



SCOTTISH HOME AND COUNTRY



The Magazine of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes.

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THIS NUMBER CONTAINS A SPECIAL CONFERENCE SUPPLEMENT.



SCENE FROM "CRANFORD."—MISS BETTY BARKER'S TEA PARTY.

Acted at the close of the South-Eastern Area Conference by the Conference Sub-Committee.

Names (from left to right)—Mrs. Mercer, Mrs. Weir, Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Murry, Miss Nannie Brown.

Miss Campbell Speaks to Us from Jamaica.

A SCHOOL on a ridge of limestone, 2300 feet up. Away to the east the Manchester mountains and range after range of hills, not rugged and peaked as ours in Scotland, but long ridges and rounded knolls, crowned almost to the summit with dense "bush." The bush is broken, wherever man's hand has been at work, by patches of banana and sugar-cane cultivation. We are in a land of sun-bathed spaces, of wonderful sunsets and clear, starry nights, of cool breezes, of stifling heat in the plains where the sun beats down on miles of sugar cane, uninterrupted save by an occasional clearing for mill and dwellings, or by the huge cotton trees whose gaunt limbs are covered with wild pines, cacti, and orchids.

The limestone ridge has one of the finest climates in the world, but this brings with it the drawback of drought, and makes it barren as compared with other parts of the Island. With the rains, however, the wilderness blossoms as a rose, and many hothouse favourites, coleuses, orchids, lilies, and palms, blossom in profusion. We grow bananas, coffee, sweet potatoes, oranges, and pimento, from which allspice berries are gathered, as well as maize, yam, cocoa, and a coarse tobacco. In the sunshine after rains, the crops literally grow almost as we look at them.

The water supply depends entirely on the rain which runs down into tanks from the roofs, or from large cemented areas known as barbecues, which are also used for drying the coffee berries. The usual topic of conversation when we meet our friends is "water," for so much depends on it. If the tanks run dry it may mean that not only the stock, but the household must migrate. Excepting on the larger sugar estates there is no extensive system of irrigation. In some parishes large tanks have now been built, but carrying water on one's head or slung on a donkey is too laborious to allow of its being used for cultivation. The people are mostly small cultivators; in time of drought their crops die out, and the stealing of food-stuffs becomes rampant; their meagre store of water is exhausted, and stealing of water becomes a grim reality.

The population consists for the most part of the descendants of negro slaves imported from Africa in the days of the slave trade, and of coloured people who are of partly European descent. The proportion of pure whites has been estimated at 1-2 per cent. There is no "colour" bar, and all positions in the Island are open. A considerable number of Jamaicans have been to the Universities, and this serves to maintain the professional class, clergy, doctors, lawyers. The whites in the Island are either owners of property or in administrative positions in the Government, in the larger fruit and sugar estates, and in business; they include a fair proportion of Scotchmen. The climate on the plains is trying for white women and children, and it is sad to see the latter come back to school with all their roses gone. Manual labour is impossible for the whites on account of the heat, but in the later days of slave ownership skilled Scottish artisans were imported to teach trades, and there is still need for good technical training in all directions.

Much that the Women's Rural Institutes stand for in Scotland is yet to be here. At present in Jamaica we have few technical classes and no colleges for domestic science or agriculture, and large numbers of the people are ignorant of the essentials of home-making. On the other hand many Jamaican housewives are highly skilled in traditional house lore, preserve-making, and needlework, and they have been compared to the French in their ability to make much out of little. The school here has just built good modern kitchens. If the girls of the more educated classes are

trained in respect for all women's work in the making of homes, and in the scientific knowledge which underlies it, they should be able to play a valuable part in the affairs of the community. The Government makes hygiene a compulsory subject for both boys and girls in secondary schools, and much useful work is being accomplished by women's and girls' societies. We have an active Agricultural Society, and shows are held locally. The first Women's Institute may not be so far off as many would think.

I think so often of the Institutes. I appreciate more than I can tell you the beautiful addresses and books which you sent out to me, and only pressure of work prevented me from writing to each individual Institute. As I write, Institute after Institute, north and south, and east and west, rises up before me, and I am glad that "Scottish Home and Country" is here to keep us all in touch. I hope to meet many Institute members in my few weeks at home each August.

Perhaps what will be most needed in Institutes during the next few years is the firm conviction that nothing but the best will do, if the Institutes would accomplish all of which they are capable in the many directions indicated in Miss Haldane's far-seeing article. The best means money, but no great movement ever fails for lack of money if its ideals are true and if it possesses in itself the knowledge and patience needed to make them a reality.

This poem was occasioned by the debate on "Whether Man or Woman had the better time" at the S.W. Area Conference in Dumfries.

WHY I PREFER TO BE A WOMAN.

I'm glad I am a woman,
And really fail to see
Though we had power to change our sex
What better we should be.
The "weaker vessel" we are called,
The "gentler sex," some say,
But weakness helps to temper strength
Where gentleness holds sway.

I know the lot of woman,
I know her daily cares,
The joys and sorrows of her life,
Its pitfalls and its snares;
Yet Faith and Hope and Love are hers,
Enough to bear her through,
When there are helpful words to say
Or noble deeds to do.

I feel I'm but a woman,
And often wish my arm
Possessed more strength, my voice more power,
To shield the weak from harm;
But love can pierce the hardest heart,
Soft words divert wrath's blow:
The greater victory is theirs
Who bloodless quell their foe.

I'm proud to be a woman,
And thank God for His grace
In giving, in Creation's plan,
To her so high a place.
She tended His dear Son from birth,
And when on Calvary's hill
He yielded up His soul in death
She stood beside Him still.

Then let us still be women
(And not unmanly men),
And do our bit, and play our part
Right here and now, and then
As sisters, sweethearts, wedded wives,
We'll carry on Life's plan
And preach and practise near and far
The brotherhood of man.

A New Slogan.

By Annie S. Swan.

THERE have been few aspects of life during the last decade more striking and far-reaching than the growth and development of village life.

Looking back over a pretty long life, I can remember in the days of my youth the complete isolation of country villages, the dullness and narrowness of the life pursued there, the lack of amusement or diversion during the long winters. Those who loved reading had not much access, to new books at least, and those whose tastes ran in lighter vein had only the village concert provided by local, or at best a little imported talent, or the penny reading to look forward to. Some day I must write an article on Penny Readings; some memories of them remain vividly with me across the bridging gulf of years.

All that is changed now. Science and enterprise have practically annihilated distance, quick transport has brought even the most remote hamlets within what I may call the communal zone. So has passed a long cycle of experience, a bit of history which this generation will only know as they know other history—by repute.

Out of all these rapid changes has been evolved the Rural Institutes in Scotland, corresponding to the Women's Institutes in England. Of the latter I have considerable knowledge and experience, having covered a fairly wide area in my own county and others for the purpose of addressing the members thereof. Everywhere the report is the same. The movement has not only brightened and altered village life, but it is having its effect on the people, awakening in them instincts, powers, and capabilities which were lying dormant.

Women are conservative creatures in most relations of life, but they have caught on to this new movement with rapid avidity. They are keen enough to satisfy even the most enthusiastic promoter and organiser.

Competition and emulation being two of the most powerful factors in human achievement, the moment country women are brought into competition the desire to achieve is awakened. So we have a happy and healthy rivalry in all housewifely and other accomplishments between the members of individual institutes, and also between different Institutes themselves. There is something like the "pride of the regiment" about all this. Honour is at stake, and nothing must be done to thwart or smirch it. It is an ideal in its way, and its fruit is the birth and activity of the community spirit, which is of priceless value to every community and also to the individual, because he or she is made to realise, possibly for the first time, that no man or woman is entitled to live entirely to himself or herself, but has a duty to the rest of the world. Especially to the little corner of the world where the lot is cast.

A very wise mother of my acquaintance had a most poignant and useful slogan with which she sought to check selfishness in her children. It was very short and simple—"There are others!"

That might quite appropriately be engraved on the banners of the Rural Institutes. Selfishness is not the prerogative of any individual or community or institute, but is a danger to all. In this great work there are, of course, difficulties and dangers fully realised by the more intelligent and far-seeing among those engaged in it.

Rivalry, even of the most healthy kind, naturally breeds jealousy. I have heard from some Presidents of Institutes that they have to walk very warily, taking the utmost care of prickly susceptibilities.

It is quite easy to understand that women who have never been accustomed to the wider scope of community life should not be able to rid themselves of the personal, individual view.

We don't want to get rid of it altogether, mark you, because it is the personal element that counts every time, and in all human affairs it is indeed the deciding factor. That is why some Institutes flourish more conspicuously than others, because they have some very wise, interesting, and gripping personality at the head.

To me the most wonderful, hopeful, and healthy element in this big movement is that because the individual, without losing the personal aim, is taught by some mysterious wind of the spirit, which it is not possible to tabulate or describe, that it is a case of "Each for all" and "All for each."

This broadening wave of human sympathy, consideration, and toleration is bound in course of time to give our community life an enormous uplift. It is already doing it, and for that reason is one of the most promising signs of the difficult times in which we live.

More and more we need the community spirit, which, being translated into simpler language, means the brotherhood spirit. When it leavens the whole lump then, and not till then, shall we get rid of our present difficulties and misunderstandings and strife, or at least bring them within measurable distance of solution. My message to the members of the Rural Institutes of Scotland is "Carry on!" You are building better than you know, not only for yourselves, but for those who will come after.

The Charm of Flowers in Winter.

CONGREVE, the poet, has said "Music hath charms"—music with its sweet, haunting melodies and soothing cadences charms the ear—so the flowers with their brilliant and varied colourings, their infinite variety of form, and their sweet, elusive fragrances charm our other senses with their loveliness.

Everyone, more or less, has this love for the beautiful. The more advanced and refined a people becomes, the greater this craving for what is lovely. We feel more and more that we require flowers; flowers about us all the time, decorating and brightening the rooms we live in.

In summer and autumn gay blooms are plentiful; we have variety in abundance, but in the dull, cheerless months of winter and early spring, before the earth has awakened from its wintry sleep, while yet the trees stand tall and leafless, and the plants, even the most daring, have not ventured their leaves above the frozen earth, then it is that the bulb, the indoor grown bulb, comes to the rescue to brighten our homes for us—hyacinths and daffodils, tulips and crocuses, jonquils and scillas, etc.

This bulb culture is growing in favour more and more as the years go on, and now there is scarcely a home in city or country which has not its display of home-grown bulbs in this dull season. The very growing of them enhances their value, and it is with pride that we show to our friends some magnificent bowl of gaily-coloured blooms in the early spring.

They may be grown with equal success in soil, fibre, or gravel. If soil is used it should be about half an inch below the rim of the pot for convenience in watering, and the tips of the bulbs should just show above the soil. Keep in a shady place for three or four weeks, then bring them to where they will get as much light as possible. Ordinary flower pots or pans with holes in the bottom are most suit-

able as they allow the surplus water to drain off and so prevent the earth becoming water-logged and sour.

