

HOME AND COUNTRY

Published quarterly by
The Federated Women's Institutes
of Ontario
and
The Institute Branch
Department of Agriculture
Ontario

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

Mrs. T. J. McDowell, Milverton.
Miss M. V. Powell, Whitby.
Miss Bess McDermid, Toronto.

MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL BOARD:
1938-39

Honorary President:

Her Excellency The Lady Tweedsmuir.

Honorary Vice-President:

Superintendent Women's Institutes.

President:

Mrs. T. J. McDowell, Milverton.

Vice-Presidents:

Mrs. S. H. Moak, Lunenburg.
Mrs. A. W. Brandon, R.R. 6, Galt.
Mrs. Thomas Bosler, Schreiber.

Directors on the Executive:

Mrs. W. J. Reynolds, Frankville.
Mrs. James Gordon, Beaverton.
Mrs. D. D. Guntton, Simcoe.
Mrs. L. G. Crozier, Walkerton.
Mrs. Dan Moore, New Liskeard.

Directors:

Mrs. D. Porter, North Gower.
Mrs. T. L. Nickle, Madoc.
Mrs. Garnet Shields, Ida.
Mrs. William Lemon, R.R. No. 1, Balaclava.
Mrs. J. H. McCulloch, R.R. No. 2, Brampton.
Mrs. J. D. Stewart, Thornton.
Miss Isabelle Young, St. Marys.
Mrs. J. R. McLachlin, Kingsville.
Mrs. A. Fraser, R.R. No. 1, Ilderton.
Mrs. L. S. Eiler, Falconbridge.
Mrs. W. Hilliard, Kaganawong.
Mrs. E. L. Carter, Kenora.

Secretary-Treasurer:

Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater.

Correspondence should be addressed to
"HOME AND COUNTRY"
The Women's Institute Branch
Parliament Buildings, Toronto

This paper is distributed through the secretaries of Women's Institutes to the Women's Institute members.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

ADIEU TO

MISS BESS McDERMAND

In the fall of 1934 Miss Bess Cameron McDermid returned to her native Ontario to become Superintendent of Women's Institutes and Director of Extension Work in Home Economics, a position which she is qualified to fill exceedingly well.

Miss McDermid was born at Port Burwell, Elgin County. She is a graduate of Moulton College, and Macdonald Institute, Guelph. She obtained her B.Sc. degree at Columbia University and was later on the staff of Cornell. After she completed her course at Guelph, she was for a time connected with the Women's Institute Branch in Ontario, and later went to Alberta to act as Assistant Superintendent of the Women's Institutes of that province.

As Superintendent of Ontario Women's Institutes, Miss McDermid developed a very fine type of programme in Home Economics for the girls and homemakers of the province, the value of which is far reaching.

By her outstanding executive ability, her good counsel at all times and her charming personality, Miss McDermid won for herself a host of warm friends throughout Ontario, and we learn with sincere regret that she is severing her connection officially with the Women's Institute Branch.

Our affectionate regard and very best wishes will follow her to her new field of endeavour—that of wife and homemaker. The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and the Women's Institute members of the province extend felicitations to Miss McDermid and best wishes for every happiness in her future life.

Mrs. T. J. McDowell,

Provincial President.

Mary Wright Untangles
The Amendment

To have her nephew Donald as her guest over the week-end was a special treat for Mary Wright. She liked to hear about his life at the Ontario Agricultural College—how the boys came to his room and talked over the troubles of the world, the way his teachers got him interested in new subjects, his social engagements, and his successes and failures as president of his class for the current year.

Perhaps it was his duty as president that interested Mary most. In that they could share experiences.

"As presiding officer," said Donald, "I have been trying to carry on all our meetings in accordance with parliamentary law. I find it very difficult sometimes. Many of the class members seem to have no realization of how a main motion should be treated and you should see the way they can get tangled up with an amendment."

"Our women do, too," added Mary. "They seem to think that they can chop a motion up any way. As secretary, I find I can do a little coaching in an unobtrusive manner, and at our last meeting I pointed out that, until a motion is stated by the chairman and thereby opened for general discussion, it is still the sponsor's proposal and may be changed or withdrawn as she wishes; but that after the chairman states the motion and discussion begins, the motion is the property of the meeting and may not be so freely altered or withdrawn."

"That is a clear way of putting it," commended Donald. "I have tried to get our class to understand that if the discussion following the presentation of a motion suggests changes, such alterations must be in the form of amendments. They often offer a vague proposal relating in general to the subject under discussion. I won't accept such slipshod contributions. They understand now that an amendment must alter the exact words of the motion by adding or striking out, or substituting words, phrases, or sentences."

"After an amendment has been made and seconded, the discussion is on the amendment, isn't it?" asked Mary.

"Yes," replied Donald. "An amendment is debatable just as a main motion is. So many persons think they can amend a motion in all kinds of different ways at one time. They fail to remember that words inserted or stricken out by the way of an amendment must be consecutive. If words are to be changed, stricken out or added in different sections of a motion, the changes in each section should be considered and completed before going on to the next. That means that as soon as one amendment is adopted or lost another is in order which affects a different part of the motion."

"I have known members who think that such a second amendment is an amendment to the amendment which it isn't at all," complained Mary. "I have even seen chairmen accept such a second amendment and have it voted on before the first and only amendment which should be before the assembly."

"Yes, another thing," added Donald "that is commonly done is to move a change in the motion which is really a negative amendment and merely reverses the vote. My group now realizes that this is not permissible. "Just what is an amendment to the amendment?" asked Mary.

