

# HOME and COUNTRY

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## WHOLESOME FAMILY LIFE FOSTERED BY HOME CONFERENCE

A home conference is just what the name implies—a conference in the home. The problem at hand is studied in its actual situation, thus creating an interest at once. The great principle of education "we learn by doing" is very definitely practised. Of course the problem will have to be recognized and accepted, otherwise there will be no incentive to "do".

Since the success of this type of study depends upon every one participating, the group, of necessity, will be small in number. Is it not true that, when a person contributes to a discussion or piece of work, it becomes more vital to her? Housing lends itself admirably to this type of study; in fact, a great many phases of it can be studied in no better way.

To be specific, let us use the Home Conference in Furniture Arrangement of our Home Economics Programme as an example.

Every homemaker has the problem of furniture arrangement. If this statement is not recognized and accepted, then a home conference in this would be of little value, for it would be a dead, meaningless, uninteresting, cut-and-dried affair with no results. And it is results we want—solutions to some of our problems. On the other hand, there are those who may start out with a dubious attitude and by the end of the project realize that comfort, convenience and attractiveness do depend a great deal on the wise arrangement of furniture rather than on a large expenditure of money. They may then become enthusiastic supporters of the project.

The very core of the project is to make the best use of what you have. This does not mean that some article might not better be eliminated or another might serve here better than where it is now used. Too, if the hostess is considering a purchase, this will have to be taken into consideration. But our principal thought is making the best use of what you have.

In this project, we first have a round table conference on arrangement of furniture, keeping the living room in mind as that is the room where we shall put our findings into practice. We are sure this discussion will help the homemaker in other rooms of the house. We do not blindly follow "must" and "must not". In fact, these words have no place in this discussion. We want to know why and then make our own intelligent arrangement. After all, the secret of any successful home is right adjustment of the conditions to the needs.

Every member of the household should be considered. Hence, before we begin our work, we learn how many are in the family, whether old or young, the activities carried on in the living room and any violent likes and dislikes. You see we are really making a diagnosis. This is one place where we dare say you "must" do this. Otherwise it would be a snap judgment and perhaps not an intelligent one. It might fit but no one would be the wiser in other situations later on.

Having made our so-called diagnosis, we now look over the available furniture. We try the pieces in different positions to see where they will be the most useful and pleasing. It is not enough to talk about this, we want to see the furniture in its different settings. It is impossible to carry on interchange of our groupings in our mind. Everyone offers sugges-

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## INTRODUCING THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT



DEAR INSTITUTE MEMBERS:

May I take this opportunity to extend my personal greetings to you and to assure you that I look forward with keen anticipation to meeting and working with you, both individually and collectively.

One has only to look back upon the growth of the Women's Institute—from 33 local Institutes with 1,602 members in 1900 to 1,369 Institutes with 42,000 members in 1938—to realize what a virile organization this is. However, to measure its progress in terms of numbers alone would be wholly inadequate. Its achievements in promoting the well-being and culture of our Ontario homes, its participation in worth-while community activities, and its even broader interest in national and international problems are the true measuring sticks of its progress. Probably the best we can wish for the Institute is that it will continue to grow in service in the future on the foundation of the past.

Personally, I feel that I am very fortunate in succeeding Miss McDermand whose broad vision and sincere interest in the welfare of the Women's Institutes of Ontario have made her contribution during the past four years of inestimable value to the organization.

Thank you for your good wishes to me as expressed by your Provincial President and Secretary.

Yours sincerely,

*Mary A. Clarke*

## TRIENNIAL PLANS ARE NOW COMPLETE

The dates for the Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World to be held in London, England, May 30 to June 19 are fast approaching. This Conference was mentioned in the Summer 1938 issue of "Home and Country", but may we repeat that these dates should be kept in mind by all Institute members contemplating a trip abroad. The Provincial Board did not feel that it could finance a delegate to the Conference. However Ontario will be officially represented, for the five votes allotted to Ontario will be carried by the Dominion President. Any Institute member may enjoy all the meetings and privileges of the Conference, except that she will have no voting power, if she will place her name with Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, Coldwater, Ontario, and register as an Ontario Institute member at the Conference.

