

socially—something which is important to a country girl entering the entirely new environment of high school and new standards in school life.”

Mrs. Harold Burke: “Several of our girls, only sixteen years old, as a result of their club work now have enough confidence to make their own skirts, blouses and dresses. In shopping if they find that what they like is priced too high for their pocket-book, they can make something just as nice sometimes for half the price. Our girls are proud of their cooking and they like to show it at fairs.”

Mrs. Jack Macklin: “My first project as a club member was “Cottons Can Be Smart”. It was my first attempt at dressmaking and I have made my own cotton dresses ever since. Now I rarely buy anything ready-made for my two daughters. Most young people like to belong to something apart from school and church and in a Homemaking Club they can have such good times together while they are learning something that will be useful all their lives . . . About eight years ago a young girl whose parents had come from Holland a few years before joined our club. She was keenly interested in learning as much as possible about Canadian cookery and she told us how much her mother had gained from

our projects. Another girl in one of our clubs had no mother to guide her and was so anxious to learn. Both girls are now married with small families and are excellent housekeepers and mothers.”

Mrs. A. V. Langton, a leader with three daughters in club work gives this summing up: “Club work teaches practical skills. It provides elementary training in club offices. And in some cases it provides for a valuable use of time which might otherwise not be gainfully employed. Perhaps most important of all, club work provides a group incentive to carry through to completion a worthwhile undertaking — and, moreover, to do work well. There is much emphasis today upon speed and quantity in production, even at the cost of quality; but those things which endure are not quickly accomplished. We hope that club members discover the great inner satisfaction that comes from doing work well.”

Editor's note: In asking club leaders for their comments we used only a few names that happened to be well known to staff members. As 1960 is an anniversary year for 4-H Homemaking Clubs, we would welcome, at any time during the year, comments from anyone who has something to add to the discussion.

Home Survey Shows Cultural Interests

WHILE THE STUDY OF Ontario Farm Homes and Homemakers which began last summer with a survey of 352 farm homes is not completed, among the preliminary findings we have this information about some of the cultural interests of the families interviewed.

What about reading matter in farm homes?

The survey showed that farm papers and farm magazines were read in 99% of the homes visited. And most of these homes were not limited to one farm paper. The average number was nearly four (3.7) farm papers per family; and about one-third of the families subscribed to five to nine farm papers. Magazines other than farm papers or farm magazines were taken regularly in 83% or 291 of the 352 homes in the survey. 69% of the families subscribed to a weekly or semi-weekly newspaper and 66% to a daily paper. The most usual combination was one daily paper and either one or two semi-weekly or weekly newspapers.

The survey showed that eleven or more books, exclusive of school books in a home could be taken as an indication that someone in the family reads and enjoys books. In most of the 352 homes it was found that the homemaker was the person who most often enjoyed books and reading. This number of books—eleven or more, excluding school books—was found in 90% of the homes tested. But in 9% of the homes it was found that no one in the family reads books or cares about them.

The survey had a question relating to the musical interests of farm people, and the number of homes having any or all of the following: piano, organ, record players, hi-fi. It was found that only 25% of the homes surveyed were without any of these. Nearly 38% had a piano only, 8% had an organ only, nearly 14% had a record player only; but over one-third of the homes had from two to four

of these items. This would indicate that in spite of all the ready-made music coming into our homes by way of radio and records, a goodly number of people are also making music for themselves.

Information was also gathered concerning radio and television.

Nearly all of the homemakers, 98%, reported that the family owned one or more radios in working condition at the time of the interview. Nearly all of the farms, 97%, had one or more radios located in the house and on these same farms over half, 51%, had a radio in the house and one or more in either the barn or a car or a truck or a tractor. A few farms, about 1%, had a radio in the barn or a car or a truck but none in the house.

Over three fourths, 78% of the homes had television. Most of these had the set located in a living room or combination living-dining room or den or sunporch. About 9% had the set in the dining room or in a combination dining room and kitchen; less than 7% had the set in the kitchen.

Commenting on communication media reaching farm people, Dr. Helen Abell who is in charge of the survey says:

“In considering the wide distribution of papers and magazines, radio and television in these Ontario farm homes it would seem that the majority of families on these farms can be and are being reached through the printed word, through radio and through television.

“Further analysis of the study findings will give more detail on the specific types of printed material, radio and television programmes which these farm homemakers report as being most useful to them and to their families in providing helpful home and farm information.”