If bulbs are planted in August or early September the earliest varieties are in flower by December—the Roman Hyacinth is generally the earliest. Daffodils and hyacinths are, I should say, the most easily grown; at least there is very rarely a blank if ordinary attention to watering is given, and the simple directions above followed. After all, they are very economical when flowers have to be bought for decoration, as they last much longer, look better, and even then the bulbs, when ripened off, may be used to beautify a grassy bank or planted in a corner of the garden, and grow beautifully out of doors the following spring.

Certain varieties of daffodils flower earlier than others. The big trumpet ones come into bloom before the short cupped ones, so by a little care and forethought one bowl may be finishing its blooms when another is coming to its best, and we may have bowls of blooms, one after the other, throughout the whole of the dull season.

Hyacinths look best and give most satisfaction when one variety only is planted in a bowl. If reds, whites, and blues are put in the same bowl they may not flower simultaneously, and the effect may be very disappointing. One bowl of hyacinths, "Schotel" by name, pale blue—a delightful shade of it—lasted seven weeks this past spring, and was the admiration of many. The bulbs were perhaps a little expensive to begin with, but after all they were worth the extra.

Some people find tulip-growing in fibre sometimes a little disappointing compared with the outside grown results, but a bowl of "Fire Glow," the colour of its name, was simply glorious with us this past spring—big, strong, brilliant blooms. This is one of the new varieties which will be largely grown when it becomes cheaper, but the "Prince of Austria" is almost the same shade and is delightfully scented. Other colours, pinks, yellows, and reds grow equally well if the fibre is not at any time allowed to become dry. Neglect of this important point is generally the cause of failure with tulips. Once they start making roots they must never be checked.

Of course, so very much depends on the quality of the bulbs purchased that it is really false economy to buy cheap ones and think you have got a bargain. You want the best every time. It is only from the best that you can have gratifying results, no matter how well you attend them.

The many artistic bowls now in use—oval and square, round and oblong—no doubt add to the beauty of the plants for decorative purposes, but for those who have not many fancy bowls, quite a good idea is to have the bulbs planted in common red clay bowls, a size smaller than the fancy ones they possess, and when they are coming into bloom the bowls may be set into the artistic bowls and afterwards, when their flowers begin to fade, they may be replaced by later varieties. By so doing these ornamental bowls may be kept filled with beautiful blooms from beginning to end of this dormant season.

From December to April they give forth of their best to charm and brighten our homes—for this we love them.

J. A. H.

PLEASE NOTE.

Will Area and Federation Secretaries and Press Representatives please note that on account of very limited space only items of special and more than local interest should be reported. All Institute news should reach the Editor not later than the first week of the month prior to publication—for next number the first week in October.

Please write on one side of the paper only.

THE QUARTERLY COMPETITION.

THE BEST W.R.I. ANECDOTE.

1st Prize—Mrs. J. Nicoll, Gowanhead, Farnell, Brechin.

How a New Member was "roped in."

It was a "hen" party, and most of the ladies present were members of the local W.R.I.

One fussy, elderly woman seemed to be against the innovation, and had derogatory remarks to pass on all the proceedings as described by the members.

"But," said one, "we learn how to cook, and bake, and make the most of small things."

"Oh, you can't teach me anything in the way of cooking," rejoined the objector.

"But we have dressmaking, too, and all kinds of cutting out, and knitting and stitching, and ever so many other things."

"Oh," replied the clever one, airily, "I can do all that!"

"Then you are the very woman we need," emphatically answered a little woman, who had hitherto been silent. "Come and join."

To her credit, be it said, the capable one saw the humour of the situation and did join.

2nd Prize—Miss J. A. Gavin, Secretary, W.R.I., New Deer, Aberdeenshire.

Two men met after an Open Night of a W.R.I. One said, "Did my wife make a speech to-night?"

"Well, I don't believe I've met your wife," said the other, "but a tall, distinguished woman got up and started by saying she really couldn't find words to express her feelings."

"Stop, stop, man; that wasn't my wife," retorted the other.

3rd Prize—Mrs. M'Ewan, Minishant, Maybole.

Our district is very scattered, and some of our members have to come a long way to attend our meetings, the result being, of course, that on a Rural meeting night some of them do not exactly keep "elders' oors."

One morning, after an extra busy meeting, the following conversation took place between two of the guidmen—

Jock—"Whit d'ye think o' this Rural?"

Erichie—"A gran' thing, never wis a better."

Jock—"Mebbe it is, but Aw dinna haud wi' wimmen bein' oot o' their hooses tae efter 10 o'clock."

Erichie—"Haud yer tongue, mon. D'ye no see it's the best thing ever happened—they canna open their mouths to us noo!"

THIS QUARTER'S COMPETITION.

Prizes of (1st) 10/-, (2nd) 5/-, (3rd) 2/6 are offered for the Best Snapshot taken by an S.W.R.I. member.

Entries must be sent in not later than the 22nd September, and should be addressed to "The Editor, 'Scottish Home and Country,' 8 Kinnoull Street, Perth."

FILET LACE.

What a delicate piece of handicraft,
What elegance and grace,
What loveliness and usefulness,
We see in filet lace.

The dainty twists, the secret knots,
Worked on a canvas fine,
As time goes by it rapidly
Becomes a rich design.

The beauty of the tender strands
Is a marvel to the sight;
The wondrous things our hands can do
Should fill us with delight.

We gaze in wonder, and rejoice
That such exquisite skill
Is freely given to human hands
To use it if they will.

Surely then we rightly hope
That years will not efface
The elusive charm and daintiness
Of a piece of filet lace.

BELLA MITCHELL.

News of the Institutes.

NORTH-WEST AREA.

There are now 54 Institutes in the Area with an approximate membership of 2196, the two new ones being Caithness (Bower) and Ross-shire (Cullicudden).

Federations.

ROSS-SHIRE has newly formed a Federation, with Lady Brooke, Fearn, as President and Miss Forbes, Portmahomack, as Hon. Secretary.

A Federation has also been formed in Mull, with Mrs. Mellis, Grulive, as Chairman and Mrs. Cheape, Tioran, as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

NORTH ARGYLL, INVERNESS-SHIRE, and CAITHNESS are preparing for the Shows at Appin, Fort-William, and Thurso.

The Fort-William Show for the whole of the N.-W. Area was a great success last year, and many of the Inverness-shire members also took prizes at the Highland Show in Inverness.

Mrs. Macintyre, Fort-William—1st prize, Homespun.

Mrs. George, Kilmallie—1st prize, Cake.

Miss Carter, Kilmallie—1st prize, Crochet Jumper.

Mrs. Kilgour, Fort-William—2nd prize, Crochet Jumper.

Mrs. MacKinnon, Fort-William—2nd prize, Knitted Jumper.

Miss Bremner, Fort-William—2nd prize, Embroidery.

Mrs. M'Ready, Spean Bridge—Highly commended, Rugs.

NORTH UIST is also preparing for an exhibition, making yarn for tweeds, knitted garments, rugs, etc., for an Exhibition in September. This takes the place of the Cattle Show of previous years.

During the winter months members of Bayhead and Tigharry took full advantage of cookery classes, and the attendance was very good.

The CAITHNESS Institutes have benefited greatly by the instruction received by them from Mrs. Simpson, and several of the members of various institutes have already made some very fine pieces of filet lace. Miss Wolfe Murray has also given lessons at Fearn and Tarbat, and the result is most encouraging.

At the June meeting at FAIRBURN the chief item of interest was an address by Mrs. Stirling on "The life history of a salmon." She, a keen angler herself, treated the subject in a most interesting manner, beginning with the history of the King Fish from its infancy, upbringing, play-time, wanderings, etc., until its final capture in the fisherman's net.

At a meeting at TAYNUILT Miss Macintyre gave a very interesting demonstration on rug-making; then Mr. John MacCallum, Tighnabarr, gave a lecture on the late John Campbell, the Bard of Ledaig. The lecturer gave a resumé of the Bard's life, and reviewed his poems and lyrics. Some translations were recited for those who did not know Gaelic.

As a result of the visit of Miss Bruce of the Highland Home industries to the North, various members of the Institutes visited have greatly benefited, knowing that a high standard of work must be produced to get a good market.

TARBAT (Ross-shire) has already made over £11 by these various industries, and the CAITHNESS members have been paid a very good price for the articles knitted by them.

In May JOHN O' GROAT'S had a demonstration on spinning, when members were invited to "try their hand," and thereafter were shown how to knit Fair Isle jumpers.

KNOYDART had a very useful address on "Carpentry in the Home" and a demonstration on "How to mend Breakages," and KILMALLIE a helpful demonstration and talk on the potting and pruning of hothouse and indoor plants.

North Argyll Federation.

A meeting of the North Argyll Federation was held at Kentallen on the 29th of April. Mrs. Macalpine Downie, of Appin, presided.

It was decided that the Institutes in the Federation should hold their annual business meeting during the first week in October, and that the Federation should meet during the second week in October. This is to allow the new representatives from the Institutes to be present at the Federation meeting, at which the arrangements for the winter's programme will be discussed and decided.

The meeting was a most enthusiastic one. Mrs. Cameron and the Misses Cameron, of Ardsheal, kindly provided tea for the members, which was especially appreciated by those who came from a distance.

The North Argyll Federation was well represented at the Conference at Fort-William on the 11th June. The North-Western Area Committee had spared no pains to make it interesting and attractive, and those present must have come away feeling more keenly than ever the necessity of carrying on the work of the Institutes in the Highlands.

To the Appin Show on 21st August it is hoped that the Federation will send a good display of work. There are 18 classes for competitors, and each Institute may compete in 10 of them.

NORTH-EAST AREA.

There has not been an increase in the number of Institutes since the last publication of the magazine, but there are several applications for Institutes to be formed in early autumn.

With the advent of better weather there has been a very great deal of inter-Institute visiting, the visiting Institute supplying the programme as a rule. A great deal of enjoyment as well as information is gained in this way. A number of sales of work have been held recently, and the financial results have been very satisfactory.

Aberdeenshire Federation.

The number of Institutes belonging to this Federation is 44—41 in Aberdeenshire and 3 in Kincardineshire. The half-yearly meeting was held on 26th April, when there was a large attendance of delegates. Many subjects of interest have been given at meetings, and at one branch the following papers were contributed by members—(1) Habit and the achievement of Happiness; (2) Criticism; (3) Town v. Country Life. One of the Institutes had a successful course in dressmaking, the members having a parade of garments made at a subsequent meeting.

Banffshire Federation.

The number of Institutes in the county is 10, and all belong to the County Federation. The half-yearly meeting was held on 31st May, when arrangements for sending exhibits to the Banff Industrial Show were completed. An interesting debate took place at one of the Institutes, the subject being, "Does happiness diminish as civilisation advances?" The members of another Institute have had a successful class in the making of filet lace, and some very beautiful specimens of their work were on view at the Conference.

