

inaugurate a provincial project to study and encourage prenatal care without delay. In connection with this Resolution a committee of Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, Mrs. Wesley Redford and Mrs. Harry Francis was appointed to gather information from their own localities and to present it to the Department of Health in regard to setting up a project.

#### **Officers Elected for 1957-58**

President, Mrs. James Haggerty; Honorary Presidents, Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, Miss Helen McKercher; Regional Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Harry Francis, Mrs. J. D. Hossack, Mrs. W. J. Cooper; Regional Directors, Mrs. R. J. Penney, Mrs. H. E. Dunn, Mrs. J. P. Corson, Mrs. David Brown, Mrs. George Ash; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. G. Gordon Maynard; Conference and Holiday Secretary, Mrs. E. V. Thompson; Conveners of Standing Committees: Agriculture and Canadian Industries, Mrs. Orland Richards; Citizenship and Education, Mrs. Keith Edwards; Historical Research, Mrs. Bernard Brooks; Resolutions, Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter; Community Activities and Public Relations, Mrs. P. Y. McCandless; F.W.I.C. Representative, Mrs. J. R. Penney.

#### **The Elizabeth Fry Society**

Mrs. J. D. Hossack said that while the rehabilitation of the woman offender is the prime consideration of the Elizabeth Fry Society, it also has the objective of arousing public interest in a little known problem, and of interpreting the work of the Society to the citizens of Ontario.

One of the most interesting activities under this committee is the doll project where the women in Don Jail dressed 24 dolls for the school for retarded children.

A brief was presented concerning plans for the proposed new women's penitentiary at Collins Bay.

Study has been made of the Fauteux Report, and also of the large proportion of Mercer population which is mentally retarded, disturbed children. A need for a treatment centre for them, and free legal aid have been discussed. Interviews arranged with the Provincial Institute of Trades makes it possible to get training there for clients when this would be helpful.

The new Building for Difficult Girls at Galt Training School came in for much discussion. A Health Unit has been established for Indians in the Red Lake district, when it was revealed that living conditions and poor educational facilities had something to do with the high percentage of Indian girls and women in our jails and reform institutions.

Clients need a home, a job, money and suitable clothes when they leave an Institution.

Too often these hurdles are insurmountable without some help and the women slip back again to drugs, alcohol or unsuitable friends. Women who have never known self-discipline cannot be rehabilitated overnight, but by setting up hostels where they can stay, by providing some sort of friendship and associations and a few of the comforts of home life, this gap can often be bridged and a life made useful to society again.

Any report would not be complete without mentioning the Volunteer and Shop Committee who market articles made by the girls at Mercer. 77 pairs of socks were sold and some 45 special orders for socks, sweaters, mitts and children's wear were made by the girls who were paid for their work.

#### **Remedial Education**

Mrs. Hossack also reported on what has been done in remedial education.

A concentrated programme of education has been carried on, bringing before parents, school boards and the public the difficulties encountered by many children of our rural schools who through some physical handicap such as speech, hearing or eyesight deficiency, or other problems, are unable to keep up with their class.

Visits have been made to South Wellington where the itinerant remedial teacher, Mr. Hincks, has been carrying out a fine programme for several years, and to an inspectorate in Grey county.

100 copies of an outline for a panel discussion by an Inspector, a teacher, a parent and a ratepayer or member of the school board, were sent out after requests were made at last year's conventions.

Last Spring, East and West Zorra, two adjacent areas in Oxford North Inspectorate united to bring remedial teaching into operation under Inspector W. G. Anderson's guidance. However, it was not possible to obtain a qualified teacher to begin the term this Fall. Woodstock North branch, where the original Resolution was presented, has made the raising of a Bursary for special teacher training their project for this year and have \$100 for this purpose. The work is seriously handicapped in rural areas by a lack of trained teachers.

The Foundation will make every effort to encourage experienced teachers, and especially those with sympathy and understanding for the handicapped, to improve their training through the Course in Special Education offered. The Stothers Exceptional Child Foundation may assist with a bursary where financial help is required in order that the most suitable teachers may be prepared for this important field of education. Members of the Women's Institute could help by discussing this