

WIFE-RULED HOMES HELD LEAST HAPPY

Home Economics Convention
Speaker Urges Dominance
of Family by Husband.

3,000 MARRIAGES STUDIED

1,000 Women Hear Plea for
Girls' Training in Budgeting
—Food Problems Discussed.

Paul Popenoe, director of the Institute of Family Relations, told nearly 1,000 women delegates at a general session of the American Home Economics Convention at the Hotel Pennsylvania that happiness in marriage was largely a matter of masculine domination. The husband should head the home, Professor Popenoe said.

"Marital cooperation often fails when it comes to the attitude adopted toward relatives," he asserted. "The husband expects the wife to be nice to his family, but does not offer the same affection to her family. It is the old mother-in-law situation and one of the most important in married life."

"The figures show that cooperation is rare even in highly educated families," he added. "There should be a special branch of education for marriage. The educated wife cannot seem to make up her mind what she wants to be.

"One day she decides she will be the 100 per cent good wife. Next day she wants to be the 'new woman,' who will submit to nothing. Her husband is always several laps behind, trying to catch up to what her attitude is."

3,000 Marriages Studied.

Professor Popenoe said his figures were drawn from a study of 3,000 marriage histories. He found that in marriages where the man ruled, 61 per cent were happy unions. Where the so-called fifty-fifty basis existed, 87 per cent were happy. But only 47 per cent of the cases in which the women ruled were successful.

Overemphasis of cultural interests for women was blamed by the speaker for many marital disasters. He said also that lack of preparedness for running a home was responsible for many. He advocated training for girls in high school in budgeting and buying, and added that boys should have similar training that they might appreciate the jobs their wives were doing.

Dr. Hornell Hart of the Hartford Theological Seminary laid emphasis on the importance of planned economy as supplied by the NRA. He proposed a New Deal plan which he asserted could be combined with the freedom that the NRA often curtailed.

Discussion Groups.

Earlier in the day the convention had held discussion group meetings of departments under the following leaders:

The Family and Its Relationships—Miss Edna L. Skinner.
Family Economics—Benjamin R. Andrews.
Food and Nutrition—Miss Grace MacLeod.
The House—Miss Mary Mason.
Textiles and Clothing—Miss Beulah Blackmore.
Student Clubs—Miss Grace Stumpf.

To the group considering the problems of the House, David R. Williams of the Rural Rehabilitation Division, FERA, announced that there were 3,000,000 families in the United States stranded and needing immediate rehabilitation.

\$3,000,000 in Wages Lost.

Abraham Epstein, executive secretary of the American Association for Social Security, told the group in family economics that \$3,000,000 were lost annually in wages by the 2,000,000 persons who were ill every year.

Every year there are 3,000,000 industrial accidents, he said, with the problem of old age dependency keener here than in any other country, because our pace of industry takes such a toll in strength and because there is a discrimination against older workers.

Urging the enactment of a comprehensive system of social insurance, Mr. Epstein said: "Insecurity is the dominant note of our modern life, and not a single class in society is free from this fear."

Dr. Paul Nystrom of Columbia University forecast that the wages of the masses would be low for a long time and urged that more emphasis be placed on improving standards of living through a better use of such incomes as are available.

Mrs. Paul E. Howe of Washington, D. C., speaking before the Students Clubs department on food and drug legislation, made a plea for a law which would put teeth in the Pure Food Act, to facilitate convictions of manufacturers of inferior and dangerous products. She condemned the practices of mislabeling, half-filling of packages, and deceptive advertising.

At one of the luncheons given for delegates, Miss Marion C. Taylor, merchandising editor of Vogue, advocated more careful dressing for business and professional women.