cooperative power plant in the world. Allotments for these generating plants totaled $1,782,500 on June 30, 1940. On the same date allotments for construction of more than 10,000 miles of lines to make power available to 33,023 members, totaled $11,244,800.

Wiring and plumbing loans to members comprised $320,500 of the $13,347,800 total allotted to Wisconsin up to June 30, 1940. Members may borrow from their cooperative what they need to wire their homes or install plumbing. They make repayments monthly, quarterly, or semiannually. But many pay cash.

Farm Homes Wired

In 8 months, 600 farmers in one county wired their homes at an average cost of $200. Few used credit. Every electrician and electrical contractor in the area was busy for months.

Cooperative generating plants supply only part of the power needs of Wisconsin's electrified farms, and a large part of the power is purchased wholesale—enough to increase Wisconsin's annual electrical output materially. In 1939 the figure reached approximately 36,000,000 kilowatt-hours, and the cost to the cooperatives amounted to about half a million dollars.

A survey taken on Wisconsin R. E. A.-financed power systems between January and April 1940, shows how members are putting their new electric power to good use. Water pumps were in use on 20.7 percent of the farms reporting, 9.4 percent had put in a shower or tub, more than 15 percent had an electric cream separator, and 17.9 percent were using electric fences. The number of electric motors is a good indicator of the extent to which electric power is applied to farm tasks. The returns show that 3.1 percent owned motors larger than 1 horsepower, and 29.7 percent owned motors of 1 horsepower or less. While motors under 1 horsepower are, of course, too small to power ensilage cutters, wood saws, and other heavy farm machinery, they prove their value in the farm repair shop, on water pumps, milking machines, small feed grinders, and the like.

Much of the heavy burden is being lifted from the shoulders of the farm wife through installation of electric equipment in the home. Of the farms reporting, 85.7 percent had electric irons, 86.8 percent had radios, 24.6 percent had purchased hot plates, 18.4 percent had refrigerators, 79.2 percent had washing machines, and 17 percent were using vacuum cleaners.

Wide use of early-morning and all-night lights to raise poultry production and maintain it throughout the winter is shown by the survey. More than one-fourth of all farms reporting were using electric lights in their laying houses.

Frozen-Food Lockers a New Co-op Service

Since its inception during 1935 the frozen-food locker industry in Wisconsin has expanded at a rapid rate. A survey conducted jointly by the Farm Credit Administration and the Wisconsin College of Agriculture during the early part of 1940 indicates that there were 250 locker plants in operation, one-fifth of which were owned and operated by cooperatives.