

## Flashes from the Field of Research

**R**ECENT advance studies made in the various fields for master's degrees reveal interesting facts about children's literature, residence in cooperative halls at Iowa State, laundering and fabrics. These studies, which were conducted at Iowa State College, represent research and the newest information on everyday subjects.

### Children's Bookshelves

The up-to-date person no longer thinks of children's books as synonymous with fairy tales. Most in demand are stories of American life, reports Mrs. Dorothy J. Funk who received her Master of Science degree majoring in Child Development in July, 1938. There has been a steady and conspicuous decline in the demand of children's literature of religious and moralistic nature in the last ten or fifteen years when the present college student was reading children's books of this nature.

Now, books dealing with technological and scientific subjects and foreign life and customs are read more frequently. Books of humor and nonsense have had a constant demand. According to the reports of children's librarians and book publishers, approximately one fifth of the books published are fairy tales and imaginative material.

A child's environment and individual qualities affect his reading choice. Boys tend to select different subject material from that chosen by girls, and children coming from homes where books are a part of daily living tend to have a more favorable attitude towards literature than children from homes of a low economic level where books are less easily available. Likewise a child of high mental ability

by Myrtle Campbell

tends to read more than the child of low mentality.

Children's literature is seldom classified except as to good or bad books; for this reason a survey was made of thirty-two current publisher's catalogues in which 2,140 books were listed for children up to the age of ten. Of the total number over 21 percent fall into the class of fairy tales and imaginary stories; 20 percent are stories of American life; 19 percent deal with foreign life and customs; over 16 percent are books of nonsense; and 41 percent are concerned with religious and moralistic elements. The preceding findings and more extensive data are included in the graduate thesis, "Children's Books as a Potential Influence on Standards of Living," written by Mrs. Funk.

### Women in Cooperation

The need for saving money is one of the factors leading 191 coeds at Iowa State College to live in cooperative halls, but it is not the only reason for their choice. A study made by Miss Lorissa Sheldon, instructor in the Institution Management Department shows that more than half of those who selected to live in one of the two halls where kitchen and household duties are performed by students did so for other than just financial reasons.

Among these other reasons was the belief that performance of such duties enables the women to obtain practical experience which can be gained in no other way while attending college. Many also feel that a closer feeling of friendship grows out of group work, while the weekly change of committee

members for various duties decreases the possibility of small exclusive groups within the halls.

In spite of the hall responsibilities assumed by the students, their grade point averages were comparable to those of students of the same class living in other halls and houses. Performance of the hall work was believed to be an aid to the cooperative women in efficient organization of work in home economics laboratories.

Miss Sheldon's graduate thesis, "Relative Advantages of Residence in a Cooperative Dormitory," was submitted when she received the Master of Science degree in June 1938 majoring in Home Economics Education and Institution Management.

### Fabrics

#### With 200 Washing Lives

"I'm afraid to launder this fabric" has often been the confession of many homemakers and so Jane A. Roberts has attempted to settle the problem by making practical tests on average household fabrics to see their resistance to different methods of laundering. She studied samples of the materials after the first, twenty-fifth, fiftieth, hundredth, hundred and fiftieth and two hundredth laundering and found that the greatest change occurred between the new and laundered fabric, but not between the laundings themselves.

The greatest change was in the added thickness of the fabrics after they had been washed and those which were thickest were also heaviest in weight at the end of two-hundred laundings. These facts were due to the increased thread count. According to this study Miss Roberts concluded

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# Does Your Vocabulary Date You?

by Eleanor White



**I**F YOU'RE a modern woman who prefers modern methods of home-making and a modern home, you'll want to keep your vocabulary in step. Perhaps, you would like to start the new year by ousting worn-out household terms and bringing your vocabulary up-to-date.

Here are a few right and wrongs to add to your list of resolutions for the coming year. Monday is no longer the time to wash the family's dirty clothes in the washing machine but rather the time to **launder** their **soiled** clothes in the **washer**. Then when dry the clothes are not mangled but **pressed** in the **ironer**.

In the **preparation** (not getting) of meals one has a great opportunity to reform his vocabulary. The word ice-box went out with the old-style wooden box long ago. **Refrigerator** is correct whether referring to the automatic (gas or oil), mechanical (motor type), or the ice type.

Eggs are **cooked** not boiled. Instead of plugging a waffle iron or coffee pot in the wall plug, it is more correct to speak of **connecting** the **waffle maker** and **coffee maker** to the **convenience outlet**. Tea towels have disappeared as far as the name is concerned. Now the homemakers' drawers or the young women's hope chests contain **dish towels**, **glass towels** and **hand towels**. **Dish cloth** has likewise taken the place of dish rag.

Most shopping lists can stand some good reforming. Would you be guilty of making any of the following mistakes?

- 1 package wax paper
- 1 lb. English walnuts

- pay light bill
- price living room drapes
- oil mop
- electric sweeper

The first item is really known as **waxed paper**. There might be a little dissatisfaction in the price of the second item if one was supplied with it exactly as written. However, most store keepers know the average homemaker is not interested in imported walnuts; so he makes a safe substitution. If she wants to specify where her walnuts come from a homemaker would more correctly ask for **Califor-**

**nia walnuts**, but just walnuts will bring the same results.

No one is justified in speaking of a light bill, unless he uses electricity for lights and lights only. This is not likely in this day of innumerable small electrical appliances. So the bill including lights and all appliances is the **electric bill**. **Drapes** is a verb. You might **drape** your curtains back, but you hang **draperies**. To avoid misnaming a mop that is not oil we speak of all mops as **dustless**. For the same reason **vacuum sweeper** is preferable to electric sweeper.

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that it is not the laundering by household methods that makes the difference in the wear and tear on fabrics as is so often stated.

The title of Miss Robert's graduate thesis is "Effect of Home Laundry Methods as Measured by the Degradation of Certain Fabrics." She received her Master of Science Degree in Household Equipment in June 1938.

## Glazed Fabrics

Also related to textile deterioration is the study of the results of washing and cleaning treatments on glazed and lacquered fabrics. A crisp slip cover of glazed chintz is pleasing to see and lacquered taffeta evening gowns have beauty and glamour, but if such materials are to be truly popular their care and upkeep must be better understood to prolong their span of usage.

From a study, "The Weaving and Cleaning Quality of Glazed and Lacquered Fabrics," Miss Dorothy Dunmore, who received a Master of Science degree in July, 1938, found that the surface glaze of all such fabrics with the exception of oiled silk was more resistant to dry cleaning than laundering. The finish on tarlatan and glazed chiffon was instantly soluble in water while taffeta and glazed chintz were least of all affected by cleaning. Consequently careful upkeep means frequent dustings with a dry cloth; a few dry cleanings might be withstood but the fabrics should never be washed.

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