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NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF WOMENS INSTITUTES



PAMPHLET

Twelfth Annual Report

For the period ended December 31st, 1928:

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The
12th
Annual Report

of the

National Federation
of Women's Institutes

for the

Period ended December 31st, 1928.

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

Established in conjunction with
the Women's Branch, Ministry
of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1929-1930.

ELECTED MEMBERS.

THE LADY DENMAN, *Chairman*, 43, Upper Grosvenor St., W.1.
 MRS. AUERBACH, *Vice-Chairman*, Hethersett, Reigate, Surrey.
 MISS GASKELL, *Vice-Chairman*, Uplands, Great Shelford,
 Cambridgeshire.
 MRS. GERVA HUXLEY, *Hon. Treasurer*, 9, Vincent Square
 Mansions, S.W.1.

Dr. Esther Carling, Berks. and Bucks. Joint Sanatorium, Peppard
 Common, Oxon.
 The Lady Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Underley Hall, Kirkby
 Lonsdale, Westmorland.
 Miss Hilda Chamberlain, Bury House, Odiham, Hants.
 Mrs. Baker Creswell, Hauxley Hall, Amble, Northumberland.
 Miss Grace Hadow, 1, Jowett Walk, Oxford.
 The Lady Mabel Howard, Greystoke Castle, Penrith.
 The Countess of Listowel, 14, Bryanston Square, W.1.
 Mrs. Alfred Martin, Tregavethan, Truro, Cornwall.
 Lady Dorothy Meynell, Hoar Cross Hall, Burton-on-Trent.
 Miss Peel, Peover Hall, Over Peover Knutsford, Cheshire.
 Mrs. Alfred Watt, c/o. Bank of Montreal, Waterloo Place, S.W.
 Lady Worsley-Taylor, 7, Chesham Street, S.W.1.
 Mrs. Wintringham, Little Grimsby Hall, Louth, Lincs.

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS.

Miss H. M. Johnston	Board of Education, Whitehall, S.W.1.
Mr. M. Heseltine	Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1.
Mr. A. T. A. Dobson	} Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Whitehall Place, S.W.1.
Miss Pratt	
Lady Trevelyan	

CO-OPTED MEMBERS.

The Lady Berwick, Attingham Park, near Shrewsbury.
 Miss Buxton, Knightons, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.
 Mrs. Mary Morgan, Ballymacora, Barmouth, Merioneth.

OFFICIALS OF THE FEDERATION.

General Secretary: MISS INEZ FERGUSON.
 Chief Organiser: MRS. NUGENT HARRIS.

STANDING SUB-COMMITTEES FOR THE YEAR, 1929-1930.

HANDICRAFTS.

THE OFFICERS.	LADY LISTOWEL.
MISS ANDERSON.	MISS PEEL.
MRS. BROWN.	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.
MISS CHRISTY.	MRS. NEWALL.
MRS. HEENAN.	MISS VERNON.
MRS. HUGHES.	MR. MARSTON.

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

THE OFFICERS.	MISS ROMÈ.
LADY BOYNE.	MRS. STREATFEILD.
LADY CHICHESTER.	MISS TENNANT.
MRS. LAMPSON.	LADY TREVELYAN.
LADY LISTOWEL.	MISS NETTLESHIP.
MISS PEEL.	

"HOME AND COUNTRY."

THE OFFICERS.	MRS. MUNRO.
MISS BURGESS.	MISS REID.
DR. CARLING.	MR. ROSS.
MRS. DASHWOOD.	MRS. SCRUTTON.
MISS LLOYD-DAVIES.	MR. THOMPSON.
LADY DOROTHY MEYNELL.	MISS ALICE WILLIAMS.

ORGANISATION.

THE OFFICERS.	MRS. DAVIES.
MISS ALDRICH.	MRS. GRIFFITHS.
MISS BUXTON.	MRS. NORMAN MAY.
LADY HENRY CAVENDISH- BENTINCK.	MRS. NEVILL-SMITH.
MISS CHAMBERLAIN.	MRS. WATT.
	LADY WORSLEY-TAYLOR.

GENERAL EDUCATION.

THE OFFICERS.

LADY MARGARET BOSCAWEN.
DR. CARLING.
MISS CLARKE.
MRS. DRAGE.
MISS HADOW.
MR. HESELTINE.

MISS JOHNSTON.
MISS MATHESON.
LADY DOROTHY MEYNELL.
MRS. MORGAN.
LADY TREVELYAN.
MRS. WINTRINGHAM.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

THE OFFICERS.

MRS. CRESSWELL.
MRS. HAMPTON.
LADY MABEL HOWARD.
MRS. MARTIN.

MISS PRATT.
MISS STRANG.
MISS TOMKINSON.
MRS. WATT.
MRS. SHAW.

PRINTING.

THE OFFICERS.

MRS. CRESSWELL

MR. DOBSON.
LADY WORSLEY TAYLOR.

OFFICE AND FINANCE.

THE OFFICERS.

LADY BERWICK.
MR. DOBSON.

MRS. MARTIN.
LADY WORSLEY TAYLOR.

The Twelfth Annual Report

of the

National Federation of Women's Institutes,

for the year ending December 31st, 1928.

WORK IN THE COUNTRY.

The Executive Committee of the National Federation is again able to report a surprisingly steady increase in the number of Women's Institutes in England and Wales. 269 Women's Institutes have been formed during 1928 and, although twenty-two have been reported lapsed, or suspended, last year's total of 3,997 is on December 31st, 1928, satisfactorily increased to 4,244.

Although the total number of Institutes and the total membership within the National Federation may be regarded as satisfactory, it is disquieting to note a decrease this year in the membership of five County Federations, despite, in most cases, an increase in Institutes. The N.F.W.I. Executive Committee has communicated with each County Federation concerned and in three out of five cases, specific reasons can be given for the decrease. At the same time, the Executive Committee feels it important to emphasise the fact that, if healthy development within the movement is to be ensured, each Federation and each Institute must aim at an annual increase of membership if the decreases attributable to special crises are to be discounted.

Each year, as the differences in age and experience between the older and the recently formed Institutes become more marked, it is increasingly difficult to generalise as to the main lines of development within the movement. The arrangement of the National Federation Drama Festival, mentioned later in the report, together with the increasing popularity of county pageants, has resulted in particular emphasis being laid this year on dramatic activities. The N.F.W.I. survey of existing health education facilities has also revealed a spontaneous and growing demand among the Institutes for education in practical subjects bearing a relation to economic conditions in country districts, for example, classes in cookery and food values related to the weekly budget

of a cottage home. Many Institutes show a keen interest in different aspects of local government. The steady increase in road traffic results in a corresponding concern among country people over problems of litter, of sanitation and of the protection of amenities. There is no question on which W.I.s show themselves more generally of one mind than on the subject of the preservation of the beauty and quiet of the countryside.

Towards the end of this year, the national conscience has been suddenly awakened to the extreme gravity of the situation in the English and Welsh coalfields. Tremendous efforts—in which many Institutes are taking part—have been made for the organisation of relief in money and in kind. It is not perhaps fully realised that relief, however badly needed, is in itself almost useless unless as a part of some constructive scheme for the provision of employment, since the crisis in the coalfields is not for a few months or a year, but is likely to remain a grave national problem for many years to come. Representation has been made to the Executive Committee of the National Federation by the National Council of Social Service, on which it is represented, that the country districts have an opportunity of making an unparalleled contribution to the solution of the problem if each village that can surmount the difficulties of providing employment and house room, will arrange to find work for one skilled or unskilled workman from the distressed areas and accept him with his family into its community and its life. This scheme has the earnest support of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Labour and the Executive Committee has, therefore, at this time submitted it to every Institute in the confident hope that, wherever it can be put into operation, Institute members will give it their sympathetic and practical support.

The approach of the General Election is a reminder to all the Institutes of the need for most watchful safeguarding of their non-party character. Each Institute must be scrupulously careful to respect not only the expressed political opinions of its members, but the possible views of those members who take no active part in party politics. In the same way, the National Federation would urge Institutes when considering fresh activities to respect equally the place and the work of other organisations; to think carefully in the first instance whether a proposed piece of work is one falling naturally within the scope of the Institutes, which will be best done if it is from the Institute that the initiative comes; to realise that the Institutes can often best serve the community by co-operating with and strengthening bodies existing for special purposes, rather than by endeavouring to focus in themselves all the energies of the locality.

WORK AT HEADQUARTERS.

OFFICERS, COMMITTEE AND STAFF.

During 1928, the National Federation Executive Committee has met eleven times. In June, when the newly-elected Committee came into office, Lady Denman was re-elected Chairman, Mrs. Auerbach and Miss Hadow, Vice-Chairmen, and Mrs. Gervas Huxley, Hon. Treasurer. The co-opted members are Miss Chamberlain (Hampshire), Mrs. Alfred Martin (Cornwall), and Mrs. Morgan (Merioneth). Mr. Heseltine remains on the Committee as representing the Ministry of Health, Miss Johnston the Board of Education, and the three representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture are Lady Trevelyan, Miss Pratt and Mr. Dobson.

In May the Committee learned with regret of Miss Bouverie's (Northants) decision not to stand for re-election. Miss Bouverie had for four years acted as Chairman of the Office and Finance Sub-Committee, besides assisting in many other ways, and she has been greatly missed from the Committee.

It is with great regret that the Executive Committee has to report the resignation from the staff in May of Miss Nightingale, who has served the movement in different capacities for a number of years. Miss Nightingale decided that she could no longer undertake the continual travelling necessitated by her work as an organiser, but must find a less arduous post. Miss Nightingale has accepted an appointment as assistant secretary of the Kent Rural Community Council, and in this capacity is still able to maintain contact with the W.I. movement.

Miss Dorothea Macausland, late County Secretary for Warwickshire, has been appointed to Miss Nightingale's place on the organising staff, and will work as regular organiser for six months of the year.

The office administrative staff now consists of Miss Ferguson, General Secretary, with Miss Asher, Miss Farrer (half-time) and Miss Turner as Assistants. As Miss Ferguson will be unable to continue full-time work after the end of the present financial year, the Committee has arranged for her to work for the N.F.W.I. on a half-time basis after the end of February, when Miss Farrer will be available for full-time work.

The N.F.W.I. has this year adopted a contributory pensions scheme for members of the staff who wish to avail themselves of its advantages. Five members of the staff have come into the scheme, and a Staff Savings Association has been formed for the benefit of members of the staff who cannot afford to contribute

to the Pensions Scheme. This Association is affiliated to the National Savings Committee, and the National Federation assists it by contributing one in six certificates in the case of junior members, and one in nine in the case of seniors.

CONSTITUTION.

One of the most important pieces of work carried out by the Committee this year has naturally been the preparation and issue of the constitutional survey required by resolution of the 1928 Annual Meeting. A special Sub-Committee was appointed to prepare this survey, and met four times during June and July. To it were referred the main proposals for constitutional reform which have been put forward from time to time during recent years, together with one or two fresh suggestions sent in by counties. The Sub-Committee reported on these to a special session of the Executive Committee in July, and submitted certain definite additional proposals of its own, in particular the scheme contained in the survey for the development of the Consultative Council; in the case of the two most drastic schemes for constitutional change which it did not desire to support, the Sub-Committee set out the arguments for and against. The survey was then prepared in accordance with the Executive Committee's decisions, submitted to the Committee for final approval in September, and issued in October to all Women's Institutes and County Federations. The recommendations contained in the survey were discussed by the Consultative Council, amended in minor respects, and approved. Those which are urgent and require sanction from the Annual Meeting will appear in resolution form upon the Agenda of the Annual Meeting for 1929.

