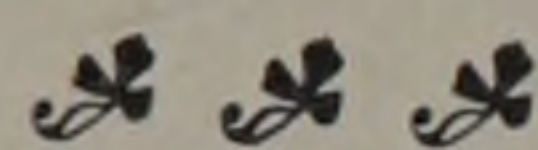


# The Department of Domestic Arts



THIS is one of the most popular departments of the Institute; the reason probably being that when a young lady has mastered the subjects taught she is almost within the goal of matrimony. The range of subjects within its jurisdiction extends throughout the dominion of home economics.

Cooking, both as an art and as a science, household economics, hygiene and home nursing, sewing, dressmaking and millinery are its distinguishing features. Lectures, practically illustrated, are of the essence of the imparted instruction. Its uses are not confined to the professional chef, the mistress of the mansion, or the fashionable modiste, but it embraces subjects found in every phase of domestic life. Hither comes the slave of convention, accustomed to do only as "mother used to do"—chafing under the difficulties of reconciling ancient methods to modern appliances; hither comes the housewife, anxious to lighten her labors and make home more attractive; the maid of sixteen comes, ready for induction into the mysteries of the craft; comes, too, her elder sister, who finds it difficult to rivet her attention upon the instruction so long as the glare of her own engagement ring divides it—and, truth to tell, to this com-

plexion do they come at last, most of them. Hither come many to unlearn the old, and learn the new,—to learn that dispensation means "Sweetness and Light." The propaganda of the department necessarily includes hygiene in the home and for its inmates, intelligence added to tenderness. Use and ornament in bodily apparel receive their proper consideration.

From the simplest sewing to the most complex dream of a bonnet may be a far cry, but the progress from one to the other is here daily traced and exemplified.

Domestic economy is here no mere euphemism; the department practices while and as it preaches. The whole trend of the department's teaching is toward making one value the actual and the ideal in the home life and its associated details. It strives to reduce a domestic Utopia to actual possession.

Not the least of its attractions, particularly to the student of sociology, is its democratic and cosmopolitan character; it makes no distinctions of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Its membership is not socially stratified. The Boulevards, the Avenues, and the Country send their representatives. In fact, it is only cowardice that keeps the so-called sterner sex away. Occasionally a man has had the hardihood to venture on a course in cooking lessons; but the presence of a score of white caps and aprons, duly surmounted by bright eyes and damask cheeks, leaves him in a state of open-mouthed collapse, to the utter destruction of his culinary possibilities. The men may come—if they dare. There is a tradition in the Department of Cooking that once upon a time three men took the course. One finished; the other two were finished.

Finally, must it not follow as the day follows the night, that with each department spaciouly housed on the entire fourth floor of the Institute, with every modern device and appliance at hand, under the supervision and direction of skilled instructors, that the best in all the students will be evoked? Can it be otherwise than that it all makes for the higher and better life to which some of us unconsciously, and others consciously, with an almost poetic flame, constantly aspire?