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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMENS INSTITUTES



AMPHLET

Seventh Annual Report

For the period ended December 31st, 1923.

Published by the National Federation of Women's Institutes,
26, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1.

Established in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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THE
7TH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

FOR THE
Period ended December 31st, 1923.

26. ECCLESTON STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

ESTABLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
WOMEN'S BRANCH,
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

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MEMBERS

OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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General Secretary: Miss IRENE FERGUSON
Chief Organiser: Mrs. NUGENT HARRIS
Organising Secretary: Miss DORA PARR

MEMBERS

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

1924-1925.

(Elected by postal vote, May, 1924.)

THE LADY DENMAN, *Chairman.*
 MISS GRACE HADOW, *Vice-Chairman.*
 MRS. AUERBACH, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Miss Anderson.	Mrs. Foster.
Miss Bouverie.	Miss Gildea.
The Lady Margaret Boscawen	The Countess Grey.
The Viscountess Boyne.	The Countess of Listowel.
Miss Dora Christy.	Mrs. Heron Maxwell.
Mrs. Clowes.	Mrs. H. G. Stobart.
Mrs. Drage.	Mrs. Harcourt Williams.

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS.

Mrs. C. P. Trevelyan (representing the Ministry of Agriculture).
 Mr. P. G. Dallinger (representing the Ministry of Agriculture).
 Mr. A. T. A. Dobson (representing the Ministry of Agriculture).
 Miss Cunningham (representing the Board of Education).
 Mr. S. Bostock (representing the Agricultural Organisation Society).

CO-OPTED MEMBERS.

The Hon. Mrs. Dalgety.
 Mrs. Morgan.
 Mrs. Simm.

OFFICIALS OF THE FEDERATION.

General Secretary : Miss INEZ FERGUSON.
 Chief Organiser : Mrs. NUGENT HARRIS.
 Organising Secretary : Miss DORA PARR.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF STANDING SUB-COMMITTEES FOR THE YEAR 1924-1925.

OFFICE AND FINANCE.

THE OFFICERS.	MISS GILDEA.
MISS BOUVERIE.	THE COUNTESS GREY.
HON. MRS. DALGETY.	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.
MR. DOBSON.	

ORGANISATION.

THE OFFICERS.	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.
MISS ANDERSON.	THE LADY DOROTHY
MRS. ASSHETON.	MEYNELL.
MISS BOUVERIE.	MISS SLESSOR
HON. MRS. COLVIN.	MRS. STAPLEDON.
MISS GILDEA.	DAME MERIEL TALBOT.
MRS. HUDDART.	MISS F. SIMPSON.

HANDICRAFTS.

THE OFFICERS.	MRS. FOSTER.
MISS DORA CHRISTY.	LADY ILKESTON.
MRS. FRED CRIPPS.	THE COUNTESS OF LISTOWEL.
MISS CUNNINGTON.	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.
MR. DOBSON.	MISS ROWE.
MRS. DRAGE.	MISS SOMERVILLE.
MISS JOAN DREW.	

EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND PUBLICITY.

THE OFFICERS.	MISS HUXLEY.
THE VISCOUNTESS BOYNE.	MISS MACNAMARA.
MISS BURGESS.	MISS SMYTHE.
MISS DENEKE.	MRS. H. G. STOBART.
MRS. HARRIS.	MRS. TREVELYAN.

AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL.

THE OFFICERS.	MR. DALLINGER.
THE LADY MARGARET BOSCAWEN.	MISS MARGESSON.
MR. BOSTOCK.	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.
MRS. CLOWES.	MRS. QUIRK.
	MISS M. H. SIMPSON.

HOME AND COUNTRY.

THE OFFICERS.	MR. J. ROBERTSON SCOTT.
THE VISCOUNTESS BOYNE.	MR. THOMPSON.
THE COUNTESS OF LISTOWEL.	MISS ALICE WILLIAMS.
MR. J. ROSS.	MRS. HARCOURT WILLIAMS.

MUSIC.

THE OFFICERS.	MR. LESLIE.
THE LADY MARGARET BOSCAWEN.	LADY ISABEL MARGESSON.
THE VISCOUNTESS BOYNE.	MRS. SANDERSON.
MISS S. DREW.	MRS. H. G. STOBART.
MISS GASKELL.	MRS. WYTHES.
MRS. LAMPSON.	MR. FAIRFAX JONES.

The Seventh Annual Report of the National Federation of Women's Institutes,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1923.

WORK IN THE COUNTRY.

The Executive Committee of the National Federation is glad to report that since December 31st, 1922, 352 Institutes have been formed (as against 343 in 1922) and the total number of Institutes is now (December 31st, 1923) 2,932. This continued rapid increase in the number of Institutes is somewhat surprising in view of the stage which the movement has reached and does imply very substantial progress on the part of the newer County Federations. 28 Institutes have been reported lapsed during the year, as against 33 last year, and the reasons given for lapsing are usually of the following nature—the difficulty of securing a meeting-place, the difficulty of finding new officers to replace those leaving the district, local opposition to the Institute, the difficulty of attending meetings where the village is a scattered one, or preference shown by the members for a social club rather than an Institute. Occasionally after an Institute is formed, unforeseen local difficulties arise which make its continued existence impossible, but the County Federation and the organiser entrusted with the formation of the Institute should at the outset be able to foresee the majority of the difficulties which the Institute may have to meet and judge whether it promises to be of the stuff to meet them successfully. If not, the County Federation will be wise to delay the formation of the Institute until either the difficulties disappear or the material to hand is better.

The way in which the Institute is formed, the amount and nature of the propagandist work done before formation, and the clarity with which at formation the obligations as well as the privileges of an Institute are explained, all have a great deal to do with the spirit in which the Institute after formation encounters the lions in its path. The difficulty of finding a suitable meeting

place is not very formidable to an Institute of the proper mettle but frequently proves too much for a weakling. A high standard of work is therefore necessary in the movement if new Institutes are to be started on really sound lines. It is extremely important that this should be realised and that the County Federations should recognise the fact that interest in Women's Institutes and willingness to help are not in themselves sufficient qualification for an organiser or officer. Women's Institute work should be skilled work. The work of an unskilled organiser will handicap a county indefinitely, and a Federation will find that to recommend an inexperienced worker for appointment as a V.C.O., is a costly means of "bringing her on."

Now that there are almost 3,000 W.I.s the National Federation cannot hope to retain much direct contact with the individual Institute, but must more and more leave local administration in the hands of the County Federations. Naturally this development is a cause of some regret to members of the National Federation Committee who have been associated with the movement since its earliest days and have known Institutes before they have known County Federations. But the detailed work must obviously be done by the body naturally suited to do it best and therefore the National Federation must continue to support and strengthen the County Federations so that they may be able to support and strengthen in their turn the Institutes within their own areas.

Several interesting experiments in programme-making have this year been made by different County Federations. There seems to be a general feeling that Institute programmes are still too "scrappy" and result in the members grasping a little of everything and nothing properly. In some Federations the plan adopted is to encourage Institutes to concentrate at two or three consecutive monthly meetings on one subject which admits of approach in a great many different ways and to arrange the lectures, exhibitions, entertainments, competitions and demonstrations so as all to bear on this subject. Another plan is to choose a general subject for the year and at each monthly meeting throughout the year to have one item—not necessarily the main item—which deals with some aspect of the subject chosen. Other County Federations again are making no effort to introduce sequence into the monthly meeting programmes but are rather concentrating on educating their Institutes to follow up any particularly interesting subject which has been, so to speak, introduced at the monthly meeting, by the formation of a Study Circle.

There is in the Institutes a steadily growing demand for improved library facilities and in several counties the County Council has, as the direct result of representations made by the Institutes, adopted the Public Libraries Act and started a Carnegie Rural

Library Scheme. In the majority of counties where a Rural Library scheme is in operation, the Institutes are among the most regular applicants for books and frequently act as the distributing agents for their villages. It is exceedingly educational for the Women's Institutes to realise how through their own organisation, they can bring their views before the County Council and for the County Council to recognise the Institute movement as voicing the demands of country women. In many counties, the County Federation of Women's Institutes ranks the County Council among its best friends and receives an immense amount of help from it; the County Councils, on the other side, frankly recognise the assistance which they obtain in their educational work from the Institute movement which provides them with a ready made educational organisation in over one-fifth of the English and Welsh villages.

WORK AT HEADQUARTERS.

Details of the work of the Executive Committee for 1923, will be found under the Standing Sub-Committee reports. The Executive Committee meets monthly and receives and considers reports from the different Sub-Committees, as well as dealing with correspondence from the County Federations and Institutes and other organisations. The three co-opted members of the Committee this year were Mrs. Morgan, Merionethshire (co-opted as a Welsh-speaking member on the recommendation of a conference of delegates from the Welsh County Federations and Propaganda Committees), Mrs. Ramsay, Kesteven, and Mrs. Simm (National Federation of General Workers).

Miss Hay, who graduated at Oxford, and has recently been working on the Rural Industries Survey of the Oxford School of Rural Economics, has this year joined the N.F.W.I. staff as Assistant Secretary. Otherwise the headquarters staff remains unchanged, and the Committee is glad to be able to report that it has lost none of its voluntary workers whose help it most gratefully acknowledges. In particular it desires to express its thanks to Miss Somerville, Hon. Secretary of the Handicrafts Sub-Committee, to Miss Lunniss, Sub-Editor of "Home and Country," and to Miss Huxley who is in charge of the Literature Department.

All resolutions passed at the Seventh Annual Meeting affecting Government Departments, have been forwarded to the proper quarter. The Committee would report that no suggestions on Housing have as yet been received from the Institutes as a result of the resolution urging Women's Institutes to investigate local conditions in special relation to the new Housing Act.

Preparations for the Eighth Annual Meeting are now in progress. It is hoped that the arrangements which have been made

for the election of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee by postal vote will prove simple and satisfactory. The Committee is glad to report that the Railway Companies have again conceded cheap fares to delegates attending the Annual Meeting.

OFFICE AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Office and Finance Sub-Committee has met ten times this year. The Sub-Committee is responsible to the Executive Committee for the general supervision of the National Federation Finances and of all matters affecting the Headquarters Staff.

The yearly receipts of the National Federation are made up of Affiliation Fees, Donations to Headquarters Funds from County Federations and Institutes, Interest on the Endowment Fund, Literature Receipts, Guild of Learners Subscriptions and the Grant from H.M. Treasury which the Executive Committee once more acknowledges with gratitude.

The N.F.W.I. has received in Affiliation Fees since April 1st, 1923, the sum of £1,586 12s. 3d., and it is estimated that a further £600 (approximately) will be received before the end of the financial year. This will mean an increase of over £100 upon last year's Affiliation Fees. For the same period (April 1st to December 31st, 1923), £885 11s. 11d. has been received in donations from County Federations and from a number of individual Institutes, and there is an additional £600 (approximately) promised for this financial year which has yet to come in. It is not anticipated that this item on the receipt side will show a very large increase on last year's donations (£1,500 approximately) because, while more County Federations are this year contributing to Headquarters funds, the donations sent are smaller. This year, owing to the increase in the number of Institutes, the National Federation has been able to ask the County Federations for donations at the rate of £1 an Institute instead of last year's rate of 25s. an Institute. When every County Federation is able both to pay its own expenses and to forward annually to Headquarters, in addition to Headquarters' share of Affiliation Fees, a donation equal to £1 for every Institute within its area, then the National Federation will have no further need of the Government Grant. This year 5 County Federations are in a position to do so, and 9 others are able both to pay their own way and to forward a donation to Headquarters, although the donation is not yet at the rate of £1 per Institute.

£240 14s. 11d. has this year been added to the Endowment Fund which now amounts to £14,625 15s. 5d. An anonymous offer has been made of a gift of £1,000 to the Fund provided that an additional £500 is raised before the end of 1924. The N.F.W.I. does not feel justified in view of the present agricultural depression,

in making any additional appeal to the Institutes and therefore suggests that the £500 should be raised by 500 personal donations of £1 from friends of the movement. County Federations and Institutes are asked to make this appeal known.

The proceeds of Literature sales show a most encouraging increase, and the Literature Department has now taken over the retailing of W.I. Stationery and Badges which is resulting in a further increase of revenue. The gross receipts of the Literature Department between April 1st and December 31st, 1923, have amounted to £355 13s. 2d., as against £222 5s. 2d. for the same period last year. The department is scarcely likely to clear a large profit this year as it is now not only paying for the cost of publication of literature, both free and for sale, but also its proper proportion of rent and salary, which results in a corresponding relief to the N.F.W.I. General Account.

£15 has been received since April 1st in subscriptions to the Guild of Learners.

The Treasury Grant for 1923-24 is £2,150 as against the £3,941 received for the year 1922-23. In sanctioning the grant, H.M. Treasury expressed their satisfaction with the N.F.W.I.'s progress towards financial independence, and asked the Executive Committee to state what rate of reduction in the grant it considered fair for future years. The N.F.W.I. Committee in replying suggested that the grant for next year should be reduced at least to £2,000 and that after then the N.F.W.I. should endeavour to meet a yearly reduction of £500. If this estimate is realised, the N.F.W.I. would be completely self-supporting in five years.

The estimated expenditure of the National Federation for the current financial year (ending March 31st, 1924) is—exclusive of the specially authorised expenditure of £856 on Handicraft work and the expenses of the Literature Department, which will be practically self-supporting—£6,535 as against £7,722 last year, and it is not anticipated that this estimate will be exceeded. Of this £6,535, £3,593 is allocated for Headquarters expenses (i.e. office equipment, lighting, heating and cleaning, postage, stationery and printing and travelling expenses of Committee and Sub-Committee members). £2,942 is allocated for the expenses of the organisation in the country (£1,092 for grants to County Federations, £1,527 for regular organisers' salaries and expenses and £323 for expenses of Annual Meeting, Consultative Council Meetings, Schools and Conferences for V.C.O.s and County Federation Officers, and Exhibits at National Shows).

The N.F.W.I. still receives the interest on the Endowment Fund less Income Tax, but every effort is being made to bring the Federation within the provisions of exemption. The N.F.W.I. Solicitors have expressed the opinion that the conversion of

the Endowment Fund into a Trust will not in itself achieve this result but that some alteration of Rules is also required. A Trust has not yet therefore been formed but a redraft of National, County and Institute Rules, prepared by the solicitors, will be submitted to the 1924 Annual Meeting and, if this is approved by the Annual Meeting and accepted by the Inland Revenue, steps will be taken to form the Trust without further delay.

ORGANISATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee plans out the work of the N.F.W.I. organisers and to it are referred, subject to the approval of the Executive, all questions of organisation. Through the Organisation Sub-Committee the Executive Committee is able to keep in touch with the progress of the movement in the different County Federations and to give to the County Federations any special assistance which they may need.

During the past year the Sub-Committee has organised two regular meetings of the Consultative Council at Derby and at Cambridge and, early in the spring of 1923, a special meeting in London to consider the agenda for the Annual Meeting. Two Organisers' Conferences have also been held in London and a Conference at Shrewsbury between representatives of the Welsh County Federations and members of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee. In November a School for County Federation officers of the northern half of England and Wales was arranged at Leeds when seventeen students attended from seven County Federations. The syllabus was the same as that used at the first experimental school held in London in the autumn of 1922, and the school again proved of great use. The N.F.W.I. therefore proposes to arrange a school at Shrewsbury next year for County Federation officers from Wales and the western half of England and to continue the plan of holding one such school each year.

Recommendations from County Federations for the re-appointment of V.C.O.s are considered by the Sub-Committee at the beginning of each year and reported on to the Executive Committee. Five schools for the training of Voluntary County Organisers have been held during the year as follows:—

Place.	No. of Students attending.	Appointments made.
WARWICKSHIRE	15	11
HUNTINGDON	16	15
SOMERSET	12	12
LLANDRINDOD WELLS	17	17
LONDON	33	32

There are now 318 Voluntary County Organisers.

The N.F.W.I. organising staff at present consists of Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser (part time); Miss Parr, Organising Secretary; Miss Lumley, Miss Nightingale and Miss Simpson, Regular Organisers. Miss Anson is still acting as Secretary of the Cumberland Federation at that county's expense. In addition to supervising schools for V.C.O.s Mrs. Harris has visited the following counties during 1923:—

Brecon.	Herefordshire	Staffs.
Bucks.	Herts.	Suffolk E.
Cheshire	Hampshire	Suffolk W.
Cumberland	Kent E.	Surrey
Devon	Kent W.	Sussex W.
Essex	Middlesex	Radnorshire
Flint and Denbigh	Northants.	Warwickshire
Glamorgan	Pembrokeshire	Westmoreland
Gloucestershire	Somerset	Worcestershire.

Miss Parr has visited:—

Beds.	Kent E.	Sussex E.
Bucks.	Lancashire.	Sussex W.
Cambs.	Leicestershire	Suffolk E.
Cornwall	Lindsey (Lincs.)	Surrey
Cumberland	Middlesex	Warwickshire
Durham	Northumberland	Westmoreland
Gloucestershire	Notts.	Worcestershire
Herts.	Shropshire	Yorkshire.
Holland (Lincs.).		

and also organised the N.F.W.I. Exhibit at the Royal Show at Newcastle. Miss Lumley's work has been entirely confined to Wales. Miss Nightingale has been lent in order to give special help to the County Federations of Cambridge, Westmoreland and Hunts, spending a number of weeks in each county. She has also visited:—

Cornwall	Holland (Lincs.)	Somerset
I. of Ely.	Kent E.	Suffolk E.
Herefordshire	Kent W.	Suffolk W.

Miss Simpson has visited:—

Beds.	Hunts.	Northants.
Bucks.	Kesteven (Lincs.)	Notts.
Derbyshire	Leicestershire	Oxfordshire
Dorset	Lindsey (Lincs.)	Staffs.
I. of Ely	Middlesex	Warwickshire.
Herts.		

The Organisation Sub-Committee still finds it the most useful plan to reserve the regular organisers for assistance, in the first place, with classes for W.I. officers, group conferences and County Federation Council and Committee meetings. When, however, a regular organiser is visiting a county to give such assistance, it is open to the County Federation to arrange that she should accompany a V.C.O. on an occasional visit to an Institute if the Federation feels that this would be particularly useful.

On the recommendation of the Sub-Committee a certain amount of the money available for grants to County Federations was this year set aside by the N.F.W.I. for special grants towards the expenses of county or inter-county conferences for V.C.O.s and County Federation Committee members. The Sub-Committee arranged for a representative from Headquarters to attend these conferences if required. The usefulness of the conferences seems to have been generally recognised, and although there will not unfortunately, be funds available for grants on the same terms next year, it is hoped that the County Federations may feel justified in expending part of their general funds on the organisation of similar conferences.

During the year Mrs. Kellett has, on behalf of the N.F.W.I., visited various W.I. Centres, Rest Rooms, etc., and her most interesting report has been before the Sub-Committee for consideration. On the recommendation of the Sub-Committee the Executive Committee is issuing to County Federations some suggestions for the future organisation of Centres and Clubs.

The Sub-Committee has also had under consideration various suggestions for the improvement of the County Federation Rules and the amendments it proposes will be embodied in the redraft of the County Rules which will be brought before the Annual Meeting in May, 1924.

The Sub-Committee has met eleven times during the year. The Regular Organisers attend meetings of the Organisation Sub-Committee quarterly and bring forward for discussion any special difficulties which they have encountered.

HANDICRAFTS SUB-COMMITTEE.

The function of this Sub-Committee is to act as advisor to the Executive Committee on all questions of handicrafts affecting the movement, to recommend the general policy for the organisation of W.I. handicraft work, and to administer the policy as approved by the Executive Committee.

During 1923, the Sub-Committee has met eleven times. Its work has been mainly devoted to the development and improvement of Handicrafts in the Counties. A steady improvement in the standard of craft work has been shown in the specimens sent up for Guild of Learners' Tests, and a real desire for instruction on the part of the members has made itself felt by the increased demand for Area Schools. Owing to the difficulty of securing the best type of student and also of finding suitable premises for schools held in the country, a new class-room has been taken in London, experimentally for a year, for the purpose of holding fortnightly Handicraft Classes. It is hoped by this means to attract the best type of student only, and to relieve County Federations of their present difficulty of finding suitable rooms and sufficient students to justify an application for an Area School. For the benefit of remote districts one Area School each year will be held in the country while the experiment of London classes is being tried. One hundred and seventeen students have been trained at Area Schools in the following counties during the year:—

County.	Crafts.	No. of Students.	Counties represented.
CORNWALL ...	Upholstery	8	2
YORKSHIRE ...	Household Jobbing, Rug-making	19	1
BEDFORDSHIRE ...	Embroidery, Gloving, Household Jobbing	27	5
CUMBERLAND ...	Embroidery, Furcraft, Upholstery	25	8
DORSET ...	Embroidery, Leather-work	38	11

Several new Guild of Learners' Tests have been arranged. These include Millinery, Rug-making, Design, Hard Toy-making, Home-made Slipper-making, Dress-making, Smocking, etc.

The following tests have been held since January:—

A. TESTS in: Basketry, Rush, Raffia, Embroidery, Plain Needlework, Gloves, Spinning, Weaving, Dyeing, Soft Toys, Leather-work, Lace, Millinery, Knitting, Chair-caning, Tinkering, Upholstery, Home-made Slippers, Dressmaking, Rug-making, Umbrella-covering.

B. TESTS in: Chair-caning, Embroidery, Glove-making, Household Jobbing, Leather work, Lace, Raffia, Upholstery.

300 members now hold the Guild of Learners Proficiency (A) Certificate and 66 members the Guild of Learners Demonstrators (B) Certificate.

The following figures show the present number of Guild of Learners members grouped in Crafts and Counties :—

CRAFTS.

Basket makers	73	Embroiderers	144	Potters	...	5
Banner makers	2	Furcraft workers	25	Raffia workers	...	44
Bookbinders	...	Glovers	...	†Rug makers	...	10
Brush bristlers	1	*Household jobbers	38	Rush workers	...	25
Carpenters	...	Knitters	...	Smockers	...	6
Chair caners	...	Lace makers	...	Spinners	...	13
Cobblers	...	Leather workers	51	§Soft slipper makers	...	13
Crochet workers	3	Milliners	...	Toy makers	...	36
Designers	...	Needle workers	40	Upholsterers	...	84
Dyers	...	Papier Maché workers	...	Weavers	...	14
Dressmakers	2			

N.B.—*Includes Tinkers, Umbrella Coverers, Eiderdown makers.

†Includes mat makers.

§Includes slipper coverers.

COUNTIES.

Anglesey	...	2	Glamorganshire	1	Leicestershire	5		
Bedfordshire	...	19	Gloucestershire	15	Nottinghamshire	6		
Berkshire	...	26	Hampshire	...	23	Oxfordshire	...	16
Brecon	...	3	Herefordshire	7	Radnorshire	...	2	
Buckinghamshire	5	Hertfordshire	12	Rutland	...	1		
Cardiganshire	...	2	Huntingdonshire	12	Shropshire	...	6	
Carnarvonshire	12	Kent	...	65	Somerset	...	10	
Carmarthenshire	1	Lancashire	...	1	Staffordshire	...	5	
Cambridgeshire	5	Lincolnshire	...	8	Suffolk	...	12	
Cheshire	...	3	Middlesex	...	4	Surrey	...	39
Cornwall	...	11	Merionethshire	9	Sussex	...	43	
Cumberland	...	8	Monmouthshire	3	Warwickshire	...	16	
Derbyshire	...	8	Montgomeryshire	3	Westmoreland	...	2	
Devon	...	2	Norfolk	...	18	Wight, Isle of	...	9
Dorset	...	14	Northamptonshire	12	Worcestershire	...	18	
Durham	...	22	Northumberland	14	Yorkshire	...	35	
Essex	...	88						

A Conference on Handicrafts was held in London on December 13th, when Professor Lethaby gave a most delightful address on "Design in Relation to Handicrafts," and Mr. Marston (Rural Industries Intelligence Bureau) on the "Possibilities of Local Material in Handicrafts." Nearly 100 students attended the Conference. The discussions which followed the speeches were most useful.

Several additions have been made to the Loan Collection and the thanks of the Sub-Committee are due to Mrs. Auerbach, Mrs.

Drage, Miss Cockburn, Mrs. Greaves, Lady Julian Parr, Miss Mendel, etc., for gifts and loans; and to Mrs. Foster for her gift of chairs for the new Handicrafts Room.

AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee has met seven times and has discussed and investigated various questions of Agriculture and Horticulture, has disseminated information on points of importance and recommended the representation of the N.F.W.I. at Conferences or other meetings of bodies interested in these subjects.

Mr. Pyman, Horticultural Expert to the Middlesex County Council, has been co-opted to this Sub-Committee and Miss McLeod, Poultry Instructor to the Surrey County Council, has consented to attend in an advisory capacity.

The subject of Clean Milk has been dealt with and Dr. Stanhouse Williams' leaflets on the subject distributed to County Federations. The Sub-Committee was represented on the small committee convened by the National Clean Milk Society to organise the National Conference on Pasteurisation held in London in November.

Evidence from the counties indicates that, although some poultry scheme in connection with the County Council Agricultural Committee exists in most counties, little use is, in many cases, made of it. Information has been collected in different counties as to how much is done by the Institutes towards the encouragement of exhibits of live and dressed poultry at local shows, and as a result an article embodying this information and making suggestions for stimulating interest in poultry matters was published in *Home and Country*. The N.F.W.I. was represented at the National Poultry Parliament held at Blackpool from June 26th to the 29th, when it was reported that the interests of the smallholder were not adequately represented. The National Poultry Parliament expressed itself anxious to secure the co-operation of the N.F.W.I. and its representation on the National Poultry Council. Affiliation with the National Poultry Council has therefore been arranged on favourable terms, which will not only enable the N.F.W.I. to obtain many advantages on behalf of its members but also entitles County Federations and individual Institutes themselves to affiliate with the National Poultry Council on special terms. All details of the arrangement can be obtained from the National Federation offices and have been published in *Home and Country*. The N.F.W.I. is to be represented at the World's Poultry Congress in Barcelona and Madrid in May, 1924, and a report on the poultry work of the N.F.W.I. is to be included in the Handbook of the British Exhibit at the Congress.

Two representatives of the N.F.W.I. gave evidence on Milk and Dairy Produce before the Ministry of Agriculture's Departmental Committee on Food Prices, and the Federation, at the request of the Committee, supplied statistics relating to the prices of other foods. These figures were also supplied to the Medical Research Council to aid them in their enquiry into the Social Conditions and Health of the Rural Classes. The value of the small market as a factor contributing to lower food prices was brought out very clearly and, in view of the importance of the matter, arrangements were made with the Ministry of Agriculture to publish the leaflet prepared by the Sub-Committee on "The Marketing of Produce" in the Journal of the Board of Agriculture.

Advance information on County Agricultural Scholarships was circulated to the County Federations.

The Sub-Committee is at present considering the question of Afforestation with special reference to rating of forest land and grants for planting.

The suggestion has been made to the County Federations that their Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committees should organise short courses in various branches of agriculture and horticulture for W.I. agricultural workers in conjunction with their Universities or Farm Institutes. The Seale Hayne Agricultural College in Devonshire is prepared to arrange such a course, and it is hoped that the response will be so satisfactory that other counties may be encouraged to follow this example.

The N.F.W.I. has, at the invitation of the Campden Factory Committee, appointed a representative to serve on this committee.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW SUB-COMMITTEE.

An ad hoc Sub-Committee, consisting of representatives of the Handicrafts and Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committees, was appointed to arrange for an N.F.W.I. tent and exhibit at the Royal Show at Newcastle in July, and held six meetings.

In addition to the special exhibit for which headquarters was responsible, the northern English Counties and the Scottish Federation were invited to take part and a large and varied exhibit of good standard resulted and created much interest. The Scottish Federation and the English County Federations taking part each contributed £5 to the necessary expenses and much help was given by Durham and Northumberland in the provision of stewards and demonstrators, while officers of the Northumberland Federation worked untiringly during the whole week of the show. A great deal of useful propaganda work was done, and among

other visitors to the tent, those in charge had the honour of receiving H.R.H. The Prince of Wales who made a complete round of the Women's Institute exhibits.

EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.

During 1923 the Sub-Committee has met ten times. In addition to revising several existing leaflets for re-issue, the Sub-Committee has published in pamphlet form articles from *Home and Country* on "How the National Federation helps the Institutes," by Lady Denman, and "Descants," by Mr. Leslie; other new publications include a "Model Agenda for a W.I. Monthly Meeting" with explanatory notes, "Hints to Demonstrators" (drafted by the Handicrafts Sub-Committee), a leaflet on "Village Libraries and how to use them," and a leaflet entitled "A Women's Institute and how it works," drafted in conjunction with the Organisation Sub-Committee and based on a leaflet issued by the Cornwall County Federation. The need for the leaflet on Village Libraries was suggested by the information on the relationship between the Carnegie Rural Libraries and the Women's Institutes which the Sub-Committee collected from the County Federations.

Copies of "W.I. Rules" suitable for notice boards, in large type and in two colours, have been printed for sale at 1s. each, and the 1923 edition of the Handbook has been issued, embodying alterations to rules which were decided upon at the Annual General Meeting in May. It has proved possible to reduce the price of the Handbook to 6d. a copy (7d. post free).

County Federations have been asked to submit drafts of any leaflets on subjects of general interest, which they are considering publishing, to the Sub-Committee, in order that, if they are suitable, the National Federation may have the opportunity of publishing them at a smaller cost than would be incurred if they were issued by separate counties.

The Sub-Committee has during the year, with the approval of the Executive Committee, taken over the sale of W.I. stationery and N.F.W.I. badges, with the satisfactory result that, while the Institutes are supplied at a lower cost, the National Federation reaps considerable profits. The sales for the first week of the new arrangement showed a nett profit of £3 2s. 7d.

The Sub-Committee undertook the arrangements for securing suitable publicity for the last Annual General Meeting, and the issue of a statement on the main lines of the movement to all press representatives at the meeting.

A Correspondence Course in Agricultural Economics, under the direction of Mr. Ashby of the Oxford School of Rural Economics, has this year been arranged by the Sub-Committee. Thirty-eight students entered for the course. Arrangements are being made for another Correspondence Course in 1924.

The Sub-Committee has recommended the appointment of representatives of the N.F.W.I. to serve on the Board of Education Advisory Committee on Adult Education and on the Advisory Committee on Publications of the Women Workers' Library.

A book on the activities of Women's Institutes is being written by Mr. Parker of *The Field*; the N.F.W.I. without accepting any responsibility for the book, has undertaken, through the Education, Literature and Publicity Sub-Committee, to put Mr. Parker in touch with W.I. members from whom he can obtain information on the various points with which he intends to deal and he has agreed to submit the manuscript of his book to the N.F.W.I. to read before publication.

HOME AND COUNTRY SUB-COMMITTEE.

The *Home and Country* Sub-Committee has met quarterly. The magazine is conducted on a self-supporting basis. Payment is made to the National Federation for office accommodation, and the salaries of *Home and Country* staff are chargeable to the *Home and Country* account. The Institutes should therefore learn with pardonable pride that, after paying all expenses in connection with the publication of the magazine, it has been possible to hand over a profit to the N.F.W.I.

The special improvements in *Home and Country* during the year have been the use of better paper, the publication of articles by well-known writers such as Lady Bell, Lady Gregory, Mr. Lethaby, Mr. Montagu Fordham and Mr. Robertson Scott, and the increased reproduction of photographic illustrations. The growing circulation of the magazine has enabled *Home and Country* to offer postal concessions whereby the Institutes can now obtain twenty-four copies post free. The articles on *Home and Country Arts* by Professor Lethaby attracted the attention not only of W.I. members but of outside craft workers. It was a piece of rare good fortune for the Institutes that so great an authority on arts and crafts was ready to give of his best. Mr. Lethaby's articles have been published in attractive book form. County Federations and Institutes can show their appreciation of this enterprise by stimulating the sale of *Home and Country Arts*, price 1s. 3d. per copy, postage included.

Monmouthshire and Essex have started County Supplements to *Home and Country*.

Copper Urns were presented to Great Paxton W.I., Hunts. and to Digswell W.I. Herts, in each of which Institutes all the members took *Home and Country* for 1923. One of the urns was generously presented by Messrs. Fattorini. Suggestion boxes and stripes were presented to Oakenshaw W.I. Durham, Wall W.I., Staffordshire and Rattlesden W.I., W. Suffolk, the Institutes which gained banners in 1922 and which maintained the same high percentage of subscribers to the magazine in 1923. *Home and Country* Banners were presented to the following twenty-three Institutes in each of which at least 50 per cent. of the members took the magazine for 1923: Meppershall W.I. Beds, Shrivenham W.I. Berks, Chalfont St. Peter W.I. Bucks, Aston W.I. Cheshire, Over Knutsford W.I. Cheshire, Lydlinch W.I. Dorset, Rushmore W.I. Dorset, Gainford W.I. Durham, Bocking W.I. Essex, Chigwell Row W.I. Essex, Yelling W.I. Hunts, Carisbrooke W.I. Isle of Wight, Crank W.I. Lancashire, Hillingdon W.I. Middlesex, Diss W. I. Norfolk, Tong W.I. Shropshire, Longdon, W.I. Staffs, Werrington W.I. Staffs, Peasehall W.I. E. Suffolk, Castle Bromwich W.I. Warwickshire, Amesbury W.I. Wiltshire, Stone W.I. Worcester, Ombersley and Doverdale W.I. Worcester.

