

What About Those Meetings?

By E. McMaster

MEETINGS have taken a lot of time out of my life. Lately I find myself wondering if something couldn't be done about them. While seated in an inconspicuous place, and outwardly all attention, I find that instead of concentrating on the program, I am reorganizing it. Instead of listening to the speaker, I am feeling sorry for her. Nearly always her speech comes as an anti-climax.

Recently I attended a meeting and this was the program: Regular opening; Scripture Reading; The Roll Call was answered by giving a favorite recipe which took less time as there were 30 members present. Roll Calls are fun though and it is an excellent time to have each member take part. Minutes were read and were much lengthier than necessary. The Motto was given and a short and worth while paper.

An endless discussion period followed, when plans for a euchre, a dance and a fowl supper were dealt with. Another paper and a reading were given and then, when everyone had had about enough; when all were ready for a cup of tea and were beginning to think restlessly about supper to get at home and chores waiting—then, the speaker was introduced. She was a charming woman, had come a long distance and had given much thought and research to her stimulating talk. But we were in no mood to be stimulated and I am sure her wit and thought-provoking material

fell on ears that were unheeding and brains that were tired and lacking in interest. It seemed such a waste, to me, of good effort.

This was a W.I. meeting, but the same thing happens every month at our I.O.D.E. meetings, and church meetings are notorious for endless business discussions, with scant attention left for the person in honor by introducing as (surely a better word could be found) the Guest Speaker. Two or three people tip-toe apologetically to the door. They had come especially to hear the speaker but the lateness of the hour tells them they are due at another appointment. Surely the speaker must feel anything but honored by being given the tag end of the afternoon or evening.

I would like to see the agenda of all societies changed—and I mean men's meetings as well as women's . . . lodges, Rotary, Lions Clubs, etc. The new order would read thus:

- Regular opening.
- Roll Call.
- Minutes. (much condensed).
- Introduction of speaker (very brief).
- THE SPEAKER.
- Correspondence.
- Business.
- Further papers or readings.
- Expressions of thanks.
- Closing.
- What do you think about this type of agenda for meetings?

District W.I. Annual Held at Russell '52

RUSSELL, June 9.—(Special)
—With a registration of 65, the 21st annual meeting of the Russell District Women's Institutes took place in Russell United church.

Mrs. T. Wade, branch president, welcomed the gathering and Miss Irene McBride of the Women's Institute branch of the Department of Agriculture, led a discussion on the various reports. Miss M. Little spoke of the progress made by the three girls' home-making clubs in the district.

Following luncheon a memorial service was conducted by Mrs. D. N. Johnston for two members who had died during the year.

A report of the recent provincial conference held in Guelph was given by the district president, Mrs. W. Melvin of Leonard.

The
W. I.
Mrs. J.