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NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMENS INSTITUTES



PAMPHLET

# Ninth Annual Report

For the period ended December 31st, 1925.

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THE  
9TH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

FOR THE  
Period ended December 31st, 1925.

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

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

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MEMBERS

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1926-1927

(Elected by postal vote May 1926)

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**MEMBERS**  
OF THE  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,**  
**1926-1927.**

(Elected by postal vote, May 1926.)

THE LADY DENMAN, *Chairman.*  
MISS GRACE HADOW, *Vice-Chairman.*

MRS. AUERBACH, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Miss Anderson.	Mrs. Holland-Martin.
The Lady Margaret Boscawen.	The Countess of Listowel.
Miss Bouverie.	Mrs. Heron Maxwell.
The Viscountess Boyne.	The Lady Dorothy Meynell.
Miss Dora Christy.	The Dowager Lady Suffield.
Mrs. Drage.	Mrs. Alfred Watt.
Miss Gaskell.	Mrs. Wintringham.

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS.

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

CO-OPTED MEMBERS.

Mrs. Dashwood.  
Mrs. G. Huxley.  
Mrs. Mary Morgan.

OFFICIALS OF THE FEDERATION.

General Secretary : Miss INEZ FERGUSON.  
Chief Organiser : MRS. NUGENT HARRIS.  
Assistant Secretary : Miss MAVIS HAY.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF  
**STANDING SUB-COMMITTEES FOR**  
**THE YEAR 1926-1927.**

OFFICE AND FINANCE.

THE OFFICERS.	MRS. HUXLEY.
MISS BOUVERIE.	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.
MR. DOBSON.	

ORGANISATION.

THE OFFICERS.	MRS. ROTHERHAM.
MISS CHAMBERLAIN.	MISS F. SIMPSON.
MRS. COLVIN.	DAME MERIEL TALBOT.
MRS. COURT BROWN.	MRS. TREVELYAN.
MRS. DASHWOOD.	MRS. WATT.
MISS BASIL JONES.	LADY WORSLEY-TAYLOR.
BENITA, LADY LEES.	

HANDICRAFTS.

THE OFFICERS.	THE COUNTESS OF LISTOWEL.
MISS ANDERSON.	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.
MISS DORA CHRISTY.	MRS. MAHON.
MISS CUNNINGTON.	MISS PESEL.
MR. DOBSON.	MISS ROWE.
MRS. DRAGE.	MISS SOMERVILLE.
THE LADY ILKESTON.	

HOME AND COUNTRY.

THE OFFICERS.	THE DOWAGER LADY
THE COUNTESS OF LISTOWEL.	SUFFIELD.
MRS. MORGAN.	MR. THOMPSON.
MR. ROSS.	MRS. TREVELYAN.
MR. J. ROBERTSON SCOTT.	MISS ALICE WILLIAMS.
MISS SIDGWICK.	

PRINTING.

THE OFFICERS.  
MR. DOBSON.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND DANCING.

THE OFFICERS.	MISS KELLY.
MAJOR BAVIN.	MRS. LAMPSON.
THE COUNTESS OF	THE COUNTESS OF LISTOWEL.
CHICHESTER.	LADY RADNOR.
MISS GASKELL.	MRS. TREVELYAN.
MRS. WM. GEORGE.	MR. WHITWORTH.

GENERAL EDUCATION.

THE OFFICERS.	THE LADY DOROTHY
THE LADY MARGARET	MEYNELL.
BOSCAWEN.	MRS. MUNRO.
VISCOUNTESS BOYNE.	THE DOWAGER LADY
MISS DENEKE.	SUFFIELD.
MRS. HOLLAND-MARTIN.	MRS. WINTRINGHAM.

The Ninth Annual Report

OF THE

National Federation of Women's Institutes,

for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

WORK IN THE COUNTRY.

328 new Institutes have been formed during 1925 and the total number in existence on December 31st is 3,507. 38 Institutes have been reported by their County Federations as lapsed. The difficulty of finding officers is still frequently given as the reason for the lapsing of an Institute and this matter has been brought up for discussion by the Consultative Council. It is generally agreed to be of the greatest importance that County Federations should impress upon the officers of their Institutes the need for training up successors; also that prospective officers and committee members should be invited to W.I. officers' schools.

The activities of the Institutes this year have been, as always, very varied. Music continues to occupy a prominent place in W.I. programmes and the Institutes are much readier now than formerly themselves to sing during their social half-hour, rather than listen to concert programmes provided from outside. A considerable amount of attention, too, is being paid to continuity in programme-making, particularly by the older Institutes which recognise the danger of becoming stale. The County Federations do not perhaps always realise how critical a stage even the most successful Institute of five or six years' standing must pass through, and how greatly they can help these Institutes to consolidate and develop their work.

The care which the Institutes take to remain scrupulously impartial during parliamentary election campaigns shows the importance they attach to the maintenance of their non-party principle, but it appears from press reports of addresses given this year at W.I. meetings, that it is not always perfectly understood what is and what is not a "party" argument. The Executive Committee has therefore sent through the County Federations

an appeal to the chairmen of County and Institute meetings to show no hesitation in calling to order a speaker who transgresses the non-party rule of the movement. It is difficult always to realise what arguments will be regarded as controversial by a party other than one's own, but every Institute member can at least see that no contentious statement in support of the views of her own party is allowed to be made at a meeting where she is present.

Finance remains a great difficulty in some counties. Most Federations have during the past twelve months made considerable strides towards becoming self supporting and taking their full share of the national expenditure. There seems to be a general recognition of the need for a better understanding by the Institutes of their County Federation's financial problem if the county is to be able to rely on steady support from the Institutes each year. Two suggestions have been made with a view to achieving this better understanding:—(1) that there should be periodic joint meetings between the V.C.O.s and their County Federation Finance sub-committees in order that when the V.C.O.s go into the Institutes they may be fully informed upon the county's financial position and able to answer questions and dispel misunderstanding; (2) that each year the County Federation Finance sub-committee should invite the Institute treasurers to discuss with it the county's budget and policy for the coming year: in this way one member of every Institute would come to have a sense of personal interest in and responsibility for the County Federation's finances.

To the partial observer, perhaps the most striking feature of the year's development has been the tacit recognition given by the educational world to the importance of the Institute movement as part of the adult education movement. Since the curtailing of the Fisher Education Act in 1921 on grounds of national economy and the consequent abandonment of any attempt at a comprehensive scheme of state adult education, the educational work of voluntary societies has assumed a new importance. There exists a network of organisations dealing with different branches and aspects of adult education and of these most are more technically and advancedly educational than the Institutes. Their professed purpose is to bring education within reach of the ordinary man and woman; but for the very reason that their work is advanced and altogether educational in character, it is doubtful whether they succeed in getting hold of the ordinary man and woman or whether, in fact, those persons who are benefiting by the facilities offered are not of that enquiring and exceptional turn of mind which would in any event find a means of self-development. These different educational bodies themselves feel the need of a more elementary

and informal organisation which will act as their recruiting agent and encourage the average, as well as the exceptional, man and woman to "ask for more." Such an organisation they find ready-made for countrywomen in the Women's Institutes.

The Institute movement still retains the oddly domestic quality which has characterised it since its inception. Although it may discuss national and international questions of the first importance, it is still more concerned with the effect of these discussions upon its adolescent Institutes than with the defined position which the movement is gradually taking in the national life. This, however, is important—that it should not allow itself to become an essential part of the national system of adult education without realising exactly what this means.

That the organisation should be regarded as suitable to form part of such a system is a very great compliment. It is however, a compliment fixing a high standard for the Institutes. If they are to be the recognised means of opening out the whole field of education to countrywomen, they themselves must keep their doors wide open so that no bar of class or creed prevents countrywomen from entry. If they are to be a sorting house where each member will become aware of her particular interests and activities and the means of pursuing and developing them, then the preparation and the scope of the Institute programme become of fresh significance. If the educational work of the Institutes is to be a foundation stone in the building of the nation's education, it must be sincere and unbiassed, not propaganda in the guise of education. "A democratic organisation, non-party and non-sectarian" is a phrase ever familiar to the Institutes and so in danger of losing its meaning. But, amplified, it becomes the rules of the Institute and humanised it becomes the Institute itself. The new obligation which the Institutes are undertaking, if they accept the proffered recognition as part of the nation's educational machinery, is again an obligation to be genuinely democratic in government, honestly non-party and non-sectarian in precept. On this occasion, however, the obligation is not only to their own organisation but to the State.

#### **WORK AT HEADQUARTERS.**

At Headquarters the Executive Committee has met regularly throughout the year. The three co-opted members this year were Mrs. Holland-Martin (Worcestershire), Mrs. Morgan (Merioneth), and Mrs. Simm. The Ministry of Agriculture has again been represented by Mrs. Trevelyan, Mr. Dallinger and Mr. Dobson, and the Board of Education by Miss Cunnington.

The National Federation general office staff has remained practically unchanged this year. The Committee desires to express its grateful thanks to the many voluntary workers who have given help in the office, and in particular to Miss Lunniss, Assistant Editor of "Home and Country," and Miss Huxley who has assisted in the Literature department.

Miss Lumley, N.F.W.I. organiser for Wales, resigned from the staff at the end of February. Owing to financial considerations the National Federation decided not to appoint a new organiser specially for work in Wales, but to arrange for the other organisers to be available for visits to the Welsh counties in the ordinary course of their work. Miss Lumley's services are not lost to the movement, as she has been appointed a voluntary organiser for Cardiganshire County Federation. The International Education Board has granted Miss Nightingale a Fellowship for study and research work in the United States of America for eight months. The National Federation Executive has therefore allowed Miss Nightingale leave of absence without pay, and her place as organiser is being temporarily taken by Miss Dunch. Mrs. Nugent Harris has at this time resigned her general organising work for the National Federation. The Committee is glad to report that Mrs. Harris has agreed to continue to supervise the training schools for V.C.O.s in addition to retaining her position as Editor of "Home and Country." Miss Farrer, who is a well known Institute worker in Surrey, has been appointed as part-time headquarters organiser and will start work in January 1926 when Mrs. Harris's part-resignation takes effect.

On the handicrafts side, an increase in the special grant given by the Development Commissioners has made it possible for a second organiser to be engaged to work part-time, and Miss Denison has joined Miss Armes on the handicrafts organising staff.

The Committee again this year organised tours abroad for W.I. members through the agency of Sir Henry Lunn. Three tours were planned—to Spiez, Weggis and Huyst-sur-Mer. Those members who joined the tours expressed the greatest enjoyment of them but the entries were not, in the opinion of the Committee, sufficient to justify the planning of further tours during 1926. Sir Henry Lunn has, however, kindly consented to make the most satisfactory arrangements he can for any County Federation which wishes to organise a county tour in Belgium or Switzerland.

The Committee made the usual arrangements for the Annual Meeting which was held in May. For the first time the experiment was tried of installing amplifiers to assist delegates in hearing speeches from the platform. The experiment appeared on the whole successful and it is proposed to repeat it in 1926. A number

of resolutions on public questions were carried and these were circulated to County Federations immediately after the meeting with suggestions as to how they could best be followed up in the country. Later, particulars were collected from the counties as to what action has been taken on the different resolutions, and these particulars were scheduled and circulated for purposes of information to the different Federations. The resolutions were also forwarded by the Committee to the societies and Government departments concerned.

Of the resolutions passed this year on public questions, only one required definite political action by the National Federation, namely that asking the Ministry of Health to urge local authorities to provide facilities for the collection and destruction of rubbish. The Executive Committee approached the Ministry on the matter but the Ministry stated that it could not take the suggested action in view of the fact that all Bills making the collection and destruction of rubbish compulsory, have hitherto failed to become law. The Committee therefore consulted the Rural District Councils Association, which also held the opinion that the matter must be dealt with locally and advised Institutes to investigate the position in their own districts and make practical suggestions, if necessary, to their Rural District Councils. This suggestion was circulated to the County Federations.

During this year, several changes have occurred in the position with regard to public questions on which the Annual Meeting had in previous years passed resolutions, *e.g.*:

**WOMEN POLICE.** After consultation with the Women's Auxiliary Service, the Committee circulated to County Federations practical suggestions as to steps which the W.I.s can take to increase the employment of women police in country districts.

Last session, Miss Wilkinson introduced into Parliament the Municipal Corporations Act Amendment Bill making it compulsory for Borough Council Watch Committees to appoint women constables. The Bill passed its second reading without a dissentient vote but was allowed no further facilities. It will, however, be re-introduced next session. Although this Bill did not directly affect rural districts, the National Federation Committee was represented at a conference of bodies interested and hopes to co-operate with other women's organisations in sending forward a statement on the need for women police, which the Home Secretary has promised to consider, with a view to its publication.

PRESENCE OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES OR RESPONSIBLE WOMEN IN COURT IN CASES INVOLVING WOMEN OR GIRLS OR YOUNG PERSONS. The Annual Meeting's resolution of 1924 on this subject was forwarded by the Committee to the Magistrates' Association, which in turn put it forward in giving evidence before a Home Office Departmental Committee. This Committee has now reported, and in its report the main principle of the N.F.W.I. resolution is embodied. Further, the Criminal Justice Bill, which has this year passed through all its stages, requires that a woman probation officer shall, where circumstances permit, be appointed at the expense of the State to supervise women offenders, and an officer experienced in dealing with children and young persons to supervise an offender under sixteen. Agents of voluntary societies may, under the Bill, be appointed as probation officers.

MARRIED WOMEN AND THE LAW. This year's Criminal Justice Bill also affects the position of married women under the law. It abolishes the *presumption* that a wife, charged with an offence, was coerced by her husband but still allows a wife charged with an offence, other than treason or murder, to *plead* coercion by her husband.

BASTARDY BILL, 1920. This Bill, which was supported by the Annual Meeting, was a very wide measure. A number of its provisions were embodied in the Bastardy Bill which became law in 1923. A further important provision of the 1920 Bill was embodied this year in the Legitimacy Bill, which provided that the subsequent marriage of the parents shall legitimize a child born out of wedlock. The Bill did not pass through all its stages this session but is to be re-introduced next year.

PRESS REFORM. Bills similar to the 1924 Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Bill, which the Annual Meeting supported, have been introduced this session in the House of Commons and the House of Lords but facilities were not allowed for their passage. A fresh Bill will be introduced next year when the National Federation will, on behalf of the Institutes, re-affirm its support of the principle involved.

The Executive Committee is at the present time engaged in preparing a memorandum on the exact position with regard to all public questions on which the Annual Meeting has at any time required the National Federation to act. This memorandum will be circulated shortly to County Federations.

Arrangements for the 1926 Annual Meeting are now in progress. The usual Standing Sub-Committees have been appointed to assist the Executive Committee during 1925 and further details of the Committee's work will therefore be found in the following reports of Sub-Committees.

#### OFFICE AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee has held regular monthly meetings throughout the year. It has supervised the different branches of the National Federation's finances and dealt with all questions affecting the staff.

RECEIPTS. The Affiliation Fees received up to December 31st, 1925 amount to £2,064 19s. 2d., and a further £700 (approximately) is due before March 31st, 1926. The receipts from this source for the financial year 1925-26 seem likely therefore to total £2,764 and to show an increase of over £200 on last year's total (£2,555 8s. 5d.).

The suggested rate at which County Federations have this year been asked to invite contributions from Institutes towards headquarters is 15s. for each established Institute within the County's area, as against the £1 an Institute suggested last year. So far £1,652 11s. 3d. has been received in donations and it is hoped that by the end of the financial year the N.F.W.I.'s income from this source will be considerably in excess of last year's total of £1,886 4s. 4d. The Sub-Committee would draw attention to the list of donations from counties on page 51 and the increase shown in the number of Federations able both to meet their own expenses and contribute at the full suggested rate to headquarters.

The National Federation's annual income from the Endowment Fund is approximately £790 after deduction of Income Tax. No special effort has been made this year to add to the Endowment Fund but an increase of £279 4s. 11d. has nevertheless been effected. The present total is £16,821 5s. 1d.

On March 31st, 1925, the literature department was able to hand over to the National Federation general account a net surplus of £214 4s. 2d. on the twelve months' working, available for expenditure during 1925-26. This constituted a record, and the working of the department may be regarded as extremely satisfactory since it bears its share of overhead charges and pays for the publication of all free literature in addition to literature for sale. The gross receipts of the department for the period April 1st to Dec. 31st, 1925 have amounted to £1,007 1s. 6d., as against £668 1s. 7d. in the same period last year, so that it may be assumed that the department will again be in a sound position at the end of the current financial year.



Subscriptions to the Guild of Learners received since January 1, 1925, amount to £31 18s. 6d.

The National Federation desires again to express its grateful acknowledgement of assistance received from H.M. Government. The Treasury grant sanctioned for general purposes for the year 1925-26 is £950 as against the £1,195 required last year, when the money actually needed was about £700 less than the authorised estimate. It is not yet possible to say whether or not the total grant sanctioned for 1925-26 will be required before the end of the financial year.

**EXPENDITURE.** The National Federation's estimated expenditure for general purposes this year is £6,140 as against last year's actual expenditure of £5,813 4s. 4d. Of the estimated total, £3,625 is allocated for headquarters expenses (*i.e.* office rent and equipment, lighting, heating and cleaning, postage, stationery, printing, headquarters staff salaries and travelling expenses of Committee and Sub-Committee members) £2,505 is allowed for expenses of organising in the country (£1,480 for salary and expenses of organisers; £525 for expenses of the Annual Meeting, Consultative Council Meetings, schools and conferences for V.C.O.s and County Federation officers, and for the N.F.W.I. exhibit at the Royal Show, and £500 for grants to County Federations). In addition an expenditure of £1,850 for handicrafts is specially authorised and a grant to cover this is received from H.M. Treasury.

The provisions relating to the exemption from Income Tax of bodies similar to the Institute movement have this year been altered so as to permit organisations which are claiming exemption to state their case in person before the Special Commissioners for Income Tax. The National Federation has once more sent forward its claim for exemption and hopes to be heard by the Commissioners early in 1926.

The development of the handicraft and literature departments of the National Federation, together with the gradual increase of work in the general office and the "Home and Country" office, has rendered an increase in office accommodation essential. The N.F.W.I. has therefore been faced with the alternative of finding outside accommodation for "Home and Country" or moving from 26, Eccleston Street into larger premises. The obvious advantages of retaining all departments under one roof have decided the Committee upon the second alternative and the Office and Finance Sub-Committee is therefore at the present time engaged in the task of finding suitable and larger premises. An increase in office accommodation must mean an increase in rent but the Sub-Committee is endeavouring to effect the change as cheaply as possible.

#### ORGANISATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee deals with all matters relating to the organisation of the movement, including the work of the National Federation organisers, the training, appointment and re-appointment of voluntary organisers, the transfer of border Institutes, and any difficult problems arising in counties which are referred by the County Federations to the National Federation. It is also the duty of this Sub-Committee to make arrangements for Consultative Councils, organisers' conferences and other meetings. The Sub-Committee receives regular reports of the numbers of new Institutes formed and of any Institutes which may have lapsed, and thus serves to keep the Executive Committee in touch with details of the progress of the movement in all parts of England and Wales. The Sub-Committee has met ten times during the year and the National Federation organisers have attended the meetings once a quarter.

Two meetings of the Consultative Council have been arranged. It was decided this year that the meeting which is held in London in February to consider the suggestions received for the Agenda of the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting should be counted as a regular meeting of the Council (the Fourteenth) and not as a special meeting. Only one other meeting was therefore arranged, the Fifteenth meeting of the Council, which was held in Darlington in November and attended by delegates from 24 counties. A school for County Federation officers of the counties in the eastern half of England, to which other members of County Federation Committees were also invited, was held at Nottingham in October. The school was taken by Lady Denman, Miss Ferguson and Miss Simpson. A conference of representatives of the Welsh County Federations and members of the National Federation Executive Committee was held at Shrewsbury in November. On the day before the Annual General Meeting a conference of representatives from Women's Institute Centres, prospective Centres and Town Associations was held in London.

The National Federation would wish to take this opportunity of expressing its appreciation of the services of the Voluntary Organisers on the quality of whose work the stability of the movement necessarily depends. Two general conferences for the organisers have been held in London, one on the day after the Annual General Meeting and one in December. The agenda for these conferences was drawn up this year on new lines, one session being devoted to an address from a speaker from outside the movement, the other session being reserved for the discussion of problems of organisation. At the May Conference Mr. Hart Synnot spoke on "English agricultural

conditions in their relation to women" and in December Mr. Roscoe gave an address on "The Speaker and the Audience." The National Federation was again this year able to set aside a certain sum of money to provide grants towards the expenses of inter-county conferences for organisers, organised by County Federations. The following conferences were arranged under this scheme:—

Place.	Organised by:	Duration.	No. of Counties represented.	No. of V.C.O.s attending.
Bangor	Carnarvonshire	1 day	2	8
Leicester	Leics. & Rutland	2 days	4	18
Redhill	Surrey	1 day	4	11
Exeter	Devon	1 day	4	9
Chester	Cheshire	2 days	6	15
Nottingham	Notts.	2 days	5	12
Cambridge	Cambridgeshire	2 days	8	31

A National Federation organiser attended each of these conferences. In most cases members of County Federation Executive Committees were also invited to attend. Plans for the organisation of some kind of advanced schools or conferences for voluntary organisers, County Federation officers, and other members of County Federation Committees, are now under consideration.

Four schools for the training of V.C.O.s have been held as follows:—

Place.	Area.	Students attending.	Students appointed.
Exeter	Southern Counties ... ..	11	7
Norwich	Eastern Counties ... ..	17	15
Ambergate	Midland and Northern counties	13	11
Aberystwyth	Welsh counties ... ..	12	10

The plan of asking the County Federation in whose area the school is held to provide hospitality for the students has been abandoned, owing to the burden it imposed upon those counties. The Federations sending students are now asked to take all responsibility for their accommodation. At the Ambergate school the experiment was tried of engaging a Guest House and inviting the counties sending students to book accommodation for them there. This residential school, in which the teachers and nearly all the students were housed together, was found to provide excellent opportunities for discussion and for the students and teachers to get to know one another. The National Federation Executive

Committee has therefore decided to try to arrange other schools on the same lines. All the schools were conducted by Mrs. Nugent Harris, assisted by one or two of the other organisers and either Miss Gildea or Miss Hadow.

The National Federation's organising staff during the year has consisted of Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser (part-time), and the other organisers—Miss Simpson, Miss Leigh, Miss Nightingale (up to the end of August) and Miss Dunch (temporary organiser since the beginning of September). Miss Lumley was also working for the National Federation as organiser for Wales during the first two months of the year.

In addition to supervising the training schools for voluntary organisers, Mrs. Harris has, during 1925, visited the following counties: Anglesey, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Breconshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cumberland, Durham, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Isle of Ely, East Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lindsey (Lincs.), Middlesex, Northants, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, West Suffolk, Surrey, East Sussex and Wiltshire.

Miss Lumley visited Carmarthenshire, Glamorganshire and Pembrokeshire.

Miss Nightingale taught at one V.C.O. school, attended one inter-county conference, and visited Anglesey, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Hertfordshire, West Kent, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Surrey and Warwickshire. She also worked in the National Federation office for some weeks during the summer.

Miss Simpson has taught at one V.C.O. school, attended one inter-county conference, and visited Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Carmarthenshire, Cheshire, Cumberland, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Isle of Ely, East Kent, Kesteven (Lincs.), Lancashire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Montgomery, Northants, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Radnorshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, East Sussex, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, and Yorkshire.

Several County Federations kindly invited the new organisers, Miss Leigh and Miss Dunch, to visit county offices, committee meetings and Institute meetings, in order that they might gain a thorough knowledge of all aspects of W.I. work before they took up their work as National Federation organisers.

Since training, Miss Dunch has taught at one V.C.O. school, attended one inter-county conference and visited Buckinghamshire, Devon, Middlesex, Somerset and West Suffolk.

Miss Leigh has taught at two V.C.O. schools, attended four inter-county conferences, and visited Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire, Carnarvonshire, Cheshire, Devon, Glamorganshire, Hertfordshire, Isle of Ely, East Kent, Middlesex, Northumberland, Pembrokeshire, East Suffolk, Westmorland, Wiltshire and Yorkshire.

The Organisation Sub-Committee was responsible for the issue of the revised edition of "Suggestions on procedure at meetings" and has also brought up to date the two leaflets, "How the National Federation helps the Institutes" and "Why do we want a County and a National Federation?" and re-issued them as free leaflets. The Annual Report Forms for the use of Women's Institutes and Women's Institute Centres have been re-drafted in accordance with suggestions received from the County Federations and are now printed on better paper and sold to County Federations at 1s. for 20 or 4/6 for 100 copies. The Handbook was, as usual, revised after the Annual General Meeting and new information was included on the duties of W.I. officers, on village halls and other matters. A paragraph on how to draw up "Golden Thread" programmes has been drafted and is to be added to the next edition of the Programme Planning leaflet.

#### HANDICRAFTS SUB-COMMITTEE.

This year the Handicrafts Sub-Committee has received through the Development Commission increased financial assistance from the Treasury in order to develop further the craft side of Women's Institute work. This has made possible the appointment of a second craft organiser to work part time for the National Federation. Miss Armes has been working as craft organiser throughout the year and Miss Denison, as reported earlier, has joined the staff as part-time organiser and has worked for eight months.

The principal object of the special handicrafts grant is to increase the supply of trained teachers available for work in the Institutes and so raise the standard of craft work throughout the movement. In addition to supervising and assisting at handicraft classes and tests, therefore, the handicraft organisers are available to visit County Federations and make known the training facilities afforded by the National Federation. Further, as the Development Commission has made it clear that the National Federation is expected to furnish regular returns of the work done since training by students at N.F.W.I. classes, it has been the special duty of the organisers this year to impress upon County Federations their responsibility for keeping in touch with their teachers after training, and to obtain further particulars from teachers who have submitted incomplete returns of work.

During the year Miss Armes has visited the following counties: Berkshire, Carnarvonshire, Carmarthenshire, Cheshire, Cornwall, Denbigh, Derbyshire, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, West Kent, Leicestershire, Kesteven, Middlesex, Monmouth, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, East and West Sussex, Warwickshire, Isle of Wight, Wiltshire and Yorkshire.

Miss Denison has visited Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Carmarthenshire, Carnarvonshire, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, West Kent, Lancashire, Lindsey, Montgomeryshire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Somerset, West Sussex, Warwickshire and Yorkshire.

During 1925 the membership of the Guild of Learners has increased by 163, the total membership now being 993. The following is a table of members classified under their crafts:—

Artificial Flower makers ...	2	Dyers ...	14	Potters ...	5
Banner Maker	1	Embroiderers	246	Raffia Workers	100
Basket Makers	113	Furcraft Workers	62	Rug Makers	32
Bookbinders ...	4	Glove Makers	276	Rush Workers	25
Brush Bristler...	1	*Household Jobbers	57	†Slipper Makers	18
Carpenters ...	9	Knitters	56	Smockers	25
Chair Caner ...	63	Lace Workers	30	Spinners	21
Cobblers ...	18	Milliners	26	Toy Makers	58
Crochet Workers	10	Needleworkers	76	Upholsterers	99
Designers ...	10	Leather Workers	131	Weavers	28
Dressmakers ...	50	Papier Maché Workers	5		

N.B.—\* Includes Tinkers, Umbrella-Coverers, Eiderdown Quilt Makers.

† Slipper-Coverers.

A Guild of Learners' Badge has now been instituted to be worn by certificate holders, a bar being added for each certificate gained. It has also been decided to allow Guild members to commute the annual subscription of 1s. for a life membership subscription of 10s. 6d.

On December 31st, 1925, the Proficiency Certificate holders numbered 508 as against 372 last year and the holders of Lecture-Demonstration Certificates 83 as against 78. Proficiency Tests have been held during the year in: Design, Embroidery, Plain Sewing, Smocking, Dressmaking, Millinery, Gloving, Furcraft, Leather, Knitting, Lace, Home-made Slippers, Rug-making, Spinning, Weaving, Vegetable Dyeing, Toymaking, Upholstery, Tinkering, Chair-caning, Umbrella covering, Basketry, Rush work, Raffia, and Lecture-Demonstration Tests in: Embroidery, Plain Sewing, Millinery, Gloving, Leather, Raffia, Vegetable Dyeing, Upholstery, Household Jobbery.

The following classes have been held in London, at which 42 students have been trained: Basketry, Embroidery, Gloving, Leather, Soft Toy-making, Raffia. One area school was held at Durham when 29 students were trained in Embroidery, Plain Sewing and Millinery. Three handicraft conferences were arranged during the autumn, one on "Tests and how to prepare for them," one on "Costing," and one on "Staging, standard and judging at Handicraft Exhibitions." These conferences were all very well attended and useful discussions took place. A demonstration of a carding machine for Mattress-making was arranged in connection with the Annual Meeting and was also well attended.

Various additions have been made to the Loan Collection and the Sub-Committee desires to express its grateful thanks for gifts to the collection from Miss Adamson, Mrs. Bennett, Miss Clarke, Miss Pells, Miss Sherwood and Miss Watson.

The Sub-Committee was mainly responsible this year for the organisation of the N.F.W.I. exhibit at the Royal Show and entirely responsible for the handicrafts section. Demonstrations in Spinning and Weaving, Rug-making, Quilting and Basketry were given and specimens of finished work in these crafts exhibited. The N.F.W.I. tent was a great centre of attraction at the Show and many hundred visitors passed through it each day.

A loan exhibit was collected by the Sub-Committee and sent to the Women's Institute section of the Canadian Dominion Exhibition at Toronto in September. This exhibit was very greatly appreciated by the Canadian Federation of Institutes, and the Sub-Committee has received from the chairman of the Canadian Federation a most interesting account of the use made of the exhibit. A smaller exhibit was collected for presentation to the Addo W.I., which is the first Institute to be started in South Africa.

The Sub-Committee is already engaged in making plans for the 1927 N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Exhibition. A scheme for a co-operative work section on a large scale has been worked out and published in "Home and Country" so that the Institutes may prepare for the Exhibition in good time. Further details are now under consideration.

In addition to the above mentioned definite pieces of work, the Sub-Committee has throughout the year dealt with all correspondence, etc., relating to handicrafts and has as hitherto been responsible for advising the Executive Committee on questions affecting this branch of the work. The Sub-Committee has in all held ten meetings during the year.

#### AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

This Sub-Committee keeps the National Federation in touch with the agricultural side of the work throughout the country by collecting half-yearly reports from the County Federations. Notes on some of the most interesting and original of the activities reported are published in "Home and Country." The Sub-Committee arranges for the representation of the National Federation on the National Poultry Council and Parliament and receives reports from the delegate. A representative was this year sent to a conference on Young Farmers' Clubs, convened by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Sub-Committee has met six times during the year. In the course of its work it has circulated to County Federations, and published in "Home and Country," information concerning courses and scholarships available for women at Farm Institutes. At the request of the Sub-Committee, a special short course for W.I. members was planned by the Director of Seale Hayne Agricultural College, but was cancelled because there were not enough entries. The Principal of the Herts. Agricultural Institute held a special course for W.I. members during the summer, but only five students attended.

A conference on the organisation of the agricultural side of W.I. work was arranged by the Sub-Committee on the day after the Annual General Meeting, and delegates from thirty-two County Federations attended. A proposal to form within the National Federation a Guild of Food Producers, was discussed. Since then the Sub-Committee has drafted a scheme for the proposed Guild, and this has been circulated to County Federations who are asked to say whether they consider the formation of the Guild desirable and whether, if it is formed, they will co-operate in carrying out the scheme. The formation of the Guild will depend upon the replies received from the counties.

The Sub-Committee again recommended to the National Dairy Farmers' Association that they should include certain special classes for Institutes in the Dairy Show schedule. The three classes included in 1924 were repeated, with a slight modification, and there were 18 entries in the class for a collection of produce, 11 entries for the collection of bottled fruit, etc., and 3 entries for home cured hams, as compared with 8, 11 and 0 entries respectively in these three classes in 1924. The produce exhibit in the N.F.W.I. tent at the Royal Show at Chester was planned by the Sub-Committee, which is now considering the exhibit for the 1926 show.

A school for training speakers on the agricultural side of the movement was held at Lichfield in July. This was the first school of its kind which has been organised and was therefore something of an experiment. Twelve students from eight County Federations

attended and it is hoped that they will do useful work in their own counties, particularly by means of introductory talks which will lead to more technical lectures or demonstrations by agricultural experts. The Staffordshire County Federation gave valuable help in making the arrangements. During the school, visits were paid to Tamworth Market Gardens and to the Staffordshire Farm Institute. The Sub-Committee hopes to arrange other schools on similar lines.

By arrangement with the Organisation Sub-Committee, Miss Simpson, National Federation organiser is now available, when she can be spared from other organising work, to speak on the agricultural side of the movement in counties which wish to arrange meetings for her to deal with this special branch of W.I. work.

#### EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee supervises the publication of leaflets issued by the National Federation. It organises the sale of National Federation literature, draws up such leaflets as do not come within the province of any other sub-committee, arranges for leaflets to be revised and brought up to date when necessary and, in general, makes recommendations to the Executive Committee as to how best to meet demands for information and education which arise within the movement.

The Sub-Committee has met ten times during the year.

A list of all the National Federation publications issued during the year is printed on page 22. A number of leaflets have been revised and re-issued and several new leaflets, drafted by the Organisation, Handicrafts and Music Sub-Committees, have been published. Posters for announcing W.I. monthly meetings have been issued at 4d. per dozen or 2s. per 100 copies, and W.I. envelopes in a larger size, big enough to hold membership cards, are now supplied at 2s. 6d. per 100.

