

Miss Helen McKercher, left, and Dr. Helen Abell in Miss McKercher's office discuss plans for the Farm Homes and Homemakers Survey.



A Study of Farm Homes and Homemakers

IN THESE DAYS when living conditions for people everywhere are changing at a speed never known before, it is important that those who have a responsibility for service to farm people should keep pace with these changes and their effects on rural living.

With this in mind Miss Helen McKercher, Director of Home Economics Extension Service for the Ontario Department of Agriculture has arranged for a special survey of a cross-section of farm homes in the province. (A township to be surveyed will be chosen at random from each county or district, which should give a representative sample of the rural homes and homemakers of Ontario.) The purpose of the survey is to find from farm women themselves what their needs and interests are so that the best possible Home Economics Service programme can be provided for them.

This survey, the first sociological study of farm homemakers in Canada, is a co-operative enterprise of the provincial and federal Departments of Agriculture and of the Home Economics Service and Farm Economics and Statistics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. It is directed by Dr. Helen Abell, Supervisor of the Rural Sociology Unit of the Economics Division of the Canada Department of Agriculture, assisted by Miss Lois Clipsham of the Home Economics Service staff. County and District Home Economists will do the field work in their territories, calling on women in their own homes and recording their answers to a special questionnaire.

In the main, the purpose of the questionnaire is to find: 1. What is involved in achieving the best in rural living? 2. What are the difficulties in achieving the means to the best in rural living? What are the needs and interests of the farm family in terms of both farm and home requirements in any programme aimed at improving farm incomes? But the questions asked go into such detail that they will give very practical guidance

in planning the best possible extension service programme in foods and nutrition and clothing and textiles and home furnishing and health and the use of money and probably in other fields that have not been explored yet. It is hoped that the developments from this survey will be of very practical benefit to the farm homemaker and indirectly to the whole farm family.

A Scrap Book of Quilt Blocks

By Hester Walker

IT HAS BEEN suggested by Miss Helen McKercher that Scrapbooks of Quilt Blocks traditional to Ontario be compiled and be kept in the Loan Library for future use by the Women's Institutes across Ontario.

Therefore any branch wishing to make a Quilt Block is asked to choose any kind, whether pieced, patched, appliqued, embroidered, etc. The blocks should be: any size from 6 inches square to 14 inches square, preferably hand sewn, edges not pinked, blocks not quilted.

Those contributing quilt blocks should give: the name of the pattern, how the quilt is set together, name of the branch and district. (Each branch will be given credit for its block by having its name attached.)

These blocks are to be forwarded to: Mrs. R. C. Walker, R.R. 1, St. George as soon as possible.

Any original patterns, crib quilt designs, any type of material or colour combination will be most welcome.

Let us strive to have at least 1,400 traditional blocks and revive this fascinating art.