EQUALISATION OF FARES.

A second important piece of work carried out by the Committee as a result of discussion at the Annual Meeting, has been the drafting of alternative schemes for the equalisation of fares of delegates—both embodying the idea of contribution by every Institute, but based one upon the principle of payment by the Institute and one upon the principle of payment by the individual member. The issue of these schemes by the Committee appears to have led in some counties to a certain misunderstanding which the Committee would wish to take this opportunity of removing.

At the last Annual Meeting, when a proposal for pooling delegates' fares was brought forward by Lancashire, the "previous question" was carried in order—as the Committee took it from the tenor of the debate—that schemes workable from the Executive Committee's point of view might be submitted next year. The

Committee consequently prepared such schemes for consideration by the Institutes but without wishing in any way to bias the Institutes either in favour of one scheme rather than another, or in favour of accepting any scheme whatsoever. The two schemes prepared by the Committee were voted on by County Federation delegates at the December meeting of the Consultative Council, on the instruction of their Institutes, and a strong preference was shown in favour of the scheme based on payment by the Institute. This scheme will therefore be put forward by the Lancashire Federation at the Annual Meeting in 1929. The Executive Committee wishes however to make it very clear that it regards this question of equalisation of fares as one which touches every Institute and should be decided by the Institutes themselves. It hopes, therefore, that every Women's Institute will send its delegate to the 1929 Annual Meeting prepared to express the unbiassed opinion of the Institute as to whether or not a scheme for the equalisation of fares should be adopted.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

Correspondence partnerships have now been arranged through the N.F.W.I. Office between 88 Women's Institutes in this country and the same number overseas. An interesting development is the spread of the W.I. movement in Natal, where there are now twelve Institutes. In the whole of the Union of South Africa there are 20 W.I.s, in Southern Rhodesia 12, in New Zealand 38, in Samoa 1, and in Bengal 158.

The National Federation continues to keep in touch with the Institute headquarters in Canada, and with the different provincial headquarters of the Country Women's Associations in Australia. Mrs. Auerbach and Mrs. Drage this year visited the exhibition of the Union des Femmes Suisses at Berne, and attended a session of the International Conference on Domestic Science, held at the time of the exhibition.

The International Council of Women is arranging a Conference of Delegates from different national rural organisations to take place in London during the spring of 1929. The N.F.W.I. Executive Committee will be represented at this Conference and hopes to take its share in making their visit interesting to delegates from other countries.

The National Federation remains an affiliated member of the International Commission of Agriculture, the body responsible for calling the International Congress of Agriculture every second year. The next International Congress of Agriculture will be held in 1929 at Bucarest, when the National Federation will be represented by Mrs. Auerbach.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The 1928 Annual Meeting was held at the Queen's Hall, London, on May 22nd and 23rd. The usual arrangements were made by the Committee, and the attendance this year was larger than ever before, 2,450 delegates and V.C.O.s being present. At the same time it is disappointing that out of a total of 4,244 Institutes, little over half are represented at the meeting which determines the policy of the movement. The resolutions carried at the meeting will be found on pages 29 to 35. The Committee has booked the Central Hall, Westminster, for the Annual Meeting in 1929, since this hall has a larger seating accommodation than the Queen's Hall.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

Lady Denman continues to represent the N.F.W.I. upon the Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union and Miss Hadow upon the Adult Education Advisory Committee of the Board of Education. The National Federation is represented upon the Council for the Preservation of Rural England by Lady Trevelyan, upon the National Playing Fields Association Council by Lady Margaret Boscawen, by Miss Clarke on the National Council for Domestic Studies, by Miss Hadow on the Central Council for Broadcast Adult Education, by Mrs. Harris on the Women's Farm and Garden Union, by Mrs. Wintringham on the Young Farmers' Club Advisory Committee, and by the General Secretary upon the National Council of Social Service. The National Federation remains an associate of the Girl Guides. Up to the present, the County Federations and Institutes have received official sanction to affiliate with the following organisations: the Victoria League, the National Poultry Council, the National Utility Poultry Society, the British Drama League, the Arts League of Service, the Village Drama Society, the British Federation of Music Competition Festivals, the Royal Horticultural Society, the National Garden Guild, the National Council of Women (local branches), the Workers' Education Association, and county branches of the English Folk Dance Society. Institutes may also become Corporate Associates of the League of Nations Union, and Associates of the Women's Auxiliary Service (Women Police). If affiliation with any other organisation is desired, sanction should be obtained from the National Federation.

The reports of the various sub-committees which follow, indicate continued co-operation between the National Federation and a number of different specialising societies from whom it receives assistance in its work.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The following are the reports of the Standing Sub-Committees of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee for the year 1928:—

OFFICE AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Office and Finance Sub-Committee has held eleven meetings this year.

RECEIPTS. The end of the financial year, February 29th, 1928, found the N.F.W.I. with a substantial balance in hand, as was foreshadowed in the last N.F.W.I. Annual Report. This balance, £2,938 16s. 7d. was accumulated during the two years after the National Federation achieved independence of Government support for general funds, while the Institutes were still contributing through their County Federations to headquarters funds at the rate of 15s. per Institute.

Last year, it will be remembered, the suggested amount of donation to be sent was reduced from 15s. to 7s. 6d. per Institute—a sum rather lower than that actually required to make up, with its other receipts, the necessary income of the N.F.W.I. Consequently, in budgeting its expenditure for the current year, 1928-29, the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee anticipated that it might be necessary to draw to a certain extent upon the accumulated balance. The success of the National Federation's claim for exemption from Income Tax has, however, resulted in two years' refund of tax deducted from dividends at source being repaid during the current financial year. This fact, together with the Executive Committee's decision to regard as available for the current year's expenditure the total sum received in dividends and Guild of Learners' subscriptions during the year (instead of holding over sums received during the final quarter for next year's expenditure), has abnormally increased for this one year the N.F.W.I. revenue so that the end of the year (February 28th, 1929), will probably show an increased and not a decreased balance.

Donations from Institutes to Headquarters are coming in satisfactorily through their County Federations. The list on page 56 will show the large proportion of Federations in which the W.I.s are taking their full share of financial responsibility for the national side of the work. Affiliation fees so far received amount to £2,457 13s. 9d., and it is anticipated that the end of the financial year will show an increase of £120 (approximately) upon last year's fees. The Endowment Fund now totals £17,682 6s. 3d., £23 1s. 11d. having been added during the year. The invested funds (including the balance) of the National Federation produce at present an annual income of £1,100 approximately. £24 2s. 0d. has been received

in Guild of Learners' subscriptions, since the beginning of the financial year. The sales of the Literature Department for the period March 1st to December 31st have amounted to £1, 753 3s. 0d.

EXPENDITURE. This year the National Federation made the experiment of budgeting departmentally, each Sub-Committee preparing its own estimate of expenditure for the year and the Office and Finance Sub-Committee being responsible for the combined estimate of income and expenditure. Although the division as between one department and another of items of expenditure common to all must necessarily be arbitrary, a very fair idea of the proportionate cost of the different branches of work has resulted. The cost of organisation shows at £2,285, of Handicrafts, at £2,144, of Music, Drama and Dancing at £1,412, of General Education (including Agriculture and Health Work) at £2,110 and of the Literature Department at £2,390, the gross estimated expenditure of the N.F.W.I. being £10,350 approximately. Towards this expenditure, the Development Commission has authorised a grant not exceeding £1,400 for Handicraft work, the receipts from the N.F.W.I. Drama Festival amounted to £262 17s. 3d. while the estimated receipts of the Literature Department for this year are £2,400. There remains, therefore, an approximate expenditure of £6,287 to be met from the other regular sources of income of the National Federation, i.e., donations, affiliation fees, profits from "Home and Country," and interest and dividends.

The Sub-Committee is glad to report that so far the expenditure of the National Federation this year is well within estimates and, as stated above, it is anticipated that the end of the financial year (February 28th, 1929), will find the N.F.W.I. with an increased balance to carry forward. It must, however, be remembered that, as already explained, this is partially due to an unlooked for increase which will not recur, in the income available for the year's expenditure, and, further, that increased expenditure next year is foreshadowed elsewhere in the Executive Committee's report—*e.g.*, the purchase of a national licence from The Performing Right Society and the payment of fares of delegates to the Consultative Council three times a year. If these new liabilities are incurred, the Sub-Committee estimates that the accumulated balance of the National Federation will be required to supplement year by year the ordinary sources of income of the National Federation until such time as the number of Institutes and membership of the movement has so increased that donations and affiliation fees, together with the other available receipts are sufficient to meet the total cost of the national side of the work.

GENERAL EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

The General Education Sub-Committee has held ten meetings during the year.

HEALTH AND DOMESTIC SCIENCE. The Executive Committee has taken active steps during the year to work out a policy. The survey of facilities for health education existing in the counties has been continued, Miss Nightingale having charge of the survey up to the time of her resignation when the Committee arranged for Miss Warrington (auxiliary organiser) to take her place. During the year, the following counties have been visited:—Cambridgeshire, Glamorganshire, Nottinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Kesteven (Lincs.), Lindsey (Lincs.), and the Isle of Ely.

After surveying seventeen counties Miss Nightingale, at the request of the Executive Committee, drew up a report summarising her visits and this was circulated to County Federations. A Conference, consisting of representatives from the County Federations, the Ministry of Health, the statutory authorities dealing with health in the counties, and certain national voluntary societies concerned with the general aspects of health education, was then called, and was held in London in November, with the object of conferring on the future N.F.W.I. Health Policy. The Conference was addressed by Sir George Newman (Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education and the Ministry of Health), Dr. Savage (Medical Officer of Health for Somerset), Mr. Willson (Director of Education for Oxfordshire), Miss Clarke (National Training School of Cookery) and Dr. Esther Carling (N.F.W.I. Executive Committee) and considerable time was devoted to discussion. As an outcome of this Conference, the Executive Committee decided to send to all County Federations a draft scheme of health work based on the information collected through the survey, and also to draw up a list of Health Societies willing to provide County Federations and Institutes with lecturers.

One of the hindrances to the employment of County Council instructresses for Domestic Science teaching in W.I.s which the health survey brought to light, was a misunderstanding over regulations governing the Board of Education pensions scheme. At the request of the National Federation, the Board of Education made a statement which defined the position with regard to pensionable service of County Council teachers undertaking instruction in Women's Institutes, and County Federations were informed accordingly.

During the autumn, the Worcestershire Federation arranged a very successful course of classes in cookery and food values on the lines of the syllabus agreed upon by the Board of Education, the Ministry of Health and the National Federation. As this was the first course of its kind, the N.F.W.I. contributed towards the expense.

Courses of classes on "How to Keep Well" have again been offered to County Federations by the British Red Cross and the Dental Board on the same terms as before. During the Autumn of 1927, and the spring of this year 89 Institutes benefited by these courses, and the total attendance was 11,000.

