

MENTAL HEALTH PLAYS

THE Canadian Mental Health Association offers the following plays based on family life situations:

"Scattered Showers"—About three mothers and their pre-school youngsters and what happens at a time of crisis when children have been reared according to different methods of discipline.

"Fresh, Variable Winds"—About a father and his ten-year-old son and how a neighbour's child helps show the difference between mischievousness and spoiled-bratism—as well as what children need from parents, especially fathers.

"High Pressure Area"—About two teen-age girls tempted to embark on an unwise escape, and how the attitudes of their parents determine their final decision.

"The Case of the Missing Handshake"—A Whodunit for Parents. About: The concern of present-day parents regarding the manners and behaviour of their children during the frequently misunderstood "middle years."

"And You Never Know." About a twelve-year-old child's jealousy of her sister and how a mother, father and a daughter get a clearer understanding of their feelings about one another by talking them over openly for the first time.

The price of these plays is around \$1.00 each. For full particulars write Mr. J. D. Parks, Ontario Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, 111 St. George Street, Toronto.

If you want a guide for the discussion of the three first-mentioned plays, the price is 50 cents each. The discussion is, of course, to follow the performance of the play.

AN INSTITUTE BOOK CLUB

Editor's note: The following report of a Book Club in Clanbrassil Women's Institute in Haldimand County seems to suggest possibilities not only for reading groups but for small study groups along various lines in which a part of the Institute membership is particularly interested. Perhaps a group might like to use a study kit from the Loan Library on Kitchen Improvement or Canadian Art. A few women might even get together to take painting lessons. A study of child guidance might especially interest the young mothers in the Institute. This report by one of the members, Mrs. G. Anderson, speaks well for the enjoyment to be had from a Book Club.

OUR Book Club was organized nine years ago. It is called the "XV Reading Club" because we have limited it to fifteen members. If one member drops out some one else is asked to replace her. It is a great honor to belong to this club; at least I feel that way. There are eight charter members still in the club. For various reasons seven have dropped out and have been replaced.

We usually meet in the afternoon at three o'clock at which time a cup of tea is served

and small cakes. The lunch is kept to a minimum.

Many of our members have had university education; some have taught school. A few have done neither but are very interested in reading and are a real addition to the club.

Each member opens her home to a meeting, each member donates a book and gives a review of her own book and leads in a discussion on current topics of the day.

The books are chosen by the members. Some of the books we have read are: "The Grandmothers" by Katharine Coburn; "Cry, The Beloved Country", by Alan Paton; "The Golden Dog" by William Kirby; "A Man Called Peter" by Catharine Marshall; "The Silver Chalice" by Thomas Costain; and of course many others. In nine years we have studied 135 books. The reviewer tells us about the writer and gives us an appetite to read the book.

Some of our subjects for discussion have been: "Time and what we do with it"; "Women in Parliament"; "What shall we do with our surpluses while hunger still grips a food rich world"; "Is television spoiling us?"; "Influences on our lives." These are just a few subjects we have discussed and while we seldom come to conclusions, yet the discussion gets us thinking on these lines.

We have had some picnic or excursion every year. Last year we went to Niagara-on-the-Lake and visited Historical Buildings there. This year we went to Stratford to the Shakespearean Festival and saw "Measure for Measure."

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

In a Report dealing with forestry problems in this Province, the Conservation Council of Ontario made this recommendation:

"The Conservation Council of Ontario proposes to the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario that arrangements be made for talks and films on conservation as occasional features at meetings of this association."

The Conservation Council offers to help the Institutes in any way possible in arranging for such meetings. The address is: Conservation Council of Ontario, 85 King Street East, Toronto 1, Ontario.

STEP SAVING KITCHEN PLANS

For the use of any Women's Institute group or individual members, the Women's Institute Loan Library, 1207 Bay Street, Toronto, has a set of working drawings of a compact, step-saving kitchen. The drawings include floor plan, cupboards, a revolving cabinet and a "through-a-wall" cabinet with complete detail and measurements. Altogether there are seven sheets of carpenter's drawings. These plans are not as suitable for a study group as the Kitchen Kits in the Loan Library; but they might be of very special help to anyone planning to build or remodel a kitchen.