

Caroline Louise Hunt.

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CAROLINE LOUISA HUNT

1865-1927

Her popular meal-planning charts and bulletins on food values are probably what now make Caroline Hunt best known to home economists. Until one has tried to translate intricate scientific facts into simple, reliable statements for everyday use, one can hardly appreciate the technical knowledge, clearness of thought, imagination, and flexibility of expression required for such a task, or realize how much we owe to those who, like Miss Hunt, have carried the gradual process of adaptation over some of the most difficult stages. This work of Miss Hunt during her twenty years on the staff of the Office and Bureau of Home Economics in the United States Department of Agriculture is by no means her only connection with home economics. Her "Life of Ellen H. Richards" is both a fitting memorial to its subject and an authentic interpretation of the early developments and meaning of home economics. For the writing of this book Miss Hunt was especially qualified because she was a personal friend and active co-worker of Mrs. Richards and her associates in the Lake Placid conferences and because she possessed rare philosophical insight and sympathy.

The same philosophical insight appears in Miss Hunt's papers and discussions in the Lake Placid reports. The fundamental social and ethical significance of the various aspects of homemaking have perhaps never been so well stated as in the delightful essay, "Revaluations," which she read at the conference of 1901. This insight and the depth and breadth of her sympathies are also revealed in many articles, long and short, serious and humorous, on all sorts of subjects which she contributed to many magazines and newspapers.

But nothing she might write could adequately reflect the richness of Caroline Hunt's personality. Her childhood in Chicago and Evanston, her study at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago, her years of congenial friendships and work at Hull House, her experience as a teacher at Lewis Institute and the University of Wisconsin, her contacts with rural women in the extension service, her connection with negro betterment, all contributed to the widening of her interests and the deepening of her sympathies. And throughout there were the qualities that made her at once the delight and despair of her friends—her humor and whimsicality, her quick indignation against injustice, her passion for independence, her reckless generosity, and the restlessness that springs from "noble discontent."



Caroline d'Heure