The thanks of the Sub-Committee are due to Miss Lunniss, Honorary Sub-Editor, the value of whose work cannot be computed, and to Mr. R. W. Thompson, Hon. Treasurer, for his continued services, and to the County Press Correspondents.

The following figures give the circulation in 1923:—

January	23,877	July	27,747
February	24,030	August	27,754
March	24,887	September	28,176
April	25,891	October	28,334
May	27,025	November	28,828
June	27,538	December	28,896

MUSIC SUB-COMMITTEE.

In view of the increasing interest in Music within the Women's Institute movement, the Executive Committee in June of this year appointed a Music Sub-Committee to meet quarterly and deal with all questions of music affecting Women's Institutes. So far the work of the Sub-Committee has chiefly consisted in collecting particulars of what has already been done in the different County Federations to stimulate and meet the demand for music. On the information arrived at, the Sub-Committee is formulating its policy. It would seem that three forms of assistance can usefully be given from Headquarters. (1) Assistance in providing speakers for County Federation Council Meetings, Group Meetings etc., on the general question of music in villages and on what

should be the idea behind the formation of Village Singing Classes. Here the Committee wishes to express its grateful thanks to Mr. W. H. Leslie who, with untiring enthusiasm, has visited Council Meetings, Group Meetings and Conferences and has done much to stimulate the growing demand for music among Institutes. The Sub-Committee is engaged in collecting a panel of speakers on "Music in Villages" who will be willing to visit County Federations and work on much the same lines as those on which Mr. Leslie has hitherto been working single-handed. (2) Assistance in providing training for Village Conductors. The Sub-Committee is considering this question and hopes before long to be able to offer practical help. (3) Assistance in recommending suitable songs and song-books. A list of songs suitable for Women's Institute Singing Classes can now be obtained from the N.F.W.I. office, price 3d. post free, and the Music Sub-Committee hopes to add to this list from time to time. At the instigation of the Sub-Committee, the N.F.W.I. has published (price 4d., post free 5d.) a booklet on "Descants," by Mr. Leslie, which should be of use to leaders of Institute Singing Classes who propose to make use of the Shropshire and Montgomery Song Books.

The Music Sub-Committee has recommended to County Federations of Women's Institutes the appointment of Sub-Committees for Music or for Music, Dancing and Acting to investigate and meet the special needs of the Institutes within their own areas.

The N.F.W.I. appointed a representative to attend the Oxford Summer School of Music organised by the British Federation of Musical Industries. As a result, the Sub-Committee hopes that next year the Summer School will give special attention to the musical needs of villages and that the school will in consequence be of greater use to leaders of W.I. Singing Classes.

The Sub-Committee has so far met twice. It will continue to meet quarterly and to publish quarterly Music Notes in *Home and Country*.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

The National Federation remains represented on the National Council of Social Service, the body which, in addition to co-ordinating the headquarters of the various organisations engaged in social service, advocates and assists in the formation of Rural Community Councils in the counties and Village Social Councils

in the villages and receives a grant for this purpose from the Carnegie Trust. Rural Community Councils on which County Federations of Women's Institutes are represented have now been formed in Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Oxfordshire, Nottingham, Derby, Leicestershire and West Sussex. The Federation is also represented upon the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, through which it is kept in touch with the activities of the majority of other women's societies, and upon the Adult Education Committee which is composed chiefly of representatives of organisations specially interested in adult education and is established as an advisory body to the Board of Education.

Terms of affiliation have recently been agreed upon with the National Poultry Council (see page 17) and the N.F.W.I. is consequently entitled to send a representative to the National Poultry parliament.

The N.F.W.I. is also represented on the Library Committee and on the Advisory Committee on Publications of the Challenge Book and Picture Store, which has taken over the management of the Women Workers' Library.

Without being formally affiliated, the N.F.W.I. co-operates with a number of other organisations whose work affects the Institutes. In particular this year effective co-operation has been carried out with the League of Nations Union. As was agreed at the last Annual Meeting, the N.F.W.I. has circulated to Women's Institutes, through the County Federations, particulars of Corporate Associateship of the Union, and a week-end training school for W.I. members who are prepared to speak on the League, was organised by the Union at Balcombe, in Sussex (by invitation of Lady Denman). Students attended this school from Bucks, Dorset, Hants, East and West Kent, Kesteven, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Northumberland, East Suffolk, Surrey, East and West Sussex.

The National Savings Association continues to supply a large number of speakers to Women's Institutes on "Wise Spending and Wise Saving." The British Red Cross and Order of St. John is carrying on its scheme of classes on "How to keep well," and in many counties the Institutes have applied for courses.

County Federations and Institutes will realise that, before affiliating to any organisation with a Headquarters outside the county, they must—according to rules—obtain the sanction of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee. The organisations with which

affiliation has so far been sanctioned are : The Victoria League, the National Poultry Council, the British Drama League, the Arts League of Service, the Royal Horticultural Society, the National Utility Poultry Society, and local branches of the National Council of Women.

Institutes may also become Corporate Associates of the League of Nations Union and Associate members of the Village Clubs' Association. If affiliation with any other organisation is desired, sanction should be obtained from the National Federation.

Signed (on behalf of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee):

G. DENMAN, Chairman.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The National Federation

GENERAL

Statement of Receipts and Payments for

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward, April 1st, 1923					152	3	11
„ GRANT FROM TREASURY	...				2150	0	0
„ HEADQUARTERS FUNDS, 1923/24:—							
Balance brought forward April 1st, 1923	3732	17	5				
Interest & Dividends on Endowment Fund and Deposit Accounts	£727	17	4				
Less Income Tax	171	3	11				
		556	13	5			
Contributions from Guild of Learners	15	0	9		4304	11	7
„ HEADQUARTERS FUNDS, Reserved for use in 1924/25:—							
Donations	1795	3	5				
Affiliation Fees	2321	13	10				
Interest and Dividends	£177	9	7				
Less Income Tax	37	11	8				
		139	17	11			
„ Contributions from Guild of Learners	5	14	0				
„ Profit on Literature Account	40	16	6		4303	5	8
„ BALANCE, being excess of Payments over Receipts for the year to March 31st, 1924, carried down					36	5	10
					<u>£10,946</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>

of Women's Institutes.

ACCOUNT.

the Year ended March 31st, 1924.

PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By HEADQUARTERS EXPENSES:—							
Rent and Insurance	343	9	9				
Salaries and Government Insurance	1664	12	6				
Printing, Stationery and Audit Fee	449	15	6				
Postage, Telegrams and Telephone	301	12	9				
Office Expenses, Equipment, Cleaning, Repairs, Fuel and Light	338	2	9				
Redecoration of Offices	131	15	6				
Travelling Expenses of Committee and Sub-Committee Members	483	19	0				
„ DONATIONS:—							
National Council of Social Service	3	3	0				
„ AFFILIATION FEES:—							
Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations	3	0	0				
National Poultry Council	3	3	0				
							3722 13 9
„ COUNTY EXPENSES:—							
Organisers' Salaries and Expenses	1545	9	10				
Royal Show	26	18	11				
Annual Meeting & Consultative Councils	326	13	5				
Preliminary Courses of Instruction for V.C.O.s	95	16	7				
Grants to County Federations	925	8	10				
							2920 7 7
„ TRANSFER TO HEADQUARTERS FUNDS FOR USE IN 1924/25					4303	5	8
					<u>£10,946</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
By BALANCE brought down					£36	5	10

BALANCE SHEET

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ENDOWMENT FUND:—						
Balance as at March 31st, 1923	14385	0	6			
Added during the year	507	7	11			
	14892	8	5			
HEADQUARTERS FUNDS:—						
1923/24 Income reserved for use in 1924/25		4303	5	8		
		19195	14	1		
EXHIBITION ACCOUNT, as per last Balance Sheet		300	0	0		
LITERATURE ACCOUNT, Balance at March 31st, 1924		204	6	4		
GENERAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT:—						
Capital as per last Balance Sheet	874	8	0			
Less Excess of Payments over Receipts on General Account	£36	5	10			
Handicrafts Account	£14	11	4			
	50	17	2			
	823	10	10			
	£20,523		11		3	

March, 31st 1924.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND FITTINGS as per last Balance Sheet				874	8	0
LITERATURE STOCK				111	0	0
ENDOWMENT AND HEADQUARTERS FUNDS: INVESTMENTS AT COST:—						
£3,000 Commonwealth of Australia 6% Loan	2840	4	10			
£10,700 5% War Loan	10198	16	8			
£2150 Victory Bonds 4%	1966	2	2			
War Savings Certificates	20	3	0			
£500 City of Auckland 6% Loan	480	13	6			
£150 Metropolitan Railway Co. 5% Preference Stock	141	13	6			
£100 New South Wales 5% Ins. Stock	99	8	0			
£390 L.M. & S. Rly. 4% Pref. Stock	319	13	9			
£250 L. & N.E. Rly. 4% 2nd Pref. Stock	206	17	9			
£1,200 Conversion 3½% Loan (Bearer Bonds)	973	19	6			
National Assembly C. of E. Central Board of Finance 3% Loan	500	0	0			
Cash at Bank and in Hand	1448	1	5			
				19195	14	1
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND:—						
Exhibition Account	300	0	0			
Literature Account	93	6	4			
	393	6	4			
Less General Account overdrawn	50	17	2			
	342	9	2			
	£20,523		11		3	

We have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. We have verified the Bank Balances and Investments.

KNOX, CROPPER & CO.,

Spencer House,

Chartered Accountants.

South Place, E.C.2.

April 10th, 1924.

HOME AND COUNTRY.

Profit and Loss Account for the Year ended March 31st, 1924.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.			
To Stock (Reprints), April 1st, 1923				5	8	10	By Sales and Subscriptions ...				2795	15	1
„ Paper, Printing, Blocks, Editorial Salary, etc. ...				2421	12	0	„ Advertisements ...				967	0	3
„ Photographic Reproductions ...				27	11	9	„ Stock, March 31st, 1924:—						
„ Balance, being Gross Profit for the year, carried down ...				1330	16	0	Reprints ...	2	13	6			
				1330	16	0	Books ...	19	19	9	22	13	3
				<u>£3785</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>					<u>£3785</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>
To Wrapping, Despatch and Postage	331	13	7				By Balance brought down ...				1330	16	0
„ Office Expenses, Salaries, Govern- ment Insurances and Stationery	557	16	9										
„ Rent ...	50	0	0				„ Investment and Deposit Interest				10	1	2
„ Income Tax ...	2	12	1										
„ Audit Fees ...	12	8	0										
„ Awards of Banners and Urns ...	44	1	9										
„ Bad Debt written off ...	17	10	0	1016	2	2							
„ Balance being Net Profit for the year carried to Capital Account				324	15	0					<u>£1,340</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>
				<u>£1,340</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>					<u>£1,340</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>

Balance Sheet, March 31st, 1924.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.			
SUSPENSE ACCOUNT:—							STOCK OF REPRINTS AND BOOKS ...				22	13	3
1924/25 Subscriptions and Adver- tisements paid in advance ...				1103	4	6	SUNDRY DEBTORS ...				171	17	1
PRIZE FUND ...				10	0	3	INVESTMENT:—						
CAPITAL ACCOUNT:—							£300 3½% Conversion Loan at cost				245	7	3
Balance as on March 31st, 1923	844	16	3				CASH AT BANK ...	1639	7	5			
Less Transfer to N.F.W.I.							CASH IN HAND ...	10	11	0	1649	18	5
Endowment Fund ...	193	0	0	651	16	3							
Profit and Loss Account Balance for the year to March 31st, 1924	324	15	0	976	11	3					<u>£2089</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>
				<u>£2089</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>					<u>£2089</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>

We have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. We have verified the Bank Balance and Investment.

Spencer House,
South Place, E.C.2.

April 10th, 1924.

KNOX, CROPPER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

CARNEGIE FUND.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended March 31st, 1924.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.									
				£	s.	d.							
To Balance April 1st, 1923:—				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.
Cash at Bank: Deposit Account	200	0	0				By Purchases for Loan Collection ...	19	11	3			
Current Account	260	10	1				,, County Grants for Craft Schools ...	20	5	0			
Investment at Cost:—							,, General Expenses	7	17	3			
£500 New South Wales 5%	495	13	6				,, Income Tax	7	11	0			
1932/42				956	3	7	,, Balance carried forward March						
							31st, 1924:—						
,, Interest on Investment	25	0	0				Cash at Bank: Deposit Account	200	0	0			
,, Interest on Deposit Account	3	9	8				Current Account	231	0	0			
				28	9	8	Cash in Hand	2	15	3			
							Investment as at April 1st, 1923	495	13	6			
				£984	13	3					929	8	9
											£984	13	3
To Balance brought down				£929	8	9							

We have examined the above Statement with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto and certify the same to be in accordance therewith. We have verified the Bank Balance and the Investment.

Spencer House,
South Place, E.C.2.
April 10th, 1924.

KNOX, CROPPER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Seventh Annual General Meeting

held in

QUEEN'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE, LONDON, W.

on

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MAY 15th & 16th, 1923.

Chairman : THE LADY DENMAN.

MRS. HUDDART moved the appointment of the following Tellers and Returning Officers :—

TELLERS.

Miss Anson, Miss Levy, Miss Mickelwright, Miss Nightingale, Miss Rhodes, Miss Wright.

RETURNING OFFICERS.

Miss Case, Miss Gulland, Miss Hance, Miss Hewitt, Miss Kranse, Miss Potter, Miss Rogers, Miss Sloane.

This was seconded from the Hall.

Carried unanimously.

MRS. AUERBACH moved :

That Messrs. Knox, Cropper & Co. be our Auditors for the coming year.

Mrs. Warner seconded.

Carried unanimously.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Minutes of the Sixth Annual Meeting were taken as read, confirmed, and signed.

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Chairman moved, and Mrs. Woodgate (Bucks.) seconded the adoption of the Annual Report.

Carried unanimously.

HON. TREASURER'S STATEMENT AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET.

Mrs. Auerbach moved, and Miss Cartmell (Cumberland) seconded, the adoption of the Financial Statement and Annual Balance Sheet

Carried.

ENDOWMENT FUND.

Urgency having been asked for by the Chairman and granted by the meeting, Mrs. Auerbach proposed, and Mr. Nugent Harris seconded :—

That the Executive Committee be authorised to take steps, at such time as they may consider expedient, to constitute the Endowment Fund a Trust, on such terms and conditions as they may consider advisable, and to appoint not more than four Trustees, or the Trustees of Charitable Trusts, as they may think necessary.

Carried.

RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Miss Farwell (W. Sussex) moved, and a delegate from Dorset seconded the following resolution :—

“ Standing Order No. 2, Paragraph 3.—That after the words ‘ The Executive Committee shall be responsible for deciding which of the resolutions refer to subjects of general interest or national importance, and shall place such resolutions upon the Agenda,’ the following be inserted : ‘ Resolutions supported by three County Federations must in all cases appear upon the Agenda.’ ”

Carried.

Miss Fitzherbert Brockholes (Lancs.) moved, and Mrs. Campbell Muir (Cheshire) seconded a resolution to the effect that an urgency motion can only be passed if agreed to by three-fourths of the meeting.

Miss Deneke (Oxon.) moved, and Mrs. Auerbach (Executive) seconded an amendment to the effect that the three-fourths majority be required if the question is controversial. The amendment having been carried the resolution was put in the following form :—

That any Urgency Motion must be clearly explained, and that if the question is controversial three-fourths of the Meeting must agree before it can be discussed ; and that Standing Order, No. 4 be altered accordingly.

Carried.

The following resolution was moved by Lady Dorothy Meynell (Staffs.), and seconded by Mrs. Oldham (Shropshire) :—

That only resolutions be accepted for the Agenda which deal with matters directly affecting alterations in the Constitution or matters concerning the welfare or progress of the movement as a whole.

Lost.

An amendment to the effect that resolutions on subjects directly appertaining to Women’s Institutes take precedence of other resolutions on the agenda, proposed by Miss Dent (Yorks.), and seconded by Miss Cropper (Westmorland) was also lost.

The following resolution, moved by Mrs. Goldring (Eastbourne W.1.), and seconded by Miss Everard (Woodhouse W.1.) was *lost*:

That owing to the length of the Agenda of the Annual Meeting, only speakers of world-wide reputation on matters of national importance be asked to address the Annual General Meeting.

Mrs. Sturdy (W. Sussex) moved, and Mrs. Tabor (Essex) seconded :—

That this meeting is of opinion that, owing to the increasing size of the Annual General Meeting, it is necessary to make a change in the basis of representation thereto.

After a long discussion in which many points were urged on both sides, the resolution was *lost*, and various schemes for the reconstitution of the Annual Meeting, which had appeared on the Agenda, consequently fell to the ground.

RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES.

POSTAL VOTE.

Ingeborg Lady Molesworth St. Aubyn (Cornwall) moved, and Lady Grey (Northumberland) seconded :—

That a postal vote be adopted for the election of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, and that the rules be altered accordingly.

Carried by a three-fourths majority.

An amendment, moved by Mrs. Lloyd Pease (Durham), and seconded by Miss Cropper (Westmorland), to the effect that the postal vote be adopted experimentally for a period of three years, was *lost*.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Mrs. Sidebottom (Fair Oak) moved, and Lady Grey (Northumberland) seconded the following resolution :—

That the elections of the National Federation Executive Committee be in future conducted on the Proportional Representation system.”

Lost.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Harcourt Williams, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved, and Mrs. Howard Coote seconded, the following formal resolution to bring the Rules up-to-date :—

In Rule VII. of the N.F.W.I. Rules “ Executive Committee ” delete the words “ one member nominated by the National Association of Landwomen.”

Carried.

Mrs. Morgan (Merioneth) moved, and Mrs. William George (Carnarvon) seconded :—

That one seat on the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee shall be filled by a Welsh speaking representative, to be co-opted on the recommendation of the Welsh Conference or Consultative Council, and that the rules shall be altered accordingly.

Carried.

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

Miss Hadow (Executive) moved, and Lady Boyne (Shropshire) seconded :—

That members of the Executive Committee in counties in which Consultative Councils are held, shall be invited to attend the Council as visitors, and that the N.F.W.I. Rules shall be altered accordingly.

Carried.

NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES.

Mrs. Stobart (Executive) moved, and Mrs. Seymour Allen (Pembrokeshire) seconded :—

That an addition be made to the Rules of the National Federation, the County Federations and the Women's Institutes to the effect that a Rule once passed shall not be open to alteration at the Annual General Meeting for three years, unless a resolution to alter it is sent in for the Agenda by the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, five County Federations, or forty Institutes.

Carried unanimously.

Mrs. Stobart (Executive) moved, and Lady Boyne (Shropshire) seconded :—

That an addition be made to the Rules of the National Federation, the County Federations, and the Women's Institutes to the effect that a proposed alteration to rules, if defeated at the Annual Meeting, shall not, unless it has secured a majority vote, be again brought forward for three years, except by the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, five County Federations, or forty Institutes.

Carried unanimously.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE RULES.

The following resolution, moved by Mrs. Hodgson (W. Sussex), and seconded by Mrs. Perkins (Hants.) was, after amendment, *carried* in the following form :—

That Rule II be altered to read as follows ;—"Membership of the Institute shall be open to women only. No sectarian or party-political matter nor any subject likely to lead to serious controversy or friction shall be brought forward for discussion at an Institute meeting."

Carried almost unanimously.

Mrs. Drage, on behalf of the Executive Committee, moved, and Mrs. Gilliatt seconded :—

That in future in any town or village with a population of over 4,000, unless it be a mining village of a rural character, no W.I. may be formed without the special sanction of the County Federation and the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, and that Rule III. be amended accordingly.

Carried by three-fourths majority

Mrs. Court Brown (Cumberland) moved, and Miss Cropper (Westmorland) seconded an amendment to the effect that the limit be fixed at 2,000, which was *lost*.

The following resolution, moved by Miss Brown (St. Margaret's at Cliffe), and seconded by Miss Cropper (Westmorland) was *lost* :—

That no member of less than six months' standing be entitled to vote at the election of Committee at the Annual Meeting of the Institute to which she belongs, and that W.I. Rule VIII. be altered accordingly.

Miss D. Christy moved, and Mrs. Stobart seconded, on behalf of the Executive Committee :—

In W.I. Rule VIII. delete paragraphs 2 and 3, and substitute :—"Nominations for the Executive Committee shall be made at least a fortnight before the date fixed for the Election. All candidates for election as members of the Executive Committee shall be nominated by regularly enrolled members of the Institute, and shall themselves be members of the Institute.

Delegates for the General Meeting of the National Federation, meetings of the County Federation Council, and all other meetings to which Institutes may be invited to send representatives, shall be elected by ballot if more than one nomination be received.

Carried by a three-fourths majority.

W.I. DOMESTIC BUSINESS.

Mrs. Heron Maxwell (Executive) moved, and Lady Ennismore (Yorks.) seconded :—

That paid officers of the National Federation and the County Federations be not eligible to serve on the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, and that members of the N.F.W.I. Committee be not eligible during their term of office to accept salaried posts for the N.F.W.I. or any County Federation.

Carried.

Mrs. Morris (Leicestershire) moved, and Mrs. Wentworth Watson (Northants.) seconded :—

That the numbered copy of "Constitution and Rules" to be signed by Institutes when first formed, shall be sent through County Federations and not direct by the National Federation.

Lost.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Mrs. Grierson (Longton W.I.) moved, and Miss Garaway (Shipham W.I.) seconded :—

That in view of the importance of Parish Council elections, the Government be urged to change the method of voting by show of hands to that of secret balloting, which should be made compulsory.

Carried unanimously

HOUSING.

The following resolution, moved by Mrs. Stobart (Executive), and seconded by Mrs. Baylis (Essex), was after amendment carried in the following form :—

That this meeting urges members of W.I.s to investigate the conditions prevailing in their districts in special relation to the new Government Housing Bill with a view to forwarding to the Executive Committee of the N.F.W.I. any practical suggestions in order that, should they consider it advisable, they may make representations to the local authorities through the Ministry of Health or otherwise.

Carried.

Mrs. Allan (Epping W.I.) moved, and Mrs. Hammerstone (Essex) seconded :—

That this meeting is glad to note that the urgent need of a research being made for a means of keeping down the prices of building materials is recognised.

Carried.

CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

Mrs. Crofton (West Mill, W.I.) moved, and Miss Stewart (Kensing, W.I.) seconded :—

That as the sentences in cases of even the grossest cruelty to children are not of a severe enough nature, representation be made by the National Federation of Women's Institutes to the Home Secretary, asking him to issue a circular to Justices urging that adequate sentences be passed against persons found guilty of serious offences against children."

Carried.

An amendment, proposed by Mrs. Allan (Epping W.I.), and seconded by Mrs. Hicks (Essex), to the effect that Justices be urged to pass sentence of imprisonment, without the option of a fine, in cases where such sentence is legally permissible, was *lost*.

HUMANE KILLING.

The following resolution, moved by Miss Warner (Kent), and seconded by Mrs. Sturdy (W. Sussex) was *carried* :—

That in view of the urgent need of slaughter reform and the proved efficiency of humane-killers now obtainable, this meeting of women composed of 2,700 W.I.s urges the Government to afford facilities for the Slaughter of Animals Bill now before the House of Commons.

VILLAGE INDUSTRIES.

Mrs. Hamilton (Hants.) moved, and Mrs. Madocks (Hants.) seconded :—

That Women's Institutes, having in a limited number of villages developed women's industries, feel that, in the present state of unemployment and depression in agricultural districts, the question of village industries as a subsidiary employment might be promoted. They would ask that H.M. Government would consider some scheme to this end.

An amendment, moved by Miss Deneke (Oxon.), and seconded by Mrs. Heron Maxwell (Executive), having been carried, the substantive resolution, thus amended, was put :—

That this Annual Meeting of the N.F.W.I. express their appreciation of the Government assistance in rural industries and urge County Federations to make every use of it.

Carried.

The thanks of the Annual Meeting are due to the Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., who addressed the meeting on the Work of the League of Nations.

Mrs. Hooper brought to the meeting a message from the Institutes in New Brunswick, Canada, and Lady Denman, in the name of the meeting, asked Mrs. Hooper, to take over to New Brunswick the greeting of the Institutes of England and Wales.

Special Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

43, UPPER GROSVENOR STREET, LONDON, W.1.

On FEBRUARY 16th, 1923.

Chairman : THE LADY DENMAN.

PRESENT.

Seven members of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee.

Delegates from forty-two County Federations.

The Resolutions received for the Annual General Meeting were considered in detail and recommendations made to the *Agenda Committee of the N.F.W.I. as to which resolutions should appear on the Agenda and in what order.

Tenth Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

THE ASSEMBLY ROOM, DERBY,
JUNE 14th, 1923.

Chairman: THE LADY DENMAN.

PRESENT.

One member of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee.
Delegates from twenty-seven County Federations.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S WORK.

The Half-Yearly Report on the work of the Executive Committee was considered in detail.

Suggestions from the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee for the improvement of the Consultative Council were considered, amended and *agreed* to in the following form:—

- (a) That each County Federation be allowed to send two delegates with one vote, instead of one delegate, to the meetings of the Consultative Council, and that the constitution be altered accordingly.
- (b) That a special meeting of the Consultative Council be held each year to consider the resolutions sent in for the Agenda of the Annual Meeting and to assist the Agenda Committee in deciding which resolutions are likely to be of sufficient importance to be placed upon the Agenda.
- (c) That two regular meetings of the Consultative Council, in addition to Special Meetings, be held annually.
- (d) At each regular meeting of the Consultative Council a report should be made by the Chairman, to be followed by discussion. The National Federation Executive Committee should also arrange one main subject for discussion—either a subject on which the Executive Committee wishes to consult the County Federations or a general subject of national importance. The other part of the time should be allowed for considering suggestions received from County Federations, and particularly resolutions which counties may be considering submitting to the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) That a report of the work of the Executive Committee since the last meeting of the Consultative Council should appear in "Home and Country," and be circulated to the County Federations for the month during which the Consultative Council is meeting, in order that before arriving at the meeting, delegates may know the main facts to be reported.
- (f) That in connection with each regular meeting of the Consultative Council a conference on some subject such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Crafts, Music, etc., be arranged to occupy half a day, and that half a day be allowed for an Open Meeting, the nature to be determined after consultation with the Federation of the County where the meeting of the Consultative Council is being held.

The following recommendation, moved by the delegate from Leicestershire and Rutland, and seconded by the delegate from Derbyshire, was *lost*:—

That at Consultative Councils and meetings held in connection with them, more attention should be given to discussion of organisation and work in Women's Institutes, and that time should not be spent in revision of methods of procedure and organisation of Consultative Councils.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

The following recommendation was sent up to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee:—

That the Executive be advised to recommend to the Annual Meeting the abolition of Honorary Life Membership.

Endorsed.

W.I.s AND THE PRESS.

A Roll Call was taken on:—

What do you do in your county to keep the local Press informed of the work and progress of the W.I. Movement?

It was generally agreed that it is of extreme importance for County Press Correspondents and Secretaries to explain to the Editors of the county papers the real nature of Institute work, and to encourage reporters to come to the county office for their facts.

DISPOSAL OF INSTITUTE PROPERTY.

The following recommendation was sent to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee:—

"That there be added to the Model Trust Deed for Institute Halls a paragraph advising the Institutes to make provision in their Trust Deed for the disposal of the Institute hut and property in the event of the Institute lapsing."

Endorsed.

DECREASE OF W.I. MEMBERSHIP.

The following recommendation was sent to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee:—

"That where it is found on receipt of affiliation fees that membership has decreased substantially in any one Institute, the County Treasurer should report this fact to the County Federation Executive Committee or Organisation Sub-Committee with a *view* to their taking action."

Endorsed.

CORPORATE ASSOCIATESHIP OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

A discussion took place on the advisability of recommending corporate Associateship of the Union to the Institutes. It was generally *agreed* that, when the League of Nations Union had determined the conditions of Corporate Associateship, it should be made quite clear, if these were circulated, that Institutes were perfectly free to decide for themselves whether or not to become Associate members.

Eleventh Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

10, ST. EDWARD'S PASSAGE, CAMBRIDGE,
OCTOBER 10th & 11th, 1923.

Chairman: THE LADY DENMAN.

PRESENT.

Ten members of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee.
Delegates from forty-one County Federations.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S WORK.

The half-yearly report on the work of the Executive Committee was considered in detail.

SCHEME FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE N.F.W.I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Council considered a scheme drawn up by the Hants. County Federation for reconstructing the N.F.W.I. Executive, so as to make it consist of one representative elected by each County Federation Council on the nomination of the Institutes within the County. After discussion a vote was taken on the adoption of the main principles of the scheme, but the resolution was *lost*.

SCHEME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL INTO AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

A discussion took place on a scheme brought forward by the Wiltshire County Federation for the development of the Consultative Council into an Executive Council to meet quarterly and have power to deal with certain matters at present decided by the Annual General Meeting. A vote was taken on the adoption of the main principles of this scheme, and was *lost*.

GROUPS.

After a general discussion on the group systems in operation in different County Federations, the following resolutions were carried:—

“That this meeting is definitely opposed to groups becoming part of the Women's Institute Constitution.”

“That in the opinion of this meeting Groups should hold no funds.”

“That this meeting is opposed to the formation of Standing Group Committees with Executive power.”

“That in the opinion of this meeting Group Convenors should be appointed annually by the Executive Committee of the County Federation.”

“That in the opinion of this meeting twelve should be the maximum number of Institutes combined in any one Group.”

The following recommendation was sent up to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee:—

“That this meeting is of opinion that it is now time to have the general principles for the working of Groups defined, in order to enable neighbouring County Federations to act in conjunction in this matter, and asks the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee to circulate the main principles agreed upon by this meeting as recommendations to the different County Federations.”

Endorsed.

BORDER INSTITUTES.

The following recommendation was sent up to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee:—

“That this meeting recommends that the N.F.W.I. put on the Agenda of the next Annual Meeting a resolution to the effect that every Women's Institute be automatically affiliated to the County in which it is situated, but that after one year an Institute may, if it so desire, be transferred by the National Federation on the recommendation of the two County Federations concerned, to whichever county is easiest of access; that such transference shall only be made in cases of exceptional difficulty.”

Endorsed.

LIBRARIES.

Miss Hadow opened a discussion on Libraries, explaining that the County Councils could still adopt the Public Libraries Act and obtain a grant for a County Rural Library from the Carnegie Trust. She also pointed out the part which Women's Institutes can play in urging their County Councils to adopt the Act, and in acting as distributing agents in the villages for the library when it is established. Miss Hadow's address was followed by a general discussion on library facilities in the different counties.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

OF

The National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales, 1924-1925,

AS AMENDED BY THE

Annual General Meeting, May, 1924.

I.—NAME.

The name of the Federation is "The National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales" (hereinafter referred to as "the National Federation").

II.—OBJECTS.

The main purpose of the National Federation is to provide an organisation with the object of enabling women to take an effective part in rural life and development.

For the purpose of securing and furthering the said object the National Federation shall have power:

(a) To make provision for the fuller education of country women and to give instruction and training in all branches of agriculture, rural handicrafts, domestic science, hygiene and social welfare.

(b) To formulate such general principles governing County Federations and Women's Institutes as hereinafter defined as will or may be thought desirable to ensure unity of purpose.

(c) To form or assist in forming County Federations and to advise and assist them.

(d) To form or assist in forming Women's Institutes in such places in England and Wales as may be thought desirable or practicable and to advise and assist them.

(e) To raise funds, solicit and obtain grants, donations, subscriptions and loans from state, municipal, local and other authorities, corporations, councils and other bodies and from any companies, associations, firms and persons whatsoever, and to receive legacies and other benefits.

(f) To apply the funds of the National Federation in and towards the above object and not otherwise.

(g) To do such other things as may be incidental and conducive to the attainment of the purpose of the National Federation.

III.—COUNTY FEDERATIONS.

A County Federation is an association of the affiliated Women's Institutes, in a county or such other area as shall be approved by the National Federation, formed in accordance with the form of constitution and rules for County Federations laid down by the Annual Meeting of the National Federation.

