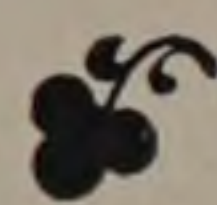


The Normal Cooking Class

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THE first Normal Cooking Class of A. I. T.—it ought to be found in the Institute Annuals. To be sure it has only eleven members, but no class in school can show greater variations in character, form and age than this class. The ages of the members range anywhere from nineteen to fifty. The older ones have the advantage of their years of practical experience, yet, often, they sigh and wish they had known many of the things they are now learning when they were young. The younger members do not take life so seriously, they have to be reminded once in a while that they must be more dignified for the sake of the reputation of the class.

How they have struggled and sighed over Physics. “What is the use,” they would ask one another, “of knowing about the mechanics of solids or about the action of a dynamo? Such things have nothing at all to do with cooking.” They wanted to sit together in class in order to cheer each other up, but it could not be. The young professor thought them much better off when each one was seated between a couple of boys—and perhaps he was right.

The chemical laboratory certainly had terrors for most of them. A slight explosion would cause faint screams and a great commotion in their midst; evil smelling gases, they never could get used to. Being housekeepers, the dust in the laboratory distressed them greatly—the college Freshmen occupy the other half of each desk and one morning several of the boys were much surprised to find notes in their lockers requesting them to do their share of dusting, and to take *only* their shares of matches. Since then no more complaints have been entered concerning the scarcity of matches.

One afternoon of each week is devoted to Home Nursing and Anatomy. They have bound up wounds on various portions of each others person. They have rescued members from poisoning and drowning—have learned how to make up a hospital bed. And have I mentioned the fact that they can make excellent plasters?

Oh! their knowledge will be extensive and useful when the year closes!

If one could watch the class for a whole day they would see them in various uniforms. For sewing, dainty white aprons are required; in chemistry, black