The National Federation continues to co-operate with other bodies dealing with health matters, and has recently become an associate of the Central Council for Health Education.

AGRICULTURE. Miss Simpson, in her capacity of Agricultural Organiser, has assisted at Agricultural and Horticultural Schools in West Kent, Cambridgeshire and Yorkshire, and at an Agricultural Conference in Berkshire; has conferred with County Agricultural Sub-Committees in Cardiganshire, Oxfordshire and Worcestershire; has taken part in a debate in Staffordshire; has visited the Dairy Show, the Bath and West of England Show and Produce Shows in Cambridge, Stamford, Oxford, Reading, East Suffolk and Northamptonshire, and has supervised the N.F.W.I. Produce Exhibit at the Royal. Miss Simpson also represented the National Federation at the World Dairy Congress, and assisted in judging the Young Farmers' Club Competitions.

The Executive Committee again arranged with the British Dairy Farmers' Association for the inclusion in the Dairy Show schedule of classes open to W.I.s. Unfortunately, the quality and number of exhibits sent in was disappointing. The National Federation is now in correspondence with the Association to see how the exhibits can be improved.

The Sub-Committee has kept in close touch with other societies dealing with agricultural subjects. The control of the Young Farmers' Club movement has recently been transferred to the National Council of Social Service and the National Federation is represented on the newly-appointed advisory Committee. Mrs. Harris has been appointed as representative of the National Federation on the Women's Farm and Garden Union, and the National Garden Guild has been recognised as a Society to which Institutes may affiliate.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

Telephones in Villages. The National Federation's campaign to secure a reduction in the amount of the guarantee required from villages before a telephone is installed has at last met with success. Before the introduction of the 1928 Telephone Bill, the National Federation, with the help of Sir Douglas Newton, M.P., called together a representative meeting of Members of Parliament in the House of Commons which elected a deputation to wait on

the Postmaster-General. As a result of the representations made to him by this deputation and the actual evidence submitted by the National Federation, the Postmaster has, with the sanction of the Treasury, amended the regulations affecting village telephones. In future, when a village applies for the installation of a public telephone, the probable earning capacity of the telephone will be calculated and the village will only be asked to guarantee the yearly difference between the sum and the cost of upkeep, plus interest on capital.

Parish Council Elections. Two witnesses from the National Federation were summoned to appear before the Royal Commission on Local Government and gave evidence from the information collected from Institutes in four counties during 1927. The Local Government Bill introduced in the autumn session did not contain any reference to Parish Council Elections.

Child Assault and Juvenile Offenders. The National Federation wrote in March to the Home Office regarding the omission from the King's Speech of all reference to the Children's Bill and asking for time to be allowed for its introduction in the forthcoming session. The Home Secretary's reply held out hopes that the Bill might be introduced in the autumn session but unfortunately they were not fulfilled.

Bastardy Bill. A letter was written in support of the Bastardy Law Amendment Bill, introduced into the House of Lords early in the year. The Bill failed to gain the support of the House, but it is hoped it may be re-introduced next year.

Women Police. As the evidence given before the Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure has had such an important bearing on the employment of Women Police, the National Federation decided to forward the resolution on this subject passed by the Annual Meeting in 1924. A Roll Call at the autumn Consultative Council served to show how County Federations have varied in the extent of action which they have taken to follow up the resolution.

Maternal Mortality. The question of Maternal Mortality has been receiving considerable attention during the year and important Conferences have again been held. Out of these Conferences has developed a standing committee upon which Lady Margaret Boscawen represents the National Federation. Two Committees have also been appointed by the Ministry of Health to deal with different aspects of this problem. The first committee has recently issued a questionnaire for the use of medical officers with a view

to the collection of information on the causes of maternal mortality. The second committee has been appointed to enquire into the working of the Midwives Acts, with particular reference to the training of midwives and the conditions of their employment.

Rural Water Supply. Certain clauses in the Local Government Bill introduced into the House of Commons in the Autumn Session will, if they become law, have the effect of easing the burden of local authorities in the matter of water supplies by providing that County Councils and Rural District Councils may contribute as part of their general expenses towards the cost of water supply schemes. These clauses exactly cover the second half of the Annual General Meeting resolution on this subject. From the Sub-Committee's investigation it appears that only very few regional Committees exist, but it is hoped that with the growing attention which this question is receiving their number may soon increase. The Executive Committee is in close touch with the Ministry of Health in this matter, who have lately published an explanatory pamphlet on "Regional Water Committees," urging their formation. The Executive Committee would commend this pamphlet to County Federations for study.

Women's Agricultural Wages. During the year the Executive Committee wrote to the Ministry of Agriculture to point out the unsatisfactory position which exists in regard to the regulations laid down concerning the employment of women agricultural workers. A letter was received in October from the Minister of Agriculture stating that, in view of the National Federation's representations, Mr. Guinness had decided to write personally to the Chairmen of Agricultural Wages Committees calling to their notice the importance of giving equal attention to women as to men in the framing of their orders. The Committee has reported this fact in "Home and Country," and has drawn attention to the chief points in Mr. Guinness's letter.

Practical Education of Women for Rural Life. During the year a number of County Federations have availed themselves of the offer made by certain members of the Executive Committee to speak on the Report on the "Practical Education of Women for Rural Life," and County Federation Council meetings have been supplied through the N.F.W.I. with speakers on this subject. The Executive Committee decided to defer action on the resolution passed at the Annual Meeting dealing with the Report and with training in Home Management until the Institutes have had time to study the Report and to bring up their own resolutions to the 1929 Annual Meeting.

Condensed Skimmed Milk. It will be remembered that the Annual Meeting left to the Executive Committee the responsibility of deciding whether or not to take action on the resolution concerning condensed skimmed milk. After making a thorough investigation of the facts the Committee came to the conclusion that it was not desirable to approach the Ministry of Health to request the prohibition of sales, and no action was therefore taken. The reasons leading to the Committee's decision have been published in "Home and Country."

General. The Sub-Committee has again co-operated with the B.B.C. over arrangements for talks for Women's Institutes and the link between the B.B.C. and the National Federation has been strengthened by the appointment of Miss Hadow as the National Federation's representative on the new Central Council for Broadcast Adult Education. Miss Clarke, of the National Training School of Cookery, who is a member of the Sub-Committee, gave a series of Broadcast talks on "Food Values," with special reference to the National Federation's syllabus on this subject, and Miss Hadow a series on "Roads."

The National Federation was this year approached by the Departmental Committee of the Board of Education on Rural Education in Wales, and was invited to collect evidence on this subject through its Welsh County Federations and to submit a memorandum. In response to this request evidence was collected but owing to the short time available and the fact that the County Federations had to be approached during the holiday season, the National Federation's memorandum was not as complete as could be desired. It was, however, forwarded to the Board of Education and the National Federation was subsequently invited to send two witnesses to appear before the Departmental Committee which met at Bangor. The Committee showed itself keenly interested in the work of the Women's Institute movement in Wales, and the National Federation is now being afforded an opportunity for collecting further evidence and is likely to be invited again to send witnesses when the Departmental Committee is next hearing evidence.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND DANCING SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee has met nine times. Its work covers all matters concerning music, drama and dancing in the Institutes and includes advice on their teaching and organisation, and on questions of standard.

The biggest piece of work undertaken this year was the organisation of the National Federation Drama Festival, which took place on the two evenings of the Annual Meeting, May 22nd and 23rd.

A small *ad hoc* sub-committee was appointed last year to deal with the arrangements and organisation, and met altogether seven times. The Festival itself, which was the first to be organised by the National Federation, was an experiment, but in making known some part of the dramatic work which is being done by Institutes all over England and Wales it fully justified itself. A great many teams entered for the Festival and those which actually performed in London were chosen by the experts appointed by the N.F.W.I., Mrs. Gibson, Miss Gwen Lally, Mr. Miles Malleson, Mr. Ramsden, and Mr. Geoffrey Whitworth. These experts toured the country and considered in their respective areas all those teams which were willing to perform in London if they were asked to do so. The five teams which were finally chosen as being the most suitable in every way to demonstrate in London were: The Holmsdale Group (West Kent), Roadwater W.I. (Somerset), Clare W.I. (West Suffolk), Wigginton and Haxby W.I. (Yorkshire), and the Guildford Pilgrim Players (Surrey). The judges' remarks and general criticisms were given briefly in the Festival Programme, and more fully in the August number of "Home and Country," which was a special Drama number. Copies were also sent to all the teams and are available to anyone who is interested. The Festival was a financial success, and in addition to making a grant to the Shakespeare team, the Sub-Committee was very glad to be able to pay one-third of the expenses incurred by the four short play teams.

An application was made at the end of last year to the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for a grant of £1,000 for the purpose of assisting pioneer classes in the counties for the training of village choir conductors and producers; also to provide a contribution towards the expenses of the Shakespeare team at the N.F.W.I. Drama Festival. This application was successful, and a grant of £1,000 was placed at the disposal of a joint committee of representatives of the National Council of Social Service and the National Federation of Women's Institutes for the purposes suggested by the N.F.W.I. in its application. A leaflet setting out the terms on which grants may be given was issued to County Federations and a number of grants towards the cost of Conductors' and Producers' Schools have been made.

The Sub-Committee has given considerable time and attention to the question of copyright fees, both for music and for dramatic work. As regards copyright fees for music, it is hoped that the National Federation may be able shortly to come to an agreement which will cover all Women's Institute musical activities, and so enable them to perform copyright music as often as they please, without danger of infringement.

The Sub-Committee has revised and enlarged the "List of Songs suitable for W.I.s," and the new list is now obtainable, price 3d. At the suggestion of the Sub-Committee, and with the assistance of a small specially appointed committee, the Oxford University Press has undertaken the publication of books of Period Songs and Dances which Institutes contemplating dramatic work should find most useful.

As a result of the N.F.W.I. Drama Festival it was realised that many original plays are being written by Institute members, which, if published, might be of value to amateur players. The Sub-Committee arranged, therefore, for the British Drama League to read and advise on any original plays sent to the N.F.W.I. office through a County Federation. Should the plays prove to be of sufficient merit, the British Drama League would get the best possible terms from a suitable publisher and then would put the publisher and author in direct touch with one another.

A one-day Music Conference and School has been arranged to take place early in the New Year in London. The school will be taken by Major Bavin, Mr. Armstrong Gibbs and Mrs. Lampson, and at the Conference it is hoped to have a full discussion on the musical activities in the counties.

HANDICRAFTS SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee has met ten times. It has again been greatly assisted in its work by the financial support received from the Development Commission, and would take this opportunity of expressing its grateful acknowledgment of the grant of £1,400 which was sanctioned towards the expenses of the N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Department for 1928-1929.

Early in the year the Sub-Committee drew up a memorandum of the aims and policy of the Handicrafts Department and circulated it among members of the Organisation Sub-Committee and the N.F.W.I. Regular Organisers with a view to ensuring closer co-operation between organisation and crafts.

