

Pennies for Friendship

By Dorothy
Drage

After eight years of hard work on the finances of the A.C.W.W., with each year's budget of requirements increasing much faster than the receipts, and after several enquiries have been made into possible grants towards the work of the A.C.W.W. had all been unavailing, I became convinced that the members of A.C.W.W. would have to pay for the work themselves.

I remembered that Local Authorities make large sums of money by means of a very large number of small contributions and the idea flashed into my mind "Why not apply the same principle to A.C.W.W.?"

I took this suggestion to our President at that time, Mrs. Watt. She looked at it and said, "It seems harmless," and told me I could draw up a report on the subject and show it to the Committee. After calculation, I found that it would be possible to put the contribution as low as one penny per person, per year. This, I hoped, would

be the answer to the oft repeated request from country audiences for a cheaper contribution than the £1 Contributing Membership, or the 4/6d for the paper "The Countrywoman".

I announced the idea in my finance speech at the 1939 Conference in London. It was then hailed by Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Stofberg of South Africa as a good idea and I hoped that it might indeed be so. The fund grew slowly at first, but later grew steadily, till the years '55-'57 it hovered between £9,000 and £10,000 a year. In 1958 the total rose to £12,000, but this year it fell, alas, to £10,000.

Let us hope that after this year's great and successful conference many more will feel that our work is worth contributing to.

Editor's Note: In recognition of outstanding service, Mrs. Drage has been made a Member of Honour of the Associated Country Women of the World.

Oakland's Book Quiz

By Mrs. Gerald
Ripley

Editor's Note: Hearing that Oakland Women's Institute in Brant County had for three years conducted a book quiz for school children we asked the president at that time, Mrs. Gerald Ripley, to tell us about it. This is Mrs. Ripley's reply:

I had read in Home and Country about the Book Quiz held by Elmview Women's Institute, and being president of our Oakland branch I was on the look-out for new ideas; also, being on our local school board I was "school-conscious."

Our committee consisted of four members plus myself. Two were former Institute members and teachers, now teaching again. Two were former teachers now young married women and not Institute members but nevertheless very much interested. Two other mothers assisted when two dropped out over the three-year period. Our committee met early in the fall of 1956 and letters were sent to the teachers telling them about our proposed project and asking for their co-operation.

As there are only two schools in our Institute area with about sixty students in one school and forty-five in the other, the quiz was open to all students who wished to enter, but mainly from Grades 3 on. We divided into two groups: Juniors — Grades 3 to 5, Seniors — Grades 6 to 8. Juniors were required to read three books, Seniors five. The first year we gave everyone entering a book as prize and also prizes to first, second and third place winners.

We tried when possible to hold our book quiz on the Thursday before Easter. Questions (about twenty per book) were prepared by different committee members with the answers attached to be used by the quiz master. Our quiz masters were

our School Inspector, Mr. J. C. Webster, for the first year, and his assistant, Mr. Ward for the next two years. They made the children feel at home and were a big help.

When possible we chose books by Canadian authors for prizes, as for example, one year we gave *Kristlees Trees* by the late Mabel Dunham. It proved to be so well liked that we chose it for a quiz book the following year. We found, after the first quiz, that girls didn't mind reading boys' books but boys didn't care to read girls' books.

One difficulty encountered was that both schools didn't always have the books chosen by the committee or the same edition, and for this reason we bought the books for the schools the last year and presented them to the school library. Our teachers co-operated well and this is very necessary in order that one pupil doesn't keep a book out of the library for an indefinite time; also to keep encouraging the pupils.

Some of the books chosen for reading were: *Paddy the Beaver*, *Peter Pan*, *Wind in the Willows*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Black Beauty*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Heidi*, *The Scarlet Force*, *The Force Carries On*.

We found that where the parents were interested and expected their children to enter we had a good response, although we didn't feel we had very good results in encouraging poor readers to take the interest we had hoped for. Juniors were more eager to participate than seniors, and we found that older pupils who were quite capable of entering and didn't take an interest had a discouraging effect on others who might enter with a little encouragement.