

\* \* \*

### THE COUNTRY FAITH

By Norman Gale

Here in the country's heart  
Where the grass is green  
Life is the same sweet life  
As it e'er hath been.

Trust in a God still lives,  
And the bell at morn  
Floats with a thought of God  
O'er the rising corn.

God comes down in the rain,  
And the crop grows tall—  
This is the country faith,  
And the best of all!

\* \* \*

a great deal has been done to start pre-natal and maternity clinics and blood transfusion centres.

### SOUTH RHODESIA

The Women's Institutes in Southern Rhodesia believe that their "great strength lies in their ability to unite rural and urban opinion on matters of national importance." During the past three years their standing committees have studied African Interests, Broadcasting, Agriculture, Education, Public Health and Social Services. Sixteen rural Institutes now sponsor rural libraries and several have built halls to use as community centres, clinics, nursery schools and even church services. Some institutes have organized the daily distribution of milk to children in African primary schools and many sponsor homecraft classes for African women.

## Country Women in Other Lands

**N**EWs of the doings of associated country women's groups in different parts of the world must impress us with the similarity of purpose of organized country women however widely their conditions may differ.

The following item comes from an A.C.W.W. member, Mrs. Davey, who went from England to visit the Italian Women's Institutes which were organized two years ago. Mrs. Davey reports that Institute instructors have taught the people to reclaim the land; to keep fowl out of their living rooms; and that they have trained the men to use farm machinery in place of the mule and the wife. Individual programs are planned for each village and then instructresses help the people to help themselves. The report continues:

"These Italian Women's Institute groups are working like trojans to educate and teach the women how to enjoy the benefits of the land. They also show the man how much he will gain when his wife has been taught the fundamentals of a good home life with no outside drudgery.

\* \* \*

From Ireland we have this outline of the aims and the work of the Irish Countrywomen's Association:

This is a Society which every lover of Ireland, country dweller or town dweller, should help and encourage. It was one of the pioneers of rural women's organizations, developing out of "The Society of United Irishwomen," which was founded in 1910 under the inspiration of the co-operative movement and which was dedicated to further the "better living" of that movement's three-point programme of "Better farming, better business, better living." It is non-Secretarian and non-party political and is open to all countrywomen and girls. over school-leaving age, all of whom have equal rights and privileges. The aims of the Irish Countrywomen's Association include:

- Promotion of the love of home and the arts of peace.
- Preservation of local crafts and traditions.
- Instruction in handicrafts, home-making, poultry-keeping, gardening, stock-raising, etc.
- Co-operation in disposal of surplus products.
- Preservation and improvement of the amenities of the countryside.
- Encouragement of the use of the Irish language.
- Education.

These and other aims of the Association have resulted in a great variety of activities. Co-operative markets have been started and exhibitions and sales of handicrafts have been

\* \* \*

### WORK

By Henry van Dyke

Let me but do my work from day to day,  
In field or forest, at the desk or loom,  
In roaring market-place or tranquil room;  
Let me but find it in my heart to say,  
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,  
"This is my work; my blessing, not my doom;  
Of all who live, I am the one by whom  
This work can best be done in the right way."

Then shall I see it not too great, nor small,  
To suit my spirit and to prove my powers;  
Then shall I cheerful greet the laboring hours,  
And cheerful turn, when the long shadows fall  
At eventide, to play and love and rest,  
Because I know for me my work is best.

\* \* \*