IV.—WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

(a) A Women's Institute is an association of women formed in accordance with the form of Constitution and Rules laid down for Women's Institutes by the Annual Meeting of the National Federation.

(b) A Women's Institute shall consist of not less than 25 members or, in the case of a very small village, at the discretion of the County Federation, of not less than 12 members, who shall pay the required subscription and sign a declaration to the following effect:—

I,wishing to become a member of the.....Women's Institute, in the County of.....promise to pay to the Treasurer of the Institute the sum of Two Shillings yearly while I continue a member. I also promise to keep the rules and bye-laws of the Institute, and all rules and regulations made for Women's Institutes by the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales.

(c) No Women's Institute shall be formed in any town or village with a population of over 4,000 (unless it be a mining village of a rural character) without the special sanction of the County Federation and the Executive Committee of the National Federation. No Institute shall be considered duly formed unless and until it has been visited by an Organiser appointed by the National Federation.

(d) No Women's Institute, duly formed, shall lapse by reason only of the absorption, under any Extension of Boundaries scheme by a neighbouring authority, of the town or village in which the Institute has been formed.

V.—CONSTITUTION.

The National Federation shall consist of:—

(a) Properly qualified and approved Women's Institutes which have made application for membership in accordance with the rules and regulations that may from time to time be approved by the Executive Committee on behalf of the National Federation.

(b) County Federations of Women's Institutes which have made application for membership and have adopted the rules and regulations which have been approved from time to time by the Executive Committee on behalf of the National Federation.

VI.—ADMINISTRATION.

The administration of the work of the National Federation shall be vested in:—

- (a) A General Meeting.
- (b) An Executive Committee.

VII.—THE GENERAL MEETING.

1. The General Meeting shall be constituted as follows:—

(a) One delegate elected by each Women's Institute. (A substitute may be appointed if the delegate cannot serve). Institute members may be admitted as visitors to the General Meeting at the discretion of the Executive Committee, but shall have no vote. Visitors may be invited to speak by the Chairman.

- (b) Three delegates elected by each County Federation.
- (c) Members of the Executive Committee.
- (d) Voluntary and paid organisers, who, if not sent as delegates,

shall have the power to attend the General Meeting without voting power. The expenses of Headquarters organisers only shall be paid out of the general funds.

2. ANNUAL MEETING.

Not less than three months notice shall be given of the Annual Meeting. Copies of resolutions to be proposed at the meeting shall be sent to the Secretary of the National Federation on such a date as is determined by the Executive Committee, at least two months before the Meeting is held, and shall be circulated on the Preliminary Agenda to the Women's Institutes and County Federations at least six weeks before the Meeting. No resolution which has not been sent in by the specified date may be moved at the Meeting, unless urgency is granted. No resolution may stand on the Agenda except in the name of a Women's Institute, a County Federation Executive Committee, a County Federation Council, a member of the Executive Committee of the National Federation, or the Executive Committee of the National Federation as a whole.

The Final Agenda, together with the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, shall be circulated to County Federations and Women's Institutes not less than a fortnight before the Annual Meeting. The Secretary shall notify the Women's Institutes and County Federations of the latest date by which amendments to the resolutions on the Preliminary Agenda should be sent in in order to appear on the Final Agenda, and no amendment affecting the Constitution of the National Federation, the County Federations or the Women's Institutes which has not appeared on the Final Agenda shall be moved at the Annual Meeting.

3. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee of the National Federation or on a petition signed by a quarter of the County Federations or of the Women's Institutes; if by the latter, the expense of the meeting shall be borne by the County Federations or Women's Institutes calling it. At least six weeks notice shall be given of a special meeting, and the necessary quorum shall be the equivalent of one-fifth of the Women's Institutes of England and Wales.

VIII.—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(a) There shall be an Executive Committee, which shall be partly elected and partly nominated, and shall consist of not more than twenty-five members, who shall be appointed as follows:—Three members nominated by the Ministry of Agriculture, one member nominated by the Agricultural Organisation Society, one member nominated by the Board of Education, seventeen members elected by Postal Vote, three members co-opted by the Executive Committee. Of the three co-opted members one shall be a Welsh-speaking member, co-opted by the Committee on the recommendation of a Conference of delegates from the Welsh County Federations; the remaining two should be experts in co-operation or other subjects.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint Sub-Committees and co-opt outside persons and to depute to Sub-Committees whatever powers may be deemed advisable. Honorary Officers shall be ex-officio members of Sub-Committees.

(b) The Executive Committee shall be responsible to the General Meeting for the management of the Women's Institute movement, the

administration of all the funds of the National Federation, and the carrying out of the policy decided upon at the General Meeting. It shall have power to arbitrate on all cases of dispute which may arise within the movement.

(c) The Executive Committee shall meet at least six times annually.

(d) Eight members shall form a quorum, of whom at least four shall be elected members.

(e) The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint whatever paid officers it considers necessary for the efficient working of the National Federation. It shall have power to co-opt three additional members.

(f) Vacancies on the Executive Committee may be filled by co-option until the next General Meeting. Those co-opted must be members of duly accredited Women's Institutes.

IX.—NOMINATIONS.

(a) All candidates for election as members of the Executive Committee must be nominated by duly accredited Women's Institutes, County Federations or members of the Executive Committee. It shall be open to each Women's Institute, County Federation or member of the Executive Committee to nominate one or more persons for the Executive Committee up to the number of places to be filled, the name or names to be sent in to the Secretary of the National Federation on a date determined by the Executive Committee at least two months before the election.

(b) No candidate may stand for election to the Executive Committee who has not been a member of a Women's Institute for six months preceding the election.

(c) No Women's Institute may nominate a candidate for election to the Executive Committee without having first ascertained that she is willing to stand.

(d) The Executive Committee shall retire annually and shall be eligible for re-election.

(e) The election of the Executive Committee shall be by postal vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

(f) Nominations shall be entered on voting papers and an X be placed against each name selected.

X.—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

(a) The Executive Committee shall elect its own Chairman and Honorary Officers from among its own members.

(b) Election shall be by ballot. The Chairman shall preside at the General Meeting unless the Executive Committee decide otherwise.

(c) The Chairman shall hold office for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

(d) The Chairman shall have a vote, and when voting is equal, a casting vote.

XI.—CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

For purposes of discussion a Consultative Council shall be held between representatives of the County Federations and the Executive Committee not less than twice a year.

The Consultative Council shall be constituted as follows:—

(a) Two Representatives from each County Federation.

(b) One representative Women's Institute member from each County where no County Federation exists, such members to be invited by the Executive Committee to serve on the Council.

(c) Members of the Executive Committee.

(d) Regular organisers of the National Federation, Voluntary County organisers and officers and Executive Committee members of the County Federation within whose area the Council is held, these to be admitted as visitors without voting power.

Due notice of each Consultative Council shall be sent to the Secretaries of County Federations.

XII.—FINANCE.

(a) The audited accounts shall be presented at the General Meeting. The Auditor shall be appointed by the General Meeting.

(b) The contribution to be paid by Institutes affiliated to the National Federation shall be 6d. per annum per member. The County Federation duly affiliated to the National Federation to which the Women's Institute belongs shall collect the contributions and retain one-half of the same. The remaining half shall be paid to the National Federation. When no County Federation exists the whole affiliation fee shall be paid to the National Federation.

(c) The Executive Committee of the National Federation shall open a Banking Account. All cheques drawn on the Banking Account of the National Federation shall bear the signatures of two persons duly authorised and the National Federation Executive Committee shall authorise not less than two persons to sign cheques on behalf of the National Federation.

XIII. TRUSTEES.

The National Federation shall nominate such persons, not exceeding three in number, or any Bank or other corporation legally authorised to act in such capacity, to hold real and personal property, stocks, shares, securities and moneys on behalf of the National Federation, and to sell and convert the same into money and to invest, reinvest and change the investment of all and any of the property, stocks, shares and other securities and moneys so held by them and at the direction of the Executive Committee to apply the capital and income thereof for the purposes of the National Federation. A copy of a resolution of the Executive Committee purporting to be signed by the Chairman or like official presiding over the meeting at which such resolution is stated to have been passed or confirmed shall be sufficient authority and discharge of the trustees as to any such application as may be mentioned in the said resolution provided always that the funds of the National Federation may only be applied in investment for the purposes of the National Federation as hereinbefore set forth and towards such purposes and not otherwise.

XIV.—TRADE.

No trade or business shall be carried on by or on behalf of the National Federation or by or on behalf of any Women's Institute or group of Women's Institutes except in accordance with Section 30 of the Finance Act 1921.*

*Section 30 of the Finance Act provides in effect that exemption shall be granted from Income Tax under Schedule D in respect of the profits of a Trade carried on by any organization with objects similar to the W. I. Movement, if the work in connection with the Trade is mainly carried on by the Members, and the profits are applied solely for the purposes of the Movement.

XV.—WITHDRAWING APPROVAL FROM MEMBERS.

The Executive Committee shall have power to withdraw approval from any County Federation or to authorise any County Federation to close or suspend any Women's Institute and thereupon the same shall be regarded as dissolved and the funds thereof shall be applied as in case of dissolution.

XVI.—AFFILIATION TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

The Headquarters of the National Federation may affiliate to the Headquarters of any non-party organisation if, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, it is desirable. Any Women's Institute or County Federation must however first obtain the sanction of the Executive Committee before affiliating to the County or Central Headquarters of any organisation outside the National Federation. No affiliation shall enlarge or alter the provisions of Articles II. and XIII. relating to the funds of the Society.

XVII.—ALTERATION OF RULES.

No alteration of these rules shall be made except with the consent of the General Meeting called for the purpose, and no alteration shall be valid unless passed by a three-fourths majority of the members present and voting. A rule once passed shall not be open to alteration for three years unless a resolution to alter it is sent in for the Agenda of the General Meeting by the National Federation Executive Committee, five County Federations or forty Women's Institutes. A proposed alteration to Rules, if defeated at the General Meeting shall not, unless it has secured a majority vote, be again brought forward for three years except by the National Federation Executive Committee, five County Federations or forty Women's Institutes.

NOTE.—In these Rules the words "Women's Institute" shall be taken to include "Women's Institute Centres."

Constitution and Rules

FOR

County Federations of Women's Institutes,

1924-1925.

As Amended by the Annual General Meeting, May, 1924.

I.—NAME.

The name of the Federation is "The County Federation of Women's Institutes" (hereinafter referred to as "the County Federation").

II.—AIMS AND OBJECTS.

(a) To form Women's Institutes within the area of the County Federation according to the rules and regulations laid down by the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales (hereinafter referred to as "the National Federation").

(b) To co-ordinate and establish the work of the accredited Women's Institutes within the county.

(c) To establish a link of mutual helpfulness between the Women's Institutes in the county.

(d) To receive and consider reports from the Women's Institutes in membership with the County Federation.

(e) To make reports and suggestions from time to time to the National Federation on matters affecting the Women's Institutes.

III.—CONSTITUTION.

A County Federation is an association of the affiliated Women's Institutes in a county, or such other area as shall be approved by the National Federation, formed in accordance with the form of Constitution and Rules laid down for County Federations by the Annual Meeting of the National Federation.

Its function shall be to act as the responsible representative in the County of the National Federation in matters affecting the Women's Institutes.

A Women's Institute, on formation by the County Federation, is automatically affiliated both to the County Federation of the county in which it is geographically situated, and to the National Federation. After one year a Women's Institute may, if it is desired, be transferred by the National Federation, on the recommendation of the County Federations concerned, to whichever County Federation is easiest of access, but such transference shall only be made in cases of exceptional difficulty. Cases of such transference shall be submitted yearly to the National Federation by the County Federations concerned for reconsideration.

A County Federation shall have power, after consultation with the National Federation, to close or suspend any Women's Institutes whose conduct may be detrimental to the best interests of the movement. Women's Institutes may be re-instated by the same authority.

All disputes that cannot be settled locally shall be referred to the National Federation, whose decision shall be final.

IV.—ADMINISTRATION.

The administration of the County Federation shall be vested in:—

I. A Council.

II. An Executive Committee.

V.—THE COUNTY FEDERATION COUNCIL.

1. The Council shall consist of:—

(a) An equal number of delegates to be elected by each accredited Women's Institute in the county, the number to be determined by the County Federation Council. Delegates may be elected to serve for a year, or fresh delegates may be elected for each meeting. Delegates shall be elected at a meeting of the Women's Institute. Each Women's Institute shall have power to appoint a substitute should a delegate be unable to attend any meetings of the Council. Each Women's Institute within the County may be asked by the Executive Committee of the County Federation to send one or more members to the meetings of the County Federation Council, in addition to the delegates, these visitors to have no voting powers and to be chosen by the Women's Institutes for each meeting of the Council. Expenses of delegates incurred when attending a meeting of the County Federation Council may be paid by the Women's Institute they represent.

(b) The members of the Executive Committee of the County Federation.

At Council Meetings each delegate or member of the Committee shall have one vote. In addition to the ordinary vote, the Chairman shall have a casting vote when voting is equal.

2. *Regular Meetings.*—A meeting of the County Federation Council shall be held at least twice a year. The place of the meeting of the next Council shall be decided by the delegates or, if necessary, by the Executive Committee.

Not less than two months notice shall be given of regular meetings of the Council. Resolutions for the Agenda may be sent in by an affiliated Women's Institute or a member of the County Federation Executive Committee, and must be sent in writing to the Secretary of the County Federation not less than one month before the Council Meeting. The Agenda shall be circulated to all Women's Institutes in the county, and all members of the County Federation Executive Committee at least a fortnight before the meeting, and amendments to resolutions on the Agenda should, if possible, be sent in writing before the meeting to the County Federation Secretary.

3. *Special Meetings.*—A Special Meeting of the County Federation Council may be called by the Executive Committee of the County Federation or on a petition signed by a quarter of the affiliated Women's Institutes within six weeks of its receipt by the County Federation Secretary. Notice of the meeting and the Agenda shall be circulated to all Women's Institutes in the County not less than one month before the meeting. The quorum for a Special Meeting shall be one-fifth of the affiliated Women's Institutes within the County Federation's area.

VI.—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS.

(1) The business of the County Federation shall be conducted by an Executive Committee which shall be elected annually by ballot at a meeting of the Council of the County Federation and shall be responsible to the Council for the management of the movement within the county, the administration of the funds of the County Federation and the carrying out of the resolutions of the Council. The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than 8 and not more than 15 elected members including officers, and in addition members may be co-opted up to one-third of the number of elected members.

(2) The officers of the County Federation shall be a Chairman, a Secretary and Treasurer and one or more Vice-Chairmen (up to three in number) and, if the Council so desires, a President who shall be elected by the Council and shall be ex-officio a member of the Committee but shall not necessarily be the Chairman. The Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected from among the members of the Executive Committee. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen shall be elected either by the Council or by the Executive Committee according to the decision of the Council; the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by the Executive Committee.

(3) The officers shall hold office for one year but shall be capable of re-election.

(4) The Executive Committee may appoint Sub-Committees and grant such powers to them as they think advisable. Sub-Committees may be given power of co-option up to one-third of the appointed members.

VII.—NOMINATIONS.

Candidates for election to the Executive Committee must be nominated by an affiliated Women's Institute or by a member of the County Federation Executive Committee, and must themselves be members of a Women's Institute.

Each Women's Institute and member of a County Federation Executive Committee shall be entitled to send in nominations up to the number of places to be filled on the Committee.

The Secretary of the County Federation shall notify the Women's Institutes and members of the County Federation Executive Committee of the proper date for nomination, and all nominations shall be sent in to the Secretary in writing together with the name of the Women's Institute nominating and the consent of the nominee.

VIII.—FINANCE.

(1) The County Federation shall collect the affiliation fees from the Women's Institutes in its area in October of each year at the rate of 6d. per member on behalf of the National Federation, one-half of the affiliation fees to be forwarded to the National Federation, the balance to be administered by the County Federation.

(2) The County Federation shall, in the event of a Women's Institute deciding to dissolve or suspend its activities, receive from such Women's Institute the balance of any funds remaining after the payment of all outstanding liabilities, and hold this until the Women's Institute is revived or for three years, whichever is the shorter period. If at the end of three years the Women's Institute has not been revived, the County Federation shall forward half the money to the National Federation, and itself retain and administer the other half.

(3) The Executive Committee of the County Federation shall open a Banking Account, and shall be empowered to receive contributions, annual subscriptions, legacies, donations and grants of money from any source approved by the Executive Committee of the National Federation. All cheques drawn on the banking account of the County Federation shall bear the signatures of two persons duly authorised and the County Federation Executive Committee shall authorise not less than two persons to sign cheques on behalf of the County Federation.

(4) None of the funds of the County Federation shall be applied otherwise than for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the County Federation, and in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the County Federation.

(5) The County Federation shall have power to appoint and dismiss salaried officials.

IX.—ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Annual Report of the work of the County Federation and an audited statement of receipts and payments shall be submitted by the County Federation Executive Committee to the Annual Meeting of the County Federation.

X.—AFFILIATION.

On formation the County Federation shall sign these Rules and shall automatically be affiliated to the National Federation. The County Federation shall not carry out any policy that shall be in any way contrary to the policy of the National Federation.

The County Federation must first obtain the sanction of the Executive Committee of the National Federation before affiliating to the County or Central Headquarters of any organisation outside the National Federation.

XI.—ALTERATION OF RULES.

No alteration to these rules shall be made except at an Annual or Special General Meeting of the National Federation, and no alteration shall be valid unless it is passed by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting and is not in conflict with the Constitution and Rules of the National Federation. A rule once passed shall not be open to alteration for three years unless a resolution to alter it is sent in for the Agenda of the General Meeting by the National Federation Executive Committee, five County Federations or forty Women's Institutes.

A proposed alteration to Rules, if defeated at the General Meeting, shall not, unless it has secured a majority vote, be again brought forward for three years except by the National Federation Executive Committee, five County Federations or forty Institutes.

XII.—BYE-LAWS.

The County Federation may make County Bye-Laws provided the approval of the National Federation Executive Committee first be obtained. With the like approval the County Federation may amend, extend, revoke or re-make any of the County Bye-Laws. No Bye-Law shall be valid which is in conflict with the Constitution and Rules of the National Federation or with this Constitution and Rules.

NOTE.—In these Rules the words "Women's Institute" shall be taken to include "Women's Institute Centres."

Constitution and Rules

FOR

Women's Institutes,

1924-1925.

As amended by the Annual General Meeting, May, 1924.

I.—NAME.

The name of the Institute is "The..... Women's Institute" (hereinafter referred to as "the Institute.")

II.—AIMS AND OBJECTS.

The main purpose of the Institute is to improve and develop conditions of rural life.

For the purpose of securing and furthering the said object the Institute shall have power to:—

- (1) Provide a centre for educational and social intercourse and activities.
- (2) Stimulate interest in agricultural pursuits.
- (3) Give instruction and training in and study domestic science, hygiene and social welfare.
- (4) Give instruction and training in and encourage home handicrafts.
- (5) Develop co-operative enterprise.
- (6) Give instruction in and study domestic and rural economics.
- (7) Receive and apply in and towards any of the above objects, and not otherwise, grants and other funds provided and sanctioned by the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales (hereinafter referred to as "the National Federation").
- (8) Buy on behalf of all or any of the members any commodity approved by the Committee, and distribute and allot the same either gratuitously or at cost.
- (9) Do such other things as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the purpose of the Institute.

III.—CONSTITUTION.

(a) A Women's Institute is an association of women formed in accordance with the form of Constitution and Rules laid down for Women's Institutes by the Annual Meeting of the National Federation.

(b) An Institute shall consist of not less than 25 members, or in the case of a very small village, at the discretion of the County Federation (constituted according to the Rules and Regulations laid down by the Annual Meeting of the National Federation, and hereinafter referred to as "the County Federation"), within whose area the Women's Institute is situated, of not less than 12 members, who shall pay the required subscription and sign a declaration to the following effect:—

I,wishing to become a member of the Women's Institute, in the County of..... promise to pay to the Treasurer of the Institute the sum of Two Shillings yearly while I continue a member. I also promise to keep the Rules and Bye-Laws of the Institute and all Rules and Regulations made for Women's Institutes by the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

(c) No Institute shall be formed in any Town or Village with a population of over 4,000 (unless it be a mining village of a rural

character) without the special sanction of the County Federation and the Executive Committee of the National Federation. No Institute shall be considered duly formed unless and until it has been visited by an Organiser appointed by the National Federation.

(d) No Institute shall dissolve, except at the express wish of the majority of the members, and without first apprising the County Federation of its intention to do so, so that a Special General Meeting of the whole Institute may be called which shall be attended by an Organiser appointed by the National Federation. In the event of an Institute deciding at such Special General Meeting to dissolve or suspend its activities, the balance of the funds remaining after the payment of all outstanding liabilities shall be handed over to the Committee of the County Federation, to be held by them until the Institute is revived, or for three years, whichever is the shorter period. If at the end of that time the Institute has not been revived, the funds shall be divided equally between the National Federation and the County Federation.

(e) No Institute, duly formed, shall lapse by reason only of the absorption, under any Extension of Boundaries scheme by a neighbouring authority, of the town or village in which the Institute has been formed

(f) No sectarian or party political matter nor any subject likely to lead to serious controversy or friction shall be brought forward for discussion at an Institute Meeting.

IV.—MEMBERSHIP.

(1) Membership of the Institute is open only to women and girls.

(2) A member must pay the required subscription and sign the declaration prescribed by the Constitution and Rules of the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

To become a member after the inaugural meeting, the intending members shall either (a) send in their names to the Secretary of the Institute together with the names of the proposer and seconder, who shall be members of the Institute—the Secretary to bring these names forward at the meeting of the Institute, when members shall ballot for them, a majority vote securing election, or (b) shall send in their applications to the Committee of the Institute, together with the names of the proposer and seconder, who shall be members of the Institute—the Committee to have power to accept or refuse such applications and to terminate membership. The Institute shall decide which course to adopt.

(3) A member whose membership is determined by death, resignation or by resolution of the Institute or, if the Institute so decide, by resolution of the Institute Committee, shall cease to have any of the rights or privileges attaching to membership.

V.—SUBSCRIPTION.

The Annual Subscription shall be Two Shillings to be paid by each member on joining the Institute and in January of each year thereafter. If the Institute so decide, members joining between June 30th and October 1st may pay only half subscription, the Institute being responsible for the full affiliation fee. Members joining after October 1st shall not pay again until the following January year, unless the Institute decide otherwise.

VI.—OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

The Officers of an Institute shall be:—The President, Vice-President or Vice-Presidents (up to three in number), Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer if these two offices are combined. No

person shall hold an official position in more than one Institute except at the discretion of the County Federation. At the Annual Meeting the Institute shall elect a Committee of not less than ten and not more than nineteen members, and from among these shall elect a President. In the case of Institutes having under thirty members the Committee need not consist of more than one-third of the membership. The Committee so chosen shall immediately from among themselves elect a Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer. The Vice-President or Vice-Presidents shall be elected from among the members of the Committee either by the Institute or by the Committee, according to the decision of the Institute. The Committee may co-opt two members in addition to its elected members provided that the total membership of the Committee does not exceed nineteen. All officers and members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

Committee meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Committee not less than six times in the year. At a meeting of the Committee six members shall form a quorum. The Committee shall conduct the business of the Institute, arrange the time and place of meetings, outline schemes of work and present the same to the members of the Institute for approval, and administer the funds of the Institute subject to the Institute's direction.

The Committee may, from among its members and from among the members of the Institute, appoint Sub-Committees for special purposes. The Chairman of each Sub-Committee shall report the proceedings of each meeting of the Sub-Committee to the Institute Committee.

VII.—ELECTION.

All elections shall be by ballot. No person shall be eligible for office or entitled to vote unless she has been regularly enrolled as a member and has paid her subscription for the current year.

Each member of the Institute, and each member of the Institute Committee shall be entitled to send in nominations for the Committee, up to the number of places to be filled.

Nominations shall be made at least a fortnight before the date fixed for the election. All candidates for election as members of the Committee shall themselves be members of the Institute.

Delegates for the General Meeting of the National Federation, Meetings of the County Federation Council and all other meetings to which the Institute may be invited to send representatives shall be elected by ballot if more than one nomination is received.

A substitute may be appointed should the elected delegate be unable to attend any meeting for which she is elected.

Expenses of delegates may be paid by the Institute they represent.

VIII.—MEETINGS.

(1) *Institute Meeting.*—Monthly meetings of an educational and social nature should be held on a regular day and at an hour and place decided upon by the members, but any Institute may omit one meeting a year at its discretion.

(2) *Annual Meeting.*—The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of November, December or January each year. Notice of the meeting and the Agenda shall be sent by the Secretary to each member of the Institute at least ten days in advance and shall contain the date, place and hour of the meeting. The retiring Committee shall present for adoption a report of the work of the year and also an audited statement of receipts and payments for the year. A copy of the report as adopted shall be sent to the Secretary of the County Federation.

(3) *A Special General Meeting* may be convened by the Secretary whenever directed to do so by the Committee, or at the written request of not less than one quarter of the members. Notice of the meeting and a note of the purpose for which it is called shall be sent by the Secretary to each member of the Institute at least ten days in advance.

and shall contain the date, place and hour of the meeting. The quorum for Special General Meetings (other than those referred to in Rule III (d)) shall be one-fifth of the members of the Institute.

IX.—AFFILIATION.

On signing these Rules the Institute shall be affiliated to the National Federation of Women's Institutes and to the County Federation of the County where the Institute is situated. After one year the Institute may, if it is desired, be transferred by the National Federation on the recommendation of the County Federations concerned to whichever County Federation is easiest of access, but such transference shall only be made in cases of exceptional difficulty. Cases of such transference shall be submitted yearly to the National Federation by the County Federations concerned for re-consideration.

Further the Institute shall agree to abide by the following conditions:—

Affiliation Fees.—The Institute shall pay such affiliation fees as may from time to time be determined by the General Meeting of the National Federation. Affiliation fees shall be paid annually on October 1st to the Treasurer of the County Federation concerned or, where no County Federation exists, direct to the Treasurer of the National Federation. The amount payable shall be calculated on the basis of the total number of members whose names are on the books of the Institute on that date. The affiliation fee until otherwise determined by the General Meeting of the National Federation shall be 6d. per member, one half of this fee to be forwarded by the County Federation to the National Federation.

Report.—The Institute shall furnish such statistical returns to the National Federation as and when the National Federation may require, and whenever required shall forward reports of meetings.

The Institute must first obtain the sanction of the Executive Committee of the National Federation before affiliating to the County or Central Headquarters of any organisation outside the National Federation.

X.—ALTERATION OF RULES.

No alteration to these Rules shall be made except at an Annual or Special General Meeting of the National Federation and no alteration shall be valid unless passed by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting. A Rule once passed shall not be open to alteration for three years unless a resolution to alter it is sent in for the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting by the National Federation Executive Committee, five County Federations or forty Institutes. A proposed alteration to Rules, if defeated at the Annual Meeting, shall not, unless it has secured a majority vote, be again brought forward for three years except by the National Federation Executive Committee, five County Federations or forty Institutes.

XI.—BYE-LAWS.

A Women's Institute may make Bye-Laws in addition to these Rules, but only at an Annual Meeting of the Institute or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose. The proposed Bye-Laws shall be sent to every member of the Institute together with the notice calling the meeting, and no addition shall be valid unless the same do not conflict with the Constitution and Rules of the National Federation or County Federation, or with this Constitution and Rules, and unless passed by a three-fourths majority of the members present and voting. Before being put into action, a Bye-Law must be submitted to the County and National Federations for approval.

Constitution and Rules

FOR

Women's Institute Centres.

1924-1925.

As Amended by the Annual General Meeting, May, 1924.

I.—NAME.

The name of the Institute Centre is "The..... Women's Institute Centre" (hereinafter referred to as "the Institute Centre").

II.—AIMS AND OBJECTS.

The main purpose of the Institute Centre is to improve and develop conditions of rural life.

For the purpose of securing and furthering the said object the Institute Centre shall have power to:—

- (1) Promote good feeling between town and country by acting as a centre for neighbouring Women's Institutes.
- (2) Provide a centre for educational and social intercourse and activities.
- (3) Stimulate interest in agricultural pursuits.
- (4) Give instruction and training in and study domestic science, hygiene and social welfare.
- (5) Give instruction and training in and encourage home handicrafts.
- (6) Develop co-operative enterprise.
- (7) Give instruction in and study domestic and rural economics.
- (8) Receive and apply in and towards any of the above objects, and not otherwise, grants and other funds provided and sanctioned by the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales (hereinafter referred to as "the National Federation").
- (9) Buy on behalf of all or any of the members any commodity approved by the Committee and distribute and allot the same either gratuitously or at cost.
- (10) Do such other things as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the purpose of the Institute Centre.

III.—CONSTITUTION.

(a) A Woman's Institute Centre is an association of women formed in accordance with the form of Constitution and Rules laid down for Women's Institute Centres by the Annual Meeting of the National Federation.

(b) An Institute Centre shall consist of not less than 25 members who shall pay the required subscription and sign a declaration to the following effect:—

I,wishing to become a member of the.....Women's Institute Centre, in the County of.....promise to pay to the

Treasurer of the Institute Centre the sum of Two Shillings yearly while I continue a member. I also promise to keep the Rules and Bye-Laws of the Institute Centre and all Rules and Regulations made for Women's Institute Centres by the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

(c) No Institute Centre shall be formed except with a view to benefiting neighbouring Women's Institutes. No Institute Centre shall be considered duly formed unless and until it has been visited by an organiser appointed by the National Federation.

(d) No Institute Centre shall dissolve, except at the express wish of the majority of the members, and without first apprising the County Federation of its intention to do so, so that a Special General Meeting of the whole Institute Centre may be called which shall be attended by an organiser appointed by the National Federation. In the event of an Institute Centre deciding at such Special General Meeting to dissolve or suspend its activities, the balance of any funds remaining after the payment of all outstanding liabilities shall be handed over to the Committee of the County Federation, to be held by them until the Institute Centre is revived, or for three years whichever is the shorter period. If at the end of that time the Institute Centre has not been revived, the funds shall be divided equally between the National Federation and the County Federation.

(e) No Institute Centre, duly formed, shall lapse by reason only of the absorption, under any Extension of Boundaries scheme by a neighbouring authority, of the town in which the Institute Centre has been formed.

(f) No sectarian or party political matter nor any subject likely to lead to serious controversy or friction shall be brought forward for discussion at an Institute Centre Meeting.

IV.—MEMBERSHIP.

(1) Membership of the Institute Centre is open only to women and girls.

(2) A member must pay the required subscription and sign the declaration prescribed by the Constitution and Rules of the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

To become a member after the inaugural meeting, the intending members shall either (a) send in their names to the Secretary of the Institute Centre together with the names of the proposer and seconder, who shall be members of the Institute Centre—the Secretary to bring these names forward at the meeting of the Institute Centre, when members shall ballot for them, a majority vote securing election, or (b) shall send in their applications to the Committee of the Institute Centre, together with the names of the proposer and seconder, who shall be members of the Institute Centre—the Committee to have power to accept or refuse such applications and to terminate membership. The Institute Centre shall decide which course to adopt.

(3) A member whose membership is determined by death, resignation or by resolution of the Institute Centre or, if the Institute Centre so decide, by resolution of the Institute Centre Committee, shall cease to have any of the rights or privileges attaching to membership.

V.—SUBSCRIPTION.

The Annual Subscription shall be 2/- to be paid by each member on joining the Institute Centre and in January of each year thereafter. If the Institute Centre so decide members joining between June 30th and October 1st may pay only half subscription, the Institute Centre being responsible for the full affiliation fee. Members joining after October 1st shall not pay again until the following January year, unless the Institute Centre decide otherwise.

VI.—OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

The Officers of an Institute Centre shall be:—The President, Vice-President or Vice-Presidents (up to three in number), Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer if these two offices are combined. No person shall hold an official position in more than one Institute except at the discretion of the County Federation. At the Annual Meeting the Institute Centre shall elect a Committee of not less than ten and not more than nineteen members, and from among these shall elect a President. In the case of Institute Centres having under thirty members the Committee need not consist of more than one-third of the membership. The Committee so chosen shall immediately from among themselves elect a Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer. The Vice-President or Vice-Presidents shall be elected from among the members of the Committee either by the Institute Centre or by the Committee, according to the decision of the Institute Centre. The Committee may co-opt two members in addition to its elected members provided that the total membership of the Committee does not exceed nineteen. The County Federation shall have the right to appoint two representatives to serve on the Committee in addition to the elected and co-opted members. All officers and members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.

Committee meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Committee not less than six times in the year. At a meeting of the Committee six members shall form a quorum. The Committee shall conduct the business of the Institute Centre, arrange the time and place of meetings, outline schemes of work and present the same to the members of the Institute Centre for approval, and administer the funds of the Institute Centre subject to the Institute Centre's direction.