A large number of Institutes in Aberdeenshire and Banffshire have taken advantage of the kind offer of Messrs. Brown & Polson to give free cookery demonstrations. In all 30 different demonstrations have been arranged, and the 14 given up to date have been appreciated very much indeed. Members attending the demonstrations have opportunities of buying samples of food cooked and uncooked, and also a great variety of simple cooking utensils.

Forfarshire Federation.

The Institutes in this county number 26, and all belong to the Federation. The half-yearly meeting was held in Forfar on 14th June. Several Institutes in this county competed in a class for Welfare Clubs at the Dundee Musical Festival, and an Institute gained first place. It is hoped that many more Institutes will train choirs for this purpose, because apart from advantages gained and given by W.R.I. choirs, the number of entries was so small that competition was not very keen. A variety of interesting subjects were given at the monthly meetings, among them, "The Modern Newspaper and its Production," reference being made to the important part played in journalism by women; "Child Study and Psychology"; "Pessimism v. Optimism." A competitive exhibition of members' work is being held in the W.R.I. Tent at the Angus Show, which takes place at Montrose on 30th July. All arrangements have been made by the above Federation, and there are 1000 entries.

CENTRAL AREA.

Fife Federation.

June is the time of the Home Industries Competition, which is held at the Fife Agricultural Society's Show at Ladybank. The Show provides the tent and the printing, and naturally takes the gate money. Over 1400 people paid 6d. to see the exhibits.

There are classes for collective and individual work. The inter-Institute competition consists of a table 4ft. square filled with varieties of foodstuffs, jam, jelly, pickles, bottled fruits, and vegetables; cheeses, ham, bacon, eggs, butter, cakes, scones, bread, etc.; and a table devoted to handicrafts such as knitting, hand and machine sewing, embroidery, rugs, baskets, leather-work, raffia work, dress-making, quilts, caning, toys, slippers, etc.

Six judges, experts in their several branches, judged the tables, the marks were added together, and the silver medals awarded—one for Institutes with a membership of over 60, one for Institutes with a membership under 60, and one for the best produce table regardless of size of Institute.

Eleven Institutes entered in the large class, and Largo gained the medal. Five entered in the small class, when Logie-Murdoch was the successful one. Largo also gained the produce medal.

The standard of work increases year by year, and out of a possible 300 the winner got 262 marks.

Although the individual classes were less well filled this year, the work was of a higher level, competitors realising that only first-class work will secure a place. This is all to the good, as these

exhibits are intended to raise the standard of work and show the best Rural women can do. Local competitions can be arranged to include the less gifted workers.

The English Headquarters sent work for exhibition, and some suitable prizes with the Scotch badge were also on view.

Mrs. Grainger Heaton gave a lecture on "Rabbits for Fur." She brought with her specimens of fur garments, and she and Mrs. Balfour Graham exhibited the most suitable rabbits for fur.

The Federation has issued to all Secretaries a revised list of local voluntary speakers.

The inter-Institute entertainment grows in popularity. However, the visiting Institute often finds it more difficult to supply lecturer or demonstrator than entertainers.

Once Scotland has a Guild of Learners, this difficulty will be reduced, and skilled workers will have learnt to demonstrate and judge, which will be very helpful at all the local shows.

The following contributions to the Central Fund have been received by Mrs. Anderson since April — Kilmany, £13 1s. 6d.; Cameron, £2; Largoward, £5; Springfield, £7. Six out of thirty-two Institutes have contributed so far, with a total of £39 3s. 6d.

To Secretaries.

The Federation will meet in Cupar in October. Please appoint your delegate and send to Federation Secretary before 10th September any subjects for discussion or any motions desired, together with name and address of delegate, to whom agenda, date of meeting, etc., will be sent later.

Perth and Kinross Federation.

This is the quarter of each year when most of our Institutes go on holiday, which does not mean that they do not meet, but that an epidemic of picnics and jaunts breaks out all over the two counties. In some cases Institutes have been content with the usual charabanc run or picnic; in some the two have been combined. Pitlochry carried through a most successful Rally.

Invitations were sent to all neighbouring Institutes and to Auchterarder, and the Public Hall was well filled. Miss Haldane, C.H., delivered a very interesting address on the position of women at present contrasted with former years, and others spoke on Co-operation, Duties of Members, and what our Institute enjoys most. There was a very varied exhibit of heirlooms, shawls, and thrift garments. In a dancing competition Butterstone was easily first, with an excellent presentation of the old-fashioned Scotch Reform, danced with absolute precision and charming daintiness. Various races were run, the fancy dress race particularly being especially pleasing to the spectators. Pitlochry is to be very heartily congratulated on so admirably achieving something quite new to Perthshire Institutes.

Twelve members of Fincastle Institute climbed Schiehallion in June. At the time of writing, members are looking forward to the Highland and Agricultural Show, and particularly to the industrial sections and the Central Area's exhibit.

SOUTH-EAST AREA.

The Lothians Federation (Nov., 1922-April, 1924.)

According to the Constitution each Institute subscribed towards the General Purposes Fund. The Council decided to expend part of that fund in classes, which were held in Edinburgh, and to which the Institutes sent delegates.

Two courses of lessons in confectionery were arranged at the Edinburgh Domestic Science School. As this was regarded as a "luxury" class, members of Institutes were responsible for the expenses incurred.

A course of six lessons in basketry was provided by the Federation. By the courtesy of the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, these lessons were given in the College classroom on Saturday afternoons. Additional lessons were paid for by the members desiring them.

A course of lessons in pottery-painting was provided.

The Directors of the Edinburgh College of Art kindly arranged for two classes in Embroidery and Design—elementary and advanced—of eight lessons each, at specially reduced terms. These classes were provided by the Federation gratis, members defraying the cost of any extra lessons arranged.

Longniddry Institute experimented in the making of quilts from sheep's wool. Carders and wool were bought co-operatively, and a series of "Quilting Bees" were organised throughout the spring. Inter-Institute meetings were held and demonstrations given till quilt-making was taken up by the Institutes generally. The Federation then purchased materials co-operatively. This has proved one of the most successful crafts introduced or encouraged by the Federation, as the Institute members have taken it up spontaneously. Demonstrations in the making of wool quilts—and in other crafts—

have been given by our members to Institutes in Berwickshire, Renfrewshire, Peeblesshire, Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, and in Arran, while specimen quilts have been sent still further afield.

Exhibits of pottery, baskets, toys, and embroidery—the work of Federation members—were selected for the exhibition in the W.I. Tent at the Royal Show at Newcastle, and several pieces of pottery were sold. Members competed successfully in various classes in the rural industries section of the H. and A. Show at Inverness. A stand at the Inverness Show was secured by the Federation. The sales amounted to £100, which was paid over to members, less Federation discount of 2d. or 3d. per 1s. Her Majesty the Queen when at Carberry purchased several pieces of "Mak'merry" hand-painted pottery; and some pieces were sent to the Rural Industries Intelligence Bureau in London at their request.

The Federation sent several immune varieties of seed potatoes to the Food Ministry at Copenhagen—by special request.

A Rally of all the Institutes was held in the Corn Exchange, Dalkeith, on 23rd October, 1923. Articles entered for competition were judged the previous day. In the handicrafts section the standard of work was higher than at the last Rally. There was an increase of entries in the leather-work, soft toys, millinery, wood-work, lace-making, baking, and confectionery sections; a decrease in the glove-making and fur-craft sections, while wool quilts were a new feature. In addition to the manifold competitions in handicrafts there were competitions for the best Institute song and the best team-dancing. Demonstrations in rug-making, wool-carding, and sealing-wax art were given. A Banner Parade added interest; and dramatic sketches and team-dancing proved a great attraction. A gift table provided funds for the Federation. Financially the Rally proved a success. The financial year—which had begun with a credit balance of £18 13s. 1d.—ended with a credit balance of £55 15s. 7d.

Mrs. Blair having intimated her desire to resign from the Chairmanship of the Federation, Mrs. Herdman, President of Cranston Institute, was appointed to the position. Mrs. Blair undertook the office of Hon. Secretary.

In reply to a questionnaire the Institutes in the Federation were unanimous in their desire to have future classes held in the country in place of sending representatives to classes organised in town. It was therefore resolved that each Institute be allowed to expend on an approved class or classes a sum not exceeding six guineas, and travelling expenses not exceeding £1. Classes were then arranged by the Institutes in accordance with the wishes of their members—the approved classes including upholstery, cookery, leather-work, laces, embroidery, drama, and choir-singing.

It was arranged to have a short course in poster design for the better advertisement of Institute functions. This course, which is being held in Edinburgh, consists of lectures and practice in lettering design and linoleum block printing. Members from each Institute have enrolled.

The Federation joined the Scottish Country Dance Society in the hope that the Institutes may benefit by and assist in this work of preserving country dances as danced in Scotland.

The Arts League of Service have been invited to give two performances—one at Pathhead and one at Tranent—while visiting Scotland in autumn.

Study of the League of Nations has been recommended. The Institutes have been put in touch with speakers and meetings arranged.

It was decided to form a Guild of Learners, on the lines of the English Guild, with a view to encouraging home industries, raising the standard of handicrafts, and certificating qualified demonstrators. It was decided to adopt the title "Hamarts Guild," which would meet the need of a short name, and give the necessary Scottish character. It was decided to bring the matter up at the Area Conference in June.

East Lothian Federation.

The Institutes in this Federation had a most interesting exhibit of handicrafts at the East Lothian Agricultural Show, held in Haddington on 21st June. This exhibit was arranged by the three Area representatives for the county for the purpose of propaganda work, and in every way, except as regards weather, was highly successful. Unfortunately, heavy rain in the early afternoon necessitated taking down some of the best exhibits, and somewhat marred the general appearance of the tables. Some very fine work was shown, most of which had already been exhibited at the Area Conference. Hand-made lace, beautiful leather-work, and pottery, rugs, carving, embroidery, baskets, thrift exhibits, jumpers, and other knitted goods, quilts, etc., etc., filled the tables. One lady (not an Institute member), coming to the door, said, "I'm coming in; this was most worth seeing at the Show last year, and I suppose it will be again."

The reports from the Institutes for the time being are mostly of picnics by road or rail. This seems to be a settled feature of the annual programme.

(Continued on page 11.)

SPECIAL CONFERENCE SUPPLEMENT

1924.

During this quarter the Biennial Conferences have taken place in all the Areas, and this Supplement has been prepared in order that each may be able to preserve its own record in convenient form and be kept in touch with the work of the whole movement in Scotland. In the North-Western Area two Conferences were held, the distances which separate the Institutes in that far-scattered district being very great. One of these was the first of the whole series, and was held at Dingwall for the Northern Division of the N.-E. Area on the 14th and 15th of May.

