

SUMMER SERIES OF MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at five hundred and six places during the period from May the 7th to the end of June, one hundred and twenty-one more than last year, which shows a keen interest and appreciation on the part of the members. The list for each section of the Province is being sent to all branch and district presidents and secretaries with information as to speaker, plans for transportation and entertainment of speaker and all necessary particulars. We have pleasure in presenting herewith a photo of the speakers who were present at the Conference of lecturers.

Each lecturer will have information of practical value to pass on to the members, and as a result of the most helpful discussions and addresses at the recent Conference will be prepared to discuss with much profit Institute programs and methods of carrying on. We can, with confidence, urge the members in general to take advantage of these meetings. At most centres representatives from two or more branches will be in attendance, which provides an opportunity for renewing friendships and making new acquaintances.

It is impossible, of course, to give a list of the varied and interesting subjects which have been announced for the lecturers, and we must be content with the general statement that we have never announced a series of meeting which give greater promise of interest and profit than this season.

NOTES FROM CONFERENCE OF LECTURES

Following the address of the Superintendent, in which he emphasized the importance of giving practical information and sound advice, he stated that of still greater importance was the fostering of the spirit of neighborliness among the members.

Mrs. Colloton's brief message from the Provincial Board was reaffirming the fact that the Board was a clearing house for the Province, to help suggest and advise with possible problems, and to promote the best for the Institutes as a whole, based upon the keynote of all their effort—loyalty and co-operation to the department.

Stress was given to the value of the Institutes as branches operating in the community for the whole community. The speakers were urged to study the needs of individuals and community and advise programs to meet those needs, utilizing local talent and avoiding burdensome responsibilities.

GETTING OFFICERS:—

The difficulty experienced in some branches it was felt usually occurred in long-established branches and might be due to one of three things.

1. To the president being asked to do too much work, to carry too much responsibility, or herself assuming too much.
2. To unkind criticism, oftentimes of things unimportant in themselves.
3. The tendency in many cases appeared to be to avoid responsibility, while desirous of enjoying the privileges.

Hospitality and Courtesy to the speaker who is a guest of the Institute should receive greater consideration than has been forthcoming in some places, and the speakers felt this should be given attention if they were to give of their best to the branches visited.

Splendid suggestions regarding general Institute features were brought out and will be dealt with by the different speakers as they deem suitable.

Books, libraries and reading was an interesting feature of the Conference discussion. For School Library a suitable list of books may be secured from the Ontario Trustees' Association, 28 Bloor St. W., Toronto. Suggested good reading for children and adults included:

Little Lord Fauntleroy
Just David
Queens (for girls)
Secret Garden
Be Good to Yourself
Fires to the Living
Life Begins at Forty
Ben Israel
Young Revolutionists (A Plea for Peace)

A most interesting time was spent on the subject of Milk, its importance and Value as a food; how to increase the home consumption, and in addition the Economic Value of using skim milk. Many points of value, both from the economic and the food standpoint, were brought out, which will be utilized by the speakers in visiting the branches.

A definite service in the provision of a Loan Basket was pointed out and the complete equipment of the Basket for emergency care was given. This list may be obtained from the Institutes Branch by any one desirous of this information.

The speakers will have much of definite practical value for the branches during the Summer Series.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE INSTITUTE?

A number of branches report difficulty in securing officers, others report a falling off in membership, and, of course, the financial resources of most branches have been reduced. In such trying times, it will be well to ask ourselves whether or not it is worth putting forth a special effort to maintain the organization which has meant so much to countrywomen in many lands. The following quotations from the first number of "The Countrywoman", published by the Associated Countrywomen of the World, should encourage all to put forth a special effort to maintain the organization and to go on to greater things:—

"This organization, built up by countrywomen, is the assembly of a simple and practical way of working together, with all useless impediments, all un-needed red tape and over-centralization cut out—democratic and natural. In co-operation, countrywomen have never attempted to separate the material from the spiritual; with them mutual help and fellowship are no less important than buying and selling together. They have made their movement a great sisterhead."