The Committee may, from among its members and from among the members of the Institute Centre, appoint Sub-Committees for special purposes. The Chairman of each Sub-Committee shall report the proceedings of each meeting of the Sub-Committee to the Institute Centre Committee.

VII.—ELECTION.

All elections shall be by ballot. No person shall be eligible for office or entitled to vote unless she has been regularly enrolled as a member and has paid her subscription for the current year.

Each member of the Institute Centre and each member of the Institute Centre Committee shall be entitled to send in nominations for the Committee, up to the number of places to be filled.

Nominations shall be made at least a fortnight before the date fixed for the election. All candidates for election as members of the Committee shall themselves be members of the Institute Centre.

Delegates for the General Meeting of the National Federation, Meetings of the County Federation Council and all other meetings to which the Institute Centre may be invited to send representatives shall be elected by ballot if more than one nomination is received.

A substitute may be appointed should the elected delegate be unable to attend any meeting for which she is elected.

Expenses of delegates may be paid by the Institute Centre they represent.

VIII.—MEETINGS.

(1) *Institute Centre Meeting.*—Monthly meetings of an educational and social nature should be held on a regular day and at an hour and place decided upon by the members, but any Institute Centre may omit one meeting a year at its discretion.

(2) *Annual Meeting.*—The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of November, December or January each year. Notice of the meeting and the Agenda shall be sent by the Secretary to each member of the Institute Centre at least ten days in advance and shall contain the date, place and hour of the meeting. The retiring Committee shall present for adoption a report of the work of the year and also an audited statement of receipts and payments for the year. A copy of the report as adopted shall be sent to the Secretary of the County Federation.

(3) A *Special General Meeting* may be convened by the Secretary whenever directed to do so by the Committee, or at the written request of not less than one quarter of the members. Notice of the meeting and a note of the purpose for which it is called shall be sent by the Secretary to each member of the Institute Centre at least ten days in advance, and shall contain the date, place and hour of the meeting. The quorum for Special General Meetings (other than those referred to in Rule III (d)) shall be one-fifth of the members of the Institute Centre.

IX.—AFFILIATION.

On signing these Rules the Institute Centre shall be affiliated to the National Federation of Women's Institutes and to the County Federation of the County where the Institute Centre is situated. After one year the Institute Centre may, if it is desired, be transferred by the National Federation on the recommendation of the County Federations concerned to whichever County Federation is easiest of access, but such transference shall only be made in cases of exceptional difficulty. Cases of such transference shall be submitted yearly to the National Federation by the County Federations concerned for re-consideration.

Further, the Institute Centre shall agree to abide by the following conditions:—

Affiliation Fees.—The Institute Centre shall pay such affiliation fees as may from time to time be determined by the General Meeting of the National Federation. Affiliation fees shall be paid annually on October 1st to the Treasurer of the County Federation concerned or, where no County Federation exists, direct to the Treasurer of the National Federation. The amount payable shall be calculated on the basis of the total number of members whose names are on the books of the Institute Centre on that date. The affiliation fee until otherwise determined by the General Meeting of the National Federation shall be 6d. per member, one half of this fee to be forwarded by the County Federation to the National Federation.

Report.—The Institute Centre shall furnish such statistical returns to the National Federation as and when the National Federation may require, and whenever required shall forward reports of meetings.

The Institute Centre must first obtain the sanction of the Executive Committee of the National Federation before affiliating to the County or Central Headquarters of any organisation outside the National Federation.

X.—ALTERATIONS TO RULES.

No alteration to these Rules shall be made except at an Annual or Special General Meeting of the National Federation and no alteration shall be valid unless passed by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting. A Rule once passed shall not be open to altera-

tion for three years unless a resolution to alter it is sent in for the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting by the National Federation Executive Committee, five County Federations or forty Institutes. A proposed alteration to Rules, if defeated at the Annual Meeting, shall not, unless it has secured a majority vote, be again brought forward for three years except by the National Federation Executive Committee, five County Federations or forty Institutes.

XI.—BYE-LAWS.

An Institute Centre may make Bye-Laws in addition to these Rules, but only at an Annual Meeting of the Institute Centre or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose. The proposed Bye-Laws shall be sent to every member of the Institute Centre, together with the notice calling the meeting, and no addition shall be valid unless the same do not conflict with the Constitution and Rules of the National Federation or County Federation, or with this Constitution and Rules, and unless passed by a three-fourths majority of the members present and voting. Before being put into action, a Bye-Law must be submitted to the County and National Federations for approval.

Standing Orders of General Meeting,

1924—1925.

As passed by the Annual General Meeting, May, 1923

1. The chair shall be taken by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, unless the Committee decide otherwise.
2. The order of business shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee and include the following :—
 - (a) Appointment of Returning Officers and Tellers.
 - (b) Adoption of Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
 - (c) Appointment of Auditors.
 - (d) Correspondence.
 - (e) Motions and amendments that are in order according to the Rules and Standing Orders.
 - (f) Other Business.

3. Resolutions shall be sent to the Executive Committee at least one month before the date of the General Meeting, and must be moved by a Women's Institute, a County Federation, the Executive Committee of the National Federation as a whole, or an individual member of the Executive Committee. When an Institute moves a resolution, it is responsible for finding another Institute, a County Federation, or a Member of the National Federation Executive Committee to act as a seconder.

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for deciding which of these resolutions refer to subjects of general interest and national importance, and shall place such resolutions upon the Agenda. Resolutions supported by three County Federations must in all cases appear upon the Agenda. The Committee shall also be empowered to select from resolutions bearing on the same subject that offering in their opinion the best form for discussion, all the other resolutions, unless withdrawn, to appear on the Agenda as amendments or riders.

The Committee shall be responsible for putting into form resolutions which involve alterations in rules.

4. No business other than that upon the Agenda shall be taken unless urgency be voted by the General Meeting. An urgency motion must be clearly explained, and if the question is controversial, three-fourths of the meeting must agree before it can be discussed.

5. No motion or amendment shall be discussed or put to the Meeting until it shall have been seconded.

6. A member who speaks shall direct her speech strictly to the motion or amendment under discussion, or to an explanation or a question of order.

7. Not more than one amendment or resolution shall be discussed at any one time.

8. Any member may rise to a point of order, or a member may rise to explain, but such explanation shall be confined to some material part of her former speech which may have been misunderstood.

A member may rise to ask a question, but all questions must be strictly confined to a request for information and not include any statement or argument.

9. A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the mover and seconder with the unanimous consent of the meeting.

10. No amendment to a resolution affecting the constitution shall be moved at the General Meeting unless it has first appeared on the Agenda.

11. No member shall address the meeting more than once on any motion or amendment. The mover of an original motion may, however, reply last before the motion is put, after which no other member may speak on the question. The right of reply shall not extend to the mover of an amendment, but when it is carried and has become a substantive motion its mover then has the right of reply before it is put as such. In this case the mover of the original motion has lost the right of reply which has passed to the mover of the amendment replacing it; any member who has spoken to an amendment may speak again when it is put as a substantive resolution.

12. Any member may move, without debate, that the question be now put, and if the motion be seconded, and carried by a majority, the motion or amendment before the Meeting shall be at once put.

13. Any member may move the previous question, namely, that the Meeting do now proceed to the next business, and this motion shall be dealt with before any other. This motion can only be made when a substantive motion is before the meeting and cannot be moved upon an amendment.

14. On the General Business of the Meeting the members shall vote by a show of cards, and the Chairman shall declare the result. If a division be challenged the tellers shall count the delegates.

15. Visitors to the General Meeting may be invited to speak by the Chairman.

16. Members and Visitors shall be admitted to the General Meeting only on presentation of the official delegate's or visitor's ticket.

17. No person shall act as a delegate nor vote on behalf of more than one Institute or County Federation.

18. Any Institute unable to find a delegate amongst its own members may apply to its County Federation or to Headquarters for a proxy, who will vote according to the Institute's instructions.

19. A verbatim report of the proceedings shall be made, to which members of the Federation shall have access in the Headquarters Office.

VOLUNTARY COUNTY ORGANISERS.

- ANGLESEY** Mrs. K. M. Lewis, Bodafon Wynn, Llanerchymedd.
- BEDFORDSHIRE** Miss Campion, 52, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
Miss Dalton, Dean House, Dean, Kimbolton, Hunts.
Miss Fenwick, Tilsworth, Leighton Buzzard.
Miss Foster, The Shrubbery, Aspley Guise.
Mrs. Sennett, Stanbridge, Leighton Buzzard.
Miss F. Starey, Milton Ernest Hall, Bedford.
- BERKSHIRE** Miss Kekewich, Gray House, Wash Common, Newbury.
Mrs. Norman May, The White House, Sonning.
Mrs. G. H. Morrell, Streatley House, Reading.
Mrs. V. Rhodes, M.B.E., Ash Tree House, Wargrave.
Lady Rucker, Everington House, Newbury.
Mrs. Squire, Milton Hill, Steventon.
Mrs. Warner, Ipsden Vicarage, Oxon.
- BRECONSHIRE** Mrs. Berrington, Llyswen, Boughrood, Rads.
Miss B. Butler, Aberllynfr, Glasbury.
Mrs. Jayne, Glanenig, Talgarth, Breconshire.
Mrs. Rees Thomas, Lochaber, Builth Wells.
- BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** Mrs. Davies, The Long Croft, Wheeler End, West Wycombe.
Mrs. Slade, Mallards Court, Stokenchurch.
Mrs. Woodgate, Greenway, Bledlow Ridge, High Wycombe.
- CAMBRIDGESHIRE** Miss Briscoe, 4, Gresham Road, Cambridge.
Miss C. J. Gaskell, 26, Barton Road, Cambridge.
Mrs. Haslam, Howes Close, Cambridge.
Mrs. Jenyns, Bottisham Hall, Cambridge.
Mrs. Vinter, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire.
Miss Warrington, The Vicarage, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire.
Mrs. Stuart Whibley, Bunker's Hill, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.
- CARDIGANSHIRE** Mrs. Davies, Allt-y-Derew, Llangeitho.

- CARNARVON** Mrs. Drage, Parciau, Criccieth.
Mrs. Wm. George, Garth Celyn, Criccieth.
Miss Green, Bronwydd, Bangor.
Miss Pughe Jones, Ynysgain, Criccieth.
Mrs. H. Lewis, Meadow View, Trefiw.
Miss N. Lewis, Pedyffryn, Bangor.
Miss E. Thomas, Mynydd, Ednyfed, Criccieth.
- CHESHIRE** Miss P. Ainslie, Green Lane Cottage, Woodchurch, Birkenhead.
Mrs. Crowther, Wells St., Malpas, Cheshire.
Mrs. Peel, Fyfield, Willaston, Birkenhead.
- CORNWALL** Mrs. Hamilton, Kenwyn, Truro.
Mrs. le Grice, Trezeiffe, Penzance.
Mrs. Martin, Tregavethan, Truro.
Lady May, Tremcer, St. Tudy, Cornwall.
Mrs. Morris, Moon Crescent, St. Just, S.O.
Ingeborg Lady Molesworth St. Aubyn, Atlantic House, Newquay.
Mrs. Harcourt Williams, Penair, Truro.
Miss Whitburn, Restormel House, Falmouth.
- CUMBERLAND** Mrs. Court Brown, The White House, Scotby, Carlisle.
Miss Elliott, Lambley Bank, Scotby, Carlisle.
Miss E. Harvey, The Croft, Portinscale, Keswick.
Mrs. Mitton, The Rectory, Bowness-on-Solway.
Mrs. T. B. Nelson, Langwathby, Carlisle.
- DERBYSHIRE** Mrs. Brighthouse, Bole Hill, Wirksworth.
Mrs. Fisher, Walton Rectory, Burton-on-Trent.
Mrs. Fitzmaurice, Whitby House, Marple Bridge, Stockport.
Miss F. Simpson, Hazelbrow, Duffield.
Mrs. J. Smith, Baslow Vicarage, Bakewell.
Mrs. Timperley, Princes Road, Chinley, Stockport.
Miss Wilkie, Daisy Bank, Chinley, Stockport.
- DEVONSHIRE** Miss Boulton, Aveton Gifford Rectory, Kingsbridge.
Miss Dickinson, Great Brake, West Hill, Ottery St. Mary.
Miss Fulford, The Priory, Woodbury, Exeter.
Mrs. Jaffe, Poynings, Uffculme.

- Mrs. Patey, Stowford House, Ivybridge.
Mrs. Pinnock, North Grange, Northlew,
N. Devon.
Mrs. Yole, Kelly, Lifton, Devon.
- DORSETSHIRE**
Miss Bown, Dawlish House, Upwey.
Mrs. Druce, Gatton Cottage, West Lulworth.
Miss Gildea, Innellan, Rodwell, Weymouth.
Mrs. Gillingham, 30, West Allington, Bridport.
Mrs. Heenan, Burton Bradstock, Bridport.
Benita Lady Lees, Thorngrove, Gillingham.
Mrs. C. Martin, Heathfield, Broadstone.
Mrs. Mayo, Charminster, Dorchester.
Lady Pinney, Racedown, Crewkerne.
Mrs. Sturdy, Trigon, Wareham.
Mrs. Troyte-Bullock, Zeals House, Mere.
- DURHAM**
Mrs. Menzies, Front Street, Wolsingham.
Miss Willans, 8, Van Mildert Terrace,
Stockton-on-Tees.
- ESSEX**
Mrs. Atkins, Rayne Place, Rayne, Braintree.
Mrs. H. Bryer, Dalkeith, Shenfield.
Miss T. Buxton, Knightons, Buckhurst Hill.
Miss Dora Christy, Priors, Broomfield,
Chelmsford.
Miss A. M. Hicks, Runsell Green, Danbury,
Chelmsford.
Miss McLeod, Wickford Hall, Wickford.
Mrs. C. Parker, Malting Farm, Little
Hallingbury, Bishop Stortford.
Mrs. S. Round, Birch Hall, Colchester.
Mrs. Stockwell, Greystones, Colchester.
Miss Ward, Barnston Rectory, Dunmow.
- FLINT AND DENBIGH**
Miss R. Behrens, Vron Yw, Denbigh.
Miss Bovill, Rhydycreau, Bettws-y-Coed.
- GLAMORGAN**
Mrs. Reynolds, Highfield, Park Mill, S.O.
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE**
Miss E. O. Browne, Bournstream, Wotton-
under-Edge.
Miss J. Curtis Hayward, The Edge, Stroud.
Miss Miles, Kemble Lodge, Cirencester.
Mrs. Seeley, Boddington Manor, Chelten-
ham.
- HAMPSHIRE**
Miss H. Chamberlain, Bury House,
Odiham.
Mrs. R. Christy, Greyfriars, Ringwood.

- The Hon. Mrs. Dalgety, Lockerley Hall,
Romsey.
Miss Fowler, Odiham, Hants.
Mrs. Madocks, Old Basing House, Basing-
stoke.
Mrs. Perkins, Boldre Bridge House, Lym-
ington.
Lady Rosemary Portal, Kingsclere House,
Newbury.
Mrs. Steedman, Steventon Rectory, Basing-
stoke.
Mrs. Taylor, Whitedale, Hambledon, Hants.
Mrs. Wansbrough, Sth. Warnborough Rec-
tory, Basingstoke.
Lady Lionel Wells, Houghton Lodge, Stock-
bridge.
- HEREFORDSHIRE**
Mrs. Fox, Orchard Cottage, Fownhope.
Mrs. Russell, Crescent House, Hereford.
Mrs. Tinsley, Twyförd, Pembridge.
- HERTFORDSHIRE**
Miss Collingwood, Codicote, Welwyn, Herts.
Mrs. Martin, Hunsdon Mill House, Stanstead
Abbott, Ware.
Miss Pam, The Cottage, Kimpton, Welwyn.
Mrs. Turney, Mardley Bury Manor, Royston.
- HUNTINGDONSHIRE**
Mrs. Howard Coote, Castle Hill, Hunting-
don.
Mrs. Garrood, Alconbury Hill, Huntingdon.
Mrs. G. Herbert, Cherry Cottage, Heming-
ford Abbotts.
Mrs. Stuart Maples, Umgeni, Abbots Ripton,
Hunts.
Mrs. Theakston, Wensleydale, Huntingdon.
Miss Theakston, Wensleydale, Huntingdon.
Mrs. Yeatherd, Alconbury Weston, Hunting-
don.
- ISLE OF ELY**
Mrs. Bassom, Deepdene, Cambridge Rd., Ely.
Mrs. Tansley Luddington, Walton's Park,
Ashdon, Essex.
Mrs. Wm. Luddington, Egremont House,
Ely.
Mrs. McKelvie, Lynn Road, Ely.
- ISLE OF WIGHT**
Miss Jannings, Heather Cot, Cranmore,
Yarmouth, I. of W.
Mrs. Frank Pott, Woodlands Cottage,
Spring Vale, Ryde.
Miss I. Wood, Oak Villa, Brading, I. of W.

KENT (EAST)

Mrs. Barnard, Withersdane Hall, Wye.
 Miss Grimwade, Pee-tai-ho, St. Margaret's
 Bay, Dover.
 Mrs. Jenkin, Stowting Court, Ashford.
 Mrs. Lambert, Sheep's Close, Shepherdswell.
 Miss Watson, Watersend, Temple Ewell,
 Dover.

KENT (WEST)

Miss Adam, Malling Place, West Malling.
 Mrs. Baker, Thong House, Gravesend.
 Miss Cholmeley, St. Vincent's, Addington,
 W. Malling.
 Miss D. Evans, The Cottage, Iron Mill Lane,
 Crayford.
 Mrs. Golding, 21, High Street, Swanley.
 Miss Locke, 47, Wellington Square,
 Hastings, Sussex.
 Mrs. Heron Maxwell, Great Comp, Borough
 Green.
 Mrs. Skilbeck, The Quarry, Brasted, Seven-
 oaks.
 Mrs. G. Streatfeild, J.P., Cottage-on-the-Hill,
 Westerham.
 Mrs. E. S. Teed, Cranbourne, Cherry
 Orchard Road, Bromley Common.
 Miss Viner, Stubblesdown, West Malling.
 Miss C. Winch, Baker's Cross, Cranbrook.

LANCASHIRE

Mrs. Assheton, Downham Hall, Clitheroe,
 Lancs.
 Miss Brennand, 2, Fairlawn Road, Lytham.
 Mrs. Christie, Ribby Hall, Kirkham, Lancs.
 Mrs. Dickson, Claughton House, Claughton,
 Garstang.
 Mrs. Eccles, Sykes Holt, Blackburn.
 Miss E. Greenwood, Worston House,
 Clitheroe.
 Mrs. Grierson, Milestone Cottage, Longton,
 Preston.
 Miss Kemp, Tower House, Avenham Park,
 Preston.
 Mrs. Orr, Barton Grange, Preston.
 Miss Rome, Melling, Carnforth.
 Mrs. Worsley Taylor, Townhead, Pendleton,
 Clitheroe.

**LEICESTERSHIRE
AND RUTLAND**

Mrs. Bland, Bringhurst, Market Har-
 borough.
 Mrs. Coward, Littleham, Groby Road,
 Leicester.

Miss Drummond, The Cross, Hallaton,
 Market Harborough.

Miss V. D. Ellis, The Gynsills, Groby Road,
 Leicester.

Mrs. B. Everard, Bardon Hill House,
 Leicester.

Mrs. Freeman, Valley Farm, Higham-on-the-
 Hill, Leicester.

Miss Hamilton, 1, St. Martin's, Leicester.

Mrs. Hobart, Mowsley Sanatorium, Rugby.

Mrs. Hutton, Barrowden, Stamford,
 Leicester.

Miss C. M. Morris, Twycross, Atherstone.

Mrs. Munro, The Homestead, Thrussington,
 Leicester.

Miss Taylor, Brian's Close, Laughton,
 Rugby.

Miss M. B. Willson, Kibworth Beauchamp,
 Leicester.

Mrs. Winckley, Houghton Rectory, Leicester.

LINDSEY (Lincs.)

Mrs. Deighton, 24, Mount Street, Lincoln.

Miss Hall, The Limes, James Street, Louth.

Mrs. Herbert, Broughton Rectory, Brigg.

Mrs. Huxtable, Caistor Rd., Market Rasen.

Mrs. Spilman, Broughton Vale, Brigg.

Miss E. Spilman, 10, Holly Terrace, High-
 gate, N.6.

Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., 30, St. Thomas's
 Mansions, S.W.1.

KESTEVEN (Lincs.)

Mrs. C. Greenall, The Manor, Carlton
 Scroop, Grantham.

Miss E. Need, Welbourn, Lincoln.

Mrs. Ramsey, Heighington, Lincoln.

Miss Watkins, 94a, Oxford Gardens, Notting-
 Hill, W.10.

MERIONETH

Mrs. Hughes, Plas-y-craig, Penrhyn-
 deudraeth.

Mrs. Llewelyn Owen, Llys Llewelyn, Bar-
 mouth, Merioneth.

Mrs. Patterson, Llanbedr, Merioneth.

MIDDLESEX

Miss Belletti, Selwood Lodge, Stanwell.

Miss Kuhner, Avenue House, W. Drayton.

Miss F. Rankin, Westfield Corner, Hatch
 End.

MONTGOMERY

Mrs. Adams, Tybrith, Carno, Mont.

MONMOUTHSHIRE Miss Berrington, Holly Hurst, Weston Rd., Abergavenny.
Miss Jackson, at The Chain, Abergavenny.
Miss Penton, Belgrave House, Abergavenny.

NORFOLK Miss Burgess, 3, Davey Place, Norwich.
Mrs. Burton Fanning, 90, Newmarket Road, Norwich.
Mrs. Mordaunt Edwards, Barfold Old Hall, Wymondham.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Mrs. Barker, Moulton Lodge, Northampton.
Miss Bouverie, Delapre Abbey, Northampton.
Mrs. Brown, Sulgrave, Banbury.
Mrs. Gawthropp, Quinton Manor, Northampton.
Lady Knightley, Fawsley, Daventry.
Miss Parkhurst, Buckingham House, Brackley.
Mrs Steward, Whitehall Farm, Brigstock, Thrapston.

NORTHUMBERLAND Miss Craster, South Farm, Craster.
Mrs. Baker Cresswell, Hauxley Hall, Amble.
Countess Grey, Howick, Lothbury, Northumberland.
Miss Middleton, Belsay Castle, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Mrs. N. Newall, Low Warden, Hexham.
Mrs. Pumphrey, Hindley House, Stocksfield.
Mrs. Scott, Newton House, Lesbury, S.O.
Mrs. C. Thorp, Belvedere, Alnwick.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Miss Blagg, Redlands, Burton Joyce.
Miss Fox, East Bridgford Hall, East Bridgford.
The Hon. Mrs. Handford, Elmfield, Southwell.
Miss B. Marriott, 4, Larkdale Street, Nottingham.
Mrs Merryweather, The Gables, Southwell.
Miss Minkley, The Fields, Hoveringham.

OXFORDSHIRE The Hon. Miss Corbet, Spelsbury, Charlbury.
Mrs. Cranswick, 1, Broad Street, Oxford.
Miss Deneke, Barnett House, Oxford.
Miss Dillon, Spelsbury, Charlbury.
Miss Drummond, 11, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford.
Miss Hadow, Barnett House, Oxford.
Miss Henman, Kaybourne House, Islip.

Mrs. Hiley, Danesfield, Boars Hill, Oxford.
Mrs. Hobbs, Bradshaws, Lechlade, Glos.
Mrs. Kettlewell, Westhall Hill, Burford, Oxon.
Miss C. Paget, Cassington Vicarage, Eynsham.

PEMBROKE Miss Bowen Jones, Marine Villa, St. Dogmael's.
Miss Lewis, Henllan, Narberth.
Mrs. Middleton, The Lodge, Clarboston Rd., R. S. O.

RADNOR Mrs. Lewis, Evancoyd, Walton, Radnor.
Mrs. Evan Thomas, Caerwnon, Builth Wells.

SHROPSHIRE Lady Berwick, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.
Miss O. Bruce, Prior's Halton, Ludlow.
Mrs. Chesterton, The Vicarage, Chirbury, Salop.
Mrs. Goodall, Bibury, Woore, Crewe.
Miss V. King, Ford House, Ford, Salop.
Miss Peers, Kenneth House, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.
Miss J. Russell, Sauchieleigh, Albrighton, Wolverhampton.
Miss Sykes, Longfield, Market Drayton.

SOMERSETSHIRE Miss Anderdon, Henlade House, Taunton.
Mrs. Cox, The Crossways, Tellisford, Bath.
Mrs. Golledge, Saltford, Bristol.
Mrs. Hancock, The Manor House, Cothelstone, Taunton.
Mrs. Lechmere, Shawford House, Beckington, Bath.
Miss D. Lowe, Hinton St. George, Crewekerne.
Miss Peck, Ferndale, Porlock.
Mrs. Sykes, Wadbury, Frome.
Miss Vernon, Alcombe, Minehead, Somerset.
Mrs. Weaver, Rashwood, Mells, Frome.
Miss Woodforde, Castle Carey, Somerset.

STAFFORDSHIRE Mrs. Derington Turner, Oulton House, Newport, Salop.
Miss Keeling, Riversfield, Rocester, Staffs.
Miss Holland, Holland House, Barton-under-Needwood.
Miss M. Scarratt, Belmont Hall, Ipstones, Stoke-on-Trent.
Mrs. Stokes, Knowlehurst, Lichfield.

Miss Wardle, Mayfield Hall, Ashbourne.
Miss Shaw Hellier, The Wombourne Wode House, Wolverhampton.

SUFFOLK (East)

Miss Aldrich, Blythmore, Claydon, Ipswich.
Miss Bernard, Copdock, Ipswich.
Mrs. Dorman, Wood Farm, Grundisburgh.
Miss Martin, Hemingstone Hall, Coddenham.
Miss R. Smith, Wetheringsett Rectory, Stowmarket.

SUFFOLK (West)

Miss Bryan, Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex.
Miss Dunlop, Coney Weston Hall, Bury St. Edmunds.
Mrs. Hitchcock, The Mill House, Bures St. Mary, Suffolk.
Mrs. Martineau, Walsham le Willows, Suffolk.

SURREY

Miss Fry, Grovefield, Frimley.
Miss S. Drew, Blatchfold, Chilworth.
Mrs. du Buisson, Snower Hill, Betchworth.
The Hon. F. M. Farrer, Abinger Hall, Dorking.
Miss Sutherland, 112, High Street, Guildford.
Mrs. Trotter, The Manor House, Burstow, Horley.

SUSSEX (East)

Mrs. Weir, Bell House, Merstham.
Mrs. Huddart, Wood Knoll, Haywards Heath.
Miss Margesson, Floretta, Haywards Heath.
Lady Julian Parr, The Gravel Pit, Ticehurst.

SUSSEX (West)

The Hon. Mrs. Colvin, Shermanbury Grange, Henfield.
Miss Cremer, Shermanbury Rectory, Henfield.
Miss Farwell, Bury House, Bury, Pulborough.
Mrs. Hodgson, Barnfield, Cowfold.
Miss H. Liddle, King's Cottage, Mare Hill, Pulborough.
Miss Marshall, Corner House, Steyning.
Miss Nash, 11, West Street, Chichester.

WARWICKSHIRE

Miss Aglionby, Newbold Pacey Vicarage, Warwick.
Mrs. Barnett, Bilton Hall, Rugby.
Lady Bird, The White House, Solihull.
Mrs. Bland, Green Hill, Harbury Station.

Mrs. Blyth, Cawston House, Rugby.
Mrs. Burrige, Lindisfarn, Warwick New Road, Leamington.
Miss Docker, Alveston Leys, Stratford-on-Avon.

Mrs. Hopkins, Rising Sun House, Knowle.
Mrs. Howard, Barford, Warwickshire.
Lady Ilkeston, 23, High Street, Warwick.
Mrs. Lister Kaye, Manor House, Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Rugby.

Miss Lindsell, Dunchurch, Rugby.
Miss Roche, Crow's Nest, Daventry.
Mrs. Rotherham, The New Lodge, Ashorne Hill, Leamington.

WESTMORELAND

Miss Anson, Windy Brow, Kendal.
Miss Crane, Elmhurst, Arnside.
Miss Elmslie, Elterwater, Ambleside.
Mrs. Groves, Holehird, Windermere.
Miss Punchard, Kearstwick, Kirkby Lonsdale.

WILTSHIRE

Miss M. L. Gauntlett, Brunton House, Colingbourne Kingston.
Mrs. Hony, Cleeve House, Seend, Melksham.
Miss Impey, Sheldon Manor, Chippenham.
Miss Robinson, Redlynch, Tilmore, Petersfield.

Mrs. Marriage, Heronslade, Warminster.
Miss Eyre Matcham, Newhouse, Redlynch, Salisbury.

Mrs. Stratton, Kingston Deverill, Bath.
Miss Tennant, The Nutshell, Corsham.
Mrs. Harding Tyler, Ashton House, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Mrs. Bright, Upper Sapey Rectory, Clifton-on-Teme, Worcester.
Miss Gibbons, The Pleck, Hartlebury.
Miss Hingley, Middle Hill Park, Broadway.
Mrs. Hooper, The Croft, Pershore.
Mrs. Newton Jones, Bradley House, Redditch.
Miss Ogilvy, Bishop's House, Worcester.
Miss Wallace, Eardiston, Tenbury.

YORKSHIRE

Miss Slessor, Saintbury Rectory, Broadway.
Mrs. Adams, Rillington, Yorks.
Mrs. Burnett, Settrington Rectory, Malton.
Miss Dent, Ribston Hall, Wetherby.
Mrs. Drew, The Vicarage, Sutton-on-Forest.
Mrs. Hey, 3, Princess Terrace, Ripon.
Mrs. Sullivan, Highthorne, Huntington Yorks.

EXTRACTS FROM
REPORTS FROM COUNTY FEDERATIONS
AND PROPAGANDA SUB-COMMITTEES,

WITH
Names and Addresses of Chairmen and Secretaries.

(Number of Affiliated Institutes in each County shown in brackets).

ANGLESEY (11).

President: Mrs. Prichard, Llwydiarth Esgob, Llanerchymedd, Anglesey.

Secretary: Mrs. K. M. Lewis, Bodafon Wynn, Llanerchymedd, Anglesey.

Organisation.—The Institutes are, on the whole, running well, but no new ones have been formed, although one which had lapsed has been revived. The V.C.O. has visited nearly every Institute during the year, and has persevered with propaganda work.

Classes have been held in many subjects, of which the most popular are plain needlework, knitting, glove-making, upholstery, leather work, wool rug-making, paper hats and flowers.

Demonstrations have been given in cookery, butter and cheese-making, poultry killing and trussing, and in ambulance work.

Lectures on vegetable growing, dairy work, clean milk production and poultry keeping have been much appreciated.

Other Activities.—No Institute has as yet concentrated on any particular handicraft. Some W.I.s have monthly social evenings and dances; many concerts, exhibitions and sales of work have been organised for Institute funds, a small W.I. co-operating, in many cases, with a larger one in the neighbourhood.

BEDFORDSHIRE (34).

Chairman: Mrs. Whitchurch, Great Barford House, Bedford.

Secretary: Miss Foster, The Shrubbery, Aspley Guise.

Organisation.—Four new Institutes have been formed during the year. Of the older W.I.s, 10 report an increase in numbers, 7 remain the same, and 12 have diminished. The total number of members is 1,905. A tour was arranged for Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser.

Exhibition.—The Third County Exhibition was held in the Bedford Corn Exchange in October, when 1,140 exhibits were on view for two days, and drew a large number of visitors. Excellent work was shown in rugs, upholstery, knitting and crochet, and dressed dolls, while the dairy produce and preserves reached a

high level. The Challenge Cup for the Institute gaining most prizes was won by Old Warden for the third time. On the second day competitions in acting, singing and dancing, were held in the Town Hall before large audiences. There was a balance of £41 when expenses had been paid.

Guild of Learners.—A School for the Guild of Learners at Bedford, in May, where glove-making, embroidery and household jobbery were taught, attracted many students from this and the neighbouring counties.

Lecture Tours have been arranged by the County on poultry-keeping, folk dancing and singing, and for Miss Watkins with her many interesting subjects. A great variety of other subjects have found places in the programmes.

Classes for singing and folk dancing have been held, and also for basket-making and chair-caning, rug and glove-making.

Other Institute Activities.—Several Institutes are working hard to get their own premises, in the shape of a hut or a village hall; others have already accomplished this end. Much money has been raised by fetes, entertainments and whist drives for a variety of local objects, including the County Hospital and the Association for the Blind, as well as for our own funds. An Infant Welfare Centre has been started by one Institute, and a Nursing Club by another, besides much help given to village nurses already at work. Substantial improvement in the local Parcel Post Service has been obtained by an Institute's resolution forwarded to the Postmaster-General.