During the year Miss Armes, N.F.W.I. Craft Adviser, has visited Berkshire, Brecon, Cambridge, Devon, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Flint and Denbigh, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, West Kent, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lindsey, Merionethshire, Monmouthshire, Montgomeryshire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Radnorshire, Somerset, Surrey, East and West Sussex, Warwickshire and Yorkshire. A great part of her time has been taken up in visiting County Exhibitions and Group Meetings. Miss Rowe has also visited Durham, West Kent, Middlesex and Northumberland, in addition to assisting at tests.

A Crafts Conference was held in London in March to discuss the arrangements for the next Exhibition, to be held in the autumn of 1929, and thirty-eight counties were represented. Many of the suggestions made at the Conference have been adopted in the Exhibition schedule, which was issued to the counties in April.

Advanced Schools have been arranged this year by Somerset in "Coloured Embroidery," by Yorkshire in "Linen Embroidery," and by Oxfordshire in "Millinery," and grants to assist these schools were made by the National Federation.

The membership of the Guild of Learners now totals 932, showing a decrease of 164 on last year's membership. Many Guild of Learners' members practise several crafts, and the following analysis shows the members interested in each craft:—

Basketry	.....	112	Lace-making	.....	24
Book-casing	.....	15	Leatherwork	.....	150
Carpentry	.....	5	Millinery	.....	17
Carpet Repairing	.....	4	Papier Mache	.....	6
Chair-caning	.....	84	Plain Needlework	.....	94
Cobbling	.....	9	Pottery	.....	3
Crochet	.....	28	Quilting	.....	4
Design	.....	18	Raffia	.....	139
Dressmaking	.....	56	Rug-making	.....	53
Vegetable Dyeing	.....	13	Rush work	.....	38
Eiderdowns	.....	24	Soft Slippers	.....	21
Embroidery	.....	213	Smocking	.....	35
Linen Embroidery	.....	70	Spinning	.....	19
Furcraft	.....	28	Tinkering	.....	38
Soft Furnishing	.....	16	Hard Toys	.....	13
Glove-making	.....	169	Soft Toys	.....	49
Household			Umbrella Covering	.....	13
Jobbing	.....	6	Upholstery	.....	66
Knitting	.....	84	Weaving	.....	25

"A" tests have been held during the year in 28 crafts and at these tests 109 members gained their Proficiency Certificates.

"B" tests for lecture-demonstrators have been held in Shropshire, Essex, London and West Kent; eight candidates gained first-class certificates and fifteen gained second-class certificates.

A popular two-days' "Methods of Teaching" School was held in London in March which was attended by 36 students and a similar school was held in Durham at which 15 students were present.

Following a suggestion from the Sub-Committee, a successful Guild of Learners' Inter-County Conference was arranged by the

Essex Federation early in the year. The Sub-Committee then invited three other County Federations to hold similar conferences, the National Federation making a grant towards the cost of the halls. Two excellent conferences have been held, one in Somerset and one in Northumberland, and a third is taking place in Leicestershire early in the New Year.

The Loan Collection has been revised and brought up to date.

A recommendation to the Crafts Conference in March resulted in the decision to present an embroidered quilt to Her Majesty the Queen, in the making of which the different County Federations would take part. Her Majesty has graciously approved this suggestion, together with the design for the quilt. The National Federation is making itself responsible for the cost of materials, and sections of the quilt have been allotted on application to County Federations. It is hoped to show the finished quilt at the Exhibition next autumn.

The Sub-Committee again arranged a Handicraft Exhibit at the N.F.W.I. Stand at the Royal Show. Excellent rugs, rush and willow baskets, children's frocks and raffia work were shown. The N.F.W.I. stand was visited by their Majesties the King and Queen, who made several purchases.

The Sub-Committee does not feel itself justified at present in training more craft teachers, as many students already trained by the National Federation at Government expense are not fully occupied in teaching work in their counties. The Sub-Committee has, therefore, evolved a scheme which will, it is hoped, be of help to the Institutes and should meet whatever demand for further teaching at present exists. This scheme includes the preparation of a panel of teachers willing to take classes outside as well as within their own counties, and the N.F.W.I. will provide financial assistance towards the teachers' fares to counties in which courses of classes can be arranged and where hospitality can be found. In drawing up the details of the scheme the Sub-Committee has paid special attention to the needs of the small counties.

The Sub-Committee has realised the need which exists for qualified judges, and is at present drawing up a plan for judges' tests with a view to increasing the number of competent judges and equalising their standard.

The Sub-Committee has this year issued the Exhibition Handbook, in which it now embodies "Points for Judging," and "Judges' Handbook."

ORGANISATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Organisation Sub-Committee has held ten meetings during the year. It is responsible for keeping the Executive Committee informed of the progress of the movement throughout the country. It arranges the work of the National Federation organisers, trains and recommends V.C.O.s, and gives them, when appointed, additional help in their work by means of conferences and advanced schools. The Committee is responsible also for making arrangements for the Consultative Councils held through the year and for the Welsh Conferences.

Reports have been received monthly of the new Institutes formed, and of those which have been suspended or closed. The Sub-Committee has also sanctioned the transfer of Institutes from one Federation to another, and has dealt with various problems connected with W.I. organisation.

During 1928, only two V.C.O. schools were held, although these were attended by students from four areas. Twenty-six members from 16 County Federations came to the London School in March, and of these twenty-four were appointed. The second school at Chester in November, was attended by eighteen students from thirteen counties and seventeen have since been appointed V.C.O.s. The total number of V.C.O.s who have been working during the year is 370 (this number does not include appointments made after the November School) and altogether they have made 3115 official visits and 2552 unofficial visits (including Lectures and Demonstrations).

Although fewer training schools have been held, the Sub-Committee has given a great deal of assistance to V.C.O.s who have been working for some time in their counties. Mrs. Harris has conducted six V.C.O. Continuation Conferences arranged by County Federations. Five of these were Inter-County Conferences and V.C.O.s from 29 County Federations have had an opportunity of discussing their difficulties and refreshing their knowledge.

This year the Sub-Committee has made arrangements for the spring and autumn Consultative Councils and the special Council held in December to discuss the schemes for the equalisation of fares and development of the constitution. The Autumn Council was held at the invitation of West Suffolk at Bury St. Edmunds. The attendances at the Councils were as follows:—

20th Consultative Council, London: Delegates from forty-four County Federations; representatives and visitors from thirty-five County Federations; seventeen N.F.W.I. Executive Committee Members.

21st Consultative Council, Bury St. Edmunds: Delegates from thirty-one County Federations; Representatives and visitors from fourteen County Federations; nine N.F.W.I. Executive Committee Members.

22nd Consultative Council (special), London: Delegates from forty-nine County Federations; representatives and visitors from thirty-one County Federations; nineteen N.F.W.I. Executive Committee members.

A summary of the discussions is given on pages 36 to 41.

The Sub-Committee during the year, has revised two of the Organisation leaflets and has, as usual, brought the Handbook up to date.

Several invitations have again been received for Executive Committee members to visit County Federation Committees for informal consultation at the National Federation's expense. The visits which Committee members have been able to accept during the year are as follows:—

Mrs. Auerbach: West Sussex, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire and Hampshire.
Dr. Carling: Bucks.
Mrs. Dashwood: Wilts.
Mrs. Drage: Monmouth.
Miss Hadow: Northumberland, Westmorland, Cumberland.
Mrs. Holland-Martin: Devon.
Mrs. Huxley: Cardiganshire.
Lady Listowel: Dorset, Somerset.
Lady Dorothy Meynell: Kesteven.
Mrs. Watt: Carnarvon and Anglesey, Warwickshire.

The regular Organisers have also visited a large number of counties. Miss Macausland has been appointed part time Organiser to help Miss Simpson and Mrs. Harris, who, as before, has been giving only a small proportion of her time to organising work.

The N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, in order to make travelling less arduous for Miss Simpson in her almost continuous programme of visits, has bought a car which is placed at Miss Simpson's disposal, and has already been of great assistance to her in her work.

The County Federations visited by Mrs. Harris are as follows:

Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Cheshire, Devon, Essex, Hampshire, Isle of Ely, Isle of Wight, East Kent, West Kent, Kesteven, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northumberland, Oxfordshire, West Suffolk, East Sussex, Warwickshire, Yorkshire.

Miss Simpson, in addition to her work for the Agricultural Sub-Committee has visited:—

Buckinghamshire, Cardiganshire, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Devon, Dorset, Durham, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, East Kent, West Kent, Leicester and Rutland, Montgomeryshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Pembroke, East Suffolk, Worcestershire and Yorkshire.

Miss Macausland, whose appointment began in November, has been to Middlesex, East Kent, Warwickshire, Glamorgan, Northamptonshire.

Help has also been given to County Federations by the Auxiliary Organisers, Miss Denison, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Hitchcock, and Miss Talbot at the busier times of the year. The Counties visited by the Auxiliary Organisers are as follows :—

Mrs. Hitchcock : Carmarthen, Notts.
 Miss Denison : Pembroke, Somerset.
 Miss Talbot : Kesteven, Beds., Leicestershire and Rutland, Derbyshire, Glamorgan and Herts.
 Mrs. Graham : Devon.
 Miss Spilman : Somerset.

PRINTING SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee has met ten times during the year, and has supervised the publication of all new N.F.W.I. leaflets and all reprints. It has also supervised the administration of the Literature Department in the office.

Further changes have taken place this year in the arrangements relating to the sales of leaflets. It has been decided to discontinue the practice of allowing discount on sales of £1 or over in value from parcels originally ordered on "sale or return," and in future to allow no discount at all on "sale or return" orders. As against this, the discount allowed on literature to the value of £1 or over purchased outright has been increased from 10% to 15% where payment is made within a week of quarter-day after the date of order. It is hoped that this increase will enable County Federations to make a small profit on the re-sale of literature in their areas.

As explained in last year's report, the Literature Department's financial position has been of late years rendered difficult by the necessity for carrying increasingly heavy stocks. The difficulty has been to a considerable extent met by a grant of £300 trading capital made from general funds. To clarify the position further, the cost of publication of all free literature and the issue of specimen copies to V.C.O.s is now met from the general account and the Literature Department has reviewed and, in some cases, revised the price of leaflets so that each publication shows a fair profit after allowing for the cost of printing, postage and its share of overhead charges.

The following new publications have been issued during 1928 :

W.I. Stationery :

Poster for advertising W.I. Social
 Activities (with coloured border) 2d.

Organisation :

Handbook (1928-1929) 6d.
 W.I. Rules (1928-1929) 1d.
 Games (second edition) 6d.

Handicrafts :

Exhibition Handbook 4d.

Music and Drama :

Words of "Jerusalem" 1d. each.
 4d. dozen.

List of Songs suitable for W.I. Singing
 Classes 3d.

A new leaflet on "The Constitution and Management of Village Halls," including a model Conveyance and Trust Deed, published by the National Council of Social Service, is now being stocked in the office, and may be obtained for 1/6 (1/7 post free). Among other publications which may now be obtained from the N.F.W.I. are "Six Broadcast lectures on Food Values in Cooking," by Miss Clarke (price 7d. post free); Sir George Newman's two latest reports, "Suggestions in Health Education," price 7d. post free, and "Foundations of Natural Health," price 3½d. post free.

