

Clothing Economies (Cont'd)

costumery. Only intimate knowledge of the exact nature of the events reasonably expected to come into her life should determine the outlay of money in each purchase. It is necessary to know the divisions of her life and which of these divisions demand the most money.

Women of means may indulge in mistakes as they may carelessly discard failures but a woman with a small income cannot replace the disappointing garment with immediate new attempts but must go through the season bearing the punishment she has brought upon herself by haphazard and indiscreet buying.

In order not to appear entirely at odds with her surroundings a woman is obliged to follow fashion to a certain extent, but it is more important to study her own type and accentuate its attractive features with adaptations of prevailing modes; as no attempt at being fashionable can make up for the fact of being ridiculous. Drop back in the race and by some strange paradox you will find that you are winning.

It pays to select good materials and get an increased service from the wardrobe by giving each garment proper attention, cleaning them carefully, and tastefully making them over when necessary.

Learn the best methods of providing clothing for the family, keep accounts and use a clothing budget.

Study values in textiles to know their cost and service so that the most enduring may be selected. Learn how to test the quality of cloth.

Use to advantage the clothing and materials already on hand before buying new goods.

Have clothing so made or so choose ready-to-wear garments that the styles being simple and conservative cannot be too easily dated, and remodelling later will be an easier task.

Clothing — Remodelling, Care and Cleaning

By Miss E. M. Collins, Clothing Specialist.

One of the problems confronting the housewife with varying degrees of concern is the necessity of keeping the clothing needs within the bounds of the clothing budget. If the situation is accepted philosophically it will be found that there is a law of compensation even in the renovation and reconstruction of last season's clothes. The conversion of an unattractive out-of-date garment into a bewitchingly lovely one possessing that subtle and elusive thing called style is sure to produce much satisfaction.

Many of the beautiful garments of today are the made-overs of yesterday with the idea of eliminating the unfashionable features and retaining their loveliness and charm. No woman should look with disdain upon the work of remodelling for it is indeed praiseworthy for anyone to give thought and effort to produce attractive garments from materials that have already seen considerable service. This is an art that can be acquired just as much as in making tempting dishes from food left from luncheon or dinner.

If there are children in the family there is generally ample opportunity for making over for them the clothes of adults as these articles require very little material and there are ever in favor modes that permit of a combination of two materials with gratifying results. Children

will appear to better advantage in well made clothes of old material than in cheap ready-to-wear models, and the degree of service will undoubtedly be more satisfactory.

In no better way than by an intelligent development and use of clothes can a woman gain the desirable reputation of being refined and intelligent, thrifty and resourceful. Ingenuity is clearly demonstrated and developed in a woman's ability to adapt old gowns to new modes, and the pleasure and satisfaction derived from the achievement are not to be denied as they are too valuable to a person's happiness and progress never to be experienced. However, enthusiasm should not be allowed to outweigh good judgment in such matters. It is always well to be sure of a fair measure of success before putting time and labour on a make-over, which can be done by carefully analyzing the old garment, its cut and the material and trimming, to put it in condition.

In remodelling garments trimmings play a very important part, it being possible with their aid to create entirely new effects. When in vogue, narrow ruffling, plaiting, and puffing are all useful as trimmings. Likewise cording, piping, and shirred and tucked bands have a period of popularity. Hand embroidery and braiding or braid-bound edges are often employed, and also according to the mode and season, come embroidery and lace edging and banding, applique, fringe, fur, beads and buttons.

The combination of materials offers many advantages in making over garments. Two different materials of the same weight or even unequal weight may be used together as also two materials of the same colour, or a plain colour and a striped, checked, or figured material. As examples of different materials of similar weight tulle, chiffon, and lace may be combined with satin and as examples of different weights taffeta and satin may be combined with broadcloth and chiffon. A check, a stripe, or a plaid may be combined with plain silk or satin or with plain woollen material in which case the colour of the plain goods should match one of the colours in the check, stripe or plaid. Black and white combine with any colour. Current styles will present very few difficulties to the woman who understands garment construction and remodelling will be a simple task once one understands the necessity of good judgment in combining just the right colours and materials in made-over garments. More discretion being required for make-overs than for new garments. This phase of the question requires forethought and knowledge of what is considered good taste in colours and material combinations.

