One of the guiding spirits in the formation of the National Council, Mrs. Hoodless was its first treasurer, holding that position for about ten years. The played a leading part in the formation of the VON. Founder of the Ontario Normal School of Domestic Science and Arts, she also obtained from Sir William MacDonald for Montreal the means with which MacDonald Institute at Guelph was erected. She herself lectured there.

While Mrs. Hoodless was giving an address on "The Woman in Industrial Life", she was taken ill and died almost immediately - at the early age of 52. But not before she had left a record of achievement that any man would be proud to call his own. In her personal life as in her public life, Adelaide Hoodless was a living exponent of her own belief that 'no higher vocation has been or ever can be given to women than that of homemakers and citizen-builders'.