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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMENS INSTITUTES



PAMPHLET

Eighth Annual Report

For the period ended December 31st, 1924.

Published by the National Federation of Women's Institutes,
26, Eccleston Street, London, S.W. 1.
Established in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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THE
8TH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

FOR THE
Period ended December 31st, 1924.

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

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

BIRMINGHAM :
TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, EDMUND STREET.

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Period ended December 31st, 1924

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MEMBERS

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MEMBERS
OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
1925-1926.

(Elected by postal vote, May, 1925.)

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

Miss Anderson.	Miss Gildea.
The Lady Margaret Boscawen	The Countess of Listowel.
Miss Bouverie.	Mrs. Heron Maxwell.
Viscountess Boyne.	The Lady Dorothy Meynell.
Miss Dora Christy.	The Dowager Lady Suffield.
The Hon. Mrs. Dalgety.	Mrs. Alfred Watt.
Mrs. Drage.	Mrs. Wintringham.

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS.

Mr. S. Bostock (representing the Agricultural Organisation Society).
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. Holland-Martin.
Mrs. Mary Morgan.
Mrs. L. E. Simm.

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 1925-1926.

OFFICE AND FINANCE.

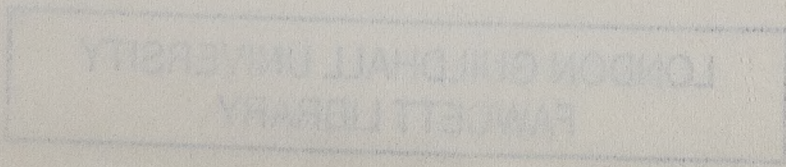
THE OFFICERS.	MR. DOBSON.
MISS BOUVERIE.	MISS GILDEA.
THE HON. MRS. DALGETY.	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.

ORGANISATION.

THE OFFICERS.	MRS. MUNRO.
MISS BLAGG.	MISS F. SIMPSON.
MISS BOUVERIE.	MRS. STAPLEDON.
THE HON. MRS. COLVIN.	DAME MERIEL TALBOT.
THE HON. MRS. DALGETY.	MRS. ALFRED WATT.
MISS GILDEA.	LADY WORSLEY-TAYLOR.
THE COUNTESS GREY.	

HANDICRAFTS.

THE OFFICERS.	MRS. HUGHES.
MISS ANDERSON.	THE LADY ILKESTON.
MISS DORA CHRISTY.	THE COUNTESS OF LISTOWEL.
MISS CUNNINGTON.	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.
MR. DOBSON.	MISS PESEL.
MISS JOAN DREW.	MISS ROWE.
MRS. FOSTER.	MISS SOMERVILLE.



EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND PUBLICITY.

THE OFFICERS.

VISCOUNTESS BOYNE.

THE LADY MARGARET

BOSCAWEN.

MISS BURGESS.

MISS DENEKE.

MRS. DRAGE.

MRS. NUGENT HARRIS.

MISS MACNAMARA.

THE LADY DOROTHY

MEYNELL.

MRS. MORGAN.

MISS SMYTHE.

MRS. TREVELYAN.

MRS. WATT.

AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL.

THE OFFICERS.

MISS BECK.

MRS. BLYTH.

MR. BOSTOCK.

MISS D. CHRISTY.

MR. DALLINGER.

MRS. FOSTER.

MRS. HERON MAXWELL.

MRS. RICHMOND.

MISS M. H. SIMPSON.

MRS. TREVELYAN.

MISS WARD.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM.

HOME AND COUNTRY.

THE OFFICERS.

VISCOUNTESS BOYNE.

THE HON. F. FARRER.

THE COUNTESS OF LISTOWEL.

MR. J. ROSS.

MR. J. ROBERTSON SCOTT.

MISS SIDGWICK.

THE DOWAGER LADY

SUFFIELD.

MR. THOMPSON.

MISS ALICE WILLIAMS.

MUSIC.

THE OFFICERS.

THE LADY MARGARET

BOSCAWEN.

VISCOUNTESS BOYNE.

MISS S. DREW.

MISS GASKELL.

MRS. WM. GEORGE.

MR. FAIRFAX JONES.

MRS. LAMPSON.

MR. W. H. LESLIE.

THE LADY ISABEL

MARGESSON.

MRS. WYTHES.

DRAMA.

THE OFFICERS.

VISCOUNTESS BOYNE.

MISS GILDEA.

THE COUNTESS OF LISTOWEL.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM.

The Eighth Annual Report

OF THE

National Federation of Women's Institutes,

for the Year ending December 31st, 1924.

WORK IN THE COUNTRY.

The first Women's Institute in England and Wales (Llanfair P.G., Anglesey) was formed in September 1915. 1924 has therefore seen the movement enter upon the tenth year of its history. To consider where its first ten years have brought the Institute organisation is to be amazed by a growth and development as rapid as it was unforeseen. At the end of another decade there will probably be another period of progress to look back on; yet for those in intimate, everyday contact with the work of the Institutes it is extraordinarily hard to see exactly where the changes and developments are taking place, month by month and year by year. The growth is the more difficult to measure now that the movement is leaving its childhood behind, so that its progress cannot so much be gauged by figures of membership and totals of Institutes as by the less definite signs which go to show more solid organisation, more thorough work, more business-like methods and a richer sphere of activity.

This year, in point of fact, although the total number of Institutes has been increased by 291, the number of new Institutes formed has been markedly less than the number formed last year. The National Federation Committee has for the past two years been anticipating the drop in the rate of formation which was bound to occur when the County Federations had formed Institutes in the majority of villages where there was a spontaneous demand. The drop has not been apparent before because there was considerable inequality in County Federation organisation, and during the past two or three years, while the more advanced Counties were forming fewer Institutes, the less advanced Counties began to increase their numbers rapidly. This year's figures would therefore seem to show that County Federation organisation is gradually becoming more level. Thirteen Institutes have this

year been officially closed by their County Federations; eleven have been temporarily suspended. On December 31st the total number of active Institutes which have signed the Rules is 3,223.

An effort to develop the social side of Institute life has perhaps been one of the most marked features of the year's work. Some account is given under the report of the Music Sub-Committee (p. 24) of the greatly increased interest in music and the growth of general singing at Monthly Meetings and Group Meetings. The organisation of Dramatic Competitions by County Federations is also becoming a usual feature of the year's work. Several Counties, too, have been taking up the question of how to improve the games at W.I. meetings and, by way of giving a lead, the National Federation has arranged two demonstrations in organised games—one at the Open Meeting held in Lincoln in connection with the Consultative Council, when delegates from a large number of counties were present, and one in London at the autumn Conference for Voluntary County Organisers.

Another subject in which Institutes are showing themselves more and more interested is the provision of village libraries. This year Carnegie Rural Library Schemes have been inaugurated in Bedfordshire, Cornwall, Devonshire, Flintshire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kesteven, Lancashire, Lindsey, Merionethshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, Yorkshire (East and North Ridings); and it is generally recognised that the Institutes have had a very strong influence in the majority of these counties in securing the adoption of a Library Scheme by the County Council.

Institutes are still finding the question of the provision of Halls a very great difficulty. The building and equipping of a hall can be a tremendous factor in drawing the members of an Institute together and in creating a keen spirit; on the other hand, to raise the funds necessary for a hall is a big task and the hall, when built, must be maintained. An Institute has been known to embark light-heartedly upon a building scheme, only to find itself left with a heavy debt and heavy maintenance charges to meet, so that it is forced to resolve itself into a money-raising body and its ordinary activities are necessarily crippled. The National Federation Committee would therefore urge Institutes firstly, not to undertake the building of a hall before making quite certain that there is no suitable meeting place in existence, and secondly, if building is inevitable, to secure if possible the co-operation of the men of the village and of any existing village organisations, so that a *Village Hall*—not an *Institute Hall*—is built. An Institute should only build a hall of its own if, for some special local reason, such co-operation is impracticable. The National

Federation Committee is prepared to supply any Institute with a model Land Conveyance and Trust Deed, either for a Village or an Institute Hall. The Committee has also this year taken legal advice on a number of the principal legal difficulties which arise in connection with Halls and can advise Institutes on these points.

Procedure and business-like methods are steadily becoming less of a difficulty to Institutes, and this is probably largely due to the fact that County Federations are concentrating on the organisation of tutorial classes for W.I. officers and committee members.

Finance, on the other hand, has perhaps loomed larger this year than in past years, for the National Federation grants to County Federations have had to be drastically cut down in view of the reduction in the Government grant. Most counties, therefore, have had to face simultaneously the reduction or termination of the grant, the necessity for increased support of the National Federation, and heavier county expenditure due to the natural development of the County Federation's work. There is still great disparity between the rates of expenditure of the different County Federations. An exact comparison is difficult to arrive at, but approximately the cost of organisation to the County Federation seems to vary between £11 and £2 (approximately) per Institute. Local conditions and the amount of voluntary work available are, of course, mainly responsible for this difference in scale, but there are still County Federations which would appear to be spending too little, and consequently doing too little, through fear of asking their Institutes for financial support, just as there are County Federations which would appear to be embarking on too lavish a rate of expenditure without fully considering the weight of the burden which they are thereby laying on their Institutes. The Executive Committee of the National Federation of Women's Institutes would urge County Federations very strongly to aim at establishing a money-raising scheme in the county, so that the ordinary County Federation running costs, together with the County's donation to the N.F.W.I., are covered by the County's share of affiliation fees and donations received annually from the Institutes. The proceeds of County Federation special efforts can then be utilised to enable the County Federation to achieve the position of having a year's income in hand at the end of each year; or, later, when the County Federation has reached this happy state, for special county activities which would not naturally fall within the ordinary running costs of the Federation, but are in the nature of capital expenditure.

WORK AT HEADQUARTERS.

The Executive Committee holds regular monthly meetings throughout the year. At each meeting it receives and considers reports from the different Sub-Committees and deals direct with such correspondence and other business as does not come within the province of work of any Sub-Committee.

This year the three members co-opted to the Executive Committee were the Hon. Mrs. Dalgety, Hampshire, Mrs. Morgan, Merionethshire, co-opted as a Welsh-speaking member on the recommendation of the Welsh Conference, and Mrs. Simm, who previously represented the National Federation of General Workers on the Committee, and was this year co-opted in her personal capacity so that the N.F.W.I. might continue to keep in touch with the Trade Union point of view. As was announced at the last Annual Meeting, Dame Meriel Talbot found herself at the beginning of the year unable to continue to serve as one of the representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture on the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee. The Ministry has appointed in her place Mrs. Trevelyan, who—as a member of the Northumberland Federation—is already familiar with Institute work and methods. The Committee is glad to report that Dame Meriel's long connection with Headquarters is not completely severed, as she has this year served as a member of the Organisation Sub-Committee.

Several changes on the Staff have taken place during the year. The Committee has to report with great regret the loss of Miss Parr as a Regular Organiser. Miss Parr is not leaving the movement altogether, but is undertaking the Secretaryship of the East Sussex Federation. She will be very greatly missed by the National Federation and by the many counties she has visited from time to time. Miss Parr's place is being filled by Miss Leigh, a graduate of the London School of Economics, who is herself a country-woman and has seen something of the work of Women's Institutes in Suffolk. Another new member of the N.F.W.I. staff is Miss Armes, who has been appointed to the post of Handicrafts Organiser. The work of the Handicrafts Department has increased very considerably during the year, and Miss Somerville, who has for the past three years acted as Hon. Secretary to the Handicrafts Sub-Committee and the Guild of Learners, is not able to continue to hold this office after the next Annual Meeting. The appointment of a salaried Organiser has therefore proved necessary, and has been made possible by an increase in the Special Handicrafts Grant (received through His Majesty's Development Commission), which the Executive Committee gratefully acknowledges. The Committee desires to take this opportunity of conveying its warmest thanks to Miss Somerville for the devoted and untiring service she has given voluntarily to the movement.

The Committee has also again to acknowledge most gratefully the voluntary assistance which it receives from many workers—in particular from Miss Lunniss, Assistant Editor of *Home and Country*, from Miss Huxley and Lady Elizabeth Pelham in the Literature Department, and from the numerous workers who from time to time assist the office in the somewhat monotonous but increasingly heavy tasks of addressing envelopes and despatching circulars.

Two Swiss Tours for Institute members were organised by the Executive this year through the agency of Sir Henry Lunn. They proved most successful, and a number of delightful letters were received at Headquarters from members of the two parties who were for the first time seeing something of a country other than their own. The tours will be repeated in 1925, and in addition two ten-day trips to the Belgian Coast and Bruges are being planned. It is hoped that Institutes will do all they can to make the tours known among their members. The Committee desires to express its cordial thanks to Sir Henry Lunn for the particularly generous terms on which he has made the tours possible for W.I. members.

The resolutions on public questions carried at the last Annual Meeting (*see* pages 31 to 34) were forwarded to the proper quarters immediately after the meeting. The Committee was able to follow up the resolution in favour of Widows' Pensions by joining with other organisations interested in this reform to press for the inclusion of some mention of a Widows' Pensions Scheme in the King's Speech. It is satisfactory to note that the Government has signified its intention of introducing a measure to give pensions to civilian widows with dependent children. The resolution expressing the gratitude of the movement to those County Councils which have given help to the Institutes within their areas, and urging all County Councils to make use of the educational facilities offered by the W.I. movement, was forwarded by the Executive Committee to the County Councils' Association, which circulated the resolution to the different Councils. The Committee arranged for the resolution on Courts of Justice, carried at the last Annual Meeting, to be moved at a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations (on which the N.F.W.I. is represented). The resolution was carried by the Consultative Committee and forwarded to the Magistrates' Association in the names of the societies which voted for it.

Preparations are now being made for the Ninth Annual General Meeting. The Committee is glad to be able to report that the cheap fare concession is being continued by the Railway Companies.

Details of the further work of the Committee during 1924 will be found in the following reports of the Sub-Committees.

OFFICE AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Office and Finance Sub-Committee is responsible to the Executive Committee for the supervision of the N.F.W.I. Finances and all matters connected with the N.F.W.I. staff. It has held ten meetings during 1924.

The receipts for the year have been made up of Affiliation Fees, Donations from County Federations and Institutes, Interest on the Endowment Fund, Profit on the Literature Department, Guild of Learners' Subscriptions, and the Government Grant.

The affiliation fees so far received for the financial year 1924-1925 amount to £2,007, and a further £500 (approximately) is still due. This will bring the total up to £2,507, approximately £200 in excess of the total (£2,321) received for the financial year 1923-1924. The donations received so far from County Federations and Institutes since April 1st, 1924, amount to £1,074, and a further £800 (approximately) has been promised before March 31st, 1925. It is not anticipated that this item will show a substantial increase over last year's total (£1,795), as the County Federations are in many cases still finding it exceedingly difficult both to meet their own running expenses without assistance and to contribute to the National Federation at the suggested rate. When every County Federation can pay its own expenses and also contribute annually to Headquarters' Funds at the rate of 15/- per Institute, the National Federation's financial problem will be solved; as there are still a large number of Counties unable to do this, however, it has been necessary again this year to ask for donations from the Counties at the rate of £1 per Institute.

The large increase of £1,612 has this year been made to the Endowment Fund. As over £500 was added to the Fund during 1924 in gifts from Institutes and friends, the N.F.W.I. was enabled to claim the £1,000 offered anonymously, and gratefully acknowledges this most generous gift. The Endowment Fund now amounts to £16,507 7s. 10d., and brings in an income of (approximately) £780, after deduction of Income Tax.

The profit on the Literature Department for the year 1923-24, which was paid over into General Funds as available for expenditure during 1924-25, amounted to £40 16s. 6d. As the Literature Department now pays not only the cost of publishing literature for sale and its full share of rent and salary charges, but also the cost of publishing all free literature, the result for the year may be regarded as highly satisfactory. The gross receipts of the Department between April 1st and December 31st, 1924, have amounted to £668 1s. 7d., as against £355 12s. for the same period in the previous year, and it is hoped that at the end of the present financial year the department will again show a profit.

Subscriptions to the Guild of Learners received since April 1st, 1924, amount to £22 6s. 6d.

The Treasury Grant received for 1924-1925 for general purposes is £1,195, as against £2,150 last year. The National Federation gratefully acknowledges this continued assistance received from the Government and the sympathetic consideration which the Federation's applications invariably receive from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Development Commission.

The estimated expenditure of the National Federation for the financial year ending March 31st, 1925, is £6,409, exclusive of the specially authorised expenditure of £856 for Handicrafts, for which a special grant is received. This estimate shows a reduction of £567 on last year's expenditure, and it is not anticipated that it will be exceeded. Of this £6,409, £3,509 is allocated for Headquarters expenses (*i.e.*, office rent and equipment, lighting, heating and cleaning, postage, stationery, printing, travelling expenses of Committee and Sub-Committee members, and Headquarters Staff Salaries) £2,900 is allowed for the expenses of organisation in the country (£750 for grants to County Federations, £1,675 for regular Organisers' salaries and expenses, and £475 for expenses of the Annual Meeting, Consultative Council Meetings, Schools and Conferences for V.C.O.s and County Federation Officers and exhibits at National Shows).

The alteration in the Entertainment Tax regulations this year made it possible for the National Federation again to approach the Customs House and to secure an official undertaking that W.I. subscriptions shall in future be regarded as exempt from tax. It has also been ascertained that an entertainment organised by an Institute for the benefit of Institute funds—National, County or Local—is entitled to exemption.

The National Federation has just learned that the Special Commissioners for Income Tax have again refused the N.F.W.I.'s application for exemption, in spite of the adoption of the redrafted Rules by the last Annual Meeting. The Sub-Committee is at present investigating the reasons for the Commissioners' decision, and is prepared to take further legal advice on the case.

Considerable difficulty has been found in defining exactly the outside objects which, under the redrafted rules, Institutes are at liberty to support from their general funds. After careful consideration the Sub-Committee came to the conclusion that it was impossible to give a general ruling as to what was covered by the "general object" of the Women's Institutes, but that donations should only be given to outside objects from Institute funds in cases where the Institute members receive *direct* benefit.

The Office and Finance Sub-Committee has this year drafted two leaflets which have been approved for publication. One—"What the money given by the Institutes helps the National Federation to do for them"—gives statistics showing the amount of work carried out for the Institutes by the N.F.W.I.; its reverse side is left blank so that County Federations may add similar County information before issuing the leaflets to Institutes. The other—"Hints to W.I. Treasurers"—contains a good deal of useful information for treasurers and, in particular, advice on how every Institute should prepare a budget at the beginning of each year. At the request of the Sub-Committee the Honorary Treasurer also drew up some helpful suggestions for County Federation Treasurers, and these were circulated.

ORGANISATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee arranges the work of the Regular Organisers and deals with all matters of organisation, thus keeping the County Federations and the National Federation in close touch with one another and co-ordinating the progress of the movement in different parts of the country. Any difficulties of organisation arising in County Federations which are referred to the National Federation, are considered in the first place by this Sub-Committee and reported on by it to the Executive Committee, as are also the applications for the transfer of Institutes from one County Federation to another, which may be made in cases of exceptional difficulty.

The Sub-Committee has met ten times during the year and the Regular Organisers have attended its meetings once a quarter. Two regular meetings of the Consultative Council have been arranged, the first at Winchester in June and the second at Lincoln in November; in February a Special Meeting was held in London to consider the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting. A Conference of representatives of the Welsh County Federations and members of the National Federation Executive Committee was also held at Shrewsbury in November, followed by a school for officers of the County Federations of Wales and the western half of England.

The Sub-Committee, as usual, at the beginning of the year considered the recommendations from the County Federations for the re-appointment of Voluntary County Organisers for 1924, and reported on these to the Executive Committee. The Sub-Committee also went into the question as to how best these recommenda-

tions can be arrived at by the County Federations and advised that, to obviate the difficulties of open voting at a Committee of which many of the V.C.O.s themselves are members, recommendations should be decided on by secret ballot, three-quarters of the possible votes securing the recommendation of a V.C.O. This plan was put before the Thirteenth Consultative Council, which approved it warmly.

Five ordinary schools for the training of V.C.O.s have been held, as well as two special schools for supplementary training. The numbers of students trained and the appointments made were as follows:—

REGULAR SCHOOLS.

Place of School.	No of Students attending.	No. of Students appointed.
WARMINSTER	13	12
LEICESTER	19	19
PRESTON	11	11
DARLINGTON	4	4
SHREWSBURY	13	11

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

Place of School.	Voluntary Organisers attending.
NOTTINGHAM	6
HUNTINGDON	6

At the end of the year 1924 the total number of Voluntary County Organisers was 333.

The Sub-Committee has re-drafted the syllabus of the Schools for training V.C.O.s and planned a new scheme for choosing students and for training and testing their knowledge after attendance at a school. The students are recommended for training by their County Federations which now take the whole responsibility for their selection; in selecting, counties may, if they wish, make use of a test paper drawn up for this purpose by the Sub-Committee. A further test paper has been compiled which all students must answer at home after the school, Mrs. Harris's recommendation to the Sub-Committee as to the appointment of the students as V.C.O.s being based both on their work at the school and on their written answers to the test paper, which are marked by an independent examiner.

The National Federation was able to set aside once more a certain sum of money for financing inter-county conferences for Voluntary County Organisers, and this year the conferences were arranged by the Organisation Sub-Committee as an experiment.

Ten such conferences were held, as follows :—

Place of Conference.	No. of V.C.O.s attending.	No. of County Federations represented.
Chester	7	5
Bedford	17	4
Gloucester	10	3
Lincoln	6	3
Plymouth	13	2
Aberystwyth	8	6
Bury St. Edmunds	12	2
Newcastle-on-Tyne	13	4
Dorchester	20	4
Oxford	30	6
London	16	6
Total	152	45

Members of the Executive Committee of the County Federation in which the Conference was held, also attended in most cases. The Conferences have been found so useful for the exchange of ideas and the pooling of experience that the National Federation has decided, on the Sub-Committee's recommendation, to allot a certain sum during 1925 for grants in aid of similar conferences organised by County Federations. It is felt desirable that the latter should take the initiative in the planning of the Conferences next year, where this is possible, although the National Federation is prepared to do so in cases where it is difficult for the counties to make the necessary arrangements.

The National Federation's Organising Staff during the year has consisted of Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser (part-time); Miss Parr, Organising Secretary; Miss Simpson and Miss Nightingale, Regular Organisers, and Miss Lumley, Regular Organiser for Wales (part-time since July). Miss Anson was in October definitely appointed by the Cumberland County Federation as its Secretary (for which post she had been lent by the National Federation during the preceding twelve months) and so resigned from the N.F.W.I. staff. Since the Welsh County Federations now have the help of an increasing number of Voluntary Organisers, who undertake the ordinary propaganda work, they no longer need the services of a full-time Regular Organiser for Wales, and it has therefore been arranged for Miss Lumley to work for the National Federation during six months of the year only. Miss Parr, as stated earlier, left the staff at the end of the year to take up the position of Secretary to the East Sussex County Federation, and has been replaced by Miss Leigh.

In addition to supervising the seven schools for the training of V.C.O.s, and to teaching at six of the Inter-county Conferences for V.C.O.s which have been organised by the National Federation, Mrs. Harris has, during 1924, visited the following counties :—

Bucks.	Gloucestershire	Oxon.
Cambs.	Hants	Shropshire
Carnarvonshire	Hunts.	Somerset
Derbyshire	Isle of Ely	Staffs.
Essex	Merionethshire	Westmorland

In addition to teaching at two V.C.O. schools, and at seven of the National Federation's Inter-County Conferences, Miss Parr has visited :—

Cambs.	Holland (Lincs.)	Middlesex
Cornwall	Isle of Ely	Northumberland
Dorset	Isle of Wight	Notts.
Gloucestershire	Kesteven (Lincs.)	Shropshire
Hants	Lancs.	Staffs.
Herefordshire	Leicestershire and	Worcestershire
Herts.	Rutland	

Miss Parr has acted as the representative of H.M. Development Commission on the Committee of the Campden Research Station, and has also organised the N.F.W.I. Exhibit at the Royal Show, Leicester.

Miss Simpson has assisted at two V.C.O. Schools and visited :—

Beds.	Derbyshire	Notts.
Berks.	Herts.	Oxon.
Bucks.	Isle of Ely	Somerset
Cambs.	Leicestershire and	Staffs.
Carnarvonshire	Rutland	Warwickshire
Cheshire	Lindsey (Lincs.)	Yorks.
Cumberland	Northants.	

Miss Nightingale has taught at three V.C.O. schools and has visited :—

Cardiganshire	Flint & Denbigh	Merionethshire
Carnarvonshire	Hants	Monmouthshire
Cheshire	Hunts.	Notts.
Devon	Isle of Ely	Shropshire
Durham	East Kent	Somerset
Essex		

Miss Nightingale was lent to Huntingdonshire and Monmouthshire County Federations for several weeks in order to give special help with county organisation. She has also attended a number of meetings and conferences in London on behalf of the National Federation.

Miss Lumley has worked only in Wales, visiting all the Welsh counties.

A table showing the number of days' help received by County Federations from the N.F.W.I. Organisers during 1924 appears on pages 28 and 29.

The Sub-Committee considers that one of the most important parts of the work of the Regular Organisers during the year has consisted in conducting the Tutorial Classes for W.I. officers and committee members which have been planned by many County Federations. Organisers can also give useful assistance at Group Meetings and Council Meetings and in County Federation Committee work. County Federations have the opportunity, when planning the programme for a Regular Organiser's visit, to arrange, in cases where they feel that it would be useful, for her to accompany a V.C.O. to propaganda meetings, formation meetings, or Institute meetings, particularly W.I. Annual Meetings.

A memorandum on the different types of W.I. Centre which are to be found, containing some suggestions as to the organisation of Centres, was drawn up by the Sub-Committee from material collected by Mrs. Kellett on its behalf during the previous year, and was circulated to County Federations.

The Organisation Sub-Committee was responsible for the compilation of the Glossary which was included in the 1924 Handbook, and has drafted a set of model Standing Orders for a County Federation Executive Committee for inclusion in the 1925 Handbook. The new Minute, Record and Index Books for Institutes were planned by this Sub-Committee, which has also revised the V.C.O. report form and drafted the leaflet "Specimen Programme and Hints on Programme Planning."

HANDICRAFTS SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Handicrafts Sub-Committee is responsible for advising the National Federation Executive Committee on all matters concerning handicraft, and for encouraging and maintaining a high standard of craft work throughout the country.

This year the Sub-Committee organised the National Federation Handicrafts Exhibition and so was able to test the practical results of its policy. Every County Federation was invited to send in exhibits under three divisions—Co-operative work, Cottage Furnishing and the General Section, the Handicrafts Committee

retaining the right of rejecting all work of poor quality. The result was an Exhibition of extraordinarily high standard on which the movement is to be congratulated. 1,037 exhibits were received from 50 out of 56 County Federations, and of these 756 were accepted for exhibition. There were naturally certain weak spots—noticeably in the furnishing section—but from the Sub-Committee's point of view the most satisfactory feature of the Exhibition was the high *average* of work reached. In the Co-operative Section—although co-operative work is a comparatively new Institute venture—particularly beautiful work was exhibited and much ingenuity shown.

The Sub-Committee was most fortunate in securing a beautiful setting for the Exhibition through the kindness of the Drapers' Company, which lent its historic City Hall to the Federation. The Sub-Committee desires to express its grateful thanks to the Company, and also to the County Federation helpers whose cheerful and untiring energies contributed greatly to the success of the Exhibition. As the hall was lent free of charge the Exhibition Account shows a satisfactory profit out of which the Sub-Committee has paid for the publication of a special Exhibition Supplement to "Home and Country," containing criticisms of the Exhibition from without and within the movement.

During 1924 the Guild of Learners has increased by 206 members, the present membership now being 830. The following tables show the members classified under counties and crafts:—

COUNTIES.

Bedfordshire ...	20	West Kent ...	80	Warwickshire	25
Berkshire ...	26	East Kent ...	5	Westmorland	5
Buckinghamshire	12	Lancashire ...	4	Isle of Wight	11
Cambridgeshire	8	Leicestershire and		Wiltshire ...	1
Cheshire ...	3	Rutland ...	9	Worcestershire	20
Cornwall ...	11	Lincolnshire ...	8	Yorkshire ...	39
Cumberland ...	14	Middlesex ...	12	Anglesey ...	2
Derbyshire ...	10	Norfolk ...	15	Breconshire ...	3
Devonshire ...	10	Northants ...	13	Cardiganshire...	2
Dorset ...	22	Northumberland	21	Carmarthenshire	1
Durham ...	27	Nottinghamshire	8	Carnarvonshire	15
Essex ...	77	Oxfordshire ...	16	Glamorgan ...	1
Isle of Ely ...	1	Shropshire ...	5	Merionethshire	10
Gloucestershire	21	Staffordshire ...	7	Montgomeryshire	4
Hampshire ...	24	Somerset ...	18	Monmouthshire	3
Herefordshire ...	7	Suffolk ...	25	Radnorshire ...	2
Hertfordshire ...	16	Surrey ...	45	Scotland ...	12
Huntingdonshire	16	Sussex ...	57		

CRAFTS.

Artificial Flower Makers ...	1	Dyers ...	10	Papier Maché Workers ...	3
Banner Makers	1	Embroiderers	184	Potters ...	5
Basket Makers	88	Furcraft Workers ...	41	Raffia Workers	70
Bookbinders ...	5	Glove Makers	245	†Rug Makers	22
Brush Bristlers	1	*Household Jobbers ...	48	Rush Workers	25
Carpenters ...	8	Knitters ...	34	‡Slipper Makers	16
Chair Caners ...	51	Lace Makers ...	23	Smockers ...	17
Cobblers ...	18	Leather Workers	95	Spinners ...	19
Crochet Workers	5	Milliners ...	15	Toy Makers ...	40
Designers ...	10	Needle Workers	54	Upholsterers ...	99
Dressmakers ...	35			Weavers ...	22

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

† Includes Mat Makers.

‡ Includes Slipper Coverers.

The Proficiency Certificate holders this year number 372 as against 300 last year, and the Certificated Demonstrators 78 as against 66.

