



Personalities at the Officers' Conference: From left to right: Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director, Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service; Mrs. J. H. McCulloch, Secretary-Treasurer, F.W.I.O.; Mother Mary Adele, Dominica, B.W.I.; Mrs. J. R. Futcher, Honorary President, F.W.I.O.; Mother Mary Alicia, Dominica; Mrs. Milton Weber, Provincial Convener of Home Economics and Health; Mrs. R. G. Purcell, President, F.W.I.O.

The Officers' Conference

THIS year the Women's Institute Officers' Conference at Guelph was for conveners of Home Economics and Health and conveners of Resolutions. Of the eight hundred women attending, the great majority were having their first experience at this annual conference and they came from all over the province right to the farthest borders.

Dr. J. A. MacLachlan, President of the Ontario Agricultural College and Dr. Margaret McCready, welcoming the visitors, said they hoped they would send their sons and daughters to the College as students. Dr. MacLachlan outlined the courses in Agriculture — a two-year vocational course for boys or girls planning to stay on the farm, a course which in addition to practical agriculture includes English, public speaking, debating, civics to fit a man to take his place in the community; and a four-year degree course. "Even if the graduates do not go back to the farm, most of them go back to the farmer in such work as teaching Agriculture in high schools, serving as Agricultural Representatives, or working for such commercial firms as machinery, feed and fertilizer manufacturers," the President said. Dr. McCready thanked the Institutes for their scholarships given to Macdonald Institute students and announced the Adelaide Hoodless Trust Fund of \$6700 set up by Bernard Hoodless, son of Adelaide Hoodless. Dr. McCready spoke of the fiftieth anniversary of Macdonald Institute to be held on June 13, and paid a tribute to Dr. James Robertson, one-time dairy instructor at O.A.C. who, along with Mrs. Hoodless, had interested Sir William Macdonald in contributing \$175,000 toward the establishing of Macdonald Institute.

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service, and the Extension staff, presented

a skit on Extension work. Copies of the script written by Dora Burke may be borrowed from the Loan Library.

Health in Ontario

A high light of the conference was an address on "The Health of Ontario" by Dr. Mackinnon Phillips, Minister of Health.

"Ontario pioneers in a new field of hospital care — psychiatric wards in general hospitals", said Dr. Mackinnon Phillips. "In certain forms of mental illness, if we get our patients between the ages of 15 and 30 or even 35, and treat them in these psychiatric wards in general hospitals, we can prevent more serious trouble and save the probable need of care in a mental hospital in later life." Already these psychiatric wards have been put in eight general hospitals; more will be added until we have one twenty-bed unit for every two thousand population.

Another project of the Ontario Department of Health is to provide hospital care for mentally retarded children. Until recently the hospital at Orillia took only children from six to sixteen years of age. Now special units have been added for children of two to six — 150 beds at Orillia and 150 in the new hospital at Smiths Falls. Dr. Phillips also paid a tribute to the Minister of Education, Dr. W. J. Dunlop, for having school auxiliary classes extended to take in children with an I.Q. lower than the standard heretofore required but which still makes it possible to teach and rehabilitate them into happy, useful living.

Dr. Phillips brought the good news that in the Ontario Mental Hospitals last year, out of every 100 patients admitted during the year, 69 were discharged, cured, within the year.

On the question of hospital care for indigent patients and for all patients, Dr. Phillips said: "In Canada we have three classes of people: