

the manager of a district radio station give a talk "which was followed by a lively discussion on radio and television programmes." **South Verulam** had a talk by a radio announcer, then the women put on some mock features such as a "gossip column." **Granton:** a panel on adult education through books, radio, television, travel, handicrafts and other means. **Utterson:** a talk on modern education by the school principal. **McIlquhams:** a talk by the school teacher on a typical school day in the life of a present-day child, and improved methods of teaching. **Lyn:** a meeting when the Institute visited the school and "had a chance to see and hear what was being taught." **Annan:** a talk by a school teacher on "The Battle of the Report Card"—"very instructive to parents."

A great many Institutes are taking an interest in the education of the "exceptional child"—handicapped, retarded, mentally disturbed or with an unusually high I.Q.

Editor's note: Because of lack of space in this issue references to programmes on Historical Research, Community Activities and Crafts are held over for our Winter issue; also notes on International Days, plans to gain new members, and part of the community activities reports.

Christmas Meetings

A great many Institutes consider their December meeting the outstanding meeting of the year.

Belgrave reports: "We especially enjoyed our Christmas meeting, the Christmas tree and carol singing giving a real Yuletide atmosphere. The play, 'Silver and Gold', borrowed from the Loan Library, was enjoyed and later presented at a Sunday School concert; and our demonstration of Christmas decorations and table centres was shown by our local T.V. station." This branch sent Christmas gifts to the Children's Aid.

Froomefield says: "The carols, the Christmas Story and the packing of homemade candies, cookies, Christmas cake, fruit and nuts for the MacPherson Home was truly a heart-warming experience for the members."

Athens had a number of New Canadians at their December meeting. One of these, dressed in her antique costume, told how Christmas is celebrated in Holland. Others in costume sang carols in Dutch and everyone sang carols in English. At the meeting thirty-eight cheer parcels were packed for shut-ins in the village.

Central Dumfries: "The reading of Peter Marshall's 'Let's Keep Christmas' gave us something beautiful to think about. We had discussions and demonstrations by members on preparing Christmas dinner. We enjoyed participating in the Christmas Story by singing carols that were interwoven with the story. And we cooperated with Little's Corners in providing individual Christmas gifts for residents of the Home for the Aged."

King: "The December meeting was a 'good will' meeting to which other women's organizations were invited and all helped with the programme. Carols were explained and sung, the Christmas story was read from the Bible, and Scrooge's Christmas was read from Dickens' 'Christmas Carol.'"

Drumpuin reports: Every member makes an effort to come to the Christmas meeting. The attendance is so large the meeting has to be held in the basement of the church. All the children receive gifts and a special story is told for them.

Sydenham considered this the best meeting of the year because they "planned a Christmas for a needy family with four children—supplying clothes, toys and dinner," and "because of the fine feeling of love and understanding as we sang carols together."

At **Byron** when plans were discussed for a Christmas party it was decided not to exchange gifts, but to take a collection for someone in need. Over \$50 was collected for a mother and two babies.

Hillier held its December meeting at the County Home. A clergyman told the Christmas story; they had carol singing and other music and presented each inmate of the Home with a box of homemade candy. **Cherry Valley** also visited the County Home at Christmas with treats for the inmates. **McIrvine** had a Christmas party for the pre-school children of the community and their mothers. **Star of the North** gave gifts to aged and alone citizens and to 125 children. **Foxboro** had for a roll call "Family Christmas Customs." Some of these customs had been brought from other countries by immigrant ancestors.

Silk's Ruth Sayre wrote. "We liked our Christmas meeting best because of the spirit of good fellowship and the talk on 'Christmas Customs in Other Lands' by one of our New Canadians." **Salem's** Christmas meeting was best "because there was much more sociability and music." **Cavan** had a demonstration on making Christmas decorations and a Dutch lady told how Christmas is celebrated in Holland. **Desbarats** had a Christmas story, an exchange of gifts and carol singing and they made arrangements for a Christmas concert and treats for the children. **Wharnclyffe** bought toys for needy children in the community. **Mildmay** members brought to the meeting donations of money and gifts for the Children's Aid. **Harrow** had a collection of jams and jellies for the sanatorium and made plans to send out Christmas Cheer boxes. **Island Falls** had a debate "comparing the old-fashioned Christmas with modern Christmas celebrations."

Community Activities

So many Institutes are working along the same lines of community activities that there would be endless repetition if we were to report them all here. For example, Chatterton sent flowers, cards and gifts to the