

The President's Corner

Mrs. L. G. Lyburner
President F.W.I.O.



A FULL YEAR has passed since my first message to you and I feel that this is the time there should be a review of things accomplished. If honesty is to prevail, then one must confess that much has been left undone and too that "we have done those things which we ought not to have done" as is the way with all human beings.

Recently, I heard a man say that critics are those who know they are living where wonderful and exciting things are being done but they themselves do not become involved with them. If we consider this profound statement we must admit that it has many implications for each one of us. And if I may, I should like to add to this, that often the reason critics do not become involved and sit only in the censor's seat is that they neither understand nor make an effort to find out about those things of which they are critical.

And then, there are those who meekly accept whatever is said or done, seeking no explanation, apparently satisfied as long as others are doing and do not ask them for assistance. We can afford to be included in neither of these groups if we are to be responsible people.

We need to have a healthy curiosity about what is going on in the community and beyond and having discovered for ourselves the wonderful things which are happening everywhere, we need to identify ourselves with those things, even though it be only to have an awareness of affairs and conditions so that we may have a realistic approach to problems of the day and a sound

opinion to express when needed. And apart from our personal affairs our awareness should begin with our own organization. Many of you will have heard the observation that "we do not know who we are" and it is time we became acquainted with "us." It is time that we lost some of our insular point of view and look to the larger picture as it spreads before us through our affiliations around the world; it is time that we not only enjoy the warmth of companionship with those who attend our meetings each month but that we spread some of that warmth to others so they too, may enjoy it with us.

During the weeks spent in the British Isles I was struck at every turn by the manner in which women abroad have taken the idea which began here in Ontario and have developed it so that it is a great force for good in every community where it thrives. They have a fine appreciation for the effects their work may have and they are careful that they use their power for good; they are jealous of their good reputation and do not lend it casually to every project which seeks their support and they have women of vision who have found and developed work for the organization so that it will be a lasting tribute to the members of their organization.

Perhaps this is time when we should look over past efforts and out of those experiences plan to work in a more concerted fashion and not hit or miss style. True, we need to do those things at hand to be done but we need to cultivate an outward look so that we do not become so involved with small things that we lose sight entirely of the wider opportunity which is our's today.

There have been those recently who have suggested that certain of our members might be doing a creditable piece of work in the scope of world affairs; there are those who always see in our organization the strength which they need for success in their efforts and this should be an indication to us of the status we should attain as a working organization.

Shall we then together, meet the challenge which is before all of us in this coming year and with courage and faith build for a better day and a better world.

LILAH S. LYMBURNER

the Institute **now**. Mrs. McKenney who has organized several branches in and around Orillia usually started by talking to a non-member and getting her to invite some of her friends in for tea when they would all talk over the idea of starting an Institute. "We have so much to offer," Mrs. McKenney said, "My selling point is that the Women's Institute is a housewife's university."

Home Economics Service

Miss Helen McKercher, Director of Home Economics Extension Service, reported adding six County Home Economists to the staff recently and sending them to counties and districts where there is the most work to do. Miss Elsie Irvine in Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay has one of the busiest fields and the Department hopes to send a second Home Economist to this territory soon. In addition, twenty-one specialists

in Nutrition, Clothing, Home Furnishing, Health and Handicrafts work out from head office; and sixteen others do occasional work. The Farm Home Survey gave strong evidence that women are interested in crafts; and the extension services for next year will offer something on Colour and Design and an Advanced Course in Leatherwork. There will be a new training school on Meat. There is a possibility of a Workshop on the care and repair of electric equipment, to work in with the provincial safety programme; but this is just a possibility.

Through the "Eat to Live" project, nutritionists have contacted over 1,500 people; there is still no record of how many others these 1,500 leaders have taught in their local groups.

Commenting on the year's conventions, Miss McKercher made special mention of the convention at Englehart with the theme "Education