In referring to the worldwide depression, the editor states:—

"All peoples and all countries have been on trial. The test has been severe enough to destroy governments; it has not shaken the sure foundation of the countrywomen's organizations. Their members have been able to confront without despair the dark forces which now seem to menace salvation. Bad times have not been able to defeat the courage of the countrywomen, and to-day they are sustained by factors which do not operate in industrial areas. Neighborliness, the flower of country life, has kept up their morale. Meeting together habitually, on a friendly basis in their societies, with the object of giving service to their homes and communities, has kept alive for them faculties of hand and mind and qualities of heart and soul which enable them to surmount difficulties and keep alive hope and cheer in the countryside.

In these days of swift change the countrywoman's life is more stimulating and exciting, if more hazardous, than ever before."

For the encouragement of the members in general, especially those who have some misgivings as to the coming branch annual meeting in their branch, we wish to remind them that while there will be difficulties to be met and overcome, the information and suggestions to be given in "Home and Country" throughout the year will be found of great assistance in carrying on the regular monthly meetings from an educational standpoint, providing wholesome social features, and outlining ways and means of rendering service to the community.

This is no time to think of giving up the Institute, since the helps available in the form of practical articles in "Home and Country", bulletins on foods, health, etc., loan paper collections, and other service will be found of greater value than ever.

The delegates who have been assigned to the summer series of meetings are giving special study to institute objectives, programs and methods, and should be able to assist the officers in solving some of the difficulties met with. In most districts the district officers will be able to give a little more time to visiting the branches and encouraging them in their work.

Altogether the outlook is very bright for those who stand by the institute during the coming months, not only from the standpoint of the benefits to be derived, but more especially from the standpoint of service to your fellow-members and the community. Do not forget that membership during the coming year carries with it free copies of at least four numbers of "Home and Country", devoted largely to practical information of value to the busy homemaker. This alone would give adequate return for the membership fee of 25c.

We have special papers on "Financing the Institute", "How to secure and hold members", "program planning", etc. If we can be of assistance to you do not hesitate to write to the Institutes Branch, Parliament Buildings (Toronto).

Twenty-three Institutes have been organized since Jan. 1, 1934.

ORGANIZED PLAY IN THE COUNTRY

By Mrs. M. J. Nixon, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

For purposes of organization for recreation and sports, children may be divided broadly into three age-groups, namely: Those from five to seven, those from eight to ten, and those of eleven years of age and upwards. Children from five to seven enjoy games of imitation, action and songs. They like to pretend they are dogs, horses, trains, farmers, etc. From the ages of eight to ten, the children prefer a more advanced form of play, racing and similar games in which the spirit of rivalry and contest is introduced. Not only does the child strive for his success, but by forming one of a group, all perhaps having the same aim in view, the instinct of co-operation and organization begin to develop. From eleven years of age upwards, there appears a desire for more advanced and organized play. The boy or girl strives to excel individually, and the social or team instinct expresses itself more strongly. The above classification must be taken into consideration in the selecting and organization of suitable sports for children of all ages.

Do not reject suggestions from the young people concerned. Utilize their suggestions if possible. If not usable, let them be rejected only by group discussion. Lead, not drive.

If a gymnasium is unattainable, perhaps every one of the boys and girls have a haymow and ladders. If we can have a gymnasium, we would like to have the following equipment for girls: A basketball, volley ball, and one or two playground balls, balance team, large ball and bat for softball, better to be gotten one at a time as games requiring them are learned.

Play without leadership is either impossible or valueless. Boys supply their own leadership in part because they know games to play. Girls, after twelve years of age, do not know how. There must be some one to teach what they do not know, to organize the crowd into the order necessary for pleasure and to give all activities an atmosphere of joy which makes them vital.

The requisites for physical recreation are: First, a leader. Play groups without adult supervision have little value, and may do more harm than good. Training is desirable, but good work may be done by any woman who believes mightily in the value of play, who has enthusiasm and persistence in finding younger and suppler persons to do whatever may be physically difficult for her, and in seeking out all the resources of the community.

The second requirement is a clear space to play in. One can often obtain unused lawns and backyards and vacant lots. Girls may have entertainments to make money for clearing, leveling, and buying equipment. Girls must be taught to distinguish between when they are merely tired, and will get a "second wind," and when they are keeping up by nerve only, thus severely over-taxing their natural strength, and to realize that it is not "good sport" either to quit for laziness, or to over-tax themselves.