

# A Junior Institute Workshop

By Agnes Turnbull

*Editor's Note: The Junior Institute Workshop or Training School in actual Institute procedures, arranged by Miss Agnes Turnbull, Home Economist for Elgin and Middlesex Counties, seemed such an excellent idea for either Junior or Senior Institutes that we asked Miss Turnbull to tell us about it. This is her report:*

**O**BJECTIVES, relationships with Senior Institutes and Junior Farmers, executive duties and programme planning were among the topics discussed at a recent Elgin County Junior Institute Training School or Workshop.

This was the first of its kind ever to be held in Elgin County and proved to be quite successful. The workshop, conducted by Miss Jean Scott, Field Consultant with the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economist in Perth County and by Miss Agnes Turnbull, Home Economist in Elgin and Middlesex Counties, was well attended by executive officers. The Junior Institute Boards of Directors from the three clubs in Elgin-West, Central and East, and from the County Junior Institute Association, attended the 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. sessions, and enjoyed the delicious pot-luck dinner served by the girls at the noon hour.

Junior Institute goals and objectives were presented by Miss Scott in a very interesting way and helped the girls realize the importance of executive members knowing in what direction the club should be heading. The question "Why am I a Junior Institute member?" provoked much thought. Perhaps the girls had joined for social reasons or for pride in belonging to such a broad organization which embraces many countries of the world. Perhaps a girl is a Junior Institute member because of the opportunities available in discovering and stimulating leadership. Or perhaps she is interested in the educational meetings when she can learn skills and techniques in homemaking.

The relationships of Junior Institutes to the broader Women's Institutes organizations were traced by Miss Scott, for it was felt this is not too clear to most young executives. Each person was made to feel that she was an important "cog in the wheel" moving from the Branch, to the District, to the Convention Area, to the Province, to the Federal Women's Institutes of Ontario, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, and then on to the international organization, the Associated Country Women of the World. Since many Junior Institute members were thrilled by attending the A.C.W.W. Conference in August, as page girls or as members on Canada Day, this part of the Training

School was quite inspiring and educational. As a better understanding of this complex organization was grasped, fees and reports seemed to take on new meanings.

The constitution of the Junior Institute was discussed as the result of a detailed quiz by Miss Turnbull, and from this, the members became more appreciative of the handbooks in their possession. The order of a meeting, parliamentary procedures, election of officers, duties of officers as well as information on procuring pins and badges, all given in this helpful book, were brought out in the discussion.

During the afternoon sessions of the workshop, duties of executive officers of a Junior Institute were reviewed by girls now holding those positions. Pauline Shelley, President of Central Elgin Junior Institute, detailed duties of a president and vice-president; Donna Rae Prong, Secretary-Treasurer of East Elgin Junior Institute, brought out a few hints and reminders for the secretary-treasurers. Katherine Ferguson, Central Elgin District Director and Convener of Junior Activities, presented the relationships of these directors and conveners to the District in reporting Junior activities during the year. Summarizing the duties of officers and members in general, Margaret McTavish, President of West Elgin Junior Institute, stressed many essentials such as enthusiasm that make for valuable club members.

One of the most difficult tasks of a secretary-treasurer in February and March is the filling out of various annual reports. So at this Training School Miss Scott gave excellent assistance in this work. Working in teams, and from the "Pleasant Valley Institute" minute book and statements, the girls enthusiastically endeavoured to fill out Form E's, Financial Statements and Reports of Meetings. As a result of this, the members realized the tremendous task of the secretary but they also saw their responsibility in supplying the secretary with information such as highlights of meetings and outstanding meetings, all of which would aid her in making a complete report.

There was a short period at the close of the session for a discussion of programme planning and of problems. And one of the main problems was the need of new members. Since the Training School proved to be such a success, it is hoped that a similar day may be spent on projects and programme planning.

A similar school has just been conducted in Lambton County by Miss Scott and Miss Florence Arnold, Home Economist there. On