

# THE VISITOR

Devoted to the Interests of Agricultural Education in Minnesota Schools

Vol. XXVI

JANUARY, 1938

No. 2

## HOUSEHOLD MECHANICS FOR GIRLS

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The October issue of the VISITOR discussed the value of exchange classes between the girls in home economics and the boys in agriculture, and made suggestions for the content of the home economics instruction for boys. The factors to consider in selecting content for the household mechanics instruction for girls are quite similar to those involved in determining the home economics instruction for boys and need not be repeated here.

The time available for these exchange classes is usually rather limited, and therefore, the work must be carefully planned and efficiently administered if the objectives of the courses are to be attained. It should not be expected that the girls will develop a great amount of skill in performing the tasks in household mechanics, but they can be expected to acquire some valuable information about the construction, care, maintenance and repair of household equipment. They should also learn to appreciate the mechanical features involved in household appliances, and realize the contributions that these devices and appliances make to their lives. The information, attitudes and appreciations that the girls acquire will depend to a considerable extent upon the preparation and personality of the instructor as well as his methods in presenting the subject matter.

The outlines presented here have been prepared to aid the teacher of agriculture in planning a series of instructional units in household mechanics for girls. It is not expected that all of the items listed will be taught to any one group, as a course of this kind should, first, meet the specific needs of the community, and then if time permits additional topics may be included. The outlines will also suggest the type of material that might be given to the girls in mimeographed form to supplement the class instruction, and guide them in applying the things learned in the classroom to actual home situations.

In general, the practical jobs in household mechanics should be stressed. However, the scientific phases must not be

ignored altogether. The teacher should briefly discuss the most important scientific facts and point out the correlations between their class work, high school physics and the problems of the home pertaining to heating, lighting, ventilating, refrigeration, water supply and distribution, and sewage disposal. A typical example of the method of presenting the scientific facts follows. At the time instruction is being given on electric repairs in the home some mention should be made of the theory of electricity, its use in heating, lighting and generation of power. The hazards of electric shocks should be emphasized. The scientific facts pertaining to the other units can be handled in much the same way.

## HOME REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE JOBS

### Jobs Pertaining to Furniture

- Relieve a sticking drawer.
- Fasten a loose drawer bottom.
- Tighten loose knobs and drawer pulls.
- Tighten loose table legs.
- Attach furniture glides to legs of chairs, buffets, chests of drawers, etc.
- Replace a broken chair rail or rung.
- Re-glue a loose joint in furniture.
- Strengthen a weak joint in furniture with angle irons or mending plates.
- Re-cane a chair seat.
- Build up a dented or splintered surface with plastic wood.
- Remove old enamel, varnish, paint, or shellac finish from furniture.
- Prepare an old surface for a new finish by sanding and filling.
- Refinish furniture with a wax finish.
- Refinish furniture with an oil finish.
- Refinish furniture with an enamel finish.
- Refinish furniture with a varnish finish.
- Remove white spots on a varnished surface.
- Restore a wax finish.
- Clean woodfinishing brushes.
- Re-cover an upholstered chair.
- Re-tie the springs on a chair or davenport.
- Re-nail or replace loose or torn webbing.

### Jobs Pertaining to Doors and Windows

- Replace a broken lock spring.
- Tighten loose door knobs.
- Apply weather stripping to a door or window.

## THE VISITOR

Published quarterly during the calendar year, in October, January, April, and July, by the Division of Agricultural Education, University of Minnesota, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at St. Paul, Minn., under the act of August 2, 1912.

Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized August 2, 1918.

### THE STAFF

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LEIGH HARDEN

A. M. FIELD, *Editor*

Oil door hinges.  
Tighten loose hinges.  
Relieve a sticking door or sash.  
Adjust a striking latch bolt.  
Attach screen door spring, hook and catch.  
Re-screen a door or window.  
Repair a hole in a screen.  
Adjust the tension of a window shade.  
Shorten a shade roller and narrow the width of the shade.  
Attach a window shade to the roller.  
Attach a shade roller to the window.  
Repair or replace a broken sash cord.  
Remove old putty, glazier points, and broken glass from a sash.  
Cut window glass to fit a sash.  
Put in window glass with glazier points and putty.

#### Jobs Pertaining to Electrical Appliances

Shut off the electric supply.  
Replace a "blown" fuse.  
Read an electric meter.  
Repair an electric appliance cord.  
Splice and solder a broken electric wire.  
Adjust a door-bell or buzzer.  
Attach lamp socket and plug cap to an extension cord.  
Oil electric motors and electrical appliances.  
Figure the cost of operating various electrical household appliances.

#### Jobs Pertaining to Plumbing Fixtures

Shut off the water supply.  
Drain the water system.  
Read a water meter.  
Thaw frozen water pipes.  
Re-washer the stem of a compression faucet.  
Re-pack the stem of a faucet.  
Replace worn seat washer in a compression faucet.  
Replace worn Fuller ball in a Fuller faucet.

