

Women at Home.

A Dunedin Woman Who Spent Thirty Thousand Pounds On One Shopping Expedition!

PROFESSOR STRONG, the subject of this article, occupies a very high place in educational circles in the Dominion, and her advice is eagerly sought throughout New Zealand, and often further afield.

It is just fourteen years since Professor Strong arrived in Dunedin, after a sojourn of five years in India, where she had undertaken as well as her educational tasks the controlling of the household of the Maharajah of Baroda, the magnitude of which will be recognised when one learns that in all there were fifteen palaces with more than one hundred servants in each, and that on one shopping expedition she had the joy of spending £30,000.

The Home Science School under her wise rule has gone steadily forward, and to-day over eighty girls are in training, while five hundred and eight have passed through and three hundred and thirty-three have gained their degrees or diplomas and are scattered throughout the world. The professor herself lives at Upper Studholme House, and it was in her very pleasant study there that I had the pleasure of a chat on a recent sunny morning. Upper Studholme is really the practice centre for the students in training, and there everything is done by the girls themselves—housewifery, cookery, laundry work and entertaining.

The house is one of Dunedin's charming old residences and is set in a pretty garden. On the right of the entrance hall is a delightful drawing room, where many distinguished guests have been entertained and quite recently the girls had the pleasure of meeting there Admiral Byrd and his wife.

On the left is the refectory—a charming room with its polished tables, which give ample scope for the girls to work out original decorative schemes. The kitchen lies in the rear, and women visitors are always envious of its up-to-date efficiency; in fact, many a kitchen has been made-over, taking "Studholme" as its model. An up-to-date laundry, too, makes washing day quite a



pleasant interlude, and all the linen is laundered on the premises. Upstairs there is accommodation for some twenty students, and such problems as the best usage for sheets, blankets and towels, and how to obtain the maximum of warmth with the minimum of weight are worked out here in a practical way.

This delightful house was made possible in the beginning by the girls themselves, who ran a hostel during the exhibition year, and by doing all the work were able to bank quite a large sum to start a purchasing fund.

One can give only a slight idea in so short a space of the wonderful work being done by Professor Strong, but one must mention the A.C.E.—the Association for Country Education—the title by which the extension work is to be known in future.

By means of this organisation the scientific knowledge gained in the university is made available to the housewife and the country woman.

Miss Violet Macmillan is in charge in Otago and Southland, while Miss Hazel Johnson, who is working in the Wellington and Nelson districts with headquarters at Massey College, co-operates with the A.C.E. in the south. To the country woman and the town dweller alike, this organisation is a wonderful boon, for here their problems are solved by experts.

Visits are paid to the country districts, where lectures, demonstrations and classes are held, and here it is that we find the link between home science and radio, for week by week talks on food, household and clothing problems generally are sent over the air by those connected with the A.C.E.