

Members of Wabash Institute, East Kent with specimens of the work done in their course in Copper Tooling.



From Extension Staff Reports

EXTENSION SERVICE staff reports sometimes make surprising reading. You wouldn't believe this, but sometimes an extension worker arrives at the meeting place announced for a course, to find the door still locked. On rare occasions the first arrivals have to sweep the floor, start the fire and set the room to rights before the work can begin.

An instructor sent to give a two-day course this fall reported: "The course was held in the Institute's regular meeting-place but it seemed to be a well-kept secret. There were six women present the first day, four, the second."

Of a leaders' training school in the "143 Pounds of Meat" project, the instructor's report said: "Although eight groups had sent in applications only three sent representatives to the training school. The others did not phone or write to the County Home Economist to say they would not have anyone attending. The ladies who did attend were interested, took part in discussion and knew what was expected of them as local leaders in their communities—an excellent group. One of them telephoned a neighbouring Institute the first night so there were four Institutes represented the second day."

Once a date is set for a training school it is difficult to change it because organizations all over the county are involved and some may have gone to considerable trouble to make sure their representatives can attend on the date set. But, as Miss Mc Kercher stated at the conventions this fall, if a local Institute has applied for a course and accepted the date offered, then finds that it cannot be sure of sufficient attendance to justify having the course, it would be a great help to the Depart-

ment if they would cancel it, so that the staff member's services could be given somewhere else.

This is the unhappy side of the picture. Fortunately it is well overbalanced by the intelligent, enthusiastic cooperation of the local groups.

It is gratifying to find so many young women taking part in this adult education. A report of a course on "Sandwiches for All Occasions" said "The members of the class were quite young women. Someone said that about half the Institute members were baby-sitting with children of the half who attended."

An instructor of a workshop on Institute Procedures reported: "Six of the class were young members, anxious to learn all they could. Two had to bring small children with them which shows there are still Institutes where mothers bring their children rather than miss the meetings. The children did not disrupt the meeting at all." At another course, "A woman brought her three-month-old daughter. She was as good as gold all day."

Varied groups as well as Women's Institutes apply for home economics service and are given courses or included in training schools for local leaders. A course in Millinery was given to members of a Nurses' Association, the class meeting in the new wing of a hospital; another Millinery class was organized by volunteer workers for the Cancer Society, the course being given in the cancer room of the hospital. A Recreation Club sent a local leader to the training school on the meat project. Several groups of church women have either taken courses or had a representative at the training school. And at one Workshop on Women's Institute Procedures there were four Indian young women from the Reserva-