

# Annual F.W.I.O. Board Meeting

By Ethel McCandless

**M**RS. Gordon MacPhatter, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, presided at the annual meeting of the Board, held in the Royal York Hotel, Toronto on November 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The opening ceremonies were conducted by the President, after which she welcomed the board members, especially the new members. Mrs. MacPhatter expressed regret that owing to the international crisis the A.C.W.W. Conference in Ceylon, which was to have been held in December and which five members of the Board were to attend, had been indefinitely postponed.

In her address to the Board, Mrs. MacPhatter said as retiring president she would make no formal address, but wished to express her thanks to all members of the Board and the members at large for their co-operation and support throughout the three years she had presided. She also expressed her appreciation to Miss Helen McKercher, Director of Home Economics Service of the Ontario Department of Agriculture's Extension Branch, and her staff; and to the Ontario Department of Agriculture for their splendid co-operation and help to the Women's Institutes. Mrs. MacPhatter pledged her support and co-operation to the new president, whomever it might be. On Tuesday morning Mrs. MacPhatter opened the meeting by reading a poem written by her Mother, Mrs. Gertrude G. Lipsett, entitled "Yesterday and Today," and which appeared in the fall issue of "Home and Country."

## THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. G. Gordon Maynard

Mrs. G. Gordon Maynard in her report stated there had been an increase of 267 in the membership, making a total of 41,047 members in Ontario. Since the discontinuance of the Women's Institute Branch, Department of Agriculture, more work has come to the desks of the president and the secretary.

The conference at Guelph for branch secretaries stimulated an interest in the Hand Book and the desire to learn more of the rules of procedure for Women's Institute meetings. Hence the sale of Hand Books has greatly increased. 1,452 Hand Books have been sold, also 259 life memberships, 279 badges and numerous photographs and crests. Flowers, get well, welcome and sympathy cards have been sent out. The secretary stated that all badges and bars must be purchased from the secretary of the F.W.I.O.

Sincere thanks was extended to Miss McKercher and her staff in appreciation of the mimeographing of reports and articles, and for the many courtesies extended.

## HOME ECONOMICS SERVICE

Miss Helen M. McKercher

In her address to the Board, Miss McKercher said that members of the Women's Institutes must set their standards high and keep to the ideals of their founder. She would like to see the Leader Training courses at the local level and hopes that this can be arranged at some future date. She also advised that should the F.W.I.O. decide to open a central office, the Department will provide an office and office equipment. Miss McKercher stated that her Department will give its fullest support to all Women's Institute activities and undertakings. "What we want," said Miss McKercher, "is for you, the Women's Institutes, to have the very best for home and country." The offer of the Department for a central office was accepted and a committee was appointed to bring in a concrete recommendation to the Spring Board Meeting regarding this. Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, Mrs. L. G. Lymburner, Mrs. G. Maynard and Mrs. P. Y. McCandless are the members of the committee.

## HOME ECONOMICS AND HEALTH

Mrs. John H. McCulloch

To read the splendid reports received from the conveners of Home Economics and Health is to realize the truth of the statement, "The horizon ever widens for forward-looking folk." Not only has the work in Home Economics and Health of other years been continued, but new lines of work have been undertaken. Home Economics and Health have been closely correlated as our members progress in their endeavour toward greater efficiency in the home, more abundant health and a better chance to serve their community. Home Economics and Health means the art of living together in the home and community, making the best use of what we have at hand and developing an awareness of how closely our way of living and our health are connected. No greater task faces us than to stand together and teach our children to think fairly and constructively, to enjoy labour, to cheerfully pay their debt to citizenship, to perpetuate the best traditions and the highest ideals of our fathers, to honour God and their fellowmen. Interest in health continues to increase. Our women are keenly alert to the fact that a nation is as strong as the health of her people. Health is not a gift of the gods, but an individual struggle.

Emphasis has been on mental health, and our women are doing marvelous work in co-operating with the Mental Health Association in an endeavour to bring to the layman the importance of mental health in his everyday