The Eighth Annual Report of the N.F.W.I. was issued in July, a copy being sent free of charge to every Institute and County Federation. This Sub-Committee also planned the improvements in the type and arrangement of the 1925 Handbook, which were designed to make it easy to find any piece of information as quickly as possible. The price of the leaflet on Descants was reduced to 3d. in a reprint issued during the year. Plans for additions to the series of "Hints for Short Talks" are under consideration. Welsh translations of three leaflets, "A W.I. and how it works," "Why do we need a County and a National Federation," and "Members, Committee and Treasurer," have been published, Professor Williams of Bangor University kindly undertaking the work of translation.

In accordance with the request made by the last Annual General Meeting, a suggested syllabus for speakers' schools has been drafted and a copy sent to every County Federation.

A number of copies of "The Guildhouse," an interesting report on co-operative centres for adult education, were presented to the National Federation by the British Institute of Adult Education, to be sold to W.I. members at the special price of 9d. a copy, the published price being 1s. 6d. These have been stocked in the literature department. A new leaflet on the work of the League of Nations, "Organising Peace" (price 3d.), published by the League of Nations Union, has been added to the National Federation's stock of literature. Miss Wake's book "How to compile a History and Present-Day Record of Village Life" (published by the Northants County Federation, price 1s.), a pamphlet, "The Local Education Authority and Adult Education" (published by the British Institute of Adult Education, price 3d.), and copies of "Jerusalem" (price 4d. a copy with music and 3d. a copy with words only) have also been added to the stock. Specimen copies of a useful publication "Public Health and Education," were obtained from the Ministry of Health and sent to County Federations.

The Sub-Committee has arranged that a specimen copy of every new leaflet shall be sent to all V.C.O.s, as well as to County Federation Secretaries, in order that they may call the attention of Institutes to them. New publications are also announced in "Home and County." The Sub-Committee has considered various schemes for distinguishing the groups of leaflets dealing with different subjects so that a member who is particularly interested, for instance, in handicrafts, may easily pick out the handicraft leaflets on the literature stall. It has been decided to mark the leaflets with initial letters on backgrounds of different colours, grouping them under the headings of Organisation, Finance, Education, Handicrafts, Agriculture and Music. Each of the old leaflets will be published with this new title page as soon as a reprint is needed.

The need for clear and concise leaflets on local government, which would be suitable for distribution to electors in country districts at the time of local government elections, has been brought to the notice of the Sub-Committee, which has drafted three leaflets on the work of Parish Councils, Rural District Councils and County Councils. These have been forwarded to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship as it seems likely that this body will undertake their publication.

The Sub-Committee made the usual arrangements for publicity in connection with the Annual Meeting, sending invitations to the chief London papers and, through individual members of the

committee, approaching the provincial press. Information has been supplied to "The Queen" and to other publications which have asked for help in compiling articles dealing with the W.I. movement. Mr. Robertson Scott has been provided with material for his book "The Story of the Women's Institute Movement" and has been put in touch with prominent Institute workers, on the understanding that the National Federation takes no responsibility as regards the author's point of view and treatment of his subject.

The Sub-Committee has arranged for the publication in "Home and Country" of the programme of educational talks arranged by the British Broadcasting Company and hopes to collect from W.I. members criticisms of these programmes and suggestions for other talks, so that the N.F.W.I. will be in a position to supply evidence, if opportunity arises, as to the kind of programme likely to be most popular. Up to the present, however, no suggestions on these points have been received from W.I. members.

The Dental Board has been put into touch with certain County Federations in order that they may work out a scheme for supplying lecturers on "the Care of the Teeth." The lectures of the Central Committee for Crippled Children have also been made known to members through "Home and Country."

#### DRAMA SUB-COMMITTEE.

A Drama Sub-Committee was appointed for the first time in June and has held two meetings. The Sub-Committee has not had time to achieve much constructive work as yet, but is in close touch with the British Drama League and the Village Drama Society, representatives of which serve upon it. Its duties include the consideration of the best methods of encouraging and meeting the demand for drama within the Institutes and of maintaining a high standard both in plays and production. A questionnaire has been sent to all County Federations with the object of ascertaining in what ways the Sub-Committee can be of most use. Drama notes are to be published quarterly in "Home and Country."

#### MUSIC SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Music Sub-Committee has met quarterly throughout 1925. The first Institute Song Book was published in February. This contains thirteen well-known songs with piano accompaniment and is sold at 3d. a copy. The Song Book has proved so popular that it is already in its second edition and the Music Sub-Committee is engaged on the preparation of a second Song Book. The Sub-

Committee desires to express its gratitude to Messrs. Novello Ltd. for permission to reprint the songs, and to Mr. W. H. Leslie for his invaluable assistance in the preparation of the books.

The "Talk about Haydn" drafted by Mrs. Leslie Thomson and published by the Sub-Committee in 1924 appears to have been found very useful by the Institutes, Mrs. Leslie Thomson has therefore been kind enough to draft a companion talk on "Handel and his Music" which is now in preparation.

The Sub-Committee again made arrangements for the singing of "Jerusalem" at the Annual Meeting, and hopes to be able to secure the production of a gramophone record of "Jerusalem" before long. A demonstration of the Dulcitone at the organisers' conference following the Annual Meeting was also arranged by the Sub-Committee.

The demand is increasing in the counties for training for village conductors, and the Sub-Committee has been able to assist County Federations in obtaining good instruction. A panel of teachers of conductors' classes, adjudicators at competition Festivals and speakers on music generally, is gradually being compiled at headquarters, and the Sub-Committee is taking steps to ensure that all its speakers and teachers are working on the same lines.

The Sub-Committee is at the present time considering its future policy and has in the Music Notes which it publishes from time to time in "Home and Country" made some suggestions as to the directions in which the Institutes' keen interest in music may best be expressed. The past two years have shown a wonderful record of progress and the Sub-Committee is most anxious that the movement towards community singing may develop unchecked.

#### HOME AND COUNTRY SUB-COMMITTEE.

The "Home and Country" Sub-Committee meets quarterly, and can report a satisfactory year. The profit of £454 for 1925 was handed over to the general funds. The second edition of "Home and Country Arts" by Professor Lethaby has a steady if slow sale. Outsiders are beginning to buy it.

A copper urn or its equivalent in value was presented to each of the following Institutes in which all the members took "Home and Country" for 1925:

Mayland W.I.	Essex.
Biggin and District W.I.	Derbyshire.
Haversham and Little Linfold W.I.	Bucks.
Semer W.I.	W. Suffolk.

A banner or its equivalent in value was presented to each of the following Institutes in which 75 per cent. of the members took the magazine for 1925 :

Three Hills W.I.	Worcestershire
Over Knutsford W.I.	Cheshire.
Bromfield W.I.	Shropshire.
Dunster W.I.	Somerset.
Renhold W.I.	Beds.
Yelling W.I.	Hunts.
Longdon W.I.	Staffs.
Gt. Paxton W.I.	Hunts.

The Executive Committee on the recommendation of the Sub-Committee decided that after 1926 no further awards should be offered to the Institutes which are large subscribers to "Home and Country." It was felt that no inducement other than its own merits should be necessary to make members take their own magazine.

**CIRCULATION IN 1925.**

January	35,798	July	39,765
February	37,108	August	39,853
March	38,426	September	39,608
April	38,847	October	39,990
May	38,941	November	40,225
June	39,862	December	40,914

The Sub-Committee wishes to offer cordial thanks to the Institute members who have helped with literary contributions, or by suggestions, criticisms and appreciation and especially to those who have helped to make the magazine known to new subscribers. Miss Lunniss, the Hon. Sub-Editor, gives unstintingly of her time and talents. Mr. Robertson Scott and Mr. W. Thompson, the Hon. Treasurer, act as expert advisers to the committee. To them and to the county press correspondents "Home and Country" is much indebted.

**CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.**

During 1925, the National Federation has remained represented on the Adult Education Advisory Committee of the Board of Education, the National Council of Social Service, the Women's Advisory Committee of the League of Nations Union, the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, the National Poultry Council and Parliament, and the Challenge Popular Book Club, and has become an 'Associate' of the Girl Guides, and the Plunkett Co-operative Reference Library.

At this time the Committee has decided to terminate its representation on the Consultative Committee of Women's Organ-

isations. During the past eighteen months this Committee has discussed few questions on which the N.F.W.I. has a mandate to vote and the N.F.W.I. Committee therefore does not feel justified in asking a representative to give up the necessary time to attend these meetings regularly.

An interesting feature of the work of the National Council of Social Service this year has been the administration of a loan fund of £5,000 received from H.M. Development Commission. This sum has been given to be used experimentally through County Community Councils for the purpose of making loans towards the building of village halls which, when built, are to be managed by representative village committees. The experiment is being tried at present in five counties : Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire and Kent.

The Committee has been represented at two conferences called by the National Council, one on the work of County Community Councils and one on the formation of girls' clubs in rural areas.

Though not officially connected with them, the Committee co-operates closely with the National Savings Association, the British Red Cross and Order of St. John, the National Baby Week Council, the National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, the British Broadcasting Company, the British Institute of Adult Education and the Plunkett Foundation. A working agreement has also been reached between the N.F.W.I. and the British Legion whereby it has been agreed that, if the Legion forms a women's branch in a village which already possesses an active Institute, the branch will not undertake general educational and social work but will recommend its members to join the Institute for these benefits.

The Committee was represented at an International Conference of Women's Institutes and Cercles de Fermières held in Brussels in connection with the Exhibition at Laecken in July. The Committee is still in correspondence with Canada and Belgium on the subject of the formation of an International Federation, but as the views of Belgium and France upon the proposed constitution of such a body differ very markedly from those of Canada, Scotland and England, the Committee has suggested that no Federation be formed at present but that the plan be adopted of holding periodic informal conferences, called in turn by the different nations. Meantime there is a move, in connection with the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, to form an International Association of Agricultural Societies and the N.F.W.I. is keeping in touch with the promoters of this scheme.

The organisations with which County Federations and Institutes have, up to the present, received official sanction to affiliate are the Victoria League, the National Poultry Council, the National Utility Poultry Society, the British Drama League, the Arts League of Service, the Village Drama Society, the British Federation of Music Competition Festivals, the Royal Horticultural Society, the National Council of Women (local branches), the Workers' Education Association, and county branches of the English Folk Dance Society. Institutes may also become Corporate Associates of the League of Nations Union, and Associates of the Women's Auxiliary Service (Women Police). 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.

NEW PUBLICATIONS OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES DURING 1925.

ORGANISATION.

- Why do we want a County and a National Federation? ... ..  
(Revised and issued as a *Free Leaflet*)
- How the National Federation helps the Institutes... ..  
(Revised and issued as a *Free leaflet*)
- What the Money given by the Institutes helps the National Federation to do for them ... .. *Free leaflet.*  
(New Edition, brought up to date, with figures for 1924).
- Suggestions on Procedure at Meetings ... .. 3d.  
(New Edition, revised and enlarged)
- Handbook, 1925 ... .. 6d.  
(Revised and enlarged).
- Eighth Annual Report ... .. 1s.  
(Sent free to every County Federation and Women's Institute).
- Annual Report Forms for Women's Institutes and for W.I. Centres ... .. 1s. for 20.  
(Revised) 4s. 6d. for 100.
- Monthly Meeting Posters ... .. 4d. per doz.  
2s. per 100.

HINTS FOR SHORT TALKS.

- III. and IV. Local Government ... .. 2d. each.
- V. Local Government and Education ... .. 2d. each.  
(New editions, brought up to date).

HANDICRAFTS.

- Handicraft Classes and Tests ... .. *Free Leaflet.*  
(Two editions issued during the year, the second one containing the programme of classes for 1926).
- Handicraft Exhibitions, their Organisation, Staging and Judging ... .. 1d.
- Suggested Points for Judging ... .. 3d.  
(New edition, enlarged).
- Furcraft ... .. 1d.  
(New edition, completely revised).

MUSIC.

- W.I. Song Book ... .. 3d. each.  
4s. for 24.
- A Talk about Haydn (to be illustrated with gramophone records). ... .. 4d.

The following WELSH LEAFLETS have been issued:—

- Pam y mae'n rhaid i ni gael Undeb Sirol ac Undeb Cenedlaethol? ... .. *Free Leaflet.*
- Sefydliad y Merched a'r modd y gweithia ... .. *Free Leaflet.*
- Aelodau, Pwyllgor, a Thrysorydd ... .. 1½d.



# Ninth Annual General Meeting

held in the  
QUEEN'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE, LONDON, W.1.

on  
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MAY 19th & 20th, 1925.

Chairman: THE LADY DENMAN.

MISS ANDERSON moved and MISS HADOW seconded the appointment of the following Tellers and Returning Officers:—

#### TELLERS.

Miss Hay, Miss Leigh, Miss Levy, Miss Mickelwright, Mrs. Molesworth, Miss Nightingale, Miss Rhodes, Miss Simpson.

*Carried.*

#### RETURNING OFFICERS.

The Y.W.C.A.

*Carried.*

#### ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the Annual Report. This was seconded from the body of the Hall.

MRS. PATTON (Peaslake W.I.) moved, and a member from Northumberland seconded, that the section of the Report dealing with the Swiss Tours should not be passed.

*Lost.*

The adoption of the Report was then put to the meeting and *carried.*

#### ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET.

MRS. AUERBACH moved the adoption of the Annual Financial Statement and Balance Sheet. This was seconded from the Hall and *carried unanimously.*

#### RESULT OF BALLOT FOR THE N.F.W.I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

This was announced by the CHAIRMAN.

#### RESOLUTIONS ON THE RULES.

##### County Federation Rules. Council Meetings.

MRS. GERALD BUXTON (Essex) moved and LADY BERWICK (Shropshire) seconded:

That in Rule V., par. 2, line 2, the word "twice" should be deleted and the word "once" substituted.

*Lost.*

##### W.I. Rules. Monthly Meetings.

MRS. DRAGE, on behalf of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee moved and MRS. TALBOT (E. Suffolk) seconded the following resolution:

Add to W.I. Rule VIII. (a) "If exceptional circumstances make it impossible for an Institute to hold meetings during certain months of the year, sanction to omit more than one meeting must be obtained from the County and National Federations."

An amendment deleting all after "year" and substituting "the County and National Federations must be notified" was *lost.*

MRS. HINES (Lancashire) then moved and MRS. RAINFORD (Catford) seconded the following amendment which was *carried.*

Delete all after "year" and substitute "that Institute should notify the County Federation, stating the reason."

After considerable discussion, the CHAIRMAN put the amended resolution to the meeting. The resolution failed however to gain the necessary three-fourths majority, and was therefore declared *lost.*

#### HOLIDAY REST AND CHANGE SCHEME.

MRS. WENTWORTH WATSON (Northants.) moved and MRS. ALLAN WILLIAMS (Carnarvon) seconded the following resolution.

That this meeting wishes to recommend a Holiday, Rest and Change Scheme for Women's Institute members, based on the lines of the scheme suggested by Northamptonshire.

The mover explained that, under the scheme, W.I. members are entertained as guests in the homes of W.I. members in other parts of the county, their own Institutes paying travelling expenses.

Two amendments were *lost*, the first recommending the establishment of Holiday Rest Homes in place of the Northamptonshire scheme, and the second recommending the use of existing boarding houses and apartments, registration and all clerical work to be done by the County Federation, and part cost to be paid by the member herself or by her Institute.

The original resolution was then put and *carried.*

#### INSTITUTES AND TRADE.

MRS. RITCHIE (Warkworth W.I.) moved and the delegate from Egligham W.I. seconded the following resolution :

That this meeting would draw attention to the danger of permitting trading activities to encroach upon the main purposes of an Institute, and would warn Institutes against allowing themselves to be used as advertising mediums.

*Carried*

#### HANDICRAFTS.

MISS CHRISTY moved and LADY LISTOWEL seconded the following resolution on behalf of the National Federation Executive Committee :

That in order to improve the standard of Handicraft in Women's Institutes, this meeting urges County Federations to make full use of the Schools and Classes provided by Headquarters for the training of teachers, and advises that they employ and recommend only those teachers and demonstrators whose work is known to be of a high rate of excellence.

LORD SHAFTESBURY (Development Commissioner) spoke to the resolution and urged the loyal co-operation of County Federations and Institutes with Headquarters in carrying out the Development Commission's suggestions for improving the organisation of the handicraft side of W.I. work.

A vote of thanks to Lord Shaftesbury was carried with acclamation.

An amendment moved by W. Suffolk to delete the word "only" was *lost*.

The resolution was then put to the vote and *carried*.

#### TRANSPORT OF PRODUCE.

MRS. MEARS (Tewin W.I.) moved and Mrs. GILLIAT (Watton W.I.) seconded the following resolution :

That the Ministry of Agriculture be asked to assist with regard to the transport of produce to Women's Institute Markets.

*Lost.*

#### YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS.

MR. DALLINGER moved and LADY MARGARET BOSCAWEN seconded the following resolution on behalf of the National Federation Executive Committee :

That this meeting directs the attention of all Institute members to the importance of the Young Farmers' Club Movement as a valuable form of Agricultural Education and Social Training for boys and girls, and as a means of increasing food production.

MR. DALLINGER in moving the resolution described in some detail the history and working of such Clubs.

The resolution was *carried unanimously*.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

MISS SEATON (Epping W.I.) moved and Mrs. White (Carnarvonshire) seconded the following resolution :

That this meeting views with grave concern the fact that since 1902 Maternal Mortality associated with Child Bearing has remained almost stationary, and in view of the serious effect of a high Maternal Mortality rate upon the health and welfare of many hundreds of families every year, this meeting urges Women's Institutes to do what may be possible to create an informed public opinion without which no substantial progress can be made.

Amendments moved by E. Hanningfield W.I., Dorset and W. Sussex and a rider by Norfolk dealt with the following subjects : closer co-operation between mother, nurse and doctor ; child and welfare centres ; the midwifery service ; provision of hospital treatment ; a body of consultants to meet the requirements of the general practitioner ; the handy woman ; notification of births.

All these amendments were *lost* and the original resolution was then *carried*.

#### POOR LAW.

MISS SIMPSON (Derbyshire), moved and MISS HOLLAND (Staffordshire) seconded the following resolution.

That this meeting urges members to study and interest themselves in the subject of Boards of Guardians, with a special view to the treatment of women and children under the Poor Law.

A rider recommending that the Institutes should, whenever possible, be represented by one of their members on the Board of Guardians having been *lost*, the resolution was *carried unanimously*.

#### W.I. SPEAKERS.

MISS REES MOGG (Somerset) moved and LADY BROOKES (Dorset) seconded the following resolution.

That, owing to the great need for good speakers on educational subjects at Women's Institute meetings, this meeting urges the national Federation to organise schools for training speakers on the same lines as the Handicraft Schools.

MISS GILDEA moved and MRS. HERON MAXWELL seconded the following amendment on behalf of the National Federation Executive Committee.

Delete all after "National Federation" and substitute "to outline a course of classes for the training of W.I. speakers, and also to recommend teachers in order that county or inter-county courses may be organised at convenient centres."

MISS GILDEA pointed out the great expense to Headquarters which the organisation of these schools would involve. The amended resolution was then *carried*.

#### N.F.W.I. LITERATURE.

MISS HADOW moved and MISS BURGESS seconded, both on behalf of the National Federation Executive Committee, the following resolution :

That all County Federations be urged not only to have a literature stall at their Council meetings, but to include in their Agenda a brief account of any new publications issued by the N.F.W.I.

An amendment to insert after the words Council Meetings "or at Group Conferences," was *carried*, and the resolution was then *carried* in its amended form.

#### HYGIENE OF FOOD AND DRINK.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM (Fotherby W.I.) moved and MISS WARD (Acton Burnell W.I.) seconded the following resolution.

That in the opinion of this meeting, the Syllabus on the Hygiene of Food and Drink, as adopted by the Board of Education for use in Schools, should be made more widely known by lecturers at Institute meetings.

*Carried unanimously.*

#### GAMBLING.

MRS. WEBSTER (St. Mary Bourne W.I.) moved and MRS. DALGETY (Hampshire) seconded the following resolution.

That in view of the great increase of gambling among all classes of the community, it is very important that anything likely to foster or increase this evil, such as tombolas, lotteries, raffles or draws, should be scrupulously avoided at all Women's Institute fêtes, exhibitions or other entertainments.

After considerable discussion, the previous question was moved and *carried*.

#### ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN.

MISS CROPPER (Westmorland) moved and MISS ANSON (Cumberland) seconded the following resolution :

That Women's Institutes should realise that they can do valuable public service in helping to safeguard the beauty of the countryside by carrying out a vigorous anti-litter campaign, and that they should specially encourage the schools to train the children in this matter.

A discussion took place dealing with possible action by local authorities in this matter, and the resolution was finally put in the following amended form :

That Women's Institutes should realise that they can do valuable public service in helping to safeguard the beauty of the countryside by carrying out a vigorous anti-litter campaign and therefore this meeting would ask the Ministry of Health to urge all Parish Councils and other Local Authorities to provide facilities for the proper collection and destruction of rubbish.

*Carried unanimously.*

#### MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

MRS. HANBURY (Essex) moved and MRS. QUIRK (Lindsey) seconded a resolution urging Institutes to study the facilities available for the training of mentally deficient children, and where necessary make recommendations on the subject to the local authorities. Various amendments enlarging the scope of the resolution were moved and carried, and the amended resolution was finally *carried* in the following form :

That this meeting urges Women's Institutes to bring before their members the facilities already existing for the education, training and betterment of the mentally deficient, and that, where necessary, local authorities be urged to afford greater provision for the care of the mentally deficient in the urban and rural districts. Further that public opinion should urge the necessity of after-care of the mentally deficient, particularly with regard to marriage.

#### RURAL INDUSTRIES.

MR. DOBSON moved and MRS. GRANVILLE STREATFIELD seconded the following resolution on behalf of the National Federation Executive Committee :

That in the opinion of this meeting the revival and development of rural industries is of the greatest importance to the maintenance of agricultural communities, and that every attention should be paid to this subject by the County Councils, acting through their County Agricultural Committees or appropriate Sub-Committees.

MR. CHATTERTON, of the North Riding Yorks. Agricultural Committee, spoke supporting the resolution and described the development of rural industries in the North Riding. The resolution was *carried* by a large majority.

The thanks of the Annual Meeting are due to the Right Hon. E. F. Wood, Minister of Agriculture, who addressed the meeting. MR. WOOD congratulated the Movement on its steady development and pointed out the ways in which Women's Institutes can help to solve the "rural problem."

## Fourteenth Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

THE PORTSMOUTH BLUE TRIANGLE CLUB  
12, GROSVENOR PLACE, LONDON,

ON

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 1925.

Chairman: THE LADY DENMAN.

### PRESENT.

Six members of the National Federation Executive Committee.  
Delegates from 34 County Federations.

### ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA.

Resolutions received from County Federations and Institutes were considered, and twenty-three resolutions were recommended to the N.F.W.I. Agenda Committee for acceptance.

### FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

The following resolution was carried as a recommendation to the National Federation Executive Committee:

That in future the meeting of the Consultative Council to consider the Annual Meeting Agenda ceases to be a Special Meeting and becomes one of the two required by the constitution.

*Endorsed.*

### INSTITUTE FINANCE.

A proposal was made that a resolution should be brought forward at the Annual Meeting to alter W.I. Rule II. (7), so as not to limit the purposes for which W.I. funds are available. No support was forthcoming for this suggestion, which was therefore *dropped*.

## Fifteenth Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

THE TEMPERANCE INSTITUTE, NORTHGATE,  
DARLINGTON,

ON

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24th & 25th, 1925.

Chairman: THE LADY DENMAN.

### PRESENT.

Five members of the National Federation Executive Committee.  
Delegates from twenty-four County Federations.

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS AT ANNUAL MEETINGS.

Delegates gave notice of a number of public questions on which resolutions were likely to be brought forward at the next Annual Meeting. The opinion of the Council was taken and it was decided to recommend to the Executive Committee that Institutes be urged to give special attention during the winter to the following subjects: (1) League of Nations; (2) Maternal Mortality; (3) Press Reform.

This resolution was *not endorsed* by the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee as, in view of the 1925 report of the Chief Medical Officer of Health to the Board of Education, the Committee came to the conclusion that the question of the health of the country child was a matter more urgently requiring study by the Institutes.

It was further agreed to recommend to the National Federation Executive Committee:

That a full memorandum be sent this year to County Federations as to the position with regard to all Public Questions on which resolutions have been passed at N.F.W.I. Meetings, and that each year a report on results achieved during the year in connection with Annual Meeting resolutions on Public Questions be clearly set out and embodied in the N.F.W.I. Annual Report and published in "Home and Country."

*Endorsed.*

The following resolution was *carried unanimously*.

That in view of the strong expression of opinion at the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes on questions of public health, and especially on the problem of Maternal Mortality, it is desirable for the N.F.W.I. to advise County Federations themselves to study the provisions made for public health in their own areas and to come to a decision upon whether any action is urgent.

*Endorsed.*

It was decided to recommend that the practical suggestions drawn up by Dr. Carling (delegate from Oxon.), as to the lines on which County Federations might work, in following up the Annual Meeting resolution on Maternal Morality, should be circulated to the counties.

*Endorsed.*

#### ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA.

The following resolution was *carried*, as a recommendation to the National Federation Executive Committee :

That the time-table should be printed on the Agenda and an appeal made to delegates to avoid repetition of arguments and assist the Chairman in keeping the time-table.

*Endorsed.*

A discussion took place on the advisability of continuing to devote one meeting of the Consultative Council each year to consideration of resolutions received for the Annual Meeting Agenda. The Council finally decided that it was desirable to continue this system, but that, if time permitted, there should be opportunity for the discussion of other business also.

#### FINANCE.

MRS. AUERBACH presented for scrutiny the estimate of receipts and payments for the current financial year submitted to H.M. Treasury in February 1925. The delegate from Norfolk gave notice that her Federation wished to bring forward the suggestion that the Endowment Fund be closed temporarily and that assets from all sources be put to current account.

The financial aspect of W.I. Summer Outings was discussed, and it was generally agreed that the most satisfactory plan is for each member who wishes to go on the outing to pay her share of the expenses. Tickets to cover the cost of the outing can be sold beforehand. It was also suggested that an outing club might be opened, into which members wishing to join the outing might pay in month by month, the money deposited being the members' own property.

#### ELECTION OF NATIONAL, COUNTY AND INSTITUTE COMMITTEES.

A resolution to draw the attention of County Federations to the undesirability of canvassing in connection with elections for National or County Federation or W.I. Committees, was *lost*.

The following resolution was *carried* :

That this Council considers it inadvisable to publish the names of all proposers on the nomination paper for the National Federation Committee.

This recommendation was *not endorsed* by the National Federation Executive, since a large majority of the Committee felt that the Institutes would greatly regret the omission of the names of nominators.

A resolution to the effect that an alteration in the Rules was desirable to enable the Executive Committee of a County Federation to be elected by postal vote was *lost*.

#### W.I. ORGANISATION.

A discussion took place on how best to meet the problem of the lack of suitable officers in some Institutes. The following suggestions were made by different delegates :

(1) W.I. members should relieve officers of part of the work and there should be a closer touch between officers and committee members.

(2) County Federations might lend a member of the County Organisation Committee or a good member of a neighbouring Institute Centre, to act as Chairman for three months in an Institute which could not find officers, this temporary Chairman to train up a W.I. member to succeed her.

(3) Institute officers should be encouraged to study simple rules of Committee procedure as early as possible, with a view to simplifying their work, and making it appear less formidable.

(4) Not only W.I. Officers, but prospective officers, should be encouraged to attend W.I. Officers' Schools, and at these Schools it should be suggested that each officer should bear in mind the need for training a successor.

(5) At Group Meetings and W.I. Officers' Schools frank discussion should be encouraged of the difficulty which is sometimes created when ordinary W.I. members show jealousy of another member who takes office.

(6) If W.I. Sub-Committees have officers other than the officers of the Executive Committee, the Sub-Committees should act as a useful training school for future Institute Officers.

A resolution that it is desirable that each Institute should be allowed to fix the date of its Annual Meeting was *lost*.

### SELECTION AND TRAINING OF V.C.O.s.

The selection by County Federations of students for V.C.O. schools and the use of the preliminary test paper, issued by the National Federation for this purpose, was discussed. It was generally agreed that, when the test paper is used, the County Federation Organisation Sub-Committee, or one or two members appointed by it, should act as examiners.

### VOTING AT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS.

It was agreed that, to obviate the difficulty of obtaining a representative vote at these meetings (owing to the fact that some Counties are represented by two and others by only one delegate), the plan should be adopted of taking two votes, one a vote of all delegates present, the second a vote of counties, only one delegate per county being allowed to vote in the latter case.

*Endorsed.*

## The National Federation

### GENERAL

#### Statement of Receipts and Payments for

RECEIPTS

To Balance brought forward April 1st 1925	137 15 0
GRANT FROM TREASURY	230 0 0
HEADQUARTERS' FUNDS 1925-26	4 0 0
Balance brought forward April 1st 1925	4 0 0
Interest and Dividends on Endowment Fund	212 5 8
and Bank Accounts	20 0 0
Contributions from Gold of Labour's Annual	20 0 0
Law Income Tax	5 11 12 3

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Law Income Tax	5 11 12 3
GRANT FROM TREASURY	230 0 0
HEADQUARTERS' FUNDS 1925-26	4 0 0
Balance brought forward April 1st 1925	137 15 0
Interest and Dividends on Endowment Fund	212 5 8
and Bank Accounts	20 0 0
Contributions from Gold of Labour's Annual	20 0 0
Law Income Tax	5 11 12 3
Report	0 0 0
Law Income Tax	5 11 12 3
Balance brought forward	137 15 0
GRANT FROM TREASURY	230 0 0
HEADQUARTERS' FUNDS 1925-26	4 0 0
Balance brought forward April 1st 1925	137 15 0
Interest and Dividends on Endowment Fund	212 5 8
and Bank Accounts	20 0 0
Contributions from Gold of Labour's Annual	20 0 0
Law Income Tax	5 11 12 3
Report	0 0 0
Law Income Tax	5 11 12 3
Balance brought forward	137 15 0

# The National Federation

## GENERAL

### Statement of Receipts and Payments for

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To BALANCE brought forward, April 1st, 1925	...				177	13	7
„ GRANT FROM TREASURY	...				730	0	0
„ HEADQUARTERS FUNDS, 1925/26 :—							
Balance brought forward, April 1st, 1925	...	4,911	4	4			
Interest and Dividends on Endowment Fund and Deposit Accounts	...	717	2	8			
Contributions from Guild of Learners	...	20	9	6			
		5,648	16	6			
Less Income Tax	...	137	4	1			
					5,511	12	5
„ PROFIT FROM "HOME AND COUNTRY," for the year ended March 31st, 1925	...				454	0	0
„ HEADQUARTERS FUNDS, RESERVED FOR USE IN 1926/27 :—							
Donations	...	2,447	19	3			
Affiliation Fees	...	2,828	14	7			
Interest and Dividends	...	319	2	8			
Contributions from Guild of Learners	...	52	4	4			
Profit on Literature Account	...	296	7	3			
		5,944	8	1			
Less Income Tax	...	62	4	6			
					5,882	3	7

£12,755 9 7

BALANCE brought down

£169 13 9

# of Women's Institutes.

## ACCOUNT.

### the Year ended March 31st, 1926.

PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By HEADQUARTERS EXPENSES :—							
Rent and Insurance	...	337	8	7			
Salaries and Government Insurance	...	1,838	16	10			
Printing and Stationery	...	535	14	7			
Audit Fee	...	14	0	0			
Legal Expenses	...	76	8	0			
Postage, Telegrams and Telephone	...	283	10	1			
Office Expenses, Cleaning, Repairs, Fuel and Light	...	283	8	8			
Travelling Expenses of Committee and Sub-Committee	...	426	0	11			
					3,795	7	8
„ OFFICE FURNITURE, REPAIRS AND EQUIPMENT, 39, Eccleston Street	...				892	13	1
„ DONATIONS :—							
National Poultry Council	...	6	6	0			
Income Tax Payers' Society	...	5	5	0			
National Council of Social Service	...	3	3	0			
Horace Plunkett Foundation	...	2	0	0			
„ AFFILIATION FEES :—							
Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations	...	6	0	0			
							22 14 0
„ COUNTY EXPENSES :—							
Organisers' Salaries and Expenses	...	1,256	3	3			
Royal Show	...	67	2	2			
Annual Meeting and Consultative Councils...	...	359	13	0			
Preliminary Courses of Instruction for V.C.O.s	...	46	18	7			
Grants to County Federations	...	136	0	0			
					1,865	17	0
„ TRANSFER TO RESERVE ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE FOR :—							
Repairs	...	90	0	0			
Leasehold Redemption	...	37	0	6			
							127 0 6
„ TRANSFER TO HEADQUARTERS FUNDS FOR USE IN 1926/27	...						5,882 3 7
„ BALANCE, being excess of Receipts over Payments for the year ended March 31st, 1926, carried down	...						169 13 9

£12,755 9 7

## BALANCE SHEET

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND:—</b>						
Balance as on March 31st, 1925 ... ..	16,788	4	2			
<b>ADDED DURING THE YEAR:—</b>						
Donations ... ..	51	11	11			
Profit on Sale of Stock ... ..	226	19	2			
				17,066	15	3
<b>HEADQUARTERS FUNDS:—</b>						
1925/26 Income reserved for use in 1926/27 ... ..				5,882	3	7
				22,948	18	10
<b>EXHIBITION ACCOUNT:—</b>						
As on March 31st, 1925 ... ..	327	8	5			
Less expended during year (Royal Show) ... ..	15	0	0			
				312	8	5
LITERATURE ACCOUNT BALANCE ... ..				204	6	4
REPAIRS RESERVE ACCOUNT ... ..	90	0	0			
LEASEHOLD SINKING FUND ... ..	37	0	6			
				127	0	6
<b>GENERAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT:—</b>						
Capital as per last Balance Sheet... ..	830	13	7			
Less Depreciation on Furniture, etc. ... ..	41	5	8			
				789	7	11
<b>Add Excess of Receipts over Payments:</b>						
On General Account ... ..	169	13	9			
<b>Less Excess of Payments over Receipts:</b>						
On Handicrafts Account ... ..	32	5	10			
				137	7	11
				926	15	10
				24,519	9	11

March 31st, 1926.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<b>FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND FITTINGS:—</b>						
As per last Balance Sheet ... ..	830	13	7			
Less Depreciation 5% per annum... ..	41	5	8			
				789	7	11
<b>ENDOWMENT AND HEADQUARTERS FUNDS:—</b>						
LEASEHOLD PROPERTY ... ..	4,325	13	5			
<b>INVESTMENTS AT COST:</b>						
£5,700 5% War Loan 1929/47 ... ..	5,433	0	3			
£5,150 4½% Conversion Loan ... ..	4,765	16	5			
£4,023 15s. 1d. 3½% Conversion Loan ... ..	3,160	16	11			
£1,000 Union of South Africa 5% Inscribed Stock 1940/60 ... ..	1,007	0	6			
£100 New South Wales 5% Loan 1932/42 ... ..	99	8	0			
£1,000 Coventry Corporation 5% Reg. Stock 1954/74 ... ..	1,034	11	6			
£600 L.M. & S. Rly. 4% Pref. Stock ... ..	492	9	0			
£600 L. & N.E. Rly. 4% 2nd Pref. Stock ... ..	489	5	6			
£500 Southern Rly. 5% Pref. Stock ... ..	515	15	3			
£500 Gt. Western Rly. 5% Cons. Pref. Stock ... ..	525	16	3			
£150 Metropolitan Rly. 5% Pref. Stock ... ..	141	13	6			
				21,991	6	6
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND ... ..	661	5	1			
AMOUNT DUE FROM LITERATURE ACCOUNT ... ..	296	7	3			
				22,948	18	10
LITERATURE: STOCK ... ..	549	19	11			
Cash in Hand ... ..	23	8	4			
				573	8	3
Less Overdraft at Bank ... ..	72	14	8			
Amount due to Headquarters Funds ... ..	296	7	3			
				369	1	11
				204	6	4
<b>CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND:—</b>						
Exhibition Account ... ..	312	8	5			
Repairs Reserve and Leasehold Sinking Fund Account ... ..	127	0	6			
General Account ... ..	£187	7	11			
Less unpaid County Federation Grant and Legal Expenses ... ..	50	0	0			
				137	7	11
				576	16	10
				24,519	9	11

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.,

Chartered Accountants

Spencer House,  
South Place, E.C.2.  
April 16th, 1926.



