

Leaders of discussion groups. Left to right: Front row: Mrs. F. G. Purcell, Mrs. Jas. Bell, Mrs. Clare Ax-ford, Mrs. Elton Armstrong, Chairman, Mrs. R. D. Hendry. Back row: Mrs. L. G. Lymburner, Mrs. W. Heron, Mrs. Clarence Hayes, Miss Elizabeth Master.

O.A.C. Photo



The Officers' Conference

OVER FIVE HUNDRED secretaries of branch Women's Institutes from all over the province attended the eighth annual Officers' Conference held at the Ontario Agricultural College on May 9, 10 and 11—one of the most enjoyable and educational Institute gatherings of the whole year.

Instead of the once popular party to open the conference, on the first evening this year there were tours of Macdonald Institute and films in Memorial Hall. The films were "Stratford Adventure," a picture showing how the Shakespearean Festival got its start; "The Beautiful Necessity," a film made by Sovereign Potteries showing the manufacture of chinaware from the potter's clay to the most beautiful dishes; "The Children," a United Nations picture of work done by U.N.I.C.E.F. and the World Health Organization to save children from malaria, yaws, tuberculosis and other ills common in underdeveloped countries; and "Three to Get Ready"—three meals to get ready every day and three children to get ready for a healthy adulthood. This attractive picture showed the importance of protein from an adequate supply of meat in the diet. Lists of films available to women's groups from the Public Relations Department of the College were distributed and Mr. John Eccles addressed the gathering on the use of films in community organizations and the importance of various rural agencies making known their need of films on special subjects. In some cases the provincial organization might provide a special film for the use of its local groups.

As usual the conference was held immediately following the Spring Meeting of the Provincial Board, and at the first session the Provincial Secretary, Mrs. Gordon Maynard, introduced the board members. The President, Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, Mrs. Ofield and the three regional Vice-Presidents, Mrs. James Haggerty, Mrs. George Wilson and Mrs. J. McDonald presided at the various sessions.

Opening the conference, Mrs. MacPhatter, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, thanked Dr. MacLachlan for the

hospitality of the College that made it such a happy meeting place for rural people. Mrs. MacPhatter also paid a tribute to Mrs. J. R. Futcher, for originating the idea of the Officers' Conference and carrying through the first conference during her term as F.W.I.O. President. At this session the President also directed the women's attention to a number of exhibits—one from U.N.I.C.E.F., one on the Travelling Library service of the Department of Education—a most intriguing display of books, and an exhibit of needlework from the Dorset Women's Institute in England showing the old stitches—chain stitch, buttonhole and French knots handled in a most artistic way. This exhibit will travel from province to province to conventions or other Institute provincial meetings. Mrs. MacPhatter also referred to the conference theme supplied by Miss Helen McKercher: "Faith marches at the head of the army of progress."

Women's Institutes and the College

Welcoming the delegates to the College the President, Dr. J. D. MacLachlan reminded them that the Institutes and the College have much in common in their aims and objectives. The staff at the College feel a concern for agriculture which is in something of a recession while everything else is booming, and they feel a special concern for young people looking forward to a career in agriculture. In spite of the gadgets which would be expected to simplify farming, the farmer's business becomes more and more complicated. A farm is now very much like a big manufacturing plant, with farm animals living machines to turn field crops into food; and The College has to consider the problems involved from three angles—education, research and extension.

Dr. MacLachlan outlined some of the benefits of the diploma course in agriculture to a young man who intends to make farming his vocation: the training in practical agriculture, and the cultural interests and social experiences of college life as equipment for community living. Also, when he works on his