NORTH-WEST (NORTHERN) AREA CONFERENCE.

Lady Marjorie MacKenzie, C.B.E., of Gairloch, presided over this Conference, delivering the opening address at 11.30 on the 14th May, and guiding the deliberations and activities of two strenuous days which followed. Every district in the Area was represented by delegates, who were to be commended for the zeal which kept them at their posts throughout the Conference sittings. Many samples of work done by the Institutes made a very interesting and educative exhibit, and time was allowed for examination of these.

The first day's work was in the nature of a Study Circle, and in opening the President said they were a Band of Sisters with the same ends in view, and there ought to be a sort of Freemasonry among them. The Institutes were continuing in their good work, and she hoped they would continue to remember the W.R.I. ideal was Service not Self. Addresses and demonstrations followed, Miss Lawrie, Organiser, leading off with showing how steam cakes and a walnut loaf were made, and Miss Howard, Organiser in the Central Area, giving an address on "How to give a Demonstration." Sir Robert Brooke, Bart., of Midfearn, gave a most helpful address on "Business Methods," Miss Simpson spoke about the revived industry of filet lace making, and Mrs. Ryan, Spean Bridge, on the evergreen subject of home-making. An after-tea session devoted to picture-framing in *passé partout* and "Art in the Home," Miss Gourlay of the Dingwall Academy being the lecturer and demonstrator, closed the first day's proceedings.

Report of Work Done.

Those of the second day began at 11.15 on Thursday morning, when Mrs. Stirling of Fairbairne submitted the report of work done since the forming of the Area Committee. It had been realised at the very outset that this Area was unworkable as a whole, and the secretarial work was put into two divisions, the Northern to comprise Caithness, Ross-shire, Harris, North Uist, and parts of Skye, and the Western to include the west of Inverness-shire, Argyll, and the rest of the islands on the West Coast. An arrangement was come to with the Central Area whereby Miss Howard would supervise the North-Western Area, for which a new Organiser, Miss Macphail, was engaged, and that a combined office in Perth should be used. At that time there were 40 Institutes in the North-West Area. There were now 51, and the membership had increased from 1820 to 2136. From April, 1923, to February, 1924, 69 visits were paid to Institutes by the Organisers and 69 demonstrations had been given on such work as dressmaking, basket-making, rug-making, leather-work, cookery, laundry, millinery, upholstery, needle-weaving, floor-covering, fur-craft, etc., etc. In July, 1923, Miss Macphail resigned on account of ill-health, and Miss Laurie was appointed Organiser, but for two months Miss Howard carried on the work, along with that of the Central Area, single-handed.

A particularly interesting feature in the activities reported was the enthusiastic way home industries had been taken up since Miss Bruce, of the Highland Home Industries, had visited Caithness and Ross-shire and had arranged for the disposal of Institute work at remunerative prices. Miss Bruce had recommended filet lace as the most suitable industry for development, and the knitting which had formerly been an industry in the district has greatly increased, a regular supply of wool being sent every month to be made into knitted goods for sale at the Highland Home Industries shop. Mrs. Simpson, Droitwich, and Miss Wolfe Murray, had given lessons in lace-making in Caithness and in Tarbat with marked success.

A statement of the Area Sinking Fund showed a credit balance of £41 16s. 4d. Resolutions were then moved as follows:—

1. That the Board of Agriculture be petitioned to allow proxies to be elected for Area Committees as for Central Council. (Carried.)
 2. That the new scheme for the working of the Area be adopted. (Carried.)
(Under the new scheme the N.-W. Area is divided into two, the Northern and Western Divisions, the former to meet in Dingwall and the latter in Fort-William.)
 3. That the Board of Agriculture be asked to audit the accounts of S.W.R.I., as submitted through the Central Council quarterly instead of annually. (Carried.)
- A fourth resolution to ask that the stock of exhibits belonging to the Handicrafts Sub-Committee of the Central Council be periodically examined and kept up to standard was also carried.

B.O.A.S. and W.R.I.

Mr. Ramsay, of the Board of Agriculture, in the course of a short address, said it was extraordinarily interesting to look back over the years since the Institutes started, to think of the experimental and visionary way the movement was begun, and to see what it had now actually come to. They had now an Institute in almost every second parish in Scotland. Sutherlandshire had now taken up the movement, and was represented that day. Orkney and Shetland were still virgin ground, but they looked forward with hope for the future. The North-Western Area had always had its special difficulties of distances and means of communication, but they were blessed with extraordinarily public-spirited delegates to give their services to the cause.

Instead of being run by the Board of Agriculture, the Institutes were now on their own except in the matter of finance, but in 1927 the Institutes must stand on their feet financially and otherwise. He was therefore glad to see steady progress being made in accustoming Institutes to the idea of financial as well as administrative independence.

In course of an open session under Mr. Ramsay, it was resolved "That each Institute shall organise one entertainment every year, the whole proceeds of which shall be devoted to the Sinking Fund for provision for the time when the Government grant shall cease."

Demonstrations on stitching and needlework and on bacon-curing, followed by a short musical entertainment, concluded the Conference.

Voting for the Area Committee resulted in the following being elected:—

Chairman—The Hon. Lady Marjorie Mackenzie, of Gairloch, Conan House.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mrs. Stirling, Fairburn, Muir of Ord.

Ross-shire—The Hon. Lady Marjorie Mackenzie, of Gairloch, Conan House; Mrs. Scott, Fearn, Ross-shire; Mrs. Stirling, Fairburn, Muir of Ord.

Caithness—Mrs. Home, Thuster, Wick; Miss Malcolm, Maoiri Ha', Dunnet.

Morayshire—Mrs. Duncan, St. Andrew's Manse, Lhanbryde.

Islands (Inverness)—Mrs. Ross, Tarbat, Harris.

NORTH-WESTERN AREA (WESTERN) CONFERENCE.

Which was held at Fort-William on Thursday, 12th June, was preceded by a social gathering in the Town Hall on the evening of the 11th, the President and Vice-President providing the tea.

The following morning the serious work of the Conference began at 10.15 by a welcome to the delegates extended by the Chairman of the Area, Mrs. Gooch of Torcastle, and the singing of the Institute song. The reports submitted by Mrs. Mackay, Hon. Secretary for the Area, and by the Organisers showed not only an increase in the number of branches but a sustained interest and enthusiasm on the part of members. There was a marked advance in the variety and quality of the work done by the Institutes. A particularly gratifying feature of the reports was the account of new industries taken up which were proving a great help financially to the communities. Such departures, together with educational classes, lectures, etc., were calculated to raise the economic and social standard wherever the Institutes operated. Discussing finance, the Conference was strongly of opinion that a strong effort ought to be made to provide a substantial fund against the time when the Government grant expired.

Efficient Working.

Mr. H. M. Conacher, Board of Agriculture for Scotland, who subsequently addressed the Conference, said he was very much struck with the smoothness and efficient working of the Rural Institute movement, and he thought the Board of Agriculture were justified in deciding to give them their freedom in their own management. The Highlands were an ideal Area for Institutes, and, in spite of transport difficulties and depopulation, he was glad to observe the measure of success and prosperity which was attending the efforts of the W.R.I. He felt there was something mighty behind the women's movements, and with high ideals and clear vision they were, he was convinced, going to do great things for the peace and welfare of the world. Let them be good patriots and use their votes for the good of humanity.

Included in the morning session was a practical cookery demonstration by Miss Laurie, Organiser, and after lunch Miss Howard, Organiser, Central Area, gave an address on "How to give a Demonstration." A very interesting address on "Women's Work in the Present Time" followed. In the matter of organisation she averred they in Scotland were ahead of their compeers in England at the present time. A demonstration on the making of filet lace by Miss Wolfe Murray not only created interest and gave much pleasure, but is likely to bear fruit in the coming winter, since it led to a desire to have classes started for the teaching of this beautiful art, which is being revived by the Institutes.

At the open session held later, much interest was evinced by the visitors and delegates in the extensive and varied display of work done by W.R.I. members, the excellence of the handicraft being much commented upon.

The following resolutions were moved and adopted:—

1. That the B.O.A.S. be petitioned to allow proxies to be elected for Area Committees (as for Central Council).
2. That this Conference petition the B.O.A.S. to audit the accounts of the S.W.R.I. as submitted through the Central Council quarterly in order to guide the Area Committees and to assist them to keep their finances in order.
3. That this Conference ask the Central Council to direct its Handicrafts Sub-Committee to inspect its stock of exhibits from time to time and to discard those which are not up to the desired standards of quality and good taste.
4. That the new scheme for carrying out the work of the N.-W. Area in two divisions be adopted.

A resolution regarding the holding of office on the Committee of more than one Institute at a time was not carried.

As a result of the voting the following Area Committee were elected:—

Chairman—Mrs. Gooch, Torcastle, Banavie.
 Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mrs. Munro, U.F. Manse, Taynuilt.
 Asst. Secretary and Treasurer—Mrs. Stewart, Achara, Duror.
 Argyllshire—Mrs. Hutcheon, U.F. Manse, Connal; Mrs. Munro, U.F. Manse, Taynuilt; Mrs. Stewart, Achara, Duror.
 Inverness-shire—Mrs. Gooch, Torcastle, Banavie; Mrs. Parsons, Achdaliu, Banavie; Mrs. Ryan, Blar-a-cha, Roybridge;
 Islands—
 Argyllshire—Mrs. Cheape, Tiroran, Mull.
 Inverness-shire—The Hon. Iona Macdonald, Armadale Castle, Skye.

SOUTH-WESTERN AREA CONFERENCE

Came second on the list, being held at Dumfries on Saturday, 17th May. A short informal study circle held the day before had inaugurated the proceedings, when the Institutes in the Area sent a large number of interesting exhibits, and an instructive demonstration on cottage industry and handicraft was given by Miss A. Knox Arthur, Glasgow School of Art. The same evening a delightful charabanc excursion to Sweetheart Abbey and Arbigland gave over 100 of those who had come to attend the Conference an opportunity to meet old friends and get well on the way to making new ones.

On Saturday morning the serious business of the Conference began, under the presidency of Mrs. Douglas of Auchlochan, Chairman of the Area. There was a very large attendance of delegates, members of Institutes, and visitors, the Institutes represented numbering 113, an increase of 53 on the last Conference—held at Ayr two years ago.

