

New Citizenship Schools Hold Interest of Women

With the recent consolidation of four states in a general scheme of citizenship schools, something may be understood of the magnitude of the new interest in civics which has arisen among women.

Mrs. Nancy M. Schoonmaker of Hartford, Connecticut, citizenship director for the Connecticut Woman Suffrage association, has just completed a plan to join the women of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont and New Hampshire under a common curriculum for the study of civics. Mrs. Schoonmaker, who is an expert in her line and has recently published a text-book, "The Actual Government of Connecticut," which has been accepted in many high schools of her state, will be the conductor of the four-state plan. She will manage it more or less like "institutes" holding sessions in various cities and towns. According to the present plan, she will spend six months in Connecticut and two in each of the other three states.

Success Last Summer.
Last summer Mrs. Schoonmaker was one of the principal lecturers at the school of citizenship held in Durham, New Hampshire. This was a revelation of women's interest in government, local, state and national. Invitations to this school were sent out by a committee at whose head was Mrs. Martha Kimball, president of the state suffrage association. Joining with the women in the invitation was the New Hampshire State College, the first time in the history of the world that a state college has co-operated with the women of a state in such an undertaking. Women from farms, women from tiny towns, women from cities, gathered at the rallying cry of citizenship. With very short notice and with very little newspaper publicity, 200 women were registered at the school, the college dormitories housing the visitors and the classrooms open for their use.

Interest Is Growing.
There were two series of talks, one on parliamentary law by Mrs. Mary I. Wood, leader of the school, which she called "Standardized Common Sense," and one on citizenship by Mrs. Nancy M. Schoonmaker, in which she took up Americanizing American women, town and country government, city government, state and national government, political parties and elections. "We want to do for the government what we have done for the home," said Mrs. Schoonmaker in opening the series.

At the close of the session Dartmouth invited the women of New Hampshire to hold their next summer sessions in Hanover under the university's aegis. Since last summer the idea of citizenship schools has gained steady emphasis. The

daily mail is heavy, with appeals to the National American Woman Suffrage association to send programs, information and directions for similar schools in every part of the country. In many localities, members of neighboring college faculties have co-operated, and the federal bureau of education is now gathering data upon the growth of the civic ideal as it is being developed by women of America.