### CARNEGIE FUND.

#### Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended March 31st, 1926.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance, March 31st, 1925 :—									
Cash at Bank ... ..	102	7	11						
Cash in hand ... ..	6	5	11						
Investments at cost—									
£500 New South Wales									
5% Loan 1932/42 ...	495	13	6						
£300 City of Auckland 6%									
Loan ... ..	328	10	0						
„ Interest on Investments ...									
				932	17	4			
				43	0	0			
				<hr/>					
				£975	17	4			
				<hr/>					
„ Balance brought down ...				£894	14	2			

  

By Purchases for Loan Collection...	53	10	9						
„ General Expenses ... ..	3	0	2						
„ Income Tax ... ..	8	12	0						
„ Canadian Exhibits ... ..	16	0	3						
	<hr/>						81	3	2
„ Balance carried forward									
March 31st, 1926 :—									
Cash at Bank ... ..	41	5	10						
Cash in Hand ... ..	29	4	10						
Investments at cost :—									
£500 New South Wales									
5% Loan 1932/42 ...	495	13	6						
£300 City of Auckland 6%									
Loan ... ..	328	10	0						
				<hr/>					
							894	14	2
				<hr/>					
				£975	17	4			
				<hr/>					

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 Investments.

Spencer House,  
South Place, E.C.2.  
April 16th, 1926.

KNOX, CROPPER & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants.

### HOME AND COUNTRY.

#### Profit and Loss Account for the year ended March 31st, 1926.

				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Stock April 1st, 1925 :—									
Reprints ... ..				1	16	8			
Books ... ..				50	7	0			
				<hr/>					
„ Paper, Printing and Blocks ...				52	3	8			
„ Editorial Salary, and Literary				2,499	6	2			
Contributions ... ..				370	0	0			
„ Photographic Reproductions ...				40	6	10			
„ Balance being Gross Profit for									
the year carried down ...				2,194	1	4			
				<hr/>					
				£5,155	18	0			
				<hr/>					
To Wrapping, Despatch and									
Postage ... ..	538	9	5						
„ Office Expenses, Salaries and									
Government Insurances and									
Stationery ... ..	721	15	2						
„ Rent ... ..	54	0	9						
„ Audit Fees ... ..	12	8	0						
„ Income Tax ... ..	78	16	7						
„ Awards of Urns and Banners ...	40	3	0						
				<hr/>					
„ Balance being Net Profit for				1,445	12	11			
the year carried to Capital									
Account ... ..				836	2	3			
				<hr/>					
				£2,281	15	2			
				<hr/>					

  

By Sales and Subscriptions ...				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
„ Advertisements ... ..				3,941	3	0			
„ Stock, March 31st, 1926 :—									
Reprints ... ..				1	0	0			
Books ... ..				22	2	0			
				<hr/>					
							23	2	0
				<hr/>					
							£5,155	18	0
				<hr/>					
By Balance brought down ...				2,194	1	4			
				<hr/>					
„ Investment and Deposit Interest							20	13	6
„ Discounts ... ..							67	0	4
				<hr/>					
							£2,281	15	2
				<hr/>					

BALANCE SHEET, March 31st, 1926.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
SUSPENSE ACCOUNT :—							STOCK OF REPRINTS AND BOOKS...						
1926/27 Subscriptions and Ad- vertisements paid in advance				1,546	2	0	SUNDRY DEBTORS ... ..				23	2	0
PRIZE FUND ... ..					9	18	3				296	17	4
CAPITAL ACCOUNT :—							INVESTMENT :—						
Balance as on March 31st, 1925	1106	0	8				£300 3½% Conversion Loan at cost ... ..				245	7	3
Less Profit for the year ended March 31st, 1925 transferred to N.F.W.I. General Account ...	454	0	0				CASH AT BANK ... ..	2,468	3	1			
	652	0	8				CASH IN HAND ... ..	10	13	6			
Add Profit and Loss Account Balance for the year ended March 31st, 1926 ... ..	836	2	3	1,488	2	11				2,478	16	7	
				£3,044	3	2				£3,044	3	2	

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 the Investment.

Spencer House,  
South Place, E.C.2.  
April 16th, 1926.

KNOX, CROPPER & CO.  
Chartered Accountants.

LITERATURE.

Profit and Loss Account for the Year ended March 31st, 1926.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.			
To Stock, March 31st, 1925 ... ..				331	10	4	By Receipts ... ..				1,528	1	0
„ Printing and Badges ... ..				1,147	9	3	„ Stock, March 31st, 1926 ... ..				549	19	11
„ Advertising ... ..				13	10	0							
„ Postage ... ..	90	3	9										
„ Rent ... ..	37	0	4										
„ Salary ... ..	157	0	0										
„ Stationery ... ..	5	0	0	289	4	1							
„ Balance being Profit for the year carried down ... ..				296	7	3							
				£2,078	0	11				£2,078	0	11	
„ Transfer to General Account...				296	7	3	„ Balance brought down ... ..				296	7	3
„ Balance carried down ... ..				204	6	4	„ Balance brought forward from last year .....				204	6	4
				£500	13	7				£500	13	7	
							„ Balance brought down ... ..				£204	6	4

## HANDICRAFTS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended March 31st, 1926.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward March 31st, 1925 ...	11	0	9	By Salaries ...	459	15	6
„ Grant from Treasury ...	1,838	19	3	„ Schools ...	362	4	5
„ Balance, being excess of Payments over Receipts carried down ...	32	5	10	„ Scholarships ...	50	0	0
				„ Judges' and Speakers' Fees and Expenses ...	50	0	4
				„ Postage ...	47	3	11
				„ Organisers' Salaries ...	507	18	4
				„ Organisers' Expenses ...	405	3	4
	£1,882	5	10			913	1
						£1,882	5
				„ Balance brought down ...		£32	5
							10

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

Spencer Hoare,  
South Place, E.C. 2.  
April 1926, 1926.
GILBEY, LEE & CO.
KNOX, CROPPER & CO.  
Chartered Accountants

**STATEMENT showing Donations received from and help given to County Federations during the National Federation's Financial Year April 1st, 1925, to March 31st, 1926.**

COUNTY.	No. of W.I.s April, 1925.	Approx. no. of Delegates attending Annual Meeting May, 1925.	Grants given by N.F.W.I. April 1st, 1925, to March 31st, 1926.	Donations received from Counties, April 1st, 1925, to March 31st, 1926.	Donations received from Counties April 1st, 1924, to March 31st, 1925.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anglesey	11	5	—	0 15 0	1 1 0
Bedfordshire	35	28	—	19 0 0	13 0 0
Berkshire	68	53	—	83 0 0	59 2 0
Breconshire	10	4	6 0 0	3 1 0	11 1 0
Buckinghamshire	73	63	—	35 18 11	26 13 8
Cambridgeshire	47	34	—	25 0 0	29 8 5
Cardiganshire	28	8	—	15 0 0	30 0 0
Carmarthenshire	9	3	—	—	—
Cheshire	40	45	—	33 1 0	16 4 6
Cornwall	56	23	—	25 19 6	30 19 6
Carnarvonshire	31	17	—	—	—
Cumberland	59	18	30 0 0	37 12 6	33 14 0
Derbyshire	43	31	—	42 10 9	37 0 0
Devonshire	81	72	—	56 1 6	46 2 0
Dorset	101	64	—	76 0 0	76 0 0
Durham	52	26	—	44 5 0	49 0 0
Essex	156	132	—	114 15 0	108 16 0
Flint & Denbigh	23	11	—	17 13 0	2 1 0
Glamorganshire	14	2	—	8 0 0	6 10 0
Gloucestershire	100	59	—	27 1 0	21 1 0
Hampshire	164	113	—	166 2 0	162 11 0
Herefordshire	57	31	—	78 15 0	—
Hertfordshire	81	62	—	83 0 0	30 0 6
Huntingdonshire	40	30	—	28 10 0	—
Isle of Ely	24	15	—	24 0 0	—
Isle of Wight	18	21	—	5 0 0	2 5 0
East Kent	58	48	—	55 0 0	53 0 0
West Kent	89	81	—	90 0 0	96 0 0

STATEMENT showing Donations received from and help given to County Federations during the National Federation's Financial Year April 1st, 1925, to March 31st, 1926.

COUNTY.	No. of W.I.s April, 1925.	Approx. no. of Delegates attending Annual Meeting May, 1925.	Grants given by N.F.W.I. April 1st 1925, to March 31st, 1926.			Donations received from Counties, April 1st, 1925, to March 31st, 1926.			Donations received from Counties April 1st, 1924, to March 31st, 1925.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Kesteven	33	24	—	—	—	5	0	0	20	0	0
Lancashire	37	25	—	—	—	27	0	0	39	1	0
Lindsey	50	28	—	—	—	20	10	0	20	10	0
Leics. & Rutland	69	50	—	—	—	30	0	0	—	—	—
Merionethshire	16	10	—	—	—	12	0	0	15	0	0
Middlesex	19	21	—	—	—	22	6	0	24	11	0
Monmouthshire	20	19	—	—	—	5	0	0	5	0	0
Montgomeryshire	27	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	0	0
Norfolk	115	53	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	0
Northamptonshire	85	60	—	—	—	87	0	0	84	8	6
Northumberland	82	36	—	—	—	87	0	0	87	11	0
Nottinghamshire	32	14	—	—	—	22	10	0	10	0	0
Oxfordshire	74	56	—	—	—	77	0	0	70	0	0
Pembrokeshire	18	8	—	—	—	13	10	0	11	5	0
Radnor	17	6	—	—	—	4	5	0	10	10	0
Shropshire	80	56	—	—	—	33	0	0	20	0	0
Somerset	108	59	—	—	—	42	0	0	67	7	0
Staffordshire	83	41	—	—	—	63	0	0	78	0	0
East Suffolk	88	65	—	—	—	68	12	0	51	11	0
West Suffolk	47	43	—	—	—	28	11	6	5	0	6
Surrey	95	100	—	—	—	103	10	0	92	14	0
East Sussex	107	85	25	0	0	108	0	0	114	16	0
West Sussex	70	58	—	—	—	56	14	0	76	3	0
Warwickshire	72	45	—	—	—	57	0	0	31	11	0
Westmorland	43	19	—	—	—	33	15	0	30	0	0
Wiltshire	75	54	—	—	—	132	0	0	63	5	2
Worcestershire	61	29	—	—	—	15	0	0	2	0	0
Yorkshire	121	49	25	0	0	149	9	0	18	2	0

## CONSTITUTION AND RULES

OF

### The National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales, 1926-1927.

#### 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 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. In the postal vote for the seventeen elected members, each Institute shall have one ballot paper, each County Federation three ballot papers, each member of the retiring N.F.W.I. Executive Committee one ballot paper—each ballot paper conferring the right to vote for not more than seventeen candidates. 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) No salaried official of the National Federation shall be eligible for nomination for the Executive Committee.

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

(f) 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.

(g) 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.\*

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 Centre."

\*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

# Constitution and Rules

FOR

## County Federations of Women's Institutes,

1926-1927.

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-Chairman, Secretary (if an Honorary Officer) 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. Salaried Officials of the County Federation shall not be eligible for nomination as members of the Executive Committee nor as Honorary Officers.

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 Women's 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 Centre."

## Constitution and Rules

FOR

## Women's Institutes,

1926-27.

#### 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 the first month of each Institute year thereafter. If the Institute so decide, members joining in the third quarter of the Institute year may pay one half subscription, the Institute being responsible for the full affiliation fee. Members joining in the last quarter of the Institute year and paying full subscription shall not pay again during the following year.

#### 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 may co-opt two members in addition to its elected members, provided that the total membership of the Committee does not exceed nineteen. The Vice-President or Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall be elected from among the members of the Committee. The Vice-President or Vice-Presidents shall be elected either by the Institute or by the Committee, according to the decision of the Institute; the Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Committee. 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. Salaried officials of the Institute shall not be eligible for nomination as members of the Committee nor as Honorary Officers.

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. If special local conditions make it impossible for an Institute to hold meetings during certain months of the year, permission to omit more than one meeting must be obtained by the Institute from the County Federation, which must notify the National Federation at the end of each year of the number of meetings omitted.

(2) *Annual Meeting.*—The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of November, December or January each year but, in very exceptional local circumstances an Institute may hold its Annual Meeting in a different month by consent of its County Federation. 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,

1926-27.

### 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 Women'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 the first month of each Institute Centre year thereafter. If the Institute Centre so decide members joining in the third quarter of the Institute Centre year may pay only half subscription, the Institute Centre being responsible for the full affiliation fee. Members joining in the last quarter of the Institute Centre year and paying full subscription shall not pay again during the following year.

#### 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 may co-opt two members in addition to its elected members provided that the total membership of the Committee does not exceed nineteen. The Vice-President or Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall be elected from among the members of the Committee. The Vice-President or Vice-Presidents shall be elected either by the Institute Centre or by the Committee, according to the decision of the Institute Centre. The Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall be elected by the Committee. 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. Salaried officials of the Institute Centre shall not be eligible for nomination as members of the Committee nor as Honorary Officers.

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.

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impossible for an Institute Centre to hold meetings during certain months of the year, permission to omit more than one meeting must be obtained by the Institute Centre from the County Federation, which must notify the National Federation at the end of each year of the number of meetings omitted.

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(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 Federation 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.

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 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.

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,  
1926-1927.

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 shall 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. Griffith, Hafod, Cemaes Bay.  
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, Bletchley.  
Mrs. Sennett, Stanbridge, Leighton Buzzard.
- BERKSHIRE** Mrs. Borgnis, Oaklands, Curridge, Newbury.  
Mrs. Gervas Huxley, Vale House, Wootton, Oxford.  
Mrs. Norman May, The White House, Sonning, Reading.  
Mrs. G. H. Morrell, Streatley House, Reading.  
Mrs. V. Rhodes, Common Barn, Remenham, Henley-on-Thames.  
Lady Rucker, Everington House, Newbury.  
Mrs. Squire, Milton Hill, Steventon, Berks.
- BRECONSHIRE** Mrs. Jayne, Glanenig, Talgarth.  
Mrs. Rees Thomas, Lochaber, Builth Wells.
- BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** Mrs. Collingham, Withyfield, Farnham Common, Farnham Royal.  
Mrs. Davies, The Long Croft, Wheeler End, West Wycombe.  
Miss Grenfell, Bacres, Henley-on-Thames.  
Mrs. Oakeshott, Vale Cottage, Downley, High Wycombe.  
Mrs. Slade, Mallards Court, Stokenchurch.  
Mrs. Woodgate, 749, London Road, High Wycombe.
- CAMBRIDGESHIRE** Miss Briscoe, 4, Gresham Road, Cambridge.  
Mrs. Bullock, The Knoll, Bourn, Cambridge.  
Miss C. J. Gaskell, 29, Millington Road, Cambridge.

- Mrs. Ginn, The Spinney, Long Road, Cambridge.  
Mrs. Hartree, Lyghe, Newton Road, Cambridge.  
Mrs. Jenyns, Bottisham Hall, Cambridge.  
Mrs. Pemberton, Trumpington Hall, Cambridge.  
Mrs. Vinter, Great Shelford, Cambridge.  
Miss Warrington, The Vicarage, Waterbeach, Cambridge.  
Mrs. S. Whibley, Bunker's Hill, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.
- CARDIGANSHIRE** Mrs. Davies, Allt-y-Derew, Llangeitho, Llanio Road.  
Miss Basil Jones, Gwynfryn, Taliesin, Glandyfi.  
Miss Inglis-Jones, Derry Ormond, Llangybi.  
Countess of Lisburne, Crosswood.  
Miss Lumley, The Bungalow, Talybont.  
Mrs. Stapledon, Y Glyn, Llanfarian, Aberystwyth.
- CARMARTHENSHIRE** Miss Nest Lloyd, Cynechordy, near Llandovey.
- CARNARVONSHIRE** Miss Dicks, Dolgam, Pontllyfni, Llanwnda.  
Mrs. Drage, Parciau, Criccieth.  
Mrs. Wm. George, Garth Celyn, Criccieth.  
Miss D. Green, Bronwydd, Bangor.  
Miss Pughe Jones, Ynysgain, Criccieth.  
Mrs. H. Lewis, Meadow View, Trefriw.  
Miss N. Parry, Glyn-y-Coed, Criccieth.  
Miss J. Roberts, 158, High St., Portmadoc.  
Miss E. Thomas, Mynydd, Ednyfed, Criccieth.
- CHESHIRE** Miss P. Ainslie, Green Lane Cottage, Woodchurch, Birkenhead.  
Miss Behrens, Swettenham Hall, Congleton.  
Mrs. Crowther, Wells Street, Malpas.  
Miss D. Peel, Peover Hall, Over Peover, Knutsford.  
Mrs. Orr, Plover's Nest, Sandiway, Northwich.
- CORNWALL** Miss Flamank, Beacon House, Summercourt.  
Mrs. le Grice, Trereiffe, Penzance.

Mrs. Hamilton, Kenwyn, Truro.  
Mrs. Martin, Tregavethan, Truro.  
Lady May, Tremcer, St. Tudy.  
Mrs. Morris, Noon Cres, St. Just, Cornwall.  
Mrs. Pinnock, Bryn-Gweath, St. Blazey,  
Par Station.  
Ingeborg Lady Molesworth St. Aubyn,  
Atlantic House, Newquay.  
Miss K. Spear, Homeleigh, St. Mellion.  
Mrs. Thompson, Penquite, Launceston.  
Miss Whitburn, Restormel House, Falmouth.  
Mrs. Harcourt Williams, Penair, Truro.

**CUMBERLAND**

Mrs. Court Brown, Hartington House,  
Hartington Place, Carlisle.  
Miss E. Harvey, The Croft, Portinscale,  
Keswick.  
Mrs. Mitton, The Rectory, Bowness-on-  
Solway.  
Miss Moonie, Government Buildings,  
Carlisle.  
Mrs. T. B. Nelson, Langwathby, Carlisle.  
Miss Nelson, Vale View; St. Bees.

**DENBIGHSHIRE**

Miss R. Behrens, Vron Yw, Denbigh.

**DERBYSHIRE**

Mrs. Brighthouse, Bole Hill, Wirksworth.  
Mrs. Fisher, Walton Rectory, Burton-on-  
Trent.  
Mrs. Fitzmaurice, Whitby House, Marple  
Bridge, Stockport.  
Mrs. Mason, The Gables, Duffield, Derby.  
Miss Melland, Rock House, Alport,  
Bakewell.  
Miss F. Simpson, Hazelbrow, Duffield,  
Derby.

**DEVON**

Mrs. Dashwood, Croyle House, Kentisbeare,  
Cullompton.  
Miss Dickinson, Great Brake, West Hill,  
Ottery St. Mary.  
Miss Fulford, The Priory, Woodbury, Exeter.  
Mrs. Douglas-Hamilton, Kingford Hill  
House, High Bickington, Umberleigh.  
Mrs. Jaffe, Poynings, Uffculme, Cullompton.  
Miss Peers, Sunrise, Blackpool Sands,  
Dartmouth.  
Mrs. Yole, Kelly, Lifton.

**DORSET**

Miss Bown, Dawlish House, Upwey.  
Mrs. Spencer Cox, West Moors, Wimborne.  
Mrs. Druce, Sandesfoot House, Wyke  
Regis, Weymouth.  
Mrs. Heenan, Burton Bradstock, Bridport.  
Benita Lady Lees, Thorngrove, Gillingham.  
Mrs. C. Martin, Heathfield, Broadstone.  
Lady Pinney, Racedown, Crewkerne.  
Mrs. Sturdy, Trigon, Wareham.  
Mrs. Troyte-Bullock, Zeals House, Mere,  
Wilts.

**DURHAM**

Mrs. Anderson, Enfield Lodge, Shildon.  
Mrs. Dunham, The Estate Office, Brance-  
peth, Durham.  
Miss Willans, 8, Van Mildert Terrace,  
Stockton-on-Tees.

**ESSEX**

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.  
Mrs. McCabe, The Cottage, Ugley, Bishop's  
Stortford.  
Miss McLeod, Wickford Hall, Wickford.  
Mrs. C. Parker, Malting Farm, Little  
Hallingbury, Bishop's Stortford.  
Mrs. Parry-Crooke, Netteswell Hall,  
Harlow.  
Mrs. Stockwell, Greystones, Colchester.  
Miss Ward, Barnston Rectory, Dunmow.

**GLAMORGANSHIRE**

Miss O. Bruce, Greenwood, St. Fagan's,  
Cardiff.  
Miss E. S. Simons, Robin's Nest, Horton,  
Porteynon.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Mrs. Alcock, 9, Suffolk Square, Cheltenham.  
Mrs. Dunstan, Royal Agricultural College,  
Cirencester.  
Miss J. Curtis Hayward, Quedgeley House,  
Gloucester.  
Miss Miles, Kemble Lodge, Cirencester.  
Miss Parker, Kingston House, Aylburton,  
Lydney.  
Mrs. Vernon, Wyngarth, East Compton,  
Bristol.

HAMPSHIRE

Miss W. Beddington, Longstock Park, Stockbridge.  
Miss Chamberlain, Bury House, Odiham.  
Mrs. R. Christy, Greyfriars, Ringwood.  
Miss Cremer, Compton Down, Shawford, Winchester.  
Mrs. Madocks, Old Basing House, Basingstoke.  
Mrs. Milburn, Compton Manor, King's Somborne.  
Mrs. Perkins, Boldre Bridge House, Lymington, Winchester.  
Lady Rosemary Portal, Kingsclere House, Newbury, Berks.  
Mrs. Steedman, Steventon Rectory, Basingstoke.  
Mrs. Taylor, Whitedale, Hambledon.  
Lady Wells, Houghton Lodge, Stockbridge.  
Mrs. Wansborough, South Warnborough Rectory, Basingstoke.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Mrs. Fox, Orchard Cottage, Fownhope.  
Mrs. Russell, Lawnscroft, Hereford.  
Mrs. Tinsley, Twyford, Pembridge, Leominster.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Miss Collingwood, Codicote, Welwyn.  
Miss Farquharson, Churchfields, Broxbourne.  
Mrs. Martin, Hunsdon Mill House, Stanstead Abbots, Ware.  
Miss Pam, The Cottage, Kimpton, Welwyn.  
Mrs. Turney, Mardley Bury Manor, Royston.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Mrs. Howard Coote, Castle Hill, Huntingdon.  
Mrs. Driver, High Street, Huntingdon.  
Mrs. Flowers, Biggin, Ramsey, Huntingdon.  
Mrs. Garrod, Alconbury Hill, Huntingdon.  
Mrs. G. Herbert, Cherry Cottage, Hemingford Abbots, St. Ives.  
Mrs. Theakston, Wensleydale, Huntingdon.  
Mrs. Thurston, 27, Euston Road, Huntingdon.  
Mrs. Yeatherd, Alconbury Weston, Huntingdon.

ISLE OF ELY

Mrs. Hudson, Harocroft Road, Wisbech.  
Mrs. Jones, The School House, Walsoken, Norfolk.  
Mrs. Tansley Luddington, Walton's Park, Ashdon, Essex.  
Mrs. Wm. Luddington, Milton Manor, Northampton.  
Mrs. McKelvie, Lynn Road, Ely.  
Miss Sears, The Bungalow, Manea, March.  
Miss Tebbutt, Hereward Cottage, Haddenham, Ely.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Miss O. M. Day, Bank House, Sandown.  
Miss Jannings, Heather Cot, Cranmore, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight.  
Mrs. de Vere Stacpoole, Cliffdene, Bonchurch.  
Miss I. Wood, Oak Villa, Brading.

KENT (EAST)

Mrs. Barnard, Withersdane Hall, Wye.  
Miss Grimwade, Pei-tai-ho, St. Margaret's Bay, Dover.  
Mrs. Jenkin, Stowting Court, Ashford.  
Mrs. Lambert, Sheep's Close, Shepherds-well, Dover.  
Miss Watson, Watersend, Temple Ewell, Dover.  
Miss Wray, The Heritage Cottage, Upper Deal.

KENT (WEST)

Miss Adam, Quarry Down, Hythe.  
Mrs. Baker, Thong House, Gravesend.  
Miss Cholmeley, St. Vincent's, Addington, W. Malling.  
Miss D. Evans, The Cottage, Iron Mill Lane, Crayford.  
Mrs. Skilbeck, The Quarry, Brasted, Sevenoaks.  
Mrs. G. Streatfeild, J.P., Cottage-on-the-Hill, Westerham.  
Miss C. Winch, Baker's Cross, Cranbrook.

KESTEVEN (Lincs.)

Mrs. C. Greenall, The Manor, Carlton Scroop, Grantham.  
Miss E. L. Need, Welbourn, Lincoln.  
Mrs. Ramsey, 78, Newland, Lincoln.  
Miss Watkins, 94a, Oxford Gardens, Notting Hill, London, W.10.

**LANCASHIRE**

Mrs. Assheton, Downham Hall, Clitheroe.  
 Mrs. Christie, Ribby Hall, Kirkham,  
 Preston.  
 Mrs. Dickson, Claughton House, Claughton,  
 Preston.  
 Mrs. Eccles, Sykes Holt, Balderston,  
 Blackburn.  
 Miss E. Greenwood, Worston House,  
 Clitheroe.  
 Mrs. Grierson, Stanley Grange, Hoghton,  
 Preston.  
 Miss Kemp, County Office, Preston.  
 Miss Rome, Melling, Carnforth.  
 Lady Worsley Taylor, 7, Chesham Street,  
 London, S.W.1.

**LEICESTERSHIRE  
AND RUTLAND**

Mrs. Bland, Bringham, Market Har-  
 borough.  
 Mrs. Coward, Littleham, Groby Road,  
 Leicester.  
 Mrs. Dakin, Splitwynd, Uppingham,  
 Rutland.  
 Miss Etchells, The Fydell School, Morcott,  
 Uppingham, Rutland.  
 Miss FitzRandolph, 1, St. Martin's,  
 Leicester.  
 Mrs. Freeman, Valley Farm, Higham-on-the-  
 Hill, Nuneaton.  
 Mrs. Hutton, Barrowden, Stamford.  
 Miss E. M. Keay, The Rowans, Birstall,  
 Leicester.  
 Mrs. Munro, The Homestead, Thrussington,  
 Leicester.  
 Miss Taylor, Brian's Close, Laughton,  
 Rugby.

**LINDSEY (Lincs.)**

Mrs. Brown, Horkstow Vicarage,  
 Barton-on-Humber.  
 Mrs. Deighton, 24, Mount St., Lincoln.  
 Miss Hall, The Limes, James Street, Louth.  
 Mrs. Herbert, Broughton Rectory, Brigg.  
 Mrs. Huxtable, Caistor Rd., Market Rasen.  
 Mrs. Rowson, Beech House, Wainfleet.  
 Mrs. Wintringham, Little Grimsby Hall,  
 Louth.

**MERIONETH**

Mrs. Hughes, Plas-y-craig, Penrhyn-  
 deudraeth.  
 Mrs. Llewelyn Owen, Llys Llewelyn, Bar-  
 mouth.  
 Mrs. Patterson, Llanbedr.

**MIDDLESEX**

Miss Belletti, Selwood Lodge, Stanwell.  
 Mrs. Button, The Cedar House, Hillingdon.  
 Miss Kuhner, Avenue House, W. Drayton.

**MONMOUTHSHIRE**

Miss Berrington, Selbourne, Weston Road,  
 Abergavenny.  
 Miss N. Davies, Llandegoeth, Caerleon,  
 Newport.  
 Miss Jackson, Lion Street, Abergavenny.  
 Miss Penton, Belgrave House, Abergavenny.

**MONTGOMERYSHIRE**

Mrs. Adams, Tybrith, Carno.  
 Mrs. Hughes, Ty-r-ysgol, Llangurig,  
 Llanidloes.  
 Mrs. Sockett, Hampton House, Four  
 Crosses, Llanymynech.

**NORFOLK**

Miss Burgess, 3, Davey Place, Norwich.  
 Mrs. Burton Fanning, 90, Newmarket Road,  
 Norwich.  
 Mrs. Mahon, 84, Newmarket Rd., Norwich.  
 The Dowager Lady Suffield, J.P., Harbord  
 House, Cromer.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Mrs. Barker, Moulton Lodge, Northampton.  
 Miss Bouverie, Delapré Abbey, Northampton.  
 Mrs. Brown, Sulgrave, Banbury.  
 Mrs. Gawthropp, Quinton Manor, North-  
 ampton.  
 Miss G. Hughes, Harlestone, Northampton.  
 Lady Knightley, Fawsley, Daventry.  
 Mrs. Wm. Luddington, Milton Manor,  
 Northampton.  
 Miss Parkhurst, Buckingham House, Brack-  
 ley.  
 Mrs. Steward, Whitehall Farm, Brigstock,  
 Thrapston.

**NORTHUMBERLAND**

Mrs. Baker Creswell, Hauxley Hall, Amble.  
 Countess Grey, 9, Chester Terrace, London,  
 N.W.1.

Mrs. Fisher, Hudshaw House, Hexham.  
 Miss Middleton, Belsay Castle, Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
 Mrs. N. Newall, Low Warden, Hexham.  
 Mrs. Pumphrey, Hindley House, Stocksfield.  
 Mrs. Scott, Newton House, Embleton, Alnwick.  
 Mrs. Collingwood Thorp, Belvedere, Alnwick.

**NORRS.** Miss Blagg, Redlands, Burton Joyce.  
 Miss Fox, East Bridgeford Hall, East Bridgeford.  
 Hon. Mrs. Handford, Elmfield, Southwell.  
 Miss Marriott, 4, Larkdale St., 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 Grace Hadow, Barnett House, Oxford.  
 Miss Henman, Raybourne House, Islip, Oxford.  
 Mrs. Hiley, Danesfield, Boar's Hill, Oxford.  
 Miss Janson, Adderbury, Banbury.  
 Mrs. Kettlewell, Westhall Hill, Burford.

**PEMBROKESHIRE** Miss Bowen Jones, Marine Villa, St. Dogmael's.  
 Miss Lewis, Henllan, Narberth.  
 Mrs. Middleton, The Lodge, Clarboston Rd.

**RADNORSHIRE** Mrs. Lewis, Evancoyd, Walton, Kington, Herefordshire.  
 Mrs. Evan Thomas, Caerwnon, Builth Wells.

**SHROPSHIRE** Lady Berwick, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.  
 Mrs. Crowther, Harper Adams College, Edgmond, Newport, Salop.  
 Mrs. Goodall, Bibury, Woore, Crewe.  
 Miss V. King, Ford House, Ford, Shrewsbury.  
 Mrs. Peak, The Rectory, Berrington, Shrewsbury.

Miss J. Russell, Sauchieleigh, Albrighton, Wolverhampton.  
 Miss E. D. Sykes, Rangers Lodge, Hawstone, Shrewsbury.  
 Miss H. Sykes, Yew Tree Cottage, Marchamley, Shrewsbury.  
 Mrs. Tucker, The Lodge, Overton, Ellesmere.  
 Miss Walshe, Kenneth House, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.

**SOMERSET** Mrs. Hancock, The Manor House, Cothelstone, Taunton.  
 Miss D. Lowe, Hinton St. George, Crewkerne.  
 Miss Peck, Ferndale, Porlock.  
 Mrs. Poynton, Kelston Rectory, Bath.  
 Mrs. Sykes, Wadbury, Frome.  
 Miss Vernon, Alcombe, Minehead.  
 Mrs. Weaver, Dulverton.  
 Miss Woodforde, Castle Carey, Bath.

