the correct serving of it and for table etiquette.

In millinery they are taught not only how to trim and line hats; but dressmaking will include the cutting, fitting and making of dresses, in accordance with the Taylor system of instruction.

Instruction in the other branches will be given by lectures, with illustrations whenever possible. Dairying cannot be taught until a dairy and the cattle necessary to supply the material for this useful industry, shall be furnished by additional state appropriation.

In concluding she emphasized the importance of an intelligent knowledge of how to perform all household duties, and regarded the example in the home as the power above all that the pen can write or the speech can utter, in moulding the lives and forming the characters of the coming generation.

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