

The President's Corner

Mrs. James Haggerty,
President, F.W.I.O.



NOWADAYS we hear so much of the "Changing Rural Population and Rural Conditions," and it is quite true that the changes are great. We too, in the Women's Institutes find a changing pattern in our programme, and although we may resist at first, we accept it finally, even while we cling to our basic aims and objectives. Over the years we have built up an ever-broadening organization and plan of activities around our motto "For Home and Country."

The newest innovation of our provincial set-up is the central office in Toronto which is a place of airy space and modern equipment that inspires those of us who work there to fresh incentive to carry out our administrative duties well. The door is always open to visitors from all parts of the province as well as to others from any province or any part of the world.

Women from many countries do drop in and we exchange views of our organizations and their activities. No matter where we live we find that women everywhere are pretty much the same and that their interests and problems are quite similar, and that we can learn many things from one another.

Ontario has a special significance to other countries because the Women's Institutes have their birthplace here. Other nations look to us as examples to follow so we have a tremendous responsibility to assume. We must never let down our organization; we must plan our programme on a high plane; we must set forth ideals that are worthy as aims; we must display loyalty, honesty and truth, and above all others, charity, friendship and love.

Our Women's Institute Holidays are becoming known in other countries and we have visitors each year from other lands. This past summer a Social Welfare worker from Pakistan spent three days of the Holiday at Guelph and at Kemptville; Lady Coomaraswamy, World Vice-President of A.C.W.W. and her niece, Padurini Ponnampalam of Ceylon joined us for one afternoon; and all were impressed with the programme provided.

Greetings to Guelph Holiday from Mrs. Howes of Alberta, Provincial President of that province, were welcome.

As usual I was very proud of my Ontario women, five of whom had attended the Holiday for several years. The number of Holiday-ers was unusually large and it was something of a problem to arrange for so many. These five women told me that if it were necessary to limit the numbers another year, much as they would regret doing so, they had decided among themselves that they should stay at home and let others come in their place. I was deeply touched by their thoughtfulness and unselfishness.

Do you wonder that I have so much pride in my Institute members? God bless every one of you and may we have another happy year, working together in and for the Women's Institutes!

Annie G. Haggerty.

Pre-Natal Classes

By Mabel Bryans

Editor's Note: One of the recommendations of the F.W.I.O. committee on Infant Mortality is that the Women's Institutes, working with their public health unit, sponsor pre-natal classes. It occurred to us that some Institutes might not know just how to go about starting such classes or carrying them on, so when, at South Peel's District Annual, we heard Mrs. Elgin Bryans, W.I. representative on the local Board of Health, report what had been done in her district, we asked her to write an article for Home and Country telling how the classes were organized, if there was any difficulty getting the mothers-to-be to attend, what the fathers learned at the classes and anything else that might be helpful. The result was this clear-cut informative article.

Organizing the Classes

THE PLANS and materials for pre-natal classes were made well ahead before the classes actually began. When inquiries in sufficient numbers came from the doctors and new residents of the county who had moved from cities where such classes were held, we started a publicity campaign. The radio station announced it on their women's programmes every day for two weeks. The local papers inserted it in their women's columns. Registration was made by telephone to the office and when we had sufficient registration for one class, the mothers-to-be were phoned, given time, place and instruction as to wearing apparel. It is interesting to note that the advertising via radio and