

tures with correlated textbook study, supplemented by demonstrations of plant characteristics and diseases which will be given by Henry E. Downer, head gardener of the College, in the botanical gardens and on his own farm. The course is designed so that student labor, necessarily unskilled, need not be impractical and unintelligent.

Her organization of the Hilltop Unit has already brought Miss Clark inquiries from others anxious to aid the Women's National Land Army Movement. She spoke at Andover, Mass. during the spring vacation on the proposed work of this Smith unit.

Miss Clark is anxious to have a registration of alumnae for this farm service, especially at the beginning and end of the season when undergraduates will not be available, and calls their attention to the registration blank in the advertising section.

## WAR EMERGENCY COURSES AND A SUMMER SESSION

ADA COMSTOCK

Three types of courses of study have come into being in this college as a consequence of the war. The first of these is the technical course so designed as to enable students who have already a solid foundation in theory to make immediate practical application of their knowledge. We have two courses of this type—"Hospital Laboratory Technic," which fits students to become assistants to physicians in war hospital laboratories; and "Mental Hygiene and Mental Reconstruction," planned for the benefit of seniors who have shown something of a bent for psychology and who are interested in the rehabilitation of disabled soldiers. Open only to selected and well-prepared students, these courses amply deserve the academic credit given them. So also do the general and informational courses, "Economic Aspects of the War," and "French Literature and the War," which illustrate the second type of course resulting from the present situation. The third type is that of the strictly emergency course, less definitely related to the usual work of the college, and not offered for credit, but important enough to be organized and administered under college auspices. We have three courses of this sort—the first a course in Civilian Relief, an adaptation of the Red Cross Home Service Institute, which is open to seniors who have a definite plan to use it; "Food and Nutrition in Relation to the War," which is outlined by the Food Administration and is intended to fit juniors and seniors to assist the experts who in the different states carry on the great campaign of conservation; and "Foundations of Garden and Farm Practice," which the Department of Botany will offer during the spring term to students who expect to devote the summer to Adam's profession. With the consent of the College, also, though not at its instigation, students are doing

certain other work for emergency purposes. Automobile repairing and typewriting and stenography come under this head. Sometimes in hope and sometimes in fear alumnae inquire whether emergency courses may not lead to the inclusion of vocational courses in the curriculum. Save in its tendency to make a student look forward to practical service of some kind, the program summarized above seems to me to incline but little in that direction.

But the summer session—if we have one—is a different matter. No course of six or eight or twelve weeks can give anything resembling a complete professional or vocational equipment, but it can be perfectly definite and practical and vocational in its aim. At the present time three principal suggestions for summer courses are under consideration. The first of these is for an intensive course in colloquial French for the benefit of women who expect to do work overseas. It has been suggested that this course might well be combined with some study of the methods of relief employed by the Red Cross in its work in France. The second suggestion is for a course in industrial management, designed to give college graduates some idea of the character of welfare, efficiency, and employment problems in factories and mills so that they may be better able to fill the positions now being opened to women in the industrial world. With this might well go an emergency course leading to the position of health officer in industrial plants. Beyond question there is interesting pioneer work to be done in this field, but whether we can actually organize and initiate a course for the coming summer remains to be seen.

The third suggestion is also for pioneer work—for a course enabling college women to become assistants to physicians in caring for the cases of shell shock and other nervous disorders which will result—which are already resulting—from our going into war. There seems to be no question that such workers are greatly needed; and if a satisfactory course can be devised, together with a workable scheme for drawing together students of the right type, we may be able to do something of value.

Within a very few days the question of holding a summer session must be answered. If the trustees and faculty decide against such a venture it will not be from any lack of desire to utilize the equipment and the goodwill of Smith College for patriotic purposes. If the question is given an affirmative answer it will be because there seems to be an opportunity to perform a real service—to offer training for which there is a genuine need, and which we are fitted to give.

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As the forms close for this issue of the QUARTERLY [April 13] it seems unlikely that the summer session will be held. No official endorsement can so far be obtained for any one of the summer courses outlined; and without such endorsement we cannot proceed.