

so that they would share in the duties as well as the meetings."

Maxville: "We sent a new member to the Officers' Conference at Guelph where she became very interested, brought back an excellent report and has been a very active member ever since."

Martintown: "We think more time should be spent on programme planning. Our membership is down and we think more attractive meetings would be the answer."

Johnstown invites other Institutes to special meetings and courses and they "find the fellowship very helpful."

Millcreek says: "We tried a different way of planning the programme this year and were well pleased with the result. Each convener had an equal number of members to help her — this took in all the members — and each group was responsible for two meetings, both the programme and the refreshments. They met and planned their meetings, then the conveners met with the president and the secretary and they planned the programmes for the entire year. This group also planned the programmes for the four remaining meetings of the year: the Christmas or December meeting, the grandmothers' meeting, a meeting when we entertain other branches and the annual meeting."

Hampden strongly recommends having new Canadian members give talks on their homelands. **Kilsyth** says: "We look through Home and Country for programme suggestions." **Salem:** "We have our 4-H Homemaking Club girls demonstrate their work often to try to interest our members in becoming leaders." **Clinton** suggests "Concentrating more on local activities instead of trying to spread over such a wide area."



Extreme left and right, district president and district secretary of South Bruce with four former presidents who were each presented with a cup and saucer at the district annual meeting. The women honoured are, left to right: Mrs. Eliza Walker, Mrs. J. R. White, Mrs. J. M. Reid, Mrs. P. S. Stewart.

Kohler: "Is there any way our organization can warn women of 'racketeers', letting them know the danger of signing papers at the door or paying a deposit before goods are received? Too many women have been taken in this manner."

Editor's Note: We will have more notes from the Year's Reports of Meetings in our next issue.

Ontario's Rural Training Centre, Ceylon

By Mrs. George Wilson

At the time of the Ceylon Conference we were unable to visit the centre designated "The Ontario Model Centre." However, I have received a letter from the Prime Minister's wife, Mrs. P. D. Bandaranaike, who is the organizer for that area, telling about the centre. It is situated at Udagama northeast of Colombo in the western province in the Prime Minister's electorate. You will be interested to learn that it was the first of the model centres to be officially opened.

Most of the villagers are farmers. Some of the men and women work on the nearby coconut estates, which is the main industry in this part. The women, in their spare time, do cadjan weaving and coir work. The latter is the making of rope from the coconut fibres. As you go along the roads in the Colombo area you see many "boutiques" where coconut fibre twine, ropes, carpeting and mats are sold. The land for this centre was donated by the president of the Udagama Mahila Samiti, "a woman of fair means." The building was erected through the co-operation of the Government, the Parent Association and the president of the Udagama Mahila Samiti and, of course, Ontario

Women's Institute funds equipped it as well as five others.

The activities at this centre are, first, a nursery school, where pre-school children of working mothers are cared for. They are given a cup of milk in the morning and a noon meal. The Parent Association provides the funds for the noon meal, and the Government under the UNESCO scheme supplies the milk. A sewing class is conducted, where the young women are taught needlework and how to cut and sew their own garments, thereby saving money for other comforts. Cookery classes are sponsored to teach the women how to make jams and preserves. In agriculture classes, gardening is taught. Yams and sweet potatoes, tapioca, chillies, onions and other vegetables are grown. You will be interested to hear that there is a library which is being put to good use. (Literacy in Ceylon is: male 76%; female 45%.) There is a trained woman and two assistants who conduct all the classes including the nursery school.

Dr. Rutnam told me of the work of the Lanka Mahila Samiti and of the inestimable value of these rural centres in teaching the women to help themselves.