

A.C.W.W. Studies Food, Friendship, Learning and Leisure

FOLLOWING the report of various phases of the A.C.W.W. Conference in our last issue, we believed Ontario Women's Institute members would be interested in these further notes from addresses on the main topics of study at the conference: Food, Friendship, Learning and Leisure.

Food

On the question of fighting hunger and malnutrition we have these excerpts from an address by the A.C.W.W. President, Mrs. van Beekhoff:

"In the middle of World War II, when President Roosevelt called together a committee to study what could be done to stamp out hunger, once the world crisis was over, A.C.W.W. was one of the first international organizations asked to co-operate. This meeting took place in 1943 at Hot Springs and was the birthplace of what later was called The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, (F.A.O.). A.C.W.W. has always been a partner of F.A.O. as our members are so deeply interested in the improvement of the way of life of those members in need. Since the Freedom from Hunger Campaign has been launched by F.A.O. we have been working alongside in drawing people's attention to the problem of hunger, both in the donating, as in the recipient countries, to make people aware of this evil which should be attacked at its roots.

"And it has not only been with F.A.O. that A.C.W.W. has worked in the international field. UNESCO also has had much of our attention. In many an African country I came across centres where mothers came with their children, mug in hand, to drink the milk that had been provided by UNICEF. High boxes, labelled 'UNICEF', containing milk powder, towered in the background as a symbol of aid in the protection of the children of the world.

"The highest importance is attached to training women, leaders from the 'countries in need,' themselves and new methods are taught by their **own** people. It has been proved to have more effect to follow this method. A foreign teacher has first of all a heavy job to gain the people's confidence before the handing out of knowledge can start. So three years ago we did accept this A.C.W.W. Lady Aberdeen Scholarship. And now, three years later, already one lady from Uganda is study-

ing Tropical Hygiene at London University. Her name is Esther Bugumayo. She is keenly interested in the weaning of children, because the highest infant mortality rate lies between the years two and five, after being breast fed. Those children are put on the same diet as the grownups, which diet is highly lacking in protein. Another member of the Caribbean area is in the Republic of Ireland to study methods of extension with the Irish Country Women's Association; and in the near future a lady from India will leave for Norway."

Friendship

Sir Kingsley Norriss speaking on Friendship said:

"The dreadful cost of unfriendliness can never be assessed . . . The world has been peopled not only by many intolerant and unfriendly groups within each country but also by a series of international intolerances leading to international conflicts and world wars.

"Until two hundred years ago, no country seemed seriously concerned as to how the people were sheltered or nourished, or how their health could be preserved. Surely slavery was among the world's most cruel, unfriendly practices. Yet it is less than two hundred years since this vile trade was recognized as such. And gradually over the last two hundred years there has been slowly developing an almost universal desire to recognize and respect the need of others and a seeking for friendship.

"Two years ago the world celebrated the centenary of the demonstration of this international feeling — The League of Red Cross Societies. Each of the 87 member countries, some behind the iron curtain, has pledged itself to come to the help of any other member country suffering a disaster.

"During this century has grown a wider realization of the challenge presented by the dreadful conditions of the people in the underdeveloped countries who have so little, to those countries which have so much. With the League of Nations after World War I began the practical approach to this international responsibility. But the League's powers were inadequate to fully discharge this. During the last twenty years, with the coming together of more than a hundred nations in United Nations, there has emerged the most momentous opportunity for developing international friendship.

"Already through the various international