

# The New Look in Rural Adult Education

By Edith Storr

ALMOST EVERYONE has pride in his Canadian citizenship, but many are not ready to meet its obligations—not ready because they are uninspired, unqualified or unequipped! It is here the newly formed Rural Learning Association can help. It can help provide means to advance your own welfare, that of your fellow citizens and of your community, your province and country.

Many persons have defined the term "adult education." But no one definition can be accepted by the majority, because adult education means many things to many people. While all of us need to continue to learn as long as we live, we must realize we will only be ready to learn those things which *we want to learn*.

So it would seem the primary aim of any programme should be to help each person acquire a readiness for the learning of those things important to him for his living today and tomorrow. Each culture and teacher interprets the aim differently.

It is our belief in Ontario that an adult education programme must be based on two assumptions: first, that people have within them-

selves the resources to find the solution for most problems which they face in everyday life, and second, that the accelerating pace of change requires a flexible programme which can adjust as the need arises. The objectives of the Rural Learning Association might be summed up in one short sentence—to serve in the most effective way the needs of rural people in the area of adult education.

Membership in R.L.A. is open to all rural people in Ontario. The first general meeting of the Association was held in Toronto on June 10th. The 1965-66 programme suggests working in five areas:

1. Through use of radio and TV
2. A pilot project through the medium of night classes
3. Leadership training programs
4. An information centre
5. Liaison with farm organizations in Ontario and other rural adult education groups in other provinces.

For further information write to Rural Learning Association, 409 Huron Street, Toronto 5, Ontario.

## Tweedsmuir Competitions 1964-67

From F.W.I.C. Office

REGULATIONS for the Tweedsmuir Competition of the 1964-67 term of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada have now been released. This National Competition is composed of three sections, the first always the well known project, *Tweedsmuir (Village) Histories*. Sections two and three, Cultural and Handicrafts respectively, change from term to term and are determined at each Triennial Convention of F.W.I.C., with a new committee appointed for each successive Competition.

For the current term, the cultural project is a *Centennial Poem*, the theme to have some bearing on any phase of Canada's one hundred years as a nation. *Drawn Thread Work* was selected as the handwork. The Chairman of the Tweedsmuir Competition Committee, Mrs. Maryn Pardy, Mount Bridges, Ontario, states that this work is one of the oldest forms of embroidery, its origin dating back to Biblical times. It was introduced into England by the Royal Household in the 16th century but is becoming a lost art in Canada.

Other members of the Tweedsmuir Commit-

tee are Miss Anna Templeton, Organizing Secretary, Jubilee Guilds of Newfoundland, and Miss Eleanor Flint, Handicraft Supervisor, Home Economics Extension Service of the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

"It is a most useful and satisfying task for Women's Institute members to see that nothing valuable is lost or forgotten," said Lady Tweedsmuir when she inaugurated the Competition that bears her name in 1945. "Women should be on the alert always to guard the traditions of their homes." Referring in particular to the Village Histories, she went on to say: "It is the history of humanity which is continually interesting to us and your village histories are the basis of accurate facts that will be much valued by historians of the future."

Approximately 2,600 Tweedsmuir Histories have been compiled throughout Canada since the Competition started in 1945.

All of these National Competitions will close on April 1, 1967. Complete information will be sent to Institute branches in Ontario from the FWIO office early this summer.