

Convention Suggestions

THE CONVENTIONS last fall gave a rather special place to women's interests as citizens of the world. Addresses by Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova on the destitution and suffering of the people of Northern Greece led to the Women's Institutes of the Province sending gifts of food and a tractor to an area where the need was most serious. Miss Lewis brought the Ontario women very close to their sister members abroad through an address with coloured slides taken at the last convention of the Associated Country Women of the World. The Hamilton area convention had an address from Miss Subhadramma of India, who had come to Canada to study foods and nutrition under the Colombo Plan. Miss Carpenter, a home economics extension director from New Zealand, was a guest of the Central Ontario convention. At the Belleville convention members of two neighbouring Indian Homemaking Clubs were welcomed, and Miss Lewis reminded the women at all the conventions that we shall be entertaining the Associated Country Women of the World in Canada in 1953, so it is important that in the meantime we learn all we can about our own and other countries. Is there a thought here for this year's convention programmes?

— WI —

Exhibits are always popular at Women's Institute conventions. The Bracebridge convention featured a display of "beautiful knitted goods in intricate Dutch designs" by a local woman formerly of Holland. (The Director suggests inviting newcomers to Canada to show varied articles from their homeland.) Central Ontario had a very popular display of quilts.

— WI —

Girls' Homemaking Club sessions seemed to be very much appreciated at all conventions and special mention was made of a talk "Why I Am a Club Leader" by a woman doing this service for the girls of her community.

From one convention it was reported that everyone was pleased with the high quality of the work done in the branch Institutes but that there were "still some conveners who were remiss in sending in their reports."

— WI —

There has been such an appreciative response regarding the mimeographed reports of standing committees prepared by the Women's Institute Branch for distribution at conventions, that the Branch is prepared to mimeograph reports for all the delegates to take home from this year's conventions. But in order to have this done conveners must send their reports to the Women's Institute Branch not later than the first of August.

— WI —

A report of one convention says: "The women try to bring their problems in their communities to the convention and to go home with new ideas which will help them to be more active in their communities and better homemakers." Would this indicate that more time should be given to the discussion of such problems at Women's Institute conventions?

— WI —

The chairman of the Toronto convention reports that members suggested "having fewer speakers so that more time could be given to reports and other work," also changing the time of the election from the last day. This was done and proved to be a good arrangement.

— WI —

We gratefully acknowledge contributions from Mrs. Elias Aelick, Mrs. Edmund Hansull, Mrs. J. G. Snider, Mrs. Norman White, Mrs. Jack McLaren, Mrs. David Carroll, Mrs. S. H. Morris, Mrs. Anne Wilson, Mrs. J. J. McKinnon, Miss Jean Bolton and Mrs. Roy Bush. And we look forward to more suggestions from this year's conventions.

Women's Institutes Aid Cancer Society

This tribute to the goodwill of the Women's Institute of Canada has been paid by Mr. Fred G. Butterfield, National President of the Canadian Cancer Society:

"In the early stages of the Society's growth, we were fortunate to have the interest of the Women's Institutes to help and encourage us. It was, in fact, to a considerable extent through the efforts of Women's Institutes across Canada that organization of our programme on a community level was made possible.

"Our good fortune has continued, in that the Institutes have maintained their interest in us, and today we count them as among our most helpful friends in bringing the message of cancer lay education home to the women of Canada. Time and again the Women's Institutes organize meetings at which we are invited to show educational films and to deliver our message that in sound knowledge lies the layman's greatest weapon against cancer.