The following Tests have been held during the year, a larger number of entries being received than in previous years and on the whole a higher standard of work attained.

"A" (Proficiency) Tests in: Basketry, Chair Caning, Design, Dressmaking, Eiderdown Quilt Making, Embroidery, Furcraft, Gloving, Knitting, Lace Making, Leather Work, Raffia Work, Rug Making, Rush Work, Smocking, Spinning, Tinkering, Hard Toy Making, Upholstery, Vegetable Dyeing, Weaving.

"B" (Lecture-Demonstration) Tests in: Basketry, Chair Caning, Dressmaking, Embroidery, Furcraft, Glove Making, Leather Work, Millinery, Plain Sewing, Raffia Work, Umbrella Covering, Upholstery.

The experiment of holding Handicraft Classes in London has proved successful, and made the renting of a permanent class room a necessity. Classes have been held in the following crafts at which 99 students have been trained:—

Furcraft	January 14th to 26th.
Upholstery	February 4th to 16th.
Leather Work	March 3rd to 15th.
Dressmaking	March 31st to April 12th.
Embroidery	May 5th to 17th.
Plain Sewing	May 26th to June 7th.
Millinery	June 16th to 20th.
Glove Making	July 14th to July 26th.
Smocking	December 8th to 12th.

One Area School has been held at Stafford where 15 students were trained in Embroidery and Upholstery. Eight students also attended a Furcraft Class at Hereford.

As has been stated earlier in the Report, Miss Somerville will not, after this year, be able to continue the office of Hon. Secretary of the Handicrafts Sub-Committee and Guild of Learners, although she still hopes to be closely associated with the handicrafts side of Institute work. The Sub-Committee desires to take this opportunity of expressing its great regret at Miss Somerville's resignation, and its recognition of the fact that much of the recent improvement in W.I. craftwork is due to her personal efforts and unflagging enthusiasm.

The appointment of Miss Armes as Handicraft Organiser has also been dealt with earlier in the Report. Miss Armes' work is already known to many craft workers who have attended N.F.W.I. Craft Schools at which she has taught. Her work for the Sub-Committee—in addition to the supervision of Craft Classes and Tests—will consist in visiting County Federations to speak on craft work, in assisting County Federation Handicrafts Committees, and in generally making known the many facilities which exist within the National Federation for the training of craft teachers.

The Loan Collection of Handicrafts is in process of being brought up-to-date. Many new specimens have been added during the year and the Sub-Committee desires to express its thanks to Lady Denman, Lady Julian Parr and Miss D. M. MacLaren for gifts to the Collection.

Early in the year a prize was offered by "Home and Country," for the best design for a "Home and Country" Presentation Banner. The Handicrafts Sub-Committee acted as judge in the Competition. Several designs were received, and the prize was awarded to that submitted by Miss E. L. Radford, Leicestershire Federation, which has been adopted officially by "Home and Country."

The Sub-Committee has met 10 times during 1924.

AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

This Sub-Committee has held quarterly meetings during the year, and in the course of its work has circulated to the County Federations information concerning the scholarships offered by the Ministry of Agriculture to the sons and daughters of farm workers and particulars as to the courses available at the different Farm Institutes. The Sub-Committee arranged for two Short Courses in Dairy Work, Horticulture and Poultry Keeping, specially planned for W.I. members, to be held at Seale Hayne Agricultural College (Devon), and at the Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture. The attendances at these courses were, unfortunately, not very

large, only eleven students taking the former and four the latter course. As there is some evidence, however, that a more widespread demand for such courses is growing, arrangements are being made to hold them again in 1925.

Reports have been received from County Federations on their agricultural and horticultural activities, and summaries of the most interesting points have been published in "Home and Country." The Sub-Committee has also drawn up and circulated a scheme for short talks on various agricultural and horticultural matters which might serve as an introduction to more technical lectures on these subjects by County Council experts.

On the recommendation of the Sub-Committee a delegate was appointed to represent the N.F.W.I. on the National Poultry Council and Parliament. A report on the World Poultry Congress, which was held in Barcelona in May 1924, was written by the National Federation's representative and published in "Home and Country." A Conference on Poultry Keeping in Orchards and Gardens was arranged in connection with the Twelfth Consultative Council at Winchester and a report issued.

The Sub-Committee has studied the position of the Young Farmers' Clubs movement, with a view to interesting Women's Institutes in the subject. Two representatives of the National Federation accordingly attended a Conference called by the Ministry of Agriculture, on the suggestion of the Sub-Committee, to consider the future of the Clubs, the organisation of which has since been taken over by the Ministry, in accordance with the wish expressed by the bodies represented at the Conference.

The Dairy Farmers' Association, at the request of the N.F.W.I., included in the schedule of the Dairy Show three special classes open only to W.I. members, planned on suggestions submitted by this Sub-Committee.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW COMMITTEE.

A small Sub-Committee consisting of representatives of the Handicrafts and the Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committees was appointed to make arrangements for an N.F.W.I. Exhibit at the Royal Show held at Leicester in July. This Committee met five times.

In addition to a special exhibit of handicraft work arranged by Headquarters, the counties of Derbyshire, Kesteven, Leicestershire and Rutland, Northants, Notts. and Warwickshire contributed exhibits of craft work and produce. Each of these counties contributed £5 towards the general expenses, and a great deal of help was given by the Leicestershire and Rutland, the Derbyshire, the Notts., the Northants., and the Warwickshire Federations in the provision

of stewards. Demonstrations in Spinning, Glove Making, Fur work and Leather work were arranged by the National Federation. The attendance at the 1924 Royal Show was not so large as in previous years. The W.I. Exhibit was nevertheless felt to be of great propaganda value and the National Federation hopes to be able to exhibit again at Chester in 1925.

EDUCATION, LITERATURE AND PUBLICITY SUB-COMMITTEE.

During 1924 this Sub-Committee has met ten times. The publication of all literature issued by the National Federation comes under the supervision of this Sub-Committee, which has in the course of the year brought several of the old leaflets up to date for re-issue. A complete list of all the National Federation's publications during the year will be found on p. 29. The Sub-Committee has brought out the 1924 Handbook, containing the rules as revised by the Eighth Annual General Meeting; the Handbook was increased in size by the addition of a glossary and fuller information on various subjects, but is sold at the same price as before. Five new leaflets have been published: two in the Village Library Series (No. 2 on "Reading Aloud" and No. 3 on "Study Circles"); a "Specimen Programme with Hints on Programme-Planning" (drafted by the Organisation Sub-Committee, to replace two old leaflets); "What the Money given by the Institutes helps the National Federation to do for them" and "Institute Budgeting and Hints to Treasurers" (both drafted by the Office and Finance Sub-Committee).

Arrangements have also been made for the National Federation to act as distributing agent for two leaflets drawn up especially for Women's Institutes: these are "A Short Talk on War and how to do away with it," published by the League of Nations Union, and "Leaves from a Country Note-book," a selection of verse and prose for reading aloud at Institute meetings, which the Clarendon Press has published, and which may be followed by other similar publications if there seems to be a demand for them. The Sub-Committee also arranged that 1,000 free specimen copies of a leaflet, "The Nation's Mothers," generously supplied by the National Adult School Union, should be distributed, through County Federations, to members specially interested.

Organisers' Report forms have been revised and printed, to be sold to County Federations for the use of V.C.O.s. W.I. Rules, as revised by the Eighth Annual General Meeting, have again been issued on cards, suitable for hanging on Notice Boards, at the reduced price of 6d. post free. In response to requests, W.I. writing blocks with ruled lines have been issued, in addition to those with plain paper, and the envelopes to match are now printed with the letters "W.I." in one corner. The profit on the

sale of W.I. badges (which was taken over last year by the Sub-Committee), has made it possible to supply badges of better quality at the same price.

The Sub-Committee has issued, to take the place of the old Model Minute and Record Book, a set of three books in uniform binding, a Minute Book, Record Book and Alphabetical Index, the last to be used for indexing the minutes or for members' names and addresses. The first two books contain hints on the keeping of minutes and records respectively.

The organisation of publicity in connection with the Eighth Annual General Meeting was undertaken, as before, by this Sub-Committee; a short account of the W.I. movement was circulated to the Press with invitations to the meeting, with the satisfactory result that about 150 press notices appeared in over 100 papers.

The Sub-Committee arranged for the representation of the National Federation at a conference on the educational value of Broadcasting, which was convened by the British Institute of Adult Education. An experimental educational programme for Broadcast Talks was drawn up and was carried out by the British Broadcasting Company during October, November and December. Institute members have been asked to send in to the National Federation their criticisms on this programme, but no criticisms have so far been forthcoming.

The Sub-Committee arranged with Mr. Orr, a well-known authority on agricultural matters and secretary of the Kent Rural Community Council, to conduct a correspondence course in Rural Social History, for which 22 students entered. Mr. Orr reported favourably on the standard of work achieved.

Information was collected from County Federations as to the use in Institutes of Certificates or Rolls of Honour as awards for competitions, in place of prizes. Very little evidence as to the use of certificates or rolls of honour by Institutes was forthcoming, but, incidentally, some delightful specimens of County Federation certificates were received and handed over to the Handicrafts Sub-Committee, which arranged for them to be exhibited at the Thirteenth Consultative Council meeting at Lincoln.

MUSIC SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee meets quarterly, its function being to encourage and meet the demand for music in the Institutes. It includes among its members representatives of the English Folk Dance Society and of the British Federation of Music Competition Festivals.

In March 1924 the Sub-Committee organised in London a one-day school for students from the southern County Federations who had had experience in conducting village singing classes, and were willing to assist in training other conductors in their own

counties. The instruction at the school was undertaken by Mr. W. H. Leslie and 32 students attended from 18 County Federations. The Sub-Committee planned a second school on the same lines for the north and this was arranged to take place at Cober Hill during the autumn but, as insufficient applications from students were received, the school was of necessity cancelled.

The London School seems to have acted as a great stimulus to the idea, which had already been tried in one or two Federations, of organising a school in the county for conductors of village singing classes, and during the year 1924 nine different County Federations arranged such schools or classes.

At the end of the year the Sub-Committee brought up to date its information on the musical activities of the counties. It is evident that all over the country music is taking a much more prominent part than hitherto in Institute life. The entries of W.I. choirs for County Federation Competitions and County Festivals have greatly increased, and singing has not only become a feature of W.I. monthly meetings, but also of Group Meetings and Councils. One Cornish Institute arranged a production of Glück's opera "Orpheus" during 1924, and is now rehearsing Purcell's "King Arthur." The Music Sub-Committee would draw the attention of County Federations to the value of securing the co-operation of the Local Education Authority and the County Festival Committee in their musical activities.

The Music Sub-Committee arranged for the National Anthem and Sir Hubert Parry's setting of Blake's "Jerusalem" to be sung at the 1924 Annual Meeting. The Sub-Committee is greatly indebted to Sir Walford Davies for having specially arranged "Jerusalem" for a string orchestra, and to Mr. Leslie for having secured an orchestra and conducted at the meeting, as well as for his kindness in advising and assisting the Sub-Committee throughout the year.

The Sub-Committee is at present engaged on a scheme for publishing, at a really moderate price, a collection of Folk Songs suitable for W.I. meetings.

"HOME AND COUNTRY" SUB-COMMITTEE.

The "Home and Country" Sub-Committee has met four times during the year. The magazine has been established on sound business lines. It is absolutely self-supporting and has this year handed over a profit of £193 to the National Federation.

The aim of the Sub-Committee, however, is not only to show a profit on each year's work, but to improve the magazine in every way. Consequently, attention has been given to the publication of articles by well-known writers on subjects of general interest, and to the provision of more and better illustrations. The magazine has grown to 40 pages and the Editor still has difficulty in finding space for all the contributions from Institutes.

In the autumn it was found necessary to publish a second edition of "Home and Country Arts," by Professor Lethaby. It was decided that part of this new edition should be bound in cloth, copies to be sold at 2/6 each. Copies in the same artistic paper cover in which the first edition was bound can still be had at 1/- per copy.

A copper urn, or its equivalent in value, was presented to each of the following Institutes in which 100 per cent. of the members took "Home and Country" for 1924:—

Bowden Hill	Wilts.	Cheque.
Digswell	Herts.	Clock.
Yelling	Hunts.	Urn.
Longdon	Staffs.	Urn.
Meppershall	Beds.	Urn.
Over Knutsford	Cheshire	Urn.

Banners were presented to the following Institutes in which 75 per cent. of the members took *Home and Country* for 1924:—

Hale, Hants	Semer, W. Suffolk
Rattlesden, W. Suffolk	Renhold, Beds.
Backwell, Somerset	Westgate, Durham
Burford, Shropshire	Great Paxton, Hunts.
Bleasby, Notts.	Leckhampstead, Berks.

The Sub-Committee is pleased to report that Miss Lunniss still acts as Honorary Sub-Editor. The magnitude of her services is best known to the Office. The Sub-Committee wishes to record its gratitude to Mr. Robertson Scott and to Mr. R. W. Thompson, Hon. Treasurer, for professional expert help and advice and to the County Press Correspondents for their loyal co-operation.

The following figures give the circulation in 1924:—

January	...	...	...	...	29,259
February	...	...	...	...	29,770
March	...	...	...	...	30,899
April	...	...	...	...	32,824
May	...	...	...	...	33,020
June	...	...	...	...	33,218
July	...	...	...	...	33,427
August	...	...	...	...	33,696
September	...	...	...	...	33,805
October	...	...	...	...	34,276
November	...	...	...	...	34,285
December	...	...	...	...	34,851

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

The National Federation Committee has this year been represented on the National Council of Social Service, the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union, the National

Poultry Council and Parliament, the National Baby Week Council, and the Library and Advisory Committees of the Challenge Book and Picture Store which now manages the Women Workers' Library. The Committee also sent a representative to the International Housing Congress which met in London during the summer.

Through its representation on the National Council of Social Service, the National Federation is kept in touch with the movement towards co-ordination of effort in the country which has resulted in the formation of a number of Rural Community Councils in different counties and of Village Social Councils in the villages.

The Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations has during the year discussed and voted on a number of public questions on which the Women's Institute Annual Meeting has expressed an opinion, e.g., the Guardianship of Infants Bill, the Legitimacy Bill and Widows' Pensions. By remaining represented on the Consultative Committee, the National Federation is enabled to join with other women's organisations in pressing for the reforms in which it is interested.

The League of Nations Union continues to supply speakers for many Women's Institute Meetings, and a number of Institutes have joined the Union as Corporate Associates in order to keep in touch with its work. The National Savings Association is also always ready to supply speakers, and the British Red Cross and Order of St. John carries on its scheme of courses of classes in "How to keep well," which may be applied for by Institutes.

This year, through the kindness of Sir Horace Plunkett, the National Federation was able to arrange for invitations to be sent to a number of prominent Institute members, likely to be interested, to attend an Imperial Conference on Agricultural Co-operation organised at Wembley by the Plunkett Foundation. The discussions were most stimulating, and the value of the Conference was felt to be so great that the Plunkett Foundation is establishing a permanent Bureau to facilitate the exchange of information on co-operation throughout the Empire.

The National Federation was unfortunately unable to entertain the idea of exhibiting at Wembley, owing to the great expense involved. It was, however, possible to give a certain amount of assistance to County Federations and Institutes which were planning expeditions to Wembley, by passing on information with regard to hostel accommodation and the cost of guides.

The negotiations for the establishment of an International Federation of Women's Institutes and kindred bodies have for the time being broken down. Although the Committees of the

N.F.W.I., the Canadian Federation and the Scottish Federation reached agreement on the principles contained in a draft constitution for an International Federation, the Cercles des Fermières in Belgium and France did not feel that so formal a tie between the different countries was yet desirable. As both the Canadian Federation and the N.F.W.I. consider it best to postpone the inauguration of an International Federation until the co-operation of the European countries can be secured, proceedings are temporarily at a standstill. The N.F.W.I. remains in friendly communication with Canada and Scotland, and had the pleasure this year of arranging for one of the Scottish Organisers to spend three weeks at Headquarters to study something of the organisation of the English and Welsh Institutes. The Canadian Federation has invited the Chairman of the N.F.W.I. Committee to attend its Biennial Meeting in 1925, but unfortunately she is unable to accept the invitation.

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 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, Associate Members of the Village Clubs' Association 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.*

NUMBER OF DAYS' HELP RECEIVED BY COUNTY
FEDERATIONS FROM NATIONAL FEDERATION
ORGANIZERS DURING 1924.

County.	No. of Days.	County.	No. of Days.	County.	No. of Days.
Anglesey...	4	Carnarvonshire ...	20	Essex ...	9
Bedfordshire ...	7	Cheshire ...	14	Flint and Denbigh	19
Berkshire ...	1	Cornwall ...	7	Glamorgan ...	23
Brecon ...	5	Cumberland ...	1	Gloucestershire ...	13
Buckinghamshire	25	Derbyshire ...	6	Hampshire ...	8
Cambridgeshire	24	Devon ...	13	Herefordshire ...	2
Cardiganshire ...	24	Dorset ...	3	Hertfordshire ...	2
Carmarthen ...	20	Durham ...	5	Huntingdonshire	30

County.	No. of Days	County.	No. of Days.	County.	No. of Days.
Isle of Ely ...	8	Monmouthshire...	27	East Suffolk ...	0
Isle of Wight ...	13	Montgomeryshire	14	West Suffolk ...	0
East Kent ...	10	Norfolk ...	0	Surrey ...	0
West Kent ...	0	Northamptonshire	34	East Sussex ...	0
Lancashire ...	5	Northumberland	1	West Sussex ...	2
Leicestershire and Rutland ...	23	Nottinghamshire	13	Warwickshire ...	21
Holland (Lincs.)	1	Oxfordshire ...	13	Westmorland ...	5
Kesteven (Lincs.)	3	Pembroke ...	11	Wiltshire ...	0
Lindsey (Lincs.)	16	Radnorshire ...	11	Worcestershire ...	11
Merionethshire ...	8	Shropshire ...	12	Yorkshire ...	2
Middlesex ...	2	Staffordshire ...	31		
		Somerset ...	19		

NEW PUBLICATIONS OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
DURING 1924.

ORGANISATION

Specimen Programme and Hints on Programme Planning ...	1d. each, 5/-	100
Institute Budgeting and Hints to W.I. Treasurers ...	1d. each, 6/-	100
What the Money given by the Institutes helps the National Federation to do for them ...	Free Leaflet	
Handbook, 1925 (containing Glossary) ...	6d. each	
Seventh Annual Report (sent free to every County Federation and Women's Insti- tute) ...	1/-	
Organisers' Report Form ...	4d. per dozen	

VILLAGE LIBRARY SERIES

No. 2. On Reading Aloud ...	1d. each
No. 3. On Study Circles ...	1d. ,,

INSTITUTE STATIONERY

Minute Book (with notes on committee work) ...	1/9 each
Record Book (with notes on the keeping of records) ...	1/3 ,,
Alphabetical Index ...	1/3 ,,

Eighth Annual General Meeting

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

on
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MAY 20th & 21st, 1924.

Chairman : THE LADY DENMAN.

MISS BOUVERIE moved and MISS FOSTER (Beds) seconded the appointment of the following Tellers and Returning Officers:—

TELLERS.

Miss Anson, Miss Erle Drax, Miss Hay, Mrs. Molesworth, Miss Nightingale, Miss Rhodes, Miss Simpson.

RETURNING OFFICERS.

The Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Carried.

AUDITORS.

MRS. RAMSEY moved, and MRS. MORGAN seconded:—

That Messrs. Knox, Cropper & Co., Spencer House, London, E.C., be appointed auditors for the coming year.

Carried.

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

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

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN moved, and MRS. WARNER (Berks) seconded the adoption of the Annual Report.

Carried Unanimously.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET.

MRS. AUERBACH moved and MISS CHAMBERLAIN (Hants) seconded the adoption of the Annual Financial Statements and Balance Sheet.

Carried Unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE RULES.

The adoption of a complete redraft of National Federation, County Federation and Women's Institute Rules was moved by LADY GREY on behalf of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, and seconded by MRS. HARCOURT WILLIAMS on behalf of the Cornwall Federation.

Amendments to the redraft were *carried* dealing with the following points:—absorption of villages under an extension of boundaries scheme, election of County Federation Officers, number and nature of W.I. monthly meetings, representation of County Federations upon Women's Institute Centre Committees.

The redraft as amended was *adopted unanimously.*

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

MISS WARD (Acton Burnell, W.I.) moved and LADY DOROTHY MEYNELL (Staffs.) seconded the following resolution, which, after amendment, was *carried nem. con.*:—

That this Meeting affirms the maintenance of peace to be the world's greatest present need, and the vital concern of all women, and therefore commends the study of the work of the League of Nations to all Women's Institutes.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

MRS. ARTHUR BROWN (Newport W.I.) moved, and MRS. FREER (Harlow W.I.) seconded:—

That this meeting urges that the N.F.W.I. call upon the Government to introduce legislation giving pensions to civilian widows with dependent children, free from the taint of Poor Law relief.

Carried.

VACCINATION.

DR. CARLING (Oxon.) moved, and MRS. WARNER (Berks.) seconded the following resolution.

That this meeting considers it desirable to bring the question of vaccination before Women's Institute Meetings, with a view to studying it on its merits.

The previous question having been moved and *lost*, the resolution was *carried.*

DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

The following resolution was moved by MRS. MORGAN. (Merioneth), seconded by MRS. GORDON WILLIAMS and *carried unanimously.*

That the Women's Institutes be urged to approach their Local Education Authorities and ask them to endeavour to ensure instruction for all girls of twelve years of age and upwards, in plain cooking and such other domestic subjects as can be conveniently coupled therewith; further that the N.F.W.I. be asked to emphasize to the Board of Education the importance which the Women's Institute movement attaches to this matter.

HOUSING.

MRS. AUERBACH moved, and MISS BOUVERIE seconded the following resolution:—

That where Women's Institutes have ascertained that their local Housing Committees have failed to take steps to deal with the housing shortage, or where practical schemes are held up by other than unavoidable delay, Women's Institutes should press upon their Local Authorities the urgency of doing all in their power to promote the building of small houses as quickly as possible.

Carried.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

MRS. HARCOURT WILLIAMS moved, and MRS. ROWLAND (Staffs.) seconded the following resolution, which was *carried unanimously*:—

That this meeting expresses its cordial appreciation of the valuable assistance given to the Institute movement by those County Councils which have aided the W.I.s in their areas by providing lectures, demonstrations and educational facilities generally, and would urge all County Councils to make full use of the opportunities for the development of adult education in rural areas afforded by the Women's Institute Movement.

COURTS OF JUSTICE.

The following resolution, moved by MRS. TANSLEY LUDDINGTON (Ely W.I. Centre), and seconded by MRS. WESTROPP (Wilburton W.I.), was also *carried unanimously*.

That the Clerk to the Court be asked to notify Women Magistrates when cases affecting women and girls are coming on so that if possible they should attend; and that, in the absence of a woman magistrate, a responsible woman should be in court in any cases, other than those of a trivial character, where the presence of women or girls or children under fourteen years of age is necessary, either as principals or as witnesses.

PRESS REFORM.

LADY MARGARET BOSCAWEN moved, and INGEBORG LADY MOLESWORTH ST. AUBYN (Cornwall) seconded:—

That this meeting strongly supports the provisions of the Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Bill, 1924, and in the interests of public morality urges the Government to re-introduce the Bill and to give it early facilities.

An amendment to this resolution was moved on the ground that the Bill as drafted was not easy to put into operation and interfered with the liberty of the Press. The amendment was, however, *lost* and the resolution *carried*.

WOMEN POLICE.

MISS GOLDINGHAM (Kidlington W.I.) moved, and MRS. GRAHAM (Uppingham W.I.) seconded a resolution on the subject of Women Police which, after amendment, was *carried* in the following form:

That Women's Institutes be asked to use their influence to secure an increase in the number of Women Police throughout the country, and that a Woman Police Official be attached to each Police Station where there are cells.

W.I. DOMESTIC BUSINESS.

MISS GILDEA moved, and MRS. HOBBS (Oxon.) seconded the following resolution, which was *carried unanimously*:—

That Institutes be advised, after deciding upon the matter of their resolutions for the Annual Meeting Agenda, to consult their County Federation or the appropriate Committee at Headquarters, upon the form in which the resolution is sent in.

The following resolution was moved by MRS. GREENALL (Kesteven) and seconded by MRS. STURDY (Dorset):—

That this meeting wishes to draw attention to the complicated and difficult subjects upon the Agenda of the Annual Meeting and asks the Executive Committee to evolve some scheme whereby a guarantee is given that the individual Institute has considered each item on the Agenda and instructed its delegate how to vote, so that when resolutions are passed as from nearly 3,000 W.I.s, this may really be the case, and not that the resolution is carried by default.

After considerable discussion and amendment the resolution was finally *carried in the following form*:—

That this meeting wishes to draw attention to the complicated and difficult subjects on the Agenda of the Annual Meeting, and urges County Federations to make a special point of assisting Institutes to grasp the principles involved, so that they may understand how to instruct their delegates.

The following resolution, moved by MRS. CLOWES, and seconded by MRS. DRAGE, was *carried unanimously*.

That Lady Denman, Miss Hadow and Mrs. Auerbach be appointed Trustees to hold on behalf of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, all capital investments of the National Federation.

The following resolution, moved by LADY DENMAN, and seconded by MRS. STOBART, was very fully discussed.

That it be ruled that Parliamentary candidature of salaried officials of either the N.F.W.I. or of County Federations, is not permissible.

The two following amendments were *lost*:—

Delete all after "that" and substitute: "in the event of officers or salaried officials of either the N.F.W.I. or of a County Federation accepting Parliamentary candidature, their occupation of their offices shall be considered suspended until after the election, and that, if they are elected, their office shall thereupon be declared vacant."

After the word "salaried," insert "or unsalaried."

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

The following resolution was moved by MRS. HERON MAXWELL, seconded by MRS. FOSTER, and *carried unanimously*:—

That as the practice of handicrafts has brought happiness and new interests into the lives of Institute members, this meeting expresses its satisfaction in the general progress made, and the great improvement effected in the standard of work.

A resolution moved by MISS CLOUTING (Henlow W.I.), and seconded by Miss COOMBS (Stanbridge and Tilsworth W.I.), after amendment was finally voted on in the following form and *lost* :—

That in view of the Women's Institutes being constantly encouraged to introduce and make their members proficient in various handicrafts, the N.F.W.I. be asked to consider the possibility of opening a Sales Depôt in the West End of London, with a view to disposing of the work done by members, and to keeping Women's Institutes advised as to the various classes of work for which there is from time to time most demand, goods not to be sold under current market prices.

The following resolution was also *lost* :—

That this meeting is of opinion that Women's Institutes should stop basket making, with the exception of raffia, as it is detrimental to the Blind Basket Trade.

The resolution in an amended form, moved by LADY BOYNE and seconded by MRS. SIMM was, however, *carried* :—

That this meeting recommends all County Handicrafts Sub-Committees to get into touch with the Area Organiser for the Blind in their district with a view to discussing the possibilities of co-operation.

The thanks of the Annual Meeting are due to the Right Hon. Noel Buxton, Minister of Agriculture, who addressed the meeting and expressed the satisfaction of the Ministry with the progress which the movement is making; also to Sir Henry Hadow, who gave a delightful talk on "Music for Country People."

Special Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

43, UPPER GROSVENOR STREET, W.1.

ON

FEBRUARY 15th, 1924.

Chairman : THE LADY DENMAN.

PRESENT.

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

Delegates from thirty-two County Federations.

The Resolutions received for the Annual Meeting were considered in detail and recommendations made to the Agenda Committee of the N.F.W.I. as to which resolutions should be included in the Agenda.

Twelfth Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

THE WOLVESEY PALACE, WINCHESTER,

ON

JUNE 24th, 1924.

Chairman : THE LADY DENMAN.

PRESENT.

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

Delegates from thirty County Federations.

FINANCE.

The following resolutions were carried as recommendations to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee :—

(1) That a circular should be sent to County Federations explaining exactly how the new Rules affect the giving of donations by Institutes to other organisations with particular reference to the keeping of the Institute accounts in such a way that it is clear that no money raised for W.I. Funds is afterwards devoted to other objects.

Endorsed.

(2) That this meeting recommends that, at the first Consultative Council after the Annual Meeting each year, time be set aside for the discussion of the budget passed by the National Federation Executive Committee for the current year; also that the current Annual Report be on sale at this meeting.

Endorsed.

A discussion took place as to the advisability of raising the Affiliation Fees so as to cover the necessary expenditure of the National and County Federations, and obviate the necessity of appealing to the Institutes for annual donations. The Council was of opinion that this would be a mistake, but held it to be important that County Federations should inform Institutes what donations are needed from them to cover the cost of County administration and the contribution to the National Federation. The importance of teaching W.I.s to budget was generally agreed, and the Council recommended :—

That the N.F.W.I. should issue a leaflet on Budgeting for the use of W.I.s.

Endorsed.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The following recommendations were made to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee:—

(1) That the Preliminary Agenda of the Annual Meeting form a special supplement to *Home and Country*.

Endorsed.

or

That a greater number of copies of the Preliminary Agenda be sent to each Institute.

Not endorsed.

(2) That County Federations should be asked to give notice through their delegates at the Autumn Consultative Council as to what subjects they think of bringing up at the next Annual Meeting.

Endorsed.

(3) That information on public questions which are on the Agenda of the next Annual Meeting should be published in the April number of *Home and Country* each year.

Endorsed.

(4) That the National Federation put it very firmly to County Federations and Women's Institutes who send in suggestions for the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting that, if they send in a resolution, they must supply a speaker who has studied the question thoroughly.

Endorsed.

(5) That the special Consultative Council which considers suggestions received for the Annual Meeting Agenda, should aim at putting fewer subjects on the Agenda, so that more time may be given to their consideration.

Endorsed.

(6) That a circular be sent to County Federations summarising various suggestions made by this Council for ensuring that W.I.s study the Agenda for the Annual Meeting and instruct their delegates, and that County Federations be urged to carry out these suggestions.

Endorsed.

Thirteenth Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

ST. SWITHIN'S PARISH HALL, LINCOLN,

ON

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 1924.

