

a growing interest in local and county museums and many Institutes have collected material for these museums.

To Gain Additional Members

On the annual report form the question was asked: "What are your plans for gaining additional members next year?" There was so much repetition in the over fourteen hundred replies that we can only use the ideas, without Institute names. Here are some of the plans:

"Invite members to our meetings hoping they will become interested." "Invite newcomers as soon as they arrive in the community." "Invite every bride." "Make the meetings interesting." "Interest local people by doing work for the good of the community." "Have a membership drive, more planning, more interesting meetings." "Invite the young mothers of the community to a special meeting." "Do individual canvassing." "Give everyone something to do and find ways for them to get to the meetings." "Especially try to get young women to join and take part in the programs."

A Junior Institute says: "We are going to go around and visit girls and talk to them. Some don't know just what Junior Institute work means." "We try to make our visitors feel welcome and wanted." "We plan to canvass near-by areas where there is no Institute." "Have interesting programs and short business sessions." "We found that by entertaining other branches and having a social meeting of our own, the younger women began to come to the meetings and some are joining."

Branchton plans to hold more of its meetings in the evenings so the younger women can attend. **Grand River Doon Blair** plans to have "more social times with singing and games." Desbarats distributed Home and Country to non-members to rouse their interest.

Comments and Suggestions

One of the most important things in the Reports of Meetings is the thinking of the Institutes in their replies to the request for comments and suggestions. Here are some of them:

"We find it exceedingly difficult to keep our standing committee reports from overlapping, and we do not find the outlines of much help, for we think they overlap too." — **Dunrobin**.

(A thought here for conveners at all levels — branch, district and convention area.—Ed.)

Blyth suggests: "Interesting demonstrations, well done, are lacking at our meetings. In announcing the coming meeting in the local paper the announcement should include the subject of the demonstration and the name of the woman who is to give it." (Would this be a good idea for papers, talks or other features on the program, too? Ed.)

St. Helen's: "We would like to have more demonstrations at our meetings but there seems so little time, due to so much correspondence asking for financial aid."

Lynn Valley: "The Hand Book could and should be discussed more and studied by both members and officers."

Woodhouse: "We still find our excellent programs crowded into a short period after a long business session and very little time for companionship with fellow members."

Aylmer: "We would like to know what we can do so that there will not be so much correspondence, especially appeals for money each month. We want to do our share to help but we will soon be drowned as far as funds are concerned."

Kingsmill Mapleton: "Meetings are too draggy with no fun. Make the business brief and bring in more things that each member can participate in."

Glenburnie: "Our members are all active, helpful and co-operative. We believe part of the reason may be that social contact is a special feature at every meeting."

Kohler asks: "Could the Hand Book be made more simple to read and understand? It seems so parliamentary. Is that what a homemaker needs? We think the Institute work is getting away from the general idea when it was first organized. The work is getting more complicated. Let's come down to earth and probably we will all benefit from it." (This recommendation will be brought to the attention of those who have the responsibility of compiling the next Hand Book.—Ed.)

Margaret Marshall Memorial suggests that in a community where it is difficult to get a good attendance at courses in a hall, more women might attend a course in a private home.

Nestorville in Algoma East sends this advice: "In this area where it is not unusual to hear of an Institute fearing the necessity of disbanding due to dwindling membership, we would suggest at least two combining. It would create new interest as well as new strength."

One Institute says: "We have been holding public dances to raise funds for our work, but some people take a dim view of the Institute because they feel these dances are not the best place for young people. Comments about this will be helpful." (Perhaps other Institutes could offer advice from their experience. It seems to the editor that everything depends on the character of the dance — chaperonage, hours of closing, strict rules about drinking. A committee including a few men with firm views on these questions would be a great help.—Ed.)

DeCew Falls writes: "Some branches look on the Institute as another service club which is all right in itself, but it defeats the aim of our fine organization 'for home and country'. It is our interest in the homey things that makes our organization so different from serv-