The principal point to remember regarding garments that are much worn is to make as little unnecessary alteration as possible for ripping apart means an expenditure of time and labour and usually unwarranted expense in buying new material. The art of making over lies in disguising the fact that the garment is remodelled. The final effect even on much worn garments should be the mark of inspiration and not that of necessity. If one feels that they are just old things and therefore unworthy of their best efforts the finished product will very likely be disappointing. If the material is worth making over, it is worth the effort that would be necessary in making a perfectly new dress.

How Does Your Program Score?

By Emily Guest.

To plan and carry out an educational curriculum for a Rural University of over forty-two thousand students organized into 1250 study groups, as the Ontario Women's Institutes are, is no slight undertaking. To do this for the individual group is the most important work of the Branch Board of Directors.

Have you ever tried grading your program according to University standards, with a hundred per cent maximum? Answer these questions and see where it would stand, in the degree of its usefulness to the particular locality, farm or village, which it serves. Would it rank in first, second class honours, pass, or "below the line?"

1. Does it keep foremost that the Institute is an educational institution?

Not a money raising or charitable organization, but study centres for country homemakers, non-sectarian, non-partisan, which exist by Act of Parliament for "the dissemination of knowledge relating to domestic economy, household architecture, home sanitation, better understanding of the economic and hygienic value of foods, clothing, fuel; the more scientific care and training of children with a view to raising the general standards of health and morals of our people; and the consideration of any problem or the carrying on of any line of work which has for its objects the betterment of the home or conditions surrounding community life."

2. Is the outlined plan of study balanced and reasonable?

Balance should be maintained between the cultural, practical, and social phases of homemaking; topics should be dealt with at the appropriate season, and

in such a way as to cover the interests of varied tastes and ages. Experience shows this to be achieved best by a well-chosen topical roll call, a paper or address, a short demonstration or exhibit to show how a thing is done, the subjects with names of those taking part being given where at all possible. Consecutive study of one line each year is valuable, as nutrition, government, laws, current events.

3. Is neighborhood talent being discovered and developed?

Members and other local people, men and women, should take part according to their different abilities, practical, social, executive, professional, literary, musical, without great dependence on outside talent. Work should be well distributed among officers and committees. When "a few of us do all the work," it indicates need for more thorough organization and study of what each can contribute.

4. Does the printed program fulfil its purpose?

This should give the Institute motto, name of place, of country, date, hour and place of each meeting, topic of roll call, paper, demonstration, names of those taking them and of officers, committee conveners, and tea hostesses for each month, also the ode, so definitely that a stranger would know what it was all about.

5. Does the program include a definite place for the girls?

At least one girl should be on the Board of Directors. Girls should take some part in the doings of every month; possibly preside and take entire charge at one meeting, devoted to girls' interests. To see that they get adequate preparation for future homemaking is an Institute responsibility of prime importance.

Conventions

The success of the Area Conventions has been due in no small measure to the efficiency and faithfulness of the local officers. It is considered quite an honour by the Institutes members in general to be chosen Chairman for a Convention Area. The general rule is to make a change in the Chairmanship, and sometimes the Secretary, every two or three years; while in the north country, where they change the location of the Convention nearly every year, the Chairmanship goes to one of the leaders in the district where the Convention is to be held.

At the Conventions in Old Ontario we have often heard the expression of a desire to have the Chairmanship passed on to another leader, without any reflection or expression of dissatisfaction with the present officers. We wish to remind the delegates to the Conventions that it rests with them as to whether or not a change shall be made, for it is quite in order for any official delegate to make a nomination for Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, or Member of the Committee and have it submitted to the convention.

