



FLOWERS FROM SENORITA'S GARDEN

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Americanization Through Homemaking

BY

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The enduring patience and unswerving loyalty of my co-workers in the Americanization department of the Covina City Schools has been an inspiration and to them this book is affectionately dedicated.

PREFACE

IF WE assimilate the countless number of Mexicans that cross our southern border, either legally or otherwise, to better their condition in a new land, we must begin at the basic structure of their social order—the home.

The efforts of Neighborhood Houses and charitable organizations furnish relief for the time being and deal with adults, who for the most part are unchangeable. Our main hope lies in the rising generation, and the public school is the greatest factor in its development.

Since the girls are potential mothers and homemakers, they will control, in a large measure, the destinies of their future families. The teacher of homemaking has a large field for instruction. Hers is not a mere calling but an opportunity. It is she who sounds the clarion call in the campaign for better homes.

It has been said that since Mexico is developing irrigation projects to reclaim arid lands, building National highways, and about to furnish free textbooks to pupils, that immigration will decrease and the question of "restriction" will regulate itself. Be that as it may, some will come and many will remain here. As an economic proposition in the Southwest they are a necessity. We who employ them are challenged to raise their standards of living, improve sanitation, and control disease. Strenuous efforts in that direction will redound to the public good. If we expect them to adopt our customs, our ideals, and our country, let us set them a most worthy example.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. Sewing Machine Sewing, Handwork, Course of Study, Projects, Millinery, Gardening.	13
II. Foods Classification of Foods, Vitamines, Methods of Cooking, Vegetables, Soups, Desserts, Recipes, the School Lunch, Mid-morning Lunch, Sandwich Fillings, Salads and Salad Dressing, Salad Garnish, Projects, Marketing, Table Service, Laundry.	19
III. Budgeting Budgets for Income, Food, and Wearing Apparel.	38
IV. Home Nursing Prevention and Cure, Child Diseases, Contagious Diseases, Factors of Elimination, Diet for the Sick. Report (partial) of the Los Angeles County Health Department.	42
V. The Pre-School Child Formation of Habits, Care, and Diet.	53
VI. The Mexican Home Plans, Decoration, and Expense.	56
VII. Motherhood Mother Instinct, Training for Motherhood, Sentimental Traits.	61
VIII. The Mexican Girl as a Potential Factor in the Americanization of the Group. Hoover's Bill of Rights for the American Child. Summary of the Results of the Work of Americanization.....	64

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover Design—The Home of the School	
Flowers from Senorita's Garden.....	Frontispiece
A Sewing Class of Mexican Girls.....	13
A Cooking Class of Mexican Girls.....	19
Boy with Lunch Pail.....	24
The Mid-Morning Lunch.....	27
Table Service	33
Amelia	61

INTRODUCTION

MUCH HAS been written about homemaking in order that the young American women of today might develop into more efficient homemakers in the future. Little, if any, has been written about homemaking for the foreign girl who comes to us. It is taken for granted that she will be given the same course of study as the home girl. In a large sense this is true. The author maintains that special emphasis on certain phases of homemaking differs with the two types of girls. Their background is so vastly different.

Attempt is being made in this book to give a line of work which has as its object both homemaking and citizenship. It is not theoretical but is the result of the mistakes, attempts, and accomplishments of the author during a period of seven years.

If any thing is said or written here that may prove a ray of light to a younger or to a discouraged co-worker then this little book will not have been in vain.

Many are the obstacles which have to be overcome—natural timidity, language handicap, and in some instances racial prejudice. These racial barriers are being gradually broken down and it is becoming easier for the foreign girl to find herself.

While the work outlined here has been applied to Mexican girls, it is believed that any foreign girl meets the same obstacles, more or less, in adjusting herself to a new civilization. The aim should be to assist rather than to let her flounder helplessly in a sea of despair.