

## Girls Study Homemaking at Haldimand Rural Youth Centre



Proper Food Nicely Served Is Part of the Cure



The First Step—Taking the Measurements



Happy Family Life at Meal-Time

### WINTER SCHOOLS RETURN TO RURAL ONTARIO

One-Month and Three-Month Schools in Home Economics and Agriculture, war casualties since 1940, came back to Ontario this winter. Wentworth County, with a fine record of three-month schools, launched the first post-war school at Binbrook in December. The New Year ushered in the one-month school at New Dundee in Waterloo County and in the following week the three-month school in Haldimand County was launched at Kohler.

The school at New Dundee upheld the fine record of Waterloo County's schools in the past for regular attendance, keen interest and an earnest desire on the part of the students to take advantage of every minute of the course.

In the home economics course the girls learned the importance of the every-day task of meal planning and the preparation of foods to please the eye as well as to satisfy the body's needs. The hot dish they prepared and served each day made their noon meal at school more nourishing and, as one girl said, made the course doubly interesting.

They learned something of home management, too, and how to make their homes healthier and happier places in which to live.

As the essentials of healthful living were studied the girls became aware, as one of them expressed it, "that each one of us is responsible for the building of a healthy nation". They learned some practical nursing and first aid as well, which they were sure would prove helpful in emergencies.

Never is a short course complete without some thought given to social living. This was practised each day, when the girls worked together in groups, and when they joined the students in agriculture in presenting the Friday afternoon literary programs. They had a class party too, and a special program and afternoon tea on the last day of school.

The girls at Binbrook and Kohler, with two additional months, had time for clothing and crafts, including leather glove-making and needlecraft. Clumsy fingers soon limbered up in the needlecraft class as the girls learnt Swedish weaving, surface darning and smocking, and how happy they were to receive guidance in making pretty things.

The girls at Binbrook, at their class tea, showed some of their accomplishments and demonstrated in a most practical way that they could prepare and serve food—food in quantities—be gracious hostesses, assume responsibility, and do many things with poise and assurance. Yes, their class tea for their mothers and friends and their closing banquet, where they entertained all who had helped to make the course a success, told the story of busy school days

### MRS. MATTHEWS SAYS "THANK YOU"

Ontario Women's Institutes gave \$1256.00 to the Princess Alice Fund to provide leadership training for young people. Every Institute member will be interested in this gracious letter from the wife of our Lieutenant-Governor.

To the Officers and Members of the Women's Institutes of Ontario:

As Honorary President of The Princess Alice Foundation Fund for the Province, I want to thank you for the interest you have taken in raising this Foundation. I think you must have understood the need for trained leaders to direct the leisure and recreation of our young people. Because of changing conditions, such leadership is particularly urgent.

The Princess Alice Foundation Fund committee has appreciated your support. Contributions have come in from many Institutes, more than we had realized existed. Often the value and scope of your Organization was commented upon.

By the time this letter reaches you, in all probability the presentation of this Foundation will have been made to Her Royal Highness. We know it is something she will prize, especially as so many Canadian women have had a share in expressing, in this way, their admiration and affection for her. And also she will realize that this money is to be put to such good purpose for Canadian youth.

We will be sorry to have His Excellency and The Princess Alice leave Canada. They have not only been a close link with our Sovereign, King George VI, and with the traditions of our past as a free people, but have given much encouragement and inspiration during these tragic years of war as we fought in defence of our inheritance of democracy and our ideals of freedom.

Wishing you all success and felicity in your Organization, and in your homes which are the heart and source of prosperity and all we most revere in our fair Province.

Maud Matthews.

and showed something of what it had meant to the class members.

The opening of the three-month school at Haldimand Rural Youth and Agricultural Community Centre was an event, since it was also the official opening of that centre—the first in the province. Here the students felt a special pride in having a part in establishing their centre. They appreciated the advantages of permanent equipment—spacious class rooms, a common room with piano and radio, books and papers. They caught a vision in those winter months of what their Centre may mean to the rural folk of Haldimand in the days ahead. At the conclusion of their school they purchased two coloured prints by Canadian artists for the Centre.