**STAFFORDSHIRE** Miss Duke, The Abbey, Gt. Haywood, Stafford.  
 Mrs. J. Hall, Charnes Hall, Stafford.  
 Miss Holland, Holland House, Barton-under-Needwood, Burton-on-Trent.  
 Miss Keeling, Riversfield, Rocester.  
 Miss M. Scarratt, Belmont Hall, Ipstones, Stoke-on-Trent.  
 Mrs. Stokes, Knowlehurst, Lichfield.  
 Miss Strachan, 15, Eastgate St., Stafford.  
 Mrs. Derington Turner, Oulton House, Newport, Salop.  
 Miss Wardle, Mayfield Hall, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

**SUFFOLK (East)** Miss E. Aldrich, Westerfield Hall, Ipswich.  
 Miss Bernard, Copdock, Ipswich.  
 Mrs. Biddle, Stradbroke, Diss.  
 Miss Martin, Hemingstone Hall, Coddenhams, Ipswich.  
 Miss R. Smith, Wetheringset Rectory, Stowmarket.

**SUFFOLK (West)** Miss Bryan, Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex.  
Miss J. Dunlop, Coney Weston Hall, Bury St. Edmund's.  
Mrs. Hitchcock, The Mill House, Bures St. Mary.  
Mrs. Martineau, Walsham-le-Willows, Suffolk,  
Mrs. Rust, White House, Rattlesden, Bury St. Edmund's.  
Mrs. Shann, 18, Angel Hill, Bury St. Edmund's.

**SURREY** Mrs. du Buisson, Snower Hill, Betchworth.  
Miss S. Drew, Blatchfold, Chilworth.  
Miss C. Harvey, Denecroft, Holmwood, Dorking.  
Miss Sutherland, 112, High Street, Guildford.  
Mrs. Weir, Bell House, Merstham.

**SUSSEX (East)** Mrs. Huddart, Merrifields, Haywards Heath.  
Miss Locke, 8, Canute Road, Hastings.  
Miss Parr, Floretta, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath.  
Mrs. Dobre Wickham, Wynacote, Crowborough.

**SUSSEX (West)** The Hon. Mrs. Colvin, Shermanbury Grange, Henfield.  
Mrs. Hodgson, Barnfield, Cowfold.  
Miss H. Liddle, King's Cottage, Mare Hill, Pulborough.  
Miss Marshall, Corner House, Steyning.  
Miss Nash, 79a, North Street, Chichester.

**WARWICKSHIRE** Miss Aglionby, Newbold Pacey Vicarage, Warwick.  
Mrs. Barnett, Bilton Hall, Rugby.  
Lady Bird, The White House, Solihull, Birmingham.  
Mrs. Burridge, Lindisfarn, Warwick New Road, Leamington.  
Miss Docker, Alveston Leys, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Mrs. Hopkins, Hareway, Barford.  
Mrs. Howard, Barford, Warwick.

Mrs. Lister Kaye, Manor House, Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Rugby.  
Miss Lindsell, Dunchurch, Rugby.  
Mrs. Rotherham, The New Lodge, Ashorne Hill, Warwick.  
Mrs. Weller, Red House, Bedworth, Nuneaton.

**WESTMORELAND** Mrs. Baker, Battlebarrow, Appleby.  
Miss Crane, Elmhurst, Arnside.  
Mrs. Day, Cliburn Rectory, Penrith.  
Miss Elmslie, Elterwater, Ambleside.  
Miss Punchard, Kearstwick, Kirkby Lonsdale.

**WILTSHIRE** Miss M. L. Gauntlett, Brunton House, Collingbourne Kingston, Marlborough.  
Mrs. Hony, Cleeve House, Seend, Melksham.  
Miss Impey, Sheldon Manor, Chippenham.  
Mrs. Thelwell Maurice, Burbage, Marlborough.  
Mrs. Marriage, Heronslade, Warminster.  
Miss Eyre Matcham, Newhouse, Redlynch, Salisbury.  
Miss Tennant, The Nutshell, Corsham.  
Mrs. Stratton, Kingston Deverill, Warminster.

**WORCESTERSHIRE** Mrs. Bright, Upper Sapey Rectory, Clifton-on-Teme.  
Mrs. Chesterton, Tenbury Vicarage, Worcester.  
Miss Hingley, Middle Hill Park, Broadway.  
Miss C. F. Severn-Burrow, St. James', Malvern.  
Miss Slessor, Saintbury Rectory, Broadway.  
Miss Wallace, Eardiston, Tenbury Wells.

**YORKSHIRE** Mrs. Adams, Rillington, Malton, Yorks.  
Mrs. Burnett, Settrington Rectory, Malton.  
Miss I. Dent, Ribston Hall, Wetherby.  
Mrs. Hey, 3, Princess Terrace, Ripon.  
Miss Purchas, Westow Vicarage, York.

SUMMARISED REPORTS  
FROM COUNTY FEDERATIONS  
AND PROPAGANDA COMMITTEES

WITH

Names and Addresses of Presidents, Chairmen and Secretaries.

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

ISLE OF ANGLESEY (11).

*President and Chairman* : Mrs. Pritchard, Llwydiarth Esgob, Llanerchymedd.

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

*Organisation.*—The number of Institutes remains the same as last year. Propaganda work with a view to the formation of new ones is continued by the V.C.O., and other members of the County Federation Executive Committee are always willing to give valuable help. The membership in the county tends to decline. Very good news, however, is reported from several Institutes, and the pleasure which their meetings give has proved helpful in increasing the membership. Though on the whole small in numbers, we are working together with unity.

*Classes* have been held in many subjects, including Cookery, Wool Rugmaking, Sewing (plain and fancy), Netting, Stencilling, Millinery, Raffia Work and Old English Embroidery.

*Demonstrations* have been given on Cookery, Butter and Cheese Making, Poultry Killing and Trussing for market and table purposes, Papier-maché and Embroidery.

*Lectures* have been given on a wide range of subjects, including Diet, Infant Mortality, Diseases and their prevention, Malaya, its people and their customs, and Count Tolstoy, and sincere thanks are due to the Anglesey Agricultural Committee for providing free lectures on Gardening, Bee-keeping, Poultry Feeding, Killing and Trussing, Bulb Growing and Clean Milk.

*Other Activities.* Some of our Institutes have monthly social evenings and dances. Whist drives have also been held and American teas and cake and apron sales for raising money. A few Institutes enjoy annual trips in the summer. One Institute gave an enjoyable Christmas party with a lantern entertainment and a visit to the village children from an ideal Father Christmas. It is good to see that interest in the children and the desire to add to their happiness is growing among the members. Some of the Institutes are also keenly interested in the Nursing Association and child welfare movement.

BEDFORDSHIRE (37).

*Chairman* : Mrs. J. Arnold Whitchurch, Great Barford House, Bedford.

*Secretary* : Miss Foster, The Shrubbery, Aspley Guise, Beds.

*Organisation.*—During the year two new Institutes have been formed, making in all 37, with a membership of 2,296. The Council has met three times—in December when the Annual Meeting was held, in June at Bedford, when Mr. Glazier, the County Librarian, gave an address on the Rural Library Scheme which has just been adopted in the county, and in September at Dunstable, when Mrs. Medlicott Ross spoke on "The Problem of the Adolescent."

Twelve Institutes in the south of the county form the Dunstable Group, and have held group meetings at Woburn Sands, Eaton Bray, and Dunstable, which have aroused keen interest.

*Exhibition.*—The third Exhibition of Handicrafts and Produce was held in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, in May, when 1,140 exhibits were sent in by 27 Institutes, the largest classes being for home-made and dairy produce, much of which was afterwards sent as a gift to the County Hospital. There was also an interesting and valuable loan collection. Competitions in acting, singing and dancing took place during the Exhibition in two other halls, and 21 teams entered. Large numbers were present, especially on the second day.

*Lectures.*—A great variety of subjects have been brought before the Institutes; 24 talks on travel, 15 on history, 10 on literature and 19 on subjects of rural or national interest have been given, as well as many others that cannot be classified.

*Demonstrations* on many branches of cookery are reported on 30 occasions, while handicrafts are still more popular, no fewer than 75 demonstrations having been given in Basketry, Raffia work, Gloves, Rugs, Toys, and many other subjects.

*Classes* have been held for Singing, Dancing and Acting, and weekly working parties are a feature of some Institutes.

*Finance.*—Special donations have been received from 24 Institutes, mostly the result of fêtes or other money-raising efforts. £20 has been sent to the National Federation from these gifts. Owing to the very small entrance fee charged for the Exhibition and to the fact that the County Federation bore the expenses of the competition music, there was a small deficit on the Exhibition account; in spite of this, however, we have a satisfactory balance at the end of the year.

*Social Gatherings.*—Needless to say almost every Institute has some kind of Christmas party, to many of which husbands or children are invited. Summer parties where either the children or the old people are entertained are also frequent. Many visits

have been paid to other Institutes, and joint meetings have been arranged. Excursions to places of interest are too many to enumerate.

*Other Activities.*—At least one Hut has been opened this year, besides a beautiful Memorial Hall which was a gift to the W.I. Many of our Institutes have National Savings Branches and several support the League of Nations Union. Entertainments have been arranged for various good objects, either local or general, such as the County Hospital, (£20 being raised in one case in two months, to furnish a room at the new Nurses' Home) and both St. Dunstan's and the County Association for the Care of the Blind.

#### BERKSHIRE (76).

*President*: Mrs. G. Herbert Morrell, Streatley House, Reading

*Chairman*: Mrs. Victor Rhodes, M.B.E., Common Barn, Remenham, Henley-on-Thames.

*Hon. Secretary*: Mrs. Norman May, The White House, Sonning, Reading.

*Progress of the Movement.*—1925, the tenth anniversary of the W.I. movement, has been a year of great activity and progress for this Federation, and it is appropriate that ten new Institutes have been formed.

*Organisation.*—The group system is working well, our Institutes now being divided into twelve groups.

Three Councils have been held during the year, at which the principal addresses were on the Care of the Mentally Defective, Young Farmers' Clubs and Public Health.

Mrs. Nugent Harris attended a Council meeting early in the year, and Miss Leigh visited the county for a week's tour in the autumn.

The Executive Committee has sent representatives to the Consultative Councils held in London and Darlington, as well as to exhibitions and Annual Council Meetings in other counties.

The rest room is now free to all W.I. members, and is greatly appreciated.

*Exhibitions.*—A successful experiment was the separation of the Produce from the Handicrafts section of the annual exhibition and the showing of them in two distinct exhibitions; in both instances the number of entries showed a considerable increase. At the Handicrafts Exhibition, held in May, a new feature was introduced in the form of a Shakespeare competition—this was taken up with enthusiasm and produced some excellent results, which were judged by Mrs. Acton Bond. In October, the Garden and Home Produce Exhibition, opened by Lord Ernle, an ex-Minister of Agriculture, proved a great educational success. A glee singing

competition for senior and junior choirs was held, at which Miss Ursula Nettleship kindly judged and criticised. The Exhibition was brought to a close by the combined singing of the competing choirs.

*Music and Drama.*—Hoping to encourage the appreciation of good music and drama still further, arrangements have been made for a concert party to tour villages in Berkshire, under the auspices of the Institutes.

*Agriculture and Horticulture.*—Two short courses of a week's duration in horticulture, poultry keeping, bee culture, and dairying, have been held in Newbury and Abingdon. The Institutes have been kept in touch with the various county agricultural education schemes, such as the egg distributing scheme, egg laying trials, and agricultural scholarships, while invaluable help has been given by the County Council staff of lecturers, who, besides lecturing to Institutes, have visited individual gardens, poultry yards, apiaries and dairies.

*Reading University College.*—The Federation is most grateful to the College for providing cookery, dressmaking and upholstery classes for W.I. members at greatly reduced fees.

*Study Circles.*—A new venture has been the formation of study circles. A one-day school, conducted by Mrs. Squire, who has been appointed Honorary Secretary for the study circles, was held in October, and ensured the success of the scheme.

*Handicrafts.*—Judges for knitting and toys were supplied to the Hampshire and Oxford Federations' exhibitions. Representatives have attended two conferences on handicrafts in London. The loan collection still meets with constant demand and appreciation from the Institutes. A one-day demonstrators' school was held and was the means of adding fresh demonstrators to the county list.

*Lectures and Demonstrations.*—The subjects of lectures and demonstrations include amongst others, Invalid and Ordinary Cookery, Fruit Bottling, Poultry, Chick Rearing, Bulb Planting in fibre, Glove Making, Skin Curing, Dyeing, Thrift Rugs, new Needlework, Papier Maché work, Wiring Flowers, Raffia work, Hat Shapes, Infant Welfare, Maternal Mortality, Women Police, the Houses of Parliament, Music, Japan, and different aspects of W.I. work.

A *Trading Scheme* resulted in the satisfactory sum of £161 5s. 1d. being contributed by seventeen Institutes. This enabled the Federation to send a donation to headquarters at the rate of £1 per Institute, as well as rendering the Federation self-supporting.



#### BRECONSHIRE PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE (10).

*Chairman*: Miss Butler, Aberllynfi, Glasbury, Hereford.

*Hon. Secretary*: Mrs. Berrington, Ty Mawr, Llyswen, Breconshire.

The number of Institutes has increased by one. In the summer the Committee organised a Rally, in which every Institute joined, and Mrs. Nugent Harris, who was paying a visit to the Federation at that time, gave an address.

In the early autumn a County W.I. exhibit of work done by members was arranged at the Brecon Agricultural Show. The space for the stand was allotted in the general tent by the Mayor and Show Committee to the Institutes, free of charge.

Members of the Committee took turns in charge of a W.I. Literature Stall and gave information about the movement to many inquirers.

Work was sent from several Institutes to the Royal Welsh Show at Carmarthen, and three prizes were taken. The Institutes individually are nearly all in a flourishing condition.

#### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (75).

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

*Chairman*: Mrs. Coningsby Disraeli, O.B.E., Hughenden Manor, High Wycombe.

*Hon. Secretary*: Mrs. Woodgate, 749, London Road, High Wycombe.

Eight new Institutes have been formed during 1925, making a total of seventy-five.

*County Activities*.—The following sub-committees have been formed: Handicrafts, Drama and Folk Dancing.

The year's work has not only been satisfactory but really encouraging. Attendances at the Council meetings and at group conferences have increased very largely. There are now eleven groups in the county. Owing to difficulties of transport, it has been found advisable to keep the groups smaller than was at first anticipated.

Folk dancing has become exceedingly popular, very large classes being held at various centres. Classes in glove making have been arranged.

*County Council Aid*.—By the kindness of the County Education Committee, classes in Dressmaking and Millinery have been held. Help from the County Council has also been received in the shape of instruction in Household Repairs and lectures on Health, Poultry Keeping, Dairying and Horticulture.

*Institute Activities*.—One Institute has started a market stall in the small neighbouring town; this has shown a good profit, and all the wares (fruit, vegetables, bottled fruits, jam, pickles and handicrafts) are invariably sold.

In two cases Institutes have decided to defray the expenses incurred by a member in attending the Guild of Learners furcraft class in London; this is a very practical way of helping the work in the county.

The most popular lectures seem to be those on life in foreign countries, lives of famous women and local history.

A great many Institutes have books from the County Library

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE (53).

*President and Chairman*: Mrs. Harold Gray, Gog Magog Hills, Cambridge.

*Secretary*: Miss Warrington, Waterbeach Vicarage, Cambridge.

*Organisation*.—Six new Institutes have been formed in 1925. There is now an approximate membership of 3,280 women.

Four Council meetings have been held in Cambridge, and appropriate action has been taken on resolutions which were passed on subjects of interest to the public.

Mrs. Watt held an Opportunity School in the spring.

Eleven group meetings were arranged both in the spring and autumn.

A Rally, which was well attended, was arranged in the summer.

*Horticulture*.—Entries for the special W.I. exhibit at the Cambs. Horticultural Society's Show were good, and competition for the Challenge Shield keen.

Bulbs have again been purchased co-operatively in large numbers, and a Bulb Show in February is an annual event.

A competition for potatoes grown from Scotch seed is arranged for 1926, and also a competition for village gardens.

The horticultural Adviser to the County Council serves on the Federation's sub-committee. Both he and the agricultural Adviser lecture to Institutes on a variety of subjects.

Nine demonstration courses in the "Use and Preservation of Garden Produce" were arranged under the County Council in June and July.

*Homecrafts*.—Small Group Exhibitions were held at the spring group conferences and certificates were awarded by the Federation to all obtaining 75 % of marks. The subject under discussion at the meetings was Handicrafts.

*Music and Drama*.—Thirteen Institutes entered for the County Musical Festival held for the first time in March. One gained the

Challenge Shield in the "Chorus for female voices" section, and another took third place in the same class.

Dramatic, Choral, and Folk-dancing Classes are available under the County Council.

The Federation is represented on the Council for Musical Education.

*County Council Help.*—Forty-six classes in all have been arranged under the County Council for the winter session 1925-26, and help with organising classes and judging at shows, as well as with advice, is always obtainable from the Council's Advisers and Instructors.

The County Library, when requested, supplies all books available on any particular subject, and further, when purchasing stock, considers books that are likely to be of interest to W.I. members. There is a branch of the library in every village.

The Federation has a representative on the Library Sub-Committee of the County Council, and it is hoped representation will be granted on other sub-committees during the ensuing year.

*Rural Community Council.*—Three representatives serve on this Council and the Federation receives much help with transport facilities. A lantern is also available for hire. The question of the disposal of unburnable rubbish has been considered, at the request of the Federation, and a promising scheme is under consideration by the District Councils.

*Community Work.*—Most Institute reports show that the welfare of the village is much in the minds of members.

The Federation is receiving recognition from other bodies working in the county, and is thus enabled to co-operate more successfully with them.

#### CARDIGANSHIRE (32).

*President:* The Countess of Lisburne, Crosswood, Cardiganshire.

*Chairman:* Miss Basil Jones, Gwynfryn, Taliesin.

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

*Organisation.*—Four new Institutes have been started during 1925, and there has been a decided improvement in organisation in many of the Institutes.

Two Council Meetings were held during the year at Aberystwyth; one in April when delegates were present from the counties of Merioneth, Montgomery and Carmarthen, and one in October, when Miss Gildea (N.F.W.I. Executive Committee), gave a very interesting address on the functions of Council Meetings. The Medical Officer of Health also addressed the meeting on Mental Deficiency and Maternal Mortality in Cardiganshire.

A V.C.O. School was held in Aberystwyth in October, when six members from the county attended, four of whom have been appointed.

The group meetings are proving a great success and several have been held during the year. In October Miss Gildea addressed each group and also three individual Institutes.

*Finance.*—The Institutes are beginning to give more support to county funds. £30 was sent to Headquarters in 1925. The Hon. Treasurer has visited and given addresses to several Institutes.

*Handicrafts.*—The annual Handicrafts Exhibition was held at Lampeter in May and was opened by the Countess of Lisburne, who presented a silver cup to the Institute gaining the largest number of prizes. This was won by Lampeter W.I.

Exhibits were sent to the Welsh National Show at Carmarthen, when eight 1st prizes and four 2nd prizes were awarded to Cardiganshire members. Llangeitho organised a W.I. stall at their Agricultural Show, and Lampeter catered for the lunch and tea at their Agricultural Show.

A Furcraft School was held in September for three days at Aberystwyth, and for three days at Lampeter. Thirty students attended and very good work was done.

*County Council.*—The County Council are proving most helpful to Institutes, and several courses of instruction have been given at a cost of 1/- per head per course.

*Institute Activities.*—Taliesin held a very successful carnival in July, and the proceeds were divided between the County Funds and a fund for lighting the village streets. Borth raised £200 at a bazaar for their Memorial Hall. Talybont gave a Christmas tree and tea to all the school children and their mothers. New Quay provided their new Memorial Hall with a piano. Llanfarian organised a very good dramatic entertainment and divided the proceeds between County Funds, Aberystwyth Infirmary and the County Nursing Association. Most of the Institutes have done something for their Memorial Halls or for the County Nursing Association.

*General Remarks.*—The County Executive Committee and the Institutes are now working in closer co-operation. Several visits have been paid by the Committee members and addresses given.

The Institutes as a whole are far more interested in handicrafts than in lectures, Lampeter being the only Institute which organises a number of lectures during the winter.

Delegates attended the Annual General Meeting, the Welsh Conference, and the Montgomery Council Meeting in July.

#### CARMARTHENSHIRE PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE (12).

*Chairman*: Lady Enid Williams Drummond, Llansawd, Llandilo.

*Hon. Secretary*: Dr. Norah Neilson, Llansawd, Llandilo.

*Progress of the Movement*.—Organising work in the county has been done during the year by Miss Lumley, Miss Leigh and Miss Simpson (N.F.W.I. Organisers) and by Mrs. Davies, V.C.O., Cardiganshire. Three new Institutes have been formed, at Llansawel, Pembrey and Pencader, and a good many enquiries about W.I. work have come from other villages. The movement has not, however, up to the present, developed in the county to the extent to which the apparent increasing interest seemed to promise.

*The Royal Welsh Show*.—The Propaganda Committee undertook to arrange a stall of exhibits and also propaganda meetings at the Royal Welsh Show, which was held in August at Carmarthen. The propaganda meetings were addressed by Miss Gildea (N.W.F.I. Executive Committee), Mrs. Seymour Allen (President, Pembroke-shire Federation), Miss Basil Jones (Chairman, Cardiganshire Federation), Miss Armes (N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Organiser), and the Chairman of the Carmarthenshire County Council but the attendances were disappointing. Miss Leigh gave a demonstration in games. Demonstrations in Glove-making by Mrs. Staite, of Birmingham, in Furcraft by Mrs. Cooke, of Mold, and in Embroidery by Mrs. Tyndall, of Rudgwick, attracted a large number of people. Miss Armes brought exhibits from the N.F.W.I. Loan Collection, and helped to arrange the exhibits stall.

A *General Meeting* of members of the Carmarthenshire Institutes was held in Carmarthen on November 9th, when Mrs. Watt spoke on the W.I. movement. About 100 were present.

A *Panel of Lecturers* has been drawn up and it is hoped that this may be the means of extending the use of the facilities for lectures on Agriculture and Health and classes in Handicrafts offered by the County Council.

#### CARNARVONSHIRE (34).

*President and Chairman*: Mrs. Drage, Parciau, Criccieth.

*Secretary*: Miss N. Parry, Glyn-y-Coed, Criccieth.

*Organisation*.—Two new Institutes have been formed during the year, two have lapsed and propaganda work has been undertaken in several villages. A new group has been formed. There are nine Voluntary County Organisers. The Executive have been helped by four Sub-Committees: Organisation, Finance, Handicrafts and Agricultural and Horticultural.

Quarterly Council Meetings have been held, Dr. Parry Edwards, Medical Officer of Health, attending the spring meeting and Mrs. Watt attending the autumn meeting.

Organisers from the National Federation have again given help in the county. Miss Leigh attended an Executive Meeting and a V.C.O. Inter-County Conference in Bangor and she also visited Bangor University in May. Miss Denison, Assistant Handicraft Organiser, judged the Handicraft Section at the County Exhibition.

*Exhibitions*.—The County Exhibition was held by kind permission of the authorities in the University College of North Wales, Bangor, and was a success in every way. Those who attended for the first time were inspired by this gathering of women from throughout the county. The exhibits in the handicrafts, agricultural and cookery sections were good. Trefriw and Port Madoc Institutes tied for the Silver Challenge Cup.

The W.I. Exhibit Stall at the National Eisteddfod in Pwllheli was organised by this county.

*Reports from Institutes* given at the Annual Meeting show that in addition to the ordinary routine of W.I. work, a good deal of community work has been done, such as help given to hospitals, district nurses and village halls. One Institute entertained an invalid member from another county for three weeks.

#### CHESHIRE (46).

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

*Chairman*: Mrs. Ernest Johnson, Ashton Hayes, Chester.

*Secretary*: Mrs. Crowther, Malpas, Cheshire.

*Organisation*.—Seven new Institutes have been formed during the year and there is now a membership of about 3,500. The Voluntary County Organisers have paid 48 visits, and it is felt that there is considerable improvement in the organisation and procedure in the Institutes.

At the Annual Council Meeting Lady Denman gave a very helpful speech on "The Work of the National Federation for Institutes and County Federations." At the half-yearly Council, Mrs. Watt spoke on "The Progress of the W.I. Movement," and Miss Walshe, Shropshire Federation County Secretary, spoke on County Exhibitions. It was resolved to hold an Exhibition and Sale in Chester in 1926.

Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, held helpful conferences for W.I. committees and officers.

In October an inter-county Organisers' Conference, at which six counties were represented, was held at Chester. The Federation was represented at the spring Consultative Council as well as at the Annual General Meeting in London. Lecture tours were arranged for Miss Petty and Miss Watkins.

*The Royal Show.*—With the ready co-operation of the Institutes, hospitality for the demonstrators and members of the N.F.W.I. staff who were in charge of the N.F.W.I. exhibit at the Royal Show was arranged by the Executive Committee, and the Institutes also supplied stewards for each day of the week.

*Handicrafts.*—In June Miss Armes, N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Organiser, held conferences at two centres. The interest in handicrafts is slowly increasing throughout the county. In many instances demonstrations have been followed by classes, which, in some cases, have resulted in exhibitions of handicrafts in the Institute, and also at agricultural shows.

*Lectures or Talks* are becoming increasingly popular, those dealing with agriculture or horticulture being the favourite. The County Council School of Agriculture has greatly helped in this respect by providing speakers and teachers. The County Council has also supplied lecturers in Sick Nursing, History, Travel, Literature, Music, and the League of Nations find places on the Institute programmes.

*Community Work.*—The Federation continues to be an Associate of the League of Nations Union. In some way or other almost every Institute has rendered some service for the community. Hospitals claim the first consideration; at least 5,000 eggs have been sent to various hospitals, as well as flowers, fruit, vegetables, and jam. Dolls have been dressed, and garments made for children's homes, and one Institute has sent gramophone records to a prison. Each year an increasing number of Institutes provide cocoa for school children in the winter months, whilst the Christmas parties for children or older people are greatly appreciated. Help has been given by members to Earl Haig's Fund, Queen Alexandra Rose Day and other charities, and co-operation with the other organisations in the villages is being happily maintained.

#### CORNWALL (59).

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

*Chairman:* Mrs. Morris, Noon Cres, St. Just.

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

*Organisation.*—We are pleased to report the formation of five new Institutes, though we regret to state that three have lapsed during the year.

Two new Voluntary County Organisers attended the School last spring and were successful, and we have had one transferred to us from Devonshire. On account of geographical difficulties in Cornwall we always welcome the extra help given by the new Voluntary Organisers.

Four sub-committees are in existence: Organisation, Handicrafts and Music, Finance, and Agricultural and Horticultural. These committees considerably lessen the work of the Executive Committee.

Two Council Meetings have been held; in March we welcomed Mrs. Watt with her never-failing fund of humour, and in November Miss Armes gave us a most instructive lecture on Handicrafts. Discussions at both meetings were keen, showing the very real interest taken by the members in the movement. At the November meeting there was a roll-call on "How we can best help the County Funds," which brought forward many valuable suggestions, the result of which we shall hope to hear when our Hon. Treasurer reads her next financial report.

*Handicrafts.*—We now have a teacher for Basketry and Leather work trained at the Guild of Learners' class in London. Unfortunately the supply of trained teachers is totally inadequate to cope with the demands made from the Institutes in such a scattered county.

A variety of crafts has been taken up, including Upholstery, Rug-making, Household Jobbery and general Tinkering, Chair-caning and Raffia work, Leather work and Basketry. The standard of handicrafts is decidedly on the upgrade, but the work done still shows the need for efficient instruction.

A dress-making class to train students as teachers was held in the autumn at the Truro W.I. Centre by the county dressmaker. This school lasted one month and we hope that good results will be apparent in the coming year's work.

*Lectures.*—We are greatly indebted to the County Council for the valuable services of lecturers on Dairy work, Poultry, Agriculture and Horticulture, Dressmaking and Cookery. In the last-named subject a special teacher was engaged for three months to meet the demands for these classes in various parts of the county. Our own list of lecturers shows a great variety of subjects, including History, Health, Astronomy, Folklore, Citizenship, Literature and Art, and the League of Nations. One Institute is more than fortunate in obtaining the voluntary services of a professional linguist and a professional elocutionist.

Several enquiries have lately been made for lectures on ambulance work.

*Social Activities.*—During the winter months social activities flourish in the shape of concerts, whist drives, choral classes and folk-dancing. The summer season brings outdoor gatherings in the shape of fêtes and picnics. During the last summer several Institutes had an interchange of visits. One of the outstanding features of the year was the first County Rally, held at Newquay in July last, at which Mrs. Drage gave an interesting address. Many Institutes made this event their annual outing, and enjoyed the gathering so much that it was decided to make the Rally an annual affair.

*Music.*—The second School for Conductors was held at the W.I. Centre, Truro, in October by Mr. H. S. Middleton, Mus. Bac. Many W.I. choirs have been formed in preparation for the county competition.

*Libraries.*—Libraries are flourishing, and prove a source of great interest—also incidentally of income. Several Institutes have adopted the Carnegie scheme.

Enquiries still keep coming in for new Institutes, from which it is evident that the W.I. movement, after its first decade, has established itself in the country and fills a long-felt need. On every side the sisterhood of the movement is more and more in evidence.

#### CUMBERLAND (65).

*President:* The Lady Mabel Howard, Greystoke Castle, Penrith.

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

*Secretary:* Miss L. E. Moonie, Government Buildings, Carlisle.

*Organisation.*—The total membership in Cumberland is now 3,737. We have to record regret at the loss, for various reasons, of several workers, amongst them Miss Anson, who did invaluable work as Secretary to the Federation for several years.

All the Organisers have been busy throughout the year, and through them a very happy relationship is maintained between the County Federation and the Institutes.

There are very many to whose help and advice our satisfactory progress and development are due, amongst others the County Council, the County Educational and Agricultural Authorities, the members who give lectures and demonstrations and those who offer hospitality to visitors, and the Organisers of the National Federation.

Group Conferences have been thoroughly successful this year. In November, Miss Joan Drew and Miss Macbeth spoke on Handicrafts. The summer meetings were arranged by the groups themselves; one met at Lanercost Priory and had a lecture on the

Priory, another had an address on agriculture from Lady Mabel Howard.

In March Mrs. Nugent Harris, N.F.W.I., spoke at three Conferences for officers to some very keen audiences. As usual Mrs. Harris gave invaluable help and we are most grateful for her cheery criticisms which, though penetrating, never discourage.

*Drama and Music.*—The Shakespeare Competition was most popular. The standard reached by all the 12 Institutes competing received high praise from the judges, whose criticisms were most useful and have given a real stimulus to the dramatic activities of the Institutes. We are now affiliated to the Village Drama Society, and Miss Elliot is always willing to advise Institutes as to the choice of plays, costumes, etc.

An interesting and successful School of Dramatic Production was held. There were 28 students, including members from Durham and Northumberland. Mr. Leslie directed a School for Choir Conductors, which was attended by 31 students.

*Handicrafts.*—Interest in handicrafts has been stimulated by the showing of some excellent specimens of work lent by the Glasgow School of Arts, as well as by Miss Drew's group lectures. A School of Embroidery was held in three centres under the direction of Miss Sofia Young, Glasgow School of Art, and great appreciation of these classes has been expressed.

*Agriculture.*—Cumberland Federation has done much, and hopes to do more, in arousing public interest in agriculture: the Newton Rigg Farm School staff helps us very considerably. Classes in Dairy work have been held, and many single lectures on Poultry-keeping, Gardening, etc.

*County Council Help.*—Much useful work has been done in co-operation with the County Authorities. We greatly appreciate the recognition of our educational activities shown by the grant of £30 from the County Education Committee. This enabled us to offer really good lectures to certain Institutes, and to hold three special schools. Thanks to the effort of our President, the County Council has now appointed a nurse to lecture in Cumberland, and a large part of her time is given to W.I. work.

*Public Work.*—Our letter to Lord Lonsdale on Women Magistrates resulted in the appointment of four women, two of whom are W.I. members.

The County Medical Officer of Health has asked that Institutes should act as a link between the Health Authorities and the villages where there may be sick, crippled or mentally deficient children, by giving help in arranging transport, teaching handicrafts, giving information about treatment to parents and in other ways. Thirteen Institutes have undertaken this work.

The struggle of Kirkbride W.I., supported by the Cumberland Federation, for a pure water supply has been successful; the Rural District Council have now adopted a scheme.

Institutes have helped, by gifts and special efforts, hospitals, Nursing Associations and homes for ex-service men's orphans.

#### DERBYSHIRE (44).

*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*.—Two new Institutes were formed during 1925.

The large number of requests from Institutes for help from Voluntary Organisers with their Annual Meetings is very encouraging.

In April, Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, spoke at four different centres on Grouping; four new groups were started, which have held excellent meetings, and increased fellowship and usefulness is expected as a result of their formation.

*Council Meetings*.—At the spring Council Meeting, Miss Gildea explained the N.F.W.I. Agenda most helpfully, and did much to interest her audience in the work of the Annual General Meeting; she charmed everyone by the racy manner in which she spoke. Mrs. Alfred Watt delighted her listeners in the afternoon by an account of the "History and Work of the W.I. Movement in Canada."

The autumn Council was a great success; in the afternoon an excellent entertainment, somewhat on the lines of a performance of the Arts League of Service, was organised by the Music and Drama Sub-Committee, and carried out by members of several Institutes.

At the Annual Meeting of the Council the County Medical Officer of Health and the Assistant Director of Education spoke on "The possible benefits to be obtained through the Health and Educational Authorities of the County Council." Many different ways in which W.I. members could improve the health and education in the county, if they would make themselves conversant with the facilities available, were suggested.

