

F.W.I.O. Board Meeting

By MRS. P. Y. McCANDLESS

AS EVER, the agenda for the spring meeting of the Provincial Board of The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario was a very heavy one, challenging the fact that our aims and objects cover wider and wider fields each year. The meeting was held in the Faculty Lounge in the Administration Building O. A. C., Guelph, May 7, 8 and 9, 1956, with Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter presiding.

The Honorary President, all Board Members, except two, were present and they were represented by their alternates; the Junior Directors, Conveners, Executive Secretary, Conference and Holiday Secretary, Representative to the F.W.I.C. and the Director of Home Economics Service, Extension Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture.

The opening ceremonies were held and Mrs. MacPhatter cordially welcomed the Board Members and expressed her thanks for their co-operation. In her address, Mrs. MacPhatter extended special thanks to Miss Helen McKercher the new Director of Home Economics Service, Extension Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, for her help in establishing a new order of things for the work of the F.W.I.O. For her work in diverting the business to the proper channels, to maintain a happy relationship with the membership while doing so, and to promote the belief that we, as an adult organization, should learn to help ourselves. This has been the task Miss McKercher has undertaken to do and she is handling it as only one of her ability could do.

It is a recognized fact by all of us, of course, that we need the present fine relationship that we hold with the Extension Branch of the Department, said Mrs. MacPhatter. It is just as important a fact that they need our organization as a point of contact for the promotion of extension services all over the province. So that, although the Women's Institute Branch of the Department of Agriculture has now been adopted for economic services in the Extension Branch in that department of the government, it is still to the interest of Miss McKercher and her staff to have a vital part in the work of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and we welcome her to our Board sessions for the first time. We hope she will find our business sessions to be interesting, and that soon she will feel to be a part of our Board in fact as well as in name.

"We are sitting on a history-making Board," continued Mrs. MacPhatter. "We can take our responsibilities lightly and float gently down the stream, or we can begin the battle upstream against the current. In order to grow and expand we must always be taking the

broader outlook. We are at a turning point in the work of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. It is our responsibility as a Board to make the wise decision. This decision must be made with the good of the Women's Institutes in mind. We must legislate wisely while we are here, for the whole future of the Women's Institutes of Ontario depends on the decisions we reach in sessions during these days. We can slip forward or backward. I know you are prepared to legislate wisely."

Continuing, Mrs. MacPhatter said, "I feel my associations with the national and international levels of our work have broadened my point of view tremendously during the past few months. I believe that in order to grow and expand we must always be taking the broader outlook. I ask for your concentrated co-operation, your deepest wisdom and your very real appreciation of the needs of our organization during these next days."

Continuing with the business of the session, the president reported some very good news to the Board, in that the delegates to Ceylon fund had received contributions of over \$7,000.00. This is very gratifying and Mrs. MacPhatter expressed her gratitude through the Board to the branches for their splendid effort. 1154 branches contributed.

There has been a tremendous increase in the work of the Provincial President and Mrs. MacPhatter expressed her thanks to her personal secretary for her help. She made a suggestion that a committee be set up of the past president and executive secretary to meet with the new president regularly to advise her. She also suggested the establishing of a central provincial office.

It was decided to appoint a committee to set up a new handbook and Mrs. L. G. Lymburner, chairman; Miss Ethel Chapman, secretary; Mrs. R. G. Purcell, Mrs. G. Gordon Maynard, Mrs. Elton Armstrong and Mrs. R. J. Rennie will act.

Mrs. MacPhatter reported she was asked by the Royal Commission on Criminal Law in connection with Criminal Sexual Psychopaths to prepare a brief and present it to the commission at Osgoode Hall. This she did and after presentation was commended by the members on her effort.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The \$64.00 question, Mrs. Maynard said, was whether or not there had been an increase in membership and she was very happy to report that this was so. There are now 43,267 members, an increase of some 300 members, 1633 letters had been mailed, 395 parcels sent out,