

The President's Corner



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

SINCE this is the last time that my picture will appear at the head of the President's Corner and my signature at the close, it seems that I should use the space to particularly good advantage.

As an opening—let me express my very best wishes to our new provincial president, whoever she may be. She will have a rewarding work for the next few years. A task which will afford her a tremendous satisfaction. In order, however, to really reach her peak of accomplishment, she will need the complete co-operation of each and every Women's Institute member in Ontario, and that includes the retiring president. In the last issue of *Home and Country*, at the close of an article written by Mrs. A. E. Leckie, entitled "Let Officers Circulate", appears the following paragraph:

"The retiring president can do a great deal to help her successor by really retiring and taking her place as an ordinary member. There is nothing more nerve-wracking to a newly elected president, than to have the immediate past-president draw up as close to the table as possible with a pencil and paper in hand and make copious notes, nodding her head at each item of business or shaking it if there is any departure from the way of doing things established by herself. This is enough to make any new executive wonder why she ever took office."

This paragraph shall present a particular challenge to me. Every time I find myself reaching for my notebook, nodding and shak-

ing my head, I shall very severely reprimand myself. For no one knows better than I, the task of a provincial president—and if a means of assisting is the withholding of unsolicited advice—well, that's for me.

ing my head, I shall very severely reprimand myself. For no one knows better than I, the task of a provincial president—and if a means of assisting is the withholding of unsolicited advice—well, that's for me.

Retiring Presidents of the past have set a pattern for helpful and co-operative assistance. With their performance, as well as Mrs. Leckie's advice, to guide me, I hope that I can give to our new President the type of co-operation that will benefit her most.

I wish to include in this message something on a cheerful note, and that is a very easy thing to do, when I know that my readers will be mainly interested members of our organization. Next year the world will wish to celebrate with Ontario, I am sure, the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of our work. As we contemplate this really outstanding milestone, we cannot fail to be thrilled with the progress made by our organization over this period of years. Women all over the world have looked upon it, found in it something of benefit for them, and have given to it of their abilities. To-day, we can look back over the years and find the results to be a well-formed organization, which provides unity within nations and around the world. It has opened up for thousands of women an opportunity to share their talents with others; and for many thousands of us it has provided a wonderful medium of adult education. So much the past has given us; and as we gaze forward we naturally ask what the future holds for the Women's Institutes.

We realize that all progress will depend on the individual acceptance of a challenge to make our organization broader and more far-reaching as the years pass. In accepting the challenge thrown us by the truly great women who have given us the Women's Institute, our very best individual efforts will be put forth. The best work of 45,000 women in Ontario cannot but bring results, the effects of which will be felt in our Homes and in Countries all around the world.

Edith A. MacPhatter

arrange baby clinics for the children of their own communities.

The women have a concern for the education of country children. Most of the elementary education is given by correspondence courses from the government, the mothers supervising the children's school work in the homes. Mrs. Berry's own daughters got their elementary education in this way. When the time comes for high school, parents who can afford it may send their children to boarding school; others have to find boarding places in the towns where the high schools are located. To help with this problem, the country women are providing "educational hostels," with a qualified house mother in charge. These hostels are so well approved that the Government subsidizes them by fifty per cent.

Another project of the Australian Country Women's Associations is to provide maternity hostels in towns where women come from hundreds of miles out in the country to have their babies. Before there were hostels women often stayed at home too long before setting out to go to the hospital in town.

To provide medical service in a sparsely settled country is always a problem. Australia's "Flying Doctor Service" came from the dream of a Presbyterian minister who saw the graves of wives and the dreary homes of bachelors who would not bring a woman to the inland country because there was no medical service there. The minister's idea was to have doctors fly in, but the trouble was to get word to the doctor when someone was ill. So