When Mrs. Douglas had heartily welcomed the delegates and visitors, she called upon Miss Montgomery, Netherhall, Kirkcudbright, the Hon. Area Secretary, to submit her report, in course of which Miss Montgomery said that a scheme drawn up by their Chairman, Mrs. Douglas, for the future organisation of the Institutes had been largely adopted by the Board of Agriculture as a basis of discussion. At a meeting of the S.W.R.I. Area Committees in Edinburgh in 1922 the basis of schemes was considered, with the result that Area Committees were retained and allowed to budget for their Area expenses. Their Chairman had been chosen for the convenership of a Handicrafts Sub-Committee which had done and

was doing excellent work. Most important of all, there was the Magazine. They had sent up a resolution to the Central Committee, feeling that each Area was apt to go on in its own local way without knowing what the others were doing. Now they had got their own Magazine—"Scottish Home and Country"—and it was up to the members to support it and make it a success. (The Editor would have liked to print that sentence in large capitals.) They were trying to make provision now for the time when the Government Grant expired in 1927. Arrangements were being made for a School for Voluntary Organisers. A great deal could be done in that direction.

The financial statement submitted by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Menzies (Ardwell W.R.I.), was considered very satisfactory, and both the reports were unanimously adopted.

Growth of the Movement.

Miss Nannie Brown, Organiser for the S.-W. and S.-E. Areas, then gave a very interesting and informative resumé of the work since 1st November, 1922, when the change in organisation took place and the full management of the Scottish Women's Institutes passed from the Board of Agriculture into the hands of the five Area Committees. There were now 113 Institutes in the Area as against 69 then, and the membership which was then approximately 4008 was now 7250, an increase of 3242. During the year—Nov., 1922—Nov., 1923—the sum raised by the Institutes in the Area amounted to £4188 3s. 11d. One of the most striking developments in the work had been the increased usefulness of the County Federations. The following counties had now federated—Ayr, Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Lanark, and Wigtown. In conclusion, Miss Brown gave exceedingly interesting details of the more important of the Institute and Federation activities, and said the help given to the younger Institutes by the older inter-Institute meetings was a particularly gratifying feature. She considered special tribute was due to the West of Scotland College of Agriculture for providing free lectures and demonstrations on so many important agricultural subjects.

A motion "that in future the election of representatives to the South-Western Area Committee be conducted by the County Federation Committees in the Area by meetings or by postal votes as they may determine" was defeated by a large majority; but another, sent in from the North-Eastern Area, "that the Board of Agriculture for Scotland be petitioned to allow proxies to be elected for the Area Committees as for the Central Council was unanimously carried.

A delightful address on "Play-acting in Villages," by Mrs. Rawnsley, Grasmere, with realistic demonstrations, followed. In the lecturer's opinion there are few happier ways of providing companionship and of exercising the imagination than in such an effort as the production of a village play.

Three short useful papers dealing with everyday problems ended the forenoon session. That of which the subject was "Should office-bearers retire compulsorily after three years' service?" raised considerable discussion, but the opinion of the speakers seemed to be that while such a proposal might serve to bring out latent talent, it would not be advisable to have any hard and fast rule on the subject, because in most places there was not a superabundance of people able to undertake the responsibility of office and give the necessary time.

The afternoon session took the form of a Model Institute Meeting, which opened with the singing of one of the Institute songs. Following on a short, breezy opening speech from Mrs. Houston-Crauford, a lecture demonstration on design was given by Miss A. Knox Arthur, of the Glasgow School of Art. Then came a very amusing debate on "Has a man a better time than a woman?" The vote left no doubt as to the feeling of the meeting, for the mover and the seconder and the only three men who were present dared to support the contention that women have the better time in life. In another part of the Magazine will be found a poem occasioned by this debate.

Tea and music and a Musical Spot Competition in which 26 tunes were played on the piano and 25 of them "spotted" by the winner supplied the entertainment in the Model Institute Meeting, which the votes of thanks and the singing of the National Anthem brought to a close.

Chairman—Mrs. Douglas, Auchlochan, Lesmahagow.
 Hon. Secretary—Miss Montgomery, Netherhall, Castle Douglas.
 Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. Milne Home, Irvine House, Canonbie.
 Arran—Miss A. H. M'Bridge, Croftlea, Shiskine.
 Ayrshire—Mrs. Andrew Arthur, Rosemount, Monkton; Mrs. Houston-Crauford, Dunlon House, Dunlon; Miss Fairlie, Hillhouse Lodge, Fenwick; Mrs. Pollock, M.A., Schoolhouse, Dreghorn.
 Dumfriesshire—Mrs. Stephen Brown, Boreland, Lockerbie; Mrs. Maitland Heriot, Whitcroft, Ruthwell; Mrs. Milne Home, Irvine House, Canonbie; Lady Younger, Auchan Castle, Moffat.
 Kirkcudbrightshire—Mrs. Allardice, The Manse, Twynholm, R.S.O.
 Miss Duncan, Danevale, Crossmichael; Mrs. M'Queen, Crofts, Dalbeattie; Miss Montgomery, Nether Hall, Castle Douglas.

Inverclyde—Mrs. Douglas, Auchloch, Lesmahagow; Mrs. Prentice, Symington House, Symington; Mrs. Smith, Birkhill, Lesmahagow; Mrs. Wilson, Watermeetings, Elvanfoot.

Dumbartonshire—Miss J. Coulson, Edendonach, Cardross.

Renfrewshire—Lady Alice Shaw Stewart, Ardgowan, Inverkip.

Wigtownshire—Mrs. Brebner, Myrton Cottage, Whauphill; Mrs. Stevenson, Schoolhouse, Stoneykirk; Mrs. Wallace, Lochryan House, Cairnryan, Stranraer; Mrs. Webster, Mochrum Park, Kirkcubbin.

CENTRAL AREA CONFERENCE

Was held at Perth on Saturday, 7th June, Mrs. Anstruther-Gray, Chairman of the Area and of the Central Council, presiding.

On the preceding day a Study Circle of an interesting and helpful character had been held, when there was an attendance of about 200 delegates from 68 Institutes. An informative address on "Rabbit-keeping for Fur," by Mrs. Grainger Heaton, illustrated by exhibits, created much interest, and there were also demonstrations in vegetable cookery and quilt-making. A large and very varied assortment of work had been sent in for exhibition and competition, and lively interest was shown in the awards.

In opening the proceedings on Saturday, the Chairman gave a resumé of the activities of the Central Council since the re-organisation in 1922. In two years the number of Institutes in Scotland had increased from 244 to 360. She was convinced that the splendid work put into the organisation by Miss Campbell would be more and more realised. When the Central Council took over the work they started with an Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. So much did the work increase, they soon needed to have a part-time Secretary, and now they had a full-time Secretary. The Central Council had received £2325 of the grant of £3000 for the first year, which left a balance of £675 to be carried forward. The position in respect of the second year was not yet known. The Publications Sub-Committee had been responsible for the Handbook and they had also issued the S.W.R.I. Magazine, "Scottish Home and Country." Six thousand copies of the first issue had been sold, and it was hoped that 8000 would be sold of the second issue. She was glad to be able to report that from the beginning the Magazine had paid its way, and appealed for the co-operation of Institute members to make it a continued success.

Address by Sir Robert Greig, K.B.E.

Sir Robert Greig, Chairman of the Board of Agriculture, then addressed the Conference, his subject being "The Future Provision for and Development of Institutes." He congratulated the Institutes in Scotland on the position they had attained. There were now Institutes in almost every second parish in Scotland, but he looked forward to the time when there would be two Institutes in every parish.

It was difficult, Sir Robert said, to speak on the future development of the movement which affected so many aspects of country life. He could foresee the day when the Institutes would be so numerous, powerful, and influential that they would be in a position to advise Government Departments, and that position would be as it should be, for in respect of public health, housing, education, and even agriculture the opinion of at least 50 per cent. of the population should be heard.

There were, he considered, two fairly immediate developments of the Institute which should be of great benefit—education and co-operation. In a wide sense he believed that the W.R.I. would have a great influence on agricultural education and agricultural prosperity, because what the women of the household thought to-day the men of the household would think to-morrow. In Canada, for instance, it was not until the Women's Institutes became flourishing in Ontario that the Colleges were filled with farmers' sons.

It might be worth while, he suggested, for members to make an excursion to the Animal Nutrition Station at Aberdeen and learn something about the methods of feeding chickens and young pigs and babies—for what applied to the one applied to the other. They might also go to the Animal Breeding Station at Edinburgh, where they expected big results in the development of poultry-keeping, or to the Dairy School at Kilmarnock.

Regarding co-operation, it was a remarkable thing that co-operation had practically failed in Scotland except in egg-collecting in Orkney. They did not seem to be able to co-operate in Scotland, and perhaps the W.R.I. would discover the reason and give an impetus to co-operation. Between the persons who produced and those who consumed 150 million pounds went amissing, and that was over and above what the middleman was entitled to get as a full profit for his work. He was not being eliminated by these figures. All over Scotland, wherever there was an Institute, there was the nucleus of a co-operative body.

Substantial progress in the Area was shown by the reports of Miss Baxter, Largo, the Hon. Secretary, and Miss Howard, Organiser.

Of the 68 Institutes in the Area, 23 had been formed during the last two years, and the membership now totalled 5179. The financial contributions of the Institutes to the Area Committee had increased from £1131 in 1921 to £1685 last year.

Several speakers took part in a discussion on Programme-making, opened by Miss Nannie Brown, Organiser for the South-East and South-West Areas, in course of the afternoon session, and four resolutions were submitted to the Conference as follows, 1 and 3 being carried and 2 and 4 not carried:—

1. That a statement of the amount raised in each Area for the S.W.R.I. Endowment Fund be sent together with the usual estimates to the Secretary of the Central Council by 1st October in each year. (Carried.)
2. That the B.O.A.S. be petitioned to allow proxies to be elected for Area Committees (as for Central Council). (Not carried.)
3. That we recommend to the Central Council that a Scottish Guild of Learners be inaugurated where Institute members could qualify for certificates in efficiency and demonstrations. (Carried.)
4. That no member of S.W.R.I. should hold office (except as Hon. Pres.) or act on the Committee of more than one Institute at a time. (Not carried.)

Voting for the new Area Committee resulted as under:—

Chairman—Mrs. Anstruther-Gray, Kilmany, Fife.

Hon. Secretary—Miss Baxter, The Grove, Upper Largo.

Hon. Treasurer—Miss Niven, Port Allan, Errol.

Fife—Mrs. Anstruther-Gray, Kilmany; Miss Baxter, The Grove, Upper Largo; Mrs. Montieith, West House, Elie; Mrs. Younger, Strathkinness.

Perthshire — Mrs. Stewart, Fotheringham, Murthly Castle; Mrs. Haggart, Aberfeldy; Lady Haldane, Foswell, Auchterarder; Miss Niven, Port Allan, Errol.

Kinross—Mrs. Beveridge, Ardlary, Milnathort.

Stirling—Mrs. M'Donald, Oakbank, Kippen; Miss M. Stirling, Sandyholes, Kippen Station.