Everywhere the girls tell of their delight in making new friends, in getting acquainted with young people from other communities. As one girl said, "I liked the idea of this three-month school from the very first, as it was something new and something different. It also gave me an opportunity of meeting different people and making new friends."

It would be foolish to suppose that any subject could be covered entirely in one month or even three months. Perhaps schools such as these should be looked upon as mere gateways to learning. It would seem that at least one student has caught the vision of their purpose for she says, "Now that the course is over we go back to the daily routine of farm and home life and its duties, but it is with a greater desire to learn still more and to develop ourselves that we may

Wroxeter Institute in the Guelph area has undertaken something worthy of emulation. Through the Padre at Christie Street Military Hospital, Toronto, they have adopted a patient there, a man with no family or friends in this country. Each member takes her turn in writing to him and as always in such cases they are getting more than they give through this friendly plan. Listowel, we understand, has followed Wroxeter's lead and no doubt many other Institutes will be interested.

Ontario Junior Institutes and Homemaking Clubs have contributed a considerable sum to the Save the Children Fund and in so doing have become the adopted mothers of sixteen homeless European children.

It is hoped the girls will be able to correspond with these children. Miss Marjorie Minnes, the executive secretary of the fund, tells us they need the assurance of feeling that they belong, almost as much as their material needs of food, shelter and clothing.

Adopting a child made desolate by war, if even at long range, is something that will appeal to the mother hearts of Women's Institutes everywhere. Many local Institutes may like to follow the example of the girls, and some have done so already. Information may be obtained from the Women's Institute Branch or direct from Save the Children Fund, 113 Maitland Street, Toronto 5.

find our rightful place in life and in this capacity perform those duties more efficiently".

### NEWS AT RANDOM

Orchids are due Miss O'Connor and Radio Station C.K.N.X., Wingham. From Mrs. D. S. MacNaughton, Convener of Publicity in the Guelph Convention Area, comes word of the excellent publicity they have afforded local Institutes in the Guelph and London areas. This station, we understand, is the first to give continuous service to Ontario Women's Institutes.

Meetings are announced, reports given and any special undertaking is covered on request. Wednesday is Women's Institute day on the half-hour broadcast devoted to the "Women's Club of the Air", and speakers from any of the Institutes are welcomed on the program.

A Christmas broadcast included a "Thank You" to Miss O'Connor and C.K.N.X. on behalf of all the local Institutes concerned. We are happy to add our word of appreciation for all they are doing to keep the work of Women's Institutes before the people of Ontario.

Many Ontario Institutes feel they would like to share their abundance with their sister Institutes in Britain to whom the end of the war has brought even greater food restrictions. Norwich Institute have conceived the idea of adopting a British Institute and sending them parcels from time to time and others have followed their example. To help the plan along, Miss Lewis, our Superintendent, has obtained the names and addresses of County Institutes in Britain. If you would like to "adopt" a British Institute, you may get an address from her.

A great revival of interest in fairs was shown in the record attendance at the annual convention of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies in Toronto in February. Special interest was shown by the Women's Division which has grown steadily since it was formed in 1938. Encouragement of handicrafts, better arrangement of exhibits, the need for rural beautification and the part which agriculture can play in the development of the tourist trade, all came in for a share of the discussion. Mrs. H. A. Dickenson, Mount Hope, succeeded Mrs. O. W. Rolph, Orono, as President of the Women's Division.

In the fall of 1943 the Women's Institute Branch co-operated with other Branches of the Ontario Department of Agriculture in conducting a farm housing survey in ten counties representative of varying parts of Southern Ontario. The results of the survey have been printed in pamphlet form and make interesting reading. The pamphlet, "Farm Housing", may be obtained free from the Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture, Parliament Bldgs., Toronto 2.