

with different District Annual Meetings. As a result, in 1949 the Oxford County Conference was formed to give the women of both Districts an opportunity to spend a day together and become acquainted, and at the same time correlate activity common to both.

District Annual Meetings are busy, crowded days, with little opportunity for conversation or recreation, and so the Conference program has been kept a day for fun. Home talent variety numbers consisting of skits, readings and musical selections, with a pot luck dinner and plenty of time to enjoy an excellent display of hobbies brought in by the members, highlight the day.

Projects which have been undertaken are

the Oxford County Conference Scholarship for 4-H Homemaking Club girls, and an intensive educational program for auxiliary training in rural schools.

This year a social evening was held with the Oxford Junior choir providing a splendid program and all 4-H Club boys and girls as guests. Also, a committee was set up to investigate possibilities of a county-wide scholarship for entrance into the various departments of the O.A.C. Guelph.

Why a County Conference? Because over two hundred women from thirty-five branches in Oxford enthusiastically maintain that the first Tuesday of November is one of the best days of our whole Institute program.

## Mrs. Houck at U. N.



Mrs. J. E. Houck  
Photo by C. A. Chinn,  
Brampton.

WHEN the Department of External Affairs appointed Mrs. J. E. Houck one of Canada's five official delegates—and the only woman—to the General Assembly of the United Nations, Mrs. Houck said that she considered the appointment in part to be a tribute to the F.W.I.O. and the F.W.I.C., "because of their magnificent contribution to technical assistance in UNESCO during the past two years." As convener of citizenship in both provincial and national organizations of the Women's Institutes, Mrs. Houck gave most effective leadership in various UNESCO projects. She is also well known to Institute women over the province not only as a speaker at provincial gatherings but as an active Institute member and officer.

Since Mrs. Houck took up her work with UN she has sent a regular message to the people of her county of Peel through her home town paper. We quote from one of these articles the following paragraphs which might have been written especially for Women's Institutes.

"Many people think of the United Nations only from the angle of political action and because there is still a great deal of unrest and dissatisfaction throughout the countries involved, there may be the thought that the United Nations work has failed. People do not realize, however, that one of the most successful achievements of the United Nations has been in the field of humanitarian projects, involving the health, welfare and improved

standards of living of millions of people, in the under-developed areas of the world.

"I hope that many of you have received or will obtain literature and information which will illustrate how the United Nations Technical Assistance programme and the work of the World Health Organization with their affiliated groups have brought improvement through more than six hundred major projects which are too numerous to mention specifically. This is one of the most promising fields and one in which we may eventually achieve greater harmony and goodwill among peoples."

Then at our request Mrs. Houck sent a special message for the readers of Home and Country. Here it is:

"Dear Co-Workers of the Women's Institutes:

"Five weeks of experience here have given me several important lessons and changes of view point. First, I have learned the true value and importance of compromise. Among sixty nations with such difference in temperament and background, we must be willing to give ground and adopt a point of view which will be common to us all. This is not always easy.

"And I have also learned that quick decisions which disregard a long range and unemotional opinion may prove to be harmful and do not accomplish, in many cases, what is intended. A third lesson might be that we should try to remain friends even though we disagree. These lessons could also apply in Provincial and National organizations. — Ruth S. Houck."

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I sought to hear the voice of God  
And climbed the topmost steeple.

But God declared: "Go down again,  
I dwell among the people."

—Louis I. Newman

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