

Mrs. H. Peterson, second from right, of the Horticulture Department of the O.A.C. demonstrating flower arrangements.



## Ontario Girls' Conference

**M**AKING THE MOST OF YOU" was the theme of this year's Ontario Girls' Conference held at the University of Guelph in June. The two hundred delegates were 4-H Homemaking Club girls, sixteen to twenty years old, chosen from the clubs of their counties in recognition of their own progress and development in club work and their contribution to the success or effectiveness of their club. And, opening the conference, Miss Jean Scott, Supervisor of Junior Extension with the Home Economics Branch, said she hoped the conference would help each girl not only to make the most of herself, but to use her abilities to help others. Miss Scott hoped the girls would make friends with girls from other parts of the province and that they would feel free to ask questions and to express their own views in discussions.

Dr. W. A. Young represented the President of the University, Dr. J. D. MacLachlan, in welcoming the girls to the campus. He sketched the development of the university which began with the purchase of a farm and converting the farm house into the Ontario Agricultural College in 1874. In 1904 Macdonald Institute was set up on the campus, and in 1922 the Ontario Veterinary College—though the Veterinary College had been in operation in Toronto for forty years previous to this. In 1964 Wellington College, a college of arts and sciences was added and the federated colleges became the University of Guelph. This university was unique, Dr. Young said, in that it had been designed to serve rural people and he assured the conference that this service would continue.

### Making the Most of You

Later Dr. Young spoke on the conference theme, "Making the Most of You". He said that while people do not all have the same opportunities or abilities, everyone has something; and it is the responsibility of each of us to make the most of what we have. He referred to the opportunities in this country where most of our education in school is free. He said, too, that education comes from all the experiences of life; and the only way to measure your success is to judge whether you have made the most of the opportunities available to you. If you don't take responsibility for yourself you have failed. "Life," he said is a landscaping job. When we are born we are each given a plot of ground and what we make of it depends on the skill and imagination and hard work of the gardener. Perhaps your plot is mainly a stone pile—you can't move it but you can turn it into a rock garden. As an illustration of such an achievement he told the story of how Helen Keller, born blind and deaf, had lived a life that was an inspiration to people all over the world.

Dr. Young reminded the girls that they were privileged in having ability and good homes and that every privilege carries with it a responsibility. Meeting this responsibility, he said, takes courage, faith in yourself and others and faith in God, because you will need spiritual resources.

Dr. Margaret McCready, Dean of Macdonald Institute, also referred to the conference theme and said that "making the most of you" should imply making the most of