FOOD AND LIFE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649256723

Food and life by Marion Florence Lansing & Luther Halsey Gulick

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MARION FLORENCE LANSING & LUTHER HALSEY GULICK

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BY

MARION FLORENCE LANSING

IN COLLABORATION WITH

LUTHER HALSEY GULICK

GINN AND COMPANY

BOSTON · NEW YORK · CHICAGO · LONDON ATLANTA · DALLAS · COLUMBUS · SAN FRANCISCO

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Publisher EDUCATION DEPT.

GINN AND COMPANY · PRO-PRIETORS · BOSTON · U.S.A.

PREFACE

Children have a normal, spontaneous interest in food. To a child each meal is a matter of fresh and vital consequence. His own experience prepares him to appreciate that what he eats has a direct and important bearing on his health and comfort. He responds readily to a call to take a more intelligent interest and a more active concern in his food needs and habits. War did a real service in bringing people back from the conventionally remote attitude of modern civilization to a vivid realization of the interest and importance of this universal human need. It drove home also the truth that while their elders have a responsibility for children's food, children have in their own right a relation of their own to this as to other concerns of daily life.

To Dr. Gulick there came as an inspiration the vision of a new rating of boys and girls in all their social relations. He saw them not only as "futures," not only as potential citizens and homemakers, but as "presents," contributing everywhere by doing their part as boys and girls. To him the book owes its inspiration and inception. His faith in the power of boys and girls as an effective factor in national life and service was amply justified during the war. To-day the government is making every effort to capitalize this youthful enthusiasm and persistence as a permanent asset in our individual and community life, and as a part of our national share in banishing famine, waste, and misery from the world brotherhood. This book is intended to aid in that movement.

From its pages the child will learn the facts he should know concerning the great Food Business into which he is born and in which he is a partner. He will be led to see the need of his becoming an intelligent and active partner. He will come into a sense of the world brotherhood which is the hope of the future. The ethical side is often more natural to the child than the technical details. There is hardly a virtue or an ideal of family, community, and world life which does not take a natural place in a study of the fundamental human problem of food. The actual facts are most interesting when presented simply and entertainingly. Knowledge recently contributed by science has made this a new subject, and one far more readily grasped by boys and girls than it could have been five or even two years ago. With a sufficient amount of information to make the book a complete and satisfying whole, the aim has been to suggest as well as to inform. From this book the child goes to the geography lesson, to the physiology and domestic-science class, to the garden, to the store, and to the home with a newly awakened interest. Not only does he know; knowing, he is stimulated at each point to do. The chapters will serve their purpose best if the knowledge each imparts is a stimulus, not an end. Together they provide the necessary background of information, education, and inspiration for the child's life as it relates to and is interpreted by his food.

M. F. L.

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THE FRUGAL MEAL From a painting by Joseph Israels