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Practice House Proud of Its Youngest Resident

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Practice House Proud of Its Youngest Resident

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We of the University have not realized what an interesting experiment is being tried by the senior girls in Home Economics in caring for a baby until Commencement. Yet several newspapers, among them the *Boston Post*, the *Portland Express*, the *Lewiston Journal*, the *Bangor Daily News*, and the *Bangor Commercial* have featured Frances Pauline within the last few weeks, commending the practical value of such a course as a part of Household Administration.



Frances Pauline, aged five months and three weeks, has been at the Practice House since October fifteenth and during that time, with careful attention and feeding, has been gaining rapidly in weight. She has not been sick a day. Her food is milk from the University Dairy, modified with water and dextro-maltose, 14 ounces of water and 5 tablespoons of dextro-maltose being added to 23½ ounces of milk. This amount is divided into feedings of 7½ ounces each to be given at 6.30, 10.30, 2.30, 6.30 and 10.30.

The baby has very black eyes and hair, and cheeks which perhaps owe their rosiness to her outdoor naps from 10.30 in the morning until 2.00 in the afternoon, then from 2.30 until 4.30. The eight girls in the house each care for her for two weeks at a time, attending to her food and clothes and sleeping in the same room with her at night. Funds of the house were used to furnish her own little room, to buy her bed, carriage and clothes.

Minnesota, the first university to try such an experiment, has met with great success, and is now caring for its third baby. Among others which now include practical training in the care of children are: Cornell, Oregon Agricultural College, South Dakota Agricultural College, Utah, Nebraska and Oklahoma. Several normal schools, including Framingham, also include this in their course. The students in one Wisconsin high school cared for a baby during the school day and made all her clothes.

Perhaps the Practice House on the campus did not receive enough publicity when it was first established for many here now do not understand the purpose of its maintenance and the character of the work done by the girls. It opened in the fall of 1919 as a result of the Smith-Hughes Act which required a course in Household Administration as part of the Home Economics training.

The house is absolutely self supporting; from the money which they pay in for board and room the girls pay the University the same rent it formerly received from the fraternities, heat, water and all other bills. Because of the large number in the senior class, only half can live at the Practice House each semester. The eight girls work in turn on shifts of two weeks at the eight different tasks: housekeeper, cook, assistant cook, upstairs and downstairs cleaners, dining room girl, baby manager and assistant baby manager. The other half of the class will enter the Practice House at the beginning of the spring semester.