Chairman: THE LADY DENMAN.

PRESENT.

Four members of the Executive Committee.

Delegates from twenty-eight County Federations.

VISITORS AT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The Council decided that in future members of the N.F.W.I. Organisation Sub-Committee should be invited to attend Council meetings as visitors.

INSTITUTE PROGRAMMES.

An interesting discussion arose on the place of Entertainment in Institute programmes. The responsibility of County Federations in recommending speakers to Institutes was also fully considered, together with the possibility of arranging an interchange of speakers and demonstrators between different counties. The Council decided to recommend to the National Federation Executive Committee:—

That County Federations be advised not to arrange tours for speakers from commercial firms.

Endorsed.

HANDICRAFTS.

A report was given by the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee on the present organisation of W.I. Handicrafts through the Guild of Learners, and considerable discussion arose on various points in the report. The following resolution was *carried*.

That the National Federation be asked to consider the possibility of arranging the next Exhibition in London on the three days previous to the Annual Meeting, the unpacking and judging to take place in the previous week, and railway vouchers to be obtained, if possible, to cover the period of both the Exhibition and the Meeting.

Endorsed.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Various public questions likely to interest W.I.s were suggested and it was agreed that it would be helpful if the National Federation were to suggest that the Institutes should study two of these subjects with a view to getting a really good discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

NATIONAL AND COUNTY ORGANISATION.

The following recommendations were made to the National Federation Committee:—

That County Federations be recommended to urge their Institutes to invite an organiser to address them on the work of the County and National Federations.

Endorsed.

That recommendations for the re-appointment of V.C.O.s should be by ballot of the County Federation Executive Committee, three-fourths of the possible votes securing recommendation.

Endorsed.

ENDOWMENT FUND.

The Council decided to recommend:—

That the Endowment Fund should be closed at a sum to be decided after consideration, but that the time has not yet come to consider closing the Fund.

Endorsed.

VILLAGE HALLS.

The difficulties in connection with the building and management of Village Halls were fully considered, but the Council had no recommendation to make on this subject.

The National Federation
GENERAL
Statement of Receipts and Payments for

RECEIPTS

STATEMENT
OF
ACCOUNTS.

Balance forward	£ 11 11
Subscriptions	£ 10 0
Donations	£ 5 0
Interest and Dividends	£ 2 11 4
Profit on Literature Account	£ 8 11 4
Profit on Guild of Learners	£ 2 11 4
Profit on Institute Account	£ 8 11 4
Profit on Interest & Dividends	£ 7 11 4
Less Income Tax on Interest & Dividends	£ 7 11 4
Total Receipts	£ 54 11 4
Balance forward	£ 11 11
Printing and Stationery	£ 10 0
Postage	£ 5 0
Travel Expenses	£ 2 11 4
Repairs	£ 8 11 4
Light and Heat	£ 2 11 4
Insurance	£ 8 11 4
Interest on Loans	£ 2 11 4
Interest on Investments	£ 8 11 4
Interest on Bank Deposits	£ 2 11 4
Interest on Current Accounts	£ 8 11 4
Interest on Sundry Accounts	£ 2 11 4
Interest on Investments	£ 8 11 4
Interest on Bank Deposits	£ 2 11 4
Interest on Current Accounts	£ 8 11 4
Interest on Sundry Accounts	£ 2 11 4
Total Payments	£ 54 11 4
Balance brought down	£ 11 11

The National Federation

GENERAL

Statement of Receipts and Payments for

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To GRANT FROM TREASURY				1,195	0	0
„ HEADQUARTERS FUNDS, 1924/25 :—						
Balance brought forward, April 1st, 1924 ...	4,303	5	8			
Interest and Dividends on Endowment Fund and Deposit Accounts'	658	0	6			
Contributions from Guild of Learners	22	6	6			
	4,983	12	8			
Less Income Tax on Interest & Dividends	151	8	11			
				4,832	3	9
„ HEADQUARTERS FUNDS, RESERVED FOR USE IN 1925/26 :—						
Donations	1,886	4	4			
Affiliation Fees	2,555	8	5			
Interest and Dividends	308	6	0			
Contributions from Guild of Learners	11	9	0			
Profit on Literature Account	214	4	2			
	4,975	11	11			
Less Income Tax on Interest & Dividends	64	7	7			
				4,911	4	4
				<hr/>		
				£10,938	8	1
				<hr/>		
„ BALANCE brought down				£177	13	7

of Women's Institutes.

ACCOUNT.

the Year ended March 31st, 1925.

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By BALANCE brought forward April 1st, 1924				36	5	10
„ HEADQUARTERS EXPENSES :—						
Rent and Insurance	342	0	7			
Salaries and Government Insurance	1,799	8	4			
Printing and Stationery	446	17	2			
Audit Fee	14	0	0			
Legal Expenses... .. .	25	0	0			
Postage, Telegrams and Telephone	324	2	11			
Office Expenses, Equipment, Cleaning, Re- pairs, Fuel and Light	275	10	3			
Travelling Expenses of Committee and Sub- Committee Members... .. .	338	6	0			
„ DONATIONS :—						
National Council of Social Service	3	3	0			
English Speaking Union	1	11	6			
Swiss Tour Guides	10	10	0			
Income Taxpayers' Society	5	5	0			
„ AFFILIATION FEES :—						
Consultative Committee of Women's Organisa- tions	6	0	0			
				3,591	14	9
„ COUNTY EXPENSES :—						
Organisers' Salaries and Expenses	1,465	16	9			
Royal Show	25	11	10			
Annual Meeting and Consultative Councils... .. .	374	11	2			
Preliminary Courses of Instruction for V.C.O.s	75	18	6			
Grants to County Federations... .. .	265	0	0			
				2,206	18	3
„ HANDICRAFTS GRANT				14	11	4
„ TRANSFER TO HEADQUARTERS FUNDS FOR USE IN 1925/26				4,911	4	4
„ BALANCE, being excess of Receipts over Payments for the year ended March 31st, 1925, carried down				177	13	7
				<hr/>		
				£10,938	8	1
				<hr/>		

BALANCE SHEET.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ENDOWMENT FUND :—						
Balance as on March 31st, 1924	14,892	8	5			
Added during the year	1,895	15	9			
				16,788	4	2
HEADQUARTERS FUNDS :—						
1924/25 Income reserved for use in 1925/26				4,911	4	4
				21,699	8	6
EXHIBITION ACCOUNT :—						
As on March 31st, 1924	300	0	0			
Add Handicrafts Exhibition Surplus	27	8	5			
				327	8	5
LITERATURE ACCOUNT BALANCE				204	6	4
GENERAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT :—						
Capital as per last Balance Sheet... ..	874	8	0			
Less Depreciation on Furniture, etc.	43	14	5			
				830	13	7
Add Excess of Receipts over Payments :						
On General Account	177	13	7			
On Handicrafts Account	11	0	9			
				1,019	7	11
				23,250	11	2

March 31st, 1925.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND FITTINGS :—						
As per last Balance Sheet	874	8	0			
Less Depreciation 5% per annum... ..	43	14	5			
				830	13	7
ENDOWMENT AND HEADQUARTERS FUNDS :—						
INVESTMENTS AT COST :						
£5,700 5% War Loan 1929/47	5,433	0	3			
£5,150 4½% Conversion Loan	4,765	16	5			
£2,473 15s. 1d. 3½% Conversion Loan	1,973	19	6			
£3,000 Commonwealth of Australia 6% Loan 1931/41	2,840	4	10			
£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			
£500 National Assembly Church of England Central Board of Finance 3% Loan	500	0	0			
				19,819	0	6
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	1,666	3	10			
AMOUNT DUE FROM LITERATURE ACCOUNT	214	4	2			
				21,699	8	6
LITERATURE : STOCK						
Cash at Bank and in Hand... ..	331	10	4			
	87	0	2			
				418	10	6
Less Amount due to Headquarters Funds	214	4	2			
				204	6	4
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND :—						
Exhibition Account	327	8	5			
General Account	238	14	4			
Less Federation Grants unpaid	50	0	0			
	188	14	4			
				516	2	9
				23,250	11	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 Balances and Investments.

KNOX, CROPPER & CO.,

Chartered Accountants.

Spencer House,
South Place, E.C.2.
April 15th, 1925.

MARCH 31st 1925
KNOX, CROPPER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
Spencer House,
South Place, E.C. 4,
LONDON, E.C. 4.

**HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITION,
Receipts and**

RECEIPTS.																			
	£	s.	d.																
To Door Money	160	8	4																
, Programmes	38	16	3																
, Literature Sales	54	0	2																
Less Publishers' Accounts	40	17	1																
	13	3	1																
<table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">£212</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">7</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 3px double black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>To Balance brought down</td> <td style="text-align: right;">49</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">£49</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">11</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">9</td> </tr> </table>					£212	7	8					To Balance brought down	49	11	9		£49	11	9
	£212	7	8																
To Balance brought down	49	11	9																
	£49	11	9																

We have examined the above balance sheet with the Book 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. 4,
LONDON, E.C. 4.

OCTOBER 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 1924.

Payments Account.

PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.
By Printing and Stationery :			
Programmes	15	12	6
Leaflets, Postcards, etc.	11	8	6
Tickets and Labels	10	3	6
	37	4	6
Award Cards			6
Staging	19	8	6
Lighting	15	16	10
Postage and Carriage	1	17	8
Insurance	7	16	4
Staff of Drapers' Hall for services rendered	19	13	0
	64	12	4
Helpers—Expenses	24	15	1
Luncheons and Teas	17	7	6
	42	2	7
Awards :			
Tandridge W.I.	1	1	0
Ightham W.I.	4	4	0
Duffield W.I.	4	4	0
Bedfordshire Federation	1	1	0
Oxfordshire Federation	1	1	0
Essex Federation	1	1	0
	12	12	0
Balance carried down	49	11	9
	£212	7	8
By Home and Country Supplement	22	3	4
Excess of Receipts over Payments carried to Exhibition Capital Account	27	8	5
	49	11	9
	£49	11	9

LITERATURE.

Profit and Loss Account for the Year ended March 31st, 1925.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Stock, March 31st, 1924			0	By Receipts			1,098 13 8
" Printing and Badges			6	" Stock, March 31st, 1925			331 10 4
" Advertising	77	3	4				
" Postage	35	0	0				
" Rent	75	0	0				
" Salary	5	0	0				
" Stationery							
Balance being Profit for the year carried down	192	3	4				
	214	4	2				
	<u>£1,430 4 0</u>						<u>£1,430 4 0</u>
Transfer to General Account	214	4	2	" Balance brought down			214 4 2
Balance carried down	204	6	4	" last year			204 6 4
	<u>418 10 6</u>						<u>418 10 6</u>
	<u>£418 10 6</u>						<u>£418 10 6</u>
				" Balance brought down			£204 6 4

HANDICRAFTS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended March 31st, 1925.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Grant from Treasury	1,058	0	0	PAYMENTS.			
Grant from General Account	14	11	4	By Balance brought forward,			14 11 4
	<u>1,072 11 4</u>			April 1st, 1924			
				Salaries	356	10	0
				Expenses of Hon. Secretary	75	0	0
				Schools	307	7	3
				Judges' and Speakers' Fees and Expenses	41	5	10
				Postage	42	4	8
				Organisers' Salary	139	10	0
				Organisers' Expenses	85	1	6
				Balance being excess of Receipts over Payments carried down	11	0	9
Balance brought down							<u>£1,072 11 4</u>

HOME AND COUNTRY.

Profit and Loss Account for the year ended March 31st, 1925.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Stock April 1st, 1924:—				By Sales and Subscriptions			
Reprints	2	13	6	Advertisements	3,391	7	4
Books	19	19	9	Stock, March 31st, 1925:—	1,170	19	0
	21	32	5	Reprints	1	16	8
Paper, Printing, Blocks, Editorial Salary, etc.	2,859	4	10	Books	50	7	0
Photographic Reproductions	13	11	0		52	3	8
Balance being Gross Profit for the year carried down	1,719	0	11		£4,614	10	0
	£4,614	10	0		£4,614	10	0
To Wrapping, Despatch and Postage	418	5	2	By Balance brought down	1,719	0	11
Office Expenses, Salaries and Government Insurance and Stationery	639	19	2		£1,734	14	4
Rent	50	0	0		15	13	5
Audit Fees	12	8	0		£1,734	14	4
Income Tax	100	9	3		15	13	5
Awards of Urns and Banners	57	19	10		£1,734	14	4
Bad Debt written off	1	8	6		15	13	5
	1,280	9	11		£1,734	14	4
Balance being Net Profit for the year carried to Capital Account	454	4	5		£1,734	14	4
	£1,734	14	4		£1,734	14	4

BALANCE SHEET, March 31st, 1925.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
SUSPENSE ACCOUNT:—				STOCK OF REPRINTS AND BOOKS...	52	3	8
1925/26 Subscriptions and Advertisements paid in advance	1,375	12	11	SUNDRY DEBTORS	214	1	11
PRIZE FUND	12	4	5	INVESTMENT:—			
	£1,387	16	6	£300 3½% Conversion Loan at cost	245	7	3
CAPITAL ACCOUNT:—				CASH AT BANK	1,962	3	8
Balance as on March 31st, 1924	976	11	3	CASH IN HAND	20	1	6
Less Income Tax paid for the two years to March 31st, 1924	81	13	0		1,982	5	2
Balance of Profit for the year ended March 31st, 1924 transferred to N. F. W. I. Endowment Fund	£243	2	0		£2,493	18	0
	324	15	0		£2,493	18	0
Add Profit and Loss Account Balance for the year ended March 31st, 1925	651	16	3		£2,493	18	0
	454	4	5		£2,493	18	0
	£1,106	0	8		£2,493	18	0
	£2,493	18	0		£2,493	18	0

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 15th, 1925.

KNOX, CROPPER & CO.
Chartered Accountants.

CARNEGIE FUND.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended March 31st, 1925.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance, April 1st, 1924 :—									
Cash at Bank :									
Deposit Account... ..	200	0	0						
Current Account... ..	231	0	0						
Cash in hand	2	15	3						
Investment at cost—									
£500 New South Wales									
5% Loan 1932/42	495	13	6						
				929	8	9			
,, Interest on Investments	34	0	0						
,, Interest on Deposit Account	2	12	10						
				36	12	10			
				£966	1	7			
,, Balance brought down				£932	17	4			
							932	17	4
							£966	1	7

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 15th, 1925.

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, 1924, to March 31st, 1925.

COUNTY.	No. of W.I.s April, 1924.	Approx. no. of Delegates attending Annual Meeting May, 1924.	Grants given by N.F.W.I. April 1st, 1924, to March 31st, 1925.	Donations received from Counties, April 1st, 1924, to March 31st, 1925.	Donations received from Counties April 1st, 1923, to March 31st, 1924.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anglesey	11	5	—	1 1 0	10 0 0
Bedfordshire	34	27	—	13 0 0	16 6 0
Berkshire	64	57	—	59 2 0	52 0 0
Breconshire	9	3	10 0 0	11 1 0	2 1 0
Buckinghamshire	58	43	30 0 0	26 13 8	20 1 6
Cambridgeshire	45	37	—	29 8 5	20 0 0
Cardiganshire	25	9	20 0 0	30 0 0	20 0 0
Carmarthenshire	4	4	—	—	—
Cheshire	33	28	20 0 0	16 4 6	13 7 0
Cornwall	51	24	—	30 19 6	30 1 0
Carnarvonshire	28	18	—	—	10 0 0
Cumberland	53	24	30 0 0	33 14 0	39 12 2
Derbyshire	39	25	—	37 0 0	33 0 0
Devonshire	66	61	—	46 2 0	26 6 0
Dorset	100	60	—	76 0 0	89 5 0
Durham	44	24	—	49 0 0	79 16 9
Essex	148	137	—	108 16 0	84 5 0
Flint & Denbigh	20	7	—	2 1 0	5 0 0
Glamorgan	13	7	20 0 0	6 10 0	—
Gloucestershire	86	55	—	21 1 0	10 0 0
Hampshire	155	113	—	162 11 0	150 10 0
Herefordshire	55	22	—	—	52 0 0
Hertfordshire	76	70	—	30 0 6	7 15 0
Huntingdonshire	43	22	—	—	20 0 0
Isle of Ely	23	15	—	—	23 0 0
Isle of Wight	16	18	10 0 0	2 5 0	—
East Kent	56	42	—	53 0 0	3 0 0
West Kent	90	67	—	96 0 0	158 0 0

STATEMENT showing Donations received from and help given to County Federations during the National Federation's Financial Year April 1st, 1924, to March 31st, 1925.

COUNTY.	No. of W.I.s April, 1924.	Approx. no. of Delegates attending Annual Meeting May, 1924.	Grants given by N.F.W.I. April 1st 1924, to March 31st, 1925.	Donations received from Counties, April 1st, 1924, to March 31st, 1925.	Donations received from Counties April 1st, 1923, to March 31st, 1924.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Kesteven	32	29	—	20 0 0	2 0 0
Lancashire	36	26	—	39 1 0	34 0 0
Lindsey	53	30	35 0 0	20 10 0	21 18 6
Leics. & Rutland	59	42	—	—	30 0 0
Merionethshire	15	14	—	15 0 0	9 0 0
Middlesex	16	16	—	24 11 0	21 19 0
Monmouthshire	27	21	—	5 0 0	5 0 0
Montgomeryshire	23	13	—	25 0 0	5 0 0
Norfolk	109	43	—	4 4 0	25 0 0
Northamptonshire	76	58	—	84 8 6	78 10 0
Northumberland	69	40	—	87 11 0	74 16 0
Nottinghamshire	30	16	—	10 0 0	25 0 0
Oxfordshire	67	61	—	70 0 0	44 0 0
Pembrokeshire	19	10	—	11 5 0	16 5 0
Radnor	14	6	20 0 0	10 10 0	12 0 0
Shropshire	72	43	—	20 0 0	30 0 0
Somerset	100	59	—	67 7 0	33 2 0
Staffordshire	78	34	—	78 0 0	80 0 0
East Suffolk	81	61	—	51 11 0	48 9 0
West Suffolk	44	38	—	5 0 6	25 14 0
Surrey	87	90	—	92 14 0	82 12 0
East Sussex	103	88	—	114 16 0	130 0 0
West Sussex	64	59	—	76 3 0	46 2 0
Warwickshire	66	48	—	31 11 0	2 12 6
Westmorland	38	16	20 0 0	30 0 0	30 0 0
Wiltshire	65	57	—	63 5 2	9 14 0
Worcestershire	60	32	—	2 0 0	23 0 0
Yorkshire	101	43	—	18 2 0	103 2 0

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

OF

The National Federation of Women's Institutes of England and Wales, 1925-1926,

I.—NAME.

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

II.—OBJECTS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

III.—COUNTY FEDERATIONS.

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

IV.—WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

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

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

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

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

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

V.—CONSTITUTION.

The National Federation shall consist of:—

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

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

VI.—ADMINISTRATION.

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

(a) A General Meeting.

(b) An Executive Committee.

VII.—THE GENERAL MEETING.

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

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

(b) Three delegates elected by each County Federation.

(c) Members of the Executive Committee.

(d) Voluntary and paid organisers, who, if not sent as delegates, shall have the power to attend the General Meeting without voting power. The expenses of Headquarters organisers only shall be paid out of the general funds.

2. ANNUAL MEETING.

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

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

3. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

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

VIII.—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IX.—NOMINATIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

X.—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

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

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

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

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

XI.—CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

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

The Consultative Council shall be constituted as follows:—

(a) Two representatives from each County Federation.

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

(c) Members of the Executive Committee.

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

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

XII.—FINANCE.

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

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

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

XIII. TRUSTEES.

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

XIV.—TRADE.

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

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

XV.—WITHDRAWING APPROVAL FROM MEMBERS.

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

XVI.—AFFILIATION TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

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

XVII.—ALTERATION OF RULES.

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

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

Constitution and Rules

FOR

County Federations of Women's Institutes, 1925-1926

I.—NAME.

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

II.—AIMS AND OBJECTS.

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

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

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

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

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

III.—CONSTITUTION.

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

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

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

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

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

IV.—ADMINISTRATION.

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

I. A Council.

II. An Executive Committee.

V.—THE COUNTY FEDERATION COUNCIL.

1. The Council shall consist of:—

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

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

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

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

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

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

VI.—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS.

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

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

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

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

VII.—NOMINATIONS.

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

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

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

VIII.—FINANCE.

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

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

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

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

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

IX.—ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

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

X.—AFFILIATION.

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

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

XI.—ALTERATION OF RULES.

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

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

1925-26.

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

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

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

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

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

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

IV.—MEMBERSHIP.

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

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

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

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

V.—SUBSCRIPTION.

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

VI.—OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

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

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

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

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

VII.—ELECTION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

VIII.—MEETINGS.

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

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

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

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

IX.—AFFILIATION.

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

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

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

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

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

X.—ALTERATION OF RULES.

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

XI.—BYE-LAWS.

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

Constitution and Rules

FOR

Women's Institute Centres,

1925-26

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 January of each year thereafter. If the Institute Centre so decide members joining between June 30th and October 1st may pay only half subscription, the Institute Centre being responsible for the full affiliation fee. Members joining after October 1st shall not pay again until the following January year, unless the Institute Centre decide otherwise.

VI.—OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

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

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

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

VII.—ELECTION.

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

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

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

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

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

IX.—AFFILIATION.

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

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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.

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

XI.—BYE-LAWS.

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

Standing Orders of General Meeting,

1925-1926.

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. K. M. Lewis, Bodafon Wynn, Llanerchymedd.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Miss Champion, 52, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
Miss Dalton, Dean House, Dean, Kimbolton, Hunts.

Miss Fenwick, Tilsworth, Leighton Buzzard.
Miss Foster, The Shrubbery, Aspley Guise.
Mrs. Sennett, Stanbridge, near Leighton Buzzard.

BERKSHIRE

Mrs. Borgnis, Oaklands, Curridge, Newbury.

Mrs. Huxley, Greenheys, Boar's Hill, Oxford.

Mrs. Norman May, The White House, Sonning, Reading.

Mrs. G. H. Morrell, Streatley House, Reading.

Mrs. V. Rhodes, Ash Tree House, Wargrave.

Lady Rucker, Everington House, Newbury.

Mrs. Squire, Milton Hill, near Steventon, Berks.

Mrs. Warner, Ipsden Vicarage, Oxon.

BRECONSHIRE

Mrs. Jayne, Glanenig, Talgarth.

Mrs. Rees Thomas, Lochaber, Builth Wells.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Mrs. Davies, The Long Croft, Wheeler End, nr. West Wycombe.

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.

Miss C. J. Gaskell, 26, Barton Road, Cambridge.

Mrs. Jenyns, Bottisham Hall, Cambridge.

Mrs. Vinter, Great Shelford, Cambs.

Miss Warrington, The Vicarage, Waterbeach, Cambs.

Mrs. Stuart Whibley, Bunker's Hill, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.

CARDIGANSHIRE

Mrs. Davies, Allt-y-Derew, Llangeitho.

CARNARVON

Miss Dicks, Dolgam, Pontllyfni, Llanwnda.

Mrs. Drage, Parciau, Criccieth.

- Mrs. Wm. George, Garth Celyn, Criccieth.
Miss Green, Bronwydd, Bangor.
Mrs. H. Lewis, Meadow View, Trefw.
Miss N. Lewis, Pendyffryn, Bangor.
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, Wood-
church, near Birkenhead.
Miss Behrens, Swettenham Hall, near
Congleton.
Mrs. Crowther, Wells Street, Malpas.
Mrs. Peel, Fyfield, Willaston, Birkenhead.
Miss D. Peel, Peover Hall, Over Peover.
- CORNWALL**
Miss Flamank, Beacon House, Summer-
court.
Mrs. le Grice, Trereiffe, Penzance.
Mrs. Hamilton, Kenwyn, Truro.
Mrs. Martin, Tregavethan, Truro.
Lady May, Tremcer, St. Tudy, Cornwall.
Ingeborg Lady Molesworth St. Aubyn,
Atlantic House, Newquay.
Mrs. Morris, Noon Cres, St. Just, S. O.,
Cornwall.
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.
Mrs. T. B. Nelson, Langwathby, Carlisle.
- DENBIGH**
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, near Stockport.
Miss F. Simpson, Hazelbrow, Duffield.
Mrs. J. Smith, Baslow Vicarage, Bakewell.

- Mrs. Timperley, Princes Road, Chinley,
via Stockport.
Miss Wilkie, Daisy Bank, Chinley, via
Stockport.
- DEVON**
Mrs. Dashwood, Croyle House, Kentisbeare,
Cullompton.
Miss Dickinson, Great Brake, West Hill,
Ottery St. Mary.
Miss Fulford, The Priory, Woodbury, Exeter.
Mrs. Jaffe, Poynings, Uffculme, Devon.
Mrs. Yole, Kelly, Lifton, Devon.
- DORSET**
Miss Bown, Dawlish House, Upwey.
Mrs. Spencer Cox, West Moors, Dorset.
Mrs. Druce, Sandesfoot House, Wyke
Regis, Weymouth.
Miss Gildea, Innellan, Rodwell, Weymouth.
Mrs. Heenan, Burton Bradstock, Bridport.
Benita Lady Lees, Thorngrove, Gillingham.
Mrs. C. Martin, Heathfield, Broadstone.
Lady Pinney, Racedown, Crewkerne,
Somerset.
Mrs. Troyte-Bullock, Zeals House, Mere,
Wilts.
Mrs. Sturdy, Trigon, Wareham.
- DURHAM**
Mrs. Anderson, Enfield Lodge, Shildon,
Durham.
Mrs. Dunham, The Estate Office, Brance-
peth, Durham.
Mrs. Menzies, Front Street, Wolsingham.
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.
Miss McLeod, Wickford Hall, Wickford.
Mrs. C. Parker, Malting Farm, Little
Hallingbury, Bishop Stortford.

GLAMORGAN

Mrs. Parry-Crooke, Netteswell Hall,
Harlow, Essex.
Mrs. S. Round, Birch Hall, Colchester.
Mrs. Stockwell, Greystones, Colchester.
Miss Ward, Barnston Rectory, Dunmow.
Mrs. Reynolds, Highfield, Park Mill, S.O.,
Glamorgan.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Mrs. Alcock, 9, Suffolk Square, Cheltenham.
Miss E. O. Browne, Bournstream, Wotton-
under-Edge.
Miss J. Curtis Hayward, Quedgeley House,
Gloucester.
Mrs. Dunstan, Principal's House, Royal
Agricultural College, Cirencester.
Mrs. Milburn, Compton Manor, Kings
Somborne.
Miss Miles, Kemble Lodge, Cirencester.
Miss Parker, Kingston House, Aylburton,
Lydney.
Mrs. Seeley, Boddington Manor, near
Cheltenham.
Mrs. Vernon, Wyngarth, East Compton,
near Bristol.

HAMPSHIRE

Miss Chamberlain, Bury House, Odiham.
Miss Cremer, Compton Down, Shawford,
near Winchester.
Mrs. R. Christy, Greyfriars, Ringwood.
Mrs. Madocks, Old Basing House, Basing-
stoke.
Mrs. Perkins, Boldre Bridge House, Lym-
ington.
Lady Rosemary Portal, Kingsclere House,
Newbury.
Mrs. Steedman, Steventon Rectory, Basing-
stoke.

HEREFORDSHIRE

Mrs. Taylor, Whitedale, Hambleton.
Lady Wells, Houghton Lodge, Stockbridge.
Mrs. Fox, Orchard Cottage, Fownhope,
Hereford.
Mrs. Russell, Lawncroft, Hereford.
Mrs. Tinsley, Twyford, Pembridge, Here-
ford.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Miss Collingwood, Codicote, Welwyn.
Mrs. Martin, Hunsdon Mill House, Stanstead
Abbott, Ware.
Miss Pam, The Cottage, Kimpton, Welwyn
Mrs. C. Turney, Mardley Bury Manor,
Royston.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Mrs. Howard Coote, Castle Hill, Hunting-
don.
Mrs. Driver, High Street, Huntingdon.
Mrs. Flowers, Biggin, Ramsey, Hunts.
Mrs. Garrod, Alconbury Hill, Huntingdon.
Mrs. G. Herbert, Cherry Cottage, Heming-
ford Abbots.
Miss Theakston, Wensleydale, Huntingdon.
Mrs. Theakston, Wensleydale, Huntingdon.
Mrs. Thurston, 7, Euston Rd., Huntingdon.
Mrs. Yeatherd, Alconbury Weston, Hunting-
don.

ISLE OF ELY

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

ISLE OF WIGHT

Miss Jannings, Heather Cot, Cranmore,
nr. Yarmouth, I. of Wight.
Miss I. Wood, Oak Villa, Brading.
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, Shepherdswell.
Miss Watson, Watersend, Temple Ewell,
nr. Dover.

KENT (WEST)

Miss Adam, Springhead Cottage, East
Malling.
Mrs. Baker, Thong House, nr. Gravesend.
Miss Cholmeley, St. Vincent's, Addington,
W. Malling.
Miss D. Evans, The Cottage, Iron Mill Lane,
Crayford.
Mrs. Heron Maxwell, Great Comp, Borough
Green.
Mrs. Skilbeck, The Quarry, Brasted, Seven-
oaks.
Mrs. G. Streatfeild, J.P., Cottage-on-the-Hill,
Westerham.
Miss C. Winch, Baker's Cross, Cranbrook.

LANCASHIRE

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

**LEICESTERSHIRE
AND RUTLAND**

Mrs. Bland, Bringhurst, Market Har-
 borough.
 Mrs. Coward, Littleham, Groby Road,
 Leicester.
 Miss Drummond, The Cross, Hallaton,
 Market Harborough.
 Miss Etchells, The Fydell School, Morcott,
 Uppingham, Rutland.
 Mrs. B. Everard, Bardon Hill House,
 Leicester.
 Mrs. Freeman, Valley Farm, Higham-on-the-
 Hill, Leicester.
 Miss Hamilton, 1, St. Martin's, Leicester.
 Mrs. Hobart, Mowsley Sanatorium, Rugby.
 Mrs. Hutton, Barrowden, Stamford,
 Leicester.
 Mrs. Munro, The Homestead, Thrussington,
 Leicester.
 Miss Taylor, Brian's Close, Laughton,
 Rugby.
 Miss M. Bent Willson, Kibworth Beau-
 champ, Leicester.
 Mrs. Winckley, Houghton Rectory, Leicester.

