



Winners of the Adelaide Hoodless Proficiency Scholarships (\$250 each) with Dr. Janet Wardlaw, newly appointed Dean of Macdonald Institute. Left to right: Miss Janet R. Crawford, Miss Leona M. Lock.

## Adelaide Hoodless and Macdonald Institute

In the beginning years of the nineteenth century, Adelaide Hoodless visited her son Bernard who was a student at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. During the visit Mrs. Hoodless was impressed by the attractive campus and a brilliant idea came to her. Here would be a fine situation for a school for Domestic Science.

Six months previous to this visit a much needed Normal School of Domestic Science and Art for the training of teachers of Domestic Science had been opened at Hamilton. But already this school was too small to meet the need. "Why not then," thought Adelaide Hoodless, "move the entire school from Hamilton to the campus at Guelph?" Never one to let a good thought lie dormant, Mrs. Hoodless discussed the idea with Dr. James Mills, president of the Ontario Agricultural College. Dr. Mills seemed to favour the move but the big need was money.

Two possible benefactors came to mind: Sir William Macdonald and Lord Strathcona. Sir William's gifts to education had already in-

cluded several large buildings for McGill University. Lord Strathcona had shown his interest in women's education by his gift to McGill University of the Donald Fund for the higher education of women. He had also contributed generously when Mrs. Hoodless was collecting for the Ontario Normal School of Domestic Science and Art, his contribution having made possible the purchase of up-to-date equipment. Perhaps that was the reason that Mrs. Hoodless did not again ask for his support.

Instead she chose to appeal to Sir William Macdonald, a wealthy Scottish Canadian bachelor. Although she had made Sir William's acquaintance previously, to approach him for money would not be easy. She prepared very carefully for the interview.

The little bearded gentleman of seventy, dressed in immaculate black broadcloth, received his visitor with some restraint. Mrs. Hoodless presented her facts and made her request without wasting words. Sir William asked many searching questions about the value of homemaking education for girls growing up on the farms of Ontario. He recalled his own boyhood on a farm at Glenaladale, Prince Edward Island.

Mrs. Hoodless was persuasive. She spoke with authority and Sir William was greatly impressed. Finally he assured her that he was interested and advised her to talk this over with Mr. James W. Robertson, his adviser in these matters. The results of the interview were even better than Mrs. Hoodless had dreamed. Sir William granted her request, not only for home economics buildings at Guelph, but in later years he included home economics when making plans for his gift to Macdonald College and to McGill University. He gave Adelaide Hoodless full credit for bringing the importance of this subject to his attention.

Plans for the establishment of the school at Guelph moved rapidly. Mr. Robertson initiated negotiations between Sir William and the Ontario government which resulted in the government accepting in March 1902 "on certain conditions" the sum of \$175,000. A part of the conditions is quoted as follows: "Domestic Science for young women — To the end that they might — observe those methods and practices which make for good living in simple, clean, well kept, and beautiful homes in the country."

Dr. Mills, President of the Ontario Agricultural College was given the responsibility for planning and building Macdonald Institute where classes would be held, and Macdonald Hall, the women's residence. The school was to provide for the instruction of young women in Domestic Science and Art; and to train teachers in Nature Study, Manual Training