

The Officers' Conference

THE fourteenth annual Ontario Women's Institute Conference for officers was held at the Ontario Agricultural College on May 8 and 9. This year the conference was for branch presidents; and there was the usual good attendance, the usual live exchange of ideas, the usual enjoyment of the college hospitality and the companionship of other women.

Correspondence Courses for Farmers

Presenting the program of the Ontario agricultural College — the degree and diploma courses in agriculture and home economics, the course in veterinary science and the research department, the President, Dr. J. D. MacLachlan, announced a new venture in education by correspondence. The President said:

"To provide agricultural education for people on farms, we now have a correspondence course in nursery farming. After three years the student gets a diploma in this branch of farming. We wonder about the possibilities of establishing other correspondence courses in soil, dairy or beef farming, farm management. The farmer taking the course might be twenty or seventy; and if he wanted to stick with it for a few years he could qualify for the same diploma as the students taking the diploma course at the college."

Dr. MacLachlan said that if the Women's Institutes would care to discuss this in their communities, the College would like to have the people's views about it.

Another new development on the campus is that the three colleges — the O.A.C., Macdonald Institute and the O.V.C. are now a federation of colleges. "This won't alter the program of the schools, just the administration," Dr. MacLachlan explained, "and it won't interfere with the Women's Institutes coming to the campus. I hope you'll be coming here from now to eternity."

Expansion Needed at Macdonald Institute

Dr. Margaret McCready, principal of Macdonald Institute thanked the Institutes for the ten scholarships presented to Macdonald students this year to mark the Women's Institute's 65th anniversary. She reported that 180 applications for admission to the degree course had been received this year and that only 80 students can be accommodated. There are never enough graduates to fill the positions open to them and some way must be found to expand the school.

Another educational need, Dr. McCready explained, is an opportunity for "refresher

training" for women who have spent several years in child rearing and have come to a time when they are free to return to the vocations they had followed before they were married.

This need had been suggested at the Education Conference at Montreal last year, at the request of a Quebec mother; and it had been opposed by many "career women" with no family responsibilities; though a resolution approving it was passed by a small majority.

Later during the Officers' Conference the women passed a resolution recommending that consideration be given immediately to expanding facilities at Macdonald Institute to accommodate the number of girls applying for admission.

"Women of the World"

After reminding the assembly of presidents that the organization looks to its presidents for leadership, guidance and new ideas, Mrs. Lymburner spoke on "Women of the World." She asked:

"Are we citizens of a small world which encompasses only our personal aims and ambitions, or have we lifted our sights to the wider world which is open to women today? Are we going to accept the challenges of the day, proving to others that this organization does indeed train its members for leadership; that it does concern itself with the responsibilities of citizenship in this great land of ours; and that it does develop concern in its members for the needs of women in other parts of the world through its affiliations?"

Mrs. Lymburner referred to women famous in history who had influenced the world in their day: Boadicea, Cleopatra, Nur Mahal and others; women in the age of the Renaissance who had played an important part in the arts—drama, the dance, fashion and music; the good queens of Great Britain; the Bronte sisters; and in more modern times, Marie Curie, Edith Cavell, Amelia Earhart, Judge Emily Murphy remembered by women especially for bringing into being the Dower Act; Dr. Augusta Stowe Gullen, the first woman to graduate from a medical school; Emily Carr, the artist, and Cora Hind, the first woman to be editor of an agricultural newspaper on the North American continent.

The fact that the world has changed more in the last twenty years than in the previous fifty brought new responsibilities, Mrs. Lymburner said. It has become a very small world. With modern communications we can lunch in Ontario and breakfast in England; and "No