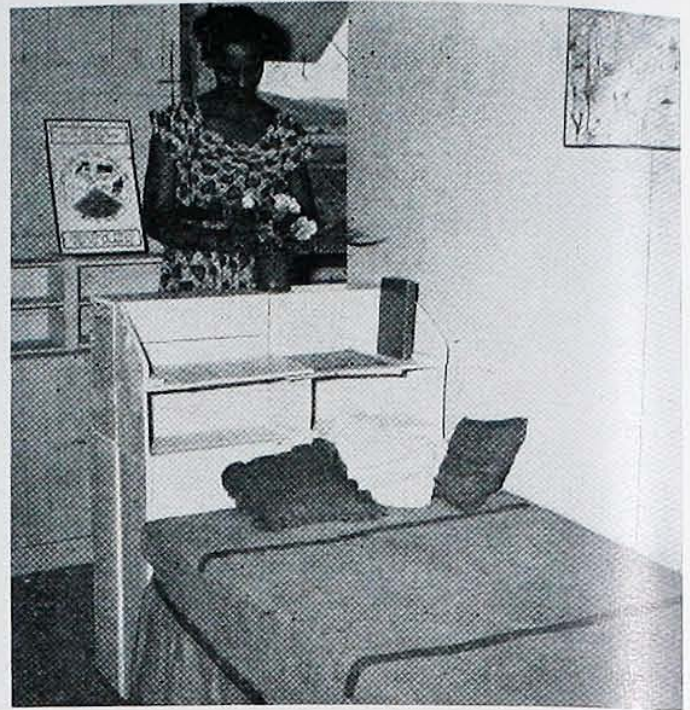


To add further to the pleasantness of the living room, classes were taught to make storage shelves and cupboards to remove the clutter of utensils and clothing, and to provide space for the family to assemble in their home. And since taking a meal together is one way of creating happy family associations, and since most of the huts could not afford permanent space for a family-size table, Miss Haglund designed a folding table and set the people to making them.

It was not difficult to arouse the enthusiasm of men, women and young people, once they began to see what they could accomplish with the work of their hands and the use of tools — even very simple tools that they had never seen before. Miss Haglund said:

“It is my dream that community centres should be living centres with sewing machines and tables for ‘cutting out’ and carpenter’s tools — for example, a plane. When a man sees what he can do with a plane he goes to work with entirely new interest. A community centre should provide whatever equipment is practical for people to use in their own setting. One of the worst things is to have a course in a big, modern laboratory equipped with machinery that the students will never have in their home communities.”

One part of Miss Haglund’s home furnishing course was planning the arrangement of furniture in a home to give the most convenience and comfort. The young people who took this course as local leaders found that their home communities were most responsive to demonstrations given in actual homes. They took some of their hand-made furniture with them as illustrative material and their great difficulty sometimes was that the families in the homes where they gave their demonstrations hated to part with the new equipment. The local leaders made use of skits, too, just as we do in Ontario. One of these skits had an unhappy family — unhappy because their home was poorly equipped and badly arranged, and a happy family who had put into practice what they had



A bed that provides a day bed for the living room.

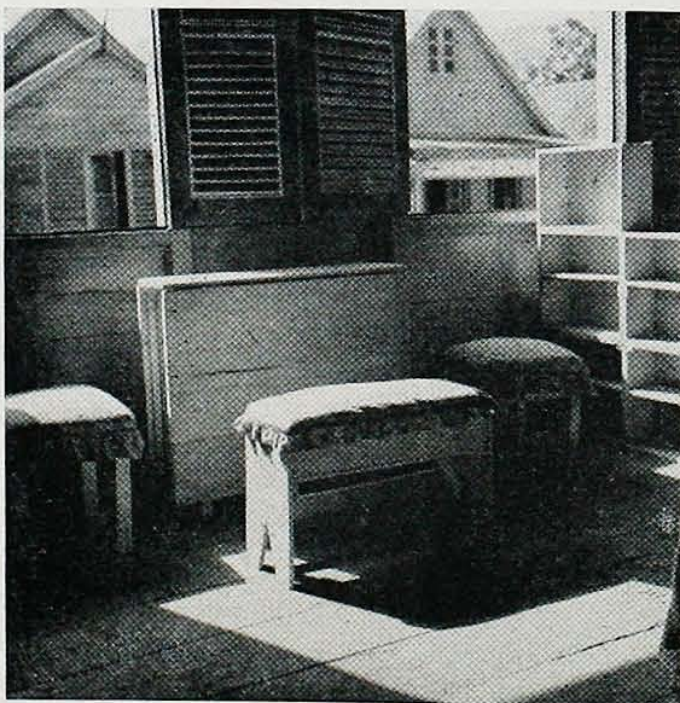
learned at the training school. As might be expected, the happy family arranged to help the others with their problem and they all joined hands and told how they were all going to try to help the community. It seems that the people of this area love play-acting and find it an excellent way of doing their teaching. The skit went from parish to parish and the movement for better homes prospered accordingly.

In the field of nutrition Miss Haglund finds the use of posters effective. As in any country, the primary study is in the feeding of children. In the Caribbean project courses were given to local leaders and in these courses the students were led to decide what should go into a series of posters on the feeding of the baby. From the material assembled, a series of clear, concise posters were prepared and printed. Armed with these, an inexperienced leader could go back to her people, show her posters and speak with confidence. What is perhaps more important, the poster insures against the giving of mis-information. The poster method was used in other nutrition studies: Protective Foods for the Caribbean, More Milk for Everybody, Foods for the Expectant Mother, Foods for Children Up to Two Years, How to Prepare Vegetables.

Fundamentally what is being done in home-making education through FAO is surprisingly like our extension programmes in this country. It is the sort of thing we will be promoting through our proposed A.C.W.W. scholarship and fellowship, and that we have assisted through the home demonstration centres we helped to set up in Ceylon. But I think we get a new understanding of the needs of another country, and the need of workers with imagination and understanding, when we see how problems are approached by specialists like Elsa Haglund.

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“One tree can make a million matches but one match can destroy a million trees.”



Hand made folding dining table, seats and shelves.