KESTEVEN (Lincs.)

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

LINDSEY (Lincs.)

Mrs. Deighton, 24, Mount Street, Lincoln.
 Miss Hall, The Limes, James Street, Louth.
 Mrs. Herbert, Broughton Rectory, Brigg.
 Mrs. Huxtable, Caistor Rd., Market Rasen.
 Mrs. Rowson, Beech House, Wainfleet.
 Mrs. Wintringham, Little Grimsby Hall,
 Louth.

MERIONETHSHIRE

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

MIDDLESEX

Miss Belletti, Selwood Lodge, Stanwell.
 Miss Kuhner, Avenue House, W. Drayton.
 Miss F. Rankin, Westfield Corner, Hatch
 End.

MONMOUTHSHIRE

Miss Berrington, Selbourne, Weston Road,
 Abergavenny.
 Miss Jackson, The Chain, Abergavenny.
 Miss Penton, Belgrave House, Abergavenny.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Mrs. Adams, Tybrith, Carno, Mont.
 Mrs. Sockett, Hampton House, Four
 Crosses.

NORFOLK

Miss Burgess, 3, Davey Place, Norwich.
 Mrs. Burton Fanning, 90, Newmarket Road,
 Norwich.
 Mrs. Mordaunt Edwards, Barfold Old Hall,
 Wymondham.
 Mrs. Mahon, 84, Newmarket Rd., Norwich.
 The Dowager Lady Suffield, Harbord
 House, Cromer.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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

NORTHUMBERLAND

Miss Craster, South Farm, Craster.
 Mrs. Baker Cresswell, Hauxley Hall, Amble.
 Countess Grey, 9, Chester Terrace, N.W.1.

- Miss Middleton, Belsay Castle, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 Mrs. N. Newall, Low Warden, Hexham.
 Mrs. Pumphrey, Hindley House, Stocksfield.
 Mrs. Scott, Newton House, Embleton.
 Mrs. Collingwood Thorp, Belvedere, Alnwick.
- NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**
 Miss Blagg, Redlands, Burton Joyce.
 Miss Fox, East Bridgford Hall, East Bridgford.
 The Hon. Mrs. Handford, Elmfield, Southwell.
 Miss Minkley, The Fields, Hoveringham.
 Miss B. Marriott, 4, Larkdale Street, Nottingham.
 Mrs. Merryweather, The Gables, Southwell.
- OXFORDSHIRE**
 The Hon. Miss Corbet, Spelsbury, Charlbury, Oxon.
 Mrs. Cranswick, 1, Broad Street, Oxford.
 Miss Deneke, Barnett House, Oxford.
 Miss Dillon, Spelsbury, Charlbury.
 Miss Drummond, 11, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford.
 Miss Hadow, Barnett House, Oxford.
 Miss Henman, Raybourne House, Islip, Oxford.
 Mrs. Hiley, Danesfield, Boar's Hill, Oxford.
 Mrs. Hobbs, Bradshaws, Kelmscott, Lechlade, Glos.
 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., R.S.O., Pembs.
- RADNORSHIRE**
 Mrs. Lewis, Evancoyd, Walton, Radnor.
 Mrs. Evan Thomas, Caerwnon, Builth Wells.
- SHROPSHIRE**
 Lady Berwick, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.
 Miss O. Bruce, Prior's Halton, Ludlow.
 Mrs. Goodall, Bibury, Woore, Crewe.
 Miss V. King, Ford House, Ford.
 Mrs. Peake, The Rectory, Berrington, Shrewsbury.

- Miss J. Russell, Sauchieleigh, Albrighton, Wolverhampton.
 Miss Sykes, Longfield, Market Drayton.
 Miss Walshe, Kenneth House, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.
- SOMERSET**
 Mrs. Golledge, Saltford, nr. Bristol.
 Mrs. Hancock, The Manor House, Cothelstone, Taunton.
 Mrs. Lechmere, Shawford House, Beckington, nr. Bath.
 Miss D. Lowe, Hinton St. George, Crewkerne.
 Miss Peck, Ferndale, Porlock.
 Mrs. Sykes, Wadbury, Frome.
 Miss Vernon, Alcombe, Minehead.
 Mrs. Weaver, Dulverton.
 Miss Woodforde, Castle Carey.
- STAFFORDSHIRE**
 Miss Holland, Holland House, Barton-under-Needwood.
 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, Derby.
- SUFFOLK (East)**
 Miss E. Aldrich, Westerfield Hall, nr. Ipswich.
 Miss Bernard, Copdock, Ipswich.
 Miss Martin, Hemingstone Hall, Coddensham, Suffolk.
 Miss R. Smith, Wetheringsett Rectory, Stowmarket.
- SUFFOLK (West)**
 Miss Bryan, Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex.
 Miss J. Dunlop, Coney Weston Hall, Bury St. Edmunds.
 Mrs. Hitchcock, The Mill House, Bures St. Mary.
 Mrs. Martineau, Walsham le Willows.
 Mrs. Rust, White House, Rattlesden.
 Mrs. Shann, 18, Angel Hill, Bury St. Edmunds.

SURREY

Miss S. Drew, Blatchfold, Chilworth.
 Mrs. du Buisson, Snower Hill, Betchworth.
 The Hon. F. Farrer, Abinger Hall, Dorking.
 Miss Sutherland, 112, High Street, Guildford.
 Mrs. Weir, Bell House, Merstham.

SUSSEX (East)

Miss Dayrell, The Hale, Chiddingley,
 Sussex.
 Mrs. Huddart, Merrifields, Haywards
 Heath.
 Miss Margesson, Scaynes Hill House, Hay-
 wards Heath.
 Miss Parr, Floretta, Haywards Heath.
 Lady Julian Parr, The Gravel Pit, Ticehurst.
 Mrs. Dobree Wickham, Wynacote, Crow-
 borough.

SUSSEX (West)

The Hon. Mrs. Colvin, Shermanbury Grange,
 Henfield.
 Miss Cremer, Compton Down, Shawford,
 nr. Winchester.
 Mrs. Hodgson, Barnfield, Cowfold, Sussex.
 Miss H. Liddle, King's Cottage, Mare Hill,
 Pulborough.
 Miss Marshall, Corner House, Steyning.
 Miss Nash, 11, West Street, Chichester.

WARWICKSHIRE

Miss Aglionby, Newbold Pacey Vicarage,
 Warwick.
 Mrs. Barnett, Bilton Hall, Rugby.
 Lady Bird, The White House, Solihull.
 Mrs. Bland, Green Hill, Harbury Station.
 Mrs. Blyth, Hill, nr. Rugby.
 Mrs. Burridge, Lindisfarn, Warwick New
 Road, Leamington.
 Miss Docker, Alveston Leys, Stratford-on-
 Avon.
 Mrs. Hopkins, Rising Sun House, Knowle.
 Mrs. Howard, Barford, Warwick.
 Lady Ilkeston, 23, High Street, Warwick.
 Mrs. Lister Kaye, Manor House, Stretton-on-
 Dunsmore, Rugby.
 Miss Lindsell, Dunchurch, Rugby.
 Miss Roche, Crow's Nest, Daventry.
 Mrs. Rotherham, The New Lodge, Ashorne
 Hill, nr. Leamington.

WESTMORELAND

Miss Anson, Windy Brow, Kendal.
 Mrs. Baker, Battlebarrow, Appleby.
 Miss Crane, Elmhurst, Arnside.
 Mrs. Day, Cliburn Rectory, Penrith.
 Miss Elmslie, Elterwater, Ambleside.
 Mrs. Groves, Holehird, Windermere.
 Miss Punchard, Kearstwick, Kirkby Lons-
 dale.

WILTSHIRE

Miss M. L. Gauntlett, Brunton House, Col-
 lingbourne Kingston.
 Mrs. Hony, Cleeve House, Seend,
 Melksham.
 Miss Impey, Sheldon Manor, Chippenham.
 Mrs. Marriage, Heronslade, Warminster.
 Miss Eyre Matcham, Newhouse, Redlynch,
 nr. Salisbury.
 Miss Tennant, The Nutshell, Corsham.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Mrs. Berry, 51, Broad Street, Worcester.
 Mrs. Chesterton, Tenbury Vicarage,
 Worcester.
 Miss Hingley, Middle Hill Park, Broadway.
 Miss Slessor, Saintbury Rectory, Broadway.
 Miss Wallace, Eardiston, nr. Tenbury.

YORKSHIRE

Mrs. Adams, Rillington, Yorks.
 Miss I. Dent, Ribston Hall, Wetherby.
 Mrs. Hey, 3, Princess Terrace, Ripon.
 Mrs. Hicks, Burton Grange, Clifton, Yorks.

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).

ANGLESEY (11).

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

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

Organisation.—The number of Institutes has not been increased during the year, and one has been temporarily suspended, but propaganda work has been steadily carried on and it is hoped that some new Institutes may be formed during 1925. The V.C.O. has visited nearly all the Institutes, some of them two or three times, during the year.

County Council Aid.—The County Federation's gratitude is due to the agricultural department of the County Council for very valuable help in providing free lectures on Dairying, Poultry Keeping, Clean Milk and Gardening (including pruning and the destruction of pests).

Handicraft Classes have been held in Dressmaking, Knitting, Glove Making, Leather Work, Wool Rug Making, Basket Making, Tray Making, Embroidery and Stencilling.

Demonstrations have been given in Cookery, Dyeing, Poultry Killing and Trussing, Dairy Work and Cheese Making, Home Nursing, Fruit Preserving and Summer Drinks.

Lectures.—The subjects of lectures include Women's Work amongst the Blind in North Wales, Notable Women of To-day, Tuberculosis and Milk Supply.

Other Institute Activities.—One Institute has bought a hut and is now working hard to obtain a site on which to erect it. Some Institutes support Clinics and Child Welfare Centres; one held a Pound Day for the Infirmary; another has contributed £70 to the local Nursing Association. One Institute maintains a Nourishment Fund for the sick poor of the village. Village school children have been entertained at Christmas time. Some Institutes co-operate with local Literary Societies; one has helped to provide a piano. The good custom of interchanging visits is increasing in popularity amongst the Institutes. Several Institutes have arranged motor tours for their members.

BEDFORDSHIRE (36).

Chairman: Mrs. Witchurch, Great Barford House, Bedford.
Secretary: Miss Foster, The Shrubbery, Aspley Guise.

Organisation.—Two new Institutes have been formed during the year, and the number of members now exceeds 2,000. Eight Institutes in the south of the county now form the Dunstable Group, and co-operate in arranging lectures and classes, as well as in holding joint meetings. Two Council Meetings have been held in Bedford and one at Dunstable.

Music.—In connection with the May Council Meeting, Mr. Leslie conducted a Singing Festival in which members of fourteen Institutes took part. He kindly gave the morning to a class for conductors and the practice of descants.

Exhibition.—The articles sent in for selection for the N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Exhibition were shown in Bedford, and eighteen of them were chosen, as well as three pieces of co-operative work and two pieces of furniture. Fifteen Institutes competed and fourteen of them had one or more of their exhibits sent to London, the layette from Old Warden W.I. gaining a special prize.

Demonstrations in Dressmaking, Millinery, Upholstery, Glove Making, Mat and Rug Making, and Chair Caning have been given, and were in many instances followed by classes. Basket Making has been taught and practised in at least eight Institutes.

Lectures have covered a wide range of subjects; National Savings, Local Government, Economics, Citizenship, Gardening, Poultry, Birds, Wild Flowers, and Travel Talks on many countries, all figure in the reports. Tours have been arranged for Miss Watkins and Miss Simpson. The work of the League of Nations has been discussed in many Institutes and some have become corporate associates of the League of Nations Union.

Other Institute Activities.—Many Institutes have helped their local flower shows or organised Fêtes or Flower Shows of their own, and much money has been raised for local objects in this way and also by means of concerts and whist drives. At least seven Institutes have helped to provide Village Nurses; one has bought a bath-chair; another has helped towards the purchase of a piano; four have helped towards the purchase or repair of their Village Halls; others are working to collect money for a hall, or at least a hut, of their own. Children's parties and entertainments for old people have also been arranged.

Finance.—The Federation has this year been able to dispense with any grant from headquarters and the accounts show a favourable balance of £100, largely due to the success of the last County Exhibition, which cleared £43. Twenty Institutes have sent contributions to County or National Funds.

BERKSHIRE (66).

President : Lady Rucker, Everington House, Newbury, Berks.

Chairman : Mrs. Victor Rhodes, M.B.E., Ash Tree House, Wargrave.

Hon. Secretary : Mrs. Warner, The Vicarage, Ipsden, Oxon.

Organisation.—The year has shown steady progress in business-like organisation. Although the increase in membership has been small, there has been great keenness in all branches of the work. Three new Institutes have been formed, and the total membership is now 5,054, as against 4,768 in 1923. The Sub-Committees have done excellent work. The County Federation sent a donation of £50 to the National Federation and did not apply for any grant. Four Council Meetings were held during the year, at each of which there was a special speaker, the subjects of their addresses being Widows' Pensions, Acting in Villages, National Savings, and Potted Books. This last address, by Miss Isabel Margesson, was particularly appreciated.

Library.—Owing largely to the work of the Women's Institutes, the County Council has adopted the Public Libraries Act (1919) and the Carnegie Rural Library is now at work. Many Institutes have handed over their own libraries to this body and, by a vote of the delegates at one of the Council meetings, the County Federation Committee was empowered to do the same with the W.I. County Library. The demand for books in the Berkshire villages has exceeded all expectations.

Music.—A Folk Dancing and Part Singing Competition was held at Newbury in June, twenty-two Institutes competing in Folk Dancing and four in Singing. Mr. W. H. Leslie held a School for Descant Singing and Conducting, at Reading in October, which was keenly appreciated, more than half the Institutes in the county being represented.

The Exhibition was held at Reading in September and was opened by Lady Isabel Margesson ; both she and Mrs. Alfred Watt, who also attended, commended the plan of giving badges and certificates of merit instead of money prizes. The co-operative exhibits were an excellent feature of the Exhibition, and varied from a model market to an outfit for a girl of fifteen. The Exhibition added £84 0s. 11d. to the County Funds.

Groups have done good work. A competition for Historical Tableaux was very well arranged by the Wantage and Abingdon Group.

County Council Aid.—The lectures provided by the County Council on all branches of Agriculture and Horticulture, Poultry and Bee Keeping have been excellent, and meet with increasing

appreciation. The County Council staged an educational exhibit at the Reading Exhibition, with continuous demonstrations by experts. An entrance fee of 1d. was charged, and the fact that nearly a thousand people attended is proof of the value of the County Council lectures.

University College, Reading, has earned the gratitude of the County Federation for the excellent classes in Cookery and Dress-making provided especially for W.I. members.

Other Institute Activities.—The North Berks. Study Circle continues to flourish and in a competition, which was open to South Oxfordshire and Berkshire Institutes, it carried off the Silver Cup and was warmly congratulated by Mr. Holman Clarke.

Five delightful lecture tours have been given by Mr. Nugent Harris, and requests are being made for similar tours in 1925.

BRECONSHIRE PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE (9).

Chairman : Miss Butler, Aberllynfi, Glasbury, Hereford.

Hon. Secretary : Mrs. Berrington, Llyswen, Boughrood, Radnorshire.

Organisation.—No new Institutes have been formed during the year but a good deal of propaganda work has been carried on. A delegate attended the Welsh Conference at Shrewsbury in November. Miss Lumley spent a week in the county, during which she visited Institutes and attended a meeting of the Propaganda Committee and the County Exhibition, at which she gave an address.

Exhibitions.—The Committee organised a County W.I. Exhibition of members' work and produce, and combined it with an afternoon entertainment by the Institutes and a sale of work. It was open to the public.

The Committee accepted the Monmouthshire Federation's invitation to compete in their Exhibition, and Breconshire secured several certificates of merit. A member of the Committee, at the invitation of the Glamorgan Federation, acted on the W.I. Sub-Committee of the Welsh Agricultural Show, and exhibits were sent from the county.

Classes.—Courses of County Council classes in Dressmaking were organised at several centres.

Lectures.—A lecture tour by Miss Curnow, an Australian speaker, was organised in conjunction with the Victoria League, and also a lecture tour by Miss Mary Kelly of the Village Drama Society. Both these lectures were provided free to the Institutes from the County funds.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (67).

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

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

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

Organisation.—Thirteen new Institutes have been formed during 1924, making a total of sixty-seven. A Federation Office has been opened.

The year's work has been satisfactory, not only as regards the formation of new Institutes, but also on account of the increasing numbers of members who attend the Group and Council meetings. Resolutions are now sent in for these meetings in greater numbers and delegates are ready to speak on the subjects which interest them. The Group Conferences have been well attended.

County Exhibition.—A most successful Exhibition and Sale of Handicrafts was held at High Wycombe on October 15th, 1924. Lady Denman very kindly opened the Exhibition and expressed herself as delighted with the work which was on view. Thousands of W.I. members came, as well as a large number of the general public. The Wycombe Town Hall is the largest in the county and it was filled to overflowing; in fact, the Federation is faced with a problem as to where the next County Exhibition can be held. It seems as if there would have to be two, one for the north and the other for the south of the county. At the N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Exhibition in London, the county was successful in gaining sixteen certificates out of a possible eighteen.

County Council Aid.—By the kindness of the County Education Committee many courses in Dressmaking have been held, each consisting of twelve lessons. Several Institutes had Dress Parades to show what the pupils had learnt. The County Education Committee has given help in many other ways, including both courses and single lectures on Nursing, and lectures on Poultry Keeping, Dairying, Horticulture (Pruning, Insect Pests, etc.), and the Production of Clean Milk.

Institute Activities.—Rug Making is a very popular craft; others which are practised include Cane, Rush and Raffia Basket Making, Leather Work, the Caning of Chairs, Glove Making and last, but not least, Sealing Wax Lacquer; some quite beautiful lacquer bowls in various colours, which are delightful as finger bowls, have been made and are sold at moderate prices.

Most of the Institutes have contributed to the building or furnishing of their village halls and to local charities.

Many lectures have been given, those on travel and life in other countries being very popular. Other subjects were The League of Nations, History of the Bible, Health, Hygiene and Home Nursing. Demonstrations have been given in Household Repairs, Tinkering, Felt Slipper-making, Papier Maché and other crafts.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE (47).

President and Chairman: Mrs. Harold Gray, Gogmagog Hills' Cambridge.

Secretary: Miss Warrington, Waterbeach Vicarage, Cambs.

Organisation.—Three new Institutes have been formed in 1924, bringing the total up to 47.

Council meetings are held quarterly in Cambridge, at which approximately two-thirds of the Institutes are always represented.

Group meetings, at which the Chief Organiser spoke, were arranged in the spring at eleven centres, and eight conferences were held in the autumn, with speakers on a variety of subjects chosen by the groups concerned.

W.I. secretaries' and treasurers' conferences have been conducted by V.C.O.s during the late autumn.

Horticulture.—The offer to the Federation by the Cambridgeshire Horticultural Society of a special tent and a Challenge Shield at their summer show was again accepted, and the exhibit was much appreciated both by the Show Committee and the public.

A small Bulb Show was arranged by the Federation last spring and another is being held this year. Bulbs were purchased co-operatively by the Federation.

The Horticultural Adviser to the County Council is a member of the Federation Sub-Committee and is of the greatest assistance. He also lectures to Institutes, Poultry and Bee Keeping lectures being most in demand.

Homecrafts.—The first Exhibition, with which the Bulb Show was incorporated, was held in the spring and greatly strengthened the co-operative spirit of the Federation. It is purposed to hold this biennially. A Silver Challenge Shield has been presented to the Federation for competition in connection with this exhibition.

The W.I. Shop still continues to provide an outlet for members' goods.

Twenty-four classes in various crafts have been given under the County Council during the autumn, the majority being in Needlecraft of one form or another.

Music and Drama.—Mr. J. F. Shepherdson, kindly working in co-operation with the Federation, has held conductors' classes during the autumn and is continuing them after Christmas, with the primary object of helping Institutes to compete in the County Musical Festival in March, 1925.

Teachers are now available under the County Council, both in singing and drama, and four classes in each of these subjects have been arranged by Institutes.

The Federation has a representative on the Council for Musical Education.

County Council Help.—An excellent offer of classes in both craft and humane subjects was received from the County Council this autumn. All expenses for these classes are born by the Council, pupils paying a fee of 2/6 per course. Arrangements for the classes are made through the Federation Office, and up to the end of the year thirty-three had been held.

The County Library now has branches in every village.

The Rural Community Council started work in the autumn, and already the greater facility in transport is of much assistance.

Community Work.—The Federation is getting into touch with public bodies, and many individual Institutes are helping in local community work.

No striking development has occurred during the year but all branches of the work seem to be slowly growing.

CARDIGANSHIRE (28).

President: The Countess of Lisburne, Crosswood, Cardiganshire.

Chairman: Miss Basil Jones, Gwynfryn, Taliesin, S.O.

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

Organisation.—Four new Institutes have been formed this year, which makes a total of twenty-eight. Three new Sub-Committees have been formed to deal with Organisation, Handicrafts and Finance, and the most encouraging feature of the year's work is the much greater interest taken by the members of the Committees in the work, and the good attendance at meetings. Two Council Meetings were held, one in April at Aberystwyth, when Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I., gave an address, and one in November at Lampeter, when Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, spoke on the work of W.I. officers and committees. Over 120 members attended the latter meeting.

Groups.—The Institutes are now arranged in five groups, which are soon to be split up into seven. The Group Meetings have been a great success and have done much to help the weaker Institutes. Miss Lumley, N.F.W.I. Organiser, has visited and addressed each group, and the County Secretary has also attended the meetings.

Finance.—The finances of the County show a fair balance in hand, but far less than in previous years. The proceeds from the County Handicrafts Exhibition, amounting to £20, were sent to the National Federation, and an appeal is being made to the Institutes to give greater financial support in the future.

Handicrafts.—A very successful Handicrafts Exhibition and Entertainment was held in Aberystwyth in July, and was opened by Miss Hadow. The standard of the work was high, and showed marked progress. Rhydyppennan W.I. once again headed the list of prize winners. Two Institutes organised stalls at their local Agricultural Shows, and exhibits were sent from the County to the Welsh National Show at Bridgend, and also to the N.F.W.I. Exhibition in London, where two awards were gained. The County are offering a prize of £2 2s. 0d. at the Welsh National Eisteddfod, for Quilting, which is a very old Cardiganshire craft.

Institute Activities.—On the whole the Institutes have made very good progress, but not enough care is given to drawing up programmes. The President offered a prize for the best programme and this was awarded to Llangeitho W.I.

A great many classes have been held in Handicrafts and in Cooking, Dressmaking and Millinery; the Institutes have organised many entertainments and socials, thereby raising considerable sums for building Village Halls, and for the County Nursing Association. Two Institutes held very successful theatrical entertainments.

CARMARTHENSHIRE PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE (6).

Chairman: Mrs. Jones, The Vicarage, Whitland.

Secretary: Miss M. Roderick, Ferryside, Carmarthen.

The three new Institutes are full of enthusiasm and their work is promising.

Classes have been arranged by four Institutes, and have dealt with Basketry, Raffia Work, Leather Glove Making, Knitting Gloves, Jumpers and Dresses, Felt Slipper Making, Cookery, Cake Icing, Horticulture and Paper Hat Making.

Other Institute Activities have included lectures on Bee Keeping, Poultry Keeping and other subjects, and debates. Whist Drives and dances have been arranged to raise money for W.I. funds and one Institute realised £40 for its funds by a Garden Fête. Community work has included a tea and Christmas tree for the village school children, and Christmas gifts for children in the Cottage Home at Carmarthen.

CARNARVONSHIRE (34).

Chairman: Mrs. Drage, Parciau, Criccieth.

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

Organisation.—The year 1924 has been one of activity and steady progress in the Institute movement in the county. There are now thirty-three Institutes and one Institute Centre. Five new Institutes were formed during the year and one revived, and one has been suspended. There are seven Voluntary County Organisers.

Quarterly Council Meetings were held, at Carnarvon, Llandudno and Bangor, the authorities of the University very kindly placing their Council Chambers at the Federation's disposal.

Miss Lewis, who had worked so untiringly and wholeheartedly as County Secretary, resigned from this office in June, and her loss is much regretted by the County Federation. Miss N. Parry was appointed in her place.

The Executive Committee is assisted by Sub-Committees dealing with Finance, Organisation, Handicrafts, and Agriculture and Horticulture. A successful County Fête, organised by the Carnarvon Centre and the County Federation officers, was held at Glangwna by kind permission of the Lord Lieutenant and Mrs. Greaves. Keen interest was taken in the competitions and the silver Challenge Cup, kindly given by Lady Penrhyn, for the Institute gaining the greatest number of prizes at the fête, was won this year by Criccieth W.I.

Handicrafts.—Eighteen articles were chosen to go to the N.F.W.I. Exhibition in London; fourteen of these were sent and all received merit cards. Miss Joan Drew's report on the handicraft section of the Fête was very encouraging.

Institute Activities.—The reports from Institutes given at the Annual Meeting show a steady increase in membership. Classes and demonstrations have been arranged in Stitchery, Cookery, Folk Dancing, Tooled Leather Work, Furcraft, Upholstery, Basket, Glove and Rug Making, and Home Dyeing.

Lectures have been given on The League of Nations, Health, Music, Education, Friendship, Loyalty, Local History, Geology, Archaeology, Gardening, Poultry and Bee Keeping, Calf Rearing and Domestic Science.

Help from the National Federation.—The thanks of the Committee are due to the National Federation for the visits of three organisers, who gave a great deal of help. Miss Simpson visited the groups in April and held schools for officers and committee members. Miss Lumley visited several Institutes in May. Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser, attended Ogwen Valley Group Conference and the October Council Meeting, when she spoke on Grouping and on Finance. Miss Nightingale attended an Executive Committee meeting in November, and gave valuable advice on finance.

CHESHIRE (39).

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

Secretary: Mrs. Crowther, Malpas, Cheshire.

Organisation.—There has been good progress in the Women's Institute Movement in Cheshire during 1924. Six new Institutes have been formed. After every meeting of the Executive Committee a letter is sent to each Institute Secretary, to be read at the monthly meeting and thus keep the Institutes in touch with the work of their County Federation Executive. Members of this Committee have also visited the Institutes by invitation.

Every Institute in the Federation was invited to have one talk on the W.I. movement from a Voluntary County Organiser, all the expenses of the visit being paid by the County Federation.

Institute news is collected and edited by the Press Correspondent, who sends it to several local papers.

Members of the Executive Committee have attended the National Federation's Consultative Councils at Winchester and Lincoln, and the School for County Federation Officers at Shrewsbury.

An encouraging feature of the work of the past year is the increased interest taken by the Institutes in their County Federation.

County Council Aid.—The County Council has provided free lectures on Sick Nursing, Gardening, Fruit Bottling, and Poultry Keeping. Several Institutes have visited the Agricultural College at Reaseheath. One Institute has formed an Evening School, under the County Education Sub-Committee, for boys and girls over school age, and this is proving very successful.

Lectures.—Tours were arranged for Miss Ward, speaking on The League of Nations, and for Miss Petty, the Pudding Lady.

As a result of Mr. Leslie's lecture at the Half-yearly Council Meeting, on Music in the Institutes, several Institutes have formed their own choirs; almost all have adopted *Jerusalem* as their opening or closing song.

Lectures on National Savings have been given, leading in some cases to the formation of a W.I. branch of the National Savings Association.

Handicraft.—Handicraft Exhibitions were organised by the County Federation Handicraft Sub-Committee at three local Agricultural Shows, the demonstrations of crafts given by Institute members proving very attractive. Some useful propaganda work was done at these shows.

Institutes are taking an increased interest in handicraft work and demonstrations are often followed by classes. Two members attended the Guild of Learners' School for Embroidery and Decorative Stitchery. There are now two Guild of Learners teachers, and thirty other demonstrators, working in the county.

Community Service.—Several Institutes have raised funds to build and furnish an Institute Hall, or have contributed towards a Village Hall. Gifts of dolls, flowers, fruit, vegetables, eggs and money have been sent to hospitals. There have been Christmas parties for children, and socials to which husbands and friends were invited, as they were also, in some cases, to the summer Garden Fêtes and outings.

CORNWALL (57).

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

Chairman: Mrs. Morris, Noon Cres, St. Just, S.O.

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

Organisation.—Nine new Institutes have been formed since our last annual report, bringing the total now to 57. Within the last three years the number of Cornish Institutes has nearly doubled itself.

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

Two Council meetings have been held, in March and October, both of which were well attended, and the keen interest of the members attending showed that the movement is advancing in every direction.

Handicrafts.—Handicrafts are taking a more important place amongst Institute activities, and a great variety of crafts, including Upholstery, Chair Caning, Household Jobbery, Rug Making, Basketry and Raffia Work, have been taken up in different Institutes. The number of teachers unfortunately proves totally inadequate to the demands made from all parts of the county. We hope soon, however, to be able to supply teachers in Leather Work and Millinery, the teacher for the former being now in training at the Guild of Learners' Class in London.

The County Federation had a tent in June at the Royal Cornwall Show held at Wadebridge, and the W.I. exhibits reached a high standard of efficiency. Visitors to the tent were numerous in spite of the inclemency of the weather, and much valuable propaganda work was done, the results being shown in the formation of many new Institutes during the autumn.

A successful exhibition was held at the Truro Women's Institute Centre in October, in connection with the Annual Council Meeting of the County Federation.

Lectures.—We are greatly indebted to the County Council for the valuable services of lecturers on Poultry, Agriculture and Horticulture, Dairy Work, Dressmaking and Cookery. In addition to the help given by the County Council, we have a long list of lecturers on various subjects, including The League of Nations, Astronomy, History, Citizenship, Health, Literature and Art, and Folk Lore.