In addition to the ordinary reprints, new editions (revised and brought up to date) have been issued of the Members' leaflet and the Welsh leaflet, "Sefydliad y Merched a'r modd y qweithen."

The "Save the Countryside" poster on wood is being improved with a view to becoming more weatherproof.

"HOME AND COUNTRY" SUB-COMMITTEE.

The "Home and Country" Sub-Committee has met quarterly. The net profit for 1927-1928 was £1,004. Of this sum £600 was paid into the General Funds of the National Federation and the balance was allocated for the assistance of County Supplements under the scheme approved by the National Federation and for the improvement of the Magazine. The sixteen County Federations which participated during 1928 in the advantages offered by the N.F.W.I. scheme for the subsidisation of supplements incorporated in "Home and Country" have found the scheme satisfactory.

Institute members continue to show an interest in their magazine by expressions of appreciation and of criticism all of

which are welcomed. The letters for publication are of increasing value. Members are making good use of the opportunity afforded by the correspondence columns for the discussion of subjects of general interest.

In the programme competition, Alnmouth (Northumberland), took first place. Epping (Essex) and Hodnet (Shropshire) tied for second place, and Cothelstone (Somerset) took third place.

In the photograph competition, members of Buckhurst Hill (Essex) of Smarden (West Kent) of Paddock Wood (E. Kent) took first, second and third prizes respectively.

The following figures give the circulation in 1928 :—

January	50,529	July	54,150
February.....	50,998	August	53,903
March	51,518	September	54,217
April	53,411	October	54,478
May	53,824	November	54,612
June	54,316	December	54,662

Mr. Thompson, Treasurer, and Mrs. Barrow who has charge of the filing, continue to give valuable voluntary service for which the Committee is most grateful.

Twelfth Annual General Meeting

HELD IN THE

QUEEN'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE, LONDON, W.1.,

ON

TUESDAY, MAY 22nd, and WEDNESDAY, MAY 23rd, 1928.

Chairman : THE LADY DENMAN.

LADY LISTOWEL moved the appointment of the following Tellers and Returning Officers. This was seconded from the body of the Hall.

TELLERS :

Miss Asher, Miss Macausland, Mrs. Molesworth, Miss Rhodes, Miss Simpson and Miss Talbot.

Carried.

RETURNING OFFICERS :

The Y.W.C.A.

Carried.

AUDITORS.

LADY MARGARET BOSCAWEN moved the re-appointment of the Auditors, Messrs. Knox, Cropper & Co., Chartered Accountants, of Spencer House, South Place, London, E.C.2. This was seconded from the Hall and *carried*.

THE MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT.

THE CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the Annual Report. This was seconded from the Hall and *carried*.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET.

MRS. HUXLEY (N.F.W.I. Hon. Treasurer), moved the adoption of the Annual Financial Statement and Balance Sheet. This was seconded from the Hall and *carried unanimously*.

ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

MISS CHAMBERLAIN (Hampshire), moved and BENITA, LADY LEES (Dorset) seconded the following resolution:—

“That the enclosed scheme for the alteration of the Constitution be adopted and the National Federation Rules altered in conformity therewith.”

The scheme referred to provided for the establishment within the movement of a National Council consisting of one representative from each County Federation, elected by the Institutes within the county, and members of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee. The Executive Committee would be required to report quarterly to the Council, which would have power to confirm or reject its recommendations, as well as to deal with all communications addressed to the Council direct.

After a very full discussion the scheme was defeated by a large majority.

MRS. ASSHETON (Lancashire), asked leave of urgency to move a further resolution on the Constitution asking the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee to produce a workable scheme for the revision of the Constitution and present it to the 1929 Annual Meeting.

Leave of urgency was granted, and the resolution was seconded by MISS THOMAS (Carnarvonshire). MISS HADOW, on behalf of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, moved an amendment which was seconded by MRS. AUERBACH, and accepted by Lancashire and Carnarvonshire. The resolution was then put to the vote and *carried* in its amended form as follows:—

“That since the growth of the W.I. movement necessitates a corresponding development in the constitution, the N.F.W.I. Executive be instructed to consider possible methods:—

(a) of making more effective use of the existing constitution,

(b) of amending it, with a view to suiting present conditions and that the Executive report to the Institutes as early as possible.”

Carried.

W. I. ANNUAL REPORTS.

The following resolution was moved by MISS PAM (Herts.) and seconded by MRS. CROWTHER (Cheshire):—

“In W.I. Rule VIII. (2) delete the words ‘a copy of the report as adopted shall be sent to the Secretary of the County Federation.’ In W.I. Rule IX. paragraph 2, ‘Report’ for the words ‘National Federations’ substitute the words ‘National and County Federations’ so that the paragraph shall read:—

“The Institute shall furnish such statistical returns to the National and County Federations as and when the County and National Federations may require, and whenever required shall forward reports of the meetings.”

Carried.

POPULATION LIMIT FOR W.I.S.

MRS. TABOR (Essex) moved and MISS HOWARD (Buckhurst Hill W.I.) seconded the following resolution.

“In W.I. Rule IV. (1) and in W.I. Rule III. (c) delete the words ‘and the Executive Committee of the National Federation’ so that the rule shall run:—

“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.”

Lost.

RESIGNATION OF W.I. COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

MISS HOLDER (Arnside W.I.) proposed and MRS. ST. JAMES (Barrow Gurney W.I.) seconded the following resolution:—

“That every year one-fourth of the General Committee of a Women’s Institute shall resign and shall not be eligible for re-election for one year, and that W.I. Rule VI. be altered accordingly.”

Lost.

Two amendments were moved to this resolution. One made it permissible for a W.I. to make a bye-law limiting the number of consecutive years for which its members might serve on the General Committee and the other excluded the Secretary and Treasurer from the proposed compulsory retirement. Both were *lost*.

COMBINATION OF OFFICE IN AN INSTITUTE.

MRS. CRESSWELL (Northumberland) moved and MRS. PEASE (Durham) seconded the following resolution:—

“That in cases where sanction is obtained from the County Federation, the offices of the Vice-President and Treasurer may be combined, and that W.I. Rule VI. be altered accordingly.”

Carried.

An amendment inserting the words “these being the only two offices which may be combined,” was *lost*.

N.F.W.I. ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolution was moved by MISS BURGESS (Norfolk), and was seconded by LADY BERWICK (Shropshire):—

“That this meeting is of opinion that the use of numbers in connection with the membership of the movement should be omitted from any resolution submitted to the Annual Meeting.”

Lost.

EQUALISATION OF DELEGATE FARES.

LADY WORSLEY-TAYLOR (Lancashire) moved and MRS. GUY MORRISH (Surrey) seconded the following resolution:—

“That this meeting decides to adopt for the future a scheme for the nearer equalisation of fares of delegates attending the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting, based upon the attached figures which are calculated on an average of 22s.”

Two amendments were moved and *lost*, one authorising the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee to pay grants to distant Institutes out of general funds, in order to approximate to a maximum of twenty-two shillings; the other suggesting that the average should be calculated on the actual fare of the individual Institutes and not on the fares from the central towns in each county.

MRS. WILBRAHAM (Enstone W.I.) then moved and MRS. PEARMAN (Burford and Fulbrook W.I.) seconded the following amendment, which was *carried*.

"That every W.I. shall pay into the pool, whether sending a delegate or not."

The resolution as amended was discussed, and stress was laid on the fact that if it were carried, an extremely important constitutional change would be involved. It was suggested that a decision on this question might wisely be postponed until the Executive Committee had had an opportunity of considering it further, and possibly working out a fresh scheme.

The "previous question" was moved by the delegate from Little Marlow W.I., seconded from the body of the Hall, and *carried*.

No vote was therefore taken on the resolution.

HEALTH.

DR. CARLING (N.F.W.I. Executive) moved and LADY DOROTHY MEYNELL (N.F.W.I. Executive) seconded the following resolution:

"That it be the recognised policy of the National Federation of Women's Institutes to urge County Federations and Women's Institutes to take full advantage of all existing Health Services, and to do all in their power to secure such further development, both practical and educational, as may help to improve the standard of health of the rural population."

Carried.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM proposed and MRS. HOLLAND MARTIN seconded the following rider:—

"That it be clearly understood that no pressure of any kind is placed upon any individual member or local Women's Institute to adopt or submit to any particular method of medical treatment."

Carried.

SALE OF CONDENSED SKIMMED MILK.

MISS PEEL (Cheshire) proposed and MRS. COWPER (Lancashire) seconded the following resolution:—

"That the N.F.W.I. should consider the advisability of approaching the Ministry of Health with a view to prohibiting the sale of condensed skimmed milk for human consumption."

Carried.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY.

MISS ROWE (Lancashire) proposed and MRS. POLLARD (Oxfordshire) seconded the following resolution:—

"That this meeting, realising the vital importance to villages of an adequate water supply and that water schemes for urban districts are rapidly increasing in number, urges the Ministry of Health to press for the establishment of Regional Water Committees so that the interests of the rural areas may be protected, and town and country consult together over the solution of their joint problems. That, further, this meeting instructs the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee to support on behalf of the Institutes any proposed alteration in the Law which would result in County Councils being empowered to make grants from their funds towards the cost of rural water schemes."

Carried.

HUMANE SLAUGHTER.

MRS. WILKINSON (Isle of Ely) proposed and MRS. BARNETT (Warwickshire) seconded the following resolution:—

"That this meeting (1) requests the Government to introduce a bill making compulsory the adoption of Clause 9b in the Model Bye-Laws of the Ministry of Health, thus securing the use of the Humane Killer in the slaughter of animals; and (2) in the meantime, until such a bill has been passed, urges each Women's Institute to work for the adoption and enforcement of the Bye-Laws by its own Local Authority."

Carried.

RURAL LIBRARIES.

MISS HADOW moved and MRS. PRICE WHITE (Carnarvonshire) seconded the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of countrywomen desires to put on record its appreciation of the work done by the United Kingdom Carnegie Trustees for country people, and in particular of the great benefit conferred by the establishment of rural libraries."

Carried.

RURAL HOUSING.

MRS. WATKINS (Hale W.I.) moved and MISS OLDFIELD (Hindhead W.I.) seconded the following resolution:—

"That this meeting urges that the Urban and Rural District Councils, when carrying out building schemes, should consult the local Women's Institutes as to details of plans and fittings."

LADY WALSTON (Newton W.I.) then moved, and MRS. GREY (Cambridgeshire) seconded the following amendment, which was *carried*.

"Delete all after 'That' and substitute 'in view of the danger to the countryside of unsightly buildings being erected for private as well as commercial use, thereby disfiguring the natural beauties, all Women's Institutes shall exert their influence, by co-operating with existing societies for the preservation of the countryside to ensure that new dwellings are both practical to live in and in keeping with the character of the locality wherein they are erected.'"

The resolution as amended was *carried*.

MRS. DRAGE proposed and MRS. GRIFFITHS seconded the following rider :—

“ That the Urban and Rural District Councils be asked to co-opt members of local W.I.s on to their Housing Committees so that the Woman's point of view shall be expressed.

Carried.

MRS. HUXLEY proposed and MRS. TOYNBEE seconded the following further rider :—

“ That Women's Institutes for their part should study the problem of rural housing and, in particular, should press their County Councils to adopt and put into operation before October 1st, 1931, the Housing (Rural Workers') Act, 1926.”

