

own farm his contacts with the various departments of the College get him into the practice of bringing his farm problems to experts who may be able to help him. The President paid a tribute to the influence of Padre Young, college chaplain, with the students. Young men who take the degree course may not return to practical farming but they usually go into work directly related to the good of agriculture and there are never enough graduates for the positions waiting to be filled. Dr. MacLachlan appealed to the women to use their influence to interest more young men of their communities in the courses offered not only at Guelph but also in the Agricultural Schools at Kemptville and Ridgetown.

Dr. Margaret McCready, Principal of Macdonald Institute, thanked the Institutes for the scholarships awarded to Macdonald students and mentioned the Norfolk and Wellington Institutes as extending their county scholarships to girls on the same basis as to young men. Dr. McCready outlined the degree and diploma courses in Home Economics, explaining the practical education and wonderful college year the diploma course could give a girl; and the outstanding professional opportunities—including extension work—for graduates of the degree course. In her own home, the home economics graduate would find her training of immeasurable value in meeting the problems of this machine age. Dr. McCready argued that our civilization can not prosper unless women have educational opportunities equal to men's.

Mr. E. I. McLoughry, Associate Director of the Extension Branch who co-ordinates the work of extension personnel and the three colleges on the campus, explained that extension workers depend on research stations to supply the answers to farm problems. And there is no object in spending a great deal of money on research if the findings are not translated into action on individual farms. So extension and research must be closely integrated. An extension program should be based

on the current needs of the farm family but the broader, national interest must also be kept in mind. And Mr. McLoughry reminded the women that they are partners with the Department in extension work.

"Those of us interested in extension," Mr. McLoughry said, "must have vision and aim and a long-time view point. Aims are hard to express clearly in words, a dull ache driving on toward a distant goal. We depend upon more experienced men and women for our vision. We must be able to look back a long way before we can look ahead a long way. So let us use perhaps five per cent of our time looking into the future for new practices and standards, and ninety-five per cent of our time doing the definite, practical jobs of today and tomorrow, planning our year so that each day we may be most efficient in the tasks of the present."

Home Economics Extension Service

Miss Helen McKercher, Director Home Economics Service, Extension Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, stressed the point that extension work is a co-operative enterprise, of the Department and the people, working together, and she urged the women to give her their suggestions and recommendations—either at the conference or in a letter at any time, as to what they would like to have included in the extension service programme. "We want to progress in such a way," Miss McKercher said, "that people can decide for themselves, not to get what they **think** they want but the things that are best. We have a responsibility to set values, but the first objective of extension work is to help people to help themselves, and to think for themselves. Our worst sin," the Director declared, "would be to do your thinking for you. Extension is a job for team work."

Miss McKercher expressed the view that extension work can be done best when the farm family is considered as a whole, because the farmer and his wife and children in their work and their interests are so close a unit that it is impossible to separate them without weakening their ability to help themselves. Farm women as well as men should be concerned that the average milk production per year of all the cows in Ontario is 6,000 pounds while in 32 herds registered in the Dairy Herd Improvement last year the average production was over 10,000 pounds; that the average farmer feeds 4½ pounds of grain to produce 1 pound of pork, while experimentally a pound of pork is produced from 3.7 pounds of grain. Both men and women should take a keen interest in farm and home management, money management, child development, family relationships and health.

"New programmes will develop as the changing needs of families become apparent," Miss McKercher said. "We must meet the challenge to base our programme on vital needs of families and to keep up with developments in research and technology which can



Miss Helen McKercher, left with Dr. Margaret Nix and Mrs. J. R. Fletcher, speakers at the conference.

O.A.C. Photo