BERKSHIRE (63).

Chairman: Lady Rucker, Everington House, Newbury.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Warner, Ipsden Vicarage, Wallingford.

Progress of the Movement.—Good progress has been made during 1923, five new Institutes having been formed. Mrs. May, whose resignation of the County Secretaryship was the subject of so much regret, kindly consented to act as Hon. Treasurer, and the very satisfactory state of the finances is largely due to her splendid organisation and untiring work.

The Group System is working successfully, and is doing much to keep the Federation in touch with out-lying Institutes. It is proving a valuable training ground for workers, and the loyalty with which the new rules, drawn up in consultation with delegates from the whole County, are being observed is a proof of the happy spirit of co-operation which has helped the Executive so much.

The Sub-Committees have done invaluable work. The *Exhibition* Sub-Committee arranged the annual exhibition in Reading on June 7th, as a result of which over £80 was handed to the Federation. The officers, Mrs. Haig (Chairman) and Miss Edith Hamilton (Hon. Sec.), rendered indefatigable services.

The *County Library* Sub-Committee is to be congratulated on the success of its efforts to induce the County Council to adopt the Libraries Act and apply for the Carnegie Grant of Books and Equipment. It is hoped that boxes of books will soon be available from this source. The Committee has circulated 764 volumes during the year.

The *Industries* Sub-Committee has arranged County Tests for demonstrators, and members of this Committee visit Institutes free of charge, inspect handicraft work, and give advice if required. Arrangements have been made with Miss Skrimshire for the sale of any work from W. I. Members which reaches the trade standard. A depot has been opened in Reading for the storage of any materials for handicraft work which Institutes may wish to purchase wholesale.

The *Agricultural and Horticultural* Sub-Committee has been instrumental in arranging lectures on clean milk production, horticulture, poultry keeping, bee keeping and fruit preservation, and has had some success with the distribution of sittings of eggs at reduced rates, under the scheme arranged by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Organisation.—The Organisation Sub-Committee has striven to raise the standard of efficiency in W.I. organisation, and has arranged two courses of instruction for officers. The first was conducted by Mrs. Watt, who held a two-days school in Reading and then visited each group in turn, spending a fortnight in the County. Her suggestion of a Golden Thread Programme was received with enthusiasm, and tangible results are expected in 1924. The second course was held at four different centres, and was attended by 186 officers. Addresses were given by members of the Executive on the responsibilities of Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Committee Members.

The plan adopted last year of offering a free visit from a member of the Executive Committee to every W.I., met with success, most of the Institutes in the county availing themselves of the offer.

A useful inter-county Conference, held in Reading on March 16th, was attended by delegates from Berks, Bucks and Hants, and Lady Grey represented the N.F.W.I.

A Committee and Rest Room is now open in Reading on two days in each week, where members can get tea and meet the Secretary or a member of the Executive.

Finance.—Donations from W.I.s to the County Federation amounted to £157 17s. 5d., affiliation fees to £115 8s. 9d. Of this, £57 14s. 6d. was sent to the N.F.W.I. for affiliation fees, and £62 10s. 0d. as a grant from the County. Thanks to the generous support of the W.I.s the county Federation is again able to report that it is entirely self-supporting, and has made no application for any part of the Government grant.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (54).

Chairman: The Lady Susan Trueman, J.P., O.B.E., White Hill House, Chesham.

Secretary: Mrs. Woodgate, Bledlow Ridge, High Wycombe.

Organisation.—Ten new Institutes have been formed during 1923, making a total of fifty-four in the county.

Group Conferences have been held by an N.F.W.I. Organiser, and were very well attended, W.I. members showing much more appreciation of these meetings than hitherto.

Exhibitions.—Three Group Exhibitions have been held, and on the whole the work shown was excellent, especially the fine needlework, rugs, soft toys, and baskets. The "New out of Old" stalls were really wonderful, great ingenuity being shown in the exhibits; one member, for example, made a strong door mat out of bits of binder twine, which are generally considered useless.

W.I. Activities.—Classes have been held in dress making, sick nursing, cane and raffia baskets, rug making, leather work, glove making and embroidery.

Several Institutes have contributed to local charities, and helped in village undertakings, such as the raising of a District Nurse's Fund.

Many Village Halls have been and are being put up, and in almost every case the Institutes have contributed towards their cost. Bledlow Ridge W.I. gave £20 towards the instalment in the hall of acetylene gas; and Stokenchurch W.I. has, by means of organising entertainments of various kinds, paid off the debt on their hall. This W.I. also gave a sumptuous tea to all the old-age pensioners in the village.

Handicrafts.—A Handicraft Sub-Committee has been formed. The County Federation has undertaken to pay each year the expenses of one pupil attending one of the Guild of Learners' Classes.

Furcraft and glove making, basket making and fine needlework are amongst the most popular crafts. An attempt to revive lace-making does not meet with much success, but one W.I. has a class of workers.

Demonstrations have been given in cane and raffia basket making, glove and soft toy making, and also in Cookery.

Lectures and Demonstrations.—The County Education Secretary has lectured to Institutes on poetry and other subjects; other lectures have been given on health, geology, astronomy, national savings, local government, travel, and "Life in Other Countries"; this last is a most popular subject, especially when the lecturer can give little details about ordinary home life in the colonies and foreign countries.

County Council Aid.—The County Council and Education Committee give most valuable help to the W.I.s by arranging classes in dress-making and cookery, and giving single lectures on such subjects as poultry keeping, dairy work, and gardening, including pruning and the destruction of various garden pests.

In every village where there is a Local Higher Education Committee and a W.I., a member of the latter serves on the Committee as the representative of her Institute.

The Year's Work in the County has been most encouraging, not only in the increase of W.I.s, but in the much greater interest taken by the W.I. members in the County work. There is a larger attendance at County meetings, more resolutions of a practical nature are sent in, and members really take part in the discussions and show more and more that they feel themselves part of a great and beneficial movement.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE (44).

President and Chairman: Mrs. Jenyns, Bottisham Hall, Cambridge.

Secretary: Miss Warrington, Waterbeach Vicarage, Cambridge.

Organisation.—Eighteen new Institutes have been formed during 1923; these are largely due to Miss Nightingale's excellent work during the early spring.

The Sub-Committees appointed during 1922, and re-appointed this year, have been doing good work.

Horticulture.—A very successful exhibit was arranged at the Cambridgeshire Horticultural Society's Show, when a Challenge Shield was offered by the Society for the best exhibit of flowers, fruit and vegetables, staged on a given space, by an Institute. Bulbs have been bought co-operatively, and a Bulb Show arranged for March next.

Homecraft.—A second room in the same building as the Institute Office has been hired as a shop for the sale of Institute members' work, and an exhibition arranged in connection with the Bulb Show.

Music.—A talk by Mr. Leslie at a Federation Council Meeting on "Music in our Institutes," followed by a one-day School for Institute members, is being followed up by plans for further development during 1924.

County Council Help.—The Federation is now working in close touch with the Principal of Further Education and the Horticultural Adviser to the County Council, and is benefiting greatly by their co-operation.

Community Work.—The older Institutes are beginning to stand for Community work in their villages, and the Federation has played its part in sending resolutions to the County Council for social development and protection.

This has been a year of rapid growth, but we hope that our strength is well maintained.

CARDIGANSHIRE (24).

President and Chairman: The Countess of Lisburne, Crosswood, Cardiganshire.

Secretary: Mrs. Stapledon, Y Glyn, Llanfarian, Aberystwyth.

Organisation.—There are now 24 Institutes in the County, 6 having been formed this year, all of which seem to have made a promising start.

A new V.C.O., Mrs. K. P. Davies, of Llangeitho, has been recently appointed. The former V.C.O., Miss Longcroft, O.B.E., who did so much work in starting the Institute movement in the County, has resigned.

Two Council Meetings were held, one in March and one in November; the new Executive Committee was elected in March, the officers being re-elected and the Committee very much strengthened.

Handicrafts.—The first Handicraft Exhibition was held in Aberystwyth in July, and was a great success; the standard of work shown was on the whole very high. There were prizes awarded in 36 classes, and the President presented a Banner to the Institute which gained the largest number of prizes, this being awarded to Rhydypennan, with a total of 19.

Finance.—The finances of the County show a fair balance in hand; £10 has been granted towards travelling expenses of Institute members attending the Handicrafts School in London, and three members are going up for training.

Institute Activities.—From reports received from the Institutes the greater number seem to be doing good work. There is a decided tendency to concentrate on classes of handicrafts, and on the social side, rather than on lectures and the literary side, though efforts are now being made to create more interest in music and lectures.

On the whole the Women's Institutes have made good progress, but there are a few very weak ones. These are in very remote districts, with only a few members. The Group System is growing and should do much to strengthen the weaker Institutes, and it is hoped this next summer to organise W.I. stalls at the local Agricultural Shows, and thus give the countryside an opportunity of seeing what good work the Institutes are doing.

CARMARTHENSHIRE PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE (4).

Chairman : Mrs. Jones, The Vicarage, Whitland.

Secretary : Miss Muriel Roderick, Ferryside.

Organisation.—The Women's Institute Movement is progressing slowly but surely in Carmarthenshire. Four Institutes have now signed the rules, with a total membership of 170.

Classes have been held in cookery, basket making, home nursing, choral singing, slipper and glove making, needlework, fancy work and raffia work.

Other W.I. Activities.—Ferryside and Whitland Institutes are working to build their own huts. Ferryside W.I. has placed eight public seats in the neighbourhood of the village, and helped the Lifeboat Fund and Y.M.C.A. This Institute also has a promising Choral Society, and has raised £19 towards buying a new piano.

Whitland Institute has organised a social and fete with a view to getting a W.I. Room.

The Propaganda Committee reports that it is hoped to form two new Institutes in the spring, and that although Carmarthenshire was the last County to join the Women's Institute movement, it intends, with a little encouragement, to make up for lost time.

CARNARVON (29).

Chairman : Mrs. Drage, Parciau, Criccieth.

Secretary : Miss N. Lewis, Pendrffryn, Bangor.

Organisation.—During the year three new Institutes have been formed, and one Institute has been revived.

The difficulty of bringing together Institutes in a mountainous County has largely been met by the Group System, which has proved successful in three cases out of four.

Wholehearted support was given by the Federation to the Memorial from the Women of Wales to the Women of America, and much of the work for the Memorial was done by Institute members.

Handicrafts.—A fourth Sub-Committee, to deal with Handicrafts, has been formed during the year. The increased interest taken in various crafts by almost every Institute has been most encouraging, and some excellent work was shown at the County Fete in June. The chief danger in this branch of our Institute activities, lies in the temptation to play at many crafts, and become expert in none.

Two members attended N.F.W.I. Craft Schools, and are taking classes.

Libraries.—Institutes are taking advantage of the Carnegie Library Scheme, in operation in the County.

Institute Activities.—Practically every Institute has a picnic or motor run in the summer, and many Institutes arrange a Christmas Tree and party for children in the winter.

Classes have been held in every Institute, the most popular crafts being upholstery and rug making; others which have been taught are leather work, glove making, raffia work, decorative stitchery and basketry. Other classes were for dressmaking, plain sewing and cutting garments out of old clothes, whilst the demand for cookery classes has been greater than could be supplied.

As there are at least two or three literary societies in every village, it can be understood that the offer of lectures to Institutes is not often taken advantage of.

Carnarvon Centre has bought a house for the purposes of W.I. work. The Centre gives financial help to the weaker Institutes in this Group, and has undertaken the largest share in the work of organising the County Fetes for the last three years.

Other interesting Institute activities include the organisation of Annual Horticultural Shows and Spring Exhibitions. One Institute bought dress materials co-operatively as a preliminary to classes in cutting out and dressmaking. Another has a monthly sale table which materially helps the funds; this Institute has paid £61 into the National Savings Association.

A noticeable feature of the programmes is the amount of community work which has been carried out. By means of Fetes, Concerts or Sales, Institutes have raised money for a Memorial Hall, (£124 by one W.I.); the village nurse and Infirmary (£68 by one W.I., £82 by another); a Charity Fund (three W.I.s); and Earl Haig's Fund (one W.I.). One Institute paid for the school children to attend a Missionary Exhibition, some distance away.

CHESHIRE (28).

President : The Countess of Stamford, Dunham Massey Hall, Altrincham.

Secretary : Mrs. Crowther, Malpas, Cheshire.

Organisation.—During the year five new Institutes have been formed, and the one which had lapsed has been revived. There are two V.C.O.s in the County.

Two Council Meetings have been held. At the Annual Meeting Miss Christy spoke on Handicrafts, and the address given by Mrs. Nugent Harris at the Half-yearly Council was very helpful. The County Federation has become an Associate member of the League of Nations Union. Throughout the County there is an increased interest in the movement, of which the members are realising more fully the aims and scope.

Handicrafts.—There is a growing interest in Handicrafts. An Exhibition Stand of W.I. work has been arranged at four Agricultural Shows in the County. There are now three teachers holding the Guild of Learners' Certificates.

County Council Classes in sick nursing, poultry keeping and horticulture have been much appreciated.

Lectures.—The Institutes have had lectures on the League of Nations, Citizenship, and National Savings, and some have formed branches of the National Savings Association.

Other Activities.—One W.I. has supplied the whole of one monthly meeting programme to four other Institutes. Several Institutes are raising funds for their own huts, and two are buying pianos. One has made a gift of Lino to the Village Hall; others have raised funds for the District Nurse and for the Children's Christmas Tree. Cocoa has been supplied to school children, and eggs collected for Cottage Hospitals.

CORNWALL (48).

President: Ingeborg Lady Molesworth St. Aubyn, Atlantic House, Newquay.

Chairman: Mrs. Harcourt Williams, "Penair," Truro.

Secretary: Mrs. E. Bickell, 16, Green Bank, Falmouth.

Organisation.—Five new W.I.s have been formed since last year, bringing the total up to 48.

The visit of Miss Nightingale, Organiser from Headquarters, was much appreciated by all, and especially at the School for Officers, held at the Truro W.I. Centre. Difficult points were discussed, on which Miss Nightingale gave very valuable help and advice.

A new scheme of Area Representation was brought forward at the Council Meeting in October last, and unanimously passed. By this scheme we hope to bring outlying W.I.s into closer touch with the County Federation, and also with each other.

Four Sub-Committees have been formed, Organisation and Finance (combined), Handicraft, Musical and Agricultural and Horticultural. The work of these Committees considerably lessens the details to be dealt with by the Executive Committee.

Handicrafts have become a very important section of W.I. work, a great variety of crafts being taken up by the various W.I.s, including glove making, basketry, rug making, household jobbery, upholstery, chair caning, etc. The nature and quality of the work done gradually reaches a good standard, and creates friendly rivalry between the W.I.s of the County. At the Ideal Home Exhibition, held at Truro in November last, the W.I. stall

was a great attraction and, in addition to the pleasure the stall gave to members and visitors, much valuable propaganda work was done.

We have now a list of Demonstrators published in the County W.I. paper, with such a variety of crafts to be demonstrated that almost every W.I. need is covered.

Lectures.—In addition to the list of demonstrators, there is a long list of lecturers on various subjects, including health, literature and art, citizenship, history, astronomy, League of Nations, etc. From the County Council we have the valuable services of lecturers on poultry, agriculture and horticulture; of Miss Nicholas, the County expert on dairy work; of Miss Rodd, who gives dressmaking classes, and Miss Trant for cookery classes.

Social Activities are also very flourishing; choral and folk dancing classes, whist drives and concerts, have been held, the two last being very good methods of contributing to the funds of the W.I. movement.

Many of our W.I.s now possess fair sized libraries of their own which are much appreciated by the members.

Other activities include the collection and dispatching of literature in connection with the Red Cross Society, and collections and sales in aid of the blind soldiers.

From every part of the County there is evidence that not only W.I. members, but also the general public, are learning what a power for good the Institutes may be. Members are realising more and more the Sisterhood of the movement in the fullest sense of the word.

CUMBERLAND (51).

Chairman: Mrs. Selby Chance, Crofton Hall, Wigton.

Secretary: Miss G. Anson, Government Buildings, Carlisle.

Organisation.—Another year of steady progress and development is reported, 11 new Institutes having been formed.

Institutes are experiencing the benefits of grouping in their increased opportunities for obtaining lectures. Conferences have been organised in each of the six groups, which in January took the form of model monthly meetings, with an address on "Woman's part in Agriculture," by Mr. Lindsay Robb, and a discussion on "How the W.I.s could take their share in the County and National Expenditure."

In April special meetings were arranged for Miss Parr, whose practical and helpful addresses to officers and committee members, were much enjoyed.

At the half-yearly council in April, the Mayor of Whitehaven spoke of the value to the community of W.I. work, and Miss Parr gave an interesting address on the National Federation, and its relation to the Institutes.

County Exhibition.—The chief event in the history of the Cumberland Federation last year was the first County Exhibition, which achieved considerable success, both as a money-raising effort (as the balance of £68 testifies), and in educational and propaganda work. Over 2,000 articles were sent in, and a high standard of workmanship was reached. The Exhibition was held in Carlisle, Seascale and Keswick successively, thus giving people from all parts of the County an equal chance of seeing it.

Agriculture.—In addition to Mr. Robb's address to each group on the importance of the countrywoman, Institutes have made good use of the excellent lectures provided by the County Farm School, and a visit to this school formed part of the summer outing of several Institutes.

A small agricultural and horticultural section was arranged at the County Exhibition, and the County Farm School supplied an interesting exhibit and demonstrations in poultry dressing and fruit bottling.

Handicrafts.—To meet the need for more teachers in the County a Guild of Learners School was arranged in Carlisle, and 16 Cumberland students were trained as teachers and demonstrators in furcraft, upholstery and embroidery. Thirty-two articles were selected from the work of the Cumberland W.I.s, to be sent to the Royal Agricultural Show, and all of them reached the standard required by the N.F.W.I. for exhibition.

Finance.—This is the first year in which the County has had to face a regular expenditure on a considerable scale, and the satisfactory balance at the beginning of the year, together with the generous donations from the Institutes, have enabled the Federation to meet the New Year still with a balance. An appeal to all the Institutes to take their proportionate share of the County expenses, has resulted in a most satisfactory response, 30 W.I.s contributing, whereas only 8 sent donations last year.

Education.—There is close co-operation between the W.I.s and the County Education Committee, which has supplied teachers and classes, whilst the County Medical Officer of Health has given several lectures. About 20 W.I.s have had lectures on the League of Nations; Citizenship and Child Welfare are subjects chosen by many. An enthusiastic First Aid Class was carried on by one Institute throughout the winter.

Other Activities.—Amongst the many and varied activities of Cumberland Institutes, some interesting points are the lead taken by Kirkbride Institute in a prolonged campaign for a pure water supply; an increased interest in music, the choir of this Institute being first in one of the Competitions at the Carlisle Musical Festival in which several W.I. choirs competed; Girls' Clubs, and lawn tennis

clubs; and summer outings interspersed with talks on historical places visited. Four Institutes are working for Village Halls, and several others, whose Halls are now completed, are busy paying off the debts.

DERBYSHIRE (37).

President: Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire.

Chairman: Lady Inglefield, The Flower Lilies, Windley, Derby.

Hon. Secretary: Miss F. S. Simpson, Hazlebrow, Duffield, Derby.

Organisation.—Five new Institutes, one Centre and one new Group have been started during the year.

Three well-attended Council Meetings have been held. In March the roll call on "How the Institutes and County Federation can best help each other," provided many useful hints and criticisms.

In July a useful discussion on Programmes was followed by a very interesting lecture on The English Legal System, given by Miss Geikie Cobb, M.B.E., B.A., Ll.B.

After the Annual Meeting in November, Miss Nettleship gave a delightful talk on "Descants as applied to singing in W.I.s."

The two V.C.O.s, at the invitation of the Notts Federation, attended a V.C.O.s' Conference in Nottingham in April, and one was present at a similar conference held at Stafford in July.

The Duffield Group has done good work during the year. In November it held a conference to discuss programmes, at which the N.F.W.I. Area Organiser, Miss Simpson, was the chief speaker. She also spoke at the Exhibition and the Annual meeting; she has visited two Institutes and started the new group at Chinley. Her help is much appreciated in the County.

Two of our County weekly papers publish monthly accounts, (supplied by our Press Correspondent), of Institute activities.

Finance.—The Finance Scheme has worked satisfactorily; with the exception of 5 Institutes, several of which are new, all have responded well to the appeal.

The Federation is able to do without a grant from the N.F.W.I., and has made a donation of £37 9s. 0d. to the N.F.W.I. funds.

County Council Aid.—Splendid help has again been received from all departments of the County Council.

Institutes have been invited to co-operate in and, in some cases, form centres for, the new County Library, which has been established by the County Council with assistance from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.

The Education Committee has provided teachers for several handicraft classes, and the Health and Agricultural and Horticultural Departments have sent lecturers to speak on many subjects.

Handicrafts.—Five members of the Guild of Learners have gained their "B" Certificate—one for embroidery, two for gloving, one for tinkering, and one for household repairs. Two members have passed their "A" Test in basket making.

The Duffield W.I. was successful in winning the first prize in the W.I. section at the Ripon Industrial Society's Exhibition in June, gaining 866 marks out of 1000 for their ten exhibits.

The Federation provided a day's instruction in papier maché work, and umbrella covering, to which seventeen Institutes sent representatives.

Institute Activities.—Three Institutes have substantially helped in raising funds for their local Cottage Hospitals. One runs a successful Infants' Welfare Centre. Several have branches of the League of Nations Union. Seven have started National Savings Associations. Three have held produce shows and a number have held fetes in order to raise money for county funds, huts or local charities. One Institute has built a hut, and another has bought its hall.

Major Bavin's lectures to eight Institutes on the "Appreciation of Music," were much enjoyed. A demonstrator from Capsol Dyes, Ltd., visited seven Institutes.

Demonstrations.—Demonstrations were given in the following:—basket making, chair seating, rush work, upholstery, boot repairing, household repairs, skin curing, leather work, paper flowers, wool rugs, tinkering, glove making, icing cakes, pastry, invalid cookery, vegetarian dishes, poultry trussing, and fruit bottling.

Lectures.—Lectures on the following subjects have been given: hygiene in the home, first aid, nature study, herbs and their uses, bee keeping, music, the navy, Shakespeare, herbaceous borders, India, Italy, Dutch life, local history, electricity, an evening with Mr. Pepys, English novelists, novel reading.

Consultative Council.—The tenth meeting of the N.F.W.I. Consultative Council was held in Derby on June 14th and 15th, and was very much enjoyed by all who came in contact with our visitors, from whom we gained so much help and inspiration.

Mr. Leslie's fascinating lecture on Descants gave a stimulus to the sadly neglected musical side of our Institute life.

The Handicrafts Conference was very much appreciated by those who attended the Open Meeting.

County Exhibition.—The Fourth County Exhibition was held in Derby on September 27th and 28th. Twenty-five Institutes had stalls, which all followed a garden scheme in their decorations. Demonstrations were given in leather work, basket making and rush work. Performances were given of choral singing, folk dancing and a short dramatic sketch.

The exhibits reached a higher standard, and were much more numerous than last year; the attendance was good and, in spite of heavy [expenses and a very low rate of commission, the financial result was satisfactory.

Tent at Agricultural Show.—A rest tent for the use of members and their friends was provided at the Derbyshire Show. This was furnished with comfortable chairs, and samples of W.I. handicrafts were displayed, for which orders were taken.

In spite of a poor attendance, due to exceptionally bad weather, the tent proved a very useful piece of propaganda work.

Rural Community Council.—The Federation is represented on the new Rural Community Council, which has been formed for the three counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Notts, with the object of bringing together all bodies concerned with social service in rural areas.

DEVON (66).

Chairman: The Lady Clinton, Bickton, East Budleigh.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Fulford, The Priory, Woodbury.

Organisation.—1923 has been a successful year for W.I. work in Devon. Fifteen new Institutes have been formed, making a total of 66. It is satisfactory that the Institutes formed are in all parts of the County, and that membership in the majority of Institutes has increased.

Devon was well represented at the London Annual Meeting in May, by 19 Delegates and 19 Proxies. Mrs. Nugent Harris paid a few days' visit to Devon in May, and spoke at a well-attended Conference of W.I. Committee members in East Devon. The Executive Committee has met eight times, but in future it is to meet monthly.

Exhibitions.—The County Exhibition was held in Exeter in May, and the prize exhibits were sent to a W.I. Tent at the Devon County Show at Bideford. A South Devon Group Exhibition was also held at Ivybridge.

County Council Classes.—The County Council continues to give all possible help to Women's Institutes. Thirty-four courses have been held during the year, the subjects being cookery, dress-making, millinery, decorative stitchery, needlework, and household renovations. The Medical Department of the County Council has also provided speakers on health subjects. The Devon County Agricultural Committee has supplied 21 lectures in horticulture, 3 in fruit-bottling (all given by Miss Gunnell, Horticultural Superintendent and ex-officio member of Devon Federation Executive Committee), and 4 in poultry-keeping.

Classes given by W.I. Members include basket making, raffia work, glove making, leather work, umbrella covering, skin curing, etc. Exmouth Centre has supplied many teachers for Classes and Demonstrations. Classes have also been arranged in folk dancing by the County Folk Dance Society.

Tours.—A Tour was arranged in February by the Organisation Sub-Committee for Miss Watkins, who spoke at 19 W.I. meetings. Tours were also arranged for Miss Joliffe (Somerset) who demonstrated on chair caning, and for Miss Erskine (Dorset) for umbrella covering demonstrations.

Lectures.—Miss Domville (Assistant Commissioner, National Savings Association), has spoken at 22 W.I. meetings on the National Savings Association and Thrift; six villages already had local associations, and nine new ones have been formed.

Council Meetings.—The Summer Council Meeting was held at Plymouth, when an address was given by Miss Hadow (Vice-President, N.F.W.I.). As a result of a Roll Call "How best to spread the W.I. Movement," a special column for W.I. news has been given in two local weekly papers.

Outside Work undertaken by Institutes includes raising funds for Hospitals for the Blind, collecting for the Cancer Research Fund, contributing sacks of clothing for Eastern Refugees, and providing a piano for the village school. Thirteen Institutes organised Flower Shows, and three Institutes have raised funds for a Hall or Hut.

Reports from Institutes on the year's work include satisfactory accounts of progress made and of increasing membership, and of a growth of interest in and appreciation of the movement by those outside it. Amongst the benefits derived from membership are noted the friendly intercourse promoted, the gathering together of many who would otherwise lead lonely lives, and the opportunities both for rest and relaxation, and for a greater variety of interests.

DORSET (97).

Chairman: Miss Gildea, Innellan, Rodwell, Weymouth.

Hon. Secretary: Benita Lady Lees, Thorngrove, Gillingham, Dorset.

The Dorset Federation has a successful year to report upon, much work having been carried through.

Community Work.—Meetings were arranged for Inspector Abbott, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, who visited 15 W.I.s. Her tour resulted in the sending of 12 Resolutions to the Chief Constable for the Standing Joint Committee of the County Council, and though they "recommended that no action be taken," the resolutions, it was reported, were received sympathetically.

League of Nations.—The Regional Director has spoken at 12 W.I.s.

Groups have been addressed by Mrs. Watt and by Miss Simpson. Two Groups arranged Produce Shows for their W.I.s, at which the County Federation gave prizes.

Co-operation.—A special Sub-Committee was formed to forward the proposals for joint work between the V.C.A. and the W.I.s and another to foster co-operation between the Scout and Guide movements and the W.I.s.

Shakespeare Competitions were held for the first time, proving most successful. The four scenes chosen were open to all Dorset W.I.s, and fifteen entered. No scenery was used, and only £2 2s. could be spent on the dresses in any one scene. A professional judge, assisted by Miss Kelly, adjudicated, and certificates and a challenge cup were awarded.

The Handicrafts Sub-Committee has arranged for the training of a dressmaking instructor at the Bournemouth Municipal College; she was booked up with work among W.I.s immediately her training was completed.

In conjunction with the Guild of Learners, a Craft School was held at Sherborne, 19 members from Dorset and 21 from neighbouring counties attending.

Organisation.—Ten W.I.s have been added to the Federation this year. Fifteen members of the Executive have paid 125 visits to W.I.s, and analysis shows that 58 different Institutes have been visited, in addition to the 30 visits paid by V.O.s to new W.I.s.

A Conference for V.C.O.s was arranged by Dorset County Federation, and held at Taunton in June, to which Devon sent 2, Dorset 6, Somerset 10 and Wilts 2 Voluntary Organisers.

DURHAM (43).

President: Mrs. Lloyd Pease, Hurworth Moor, Darlington.

Secretary: Miss Willans, 8, Van Mildert Terrace, Stockton-on-Tees.

Organisation.—Four Council Meetings have been held; the Annual Meeting in January, when the Executive Committee was elected, and when Mr. W. H. Leslie gave an address on "Descant Singing"; a Business Meeting in April; an out-door Fete in June, when about 1,400 W.I. members had the honour of welcoming Lady Denman, and spending an enjoyable afternoon at Raby; and an autumn meeting at Durham when, in addition to the business meeting, an address was given by Miss Gildea.

Mrs. Menzies, our V.C.O., has formed six new Institutes and one was formed by Miss Parr, making a total of 43.

Representatives from the Executive Committee attended the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting, each meeting of the Consultative Council, the Inter-County Conference at Newcastle, and the School for County Federation Officers which was held at Leeds.

Members of the Executive have also paid 74 visits to the Institutes.

A School for Institute Officers was conducted by Miss Parr at Bishop Auckland in January.

Group Conferences.—Each of the five groups has held two conferences. Dame Meriel Talbot gave an address on Emigration at the Darlington Conference, at which visitors were welcomed.

Tours.—Miss Petty came up to give scientific cookery lectures and demonstrations, and visited 25 Institutes in February. A Drummer Dye lecturer visited thirty Institutes in July.

Education Sub-Committee.—The work of this Sub-Committee has included the issue of a panel of lecturers, and the hire of lantern slides for the purpose of lantern lectures in the Institutes. Arrangements have been made with the County Council, and about half the Institutes have organised classes in various subjects, including musical appreciation, dressmaking and cookery.

Handicraft Sub-Committee.—Two panels of Demonstrators have been issued, and all possible assistance given to Institutes in arranging demonstrations. Fifty stewards were provided for the W.I. Tent during the week of the Royal Show. Of the 98 articles which were sent up for exhibition at this Show, 93 were accepted. An Exhibition was held at Darlington previous to the Show.

An embroidery student was sent to the Handicraft School at Carlisle; seven members have passed the Guild of Learners' "A" test, and three the "B" test.

Music.—Mr. Leslie followed up his address by conducting a "Singing School," in July, which was attended by representatives from 14 Institutes, with the result that more choirs have been formed.

Institute Activities.—Nearly all the Institutes report an increase in their membership, and a splendid record has been received of the work they have accomplished. Most of the Institutes have had classes in at least one handicraft, and a member who attended a gloving class has now completed her seventieth pair. Seven Institutes are working for their village halls, and eight have formed branches of the National Savings Association.

Competitions have been popular, including "The Best Cure for a Bad Cold," "Weight Guessing," and "Ankles."

Other Institutes have reported activities in many directions, such as the formation of a child welfare association, a nursing association, a cricket club, and the supply of a hospital basket.

St. Dunstan's, the hospitals, and other charities have benefited to a great extent by the sums of money which the Institutes have raised. Sixty-eight Open Meetings have been held, and the Men's Institutes and other organisations have appreciated the opportunity of hearing special lectures.

ESSEX (147).

Chairman: Mrs. Gerald Buxton, O.B.E., Birch Hall, Theydon Bois, Essex.

Secretary: Miss C. F. Niven, 5, King Edwards Avenue, Chelmsford.

Organisation.—During the last twelve months the Federation has progressed without a check, and 21 new Institutes have been formed in Essex. Conferences were held in the eleven Groups, both in spring and autumn.

This year the Spring Competitions in Handicrafts at the Group Conferences were followed by a County Exhibition for first-class exhibits only. The Choral Competitions, with 35 Choirs competing, also resulted in a Final Competition for the winner in each group.

In the autumn special instruction in Continuity in Programmes was given by the V.C.O.s at most of the Groups.

The Folk Dancing competitions were even more successful than in past years, there being more entries.

Five tests for intending lecturers and demonstrators have been held, bringing the numbers qualified for the Lecture List to a large total.

County Council Aid.—Besides free lectures, the County Council again gave a substantial grant for Educational purposes, and by their wish, this was devoted to training demonstrators in various crafts. A County Craft School, under the Guild of Learners, was held for this purpose at Bishops Stortford, in upholstery, glove making and home jobbing.

In the spring, the County Voluntary Organisers were invited by Lady Rasch to hold a Refresher School at Ingatestone, and received much help and instruction from Mrs. Alfred Watt, Miss Ferguson, and an expert on public speaking.

