

F.W.I.O. Board Meeting

By Ina Hodgins

THE ANNUAL board meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario was held in the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, November 15, 16 and 17 and 18, 1954.

President's Address and Report

After the opening exercises the President gave a cordial welcome to the members of the Board with a special word to the members present for the first time, and expressed deep appreciation for the very fine co-operation received at all times from the Department of Agriculture and particularly from the Women's Institute Branch of that Department, with Miss Anna P. Lewis as Director. Mrs. MacPhatter said, "Miss Lewis and I find it very pleasant to work together in the interests of Ontario Women's Institutes. We find that our work dovetails perfectly—she at the controls of the Extension Services and the many additional duties she performs in our interests, and I at the head of your Provincial Organization, working always with the Provincial Board in the shaping of Women's Institutes' policies for Ontario's membership and carrying on the business which is of vital interest to us all."

In a brief resume of her activities since the Spring Board Meeting Mrs. MacPhatter reported that she had attended the Women's Institute holidays at Guelph and Kemptville, had the privilege of viewing all of the entries in the Tweedsmuir competitions and was very proud of the artistic ability of the members as well as the ability of the members who sew so beautifully. The Tweedsmuir histories were of outstandingly high quality.

The response to the appeal for the Korean Widow's Self Help Project was most generous, over \$7,021.00 being contributed.

Mrs. MacPhatter had attended all 13 area conventions and one conference on Manitoulin Island and will have spent 16 full weeks and innumerable single days and week-ends away from home in pursuance of her duties as Provincial President.

Mrs. MacPhatter said, "It is only through complete co-operation in all parts of our great organization that we can continue to carry on with the measure of success that has been ours up to this time. I consider the V.I.P. (very important persons) of our organization to be the branch members who form the foundation of our structure. The future of the Branch will influence the future of Women's Institutes of the Province, of the Dominion and of the World, for without the Branch for a foundation the rest of the building would collapse. But each member in that structure, all the

way up to the peak of our very tall building, each district, area, provincial and national officer is, as well, an essential and important member of our organization. We need leaders as well as members and when you reach board directorship you will have come to the top in provincial leadership. So a pulling together all the way will carry us—a complete co-operation in every level of our work.

"I feel this year has been a tremendous education to me," Mrs. MacPhatter said. "So many things I have learned along the way—to be a bit more tolerant; to realize that other people's opinions are important; to laugh at troubles, in order to overcome them; to study more and more the setup of our organization in order that I can plan for the future more competently; to trust others, for without this trust one cannot be very sure of anything; and always to keep the old friends that have been mine for years, the while I have been adding to my acquaintanceship the multitude of new friends I have met and enjoyed in this year of wonderful experience. I found a little group of thoughts which summarize the education which has come my way since last November.

'Unless a woman can

Believe in herself, she cannot believe in other women;

Learn to master her own thoughts, she will always be a slave to fear;

Laugh at her own troubles, they will surely overwhelm her;

Know the past, she cannot face the future;

Trust facts, she cannot be sure of anything;

Keep old friends, there is little value in making new ones.'

The Director's Report—Women's Institute Branch And Home Economics Service

Miss Anna P. Lewis, Director, brought greetings from the Women's Institute Branch and said that in Ontario we are proud of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and its splendid achievements and cherish the fact that the organization is self-governing and democratic. All along the way through branch, district, convention area, provincial board and up to the national level the Institutes have democratically elected leaders. Miss Lewis paid tribute to Mrs. MacPhatter saying what an inspiration it has been to work with such a fine person and that their association has been more than a working partnership; it has been in addition "a truly warm and understanding friendship." Miss Lewis outlined some of the ways the Women's Institute Branch promotes the work of the F.W.I.O.

(1) Mimeographing area and provincial re-