

Our Canadian citizenship has become more valuable as we have learned the procedure of obtaining it by our new Canadians. Good citizenship is shown in our daily lives by giving leadership in 4-H Clubs, as members of school boards and acting at the polling booth. Statistics show us that too large a percentage of Canadian women do not make use of the franchise. In some countries that guard and value their freedom, it is compulsory for everyone to vote. One of the basic duties of citizenship is the exercise of the franchise. At least one branch reported that one hundred percent of their membership voted. We must also stress the importance of a wholesome home atmosphere, the value of good music and good books in making better citizens. Branches are asked to make every effort to enter the essay competition, 'How can I train my child to be a citizen of the world?'

A keen interest in our children's education has been backed up by our branches with tangible awards of money, books and bus trips to places of interest. Also bursaries and scholarships have been donated to students.

Education begins long before children reach school age. Most of us can look back and remember some example set for us by our parents in living and working together, so we must set an example for the youth of today who will be the citizens of tomorrow. Education is a life's work. If we acquire it when young it is very easy to carry around and might come in useful some day. The article, 'Why Your Children Made Me Quit Teaching' was a topic at many meetings. Have the children in elementary schools been given so much 'expression' that, when entering secondary schools, none but the strongest and ablest survive to teach them? The question was asked, are parents too busy, too careless, or do they just lean too heavily on the teachers for their children's education? To make honest, hard-working, law-abiding citizens should be the first aim of education. The foundation for such a life is laid in the home and elementary school. If this early teaching has the desired effect, then the discipline and dropping out problems in the secondary schools will be solved. By understanding our neighbours and by learning co-operation in our own home and community we can do so much toward spreading that same feeling of co-operation and love to the ends of the earth.

The retarded child has come into the limelight now, but why must his school be a private one and his teacher, no matter how well qualified, not a member of the F.W.T.A.O.M.? We have done much for this cause with the auxiliary class as well as the Retarded Children's School; let us go further and have it recognized so it may come under Provincial Government."

The resignation of Mrs. Keith Edwards as convener of Citizenship and Education was received with regret. Mrs. Douglas Hart, R.R. 3, Woodstock was elected to this committee.

Home Economics and Health

Mrs. Ernest Irwin, Convener, said that reports this year show a wealth of material. Women across Ontario generally are living up to their responsibilities. More and more reports show an increase in short courses, study kits and training schools.

In this age of continuous, fast-moving change we need to keep informed through research and scientific study. Therefore, as members of an organization so vitally interested in the health of the people, we must fit ourselves to assume our responsibilities, to study and transpose those aids so they may serve their most effective purpose. Mental health continues to be a serious problem, and the primary objective now is to educate the public so that it will accept mental illness as just another illness. Through helpful, patient therapy and research there has been tremendous progress made to remove the fears and taboos which have hampered rational treatment of the subject of mental health.

Governments across Canada are concerned with the country's high accident rate. A survey on accidents on the farm is being planned by the Ontario Ministers of Agriculture and Transport for spring. Every Women's Institute member will be asked to assist with this project in every way possible.

Encourage the 4-H Homemaking Clubs in your district. Attend Achievement Days. These girls need encouragement and recognition.

In any crisis we can depend on the Women's Institutes to respond wholeheartedly. From our reports we know that everyone is vitally interested in health, and one of the best ways to have it is to preserve it by having good meals, rest, good discipline; and thus we will have better citizens and a stronger nation.

Agriculture and Canadian Industries

Mrs. Orland Richards in giving her first report of Agriculture and Canadian Industries said: "The work has given me a truer picture of the Ontario scene. In the North the reports centred on mining and lumbering. In the West, on grass-land and grain. In the South, the big problem is land use and water levels. I think our chief aim in the Women's Institute programme should be educational so that we may learn and understand the problems of one another. Let us have a better understanding between rural and urban people, between producer and consumer and between the Women's Institute and other rural organizations.

"Agriculture as an industry is fifty years behind the other industries in its planning and development programme," said Mrs. Richards.

"At the present we are going through a period of transition, from the old, tried and trusted methods to the new, scientific approach which is more closely related to the secondary industries. We must study and work to enlarge our horizons of knowledge and thought to meet conditions which must inevitably come in our fast growing country. We have seen many changes and there will be many more because agriculture has to take its place as a basic industry.

"At the O.A.C. much research work has been done. This is taken to the farms by the work of the extension staff. In the agriculture of the future there will be no place for the inefficient farmer and the woman on the farm may be more important than the man on the farm.

"Films play a big part in our agricultural programme. Members should watch for local TV shows and panel discussions, especially Farm Forum. Some of our best authorities in the agricultural field are taking part in these productions.