In September a number of the Demonstrators attended a Summer School at Walton-on-Naze, and the instruction given ranged from a lecture on the Art of Demonstrating by Miss Somerville, to one on Pure Milk, by the leading expert in the County.

Handicrafts.—In addition to the exhibitions at the Spring Group Conferences and the County Exhibition, the Federation again had a Tent at the Essex Show, where the demonstrations were much appreciated by the public. The sales at the Handicraft Depot have much increased, and the standard of work

shows a great improvement. Two special sales were held at Frinton-on-Sea, and several at the Depot, with the help of some of the demonstrators who attended to give advice on their own craft.

Library.—The County Library continues its good work, and is of the greatest help to nearly fifty Institutes.

Drama.—A Dramatic Competition is being organised for the spring.

Supplement.—The *Essex Supplement*, sent free to subscribers to *Home and Country*, has been issued since September, and has already increased the sale of *Home and Country* by nearly 500 copies.

Institutes.—In the Institutes themselves there has been much growth and development. More and more they are exchanging visits and helping each other. Gradually even the most rural are becoming accustomed to the ways of sound business procedure, and the result was noticed at our Annual Council, about which a member wrote in our *Supplement*: "This year there seemed a happy sense of ease combined with briskness and an absence of that tension that was noticeable in our earlier public meetings. We have all become familiar with the necessary formalities for ballots, reports and resolutions."

Finance.—The whole of the activities are financed by the County, no grant from Headquarters having been applied for since 1922.

FLINT AND DENBIGH (12).

Chairman: Mrs. Griffith, Plas Newydd, Trefnant, N. Wales.
Secretary: Miss H. Williams Wynn, Plas-yn-Cefn, St. Asaph.

Organisation.—Since the inaugural meeting of this County Federation on June 20th, 1923, two Executive Committees have been held. Two new Institutes have been formed since June, and it is likely that more will start in 1924. Delegates and visitors from seven of the Institutes attended the Welsh Conference at Shrewsbury in October. Eleven of the Institutes take in 107 copies of *Home and Country* between them.

Exhibitions.—In addition to the Trefnant Group Meeting and Exhibition in June, which was attended by 400 members, a capital Exhibition was held by Hanmer W.I. in November, which proved how well the members had profited by their handicraft, cookery and dairying courses and demonstrations.

Classes, Demonstrations and Lectures have been given in most of the Institutes, the following subjects being treated: singing, the League of Nations, citizenship, upholstery, dressmaking, glove making, sewing, knitting, chair caning, cane tray and basket making, poultry trussing, cooking and dairying.

GLAMORGAN (13).

President: Mrs. Turbervill, Glanwenny, Bridgend.

Secretary: Miss Mordecai, Tynycaean, St. Mary Hill, Bridgend.

After some years of propaganda work in Glamorgan, a meeting was held in Swansea on November 20th, 1923, to discuss the advisability of linking up the W.I.s in a County Federation. A large number of delegates and visitors attended the meeting and the resolution to form a county Federation was carried unanimously. Mrs. Harris' interesting address on "The Aims and Objects of a County Federation" was much appreciated; Miss Lumley (Organiser for Wales), was also present, and gave valuable help in carrying the meeting through.

Organisation.—One new Institute was started in November, and already has a membership of over 80. Mrs. F. Reynolds attended the V.C.O. school at Llandrindod in September, and has been appointed as V.C.O. for this County.

A Rally of all the Institutes in Glamorgan took place at Porthcawl in June. The address given by Miss Berrington (V.C.O., Monmouth), on "The General Work of the W.I. Movement" was much enjoyed by the large assembly. A thoroughly happy day was spent, and it was clear that this idea of bringing all the members together was of great value in introducing a new interest into all the W.I.s in the County.

Institute Activities.—Classes have been held in many subjects, the more popular being dress-making, upholstery, basketry, glove making, leather work, rug making, embroidery, cane chair seating and cookery. At the monthly meetings there are usually lectures, demonstrations, and some form of entertainment, the social side being well arranged.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE (84)

President: The Duchess of Beaufort, Badminton.

Chairman: Mrs. Hiatt Baker, Oaklands, Almondsbury.

Secretary: Miss Chapman, 24, Westgate Street, Gloucester.

Organisation.—There has been a steady increase in the number of Women's Institutes in the County, twelve having been started during the year, bringing the total up to 84. These are nearly all attached to one of the Groups, and this arrangement is proving very satisfactory to all concerned. There are signs, also, that some of the weaker Institutes in the Federation have taken a fresh and stronger lease of life.

Three new V.C.O.s have been trained, and their help has been of the greatest value. Two very successful tours were arranged for Miss Parr, N.F.W.I. Organiser, who paid a visit to 13 centres, at which were gathered members from the neighbouring Institutes; her talk on the simplest, quickest and best ways of dealing with

Institute business has proved of the very greatest assistance to those who heard her. Mrs. Alfred Watt also visited the County and spoke at several Group Conferences.

A School for Federation Officers and Committee Members took place in the Autumn, Mrs. Nugent Harris presiding; under her direction the prosaic details of organisation were enlivened by the spirit of enthusiasm and high ideals, and the two days were most stimulating and helpful. The Federation has been represented at each Consultative Council. An office has been secured in Gloucester at 24, Westgate Street.

Handicrafts.—The Industries Sub-Committee has continued its activities and tests have been held under the Three Counties Handicraft Scheme. An Exhibition of Handicrafts was arranged in Gloucester in May, at which the standard of work was noticeably higher than that reached in 1921. The co-operative work was a very interesting feature. With the County Federations of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, this Federation shared a Tent for the Exhibition of W.I. Handicrafts at the Three Counties Show at Malvern. Five members of Gloucestershire Institutes have attended Guild of Learners Handicraft Schools.

County Council Aid.—As a result of a representation from the Gloucestershire Federation Executive Committee, the County Council allotted the sum of £150 to the Federation for the organisation of classes in domestic science for W.I. members. Nineteen Classes have taken place up to the present, but the grant is not sufficient to meet all the demands. It has also, however, been used to pay for lectures under the British Red Cross Scheme, which have proved the most popular and the most instructive lectures arranged by the Federation.

It is chiefly owing to the efforts of the County Federation Executive Committee, that the Rural Library has now arranged to send boxes of books to any Women's Institute which applies for them, an offer of which most Institutes have availed themselves.

Drama.—The Federation co-operated with the English Folk Dance Society (Gloucestershire and Bristol Branch) in organising a Folk Dance Festival, which took place in the grounds of Cirencester Park, lent by Lord Bathurst.

A County Play Lending Library has been formed, in the charge of a capable Librarian, and several Institutes have taken advantage of the opportunities which it affords.

HAMPSHIRE (152).

President: The Countess of Northbrook.

Chairman: Miss Hilda Chamberlain, Bury House, Odiham, Hants.

Hon. Secretary: Lady Rosemary Portal, Kingsclere House, Newbury.

In January 1923 Hampshire had 146 Women's Institutes, and in January 1924 has 152, with a membership of 11,119.

The Programmes show the demand that exists for lectures on an infinite variety of subjects; demonstrations also play a great part, and the increasing number of choral societies and dramatic clubs tends towards great improvement on the entertainment side of the meetings.

Organisation.—The Executive Committee, meeting monthly, receives regular reports from the Finance, Organisers' and Industries Sub-Committees, whilst an Educational Sub-Committee has been appointed this year, responsible for the selection of speakers and demonstrators, and the publication of a list of those available for the Institutes.

Two Council Meetings were held, one at Winchester and one at Fareham. A representative attended all the N.F.W.I. Consultative Councils, and also the Council meetings of Berkshire, Surrey and West Sussex County Federations. The Executive Committee arranged a Conference for Officers of all the Hampshire Groups, and also held one School for Public Speaking and one for glove-making.

The County Finance is thoroughly satisfactory, a contribution from each Institute, at the rate of 8d. per member, being asked for; of this the sum equivalent to £1 per Institute is remitted as the County's contribution to the National Federation. Every Institute joining in this scheme can have one free speaker per year on Institute subjects, and the Executive Committee is arranging to allow each group, in the future, a Speaker at one meeting per year, provided the fee does not exceed one guinea.

Honorary Life Membership has been conferred upon Mrs. Barrow, Mrs. Fripp and Lady Cooper.

A very successful *Exhibition of Industries* was held at the Royal Counties Agricultural Show at Southampton, a Tent being shared with Wiltshire, and demonstrations given at the Show in various handicrafts.

Other Activities.—Hampshire County Federation issued a Women's Institute calendar for 1924, 500 copies being disposed of at once.

The Hampshire Supplement to *Home and Country* continues to be very popular, and the circulation of the journal in the County has increased to 1,650 copies monthly.

At the close of 1923 a Rest Room for Women's Institute members was opened in Andover, and this is already proving a great boon, and is supplying a long-felt want.

HEREFORDSHIRE (53).

Chairman: Mrs. Arthur Foster, Brockhampton Court, Hereford.

Secretary: Miss Barbara Lilley, 6, St. John Street, Hereford.

Distinct and comprehensive progress has been made in the work of the Federation during the last year. Nine new Institutes have been formed; the number is now 53, with a membership of 2,619, and in nearly every Institute there has been an increase in numbers.

The Office has been moved to 6, St. John Street, where a Club for W.I. members has been opened.

V.C.O.s.—It is with much regret that Mrs. Kevill-Davies' resignation as a V.C.O. must be announced. She has worked in this capacity since the movement began in the County, and her help will be greatly missed.

Organisation Sub-Committee.—An Organisation Sub-Committee was formed in October, to relieve the Executive of all the details of the Organisation of the Federation, and especially to help the V.C.O.s in their work. This Sub-Committee recommends the appointment of V.C.O.s, organises courses of instruction, Group and County Conferences, etc.

Rally.—In June, a most successful Rally was held in Hereford, at the invitation of Mrs. A. W. Foster. Nearly 1,900 W.I. members assembled near the Cattle Market, and marched behind the banners of their Institutes to the Cathedral, where a most inspiring and impressive service was held. The members were then entertained at the Town Hall and Kemble Theatre. This huge gathering of women proved conclusively, as never before, what an enormous power the movement has become in the County, and of how great importance to the country women.

Conferences.—At the opening of the W.I. Club on April 28th, Mrs. Nugent Harris (Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I.), addressed a large meeting of the members at the Town Hall, when Mrs. Capper, Hon. Treasurer to the H.F.W.I., in the name of the Committee and members, presented Mrs. Foster with a handsome Wedgwood bowl, bearing the name of every Institute in the Federation, as well as a beautiful cornelian necklace, and a gold fountain pen.

In October, special meetings of officers and members were arranged for Miss Nightingale (N.F.W.I. Organiser) at Hereford, Leominster and Ross.

Sale of Work.—The Christmas Sale of Members' Work was held this year in the Town Hall, and proved a very great success in every way. The standard of articles made for the sale was higher than it has ever been before, as was also the quantity. Almost £100 was realised by the members themselves, a most

gratifying result. Refreshments were provided, the arrangements and waiting being entirely organised by Mrs. Durham, with the assistance of the Tupsley members.

County Council Aid.—This Federation again desires to thank most warmly the Education Committee of the County Council for their continued encouragement and support.

The Federation feels that great strides have been made during the past year, and that on all sides the movement has gained ground and become part of the life of the rural woman.

HERTFORDSHIRE (76).

President: The Marchioness of Salisbury, Hatfield House, Herts.

Chairman: Mrs. Gilliat, Frogmore Hall, Hertford.

Secretary: Miss C. Beck, Great Amwell, Ware.

Organisation.—The number of Institutes has increased by 10 during the past year.

There are 4 V.C.O.s. The County is divided into 14 groups, and two Conferences have been held, Miss Parr taking the first, and Miss Simpson the second. There are Sub-Committees for Finance, Organisation and Music.

At the Annual Council Meeting in April Miss Hadow spoke on "The National Aspect of Women's Institutes," there were Choral Competitions, and scenes from "Twelfth Night" were acted by the Bovingdon Players.

At the half-yearly Council in October Mrs. Heron-Maxwell spoke on Finance, and there were addresses on the Poultry Industry by Dr. Gridale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Canada, and on the Drama by Miss Lena Ashwell.

The Federation was represented at the Consultative Council at Cambridge, and at the Handicrafts Conference in London, and three members of the Executive and the County Secretary attended the School for V.C.O.s in London as visitors.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mrs. Gilliat, served on several of the Sub-Committees of the National Federation, and the Executive is also represented on a number of County Council Sub-Committees, as well as on such bodies as the Rural District Council, Guardians, etc. The Federation is in close touch with the Rural Community Council.

County Council.—The Institute of Agriculture at St. Albans provides free lectures on Dairying, Horticulture and Poultry keeping. It is hoped that some members of the W.I.s will avail

themselves of the scholarships offered at the Institute, especially of the one in poultry keeping, which has been given by the late Herts. Branch of the Association of Landswomen.

The County Council has promised help in providing Lectures and Demonstrations during the coming year on cookery, dress-making, and other subjects.

Lectures and Demonstrations have been of a varied nature, and have included rug making, skin curing, home odd jobs, savings schemes, country dancing, folk songs, citizenship, dyeing, umbrella covering and music.

Music and the Drama.—Most W.I.s now have their own choral class, and in addition to the Choral Competitions at the Annual General Meeting, many W.I. choirs entered for the Musical Festivals held at Berkhamstead and at Hertford. A lecture, illustrated by string quartette, on various composers—Beethoven, Dvorak, Mozart, and the Modern Russians—has been given at a large number of W.I.s. A Mystery Play entitled "A Mirror for Souls," has been acted at several Institutes, and dramatic competitions are being arranged for 1924.

Exhibition and Handicrafts.—An exhibition of crafts and of produce was held at the County Agricultural Show at Hatfield in July, and a prize was offered by the Federation for the best bird shown in the poultry section by a W.I. member.

A Handicrafts Exhibition is being organised for October next.

Finance.—A special appeal was made in the early part of the year, asking every W.I. in the County to give as generous a sum as possible towards the funds of the National and of the County Federations. It is hoped that the response will help the Federations to feel that the growth of their activities is in no way hampered by lack of money. The County Federation has again decided not to apply for a grant from Headquarters.

Libraries.—A large number of W.I.s have their own libraries, and exchange books one with another. It is hoped that much more will be done in this way if the County adopts the Carnegie scheme now under consideration.

Other Activities.—A "Health Week," organised by the W.I.s in conjunction with the Red Cross Society, has proved most successful in several villages. During the year, large sums of money have been sent to hospitals and other institutions, as well as gifts of toys, eggs, etc.

Wounded soldiers from the London Hospital, (through the "Not Forgotten League,") and parties from the London slums, and from the Workhouse, have been entertained, and the local ex-Service men have not been forgotten.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE (40).

Chairman: Mrs. Howard Coote, Castle Hill, Huntingdon.

Secretary: Mrs. P. Thurston, The Hostel, S. Mary's Street, Huntingdon.

Organisation.—The County Executive Committee, which has met eleven times, is assisted by the following Sub-Committees: Finance, Handicrafts and a newly-appointed Organisation Sub-Committee. The chief work of the year has lain in steady consolidation of existing Institutes, and for this purpose Miss Simpson was lent by Headquarters for the month of July. Miss Nightingale has also been in Hunts. for two months, to help with the general organisation in the County, as well as to visit Institutes.

Three Federation Council Meetings have been held during the year. At the May Council, a meeting of the delegates who were going to the Annual Meeting in London was held, and in connection with the October Council, Mr. W. H. Leslie gave a most interesting address on Music in the Institutes. At the invitation of the County Executive Committee, the National Federation held a School for Voluntary County Organisers at Huntingdon, and Mrs. Maples was trained for this County.

Handicrafts.—A very successful Exhibition was arranged in June in Huntingdon, and cleared £31 6s. 1d. for the Federation. The beautiful Banner, which the Countess of Sandwich offered to the Institute obtaining most prizes, was won by Brampton W.I.

Dressmaking classes have been arranged at 13 W.I.s, through the help of the County Education Committee; it is also due to the help of this Committee that Mrs. Greensted has been trained in fruit bottling and vegetable preservation.

Demonstrations and classes have been given in the following: basket work, cookery, embroidery, decorative stitchery, glove-making, rug making, raffia work, re-caning chairs, leather work, felt slipper making and papier maché.

Lectures have been given on a very wide range of subjects, including Housekeeping in the Olden Days, Fables, the Growth of a City, Music, Superstitions and Fallacies, the Lure of the Hills, Guides at Home and Abroad, Nursing, Local History, Robin Hood, Oliver Cromwell, etc.

Speakers from the *League of Nations Union* were in Hunts. for the month of November, and gave addresses at 16 W.I.s. This resulted in several becoming members on the Corporate Associateship scheme, and it is expected more will do so.

Special Activities for this year covered a wide area. A great many Institutes have contributed to the local Hospitals by special efforts, Hemingford Abbots raising the large sum of £112 for the County Hospital. Great Gransden had a very successful exhibition

of handicrafts at the local Agricultural Show, and several flower and vegetable Shows have been arranged by W.I.s. Huntingdon W.I. raised £680 towards the Town War Memorial, which was unveiled on Armistice Day, and which would never have been erected if it had not been for the Women's Institute. This W.I. also has an excellent Savings Association and a Helping Hand Club through which £212 was saved during 1923.

Sawtry W.I. held a successful course of first aid classes, and all 17 candidates received certificates.

ISLE OF ELY (23).

President: Mrs. Tansley, Luddington, Waltons Park, Ashdon, Essex.

Hon. Sec.: Miss Sears, The Bungalow, Manea, March.

Organisation.—Two new Institutes have been formed during the year, at Newton and Little Thetford, and a Centre at Wisbech.

The Handicrafts Sub-Committee has sustained a great loss by the death of the chairman, Mrs. Wesley. The work of this Committee has included the organisation of classes at the Ely Centre, and of a Handicraft Exhibition at the Annual Fete. The Education Sub-Committee arranged in October a series of classes for W.I. Officers, Committee Members and other members, which were taken by Miss Simpson.

Four Council Meetings were held during the year, the speakers being Miss Simpson, Miss Nightingale and Miss McLeod (Essex). The outstanding event of the year was the large meeting at Wisbech, addressed by Lady Denman. Mrs. Mackelvie qualified as a V.C.O. in November.

The Annual Garden Fete was held in July at the High School, March, and was opened by Miss Averil Bernard, from East Suffolk.

Ely Centre has taken part in Child Welfare and Rescue Work. A course of dressmaking classes was held in the Spring at the Market Day Club, which continues to be a great success. Other activities of the Centre include a National Savings Association, and considerable help has also been given to the surrounding Institutes by the provision of lecturers and demonstrators, and by the Concert Party.

Handicrafts.—Coates and Prickwillow Institutes have taken up slipper making and Newton does stencilling and basket work. Classes have also been held in tray making, chair caning, raffia work and sewing. The Exhibition at the Annual Fete was a great success.

Institute Activities have included classes in singing and folk dancing, and various forms of *Community Work*, as follows: Prickwillow W.I. provided tea for Hospital Sunday, Haddenham W.I.

held a whist drive and sung carols in aid of the village nurse, whilst Little Downham also contributed towards a District Nurse. Whittlesea gave a party and Wilburton also raised a large sum in aid of the Nursing Association; help towards village halls was given by Doddington and by Coates, the latter raising nearly £100 to pay off the debt. This W.I. also entertained the old people of the village to tea, whilst Newton gave a children's New Year Party. Benwick W.I. organised the local Flower Show.

ISLE OF WIGHT (16).

Chairman: Laura Lady Simeon, Swainston, Newport, Isle of Wight.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Jannings, Heather Cot, Cranmore, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.

Organisation.—No new Institutes have been formed during the year, but steady work has been going on within the sixteen Institutes, the membership now being about 1,320. Two V.C.O.s have been trained, bringing the number up to three. Thirteen delegates attended the Annual General Meeting of the N.F.W.I. Two Council Meetings have been held, one being addressed by Mrs. Nugent Harris (N.F.W.I. Chief Organiser).

County Council Help has been given during the year in dress-making.

W.I. Classes have been held in glove making, uphoistery, chair caning, leather work, artificial flowers, basketry, wool rugs, millinery, soft toys and shell flowers. Special classes were arranged for Isle of Wight lace making, with the object of reviving this old and beautiful industry.

Lectures have been given on the Seventeenth Century, with special reference to the Isle of Wight, Old Manor Houses, Shipwrecks around the Island, on Godshill and Appuldurcombe, and other subjects of local interest.

Library.—The Circulating Library Scheme has been adopted by all the Institutes, the books, which pass from one W.I. to another each month, being greatly appreciated.

The Rest Room is open now every day, and is very well patronised by members, as the entries in the Visitors' Book show. Many Institutes have sent donations.

Community Work.—"Pound Day" for the local Hospital has again been a great success, and the W.I.s have also assisted the funds of the County Hospital and the Ventnor Hospital. The County Federation representative on the Ministry of Labour Employment Sub-Committee for women has been unanimously elected chairman of that Sub-Committee.

Other County Federation Activities.—An Exhibition of Handicrafts was held at the Royal Agricultural Show at Newport, and the large Tent was filled all day with interested spectators. The chief County undertaking of the year was the Historical Pageant and Fete held at Appuldurcombe, illustrating the work and lives of women through the ages, episodes from different periods being presented by the different W.I.s. The pageant aroused a great deal of interest, and was of considerable educational value. It has led to demands for historical lectures, which are being met with the help of the Director of Education, who supplies speakers on the periods from which the W.I.s took their episodes.

Institute Activities.—Several W.I.s have started Savings Associations during the year, after a visit from Miss Ashton Jones. Fetes, Garden Parties and outings have taken place. The spirit of co-operation, which is so evident, and the requests for educational lectures, are distinctly encouraging features in the year's work.

EAST KENT (53).

Chairman : Mrs. Lochee, Manor House, Upper Hardres.

Hon. Secretary : Miss Watson, Great Watersend, Dover.

Organisation.—Six Institutes have been formed during the year, making a total of 53. The membership is now approximately 3,400, showing an increase of 300. The Organisation Sub-Committee has done much useful work, and has been a great help to the Federation in bringing it into touch with the Institutes, and enabling the latter to make known their wants. There is a growing spirit of friendliness and appreciation of what the Institutes stand for, which is very encouraging to those who have watched the growth of the movement from the beginning.

Miss Parr visited East Kent in March, and was pleased with the keen enthusiasm she found in the Institutes. She held a School for officers, and her hints on organisation were very helpful. In November Miss Keating spoke to the Groups on Child Welfare.

The Council Meeting in January, and the Annual Meeting in June, were both held in Ashford, and were well attended. These central meetings become every year more popular. At the June Meeting, Mr. Leslie gave a most interesting address on Descants, which stimulated the desire to sing and awakened aspirations in the minds of his hearers.

Choral Festival.—In March the second Choral Festival was held, with such good results that the Oddfellows' Hall, in Canterbury, proved much too small to accommodate all the members. It is therefore hoped that the use of the Theatre may be obtained for 1924. It is clear that W.I. members in East Kent have a love of music.

Exhibition.—In October the second Exhibition was held, this time in Ashford. The ex-secretary, Miss Erle-Drax, and her hard working committee had the satisfaction of seeing a successful result. The plain needlework was of a very high standard, Ham Street and Ortesbone carrying off the Challenge Banners presented by Mrs. Lochee (Chairman). Lady Broome kindly opened the Exhibition and Miss Hadow gave a most interesting and useful address on the Second day. After payment of all expenses, there was a balance of £25.

Handicrafts.—The only industry of the County is that of furcraft, carried on by Upper Hardres W.I., but there is a growing love of handicrafts. The most popular classes have been those for dressmaking, glove making and folk dancing.

Other Activities.—There have been lectures on various subjects. Summer outings were arranged by most Institutes, and there were many Garden Fetes. There has been more visiting amongst Institutes than formerly.

WEST KENT (91).

Chairman : Mrs. Stanley Johnson, Bearsted House, Bearsted, Kent.

Secretary : Miss M. Coombes, Federation Office, 5, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone.

Organisation.—The Executive Committee has adopted, for this year, a scheme of work for the County which throws the chief responsibility on to the Groups of Institutes. There is only one Standing Sub-Committee, Office and Finance, but the Executive Committee has invited the 13 District Secretaries to appoint (in the Districts) assistants in the various branches of work, i.e., handicrafts, music, agriculture, drama and education. These District Representatives are asked to keep in touch with the Institute members in the Groups who are interested in the same subjects, thus each subject is certain of receiving attention. Group Conferences, Meetings of District Representatives, or Exhibitions have been held in every group. Voluntary County Organisers are attached to the Groups. Six new V.C.O.s have been trained and six re-appointed.

Five new W.I.s have been formed during the year.

A Handicraft Exhibition was held in Maidstone on April 17th and 18th, preceded by a procession through the town of those taking part in the Dramatic Competition and those members representing some special craft or interest in their Institute or village; many carried banners. Demonstrations were arranged in several crafts at the Exhibition, which was visited by over 2,000 people.

Council Meetings.—At the Annual meeting Mr. Leslie spoke on Descants to a very enthusiastic audience. This was followed in June by a one-day school of Descant Singing, conducted by Mr. Leslie. At the October Meeting the Director of Education spoke on the possibilities of education in the Institutes.

A W.I Tent was arranged at the Kent Agricultural Society's Show in June, for the demonstration of several crafts. A literature stall was in the charge of V.C.O.s, and many enquiries were answered. Seventy of the Institutes in this Federation were represented at the *N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting*. Three members attended the *League of Nations Union School* at Balcombe Place.

Kent Rural Community Council.—The Federation is represented on the newly-formed Council in Kent, and is receiving practical help from the Organising Secretary.

The *Kent Education Committee* has granted assisted courses of instruction in handicrafts, elocution, country dancing, or history to 34 W.I.s, and has helped to provide judges for the County and District Exhibitions, and lent a room for the Guild of Learners School of Dressmaking held in April, and further assisted the W.I.s by a grant.

Institute Activities.—One W.I. has bought a Bath Chair, another a Maternity Basket, both for the use of the village. One has become a corporate member of the League of Nations Union. Another has gained awards for Fruit Bottling at the County Agricultural Show and the Dairy Show in London. Another W.I. at the London Exhibition of the Embroiderers' Guild gained the only award granted for co-operative work in a class open to the whole world. One of the Institutes runs a successful coal club, another entertained a party of London women to a day in the country. Other activities include help to local hospitals (13 W.I.s), or to the village nurse (7 W.I.s), work for Hall or Hut Funds (12 W.I.s), and help with the organisation of local Flower Shows (18 W.I.s). Ten Institutes have formed Dramatic Societies, and sixteen have taken up country dancing.

The most popular handicrafts are rug making, glove making, upholstery, dressmaking, domestic jobbing and millinery. Several W.I.s have had lectures or demonstrations in bee keeping, insect pests, poultry keeping, and fruit bottling. "How to Keep Well" lectures have been given to 13 W.I.s, by the Joint Council of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John. The lecture list shows a keen interest in local history, especially the history of the actual village. Talks on travel, League of Nations, and National Savings have been general, and many W.I.s have also had talks on books and special authors. One of the Institutes has sent members to other W.I.s with a talk on Jane Austen, illustrated by scenes from her books.

The whole body of members has shown increasing interest in the constitution, organisation and finance of their movement. This is largely due to the systematic visits paid by members of the County Federation Executive Committee to Institutes, when they have, with the effective help of V.C.O.s and Group Secretaries, fully explained this subject.

The result has been most encouraging and, together with the increased Group activity, seems likely to produce a keener sense of individual responsibility and a wider outlook.

The good attendances and discussions at Conferences and Council Meetings reflect this spirit, which forms one of the happiest features of the year's work.

LANCASHIRE (35).

Chairman: Mrs. Assheton, Downham Hall, Clitheroe.

Hon. Secretary: Miss E. Greenwood, Worston House, Clitheroe.

During the past year steady progress has been made in the Institute work, the meetings having been appreciated both socially and educationally, and a marked interest has been shown by the members.

Organisation.—Three new Institutes have been formed during the year. One V.C.O. was trained, bringing the number up to seven.

Three meetings of the Council have been held, and twelve of the Executive Committee, and Education and Organisation Sub-Committees. An Agricultural Sub-Committee has been formed.

Finance.—Nearly all the Institutes sent a donation to the County Federation, £34 of the total of which was sent to Headquarters.

County Council Aid.—The County Council continues to be of the greatest possible help, having this year doubled its grant (the Federation promising to find an equivalent sum), for the purpose of providing the Institutes with free lectures. Consequently, the Federation has been again able to offer three practical demonstrations in various subjects, and in addition one lecture of an intellectual nature.

One student took the *Upholstery* Course at the Guild of Learners School at Carlisle, and is now giving demonstrations at different Institutes. Institutes report having had *Lectures* on: clean milk, horticulture, hygiene, poultry keeping, the League of Nations, Local Government, citizenship, local history, literature, astronomy, and many aspects of travel.

Classes have been held in cookery, embroidery, millinery, upholstery, glove making, basketry, chair caning, household jobbery, home nursing, dressmaking and leatherwork.

Fete.—A most successful Fete, undertaken by the Lancaster Group, on behalf of the N.F.W.I. funds, was held in the grounds of Linden Hall, Borwick, by the kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Briggs, on September 1st. In spite of the broken weather, nearly 700 were present, and the arrangements were carried out without a hitch.

Other Activities.—About a dozen Institutes have been busy working for Village Halls, or helping to pay off the debt. Three have been instrumental in procuring a District Nurse, and two have organised entertainments on behalf of the disabled soldiers. Two Institutes have Badminton Clubs and four Tennis Clubs. Three have held Flower Shows, and all have contributed to a great extent in improving the life of the villages around them.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND (57).

President: The Hon. Mrs. Murray-Smith, Grunley Hall, Market Harborough.

Chairman: Mrs. C. H. Morris, J.P., Twycross, Atherstone.

Secretary: Miss A. K. Hamilton, 1, St. Martin's, Leicester.

Organisation.—Nine new Institutes were formed in 1923, the number of W.I.s being now 49 in Leicestershire and 8 in Rutland. The total membership is between 3,000 and 4,000.

The Executive Committee has met monthly and has been assisted in its work by the following Sub-Committees: Finance, Organisation, Exhibition, Handicrafts, Agricultural and Horticultural, Choral and Rally.

Twenty-five delegates from Leicester and Rutland attended the Annual General Meeting of the N.F.W.I. in May 1923, and the County Federation sent delegates to the three Consultative Councils at London, Derby and Cambridge.

Council Meetings.—Two Council Meetings have been held, on March 21st and November 17th; 25 W.I.s were represented at the March Council Meeting, and 43 at the November Meeting, when the Executive Committee for 1924 was elected.

Groups.—At the March Council Meeting it was resolved to group the Institutes. Rules were drawn up and approved, and 9 groups were formed. Meetings of each Group were held in May and October. It is hoped that these meetings will prove of benefit to the Institutes, and will be a means of promoting friendship and exchange of ideas amongst them.

W.I. Library.—The Federation Library has been catalogued and 33 Institutes have joined the Library, in which there are now over 800 books.

County Council Aid.—The Leicestershire County Council has given much assistance to the Institutes by providing lectures and demonstrations on agriculture and horticulture, poultry

keeping, health, cooking, upholstery, dressmaking, etc. The Federation are very grateful for this assistance, which has been much appreciated by members.

Lectures and Demonstrations.—Lectures on Local Government, League of Nations and National Savings, have been given, and demonstrations in many handicrafts, including glove making, slipper making, raffia work, papier maché, etc.

Local Shows.—Tents with exhibits of handicrafts for sale were organised at the Leicestershire, Lutterworth, Market Bosworth and Ashby-de-la-Zouch Agricultural Shows, and a stall was arranged at the Oakham Horticultural Show.

Grand Rally.—A grand Rally was held at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, on October 31st, at which over 2,000 members and their friends were present. The Choral Competitions, which were a new feature, proved so successful that it was resolved to hold a separate Choral Festival in 1924.

Royal Agricultural Show.—An inter-County Conference was held in Leicestershire in September, at which the Schedule for the N.F.W.I. exhibit at the Royal Show was discussed. Miss Parr, Organising Secretary for the N.F.W.I., and representatives from Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire, were present.

N.F.W.I. Organiser.—Miss Simpson has visited the Federation twice—in February and November; she attended several W.I. meetings, where her help was much appreciated.

Schools for Officers.—Miss Simpson also held two Schools for Officers, the first in Leicester in February, and the second at Lutterworth in November. In spite of very bad weather, on both these occasions these schools were very well attended.

Finance.—The Women's Institutes have helped the following organisations with donations to their funds: County Nursing Association, Police Court Mission, Lord Roberts' Workshops, Market Harborough Cottage Hospital, Stamford Cottage Hospital, Leicester Royal Infirmary, etc. They have also supported most generously their County Federation Fund.