Social Activities.—Social activities are also very flourishing, concerts, whist drives, folk dancing classes, and choral classes being popular. The two outstanding features of the year's work were the School for Conductors held at the Truro Women's Institute Centre in October by Mr. P. Middleton, Mus. Bac., and the formation of an Operatic Society in connection with one of the Institutes; the latter society has already distinguished itself by the production of *King Arthur* and *Prince Ferelon*.

Libraries.—Libraries are gradually increasing in number and size and prove a great source of help, but there is still a crying need for a greater variety of books; we are hopeful that when the Carnegie scheme comes into action this need will be supplied.

Institute Halls.—Many of our Institutes have started Building Funds and we congratulate all those who have already been successful in obtaining their own premises.

From the wonderful strides made by the movement during the past year it is very evident that Women's Institutes are making their presence felt in the county and in every way justify their existence.

CUMBERLAND (59).

President : The Lady Mabel Howard.

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

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

Organisation.—The Federation can report a year of steady work and progress. Sixteen new Institutes have been added, making the total 59. The total membership is now 3,200, an increase of about 600 on last year's total. Members of the Executive Committee have represented the County at the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting, and the Winchester Consultative Council. Three V.C.O.s attended the two Organisers' Conferences held by the N.F.W.I.

The County Federation has this year provided a speaker or demonstrator for the first monthly meeting of each new Institute. There has been a great demand for visits from V.C.O.s to Institute Annual Meetings, and Miss Parr, N.F.W.I. Organising Secretary, also spent a week in the county, addressing annual meetings, and helped several new Institutes over knotty points of procedure. An interesting experiment was tried in July when the officers of four new Institutes met together for a Specimen Committee and Monthly Meeting.

Tours were arranged for several speakers, including Miss Kelly of the Village Drama Society, Miss Rose who spoke on White Slave Traffic, and Miss Crompton on literary subjects.

For the summer meeting each group chose its own subject, and nearly all decided upon Music. A new feature of the group meetings this year has been a half hour entertainment to which different Institutes contributed.

A Shop and Rest Room were opened for three months, but, although a large amount of work was sent in, the quality of it was uneven, and it was felt that the Cumberland handicraft work is not yet up to the very high standard necessary to ensure good sales. It was impossible to find really suitable premises for the Rest Room, and so both this and the Shop had to be abandoned.

A *Garden Fête* was held at Greystoke Castle, by the kindness of Lady Mabel Howard, and was attended by 3,000 W.I. members from Cumberland, Westmorland and from over the Border. Thirty Institutes took part in the procession of "Women of all Nations," in which there were some very effective groups. Thirteen of these Institutes entered for a Dancing Competition in their national costumes. All the Institutes contributed in some way to the Fête, arranging tea, managing side shows and stalls, and providing choirs for the concerts held in the Hall. The net proceeds amounted to £274.

Council Meetings.—The Annual Council Meeting was held in October. An interesting address on the League of Nations was given. At the Half-Yearly Council Meeting, held in April, the County Director of Education gave a very stimulating address on the opportunities the Institutes have of fostering the desire for more education, both juvenile and adult.

County Council Help.—The Education Sub-Committee has kept closely in touch with the County Education Committee, and the new scheme for further education in Cumberland has been planned very largely with a view to the needs of Institutes. It is now a part of the scheme that every Institute shall be represented on the local Committees for Further Education. There was a great increase in the number of courses of lectures organised by Institutes, Dressmaking being the most popular course. The especial need for a qualified teacher of Home Nursing is, at the instance of the Federation, being brought to the notice of the County Health Committee.

The County Council Agricultural experts have given valuable help, and a steadily increasing number of Institutes apply for the lectures. Short courses in Dairy Work, of a week in duration, are being offered by the Farm School.

Study Circles.—In order to encourage the formation of Study Circles, a meeting for W.I. Officers was held in March, at which their organisation was explained. This resulted in a central Study Circle for the training of leaders, to which seven Institutes sent representatives. The subject chosen was Border History, and all the books were provided from the Cumberland Education Committee's library.

Handicrafts have occupied a large place in the work of the Federation. The new teachers who were added to the panel as a result of the Guild of Learners School have been very much in demand. Three members have passed the A Test in Furcraft and one in Embroidery.

Finance.—The Executive Committee feels that the members are to be congratulated on the improved financial position of the Federation. It is a great work accomplished to start each year with an assured income. Thirty-eight Institutes have contributed to County and National Funds, new Institutes not being asked for contributions during their first years.

Institute Activities.—The programmes for 1924 have shown good results from Mrs. Nugent Harris' talks on Programme Planning at the Group Meetings of the previous autumn.

Several Institutes have held flower shows in which they have been helped by the model schedule supplied by the County Council Expert.

Music has played a large part in nearly all programmes, a stimulus to the musical side of our activities having been given by the inclusion of a special class for W.I. choirs at the Carlisle Musical Festival.

Amongst other interesting activities recorded in the Institute reports are: A Shakespeare Evening, A Nature Study Club for children, for which a lecturer on "A Year in the Bird Sanctuary" was secured from the Selborne Society, Ten Minute Talks on Gardening at each monthly meeting, Dramatic Societies, and a flourishing Junior Group. Two Institutes have seen the completion of their Village Halls during the year. The useful and friendly custom of entertaining neighbouring Institutes at the monthly meeting seems to be spreading.

Public Work.—The Federation joined with the National Council of Women to hear Dame Meriel Talbot speak on Overseas Settlement, and has since appointed representatives to the local Emigration Committees.

The struggle for a pure water supply at Kirkbride continues, and no opportunity has been lost of keeping this question before the County Health Committee.

A small instance of the force of combined action through the County Federation is seen in the success of the Federation's request to the L.M.S. Railway that they should repair the door of the Ladies' Waiting Room in Carlisle Station. Individual effort to secure this repair had failed repeatedly.

The League of Nations Union has supplied speakers, and the Carlisle Branch reserved seats for W.I. members to hear a lecture by Professor Gilbert Murray.

DERBYSHIRE (41).

President: Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire.

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

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

Organisation.—It has been a busy and progressive year, a very important event being the training at Leicester of five new V.C.O.s, who were badly needed in the county. Five new Institutes have been formed.

The County Federation sent three delegates, and the Institutes sixteen and two proxies, to the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting. Delegates have also attended the three Consultative Council meetings.

The County Finance Scheme is working well, and thirty-one Institutes contributed this year. New Institutes do not contribute during their first year. The Federation receives no grant from the N.F.W.I., and contributes to it a sum equal to £1 for each Institute which has been in existence for more than a year.

In September a very successful two days' conference was held at Derby, the first day for V.C.O.s, and the second day for members of the County Executive, W.I. Presidents and Vice-Presidents in the morning, and for W.I. Secretaries and Treasurers in the afternoon. Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I., and Miss Bouverie conducted the conference.

A lecture tour was arranged for Miss Watkins, who visited thirteen Institutes.

Council Meetings.—Two meetings were held, in March and July, and the Annual General Meeting took place in November.

At the March Meeting, Miss Bouverie, of the National Federation Executive, spoke on the agenda for the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting, and by her explanations made the resolutions more interesting. Miss Constance Warner, gave an address on Slaughter Reform, which resulted in some Institutes sending resolutions to their local authorities urging them to adopt Clause 9B of the Ministry of Health Bye-laws.

At the July meeting there was a discussion on the re-drafted rules passed at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the N.F.W.I. Miss Geikie Cobb, M.B.E., B.A., LL.B., spoke in the afternoon on "The Law as it affects Women and Children."

At the afternoon session of the Annual Meeting, Miss Holland, J.P., spoke on the Poor Law, especially with reference to women's work in connection with Boards of Guardians.

The Rural Community Council is now established, and the County Federation is represented upon it. The Organising Secretary of the R.C.C. has visited many of the Institutes and explained the Council's objects, one of which is the provision of excellent lectures, which Institutes can obtain at a special fee of 10/6 inclusive of expenses.

County Council Aid.—Classes in various subjects have been provided by the Education Committee, and lectures by the Public Health Department and the Agricultural and Horticultural Committee.

Handicrafts.—A short course of lessons in Decorative Stitchery and Embroidery was arranged in June.

Each Institute was entitled to send in twelve articles for selection for the N.F.W.I. tent at the Royal Show, Leicester, and from these the Handicrafts Sub-Committee chose fifty-eight for exhibition.

Three co-operative exhibits, six furnishing and eighteen ordinary exhibits were sent to the N.F.W.I. Exhibition in London. The child's outfit sent by the Duffield Group won a first prize, and twenty-three certificates were gained.

One member attended the Guild of Learners' London School for Fur Mounting, and one attended the School for Millinery. As Upholstresses are so badly needed in the Institutes, the County Federation paid the expenses of three members attending the Upholstery Course in Stafford. During the year students have taken four A Tests (one in Basketry, one in Fur Mounting, and one in Lace Making), and one B Test (Basketry) 1st class.

Music and Acting.—The new Sub-Committee formed to deal with these subjects has had an active year. In conjunction with the Organisation Sub-Committee it organised a County Rally, at which nine Institutes took part in a descants competition, six in a madrigal and four in an acting competition. Miss Ursula Nettleship judged the singing and Miss Cross (Manchester) the acting. The play acted by the winning Institute was written by one of its members.

Institute Activities.—Several Institutes serve as centres for the distribution of books under the County Library Scheme.

Lectures on the work of the League of Nations' Union and the National Savings Association have been given, and branches of the latter have been formed in several Institutes. During Health Week a number of Institutes helped the County Insurance Committee.

Three Institutes have held produce shows, five have obtained their own huts or halls. Many members visited Wembley, although no county expedition was organised. A number of members from the Duffield Group visited the N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Exhibition in London. Many Institutes have interchanged visits to one another.

DEVON (79).

Chairman: The Lady Clinton, Bicton, East Budleigh, Devon.

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

Organisation.—There has been a steady increase in the number of Institutes in the county during 1924. Sixteen new ones have been formed, making the total number 79, with a membership of about 5,000. Devon was better represented than ever before at the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting, the rate of representation being 83 per cent.

Council Meetings were held at Exeter in January and July. At the latter meeting an address was given by Lady Grey, member of the National Federation Executive Committee.

Groups.—In accordance with a resolution passed at the Summer Council Meeting, the Executive Committee has organised a Group System and the Institutes have been divided into ten groups.

Exhibitions.—The County Handicraft Exhibition was held at Exeter in May. The number of exhibits was nearly double that of the preceding year. Prize exhibits were sent from Exeter to the Devon County Show at Newton Abbot. A South Devon Group Exhibition was held at Aveton Gifford.

Tours.—A Tour was arranged for Miss Nightingale, Regular Organiser of the National Federation, in February. Miss Nightingale spoke at different centres on the duties of W.I. officers and committee members, and gave much useful help. A tour was also arranged in December for Miss Watkins, who spoke at twenty-eight W.I. Meetings. Miss Domville (Assistant Commissioner for the National Savings Association) has spoken at twenty meetings, and eight new National Savings Associations have been formed.

County Council Classes.—Great help has again been given by the Devon County Council. Twenty-six classes have been arranged in domestic subjects (including Dressmaking, Household Jobbing, Household Renovations, Millinery and Needlework). Twenty-eight lectures on Horticulture and twenty-eight Fruit Bottling Demonstrations have been given by Miss Gunnell (Horticultural Superintendent, Devon Agricultural Committee); six lectures on Poultry Keeping and one on Dairying were also given by the Devon Agricultural Committee Staff. Health Lectures have been given by the Devon County Medical Department. Lately two County Inspectors have offered to give talks on Education at W.I. meetings.

Shop Window.—As an experiment, a Shop Window has been taken for six months by the County Federation at an Arts and Crafts Shop in the Cathedral Close, Exeter, for the sale of W.I. members' work, and a Shop Secretary had been appointed.

Devon Music Competitions.—Budleigh Salterton W.I. Choir won the Federation Banner at the Devon Music Competition (W.I. Class) in June.

DORSET (99).

Chairman: Miss Style, Hillbutts, Wimborne.

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

Organisation.—The Council meeting held in November 1923 had decided that the Federation should aim at assisting the Institutes in programme making, in simple procedure and at re-organising the Groups so as to bring the Institutes into closer touch

with the County Federation. To achieve this the Executive Committee organised, in the spring, Programme-making Schools, which were held at centres easily reached by the Institutes and were well attended. Simple and "Golden Thread" types of programme were dealt with, and those Institutes who were unable to send representatives to the schools were visited separately afterwards. In the autumn, Procedure Schools were held in the same way, instruction being given on conducting the business of an Institute. Both sets of schools were conducted by V.C.O.s and members of the Executive, who had attended a special school in Dorchester held by Miss Parr, N.F.W.I. Organising [Secretary, and by Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser.

The Executive has, through its members and through the V.C.O.s, kept in touch with the Institutes, twenty official visits, and one hundred and four visits by private invitation, having been paid. Three V.C.O.s from Dorset attended the inter-county conference for organisers, held at Taunton in July.

Competitions. The Shakespeare Competition held for the second time proved very successful; fourteen Institutes performed and were judged by Professor Morgan of Exeter University, assisted by special judges for the costumes, dancing and music.

Handicrafts.—The Handicrafts Sub-Committee has supplied sixty-six demonstrators to Institutes and raised a fund (part of which is being used for the training of more demonstrators) by holding a sale of members' handicraft work. The Sub-Committee organised the "Dorset" Room at the N.F.W.I. Exhibition in London last October. Smocking classes have added three good teachers to the County List.

Domestic Science.—Classes for demonstrators have been held, and nine demonstrators in Housecraft, Cooking and Fruit Bottling, Laundry, etc., have been supplied to Institutes. A member was helped to take a course at the Camden Research Station of Bristol University, and she is now available to demonstrate and take classes.

Folk Dancing.—A school for teachers was held, to enable Institutes to have a member trained sufficiently to teach in her own Institute.

The Dorset Supplement to Home and Country pays its way well. With a small balance from 1923 included, it now has some £7 in hand, and it is hoped later on to increase the size of the Supplement.

A *Three-Day Fête* was held in July to raise funds for the County Federation and for a central Club House in Dorchester. £251 was cleared.

British Empire Exhibition.—Carriages on excursion trains were reserved for W.I. members and their friends for an expedition to visit the Exhibition at Wembley, and two hundred and sixty-six people from Dorset Institutes availed themselves of this arrangement.

Lecture Tours on Gardening and on Women Police were undertaken by Miss Broad and Commandant Allen respectively.

DURHAM (50).

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

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

Organisation.—The Durham County Federation now numbers 50 Institutes, six new Institutes having been formed, and one suspended. During the past year there have been three Council Meetings at which the special speakers were Mrs. Penelope Wheeler from the British Drama League, Mr. W. E. Milward, from the County Education Department, who lectured on Our Inheritance, Mrs. Liddiard, who gave recitations from well known authors, and Lady Grey who gave an address on W.I. work. The biennial Group Conferences were held in the different groups, the spring meetings being addressed by Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, on committee work for W.I. members; the autumn group meetings were addressed by various speakers, the County Executive helping to provide them when necessary. The number of the Institutes has increased so largely that they have now been divided into seven groups.

A County Handbook has been issued, including a new panel of lecturers and demonstrators.

The National Federation held a School for training V.C.O.s in Darlington in September. Durham now has four V.C.O.s, who, together with members of the County Executive, paid ninety eight visits to Institutes during the year.

County Council Classes.—Certificates were issued for satisfactory work and attendance at these classes and a special class was arranged for dressmaking teachers.

A *County Exhibition and Fête* was held at Auckland Castle, for which over 60 exhibits were sent in, and the judges agreed that the standard of work had improved. Stalls and side shows resulted in a profit of over £74.

Handicrafts.—A free demonstration in eiderdown making or umbrella covering was offered to every Institute by the County Federation, with most successful results.

Reports from the Institutes show that classes have been held in Leather Work, Embroidery and Decorative Stitchery, Dress-making, Stool Making, Glove Making, Basketry, Raffia Work, Upholstery and Cookery. Co-operative work resulted in a quilt, curtains, three baby's baskets, and some rug making.

Other Institute Activities.—The Arts League of Service has given seven performances, and the British Red Cross Society has held a series of Health Lectures in the county during the year. Classes in Musical Appreciation have been held.

Public work undertaken by the Institutes includes help given to Hospitals, the Blind Institution, Village Halls, Flower Shows and a 'Bus Shelter, and many Christmas parties given to old people and children.

ESSEX (154).

Chairman : Mrs. Buxton, Birch Hall, Theydon Bois, Essex.

Hon. Secretary : Miss Dora Christy, 5, King Edward's Avenue, Chelmsford.

Organisation.—The total membership of the 154 Institutes in the Essex Federation is now over 12,500. Eight new Institutes were formed during 1924, and one lapsed. There are ten Voluntary County Organisers, who have paid 140 visits to Institutes during the past year.

At the spring Group Conferences, exhibitions of handicrafts and choral competitions were held, and talks on the Empire were given.

In September a Holiday School for lecturers and demonstrators was held at Walton-on-the-Naze, with instruction on speaking and teaching by a Mistress of Method. Tests for intending lecturers and demonstrators have been held at different centres and the Panel of Speakers has been enlarged.

The special instruction given to officers and committee members in the autumn was appreciated, especially by some of the newer Institutes.

Handicrafts.—Classes for training demonstrators and teachers have been held in various parts of the county, the crafts taught being Raffia Work, Embroidery, Millinery, Soft Toy Making, and Basketry. A tent at the Essex Agricultural Show, with demonstrations, and an exhibit at the County Fête, attracted a large number of spectators.

The work sent to the National Federation Handicraft Exhibition in London was much admired, especially the county co-operative layette, which was afterwards presented by the workers to the County Federation to be sold for the benefit of the funds.

The sales at the Handicraft Depôt have increased and a higher standard has been attained.

Music.—In addition to the choral competitions at the various Group Conferences, in which forty-two choirs competed, a final competition was arranged; there were thirteen entries and, for the second year in succession, Stansted W.I. won the Challenge Cup.

Talks on the formation of choirs and hints to conductors have been given.

Drama.—The new enterprise of competitions in acting inspired twenty-four Institutes to enter for the preliminary round. Six companies came forward for the final test, four of them acting scenes from Shakespeare. The winners were a company who produced "The Card Party" from *Cranford*.

The Supplement to Home and Country is issued free to subscribers to the Headquarters journal, and by its aid members are kept in close touch with the County Federation work. The circulation is about 2,500.

County Council Aid.—Lectures on various agricultural subjects, and on Hygiene, Nursing, Cookery, and Domestic Science, have been given. In addition to the provision of these lectures, the County Council continues to show practical sympathy towards the work of the Women's Institutes in many other ways, including a grant of money and the loan of halls for committee meetings and conferences.

Institute Activities.—During the past year there has been evidence of a fuller understanding amongst the members of their responsibilities, not only towards their own Institutes but also towards the County Federation, the organisation of which depends directly upon them. At the Annual Council Meeting there was evidence of greater sympathy and interest on the part of the Institutes in the work of the County Federation. A number of Institutes have shown their interest in a very practical way by volunteering to undertake the addressing of envelopes, supplements, etc., at times when work at the County Office is unusually heavy.

One Institute has undertaken the making of soft slippers for the children attending the village school.

FLINT AND DENBIGH (22).

Chairman : Mrs. Griffith, Plas Newydd, Denbigh.

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

Council Meetings.—The Federation Council has met at Rhyl three times during the year, the Annual Meeting being in May and the other meetings in January and September.

Executive Committee.—The Executive Committee has held five meetings at Denbigh. It has also sent representatives to the Conference for Welsh County Federations organised by the National Federation at Shrewsbury, and to the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting.

Handicrafts.—A course of six Furcraft classes was held at Denbigh in March, taught by Miss Parry, of Criccieth, and attended by ten students from six Institutes. Several of these students have since then themselves taught W.I. classes. Classes in Millinery, Glove Making, Rug Making, and Upholstery have also been held in the Institutes. An Exhibition was organised by the County Federation in May in connection with the Annual Council Meeting.

Lectures and Demonstrations in Poultry Killing and Trussing, Fruit Bottling, Bee Keeping, Gardening for Profit, and Plant Potting and Tending have been given in several Institutes by County Council instructors. A lecture tour was arranged in February for Miss Millar of the Milk Publicity Council.

Organisation.—Seven new Institutes have been formed during the year, and four more are about to be formed. Hanmer and Llansilian Institutes have applied for permission to join the Shropshire Federation and, in view of the exceptional difficulties which these Institutes experience in attending meetings in Flint and Denbigh, the transfer has been sanctioned by the two counties concerned and by the National Federation.

In January a tour of the Institutes was arranged for Miss Lumley, National Federation Organiser, and in November another N.F.W.I. Organiser, Miss Nightingale, visited the county and addressed group meetings at Denbigh, Rhyl and Oswestry, which were well attended by W.I. committee members.

GLAMORGAN (14).

President : Mrs. Turbervill, Glanwenny, Bridgend.

Chairman : Mrs. Daniel, Fairy Hill, Reynoldston, Swansea.

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

Organisation.—The Executive Committee has met six times during the year, and has despatched a large amount of work on each occasion. Reports from the Finance Sub-Committee and from the V.C.O. have been received regularly. A Sub-Committee for Propaganda and organising work has been formed. One new Institute has been started with a strong membership.

Exhibitions.—A large number of exhibits were sent from the county to the Abergavenny Exhibition in March, and many certificates and medals were won. An exhibition tent was organised at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show held at Bridgend in July. Nearly every county in Wales sent exhibits and the work

shown was of a very high standard. The tent was well patronised each day and great interest was displayed by all the visitors. Most of the exhibits were sent on to the National Eisteddfod at Pontypool, where a similar exhibition took place.

Handicrafts.—Most of the Institutes hold weekly classes, where the following handicrafts are taught:—Glove Making, Leather Work, Cane Work, Papier Maché, Wool Work, Dressmaking, Plain Needlework. One Glamorgan student attended the National Federation Furcraft Class this year, and one the Millinery Class.

Social Activities are also very flourishing in all the Institutes.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE (99).

President : The Dowager Duchess of Beaufort.

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

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

Organisation.—Nine new Institutes have been started during the year, and one has lapsed which it is hoped to revive later. A County Federation office has been opened in Gloucester, this being necessary now that there are ninety-nine Institutes in the Federation.

A series of conferences was held to discuss Women's Institute work from the Presidents' point of view, and the meetings were well attended. Meetings for Programme Planning and Finance were arranged for groups and proved very interesting and helpful. The Executive Committee endeavoured to assist the National Milk Publicity Campaign, undertaken throughout the county during the year, by arranging for lecturers to speak on the subject at Women's Institute meetings.

Handicrafts.—A successful Handicraft Exhibition was held in the Corn Exchange, Gloucester, in October, and was attended by over 1,000 people. Nearly every group in the county arranged a Group Exhibition prior to this, which led to a remarkable development in the friendly ties between neighbouring Women's Institutes and between the Institutes and their County Federation. One of the features of the County Exhibition was a nursery furnished, even to tables and chairs, by members of Women's Institutes in Gloucestershire. From the County Exhibition articles were selected to be sent to the National Federation Handicraft Exhibition in London.

Help from the County Council.—The relationship between the Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes and the Gloucestershire County Council is very cordial and the former, by the courtesy of the County Council, holds its meetings in the Shire

Hall. A grant of money for classes in domestic science was received from the County Council by the Federation for the second year in succession, and was expended on nine courses in Upholstery, eight in Dressmaking, one in Millinery, and one in Cookery. These are all 20-hour courses on the lines laid down by the Board of Education.

Library.—The Gloucestershire Rural Library has taken advantage of our organisation in the county to send boxes of books to all those villages which have a Women's Institute.

Co-operation with other Bodies.—The Executive Committee is represented on the committee of the Gloucester and Bristol Folk Dance Society by one member, on the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council by three members, and on the Agricultural Education Committee of the County Council by one member.

HAMPSHIRE (159).

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.—Eight new Institutes were formed during 1924 and the membership among the older Institutes has increased. Two new Voluntary County Organisers have been appointed, but unfortunately one of them has since had to resign owing to ill-health. Hampshire has also had the services of another organiser, who had formerly worked in West Sussex. Mrs. Dalgety, one of Hampshire's Voluntary Organisers, has been co-opted to serve on the National Federation Executive Committee.

In April the Executive Committee appointed the usual sub-committees, all of which have met regularly during the year. They have lately recommended the addition of a Group Sub-Committee and this recommendation is to be carried out.

Two Council Meetings were held during the year, one at Winchester and one at Andover, while a conference on Procedure, for Institute officers, was held in May.

N.F.W.I. Consultative Council.—The National Federation held a meeting of the Consultative Council in Winchester in June. Lady Denman was present on both days and delegates attended from nineteen County Federations. After the business of the Council had been carried through there was an open meeting, at which interesting addresses were given on Rural Development and Poultry Keeping in Orchards, after which several Institutes acted scenes from Shakespeare.

Finance.—The financial position of the County Federation is thoroughly satisfactory. At the Annual Meeting in the Spring the budget for the coming year is put before the delegates, and this year a quota of 4d. per member was asked for. This covers the County Federation's contribution of £1 per Institute to the National Federation and all County Federation expenses. This request met with a splendid response, all Institutes contributing.

Handicrafts continue to flourish in the county, some excellent exhibits being sent up to the National Federation Exhibition in London. A large number of groups held small exhibitions during the year and all Institutes are now busily engaged in preparing for a large County Exhibition to be held next June. A school for soft toy making was held at the Women's Institute Depôt in Winchester. This depôt continues to do a good trade and is also of the greatest help to workers in providing suitable material, good patterns and advice on the many different crafts followed in the county.

Music.—A large number of Hampshire Institutes now have good choirs, and they have been greatly helped and encouraged by the Annual Musical Festival held in Winchester, which always includes in its programme special classes for Institute choirs, in which a great many compete. Folk Dancing is also being taken up with enthusiasm and at all the summer Group Exhibitions teams of dancers took part in competitions.

Other Activities.—Programmes show a steady improvement, lectures and demonstrations on a wide range of subjects having been held. Many Institutes are now undertaking definite work to help their villages, Infant Welfare and Dental Clinics being run, National Savings Associations organised, and tennis, badminton and magazine clubs started. A large number of Institutes have helped to build huts, while others have contributed such gifts as stoves, lamps, clocks or pianos to huts already in existence. Several Institutes are trying Golden Thread programmes—The Empire, The Home, Careers for Girls, History of Hampshire, Appreciation of Art, and Life and Labour during the last 100 years, being the subjects chosen.

HEREFORDSHIRE (57).

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

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

Organisation.—Four new Institutes have been formed, bringing the total number up to fifty-seven, with an approximate membership of 2,800. Work and the increase of membership both go steadily forward.

Members of the Executive Committee have represented the Federation at two Consultative Councils of the N.F.W.I. during the year and the V.C.O.s and the Secretary have attended Organisers' Conferences in London and Gloucester and the School at Shrewsbury.

By the sale of W.I. Calendars for 1924, the Federation gained the sum of £14. Another Calendar was produced for 1925, by which the sum of £30 was realised.

Handicrafts.—Two students from the county attended the Furcraft School held by the N.F.W.I. in Hereford. Exhibits were sent to an Exhibition at Abergavenny in March, three bronze medals and nine certificates being gained by Herefordshire members. Twenty-five certificates were gained at the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition in London.

Folk Dancing.—The Federation organised a meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a branch of the English Folk Dance Society. The Director of Education, representatives of the Girl Guides, and others, attended, in addition to W.I. members. Mrs. Hobbs addressed the meeting, which enthusiastically came to the decision to form a Branch, and a Committee was thereupon elected.

Work in the Institutes.—There is a growing spirit of co-operation and responsiveness which has been evident in the readiness of the Institutes to give help and encouragement, as well as financial support, to their County Federation.

HERTFORDSHIRE (80).

President: Lady Salisbury, Hatfield House, Herts.

Chairman: Mrs. Gilliat, Frogmore Hall, Hertford.

Secretary: Miss Farquharson, Bourne Cottage, Broxbourne, Herts.

Organisation.—There are now eighty Institutes in the county and these are divided into sixteen groups. There are four V.C.O.s, and they have visited the greater number of Institutes during the year and spoken at group conferences, in addition to starting new Institutes.

The subjects taken at group conferences have included Handicrafts, Music, the Drama, and Organisation, and one group arranged a debate. There are Sub-Committees for Organisation, Finance, Music and Drama. The Federation is 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. It is also in close touch with the Rural Community Council. Representatives have attended all the Consultative Councils and the Organisers' Conferences arranged by the N.F.W.I. during the year.

Lady Denman spoke at the Annual General Meeting held at Hertford in April, at which there were both choral and dramatic competitions.

In October an Exhibition of Handicrafts and Produce was held at St. Albans, and the half-yearly Council, at which Lady Isabel Margesson spoke, was held on the morning of the same day.

County Council.—A sum of money has been granted by the Education Committee to provide half the fees and expenses of any lecturer approved by them and applied for by an Institute. The Council have most kindly lent a room at the Education Office, Hertford, for County Federation committee meetings, and members of the office staff gave their services at the Annual General Meeting when the balloting for the new committee took place.

The Council has also arranged for special terms for Institutes making use of schools for their monthly meetings.

The Staff at the Institute of Agriculture, St. Albans, have given a large number of lectures to Institutes, and assisted greatly in judging and giving demonstrations in the produce section of the W.I. County Exhibition at St. Albans. A special short course for W.I. members was held at the Institute during the summer, and two Poultry Scholarships at the Institute have been awarded from the funds of the late Association of Landswomen, which were entrusted to the Herts. Federation of Women's Institutes.

Special classes in poultry, eggs, butter, cheese and honey were arranged for W.I. members, at the Hatfield Agricultural Show, and in 1925 these classes will be open to members of other Federations besides Herts.

Lectures and Demonstrations have been given during the year on a very wide range of subjects, including Astronomy, Travel, Local Government, Food Values, First Aid, Dressmaking, Millinery, Glove Making, Basketry, Cookery, and House Odd Jobs. The Federation has issued a new list of lecturers and demonstrators, which should help Institutes considerably in making out their programmes.

