

**NEWS
AT RANDOM**

In order to have authentic information about Women's Institutes conveniently at hand, Miss Lily Dempsey of Stratford has kept every issue of *Home and Country*. She has bound the first volume which includes all the issues printed before January, 1936. Miss Dempsey is building up splendid reference material for the use of her district of North Perth.

Husbands of some of the members who have taken the work on Quilts and Quilting have made highly satisfactory quilting frames by following the blue prints and instructions their wives received at the course.

Surprises and happy adventures have accompanied the project on refinishing of old furniture in many communities: the removal of a surface looking like alligator skin revealed the fine smooth walnut of a good table; the owner of a century old cherry chest discovered it had a parquetry drawer; a mahogany grandfather's clock bought in Scotland by the owner's great-grandfather responded beautifully to the treatment given it; one man is renewing the beauty of a grand old walnut sideboard which has been handed down through generations to him; one woman is refinishing a set of six mahogany empire chairs which her husband's great-grandfather brought to Ontario over one hundred years ago.

Mrs. Thos. Scanlin, local leader for glove-making, has taught 46 members of the Tamworth Women's Institute how to make gloves. They have made 124 pairs. Mrs. W. Hutchinson, of Fonthill Women's Institute is second, her students having made 123 pairs.

In a number of communities men and boys have joined the glove-making classes. A man in North Renfrew made a pair of gloves out of deer skin he had tanned himself; a young man made the first pair of gloves he had ever owned.

At the Summary Day of the Kitchen Ensemble held by the Institutes of North and South Essex each branch gave a fashion review with the owners modelling their own dresses. Miss Erna Babler, one of the successful local leaders, had both her mother and grandmother in her class.

Mrs. C. A. Kenny, of Roseland, local leader in Buymanship, reports "I have found a great deal of knowledge and pleasure in the project on Buymanship and intend carrying on for a while longer. I have been asked to speak on this subject to several women's organizations in connection with churches, and expect to make my first attempt in May".

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**INSTRUCTION IN HEALTH
ENCOURAGED BY
INSTITUTE BRANCHES**

In the programme year just completed, Women's Institute branches in the province have promoted 23 short courses in health education. These were carried on under the direction of graduate nurses who have had special preparation in public health.

The courses emphasized positive health, including personal hygiene, daily health habits and guards against communicable diseases. Following the courses, a number of branch Institutes assisted in the promotion of toxoid clinics. In all, there was an attendance of 2,242.

In addition to the short courses, 28 communities profited from the services of a speaker on health education. The speaker endeavoured to help the local Institutes plan a simple programme in a field of health education for the ensuing year. Study of such subjects as The Life and Work of Pasteur, Prevention of Contagious Diseases, Cancer, Importance of Pre-natal Care, etc., followed the introduction given by the Department speaker. Exactly 1,478 women were reported to have attended these meetings.

**The Members of the Provincial Board of the Federated
Women's Institutes of Ontario, 1936-1937**



BOTTOM ROW, reading from left to right: Mrs. E. Duke, Mrs. F. Hewson, Mrs. A. B. Samells, Mrs. J. H. Carscallen, Miss B. McDermid, Mrs. D. C. Garver, Mrs. W. R. Tait.
SECOND ROW: Mrs. O. Herrmann, Mrs. J. McAuley, Mrs. F. W. Bresse, Honourable Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture, Mrs. T. J. McDowell, Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Miss Bessie I. Ross, Mrs. T. J. Newnan.
TOP ROW: Mrs. F. Denyes, Mrs. J. H. Wilcox, Mrs. L. Wilson, Mrs. W. Swanton, Mrs. E. Duffy, Mrs. P. W. Hamilton (alternate for Mrs. Steeper), Mrs. G. Campbell, Mrs. J. W. Cunningham, Miss M. L. Schnurr.

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A member of a three-months short course, who was the eldest of eleven children, was greatly interested in instruction in nutrition. Her own four-months-old brother was not gaining properly. She saw that cod liver oil and orange juice were added to his diet. The baby gained and was brought to the class room to show what a five pound gain in two months did for him. With this demonstration, the parents realized the worth of cod liver oil and bought two gallons for the other children.

The students of one three-months school planned and prepared the noonday meal for a family of five children for two months. Nutritious dinners were prepared at a cost of from six to twelve cents per person.

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ous meeting. As the secretary's minutes are the final authority, I was asked to read the motion. I did so and the mover of the motion arose and said that the words as stated didn't give the meaning to the motion which she intended. A queer feeling ran up and down my spine—and the relief I felt when the president said, "these minutes were approved. You should have made the correction when they were read." Well, I realized my skirts were clear, but after this I am going to insist that each mover states her motion clearly and definitely in a proper form for the minutes. I am not going to do any more interpreting or act as a coach in English."

"Oh, a wiser Mary Wright!" suggested her husband with a smile.

