



GARRISON LANE NURSERY SCHOOL

You will recall that through the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Central Fund, \$1,000.00 was given to the British Children's War Service Fund (see Fall 1942 *Home and Country*). Since that time you have received a letter from Miss Eleanor Hamilton telling of the work which is being

done at the Garrison Lane Nursery School. The above pictures of the school will interest you. Left to right: Children learn health habits—low basins make this possible; Miss Eleanor Hamilton of Toronto; an activity group shows the value of constructive toys. Note interest of children.

### AID TO RUSSIA AND CHINA

The Central Fund has contributed \$500.00 to the Russian Relief Fund and a similar sum to the Chinese Relief Fund. This is, of course, in addition to the many cash contributions made by Institutes themselves, and the many gifts of clothing.

Your Provincial President had the pleasure of meeting Mme. Gusev the wife of the Russian consul to Canada, in Toronto. Mme. Gusev expressed not only by words of thanks but by her sincerity and genuine feeling, the appreciation of the Russian people for the assistance being given them.

It is your generous contributions to the Central Fund which make it possible to help our hard-pressed allies.

### CENTRAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS 1942

The auditor's report of the Central Fund, F.W.I.O., for the year 1942 has just been received. Every Institute member will be proud of the work accomplished when she sees it. A copy of the statement will be sent to each Institute secretary. Following are a few highlights of the report.

Receipts totalled \$11,291.39, including \$2,163.66 in the Sugar Fund. Outstanding contributions were made during 1942 to special war charity funds. These included \$1,000 to the British Children's War Service Fund (see pictures in this issue), \$1,402.57 to the Canadian Red Cross Society, \$653.25 to the Navy League, \$510.00 to the Chinese War Relief Fund, \$500.00 to the Mrs. Winston Churchill Fund for British Service Women.

To the Women's Institutes of England the Fund contributed \$500 for their War Distress Fund, hand sealing machines valued at \$291.98 for use in their fruit preservation project, and vegetable seeds valued at \$758.10. Then there was the contribution from the South Renfrew District of \$522.30 for the Spitfire Fund which was sent to the Minister of Aircraft Production, England, through the Central Fund.

### H. MCKERCHER IN W.R.C.N.S.

Miss Helen McKercher, County Home Economics Coach for Middlesex, Perth, Wellington and Dufferin Counties, who is very well known in Western Ontario, has resigned to join the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service. Women's Institute and Home-making Club members will regret this temporary loss of Miss McKercher's services but will wish her every success and happiness in her active service duties and will look forward to welcoming her back after the war.

### THIS YEAR OF CONSERVATION

This will be a conservation year. True, we are convinced that Institute women have practised conservation for many years—but now we see it as a form of national service.

The co-operative programme in Home Economics has always emphasized conservation. Through it members have considered such questions as how to conserve the food value of vegetables, how to use materials on hand to make a pleasant and convenient home, how to buy, create and care for clothing or how to conserve health. For 1943-44 the services offered in the Co-operative Programme are all geared to wartime needs. We hope that your Institute is planning to hold a short course, or to participate in the district project, or both,—that you may study and increase your efficiency in the field in which you are most interested. The department will appreciate suggestions for service.

Rationing is part of the national conservation programme. We have learned to use limited quantities of gasoline, sugar, tea, coffee and butter. Now we will have to learn to use less meat. Do you think the new ration small? If so, just think of Britain with only 26 ounces per person per week; Russia with 16 ounces; Germany 12 ounces; France 3 ounces; and Norway and Greece practically meatless. A little care in purchasing and cooking, a little ingenuity, will still give every family satisfying meals. The country depends on groups of organized women like the Women's Institutes to show the way in creating public opinion. Your liaison officer to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board should take the lead in this.