Music and Drama.—Both these branches of Institute activities continue to flourish, and competitions are being planned for 1925. The Singing Competitions, on the lines of a proficiency test, will take place on the last day of the N. and E. Herts. Musical Festival this year, by the kind invitation of that Committee.

Exhibition.—The standard of handicraft work was noticeably higher at the St. Alban's Exhibition than on former occasions and there were a large number of entries.

Libraries.—The Carnegie Scheme has now been adopted by the county, and as soon as it is running the Institutes should be greatly helped and benefited.

Other Activities.—At a large fête in aid of the County Nursing Association, held at Hatfield House in May, the Institutes undertook the serving of the teas, out of which a substantial sum of money was raised.

Members from Herts. were amongst the parties organised by the N.F.W.I. to visit Switzerland during the summer.

The County Secretary attended the World's Poultry Congress at Barcelona and Madrid in May as delegate for the N.F.W.I.

Gifts of money and in kind have been sent to many of the Hospitals, Workhouses, and other institutions, and parties from the "Not-Forgotten Association" have been entertained by two Institutes. One Institute is knitting bed-socks for the children's branch of the Orthopædic Hospital at Stanmore. Another has held a successful Health Week, and is embarking on an operetta entitled "Princess Ju-Ju." Talks on current events prove most interesting at the monthly meetings.

Miss Pam gave prizes for a special class for W.I. members at the Kimpton Poultry Show, and there were a large number of entries. A great many Institutes in the county have started branches of the National Savings Association.

Watton Co-operative Marketing Scheme has had a very successful year, with a profit of £431, and two other villages have started on the same lines.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE (39).

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

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

Organisation.—The members of the Executive Committee have been very active in visiting the Institutes, nearly all of which have received at least one visit during the year. One new V.C.O. has been trained and appointed. Three Council Meetings have been held: the Annual Meeting was in January; at the May meeting the delegates to the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting met and discussed the agenda; Mrs. Nugent Harris attended the October Council, her address on "A Vision of Institutes five years hence" being much appreciated.

Groups.—At the May Council it was resolved to group the Institutes. Eight groups were formed and meetings of each group were held in September. It is hoped that these meetings will be a means of promoting friendship among the Institutes.

County Council Aid.—The County Council have given, free of cost, the services of their Horticultural adviser, and have provided twenty lectures on Poultry. They have also granted £25 towards the transport of our own teachers, under a scheme drawn up by the Executive Committee and approved by the County Council.

Handicrafts.—An exhibition tent was arranged at the County Agricultural Show, and one hundred and eight exhibits were shown. A member was again invited to exhibit specimens of Rush Work at the Royal Show. At the N.F.W.I. Exhibition in London one co-operative exhibit and eleven general exhibits were shown by this County. Three members have attended Guild of Learners' Schools in London.

Finance.—A special appeal was made in the summer by holding Marvellous Markets in different centres. The response has placed the county finances in a satisfactory position, and will help the Federation to feel that the growth of its activities is in no way hampered by lack of money.

Institute Activities.—Lectures on a variety of subjects have been given, some of the most interesting being: Things Every Woman Ought to Know, Our Remote Ancestors, The Abolition of Slavery, The League of Nations, India, Folk Music, and Poultry Keeping and Horticulture. Demonstrations and classes have dealt with the following: Decorative Stitchery, Organdi Muslin Flowers, Dressmaking, Eiderdown Making, Rug Making, Basketry, Raffia Work, Glove Making, Chair Caning, Cookery and Fruit Bottling.

Practically every Institute had a summer outing, the most popular being a visit to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley.

Several Institutes have worked hard to build their own huts or Village Halls.

Community work undertaken by the Institutes includes special efforts for the local Hospitals, the Nursing Associations and the Sanatorium; catering at village fêtes and flower shows, entertaining old age pensioners and widows to tea.

Four of our county weekly papers publish monthly accounts (supplied by our Press Correspondent) of Institute activities.

The County Federation Executive is much encouraged by the feeling that new life has been instilled into Institute work during the year. Gradually both officers and members are realising the value of team work, and the increased solidarity of our Institutes is founded upon careful preservation of democratic principles, and sound business and financial methods.

ISLE OF ELY (24).

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

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

Organisation.—The County Federation has been severely handicapped by the loss of several valued members of the Executive Committee and V.C.O.s. One new Institute has been formed.

Two Council Meetings were held during the year at which both Mrs. Nugent Harris (Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I.), at Ely, and Miss Nightingale (Organiser, N.F.W.I.), at Wisbech, spoke on the working of the Group System and its advantages. The system was adopted and a series of group conferences was held, at which Miss Nightingale conducted a school for W.I. officers and committee members. All the Institutes benefited by Miss Nightingale's clear and helpful addresses.

Great efforts were made during the year to persuade the County Council to adopt the Carnegie Rural Library Scheme. A reading circle was organised at the Ely Centre by the Education Sub-Committee.

Handicrafts.—Two handicraft tours were arranged by the Handicrafts Sub-Committee. Seventeen articles were sent up from the Isle to the N.F.W.I. Exhibition at the Drapers' Hall, and of these twelve were exhibited.

Demonstrations have been given in Decorative Stitchery, Smocking, Dressmaking, Wool Rug Making, Leather Work, Rush Work, Raffia Work, Papier Maché, String Mat Mending and Paper Hats.

The Annual Garden Fête, held in the beautiful grounds of the Theological College, Ely, was an unqualified success. The attractions included a good exhibition of handicraft work, a W.I. choir competition, and a children's fancy dress parade.

Institute Activities.—These have included demonstrations in Cheshire Cheese Making and classes in Singing and Folk Dancing. Various forms of community work have been carried out; five Institutes provided teas and happy evenings for the old folk; two have, by means of whist drives, raised funds for their local Nursing Associations; the members of one Institute made thirty toys and gave them as a Christmas present to the children in the Ely Union. The Ely Centre choir helped with the Cathedral singing during the choristers' holidays. Three Institutes have organised flower shows.

ISLE OF WIGHT (18).

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

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

Organisation.—Two new Institutes have been formed during 1924 and the total membership of the County Federation is now approximately 1,200. Four Council Meetings have been held during the year, and have been well attended. Miss Parr, Organising Secretary of the N.F.W.I., attended the Annual Meeting and

spoke on County and National Finance. Miss Parr also spoke on Finance and Budgeting at the November Council, and an address on Folk Dancing was given by Miss Seymour of the English Folk Dance Society. Increasing use is made of the W.I. Rest Room in Newport, which is open daily to members free of charge. Eighteen delegates out of a possible nineteen attended the National Federation Annual Meeting in London. The Executive Committee has met fourteen times and has dealt with a very large amount of W.I. business.

Handicrafts.—A County Handicrafts Exhibition was organised at Ryde in November, and over 100 certificates were won by members in the various craft competitions. Five of the southern County Federations responded to an invitation to send exhibits. Miss Somerville, Hon. Secretary of the National Federation Handicrafts Committee, attended and spoke on Standard in Handicrafts. An exhibit of W.I. handicraft work was also organised at the Royal Agricultural Show, Newport, and aroused great interest.

A handicrafts stall is maintained at the Rest Room and affords an excellent outlet for surplus craftwork which members wish to sell. Gloving leathers, patterns and other craft materials are sold at the stall by the County Federation.

Baby Show.—Another important County Federation activity was the organisation of a most successful Baby Show, open to all the Island. The entries were numerous and the babies shown very beautiful.

Work in the Institutes.—The Institute reports shew the year's activities to have been many and varied. Lectures and demonstrations of all kinds have been arranged and classes held for special handicraft instruction. The social side of the programmes seems to include everything necessary to enable members to spend happy and enjoyable times together. A considerable amount of community work is undertaken and in particular the County Hospital receives substantial support from the Institutes. The circulating library scheme has not yet fulfilled all expectations, but an improvement is hoped for in 1925.

EAST KENT (58).

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

Hon. Secretary: Miss Watson, Gt. Watersend, near Dover.

Organisation.—Five Institutes have been formed during the year. The total membership is approximately 3,500, an increase of 100. The Organisation Sub-Committee has worked well, and in most cases the groups are becoming of great assistance to the

Executive, though in some cases group work is still little understood and Group Secretaries are hard to find. The county is not well supplied with V.C.O.s and work falls heavily on the few. There are hopes that others will come forward.

Council Meetings.—Two Council Meetings have been held. These grow in popularity every year, and are well attended. In January Mr. Orr, Secretary of the Kent Rural Community Council, addressed the meeting. A Shakespeare Reading competition, for which thirteen Institutes entered, gave great pleasure. At the Annual Meeting in June, Mr. Mansfield of the Theatre Royal, Canterbury, kindly addressed the meeting and gave readings from Shakespeare. Miss Goldingham spoke on Legislation for Women.

County Activities.—A Shakespeare Dramatic Competition took place in Canterbury in December. Sixteen Institutes entered and surprised the large audiences present by the scope of their ability.

The Choral Competition, which was held in the Theatre Royal Canterbury, was again a great success.

Handicrafts.—Though there is on the whole no great enthusiasm for handicrafts among the Institutes, many beautiful things are made. Eleven East Kent exhibits were accepted for the general section of the N.F.W.I. Exhibition at the Drapers' Hall, as well as three pieces of co-operative work.

Two members have attended National Federation handicraft classes, one an Upholstery class, the other a Millinery class.

A banner beautifully woven by a member of Hamstreet and Orlestone W.I., representing the Maid of Kent, has been presented to the Federation by an anonymous donor.

One W.I. has held an Exhibition, and one Group has done the same on a larger scale.

At the Agricultural Show, held in Ashford in July, handicraft work, as well as produce, found a ready sale. Prince Henry, who visited the W.I. Tent, was presented with a pair of fur gloves. The Tent was in every way a great success.

Classes have been held under the County Council, the most popular being Dressmaking and Glove Making. Five Institutes have started National Savings Branches this year, after visits from Mrs. Ravenshaw of the National Savings Association.

WEST KENT (89).

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

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

Organisation.—The scheme of delegating to the Districts, or Groups of Institutes, the development of the work in the various branches has proved very satisfactory, and both Districts and Institutes are gradually finding workers willing to take the lead.

Quarterly meetings for these representatives are held, and Gardening, Lectures, Handicrafts and Food Production have been discussed during the year.

In addition to the two Council Meetings, a meeting was held in May, 1924, when delegates attending the Annual Meeting of the National Federation discussed the agenda with the members of the West Kent Executive Committee.

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

The *West Kent Women's Institute News* shows a tiny balance on the right side during the second year of its existence.

Handicrafts.—Sixteen pieces of work were accepted from West Kent for the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition, as well as twenty-six out of the twenty-nine furnishing exhibits sent in. Two pieces of co-operative work were sent in, Ightham W.I. gaining a first class award.

Six members have attended Guild of Learners' Schools during the year; eight members have passed A (Proficiency) Tests and one member the B (Lecture-Demonstration) Test, gaining a B2 Certificate. Reports from the Institutes show that about one hundred classes have been given in crafts this year, including those granted by the Kent Education Committee. Dressmaking, Glove Making, Upholstery, Embroidery, Rug Making, Raffia, and Household Jobbing have proved the most popular.

Agriculture and Horticulture.—A County Produce Exhibition was held at Lullingstone Castle in July, on the same day as the Pageant, and the standard of exhibits sent in was reported satisfactory by the judges.

The county representative for Food Production has produced a scheme for the improvement and marketing of livestock, garden produce, etc., and the county representative for Gardening

has drawn up plans for the formation of District Garden Societies to promote co-operation among the Institutes as regards lectures, exchange of plants and co-operative buying of seeds and bulbs. Such a society has already been formed in the Malling District, and Shorne and Thong Institute has started a W.I. Rabbit Club, by which members are helped with the purchase price of pure bred animals.

Thirty-seven members entered their gardens for the Flower Garden Competition last year, the Cup being awarded to a member of Frindsbury W.I.

A 1st prize in the Dairy Show at Islington, in a class open to all Institutes in England, was awarded to one member from West Kent, another member receiving a Reserve and two Highly Commended awards.

Music.—Sevenoaks District reports a Singing Competition, and Rochester District a concert which included folk songs and descants by a combined group choir of one hundred voices.

Drama.—Through the kindness of the Right Hon. Sir William Hart Dyke and Lady Emily Dyke, the West Kent Federation was able to hold its Pageant in the beautiful setting of Lullingstone Castle. Eight hundred members, drawn from seventy-eight Institutes, took part. Organised by Mrs. Streatfield, assisted by a committee of officers of the Executive and the stage managers of the thirteen episodes, it was indeed a big effort, of which the results, both artistically and financially, have proved a great success. Miss Gwen Lally was the very able director of the whole Pageant.

A most successful performance was given by members of Westerham, Brasted and Crockham Hill Institutes, of *Henry VIII.*, the performers, designers, and costume makers being entirely drawn from the Institutes.

Lectures.—Fourteen Institutes have this year had the Health Lectures arranged by the Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, and many others report lectures on subjects connected with health. The interest in the Pageant led to lectures on local history, and talks on our Colonies, Foreign Countries, Gardening, Poultry and Bee Keeping were most popular. Ten Institutes report lectures on the League of Nations, while one Institute has taken, for the "golden thread" running through their programme, the Work of Women, both at home and abroad. Famous women of the past were the subject of some beautiful tableaux.

Community Work.—Twenty-five Institutes run branches of the National Savings Society. One Institute has built, and another purchased, a hall for its own use. Very many Institutes have organised money-raising efforts for the village nurse and local

hospitals, and working parties are reported in connection with the latter. Many have helped their local flower shows by providing stalls of handicraft and produce, and by arranging the supply of refreshments. An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are run by W.I. members, and holiday homes for thirty children were found by one Institute. Another Institute organised visits to places of interest, the Institute paying part expenses on condition that a report of the visit was given at the next monthly meeting.

LANCASHIRE (36).

Chairman: Mrs. Assheton, Downham Hall, Clitheroe, Lancs.

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

General Survey.—In considering the general work of the Federation, the Committee reports a year of good progress; several of the Institutes have become more firmly established, and have begun to show more interest, good fellowship and willing service. The drawing up of the programmes has been much improved, an Annual Challenge Banner having been offered by Mrs. Assheton for the best one.

Organisation.—One new Institute has been formed during the year. Miss Parr, Organising Secretary, N.F.W.I., gave short tutorial classes in committee work to each group of Institutes during February. Five V.C.O.s were trained at a school held by the National Federation in Preston in March. Some of our V.C.O.s attended both the Conferences for Organisers in London.

Group Meetings were held in June, at which the Education Scheme for 1924-1925 was thoroughly discussed.

Two Council Meetings have been held. Finance and Handicraft Sub-Committees have been formed.

Finance.—The Institutes have made a better response this year to the appeal for donations to the Federations, and £36 was sent to the National Federation.

County Council Aid.—The County Council Education Committee again arranged a tour for the Village and Country Town Concert Party. Nine concerts were given and much appreciated.

The County Council has this year adopted the Carnegie Library Scheme and is very anxious that the Institutes should benefit by it.

The Education Scheme offered by the Federation, and aided by a grant from the County Council, was so popular that it was decided to repeat the offer again this year.

Two students took the Upholstery course at the Guild of Learners' School in London in February and have since passed the A test.

Classes have been held in Millinery, Embroidery, Dress and Blouse Making, Lace Making, Glove Making, Leather Work, Basketry, Cookery, Household Jobbery, Home Nursing, and Singing and Dancing.

Demonstrations were given in Cake Making and Iceing, Sweet Making, Laundry Work, Rug Making, Soft Toys, Mocassins, Chair Caning, Folk Songs and Country Dances.

Lectures.—Amongst the subjects dealt with were Gardening, Poultry Keeping, Hygiene, Housing and Furnishing, Astronomy, Music, Drama, Modern Plays, English Novels and Novelists, Citizenship, League of Nations, Co-operation and Women's Public Duties. There were also talks on Missionary Work and on travel in different countries, the latter being very often the experiences of the members themselves.

Institute Activities.—More Institutes are forming sub-committees, a sign that more members are taking their share of the work.

Four Institutes have National Savings Clubs. Several Institutes are working for new Village Halls, while those that have them already are helping substantially with their upkeep, chiefly by means of working parties and bazaars. One Institute has paid for the training of a member as a midwife, and she is now doing useful work in the village. Three Institutes are largely responsible for the maintenance of a nurse in their villages.

The Garstang Group provided a Handicraft Stall at Garstang Show. Five Institutes have held Flower Shows of their own; two provide flowers weekly for their War Memorials. Five Institutes have good libraries. Seven have Dramatic Societies and have produced some excellent plays and concerts. One has started a Melody Club.

As a result of special efforts, help has been sent to various outside charitable organisations.

The reports show that *Home and Country* is being more widely circulated.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND (70).

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

Chairman: Mrs. Bernard Everard, Bardon Hill House, Leicester.

Secretary: Miss A. K. Hamilton, 1, St. Martin's, Leicester.

Organisation.—Thirteen new Institutes have been formed since January 1924. There are now sixty-one Institutes in Leicestershire and nine in Rutland. The Executive Committee has met monthly, and has been assisted in its work by the following Sub-Committees: Finance, Organisation, Exhibition and Handicrafts, Choral, Agricultural and Horticultural.

Forty-six delegates from Leicestershire and Rutland attended the Annual General Meeting of the National Federation in London in May 1924. The Federation sent delegates to the Consultative Council Meetings at London, Winchester and Lincoln.

Council Meetings.—Two Council Meetings were held in Leicester, on April 26th and December 10th. At the spring meeting Miss Sylvia Drew gave a talk on "Music in the Institutes and Descant Singing," and at the December meeting Miss Parr, N.F.W.I. Organising Secretary, spoke on Finance.

Group Meetings.—Each of the nine groups has had spring and autumn meetings. At the spring meetings Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, held model monthly meetings; the purpose of the autumn meetings was to arrange programmes for 1925. Miss Simpson also held two schools for officers and two propaganda meetings at Oakham and Melton Mowbray.

W.I. Library.—This Library now contains over 900 books.

County Council Aid.—The Leicestershire County Council has given much assistance in providing lectures and demonstrations on Agriculture and Horticulture, Poultry Keeping, Health, Cookery, Upholstery, Needlework, and other subjects. These have been of great help to the Institutes.

Tours.—Lectures have been given on National Savings, the League of Nations and Local Government, and two tours have been arranged for Victoria League speakers. Mrs. French made a tour in November and gave Upholstery demonstrations, and Miss Berry in September, giving demonstrations in Raffia Work and Papier Maché.

Choral Festival.—The first Federation Choral Festival, with Folk Dancing, was held at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester. It was successful in paying all expenses. The entries were most encouraging and another Festival is being arranged to take place on May 9th, 1925.

Handicraft Exhibition.—This was held on November 29th. There were over 1,100 entries, and the exhibits were of a much higher standard than those at former Exhibitions. The Challenge Banner, presented to the Institute which gained highest marks at both the Choral Festival and Exhibition, was won by Kibworth W.I. The Urn, presented to the Institute which gained most marks for exhibits at the Exhibition, was won by Husbands Bosworth W.I. The Copper Tray for the next greatest number of marks was won by Oakham W.I.

Local Agricultural Shows.—The Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committee arranged tents of exhibits at the Lutterworth and Melton Mowbray Agricultural Shows.

Voluntary Organisers' School.—The N.F.W.I. arranged for a Voluntary Organisers' School to be held at Leicester in February. Students attended from Derbyshire, Cheshire, Bedfordshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Nottinghamshire and Hampshire. Ten Leicestershire and Rutland V.C.O.s were appointed as a result of this school.

British Empire Exhibition.—The Leicestershire and Rutland Federation guaranteed a special train to Wembley for W.I. members and their friends. Four hundred and fifty members and friends travelled on this train.

Finance.—Institutes have helped the following organisations: Leicester Royal Infirmary, Stamford Cottage Hospital, County Nursing Association, Market Harborough, Leicester Institution for the Blind and others, and have also generously supported their County and National Federation funds.

KESTEVEN (LINCS.) (32).

Chairman: Mrs. Cyril Greenall, The Manor, Carlton Scroop, Grantham.

Secretary: Miss E. L. Need, Welbourn, Lincoln.

Organisation.—The total membership of the thirty-two Institutes is 1,654, the smallness of the increase in numbers this year (only 11 members), being due to a decrease in the membership of some of the larger Institutes. The market town of Sleaford has expressed its wish to have a Women's Institute Centre, and preliminary meetings have been held there, addressed by V.C.O.s and by Miss Parr, Organising Secretary, N.F.W.I., and a temporary committee elected.

The Executive Committee has met regularly and has been helped in its work by the Finance, Organisation, and Exhibition and Handicrafts Sub-Committees.

Council Meetings have been thoroughly representative. At one meeting Mrs. Ravenshaw spoke on National Savings, and at the other the Earl of Liverpool gave an address on New Zealand.

A Rally held at Rauceby Hall, Sleaford, was attended by members from twenty-nine Institutes and many visitors, and brought in, from a Gift Stall and from competitions, a good sum for the County funds.

The Federation has given help to the three Institutes in Holland, where there is not yet a County Federation.

Lectures, Classes and Demonstrations.—Two courses of Health Lectures have been given by Miss Macausland and others on the League of Nations, National Savings, etc. Classes in Cookery, Nursing, Glove Making, and Needlecraft have been held. A

member attended a course at Campden Fruit Preservation Station, and is giving demonstrations which are likely to be of real use to members.

County Council Aid has been given towards Health Lectures and Horticultural, Cookery and Nursing classes, and the use of schools has been granted for meetings.

Institute Activities.—Monthly meetings have shown an increase in attendance and interest. There have been this year a greater number of co-operative efforts for the good of the whole village community. Many Institutes sent delegates to the National Federation's Annual Meeting, and these returned full of fresh enthusiasm. Exhibitions and Flower Shows were organised by three Institutes. Gedney Dyke, one of the few Institutes in Holland, is to be congratulated on having, during its first year, not only contributed to Kesteven Federation and National Federation funds, but also rendered service to the village.

LINDSEY (47).

Chairman: Mrs. Amcotts, J.P., Kettlethorpe Hall, Lincoln.
Secretary: Miss W. M. Hall, The Limes, James Street, Louth.

Organisation.—The total membership in the county is 2,330, an increase of 250 members during the year, although three Institutes have closed down temporarily. One new Institute has been formed, and those in their first year have gone ahead surprisingly fast. A big effort has been made to set the Federation on a sound financial basis.

Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, has given much valuable help in explaining the needs of the National and County Federations to the members, and her spade work at the Group Conferences in the spring has borne ample fruit. Nearly every Institute has responded most generously, and the proceeds of the Rally and Exhibition amounted to £120 odd, so that the Federation is in a much better position than it was at the beginning of the year. The Consultative Council which was held in Lincoln has been a great inspiration. Miss Hadow came to the Annual Council and gave an address on the working of the Group System.

Lectures.—Tours have been arranged for Dame Meriel Talbot (Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women), Mrs. Ravenshaw (National Savings Association), and Miss Watkins. A seven-weeks series of lectures on How to Keep Well has been given by Miss Bradley. Twenty-one lectures on Poultry Keeping and Gardening have been arranged for the County Council Instructors. Ten-weeks courses, aided by the County Council, have been held in Dressmaking at fourteen Institutes, and in Cooking and Millinery at two others.

Handicrafts.—A healthy sign has been the growing demand by the Institutes for expert advice. Miss Somerville, Hon. Sec. of the National Federation Handicrafts Committee, has addressed two conferences, giving useful criticism of the work displayed. Individual Institutes have arranged classes in Upholstery, Basketry and Glove Making. One student has attended the N.F.W.I. Furcraft Class at Hereford.

Exhibitions.—Fourteen exhibits from the county were accepted at the National Federation's Handicraft Exhibition. The Federation was invited to arrange a stand of Institute work at the exhibition in connection with the Louth Education Week, and a County Exhibition was one of the chief features of the Rally.

Singing and Folk Dancing.—A Glee Competition at the Rally was not a striking success judged by the number of entries, but as a result several choirs have been formed. The North Lincs. Musical Competitions Committee has arranged a special section for Institutes. It was a great disappointment that Mr. Leslie was at the last minute prevented from speaking on Descants at the Annual Council. The English Folk Dance Society has formed a Lincolnshire Branch, and a class at the Market Rasen W.I. Centre is being attended by members of several Institutes.

W.I. Reports show that many Institutes are eager to exchange visits with others and that more and more members are willing to hand on what they know to members of neighbouring Institutes. Some kind of community work has been undertaken by nearly every Institute, *e.g.*, for the local hospitals and infirmaries, district nurse, Cancer Research Campaign, Lindsey Association for the Blind, St. Dunstan's, Earl Haig's Fund for Ex-service Men, Dr. Stephenson's Orphan Fund, and several Institutes have been working to provide for the upkeep of a Village Hall and War Memorial.

MERIONETH (16).

President : Mrs. Morgan, Ballymacora, Barmouth.

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

Organisation.—One new Institute has been started and this will, we hope, help to open up a side of the county where at present few Institutes exist. There are now sixteen Institutes and three Voluntary Organisers.

In November Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, spoke at two Group Meetings and a conference for W.I. officers. All the meetings were well attended and Miss Nightingale's talks were found very helpful.

Mrs. Morgan, the President of the County Federation, was again elected at the Welsh Conference at Shrewsbury as the Welsh-speaking member on the National Federation Executive Committee.

Handicrafts.—In September Miss Drew held a school of Embroidery at Barmouth, which was attended by eleven students, the majority of whom are now teaching in their own Institutes. Miss Drew's report of the work done was very encouraging.

The County Federation organised a W.I. tent at the County Agricultural Show at Towyn, and some excellent work was exhibited. First and second class certificates were awarded. A great many people visited the tent.

Members of several Institutes sent work to the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition at the Drapers' Hall and several certificates were gained.

County Council Aid.—The County Council again gave a grant of £50 to be used for providing classes in seven Institutes most in need of help. As a result classes were held in Basketry, Leather Work, Cookery, and First Aid, and were well attended by keen students.

MIDDLESEX (19).

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

Chairman : Miss Belletti, Selwood Lodge, Stanwell.

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

Organisation.—Five Institutes have been formed this year; the total membership of the County Federation is about 1,660. Both Councils were very well attended. All the groups held meetings in November, about 480 members attending.

The Executive Committee has been assisted by five Sub-Committees: Organisation, Finance, Agriculture and Horticulture, Handicrafts, Music.

Three V.C.O.s have been working in the county.

County Council. The Middlesex Guildhall has been lent to the County Federation for their Council and Committee meetings; the Middlesex Education Committee was officially represented at the Autumn Council.

Increased use has been made by Institute members of courses of classes arranged by the County Council, especially in Dress-making and Upholstery. The Agricultural and Horticultural Instructor and the Dairy and Poultry Instructor have given demonstrations and lectures and are serving on the Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committee of the County Federation. A representative of the Middlesex Education Committee has accepted appointment on a newly-formed Education Sub-Committee.

Flower and Vegetable Shows were arranged by four Institutes, and three others held a joint show.

Two Institutes entered co-operative exhibits at the London Dairy Show, Hillingdon receiving a Reserve award.

Handicrafts.—A Handicrafts Exhibition was held in March at the Guildhall. Two hundred and seventy five entries were received and ninety-one awards were made, forty-one entries receiving first-class certificates.

At the N.F.W.I. Exhibition at the Drapers' Hall, fourteen awards were received for eighteen entries, and six out of seven exhibits in the furnishing section received awards.

Four students have attended Guild of Learners Schools during 1924, and one has passed her A (Proficiency) test. All students are doing continuous and excellent work in the county.

Music.—The Annual Choral Competition was held in April, eight choirs competing; Potter's Bar W.I. retained the Challenge Cup and Hatch End W.I. the Junior Banner. Stanwell W.I. choir was awarded a certificate at the British Music Festival, all England competing.

Work of the Institutes.—Nearly all Institutes have given generous support to Federation funds, and have also given donations to local hospitals or village halls.

Programmes show marked improvement in breadth and arrangement. Lectures on Music and Drama have been particularly appreciated. Competitions have included "Best crop from six seed potatoes," Home-made Wines, and Papier Maché Bowls for the Institute bulb competition, as well as special handicraft competitions.

The Federation has given support to the County Clean Milk propaganda.

MONMOUTHSHIRE (25).

President: The Lady Treowen.

Chairman: Lady Mather Jackson, O.B.E., J.P.

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

Organisation.—Three new Institutes have been formed and three have been dissolved. Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, visited the county in February, April and October. She helped the Executive Committee with organisation work and with the grouping of the Institutes. Miss Lumley, N.F.W.I. Organiser for Wales, attended the Council Meeting in June and came again in October to inaugurate the group meetings. The group system is working successfully and is causing the Institutes to take more interest in one another. The work of the Group Convenors has been of assistance to the County Secretary and has enabled the Voluntary Organisers to give more attention to individual Institutes.

Council Meetings.—In addition to our annual and half-yearly Council Meetings a special meeting was held in October to which Miss Bouverie of the Northamptonshire Federation most kindly came to speak on County Finance. It was decided at this meeting to hold a County Whist Drive to raise funds for the County Federation.

Exhibitions.—In March the County bi-annual Exhibition took place at Abergavenny and was a great success. Work was sent by members from four neighbouring counties, as well as from Monmouthshire. This friendliness on the part of members in Breconshire, Glamorganshire, Herefordshire and Oxfordshire was much appreciated, and it enabled us to judge better the standard of our own work. In July our members contributed work to the W.I. tent at the Royal Welsh Show at Bridgend. In August this county organised an exhibition of Women's Institute work in the Arts and Crafts Section of the National Eisteddfod at Pontypool. This was the first exhibition of its kind, and much interested the visitors to the Eisteddfod. It was open for over a fortnight. In September an exhibition of W.I. work was arranged at the Abergavenny Horse Show, and in October seventeen of our members sent nineteen articles to the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition in London, thirteen certificates being obtained.

County Council Aid.—The Monmouthshire County Council has given courses of instruction, fourteen in all, in Nursing, Cooking, Dressmaking and Basketry. Members of the staff of the Agricultural Institution at Usk have provided twenty-eight lectures. The committee rooms at the County Hall, Newport, have been lent for Council meetings, Executive Committee meetings, a school for Institute officers and an exhibition of handicrafts.