**Homemaking Clubs
Have Active Programme**

Progress reports, which may be compared to mid-term school reports, from homemaking clubs show that 252 clubs with 2,106 members have been carrying on an unit of work in homemaking during the winter months. No doubt there are additional clubs which have neglected to report. This failure does not mean less valuable work in the community but does mean they do not receive the same credit at the provincial office.

Juniors, in the age group of 12 to 15 years, make up 34% of the membership, the remaining 66% are from 16 to 26 years of age. This winter the girls have studied five different units of work in home economics: 1,070 girls worked in 124 "Supper Clubs"; 51 clubs with a membership of 401 studied "Dressing Up Home-grown Vegetables"; "Clothes Closets Up-to-date" was the work carried on by 48 clubs with a membership of 383 girls; 18 clubs with a membership of 142 have undertaken the unit on "Being Well Dressed and Well Groomed"; and 11 new clubs with a membership of 104 have enjoyed "Cottons May Be Smart".

Spring Programme

Plans are now being completed in 32 counties for training schools for local leaders connected with the junior programme. The programme of work will be carried on in line with seasonal interests and activities. Garden and Canning Clubs will be organized in 31 counties, and will receive not only training for local leaders, but also, the members will have the advantage of taking a part of the instruction from the Home Economics Coach who is a member of the staff of the Women's

Institute Branch.

Girls in 12 counties who have successfully completed previous projects in clothing will have the opportunity of profiting from a newly planned unit of work on "Summer Clothes for Girls". Twelve counties are offering their clubs the unit on "Cottons May Be Smart", one county is having a training school for leaders on the "Supper Club", another on "Dressing Up Home Grown Vegetables" and two counties are concentrating on "Being Well Dressed and Well Groomed".

New Units of Work

Many girls have been expressing great interest in the study of wardrobe organization for one season of the year. And who doesn't need a new summer dress? Accordingly, the unit on "Summer Clothes" will have the attention of many club girls this spring. They will plan, select and make an afternoon dress of batiste, dimity, lawn, swiss mulsin or voile and they will plan an organized summer wardrobe for themselves according to their own needs, limitations and privileges. With careful planning, they will find it possible to be well dressed on a surprisingly limited clothing budget.

Many girls find it difficult to take an adequate amount of milk each day. The unit called "The Milky Way" will show how easy it is to use a generous amount of milk in attractive cookery, thus ensuring a more healthful diet.

In 11 counties girls will have a practical experience in bringing their clothes closets up-to-date by installing home-made, inexpensive colour-harmonies and adapting a usable colour-harmony.

**A WISER
MARY WRIGHT**

Mary Wright was in the midst of appraising her year's work as the secretary of her Institute branch. Her table was covered with papers, newspaper clippings and pamphlets. In the midst was a heavy pasteboard file-box, a few manilla filing folders and the minute and cash book belonging to the Institute. As Mary was sorting some of the papers, her husband came into the room and gave his whole attention to the paper laden table. He secretly wondered how Mary ever kept it so orderly, but said, "Now, what kind of a whirl wind is this?"

Mary replied, "Last year when I accepted the office of Institute secretary I bought a pastboard file-box in order to keep the records together. I find they should be classified and I am using a few of these manilla folders for that purpose. I mark each folder in order that I may know the kind of material it contains. Last week when I was in town, I bought a second file-box which I am going to use for permanent records, or it might be called the archives."

"What do you do with that good-sized heavy envelope?" enquired the curious husband.

"Oh," said Mary, "I use that to harbour correspondence, bills and notices that should be brought before the next Institute meeting. I keep it in the back of the minute book."

"Really," continued Mary, "I have done a few things this year. I have established an orderly way of keeping the Institute records. Every member gets her *Home and Country* promptly. I have helped the president make out her agenda for each regular meeting. All the letters received from the Department have been presented to a regular Institute meeting. I think I have sent good descriptive reports of our monthly meetings to the district secretary. But I know I have fallen down on my minutes."

"Now, don't tell me that," laughed Mary's husband with a quizzical gleam in his eye.

"Yes I have," quickly replied Mary in a cold tone. "The minutes recorded by the previous secretary were excellent and I thought I could just copy her system. She had evidently adhered to the advice on the writing of minutes which is outlined in the minute book. But just the same I got in a bit of difficulty which I haven't told you about. At the last meeting a question arose about the action which was taken at a previ-

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**OFFICERS' RALLIES
HELD IN
27 INSTITUTE DISTRICTS**

Over 1,300 Women's Institute members attended officers' rallies held by 27 Institute districts in Ontario during the past year. In the year preceding, only five such rallies were held.

The programme for these rallies provided for both morning and afternoon sessions. Discussions on the administrative problems of leadership gave the branch officers a better comprehension of programmes of work, publicity, Institute finances, reports and records, community enterprises, and functions of standing committees. Parliamentary procedure was usually the main topic of discussion at the afternoon session.

At the noon hour, the members enjoyed getting acquainted with each other at a picnic or box lunch.

The Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture, supplied an experienced instructor in administrative leadership for the officers' rallies. This service from the Department was secured in addition to the regular district programme of either speaker service or training school for local leaders.