

food and housing problems, and they have a growing sense of their responsibility in health and educational matters. While the care of the sick and the treatment of the unfit receive first consideration, the questions of health education, physical examination, preventive methods, and systematic medical and dental service, are commanding greater attention from year to year.

The women of rural Ontario are sincere in their desire that the youth of the rural districts shall not be denied the privilege of efficient education along utility lines, and that adequate medical and dental service will be available to all.

Not only the Department of Agriculture, but other departments of Government service are able to utilize the Women's Institutes to great advantage.

The Department of Health secures the co-operation of the Women's Institutes in the distribution of literature, in arranging for public meetings, and in the work of the district nurses. Health literature is often used as a basis for study and discussion by the Institute members.

The Department of Education values very highly the efforts of the Institutes in beautifying school grounds and buildings, the introduction of drinking cups and drinking fountains, furnishing pictures, supplying flowers and shrubbery, securing and retaining the service of capable teachers, providing for hot school lunches, and in other ways.

The travelling libraries are utilized to a large extent by the Institutes, and many public libraries which had fallen into disuse have been reclaimed and made of real value to the community, while new libraries owe their beginning in some centres to the efforts of the Women's Institutes.

The Department of Neglected and Dependent Children receives splendid co-operation and support from the Women's Institutes, and Children's Shelters in many counties are indebted for liberal support in both money and goods.

The Department of Immigration, the Moving Picture Bureau, the Fire Protection Branch, the Mothers' Allowance Board, and other Branches of Government service receive valued co-operation and assistance from the Women's Institutes.

The added efficiency in various government activities, through co-operation with the Institutes, goes a long way to offset the money expended on the Institutes in demonstrations, lectures, grants, literature and administration.

The great value and significance of the Women's Institutes do not consist so much in what they have done and what they are doing, but rather in the spirit of service that has been developed, the system of organization for work that has been established, and the demonstration of possibilities in education, community effort, regulated charity and co-operation. They have demonstrated the value of an interested, voluntary, local organization, in planning for, assisting in carrying on and encouraging the necessary follow-up work, if service and assistance by the Government are to result in the greatest good to the greatest number.

The co-operation of organized bodies of women with both official bodies (councils and school boards) and voluntary organizations of men has brought results worthy of study by those who are looking to co-operative effort in stabilizing agriculture and in placing many public undertakings upon a sound basis.

One familiar with the activities and possibilities in the Women's Institutes of the Province, cannot but earnestly recommend most liberal support in extending the work to new centres, and in rendering service which will meet the needs of the rural districts.

GEO. A. PUTNAM,
Superintendent.