

Editorial

When Adelaide Hoodless first began her crusade for teaching subjects pertaining to homemaking, to girls in schools, she used the term "Manual Training." Later other words for this study were used: domestic science, domestic arts, household science, home science, domestic economy. At a conference at Lake Placid, New York, for women working in this field, in 1899 the title, "Home and Social economics," was used throughout the meeting.

In 1903 Miss Mary Urie Watson who later became "lady principal," of Macdonald Institute introduced the term Home Economics. A professional person trained for this work was then called a Home Economist.

The word economy comes from the Greek word oikas which means a house or dwelling place. Literally the word economics means the ordering or management of a house. But the word has taken on another meaning and is defined as the science relating to the production and distribution of material wealth. To identify economics as it relates to the home the words Home Economics came into use.

In 1903 when Sir William Macdonald gave \$175,000 to establish Macdonald Institute on the campus of the Ontario Agriculture College at Guelph one of the conditions attached to the gift was — The Institute was to provide instruction in Domestic Science for young women — to the end that they might observe methods and practice which make for good living in simple, clean, well kept, and beautiful homes in the country.

So great was the impression made by Adelaide Hoodless on the Ontario Department of Education that she was asked to prepare a text book for the use of teachers of Domestic Science. This book appeared in 1898. Quoting from the foreword written by Mrs. Hoodless we find "The aim of this text book is to assist the pupil in acquiring a knowledge of the fundamental principles of correct living, — to co-ordinate the regular school studies so as to make a practical use of knowledge already acquired. Arithmetic plays a part in the arranging of weights and measures, in the study of the analysis and relative value of various kinds of food, in estimating the cost of manufactured products in proportion to their food value. Physiology and temperance principles permeate the whole course of study. In addition to these are the direct lessons, provided by practice work, in neatness, promptness and cleanliness."

It will be of interest to members of the Women's Institute that Adelaide Hoodless was a member of the faculty at Macdonald Institute from 1903 to 1909. She lectured to the students on ethics. We are told that Mrs. Hoodless commuted the sixty miles to Guelph from her home in Hamilton, that she always appeared dressed for the occasion in one of her beautiful costumes and with her lecture well prepared, that she gave her students an appreciation of the importance of the family and the need for intelligent, inspired and informed homemakers.

Dr. Ethel Chapman quoting an American writer Dorothy Canfield has said, "Home Economics is the study of the art of living."

Was there ever a greater need for studies in the art of living? Family life as we know it a few years ago is undergoing drastic changes. Older people clinging to the old ways are finding themselves estranged from the young people of their own family. Changing social conditions affecting Canadian homes are forcing the development of educational programs in all aspects of family living.

Dr. Janet Wardlaw, dean of Macdonald Institute has said that the teaching of home economics now relates to skills in family resources, including the use of time and money, child development and public health services.

With the broadening concept of home economics the terminology is changing. At Pennsylvania State University the course is now called Human Development, at Cornell University it is Human Ecology and at the University of West Virginia it is Human Resources and Education.

It is good then that Dr. Wardlaw and her colleagues at the University of Guelph are planning new programs for Macdonald Institute. The new program will bring increased attention to the behavioural sciences and communications. This "New Look" will include a slight change in name. This name will be "The Macdonald Institute of Family and Consumer Studies."

Maryn Lardy.