Carried.

RURAL EDUCATION.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM proposed and MISS. THOMAS (Criccieth) seconded the following resolution.

“ That this meeting urges the Women's Institutes of England and Wales to make a special study of the recently published Inter-Departmental Committee's Report on the Practical Education of Women for Rural Life.”

Carried.

HOME MANAGEMENT.

MRS. POPE (Peppard W.I.) moved and MRS. WARD (Seaview W.I.) seconded the following resolution :—

“ That the N.F.W.I. should use its influence for obtaining due recognition of the importance of training in home management for all girls.”

Carried.

An amendment to add to this resolution the words “ after having attained present school-leaving age ” was *defeated*.

SPECIAL ADDRESSES.

On the first day, the Annual Meeting was addressed shortly by the Right Hon. Lord Eustace Percy, M.P., President of the Board of Education. Lord Eustace asked the delegates present for the co-operation of the movement in securing the reconstruction of the national educational system. It was necessary that the rural child should have as great educational opportunities as the urban child, and it was with a view to securing this end that the system of central schools for country areas had been established. A great deal of prejudice on the part of the parents against the central school system remained to be overcome, and it was in

making the working and purpose of the system understood among parents, that the Institutes could render really valuable service, and assist the reform in education which will fit the country child for his or her work in life.

On the second day of the Annual Meeting, Professor G. M. Trevelyan, Regius Professor of History at the University of Cambridge, spoke on the “ Preservation of the Countryside.” Knowing the keen interest already taken by Institutes in this question, Professor Trevelyan urged the importance of raising public opinion against unnecessary disfigurement of the country. Economic pressure had resulted in increased use of machines and methods which tended to destroy the lines of nature, but in addition much unavoidable disfigurement took place, and in preventing this the Institutes could do useful work. Professor Trevelyan gave several practical illustrations of lines on which Institutes could wisely concentrate, and advised their consulting with the National Trust in cases of special difficulty.

Twentieth Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

DENISON HOUSE, VAUXHILL BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON,

ON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 1928.

Chairman : THE LADY DENMAN.

PRESENT.

Sixteen members of the National Federation Executive Committee.

Delegates and representatives from 44 County Federations.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA.

The following resolution was discussed on its merits, and was recommended for inclusion in the Preliminary Agenda of the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting, should time permit.

" That County Federations be urged to give practical assistance to W.I. members in the development of their own resources for home food production."

Further resolutions for the Agenda were considered, and a number of these were recommended to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee for acceptance.

It was decided to recommend to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee that a speaker should be obtained, if possible, to address the Annual Meeting upon the Preservation of the Countryside.

Twenty-First Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. SUFFOLK,

on

THURSDAY and FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18th and 19th, 1928.

Chairman : THE LADY DENMAN.

PRESENT.

Eight members of the National Federation Executive Committee.

Delegates and representatives from 31 County Federations.

MARKET STALLS.

The question of W.I. Market Stalls was fully discussed, and it was decided to recommend :—

" That the N.F.W.I. should consider by what means the finances of market stalls could best be safeguarded, and that suggestions on the subject should be published in " Home and Country. " "

Endorsed.

INSTITUTES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

An interesting debate took place on the advisability of the members of an Institute taking part collectively in the election of a candidate to a Local Government body, but no definite recommendation resulted.

HOME SCIENCE.

A discussion took place on the best means of promoting the study of Home Science in rural districts. It was decided to recommend :—

“ That the N.F.W.I. should endeavour to discover which organisations would supply teachers whose instruction in Dietetics, Cookery and other branches of Domestic Science would be suitable for rural districts, and that they should ascertain also if any colleges would arrange courses suitable for W.I. members.”

Endorsed.

INSTITUTES IN R.A.F. CAMPS.

After a full discussion on the advisability of forming Institutes in Air Force Camps, the following resolution was carried :—

“ That this Council does not consider a R.A.F. Camp to be a suitable community in which to form a W.I.”

At the same time the N.F.W.I. was asked to obtain reports on any experiments made in providing suitable organisations for camps.

Twenty-Second Meeting of the Consultative Council

HELD AT

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING, 1a, HENRIETTA STREET,
LONDON, W.1.

ON

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 1928.

Chairman: THE LADY DENMAN, C.B.E.

PRESENT.

Nineteen members of the National Federation Executive Committee. Delegates and representatives from 49 County Federations.

DISTRESS IN THE COALFIELDS.

LADY DENMAN, from the chair, reported to the Council the fact that the N.F.W.I. had been asked by the National Council of Social Service to co-operate in a constructive scheme of relief for the distressed mining areas by endeavouring, through the Institutes, to find in the villages employment for a breadwinner and houseroom for himself and his family. A letter asking for their co-operation would be sent to all Institutes shortly.

EQUALISATION OF DELEGATES' FARES.

The following resolution was moved from the chair, and after the discussion of numerous amendments, was finally *carried* in its original form :—

“ That each W.I., whether sending a delegate or not, shall pay into a fund for delegates' fares a sum of 5/-. That, after deducting the amount of this fund from the total cost of fares of delegates attending the meeting, the remainder of the cost be shared equally by all Institutes sending delegates.”

MRS. BURNETT (Yorks.) and MRS. ASSHETON (Lancs.) then moved and seconded :

" That the resolution be placed on the Agenda of the 1929 Annual Meeting, but not in the name of the Executive Committee."—*Carried.*

REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

LADY DENMAN, from the chair, presented and explained to the Council the Executive Committee's survey of the constitutional position, already circulated to all Institutes and Federations. The proposals contained in the survey were discussed, amended and voted on and were carried in the following form :—

CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL.

(a) That the Consultative Council be reconstituted in accordance with the following scheme and that the N.F.W.I. rules be altered accordingly

(i) That each County send one delegate to the Consultative Council this delegate to be elected by ballot at a meeting of the County Federation Council to serve for one year, both the Institutes within the County and the County Federation Committee having the right to nominate. That the County delegate after election, if not already a member, become *ex-officio* a member of her County Federation Executive Committee. That, in addition, each County Federation Executive Committee have the right to send visitors to the Council up to three in number, who may be invited to speak at the discretion of the Chairman. That V.C.O.s also have the right to attend the Council without power to speak or vote. That no proxy delegates be admitted to the Council, but that in the event of a County delegate resigning her office during the year, it be open to the County Federation concerned either to appoint as its delegate the candidate having secured the next number of votes in the election of the delegate for the year or alternatively to hold a second election for the County delegate at a County Federation Council Meeting, or if this is not possible, by postal ballot.

(ii) That normally the Council meet three times a year, probably in July, October and February.

(iii) That the railway fares of County Federation delegates attending the Consultative Council be paid by the National Federation.

(iv) That the Agenda of each Council include a report by the Executive Committee of its work since the previous Council.

(v) That the Agenda of the spring meeting include consideration of the N.F.W.I. Budget for the coming financial year as prepared by the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee.

(vi) That at its spring meeting, the Council also consider which of the resolutions received for the coming N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting it shall recommend to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee for acceptance for the Agenda.

(vii) That within the Consultative Council, standing sections be formed on such general subjects as are consistent with the aims of the movement and correspond to the main interests and branches of work of the Women's Institutes (*e.g.*, agriculture, health, handicrafts, etc.). That each County Federation delegate be expected to choose each year one section on which to serve. That simultaneous meetings of sections be held immediately before each Consultative Council, when each section will have an opportunity of considering in detail that part of the report of the work of the Executive Committee which concerns it, and of putting forward to the full Council comments on that report or suggestions for fresh developments, thus enabling the Council to give authoritative and considered advice to the National Federation Executive Committee. That the meeting of each section be attended by the Chairman and Secretary of the N.F.W.I. Sub-Committee whose work is affected by the discussions of the section, or appointed substitutes, the Chairman or representative to submit, if necessary a supplementary report on the work of her own Sub-Committee at Headquarters.

ANNUAL MEETING.

(b) That approval be given to the exercise of a stricter selection by the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee in choosing resolutions for the Agenda of the Annual Meeting. This might make possible the experiment of reducing the length of the Meeting in some way.

(c) That County Federations suggest to their Institutes that they should send in for preliminary discussion at their own County Federation Council any proposals for alterations in the rules which they may be considering bringing before the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting and should refrain from bringing such proposals before the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting unless and until they receive the backing of their own County Federation Council. That County Federations should, in their turn, bring before the Consultative Council any proposals they may have for altering the rules and should not put these forward for discussion by the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting without the backing of the Council.

(d) That when the time comes to limit the size of the Annual Meeting, the method of linking Institutes together to elect a joint delegate be the approved method.

LADY WILBERFORCE (Bucks.), then moved the following resolution :

" That no County Federation shall have more than one representative serving upon the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee or its Sub-Committees."

This resolution found no seconder and so fell to the ground.

Report of the Welsh Consultative Conference

HELD AT

THE CASTLE, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE,

ON

NOVEMBER 30th, 1928.

Chairman: THE LADY DENMAN, C.B.E.

PRESENT.

Five members of the National Federation Executive Committee. Delegates and visitors from ten Welsh County Federations.

BALLOT FOR CO-OPTION TO N.F.W.I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A ballot held to nominate a Welsh-speaking representative for co-option to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, resulted in a tie between the two candidates, Mrs. Mary Morgan, Merioneth, and Miss R. E. Thomas, Cardiganshire.

After discussion, MISS WILLIAMS WYNN, Flint and Denbigh, moved and MRS. LLEWELYN OWEN, Merioneth, seconded:

"That the decision as to which candidate shall be co-opted be left to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee."

Carried nem. con.

RURAL EDUCATION IN WALES.

Most interesting reports were received from the witnesses appointed to give evidence before the Departmental Committee of the Board of Education upon the memorandum on rural education in Wales submitted to the Committee by the N.F.W.I. on

behalf of the Welsh County Federations. It was decided to write to the Committee as from the Conference reiterating the points of common agreement made in the memorandum, and asking that special attention be given to these.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Further interesting discussion took place on the special difficulties of small and remote Institutes, the exchange of V.C.O.s between Federations, the teaching of health and hygiene, the provision of school dinners, and the preservation of the countryside. With reference to the last-named subject, it was agreed that the Welsh County Federation should get into touch with the new Council for the Preservation of Rural Wales.

The National Federation

GENERAL

Statement of Receipts and Payments for

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To BALANCE brought forward, March 1st, 1928 ...		2,938	16	7			
„ HEADQUARTERS FUNDS, 1928/29 :—							
Balance brought forward, March 1st, 1928...	4,782	10	4				
Interest and Dividends	1,195	9	7				
Income Tax to be refunded	181	15	1				
	1,013	14	6				
Income Tax refunded for 1926/7 & 1927/8	383	0	5				
	1,396	14	11				
Guild of Learners' Subscription ...	50	1	0				
	6,229	6	3				
„ PROPORTION OF PROFIT FROM "HOME AND COUNTRY" for the Eleven Months ended February 29th, 1928 ...	600	0	0				
„ PROFIT FROM LITERATURE DEPARTMENT for the Eleven Months ended February 29th 1928	66	9	8				
	666	9	8				
„ HEADQUARTERS FUNDS, RESERVED FOR USE IN 1929/30 :—							
Donations ...	1,449	1	6				
Affiliation Fees ...	3,349	10	9				
	4,798	12	3				
„ PROCEEDS OF DRAMA FESTIVAL ...	20	12	7				
„ PROCEEDS OF MUSIC CONFERENCE ...	10	19	6				
	31	12	1				
					£14,664	16	10
„ BALANCE brought down					£3,696	7	10

of Women's Institutes.

