

## EDITORIAL

**P**ROGRAMMES FOR MEN, TOO — Over and over again, from Institutes scattered over the province comes the report of a meeting when someone, usually a lawyer, spoke on "Wills" or "Wills and Succession Duties" or "Wills and Women's Property Rights." The women tell of their astonishment at the cost, the inconvenience and sometimes the injustice to a family when an estate has to be divided without a will to go by. We suppose that, once alarmed, they rushed home and made their own wills that very day.

But unfortunate as it may be for a wife and mother to leave no will, it is likely to be far more serious if the head of the family dies intestate; and most wives hesitate to urge their husbands to make a will. Moreover, men may not pay much attention to a woman's story of the weird things that can develop in settling an estate without a will, while they—the men—would be very much impressed if they heard the same facts from a man with knowledge of and experience in settling estates . . . So, when an Institute is having a speaker on a topic like Wills, shouldn't they have it at an open meeting where men can hear it too?

A considerable number of Institutes have had talks by vocational guidance teachers from high schools. They report that these talks and the discussions that followed were very enlightening. But when it comes to helping a child choose his (or her) vocation, don't both parents usually have something to say about it? Then wouldn't it be a good idea to have the vocational guidance expert at a meeting where both fathers and mothers could hear him, perhaps even have a little private conference with him?

Institutes have educational and practical addresses from medical personnel on health, both physical and mental. Some of these topics may deal specifically with a woman's responsibilities. Some of them—especially in the field of mental health where the welfare of children is concerned—should be of just as much importance to fathers as to mothers.

In our Home Economics Extension Service consideration is being given to the idea of offering more joint services to men and women. Already we have boys, and an occasional man, asking to be admitted to our craft classes. At Junior Farmer camps boys outnumber girls in classes in leatherwork . . . Isn't there a need for women as well as men to learn more about farm economics, especially since many women do the farm bookkeeping and a good deal of the business correspondence; and because family counsellors tell us that sound practices in money management contribute a lot to family happiness? . . . If we have something on home planning or remodelling or household engineering wouldn't it be logical for a man and his wife to study it together? . . . And wouldn't it be even more important for both to have whatever can be provided in the way of addresses, films or discussions on child guidance and family living?

Year by year the field of home economics gets broader and broader. In the Women's Institutes and in our extension services we have a unique opportunity to move with this trend, taking thought for the interests and the welfare of the whole family.

*Ethel Chapman*