

members' help with the conference program.

Best of all were the choral sessions with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kidd. At each conference for years back, Mr. Kidd has had regular periods directing the girls as a choral group and providing music for the closing banquet. This year they sang three numbers from

Briggadoon: "The Heather on the Hill", "Down in McConnachie Square" and "Almost Like Being in Love." It was a creditable performance. What is perhaps more important, it was plain that the girls themselves thoroughly enjoyed it.

Information For Consumers

By Ruth Moyle

BECAUSE we have had several inquiries about the content of the Workshop on Management and Consumer Problems, we felt an explanation might be of general interest.

It would seem only fair to go back a number of years and give some credit at least, for today's trend in the management area of homemaking, to a poet! Rudyard Kipling it was who wrote:

"I keep six honest serving men,
They taught me all I know,
Their names are WHY and WHAT
and WHEN,
And WHERE and HOW and WHO."

But it took Dr. Lillian Gilbreth, famous Efficiency and Management Engineer and even more famous Mother of the "Cheaper by the Dozen" family, to bring these words into the home and relate them, in a very practical way, to our modern home management problems.

That word "management" has, I notice, many definitions. Some call it the "housekeeping" or the "maintenance" part of homemaking. To others it means "using what you have to get what you want." I much prefer another definition to this last one — "using family resources to reach family goals." As a matter of fact, a combination of the first and the last gives an excellent over-all picture of this area now known as "management."

As you can see, "management" covers a great many interests and a great many activities and tasks. And although the full morning of the Workshop is given over to a discussion of the many phases of management, luncheon break arrives long before the field has been fully explored. Questions and discussion range from how to eliminate unnecessary expenditure of time, energy and steps, through the rearrangement of kitchen equipment and appliances, to the height and arrangement of storage and work space, to an analysis of an actual kitchen set-up, with a "before" and "after" kitchen plan to study.

Many of the questions that arise are based on Kipling's and Dr. Gilbreth's six serving

men. Why do I do this particular job? Is every part of this job essential? Who does the job? What would happen if I didn't do it? Could someone else in the family learn to do it as well, or even better? When and How is the best time and way to do it?

At first, these questions might appear vague and trivial. By the end of the morning, however, they have resolved themselves into such practical terms as, "I have found the best way to clean blueberries" and "I find I don't mind cleaning the refrigerator quite so much if I do it so", to mention only two of many.

Immediately after lunch, for the first part of the afternoon an Agricultural Engineer discusses electricity in the home as related to safety and efficient and economical use. Many questions arise regarding the correct use and size of fuses, how to read a meter, how to reckon the cost of an electric light bill, the running costs of some of our modern electrical appliances, the care and maintenance of same, and so on.

Instruction and help is also given to those who bring electric cords and plugs to be repaired, and by the end of this session this will have been accomplished in a most efficient and quite professional manner.

A short discussion of the consumer pressures facing today's young housewife brings the Workshop to its close promptly at four o'clock. What can we do to help the young consumer when it comes to the pressures of installment and credit buying? How can we tell what the true interest rates really are? What pressures of advertising make wise and economical choices difficult for even the experienced housewife? What should we look for when buying appliances? What about contracts and guarantees? These are only a few of the questions that are raised.

From this it will be quite apparent that only the very surface of the many, many problems of management can be touched upon in such a short period of time. Unfortunately, that is all an introductory workshop is able to do. Future workshops, however, will be planned to deal in greater detail with more specific problems as may be requested from time to time by interested and concerned groups.