

DR. ETHEL CHAPMAN

For her address to the Annual Girls' Conference Dr. Ethel Chapman chose the title "To Make Your World A Many Splendoured Thing." She opened her talk by quoting from the poem "The Kingdom of God," by Francis Thompson.

"The angels keep their ancient places;—
Turn but a stone, and start a wing!—
'Tis you, 'tis your estranged faces
That miss the many splendoured thing."

The speaker continued, "The eternal verities — goodness, truth and beauty have not perished from the earth; they are still here for anyone who wants them. 'Turn but a stone and start a wing.' Just as when you are walking through the woods your foot hits a stone and a bird flies up from where you least expect it, so some incident in your life may show you that the 'wings', the true values are still in operation sometimes where you least expect them. 'Tis you, 'tis your estranged faces that miss the many splendoured thing'. If you turn away, if the second or third class ways of living suit you as well as the first class, then of course you will never know the beauty, the brilliance, the many splendours that go with the best ways."

Dr. Chapman warned the girls that one of the hardest facts we have to face is that we have to decide for ourselves the really important choices of our lives. In all things we choose our own standards, and there isn't much anyone else can do. At the same time — especially if you start when you are young — there's almost no limit to what you can do, "to make your world a many-splendoured thing."

"Consider some ways by which girls can accomplish this," said the speaker. "The areas where a girl can do most for herself are in her vocation or career, in her human relations.

The girl herself — quoting Bobby Burns, Dr. Chapman said,

"She dresses aye sae clean and neat,
Both modest and genteel
And then there's something in her gait
Makes ony dress look weel."

"Your club leaders have been telling you — that the way you stand and walk and carry yourself can make a \$9.95 dress look like something from the French room."

"Beauty, personality, charm, elegance may give grace and sparkle to a girl; but there's something above and beyond them all — that

is character. Our characters are really what we are. Are we honest? Are we dependable? Have we the stamina to stand by what we believe to be right even if no one in our crowd agrees with us? Can we take disappointment? Are we compassionate? Have we the capacity to love?"

"The answers to these questions are the keys to our characters and character is something we build for ourselves."

"A girl should consider carefully the career which she chooses. She should dream about it. Through our careers, our vocational contribution to society we have a tremendous chance to make her world a many splendoured thing."

"Your first experience in human relations and one that will have a bearing on your whole life will be your relations with your family. With our own families, one of the great troubles for most people is that they don't show their feelings. They want to but they haven't learned how to give or receive affection. And this may be something a family member needs badly. If we could only learn to let ourselves go with our own family!"

"The choice of the man whom you will marry should be considered carefully. A rule that could throw some light on a young man's character would be to find out: his attitude toward money, his attitude toward God, his reaction to a crying baby."

At the end of her address Dr. Chapman posed a number of thoughtful questions for the girls to consider. These questions provoked a lively discussion with the girls flooding around Dr. Chapman later to continue to present their problems and hear her wise and kindly answers.

THE BANQUET

On Thursday evening, the girls, wearing their prettiest dresses gathered in Creech Hall for their Conference banquet. Miss Cott as chairman for the evening welcomed the special guests which included the Honourable William A. Stewart, Minister of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food and Mrs. Stewart. Other head table guests were Miss Helen McKercher, Director of the Home Economics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food, Dr. Ethel Chapman, Dr. Janet Wardlaw, dean of Macdonald Institute, Mrs. Austin Zoeller, president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario; Dr. Branion, assistant to Dr. Winegarden, president of the University of Guelph, and Mrs. Branion; Dr. Elizabeth Waterston and Mr. Douglas Waterston.