

WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING TO HELP WIN THE WAR

Girl Artists Take Up Saw and Hammer in Interest of Brand New War Art

BY BERNICE GRISWOLD.

NEW YORK, Sept. 28.—Down in Greenwich Village in places where young artists gather to discuss art, literature and the problems of the world war, last summer a poster appeared, an artistic, villagey sort of thing with original sketches and attractive lettering.

A young artist, a girl who had been drawn from Paris, her real home, to New York as a city of promise for her art, read it. Long since, in discussions at the Village Round Table, she had come to the conclusion that art must wait until the war had been won, so she gave it up to work all day in a munitions factory, turning out perfect shells for field guns in France.

But the poster brought her a chance to serve through her art. Along with nine other people from all parts of this country and the continent she has been learning how to use carpenter tools during the past months. Soon she will pack her tools in a suitcase and go to France to teach maimed soldiers how to earn a living by making simple furniture and how to furnish their homes artistically and cheaply from ordinary

packing boxes which carry supplies across the Atlantic.

Along with a lot of other things, through necessity, the war has revived the art of making strong packing cases to take the place of the flimsy modern things, which will not stand rough handling.

This art was in its prime some years ago, when Louise Brigham Chisholm (Mrs. Henry Arnott Chisholm, 9107 Euclid avenue) decided to furnish Sunshine Cottage, a settlement house which she started in Cleveland, with furniture made from boxes. Her attempt was successful. She taught the people about her how to do it and then went to New York to further develop her idea, and from there to Europe to study architecture under experts and to learn the home arts of each country, such as rug weaving.

When the packing boxes began to be made of thin wood, bound together with wire bands, Mrs. Chisholm turned to the lumber yards for her

Abandon Brush and Palette for Tools of Carpenter



materials and continued teaching people how to make attractive furniture at small cost.

Will Mean Big Help to Devastated France

Then came the war. Factories in France stopped making furniture and the people who returned to their homes in the devastated regions after the Germans had been forced back, had no place to buy furniture for their demolished homes even though they had money for it. One of the



girls with Miss Anne Morgan's committee for the Reconstruction of Devastated France had learned to make box furniture. When the supplies were unloaded at the villages she taught the boys and women how to make furniture from the packing cases.

Then Mrs. Chisholm planned a summer course in box furniture making to train a limited number of students to teach men who had been

maimed and to head reconstruction units in the devastated countries.

The students, among whom are Miss Martha Clough of Elyria, sister of Mrs. William G. Sharp, wife of the Ambassador to France; Mrs. Edward Fisher of London, Miss Anne Holden of Paris, Miss Gina Thompson of the University of Chicago, Miss Louise Rogers of the Cleveland School of Art, Mrs. William D. Monroe of Houghton, Mass., and Miss

Beryl Parker of St. Louis, arrived at the school July first without any previous knowledge of carpentry. By the time they have graduated, late this month, they will have made every article of furniture which one might use in a house: tables, chairs, bookcases and beds. They will have learned how to prepare the boxes and how to make and how to finish the furniture.

The school is at No. 16 Horatio street just at the edge of Greenwich village. It is a five-story building with a shop on the first floor where toys are sold wooden toys made from the scraps of wood left from the making of the furniture, as no small piece is wasted. They are most attractive and the sort of thing one sees on the mantelpiece of a village studio or in the windows of the shops.

There is a sand box in the window of the shop and grown men going by frequently stop, drawn irresistibly to the toys. One day not so long since a truckman stopped to deliver something. He became fascinated with a Noah's ark and became so engrossed with it that he played for two hours, arranging the animals as he thought they should go.

Convalescent Soldier to Reap a Benefit

Prof. Langley believes that the making of toys offers a big opportunity to men who are convalescing, as they are easily made and can be sold. She says that a man will get well much faster if he can make something which has commercial worth. It will inspire him to do more. Therefore the work has a curative value.

To get to the workshop one ascends a flight of stairs similar to the ones going up into the loft of a barn, and there, in a big room, the students, in bright colored smocks, are at work. Half-made things, unpainted and finished toys, stand around. These pieces when done will furnish a tea room near Sheridan square, right in the heart of the village.

Up another flight of this box furniture factory and one enters the lumber room. Piles of lumber are stacked along one side. In the center of the floor is a great pile of odds and ends, later to be converted into toys, and at the rear are the machines which the students use cutting their lumber. The paint room is on the top floor.

Arrangements are being made for several of the students to go abroad when they have finished their course. They will need nothing for equipment but a few simple tools which can be carried in a suitcase and with these they can start in making furniture or training people if there is a packing case or lumber yard within easy distance.

Others will train men who are convalescing in this country how to make the furniture or toys for commercial purposes or for the furnishing of their homes. Mrs. Chisholm hopes to establish a similar school in Cleveland during the winter.

Mr. Allen Eaton, formerly of the University of Oregon, is Prof. Langley's assistant. The other instructors all of whom have given up their work

to do this reconstruction work: are Ethel Lomax of San Francisco, and Miss Mary Morgan, Newport, Miss. Mr. Guy Abbey of New York.