

Here and There With the Institutes

Notes From "Reports of Meetings."

AGAIN we have gathered from the Secretaries' Report of Meetings, ideas that we think may carry suggestions or inspiration from one branch to another. Because this is our purpose rather than to give publicity to any Institute, it may happen that some of the branches having the best programmes are not mentioned—their topics are already well known and many other branches are studying the same things, such as Making Wills, United Nations, Flower Arrangements.

This is true, too, in reporting Community Activities. Nothing could be more important than sponsoring a baby clinic or making cancer dressings or keeping supplies in the school's first aid kits or providing something for the local hospital or the community hall, but everyone knows these are good things to do. Even when we try to avoid repetition it does creep in sometimes and this makes tiresome reading. Still we hope that in the notes we have made there may be something of interest for everyone.

Only about half of the reports are reviewed here. The others will be dealt with in the next issue.—Ed.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMMES

The Institutes were asked if they had some special feature in their programme this year that they would especially recommend to other branches. These are some of the recommendations:

Wharncliffe: Have all conveners give short reports at each meeting. **Bright:** The use of films from the Ontario Agricultural College. **Cloverdale** says "Have films followed by discussion." **East Korah:** "Have talks by school teachers and always invite the teachers to come to the meetings if only for a cup of tea after school closes." **North Tarentorus:** "We suggest touring industrial plants rather than having papers on them."

Bar River recommends a programme that they found very worth while. The Institute arranged with the teacher to hold their February meeting on a Friday afternoon at the school. The women saw some of the children's work, and were entertained by the musical programme the children had taken part in at the Kiwanis Music Festival. The teacher explained new features in the course of study and the women competed with the children in a geography match.

Desbarats suggests: "Study the Hand Book." At each meeting have one of the officers or conveners read and explain the duties of her office. This will help inexperienced members to know what their duties would be, if they were elected to one of these offices.

Portlock Royal finds it interesting to give each convener two minutes at each meeting to discuss some topic relating to her committee.

Each meeting has a main theme around which the roll call, topics, discussions and contests are centred.

Glen Morris liked its programme "Everyone sing, say, do or pay." They "found surprising talent in unlooked for places." Their bread-making demonstration was especially interesting, too. **Moyle** recommends "more social times, more evening meetings; **Paris Plains**, an oyster supper for members and friends. **Blue Lake and Auburn**, a historical meeting with a display of very old quilts and old kitchen utensils and an old time concert for the programme. **Chesley**, a talk by the local librarian on Art and Literature with an exhibit of new books. **Walkerton Young Women's Institute**, a musicale by the music teachers of the town and the schools. **Mar**, also **Harrowsmith**, a talk and demonstration on artificial respiration. **Holyrood**, demonstrations on smocking, making Christmas candles and a demonstration by a registered nurse of sick-room gadgets to make a patient more comfortable.

Purple Grove, a special speaker on "Teenagers' Problems" followed by group discussions. **Kenmore**, an address by a member of the township council. **Ridge**, a debate "Resolved that the wives of today are happier than their grandmothers were." **Johnston-May**, an impromptu debate on the same subject. An impromptu debate might be a good idea for a meeting when some of the planned programme fails to materialize. It could also be a good training in discussion.—Ed.)

Antrim: "Our best meetings are those at which girls demonstrate and exhibit what they have learned in their 4-H Homemaking Clubs."

North Gower: A group discussion on Adult Education. The report says: "There were many opinions expressed and the exchange of ideas resulted in very interesting conclusions."

Mansfield sends this interesting report: "One of our members who was a Buddhist from India, led a discussion on the real meaning of Easter. Pretending ignorance of our beliefs and asking questions about Christianity she brought out our views and our convictions on religion. We would recommend such discussions to other Institutes."

Coleridge Union invited the homemaking club girls to the course on Salads.

Central Yarmouth reports: "At each meeting we had a member give a two minute talk. The executive left it with the members to choose their own subjects and it was very successful."

Eden recommends that every Institute should have a speaker on the education of retarded children.