ACCOUNT.

the Year ended February 28th, 1929.

PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By HEADQUARTERS EXPENSES :—							
Ground Rent, Rates, Taxes and Insurance	190	6	9				
Transfer to Leasehold Sinking Fund ...	40	0	0				
Transfer to Repairs Reserve ...	36	0	0				
Salaries and Government Insurance ...	2,137	3	10				
Staff Pensions Scheme ...	114	17	7				
Less Staff Contributions (first instalment) ...	9	0	2				
	105	17	5				
Printing and Stationery ...	582	3	0				
Audit Fee ...	11	4	0				
Legal Expenses ...	4	12	2				
Postage, Telegrams and Telephone ...	373	6	3				
Office Expenses, Cleaning, Repairs, Fuel and Light ...	240	16	11				
Travelling Expenses of Committee Members	258	4	8				
Office Furniture ...	100	0	11				
	4,079	15	11				
„ GRANT TO HANDICRAFTS DEPARTMENT ...	636	6	7				
Less Refund towards General Expenses ...	380	0	0				
	256	6	7				
„ DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS :—							
Commission Internationale d'Agriculture...	10	3	4				
The National School of Cookery ...	5	5	0				
The Society for the Preservation of Rural England ...	5	0	0				
National Council of Social Service ...	3	3	0				
The Horace Plunkett Foundation ...	2	0	0				
	25	11	4				
	34	6	4				
„ COALFIELDS TRANSFERENCE SCHEME ...							
„ COUNTY EXPENSES :—							
Organisers' Salaries and Expenses ...	1,115	13	10				
Royal Show ...	81	10	1				
Annual Meetings and Consultative Councils	312	1	6				
Expenses of N.F.W.I. Representatives to Conferences and Meetings...	53	1	8				
Advanced and Preliminary Schools for V.C.O.s. ...	110	7	6				
"Health" Conference, etc. ...	18	8	0				
N.F.W.I. Motor Car Replacement Reserve	50	0	0				
Grants to County Federations ...	32	14	0				
	1,773	16	7				
„ TRANSFER TO HEADQUARTERS FUNDS FOR USE IN 1929/30 ...	4,798	12	3				
„ BALANCE, being excess of Receipts over Payments carried down ...	3,696	7	10				
	£14,664	16	10				

BALANCE SHEET,

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ENDOWMENT FUND :—						
Balance as on February, 29th, 1928	17,659	1	4			
Donations received during year	23	1	11	17,682	3	3
HEADQUARTERS FUNDS :—						
1928/29 Income reserved for use in 1929/30				4,798	12	3
LEASEHOLD SINKING FUND :—						
Balance as on February 29th, 1928	116	16	0			
Transfer from General Account	40	0	0	156	16	0
REPAIRS RESERVE ACCOUNT :—						
Balance as on February 29th, 1928	259	0	0			
Transfer from General Account	36	0	0			
	295	0	0			
Less Amount expended during year	164	6	6	130	13	6
MOTOR CAR REPLACEMENT RESERVE :—						
Transfer from General Account				50	0	0
EXHIBITION ACCOUNT BALANCE						
				505	14	3
WELSH TRUST FUND						
				64	17	2
CAPITAL :—						
As on March 1st, 1928	1,205	16	3			
Less Depreciation	60	5	8			
	1,145	10	7			
Additions to Furniture	100	0	11	1,245	11	6
				1,245	11	6
Add Excess of Receipts over Payments :—						
General Account	3,696	7	10	4,941	19	4
				4,941	19	4
				£28,330	15	9

February 28th, 1929.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
FURNITURE, FIXTURES AND FITTINGS :—						
As on February 29th, 1928	1,205	16	3			
Less depreciation	60	5	8	1,145	10	7
				100	0	11
Additions during the year				1,245	11	6
LEASEHOLD PROPERTY AT COST						
				4,325	13	5
INVESTMENTS AT COST :—						
£5,700 5% War Loan 1929/47	5,433	0	3			
£5,150 4½% Conversion Loan 1940/44	4,765	16	5			
£4,106 2s. 3½% Conversion Loan	3,225	14	1			
£1,000 Union of South Africa 5% 1940/60	1,007	0	6			
£100 New South Wales 5% Loan 1932/42	99	8	0			
£1,000 New Zealand 5% Stock, 1946...	995	19	1			
£1,000 Coventry Corporation 5% Stock 1954/74	1,034	11	6			
£1,000 Wigan Corporation 5% Stock 1942/52	997	9	0			
£600 L.M. & S. Rly. 4% Pref. Stock 1923	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	19,723	18	4
LEASEHOLD SINKING FUND INVESTMENT :—						
196 National Savings Certificates at cost				156	16	0
EXHIBITION ACCOUNT :—						
£493 18s. 3½% Conversion Loan at cost	384	18	1			
Cash at Bank and in hand	120	16	2	505	14	3
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND						
				2,373	2	3
				£28,330	15	9

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.

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

KNOX, CROPPER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

March 23rd, 1929.

HOME AND COUNTRY.
Profit and Loss Account for the Year ended February 28th, 1929.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Stock, March 1st, 1928				12	3	10	By Sales						
„ Paper and Printing				3,981	6	2	Magazines and Supplements	5,272	19	11			
„ Supplements—No. 2 a/c	199	10	3				„H. & C. Arts”—2nd edition	5	4	2			
„ Authors Corrections—No. 2 A/c.	31	2	0										
				230	12	3	Less Returns	5,278	4	1			
„ Blocks				173	14	8		4	4	10			
„ Editorial Salaries				577	5	0					5,273	19	3
„ Literary Contributions				147	0	0	„ Advertisements	2,599	14	0			
„ Photographic Reproductions				100	8	8	Less Canvasser's Commission	83	19	5			
„ Balance being Gross Profit for the year—carried down				2,576	12	3	„ Stock, February 28th, 1929:—				2,515	14	7
				£7,799	2	10					9	9	0
											£7,799	2	10
48 To Postage				856	6	8	By Balance brought down				2,576	12	3
„ Wrapping and Despatching				47	15	1	„ Deposit Interest				8	14	8
„ Office Salaries				631	10	0	„ Discounts				178	8	3
„ Government Insurances				11	19	11	„ Dividends				10	10	0
„ Office Expenses				59	15	10	„ Income Tax (refund)				8	13	9
„ Stationery				110	8	1							
„ Telephone (Trunk Calls)				10	7	4							
„ Rent				120	0	0							
„ Audit Fees				15	13	0							
„ N.F.W.I. (Share-running Expenses):—													
Telephone (hire)	7	2	10										
Cleaning, Repairs, Fuel, Light	59	5	9										
Furniture Renewals, Legal Expenses, etc.	11	9	5										
Travelling Expenses—Executive, Finance and Sub-Committees	32	2	0										
Annual General Meeting	57	0	0										
				167	0	0							
Forward				2,030	15	11	Forward				2,782	18	11

HOME AND COUNTRY Profit and Loss Account.—cont.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.			
Forward				2,030	15	11	Forward				2,782	18	11
„ Prizes				9	4	5							
Less Fund in Hand	6	0	9										
Sale Paper Patterns	2	19	0										
				8	19	9							
											4	8	
„ Travelling Expenses (H. & C. Committee)				15	1	10							
„ Bad debt, written off				2	5	3							
„ Balance being Net Profit for the year carried to Capital A/c.				734	11	3							
				£2,782	18	11					£2,782	18	11

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

Profit and Loss Account for the Year ended February 28th, 1929.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Stock, February 29th, 1928				604	13	6	By Sales :—						
„ Purchases :—							Badges	915	3	10			
Badges	497	4	4				Stationery	765	18	4			
Stationery	454	11	7				Literature	546	19	5			
Literature	228	1	3				Outside Publications	160	7	11			
Outside Publications	135	7	6										
	1,315	4	8					2,388	9	6			
Less Discount allowed	17	12	9				Less Discount and Allowances	73	7	8			
				1,297	11	11	„ Stock on Hand, February 28th,				2,315	1	10
„ Postage and Carriage				184	13	5	1929				428	3	9
„ Advertising				24	0	0							
„ Salaries and Government Insurance				167	3	9							
„ Rent				70	0	0							
„ Offices' Expenses, Cleaning, Fuel, Light, Telephone, etc.				310	0	0							
„ General Expenses				4	9	6							
„ Bad Debt Account				3	11								
„ Balance, being net profit for the year carried to Capital Account				80	9	7							
				£2,743	5	7					£2,743	5	7

BALANCE SHEET, February 28th, 1929.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.			
CAPITAL ACCOUNT :—							STOCKS ON HAND	428	3	9			
Balance as on February 29th, 1928	904	13	6				SUNDRY DEBTORS	101	8	5			
Less Profit for the eleven months ended February 29th, 1928, transferred to N.F.W.I. General Account	66	9	8				CASH AT BANK	305	3	9			
				838	3	10	CASH IN HAND	83	17	6			
										389	1	3	
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT :—													
Balance Net Profit for the year ended February 28th, 1929				80	9	7							
				£918	13	5					£918	13	5

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.

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

March 23rd, 1929.

KNOX, CROPPER & CO.,
Chartered Accountant.

STATEMENT showing Donations received from and help given to County Federations during the National Federation's Financial year March 1st, 1928, to February 28th, 1929.

COUNTY.	No. of W.I.s March, 1928.	Grants given by N.F.W.I. 1st March, 1928, to 28th Feb., 1929.	Donations received from Counties, 1st March, 1928, to 28th Feb., 1929.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Anglesey & Carnarvon	52	—	16 17 6
Bedfordshire	44	—	16 17 6
Berkshire	84	—	33 0 0
Breconshire	15	—	4 0 0
Buckinghamshire	91	—	33 15 0
Cambridgeshire	57	—	21 15 0
Cardiganshire	45	—	15 7 6
Carmarthenshire	22	—	5 7 6
Cheshire	56	—	21 1 0
Cornwall	68	—	25 0 0
Cumberland	78	—	30 7 6
Denbigh & Flint	35	—	10 0 0
Derbyshire	56	—	21 15 0
Devonshire	114	—	45 7 6
Dorset	116	—	25 0 0
Durham	80	—	31 2 6
Essex	177	—	68 7 6
Glamorganshire	15	—	4 2 6
Gloucestershire	126	—	45 0 0
Hampshire	167	—	72 9 0
Herefordshire	68	—	26 12 0
Hertfordshire	88	—	34 15 0
Huntingdonshire	35	—	13 15 0
Isle of Ely	32	—	11 5 0
Isle of Wight	20	—	7 17 6
Kent East	71	—	27 15 0
Kent West	99	—	37 17 6

STATEMENT showing Donations received from and help given to County Federations during the National Federation's Financial year March 1st, 1928, to February 28th, 1929.

