

## NATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Most Institutes seem to have a program on Health at least once each year, but the time for this may not coincide with the dates of Health Week given in the following announcement issued by the Health League of Canada. Where the Health Convener is allowed to give a brief report at each meeting perhaps she would like to remind the members of Health Week and the information given in the announcement. This makes a timely topic, too, for Institutes having a regular radio broadcast on a local station. This is the Health League's announcement:*

### REMEMBER THESE DATES

JANUARY 29th TO FEBRUARY 4th, 1956  
NATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

organized by the Health League of Canada in cooperation with Departments of Health and Education across Canada.

### THE CHALLENGE OF THE HOUR

The striking decline in mortality rates in many diseases.

The wonderful discoveries in medicine and surgery.

The effective research in nutrition, in mental health, in causes and treatment of diseases.

The greater use of preventive treatments.

The wide extension of hospital services.

Still to be mastered: Cancer, tuberculosis, venereal diseases, heart diseases, diabetes, arthritis.

Still to be achieved: Child and maternal health; compulsory pasteurization of milk; general immunization; sanitation of food handling; fluoridation of communal water supplies; dental health; nutrition; gerontology (health in old age).

The individual citizen should be active along with voluntary associations and official health departments, local, provincial, national — in doing everything possible to perfect Canada's health.

These are some of the subjects we are urging groups to discuss at one of their meetings in the month of February, preferably during National Health Week.

Why not arrange now for a speaker or plan some form of observance in your community?

Further details concerning National Health Week will be available shortly. Press and radio will carry messages to the general public.

## MUSEUM RESEARCH IN ENGLAND

Evelyn Frisch Zacks

**H**AVING been a former teacher of the Women's Institutes of Ontario under the late George A. Putnam's directorship, the Institute constitutes one of my greatest interests and loyalties, and has therefore inspired me to carry on with research work for the development of a Rural Pioneer Museum.

After many years of research in this field, encompassing both Canada and the United States, I equipped myself three years ago with

a pair of comfortable shoes, a collection of authentic pioneer articles and camera and sailed for England, Belgium and France to explore and compare notes concerning Canada and especially the Motherland.

During the three months of research in England three years ago, as well as on my visit there this summer, I received the kindest co-operation from everyone, especially the Keeper of "The Museum of English Rural Life," Mr. J. W. Y. Higgs, M.A. and his staff at the University of Reading.

The educational study of the English cultural background and its preservation presents an inspiring panorama of man's genius and its link with other civilizations, reflected in an unrivaled scope of knowledge and variety of collections in the six hundred and fifty officially listed museums and galleries in the British Isles (not including church treasures, country houses and private collections), some dating back from prehistoric era to the most modern time.

The numerous museums that I surveyed in England were most absorbing, some being even quite technical, and to give only a brief outline of them, one could hardly do justice to their scope and aims.

But the museum coming closest to my mission in England, is "The Museum of English Rural Life" at Reading, a superbly specialized Pioneer Museum covering all aspects of Agriculture, Rural Crafts, Domestic Material and Village Interests, with most objects dating back from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

After my return from England to Toronto, in the usual Institute manner I cheerfully shared with the Department in private discussions as well as at an official meeting all the information and research done in England. To my great joy and delight in 1952 at the Central Women's Institutes Convention in Toronto, preliminary steps were taken towards the establishment of a Pioneer Museum for Institutes, and a resolution was passed in its favour.

Now that there are many Women's Institute members interested in cultural and historic values who have increased their interest through their work of compiling the Tweedsmuir Histories, this new project finds itself in a most fortunate position to be able to go hand in hand with all interested in the benefit of our country.

As a Women's Institute member whatever I shall be able to do in my humble way, our slogan for "Home and Country" will continue giving me great inspiration.

Also along with my work in England are many heartwarming and enriching experiences and contacts, and it is with distinct pleasure that I bring friendly greetings to the Institutes from Lady Binney and Mrs. John Bell of the Associated Country Women of the World, Mrs. Margaret Cornell, President of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, and Miss Aubrey J. Smith from the Embroiderers' Guild.