

A. C. W. W.

A condensation of an article written by Mrs. Irene Spry, A.C.W.W. Deputy President for the December/January Countrywoman.

The Seminar was held in the Headquarters of the Trinidad and Tobago Federation of Women's Institutes and the members of this Federation with president Mrs. Cleopatra Romilly were the hostesses. Delegates came from British Honduras, Jamaica, St. Kitts, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, Barbados, and Guyana; as well as representatives from U.N.I.C.E.F. and F.A.O. and a Deputy President from A.C.W.W. The Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund and U.N.E.S.C.O. contributed to the financing of the Seminar.

The theme was "Leadership Training for Rural Women in International Education Year."

The topics discussed ranged from the type of people 'leaders' should be to the interests of most concern to our members. One speaker urged that women should come out of their kitchens, forget about home economics and take up the study of history, politics, sociology and economics instead of learning to ice cakes and bone chickens. The vigorous discussions that followed made it clear that it is still very important to learn about nutrition and child care, hygiene and household management, budgeting and shrewd purchasing. Even icing a beautiful cake can add to a family's happiness and be a creative experience.

It was agreed equally, that it was vital that women should take their place as men's partners in running their own countries. Though A.C.W.W. Societies should strictly be non-partisan, they should encourage their members to use their votes and take their full share of democratic responsibility for running, not only their homes, but their communities, their countries and the whole world.

Another concern shared by all members of the Seminar was the problem of setting and maintaining high standards of handicraft work and of finding expanding markets for their products as well as making sure that the product is something marketable. Miss Ann Donovan, a Lady Aberdeen scholar, had just returned from Jamaica where she had been studying certain aspects of handicraft work of special interest to Trinidad and Tobago. The delegates brought samples of work to show at the Seminar and the WIs of two districts put on an impressive display when they entertained the delegates at Sangre Grande with a

former Lady Aberdeen scholar, Mrs. Elmina Allen, presiding. The sound of the steel band playing that afternoon echoes in the hearers' memories and the fascinating traditional songs and dances, such as the Bongo and the Bambo-Tambo, still delight and astonish us in retrospect.

Extracts from Mrs. Spry on the discussion 'Leadership in Voluntary Organizations'.

Leadership qualities include the imagination to start worthwhile projects, the enthusiasm and resourcefulness to keep them going and the staying power to bring them to completion.

A leader must be concerned that other people should have an opportunity to fill positions of responsibility in which they 'learn by doing' — even if this means letting them make mistakes while they are learning. She must be able to spark ideas in other people and forge links between her fellow members, reconciling differences and finding common ground on which the entire group can take agreed action. Her interest must be the work to be done, not the credit and glory to be gained.

The test of a good leader is that the group she works with can do without her, since in her work she has developed leadership potential among her colleagues.

Perhaps such leaders are born, not made. Training in the techniques of running a meeting, planning a programme or organising a conference, although undoubtedly useful, is not the whole answer.

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Mrs. Dutt's quotation from a Roman philosopher during her speech at the "A.C.W.W. Open Day," held prior to the Council meeting (attended by Mrs. Zoeller).

"Why should we not all live in peace and harmony? We look up at the same stars, we are fellow passengers on the same planet and dwell beneath the same sky. What matters is along which road each individual endeavours to find the ultimate truth? The riddle of existence is too great that there should be only one road leading to an answer."

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