KESTEVEN (33).

Chairman: Mrs. Cyril Greenall, The Manor, Carlton Scroop, Grantham.

Secretary: Miss E. L. Need, Welbourn, Lincoln.

Organisation.—Four Institutes have been added, at Skellingthorpe, Leasingham, Anwick, and Kirkby la Thorpe.

The Annual Council Meeting, held at Lincoln, was a "red letter day," as Lady Denman, Chairman of the N.F.W.I., then paid her first visit to this County Federation. Most of the In-

stitutes sent delegates. The July Council had the pleasure of a most interesting address on "The Law as it affects Women," given by Miss Geikie Cobb, Barrister-at-Law. Two meetings were arranged at which Miss Deakin, of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, explained the Guardianship, Maintenance and Custody of Infants Bill.

Conferences for W.I. Officers were held in three Centres, and Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, gave some most useful suggestions for Programmes, etc.

Exhibitions.—An exhibition arranged with Lindsey Federation in a large tent at the Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, was very well supported by members.

Billingham and Walcot, and Harmston W.I.s held splendid exhibitions in their respective villages. Barkston district W.I. had a handicraft stall, and Heighington and others showed exhibits at their local Flower Shows.

Lectures and Demonstrations have been given by Miss Watkins, V.C.O., Mrs. Reilly, from the Buckinghamshire Federation, and Mrs. French, from the East Sussex Federation; by Miss Strugwell on Astronomy, and Miss Barrows on the West Indies.

Border Institutes.—W.I.s in North Nottinghamshire and Holland are offered the services of lecturers on tour, and are kept in touch with the work of this Federation.

The County Council make no grant but allow the Institutes the use of Schools, with fire and light, for their Monthly Meetings and special lectures, and now have promised an equivalent where other Halls are used for classes.

Institute Reports show that the W.I. does meet a real need for educational and social intercourse which is much appreciated, as many of our members live in the remotest country districts, far from a station; this circumstance, and the poor train service, causes many difficulties in the organisation of lectures. Nearly all the Institutes have contributed to County Funds.

LINDSEY (50).

Chairman: Mrs. Amcotts, J.P., Kettlethorpe Hall, Lincoln.

Secretary: Miss W. M. Hall, The Limes, James Street, Louth.

Organisation.—During the year five new Institutes have been formed, making the present total 50. Three preliminary meetings have been held, and other propaganda work has been carried on.

Three Group Conferences have been held and were excellently attended. Tours have been arranged for Miss Simpson and Miss Parr (N.F.W.I. Organisers), Mrs. Reilly, Miss Forbes (R.S.P.C.A.), and for Mrs. Ravenshaw (National Savings Committee), and Dame Meriel Talbot (S.O.S.B.W.).

Lectures and Classes.—Eighteen lectures by the County Council Poultry Instructor have been arranged for Institutes. Courses of County Council Classes in cookery, dressmaking, basketry, millinery and home nursing have been held and special classes have been arranged by individual Institutes in toy making, basketry, glove making, morris dancing and choral singing.

An *Exhibition* was organised jointly with the Kesteven Federation in connection with the County Agricultural Show.

W.I. Activities have included the Community work of raising funds for the District Nursing and Child Welfare Associations; for the local hospitals and the Society for the Care of the Blind; for the Cathedral Restoration and for the care of the local War Memorials. Some Institutes have co-operated with the Girl Guides, and one has provided itself with a piano.

MERIONETH (16).

President: Mrs. Morgan, Ballymacord, Barmouth.

Secretary: Mrs. Llewelyn Owen, Llys Llewelyn, Barmouth.

Organisation.—A new Institute has been formed at Harlech, which will, it is hoped, be a means of extending the movement in that district.

One Institute which had lapsed has been revived, and propaganda work has prepared the way for the opening of three more Institutes in the future.

The total membership is 907, showing an increase during the year of 39 members. There are now three V.C.O.s in the County.

Miss Lumley, the Organiser for Wales, in October addressed three well-attended Group Meetings.

This County Federation was the first to make the representation, supported by other Welsh County Federations, which led to the appointment of a Welsh-speaking member to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee. Mrs. Morgan, who has been closely connected with the movement from the beginning, was elected at the Shrewsbury Conference in October, as the Welsh representative, and her service on this Committee is proving of great value in keeping the Welsh counties in close touch with Headquarters.

Craft Workers.—Amongst the members there are now several craft workers in embroidery, upholstery and basketry. One member has taken a course in leather work and, out of 23 candidates, was one of the eleven who passed the test. Other candidates are to be sent to future schools in various crafts.

County Council Aid.—The County Education Committee again allotted to the Federation a grant of £50 divisible between six Institutes. By this means classes in cookery, basket making and upholstery were held, which were well attended and have pro-

duced good results. The grant is given with the idea of assisting the weaker Institutes, and no Institute can receive it for two consecutive years.

The County Agricultural Organiser has given lectures on gardening, bee keeping, poultry rearing, the pruning of fruit trees and dairying.

County Agricultural Show. In September, the County Federation for the first time organised a stall at the County Agricultural Show, held at Bala. The result was encouraging in more ways than one. A profit was made, and it was evident that interest in the movement was aroused amongst the numerous visitors to the Show. The Vice President (Mrs. Lloyd Price), presented shelves for the exhibits, and both she and Mrs. Felix and Mrs. W. E. Jones, spared no effort to ensure the success of the venture.

Welsh National Eisteddfod.—Recognition of the Institute movement by the Committee of the Welsh National Eisteddfod for 1925 has taken the form of the inclusion of a Woman's Institute Section, in which the County Federation is offering prizes for competition.

Community Work.—Llanbedr Institute has raised funds for and erected a commodious building, which will provide accommodation for its own meetings and any others held in the village.

Institutes have lent their aid in securing signatures to the Peace Memorial which is being presented by the Women of Wales to the Women of America.

MIDDLESEX (15).

President: The Countess of Strafford, 5, St. James's Square, S.W.1.

Chairman: Mrs. Darlington, Park House, Potters Bar, Middx.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Kuhner, The Avenue House, West Drayton.

Organisation.—The Executive Committee has appointed the following Sub-Committees: Organisation, Agriculture and Horticulture, Finance, Handicrafts, Music.

One Institute has lapsed during the year, but several are shortly to be formed; much useful propaganda work has been done by the three V.C.O.s in the County, two of whom have been trained during the year.

Agriculture.—Several successful Flower and Vegetable Shows have been held, one being in conjunction with neighbouring Herts Institutes; this co-operative effort proved very popular. Agricultural Colleges and Shows in the County and elsewhere were visited and reported on.

Handicrafts.—Glove making and soft toy making appear to be the favourite crafts, but many others are practised in the County, and a panel of demonstrators has been circulated to each Institute. A County Exhibition is being organised in conjunction with the Annual Council Meeting.

Music.—A very successful Choral Competition was held at the last Annual Meeting, and a similar one will be held this year and annually, it is hoped, in the future.

The *Group System*, introduced in 1922, is proving very popular; successful conferences, both in the Spring and Autumn, were held in all four Groups.

Outstanding Institute Activities.—Eleven W.I.s have contributed to both County and National Federation Funds.

The Carnegie Library Scheme, started by the W.I.s in several villages, is working well, and one W.I. is directly represented on the County Committee. Several Institutes are represented on their local Welfare Committees, one on the Rural District Council and one on the Parish Council; one Institute is working in conjunction with the Middlesex Association for the Blind.

MONMOUTH (25).

President: Sybil Viscountess Rhondda, Llanwern Park, Newport, Mon.

Chairman: Lady Mather-Jackson.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Edith Jackson, The Chain, Abergavenny.

This year Institutes have worked much more together, taken more interest in one another, and in the work of the Federation. The Red Cross lectures on "How to keep well," in January, were co-operative; twelve W.I.s subscribed for the Lecturer's fees, and her travelling expenses within the County were paid by the profit on two lectures, one of which, "Serbia," was given by the Red Cross lecturer herself. In the summer when funds were low, an appeal from one of our V.C.O.s brought an immediate response, from fifteen Institutes, of £19 10s. 0d.

The *Federation Fete* at Llanwern Park, was not a great financial success, but the Institutes helped in many ways and took a great deal of trouble with the stalls, which were very successful.

Our *Council Meeting* in May was for the first time an all-day meeting. This was a great success. One of the speakers at it was Mrs. Pott, President of Goodridge W.I. in Herefordshire; that County invited our Federation to send a representative to their Annual Meeting in December, and Mrs. Graham, President of Bettws W.I., went as County Delegate. In October Lady Mather-Jackson acted as our Delegate at Shrewsbury for the *Conference of Welsh Counties*.

Two students attended the *Handicraft Conference* at Sherbourne, one for instruction in embroidery and one in leather work.

County Council Aid.—Twelve Institutes have had County Council Classes in basket making, dressmaking, cooking and home nursing, while County Council lectures on Agriculture have been given in six Institutes, these including pig keeping and bacon curing. There have also been lectures on Horticulture given gratuitously by the Instructor for Elementary School gardens. The County Council is very helpful in every way and a room is always available at the County Hall, Newport, for any meeting there.

Classes, in addition to those given by the County Council, have been held in housecraft, upholstery, leather work, gloves, raffia work, wool rug making, etc.

Other Institute Activities.—Many Institutes have helped other organisations. One (Bettws), after contributing largely towards a Parish Room in 1922, and buying the furniture, has this year paid all the expenses of the local Flower Show (£120), and given the money taken at the gate to the Building Fund. One W.I. gave £50 to a Memorial Hall (St. Melons); one contributed £10 to a local Nursing Association (Llantilio Pertholey); one (Llanwenarth), provided the tea at the performance of "Comus," which the girls of the Intermediate School gave for the Federation; another helped to restore the Parish Church (Llanwern); one has bought a piano for the Parish Assembly Rooms, and repainted these rooms (Llanddewy); a school platform for concerts has been bought by one (Llanellen); and two have subscribed to Monmouth and Abergavenny Hospitals respectively (Raglan and Govilon).

A new enterprise in this County was the entertaining of one Institute by another; Victoria W.I. visited Forest W.I., and inspected the interesting Church of Partrishow.

Organisation.—It is difficult to give much systematic help with only three V.C.O.s. Our Institutes are scattered, and most of them are small; three have under 20 members, nine have between 20 and 30, eleven between 30 and 50, and only two over 50—a total membership of 776. Four new Institutes have been started during 1923.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE (23).

President: Mrs. Dugdale, Llwyn, Llanfyllin.

Chairman: Mrs. C. S. Pryce, Treliddiant, Montgomery.

Secretary: Mrs. Riddell, Ty Gwyn, Welshpool.

Organisation.—During the year two new Institutes have been formed.

A new V.C.O.—Mrs. Adams, Plinlimmon Group—has been appointed. Mrs. Rees has resigned.

Two Council Meetings have been held, one at Newtown in January, and the other at Machynlleth in June. At the latter an address was given by Miss Winsor, of Aberdovey, on her visit to Australia and the Dutch East Indies.

The Group system has been re-organised. There are now four Groups, and the meetings are held during the first weeks of February and October, whilst outings take the place of summer meetings.

A co-operative piece of work is being done by the members of the Severn Group, which, it is hoped, will prove good enough for acceptance by the Handicrafts Committee of the N.F.W.I. for the London Exhibition in October.

Donations to the County Fund have been increased. Belan and Llanfyllin have each sent a further £1 contribution to the Endowment Fund. Three members of the County Federation Executive Committee have also each sent £1.

Classes have been held in various crafts, and the good results of the Handicrafts Schools organised by Headquarters are already shown in the high standard of teaching which can now be obtained.

Lectures on many subjects have been given by County speakers, and a course of lectures on "Milk as a Diet" was given at five Institutes in November, by a lecturer from the National Milk Publicity Council.

Exhibition.—A successful exhibition of handicrafts was held at Llandinam on July 12th. Exhibits were sent in by 12 Institutes and 58 first, 52 second, and 42 third-class awards were gained. The certificate of merit was reproduced from an original design, drawn by a Carno member (Miss G. Adams). A banner (given by Mrs. Dugdale, County President), for the Institute winning the largest number of first-class certificates, was won by Llandinam.

A *County Handbook* is being compiled, which, it is hoped, will be of use to Institute members, and prove a source of revenue to the County Fund.

The *Carnegie Library* scheme is working in the County, and many Institutes greatly appreciate the books sent to them from time to time.

Special Activities.—Bwlchfrydd and Aberhafesp had a Christmas Entertainment and a Fancy Dress Competition in aid of the Institute Funds. Belan gave the proceeds of a Dance (£6 5s.) to the District Nurse's Fund, £1 1s. (part of the proceeds of an entertainment) to the Choir Fund, and organised a Garden Fete for Institute Funds. This W.I. also entertained the children of the Day and Sunday Schools at a Christmas Party. It has a Juvenile Group, who form a team of folk dancers. Carno organised a sale of work which realised £29, of which £14 was

given to the Nursing Association and £1 to the Girl Guides. Llangurig and Llandinam each organised a Christmas Fair; Llanmynech had a stall at the local Flower Show; Llanbryn-mair entertained a neighbouring Institute, and organised a Bazaar to clear off the debt on the Village Hall.

Representation on County Committees.—The Federation is represented on the Agricultural, Education, Recreation and Nursing Association Committees.

NORFOLK (108).

President: The Lady Suffield, J.P., C.C., Gunton Park, Norwich.

Secretary: Miss M. L. Burgess, 3, Davey Place, Norwich.

Organisation.—During the year 14 new Institutes have been started, making a total of 108 Institutes covering about 300 villages. One hundred and five visits have been paid to Institutes by the three County Organisers during the year, and members of the Executive Committee have also paid a large number. A spirit of co-operation and good comradeship prevails throughout the County. The business details of the Institutes are rapidly improving, and members are realising and appreciating their individual responsibilities.

Lectures.—A new Lectures List has been compiled, and contains many additional educational lectures and handicraft demonstrations.

Handicrafts.—A very marked improvement in the standard has developed and been maintained.

Exhibition.—The Annual Exhibition is now a permanent feature in the County, and takes the form of a Village Fair on a large scale. The Executive Committee acknowledge their great appreciation of the valuable help rendered in this connection, and in many other directions by the Norfolk Education Committee.

Financial Activities.—The Hon. Treasurer is responsible for an annual dance in the largest hall in the city, which is a great social event, and the proceeds of which are an agreeable addition to the funds.

Mrs. Elwin's charming Calendar has an ever increasing sale, and the profits are most generously given to the County Funds.

Thrift.—Mrs. Ravenshaw's popular lectures are responsible for additional Savings Associations being started in the County.

Centres.—Monthly meetings are organised at the Norwich Centre, at which lectures and demonstrations of a special nature are given, and the Executive Committee were fortunate enough to secure the Secretaries and Vice-Chairman of the Norfolk Education Committee to open this series, and Miss Hadow for the second meeting. This centre remains a continual joy to the members, 12,000 of whom have visited it during the year.

The Lynn Rest Room is open every Tuesday, Market Day.

Village Halls.—Wells Women's Institute has the proud distinction of having the first village hall in Norfolk, built entirely through the activities of the Women's Institute. Many other Institutes have, however, taken a very prominent part in raising funds for the building of village halls.

Special Activities.—Other activities of interest which have engaged the attention of Institutes in the County have included the provision of bath chairs, providing half the cost of a new system of lighting, weekly shops open during the season for the sale of garden produce, etc., the inauguration of several choral and dramatic societies, pianos purchased for the use of the village halls, slippers made and supplied free for children attending the elementary schools, and a large number of village libraries started. The interchange of visits between the Institutes is becoming an outstanding feature.

Joint Activities.—The Norfolk Federation of Village Clubs continue to use the Norwich centre as their head office, and work in closest co-operation with the Women's Institute Movement.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (72).

President: Lady Knightley, Fawsley, Daventry.

Secretary: Mrs. Barker, Moulton Lodge, Northampton.

Organisation.—Eleven new Institutes have been formed this year, and the total number is now 72. The members of the Executive Committee have been very active in visiting the Institutes, nearly all of which have received at least one visit during the year. A Council Meeting was held on June 13th, at which 40 Institutes were represented. At this meeting the "Rest and Change Scheme," drafted by Miss Simpson, was adopted and also the suggested rules for the Grouping System. In the afternoon an open meeting, with a demonstration on basket making by a "Dryad" teacher, was well attended.

On April 25th, a School for Secretaries and Treasurers was held at Northampton, conducted by Miss Simpson; 31 Institutes sent Secretaries and Treasurers. In the afternoon of the same day a conference was held for Presidents and Vice-Presidents, 41 Institutes being represented.

In September Miss Simpson spent a fortnight in the County attending Group Meetings and Conferences. During her tour a conference for Committee members was held in Northampton, which was very well attended, valuable help and advice being given by her.

In December, Mrs. Harris visited the County, and conducted a conference for W.I. Officers and another for V.C.O.s.

Exhibitions.—The chief event of the year has been the Exhibition and Rally at Rushton Hall, on June 28th. This was a great success, both as a social gathering and as an exhibition, the standard of work being very much higher than at the Exhibition in 1921. The balance in hand was good, being nearly £200, in spite of very heavy expenses.

A tent was arranged at the County Agricultural Show at Kettering in May, and an exhibition of needlework, toys, etc., lent by the N.F.W.I., was on view.

County Council Aid.—The County Council has helped us by giving courses of instruction in cooking, millinery, dressmaking, and basket making. Lectures have been given on horticulture, poultry keeping, and agricultural subjects. Demonstrations have been arranged of pruning and grafting. A good number of Institutes have booked courses for 1924.

Lectures.—In January Mrs. Cresswell, from Northumberland, very kindly gave addresses on "Kindness to Animals," and "Humane Slaughter." Mrs. French was in the County for a fortnight in August and September, and attended 20 meetings, at which 31 Institutes received instruction. Lectures have also been given on many other subjects, among these being the following: Captain Scott's Last Antarctic Expedition, The Himalayas, Citizenship, The Criminal Law Amendment Act, National Savings, Child Welfare, Hygiene, Social Purity, Guardianship of Infants, A Tour Round the World, and The League of Nations.

Classes.—Classes have been held in the office for advanced basket making, glove making and fine embroidery. Classes have also been held in Institutes for cooking, folk dancing, upholstery, millinery, dressmaking, leather work, etc., and demonstrations have been given on spinning and weaving, rug making, basketry (cane and raffia), mats (rush, raffia and string), care of the hair, papier maché, lamp shade making, household jobbery, fruit bottling, etc.

Library.—The Central Library is steadily making headway; many new books have been bought and others will soon be added. Twenty-one Institutes have now joined the Library, and the subscription has been reduced to £1.

Other Activities.—More than one W.I. has taken charge of its local War Memorial; exhibitions of handicrafts have been held, Coal Clubs formed and National Savings Associations started. Fruit and Flower Shows have been arranged, and competitions in bulb growing and Baby Shows have been organised in several villages. Culworth has started a hospital fund for the use of its members, and Long Buckby has opened a W.I. shop, which is doing well.

NORTHUMBERLAND (68).

President: The Countess Grey, Howick, Longhoughton, Alnwick.

Chairman: Mrs. Cresswell, Hauxley Hall, Amble, Morpeth.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Collingwood Thorp, Belvedere, Alnwick.

Organisation.—During the year the organisation Sub-Committee has done excellent work, the V.C.O.s, of whom there are eight, having been active in improving the status of the County, forming new Institutes and visiting the old ones. Thirteen new Institutes have been formed, and one W.I. Centre at Alnwick. Seventy-seven visits have been paid to Institutes during the year.

Tours.—Northumberland has been fortunate in having two visits from Miss Parr during the past year. In the spring she addressed Group meetings in Hexham and Alnwick, and the W.I. Officers and Organisers in Newcastle. Her second tour was in the autumn, when she again addressed group meetings in Hexham, Alnwick, Bellingham and Cornhill, and conducted an inter-county conference in Newcastle, delegates from Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire and Cumberland being present. This conference proved of great value to all who took part in it. By this tour two-thirds of the Institutes were placed in direct touch with Headquarters through Miss Parr.

Delegates from Northumberland.—The County Federation sent delegates to the Consultative Councils at Derby and Cambridge, and the Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer attended the Conference at Leeds for W.I. Officers. The Vice-Chairman also attended the League of Nations Union School held at Balcombe.

Half-Yearly Council Meetings.—Two most successful meetings have been held in April and November. The former was an all-day meeting, with business in the morning, and a lecture in the afternoon, and the November meeting was the Annual Meeting, and consisted entirely of business. Delegates from 54 W.I.s were present.

Handicrafts.—The outstanding feature of the past year was the visit of the Royal Agricultural Show to Newcastle. Northumberland was responsible for the local arrangements for the N.F.W.I. exhibit, which were admirably carried out by Mrs. Scott, the Hon. Sec. of the Handicrafts Committee. Miss Parr was in charge of the tent provided by Headquarters; the six Northern Counties and Scotland all sent exhibits to this tent, and it proved a most interesting feature of the Show Ground. Demonstrations were given in quilting, basket making, upholstery, chair caning and spinning. All these demonstrations were provided by Northumberland. The Prince of Wales visited the tent, and some of the officials were presented to him.

The Guild of Learners A and B Tests were held in Newcastle in October. Six members passed in the A and four in the B test. It is pleasing to be able to report that one of the successful candidates who is obliged to support herself and an invalid husband, can now do so by her own efforts. Before she had this training she was quite ignorant of any of the subjects she is now able to teach.

Classes and Demonstrations. Owing to the generosity of the County Council, classes and demonstrations have been held in 17 different subjects.

Handbook.—This County has compiled a Handbook in connection with the Annual Report and Balance Sheet. It has been found to be of enormous help, especially to W.I. Secretaries, and has more than paid its way.

County Leaflet.—A leaflet has been published once and, as there seems a demand for it, it is intended to publish it four times a year.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (29).

President and Chairman: The Hon. Mrs. Handford, Elmfield, Southwell.

Secretary: Miss B. E. Marriott, 4, Larkdale Street, Nottingham.

Organisation.—Two new Institutes have been formed during the year, bringing the total to 29, with a membership of approximately 1,700.

The County Federation is represented on the National Council of Women, the University College Committee for Adult Education, the County Council Agricultural Sub-Committee, and Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

An Inter-County Conference of V.C.O.s from Derbyshire, Kesteven, Lindsey and Notts, was held in Nottingham, under the direction of Miss Parr (N.F.W.I.), who also visited six of the Notts Groups during the same week.

At the Council meeting in November at Newark, Miss Simpson (N.F.W.I.), organised a conference on "How to Conduct an Annual Meeting," which the delegates found very helpful.

Mr. Hannan, of the Proportional Representation Society, lectured on P.R. at a Group Meeting at Southwell.

A Song Sheet, compiled with the help of suggestions from the Institutes, has been printed to be sold to W.I.s at 1d. per copy.

Handicrafts.—The County Federation Exhibition held in September, was opened by Miss Bouverie (N.F.W.I. Executive) and Col. Mellish, Chairman of the Notts Education Committee, took the Chair. 1,500 people visited the exhibition, which included

17 individual W.I. stalls, 2 Group stalls, 3 Federation stalls, and an exhibit by Country Industries, Ltd. Members were at work at their crafts in the Hall, and a series of half-hour concerts was arranged.

Many Institutes sent articles for exhibition and sale at the Federation stall at the County Agricultural Show in May.

A three-days' course in basketry was held in Nottingham in March, under an instructor from the "Dryad" Handicrafts, Leicester, and eight students attended.

Tests for the Guild of Learners B certificate were held in Nottingham in November.

Institute Activities.—Mrs. Robinson, of the National Savings Association, has visited five W.I.s and four Savings Associations were formed.

Twenty W.I.s have had classes in one or more of the following subjects: basketry, cheese making, cobbling, cookery, dress-making, glove making, health, leather work, millinery, poultry keeping, raffia work, rug making, skin curing, sweet making, upholstery.

Community work has included contributions towards the funds for village halls (7 W.I.s); help towards the maintenance of the village nurse (3 W.I.s); help to the Hospital (3 W.I.s); the provision of a bathchair for the use of the village by one W.I.; the catering for the local Flower or Allotment Show (4 W.I.s); and contributions towards the Men's Institute by one W.I.

Other efforts include the raising of funds for pianos, and for a W.I. Hall, and the opening of a Library.

OXFORDSHIRE (69).

President: Mrs. John Buchan, Elsfield Manor, Oxford.

Chairman: Miss G. Hadow, Barnett House, Oxford.

Hon. Secretary: Miss H. C. Deneke, Barnett House, Oxford.

Organisation.—Nine Institutes have been formed during 1923, and the total number in the County is now 69, with a membership of over 4,400, exclusive of the new Institutes.

Educational Work.—The special feature of the winter's work, 1923-24, promises to be a new interest in drama. During the autumn the Oxfordshire Players visited eight Institutes, performing plays selected from a repertoire of *The Rivals*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Spell*, *Le Sire Mal-étroit* and *The Will o' the Wisp*. They are also ready to give advice on how to act. A Shakespeare competition is being arranged for the Exhibition in May 1924, and the County Federation are offering talks on Shakespeare.

One hundred and sixty-six lectures, covering 47 subjects, have been arranged by the County Federation during the year; the titles of a few lectures will give some idea of the ground covered:

Ants and their Ways, Astronomy, Character Training of Children, Grandmother's Tales, Labour Saving in Other Lands, League of Nations, Life in the 14th Century, Orthopaedics, Punishment in the Education of Children, Where our Food comes from, Women on Juries, and a number of talks on Foreign Countries. Sixty-three practical demonstrations have been arranged in cookery, vegetable and fruit bottling, laundry work, poultry keeping, sweet making and icing, and in seventeen different crafts, amongst which skin curing was asked for by eight Institutes, stitchery and chair caning each by four, and baskets and rushwork, glove making, leather work, slipper making and upholstery each by three. County Council Courses in first aid have been held in two Institutes, and series of classes in different crafts in twenty-four Institutes. Other series of classes in butter and cheese making, first aid, gardening and poultry keeping have been arranged for seven Institutes.

Large numbers of lectures and classes were also arranged locally by the Institutes themselves.

Community Work.—The County Council, having received from the County Federation and local W.I.s acting co-operatively, representations showing the actual demand for Libraries in Oxfordshire villages, has adopted the Public Libraries Act, which will enable them to meet this demand.

The County Federation and local Institutes have co-operated in giving information for a Government report on prices.

The County Federation forms one of the constituent societies of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, and amongst the benefits which W.I.s have thus obtained may be mentioned the visits of the Oxfordshire Players, the hire at reduced rates of a motor for sending teachers and lecturers to villages, and classes under the auspices of the English Folk Dance Society, also at reduced rates. Through the Council, W.I.s are arranging to co-operate with local school masters and mistresses in making known the opportunities for scholarships for Oxfordshire children and young people.

Amongst the Communal activities of individual Institutes, an interesting scheme is that by which a savings bank account is opened for every baby born to a W.I. member, 2s. being paid in from W.I. funds. In two villages the District Nursing Association is worked in connection with the W.I.; two Institutes have been instrumental in getting a nurse for the village; one has contributed to the School Buildings Fund, and three run Coal Clubs. One W.I. member is a Parish Councillor, a President is a member of the County Council, the Chairman of the County Federation also serves as Secretary to Barnett House, and members of the Executive Committee serve on the County Education and Agricultural Committees.

Council Meetings and Conferences.—A scheme for organising Groups of not less than four, or more than eight, Institutes, has been adopted. Ten Groups have been formed, and Miss M. H. Simpson has made two tours, visiting their meetings.

After Mr. Leslie's lecture and demonstration of Descants at the Annual Meeting in Jan. 1923, it was decided to practice "All Through the Night" in Institutes for combined singing at the Annual Meeting in Jan. 1924. A Delegates' Meeting was held to consider the Agenda for the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting, and an inter-County Conference was held in Oxford, with the help of Mrs. Harris, five neighbouring Counties being represented. A delegate was sent to the London and Cambridge consultative Councils.

Exhibition.—The attendance at the 1923 Exhibition went up by 700. The Institute stalls were a popular innovation, and a programme of singing, folk dancing and other items was arranged. The Federation profit was £59.

Handicrafts.—There has been an improvement in the standard of work. Some twelve selected articles submitted to the British Institute of Industrial Art were all accepted and shown at the South Kensington Museum.

A special leather work class has been held, and several of the students have since taken the Guild of Learners' A Certificate.

A class was also arranged in umbrella covering and china rivetting.

The O.F.W.I. Christmas Shop was successfully open for one week in Oxford, and £30 paid over to Institute members.

County Leaflet.—The sales of *Home and Country*, with the Oxfordshire Supplement have increased steadily to 575 in Jan. 1924.

PEMBROKE (19).

President: Mrs. Seymour Allen, Parkeston, Carew.

Secretary: Mrs. Donal Morgan, Bryn-y-Mor, Solva, Pembroke.

Organisation.—During 1923 only two new Institutions have been formed, but there has been a considerable increase of membership throughout the County. An Organisation Sub-Committee has been appointed, and meets every two months.

Mrs. Nugent Harris attended the Council Meeting in October, and her address on Institute Work and its Organisation, was felt to be very helpful. The visits of the Area Organiser are much appreciated by the Institutes and Federation.

Exhibition.—Although the County Exhibition held in Tenby in June was not a financial success, yet, as regards the quality of the work sent by the Institutes, it was very satisfactory, and a high standard was reached.

Finance.—The County Federation expresses the hope that, although contributions from Institutes to County and National funds have been small this year, a decided improvement will be shown in 1924.

W.I. Activities.—Several Institutes hold weekly and fortnightly working classes, and many entertainments have been arranged for the benefit of the ex-Service men, District Nurses and Village and Memorial Halls.

Lectures and Demonstrations.—Demonstrations have been given in decorative stitchery and embroidery, raffia work, basketry, rug making and glove making. Classes in folk dancing and singing have been held. Lectures on Red Cross work and on old customs and traditions have been given, the travelling expenses of teachers and lecturers to each Institute being paid by the County Federation.

RADNORSHIRE (13).

President: Mrs. Coltman Rogers, Stanage Park, Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire.

Chairman: Mrs. Evan Thomas, Caerwnon, Builth Wells.

Secretary: Mrs. Claud Lewis, Evancoyd, Walton, Radnorshire.

On January 23rd, 1923, Mrs. Nugent Harris addressed an enthusiastic meeting of the Radnorshire Institutes on the subject of forming a Federation. This was voted for unanimously, the Propaganda Committee was dissolved and the County Federation formed. During the year two new Institutes have been started, making the number now thirteen, and a second V.C.O. has been appointed.

Lectures.—Amongst the County activities this year has been a tour round the Institutes by Miss Kelly. The meetings were made very attractive by a short play being acted, and criticised by Miss Kelly, the prize (given by the Chairman), being awarded to Penybont. These drama lectures were much enjoyed, and it is hoped that some of the Institutes may, as a result, start branches of the Village Drama Society. Another set of lectures, by the kindness of the Red Cross, was given by Miss Fry. This is her second visit to the County, and her advanced course on "How to Keep Well," was a great help to the members, and the classes were well attended throughout.

At the half-yearly Federation Meeting a very delightful lecture was given by Miss Nettleship, on Descant singing. A good deal of interest had been taken in this subject, and a choir from some of the Institutes illustrated the lecture by singing ballads and hymns, which they had practised beforehand.

Libraries.—The Carnegie book boxes have been the greatest boon to the Institutes; the system is so well organised and the books so wisely chosen, that our members reap a real benefit.

County Council Aid.—The Radnorshire County Council has again been most generous in its grants for technical classes, which, by its kind help, have been held in upholstery, dressmaking, basket making, poultry keeping and cheese making.

Institute Activities include a display of work by Penybont at the County Agricultural Show at Llandrindod; Newbridge-on-Wye organises an annual Flower Show, and has given a clock to the County Hospital, and helped with its Pound Day; Bleddfa has contributed a hamper to the Hospital; Clyro W. I. has provided itself with a piano costing £40, and has also helped the Boy Scouts to the extent of £23; Evancoyd and New Radnor have gained prizes at the Walton Flower Show for upholstery and fruit and vegetable bottling. A good deal of money has been raised by Institutes for local objects. There have been very good contributions to the County Funds, one Institute sending £6 and others £5.

The County Federation reports growing enthusiasm amongst the Institutes, and a very happy feeling throughout the whole County.

SHROPSHIRE (67).

Chairman: Mrs. Price-Davies, O.B.E., Marrington Hall, Chirbury, Salop.

Secretary: Miss Peers, Kenneth House, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.

Organisation.—The County Executive is assisted by the following Sub-Committees: Organisation, Finance and Music.

Nine new Institutes have been formed this year, including one border Institute transferred from Herefordshire to Shropshire.