The work done by the Women's Institutes in clothing conservation was recognized recently when the National Film Board, Ottawa, asked to film a group of Institute women engaged in remodelling clothing. Fortunately the Newmarket W.I. was holding a short course on remodelling at the time and the members were willing to co-operate. The Junior Homemaking Club girls near Newmarket rallied round, too, to demonstrate the care of clothing. These pictures are to be used with others in a special Clothing Conservation film, and we hope that you may have the opportunity to see it when it is ready for distribution. While clothing has not been rationed in Canada we begin to realize the need for special care when we read of the miles of cloth required for the armed services and when we find that certain types of clothing can not be replaced.

Conservation is world-wide today. The Scottish Home and Country for

March devotes a column to a "Make Do and Mend" campaign. Short courses will be held and advice centres will be opened. Mending clubs will be encouraged.

But each country has its own problems. Here there is no shortage of bread or cereals. Indeed, we will depend more and more on whole grain cereals to supplement our other foods. But in Scotland, where they realize that much of the wheat for bread is brought to them across the ocean at great risk, the Government has appealed for a reduction in bread used. The editor of the Scottish Home and Country says: "Would it not be possible for Institutes to serve Woolton suppers rather than tea and scones? St. Anne's Church, Corstorphine, at a recent annual congregational meeting, sensibly and patriotically, served potato soup instead of tea, and oatcakes instead of bread and sandwiches."

The conservation of such obvious necessities as food, clothing, housing and money are not, however, the only phases to be considered. The conservation of health is just as important. Today we were reminded of how the Institutes assist in this, when Miss Edna Moore, Chief Public Health Nurse for Ontario, told us that in one community, where the W.I. has been very actively working for a public health nurse, plans are now being made to secure one. Remember, too, that the conservation of health depends not only on doctors and nurses but on good living conditions, pleasant recreation and mental health. A song, a joke, a pleasure shared may be the best thing possible for health.

The conservation of youth is a responsibility of Institute women, too. Mr. Carroll in his article on "The Agricultural Battle, 1943," mentions this. Can you help in your own community? Is it possible to sponsor a homemaking club, or to help the school children?

There is the conservation of culture, too. Of course we look to the churches and schools for leadership, here—but to the Women's Institutes, too. You are proud when you review what has been done in the past to foster crafts, music, libraries or art in your communities. What needs to be done now, even in wartime, especially when you think of those young people whom we have just mentioned?

We know what the attitude of W.I. members will be towards necessary conservation, for we have heard it expressed ever since 1940 from Kenora to Ottawa—"If it will help win the war, we'll do it". Besides that many of them will enjoy meeting this challenge to their ingenuity.

### THE LOAN LIBRARY

Would you like to get the most out of your loan library?

The object of the loan collection is to assist Institute women who may not have access to a library or special speakers, and who wish to prepare papers of interest and value to present at their meetings. Our aim is not to send prepared papers to be read but material from which you may prepare your own papers and thus derive the greatest educational value from your effort.

During the past Institute year approximately 4100 articles have been sent out on loan from this office. We are grateful for the notes of thanks and constructive suggestions which accompany these articles on their return.

Material should be returned promptly within the two week limit. We can be more generous in the number of bulletins sent if we are sure the borrower is a prompt returner. May we remind you that clippings cannot be replaced for there are seldom extra copies, and these are too precious to lose.

For best service we suggest:

1. That our address is—Loan Library, Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.
2. That you state the date of the meeting and the name of the Institute for which you require material. Requests should be made at least two weeks in advance of the date on which the subject is to be presented.
3. That you tell us approximately how long you wish to talk.
4. That you give us an idea of the aspect of the subject which you wish to consider. What phase will most interest your group?
5. That you sign your name legibly, for material has failed to reach the borrower because of misinterpretation of names.
6. Return postage is to be paid by the borrower.

We do not keep a supply of plays on file as there are too many difficulties with reference to royalties, casts, types, etc. For this material we would refer you to:—

S. French Ltd., 480 University Ave., Toronto.

Robinson Plays, 128 Burgess Ave., Toronto.

Miss Jarvis, Provincial Dramatic Library, King, Ont.

Extension Department, Queen's University, Kingston.

(Contributed by Mrs. A. E. Barber, Loan Librarian).