*Handicrafts*.—The County Exhibition, which was held at Derby on May 1st and 2nd, was a most enjoyable event, and a financial success. There were 3,020 entries in 162 different classes, and the standard of work was good. Our own Guild of Learners' Certificate holders gave the demonstrations in different crafts. Country dancing performances were given by the Derby Folk Dance Club, and W.I. choirs sang a number of songs.

In the summer, Miss Armes, N.F.W.I. Handicraft Organisers' spoke at an Executive meeting, and then gave an interesting talk about suitable handicrafts for Institutes to a special audience of W.I. members. Miss Armes showed some beautiful specimens of work from the N.F.W.I. Loan Collection, and other charming things were lent by Miss Keay, the Chairman of our County Handicrafts Sub-Committee.

Arrangements have been made with a shop in Derby for the sale, on commission, of members' work which is considered to be of sufficiently high standard.

*Music and Drama*.—Much more interest has been taken in singing and acting; one Institute has had a course of nine lessons in Elocution and Acting arranged by the Rural Community Council, which has also arranged an experimental course in acting for eight students, in the hope that they will be able to help their own and neighbouring Institutes.

*Agriculture and Horticulture*.—The National Milk Publicity Council has sent a speaker on "The Use and Care of Milk" to several Institutes. The Executive Committee had a lecture from Captain Robinson, of the Ministry of Agriculture, on Young Farmers' Clubs.

In order to encourage interest in horticulture, the Sub-Committee offered prizes for special W.I. classes at village flower shows.

*Health*.—The Institutes were asked to co-operate with the County Health Authority, County Insurance Committee and other organisations during "Health Week." Most of the Institutes had a special lecture on the subject of health, and several have had single lectures on the Syllabus on the Hygiene of Food and Drink.

*Institute Activities*.—Perhaps the most notable feature has been the growth of friendly feeling and intercourse between the Institutes, as shown by large gatherings at Hut opening ceremonies, picnics, garden parties and group meetings. Several Institutes have held Flower and Produce Shows. One has made a successful appeal for a water supply for its village. One takes care of the village War Memorial, whilst another keeps the churchyard in order. Eggs are collected for hospitals, and many entertainments have been given to raise money for hospitals, nursing associations, the Red Cross Society, the National Society for the Blind and other organisations. After several attempts, an Institute has organised, very successfully, the collection and removal of household rubbish in its village, and has bought a bath chair for general use. By the combined votes of the members, one W.I. has managed to get a woman on to the Parish Council with the hope that she may have some influence in the matter of housing. An infant welfare centre

is run by one Institute and several have active National Savings Associations.

*Lectures.*—Many good lectures have been arranged by the Rural Community Council, and Institutes are very ready to avail themselves of the splendid help given by the County Education Committee in providing classes on nearly any subject which may be desired.

#### DEVON (85).

*President and Chairman:* The Lady Clinton, Bicton, East Budleigh, Devon.

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

*Organisation.*—Six new Institutes have been formed in 1925, making the total number 85.

The Summer Council Meeting was held at Plymouth in July, and the Annual Council Meeting at Exeter in November.

A Conference for N. Devon Institutes was held at Barnstaple in the autumn, when an address was given by Miss Dunch, N.F.W.I. Organiser. Miss Dunch also spoke at some group meetings. Addresses on the London Annual Meeting agenda were given by Miss Leigh, N.F.W.I. Organiser, at the spring group meetings. A conference for Voluntary Organisers was held at Exeter in July, and was attended by Organisers from Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire.

A County Federation Music and Dramatic Sub-Committee has been appointed, which has helped to encourage the formation of many W.I. choirs.

*Exhibitions.*—The County Handicraft and Produce Exhibition was held at Exeter in April, new features being the competitions in country dancing and scenes from Shakespeare. The Challenge Cup was won by Butterleigh, the smallest Institute in the county. Group exhibitions were also held in South and North Devon.

*Devon Music Competitions.*—The Devon Federation Banner was gained by Uffculme W.I. choir at the Devon Music Competitions (W.I. Class) in June.

*County Council Classes.*—Thirty-four County Council courses, with a total of 254 classes, have been given during the year in the following subjects: Dressmaking, Millinery, Needlework, Decorative Stitchery, Cooking, Household Jobbing, and "How to keep Well." A County Inspector has given many lectures on Folk Songs illustrated by violin and piano. Fifty-four lectures and demonstrations have been given by the staff of the County Agricultural Committee; the majority of these have been in Gardening and Fruit Bottling, and a few in Dairy work and Poultry keeping.

*Institute Activities.*—Institute activities include flag days and other assistance for hospitals and the Cancer Research Fund, contribution towards a bicycle for the district nurse and entertainments for district nursing funds, a yearly prize for needlework at the elementary school, fittings for a school cloak room, and a radiator for the village institute.

One Institute started a branch of the Country Holiday Fund, and children from London came to the village for visits of a fortnight. Another was successful in obtaining cheap tickets from its village to Exeter. At the request of one Institute, the Rural District Council sent a refuse cart to the village once a fortnight; another W.I. sent a petition to the Ministry of Health for a better water supply for the village. Co-operative buying of fruit for jam and marmalade has been undertaken by an Institute. Other Institutes have organised debates, a fortnightly reading circle, and weekly socials to which men and boys are invited, and made garments for the Chinese Medical Mission. Public lectures have been arranged on Women Police, Natural History and the League of Nations. Two Institutes have joined the League of Nations Union as Corporate Associates.

A large number of Institutes took an active part with other bodies in organising meetings and in distributing literature during the County Health Week. Many flower shows and fêtes and a Christmas Fair have been organised and Christmas parties given to school children and old people.

#### DORSET (105).

*Chairman:* Miss Style, Hillbutts, Wimborne, Dorset.

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

*Organisation.*—The main work of the foregoing year was the giving of assistance to the Institutes with programme-making and procedure. To follow up the schools which were held on these subjects, the outgoing Executive suggested that a Programme Competition should be held, and also further schools to assist with (1) The "Social Half Hour" in the Institutes (community games, etc.); (2) Institute Budgets; (3) The training of W.I. members who would act as demonstrators in Handicrafts or Domestic Science. This suggestion was carried out as follows: (1) Miss Simpson (N.F.W.I.), held in February a school for organised games and singing suitable for Institutes; this was attended by members of the Executive, V.C.O.s and a few visitors from other counties. Further the Institutes were informed that the Executive Committee was prepared to send someone to give help with organised games to any Institute which desired it. (2) It was not considered feasible to hold a school on Institute budgeting, but the County

Treasurer offered to explain this subject at meetings, and did so at six W.I. and one group meeting. (3) A school for Handicraft Demonstrators was held in January but, as the attendance was small, further schools in this subject were not arranged.

The Programme Competition showed very satisfactory results. There were 24 entries in the 6 months' class and 14 in the 12 months' class. Mrs. Colvin, Chairman of West Sussex Federation, acted as judge and gave a very satisfactory report, which showed that the schools held in 1924 had proved a great help.

Sixty-three Institutes have been visited by members of the Executive and V.C.O.s, and, in addition, 19 visits were paid to newly-formed Institutes.

A Propaganda Leaflet Competition was organised and 20 entries were received on "What A Women's Institute Is."

*Drama and Music.*—A Producers' School to help W.I. producers of scenes from Shakespeare was organised; it was well attended and very successful.

The Shakespeare Competition held for the third time proved most successful; there were 19 entries, this being 5 more than last year. Professor Morgan again acted as judge, assisted by special judges for costume and colour.

Seventeen Institutes entered for the W.I. class at the Dorset Choral Association Festival, and 8 qualified for the finals.

*Handicrafts.*—Thirty-eight demonstrations have been supplied to Institutes through the County Federation Handicrafts Sub-Committee, and funds have been raised by a Sale of Handicrafts by W.I. members.

To encourage a high standard in needlework, a stall exhibiting good patterns, specimen materials and books on all kinds of needlework, was on view at the summer and winter Councils. A competition in Home Crafts was held at the winter Council and proved a great attraction. No teachers on the Dorset list were allowed to compete.

*Prison Work.*—Some members have been teaching handicrafts to "Honour" men in Dorchester Prison and have now formed a Guild. The work their pupils showed at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition was favourably remarked on by the judges.

*Education.*—A lecture tour on horticultural subjects was organised in the spring, and another for a Milk Publicity lecturer in the autumn. It is hoped that these will be repeated next year, as they were both very popular subjects. The County Federation Education Sub-Committee has a box of model infant clothing with patterns, which it lends to Institutes.

*The Club House.*—Considerable advance has been made in the course of the year through the co-operation of the County Club House Sub-Committee and the Dorchester Centre Sub-Committee. Five garages have been put up at the back of the site and are now let. A scheme for the issue of £1 Debentures bearing 5% interest has been formulated and is before the county.

*The W.I. Reports* show much zeal and hard work. Many Institutes now have libraries and some exchange books with neighbouring Institutes. One W.I. has a very successful potato-growing competition judged by the County Council agricultural lecturer. Nearly all give help in money or kind to the local hospitals and Nursing Associations, and Scouts and Guides are helped as well. One Institute has already, by a special effort, raised money towards the building of the Dorchester and County Club House.

#### DURHAM (60).

*President and Chairman:* Mrs. Lloyd Pease, Hurworth Moor, Darlington.

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

*County Activities.*—There have been sub-committees for Finance, Organisation, Education and Handicrafts, which have met when required.

Three Council meetings (including the Annual Meeting) have been held, when special speakers gave addresses on Poultry, Village Libraries and Clean Milk.

The N.F.W.I. held the Consultative Council in Darlington in November and the Federation arranged hospitality for the visitors, sold literature, and provided lunch and tea.

Owing to the increased number of Institutes some of the groups have been divided and there are now eight groups which hold bi-annual meetings. All had the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Nugent Harris at the spring meetings.

A County Handbook has been issued, and 300 copies were used.

A Magic Lantern has been bought which the Institutes can use for the cost of carriage; sets of slides have been supplied by Messrs. Newton.

Arrangements have now been made with the County Council so that either short or long courses of lectures can be obtained, and the Federation awards certificates to those students who attend the classes regularly and make satisfactory progress.

The County Fête was held at Brancepeth and was attended by 2,000 people; an excellent programme of entertainments was arranged by the Institutes, and the Castle and the Quarry Hill Poultry Farm proved to be most interesting side shows.



Arrangements were made for two demonstrators offering alternative subjects to tour the county, so that every Institute might have the opportunity of having a free demonstration during the year.

An Area Craft School was held in Durham in July; the subjects taught were Millinery, Needlework and Embroidery. Students from four counties attended.

Thirteen more members have now passed their Guild of Learners' A Test.

*Institute Activities.*—Classes have included the making of Sea Grass Stools, Stencilling, Basketry, Lingerie, Quilting and other handicrafts.

The list of lecture and demonstration subjects is a very long one and includes India, Canada, gardening, darned jumpers, soap making, rugs, furniture polish, hairdressing, paper flowers, sealing-wax beads, punch work, stocking-footing, the making of hat mounts, and coat frocks out of coats and skirts.

Work undertaken by the Institutes for the community includes special efforts in aid of St. Dunstan's, hospitals, and village halls, assistance in providing village nurses, libraries and infant welfare centres, entertainments for old people and children, the establishment of a co-operative fish shop, and the making of quilts and mats in aid of the Holiday Fund.

#### ESSEX (162).

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

*Hon. Organising Secretary*: Miss Dora Christy, 5, King Edwards Avenue, Chelmsford.

*Organisation.*—The total membership of the 162 Institutes in the Essex Federation is now over 13,000. Six new Institutes were formed during 1925, and one lapsed. There are 10 Voluntary County Organisers who have paid 150 visits during the past year.

All members were invited to the spring group conferences, at which handicrafts were exhibited and preliminary choral competitions were held. In addition, lectures were given on various subjects chosen by the groups. In the autumn, committee members only were invited, and talks were given on various public questions, such as Maternal Mortality, Young Farmers' Clubs, the Poor Law, and Mental Deficiency.

*Handicrafts.*—Classes for various crafts were held in different Institutes and the County Council paid all expenses, making the condition that a strict register should be kept. Many of the classes had a visit from an inspector of the Board of Education. Dress-making, Raffia and Embroidery were the most popular crafts.

An exhibition of handicrafts was held in Chelmsford in March, and much careful criticism and many helpful suggestions were given by the judges.

The handicraft teachers have had special instruction on "How to Teach." This instruction was followed by a test, and it is thought that the standard of teaching has been raised as a result. Tests for demonstrators were also arranged.

*Music.*—The number of choirs competing at the preliminary choral competitions was 42, and the winners in each group again competed for the Challenge Cup. In the autumn, instruction to conductors and leaders of choirs was given by Mr. Geoffrey Shaw, H.M. Inspector of Music for the Board of Education.

*Drama.*—Competitions in acting were held in different parts of the county, and 17 Institutes competed in the preliminaries. The winning companies met each other later in the year, when Dame May Whitty judged and gave much kindly criticism and help.

*The Monthly Supplement* to "Home and Country" is distributed with the headquarters journal, and 2,600 copies are circulated monthly.

*County Council Aid.*—The County Council has, through the request of the Women's Institutes, adopted the Carnegie Library scheme, and the Institutes will derive much benefit from it. In addition, the Council has given lectures on Hygiene, Nursing, Cookery, Horticulture, Bee-keeping, Fruit Bottling and Skin-curing, besides classes in handicrafts.

*Institute Activities.*—Several Institutes are corporate associates of the League of Nations, and some have had lectures on the subject. Free holidays have also been given to London women, and a large number of Institutes support the parish nurse, have formed infant welfare clinics, have made soft slippers for the school children, have the care of the War Memorials, and have bought coal and bulbs co-operatively. Others have provided for the monthly collection of house refuse in their villages and made application to the R.D.C. for refuse carts, and have reported unsanitary conditions of village lanes. One has presented the Union Jack to the village schools, and another has provided uniform for the Boy Scouts. Still another has provided shrubs to the value of £20 for the parish cemetery. Shakespeare and other reading circles and pageants of local history have also been organised.

#### FLINT & DENBIGH (25).

*Chairman*: Mrs. Griffith, Plas Newydd, Denbigh.

*Hon. Secretary*: Miss H. Williams Wynn, Plas-yn-Cefn, St. Asaph.

*Organisation.*—Five new Institutes have been started during the year. One border Institute has been transferred to Shropshire.

The County V.C.O., Miss Behrens, is always ready to help, advise and encourage Institutes. Mrs. Watt addressed four group meetings in October and in February Miss H. Williams Wynn and Miss Behrens made a tour of the Institutes.

Two half-yearly meetings of the Council have been held, one at Denbigh and one at Rhyl.

The Federation was represented at the Welsh Conference, as well as at the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting.

*Handicrafts.*—An Exhibition was held at Rhyl in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Federation. The judges commented favourably on the standard of the work, and it was very encouraging to note the steady improvement in needlework and other handicrafts. The Challenge Banner was again won by Rhydymwyn.

Three Household Jobbing classes held at Denbigh by Miss Hughes, of Penrhyndeudraeth W.I., were attended by 18 members of 8 Institutes. Bootmending and tinkering were the subjects taught.

Miss Taylor, of Rhydymwyn, organised most successfully a W.I. Exhibition Tent at the North Wales Agricultural Show at Mold.

*Lecture Tour.*—A lantern lecture tour was arranged for Miss Bannister, of the Anglo-Belgian Union; she gave lectures on Belgium to 19 Institutes.

*Institute Activities.*—Nearly all the Institutes help hospitals and the district nursing funds by organising special entertainments such as American teas and fancy dress dances, or by holding work parties for the benefit of these objects, or by making egg collections. Among the other forms of community work are support of the County Blind Association and St. Dunstan's, collection of clothing for Greek refugees, subscription to a sanatorium library, contributions to local recreation rooms, assistance with funds for village halls, a gift of £5 for the school drainage, and Christmas treats for school children. Subjects of lectures have included Infant Welfare, Women's Overseas Emigration, Travel and Citizenship. Demonstrations and classes have been held in cookery and in many crafts.

#### GLAMORGAN (14).

*President:* Mrs. Turbervill, Glanwenny, Bridgend.

*Chairman:* Miss Simons, Robin's Rest, Port Eynon, Swansea.

*Secretary:* Miss Mordecai, Tynycaeu, St. Mary Hill, Bridgend.

*Organisation.*—There has been steady progress in the Institute movement during 1925. Two new Voluntary County Organisers have been appointed, Miss Simons of Port Eynon, and Miss Bruce, who was formerly a V.C.O. in Shropshire. A tour of the Institutes

was made by Miss Kelly, of the Village Drama Society. Several Institutes prepared plays for criticism; a keen interest was taken, and Miss Kelly's helpful advice was much appreciated. A County knitting competition proved a great success; there were a large number of entries and the judge congratulated the competitors on the high standard of their work, which was on exhibition on the day of the annual Council Meeting. A Programme competition was also organised, for which Mrs. Daniel, Chairman of the County Executive Committee, very kindly offered a prize. The programmes were sent to Headquarters to be judged, and Port Eynon Institute was declared the winner. A County Rally took place in June, when Miss Leigh, N.F.W.I. Organiser, gave an inspiring address on "The Work and Aims of the Movement."

*Council Meeting.*—The Annual Council Meeting took place on December 1st. It was well attended by a large number of delegates and visitors. After the business was over, Miss Leigh gave a most interesting address.

*Handicrafts.*—Exhibits from the county were sent to the Royal Welsh Show at Carmarthen.

Miss Simons and Miss Talbot, both of whom hold the Guild of Learners' Certificates, are in great demand at the Institutes and their demonstrations and lectures are of great service.

*County Council Aid.*—The Agricultural Committee of the County Council are always ready to give help when it is required. Lectures in Horticulture, demonstrations in Fruit Bottling, Poultry-keeping, Butter-making, Clean Milk, etc., are readily given. Miss Longner, the only woman member of the Glamorgan-shire Agricultural Committee, has kindly consented to serve on the County Federation Executive Committee. It is felt that this will form a link between the two Committees and tend to bring about good results.

*Institute Activities.*—The Annual Reports show a general improvement in Institute activities. We find lectures on the League of Nations, Women in Local Government, Welsh History, Health, Citizenship, First Aid, How to Vote, and classes in Furcraft, Millinery, Basketry, Embroidery, Leather work, and Dressmaking. The social side is being well maintained in the Institutes. Funds towards building village halls and for Nursing Associations are being raised. Christmas trees and treats for school children have been given.

#### GLOUCESTERSHIRE (111).

*President:* Her Grace the Dowager Duchess of Beaufort.

*Chairman:* Mrs. Dunstan, Principal's House, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

*Organisation.*—Twelve new Institutes have been formed in 1925.

Five group meetings were arranged in the autumn, at which Miss Simpson, National Federation Organiser, spoke on the duties of committees, secretaries and treasurers, and on programme-planning.

Arrangements have been made for the Group Secretaries to attend meetings of the Organisation Sub-Committee once a quarter.

The half-yearly Council at Cheltenham, and the Annual Meeting at Gloucester were both very well attended, nearly every Institute in the county sending delegates, and many several visitors in addition.

*Finance.*—79 Institutes contributed to County and National Funds.

*Handicrafts.*—Exhibits have been sent to the Norwich Exhibition, the Cheltenham Arts and Crafts Exhibition and to the Three Counties Show at Hereford. In September, Miss Denison, Assistant Handicrafts Organiser from Headquarters, visited the county and spoke at five meetings.

Two members of the Guild of Learners passed their "A" Tests, and there are now seven who have passed their tests and are accredited teachers for the county.

*Music and Drama.*—A Music and Drama Sub-Committee has been formed. In the spring a singing competition was held at which 23 choirs competed, and there were also entries for duets, trios and quartettes. Mr. Leslie visited the county in November and held meetings at Gloucester, Cirencester and Thornbury.

*Agriculture and Horticulture.*—One Group held a Fruit-bottling Exhibition which was judged by one of the staff of the Campden Research Station for Fruit and Vegetable Preservation. Seven Institutes have had horticultural lectures, and eight have had lectures on Poultry-keeping from the County Council's Instructors. Many Institutes have had Flower Shows and Bulb-Growing Competitions.

*County Council Help.*—The County Federation is again indebted to the County Council for generous help and co-operation. A room in the Shire Hall has again been made available for Committee Meetings, and a grant of £250 for educational work has been made. This has been expended on courses of classes in Hygiene, Dressmaking, Upholstery, Millinery, Cookery, First Aid, and Book-keeping.

*Institute Activities.*—Prestbury Institute has built a village hall, towards the cost of which it raised £650 in 12 months by means of donations, subscriptions and entertainments. Amongst the specially interesting items on Institute programmes are the follow-

ing: lectures on the Poor Law (especially as it affects women and children), Local Government, the Montessori method of education, Coué, competitions in packing a portmanteau, the best-told nursery rhyme, and the best love-letter written in the room in 10 minutes. A discussion on the best method of getting rubbish in the village cleared away, and round table conferences and debates on various subjects are also amongst the items reported.

*Community Work.*—Several Institutes have sick clubs and sick funds for their members, and many help the hospitals in various ways, such as mending linen. One Institute is trying to get an infant welfare centre started. Help is given in many villages to the District Nursing Association, and parties are given to the old folk and the children.

*Co-operation with other Societies.*—The Executive Committee is represented on the County Council Agricultural Committee by one member, on the Agricultural Education Committee by one member, and on the Rural Community Council by three members.

#### HAMPSHIRE (166).

*President:* The Countess of Northbrook, Stratton Park, Micheldever.

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

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

*Organisation.*—Hampshire has now 166 Institutes with a membership of 12,252. During the year one Institute has dissolved, and one has been in suspension, but it is hoped to revive it very soon. Seven new W.I.s were started during the year.

The Executive Committee, elected at the Annual Council Meeting in the spring, has met each month, and the following sub-committees also meet regularly: Finance, Organisers, Industries, Programme and Group. A new sub-committee for Drama has just been formed.

Two very successful and well-attended Council meetings were held, one at Winchester and one at Southampton. Hampshire sent representatives to all the Consultative Councils, and a great many members went to the Annual Meeting in London.

Three excellent schools were held by Mrs. Watt in three groups, two on programme making and one on "Opportunities for Members"; these were found to be most helpful.

A large Exhibition of Industries was held in June at Stratton Park, by kind permission of Lord and Lady Northbrook, and the work shown reached a very high standard. The large attendance of the general public testified to the interest taken in the Women's Institute movement throughout the county.

The County Federation has two representatives on the County Council Agricultural Committee and one on the Juvenile Employment Sub-Committee.

*Reports from the Institutes.*—Programmes show a great improvement and the majority of Institutes now understand and appreciate the value of sub-committees

Throughout the county the Institutes have rendered valuable service to their villages in building or helping to build village halls, and also in furnishing the halls when built. Demonstrations have been held in Soft Toy making, Skin-curing, Raffia work, Sweet-making, Soft Leather work, Pickling and Preserving, Millinery, Boot Repairing, Potato Planting, Bulb-growing, Mattress-covering, Smocking, Raffia Hat-making, Rug-making (woollen and Canadian rag), Household Jobbery, First Aid, Loose Cover making, Vegetable Dyeing, Stencilling, Slipper-making, Umbrella covering, Papier Maché work, Cake-making, French Polishing, Netting, Decorative Darning, Passe-partout framing, Pastry-making, Sedge work, Soldering, Net-darning, Silk and Paper Flower-making.

Classes have also been held in Skin-curing, Domestic Hygiene, Dressmaking, Country Dancing, Glove-making, Laundry work, Ambulance work, Dramatic Art, Soft Toy-making, Embroidery and Smocking.

A large number of Institutes sent choirs to compete in the Annual Musical Festival held in Winchester, and many also sent teams of dancers to compete in folk dancing competitions.

#### HEREFORDSHIRE (61).

*Chairman*: The Hon. Mrs. E. Marten Dunne, Gatley Park, Kingsland.

*Secretary*: Miss B. Lilley, 6, St. John Street, Hereford.

*Progress of the Movement.*—Five new Institutes have been formed during the year, and one has lapsed. The total membership is now approximately 3,000.

The resignation of Mrs. Foster from the chairmanship of the Executive Committee, which position she has held since the movement started in this county six years ago, is greatly regretted.

*Meetings for Institute Officers* have been arranged during the year, one addressed by Mrs. Harris, Chief Organiser of the National Federation, on the duties of officers and committee work, and one by Mrs. Reilly on Voice Production in relation to Public Speaking.

*Conferences.*—The Federation has been represented at County Conferences in Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire, at an Agricultural Conference in London arranged by the National Federation, at Consultative Councils in London and Darlington, as well as at

the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting. An Executive member also attended a meeting of the League of Nations Union in London.

*W.I. Calendars.*—The sale of calendars for 1925, compiled by Mrs. Russell, brought in the sum of £30 to Federation Funds.

*"Home and Country."* It has been decided to start once more a Herefordshire Supplement to "Home and Country."

*Pageant.*—The chief event of the year has been the Historical Pageant, in which over 200 members took part. The financial result of this is the splendid sum of over £200 clear profit. This, however, is perhaps the least important result of a memorable event in the movement in this county. Those who watched the Pageant will never forget it as a spectacle beautiful to the eye and uplifting to the mind, as well as a revelation of what can be done by women working together with one purpose. But those engaged in any way in its production know, and can tell the world at large, that the true spirit of the Institute movement in Herefordshire is fairly kindled, and can be extinguished by no passing wind. The word co-operation has ceased to be a mere phrase in the Handbook so far as our Institutes are concerned, and the Pageant has not caused this fact but has been the proof of it.

*Rural Development.*—A Rural Community Council has been formed in the county, and the Federation is represented upon it by two members

*Other Institute Activities.*—Many Institutes support the district nurses in their villages, or give substantial donations to the Nursing Association. Clothing and coal clubs are run by some, and one Institute has started a branch of the National Savings Association. St. Weonards W.I. took the first and second prizes in one of the W.I. classes at the London Dairy Show. A branch of the English Folk Dance Society has been formed in Herefordshire, and many Institutes are having courses of folk-dancing.

#### HERTFORDSHIRE (83).

*President*: Lady Salisbury, Hatfield House, Herts.

*Chairman*: Mrs. Martin Smith, Codicote Lodge, Welwyn, Herts.

*Secretary*: Miss Farquharson, Churchfields, Broxbourne, Herts.

*Organisation.*—The Institutes in Hertfordshire are now divided into 16 groups, the Group Leaders being members of the Executive Committee. There are sub-committees for Organisation, Finance, Music, Drama and Handicrafts, which meet frequently and relieve the Executive of some of the ever-increasing work of organisation.

Seven meetings were held in the spring, when Miss Simpson addressed representatives from every group. Her subjects were Finance and Games, and perhaps the improvement in the financial

position of the Federation, and the fact that the social half-hour at W.I. meetings is receiving much more thought and consideration, are to be connected with these meetings.

At the Annual Meeting, Lady Grey of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, gave a most inspiring address on the Ideals and Future of Women's Institutes, and Mr. G. K. Chesterton spoke humorously on "The Real Use of Books."

At the autumn Council meeting, held at Watford for the first time, Dame Edith Lyttleton thrilled her audience with an account of the development of women's work, and in the afternoon Mr. Gustav Holst spoke on Music.

*Finance.*—The financial position is much improved and the Hertfordshire Federation was glad to be able to send a contribution to the N.F.W.I. at the suggested rate of £1 per Institute for 1925.

Twenty-two Institutes took part in the Talents Scheme originated by the Executive Committee, which brought in £131 6s. 10d. In addition, eight Institutes organised a fête in the summer and gave the proceeds to the County Federation. Nearly all Institutes in the county made voluntary contributions to the county funds.

*Music.*—A special day for W.I. competitors is now arranged, to be held in alternate years at two of the Musical Festivals in different parts of the county. Twenty choirs competed on the W.I. day at the N. and E. Herts. Festival, held in May at Hatfield. Mr. Arthur Fagge was adjudicator and conducted the combined choirs at a concert held after the judging was over.

The Music Sub-Committee has drawn up and circulated a list of songs recommended for Institute use, and members have been asked to learn certain of these, so that they may be sung by all at Council and other meetings. It is hoped to find a County Song from amongst this number.

*Drama.*—Scenes from Shakespeare were given for the competition held at the Annual Meeting in the spring. Thirteen Institutes competed and all received helpful and inspiring criticism from the judge, Miss Gwen Lally.

*Agriculture and Horticulture.*—Lectures on Gardening and Poultry are becoming more popular, and it is hoped to form an Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committee in the near future, and advance these subjects as one of the main objects of Women's Institutes. Schemes to collect and send produce to market, market stalls, bulb and potato competitions (6 seed potatoes yielding 177½ lbs. to a winning member), and wholehearted support of local flower shows, are reported amongst other agricultural and horticultural activities in the county.

*County Council.*—The County Council has continued to give valuable help with lectures and demonstrations. This, and the use of their Committee room for meetings, and other privileges granted by them, are very much appreciated, and are of great benefit to the movement.

*Other Activities.*—The subjects for lectures and demonstrations become increasingly comprehensive; Phrenology and Netting were popular at one small Institute. Enterprises of all kinds to raise funds for W.I. huts, to assist in financing parish nurses, to contribute, most generously, to hospitals, and many varying schemes for the betterment of the villages, are reported from all parts of the county. Institutes are represented on several of the County Council Sub-Committees, as well as on such bodies as the Rural District Councils, School Managers, Parish Councils, and Boards of Guardians. They are also in close touch with the Rural Community Council. Disabled soldiers, London mothers and the children and old folk of their own villages have been entertained by them.

A weekly paper publishes accounts of W.I. activities.

#### HUNTINGDONSHIRE (38).

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

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

*Organisation.*—The number of Institutes has not increased during the year and one has lapsed, but, on the whole, it is felt that the work of the Institutes is going on well in the county. Many visits have been paid by V.C.O.s and members of the Executive Committee. Two new V.C.O.s have been appointed.

The Executive Committee has been helped in its work by three sub-committees: Finance, Handicraft and Organisation.

As a result of the support given to the "Marvellous Markets" in 1924, the Federation offered each Institute a free demonstration or lecture up to the value of £1.

*Council Meetings.*—Three Council Meetings have been held. These grow more popular every year and are well attended. At the Annual Meeting in January an address was given by Inspector Campbell on Women Police. The speaker at the May meeting was Miss Neville on "Mental Deficiency," and the address by Mrs. Alfred Watt in September on "What we have done with the last ten years, what we have received, and what we are passing on," was much enjoyed.

*Programme Competition.*—A competition was arranged for the best six months' programme, and the actual carrying out of it. The first prize was a silver inkstand and the second a bound

volume of "Home and Country." The programmes were judged by Miss Simpson (N.F.W.I. Organiser).

*Groups.*—Meetings were held in all the groups in the spring and autumn. Major Bavin delighted everyone with his "Musical Appreciations" in the spring, and Miss Kelly of the Village Drama Society, and Mr. Pittuck, were the speakers at the autumn meetings.

*County Council Aid.*—We are again indebted to the County Council for the services of their horticultural adviser, for poultry lectures and also for a grant of £25 towards the transport of our own demonstrators and lecturers on various educational subjects.

*Handicrafts.*—The County Exhibition was most successful. Entries were received from a greater number of Institutes than usual and the judges considered the standard of work good. This Exhibition was made noticeable by the loan collection of Mrs. Tyndall's famous embroideries and the cushion, an exquisite piece of work, which won the Gold Medal in the World Competition. We again had an exhibition tent at the County Agricultural Show, at which the prize work from our County Exhibition was shown. A number of exhibits were sent to the N.F.W.I. tent at the Royal Agricultural Show.

*League of Nations.*—Miss Elwes, from the League of Nations Union, was in the county in January, and visited 12 Institutes.

*Health Lectures.*—A series of lectures on "The Family" were given at various centres by Miss Fry of the British Red Cross Society.

*Institute Activities.*—Lectures and demonstrations have been given during the year on a wide range of subjects, including Home Nursing, Gardening, Italy, India, Local History, the Moral Training of Children, Migration of Birds, Upholstery, Rug-making, Raffia work, Eiderdown-making, Rush work, Slipper-making and Artificial Flower-making.

Community work undertaken by the Institutes includes help given to hospitals, the County Association for the Blind, the Sanatorium village nurses, village halls, flower shows and old age pensioners.

#### ISLE OF ELY (26).

*President and Chairman:* Mrs. Tansley Luddington, M.B.E., Walton's Park, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, Essex.

*Hon. Secretary:* Miss K. F. Sears, The Bungalow, Manea, March, Cambs.

Two new Institutes have been formed during the year, one at Upwell and Outwell and one at Murrow, and there are now over 1,800 W.I. members in the Isle. Four new Voluntary County Organisers qualified at the Norwich School in March 1925.

*Council Meetings.*—There have been two Council meetings, one at Ely in May, at which Miss Leigh (Organiser, N.F.W.I.), spoke on "The Wider Aspects of the Movement," and one at Wisbech in September, when Mrs. Nugent Harris (Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I.) addressed the Council on "How to build up a Strong Institute."

*Group Meetings.*—The group system adopted in 1924 has proved a great success. Miss Evelyn Oules spoke at all the group meetings in the spring on "Acting in the Villages." In the autumn, the "Pudding Lady," (Miss Petty) addressed each group on "Food and its relation to Health." Her talks excited much interest and discussion. In addition, three other group tours were arranged; in the spring, Miss Simpson (N.F.W.I. Organiser,) visited the March and Ely Groups, Major Bavin toured the Isle in November, and Miss Petty spent the last fortnight in October visiting Institutes in all parts of the County Federation.

*County Fête.*—The County Fête at Wisbech was a great success. There was a record number of entries in the choir competition. Four Institutes competed in the drama competition and their work was highly spoken of by the judges, Miss Evelyn Oules and Mrs. Vulliamy.

*Handicrafts.*—Two handicraft classes in rush work were arranged; one at Ely for the benefit of the Ely Group, and one for the March Group at March.