Lectures and Demonstrations.—A lecture on Humane Methods of Slaughtering Animals was given at the Exhibition, and it is hoped that this will help to inaugurate these methods locally. A lecture on Thrift has resulted in several Institutes starting branches of the National Savings Association.

Demonstrations in Glove Making, Leather Work, Millinery, Down Quilt Making, Needlework, Upholstery, Basketry, Chair Caning and Re-seating, Cobbling and Tinkering have all been given by members of this Federation.

Bottling Fruit, Jam Making, Pickle Making, Sweet Making and Cake Icing have also been taught.

Other Institute Activities.—Many Institutes have undertaken public work of various kinds; one held a fête in aid of the Children's Ward of the Abergavenny Hospital, and was able to hand over £10 to the Hospital; another organised a bazaar, by which

£180 was realised for the Cardiff Infirmary. Another Institute gave the proceeds of a concert as a donation to the local Nursing Association. Others have helped with stalls at a fête in aid of the Abergavenny Children's Ward, and at fêtes in aid of the Chepstow Hospital and for the restoration of their Parish Churches. One Institute supports a village nurse; three have contributed to Village and Memorial Halls.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE (27).

President: Mrs. W. M. Dugdale, Llwyn, Llanfyllin.

Chairman: Mrs. Adams, Plas Llyssan, Carno.

Secretary: Miss Riddell, Ty Gwyn, Welshpool.

Organisation.—Four new branches have been formed during the past year, and the number of Institutes in the county is now twenty-seven. The Federation Council has met only once during the year, the second meeting being cancelled on account of the general election. The Executive Committee has met six times, and is assisted in its work by an Organisation and a Finance Subcommittee. Group meetings were held in February and October.

One Montgomery student attended the School for Voluntary County Organisers held at Shrewsbury in December, and has been appointed by the National Federation.

Miss Lumley, N.F.W.I. Organiser, visited the county in October and attended the four group meetings. She also gave addresses at six Institute meetings.

The County Federation was represented at the Conference of Welsh Delegates held in Shrewsbury in November.

Handicrafts.—Three students attended the N.F.W.I. Dress-making class held in London in April, and two of these have passed the A Test of the Guild of Learners. One has since been appointed County Instructress.

Eleven exhibits were accepted from the fourteen sent in from this county for the general section of the N.F.W.I. Exhibition held in London in October. An embroidered coverlet and a wool carpet, worked co-operatively by Montgomeryshire Institutes, were also accepted in the co-operative section. One of the Voluntary County Organisers attended the Exhibition as custodian of the county exhibits.

A prize of £2 2s. 0d. for Leathercraft has been offered by the County Federation in the W.I. Section at the National Eisteddfod to be held at Pwllheli in July. A donation of £1 1s. 0d. was given towards the organising expenses connected with the W.I. Stand at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show held at Bridgend in June.

Classes in various crafts have been organised during the year. These include Dress Making, Millinery, Upholstery, Fine Needlework, Raffia Work (plait for hats and baskets) Leather Work, Sealing Wax Work, Household Jobbing, etc. One Institute has organised a jumper industry, the jumpers being made co-operatively.

Lectures.—A wider choice of subjects has been offered this year, and the County Council continues to give the W.I. movement any help asked for.

Institute Activities.—One Institute has organised entertainments for the School Repairs Fund (having the free use of the room for meetings) and entertained the school children to a Christmas party. One has been much occupied with work for a school bazaar, and one had a stall at a bazaar in aid of the Church Tower Restoration Fund.

NORFOLK (116).

President: The Dowager Lady Suffield, J.P., C.C., Harbord House, Cromer.

Secretary: Miss M. L. Burgess, 3, Davey Place, Norwich.

Organisation.—Nine new Institutes have been started during the year, including one in an isolated district which has required more than ordinary patience to get going. Two Institutes have amalgamated with highly successful results, and one Institute has been closed owing to local difficulties which made its continued existence impossible. There has been a general continuance of enthusiasm throughout the county, and members have a wider understanding of the movement and a keener desire to promote its development. Ninety-five per cent. of the Institutes adopted the County Federation Ballot Paper this year, and manifested great interest in the Annual Elections. Affiliation fees show an increase in membership of 911 during the year, not including the Institutes started since October 1924.

The President, the V.C.O.s and many members of the Executive Committee have responded freely to invitations to address meetings, and the County Secretary has addressed seventy-three meetings at the invitation of the Institutes.

Centre.—Much interest and encouragement was given to the members when, on October 31st, Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York, visited the Centre and Headquarters. Her Majesty spent half-an-hour in the building, and showed great interest in every detail of the work and in the development of the handicrafts on exhibition in the Sales Room; she also made several purchases. The Queen and the Duchess signed the Visitors' Book.

Lady Suffield presented Her Majesty with a pair of fur gloves on behalf of the Executive Committee. The gloves were not specially made, but were of excellent workmanship and were the work of a member of the Cawston Institute.

The monthly demonstrations at the Centre have become very popular. The Library has received many additions during the year, and continues to be well patronised. The Reference Library has also received substantial additions and its usefulness cannot be too highly estimated.

Approximately 15,000 visits have been made to the Centre by members during the year.

Handicrafts.—A great advance has been made in the handicrafts section, and as a result the standard of the handicrafts at the Centre has now been raised to a much higher level. Every article sent to the Centre has to be passed by the Handicrafts Sub-Committee before it is shown to the public.

County Council.—The Norfolk Education Committee takes the responsibility of organising the judging for the County Federation Annual Exhibition, and presents specially designed certificates for work in a particular craft or industry where the work merits such an award, the articles being of such a character that there would be reasonable probability of a livelihood being earned by their production. The Horticultural Expert lectures to Institutes, the Committee supplies monthly leaflets on Garden Work and Poultry, and leaflets on Bee Keeping. The Assistant Secretary for Education has compiled and written a series of readings for lantern slides, which are supplied free of charge with the use of the lantern.

Carnegie Library Scheme.—The County Council has now adopted the Carnegie Library Scheme, and the Librarian is receiving the greatest help and co-operation from the Institutes in the Centres approved by the Council.

Village Halls.—Three new Halls have been built and opened in the county during the past year. In the building of these the Institutes have played an important part, and several Institutes are now taking the initial steps in raising funds for other halls.

Health Lectures.—In conjunction with the St. John Ambulance and British Red Cross and the Norfolk Health Insurance Committee, four series of Health Lectures have been given in various parts of the county during the year, and have been much appreciated.

Institute Activities.—Outstanding features include the provision of slippers for children attending the elementary schools, invalid chairs for village use, medicine chests, a committee of visitors to the sick, practical assistance to the hospital contributory scheme, to the district nurse, and to the Needlework Guild, whilst the majority of the Institutes are extending invitations to their men-folk to all open meetings and social functions.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (81).

President: Lady Knightley, Fawsley, Daventry.

Secretary: Mrs. Barker, Moulton Lodge, Northampton.

County Federation Activities.—Ten new Institutes have been formed this year, the total now being eighty-one.

The Executive Committee has met fourteen times during the year. The members of the Executive Committee have paid visits to nearly all the Institutes, some of which have been visited two or three times.

The Executive Committee has been helped in its work by Sub-Committees for Finance, Organisation, Handicraft and Library. The last-named organised a conference for Village Librarians.

On April 10th a conference for W.I. secretaries was held in Northampton, conducted by Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. organiser. In the afternoon of the same day, a conference for members of sub-committees was held.

On April 11th there was a conference, also in Northampton, for presidents and vice-presidents, which was conducted by Miss Simpson.

Some of the V.C.O.s attended an Inter-County Conference at Oxford.

On June 4th the half-yearly Council Meeting was held at Brackley. Miss Hadow (Vice-Chairman of the National Federation), spoke on Finance and Rural Libraries.

An Exhibition and Sale of Handicrafts was held at Burghley in conjunction with a large Fête organised by the Marchioness of Exeter in aid of the Stamford Hospital.

On July 8th a special train was run to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. Nearly 700 members and their friends went by this train, and a very enjoyable day was spent.

The Federation provided ten helpers for the National Federation Tent at the Royal Show at Leicester.

On July 16th a conference to discuss the adoption of the Carnegie Rural Libraries Scheme by the County Council was held in Northampton. This was attended by Women's Institute Secretaries and Librarians. Thirty-six Women's Institutes expressed their willingness to be responsible for the books in their village if the County Education Committee wished.

On September 24th a school for chairmen was held at Northampton. A model Women's Institute Committee was conducted and much valuable work was done.

On November 19th a "Shopping Day," or sale of work was held, by kind invitation of Miss Bouverie, at Delapré Abbey. A special sub-committee was in charge of the arrangements and took charge of the various stalls, and more than £90 worth of articles were sold, this money going back to the makers of the articles, less 2d. in the shilling, which went to the County Federation funds after expenses were paid. The President and Secretary of each Institute were invited and also a number of visitors from the town and county.

County Council.—The County Council has again helped us in many ways. Classes have been held for Cooking, Dressmaking and Millinery. Lectures have been given on Housing, Horticulture, Poultry Keeping and agricultural subjects.

Tours.—Mrs. Jeffery, from Worcestershire, visited the county for three days to demonstrate on China Rivetting to some of the Institutes. In October a ten days' tour was arranged for Miss Maud Grantham, who gave recitals from Dickens and other authors, and was much appreciated. In November Mrs. French was again in the county for a fortnight, and visited nineteen meetings.

Library.—The Central Library now contains 877 volumes. The standard of literature is high. Old books which the Library Sub-Committee find are not much read are removed from the Library. The subscriptions paid by the Institutes are entirely spent on new books, which are very carefully selected and added to the Library every six months. Books asked for by members of an Institute are procured if possible, and in buying books the preference is always given to these.

Lectures and Demonstrations.—Lectures have been given on Bulb Growing, Spinning and Weaving, Madiera and its Embroideries, Vaccination, Women Police, League of Nations, Japan (Lantern Lecture), Parliamentary Bills affecting Women and Children, Women in History, Poisons and their Antidotes, Citizenship, British Birds, Kindness to Animals, First Aid and Home Nursing.

Demonstrations have been given in Mocassin Making, Eider-down Covering, Rug Making, Rush Mat Making, Glove Making, Sweet Making and Cake Iceing, and classes held for Cooking, Millinery, Dressmaking, Folk Dancing and Nursing.

Music.—Seventeen Institutes entered for the Midland Musical Competitions at Northampton in March. Several also competed in the Musical Competitions at Oundle.

Shakespeare Competition.—Eleven Institutes entered for this competition, which was held in the Town Hall, Northampton, on December 13th. The judge was Miss Counsell, of Oxford. Three certificates were given.

Other Activities.—The Women's Institute Shop at Long Buckby continues to flourish.

Quite a number of our Women's Institutes made themselves responsible for the Village May Day festivities. Fruit and Flower Shows have been held, also bulb-growing competitions, and Baby Shows. At the County Fruit and Vegetable Show held in Northampton, a special section was arranged for Women's Institutes. There were a large number of entries.

NORTHUMBERLAND (78).

President: The Countess Grey, Howick, Longhoughton, Alnwick.

Chairman: Mrs. Cresswell, Hauxley Hall, Amble, Morpeth.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Collingwood Thorp, Belvedere, Alnwick.

Organisation.—Northumberland has eight V.C.O.s, who divide the Institutes among them, taking as far as possible the county divisions as their area for work. There are now 78 Institutes and all except two have been visited during the year at least once, and in many cases twice, a total of 134 visits being paid. Twelve new Institutes have been formed during the year.

Council Meetings.—Two interesting meetings were held in Newcastle, in April and November. The former was an all day meeting with business in the morning and in the afternoon an address by Miss Warner on the Humane Slaughter of Animals. The Annual Meeting was held in November; the morning was taken up with business and in the afternoon an excellent display of Folk Dancing was given by members of the Northumberland Folk Dance Society.

Conferences.—In September an Inter-County Conference for Organisers was held in Newcastle for two days, being conducted by Mrs. Nugent Harris and Miss Parr, of the National Federation. V.C.O.s from the six northern counties were invited to attend, and all the V.C.O.s of this county were present on one or other of the days, and gained much help from the teaching.

A fortnight later Miss Parr conducted a whole-day school for secretaries and treasurers of Women's Institutes in Northumberland. Saturday was chosen, being a day when all those who are teaching during the week could come, and the attendance was excellent, more than three-quarters of the Institutes being represented by both the Secretary and Treasurer. Many of the visitors have since written to say how very helpful the school proved. Northumberland hopes that, as new Women's Institutes are formed, this kind of school may become a regular fixture.

Handicrafts.—The outstanding feature of the year was the Handicrafts Exhibition held at Hexham in August and opened by our County Federation President, the Countess Grey. Forty-three Women's Institutes were represented and there were about 500 exhibits. The standard was much higher than at any other exhibition held by the Northumberland Federation and the venture was also very successful from a financial point of view.

Northumberland sent up eighteen articles, two pieces of co-operative work and two pieces of household furnishing, to the National Federation Exhibition in London in October.

The county is fortunate in having a trained teacher in Fruit Bottling, Vegetable Preserving, etc., and also one lately trained at the Hereford School in Furcraft. There are nineteen demonstrators on the panel and one hundred and thirty-five demonstrations have been given, in addition to the many courses of classes and lessons, for the latter of which the Federation is indebted to the Education Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

Delegates to National Federation Meetings.—The County Federation sent delegates to the Consultative Councils in Winchester and Lincoln and three delegates to the Annual General Meeting in London.

Handbook and County Leaflet.—These two publications continue to be of great help to the Institutes and to the V.C.O.s in their work.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (32).

President: The Hon. Mrs. Handford, Elmfield, Southwell.

Secretary: Miss B. E. Marriott, 4, Larkdale Street, Nottingham.

Organisation.—Three new Institutes have been formed during the year, bringing the total to thirty-two. There are now six Voluntary Organisers, and they and the County Secretary have paid twenty-seven visits to Institutes during the year, nineteen of the Institutes having been visited. This is an increase on the number visited last year and it is hoped that next year every Institute will avail itself of the right of asking for a visit.

The Federation was represented at the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting and the three Consultative Councils. Two V.C.O.s attended the Organisers' Conference in London in May. The Federation has also been represented on the National Council of Women, as well as on the County Council Sub-Committees and the Rural Community Council.

Two Council Meetings have been held; at the January meeting Miss Nettleship gave a very interesting lecture on Descant Singing, and at the July meeting there was a lecture on "Famous Citizens of the City and County of Nottingham."

Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, visited the county for a fortnight, speaking at Group Meetings and conducting a very useful one-day school for W.I. officers and committee members. In April, Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I. and Miss Simpson, Organiser, N.F.W.I., conducted a special one-day school for the Voluntary Organisers.

A lecture tour was organised for a speaker from the National Milk Publicity Council.

The Federation supplied eight stewards for the N.F.W.I. Tent at the Royal Show at Leicester. They also sent twenty-three articles for exhibition in the Tent, nearly all of which were accepted.

N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition.—Seven Institutes sent specimens of work to the County Federation Selection Committee in Nottingham, which chose twelve articles to send to London; of these eight were accepted for exhibition.

Rural Community Council.—The Institutes have received a great deal of help from the Council in the form of single lectures and courses. The Organising Secretary to the Council has visited most of the Institutes to explain the work and objects of this body.

Institute Activities.—Twenty-four Institutes have had classes or a series of lectures on one or more of the following subjects: The League of Nations, Music, History, Gardening, Butter Making, Fruit Bottling, Fruit Crystallising, Cake Icing, Cookery, First Aid, Dressmaking, Millinery, Artificial Flower Making, Glove Making, Leather Work, Raffia Work, Cane Work, Upholstery and Ballroom and Folk Dancing.

One Institute carries out co-operative Leather Work and Rug Making. Epperstone W.I. gained 1st prize for the co-operative collection of Dairy Produce at the National Dairy Show. Other co-operative efforts for the Institutes themselves include a Sale of Work, a Jumble Sale, decoration of the hut, and the buying of plums and hyacinth bulbs.

Co-operative work for the village has taken the form of a children's Christmas party, a party to the Old Age Pensioners, help in the organisation of local shows and of a Fête in aid of a fund for a new village in the parish, contributions towards the maintenance or provision of a Village Hall (four Institutes), subscriptions to Hospitals, assistance in supporting Village Nurses (three Institutes), the maintenance of a First Aid Cupboard and a Library, both for use of the whole village, and help in the Cancer Campaign.

Several Institutes are working for their own Huts or Halls, one has formed a National Savings Association, and two have formed, or helped to form, a branch of the League of Nations Union.

OXFORDSHIRE (74).

President: Mrs. John Buchan, Elsfield Manor, Oxford.

Chairman: Miss Ashhurst, Waterstock House, Oxon.

Hon. Secretary: Miss H. C. Deneke, Barnett House, Oxford.

Organisation.—Since 1919, Institutes in Oxfordshire have increased from 39 to 74, and six new ones were formed this year. The Executive Committee's chief aim has been to maintain close touch between the Federation Committee and the Federation, and members of the Committee have between them visited every Institute in a friendly and informal fashion. Three free meetings have been supplied to every new Institute, and to other Institutes in special circumstances. An Inter-County Conference on Procedure, for V.C.O.s of Berks., Bucks., Cambridgeshire, Northants and Oxfordshire, and a Conference for Presidents, were held in Oxford.

The most remarkable general feature of the year has been the great increase of liveliness in the Annual and Half-Yearly Meetings. The Committee no longer soliloquise to a politely acquiescent audience. Institutes now send in brisk and critical resolutions, and delegates debate them. Special interest has been aroused by Council Meetings in the subjects of Plain Needlework and Public Health.

The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council has supplied many entertainments, musical and dramatic, and has assisted with County Folk Dancing. As a constituent society of this Council the Federation can get transport for teachers and lecturers at 3d. a mile. The mileage of the two cars "Andrew," and "Black Maria," for Women's Institutes alone, amounts to 2,521 miles. The Oxford Women's Institute Association are concentrating on raising a fund for repair and replacement of cars, (highly necessary, as "Maria" recently died in a ditch.)

The Federation will take part in the Rural Community Council's forthcoming conference on Public Health, to which all the voluntary and statutory societies of the county will be summoned, and of which more will be heard in the future.

Finance.—The budget still shows a deficit of £50, which must be met by increased local effort next year. The County Trading Competition, organised by the Finance Sub-Committee, realised over £103 for the Federation, which will not occur next year. The whole matter will be discussed with the Institutes at the summer half-yearly Council.

Handicrafts.—The general standard rose decidedly at the last County Exhibition, but fell again at the Christmas Shop, where the entries were more numerous than excellent. The County co-operative exhibit of a woman's costume, made by fourteen Institutes, took a special prize at the N.F.W.I. Exhibition in London. Exhibits were also sent to the County Agricultural Show and the Monmouth Exhibition.

County Council Classes (grant £160) have been arranged as follows: Child Welfare, 1; Dressmaking, 8; First Aid, 3; Home Nursing, 4; Needlework, 3; Shorthand, 1; as well as a host of the usual crafts. One hundred and one lectures have been arranged from the office, exclusive of those planned privately by Institutes.

Exhibitions.—The Shakespeare Competition, tried experimentally at the May Exhibition, was entered for by sixteen Institutes, and attracted large crowds. Certificates this year were given in three grades for all work up to the requisite standard. The profit on the Exhibition was £80 (for one day).

Groups. Ten group representatives sit on the Exhibition Sub-Committee, and groups undertook refreshments, the Food Stall and the Gift Stall at the Exhibition. A conference between Group Conveners and the Organisation Sub-Committee suggested that Groups might organise officers' conferences for Institute officers to discuss difficulties.

Community Work.—Among the more or less unusual activities of Institutes during the year were: a weekly contribution to Banbury Hospital, amounting to £58 for the year; the monthly mending of hospital linen; an endowment of a girl's scholarship to a Secondary School; an old age pensioners' tea; a demand for a Great Western Railway halt (unsuccessful); and for an Oxford 'bus service (successful); funds raised for village halls, a dressing room to a village hall, village lights, sports club, nurse, fire brigade, stage curtains and school lamps; a cat show; a co-operative jam factory, and a weekly Happy Evening for girls over thirteen.

The sales of *Home and Country*, with the County Supplement attached, have increased from 575 to 750 in the year.

PEMBROKE (19).

Chairman : Mrs. N. Seymour Allen, Paskeston.

Hon. Secretary : Mrs. Donal Morgan, Bryn-y-Mor, Solva, Pembroke.

Organisation.—The group system has been adopted and will be very helpful in bringing the distant Institutes into touch with others. The Organisation and Handicraft Sub-Committees have done good work. The Federation has been able to give individual Institutes more help than in former years. The number of Institutes remains the same and, although there has been a slight decrease in membership in a few of the Institutes, the total number of members in the County Federation has increased.

The *Women's Institute Centre* at Haverfordwest has been of great help both to surrounding Institutes and to the County Federation; it organised a dance in the Assembly Rooms and a very successful exhibition.

Institute Activities.—The work of the Institutes has shown a great advance on that of previous years, and a large number of demonstrations and lectures have been given and classes organised.

RADNORSHIRE (17)

President : Mrs. Coltman Rogers, Stanage Park, Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire.

Chairman : Mrs. Evan Thomas, Caerwnon, Builth Wells, Radnorshire.

Hon. Secretary : Mrs. Claud Lewis, Evancoyd, Walton, Radnorshire.

Organisation.—Four new Institutes have been formed, making a total of seventeen, with a membership of about 670.

Two Council Meetings have been held; at the first Mrs. A. W. Foster (Herefordshire Federation and N.F.W.I. Executive Committee) gave an inspiring address; at the second, Miss Ward (of Acton Burnell W.I., Shropshire) spoke on Citizenship and Mr. W. H. Leslie gave a delightful talk on Singing. Eight Institutes sent choirs, who sang part-songs, which were most helpfully criticised by Mr. Leslie.

Miss Lumley, N.F.W.I. Organiser for Wales, visited the county in November.

The Federation organised a W.I. handicraft tent at the Llandrindod County Agricultural Show in the summer. The work shown aroused a great deal of interest, and it is hoped to organise an exhibit on a larger scale during 1925.

County Council Aid.—The County Council again gave the Federation a grant at the rate of £4 10s. for each Institute towards the organisation of technical classes and these were arranged in all the Institutes, the subjects taught being Dressmaking, Millinery, Glove Making, Leather Work, Rug Making, Chair Caning, Upholstery and Cookery.

Institute Activities.—Most of the Institutes have had lectures on the League of Nations and the National Savings Association.

Community work by the Institutes has included the following: a collection of about 3,000 eggs and two hampers for the Llandrindod County Hospital; funds for petrol lamps to light the village streets; a fête in aid of the Village Room, which realised £100; a donation of £12 (the proceeds of a stall), towards the maintenance of the Village Nurse; funds raised for the upkeep of the churchyard. Nearly every Institute has contributed in some way to the benefit of its village.

SHROPSHIRE (78).

Chairman : The Lady Berwick, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.

Organising Secretary : Miss E. Walshe, Kenneth House, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.

Organisation.—There are now 78 Institutes belonging to the Shropshire Federation, including ten formed in 1924 and two transferred from Flint and Denbigh. There are now seven Voluntary Organisers and the Executive is assisted by five standing Sub-Committees—Organisation, Finance, Handicrafts, Music, and Agriculture and Horticulture.

The Summer Council was held at Ludlow to suit the southern part of the county. Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I., spoke on the programmes. As a result, many more Institutes have decided to have a printed programme. At the Winter Council in Shrewsbury Miss Hadow, Vice-Chairman, N.F.W.I., gave a valuable address on Finance. Other help from the National Federation included a visit from Miss Parr, N.F.W.I. Organising Secretary, who spoke at the spring Group Conferences. The School for County Federation Officers, held at Shrewsbury in November by the National Federation, was attended by six members from Shropshire and was extremely helpful to them.

County Council Aid.—The County Council have continued their help by providing lecturers and demonstrators, free of charge, on Dressmaking, Millinery, Embroidery, Health Subjects, Fruit Preservation, Gardening, Bee Keeping and Poultry, and some instruction in Cookery is available. They also gave a grant towards a School for Conductors.

Exhibition.—The Exhibition held in October shewed a great advance in almost every way since the last Exhibition, which was held in 1922. The number of exhibits was more than doubled, and, notwithstanding the greater strictness of the judges, 1,130 certificates were awarded. Five thousand visitors paid for admission, and the profits amounted to £168.

Handicrafts.—Classes for teachers in Upholstery and Basketry have been held at the office. Sixteen certificates were gained at the N.F.W.I. Exhibition in London. Several Institutes have had exhibitions, notably Hodnet with 440 exhibits. The Federation again had a stall for the sale of members' work at the West Midland Show.

Music.—A three-days' School for Conductors was held at Easter under Mr. Leslie and Miss Nettleship, and was attended by teachers and others, besides the conductors of the W.I. Choirs. In connection with the Exhibition, tests were held and a delightful concert was given by the W.I. choirs. In November, Mr. Leslie again gave a day's instruction to conductors, and several new choirs have been started as a result.

Community Work. Almost without exception the Institutes have helped the District Nurse, the Hospitals and their Village Halls. The number called upon to help repair or redecorate halls has been large. One Institute has agitated for and secured a public lavatory; one has gained the concession of half-fares on market days for the village. A chair for a crippled boy, help to a member whose house was flooded in June, and meals for children coming long distances to school, are among other good works.

Some Group Tours of demonstrators have proved successful, and a second course of lectures on "How to Keep Well" was organised with the help of the Red Cross.

The Town Association has been a great help, both in connection with the Exhibition, and in other ways throughout the year.

SOMERSET (108).

President: Mrs. Martin Gibbs, Barrow Court, Bristol.

Chairman: Mrs. Hancock, Cothelstone, Taunton.

Secretary: Miss Vernon, Alcombe, Minehead,

Organisation.—Fifteen new Institutes, including one that had lapsed in 1922, have been formed during the year. One Institute has lapsed. The total number of Institutes in the county is 108, with a membership of approximately 7,000.

The V.C.O.s have paid 109 visits to Institutes during 1924. The County Federation is offering visits to Institute Committees, and these are found to be very useful. In July an Inter-County Conference was held at Taunton, when V.C.O.s from Devon,

Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wilts and Somerset were present. Six Somerset V.C.O.s attended the Inter-County Conference at Dorchester in September.

Finance.—Donations from seventy-one Institutes have been sent to the County Federation. The County Federation has this year sustained a great loss in the death of its Hon. Treasurer, Miss Hancock, who was a most devoted worker for the W.I. movement.

Council Meetings.—Two Council meetings have been held, at Taunton and Bristol. Addresses were given on the W.I. movement and on Finance by Mrs. Nugent Harris and by Miss Ferguson, Chief Organiser and General Secretary respectively of the National Federation.

Group Meetings.—Meetings were held in all the groups in the spring and autumn. Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, addressed the meetings in the spring, and in the autumn the roll call "How does your Institute discuss the Agenda for the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting?" brought some interesting answers and suggestions.

Delegates.—Fifty-five delegates from the Institutes attended the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting in London, a great advance on former years. The number of delegates attending the two Council Meetings was 58 and 64.

Exhibition.—The Exhibition held in May was very successful, though the attendance was smaller than in 1923. It was opened by the Mayor of Taunton, who was much impressed by the standard of the crafts shown and his criticisms and appreciations were much valued as those of a business man.

Several members have obtained their A (Proficiency) Certificate of the Guild of Learners, and one has qualified for her B2 (Demonstrating) Certificate. Sixteen exhibits were accepted for the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition in London and each exhibitor received an award card.

County Council.—The Vice-Chairmen of the County Federation are members of the Agricultural and the Rural Industries Sub-Committees of the County Council; the County Secretary is also a member of the Special Subjects Sub-Committee. Lecturers have been supplied by the County Council on Horticulture, Dairying, Cheese Making and Dressmaking.

Country Dancing.—In co-operation with the County Federation, the English Folk Dance Society has formed a branch in Somerset, and it is hoped that a trained teacher will be appointed in 1925.

Programmes.—The "Best Programme" competition was judged by Miss Parr, of the National Federation. Her criticisms on the programmes sent in were considered to be so valuable that they were typed and a copy was sent to each Institute. Two prizes were awarded.

Institute Activities.—Many of the Institutes have National War Savings Associations. These appear to be encouraging in a very definite way the good habit of saving. Sixteen of the Institutes have organised flower shows. The League of Nations has been a popular subject for lectures. Well attended classes have been held in Raffia Work, Glove Making, Dressmaking, Folk Singing and Country Dancing. One Institute held an Exhibition of Somerset Trades and Industries, which gave a good idea of the large number of useful and essential commodities made in the county.

The British Red Cross has again arranged two courses of lectures on Hygiene and Health.

STAFFORDSHIRE (82).

Chairman : Mrs. Rowland, 26, St. John Street, Lichfield.

Secretary : Miss M. B. Strachan, 15, Eastgate Street, Stafford.

Organisation.—Four new Institutes have been formed during the year and one has lapsed, bringing the total up to 82.

Two Council Meetings, with record attendances, have been held during the year, at which were discussed the formation of a Sales Depôt at Stafford, the conduct of the County Supplement to *Home and Country*, and handicrafts in the county. At the first there was a special talk on Toy-Making for Children, and at the second a talk on Finance. After the Summer Council, a Social Rally of members and their friends was held.

Interesting group conferences have been held. One group has been discussing the question of courses of instruction in Domestic Science, and the feasibility of organising a fortnight's local intensive course on the lines of the Guild of Learners' Handicraft Schools. Another has organised classes for W.I. officers and held a model W.I. meeting. A new group has been formed this year.

County Council Aid.—The County Council continues to give its invaluable aid to the Federation, and its officers have given the following classes, demonstrations and lectures to the Institutes : 32 in Horticulture, Bee Keeping, Poultry Keeping, Fruit Bottling, and Clean Milk. 227 in Dressmaking, Educraft Stitchery, Millinery, Cookery, Upholstery, Boot Repairing, General Handicraft, General Domestic Economy and Laundry. 73 courses of classes have been held in Dressmaking, Educraft Stitchery, Millinery, Cookery, Upholstery, Boot Repairing, and general Handicraft.

