

The President's Corner



Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter,
President F.W.I.O.

THIS LITTLE CORNER in our magazine gives me the opportunity in each issue to step into your home, Women's Institute Member, and bring you a personal greeting.

My three-year term of office is fast coming to a close, and I am disappointed when I realize how little I have accomplished of the many things I had hoped to do during the time I should serve as your provincial president.

I have met comparatively few of you personally — though, I have given a great deal of time in the effort to do so. But we have such a large organization in Ontario that personal contacts have been comparatively few. As Ogden Nash so aptly has said:

"I do not claim with brash effrontery
That I have covered all the country.
I have made a reasonable start
And have been in almost every part.
Some people north and west and south
Do not know I ever closed my mouth.
I've hoisted on the visiting platform
My large, and in the middle fat form.

There is lots of land between the oceans;
And lots of people, with lots of notions;
And every region is proud to preach
Its way of life, and way of speech.
I do not claim to be an oracle.
I make no statements categorical.
I am just saying thanks for what I've found
While I was travelling around."

But, whether I have contributed much to our work or not — I have received tremendous benefits and pleasures from my associations with you, one and all. I have grown mentally — and broadened literally and mentally. The opportunity that I have had to represent our province on our National Board has widened my point of view — I see the greater scope of our work in the national and international field with a more intelligent eye and realize fully how important it is for every member of our organization to think beyond the boundaries of her own branch to the greater horizons of our tremendous national and international work. Won't you join with me this year in a broadened study? Thinking nationally will lead you to a real wish to attend the first national convention, and to assist with the financing of a national office. International study will interest you in the Ceylon Conference, so keenly that you will follow your delegates on every phase of their journey, and, on their return you will give them the opportunity to share their international experience with you.

This growth and broadening of our horizons will lead to even greater accomplishments in the effort of Ontario members to work always for HOME AND COUNTRY.

Edith A. MacPhatter

765 Handbooks and 951 Tweedsmuir History books. All Handbooks must now be purchased from the secretary and not from the Extension Department, and there is a notice of motion to have badges also purchased from the secretary. Mrs. Maynard reported her correspondence had increased considerably and she thanked the membership at large for the friendly letters she has received.

The Director's Report

Miss Helen McKercher, Director of Home Economics Service, Extension Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, giving her first report to the Board, said the "Country Women's University" is the term frequently used to describe the progress of the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The Director stated the department is most anxious to promote local leader training schools to further its work, especially among members of the Women's Institutes. The programme followed is quite extensive and from time to time new projects are added. Four new ones were added this year. The programme helps

women acquire sound and approved practices for greater home efficiency; to discover, stimulate and train leadership. The courses and conferences are quite diversified. Forty-one full-time and fifteen part-time persons are on the staff. Miss McKercher assured the Board that requests for any of the courses would receive consideration and she urged that members give every consideration to the use of this extension service.

Two copies of "Home and Country" were issued last year and 47,000 copies of each issue were distributed to the members. In future "Home and Country" will be distributed to every branch in the province, free of charge to all members. Magazines will be sent out directly from the publisher and the mailing list will be handled from the Extension office in Toronto.

Among the young people the 4-H Clubs are proving very popular, said Miss McKercher. Over 1,000 local leaders and assistant leaders are guiding these young women in this work. County honour pens and certificates were awarded in 1955 to 457 members who had completed 6 4-H Homemaking Club Units and to