The Handicrafts Exhibition at the Fête was the best that the Isle has had so far. There was an increase in the number of the classes and in the number of articles shown.

For the first time the County Federation organised a Handicraft Exhibition at the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Agricultural Show at Ely. The Exhibition attracted both interest and admiration, especially, perhaps, amongst the hundreds of men who visited the show.

*Institute Activities.*—These have included many old folks' teas, efforts to raise money for the local Nursing Associations, and for Addenbrooke's Hospital at Cambridge. Two Institutes have organised their village flower show. One small Institute has built for itself a hall in the centre of a remote Fen village.

#### ISLE OF WIGHT (18).

*President and 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 started during the year, but the two formed in December 1925 have been put into working order, and much propaganda work has been done, so that the outlook for 1926 with regard to the starting of new Institutes is bright.

The sub-committees have worked well and given valuable help to the Executive Committee.

In October a conference for presidents, vice-presidents and secretaries was held in Newport; the subject for discussion was Programme-making, with which Mrs. Clowes dealt in a very practical and interesting way.

*Council Meetings.*—Four Council Meetings have been held. At the Annual Meeting Inspector Abbott, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, gave a stirring address on her work amongst women and children, and a resolution was sent from the meeting to the County Council Standing Joint Committee, asking that Women Police should be attached to the Isle of Wight Constabulary. Other subjects dealt with at the Councils have included the following: the Mentally Deficient Child, sanitary dealings with House Refuse, School Dentistry, the Sea-bird Petition (for which over 18,000 signatures were obtained), Hospital Pound Days, Folk Dancing, Book-keeping, and County Council Cookery Classes.

*"Home and Country" Supplement.*—A special feature of the year was the undertaking of the Isle of Wight Supplement to "Home and Country," a venture which was sanctioned only on condition that the Supplement should be made strictly self-supporting. After ten months it was found to be paying its way and of this the Island is rather proud.

*Handicrafts.*—The most interesting feature in connection with handicrafts is the revival of an almost lost industry, the making of the beautiful Isle of Wight lace. There are now several good workers and some beautiful lace scarves were accepted by the Lace School, Northampton, for the Paris Exhibition.

*The Baby Show* again proved a great success, there being 170 entries. The doctors had a difficult task in the judging. There is now a class for toddlers.

*Folk Dancing* is greatly increasing in favour. The Silver Challenge Cup for folk dancing was won last May by the Carisbrook Team at the Isle of Wight Musical Competition Festival.

*Institute Activities.*—Work within our Institutes continues to go forward. The reports show that the activities during the year have been many and varied, both educational and social, and have included shows of flowers, fruit and vegetables, one Institute having been the means of restoring the village flower show.

The great joy of the year was the Garden Party Rally at Swainston last June, by the kind invitation of the President, Laura Lady Simeon. Several of the Institutes gave combined displays in folk dancing.

Other activities have been fêtes, and garden festivities, and on these occasions the spirit of co-operation between the Institutes is becoming noticeable. The united efforts of W.I. members all

over the Island on the occasion of the Pound Day, have again given the County Hospital a well-filled store-room.

The Isle of Wight sent its full complement of 21 delegates to the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting in London in 1925.

#### EAST KENT (63).

*Chairman:* Mrs. Bernard Jenkin, Stowting Court, Ashford.

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

*Organisation.*—Five Institutes have been formed during the year and the membership has increased by 570, bringing the total up to 4,074. Groups are becoming more helpful to the Federation. They hold meetings twice a year. In March they were visited by Mrs. Nugent Harris, Miss Simpson and Miss Leigh (N.F.W.I. Organisers). The Organisation Sub-Committee continues to do good work. The Federation is represented on the Rural Community Council and on the Committee of the Kent Branch of the Folk Dance Society.

*Council Meetings.*—The Council Meeting in January was held at Ashford and addressed by Mr. Salter Davies, Director of Education.

Mrs. Alfred Watt and Mr. Shøeten Sack (Rural Community Council), spoke at the Annual Meeting held at Ashford in June.

*Music.*—A Choral Competition was held in March in the Drill Hall, Canterbury. Several Institutes entered for the Musical Festival at Maidstone.

*Exhibition.*—The Exhibition in the Town Hall, Dover, was the outstanding feature of the year. A gift stall made £42 for the Federation. Co-operative work was very good, and a procession of Famous Women of the Past was a great success and much enjoyed.

*Handicrafts.*—General interest in handicrafts grows slowly. It is hoped to create more enthusiasm by the formation of a Handicrafts Sub-Committee.

*Institute Activities.*—Various classes have been held with which the Education Committee has again given valuable help. The most popular classes have been Dressmaking, Cookery and Singing. Several new branches of the National Savings Association have been started. Lectures on many subjects, including the League of Nations, have been given. Many Institutes are showing a great interest in the drama. A seaside W.I. has been instrumental in obtaining wire baskets for rubbish in the village. There is altogether a keener sense of responsibility in the Institutes and the newly formed ones are shaping easily and well.

*Finances.*—This Federation was one of the eighteen that paid their own way without help, and a donation equal to £1 per Institute was sent to Headquarters.

## WEST KENT (94).

*Chairman*: Mrs. Stanley Johnson, Federation Office, 5, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone.

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

*Organisation*.—Six Institutes have been formed during 1925 and the total membership in the county is now approximately 8,060. Two Council meetings have been held during the year and were enthusiastically attended. 78 of the West Kent Institutes sent delegates to the Annual Meeting of the National Federation, a meeting being held previously at Sevenoaks to discuss the agenda. Miss Nightingale (N.F.W.I. Organiser), spent a week in West Kent in April, when she held a series of most interesting classes for officers and committees at six centres in the county. Most of the Districts have held group conferences and meetings during the year, at which the representatives for the various activities, as well as W.I. officers, are asked to attend and report. The District and W.I. representatives are invited also to attend meetings when arrangements for county activities are to be discussed, and certain details of organisation are delegated to them. The Trading Centre at Maidstone continues to justify its existence.

The Federation is represented on the Library, Agricultural, and Agricultural Education Sub-Committees of the Kent County Council, on the Kent Branch of the English Folk Dance Society, the Girl Guides' Association, the councils of two juvenile organisations, the Kent Rural Community Council, and the Workers' Educational Association.

*West Kent W.I. News* had a circulation of 1,626 at the end of its second year of publication. Eight Institutes take over 50 copies each and obtain the benefit of a discount. Nearly half the space in the paper is devoted to reports of the Institute meetings.

*Handicrafts*.—The biennial Handicraft Exhibition was held in Maidstone in October, and was successful from every point of view. Evidence was shown that more Institutes are taking up handicrafts in a serious spirit, and that workers are aiming at a very high standard. The "No Schedule" policy was abundantly justified. Out of the 1,075 articles sent in, only 271 were rejected as being below standard. The splendid response made by the Institutes was shown by the sale of over 1,300 tickets of admission to members before the opening day.

The Federation exhibit at the Bath and West and Southern Counties Societies' Show included specimens of the work of West Kent W.I. members.

Two District Handicraft Exhibitions were held during the year.

*Agriculture and Horticulture*.—Lectures have been given in the Institutes on Fruit tree Grafting and Budding of Rose trees, Vegetable-growing, Poultry-keeping for Cottage Gardens, Herbs and their Uses, and Insect Pests.

Exhibits of bottled fruit by two members were included in the N.F.W.I. exhibit at the Royal Show at Chester.

One W.I. obtained a second prize for a combined exhibit of bottled fruit, vegetables, jams, jellies and chutneys at the Dairy Show, while a member of the same Institute won the Silver Medal, three first prizes, a second and a third, from the five exhibits she sent in. Several Institutes have started a weekly market stall in their villages, and one paid out £84 to members in five months. 69 entries were received in the Flower Garden Competition as against 41 in the previous year.

Three groups have now formed District Garden Societies.

*Music*.—A Musical Festival was held in June in which thirty choirs competed and between 400 and 500 members took part. The competition, which aroused much enthusiasm, included folk songs, madrigals and part songs, and a class for collective folk singing judged at the W.I. monthly meetings. The reports of the judges were distinctly favourable.

A District Competition was also arranged.

*Lectures*.—Reports show that lectures on Health, the History of Kent and of the Institute village in particular, Lands Overseas, and Women's Work at Home and Abroad, are of most interest to members, while talks on Gardening and Poultry-keeping run them very close.

*Other Institute Activities*.—Institutes are taking a much more friendly interest in each other, and are co-operating with classes and lectures and are exchanging visits one with another to an increasing extent.

Many Institutes report special efforts to provide help for local hospitals, village flower shows and fêtes and parties for old people, crippled children and mothers from London.

## LANCASHIRE (43).

*President and Chairman*: Mrs. Assheton, Downham Hall, Clitheroe, Lancashire.

*Secretary*: Miss Birch, Cooper Hill, Walton-le-Dale, near Preston, Lancashire.

*Organisation*:—The W.I. movement continues to increase in the county. During the year seven new Institutes were formed, making an increase in the total membership of 676.



There are six sub-committees, all of which meet once a month at the County Offices, Preston (by kind permission of the Chairman of the County Council). These are: Organisation, Education, Agriculture and Horticulture, Handicraft and Finance. A seventh (Cinema Control) has just been formed with the object of pressing for cinema reform, especially in so far as children are affected.

We have 11 Voluntary County Organisers. Miss Greenwood, who for nearly five years has acted as Hon. County Secretary, was obliged to resign in June, and Miss Birch was appointed as County Secretary in her place.

Group Meetings were held in April, and again in June.

A banner awarded by Mrs. Assheton for the best printed programme for a year is competed for by Institutes each spring.

Twenty-two delegates from the Institutes, and three from the Federation, attended the Annual General Meeting in London in May.

The first copy of the Lancashire Supplement to "Home and Country," edited by Lady Worsley-Taylor, was issued in August.

*Council Meetings.*—Our own Annual General Meeting was held in February, when 34 Institutes were represented. Interesting addresses were given by Mrs. Watt on "A Job for every member in the W.I.," and by Mr. Cowley, Librarian to the County Council, on "Libraries." The half-yearly Council meeting took place in October, when 32 Institutes sent delegates.

*County Council Help.*—The Lancashire Federation are very lucky in the grant they receive from the County Council for education. For the winter of 1924-25, they were able to offer three free demonstrations and one free lecture, and for last winter two free demonstrations and two free lectures, to every Institute. In addition the Agricultural Committee arranged free lectures and advice on horticultural subjects, and visited the Institutes from time to time.

Mrs. Assheton has been co-opted to the Lancashire County Council Education Committee.

*Royal Lancashire Show.*—Arrangements were made for a W.I. Rest Tent at the Royal Lancashire Show; this proved so popular that a much larger enterprise is planned for the Royal Lancashire Show to be held at Burnley in the summer of 1926.

*Special Institute Activities.*—Among the special Institute activities may be mentioned the Exhibition of Handicrafts and Produce, which was held at Preston in the spring. This proved both popular and profitable. Many of the Institutes raised money by means of garden fêtes, whist drives, etc., for their local hospitals, Nursing Associations, village libraries and halls, war memorials, and other objects.

## LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND (76).

*President:* The Hon. Mrs. Murray Smith, Gumley Hall, Market Harborough.

*Chairman:* Mrs. C. H. Morris, J.P., Twycross, Atherstone.

*Secretary:* Miss FitzRandolph, 1, St. Martin's, Leicester.

*Organisation.*—Six new Institutes have been formed in Leicestershire and one in Rutland in 1925. One in Rutland, which had been suspended for one year, was re-formed. The total number of Institutes in the Federation is 66 in Leicestershire and 10 in Rutland, with a membership of over 3,500.

The Executive Committee has been assisted by the following sub-committees: Organisation, Finance, Handicrafts and Exhibition, Agricultural and Horticultural, and Choral.

The work of the Voluntary County Organisers has been invaluable, and they have done much to strengthen the Institutes all through the Federation. One student attended the V.C.O. School in Derbyshire and has since been appointed.

*Council Meetings.*—Two Council meetings have been held. At the spring meeting, Miss Sophie Martin spoke on the "Care of the Mentally Deficient Child" and Mr. Frank Toone on "Drama in the Country," and in December Mrs. Nugent Harris, N.F.W.I. Chief Organiser, spoke on the Women's Institute movement.

*Group Meetings.*—Group conferences were held in the 10 groups in the spring and autumn. These meetings are becoming most useful and are much appreciated by the Institutes. At the spring group meetings Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, gave model committee meetings. The autumn group meetings are mainly devoted to the making of programmes and arrangement of tours.

*W.I. Library.*—This Library now contains 1,000 books, and is much appreciated by the Institutes which have joined it.

*County Council Aid.*—The Leicestershire County Council give valuable assistance to the Institutes in providing lectures and demonstrations in Domestic Science, Health, Poultry-keeping and Gardening. They have also drawn up a scheme for courses of classes in domestic science subjects which the Institutes are planning to include in the 1926 programmes. Lectures in Fruit-bottling, Cheese-making, Bacon-curing, and Pork Pie-making are also supplied by the County Council.

*Tours* have been arranged for lecturers from the Victoria League, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and for other lecturers.

*Choral and Folk Dancing Festival.*—A very successful Festival was held in May, at which the adjudicator stated that the standard

of the choirs was considerably improved. Choral conductors' classes were arranged at Leicester and Market Harborough.

*Handicrafts Exhibition.*—The Exhibition was most successful; there were 2,140 entries this year, against 1,440 last year, and the standard of the exhibits was excellent. Upwards of 2,000 members attended, and the Exhibition, which was opened by Mrs. Wintringham, aroused much interest in the town of Leicester.

*Conferences.*—A very valuable conference for officers was held in February, when Miss Hadow, Vice-Chairman of the N.F.W.I., gave an address.

An inter-county conference for V.C.O.s was held in Leicester in April. It was conducted by Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, and Miss Bouverie spoke on Finance.

*Rutland W.I. Officers' Meeting.*—A meeting of the officers of the Rutland Institutes was held in Uppingham in July, from which resolutions were sent to the Rutland County Council asking for help for the Institutes on the same lines as that given by the Leicestershire County Council. As a result, courses of domestic science classes have been arranged in Uppingham and Oakham.

*Local Agricultural Shows.*—A very successful tent with an exhibition of handicrafts, bottled fruits, etc., was arranged at the Melton Mowbray Show. As a result of this exhibition two new Institutes were formed.

*Finance.*—Through the generosity of the Institutes the finance of the county is now on a satisfactory footing; the deficit on the 1924 account has been met and the Federation has sufficient money in hand for the expenses budgeted for in 1926.

*Other Institute Activities.*—The Institutes have contributed generously to many outside organisations, such as the Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicestershire Blind Association, Market Harborough Cottage Hospital, the County Nursing Association.

Several Institutes have become Corporate Associates of the League of Nations Union.

Forty-seven delegates attended the Annual General Meeting in London.

#### KESTEVEN (35).

*Chairman:* Mrs. C. Greenall, The Manor, Carlton Scroop, Grantham.

*Secretary:* Miss J. Crofts, The Old House, Caythorpe, Lincoln.

*Organisation.*—Two new Institutes and one W.I. Centre have been started during the year. The total membership is 1,748.

Attendances at the Council meetings have been good, only three Institutes failing to send delegates. The Annual Council

meeting was held at Sleaford; Miss Armes, N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Organiser, spoke on Handicrafts, and the beautiful specimens of work shown by her aroused much interest. At the October meeting Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, gave a demonstration on "Games for W.I. Meetings."

Three conferences were arranged by the Organisation Subcommittee in May, for officers and committee members and were held at Sleaford, Lincoln and Grantham. Miss Watkins, V.C.O., gave advice on the subjects chosen.

Nineteen delegates from the county attended the National Federation Annual Meeting in London in May. The Federation was represented at conferences at Nottingham and London.

*An Exhibition Tent* was arranged at the Lincolnshire Agricultural Show held at Grantham in June, and was well supported, the classes for bread, cakes, jams, bottled fruits, and eggs being specially popular. Hougham-cum-Marston received the special prize for gaining the largest number of awards, Carlton Scroop being second. Barkston District gained a special award for a piece of co-operative work, a bed-spread.

Unfortunately the tent was not put in a good position by the Show Committee, with the result that many members and friends failed to find it and there was a financial loss of over £19, which had to be made up from the county funds, though this has since been reduced by the sale of goods left over from the Gift Stall, to which many Institutes had contributed largely.

*Lectures, Classes and Demonstrations.*—A course of health lectures has been given by Miss Ellis to eight Institutes in the county and to one border Institute. These lectures were very much appreciated.

Classes have been held in Eiderdown-making, Basketry, Umbrella Re-covering, Papier Maché work, Cane and Raffia work, and other crafts and, in addition, demonstrations have been given by local lecturers in Dressmaking, Invalid Cooking, and various handicrafts.

Several Institutes have taken advantage of arrangements made with doctors and trained nurses to have lectures on Maternal Mortality. Several lectures have also been given on "The Care of the Mentally Deficient."

The County Council have helped by a grant towards the health lectures, and offers of lecturers on "Clean Milk," Gardening and Poultry-keeping.

A grant was made towards the health lectures by the South Lincolnshire Red Cross Society.

*Institute Reports and Activities.*—Twelve Institutes run National Savings Associations.

Hougham-cum-Marston arranged that school children having to eat their dinners at school should be supplied with cocoa in wintry weather.

Other charities that have been helped, either financially or otherwise, are the British Red Cross Society, the British Legion, the Kesteven Blind Society, the National Life-boat Association and the Grantham Hospital Linen Guild, besides various parochial charities.

Three Institutes have arranged vegetable and flower shows in their own villages.

#### LINDSEY (49).

*Chairman*: Mrs. Amcotts, J.P., Kettlethorpe Hall, Lincoln.

*Secretary*: Miss W. M. Hall, The Limes, James Street, Louth.

*Organisation*.—Two new Institutes have been formed. The membership is roughly 2,400, an increase of 70 over that of last year. A new V.C.O. was trained at the Ambergate School. Sixty-one visits have been paid to Institutes during the year. Two V.C.O.s attended an inter-county conference and two committee members a school for County Federation officers at Nottingham. Mrs. Harris (Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I.), attended four conferences in the spring and visited the county again in the autumn. Following up Miss Hadow's talk on the Group System, the county asked groups of Institutes to arrange informal meetings to discuss the Annual Meeting agenda but, except in three or four centres, it appears that the Institutes are too scattered for this plan to be workable. At the Annual Council meeting the speakers were Mrs. Trevelyan, and Miss Kelly of the Village Drama Society.

Lectures have been given by the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women and the National Savings Association.

*Song and Dance*.—Great interest was shown in the singing competitions at the Rally, and the W.I. class in the North Lincs. Musical Festivals Competition has been well supported. Members of the Market Rasen class took part in a display arranged at the Rally by the Lincs. Folk Dance Society, and several other Institutes are now taking up Folk Dancing.

*Handicrafts*.—Two students trained at the N.F.W.I. class have passed the "A" test in leather work, and one has gone on to the "B" test. The County Federation organised schools for demonstrators in Soft Toy making and Raffia work. Miss Spillman spent ten days teaching Dressmaking and Eiderdown-making. Classes have been held in Millinery, Leather work, Pewter work, Upholstery and Basketry. The exhibition at the Rally showed that the general standard has become higher. Over 500 exhibits were sent in and the layette in the co-operative section was a

beautiful piece of work. A county banner, designed and embroidered by the President, was won by Aby W.I. An exhibition of W.I. work at the Winterton Agricultural Society's Show, was organised by a ladies' committee.

*County Council Aid*.—Thirteen Institutes have received grants from the Lindsey County Council for ten weeks courses in Dressmaking, Cooking, Upholstery, Leather work, Embroidery, and First Aid. County Council experts have also given valuable help in judging produce and have provided lectures on Poultry-keeping, Gardening, Fruit-bottling and Clean Milk.

The County Health Department has given lectures on First Aid, the Care of Mental Defectives, and Maternal Mortality. The Red Cross has issued first aid outfits.

*Institute Activities*.—The Institutes have supported the Lincoln, Louth and Frodingham Hospitals with donations and pound days, and some villages now have a district nurse. Help has been given to the Lincoln Girls' Home, the Lindsey Blind, Lincs. Needlework Guild, Cathedral Restoration Fund, Life Boat Association and Earl Haig's Fund. The county has adopted the Carnegie Rural Library scheme, and Institutes have taken a leading part in forming village committees to deal with this.

Other activities include welfare committees and comforts funds to help the sick in the village. One Institute has given sacks of coals to the old people. Bulbs and plums have been bought co-operatively. A fur glove making industry from home-cured skins has been started, and another Institute takes orders for making and repairing gloves. Rush-seating of chairs and rug-making have been carried on throughout the winter.

#### MERIONETH (18).

*President and Chairman*: Mrs. Morgan, J.P., Ballymacora, Barmouth.

*Secretary*: Mrs. Llewelyn Owen, Llys Llewelyn, Barmouth.

*Organisation*.—The work is going on steadily and this year three new Institutes, which are very promising, have been started. There are three Voluntary County Organisers.

Group meetings have been very well attended. At the meetings in November and December the chief subject dealt with was Programme Planning, and it is gratifying to learn that, with only one exception, programmes are now drawn up for six or twelve months.

In the autumn Mrs. Watt came to Merioneth and spoke on "One Job for every Institute Member." There was a large and representative gathering and the talk did a great deal of good, members returned to their Institutes ready to work.

A W.I. Tent was organised at the annual Agricultural Show; this was a great success not only financially but from the point of view of propaganda. The County Federation hopes, however, to arrange an independent County Exhibition in 1926.

*County Council Aid.*—The Education Committee of the County Council again gave a grant of £50 towards classes, and this has been divided amongst seven Institutes for help with classes in Ambulance work, Cookery, Upholstery, Leather work and Needle-weaving.

The County Agricultural Committee is very helpful and gives addresses and classes in Dairying, Gardening, and Clean Milk. Two Institutes have taken a course in Dairy work, and some of their members have gained certificates in this subject.

*Other Lectures, Classes and Demonstrations.*—Miss Petty, "The Pudding Lady," gave a splendid talk on Food Values and Cookery at several of the Institutes. Other lecture subjects include India, Canada, Local History, Gardening, Cruelty to Animals and Folk Songs. Classes have been held in practically all the Institutes, among the subjects being Dressmaking, Raffia work, Basketry, Chair-caning, Household Jobbery, Needle-weaving, Embroidery, Leather work, Upholstery, Cookery, and Country Dancing. Demonstrations in Sweet-making, Paper Flowers, Plaited String Baskets, Poultry-dressing, Bara Ceirch, etc., have also been given.

*Other Institute Activities.*—Some of the Institutes are taking up descant singing and a competition is to be held in April. One Institute has started an orchestra.

One of our smallest Institutes, Frongoch, has a hut of its own, of which it is justly proud. Another has bought its own crockery.

Two Institutes have been instrumental in obtaining a village nurse, and many report help to local hospitals and the sale of roses and poppies for Rose Day and Lord Haig's Fund; others have been making garments for the after care committee of the King Edward VII. Memorial to give to needy patients going to a sanatorium.

#### MIDDLESEX (19).

*President:* The Lady Margaret Boscawen, 11, Mount Street, London, W.1.

*Chairman:* Miss Belletti, Selwood Lodge, Stanwell.

*Hon. Secretary:* Miss Kuhner, The Avenue House, West Drayton.

*Organisation.*—All Institutes were represented at both the Council meetings.

About 25% of members attended group meetings held in November. Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, conducted an

officers' school in May, and Mrs. Alfred Watt a group school in Group A.

One Institute lapsed in March.

The Executive Committee has been assisted by six sub-committees: Organisation, Finance, Agriculture and Horticulture, Handicrafts, Music and Education. Twenty non-members of the Executive Committee are serving on sub-committees, including the county horticultural and poultry and dairy Instructors and the secretary of the Elementary Education Committee.

*County Council.*—The Federation has been granted use of the Guildhall for the Annual Meeting, officers' class and all committee meetings. The County Education Committee has given great help in the provision of lectures, including a lecture on "Educational Opportunities for Middlesex Children."

Most Institutes have special branches of the County Library. A collection of 45 volumes on village life has been provided for the use of the Executive Committee. A large sectional library of plays and books of dramatic criticism has been organised, and catalogues issued to Institutes.

*Agriculture and Horticulture.*—An exhibit dealing with Fruit-bottling, Insect Pests, and Clean Milk has been organised by the Middlesex Agricultural Education Committee, at the request of the Federation. This has been staged at group meetings, and explained by the county Instructors. In one case the exhibit was again shown at an open meeting for the village.

Lecture subjects have included Clean Milk, Gardening, Insect Pests, Fungoid Pests, Poultry-keeping, Fruit bottling and drying.

One Institute sent an exhibit to the London Dairy Show. A donation has been given to the second County Clean Milk Competition Prize Fund, and Lady Strafford has given prizes for W.I. entries in the County Laying Trial.

At an autumn show arranged by three Institutes in Group B, in conjunction with two Hertfordshire Institutes, 400 exhibits were staged, and five other W.I. fruit, flower and vegetable shows have been held.

Three Institutes have sent collections of plants to Middlesex school gardens.

*Handicrafts.*—A Handicrafts Conference was held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in conjunction with the autumn Council meeting. Miss Armes, Miss Pesel and Miss Christy were speakers.

A Loan Collection of 40 articles has been formed.

Five Guild of Learners' "A" test certificates have been gained during the year, and four schools attended.

A number of demonstrations and classes have been given by Guild of Learners' students, and some by the County Education Committee. An arrangement has been made for the employment of Guild of Learners' teachers by the County Education Committee.

*Music.*—Ten choirs competed in the Federation Choral Competition. At the request of the Federation, the London Musical Competition Festival has arranged senior and junior classes for 1926.

Thirty-one conductors and choir members attended a Conductors' School.

*Institute Activities.*—Programmes are usually good and attractive in form. Lecture subjects have included: League of Nations, National Savings, Local Government, Education, Child Welfare, Care of Animals, Nursing, Literature, Travel, Astronomy, Life Boats, Roads and "Tea: how it is grown and made." Competitions and roll-calls have dealt with many subjects, and debates are held in many Institutes.

Institute choirs and dramatic parties have given performances for other Institutes and for charities and their village halls. Most Institutes give help to local hospitals and nursing funds, and provide entertainments for the children and sometimes for the old folk of the village. Nearly all Institutes have "Helping Hand Funds" for their members.

All Institutes have given generous support to Federation funds, £52 17s. 0d. having been given to Federation funds and £21 5s. 0d. to N.F.W.I. funds.

#### MONMOUTH (29).

*President:* The Lady Treowen, Llanarth Court, Raglan.

*Chairman:* Lady Mather-Jackson, O.B.E., J.P., St. Mary's Hill, Abergavenny.

*Hon. Secretary:* Miss Edith Jackson, Lion Street, Abergavenny.

*Organisation.*—Four new Institutes have been formed in 1925. A new V.C.O., Miss Davies, has been appointed.

Mrs. Watt gave addresses at the Abergavenny and Wentloog group meetings in November; at the former, she also took the part of the judge in "What do you think?" which was played by members of the different Institutes in that group.

An inter-county conference was held in March and was attended by organisers from Breconshire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. Questions concerning Welsh Institutes were discussed and also Rural Community Councils and Young Farmers' Clubs in relation to Women's Institutes.

The Annual Meeting took place in June. At the open meeting in the afternoon Mrs. Lampson gave a spirited lecture on Elizabethan Music.

The half-yearly Council meeting was held in December. The question of the formation of a Rural Community Council was discussed at the open meeting, representatives from other associations being present.

A county whist drive was organised for the purpose of covering and augmenting subscriptions of Institutes to Federation expenses. Seventeen local and three group whist drives were held, the finals being played off on Shrove Tuesday in Newport.

A *Drama Competition* was arranged early in the year, in which fifteen Institutes with eighteen casts competed. The judges visited each Institute and selected six casts to compete in the finals, when Llantilio Pertholey carried off the Challenge Banner.

*Exhibitions.*—Two Group Handicraft Exhibitions were held in May, one at Usk and one at Raglan. Miss Armes spoke at both. An exhibition was also held at the Abergavenny Horse Show.

Exhibits were sent to the National Eisteddfod and to the Royal Welsh Show; at the latter the first prize for gloves was given to a member of the Bettws W.I., and the second prize for plain needlework to a member of the Rumney Institute.

*Lectures and Demonstrations.*—Lectures have been delivered on the League of Nations, Folk Songs, Voice Production, Astronomy, Health, and Local History, and Miss Berrington, V.C.O., gave eight lantern lectures on Pictures, in addition to lectures on Music and Citizenship. Lady Mather-Jackson gave lectures on Women in Public Work.

Miss Penton, V.C.O., demonstrated in Household Jobbing, Cobbling, Basket-making and Embroidery, and also went for lessons in basket-making to Leicester. She was selected by the Central Welsh Board to attend a course in London on "The Appreciation of Handicrafts."

Miss Badmington gave demonstrations in Upholstery, and other demonstrations were given in Millinery and Dress-making.

*County Council Aid.*—Courses in Cooking, Home Nursing, and Ambulance work have been given by County Council lecturers, and classes in Millinery, Dressmaking and Basket-making have been subsidised.

Committee rooms in the County Hall have been lent for large and small meetings on many occasions.

The staff of the Agricultural Institute have given lectures and demonstrations in various subjects. Parties of Institute members have been invited by the Principal to visit the Demonstration Farm.

*Other Activities.*—Nine Institutes sent delegates to the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting, nineteen to the County Annual Meeting and fourteen to both Council meetings.

The County Nursing Association, the Abergavenny Hospital, and the Royal Gwent Hospital, have received support. Church restoration funds, football clubs, and children's Christmas parties have been helped by subscriptions from Institutes. One W.I. arranged a course of swedish drill for small children, and another bought for the use of its members a syringe for curing bacon, recommended by the Agricultural Institute.

1925 has been a very prosperous year in Monmouthshire, the Institutes all having done good work.

#### MONTGOMERYSHIRE (27).

*President:* Mrs. W. M. Dugdale, Llwyn, Llanfyllin.

*Chairman:* Mrs. Scott Owen, Cefnwifed, Tregynon.

*Secretary:* Miss Riddell, Llyndu House, Welshpool.

*Progress of the Movement.*—During the past year one Institute has been formed, one has lapsed, and one has been temporarily suspended. The county membership numbers about 1,220. The Federation is now entirely self-supporting and has contributed £25 to the National Federation.

*Organisation.*—There are now three Voluntary County Organisers in the county, a new Welsh-speaking V.C.O., Mrs. Hughes, having been appointed during the year.

A Music Sub-Committee was formed in December.

Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, attended the group conference in June and also gave an address at a meeting of the County Executive Committee, and Miss Ward, who was sent by Headquarters as a substitute for Miss Denison (N.F.W.I. Assistant Handicrafts Organiser), who was unable to come, addressed group meetings in September. Both these visits were greatly appreciated and have proved very helpful.

Mrs. Watt visited the county in March and spoke at a meeting of the Executive Committee and to several Institutes.

*Lectures and Classes.*—In February the County Medical Officer gave a series of Health lectures at different W.I. centres, the meetings being open to the public. Members of the County Council Staff have given valuable help and advice in Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairying and Poultry-keeping. A very successful Dairying Course under Miss Williams' instruction was organised in September by Forden W.I.

Fruit bottling demonstrations were given at various centres in the county by a member of Llanrhaiadr W.I. under the auspices of the local Agricultural Committee.

In October a series of lectures on "A Glimpse of Florence and Venice" were given by Miss Macdonald of the Selborne Society. In addition, many local speakers have very kindly given help.

*Handicrafts.*—The usual classes have been organised in various crafts. In some Institutes Home-dyeing has been a special subject. Advanced Leather work has also been done and teachers in this craft are now available.

Llansaintffraid was, for the third time, the successful Institute in the Powys Eisteddfod W.I. competition, thereby winning the Silver Challenge Cup given by Mrs. Dugdale. Two first prizes were won by Montgomeryshire members in the W.I. Section at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, one for crochet lace and the other for white embroidery.

Woodwork classes are being held weekly at the Domestic Science Centre, Welshpool, under the local Education Authority. Pupils from five Institutes are busy making furniture for the child's bedroom which will form one of the special exhibits of co-operative work at the County Exhibition to be held in July. The instructress is a member of Meifod W.I.

*Other Institute Activities.*—Among the activities reported from the Institutes are: An Easter Monday dance, the proceeds of which purchased a bed for the Victoria Nursing Institute at Welshpool, a month's tea money contributed to provide garments for the tuberculosis hospital patients, an American tea which made £15 10s. for the local nursing fund, a sale in aid of the Memorial Hall Building Fund, horticultural and baby shows, an exhibition of "Grandmother's things," joint debates with men's clubs.

One Montgomeryshire W.I. member attended the N.F.W.I. school for agricultural speakers held at Lichfield in September.

The Institutes subscribed to the testimonial presented by the Welsh Federations to Miss Lumley at the Welsh Conference.

#### NORFOLK (129).

*President and Chairman:* The Dowager Lady Suffield, J.P., C.C., Harbord House, Cromer.

*Secretary:* Miss M. L. Burgess, 3, Davey Place, Norwich.

*Organisation.*—Ten new Institutes have been started during the year and there are no less than thirty enquiries from various villages for other Institutes, which provides abundant evidence of the continued popularity of the movement. A series of conferences for officers has been arranged by the Executive and held in different centres, with a view to securing the adoption of uniform simple business methods in the Institutes; the results have been most gratifying. The increasing number of requests for the help of

Voluntary Organisers at annual and other meetings indicates the growth of the realisation that each Institute is an integral part of the county organisation.

*Handicrafts* continue to show a steady improvement, especially Weaving, Leatherwork and Soft Toys. At the Half-yearly Council Miss Denison, N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Organiser, spoke on Handicrafts and congratulated the members on the Spring Exhibition. At this meeting a resolution pointing out to Headquarters the need for local craft schools was passed.

