

ing in *The Countrywoman* says: "One of the social problems in Australia is the assimilation of our pure and mixed blood aborigines into our white communities. The work of U.N. has proved that living standards cannot be raised without the co-operation of the women at the basic level, since raising the standard of living starts with the teaching of elementary hygiene and sanitation, better cooking, better child care and homecraft.

"Remembering this, we in New South Wales have commenced forming branches in areas where there is a concentration of these people. We state very plainly that these are not 'aborigine' branches. We do not encourage segregation, and we make sure that we have some white members in each of these branches. The results have been successful beyond our hopes."

Helping the Mentally Ill

Victoria C.W.A. specializes in helping the mentally ill. Contributions from branches and individual members have established a "Mentally Ill Fund" and this has been used to furnish living rooms in mental hospitals and to furnish a cottage at Ballarat Mental Hospital where convalescent patients can live and manage their own daily routine in preparation for going home. "All branches are asked to work for the mentally ill in some way," the State President, Mrs. Neil Campbell reports, "by providing clothes, 'adopting' patients and sending them gifts or in other ways making them feel in touch with the outside world, or by visiting patients in hospital or inviting them out to a picnic or afternoon tea." A special project has been, at the request of the Government, to staff a "homecraft centre" built by the Government at each of the three large country mental hospitals in Victoria. Country Women's Association members serve as staff from ten to four o'clock, three days a week, directing classes in cooking, crafts, sewing, gardening, leading recreation and singing. Selected patients attend and benefit greatly.

Branches of the Air

The Country Women's Association of South Australia, beginning in 1953 started "Branches of the Air," something after the pattern of the school of the Air for Children, for widely scattered women on the sheep stations. The President, Mrs. R. L. Hall explains that they got the co-operation of the Flying Doctor Service, individual women using transceivers in their own homes, and with the co-operation of a central radio station, women living hundreds of miles apart carry on their meetings. The plan has worked so well that there are now nine Branches of the Air in the whole of Australia.

Seaside Holidays, Rest Centre, Hostels

For many years the C.W.A. of Western Australia provided holidays at the seaside for children of members, but the President, Mrs. V. Simeson, says: "The general prosperity of the farming community and the activity of many youth organizations have limited the need since the last war. Now the more pressing work is to create opportunities for elderly members to meet old and new friends at organized holiday occasions. Branches also nominate children who would not otherwise have this privilege for a holiday at the seaside. Both children and older people pay their own fares to and from the resort and contribute something toward their board. C.W.A. raises money for the project through donations and by conducting "stalls" in the large country towns.

Throughout the island state of Tasmania many branches of the Country Women's Association have established rest rooms for women and children in their local towns. A few years ago the City Council of Hobart asked Hobart C.W.A. to take over the operation of the new Women's and Children's Memorial Rest Centre erected to the memory of pioneer and service women of Tasmania. With its washrooms, showers, parcel department, equipment for heating babies' food, lounge and tearoom, the President, Mrs. J. Martin reports that the centre is used by thousands of countrywomen visiting Hobart.

Australia's Northern Territory is sparsely populated, with four main towns and the rest of the area divided between cattle raising projects and mining settlements. There are 25 members in the Country Women's Association. The main project of the C.W.A. here is the provision of hostel accommodation for mothers and children when the mothers come to town for maternity reasons, medical or dental treatment or for personal visits or holidays. The population of the area is about half European and Asiatic and half aboriginal natives. "But," the president, Mrs. H. Audrey Tite, says: "Remembering that color and creed are no bar to membership, and that all are welcomed as members working for the welfare of women and children everywhere, it should be possible to double our membership within the next two years."

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"The goodness of society ultimately depends on the nature of its citizens, and since the nature of its citizens is more modifiable by early training than by anything else, we must conclude that the welfare of the family underlies the welfare of society." — Herbert Spencer. (A favorite quotation of Adelaide Hoodless.)

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