

One of many philosophies often expressed by Miss McKercher is "Better to give flowers to the living . . ." It is a great privilege for me to pay tribute to her now upon the occasion of her retirement.

Any time I've seen her she has always been busy doing something for someone else. I think of her at the National Convention. If she wasn't chauffeuring ladies in a car which she had rented, she was visiting the sick who had been hospitalized, or she was entertaining guest speakers in her room.

What a boon she was to me as she must also have been to each Provincial President of F.W.I.O. before me! Taking care of the travel arrangements, reserving accommodations, and doing the driving certainly made it easy for me when it came Area Convention time. I recall with fond memories what a great instructor she was, the interesting conversations we had, and sometimes the lengthy discussions we engaged in when we wondered if a certain situation had been handled satisfactorily. This was indeed a great help to me and I am most grateful to her for sharing the benefit of her years of experience with me.

How we shall miss her at the Board Meetings where she used the gift of her ever-alert mind to toss ideas and probing questions into the arena of discussion as we dealt with the issues at hand trying to arrive at decisions! She had that certain talent of being able to assess every situation upon a moment's notice and guide everyone's thinking along the proper lines. With her mind constantly active she always seemed to be several steps in advance of anyone else's thoughts. Every Board Director who sat with her at Provincial level has respected her good judgment and the application of sound common-sense practices.

There isn't an Institute Member anywhere who can possibly know and appreciate to its fullest degree the tremendous amount of work Miss McKercher has done on behalf of the Women's Institutes in her role and during her term of office as the Director of the Home Economics Branch. Her great sense of values and sound reasoning always brought the necessary response from her colleagues and superiors whenever she asked for something on our behalf or advanced new proposals.

Miss McKercher is an honest, down to earth person who calls a spade a spade and expects others to do the same. Naturally she is quite capable of criticism. Aren't we all very good at doing this? I never found her doing this without just cause or without it being of benefit to the ones concerned. She certainly never carried any grudges. Once a thing was said or done, that was the end of it. If the recipient of the remark or deed took offence, the onus was on her, not on Miss McKercher.

It was her constant and keen personal interest in people that has endeared her to the hearts of all those with whom she came into contact. There is no stronger force or closer tie than the loving concern one human being has for another.

In all respects Miss McKercher is a great person with a very human touch. I with so many others deem it a rare privilege indeed to have been given the opportunity to be so closely associated with her.

*Verna A. Maluske*

Miss McKercher's friendliness, candid advice and sense of humor, make her a delight to know and work with.

Although my association with her has been brief, I realize, that from her wide experience with the Women's Institute members in Ontario there has always been a deep feeling and sense of responsibility toward the training of people and developing of leaders.

Her constant concern for the appreciation of high ideals and standards for successful home and family life, has contributed greatly to achieving meaningful programmes for women in homemaking and leadership.

In her unique way she has inspired women to be enthusiastic about their organization, to strive for quality in all they undertook, and to accomplish the goals provided for in the motto, "For Home and Country".

*Hilda G. Morden*

"Who is the lady in the gorgeous hat?"

This was my first glimpse of Miss McKercher at London Area Convention. Hats have lost some of their vogue but Miss McKercher has never faded. I came away from that first convention with new insight into Women's Institute and I was really excited and anxious to get back to my Branch and pass on some of my enthusiasm.

Many conventions have come and gone since then and Miss McKercher was always there bringing news of what was new in short courses and training schools. All those programmes filling the motto "For Home and Country". It was with Miss McKercher's guiding hand that many of these courses were formulated and given to W.I. members and their friends in communities all over this province.

I really did not meet Miss McKercher personally until a year ago. It was with some anticipation and anxiety that it happened to me. "What would I say to her? What would she think of me?" My fears were all dispelled with the first warm smile. Since that time I have been in attendance at meetings with Miss McKercher, and, although someone else was in charge of that meeting Miss McKercher's guiding hand was ever present.

It was through her efforts that the Officers' Conference had many of its educational and entertaining portions of the programme. She always came up with ideas and speakers that would be enjoyed by those attending.

Although a small gift was presented to her at the past Conference, no gift of any value could be given to repay her for the many things she has done to help the Officers' Conference and to keep it on the high level of the learning experience that it is meant to be.

Good luck and long life is my wish to a very warm and friendly lady.

*Grace M. Campbell*