There are now seven Voluntary County Organisers and Miss Peers, County Secretary, devotes a portion of her time to attending W.I. meetings and to propaganda.

Two Council Meetings have been held in Shrewsbury. The first was attended by Lady Denman, who gave an address on "How the National Federation helps the Women's Institutes." At the second, Miss Parr, Organising Secretary of the N.F.W.I., spoke on "The Work of a County Federation," and a resolution was passed by the meeting to the effect "That in the interests of new members joining a W.I. after the formation meeting, there should be a talk or discussion once a year on 'Aims and Objects,' and that W.I. Committees be asked to include one such meeting in their programme each year, any expenses of the speaker being paid out of the County Funds."

At this Council Meeting a presentation was made by the combined Shropshire Institutes and Executive Committee to Mrs. Alcock, County Federation Chairman, on her departure from the County, in recognition of her devoted work for the movement during the past five years.

Group Meetings.—Seven one-day Group Meetings were held in the spring. These consisted of business meetings for Officers and Committee in the mornings, and addresses on "Choral Singing" by Mr. Leslie, and "Village Acting" by the Rev. H. Cullen in the afternoons.

County Council Aid.—The Shropshire Education Committee continues to support the W.I. by supplying excellent dressmaking classes and lectures on horticulture, bee keeping, etc.

An Agricultural Scholarship was successfully competed for by a W.I. member. The W.I. Stall at the Shropshire and West Midland Show showed excellent work. Eleven awards were gained by members in the W.I. Dairy Classes.

Handicrafts.—Shropshire has been fortunate in arranging a School for Handicraft Demonstrators, held by Miss Somerville, who gave up three days in February to instruction and very interesting talks on the art of demonstrating.

At least 24 different handicrafts have been taught, of which the favourites remain dressmaking, upholstery, millinery, cooking, glove making, skin curing, raffia work.

Lectures have been given on many subjects, including Agriculture, gardening, history, literature, citizenship and the League of Nations.

Health Lectures.—One course was arranged in conjunction with the Joint Council of the Red Cross and of St. John, which contributed half the lecturer's expenses. Owing to the great demand, the County Federation undertook to arrange a second course. Altogether 16 centres have benefited by these lectures.

Community and Welfare Work.—Several W.I.s have had Baby Shows; many have raised funds for their District Nurse, and have worked for their local Hospitals by sending hampers and collecting eggs. Several W.I.s have contributed to Church repairs, and have given Christmas treats to school children. One W.I. has organised scavenging in the Parish. A large proportion have joined the National Savings Association, and a few have become associate members of the League of Nations Union.

Flower Shows and sales of bulbs have been organised by several Institutes and most of them have contributed towards the building or equipment of village halls.

Town Association.—A preliminary meeting was held in Shrewsbury during Miss Parr's visit, and the proposal to form a W.I. Town Association met with response and support. It is hoped that the Association will prove a great help to the County Federation.

Music.—The chief feature of the year has been the great progress in Choral Singing made by the W.I.s, owing to the inspired leadership of Mr. W. H. Leslie, who held a Conductors' School in Shrewsbury and spoke at four Group Meetings and whose help and advice is always at the disposal of the Music Sub-Committee and W. I. Choirs. Descant singing is being practised in many Institutes and one group has started quarterly "Sing-Songs."

STAFFORDSHIRE (77).

Chairman: The Lady Dorothy Meynell, Hoar Cross, Burton-on-Trent.

Secretary: Miss M. B. Strachan, 15, Eastgate Street, Stafford.

Organisation.—Four new Institutes have been formed, making a total of 80, with a membership of 4,550. The County Federation has now obtained permanent offices.

County Council Aid.—The County Education Committee has provided Demonstrations and Classes in dressmaking, cookery, upholstery, millinery, leather work, glove making, poultry keeping, pruning and grafting, and many other kindred subjects.

Exhibitions.—The chief event of the year was our County Exhibition; nearly every Institute competed, and the total number of entries was approximately 2,500. Three halls were engaged for two days, one for handicrafts, one for home produce, and the third for refreshments. The Exhibition was a great success, both socially and financially; the standard of work was high, and the dramatic entertainments and choral singing during the afternoons of the two days were excellent.

Several *Group Exhibitions* have also been held in different parts of the County.

Special Activities.—A most successful Musical Festival Competition was arranged in March.

A Rest Tent was organised at the County Agricultural Show in June, which was greatly appreciated by W.I. members and their friends.

A Dramatic Bureau has been formed, advice being given to W.I.s with regard to acting, scenery, costumes, etc.

Home and Country.—The County *Supplement* has been expanded to a double page, and the circulation of *Home and Country* has increased.

SOMERSET (94).

Chairman: Mrs. Hancock, Cothelstone, Taunton.

Secretary: Miss Vernon, Alcombe, Minehead.

Organisation.—Thirteen new Institutes have been formed during the year, making a total of 94, with a membership of approximately 6,000.

In March five V.C.O.s were trained at the School held in Bristol, bringing the number of V.C.O.s in the County up to 12. In June, an Inter-County Conference was held at Taunton, V.C.O.s from Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon and Somerset being present. It is much hoped that these Conferences will become a recognised form of help to the V.C.O.s.

Finance.—Donations to the County Federation Funds were received from 67 Institutes. It is hoped that in 1924 every Institute will contribute to the County and National Federation Funds, and that the time is not far distant when the County Federation will be entirely self-supporting.

Council Meetings.—The half-yearly Council Meetings were held at Taunton and Bristol, addresses being given on "The Drama" by Miss Elizabeth Blake, and on "The Women Police Force" by Commandant Allen.

Group Meetings.—Meetings were held in all the Groups in the Spring and Autumn; Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, addressed the meetings in the Spring, and also gave instruction to Officers; her help was much appreciated.

Delegates.—The County Federation sent Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the N.F.W.I., and to the Consultative Council Meetings. The Institutes sent a large number of delegates to the County Federation Council Meetings, but were not well represented at the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting.

Exhibition.—The Exhibition, held in Taunton in May, was successful in every way, and the work reached a higher standard than before. The Country Dancing and Folk Singing Competitions were well supported.

Panel of Speakers.—The County Federation issues a Panel of Speakers and Demonstrators every year. In future, judges appointed by the Executive Committee will consider the work of each demonstrator, and it will be indicated on the Panel whether she has passed this County Test. Demonstrators are also being urged to take their Guild of Learners' "A" and "B" Test Certificates.

County Council.—In October the County Secretary was co-opted to the Special Subjects Sub-Committee of the County Council. The County Council has supplied a teacher for dressmaking and it is probable that more help in various ways will be available when the need for economy becomes less pressing.

Music and Drama.—More Institutes in the County are taking up Music and Drama, especially the latter, but at present these Arts are not sufficiently brought forward as Institute activities.

County Dancing.—Many Institutes ask for trained teachers for Country Dancing. Owing to the expense these are very difficult

to obtain. It is hoped that some scheme will be brought forward in 1924 to enable Institutes to have the instruction they ask for.

National Savings Association.—Twenty-nine W.I.s have Savings Associations and report excellent progress.

Lectures have been given on many subjects, the most popular being "Travel" and "Somerset History and Folk Lore."

Classes have been held in various crafts, including raffia, baskets, rug making, dressmaking, gloves, leather work, papier maché, passepartout, soft toys, cookery, pageant dresses, and also in literature, drama and singing.

Other Activities.—Many Institutes have done welfare and community work in their villages; 15 have contributed to the District Nursing Funds; 16 to Village Halls; 3 to the Cancer Research Funds; 2 to Welfare work; 3 have organised Flower Shows; 2 have held pageants; 1 has made slippers from waste for all the children attending the school.

EAST SUFFOLK (80).

President: The Lady Cranworth, Grundisburgh Hall, Woodbridge.

Hon. Secretary: Miss L. Aldrich, Blythmore, Claydon, Ipswich.

Organisation.—The number of Institutes in East Suffolk is now 80, eight new ones having been formed in 1923. The membership has increased, and it is noticeable that the new Institutes start with larger numbers than formerly. The largest Institute, Eye, has 130 members, and the smallest is Wenham, with 19. Both are distinguished for their liveliness, and their interest in the Drama.

The work carried out this year by the County Federation Executive and Sub-Committees for the benefit of all the Institutes includes: (1) A Conference for W.I. Delegates to the National Federation Annual Meeting to discuss with the County Federation Executive the preliminary Agenda for that meeting. (2) A Special report, drawn up and circulated to Institutes by the three County Federation Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the N.F.W.I. (3) The continuation of the special free *Supplement to Home and Country*, under the editorship of Miss L. Aldrich. (4) The W.I. Tent at the Suffolk Agricultural Show, West Suffolk taking a third of the space, and bearing a third of the expenses. (5) The opening of a W.I. Rest Room in Ipswich, a room in the Y.M.C.A., in a very central position, being hired and a special Committee appointed to keep it in a really pleasant condition. Up to the present no charge is made, but some W.I.s have sent special donations, and there is a box in the room in which small sums have been placed. (6) A special combined Group Meeting, held in Ipswich, and addressed by Commandant Allen, O.B.E., on the work of the

Women Police, and by the Clerk of the Peace on the Guardianship of Infants Bill. (7) A half-yearly County Federation Council Meeting, embodying a model W.I. monthly meeting. (8) Special Speakers' Tours, arranged by Mrs. Arnold Forster, the most popular being those for Sir Cecil Herslett on Belgium, and Mrs. Ravenshaw on National Savings. (9) The Library Scheme, in which now over 50 Institutes join. (10) Inquiries into the possibility of starting a market stall for the sale of handicrafts. This is, unfortunately, not feasible at the present time. (11) The revision and extension of the Lecture List.

Institute Activities.—Every Institute reports an interest in Acting, and Singing Classes have increased, Descants gaining in popularity. Some Institutes have entered for local musical competitions. Lectures continue to be more popular with older Institutes, and demonstrations with the younger and more remote. The former have been on a great variety of subjects including wireless, X-rays, discoveries in Egypt, postage stamps, the history of dress, the value of money, old Suffolk, roads, shells, legends, and windmills. Much interest is shown in lectures on local and county history and celebrities, on various forms of public and philanthropic work in connection with women and children, on the League of Nations, on health and hygiene, and experiences of particular members in various outposts of the Empire. The most popular demonstrations this year have been on cane baskets and trays, umbrella re-covering and papier maché work. Most of the lectures and demonstrations are given by W.I. members, though various Societies and private individuals still extend their kind help. Several members have joined the Guild of Learners, and are going in for tests. Classes in dressmaking, glove making, cookery, basket work and fur work, have been held, as well as courses in first aid and home nursing.

The Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital continues to be the object of the greater part of the donations and work of most Institutes, several thousands of eggs, many pounds of groceries, and a large number of garments being sent, as well as money contributions.

Representations have been made to the Authorities concerned for the betterment of local road mending, drains, times of motor-buses, and lights and benches at cross roads.

SUFFOLK WEST (44).

President: The Marchioness of Bristol, Ickworth, Bury St. Edmunds.

Chairman: Mrs. Martineau, The Lawn, Walsham-le-Willows.

Secretary: Mrs. Shann, 18, Angel Hill, Bury St. Edmunds.

Organisation.—The third year of the Federation shows great progress in Organisation. The members of the Executive Committee are working steadily towards obtaining a wider outlook in the villages on both social and educational matters, and Institute members show an increased interest in public work and public questions of the day. Many Institutes are wisely concentrating all their efforts on obtaining their own hall and piano, as their work is so restricted until this is done, but many public funds and charities have been helped either by work or money. Amongst this community work, are subscriptions towards the Village Nurse's salary, help with Infant Welfare, Children's, Soldiers' and Old Age Pensioners' Teas, Flower Shows, and subscriptions to Hospitals, to the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Eastern Counties Asylum, Poppy Day Collection, etc.

There is also a marked improvement in Institute Meetings themselves; their business and procedure is better, roll calls in most cases are answering well, and the Institute spirit of fellowship and co-operation between member and member, and village and village, is spreading rapidly.

During 1923 seven new Institutes have been formed, and we now have eight Groups instead of seven.

The average number of Institute Meetings during the year is a high one, 555 meetings (exclusive of many weekly classes), and 23 open meetings having taken place among our 44 Institutes, seven of which have only been working during part of the year.

County Council Aid.—The West Suffolk County Council has provided interesting classes in cookery, upholstery, etc., but, owing to the difficulties of transport, has not been able to send demonstrators to all who applied. The classes have been well attended, and are much appreciated.

Handicrafts.—More than half the Institutes work at a handicraft of some kind. Some keep to the purely domestic ones, such as fruit bottling, dressmaking and jam making, and many do well at leather work, rush work, glove making, chair caning, raffia work, and other crafts. Handiwork has been exhibited at Group Conferences, at the Suffolk Show, and at Drapers' Hall, London, and everywhere the Great Waldingfield soft toy industry has won much praise.

A Depot for the sale of handicrafts has been started at the County Office, and this has proved most successful.

Library.—A library scheme has been started this year from the County Office. Fifteen Institutes who are without Village Libraries have joined and the books are much appreciated.

Councils.—The Summer Council was held purely as a Domestic Meeting, and the Annual Meeting in the winter was devoted to business and the public questions of "Winter Relief Work in the Country," and "Humane Slaughter."

The Group Conferences were successful and well attended. Miss Nightingale and Mrs. Nugent Harris gave interesting addresses. Mrs. Nugent Harris also attended a meeting of the Executive Committee at Bury St. Edmunds for the purpose of discussion on organisation.

Co-operative Enterprise.—The Executive Committee, with the assistance of nearly all the Institutes, held a very successful Fancy Fair in aid of County Federation Funds. The stalls were largely stocked with articles made by Women's Institute members, and musical entertainments and refreshments were also provided by them.

SURREY (87).

President: Mrs. Auerbach, Hethersett, Reigate.

Chairman: Mrs. Scrutton, The White House, Buckland, Betchworth.

Secretary: Miss Sutherland, 112, High Street, Guildford.

Organisation.—The Surrey Federation now consists of 87 W.I.s, with a membership of over 7,500. During the year nine new Institutes have been formed.

County Exhibition.—The second Exhibition organised by the Federation, was held at the Borough and Congregational Halls, Guildford, on October 22nd, 23rd and 24th, and was a great success, both from the financial and artistic points of view. Practically every Institute in Surrey sent articles for exhibition or competition, and the exhibition was attended by W.I. members from all parts of the County. Both the Exhibition at the Borough Hall and the Competitions at the Congregational Hall were very well attended on each of the three days, and the general public was astonished at the amount of talent which the Women's Institute movement had brought to light in Surrey. All the judges stated that they were exceedingly pleased with the exhibits shown, the standard being in almost all cases considerably higher than at the 1921 Exhibition.

The concerts given by massed choirs were much enjoyed, and Mr. W. H. Leslie, who conducted, was struck by the enthusiasm of choirs and audience, and gave it as his opinion that Surrey has nothing to learn from Wales in the matter of organised singing.

The acting of original plays and scenes from Shakespeare drew enormous audiences, and many members could not find even standing room.

The two prize-winning plays, one written by a member of Shere and Gomshall W.I. the other by Miss Garrod, of Ockham, were acted. Eleven W.I.s took part in the Shakespeare competition. Mr. Frank Ridley, the judge, awarded the first place to Hersham, the second to Blackheath and the third to Holmwood.

After all accounts had been paid, and all the Institutes had received payment for goods sold, there remained a balance of about £186.

The Group System.—The Group System has developed considerably during the year. "Opportunities" Schools have been held in several Groups, and have helped enormously in making W.I. members realise that the Institute belongs to each individual member, whose duty and responsibility it is to make it a success. A number of W.I.s, inspired by what they learnt at the Schools, have started debates and round table conferences. Combined money raising efforts have had good results, the Farnham Group, by its share in the local carnival, contributing over £60 to the County Hospital.

County Council and British Red Cross Society.—Through the Education Committee of the County Council, Institutes are able to obtain good and practical instruction in nursing, first aid, laundry work, cookery and other domestic subjects.

The Agricultural Education Committee supplies lectures and demonstrators in gardening, dairy and poultry work, and this year these subjects have been increasingly popular.

The Surrey Branch of the B.R.C.S. has arranged courses of lectures in various Institutes on "How to Keep Well," and those attending have learnt much to help them in the way of simple hygiene, and the care of home and family.

EAST SUSSEX (101).

Chairman: Mrs. Huddart, Wood Knowle, Lindfield.

Secretary: Miss M. Margesson, Floretta, Haywards Heath.

Organisation.—During the year eight new Women's Institutes have been formed, bringing the total to 101. Affiliation fees show an increase of 700 members during the year, not including the membership of new Institutes formed during 1923.

Three meetings for Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers were arranged in February and March, and were attended by 100 members. Miss Parr (N.F.W.I.), spoke on the work of Presidents and Secretaries.

V.C.O.s attended an Inter-County Conference, arranged by this Federation, for East and West Sussex, East and West Kent, Surrey and Hampshire, at Redhill in October.

A district conference was held at St. Leonards, on March 22nd, at which 72 delegates were present. An address was given by Mr. W. H. Leslie on "Music in the Villages." The afternoon was occupied by a discussion on the preliminary agenda for the National Federation Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting was held in Lewes on November 19th, and was attended by nearly 90 delegates from the 101 Institutes in the Federation. A Resolution was passed asking for the adoption of the Public Libraries Act by the East Sussex County Council. During the afternoon an address was given on "The League of Nations."

Successful tours have been arranged for Miss Watkins in February and June, and fourteen Institutes have been visited.

Music.—The Annual Choral Festival held its third meeting in Lewes Town Hall, on April 24th and 25th. There were 25 entries, and over 80% of marks was awarded to some of the successful competitors. Dr. Harold Darke, R.C.M., again acted as Adjudicator. Competitions for Girl Guides, a class for folk songs, and a concert at the end of the second day were additions to the Schedule.

Two Conferences for Conductors and Members of Choirs, under the direction of Dr. Harold Darke, have been held at Lewes during the year.

Handicrafts.—The Federation shared a tent for Handicrafts with West Sussex Federation, at the Sussex County Agricultural Show at Horsham on July 18th and 19th.

The Fourth Annual Exhibition was held in The Monastery, Rye, on July 25th, and was attended by 1,350 people. Over 1,700 entries were received from 60 Institutes, and there were nearly 1,000 awards. Marks were allotted by the judges, and 300 first-class certificates given to those gaining 90% or over.

A Christmas Fair, arranged by the Handicrafts Sub-Committee, was held at Eastbourne Town Hall on November 28th and 29th. There were nearly 3,000 entries, and Handicrafts were sent for sale from 52 Institutes. The sum of £214 14s. 9d. was returned to Institute members, after deducting a commission of 1d. in the 1/-.

Institute Activities.—Several Dramatic Clubs have been formed, and Choral Classes held. Members take a more active part in the Monthly Meetings by speaking, reading papers, and giving demonstrations, and much greater effort is made to get really good speakers on the subjects chosen by the members. In several Institutes Study Circles have been formed. A course of seven weekly Health Lectures, under Sir Napier Burnett's scheme, was held in February and March, at four Women's Institutes.

Agricultural work is still being carried on. A small stock show was held at Newick, with over 200 entries, and also a Dairy Show. Other Institutes have held Fruit, Flower, Vegetable and Small Stock Shows, some having been arranged by Groups of Institutes. Northiam Institute has a very successful Market. The Lewes Women's Institute Weekly Market has increasing success. It was supported during the last year by 23 Institutes, and the turnover for the year amounted to £1,981.

WEST SUSSEX (64).

Chairman: The Hon. Mrs. Colvin, Shermanbury Grange, Henfield, Sussex.

Secretary: Miss Nash, 11, West Street, Chichester.

Organisation.—The total membership in the County is now 5,000, as compared with 4,000 in 1922. There are now 64 Institutes, two having been formed this year.

During 1923 three Sub-Committees have been appointed: Organisation, Finance and Library.

The Group System is still in force, and conferences have been held in each Group during the year. The Steyning and Midhurst Groups have held Exhibitions.

A County Exhibition was held in Chichester in October, which was a success, both financially and from the point of view of workmanship.

The County Federation is represented on the Rural Community Council.

A Reference and Lending Library has been started for the use of all Institutes in the County. The initial £5 voted by the County Federation has been supplemented by grants of money from the Rebecca Hussey Book Charity, and the Peel Memorial Fund.

A series of ten one-day Schools was held in the County in May and June by Mrs. Watt, on "Opportunities," "Leadership," and "Continuity in Programme Making." The Schools were well attended, and many Institutes, in drawing up their programmes, are trying to carry out Mrs. Watt's ideas.

Lectures.—Institutes are arranging for many Lectures on ideal and practical subjects. Literary subjects are the most popular, but programmes show great variety.

Other Activities.—The Institutes have arranged many original items, new features being members dressed as "Best Scarecrows," "Ten minutes with a piece of tin," "Articles made from a wooden box," and five-minute papers by various members. Several Institutes have had debates and Round Table Conferences.

Various exhibitions and classes have been held, and country dancing is being asked for.

An encouraging feature of the reports from Institutes is the evidence of an increase in communal activities.

WARWICKSHIRE (67).

President: The Lady Ilkeston, 23, High Street, Warwick.

Chairman: Mrs. Barnett, Bilton Hall, Rugby.

Secretary: Miss Lindsell, Dunchurch, Rugby.

Organisation.—The Executive Committee is assisted by six Sub-Committees. The number of W.I.s in the County is 67, six having been formed during the year.

The W.I. membership in Warwickshire has increased considerably, one or two Institutes having nearly doubled their membership since 1922. The total membership in Warwickshire is now 4,363.

A School for V.C.O. Students, taken by Mrs. Nugent Harris and Miss Simpson, was held at Warwick in February. Many members of the Executive attended as Visitors and eight members qualified as V.C.O.s. One member also attended the Training School held in London in November and, she having qualified, the number of V.C.O.s in the County is now 14. A special conference for V.C.O.s from Warwickshire and the Border Counties was held at Leamington in March, when the speaker was Miss Simpson.

Over 500 members attended the Council Meeting, held at the Shire Hall, Warwick, on October 23rd, when an interesting address was given by Lady Denman on "Some recent developments in the W.I. Movement." An Honorary Life Membership was conferred on Mrs. Blyth.

Groups.—In September, Miss Parr (N.F.W.I.), visited the County for a week, and spoke at a series of Group Conferences. The attendance was large at all these meetings, 800 members being present from 42 W.I.s. Two new Groups have been formed, the number now being 12. Meetings for Programme Planning have been held in all the Groups during the autumn, and in the summer successful exhibitions, flower shows and garden parties were arranged by several of the Groups.

Handicrafts and Produce.—Lectures and Classes in many and varied subjects have been held, and the very keenest interest was taken in the County Exhibition and Sale of Work, held at Warwick in November. Fifty-three Institutes had stalls, and about 7,000 articles were exhibited. There were many more entries this year in the class for co-operative needlework. The Silver Challenge Bowl for the stall showing the highest quality of work was won by Dunchurch and Thurlaston W.I., and the second prize, a Copper Bowl, by Budbrooke W.I.

The W.I. Handicrafts Shops at Warwick and Dunchurch are both doing well, and report good sales throughout the year, as does also the produce mart, which is held monthly by Knowle and Dorridge W.I.

The County Federation had a stall for Handicrafts and Dairy Produce at the Warwickshire Agricultural Show, held at Warwick Castle Park, in June. Many certificates were also won for eggs, bottled fruit, butter, etc., and the stall was awarded a Silver Medal by the Warwickshire Agricultural Society.

The W.I. County Federation Fete, opened by Lady Isabel Marjesson, was held at Leamington in May, and proved a great success. Over 2,000 W.I. members attended.

The W.I. Town Association has done much valuable work for the Federation during the year.

WESTMORELAND (35).

Chairman: Miss Cropper, J.P., Tolson Hall, Kendal.

Secretary: Miss Punchard, Kearswick, Kirkby Lonsdale.

Organisation.—Miss Nightingale was in the County for the months of May, June and July, when she visited nearly all the W.I.s and attended Group Conferences in three of the groups. She also gave great assistance with the Secretarial work.

Six new W.I.s have been started, and one new V.C.O. appointed. A Handicraft Sub-Committee has been formed.

Miss Parr attended the April Council Meeting, and Mrs. Nugent Harris and Miss Nightingale the one in October.

An Inter-County Conference was held in Kendal in June. Delegates from Cumberland, Yorkshire and Westmorland attended to discuss Border W.I.s and Border Groups.

One Lancashire Border W.I. has joined a Westmorland Group. Westmorland sent 12 delegates to the Annual Meeting in London, and a delegate attended the Derby and Cambridge Consultative Councils.

Handicrafts.—An exhibition of over 400 pieces of work done by members was held on the same day as the April Council Meeting, the entries reaching a high standard.

Forty entries were sent to the Royal Show at Newcastle, and some sales effected.

Demonstrations and classes have been arranged for basket-making, slipper making, chair caning, cookery, dressmaking, furcraft, fancy stitchery, glove making, leather work, knitting, millinery, papier maché work, silk flower making, rush and string seating of chairs, rug making, and umbrella covering.

Miss Denison, of Leeds, visited 19 W.I.s, giving demonstrations in household jobbery, including tinkering and soldering.

Four members attended the Guild of Learners' School at Carlisle in September, three for furcraft and one for upholstery.

Lectures have been given on Climbing Mount Everest, architecture, British lighthouses, citizenship, District Councils and their powers, history of fashions, history of needlecraft, house insects,

birds, local history, League of Nations, Lady Annie Clifford, names of places, national savings, political economy, witchcraft, travel and foreign countries, and on "How to get the most out of our Institutes."

County Council Aid.—Members of the County Farm Staff have given demonstrations and lectures on agricultural and horticultural subjects. The County Medical Officer and his assistant have lectured to W.I.s on child welfare, care of the eyes, and other health subjects.

Dressmaking Classes under the County Council have been attended by W.I. members.

Co-operative Enterprises have included a Handicrafts Stall at the Sheep Dog Trials Meeting, and the wholesale buying of fish and of apples weekly.

Other Activities.—Money has been raised by various entertainments and sales for Carlisle Infirmary, Cumberland Home for the Blind, Armenian Refugees, Enham Village Centre, Japanese Relief Fund, Mount Everest Expedition, a Vicarage Fund, Local Hospital, Village Nurse, and providing Kitchen for C.E. School.

Land has been purchased by one W.I. on which to erect a hall, and another has built its hall. Eggs, linen and a rug have been sent to local Hospitals, and clothes to the poor of London.

Arrangements have been made to give help in the "after care" of crippled children from the Ethel Headley Home. A petition from a W.I. to the Rural District Council led to the provision of a snow plough for use during the winter. Several branches of the National Savings Association have been started. One W.I. has formed a Choral Class.

WILTSHIRE (61).

President: The Countess of Radnor, Longford Castle, Salisbury.

Secretary: Miss Impey, Sheldon Manor, Chippenham.

Organisation.—There has been increased interest in the W.I. movement this year, and 14 new Institutes have been formed. One of these comprises members from a large camp, and from three small neighbouring villages; it is proving a great success, and supplies a real need, acting as a link between the village members and the soldiers' wives, many of whom come from large towns, and have seen little of country life.

The Group System is working well, and the meetings are very popular. At the request of the Institutes in the Salisbury Group, a Market Day Rest Room has been opened in Salisbury, but this is a very recent enterprise, and not yet widely known.

At the *Annual Council*, held in Salisbury in January, Miss Gildea spoke on "Citizenship in the W.I. Movement," and also on the work of the N.F.W.I. It was decided at this Council to arrange a

Summer Fete, and this was held in June at Spye Park, through the kindness of Captain and Lady Margaret Spicer. The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry Band played during the afternoon, and Mr. Paul Pym and the Corsham Players gave two performances of Mr. Pym's play *The Ne'er do weel*. Members from nearly all the Institutes attended the Fete and thoroughly enjoyed it, about 1,400 being present.

Music.—A special prize was offered at the County Musical Festival by Lady Newbolt, for W.I. Choirs. Only two Institutes competed, but a good many more hope to enter for it this year.

Handicraft Exhibition.—The W.I. again had a tent with a show of handicrafts at the County Agricultural Show in May, and, by the invitation of the Hampshire Federation, Wiltshire also had a stall at the Royal Counties Show at Southampton.

WORCESTERSHIRE (59).

President: Dowager Countess of Plymouth, Hewell Grange, Redditch.

Chairman: Miss L. M. Hingley, Middle Hill Park, Broadway.

Secretary: Miss M. Williams, 51, Broad Street, Worcester.

Organisation.—During the past year seven new Institutes have been opened, but two, owing to geographical conditions, have been affiliated to Herefordshire, making a total of 59. A Rest Room has been opened in Worcester, which has proved of real value to members waiting for their trams or 'buses.

A successful Fete to raise funds was organised. The outstanding feature was a series of Tableaux, depicting either an historic event connected with the district, or an event of local interest. These were entirely organised by the various Groups, each being responsible for a Tableau. A series of Red Cross Lectures on "How to Keep Well," was very much appreciated, and in practically all cases, well attended.

A Conference of V.C.O.s was arranged, conducted by Miss Parr, which was thrown open to V.C.O.s from Worcestershire and Herefordshire, and proved of great value.

Groups.—The Group System is working well, and every Institute in the County is now grouped. Group Meetings are held twice a year, and are of an entirely business character, being used solely for arranging the six months' programme.

Agricultural and Horticultural.—An Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committee has been appointed, its chief work has been the formation of the Worcestershire Women's Institute Farm and Garden Guild. The Guild has arranged for the monthly circulation to each Institute of the Sale and Exchange List, containing particulars of plants, small livestock, appliances, etc., which members wish either to sell or exchange. It has also issued

a Small Livestock Stud Register, and has started an Egg Distribution Scheme. In order to give Guild Members an opportunity of purchasing suitable clothes for land work at reasonable prices, the Committee affiliated with the Women's Farm and Garden Association. The membership of the Guild is rapidly increasing.

The Federation is represented on the County Agricultural Committee.

Handicrafts.—A Marquee was secured and an Exhibition of Handicrafts arranged at the Three Counties Agricultural Show, held at Malvern. The Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Federations co-operated.

The furcraft industry at Bradley and Feckenham is still doing well, also the spinning and weaving at Tardebigge and the soft toy making at Malvern. A good many Institutes are doing papier maché work, and one member is specialising in the repair of this work when worn out.

A most successful Conference was held on needlework, conducted by Miss Somerville.

County Council Aid.—The County Council has provided 14 courses of instruction in dressmaking, four courses in basket making, two lectures in bee keeping, two short courses in poultry keeping, and, in addition to the classes, demonstrations have been given in fruit bottling, laundry, cookery and domestic subjects.

Public Service.—It is with real pleasure that we can report that the County Rural Library Scheme is now in operation. The Federation has for some time urged the necessity for this, and now has been able to give considerable help in making known the needs of the County, and several W.I.s have come forward to act as distributing centres.

One Institute made itself responsible for the Canteen Tent for stockmen at the Three Counties Agricultural Show.

Press.—One weekly paper gives the Federation the use of a column in its issue for the last week in each month.

YORKSHIRE (101).

President: The Countess of Listowel, Hackness Grange, Scarborough.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Dalton Kirk, Skelton Cottage, York.

Organisation.—Yorkshire can report a very healthy growth in the Women's Institute Movement during the year 1923. There are now six V.C.O.s in the County, their work being arranged so that they take duty a month at a time. These and other members of the County Federation have been actively engaged in propaganda work, which has borne good results. Fourteen new Institutes have been formed, bringing the total for the County

to 101, 63 being in the North Riding, 20 in the West Riding, and 18 in the East Riding. During this year we have begun to realise the benefit of the Group System, and owing to the number of new Institutes formed, we have already had to re-group them.

Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser of the National Federation, visited some of our most remote Institutes, and was accorded a great welcome. Miss Parr, Organising Secretary, held four Conferences at different Centres in the County. These were much appreciated, and were found most helpful. Miss Kekewich also visited the County, and addressed meetings at several Institutes.

The two usual Council Meetings were held, and at the Autumn Meeting, Miss Gildea, Chairman of the Dorsetshire Federation, and member of the National Federation Executive Committee, gave a most inspiring address on "Programme Making."

Handicrafts.—Several Groups have organised Sales and Exhibitions, either independently or in connection with local Shows, and a great impetus to handicrafts has thus been given. The main handicrafts undertaken are basketry, chair caning, leather work, glove making, raffia work, papier maché, rug making, sweet making, upholstery, slipper making, toy making, eiderdown making, cobbling, rush mats, and umbrella covering.

It is noticeable that in some of the older Institutes there is beginning to be a commendable desire for classes and courses of instruction in addition to the ever-popular demonstration.

Institute Halls.—Seventeen Institutes either have their own halls, or are engaged in raising funds to provide them.

PAMPHLET