SOUTH-EASTERN AREA CONFERENCE

Was held in the Albyn Rooms, Queen Street, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, 17th June, Mrs. Stuart of Borthwick Castle presiding over a large attendance. In extending a welcome to the delegates, Mrs. Stuart said the work of the Institutes had been strenuous, but it had been a labour of love and they had worked with a singleness of purpose which could not have been exceeded, and made meetings a pleasure. There was nothing to fear for the future of the movement as long as the true Institute spirit prevailed.

Survey of Progress.

Miss Brown's report, as organiser, showed that in November, 1922, there were 30 Institutes in this Area, and in June, 1924, there were 45, while the membership had risen from approximately 2131 to 3320. During the year — Nov., 1922-Nov., 1923 — the sum of £1576 15s. 8d. was raised by the Institutes in the Area. She was pleased to report that literature, history, travel, music, and the drama had all had their share in the monthly programmes alongside the ever-popular purely practical side of the work, and paid a special tribute to the East of Scotland College of Agriculture for the invaluable help they had given to the Institutes.

Crafts and the brightening of Country Life.

In the absence of Sir Robert Greig, Mr. J. M. Ramsay, of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, delivered an address — no less impressive because of its under current of quiet humour—in which he said that there were now about 360 Institutes in the country, so that if 70 or 80 more were formed the parish without an Institute would be the exception. What the Institutes were doing was so extremely various that it showed that when they started a movement like that they were releasing forces that might take them in all sorts of unexpected and splendid directions. Two of the most remarkable ways they had of spending their leisure were the craft side of the movement and the musical and artistic side. One hoped that the splendid progress made by the Institutes, particularly in the Country Areas, in the revival of old country crafts and the introduction of new ones, was only the beginning of a movement that would restore to their country life much of the colour and gaiety which it had lost. The women of Scotland could do just as fine and beautiful work as the women of any other country in the world.

Mr. H. M. Conacher, Board of Agriculture for Scotland, also addressed the Conference.

Another interesting feature was a lecture by Dr. Crew, of the Animal Breeding Research Department, Edinburgh University, on a subject which is beginning to attract much attention as a possible

remunerative subsidiary branch of agriculture—namely, Fur-farming. We all knew, Dr. Crew said, that people kept rabbits. What we wanted to know was, "Could rabbits keep people?" He personally was convinced that it was a practical proposition, and showed beautiful specimens of home-produced furs along with rabbits of the breeds which had produced them.

Miss Inez Ferguson, Secretary of the National Federation of Women's Institutes for England, lucidly explained the objects and workings of the Guild of Learners, which has been inaugurated—(1) To regain the practice of home handicrafts with a view to restoring the best traditions of workmanship, and (2) to assist in bringing the best instruction in handicrafts within the reach of the villages. With these objects in view, certificates are granted—"A" for proficiency in a craft, "B" 1st class for ability to teach and demonstrate, and "C" 2nd class for teaching only. Miss Ferguson's address led to a resolution being put to the meeting that a Guild of Learners be formed for Scotland, which was carried unanimously. Other speakers were Miss Bruce, Editor of "Scottish Home and Country," and Mrs. Baily, who spoke on the work of the Arts League of Service.

After a short programme of music, beautifully rendered, a very successful Conference was brought to a close by the presentation of a scene from "Cranford"—"Miss Betty Barker's Tea Party"—by members of the Conference Sub-Committee and staff, who all appeared in original dresses of the period. down to the minutest detail of lace and jewellery, as is shown in the photograph on the front page. taken by request of visitors at the Conference.

After lunch an opportunity was given to examine the beautiful specimens of work and handicrafts which had been sent for exhibition in large numbers from all the Institutes in the Area: and reflected very great credit on the members both in regard to the variety and the high standard of the work.

The result of the voting for the Area Committee was as follows:—

Chairman—Mrs. Stuart, Borthwick Castle, Gorebridge, Midlothian.
Vice-Chairmen—Mrs. Weir, Schoolhouse, Winchburgh; Mrs. Skene-Tytler, Keith Marischal, Humber.

Hon. Secretary—Mrs. Mercer, Southfield, Dalkeith.

Hon. Treasurer—Mrs. Hogg, Schoolhouse, Broughton.

Berwickshire—Mrs. Bruce, Thirlestane, Lauder; Miss Jardine, Reston House, Reston; Mrs. Logan, Terney Castle, Reston.

East Lothian—Mrs. Jamieson, Schoolhouse, Aberlady; Mrs. Skene-Tytler, Keith Marischal, Humber; Miss Tunnard, Tynninghame, Prestonkirk.

Midlothian—Miss Geddes, 2 Hillview Terrace, Corstorphine; Mrs. Mercer, Southfield, Dalkeith; Mrs. Stuart, Borthwick Castle, Gorebridge.

Peeblesshire—Mrs. Hogg, Schoolhouse, Broughton.

Roxburghshire—Mrs. Atkinson Clark, Cleuch Head, Minto, Hawick; Hon. Mrs. Scott, Harden, Hawick.

West Lothian—Mrs. Weir, Schoolhouse, Winchburgh.

NORTH-EASTERN AREA CONFERENCE.

This Conference—the last of the series—was held in the Training Centre, Aberdeen, on Saturday, 21st June, a very large number of delegates and members being present, and a very interesting and highly creditable display of work done by the Institutes being laid out for inspection.

Mrs. Forbes of Rothiemay, Chairman of the Area Committee, presided, and in welcoming the delegates and friends expressed the hope that they would all find something to learn, something to give, and something to take away from the Conference to their various Institutes. We all needed adaptability for the rapid changes of the present day—and we were never too old to learn. She had an ever-increasing faith in the Institute movement, and was very pleased to hear the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr. Noel Buxton, say on a recent occasion that Women's Institutes stood in the front rank of agricultural progressive movements. She believed that if co-operation is to be arrived at women must lead.

Mrs. Whyte, Glamis, in submitting her report as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Area, showed that very satisfactory progress in the work had been made and that the funds were in a healthy condition. In concluding her report, Mrs. Whyte expressed the grateful thanks of the Committee to the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, the North of Scotland and East of Scotland Colleges of Agriculture, to the School of Domestic Science, and to all who have lectured or demonstrated to the Institutes in the Area; also to the Aberdeen Training Centre in providing accommodation and conveniences for the holding of the Conference.

Miss Adams, in her report as organiser, stated that in November, 1922, there were 58 Institutes in the Area with an approximate membership of 3550, and at the present time there were 81 with an

approximate membership of 5260, an increase of 23 Institutes and of 1710 members.

It is being felt that the Institutes now hold a large and important place in country life, and that a very big proportion of country women can be approached through the Institutes. In connection with a Public Morals Conference organised by the National Council of Women and held in Aberdeen, interest was aroused to a certain extent through the Rural Institutes which had in other ways also been taking part in community work.

A discussion which was very heartily entered into was opened by Mrs. Forbes, and dealt with the position of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes after 1927 when the annuities from the grant of £15,000 cease. The opinions on this matter seemed to range from a desire on the part of some to be so entirely independent as to be cut off entirely from their foster-mother, the Scottish Board of Agriculture, to a fear on the part of others who represented very outlying and scattered districts, such as the Highlands of Banffshire, that without a Government grant of some kind it would be impossible to carry on at all, the cost of attending Federation meetings being practically prohibitive for them.

Mr. Conacher, Board of Agriculture for Scotland, speaking on the subject, explained that it was not an annual grant that was given to this movement, but when the Corn Production Act was repealed, 10 per cent. of the £150,000 grant was given to the S.W.R.I., and there was therefore no prospect of the continuance of the grant. Mr. Conacher said that in five years time the initial work should be over, and expenses accordingly would be smaller. In speaking of how the Institutes could be financed in the future, he pointed out that, though the money might be laid aside now, it would be impossible to build up a big reserve fund which could bring in a sufficient income. Institutes should live from year to year, and raise sufficient money for the necessary outlays for that year. He thought it would be regrettable if the movement detached itself from the Government. Continued attachment does not depend on the grant, and special help might be found otherwise for special work.

Mr. Conacher, speaking later on co-operation among women, said he thought co-operation might be applied to the sale of butter and cheese, as had already been tried successfully in the sale of eggs.

Mrs. Nugent Harris addressed the Conference on the Institute movement in England.

The Women's Institutes in a county should understand that they are the County Federation, and through its delegates each individual Institute has a voice in the management of Institutes in the county. The following are the chief functions of County Federations:—(1) To act as representatives of National Federation in the county and to be responsible for the carrying out of its policy. These may be carried out as—(a) The formation of market stalls, clubs, and rest rooms; report for sale of goods; (b) providing information with regard to lectures and demonstrations and issuing a county panel of all those available locally; (c) grouping Institutes for classes, conferences, etc. (2) To act as representatives of Women's Institutes in the county, and to co-ordinate the work in the county; to promote co-operation between and to encourage mutual helpfulness.

Individual members of Institutes must be working members. Every Women's Institute member should do her best for the Institute. Mrs. Harris also spoke of the importance of business-like methods, of loyalty to Committee, and of lack of criticism unless of a constructive kind, and appraised the influence of the movement on rural community life.

Miss Howard, Organiser of the Central Area, gave an address on the "Guild of Learners" with a view to inaugurating such a society. An address on flit lace was given by Miss Angus of the School of Art and illustrated by specimens done by Arradoul Institute, and the Conference concluded with a concert which was much enjoyed.

Two resolutions were put to the meeting. The first—"That the Board of Agriculture for Scotland be petitioned to allow proxies for Area Committee as for Central Council" was passed. The second—"That no member of S.W.R.I. act on the Committee or hold office, except as Hon. President, in more than one Institute at a time" was not carried.

The voting for Area Committee Representatives resulted as follows:—

Chairman—Mrs. Moir-Byres, Tonley, Whitehouse.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Mrs. Whyte, Easter Denoon, Glamis.

Aberdeenshire—Mrs. Gammel, Countesswells House, Bieldside; Mrs. Godsmen, Mains of Fedderate, Maud; Mrs. Milne, Logie, Pitcaple; Mrs. Moir-Byres, Tonley, Whitehouse.

Banffshire—Mrs. Forbes, Rothiemay Castle, Banffshire; Miss Ross, Kirkmichael Schoolhouse, Glenlivet, Ballindalloch; Mrs. Wilson, Arradoul House, Buckie.

Forfarshire—Mrs. Dundas, Tarbirns, Kirriemuir; Miss Erskine Jackson, Kirkbuddo House, Forfar; Mrs. Ireland, Easter Balmirner, Arbroath; Mrs. White, Easter Denoon, Glamis.

Kincardineshire—Mrs. Kerr, Invery, Banchory.

(Continued from page 6.)

Westbarns has held a special sewing meeting fortnightly during the winter, in preparation for a sale in August. Humber has had a gift sale, and has been much interested in an account of the work of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Humber is the place of "the Children's Village," being a cluster of holiday homes for poor children, and their red-tiled roofs and white walls form a charming picture on the sloping green field where they are situated.

