

place where you cannot have a local branch of the National Council, you may become individual members of the National Council, but if you do, it is a question as to what you can obtain from it that you cannot obtain through your affiliation as an organization of Women's Institutes as a whole.

Q.—Why are members not able to obtain help for their papers when they send for it?

A.—I do not know whether that refers to the reports and papers sent out by the Department in Toronto, or whether it refers to the matter being sent out by the Macdonald Institute. If it refers to the reports and leaflets which your Superintendent sends out, you ought to get them. If you do not, it will cost you one cent for a postcard to tell him so, and if he gets the notification that you are not getting the papers you should get, they will be most promptly forwarded. If the question refers to the help Macdonald Institute is trying to give you, I have plenty to say about that in a few moments.

WHAT THE MACDONALD INSTITUTE IS PREPARED TO DO FOR THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

MISS M. U. WATSON, MACDONALD INSTITUTE.

You will remember two years ago I told you that if any of you had any questions or problems that you thought Macdonald Institute could help you with, we would be glad to do so if we could, and we had a few responses from that invitation. Last year I renewed that invitation and told you how we were trying to put our material in accessible form. Mr. Putnam also sent out some printed slips telling you just how to go about sending for this help, and I thought you would be interested in hearing about the responses which we had from that invitation. Last year, or up to date this year, we had about 350 letters in direct response to that invitation. About 260 of those letters got help in some form or other, and the rest, a quarter of them—and this may be the reason why the questioner did not get her help—about a quarter of them wanted material which was already out and we had not any duplicates of that material. Therefore, we had to write and tell the individuals who wanted that help that we could not send it.

One reason for this difficulty I found was that many of the branch Institutes belonging to the one district took the same programme for the year, and then I was apt to get many requests for the same kind of material at once. Our collection is not big enough to deal with so many requests at once. Some of the requests came in the summer and the work was neglected, as it had to be managed from my office, and for a few weeks in the summer this office was closed, and I had no one with which to leave it, so that it could be properly attended to, and therefore, about one-third of those 80 or 90 whom we could not help came in during that time. Only two or three gave us too short notice. On the slip we sent out we asked for two weeks' notice, for the reason that Macdonald Institute has its regular work to carry on, and in many cases the material that you wanted had to be hunted for, and had to be catalogued and put in shape to send out. This takes time, and, therefore, we asked for a fortnight's notice, and very few failed to give us time enough to send out their material. There were a few questions referring to matters in Mr. Putnam's line rather than in mine, and these were passed along to him, and I am sure were attended to. About 28 of them floored us altogether. We could not do anything with them. It would take too long to go over those