

Timely Tips for Women

by Doris W. Thomas

Homemaking Time Studies Reveal Interesting Facts.

Times used for homemaking activities has been a favorite research topic for 50 years. Comparing early with using about the same amount most recent studies reveals an interesting fact-use of time of time for clothing care we for homemaking activities has changed very little. When now have automatic washers comparing average times used for specific homemaking ac- and dryers, and easy care tivities, average weekly totals of 47.1 hours in 1920, 47.6 fabrics? hours in 1952, and 47.3 hous in 1968 were found. This comparison raises more questions than it answers.

Why is it that time used mained fairly constant in tivities the researchers studfor food preparation, house spite of the many new house- ied. They are the measurable care, care of clothing and hold appliances and improv- ones such as time for food other such activities has re- ed products introduced dur- preparation and dishwashing,

ing those 50 years? How can we account for food preparation time being similar over a time span that includes introduction of convenience foods, automatic ranges, and a host of small electric cooking appliances? Why are we

A partial explanation may be found in the household ac-



for physical care of family ed members, for clothing care, the for care of the family's house and its furnishings. Homema- us kers may be doing very dif ho ferent things today but pos- say sibly not within this listing tim of activities. Our grandmoth- that ers may have managed very eq well to reduce household ac- cal tivities to a minimum even tiv though using less sophisticat- an

