

Home Life in Early Canada

INTRODUCING "God Bless Our Home: Domestic Life in Nineteenth Century Canada" the author, Una Abrahamson says: "This book has grown out of my interest in early housekeeping books. It has been a labor of love to record our history from within the framework of the nineteenth century home; to go back in time and live for a while under that ornate and reassuring parlor motto — 'God Bless Our Home'."

There is nothing in the book to make the reader homesick for the "good old days." We read of superstitions, hypocritical social values, home cures almost more distressing than the ills they treated, housekeeping without benefit of labor-savers and cookery that must have required a staff of hired servants in a home — for example a soup that "must boil fast and uncovered and be stirred constantly for eight hours." But it is all well authenticated and recorded with such humor and color that it makes entertaining reading. One amusing section deals with "Deportment" — etiquette in situations common to the times, "the art of letter-writing", parlor games, how a woman conveys messages with her fan.

Something of the nature of Canadian life in the nineteenth century is conveyed in reproductions of newspaper advertisements of the times. One introduces the cook's friend, "Baking Powder." Several show up-to-the-minute furniture and clothing including a corset with bones guaranteed unbreakable. There is a very ornate advertisement of an "Undertaking Establishment."

The book, backed by a Canadian Centennial Commission grant, is beautifully made and profusely illustrated. Publishers, Burns and MacEachern, Ltd.; price \$9.50.

Costumes for Canada's Birthday

THE CLOTHING STAFF of the Home Economics Branch have prepared a study kit, "Costumes for Canada's Birthday", which is now available to any Women's Institute wishing to borrow it from the Loan Library, Home Economics Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, 20 Spadina Road, Toronto, Ont.

The kit includes a section on styles in women's and girls' clothing fashionable in Confederation Year; suggestions for preparing

centennial costumes; a radio script on Restoring Old Costumes; and some ideas for men's and boys' clothing. (It is noted that little boys were kept in skirts as long as possible and one illustration shows a typical kilt, trousers and jacket outfit with a straw sailor hat.) There are beautifully illustrated booklets, one showing women's costumes in early Ontario and another on fashions from 1867 to 1907.

Another book in the kit is "A Century of Fashion", issued by the Centennial Planning Commission, helpful either in the study of costumes of the period or in actually making them. Here again the illustrations are excellent. And there is a good historical pamphlet, "Spinning and Weaving in Upper Canada."

Awards at Guelph University

AWARDS AMOUNTING TO \$126,000 have been won by students attending the University of Guelph this year. Over \$26,000 in awards were presented at the recent awards banquet at which Dr. J. D. MacLachlan, President of the University, was guest speaker. He said in part, "Scholarship achievement stems from two primary sources: your inherent intelligence, and your degree of concentration upon the academic program. Naturally you as students have more control over the latter than the former."

Commenting on the trend toward universal education and the vast sums needed for all capable students to attend university, Dr. MacLachlan said, "Directing the limited available monies to students with financial need has drastically reduced the amount of government funds available for scholarships. I fervently hope that some level of scholarship money, regardless of source, can be established which can be excluded from the loans and bursaries monies."



The President of Brock Road Women's Institute, Mrs. M. W. Staples, presents a cheque for the University of Guelph Development Fund to Dr. J. D. MacLachlan, President of the University.