Conditions vary in different sections of the province, and it must be left to the good judgment of those in attendance at the Conventions to determine the policy to be followed.

The one convention held in the north country before going to press showed very progressive work and a spirit of helpfulness in a section of the province (Temiskaming and Cochrane) where the Institute is so much appreciated and carrying on so effectively. There was no evidence of "slipping back" in the work of the Institutes, and the

regular program of service is being most liberally supported by the members in general. Many expressions of appreciation of "Home and Country" were given.

The members generally value the practical nature of the leadership and assistance which the Federation is providing, and thanks to this general appreciation and the payment of the annual contributions, the finances of the Federation are in a condition which will enable it to give further practical assistance.

Someone Wants to Know

Many questions are asked of the departmental workers on various occasions, and we are publishing here a few of those asked at the Summer Series of Meetings.

1. How may we increase our membership? We know there are women in our community who need what we have to give them, but it seems almost impossible to interest them in our work.

2. What would you suggest as being the best method of presenting the material found in the lesson leaflets on Nutrition?

3. If a branch desires to make a woman a Life Member does the money have to be raised by a special collection, or may it be taken from the branch funds?

4. How can we get our members to answer the roll call with the proper response for the day?

ANSWER—The roll call is every member's responsibility. It is her definite contribution to the interest and variety of the meeting. Few women if counted on for a plate of sandwiches, or cake, would dream of appearing at the meeting without her contribution. The roll call provides just as definitely for some of the members as a sandwich would for some others. It is their

mental food. If a woman fails to do her share in providing this for her fellow-member she is just as culpable as if she fell down in the matter of a cake. The rest of the members hunger for something which she has deliberately withheld from them.

5. How can we make our women willing to assume the responsibility of office?

The above questions will be answered in the next issue of Home and Country. Any officer or member who feels capable of answering any of these questions in such a manner as will be helpful and acceptable to the organization at large may send her reply to the Institutes Branch, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, and the most acceptable ones will be published in another issue of the bulletin.

Report of Dominion Federation

A copy of the report of the Eighth Biennial Convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, held at Winnipeg, June 5th-9th, 1933, is being sent to the Presidents and Secretaries of Branch and District Institutes, as well as the Chairmen and Secretaries of Convention Areas. The officers have been asked to circulate this report among the members so far as possible.

While all sections of this Report will be found of interest, we wish to draw special attention to the address by the retiring President, Mrs. W. F. Cameron; the reports of the various Standing Committees; the address by Dr. Helen MacMurchy, and the resolutions passed.

Space does not permit the publication of extracts from this report, but we shall hope to include some of the more helpful and inspiring in an early number of "Home and Country."

The Passing of Mrs. Todd

Many members of the Institutes throughout the Province have a vivid recollection of the capable and kindly leadership of Mrs. Wm. Todd of Orillia, who was our first Provincial President and who a little later became President of the Dominion Federation. Mrs. Todd, from the early days of the Institute, took a keen interest and provided splendid leadership in her own community and county and was active in other worthwhile local undertakings, especially her church, Canadian Club of Orillia and as a member of the school board for many years. The solid basis on which the Institutes of Ontario are founded is due in no small measure to the clearness of vision and high ideals of our first Provincial President. Mrs. Todd's keen interest in the Institutes was maintained to the last although she was not able in the last few years to take an active part.

It is with regret that we record the passing of Mr. A. E. Walker, life partner of Mrs. Walker, the Honorary President for Ontario and also President of the Dominion Federation. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have, for many years, been keenly interested in and appreciative of the Women's Institutes, and their clear vision of the essentials in rural life has been an important factor in maintaining high standards and worthwhile objectives in the local as well as the Provincial work. The late Mr. Walker was keenly interested in education in the rural communities and was for many years a local trustee and exerted a telling influence in establishing and expanding the library system in Saltfleet Township.

The sympathy of the Institutes is extended to Mrs. Walker and family and to the family of the late Mrs. Todd.