Re-washer the supply valve in a flushing tank.

Clean a stopped drain.

Repair a leaking garden hose.

Replace rubber tank ball in a flushing tank.

#### Jobs Pertaining to Tool Maintenance

Sharpen a paring knife, butcher knife and bread knife.

Sharpen a pair of scissors.

Sharpen a plane blade or chisel.

Remove rust from tools and oil them to prevent further rusting.

#### Miscellaneous Jobs

Patch a hole in a plastered wall.

Repair a broken sewing machine belt.

Solder a hole in a kitchen utensil.

Solder a patch on a kitchen utensil.

Solder a broken seam.

Attach to the wall such things as towel racks, small shelves, pictures, curtain rods, and coat and hat rails.

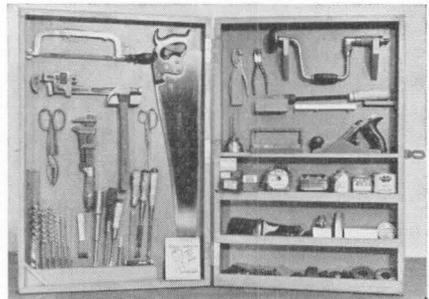
Tie some of the most useful knots.

Prevent a rope from untwisting.

### TOOLS FOR HOME REPAIR WORK

#### Most Useful Tools

1 nail hammer, 13 oz.  
1 pr. slip joint pliers, 6".  
1 rule, 2 ft. folding or 6 ft. zig-zag.  
1 screw driver, 4".  
1 handsaw, 24", 8 point.  
1 plane, 9" smooth or 11½" jack.  
1 putty knife.  
1 glass cutter.  
1 pocket knife.



Tool Cabinet, Tools, and Supplies for Household Repairs

#### Additional Desirable Tools

1 pr. side cutting pliers, 6".  
1 hack saw, 8" to 12", adjustable.  
1 pr. tinner's snips, 2½" blade.  
1 brace, 10".  
1 soldering copper, 1½ lb.  
1 mill file, 8".

- 1 nail set, 1/16".
- 6 auger bits, 1/4", 3/8", 1/2", 5/8", 3/4", and 1".
- 1 pipe wrench, 14".
- 1 monkey wrench, 10".
- 1 screwdriver 6".
- 1 automatic drill with points.
- 1 tack hammer.
- 1 steel square, 8"x12".
- 1 pr. shears.
- 1 oilstone, 1"x2"x6".
- 1 tool grinder, 4" to 6" wheel.
- 1 blow torch.

### SUPPLIES FOR HOME REPAIR WORK

#### General Supplies

- 1 box assorted small nails and brads.
- 1 box assorted screws.
- 1 box assorted stove bolts.
- 1 box double pointed tacks.
- 1 box glazier points.
- 1 coil picture cord.
- 1 can or tube plastic wood.
- 1 can or tube liquid glue.
- 1 small can putty.
- Assortment of screw eyes and screw hooks.
- 1 can lubricating oil.
- 1 can oil, for the oilstone.
- 1 small can soldering paste.
- 1 cake sal-ammoniac.
- 1 bar or spool of 50-50 solder.

#### Woodfinishing Supplies

- Assorted sandpaper.
- Steel wool.
- Transparent stick shellac.
- Soft rags.
- Burlap.
- Paint and varnish brushes.
- Turpentine.
- Linseed oil.
- Alcohol.
- Paint and varnish remover.
- Stain, filler, shellac, enamel, wax, varnish and lacquer (can be purchased as needed).

#### Upholstery Supplies

- 1 box webbing nails.
- 1 box gimp nails.
- 1 box each of 3-oz. and 8-oz. tacks.
- 1 ball of spring twine.
- Assorted upholsterer's needles.
- Webbing, gimp, unbleached muslin, cambric, burlap, cotton batting, springs, and moss or tow, can be purchased as needed.

#### Electrical Supplies

- 1 roll friction tape.
- 1 roll rubber tape.
- Several extra fuses.
- Extra plugs, plug caps and attachment plugs.

#### Plumbing Supplies

- Assortment of seat washers.
- Assortment of Fuller balls.
- Graphited asbestos packing.
- Assortment of washer screws.
- Garden hose couplings and unions.
- 1 or 2 pipe plugs and caps.
- 1 can pipe cleaning compound.
- 1 rubber tank ball.

### HOUSEHOLD MECHANICS PUBLICATIONS BOOKS

- Household Mechanics*, Bedell and Gardner, 1937, International Textbook Co. Scranton, Pa., \$1.25.
- The Practical Book of Home Repairs*, Fraser, C., 1925, Thomas Y. Crowell Co. New York City, \$2.50.
- Mechanics of the Household*, Keene, E. S., 1918, McGraw-Hill Book Co. New York City, \$2.75.
- Home Owners Handbook*, Smith, C. B., Housing Publications Inc., 25 West 43rd St. New York City, \$5.00.
- Home Conveniences*, Ives, F. W., 1924, Harper and Brothers, Publishers. New York City, \$2.00.
- Household Equipment*, Peet and Sater, 1934, John Wiley and Sons, Inc. New York City, \$2.00.