The Annual Exhibition was larger than ever. The greatest novelty was the class for furnished cottage rooms; there were six rooms, each furnished by an Institute or group of Institutes. The result showed in how many branches of industry and art a high degree of skill has been attained.

Messrs. Hamiltons (Coventry) kindly invited the Federation to exhibit at the Ideal Homes Exhibition in Norwich. There was a profusion of delightful and artistic handicrafts on the stall and demonstrations in weaving and rush work attracted large crowds.

*The County Outing*, held in the grounds of Crown Point, Norwich, was attended by many thousands. Some of the members presented a small pageant, which had an enthusiastic reception.

*The Centre and Rest Room* continues to attract crowds of members from all parts of the county. The library has extended its hospitality to small Institutes not yet participating in the County Library scheme.

*Joint Meetings*.—In conjunction with the local branch of the National Council of Women a meeting was held at which Miss Gardner, of the Ministry of Health, clearly described the Widows Pension Scheme, and gave information about health insurance.

The local branch of the Mothers' Union kindly invited the Federation to a conference on the Housing Problem. Many availed themselves of the opportunity to hear Colonel Freemantle and the helpful discussion which followed.

A large number of members accepted the invitation of the Norfolk Music Competition Festival to hear Major Bavin lecture on Conducting and Community Singing, and spent an instructive and delightful afternoon.

*Agriculture and Horticulture*.—Special encouragement has been given to the agricultural and horticultural side of Institute life during the past year. Useful information has been collated regarding the value placed on the cottage garden and small holding.

Representatives of the various organisations connected with agriculture and horticulture in the county were invited to the

Centre to hear an address on Young Farmers' Clubs by Mr. G. Robinson, of the Ministry of Agriculture. The scheme was well received by the experts present and was promised support.

The monthly leaflets supplied by the County Agricultural Education Committee on garden work and poultry continue to be circulated to the Institutes and are much appreciated.

A series of lectures by experts are now obtainable through the Norfolk Agricultural Station.

*The Carnegie Library Scheme* is an accomplished fact, and the Institutes rejoice in their share in bringing this about. The scheme has been launched in a hundred centres, serving 164 villages, and there is a waiting list of 100 other villages.

*H.M. The Late Queen Alexandra*.—The County shared in no small degree the nation's sorrow in the death of H.M. Queen Alexandra, who was joint President, with H.M. The Queen, of Sandringham Women's Institute, and a keen supporter of the movement. A wreath in the Institute colours, in the shape of the Institute badge, was sent in the name of the Norfolk Institutes.

*Community Work* in the Institutes includes support of the Hospital Contributory Scheme, National Savings Associations, district nurse, entertainment of old age pensioners and school children, W.I. bed for Kitchener Hostel, making and supplying carpet slippers for school children, and making Christmas gifts for children's hospitals.

#### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (87).

*President*: Lady Knightley, Fawsley, Daventry.

*Chairman*: Miss Bouverie, Delapré Abbey, Northampton.

*Secretary*: Mrs. Barker, Moulton Lodge, Northampton.

*Organisation*.—Six new Institutes have been formed this year, the total membership being 5,300.

The Voluntary County Organisers and members of the Executive Committee have paid visits to a great number of the Institutes. There are 5 sub-committees: Finance, Organisation, Handicrafts, History, Music and Drama, and Library.

In May a conference for officers and members of committees was held in Northampton, conducted by Miss Simpson. This was well attended and much good resulted.

At the half-yearly Council meeting Mr. Morris, M.A., of Farthinghoe, gave a talk on the Drama.

On July 9th a most successful Fête and Rally was held by permission of the Marquis of Northampton at Castle Ashby. A large number of Institutes helped by having stalls for various articles. A handicraft tent in which different demonstrations were given was a great attraction. A profit of £153 was made.

A Shopping Week was organised by the Executive Committee and was held in November, by kind permission of the Northampton Gaslight Co., in their demonstration hall. Sales amounted to more than £100; after a deduction of 2d. in the 1/- to cover expenses the proceeds were returned to the members.

*Shakespeare Competition.*—There were 11 entries for the Shakespeare Competition. The judge was Sir Frank Benson. The winning Institutes were: Harlestone, 1st; Guilsborough, 2nd; and Brackley and Hardingstone, bracketed, 3rd.

*County Fruit Show.*—At the County Fruit Show held in Northampton in November there was a special W.I. section, the prizes being given by the County Federation.

*Rest and Change Scheme.*—This scheme is now working in the county; Hardingstone W.I. has entertained a visitor from Oxfordshire for a fortnight, a member of Welton W.I. was entertained by Culworth, and a member of Hardingstone spent three weeks as the guest of Criccieth W.I. A list of Institutes willing to entertain visitors is being compiled ready to be sent to other County Federations; Sussex has offered hospitality.

*History.*—Miss Joan Wake's book "How to compile a History and Present Day Record of Village Life," has been printed. The second edition is now almost exhausted and a third is in hand.

*Library.*—Fifteen Institutes now belong to the Central Library. The selection of books therein is constantly being improved. The subscriptions are used to purchase carefully chosen new works, and old books which are no longer in circulation are, by arrangement, exchanged for others in better condition for which there is a demand. There are now about 950 books in the library.

*Handicrafts.*—Miss Armes, N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Organiser, visited the county in June. She had an informal conference with the members of the Handicrafts Sub-Committee, and addressed a well-attended conference for demonstrators which the sub-committee had arranged. An effort has been made to raise the standard of work shown at group exhibitions.

The loan collection, which was formed last April, has been taken to 4 group meetings and 7 Institute meetings, and several of the specimens have been lent out to be copied.

Classes of handicrafts at group centres have been formed in a few cases, but in others the difficulties have been unsurmountable. Classes have been held in the office for Leather work and Basketry. Consideration has been given to the question of the fees of the county demonstrators and it has been arranged that uniform fees, except in the cases of one or two special subjects, shall be charged.

*Tours* were arranged for Chief Inspector Champneys of the Women's Auxiliary Service, and for three other lecturers and demonstrators.

*County Council Aid.*—The County Council has again helped us in many ways. Classes for Cooking, Dressmaking, Embroidery, and Millinery have been held. Lectures have been given on Horticulture, Bush-fruit, Pruning and Grafting, and Poultry-keeping. Norton W.I. has run a chicken rearing competition under the direction of the County Council poultry Instructress. There were 17 competitors.

*Lectures* have been given on Home Nursing, Personal Health, Vaccination, British East Africa, League of Nations, Canada, David Livingstone, Jane Austin, Windsor Castle, Phrenology, Music, Drama, National Savings, Local History, Shakespeare, and many other subjects.

*Demonstrations* have been given in Bottling and Preserving Fruit, China Rivetting, Pruning and Grafting, Barbola work, Sweet making, Upholstery, Household Jobbery, etc.

*Classes* have been held for Basket-making, Rug-making, Gloving, Cooking, Dressmaking, Folk Dancing and Singing.

*Other Activities.*—A great many Institutes have formed choirs. Produce shows and baby shows have been held and bulb growing and potato growing competitions, judged by Mr. C. F. Lawrence, F.R.C.S., County Horticultural Superintendent, have been organised.

#### NORTHUMBERLAND (93).

*President:* The Countess Grey, Howick, Alnwick.

*Chairman:* Mrs. Cresswell, Hauxley Hall, Amble, Northumberland.

*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Collingwood F. Thorp, Belvedere, Alnwick.

*Organisation.*—There are 93 Institutes, 13 having been formed this year, with a membership of 5,731 in this county.

The Voluntary County Organisers have paid 131 visits and nearly every Women's Institute had a visit from an Organiser at its annual general meeting. The N.F.W.I. allowed Miss Leigh to come up in September, and four useful meetings were held at different centres, making it possible for all the Institutes to attend, and much good work was done.

Another feature of the year was an excellent meeting at Berwick-on-Tweed, for the benefit of Tweedside Institutes, which find the journey to the Council meetings held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne too expensive to undertake.



Circular letters have been sent out to the Institutes dealing with the following subjects: Holiday Rest and Change, Maternal Mortality, and Anti-litter Campaigns.

*Council Meetings.*—The half-yearly Council meeting was an interesting one and the Annual Meeting, held on one of the most stormy days of the winter, proved to be the best attended and most instructive meeting we have ever had. Dr. Whittaker, world-famed for his Bach Choir, gave us a wonderful lecture on Northumbrian folk songs, with illustrations, and a choir from County Durham gave us examples of descant singing.

Delegates have attended the Consultative Councils held in London and Darlington, and a great number of delegates went up to the Annual Meeting held in London.

*Handicrafts.*—Miss Brearley, a demonstrator in Household Jobbing and Eiderdown-making, made a tour of the county in the spring, and members from 56 Institutes attended her demonstrations.

Eight students attended the Durham School of Needlework, and all passed the test.

The county is fortunate in having a number of its own trained teachers who give lessons in Leather work, Furcraft, Upholstery, and Embroidery. One of these teachers was asked to make a tour of the Durham Institutes and give demonstrations in upholstery. This proved a most successful venture. Altogether 111 demonstrations and 93 lessons or classes have been given by our own demonstrators, in addition to the many courses of classes and lessons for which the Federation is indebted to the Educational Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

Work was sent during the year to the Norfolk County Show, and specimens of Northumberland quilts were sent by request to the Royal Show, where we were told they created quite a sensation.

*Music and Drama.*—A Music Sub-Committee has been formed and, as a result, a school for conductors has been held. This proved a great success, and it is hoped that Women's Institute choirs in good numbers will compete in some of the many singing competitions which are held in this county. A number of Institutes have produced plays for the first time, and one Institute gave a most successful pastoral play.

*Representation on County Council Committees.*—It is interesting to note that members of the County Executive have been asked to serve on the following sub-committees of the County Council: Maternity and Child Welfare, Adult Education, Elementary Education, Agriculture and Small Holdings, Rural Libraries.

*County Literature.*—The "County Gazette" has much increased its circulation and a very useful County Handbook is published each year.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (34).

*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, and there has been an increase in the total membership of about 20.

The six Voluntary County Organisers and the County Secretary have paid 25 visits to 20 Institutes, in addition to visits for preliminary and formation meetings and to W.I. fêtes. During October, Miss Simpson (N.F.W.I. Organiser), visited the county for a fortnight and held ten meetings, chiefly of the groups. A conference for W.I. officers and committee members, attended by 60 members from 20 Institutes, was also held.

Ten members of the Executive Committee attended the N.F.W.I. school for County Federation officers and committee members which was held in Nottingham.

At the Annual Council meeting Mrs. Nugent Harris gave a most useful and helpful address.

*The County Exhibition* was held in May in Nottingham. There were 19 Institute stalls, representing 22 Institutes. The Federation had three stalls, the Prize Stall, the Gift Stall, and the Extra Gift Stall of which the proceeds went to the Travelling Fund. There were 80 classes for exhibits, divided into 13 groups, and the number of exhibits was about a thousand. The League of Nations Union had a table of literature. The attendance was large, over a thousand people coming on the first day, and between five and six hundred on the second day.

*Other Activities.*—Classes in Rush Chair Seating conducted by Miss Ivatt, of Huntingdonshire F.W.I., were held in Nottingham in December. There were six students, and the classes were a great success. The students are now qualified to teach in the Institutes, and will do so for the usual fee of 5/- and expenses.

Early in the spring, acting on a suggestion made by Ollerton W.I., the Executive Committee passed a resolution protesting against permission being given to the L.M.S. Railway Co. to build a line through Sherwood Forest in the vicinity of the Beech Avenue. This was sent to local Members of Parliament. Neighbouring Federations also supported the protest.

The Federation has been represented on the following bodies: The Rural Community Councils, the National Council of Women, the County Council Agricultural Committee and the County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committees.

*Institute Activities.*—Lectures and demonstrations have been given on many subjects, amongst others Blouse Darning on Net,

Fruit Bottling and Crystallising, Labour Saving devices, Passepartout, Garden Pests, Tuberculosis, and classes or a series of lectures on Dressmaking, Fruit and Vegetable Preservation, Raffia work, Household Repairs, Singing, Dancing, Health, How to look at Pictures, Social Life in the Middle Ages, and other subjects.

Community work includes help for local hospitals from 21 Institutes, for Nursing Associations, for a Blind School, for the Lifeboat Association, and for the London Invalid Children's Aid Association, and also much practical work for the village, such as a sick visiting committee, the provision of a first aid cupboard and of a wheeled bier.

#### OXFORDSHIRE (77).

*President*: Miss Ashhurst, Waterstock House, Oxford.

*Chairman*: The Countess of Macclesfield, Shirburn Castle, Watlington.

*Hon. Secretary*: Miss H. C. Deneke, Barnett House, Oxford.

*General*.—All Councils and business meetings are increasingly articulate and well attended. The exhibitions are so large that the problem of accommodation in a mediaeval county town becomes serious. When restrictions are proposed delegates always vote for "the same as last year and a little more of it."

The subject of the year has been Public Health. The Oxfordshire resolution on the subject at the National Federation Annual Meeting was merged in others; but a similar one was proposed at the Darlington Consultative Council, and an Institute put a motion on Mental Deficiency on to the agenda of the County Annual Meeting. Disposal of rubbish, which is allied to public health, provoked one of the liveliest discussions of the meeting of January 1925.

We co-operated with Northamptonshire over the Rest and Change Scheme, and gained a good holiday for an Oxfordshire member.

The Federation, having been from the outset one of the constituent members of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, is now, under the revised constitution, represented on the Educational, Social and Recreational, Rural Industries and Health Groups, which last has just issued an admirable report on health facilities in the county. The County Council grant for classes is administered by a Finance Sub-Committee, who also help with transport in special cases, and "Andrew" and "Ann," the cars presented by the Carnegie grant, rush ceaselessly about the county. The Oxford Women's Institute Association have made motor replacement their chief object and raised £31 during the year. Through the agency of the Rural Community Council the Oxford-

shire Players and the Red Triangle Cinema and Wireless continue to entertain our villages.

*Finance*.—In the department of finance, effects seem really to be following from causes, which is always encouraging for organisers. A crowded and popular conference for treasurers last October has had two results: all the affiliation fees were in by the end of the year, and ordinary donations to the County Federation were nearly as large as donations plus the proceeds of the trading competition last year. If every Institute in the county contributed, the budget would balance this year.

*Handicrafts and Agriculture*. Craft work was sent to the Caversham Agricultural Show, Wembley Palace of Arts, and New Zealand (through the British Institute for Industrial Art). Institutes competed for the first time in the County Allotments Association's Horticultural Show in September. Oxfordshire home-cured hams were selected by the N.F.W.I. expert at the Exhibition for the Royal Show at Chester. A course of lectures has been held for handicraft teachers.

*Institute News*.—The advancement in community work is striking. Institutes have induced a District Council to repair a road, made a 'Bus Company lower its fares, managed men's cricket club dinners, given weekly entertainments to the whole village, given a donation to the first South African Institute, sent a member's daughter to a convalescent home, given a girl a scholarship at a secondary school, besides collecting for local hospitals, St. Dunstan's Guild, the League of Nations Union, Earl Haig's Fund, the Cecil Sharp Folk Dance Fund, and their own Nursing Associations and Village Halls. Outside the ordinary range, Burford won a Silver Cup for country dancing at the Oxford County Competition and banners for dancing and choir singing at Witney Festival, and Headington won the second prize for Institute choirs at the Three Counties Music Festival. Dramatic and choral companies, encouraged by the Shakespeare and Choral Competitions last year, are springing up on all sides.

#### PEMBROKESHIRE (18).

*Chairman*: Mrs. Seymour Allen, Paskeston, Pembroke.

*Hon. Secretary*: Miss O. S. Dawkins, Haylett Grange, Haverfordwest.

*Organisation*.—The number of Institutes in the county is now eighteen; one Institute was closed in January. The membership in the county is between three and four hundred.

*Council Meetings*.—Two Council meetings have been held during the year, at the Haverfordwest Centre and at the St. Martin's Schoolroom; both were well attended. The speaker in March

was the Assistant Director of Education, and in November, Mrs. Alfred Watt.

*Groups.*—Three successful group meetings were held during November at Haverfordwest, Narberth and Cresselly, the speaker being Miss Leigh, N.F.W.I. Organiser; her talks on Finance and on the Group System were greatly appreciated.

*Finance.*—The appeal to the Institutes for donations to the County and National Federations is meeting with a fair response, but not quite all the Institutes have, as yet, taken their part in the scheme. The County Federation provides one free lecture to each Institute each year, and 10/- towards the travelling expenses of a demonstrator or lecturer.

*Handicrafts.*—The Federation organised a W.I. stall in the Masonic Hall at Haverfordwest during Education Week, which was greatly admired by the crowd who visited it.

Exhibits were sent to the W.I. Stall which was arranged at the Royal Welsh Show, Carmarthen, some of the Institutes gaining first and second prizes.

*County Council Aid.*—The County Council have given, free of expense, the services of their horticultural Instructor, and provided classes and demonstrations in Poultry-keeping to several Institutes.

*Cooking Demonstration.*—The National Milk Publicity Council provided, free of charge, twelve delightful Cookery demonstrations to twelve Institutes.

*Community Work* undertaken by Institutes includes special efforts for the local hospitals, Nursing Associations, ex-service-men's clubs and village halls.

There has been a steady increase in the educational activities of the Institutes.

#### RADNOR (20).

*Chairman:* Mrs. Coltman-Rogers, Stanage Park, Bucknell, Shropshire.

*Hon. Secretary:* Mrs. Claud Lewis, Evancoyd, Walton, Radnorshire.

*Organisation.*—Four new Institutes have been formed during the year and there is now a total membership of about 750.

At the Council meeting held in February it was decided that the time had come for the Institutes to be grouped, and a very helpful address on the Group System was given by Mrs. Dugdale, President of the Montgomery Federation.

In November, Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, visited the three newly-formed groups and helped and encouraged them in a very delightful manner.

Delegates were sent to the Welsh Conference held at Shrewsbury.

In January Miss Watkins made a tour of the Institutes, giving some very interesting addresses.

*Handicrafts.*—A handicraft tent was organised in connection with the Radnorshire Agricultural and Horticultural Show in August, when some excellent co-operative work was shown by the Institutes. Miss Rowland, of the Board of Education, who judged the work says in her report: "Considering the short time that many of the Institutes in this county have been in existence, it is surprising to find what a very high standard of work has been reached."

Two candidates from this county were accepted by the N.F.W.I. for training in two courses of handicrafts each.

*County Council Aid.*—The County Council have again given a grant at the rate of £4 10s. 0d. to each Institute for classes in technical subjects, and these have been given in nearly every Institute, in the following subjects: Soft Toy making, Needlework, Papier Maché, Cookery, Glove making, Upholstery, Dressmaking, Leather work, Furcraft, First Aid, Ambulance, and Nursing. The County Council has kindly lent their rooms to the Federation for their Executive and Council meetings.

*Institute Activities.*—Community work has included the following: help to hospitals in the county both in money and produce, help towards the nurse's salary, a joint sale of work with the village men's club to furnish a village hall, money raised for entertainments given to school children, money raised for heating the church in the village, and help towards the R.S.P.C.C. In many other ways the Institutes are benefiting their villages and county.

#### SHROPSHIRE (88).

*Chairman:* The Lady Berwick, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.

*Organising Secretary:* Miss E. Walshe, Kenneth House, 24, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.

*Organisation.*—During the past year ten Institutes have been added to the Federation. There are now ten Voluntary Organisers and the county is divided into twelve groups. Group conferences for all the members were held in the spring, and for the Institute committees in the autumn.

The summer Council was addressed by Mrs. Nugent Harris, and at the winter Council an address on the League of Nations was given by Captain Oliver Bell. This county enjoyed a tour by Miss Armes in the spring and a visit from Miss Somerville for one group meeting in the autumn.

A County Fête was organised at Marrington Hall and attended by nearly 2,000 members from Shropshire and Montgomeryshire. Ten choirs and ten folk dance teams competed for cups.

*County Council.*—This county continues to have great help from the County Council, lecturers and demonstrators being provided for Dressmaking, Millinery, Embroidery, Household repairs, Cookery, Laundry-work, Gardening, Dairy work, Poultry-keeping, Bee-keeping, Fruit Preservation, Health, and other subjects. The Carnegie Library scheme has been adopted, and two W.I. members appointed to the Library Committee. The County Council gave a grant towards the expenses of the Music School held at Easter, and circularised the teachers on the matter. The help of the Institutes has been asked for organising the supply of milk for children who stay at school for their mid-day meal. W.I. members serve on a large number of County Council committees dealing with health and education. The County Council also gave the use of the Shire Hall for the Council meetings.

*Handicrafts.*—32 demonstrators have been trained at classes held at the Rest Room, or at the Technical School, Shrewsbury (by kind permission of the authorities).

The usual stand was taken at the West Midland Show, and there was a sale of members' handiwork and sweets. A representative collection of rugs, baskets, and bedspreads was sent to the Royal Show, where the Loton bedspread attracted great attention, several orders for copies being received.

*Music.*—A three days' School of Music was again held under Mr. Leslie and Miss Nettleship, and addressed by Mr. Geoffrey Shaw, H.M. Inspector of Music. Classes for would-be conductors are organised in the groups, and the existing conductors were given a one-day class under Mr. Leslie in the autumn. At Christmas time carols were sung in the Square, Shrewsbury, by a choir numbering 300, to an audience of 2,000. Afterwards the 19 choirs who took part gave a concert in the Music Hall.

*Agriculture.*—The Whitchurch Agricultural Show had a competition, open to Institutes within a radius of 20 miles, for the best collection of fruit, vegetables and cut flowers. Institutes from Cheshire, Flintshire and Shropshire competed, the silver gilt medal being won by a Shropshire Institute.

A visit to the Harper Adams College was made by 600 W.I. members and the opportunity was taken to hold a conference on Food Production and arrange details of a Food Production Exhibition for the coming year. A most stimulating address was given by Dr. Crowther, Principal of the College.

A start has been made with a stud book and the keeping of rabbits has been encouraged. The County Council egg and chick scheme has been advertised. One member in every Institute

has been asked to keep in touch with the Ministry of Agriculture scholarship scheme, in order that suitable candidates may be discovered.

*Community Work.* Resolutions have been sent to the County Council urging them to provide for mentally deficient children and to encourage the adoption of the by-laws for the humane slaughter of animals. One Institute has started a baby club. One Institute has established its headquarters in two lovely old cottages where they have classes, a library, and prepare a mid-day meal for the school children. 33 Institutes have National Savings Associations and one of them has saved over £4,500. A large number of Institutes send a hamper to the Infirmary or a donation; one contributed to the Wireless Fund for Hospitals; one held a large bulb show and sale, and sent the proceeds (over £16) to the local hospital. Many contribute to the support of the village nurse. Eight Institutes are associate members of the League of Nations Union.

Shropshire was proud to offer the use of their rest room to the Welsh Council this year.

*The Town Association* continues to help the Institutes with demonstrators, stewarding at meetings, hospitality, and in other ways.

#### SOMERSET (117).

*President:* Mrs. Martin Gibbs, Barrow Court, Bristol.

*Chairman:* Miss Rees-Mogg, Corner, Temple Cloud, Bristol.

*Secretary:* Miss Vernon, Alcombe, Minehead.

*Organisation.*—Fourteen new Institutes have been formed in the year, and three have lapsed. The total number in the county is now 117, with an approximate membership of 8,500. Ninety-nine visits have been paid by the Voluntary County Organisers. An inter-county conference held at Exeter in June was well attended by the Organisers. The Council meetings held in Taunton and Bristol are becoming much more alive. Miss Hadow, Vice-Chairman of the National Federation, gave an address on the literature published by Headquarters, and Mr. O. M. Drew, Organiser of Rural Industries for the County Council, spoke on Rural Industries.

Meetings addressed by Miss Nightingale and Miss Dunch, N.F.W.I. Organisers, were held in the nine groups in the spring and autumn.

*Finance.*—Eighty-four Institutes sent donations to the County Federation.

*Home and Country.*—Ninety-five Institutes take "Home and Country."

*Library of Plays.*—A library of plays has been formed for the use of members ; six books may be borrowed for a fortnight for reading.

*Music, etc.*—Competitions were held in singing, country dancing and acting of scenes from Shakespeare in June ; the entries, especially in the last class, were very encouraging. A very considerable increase of interest in these subjects has taken place this year.

*Fête.*—The County Federation arranged to hold a Fête instead of an exhibition ; this took place at Barrow Court and resulted in a substantial sum being given to the County Federation.

*Red Cross Lectures.*—Lectures have been arranged by the British Red Cross Society.

*Institute Activities.*—The most popular crafts seem to be Dressmaking, Millinery, and Raffia work. Many Institutes support the hospitals and nursing associations, have Savings Associations, assist in getting funds for village halls, arrange flower shows, and buy fruit co-operatively. A shelter has been provided in one village for those who have to wait for the 'bus. The District Surveyor asked to meet the members of one Institute to hear their opinions as to the kind of house which working people require, and some of the suggestions were accepted. Another Institute has arranged to help a member who is going blind to learn a trade.

#### STAFFORDSHIRE (84).

*Chairman :* Mrs. B. H. Shaw, 15, Eastgate Street, Stafford.

*Secretary :* Miss M. B. Strachan, 15, Eastgate Street, Stafford.

*County Activities.*—Three new Institutes have been formed during the year, and one has lapsed, so that the total for the county now stands at 84.

Two Council meetings, with very large attendances have been held and the usual business transacted. At the March Council Miss Kelly, of the Village Drama Society, spoke on the Choice of Village Plays, and at the July Council Mrs. Farmer, of Shifnal, gave an address on Descant Singing, with illustrations by the meeting.

The various group meetings have been largely devoted to dramatic productions ; the Manifold Valley Group arranged a most enjoyable Pageant of Empire, while the Whittington and Hammerwich Groups gave very good performances of plays.

Schools for W.I. officers were held at five centres in the county, and provided most valuable instruction for those who attended. Miss Simpson, National Federation Organiser, gave the instruction at these schools, and also made a tour in the autumn, speaking on agricultural organisation. Both her visits were highly appreciated,

and the county is also grateful to Miss Watkins for an interesting tour in the summer, and to Mrs. Farmer, who has spoken at a number of Institutes on Communal and Descant Singing, and has done much to revive the interest of Institutes in musical activities.

*The Exhibition of Handicrafts and Country Produce*, which was held in October, was a very great success. There were rather more than 4,000 exhibits, and 5,000 people visited the exhibition during the two days. The standard of exhibits was higher than at the previous exhibitions, and upwards of 1,200 certificates were awarded. New features of the exhibition were provided by the Shakespearian dramatic competitions, and the Loan Exhibition, the success of which promises well for future developments. The profits of the whole exhibition reached £175, of which £131 was contributed by the Gift Stall.

*Music.*—There were few W.I. entries in the Musical Festival held in May, though the singing was in some cases very good. Better results are hoped for after a new campaign, initiated by the Music and Drama Sub-Committee.

*Agriculture.*—In July the county was fortunate in being asked to arrange for the first N.F. School for Speakers on Agricultural Subjects. This was held in Lichfield, with 12 members from various counties attending. The school was much appreciated as a step towards bringing the Institutes back to an interest in agricultural subjects, from which of late in some instances they have departed.

The county sent three exhibits of eggs to the Royal Agricultural Show at Chester.

A rest tent was arranged at the County Agricultural Show at Leek in September, with the usual arrangements for tea, a small exhibition of handicrafts, and the sale of W.I. literature.

A number of lectures and demonstrations on the agricultural and horticultural side of our work have been given to the Institutes, amongst them 28 by the County Council lecturers, in Bee-keeping, Poultry-keeping and Poultry-dressing, Fruit-bottling, Clean Milk, Bulb-potting, Grafting and Pruning.

*Handicrafts.*—The following courses and single demonstrations have been given by the County Council Instructresses : Courses of classes in Dressmaking, 22 ; Educraft Stitchery, 8 ; Upholstery, 8 ; General Handicrafts, 14 ; Leather work, 13 ; Millinery, 7 ; Cookery, 2. (Total 74). Demonstrations : General Handicrafts, 39 ; Dressmaking, 1 ; Needlework, 25 ; Millinery, 17 ; Cookery, 40 ; Domestic Economy, 20 ; Glove making, 1 ; Leather work, 8 ; Laundry, 7 ; Upholstery, 6 ; Educraft Stitchery, 10 ; Boot Repairing, 3. (Total 177).

*W.I. Activities.*—Perhaps the most striking feature of the year has been a gradually awakening desire on the part of the Institutes to put their houses in order, expressed in a more businesslike attitude and a wish to conduct affairs by the most approved methods. This is coupled with a widening scope of interest. There is an increasing readiness of response to any appeal for a special study of public questions, though the newer Institutes perhaps still remain pre-occupied with practical subjects only.

#### EAST SUFFOLK (93).

*President and Chairman:* The Lady Cranworth, Grundisburgh Hall.

*Hon. Secretary:* Miss L. Aldrich, Westerfield Hall, Nr. Ipswich.

*Organisation.*—Seven new Institutes were started during the year and one was temporarily suspended; there is now an approximate membership of 5,230.

The Executive Committee has been assisted by six sub-committees: Organisation, Finance, Handicrafts, Rest Room, Music and Drama, and Agriculture and Horticulture.

The four V.C.O.s visited 93 Institute and group meetings and one of the N.F.W.I. Organisers spent a week in the county and held a series of group meetings for officers and committee members.

The Annual Council Meeting was held in Ipswich as usual, but the autumn Council took place at Halesworth, to give facilities to those Institutes situated in the northern part of the county, and was well attended.

A meeting of Institute delegates was held in March, when a brief explanation of each resolution on the agenda for the N.F. Annual General Meeting was given.

The Executive Committee is represented on the County Council Agricultural Committee, the Agricultural Sub-Committee of the Education Committee and the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee.

*Finance.*—An important decision taken by the Institutes was the adoption of a financial scheme, by which it is agreed that all Institutes should contribute annually to Federation funds on a scale according to membership, instead of the variable donations given heretofore. The scheme was discussed at the Annual Meeting and passed in the autumn.

*Rural Libraries.*—The County Council have recently established Carnegie Rural Libraries, and an article by the Librarian making known their work and needs was published in the "Home and Country" Supplement. In many cases the Institute is the distributing centre for the village.

*Handicrafts.*—The Annual Handicrafts Exhibition took place at the Suffolk Agricultural Show, and was the largest that East Suffolk has held. It included 15 co-operative exhibits and an increase of exhibits in the produce section. A satisfactory feature was the distinctly higher standard reached by all exhibitors; 280 awards were given as against 191 last year, in spite of the fact that the percentage of marks necessary for gaining awards had been raised.

A three days' Christmas Sale of Handicrafts took place in December.

*Music and Drama.*—A Summer Play Day was organised by the Music and Drama Sub-Committee, with the object of making a pleasant picnic and helping members with ideas for the improvement and variation of the social half-hour at monthly meetings. A park was lent for the occasion, and the programme consisted of inter-Institute sports and team games, and a series of entertainments given by Institutes in the open-air theatre, each performance being criticised at the end. Several Institutes made this their outing, and about 700 members were present.

*Rest Room.*—The Rest Room, which is open daily from 10 to 5 o'clock, is increasingly used, and it has been arranged that members of West Suffolk Institutes near Ipswich should have the use of it on the same terms as those in East Suffolk. The Hon. Secretary of the Federation is at the Rest Room every Tuesday, and many "Home and Country" parcels are collected from there to save postage.

*Institute Activities.*—The Institutes worked hard during the first half of the year at the Talents Trading Scheme, which raised £182 7s. 3d. and showed that East Suffolk possesses many members who are willing to use their time and capabilities for the benefit of their Federation.

At the Woodbridge Musical Festival two Institutes obtained first class awards for singing, and one a second class, while two gained second class awards for folk-dancing.

At the British Dairy Farmers' Association Dairy Show, East Suffolk had three entries in the W.I. classes, and won three prizes, one first and two thirds.

At a fête held in aid of the Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital, a W.I. stall was successfully organised by members from neighbouring Institutes, and contributions were received from a number of others.

The most popular subjects for lectures were Travel and Foreign Countries, but a great number were also given on Health, First Aid, Nursing, and Child Welfare.

Talks on Music and Folk Song and Dance, and also on Gardening and Nature subjects have increased in number.

Several Institutes enjoyed classes in Dressmaking and Upholstery, and a large number had demonstrations on Fruit bottling, Fowl-trussing, Cookery and Sweet-making.

Nearly every Institute has done something to help a hospital or inmates of the workhouse, and several have sub-committees for friendly visits to the sick in their own villages. A great deal has been done towards bringing villages into closer contact by interchange of visits and entertainments.

#### WEST SUFFOLK (48).

*President*: The Marchioness of Bristol, Ickworth, Bury St. Edmunds.

*Chairman*: Mrs. Rust, White House, Rattlesden, Bury St. Edmunds.

*Secretary*: Miss Dunn, 23, Angel Hill, Bury St. Edmunds.

*Organisation*.—The Federation now has a membership of 2,357. The six Voluntary Organisers have paid 75 visits to Institutes. A new Institute has been formed at Lackford.

The tutorial class, held in the spring, was taken by Mrs. Nugent Harris and was well attended and of great help to presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries and committee members. Several useful discussions on W.I. difficulties took place.

*Council Meetings*.—Two extremely well attended Council meetings have been held. Miss Hadow spoke at the spring Council, and Miss Burgess, of the Norfolk Federation, spoke on "The wider Aspect of the Movement" at the autumn meeting. This talk was much enjoyed and appreciated by the members.

At this meeting a resolution was passed urging the West Suffolk County Council to adopt the Carnegie Library Scheme.

*Group Conferences*.—Six Group Conferences were held, three groups combining for a mass meeting at Bury St. Edmunds, at which Mrs. Nugent Harris was the speaker.

*The County Library* is much appreciated, 16 Institutes having joined.