A programme has been issued as a supplement to the January issue of the *Countrywoman*. One of the most interesting aspects of the Conference is the offer of hospitality in English rural homes during the week of June 12 to 19 and over week-ends; also a visit to Scottish Women's Institutes and Irish Women's Associations from June 19 to 26. This will give overseas guests an unusual opportunity to see rural conditions and enjoy a short period of country life.

The programme follows closely the general outline given in the previous

issue of "Home and Country". Among the highlights of the programme are:

Films of work of country women.  
Open Conferences on Modern Agricultural Development.

Administration of Health Services in Rural Areas.

Women's Place in Rural Social Order and How It Has Been Achieved.

Discussions and lectures on such vital topics as:

Division of Labour in the Family.  
Improvement of Old Houses.

Use of Leisure in Villages.  
Banking and Investment of

money to Include Budgeting on Irregular Incomes.

The Woman in the Country Home.  
Home Gardens.

Economic and Social Importance of Rural Women.

The Rural Theatre

and innumerable others will be planned. The whole programme appears both instructive and interesting.

Several Canadians are contributing to the discussions.

Among the social events of interest are: the reception by the British Foreign Office, the Thames trip to a garden party given by Lady Astor, planned sightseeing trips, receptions by various organizations, tea by the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales, concluding with the Official Dinner.

Information concerning special tours may be secured from Mrs. W. B. Leatherdale, of Coldwater.

## THE OFFICERS' RALLIES ACCOMPLISH THEIR PURPOSE

The Officers' Rallies held throughout the province in 1938 were uniformly successful in that they fulfilled the purpose for which they were designed—to help the Women's Institutes in the development and maintenance of strong leadership. This we have on the word of the members and officers themselves, who, almost with one voice, express appreciation of the value to them of these meetings.

Members are realizing more and more clearly that the effective administration of the programme of any organization depends mainly on two factors—*informed leadership and co-operation on the part of the membership.* Officers are consequently becoming increasingly desirous of leaving no stone unturned that will fit them for the rendering of a more effective service. A too casual acceptance of office is becoming much less common than formerly, and the woman who now takes responsibility as president, secretary, director or convener, usually takes it with the honest and sincere desire of bringing to her office all possible knowledge, skill and efficiency. She has learned that the Officers' Rally provides an avenue of further education. It helps her adjust and adapt to the peculiar needs of her own situation and circumstances, the information she has already acquired through a perusal of the Hand Book, the Co-operative Programme and the columns of "Home and Country". It offers as well a supplementary training in organization techniques. She appreciates the fact that this training will enable her to experience the joy and satisfaction that spring from the knowledge of a worthwhile task well and ably done.

Many members have expressed their satisfaction that at the Rallies effectual disposal has been made of certain misapprehension as to essential Institute aims, as, for example, that Women's Institutes exist to make and to spend money, or, that their sole purpose is fulfilled if "the members always have such a good time at the meetings". These and other equally erroneous ideas still crop up from time to time, and very often at the day's close, a member has said, "I was certainly glad that point came up about aims and objectives for it surely needed straightening out around here!"

Other members are most appreciative of the possibilities for individual and community development offered by the Co-operative Programme and are pleased at the emphasis which the Rallies place on accuracy of procedure, careful attention to detail and dependability in the discharge of all duties, believing that these work to promote the more successful carrying out of the partnership idea upon which the Programme is based. They realize that the Programme can be made of greatest value only as the efficiency and reliability of the Departmental services on the one hand are met by an approximating degree of efficiency and reliability on the part of the membership in the fulfilment of such obligations as they assume when applying for any of the available services.

There can be no doubt but that the Rallies are bringing a definite improvement into the procedures, not only of local Institute meetings but of larger Institute gatherings as well.

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