Haddington W.R.I. raised £39 by a Flag Day for the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and is carrying out "Rose Day" on Saturday, 19th July, in aid of the local Nursing Association.

All the Institutes are busy preparing for the Rally and Pageant to be held in October, which is advertised in another part of this magazine. As there will be no further opportunity of letting readers know of it, it is hoped that those who would like to come will note the date and place.

Midlothian Federation.

There have been two exhibitions in the Federation this season—one at Winchburgh and the other at the Dalkeith Agricultural Society's Show.

The exhibition of work done by members of Winchburgh Institute consisted of embroidery, rugs, quilts, basketry, crochet, cakes, sweets, toys, paper hats, and hand-painted pottery, and was opened by Mrs. Stuart, Borthwick, Chairman of the Federation. The exhibition was greatly enjoyed, and there was a large attendance.

Owing to rain, the stall at Dalkeith Show had fewer visitors than it would otherwise have had, but under the circumstances the exhibition was a highly successful one. The stall exhibits were representative of the various handicrafts which have become a feature of Institute work. There was an interesting show of rugs, quilts, and rush mats. Another feature was a layette done by twenty-seven members of Borthwick Institute. The sale table in aid of Federation funds was most successful, and was entirely sold out. The stall for this exhibition was very kindly granted free of charge by the Agricultural Show Committee.

Berwickshire Federation.

The Annual Summer Trysting planned to take place in Paxton on 21st June was unavoidably postponed until next year.

The Lauder Institute has joined the Berwickshire Federation, and a new Institute has been formed at Nenthorn, making a total of 10 Institutes in Berwickshire. Very interesting lectures on music and art have been delivered by the Rev. J. Deighton (Scottish Episcopal Church) to the Institutes of Rexton and Burnmouth. Literature has also received attention. A literary evening was agreeably spent by the Burnmouth Institute in the spring, when Barrie's works were considered, and readings given from "Margaret Ogilvie." A later evening was given to R. L. Stevenson and his works. Travel has not been neglected. A very interesting lecture was given by Miss Prentice, who had travelled in West Texas, to the Swinton Institute. Some rattlesnakes and arrow heads used by the Indians were exhibited. The Duns Institute had a very enjoyable outing to Lauder this summer. Thirlestane Castle, including the famous Prince Charles' room, and the grounds were visited, under the able guidance of the parish minister, Dr. McConnachie.

At the Paxton Agricultural Show (31st July) the Institutes of Northumberland bordering on the Tweed have been invited to compete with the Berwickshire Institutes in the handicrafts section, first and second prizes of £2 and £1 being awarded to the Institutes showing the six best and six second best exhibits respectively.

It will be seen from the above that the Berwickshire W.R. Institutes are seeking "to possess their possessions," and by friendly competition to take advantage of its close proximity to its sister county of Northumberland over the Border.

SOUTH-WESTERN AREA.

Ayrshire Federation.

During this pleasant season of picnics and garden parties, an event occurred which caused a stir of pleasureable excitement in every Institute in Ayrshire. This was the garden party given by Mrs. Arthur at Rosemount on the 4th of June. Every President and Secretary were invited, as well as eight members from each Institute, and in addition a few gentlemen who had a special interest in the movement.

In a time of changeable weather, the day was perfect, and the large company gave themselves up with delight to the arrangements which their hostess had made for their comfort and entertainment. The latter was given by a number of ladies from the Glasgow School of Art, and consisted of songs, recitations, dances, and a sketch. All were of a very high standard of excellence and calculated to serve as a model to members of sketch parties and others in the Institutes who give similar entertainments. The dresses and the make-up of the artistes were so beautiful as to be a revelation to

all. There was nobody who had not seen actors got up to look well behind the footlights, but few if any had ever before seen people who looked like pictures come to life amid the vases and clipped hedges of an ideal old-world garden. Each costume, so wonderfully artistic in cut, so brilliantly beautiful in colour, must have been the work of a master hand.

The effect of the whole was such as to live in the memory of all present. Indeed, various people were heard to say that this was a day they could never forget. After this feast for the eyes and the mind, another for the physical appetite, just as excellent in its way, was provided at tables in the garage and in the large courtyard outside.

Afterwards, at Mrs. Arthur's request, Mrs. Pollock, M.A., of Springside W.R.I., gave a short address on Institutes, and made special reference to the Conference of the Institutes in the South-Western Area held shortly before in Dumfries.

Votes of thanks to the hostess, which could not but be inadequate, and to all the ladies and gentlemen from the School of Art, closed the formal part of the proceedings.

Before leaving, many of the company returned to the garden to see and admire at their leisure the many beautiful and rare flowers contained in it.

Coulter.

The Coulter Women's Rural Institute outran their best adventure on 14th inst., and went farther afield than ever in visiting the classic scenes and shrines of the much-sung and varied borderland of Bonnie Scotland. The honoured guests on this occasion were Miss Brown, Organising Secretary of W.R.I., Edinburgh, and Rev. T. Rowatt Brown, Symington, the guide for Yarrow. The merry "cavalcade" travelled via Biggar, Skirling, Lyne Water, Peebles, Innerleithen, and Walkerburn to Galashiels, passing on the route Elibank Tower of "Muckle-mou'd Meg" fame; Ashestiel, Sir Walter Scott's first border home of rich poetical and fictional achievements; Clovenfords, where Wordsworth lodged when Yarrow was left unvisited, and Leyden, the poet, acted as schoolmaster. The first big objective was reached about three o'clock at Abbotsford, that nestles by the winding Tweed. The Wizard's Pile was invaded by the whole company, and its ancient treasures hastily scanned with thrilling interest, everybody wishing to turn minutes into hours of spell-binding fascination. Tea was prepared and served in a lovely little dell just at the gates of the palace of romance and wizardry. Miss Miller, the genial President, proposed votes of thanks to the committee for the sumptuous feast, and called on Rev. T. Rowatt Brown to give a pilgrim's speech, which he did in rare style.

Returning homewards about six, Selkirk was soon reached and seen in all the hub-bub of the annual Common Riding celebrations, but time was given to see the monuments to Scott and Mungo Park, the Shirra's Courthouse, the mural slab of "The Forest Inn" in Westport, where lodged Rabbie Burns when he wrote his "Epistle to Willie Creech," etc. Then off up Yarrow rolled the gay procession, past Philiphaugh, of Covenanting battle fame; Newark Tower, the scene of "The Lay of the Last Minstrel"; Foulshiels, Mungo Park's natal cottage, Broadmeadows, Hangingshaw, Yarrowford, Minchmoor upon the heights, Tinnis, and Deuchar with its broken bridge, the haunt of artists—all famed in Border song and story. At last the shrine of Yarrow! At the Dowie Den and historic kirk and manse, the third big objective of the tour, a halt was made and information given by the guide on the classic associations of the place. After a service of fruit and sandwiches, the final stage was begun, past the old Roman Inscribed Stone and Yarrowfeus to "Gordon Arms," over Paddyslacks to Traquair, and home by Peebles and Lyne Water. It was a wonderful outing, indeed, covering some 100 miles of the most beautiful and historic scenery, and in a few hours bringing the tourists to three of Scotland's greatest shrines of hero-work and hero-worship—Abbotsford, Melrose Abbey, and the Dowie Dens of Yarrow—a liberal education, a real inspiration, and an enduring recollection for all.

Wigtownshire Federation.

The first Annual County Meeting of the Wigtownshire Federation since its division into two branches was held on 14th June. The weather-god smiled, and the long drive from all parts of the county to the meeting-place at Newton Stewart (in the Machars division) was a pleasant beginning to a delightful and interesting meeting. Mrs. Houston-Crauford, Secretary of the Ayrshire Federation, was the chief speaker, and her address on Institute work in Scotland—its beginnings, developments, organisation, and finance—was eagerly listened to by the 200 odd members present. Miss Munro, from the Glasgow School of Art, gave a demonstration on embroidery and stool-seating. Interesting discussions followed on many aspects of Institute work. Mrs. Wallace, of Lochryan, presided, and Mrs. Stevenson presented the Secretary's report and the new Constitution of the Federation. Next year the county meeting will be held at Stranraer in the Rhins.

The Fourth Industrial Competition at the Stranraer Show was this year the work of the Institutes in the Rhins Branch only. The

number of exhibits was fully as large as last year, being well over 2000. Two Institutes had 100 per cent. of their members exhibiting—surely a record! Mrs. Douglas, of Auchloch, who opened the Show, spoke very highly of the beauty and high quality of the work. The inter-Institute Competition was judged by Miss Montgomery and Mrs. M'Queen, and for the second time the honour of the silver medal fell to Stoneykirk.

The Rally of the three Institutes in Stoneykirk Parish, held at Ardwell on 4th June, was an unqualified success. Meoul W.I. did part songs, Ardwell had country dances, and Stoneykirk girls did a maypole dance. In the pastoral play, "Marjorie," eight to twelve members from each W.I. took part, and the result was most effective. The "team spirit" is at work in the Institutes, and here was an outstanding example of harmony and good feeling. The whole performance was done again on 26th July for the funds of the Parish Nursing Association—and this time was open to the public, who took full advantage—again in beautiful weather.

Honour to Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.A., M.B.E.—Mrs. Alfred Watt has received from the Belgian Government the intimation that it was proposed to bestow upon her La Decoration Agricole de première Classe (corresponding to the Officier du Merite Agricole in France), in recognition of her work in Women's Institutes.

The Canadian Government does not permit the acceptance of foreign orders by a Canadian subject, and Mrs. Watt has been obliged to decline this honourable distinction. The Belgian Ministry of Agriculture, in expressing their regret, wrote to Mrs. Watt that their intentions were "to recognise by an honourable distinction your great efforts for the improvement of Agriculture by 'Cercles de Fermières' (Women's Institutes). If for reasons outside our control this distinction cannot be awarded, we think none the less highly of your deserving it." (Translated.)

Coming Events.

S.-W. Area—Stewarty Federation Show at Dalbeattie—17th October.
Central Area—Strathearn Agricultural Show at Crieff—6th August.
Breadalbane Agricultural Show at Killin—23rd August.
N.-W. Area—Caithness Show—6th August.
North Uist Institutes Exhibition—Date to be arranged.

New Institutes.

Name of Institute and County.	Secretary.
Longcastle (Wigtown)—Miss Robertson, Airies, Whauphill.	
Kilbrandon (Argyll)—Miss Brown, The Bakery, Easdale.	
Bower (Caithness)—Miss Nicolson, Lyth Post Office, Wick.	
Cullicudden (Ross-shire)—Miss Riach, Drynoch House, Cullicudden.	

Pass It On.

When the ceiling above a lamp has become darkened from heat or smoke apply a layer of starch with a piece of flannel. Let it dry and then brush off lightly.

When water is very hard keep paraffin handy to clean wash basins, etc. It acts like magic.

When stoning raisins rub a little butter on the fingers and also on the knife, and the work can be done much more easily and expeditiously.