*The Lantern* continues to be popular and the Federation has, therefore, again subscribed to Messrs. Newton for the hire of slides.

"*The Tudor Fair*" held in the summer was a great success. Every Institute in the Federation helped, in some way or other, and all the stall holders and helpers were in the costume of the period. It is felt that the Fair has done much to strengthen the ties between the members.

*Competitions*.—Kedington and Clare Institutes were the winners in the Dramatic Competitions. Stansfield won the Shield (presented by Mrs. Martineau), Horringer and Ickworth being

second, in the singing competition at the Musical Competition Festival, open to the whole county. Great improvement in singing has been shown this year.

*Handicrafts*.—At the Suffolk Show, which was held at Saxmundham in June, West Suffolk again shared a tent with East Suffolk. The Silver Challenge Cup (given by Mrs. Majendie) for the Institute with the largest number of individual members gaining award cards was again won by Semer.

A stall was arranged at the Drapers' Hall in November; 16 Institutes sent in nearly 500 articles for sale.

The Handicraft Depôt has not done quite so well this year; this is no doubt due to the change in the office address.

*County Council Help*.—During the past year the Federation has received great help in the arrangement of its many classes from the West Suffolk County Council. These classes have been well attended, the most popular subjects being Cooking (invalid and domestic), Dressmaking and Upholstery.

*Institute Activities*.—Most Institutes have sent subscriptions to County Federation funds. Programmes this year have shown a steady improvement, lectures and demonstrations on a wide range of subjects having been given. Several Institutes have organised branches of the National Savings Association. Semer has won a copper urn, all its members having taken "Home and Country."

The reports also reveal that every Institute in the Federation has given very generous help, in money, kind and personal service, to various objects such as hospitals, Eastern Counties Idiots' Asylum, old age pensioners, district and village nurses and Tattlingstone Infirmary. Layham W.I. sent 1,000 eggs to Ipswich Hospital. Every W.I. has arranged during the year to help with treats for children, flower shows, fêtes, whist drives and dances. Many members have assisted with the sale of poppies on Remembrance Day. Bures dressed 36 dolls for the scheme organised by "Truth," to provide Christmas gifts for children in London hospitals.

#### SURREY (100).

*President*: Mrs. Auerbach, Hethersett, Reigate.

*Chairman*: Mrs. Guy Morrish, Hill Cottage, Oxshott.

*Secretary*: Miss Sutherland, 112, High Street, Guildford.

*Organisation*.—The number of Institutes in the county is now 100, 9 having been formed during the year. The membership is over 9,100, showing an increase of over 900.

Schools for officers, conducted by Mrs. Nugent Harris and Miss Nightingale, have been held and proved helpful, especially to those who had recently taken office.

A conference of the Executive Committee and Voluntary County Organisers from Surrey and neighbouring counties was held at Redhill.

*Finance.*—During the year Institutes have contributed £401 3s. 0d. to National and County funds. This year every W.I. in the county, with the exception of those newly formed, from which no contribution is expected during the first year, has taken some share in the support of its own organisation. The Federation has again had no grant from Headquarters, and has contributed to the N.F.W.I. funds at the rate of £1 per Institute.

*Exhibition.*—The chief event of the year was the County Exhibition, held at the Market Halls and Colman Institute, Redhill, on October 13th, 14th and 15th. At the wish of the Institutes the music, drama and costume at the Exhibition all belonged to one special period, that chosen being the 17th century. Queens and court ladies in handsome dresses, country women in utilitarian garb, Quakers and cardinals, cavaliers and peasants, all added to the gaiety of the scene.

The handicraft exhibits were more numerous than at either of the previous exhibitions, which was very encouraging to the organisers, but caused disappointment to many exhibitors, as space was too limited to allow of their work being staged to advantage.

The food production section was also overcrowded, especially the jam and marmalade stall.

The judges again noticed improvement in most entries though certain classes were subjected to somewhat severe criticism.

The concert conducted by Miss Susan Lushington was much enjoyed, and the Farnham Group choirs are to be congratulated on their part-singing.

The plays chosen showed greater variety of talent, and Mrs. Penelope Wheeler proved a sympathetic, though critical, judge.

Financially, 1925 was also in advance of previous exhibitions, for, though expenses at Redhill were heavier than at Guildford, takings were also larger, and after all accounts had been paid and the Institutes had received payment for goods sold, there was a balance of over £300.

*Music and Drama.* At the Annual Meeting in February, Miss Gwen Lally gave an interesting lecture on 17th century Drama, and as an outcome several Institutes have made dramatic competitions a feature of this year's programmes, scenes from various plays being acted by different teams.

Group choral competitions have been held and a school for conductors at Guildford, led by Miss Ursula Nettleship and Mr. W. H. Leslie, was much appreciated.

## EAST SUSSEX (107).

*Chairman:* Mrs. Huddart, Merrifields, Haywards Heath.

*Secretary:* Miss D. Parr, Floretta, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath.

*Organisation.*—During the year one new Institute has been formed and one has lapsed.

*County Activities.*—Both Council meetings were well attended. At Hastings Miss Margesson, the retiring Hon. Secretary, was presented with a wrist watch, bureau and an illuminated address by the Institutes in recognition of her devoted work on their behalf for more than six years. A resolution passed at this meeting asking the County Council for help in providing "useful classes" for W.I. members, resulted in a grant of £150 towards the expense of classes to be organised by the Federation, subject to the approval of the Council. During the winter months, 27 courses of instruction have been held in Dressmaking, Cookery, Millinery, Basketry, and Artificial Flower making, the Federation bearing the expense incurred over and above the grant. It is hoped that the grant may be repeated next winter.

Three schools for W.I. officers and committee members were held at the beginning of the year. Members from 77 Institutes attended, and at the request of the Institutes the schools are being repeated next year, and the attendance made open to all W.I. members.

Two series of group meetings were arranged by the Executive Committee. At one the subjects were "Fellowship in the Institute", Programme Planning, and Handicrafts, and at the other "A Specimen W.I. Annual Meeting" was taken.

*Music.*—36 adult choirs and 13 children's choirs took part in the fifth annual Choral Festival. At the conductors' school in October 180 were present, representing 40 choirs.

*Drama.*—A School for Producers was held in February when 36 Institutes were represented. The entries for the second drama competition necessitated district "heats," with the final at Hastings. Three Shakespearean classes, one modern play, and a class for original plays (which produced three entries), were included.

*Handicrafts.*—The sixth Handicrafts and Produce Exhibition was held at Hastings in May. Exhibits, the number of which passed all previous records, were sent from 77 Institutes. Portslade, for the second time in succession, carried off the cup for the W.I. with the greatest number of awards, and Sayers Common took the cup—awarded for the first time—for the W.I. with the greatest number of awards in proportion to membership. The County Federation had a tent for the exhibition and sale of handi-



crafts at the County Agricultural Show, and also a Christmas Fair for the sale of handicrafts. Altogether the sum of £277 8s. 6d. was returned to the Institutes in respect of goods sold during the year. A successful handicrafts conference, at which Mr. Wedgwood from the Rural Industries Bureau was the speaker, was held.

*Agriculture.*—The Lewes W.I. Market reports continued success, an increased turnover, and a marked improvement in grading and packing. The receipts for the year amount to over £3,100 of which over £3,000 has gone back to the 27 Institutes and others using the market. A County Federation Agricultural Sub-Committee has been formed.

*Finance.*—The County Federation was not only able to do without financial help from the National Federation but to contribute to National funds at the suggested rate of £1 per Institute, in spite of having embarked upon the new expense of a salaried secretary. This very satisfactory position must be largely attributed to the loyal help given by Institutes to County funds.

*Institute Activities.*—The Institute reports show an increased use of sub-committees. Thirteen Institutes are responsible for the organisation of their village flower shows, eight have become corporate associates of the League of Nations, six have established National Savings Associations, and three report that the Carnegie Library has been established in the village through their efforts. One Institute was instrumental in getting improved heating and sanitation in the school. Many more classes are held in proportion to demonstrations. Several reports say "a great improvement in handicrafts is noticed," and very few Institutes have not been represented at County and National meetings. Support of the county hospitals is a marked feature. Music and folk-dancing are well established as favourite forms of recreation, while three Institutes have stool-ball and two have tennis clubs. Many report "a steady year of progress" and an increase in membership, while one Institute under "Special comment on the year's work," says sweetly: "appreciation of all the advantages given us and the work done by the County Federation."

#### WEST SUSSEX (72).

*Chairman:* The Hon. Mrs. Colvin, Shermanbury Grange, Henfield, Sussex.

*Secretary:* Miss Nash, 79A North Street, Chichester.

Five new Institutes were formed during 1925 and two lapsed, but one is to be re-started shortly. The total membership at the end of the year was 5,833.

*County Activities.*—The Annual Council meeting was held in May and a half-yearly Council meeting in October. During 1925

four sub-committees have been at work: Organisation, Education, Finance and Handicrafts. The group system works well, but one group has recently divided, as the Institutes were so far apart that two smaller groups were found to be preferable, and re-grouping is being discussed all over the county.

Two conferences have been held in each group this year. The spring conferences discussed the Annual General Meeting agenda, and a speaker on the Care of Mentally Defective Children was specially engaged. At the autumn conferences, Captain George Robinson from the Ministry of Agriculture spoke on Young Farmers' Clubs. Steyning Group held its 7th Annual Group Exhibition and Fête. A school for W.I. officers was held in Chichester in February. Miss Ferguson, General Secretary, N.F.W.I., Miss Buxton (Essex), and Miss Chamberlain (Hants) spoke and led the discussions. The school was much appreciated, and well attended.

A two days' School of Acting was held at Pulborough in July. It was most interesting and helpful, and gave a great stimulus to drama in the county. The arrangements were in the hands of a small sub-committee, who worked out an admirable programme and secured excellent speakers. Much of the advice given has since been acted upon.

A two-days' school for speakers and demonstrators was held at Pulborough in December. It was conducted by Miss Lucy Bell, on very practical lines, and filled a long felt want. Miss Bell was a most inspiring and encouraging teacher. Some part of the time was taken up in practise work by the students. There was also an admirable address by Professor Cock. Miss Armes (Chief Handicrafts Organiser, N.F.W.I.), criticised three short demonstrations given by members. The travelling collection of handicrafts has been enlarged, and is still growing. It has been borrowed for conferences and Institute meetings and is most valuable.

*Institute Activities.*—Reports from the Institutes have been supplied more readily than before; many of them are well drawn up, but some few still need help with this piece of work, and also in making out statements of accounts.

Continuous programmes, and those made out for 12 months are becoming more frequent. In many cases round table conferences have been held to assist in drawing up the programmes.

Several Institutes report that members have filled in gaps when speakers have failed. One reports that when a professional cook had to leave the neighbourhood after giving 2 lessons out of a course of 6, volunteers to supply the remaining four were found. Subjects chosen for lectures are varied; amongst others, Travel, literary and historical subjects, and the Care of the Teeth, by the County Medical Officer, aroused much interest.

*Other Institute Activities.*—Many Institutes report having helped in village activities. Parties for old folks, for children, useful presents to hospitals, and to poor London parishes, have been given. Several Institutes own their halls, or have co-operated with other organisations in building them. The Sussex County Hospital Provident Scheme, National Savings, Nursing Association, etc., have been helped in various ways. The West Sussex County Council has started a Carnegie Rural Library, and in many places the Institute is responsible for the books; in others, Institute representatives help the local librarian.

Handicrafts are being pursued quietly. One W.I. has started doll-making, but only a few run their handicrafts on a commercial basis.

#### WARWICKSHIRE (78).

*President:* The Lady Ilkeston, 23, High Street, Warwick.

*Chairman:* Mrs. Ewan Rotherham, The New Lodge, Ashorne Hill, Leamington.

*Secretary:* Miss Macausland, Federation Office, 7; Parade, Leamington, Warwickshire.

*Organisation.*—The Federation has now secured a permanent office.

Seven new Institutes have been formed during the year and one transferred to Worcestershire Federation.

Both Council meetings were well attended. The speaker in October was Miss Bouverie of the N.F.W.I. Finance Sub-Committee. The Music and Entertainment Sub-Committee arranged a short programme for part of the afternoon session at both meetings, which has helped to stimulate this side of Institute life.

Miss Simpson has visited the county twice; she addressed the V.C.O.s, the Town Association and Institutes, and held two group games demonstrations, which have been the greatest help to entertainment committees.

Group tours for lecturers on different subjects, including Women Police, Laws for Women and Children, and the League of Nations, have been arranged.

*County Council.*—The Federation is again indebted to the Warwickshire Education Department for a grant of £200. Fifty-nine Institutes have thus been enabled to have classes, which have been greatly appreciated.

*Agriculture and Horticulture.*—The Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committee has organised special lectures on the Production and Hygiene of Food and Drink, and is encouraging hut gardens and allotments.

The N.F.W.I. stand of dairy produce and handicrafts was awarded a silver medal by the Warwickshire Agricultural Society for general excellence, for the third year in succession.

*Handicrafts.*—The Annual Handicraft Exhibition and Sale was held at Warwick in the autumn. Miss Armes came to judge some of the exhibits. The work was shown in classes instead of on individual W.I. stalls as heretofore, and this proved most successful from an exhibition and educative point of view. The Silver Challenge Cup went to Old Milverton W.I. for a beautiful collection of Church embroidery. The famous Dunchurch carpet was finished at last and much admired. The work shows an increasingly high standard; thirty exhibits gained full marks.

The only basket exhibited at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, London, was sent by Warwickshire.

Miss Joan Drew's embroidery classes in July proved most popular and helpful.

The W.I. Handicraft Shop, which has moved to better premises at 2, Church Street, Warwick, has had a successful year.

*Music and Drama.*—Seventeen Institutes entered for the Leamington Musical Competitive Festival, Knowle and Dorridge and Kineton choirs being the winners in each class. Mr. Julius Harrison, the adjudicator, said: "This is a new development, and the way the classes are increasing both in numbers and quality is very gratifying. Keep this new basis of choral singing going, and you will be able to try your mettle against senior choral classes." We are emboldened to enter for the Birmingham Festival in 1926.

Twelve Institutes entered for the Shakespearian competition held in the spring, and Solihull carried off the prize. Mr. Crompton Rhodes, who adjudicated, congratulated the players on the standard of their performance.

Some Institutes have produced successful operettas and plays. A play-writing competition has been organised. Several Institutes are taking up folk-dancing.

*Community Work.* Meriden has bought hospital tickets to give away in the village. Stechford has sent flowers to the schools in the slums of Birmingham. Several Institutes have sent various gifts to the local hospitals, several have taken charge of their village War Memorials, many have had parties for old people and children, and two have started a benevolent fund.

*The Warwickshire Supplement to "Home and Country,"* which was started in June, is proving successful and is a most useful link between the Institutes and the County Federation.

The *W.I. Town Association* has continued its valuable work in supplying emergency speakers, undertaking the catering at County events, and has started a Dramatic Club to give entertainments to Institutes.

#### WESTMORLAND (45).

*Chairman*: Miss Cropper, J.P., Halhead Green, Kendal.

*Secretary*: Miss Punchard Kearnstwick, Kirkby Lonsdale.

*Organisation*.—One new Institute has been formed during the year. One Westmorland Institute has been transferred to Cumberland and three Yorkshire border Institutes, Austwick, Ingleboro' and Thornton-in-Lonsdale, have been transferred to Westmorland. One Lancashire Institute joins Westmorland for group purposes.

Miss Ward, a member of Shropshire Federation Executive Committee, gave an address on "An Ideal of Citizenship" at the Annual Council meeting held at Kendal on April 22nd.

Miss Leigh, National Federation Organiser, took a specimen monthly meeting at the half-yearly Council meeting on Oct. 31st.

Seventeen delegates from Westmorland attended the Annual Meeting of the National Federation, and delegates and Voluntary County Organisers also attended the Consultative Council at Darlington and the organisers' conference in London.

*Groups*.—In February, at the Kent Valley Group, Mrs. Mumford, M.A., gave an address on "Child Study." This group also arranged and carried out a successful flower show at Kendal in July, which was instructive and interesting; members of the staff of the County Farm helped with the judging, and by giving lectures on Horticulture, Poultry, and other subjects.

Three other groups held well attended summer meetings.

Miss Leigh visited the county in the autumn and spoke at each group conference on Programme Making. She also held a school at Kendal for officers and members of committees.

*Exhibition*.—A County Exhibition of village work and handicrafts was held at Kendal, and again at Appleby. The entries numbered about 400 and the standard of work was considered good by the judges.

*County Council Aid*.—The County Council have continued their grant towards educational work other than classes which are already recognised as grant-earning, and for help with evening classes. By this means eight Institutes were helped to defray the expenses of lectures by Miss Ward, Shropshire, on the British Empire, and evening classes, generally in Dressmaking.

The staff of the County Farm School have given lectures and demonstrations in agricultural and horticultural subjects, and the County Medical Officer and his staff have given lectures on health subjects.

*Other Lectures* have been given on a variety of subjects, including Art in the Home, Border Ballads, Farming in Ancient Days, a Mediterranean Island, Old Westmorland Customs and History, Village Life in the Tudor Period, the Everest Expedition, Greek Tales, Lady Anne Clifford, the History of Fashions. Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Kennedy and party visited a few Institutes in September and gave illustrated lectures on Folk Songs and Dances.

Demonstrations and classes have been held in Jute Rug-making, Cane Seating Chairs and Cane Trays, Soap-making, Loose Covers, Eiderdown-making, Rush Mats, Mattress-making, the making of household articles out of packing cases, and all the usual crafts, and also in Folk Dancing and First Aid.

*Other Activities*.—Various ways of raising money required for halls, huts and other objects and for Institute funds, have been tried and found successful. Help has also been given to the District Nursing Fund, to the Carlisle Infirmary, Leeds University, and the Ladies' Linen League, and one Institute made a house-to-house collection for preventive and rescue work in the Carlisle Diocese. Clothing, etc., was also sent to refugees in the Near East.

Other Institutes have taken charge of the village war memorial, protested with successful results about the cleaning of ash pits, provided a basket for waste paper in the street, given a lamp to a library which was started in the village at the instigation of the W.I. A few Institutes avail themselves of the Carnegie Library Scheme. Branches of the National Savings Association are continued. Among the co-operative efforts of the Institutes have been the making of a quilt, a rug, a bedspread, and a recipe book, the formation of a magazine club, and the organisation of a fish supply.

Christmas parties for village and members' children have been held. One Institute at its monthly meeting had an exhibition of all the crafts learnt by its members since its start, with prizes. Another gave scenes from the Mill on the Floss, and a few have given shadow plays.

#### WILTSHIRE (84).

*President and Chairman*: The Countess of Radnor, Longford Castle, Salisbury.

*Hon. Secretary*: Miss Impey, Sheldon Manor, Chippenham, Wilts.

*Organisation.*—Sixteen new Institutes were formed during 1925, making a total of 84. Two have been suspended by their own wish for one year and will, it is hoped, be re-formed eventually.

Most of the Institutes have been visited during the year by either a V.C.O. or a member of the Executive Committee; a great many availed themselves of the offer of help by means of such a visit at their Annual Meetings.

The Annual Council was held at Swindon in January and the special speaker, Miss Gildea of the N.F.W.I. Committee, gave a delightful address on "Education in Women's Institutes."

The Summer Council was held in conjunction with a Fête, for Women's Institute members only, at Longford Castle in June by the kind invitation of Lord and Lady Radnor, and the permission given to see the house and its treasures was much appreciated by everyone. The Mere Group of Institutes acted Shakespeare scenes in the garden, and the choirs from Institutes which had competed for the Musical Festival, sang as a combined choir.

Miss Leigh, N.F.W.I. Organiser, visited most of the group meetings in the spring, and gave useful help and suggestions. In November, schools for W.I. officers and committee members were held in four centres by Mrs. Nugent Harris, and members from 77 Institutes attended and profited by her lectures and advice on difficult questions.

*Competitions.*—The Mere Group held a competition in scenes from Shakespeare. The Devizes Group had a singing competition which was judged by Miss Ursula Nettleship, who also visited the Burbage and Pewsey Groups and gave a lecture on Music and Conducting.

The W.I. competition at the County Musical Festival was won by Seend.

A produce competition, similar to the one held at the Dairy Show, was held at the Wiltshire Agricultural Show and won by Longbridge Deverill W.I.

*Lectures.*—A lecture on "Milk and its Uses," by the County Council Dairy Instructress, has been very popular, and lectures have also been given by County Council lecturers on Poultry-keeping and Fruit-tree pruning.

*Other Institute Activities.*—The County Carnegie Library scheme has been the means of starting several new libraries among the Institutes. Some new choirs have been formed. One Institute has started a rabbit, fur and wool industry and another has made slippers for the school children of its own village and also for those of the next village.

Most Institutes have helped the County Hospitals and the Nursing Association by special money raising efforts and some have also made regular contributions of produce.

## WORCESTERSHIRE (69).

*President:* Dowager Countess of Plymouth, Hewell Grange, Redditch.

*Chairman:* Miss L. M. Hingley, Middle Hill Park, Broadway.

*Secretary:* Mrs. M. E. Berry, 51, Broad Street, Worcester.

*Organisation.*—Five new Institutes have been opened, and one re-formed after a lapse of three years.

The January Council meeting was addressed by Mr. Mills, from the L.N.U. Headquarters, on the League of Nations. This Council authorised the calling of a special conference on domestic subjects, and "Electricity in the service of Women," Rural Housing, and "The Home and its Fittings," were among the items discussed. The July meeting was addressed by Mrs. Warner on Co-operative Handiwork.

Mrs. Watt held three schools on "Leadership," "Opportunity" and "Programme Making," all of which were well attended and have proved of the greatest value. Mrs. Watt also visited several Institutes in the county.

*Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committee.*—The Farm and Garden Guild now has a membership of 182, coming from 34 Institutes, 17 of which have Guild secretaries. The Guild publishes its own Monthly Sale and Exchange List, and the Sub-Committee issues its own stud register, which this year contains the names of 60 first-rate breeding males, and a special section for dogs.

A small poultry show was organised specially for Guild members in connection with the Hadzor House Flower and Produce Show.

*Handicraft Sub-Committee.*—Miss Somerville undertook two courses of Stitchery Classes, which were well attended.

Inter-county tests between Worcestershire and Gloucestershire took place in samplers, hand and machine needlework, and knitting.

During the summer a shop in Broadway provided a market for the work of Institute members in the Evesham Group, and was most successful.

Malvern organised a Group Exhibition, which was not only a very successful financial venture, but has also proved a valuable means of encouragement for members to send work to the County Exhibition.

A Christmas sale of handicrafts was held in the Rest Room in Worcester. This was the first of its kind and was mainly experimental, but it evidently met a need, and next year will be organised on a larger scale.

Fur and raffia exhibits were sent to the Norfolk Exhibition, a rug to the Royal Show, and a large number of exhibits in artificial

flowers, furcraft, soft toys, basketry, raffia work, and decorative stitchery and leather work to the Three Counties Show, at which demonstrations were also given in Artificial Flower-making, Basket-making and Furcraft.

*Music, Dancing and Drama Sub-Committee.*—A Pageant of "Women's Work through the Ages," consisting of eleven episodes adapted from the scenario by Mrs. Jeffrey of the Warwickshire Federation, was performed. The pageant provided a valuable opportunity for co-operation amongst the Institutes, some of them acting in the episodes chosen, some sending choirs for the singing, or providing stewards, or sweets for sale. In fact almost every Institute was able to take some part in the performance, which was the money-raising effort of the year and was most successful from the financial, as well as from other aspects.

Music, dancing and drama competitions were held in November; the number of entries was small, but the Institutes which are strong in these subjects found the competitions useful.

*Institute Activities.*—Many Institutes have joined the League of Nations Union as corporate associates, and a good number have formed National Savings Association branches.

Efforts have been made for hospitals, nursing associations and infirmaries; one Institute provides a cot and locker at one infirmary, another has helped with a special effort the building fund for a new wing of the infirmary. One W.I. has a Thrift and Co-operative Society, one provided a water cowl for a village hall, which was without water, and many have helped in the raising of funds for building village halls.

*Lectures.*—There have been series of lectures on "The Work of Women Police," "Life in Belgium To-day," "How our Thoughts affect our Lives," and recitals from Dickens, Kipling and other authors by Miss Grantham.

*County Council.*—The County Council have provided a large number of lectures and demonstrations, including "Left-over Cookery," Household Odd Jobs, Fruit-bottling, Jam-making, General Gardening, and very popular Dressmaking classes.

#### YORKSHIRE (140).

*Chairman:* Mrs. Edward Shaw, Welburn Manor, Kirby Moorside, York.

*Secretary:* Miss A. K. Hamilton, Ouse Bridge Chambers, York.

*Organisation.*—There has been a steady increase in the number of Women's Institutes in the county, 26 having been started

during the year. Nearly all the Institutes in the county are now grouped and they are experiencing the benefits in the increased opportunities for obtaining lectures and demonstrations. There are signs also that some of the weaker Institutes have taken a fresh and stronger lease of life, although unfortunately two Institutes have lapsed.

Two Council meetings have been held at York—the one in April when the Executive Committee was elected, and the other in November when Miss Hadow (Vice-Chairman of the National Federation), gave an address on "Humour." Both these meetings were exceptionally well attended.

*Group Meetings.*—Miss Simpson (N.F.W.I. Organiser), addressed thirteen groups, and these meetings were attended by members from 81 Women's Institutes. Miss Armes (N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Organiser), addressed twelve groups, attended by members from 46 Institutes, and Miss Dennison (N.F.W.I. Assistant Handicrafts Organiser), addressed four group meetings.

*Home and Country.*—The circulation of "Home and Country" has more than doubled during the past two years, and contributions to the Supplement show a marked increase.

*Classes.*—The Institutes are now realising the extreme value of holding classes, and these have been a marked feature of the year's activities. The varied subjects treated have included the following: Basketry, Cookery, Leather work, Glove making, Cane Trays, Plain Needlework, Embroidery, Dressmaking, Millinery, Beadwork, Upholstery, Batik Dyeing and Paper Hanging.

*Music.*—Many Institutes have formed choral societies during the year, and in this way are meeting a need for music that has been apparent for some time.

*Drama.*—Awakened and sustained interest has been shown in the subject of the drama, culminating this year in a two days' competition in which 33 Institutes participated. Miss Gwen Lally acted as adjudicator, and she complimented Yorkshire in no unstinting way on the high standard of the performances. After very keen competition, the Challenge Cup presented by the President was won by East and West Ayton W.I. The Challenge Cup presented by the Executive Committee was won by the junior branch of the Burley-in-Wharfedale W.I. The original play written by Lady Sykes and performed by the members of Sledmere W.I. carried off the banner presented by Lady Bell.

In one section of the competitions, men friends were invited to take part, and competed along with W.I. members.

*Handicrafts.*—Two group exhibitions have been held—at Easingwold and Ormesby. Many successful members competed in rural industries exhibitions held at Pickering and Stokesley. The Ripon Industrial Society allotted one section in their exhibition entirely to W.I. work. The exhibits showed a higher standard of work than in previous years.

Institutes are realising the need for a meeting place of their own and several are actively engaged in planning and raising money for halls to be built; this year yet another completed hall has been added to those already existing, by the Rillington W.I. Whole-hearted enthusiasm on the part of the members of this Institute is shown in the completeness in every detail, not only of the furnishings of the hall, but also of the general appointments.

Resolutions passed at the 10th Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes held in the Queen's Hall, London, W.1, on June 16th and 17th, 1926.

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ALTERATIONS TO RULES.

**1. Election of N.F.W.I. Executive Committee.**

In N.F.W.I. Rule VIII. (A) after "Co-opted by the Executive Committee," insert "in the postal vote for the seventeen elected members, each Institute shall have one ballot paper, each County Federation three ballot papers, each member of the retiring N.F.W.I. Executive Committee one ballot paper—each ballot paper conferring the right to vote for not more than seventeen candidates."

**2. Position of Salaried Officials.**

N.F.W.I. RULES.

Rule IX., insert as a new paragraph, "No salaried official of the National Federation shall be eligible for nomination for the Executive Committee."

COUNTY FEDERATION RULES.

Rule VI. (2), alter the second sentence to read, "The Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary (if an Honorary Officer) and Treasurer, shall be elected from among the members of the Executive Committee."

Rule VII., add to the first sentence, "Salaried officials of the County Federation shall not be eligible for nomination as members of the Executive Committee nor as Honorary Officers."

W.I. RULES.

Rule VI., in the first paragraph delete all after "one-third of the membership," and substitute "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 Vice-President or Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) shall be elected from among the members of the Committee. The Vice-President or Vice-Presidents shall be elected either by the Institute or by the

Committee, according to the decision of the Institute ; the Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Committee. All officers and members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election."

Rule VII., add to the first paragraph, " Salaried officials of the Institute shall not be eligible for nomination as members of the Committee nor as Honorary Officers."

### **3. Omission of Women's Institute Meetings.**

Add to Women's Institute Rule VIII. (1) Meetings—" If special local conditions make it impossible for an Institute to hold meetings during certain months of the year, permission to omit more than one meeting must be obtained by the Institute from the County Federation, which must notify the National Federation at the end of each year of the number of meetings omitted."

### **4. Women's Institute Annual Meetings.**

That in Women's Institute Rule VIII. (2) Annual Meeting, after the words " November, December or January each year," the words " but in very exceptional local circumstances an Institute may hold its Annual Meeting in a different month by consent of its County Federation " be inserted ; that Women's Institute Rule V., Subscription, also be altered so that it reads as follows : " The Annual Subscription shall be two shillings to be paid by each member on joining the Institute and in the first month of each Institute year thereafter. If the Institute so decide, members joining in the third quarter of the Institute year may pay one-half subscription, the Institute being responsible for the full affiliation fee. Members joining in the last quarter of the Institute year and paying full subscription shall not pay again during the following year."

## **GENERAL POLICY.**

5. That this meeting approves the policy whereby the Executive Committee takes whatever action it may think advisable and in accordance with the views of Institute members, in furtherance of principles approved by resolutions at the Annual General Meeting, although this action may involve points which the Annual Meeting has not considered.

6. That this meeting considers that more latitude should be given in the choice of subjects to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting, and that resolutions should not be ruled out as long as they do not touch upon definitely party political subjects nor upon subjects regarded by any recognised section of the Institute membership as religiously controversial.

7. That this meeting authorises the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee to make arrangements to call an International Conference of Women's Institutes and similar organisations if desirable.



8. That Women's Institutes are reminded that, while it is essential that they should maintain their own organisation and consider the needs of their own members in the first instance, they should also consider their responsibilities as part of the community and make the most of the possibilities of co-operation with the men, in particular with regard to Choral and Dramatic Societies.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

### 9. League of Nations.

That this meeting strongly supports the principle of the League of Nations.

### 10. National Savings.

That this meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes desires to record its sympathy with and goodwill towards the National Savings movement and, while noting with satisfaction the number of Institutes now conducting Savings Associations, would urge all Women's Institutes to avail themselves of the facilities offered by the National Savings movement, and so give every village the opportunity of establishing a branch.

### 11. The Care of the Teeth.

That having regard to the scant attention paid in many homes to the state of the children's teeth, this meeting welcomes the offer of the Dental Board to provide speakers on this subject for Women's Institute Meetings, and urges that full use be made of all the facilities provided by the local authorities through the County and District Medical Officers.

### 12. Handicrafts.

That this meeting urges County Federation Handicraft Committees to ascertain the craft needs of the Institutes in their areas, with a view to increasing the supply of Teachers through the Guild of Learners, where a genuine demand for instruction exists; also to guide the Institutes in choosing their crafts by encouraging primarily those crafts which are of use in the home and so are likely to have a lasting value and interest for countrywomen; further, to make every effort to interest the girls on leaving school in the handicrafts side of Women's Institute work.

13. The original idea of Women's Institutes being one of mutual help and comradeship, this Annual General Meeting of the N.F.W.I. considers that, while Handicraft Teachers should have the best instruction possible, the fees for classes given in Women's Institutes should be kept low and within the means of all members, and that the policy of the movement with regard to Handicrafts should be chiefly handicrafts for the home.

#### **14. Health of the School Child.**

That this meeting draws the attention of the Women's Institutes to the recently published report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education on "The Health of the School Child," from which it appears that in certain areas the health of the rural child has not progressed at the same rate as that of the urban child ; further, this meeting would urge the Institutes to give their special attention to the suggestion contained in the report, that Women's Institute members may be of practical help in this matter.

**15.** That, in view of the increasing number of central schools for older children, Women's Institutes should inquire into the possibility of co-operating with Educational Authorities in making adequate arrangements for school lunches, for change of footwear and, where feasible, for the provision of a rest room.

#### **16. Women in Agriculture.**

That, in view of the urgent national necessity of maintaining women's interest in agricultural production and rural life, the Women's Institutes (or County Federations of Women's Institutes) address themselves to the task of securing adequate representation of countrywomen on the District Wages Committees, and that the Institutes undertake, by representations to the organisations concerned and other appropriate means, to spare no effort to secure that there shall be a due proportion of women members on these Committees.

#### **17. Rural Planning.**

That it is desirable that Women's Institutes should interest themselves in the subject of town and regional planning ; that Women's Institutes situated in any area for which a Town Planning Scheme is being prepared by the local authority, should take every opportunity of examining and expressing their opinions on the proposals and that in appropriate cases they should offer their services to the local authority with a view to assisting in the preparation of a civic or regional survey ; that, where no Town Planning Scheme is in preparation, Women's Institutes should, from time to time, consider whether a scheme is needed for any part of the area with which they are concerned, whether to facilitate the realisation of its resources, to preserve its amenities, to improve its communications or in any other way to influence its development on the best and most appropriate lines, and that where such need is found to exist and the local authority has taken no action, they should make representations to the local authority accordingly.

#### **18. Insurance.**

That this meeting urges all Women's Institutes to study the different methods of National Health and other Insurance, in the interest of members and the families of members.

PAMPHLET