"It is what it says it is," replied Donald. "It amends the previous amendment and, of course, has nothing to do with the rest of the main motion. For instance, the main motion before the group might be that we have an open-air concert on July 5 for the benefit of the hospital. A member moves an amendment to the motion by adding after the word hospital 'at a price of 50 cents a

ticket'. The chairman states the motion. Then a member moves '50' be struck out and '25' be inserted. This is a proper amendment to the amendment and is voted on before the amendment is voted on. Then the amendment as amended must be voted on and then the motion as amended. Three votes are required to adopt such a resolution."

"So many chairmen do not understand that," volunteered Mary. "They have a motion before the assembly and the discussion shows a need of a change and an amendment is made. Practically all chairmen will give time for its discussion but then they call for a vote on the amendment and if that vote is carried, they seem to think the whole motion is carried, and do not realize that an amendment only refers to a part of the motion."

"Yes," replied Donald, "The motion as amended must be put to the group for voting."

"An amendment," advised Mary, "can only be amended once. No meeting can go on piling up one change upon another. Such procedure would soon be like the House That Jack Built and it would be too confusing. There is a limit. The pyramid cannot be built higher than an amendment to the amendment."

"Sometimes people are confused by unusual voting," declared Mary. "A group may adopt the amendment and defeat the motion. In such a case, they should remember that an amendment is like a branch of a tree. It dies when the tree dies. It cannot stand alone."

"I am glad we have had this chance to talk over amendments, Aunt Mary," Donald responded. "Our discussion has given me more confidence. I know I shall be a better presiding officer for it. I hope I can visit you again this winter."

"If we are at home, I hope you will Donald," replied Mary. "Your uncle and I may take a long holiday this winter. Our plans are uncertain, but sometime in the future I hope we shall have more discussions."

(Continued from page 1, col. 4)

definite but tactful way, weaknesses of the presentations, at the same time giving full credit to the players for good points in their work. This was constructive and should be helpful in encouraging better work next year.

In addition to the delegates, nearly two hundred persons attended one afternoon session of the Belleville Convention demonstrating the fine interest of the members in the area. A review of the year's work was presented by reports, which were well discussed. Senator Cairine Wilson was the special speaker at this convention.

General Profit

At some of the conventions, members of the homemaking clubs gave well prepared demonstrations and stories of the work being carried on by the girls under the supervision of County Home Economics Coaches.

Throughout the province, there is a better understanding of the functioning of standing committees and a greater desire to know the need of the homes and communities and then utilize the committee to meet the local need. The present trend is to do more thoroughly the work most needed, rather than squandering effort in too many activities in which there is not an understanding of their basic needs.

One feels that the conventions have definitely contributed to better understanding of the problems and supplied, in part, information which will insure higher standards of living, better and happier homes and people, because of the work and activities of the organized homemakers of Ontario.

(Contributed by Miss M. V. Powell, Women's Institute Staff.)

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
MADE
SUBJECT FOR STUDY

Mrs. J. K. Kelly, Almonte, Provincial Convener of Home Economics, gives the following advice to the convention area conveners. It should be very useful to institute conveners.

"Home Economics, as we study it to-day, covers such an extensive field that it is most difficult to know where to begin.

I do feel one of our first duties as Home Economics conveners is to put over the Co-operative Programme. We hear it said that the women and girls do not have time for these projects as they are too fully occupied. If the project, decided upon by the whole district, has been chosen as being the one most fitted to benefit that community, then can you afford to miss it? After giving a great deal of time and thought to the subject of homes and homemakers of to-day, it appears to me we have not embraced our opportunities to any great extent. I would like to draw your attention to the very same advice of Her Excellency The Lady Tweedsmuir when she pointed out to us that we had a smattering of many things, when it would be much better to concentrate on one thing until we had accomplished our objective.

I consider it is the duty of each area convener to have some plan for her district conveners to work on. It is impossible for the provincial convener to outline a plan that would be suitable to every district. I have found that we have had the best results when the work has been divided under the four headings, namely—Food, Clothing and Needlework. Housing, Family Relationships. The last named is rapidly becoming the one of most importance. Do not attempt all of these in any one year's programme. Choose the one that appeals to the majority of the members and then go into it to the very fullest extent possible. Under Housing—plans of your kitchen, living room or other housing features might be brought to the monthly meeting and the good and bad points discussed by the members. Suggestions where slight or inexpensive alterations may be made to advantage will result in keener interest in the home and more efficiency.

I am convinced we should have more discussions, using our own members as the leaders. We are all too prone to bring in an outside speaker, then settle back, and, in a great many cases, let our thoughts wander to the home problems and lose the greater part of the talk. If we had to contribute to the discussion following the talk, we would have to be alive to what is going on.

A demonstration should be carried out at the meeting. If the finished article is brought to the meeting it is an exhibit, not a demonstration.

Nothing is more worth while than bringing efficiency into the home. The institutes have a very grave responsibility here in carrying out their Home Economics programme. If you are thinking at all, you must realize that the standard of living in rural communities and on the farms has been lowered; alarmingly so in a great many localities. There is no other organization that is so fully equipped and has the backing of the Government. With these advantages, it is most certainly our responsibility to work out an effective Home Economics programme.

Following are a few suggestions that might be used under Family Relationships: 1. Allot the work justly. 2. Share the fun. 3. Give the youth something of their own in stock or money, etc. 4. Talk over the difficulties as well as the achievements. The youth will appreciate the confidence. 5. Let there be judicious entertaining at home. Encourage the children to bring their friends home. 6. Teach handicrafts. Arrange for handicraft exhibitions.

If I can be of any assistance at any time do not hesitate to write to me."