#### Bulletins

- Care and Repair of the House*, Phelan, Vincent B., Building and Housing Publication BH 15, Supt. of Documents, Gov't. Printing Office, Washington, D.C., \$15.
- Simple Plumbing Repairs in the Home*, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1460, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., (free).
- Floors and Floor Coverings*, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1219, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., (free).
- Furniture, Its Selection and Use*, Report of the Committee on Wood Utilization, Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., \$20.
- Electric Equipment in the Home*, Bulletin No. 76, University of Maryland Extension Service, College Park, Md.
- Refinishing Old Furniture*, Extension Bulletin No. 295, Office of Publications, Roberts Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
- Reconditioning Furniture*, Extension Bulletin, No. 256, Office of Publications Roberts Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

#### Job Sheets

- Job Sheets in Home Mechanics*, Tustinson, F. E., (Looseleaf) Set L, 39 jobs,

\$.64. Set II, 16 jobs, \$.36, Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.  
*Household Mechanics*, Bedell, Earl L., 32 job sheets bound, Manual Arts Press, Peoria, Ill., \$1.00.

### Bibliographies

*A Selected List of References on Home Furnishings*, Miscellaneous Extension Publication No. 26, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Co-operative Extension, Washington, D. C., (free).

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Mr. Leo Knuti, state supervisor for Agricultural Education, State Department of Education, was awarded the degree of Master of Science from the University of Minnesota at the fall quarter commencement exercises on December 15. Mr. Knuti received his high school training at Aurora. His interest in agriculture and rural education induced him to enter the University of Minnesota, where he graduated from the College of Agriculture in 1926.

During his years of service as a teacher of agriculture and rural leader, Mr. Knuti has been a constant student of problems in education and rural life. His special research problem, *A STUDY OF THE POTATO GROWING ENTERPRISE IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY*, served as a basis for developing a far reaching program for improved methods in growing and marketing potatoes.

Mr. H. F. Betsinger, agriculture teacher at Annandale, received the degree of Master of Science from the University of Minnesota at the close of the 1937 summer session. Mr. Betsinger is a graduate from the high school at Oneida, New York. He later graduated from the State School of Agriculture at Morrisville, New York, and received his B.S. degree from the College of Agriculture, Syracuse University.

Mr. Betsinger has served as rural school teacher and as agriculture teacher in New York. The lure of the West brought him to Iowa, where he taught agriculture for two years. Then came the call of the North, and he continued his teaching in Minnesota. During his service as a teacher of agriculture, Mr. Betsinger has been greatly interested in 4-H work. In this field he modestly admitted that he has had a grand champion agricultural demonstration team, three state championship poultry demonstration teams, two state championship bands, nine trips to the International Livestock Show, three trips to the National Dairy Show and one club member to the Club Con-

gress at Washington. In addition to the interest in 4-H work, Mr. Betsinger has done very good work with his boys in the FFA. His special achievement has been in the public speaking contest.

The VISITOR is happy to extend congratulations to Mr. Betsinger and to Mr. Knuti. May each find joy and satisfaction in the greater service his graduate study will enable him to render to the cause of rural education.

### 1938 SUMMER SESSION

This is a preliminary announcement of the 1938 Summer Session courses of special interest to teachers of agriculture. Teachers may enroll for four weeks or six weeks during the first summer session. The summer session begins June 13. Those interested in the complete summer session bulletin may obtain a copy by writing to the Registrar, University of Minnesota, at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Agricultural Economics 105su. Advanced Farm Management. Mr. Pond. (4 or 6 weeks.)

Animal and Poultry Husbandry 116su.

The Market Classification and Grading of Livestock, Wool and Meats. Mr. Peters, Mr. Anderson. (4 or 6 weeks.)

Animal and Poultry Husbandry 117su. Swine Breeding Methods, Nutrition and Management. Mr. Ferrin. (4 or 6 weeks.)

Agricultural Education 137su. Course of Study Construction in Agriculture. Mr. Field, Nylin, Mr. Harden.

Agricultural Education 184su. Special Methods in Teaching Agriculture. Mr. Nylin.

Agricultural Education 186su. Special Problems in Agricultural Education. Mr. Field.

Agricultural Education 232su. Research in Agricultural Education. Mr. Field.

### Graduate Credit

An important purpose of the summer school offerings is to provide professional improvement opportunities for teachers of agriculture. In order to receive graduate credit it is necessary to register in the Graduate School.

Students who do not hold a degree from the University of Minnesota must present a transcript of their undergraduate work.

Those who have not been registered in the Graduate School can save time and inconvenience in summer school registration by writing to the Dean of the Graduate School for application blanks and information in regard to registration. Better do this right now.