



—Photo by Robini.

A Ceylon Women's Institute official group. Dr. Mary Rutnam is fourth from left in the back row. As shown in this picture, either the sari or Western dress may be worn by the Women of Ceylon.

feed the population so grain and flour have to be imported. Other crops, used for both export and home consumption are tea, coconuts, rubber, nuts, cinnamon and tobacco. A pressing agricultural need of the country is large scale development projects and the reconstruction of waterways. The island abounds in lumber, including ebony, satinwood and rosewood. Mineral products are iron and graphite and sapphires and rubies. The pearl fisheries are famous.

Ceylon has created educational history by making university education free. All schools from the kindergarten up are free and school attendance from six to fourteen years is compulsory. Schools accepting government aid must admit pupils regardless of race, nationality or religion.

The Women's Institute movement, the Lanka Mahila Samiti, was introduced into Ceylon by Dr. Mary H. Rutnam in 1930. Dr. Rutnam is a native of Ontario and one-time lecturer to Ontario Women's Institutes; later she did medical work in Ceylon and married a Singhalese. The Lanka Mahila Samiti are confined to the rural areas where there are now 720 branches with a membership of 35,000. The aspects of village life that receive first attention are health and food production, followed by the development of handicrafts, the practice of thrift, adult education, nursery education and social and cultural activities. A recent project is setting up home demonstration or work centres to train girls to go out to teach crafts and homemaking in the villages. It will be remembered that last year the Women's Institutes of Ontario contributed \$7,206, or enough to equip six of these training centres.

This year when the Associated Country Women of the World will hold their conference in Ceylon, country women everywhere

will be especially interested in the Ceylon Women's Institute or Lanka Mahila Samiti member's pledge. It is this:

"Reverently and earnestly do I pledge my whole-hearted service in the cause of serving my fellow sisters, forgetting all differences in the common heritage of our Motherland. To this end that my work may brighten the darkness of poverty and ignorance in rural Ceylon, I will ever strive for greater knowledge, skill and understanding.

"I acknowledge the dignity of service in the cause of bringing light to rural womanhood.

"I will be clean in thought, word and deed—walking in the paths of patience, of sympathy and kindness.

"I promise to maintain the honor of the movement, and to strive to be worthy of the responsibility entrusted to me."

Their emblem is interesting too—a woman holding a lamp in her hand guards the flame of knowledge and makes it burn more brightly. She offers her services to Mother Lanka to brighten the darkness of poverty and ignorance and to bring the light of knowledge to rural womanhood.

The A.C.W.W. conference will meet in the University of Ceylon. Lady de Soysa, who will be remembered by many of our women for the part she took at the conference held in Toronto, sends us some interesting information about the University. We quote in part:

The University of Ceylon was founded in Colombo on the 1st of July, 1942 by proclamation under the Ceylon University Ordinance number 20 of 1942. The University started in 1942 with four Faculties, an academic staff of 55 and 904 students. In the 1953-54 session it had six Faculties, 2,382 students and an academic staff of 222.