

Home Fires Brighten College Work

By Nelle C. Penley



MRS. ALBERT L. FITCH

Photo by Francis Leverette Vose

Before her marriage Emma Leeson Fitch, wife of Prof. Albert L. Fitch, head of the department of physics at the University of Maine, was a teacher of mathematics, and she says it is probably the most satisfactory of all subjects to teach—because, she points out, the teacher always knows when her pupils have mastered the subject. It is one subject where bluff will not register, where the answers are either right or wrong.

Because mathematics have always frightened me, when I find a woman proficient in the subject my admiration for her always goes up about 100 per cent because I feel that here is a woman who can hold her own anywhere in the realm of thinking.

Mrs. Fitch was born in Manchester, Mich., the daughter of Henry C. and Iretta Gillette Leeson. She attended Manchester High school and was graduated from Albion college. She taught for some time before her marriage and came to Orono 17 years ago from New Jersey. Mr. Fitch at that time was associated with the Western Electric company in New York city.

Mrs. Fitch enjoys knitting and gardening, and in the latter she finds equal pleasure in cultivating vegetables and in raising flowers.

"With five children I find my most consuming interest that of family life," points out Mrs. Fitch. Unlike most women, Mrs. Fitch enjoys winter. "I enjoy the snow, possibly because I have gone along with the children in developing a complete change

of activities with the change of the seasons." She points out that winter gives opportunity for skating, skiing, and coasting, which is an absolute change from summer sports.

Dr. and Mrs. Fitch have a summer place at New Sharon where they spend the summer months. Among the antiques which Mrs. Fitch found when they purchased the farm house was an old cheese basket, wide and low, which she uses as a cone basket for the fireplace.

Mrs. Fitch served as a member of the school board in Orono for nine years, and she believes that every school board should have at least one woman on its membership. She says women are better suited to the contacts with teachers and that they understand some of the problems of the schools better than men, although she feels that the business administration of the school board, repairs, and financing are better handled by men.

Mrs. Fitch is a member of the Orono Woman's club, of which she is a past president; the Methodist Episcopal church; the Orono school clubs which compare to the Parent-Teacher associations; the Orono branch of the American Association of University Women, of which she is a past president; and the Ladies' Aid of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Dr. and Mrs. Fitch have four sons, Max of New York city; Karl, a junior at the University of Maine; Glenn, a student in the eighth grade; James, a pupil in the seventh grade; and one daughter, Bula, a sophomore at the University of Maine.