

The booth showing an artistically arranged living room and bed room where old fashioned furniture was used was perhaps one of the most popular at the Fair.

That these things were carried back to the communities is proven by what an agent has to say of an interior decoration booth at a community fair which the home demonstration club women had themselves arranged. "They were very proud of it," said the agent, "and one of the women was so afraid I might miss some of the good points that she took me around calling my attention to the color harmony, the placing of the rug, the furniture arrangement, particularly did she emphasize the fact that the pictures were hung with two wires and two hooks." In explaining she used such words as balance and harmony and almost quoted from a lecture on household furnishings which she had heard at the Farm Women's Convention.

One of the district agents says, "When it comes to arousing community interest and pride there is nothing which will accomplish this more thoroughly than the community fair." At these fairs all of the judging is done in the open. The people are interested in knowing why decisions are made; and as only women trained in judging are asked to act, it is not hard to give reasons. Score cards are used in all judging and as the poorer products are eliminated the audience gathers close to note the scoring from point to point. A clear explanation never fails to satisfy and many an exhibitor goes back with a knowledge that brings her to the fair a prize winner next year.

In exhibiting at the fairs, the home demonstration club women have gone from fruits and vegetables to the making and exhibiting of the more difficult jellies, jams, and pickles and later to beautiful packs of meat, game, chicken, sausage, etc. All of these women have learned to do commercial packing and the displays at the fairs have done much to advertise the fact that the rural women can put upon the market a standard product which will rank with the best grades of commercial products.

In 1921 one hundred and four community fairs were held in North Carolina. Those in a large measure fed the 28 county fairs and the state fair recruited from all.

ENCAMPMENTS

The girls' and boys' encampments are indispensable to club work. It is the event looked forward to during the whole year and is the only outing many country children have. Some club work instructions are given the boy or girl but it is the recreational feature that is stressed. The county farm and home agents have held twenty camps this year with an attendance of 1398 girls and boys. For the most part, camps are held where there is a running stream, a lake, or at the seaside, though many successful ones have been carried on without the learn-to-swim feature. Fishing clubs, country clubs, well situated schoolhouses, have all been turned over to the agents for the use of the boys and girls, and at several camps tents have been used successfully.

The largest camp was held in Sampson county with 240 boys and girls enrolled for the entire time, 600 coming for part of the time. The agent says:

"Local leaders from each club, one man and one woman, together with the agents, worked out the details of the encampment plans. These local leaders had entire charge of their clubs, the men supervising the boys and the women the girls. We found this plan worked well. There was one man



A POPULAR INCOME EARNING FEATURE FOR THE FARM WOMEN

cook but the other work was done by club members and local leaders. It was so well planned and systematized that the work accomplished with the effort put forth was no less than marvelous. The clubs vied with each other to see which could serve the best meals; and it was wonderful to see vegetables, chicken, delicious sandwiches, iced drinks, cake, peaches, etc., served in sufficient quantity and on time for the large number when there was so little equipment for serving. At 6:30 the bugle sounded, when every one arose, dressed in a bath suit, and took his morning exercises. After this there was an hour for swimming in the lake. The bugle brought everybody again to the tents to dress for breakfast. Different squads helped with the meals each day. At the signal for breakfast every one lined up, the food was placed on a long table, and the crowd was served cafeteria style."

GIRL'S SHORT COURSES

In addition to the twenty county encampments at which short courses were held for girls, a state short course for prize winners was given at Peace Institute, Raleigh. Seventy-five club girls attended. The club institute is a reward for good club work and it is hoped that every organized county can send at least two representatives. The work done is not only educational but social and recreational.

ANNUAL SCHOOL FOR HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENTS

The annual school for home demonstration agents was held at the State College for Women, Greensboro, 54 women attending. A two weeks course was given to experienced agents in costume design, landscape design, advanced work in jelly making, pickling, and the canning and packing of meats. The newer women's schedule included millinery and the commercial packing of fruits and vegetables in addition. The daily conferences, one and one-half hours in length, gave the time for discussion of programs, plans of work, and co-operation with the farm agent. Details of the conduct of this school, as well as of the girls' short course, will be found in the 1920 report.

NEGRO WORK

Negro work was put on the annual budget of the Division of Home Demonstration work and the appropriation made in July. It seemed wisest to defer beginning work until the first of the year and plans have been made for placing colored agents in five counties at that time. These agents will act as assistants to the white home demonstration agent and be in charge of work for negroes.

During the year help has been rendered the colored people wherever the home demonstration agent could find the opportunity. Many of these agents have given food conservation, and clothing demonstrations to the colored as well as to the white people. They have also included the colored people in the city and county campaigns for the use of more milk.

White agents have assisted not only in planning community, county and state fairs but have acted as judges whenever assistance was desired. The colored state fair followed the white fair and the Division of Home Demonstration Work turned over to selected, well trained colored women its own special building with all its equipment for carrying on demonstrations in housewifery. These women in charge consulted with the home demonstration agent as to the kind of demonstrations and the manner of carrying them out and put on a most creditable exhibition.