

I wish all the Institute members could meet these splendid young people from Thailand. Their presence has been an inspiration to us. They have many things to teach us arising out of their long cultural background. I hope to arrange to have them visit two or three Institutes close to Toronto. They are very anxious to see your groups at work—especially the young lady whose work is in the rural areas of Thailand.

Mental Health Week this year across Canada will be observed from May 3 to 10. Preceding and during this period there will be special news articles in the press, radio addresses, and we hope even a programme on television to help us give the Canadian public the latest news concerning our fight against poor mental health. We hope the Institute members will follow this programme and encourage others to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the "White Cross Services."

I have already made engagements for several meetings in 1954, sponsored by the Institutes, and I hope those who write me about meetings will be patient with me. At present I am the only member of staff available for such work and will do my best to answer your requests as soon as possible. I enjoy the visits, and only limited time prevents me from answering your invitation at once.

Some time in the New Year you will be hearing from us about our pilot project in White Cross Services in which the children will have a part to play.

If you wish information of any kind please do not hesitate to communicate with us at 111 St. George Street, Toronto, where the White Cross Door is open.

Lost and Unclaimed Pageant Costumes

Mrs. A. E. Kennedy, R. R. Agincourt, Ontario, has on hand, left over from the A.C.W.W. Canada Day Pageant:

- One Grey Silk Wedding Gown
- One White Cotton Slip-skirt embroidered.

The following articles are still missing, and in all likelihood have been included, in error, in parcels of clothing returned to owners:

- One Baby's Lace Shawl
- One Black light-weight Wool Shawl, with coloured threads
- One yellow Silk Piano Scarf
- A bowler hat with a T. Eaton Co. label and initials "ST" and "Sadie Bryans."

Will the owners of the first two garments mentioned please contact Mrs. Kennedy, and anyone holding any of the missing articles, please return them to Mrs. Kennedy also.

Penal Reform for Women Offenders

Last spring (1953) the Ontario government, in particular the Department of Reform Institutions, expressed a desire to receive Recommendations from the women's associations in the province on the Care of Female Offenders, before proceeding with its programme of development of reform services and institutions in 1954. Members of the following societies—The Big Sister Association of Toronto, The Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Ontario, The Canadian Federation of University Women's Clubs, The Elizabeth Fry Society, Toronto Branch, The Junior League of Toronto, The Toronto Business & Professional Women's Club, The University Women's Club of Toronto, The Welfare Council of Toronto & District, The Women's Law Association of Ontario—met in March to consider Recommendations which, for better emphasis, were kept few in number.

The Recommendations proposed to the following:

1. Probation and probationary services for female offenders.
2. Classification and Segregation of female offenders in penal institutions.
3. Discharge, Parole and Rehabilitation of female offenders.

During the summer these Recommendations were ratified by eleven women's organizations of which the largest were The Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Ontario, The Ontario Provincial Council of Women and The Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Meanwhile The Penal Reform for Women Joint Committee, composed of representatives from the organizing societies, has been set up to plan and direct a campaign this autumn to win the support of the women's associations for the Recommendations. It has a Speakers' Bureau to send speakers to women's groups throughout the province free of charge to explain the Recommendations: Thus it came about that a speaker addressed a number of Women's Institute Area Conventions this autumn on the subject "Probation, Detention, Rehabilitation of Female Offenders in Ontario."

The Joint Committee suggests that those local Institutes wishing a speaker on this subject write to The Speakers' Bureau, The Penal Reform for Women Joint Committee, 344 Jarvis St., Toronto 5, Ontario.

The Loan Library of the Women's Institute Branch, 1207 Bay St., Toronto 5, can lend study material provided by Elsie Gregory MacGill, Chairman of the Liaison and Documentation Committee of the Joint Committee. This material includes a Questionnaire which should be completed and returned to the Speakers' Bureau by anyone using the material as a speech or as a study guide.