

Ontario Women's Institutes Promote Mental Health

AT THE Annual Meeting of the Ontario Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association held in Toronto on May 4th, Sir Ellsworth Flavelle, the President of the Ontario Division, spoke as follows:

"Tonight it is our desire to recognize and honour Mrs. R. G. Purcell of Fort William and through her, to convey deep appreciation to the Women's Institutes of Ontario. These splendid Institutes, under the presidency of Mrs. Purcell are active in fostering robust mental health in their respective communities. They are laying the groundwork for preventive activities in homes and schools. They are pioneering in promoting "Penny Round Up" for the funding of preventive programs. During the last few weeks they have secured more than 600,000 pennies. In partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association, these magnificent Women's Institutes are extending constructive programs into the rural areas of Ontario. It is therefore fitting that the 1953 Mental Health Award be made to the President of the Women's Institutes of Ontario who are doing so much in this important field of work."

In commenting on this Award, Mr. J. D. Parks, the Executive Director of the Ontario Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, said that the partnership of Women's Institutes was vital and that the Ontario Division would be delighted to make the following White Cross Services available to every Institute:

- (1) Furnishing assistance in planning an Institute meeting on Mental Health.
- (2) Provision of a study kit upon any aspect of mental health that is desired.
- (3) Making the film "Shyness" available for Institute meetings.

that the following changes be made in By-Law 1 on page 29, paragraph 2, in the Hand Book, "That the Secretary-Treasurer's name be deleted and in the seventh paragraph on the same page to "The Secretary-Treasurer may hold office for 6 years". Mrs. J. R. Futcher was appointed convener of the Nominating Committee with Mrs. R. G. Purcell and Mrs. J. H. McCulloch.

Mrs. D. S. MacNaughton was appointed to represent the F.W.I.O. on the Canadian Radio Council's Evaluation Committee.

It was decided to set up an F.W.I.O. committee to contact other interested organizations with a view to establishing a Rural Life Museum. The committee members appointed were Mrs. J. McCulloch, Mrs. L. Guild, Miss Lewis and Mrs. A. Darroch.

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Presentation of 1953 Mental Health Award to Mrs. R. G. Purcell, President of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Ontario "For Outstanding Work in Mental Health in Ontario." The Presentation of a Bulova watch and citation was made by Sir Ellsworth Flavelle, President of the Ontario Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

(4) Having mental health specialists present at Area Meetings for consultation on program planning.

(5) Provision upon request of mental health materials (charts, posters and pamphlets) for work with teachers, parents and children.

(6) Provision of an Information Service at 111 St. George Street, Toronto, for Institute Members who desire to write about Mental Health Problems in their own families that are causing them concern.

Mr. Parks expressed the hope that Institutes would give thought as soon as possible, to the development of mental health programs for the coming twelve months.

For information on any of the above points write Mr. J. D. Parks, Mental Health Association, 111 St. George St., Toronto.

History has won an Ontario prize this book would not be eligible for an Ontario prize in the following biennial term but would be eligible to be judged for entry in the F.W.I.C. competition.

It was decided to ask each Branch Institute to forward a donation of \$1.00 to assist in financing the publication of Home and Country.

Progress With Resolutions

Mrs. J. R. Futcher gave a report on the action she had received on the resolutions sustained at the November Board Meeting. A reply had been received from the Prime Minister stating that \$10,000 is contained in the estimates of Department of Resources and Development for the International Peace Garden. A resolution that had been tabled