

ers irrespective of race, creed or social barriers. And they have their An Grianan College for home demonstration service. They bring cultural interests, crafts, art, music, travelling libraries to their communities. And they are studying international issues, especially the work of U.N. and its agencies with a view to supporting assistance to developing countries.

"Hear youth," advised the Administrator of the Commonwealth, Sir Dallas Brooks. "Listen to them with patience and understanding; help them with their problems. Those who have youth on their side control the world." The youngest voting delegate at the conference was twenty-one-year-old Barbara Crombie, member of a New Zealand Country Girls' Club. One of her club's activities is running a "Meals on Wheels" service, taking meals to elderly people. Forty-two girls, from six Australian states, juniors in the country women's movement acted as flag bearers at the official opening.

Among the interesting exhibits presented by Australia were a display of children's books, written by Australians; a display of dolls from many nations—among them a "swag man" of the "Waltzing Matilda" fame. Thirty different societies from twenty-five countries had stands in the handicraft display. Mrs. E. C. Veitch demonstrated spinning on a 150-year-old German spinning wheel, using wool from her son-

in-law's sheep. She combs the wool from the fleece, spins, dyes and weaves it to make rugs, scarves and other articles.

There was a unique Wool Fashion Parade organized by the Australian Wool Bureau, at the Olympic Swimming Pool. The stage was set up over the water at one end of the pool and small punts carried the models from this stage down the length of the pool. Toy balloons of varied colors floated on the water. As the girls modelling wool bathing suits came down the course, one flipped into the water. The crowd gasped but the master of ceremonies calmed them with "Don't worry; the model can swim." The model was Australia's Olympic swimmer, Dawn Fraser, and the spectators had the rare privilege of watching one of the world's fastest swimmers do a sprint down the pool.

The following A.C.W.W. officers were elected for the next three years: President, Mrs. Geerda Beekhoff, the Netherlands. Secretary: Lady Binney, United Kingdom. Deputy Presidents: Mrs. Haven Smith, United States of America and Mrs. W. H. Cullen, Australia. Area Vice Presidents: Mrs. Bessie van Heerden, Africa; Mrs. N. W. B. Schroder, New Zealand, for the South Pacific; Mrs. Aroti Dutt of India, for Asia; Mrs. Keith Rand, Canada; Mrs. John Cornell, England for Southern Europe.

The next triennial conference will be held in Ireland in 1965.

Country Women of Australia

WHEN THE COUNTRY Women of the World hold their triennial conference, members turn their eyes to the country of their meeting place and to the women who will be their hostesses. To get a picture of Australia we must look at the living conditions and consequently the program of the country women in six different states. As Dame Alice Berry tells us in the special conference issue of A.C.W.W.'s official organ, *The Countrywoman*: "In the more settled areas, time can be devoted to the cultural interests—music, drama, handicrafts; but where distances are great and the population scattered, the need is for help with education, infant welfare, the care of women in time of illness, childbirth and convalescence. The Country Women's Associations are busy raising funds to carry on infants' welfare, clinics, students' hostels and mothers' hostels at centres where the Governments provide infant welfare nurses, high schools and hospitals."

Students' Hostels

Students' hostels are one of the most important projects of the C.W.A.'s in Queensland, which is so sparsely populated that even one-room elementary schools are few and far between. Boarding school fees are high and parents who send their children to board in town worry about them in their unsupervised hours after school. "The students' hostels established by the C.W.A.'s have been such a success," Mrs. Berry reports, "that certain Shire Councils decided to adopt the idea and it was a great compliment to the work of the Association that the Government which has always granted a pound for pound subsidy toward the building or purchasing agreed to do so only on the condition that the C.W.A.'s would take over the administration of them."

Assimilating Races

New South Wales has another problem. The State President, Mrs. Thelma Bate, also writ-