To remove the odour of herring from hands, forks, pans, etc., rub with tea-leaves and afterwards wash with soda.

Owing to pressure on space the History of the Movement and other Articles are held over till next number.

Highland and Agricultural Society's Show.

AWARDS TO INSTITUTE MEMBERS.

Open Classes.

Class 5.—Tweed—2nd, Mrs. Morrison, Scalpay, Harris.
Class 7.—Home-made Rug (Wool)—1st, Mrs. M'William, Garguston, Muir of Ord; 2nd, Mrs. Davidson, Rothienorman, Aberdeenshire; 3rd, Mrs. Bisset, Borlum, Fort-Augustus; V.H.C., Miss A. M'Feat, Kingswells, Auchterarder; H.C., Mrs. Morgan, Annfield, Kingskettle; Com., Miss Aitchison, Fort-Augustus; Mrs. Cowie, Fort-William; Mrs. M'Dougall, Elie; Mrs. M'Laren, Errol; Miss Moodie, Pitlochry; Mrs. Rankin, Fort-William; Miss Waddell, Kirriemuir.
Class 8.—Embroidery (White)—V.H.C., Miss J. M'Caa, Old Cumnock; H.C., Miss Eden, Methlick, Aberdeenshire.
Class 9.—Embroidery (Coloured)—2nd, Miss M. S. Fullarton, Troon; 3rd, Mrs. M'William, Muir of Ord; V.H.C., Macmerry W.R.I., East Lothian; Com., Miss E. V. Baxter, Upper Largo.
Class 10.—Leather Gloves—3rd, Miss E. M. Jack, Kilconquhar, Fife; Com., Mrs. Munro, Portmahomack.
Class 11.—Leather Work other than Gloves—3rd and V.H.C., Mrs. Jamieson, Aberlady.
Class 12.—Furcraft—2nd, Miss M. Edgar, Castle Douglas; 3rd, Miss M. Allison, Brechin; Com., Miss G. Edgar, Castle Douglas.
Class 13.—Hand-painted Pottery—1st, Macmerry W.R.I.; 2nd, Mak'merry Studio; 3rd, Mak'merry Studio; V.H.C., Macmerry W.R.I.; H.C., Mak'merry Studio.
Class 14.—Basket-Work—2nd, Mrs. M'Lean, Balquhider, Strathyre.
Class 15.—Bottled Fruit—1st, Miss A. M'Feat, Auchterarder; 2nd, Mrs. Mackay, St. Andrews; 3rd, Mrs. Morgan, Kingskettle.
Class 16.—Vegetable-dyed Wools—2nd, Miss MacCorquodale, Lochmaddy.
Class 17.—Home-spun Yarn—3rd, H. Macdonald, Tigharry, Lochmaddy.

Confined Classes—Open to Institutes and Members of Institutes in the whole of Scotland.

Class 18.—Embroidery (White)—1st, Mrs. Baird, Dumfries; 2nd, Miss M. Mackenzie, Kilmarnock; 3rd, Miss J. M'Caa, Old Cumnock; V.H.C., Mak'merry Studio; H.C., Mrs. Mackay, Lonmay; Com., Miss A. Eden, Methlick.
Class 19.—Knitted Jumper or Jersey—1st, Miss J. M'Caa, Old Cumnock; 2nd, Miss M. E. Brown, Cairnryan, Stranraer; 3rd, Mrs. A. H. Kilgour, Fort-William; V.H.C., Mrs. I. Mackay, Lonmay; H.C., Miss Maggie Mackay, Alford; Com., Mrs. Forbes, Alford; Mrs. M. J. Thom, Tairland.

Confined to Central Area.

Class 20.—Rug, made from old material—1st, Miss M. J. Cameron, Powmill, Dollar; 2nd, Miss Jamieson, Leslie, Fife; 3rd, Mrs. Fordyce, Gateside, Fife; H.C., Mrs. Aird, Kinross; Com., Mrs. Morgan, Kingskettle; Mrs. Rodger, Collesie, Fife.
Class 21.—Embroidery (Woollen)—1st, Miss L. J. Rintoul, Largo, Fife; 2nd, Miss Baxter, Upper Largo; 3rd, Mrs. Motion, Dairsie, Fife; V.H.C., Mrs. M'Queen, Kirkbuddo, Forfar.
Class 22.—Socks—1st, Mrs. Sime, Lower Largo; 2nd, Miss Rintoul, Largo; 3rd, Miss J. Baxter, Dollar; Com., Miss Agnes Leckie, Buchlyvie, Stirling.
Class 23.—Home-made Quilt—1st, Miss M. F. Sime, Lower Largo; 2nd, Miss M. P. Laurie, Pitlochry; 3rd, Miss A. Grosset, Auchterarder; V.H.C., Miss S. J. Terras, Dairsie; H.C., Mrs. Scrimgeour, Pitlochry.

Lothians Federation Sales.

The Lothians Federation again had a stand at the Show from which there was sold for the members over £150 worth of goods—baskets, embroidery, sealing wax work and hand-painted pottery—mainly pottery.

Central Area Exhibit.

The Central Area had an excellent display of work in a special exhibition tent. Its Conservation of Food section, although small, elicited many congratulatory remarks, being exceedingly varied and of high standard.

How to Kill the Institute.

(Copied from a Canadian paper by a W.R.I. Member.)

Don't come to the meetings.
But if you do come, come late.
If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of attending.
If you attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and other members.
Never accept an office, as it is easier to criticise than to do things.
Nevertheless, get annoyed if you are not appointed on a committee; if you are, do not attend the committee meetings.
If asked by the Chairman to give your opinion regarding some important matter, tell her you have nothing to say. After the meeting, tell everyone how things ought to be done.
Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary, but when other members roll up their sleeves and willingly, unselfishly use their ability to help matters along, tell everyone that the Institute is run by a clique.
Hold back your subscription as long as possible, or don't pay at all.
Don't bother about getting new members; let Mrs. So-and-So do it.

The Rural Industries Intelligence Bureau.

We desire to draw the attention of Institutes to the undernoted publications which are to be had in pamphlet form on application to the Rural Industries Intelligence Bureau, 258-262 Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E.1.

The Bureau exists for the purpose of giving information and advice to rural workers and persons seeking to promote rural industries, and the pamphlets, as well as the expert advice, are to be had free of charge, unless pamphlets are wanted in quantities:—

Village Life and Country Industries	...	Leaflet No. 1.
Straw Ropes and Straw Envelopes	...	Leaflet No. 2.
Peat Firelighters	...	Leaflet No. 3.
Hand Weaving and Spinning	...	Leaflet No. 7.
Mat-making	...	Leaflet No. 8.
Rabbit-keeping for Fur	...	Leaflet No. 10.
Poultry Feathers	...	Leaflet No. 11.

S.W.R.I. Leaflets.

(To be had from the Central Office, 8 Kinnoull Street, Perth.)

Hints on Potato Cookery.

Hay-Box Cookery.

Hints on Fruit Bottling.

Hints for Washing Day and the Removal of Stains.

Price 1d. each; 9d. doz.; 4s. hundred.

Furcraft—Price 1d. each; 4s. for 50; 7s. 6d. hundred.

Also THE HANDBOOK.

Part 1 (Scheme of General Organisation, Constitution, and Suggestions for Institutes). Price 4d.

Part 2 (Council and Committees, Institute Lists, Speakers' Lists, Offices, etc.). Price 3d.

Map.—There are still a few copies of the Institute Map for sale. Price 1d. each.

The old minister of a country parish was surprised one day to see a farm servant of whom he had a good opinion walking along the road on term day with his belongings, in a checked bag, slung over his shoulder. "Are you leaving?" he asked him, "I thought — was a good place." "There's naething wrang wi' the place, an' we're weel meatit," was the reply, "bit Aw've thyawven tae dae ini best for a year an' a half, an' there's never a sowl said, 'Weel dane, Tam.'"

EAST LOTHIAN FEDERATION.

Grand Rally and Pageant of East Lothian History

WILL TAKE PLACE IN

THE CORN EXCHANGE, HADDINGTON,

ON SATURDAY, 11TH OCTOBER, 1924.

The Rally will be open to the Public from 2 p.m. till 9.15 p.m.

Admission—W.R.I. Members, 6d.; Non-members, 1s. (including tax). A few Reserved Seats for Pageant at 2s. 6d. (including tax); Children half-price.

At 3 p.m., formal opening by ANNIE S. SWAN (Mrs. Burnett Smith).

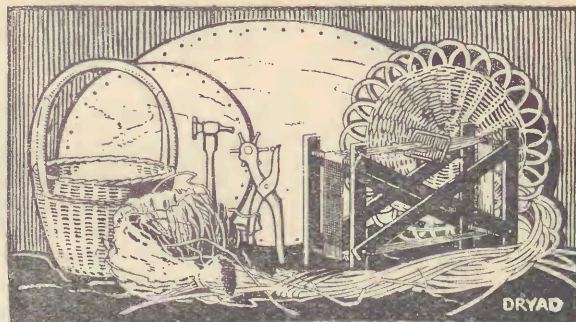
Exhibition of Handicraft from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and from 6 to 7.30 p.m.

Pageant, 4.30 p.m. till 6 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. till 9 p.m.

Tea and Coffee, price 9d., from 3 to 4.30 and 6 to 7.30 p.m.

RELIABLE FITTING GLOVE PATTERNS, all Styles and Sizes, with full instructions for making, 1/2 each; 3 for 3/3; Fur-backed 1/6, post free. Special patterns to outline, 1/8. Guild of Learners certificates held. Fleecy Lining; Press Studs; Tools for fixing studs, 2/6 and 3/6.

Mrs. STAITE, 72 Gibbin's Rd., Selly Oak, Birmingham.



Handwork Materials.

You cannot do good work with poor materials. ∴ Those supplied by the

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Basket-making, Raffia Work, Wood and Pulp Ware, Leather Work, Metal Work, Pottery, Embroidery, Rug-making, Batik Dyeing, Spinning, Weaving, Lettering, Lacquer Work, Modelling, Wood Block Printing, etc.

NEW BOOKS AND LEAFLETS OF INSTRUCTION.

Illustrated Catalogue Post Free, 2d., from 21 Department.

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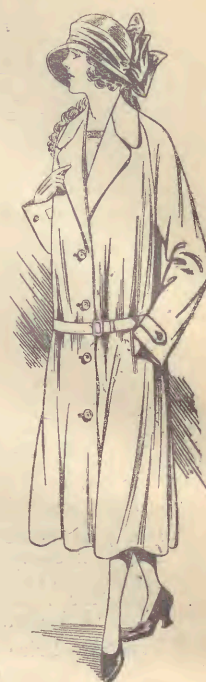
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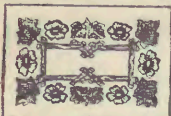
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