

The Officers' Conference

THIS YEAR the Ontario Women's Institute Officers' Conference at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, was for Branch Presidents; and since only about half of the number of Branch Presidents in the province could be accommodated at one time, the others will have an opportunity of coming next year.

A Welcome From The College

As usual the conference began with a "Get Acquainted Party" the first evening—games and square dancing led by Miss Nellie Lewis in the gymnasium, and refreshments in the cafeteria with F.W.I.O. Board Members acting as hostesses. These officers' conferences are friendly affairs from the beginning to the end.

At the first session Dr. J. A. MacLachlan, President of the College, welcomed the delegates and asked for their help in solving a pressing problem of Ontario agriculture—the farmer's problem of synchronizing his production with the economy of the world. Our cost of food production, Dr. MacLachlan said, is higher than in many producing countries so we must lower our cost of production if we are to compete on world markets. To do this, more and more of our young people should be taking advantage of the education to be had in agricultural schools and colleges. The cost of education at the O.A.C. is about half the cost at other universities in the province and the President hoped the women would find what the college is doing, both in its two-year course in practical farming and its four-year degree course, which has three jobs available for every graduate. "Then," said Dr. MacLachlan, "if you are convinced that our education is worth while, I hope you will each take it upon yourselves to see if there is a boy or girl in your community who could be influenced to come to the O.A.C."

Dr. Margaret McCready, Director of Macdonald Institute, thanked the Institutes for the support they have given to education for girls in Home Economics: for their scholarships—\$100 to each of five Macdonald Institute students every year, and for their help in getting the new West Wing added to Macdonald Institute. "Now," Dr. McCready said, "we want your support to help us get a new East Wing where we will have space for research in foods and for child study—the paramount skill required of women." The Director referred to the two Home Economics courses at the college—a one-year course for a girl's personal development as a homemaker and the four-year degree course from which seventy-eight girls will graduate this year. "There are many

jobs waiting for these graduates," Dr. McCready said, "and some of them will go into rural work."

Thanking Dr. McCready, Mrs. MacPhatter announced that at the F.W.I.O. Board Meeting it had been decided to give an extra scholarship to bring a student from another country to Macdonald Institute. This year the student would be a young woman from Jamaica.

Extension Services For The Homemaker

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service, paid a tribute to Mrs. J. R. Fitcher who, during her term as provincial president, inaugurated the first officers' conference, and a tribute to Mrs. Raymond Sayre, who gave us the theme for this year's conference. Mrs. Sayre speaking to the A.C.W.W. delegates when they met at Stoney Creek last August had said that the story of Stoney Creek has four significant points for us to remember: It shows the power of an idea, the power of a woman, the power of an individual and it proves that everyone must begin where they are with what they have. Mrs. Sayre also told the A.C.W.W. conference that in the Adult Education program in Home Economics carried on by our Canadian societies in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture . . . they had an opportunity to see one of the best examples of adult education at work; that this adult education in homemaking "has brought new techniques to lighten the work of country women, to improve nutrition for the family, and to give status and dignity to the job of homemaking."

"We have this set-up for Adult Education in Homemaking right at our front doorstep" said Miss Lewis. "It is provided as a service for you from the Department of Agriculture (and for free!) We all want to know how we can use it wisely and to the best advantage."

The Director referred to the courses available as outlined in the Extension Services booklet and urged that each member study the booklet; that the president allow time at the March meeting to discuss the services; that the secretary pass around the Interest Survey Sheet so that all the members may sign it to signify their chief interest; that the district director count and record the number interested in each course and that these findings be discussed at the next meeting and the choice of service made. Institute members should keep it in mind that it is not necessary for an Institute to have a course, but once a course is asked for the Institute has the responsibility of arranging for a place of meet-