

**Greenock:** "Only through our Institute have we such a splendid feeling of co-operation among our neighbors, both socially and materially. And at our meetings and socials we bring forth hidden talents."

**Hillsburg Auxiliary:** "We have divided our membership into four groups, each group acting as a committee and taking turns as different projects come up. No one is overworked and everyone gets a chance to work."

**Centreville:** "Our Provincial Board Member speaking at our annual dinner said: 'The Women's Institute is not only rural but urban too'. We feel that the line of demarkation between the groups is becoming more indistinct with each passing year, and we feel that the Institute is in an admirable position to lead in blending the two together, or at least to help them realize that they have much common ground."

**Glenford** presents a common problem: "The Institute has always played an important part in the community, but in the last few years with the community over-organized and everyone belonging to every organization, and with the city moving closer to the community, it is hard to interest new women in the Institute."

**Galetta:** "We think the District Officers' names and addresses and perhaps the area

conveners' should be on our programmes so that each member would become familiar with them."

**Wyebridge** recommends that the term of office for standing committee conveners in convention areas and districts be limited to three years, giving more members an opportunity for this experience.

**Wallbridge:** "We try to persuade mothers and members to take more interest in the Girls' Homemaking Club so that the girls may become active members in the Institute in the future."

**Back Line, Dufferin:** "Young people should be encouraged to join the Institute and should be given an active part to keep them interested."

At **Desbarats** the president is giving a prize at the end of the year to the member who has attended the most meetings.

**Maple Grove:** "We think more visits between Institute branches would strengthen the District. We had one each way and they were among our better meetings."

**Glen:** "Our Institute continues to be a friendly link among the women of the community. We look forward to our meetings at which country women can get together and discuss topics of mutual interest."

## *Red Cross Homemaker Service*

In a number of cities and large towns in Ontario, Red Cross Visiting Homemakers are giving a valuable service, going into homes to take over the work of the homemaker in times of illness or other such emergency. The official outline of the service says:

"The chief demand for homemaker service is in maternity cases. When no other help is available the homemaker provides care for the mother until she is completely recovered, as well as assuring proper care of the children.

"Where the mother is in hospital a homemaker may be required in the home to take her place. This is especially true when there are small children who might otherwise be neglected.

"The condition of many homes calls for some outside assistance and for educational work. Trained homemakers are frequently able to do this practical educational work in the home with the mothers while they are on a case."

The average cost per day to the family served varies from five to seven dollars, depending on the area. Where a family is unable to pay the full fee, some adjustment may be made.

This Homemaker Service may be of interest to Women's Institutes in three ways:

1. It may be of direct help to Institute members where there is an office or centre in the

town where there is an Institute, such as Cornwall, Dundas, Galt, Grimsby, Lindsay, Port Athur, Welland.

2. Institutes in smaller towns or rural areas might care to investigate the possibilities of having the service extended to smaller towns and rural areas, just as some Institutes are working to have Victorian Order Nurses for an entire county—not just for the cities in the county.

3. The directors of this work are on the lookout for staff and it is possible that some Institute members might be interested as applicants. It has been found that women between the ages of twenty-five and forty adjust themselves to the work most readily but the age requirement is not rigidly observed. Whether the homemaker is married or single is not considered important. Educational requirements are not strictly set. Applicants with training in Household Science, as technical or vocational school graduates or with experience in housework, child care and sewing are given preference. Training courses are given in Nutrition and Food Preparation, Child Care, Household Management, Home Nursing and Social Service.

Correspondence should be addressed to Miss Nettie A. Thomson, Director Homemaker Service, The Canadian Red Cross Society, 460 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ont.