Handicrafts.—The general interest in handicrafts has increased during the year and the standard has markedly improved. Not only have County Council classes been actively carried on, but special courses in Glove Making have been given by Mrs. Staite, and a special Guild of Learners' School was arranged at Stafford in Upholstery and Embroidery. The county secured twelve awards at the N.F.W.I. Exhibition, and a co-operative bedspread was also shown.

Exhibitions.—No County Exhibition was arranged during the year, but Group Exhibitions have been held. The county is well ahead with its arrangements for the 1925 Exhibition, and the Exhibition Council, composed of delegates from all the Institutes, has drawn up a general scheme of organisation and revised the classification of exhibits.

Days of Sale.—Two Days of Sale of members' handicraft work have been held, one at Walsall and one at Stafford.

A *Rest Tent* for W.I. members and their friends was arranged at the County Agricultural Show at Walsall. This was a great success, both as a rest tent and as propaganda for the movement.

The county has welcomed visits from Mrs. Nugent Harris, Miss Parr and Miss Simpson (National Federation Organisers) ; also from Miss Watkins for an unusually interesting tour of lecturing during a month in the autumn.

The general educational work of the county has been very much helped by a series of two days' schools for W.I. officers held by Miss Simpson during the early part of this year, while the County Federation has benefited by the school for County Federation officers organised at Shrewsbury in October by the National Federation.

The Dramatic Adviser to the Federation has had a busy year, and is now organising Shakespeare Competitions for the Exhibition, in preparation for which she is holding classes in Acting and Production.

A.W.I. Town Association has been formed in Stafford, and has helped the Federation very much during the year. It arranged the catering at the Social Rally in July, and also the December Day of Sale, and it gave hospitality to certain students at the School of Handicrafts. This Town Association holds monthly meetings, after the fashion of an ordinary W.I., and in this way its interest and value in the movement are strengthened, and its efforts more intelligently directed.

EAST SUFFOLK (87).

President : The Lady Cranworth, Grundisburgh Hall, Suffolk.

Hon. Secretary : Miss L. Aldrich, Westerfield Hall, Ipswich.

Organisation.—Seven Institutes have been formed during the year, making a total of 87, with a membership of approximately 5,000.

Our five Voluntary Organisers have visited sixty-one Institutes and eighteen group meetings, and attended a V.C.O. Inter-County Conference at Bury. Delegates have attended the Consultative Councils.

There have been two Council Meetings, with addresses on "Plays and how to act them" and Finance.

In March, Institute delegates were invited to a meeting to study the agenda for the National Federation Annual General Meeting.

The County Council has adopted the Public Libraries Act. This subject had been brought to the notice of Institutes and many had signified approval of the scheme.

The lecture list has been revised and printed, and tours arranged for speakers on the following subjects : How our thoughts influence our lives, National Savings, Belgian Life, and Home Life in the Dominions.

The Rest Room is daily made use of by members.

A special course in Dairy Work for W.I. members was arranged at Chadacre Agricultural College.

The *Home and Country* Supplement continues, and the circulation of the magazine is now 1,080.

Finance.—Donations have been received from sixty-five Institutes, and subscriptions to the Rest Room Fund have almost covered the rent. A Talents Scheme is being organised for Federation funds.

Handicrafts.—The County Exhibition was held at the Suffolk Agricultural Show, a tent being shared with West Suffolk Federation. New features were a class for co-operative exhibits, for which nine Institutes entered, and the substitution of brooches and bars for money prizes. A specially designed certificate was presented to each Institute whose members gained awards.

At the National Federation's Handicraft Exhibition fourteen exhibits in the general, and four in the furnishing section, received certificates.

A handicrafts stall was opened during the summer at a weekly market in Felixstowe, the organisation being carried out by members of neighbouring Institutes.

In December, a display and sale of handicraft work for Christmas presents was held in Ipswich for a week, and resulted in £45 for members.

Music and Drama.—Institutes are taking a great interest in drama, singing classes have increased, and several Institutes entered for the Choir and Folk Dance classes at the County Musical Competitions Festival.

A demonstration of half-hour entertainments proved popular.

Institute Activities.—Several Institutes have had Golden Thread programmes, amongst the subjects being Suffolk, Home, The British Empire, and Beautiful Things of Life.

Lectures have been given on Local History, Architecture, and Folk Lore, Foreign Countries, Women's Work, Child Welfare, Nature Study, Wembley, and Insect Pests, amongst other subjects.

Chair Caning demonstrations are popular, and also those on Mattress Making, Loose Chair Covers, Cookery, Dressmaking and Basketry ; a few Institutes have had demonstrations of Fowl Trussing and Fruit Bottling.

Many Institutes report classes in various crafts, several have found round table conferences useful, roll calls have helped with programme making, and have also included "Men's Opinions of the W.I.," Old Names of Streets, and "What I don't like in the W.I."

Competitions have ranged from Bulb Growing, Darning, and Packing Parcels, to Whistling, Polishing Shoes or Pennies, and The Best Dinner for Two, Costing 1/-.

Most Institutes help Hospitals by egg collections, and by joining Linen Guilds ; some subscribe in order that members may benefit by tickets.

The care of village War Memorials has been undertaken, and Poppy Day collections organised. Others have entertained Old Age Pensioners, and sent visitors or gifts to workhouse inmates.

Numerous village National Savings Associations have been started by Institutes as a result of Mrs. Ravenshaw's lectures.

Interchange of visits between Institutes has been a feature ; often a play or other entertainment has been given by the visiting W.I.

One Institute has had a seat erected in the village for the aged, another received an urn as a gift from the men, in appreciation of what it had done for the village.

WEST SUFFOLK (47).

President: The Marchioness of Bristol, Ickworth, Bury St. Edmunds.

Chairman: Mrs. Martineau, The Lawn, Walsham-le-Willows.

Secretary: Mrs. Shann, O.B.E., 18, Angel Hill, Bury St. Edmunds.

Organisation.—The fourth year of the Federation has been spent mainly in strengthening the Institutes, and progress has been made in this direction.

During 1924 three new Institutes have been formed, making the total number forty-seven.

The West Suffolk County Council has assisted the Federation by as many classes as distance and difficulties of transport would allow. These classes are increasing in popularity, and are very useful and instructive.

The County Federation has again subscribed for the benefit of the Institutes to Newton and Co. for lantern slides, and has purchased a lantern which is available for villages not possessing one.

A very successful Tennis Tournament was arranged by the County Federation.

The County Library is much appreciated, but West Suffolk is hoping for a wider range of books under the Carnegie Scheme.

The Voluntary Organisers attended an Inter-County Conference for V.C.O.s, which was held by the National Federation at Bury St. Edmunds.

Handicrafts.—West Suffolk made the arrangements this year for the W.I. Exhibit at the Suffolk Show held at Bury St. Edmunds, East Suffolk sharing the tent with them. Thirty Institutes out of forty-four sent in a large number of exhibits (553), which was a great improvement on last year. Over one hundred award cards were given, and the judges reported that some of the work was excellent. Semer W.I. won the Silver Challenge Cup, kindly given by Mrs. Majendie to the Institute with the largest number of individual members winning awards.

A Rest Tent, with free tea, was provided by the County Federation for all members who visited the show, and was much enjoyed by 500 members. The Bury Rangers kindly undertook all the work on the two days.

Eight Institutes sent in work for the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition at the Drapers' Hall in October; all the ten articles sent in were accepted, and eleven certificates were awarded.

Fifteen Institutes sent articles for sale at the Home Arts and Industries Exhibition in London.

The Handicraft Depot has not done so well this year, but money is not so plentiful.

Group Conferences.—A very special feature this year has been made of the group conferences. Mrs. Salter from Cambridge lectured to three of the groups, and Miss Cam from Girton College spoke at another. A very delightful lecture was given in Bury St. Edmunds for three groups by Mr. Shepherdson, of Cambridge, on Music.

Council Meetings.—Both the spring and autumn Councils were successful and well attended. The lectures given at both were most interesting, Miss Hadow speaking at one on Institute work, and Miss Kelly at the other on Village Drama.

Institute Activities.—Five hundred meetings have taken place amongst the forty-seven Institutes, three of which were only formed at the end of the year. In addition to the monthly meetings, over 200 open meetings and weekly classes have been arranged.

The efforts of the Institutes towards obtaining a wider outlook in the villages on both social and educational matters have met with great success. A choral competition was well taken up.

Some Institutes now join with the Men's Institute in the winter for their weekly whist drive, which means healthy companionship for all concerned. Great efforts are still being made for huts and pianos; one Institute has reported that their hut is now clear of debt, and two can report the same of their pianos.

Community work has not been forgotten; entertainments have been arranged for children, old age pensioners, Hospitals, inmates of Unions and Almshouse dwellers, and subscriptions have been given towards Hospitals, village nurses, church bells, church windows, repair of village halls, ex-service men's clubs and children's treats. Personal assistance has also been rendered at Fêtes, Flower Shows and Whist Drives, which have been organised for general village funds, and many Institutes helped with the sale of poppies on Remembrance Day.

Co-operative work might be increased in West Suffolk, but a good deal has been done in coal buying, purchase of sugar and oranges for marmalade making, and the collection of eggs for Hospitals.

SURREY (91).

President: Mrs. Auerbach, Hethersett, Reigate.

Chairman: Mrs. Powell, Pilgrim Wood, Littleton, Guildford.

Secretary: Miss Sutherland, 112, High Street, Guildford.

Organisation.—The Surrey Federation now consists of 91 Institutes, with a membership of over 8,200. During the year four new Institutes have been formed, a new V.C.O. has been trained, and schools for W.I. officers have been held in connection with several of the groups.

Council Meetings held at Guildford and Redhill have been well attended, most Institutes sending visitors as well as delegates. At the half-yearly Council Meeting held in October, Miss Margesson, of Worcestershire, gave an interesting and inspiring address on the Scope of Education in Institutes.

At the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting all the Surrey Institutes with one exception were represented.

To the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition held at the Drapers' Hall, London, Surrey sent up its full quota of exhibits, all of which were accepted, one, a milliner's shop, made by Tandridge and Crowhurst members, gaining a special prize.

Finance.—Donations to National and County Federation funds, amounting to over £361, have been received from 84 Institutes. The Federation has this year received no grant from Headquarters, and has contributed to the N.F.W.I. funds at the rate of £1 per Institute.

The Group System.—There are now eleven groups in the county and in most cases the Institutes find them a real help. One group organised an exhibition, another a picnic at Wisley Gardens, and music competitions arranged by the Music Sub-Committee have been successfully carried out in most of the groups.

Shakespeare plays have been acted in several of the Institutes, *As you like it* at Merstham and at Frimley, produced by Miss Gwen Lally, being specially successful.

County Council.—There is an ever increasing demand for lectures and courses of instruction from the Education Committee of the County Council, and lectures on gardening, supplied through the Agricultural Education Committee, are more than ever successful.

Through the Surrey Branch of the N.C.C.V.D., lecturers have spoken at many Institutes on social and moral questions.

EAST SUSSEX (107).

Chairman : Mrs. Huddart, Merrifields, Haywards Heath.

Secretary : Miss Parr, Floretta, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath.

County Activities.—Two Council Meetings have been held during the year. At the half-yearly Council Meeting at Lewes on March 31st, seventy-nine delegates were present and ninety visitors. The preliminary agenda for the National Federation Annual Meeting was discussed. At the Eighth Annual Council Meeting, held at Tunbridge Wells on Monday, November 24th, eighty-eight delegates and one hundred and twenty-six visitors were present.

Drama and Music.—At the half-yearly Council Meeting in March, Miss Gwen Lally spoke in the afternoon on the History of the English Drama, and in June the first Drama Competition organised by the County Federation was held in Brighton, with three classes: (1) Scenes from Shakespeare; (2) Scenes from *Cranford* and *She Stoops to Conquer*; and (3) for original plays. Seven Institutes entered in the Shakespeare class, eleven in the second class and five in that for original plays.

The Fourth Annual Choral Festival for Women's Institutes was held at Lewes on April 30th, May 1st and 2nd; an interesting innovation on the third day was a children's competition. There were sixty-nine entries for the Festival, twenty-eight choirs competing.

In October a conference and school for conductors under the direction of Dr. Harold Darke was held, at which twenty-four Women's Institutes were represented.

Agriculture.—The Lewes W.I. Market has developed considerably, and the turnover for the year was more than £2,600. The market in poultry and eggs has especially increased, while improvement is shown in packing and grading of produce. The Market is in touch with the County Agricultural Committee and undertakes to sell any of their surplus butter and cheddar cheese. The arrangements for East and West Sussex to share a tent at the County Agricultural Show at Eastbourne fell through, as the show was cancelled owing to foot and mouth disease.

Handicrafts.—A handicrafts conference was held in May, when Miss Somerville, Hon. Secretary of the Guild of Learners, gave an address. The Fifth Annual Exhibition was held on June 25th at Brighton, when 1,781 entries were sent from seventy-eight Institutes. Certificates were awarded on the number of marks gained, Portslade W.I. carrying off the Cup for the greatest number of certificates. Seventeen exhibits were sent to the National Federation Exhibition in London, and fifteen gained certificates, in addition to the quilt sent by Iden W.I. in the co-operative section and the wool rug sent by Chiddingly W.I. in the industry section.

Christmas Fairs for the sale of handicrafts were held at Eastbourne and Hove.

Institute Activities.—Institute programmes and reports show great activity among the members and a healthy variety of interest, while a really noteworthy programme item is the attention paid to local history, under a diversity of interesting titles, such as *The South Downs in Poetry, Pictures and Prose*; *Sussex Folk Lore, Sussex Place Names, Sussex Windmills*; *Three Great Sussex Productions: Iron, Oak, and Mud*; *Holy Men and Holy Places of Sussex*, and *Roll Calls on Sussex Dialect and Sussex Customs*.

WEST SUSSEX (67).

Chairman: The Hon. Mrs. Colvin, Shermanbury Grange, Henfield, Sussex.

Secretary: Miss Nash, 11, West Street, Chichester.

Organisation.—There are now sixty-seven Institutes in the county, and the total membership is 5,118. During 1924 four sub-committees have been at work—Organisation, Finance, Education and Handicrafts. Two conferences have been held in each group during the year, and the Steyning Group held its Sixth Annual Exhibition. The County Federation is represented on the Rural Community Council. A school for W.I. officers was held at Horsham in February, with separate sessions for Presidents and Vice-Presidents, for Secretaries and for Treasurers. Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I., and Miss Parr Organising Secretary, N.F.W.I., conducted two of these. The school was well attended, and most helpful.

A two-day Progression School for Voluntary Organisers and members of the County Executive Committee was held in September, and visitors were welcomed from Surrey, East Sussex and Hampshire.

A County Supplement to *Home and Country* is now issued at ½d. Its circulation has already, in twelve months, been doubled.

A *Dramatic Festival* was held in December, at which eleven Institutes produced and acted plays which were criticised and judged by experts from the British Drama League.

Handicrafts.—A Travelling Collection of handicraft work for exhibition at Institute and group meetings has been started. All the exhibits have been contributed by members of West Sussex Institutes.

Forty-one exhibits were sent up to the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition in London, and thirty-two of these were accepted, including some exhibits for the furnished rooms.

Lectures.—At one set of group conferences Inspector Abbott spoke on the work of the Women Police, and many Institutes have since then secured the same speaker or another from the Women's Auxiliary Service. Many addresses on the League of Nations and its work are reported, and several Institutes have become corporate associates of the League of Nations Union. Other lectures to be mentioned are: Stories from Hans Anderson, by Mrs. Rundall, Just So Stories, and a Lantern Lecture on Pictures from Punch. Many Institutes have had an address on the Sussex Hospital Provident Scheme, which offers great benefits to W.I. members and others.

Other Institute Activities.—Round Table Conferences are increasingly popular, and debates have been held on many subjects, for example, "Is the Modern Girl as good a Housekeeper

as her Grandmother?" "The importance of putting children to bed early," "Old ways versus new ways in saving time." A roll call on Old Country Words is reported. One Institute has given Folk Songs in character, another has adopted an East End Parish in London to which it sends country gifts.

The reports from Institutes on the year's work are clearer and better drawn up than ever before, and nearly all contain good financial statements. The increase in the number of members who give addresses and demonstrations is very marked. A considerable number of Institutes have successfully carried out continuous programmes on the lines advocated by Mrs. Watt.

WARWICKSHIRE (72).

President: The Lady Ilkeston, 23, High Street, Warwick.

Chairman: Mrs. Hopkins, Rising Sun House, Knowle, Warwickshire.

Secretary: Miss Macausland, 3, Church Street, Leamington Spa.

Organisation.—The number of Institutes in the county is now seventy-two, six having been formed during the year. The membership in the county has increased considerably and now numbers 4,523.

Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, visited Warwickshire for a fortnight in January, and in spite of the great difficulties of transport caused by the railway strike carried out a most successful tour and spoke at eleven meetings.

The Federation are most grateful to the County Council for a grant of £200 allotted by them for lectures and classes. A special sub-committee has been appointed to deal with the arrangements. Forty-six Institutes have benefited by these classes, and a five-days' school for Embroidery, under Miss J. Drew, was held in Warwick in June, when ten members from different Institutes attended.

Two Council Meetings have been held during the year at the Shire Hall, Warwick, and both were well attended. The speaker in May was Lady Grey, and in October Mr. Barry Jackson.

Groups.—A successful group meeting was held at Berkswell in July, the speaker being Miss Ferguson, General Secretary of the National Federation; her talk on National Federation Finance was greatly appreciated.

The Wellesbourne Group organised a very enjoyable afternoon of competitions on October 1st, and there was a large attendance from all Institutes in the group.

Special meetings for programme planning were held in all the groups during the autumn, and many Institutes are arranging a Golden Thread programme for the coming year.

Several groups have held successful Exhibitions, Flower Shows, and garden parties during the summer.

Music.—Thirteen Institute choirs entered for the Leamington Competitive Festival in June, the first prize being won by the Hampton-in-Arden W.I., and the second prize by Lillington W.I. The Shirley Group organised and very successfully carried out a singing and folk dancing competition in November.

Exhibitions.—A stall for W.I. handicrafts and dairy produce was arranged at the Warwickshire Agricultural Show at Sutton Coldfield in September, and the Federation were again awarded a special medal by the Warwickshire Agricultural Society.

The Federation had a large handicraft stall at the Home Arts Exhibition at Birmingham in June, and work of all kinds was sent by the Institutes.

Samples of work were also sent to the Royal Show, and eighteen articles were sent to the N.F.W.I. Exhibition at the Drapers' Hall, all being accepted. In addition, co-operative work and articles for furnishing were also sent and accepted for exhibition.

The Annual Exhibition and Sale of Handicrafts was held at the Shire Hall, Warwick, in November. Fifty-eight Institutes were represented. The Silver Challenge Bowl for the stall showing the highest quality of work all round was won by Whitnash W.I., and the Copper Bowl, for Institutes with membership of under fifty, by Budbrooke W.I. Wasperton W.I. carried off three Banners, and a Silver Cup for co-operative work was won by Tanworth-in-Arden W.I., with their cotton reel cot.

The W.I. Town Association continues its most useful work and is of great value to the Federation.

WESTMORLAND (42).

Chairman: Miss Cropper, J.P., Halhead Green, Kendal.

Secretary: Miss Punchard, Kearsywick, Kirkby Lonsdale.

Organisation.—Miss Hadow, Vice-Chairman, of the N.F.W.I., was present at the Annual Council Meeting held at Penrith in April, and gave an address on "What exactly is a Women's Institute?" The Countess Grey attended the half-yearly Council Meeting in October at Kendal and gave a very clear talk on Finance. Ten new Institutes have been formed and one has been transferred to Cumberland County Federation. Four Yorkshire Institutes have joined our Lune Valley Group. Fourteen delegates from Westmorland Institutes attended the Annual Meeting of the National Federation; one delegate represented the Westmorland Federation at the Thirteenth Consultative Council in Lincoln. Three of our V.C.O.s attended the Organisers' Conference in London, and four the Inter-County Conference for V.C.O.s held at Newcastle-on-

Tyne in September. A Rest Room for the use of W.I. members was opened in June in the Y.W.C.A. at Kendal, the arrangement being that the County Federation should bear the expense of its upkeep for a year.

Groups.—It has been found advisable to divide the Eden Valley Group into two. In February Miss Mary Kelly of the Village Drama Society visited the Lake District and Lune Valley group conferences and gave interesting addresses on the work of her Society. In November Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I., spent a week in the county and spoke at a conference of each group on "The Institute and its relation to the Group, and to the County and National Federations."

Exhibitions.—A Handicrafts Exhibition was held in Kendal in October, and the eighteen specimens of work to go to the National Federation's Handicraft Exhibition in London were chosen from the exhibits. Thirteen of these articles were accepted for the N.F.W.I. Exhibition and one piece of work from each of the four members of the Guild of Learners in this county. A soft toy (French poodle) was purchased for the National Federation's Loan Collection. Two Group Conveners arranged exhibitions of handicraft work at the agricultural shows in their neighbourhood. Exhibitions of work have been held at Flower Shows and work sent in to these shows for competition.

Demonstrations and Classes have been held in twenty-six different subjects, including most of the usual crafts and some more unusual ones, such as Cottage Hassock Making, Feather Mount Making, Humpty Making, Hat Covering and Making, Jute Mat Making, Plaiting Paper Hats, Wax Flower Making, String Seating of Stools and Soldering. There have also been classes and demonstrations in Plum Pudding and Sweet Making and other branches of cookery, in Hairdressing and in Home Nursing. The handicraft work which is carried on includes Basketry, Tray Making and Fur and Skin Glove Making.

Lectures have been given on a variety of subjects, including The League of Nations, Citizenship, History of Fashions, England in our Grandfathers' Time, The Solway in History, Famous Painters, Voice Production, The Powers of the Human Voice, The Cause of the Rise and Fall of Prices, Drainage System, Cathedrals and Abbeys of the East Coast of England, Nursery and Schoolroom, Knitting Sticks, Canada and Canadian Sunday Schools, Family Life in France, France after the War, Travels in Africa, Armenian Refugees and Natural History.

Other Activities.—Many Institutes have added to their possessions by purchasing crockery, a piano, and other things. One Institute has a medicine chest for the use of its members. Others have libraries, and many also subscribe to the Carnegie Library.

Money has been raised for Building Funds, District Nursing Associations, Hospitals, Save the Children Fund, and towards the purchase of a village snow plough. Money and parcels of clothes were sent to the Armenian Refugees. A Ladies' Linen League has been organised on behalf of a hospital, and eggs have been sent to a hospital. Funds have also been raised for instruction to cripple children. Mr. Leslie visited Kendal in May and gave a talk, with illustrations, on Descant Singing. One Institute has a choir, others have singing classes, indulge in part songs, rounds and descant singing, and some have country dancing classes.

More branches of the National Savings Association have been started. There have been outings to Greystoke Fête, the Lakes and the seaside, and to the County Farm.

Some Institutes have sports clubs. The co-operative scheme for fish supply is still carried on.

The County Council give us a grant towards educational work which does not come within the scope of the Board of Education regulations, and a W.I. may receive a grant towards evening classes. Twelve Institutes have claimed the grant, and for the lectures given by Miss Constance Warner to twenty-one Institutes on The Origin of Empire half the expenses will be paid from the County Council grant. 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.

WILTSHIRE (70).

President and Chairman: The Countess of Radnor, Longford Castle, Salisbury.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Impey, Sheldon Manor, Chippenham.

Organisation.—Nine new Institutes have been formed during the year, making a total of seventy. Four new Voluntary Organisers were appointed after the V.C.O. School which the National Federation held at Warminster in February, and a special effort is being made this winter to arrange for a V.C.O. to be available to visit every Institute for its Annual Meeting. Members of the Executive have also visited many Institutes during the year. Two new sub-committees have been formed, for Finance and Handicrafts.

Two Council Meetings were held; at the first, held at Trowbridge in January, Miss Hadow, Vice-Chairman of the National Federation, gave a delightful address on Books, and also judged the programme competition, which was won by Corsley W.I. One effect of the competition has been that N.F.W.I. and County Federation fixtures are now entered on many programmes.

At the Summer Council, held in Salisbury in June, Mr. Leslie gave an interesting address on Descants.

Group Meetings are well attended and thoroughly appreciated. Mr. Leslie visited the county again in November, to give a lecture on Music at the Swindon Group meeting. His two lectures have considerably stimulated the musical activities of the Institutes.

Finance.—The County financial scheme is working well, the appeal to the Institutes for donations to the County and National Federations having met with a good response, although not quite all the Institutes have as yet taken their part in the scheme.

The County Federation provides three free lectures to new Institutes during their first year, and one free lecture each year to all other Institutes.

Handicrafts.—The Federation again organised a W.I. tent at the County Agricultural Show. The exhibits took the form of the furnishings for three rooms—kitchen, sitting room and bedroom. In spite of very bad weather, the tent attracted many visitors.

Exhibits were sent from seventeen Institutes to the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition in London, and eight certificates were gained.

One member has passed the Guild of Learners' Test in Fur Glove Making.

Institute Activities.—Singing classes have been started in several Institutes; one held a very successful Pageant of Local History, another held a Colonial Exhibition. Longbridge and Hill Deverill W.I. gained third prize for a co-operative exhibit of dairy produce at the National Dairy Show in London.

A great many Institutes have raised good sums for the County Hospitals, the care of the blind, and for their village nurses.

A special excursion train to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley was arranged for the northern part of the county, members from seventeen Institutes availing themselves of it and spending a delightful day. Char-a-banc excursions to the Exhibition were organised from other parts of the county.

WORCESTERSHIRE (62).

President: Dowager Countess of Plymouth, Hewell Grange, Redditch.

Chairman: Miss L. M. Hingley, Middle Hill Park, Broadway.

Secretary: Mrs. Berry, 51, Broad Street, Worcester.

Organisation.—Six new Institutes have been opened and one closed, making a total of sixty-two. The subjects spoken on at the Council Meetings have been Finance and The League of Nations; resolutions dealing with Women Police, Married Women's Income Tax, and Slaughter Reform were discussed and action taken upon them.

County Exhibition.—The County Exhibition held on October 1st and 2nd was successful from the point of view both of finance and of the standard of work. The number of entries was considerably above that of the previous exhibition, and the standard of work was higher. Arrangements were made to show all the agricultural and horticultural exhibits in a tent, and this made it possible to enlarge this section considerably, whilst enabling the handicraft section to be seen to much better advantage. The Challenge Shield was won by Chaddesley Corbett W.I. for the second time.

N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition.—Thirteen articles were sent up to the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Exhibition in London, and twelve of them were accepted, two being kept for the National Federation's Loan Collection.

Groups.—One new group has been formed, making a total of ten. Miss Parr visited several of the groups, giving very helpful addresses on Budgeting.

County Council Aid.—The County Council have provided demonstrations in Cookery, Laundry, Housecraft, Labour Saving and Fruit Preserving; classes in Dressmaking and Basketry; and lectures on Gardening, Poultry Keeping and Rabbit Keeping.

Agriculture and Horticulture.—The Worcestershire Women's Institute Farm and Garden Guild continues to do good work. The monthly Sale and Exchange Lists have been freely used, and much business is done through them. The egg distribution scheme was successful, and the Small Livestock Stud Register has been revised and brought up-to-date, great improvements being made on the first issue.

Country Dancing.—The Federation was instrumental in forming a branch of the English Folk Dance Society, which is doing good work and is being well supported by the Institutes.

Publicity.—Three county papers give a Women's Institute corner for reports of monthly meetings and any special Institute doings.

Institute Activities.—The reports received show a very real progress, not only in handicrafts but in the co-operative spirit, which means so much to the movement. The County Rural Library scheme is much appreciated. Several Institutes have become corporate associates of the League of Nations Union. The demand for lectures of an educational character has been good, while the lighter side of music and drama is becoming more and more popular.

YORKSHIRE (122).

President: The Countess of Listowel, Hackness Grange, Scarborough.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Dalton Kirk, Farlington Lodge, York.

Organisation.—Eighteen Institutes have been formed during the year, bringing the total to 122, with an approximate membership of 5,068. This number of new Institutes, the majority of them formed during November, December and January, when many Annual Meetings were being held, has naturally given our Organisers an enormous amount of work. We realise that our present number of Voluntary Organisers is very inadequate for the size of the county but we hope soon to add two new ones to our present three. Miss Simpson, National Federation Organiser, has spoken on programme making at several centres in the county, members from six or seven Institutes attending each meeting.

Finance.—Sixty-eight Institutes have sent donations to the County Federation, and it is hoped that in 1925 every one of them will contribute its quota, a proportion of which will be sent to the National Federation.

Lectures.—Early in the year Mr. Nash, of Leeds University, lectured at several Institutes on Herbs and Their Uses. In the autumn a course of seven weekly health lectures was given in eight centres by Miss Ellis, a British Red Cross lecturer, and similar lectures have been given in another part of the county by a lecturer supplied by the East Riding County Council. During the summer interesting lectures entitled The Value of Books were given in some of the Institutes by Canon Ward and Miss Woodward, and were greatly appreciated.

Handicrafts.—This year the Committee had a larger and more attractive stand at the Great Yorkshire Show, and were well repaid for the extra work involved by the intelligent interest shown by the public in the exhibits sent by the Institute members. The opportunities for practical propaganda at such an exhibition stand are of the widest possible value, and we have no doubt that the formation of many of our new Institutes may be directly traced to this source.

In connection with our half-yearly Council Meeting, a successful Exhibition was held at York in October, opened by Lady Bell, D.B.E.

A very successful tour has been conducted by Miss Armes, Handicrafts Organiser for the National Federation, who addressed eleven group meetings attended by members from sixty Institutes, and aroused great interest in the subject of handicraft.

Home and Country.—The circulation has increased during the year, but several Institutes still do not realise the usefulness of the magazine. Many of the Institutes, however, value it very much and especially appreciate the County Supplement.

PAMPHLET