COUNTY.	No. of W.I.s March, 1928.	Grants given by N.F.W.I. 1st March, 1928, to 28th Feb., 1929.	Donations received from Counties, 1st March, 1928, to 28th Feb., 1929.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Kesteven (Lincs.)	39	—	14 12 6
Lancashire	48	—	18 0 0
Leics. & Rutland	89	—	34 17 6
Lindsey (Lincs.)	62	—	19 17 6
Merioneth	20	—	7 10 0
Middlesex	20	—	7 10 0
Monmouthshire	36	—	14 12 6
Montgomeryshire	34	25 0 0	12 7 6
Norfolk	149	—	—
Northamptonshire	105	—	40 10 0
Northumberland	108	—	41 12 6
Nottinghamshire	37	—	13 7 6
Oxfordshire	83	—	30 7 6
Pembrokeshire	22	—	8 12 6
Radnorshire	23	—	9 7 6
Shropshire	98	—	37 10 0
Somerset	125	—	47 18 0
Staffordshire	95	—	36 0 0
Suffolk East	98	—	35 12 6
Suffolk West	56	—	19 12 6
Surrey	104	—	40 2 6
Sussex East	113	—	42 15 0
Sussex West	81	—	30 7 6
Warwickshire	89	—	35 12 6
Westmorland	51	—	21 0 0
Wiltshire	95	—	33 8 0
Worcestershire	71	—	27 0 0
Yorkshire	181	—	63 12 6

VOLUNTARY COUNTY ORGANISERS.

ANGLESEY AND CARNARVONSHIRE

Mrs. Vaughan Davies, Bryn Mair, St. David's Road, Carnarvon.
Mrs. Drage, Parciau, Criccieth.
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Miss D. Green, Bronwydd, Bangor, Carnarvon.
Mrs. Griffith, Hafod, Cemaes Bay, Anglesey.
Mrs. M. E. Lloyd Jones, M.B.E., Gaerwen, Criccieth.
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Lady Rucker, Everington House, Newbury.
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Miss Grenfell, Bacres, Henley-on-Thames.
Mrs. Woodgate, 749, London Road, High Wycombe.
Mrs. Wylie, Glenfarne, Farnham Common.

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Miss Gaskell, Uplands, Great Shelford.
Mrs. Ginn, The Spinney, Long Road, Cambridge.
Miss Lewis, Lode Vicarage, Cambridge.
Mrs. Newport Wilson, The Nook, Queen Edith's Way, Cambridge.
Mrs. Pemberton, Trumpington Hall, Cambridge.
Mrs. Tansley, Grantchester, Cambridge.
Mrs. Vinter, Great Shelford, Cambridge.
Miss Warrington, 2a, Drosier Road, Cambridge.

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Mrs. Douglas, Llanllyr, Felinfach, S.O.
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Miss Lumley, The Bungalows, Talybont.
Mrs. Stapledon, Y Glyn, Llanfarian, Aberystwyth.

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Mrs. Vernon Evans, Cliff House, Ferryside, Carmarthen.

Miss James, Fron Deg, Llangadock.
Mrs. Lawson, Church House, Llangadock.
Mrs. Saunders, Rhianfa, Pencaden.
Miss Lloyd Price, Bryn Cothi, Abergorlech Road.

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Mrs. Crowther, Wells Street, Malpas.
Mrs. Crompton, The Oaks, Chester.
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Mrs. Orr, Plover's Moss, Sandiway, Northwich.
Miss D. Peel, Peover Hall, Over Peover, Knutsford.

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Mrs. Fuller, Somerleigh, Perranporth.
Mrs. Hamilton, Kenwyn, Truro.
Mrs. le Grice, Trereife, Penzance.
Mrs. Martin, Tregavethan, Truro.
Lady May, Tremeer, St. Tudy.
Miss Scott-Willcox, "Rangitoto," Tehidy Terrace, Falmouth.
Miss K. Spear, "Tremoan," Boscawen Gardens, Perranporth.
Miss Whitburn, Restormel House, Falmouth.

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Mrs. Appleby, Thackwood Nook, Raughtonhead.
Mrs. Cartmell, Heads Nook, Carlisle.
Mrs. Court Brown, Hartington House, Hartington Place, Carlisle.
Miss E. Harvey, The Croft, Portinscale, Keswick.
Lady Mabel Howard, Greystoke Castle, Penrith.
Mrs. McGowan, 1, Victoria Terrace, Corkickle, Whitehaven, Cumberland.
Mrs. MacInnes, Gelt Hall, Castle Carrock, Carlisle.
Mrs. Mitton, The Rectory, Bowness-on-Solway.
Miss Melville Jackson, Government Buildings, Carlisle.

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Miss Jones Bateman, Eyarth, Ruthin.
Miss R. Behrens, Vron Yw, Denbigh.

DERBYSHIRE

Mrs. Brighthouse, Bole Hill, Wirksworth.
Mrs. Campbell, 12, Vicarage Avenue, Derby.
Mrs. Fisher, Walton Rectory, Burton-on-Trent.
Mrs. John Fletcher, Green Gates, Winster.
Mrs. Mason, The Gables, Duffield, Derby.
Miss Melland, Rock House, Alport, Bake-well.
Miss Tyson, Winster Hall, near Matlock.

DEVONSHIRE

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Mrs. Douglas-Hamilton, Old Park, High Bickington, Umberleigh.
Miss Hicks, Moneysland, Kentisbeare.
Miss D. Martin, Dartington Parsonage, Totnes.
Mrs. Yole, Kelly, Lifton.

DORSET

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Mrs. Heenan, Burton Bradstock, Bridport.
Benita Lady Lees, Thorngrove, Gillingham.
Lady Pinney, Racedown, Crewkerne, Somerset.
Miss Hilda Reid, Pamphill Manor House, Wimborne.
Mrs. Sturdy, Trigon, Wareham.
Mrs. Troyte-Bullock, Zeals House, Mere, Wilts.

DURHAM

Mrs. Addison, High Grange, Howden-le-Wear.
Mrs. Anderson, Enfield Lodge, Shildon.
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Mrs. Widdas, Esh Villa, Esh Winning.
Miss Willans, 8, Van Mildert Terrace, Stockton-on-Tees.

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Mrs. Bull, Runsell Green, Danbury, Chelmsford.

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Miss D. M. Christy, Priors, Broomfield,
Chelmsford.
Mrs. McCabe, The Cottage, Ugley, Bishop's
Stortford.
Miss McLeod, Winton House, Ware, Herts.
Miss Stockwell, Greystones, Colchester.
Mrs. James Tabor, New House, Church
Road, Rochford.
Miss Ward, Barnston Rectory, Dunmow.

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Miss O. Bruce, Marksfield, Cregiau, near
Cardiff.
Miss E. S. Simons, Robin's Rest, Horton,
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Mrs. Alcock, 12, Christchurch Road,
Cheltenham.
Mrs. Benney, The Avenue, Cirencester.
Miss S. Harding, Ampney St. Peter,
Cirencester.
Miss Audrey Harris, Community House,
Gloucester.
Miss Miles, Kemble Lodge, Cirencester.
Mrs. Nicholls, The Cottage, Saintbridge,
Matson, near Gloucester.
Miss Parker, Kingston House, Aylburton,
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Mrs. Vernon, Wyngarth, East Compton,
Bristol.
Miss Woodcock, Lypiatt Park, Stroud.

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Miss H. Chamberlain, Bury House, Odiham.
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Miss Cremer, Compton Down, Shawford,
Winchester.
Miss G. Lee, Wey View, London Road,
Liphook.
Mrs. Madocks, Old Basing House, Basing-
stoke.
Mrs. Milburn, Compton Manor, King's
Somborne, Winchester.
Mrs. Perkins, Boldre Bridge House, Lym-
ington.

The Lady Rosemary Portal, Kingsclere
House, Newbury, Berkshire.
Mrs. Steedman, Steventon Rectory, Basing-
stoke.
Mrs. Taylor, Whitedale, Hambleton.
Lady Wells, Houghton Lodge, Stockbridge.

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Mrs. Fox, Orchard Cottage, Fownhope.
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on-Wye.
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Miss Collingwood, Codicote, Welwyn.
Mrs. Martin-Smith, Codicote Lodge,
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Miss Talbot, The Manor House, Little
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Mrs. Goodchild, Brington Rectory,
Huntingdon.
Mrs. G. Herbert, Cherry Cottage, Heming-
ford Abbots, St. Ives.
Mrs. Yeatherd, Alconbury Weston,
Huntingdon.

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Mrs. Hudson, Harcroft, Road, Wisbech.
Mrs. Jones, The School House, Walsoken,
Norfolk.
Miss Sears, The Bungalow, Manea, March.
Miss Shepperson, Cosmo House, Benwick,
March.
Miss Tebbutt, Hereward Cottage, Hadden-
ham, Ely.

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Mrs. Mason, 4, Ethelbert Road, Canterbury.
Mrs. E. D. Smyth, New Hayters, Aldington,
Ashford.
Miss Travers, Bredgar House, Bredgar,
near Sittingbourne.
Mrs. Tullock, Tyler Hill House, near
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Miss Watson, Great Watersend, Temple
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Miss Wray, The Heritage Cottage, Upper
Deal.

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Miss Cholmeley, St. Vincents, Addington,
W. Malling.
Mrs. Skilbeck, The Quarry, Brasted,
Sevenoaks.
Mrs. G. Streatfeild, J.P., The Cottage-on-
the-Hill, Westerham.

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Scroop, Grantham.
Miss E. L. Need, Welbourn, Lincoln.
Mrs. Ramsey, 78, Newland, Lincoln.
Mrs. Ridsdale, Ruskington, near Sleaford.
Miss Watkins, 94a, Oxford Gardens,
Notting Hill, W.10.

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Mrs. Adams, Rampside Vicarage, Barrow-
in-Furness.
Mrs. Assheton, Downham Hall, Clitheroe.
Miss L. Cartmell, 4, Egerton Road, Ashton-
on-Ribble, Preston.
Mrs. Christie, Ribby Hall, Kirkham,
Preston.
Mrs. Cowper, C.O.'s House, Bowerham
Barracks, Lancaster.
Miss E. Greenwood, Worston House,
Clitheroe.
Miss C. A. Kemp, City Technical School for
Women, Colquitt Street, Liverpool.

Mrs. Parkinson, 4, Church Street, Kirkham.
Miss Rome, Melling, Carnforth.
Miss Simms, 8, Avenham Terrace, Preston.
Lady Worsley-Taylor, Townhead, near
Clitheroe.

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AND RUTLAND

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Harborough.
Mrs. Coward, Littleham, Groby Road,
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Miss Etchells, The Fydell School, Morcott,
Uppingham, Rutland.
Mrs. Freeman, Valley Farm, Higham-on-the-
Hill, Nuneaton.
Miss Ruth Harris, Keyham, Leicester.
Mrs. Metcalfe, Frolesworth Rectory, Rugby.
Miss Jo Taylor, Brian's Close, Laughton,
Rugby.
Mrs. Young, The Bungalow, Ketton, Stam-
ford, Rutland.

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Mablethorpe, S.O.
Mrs. Brown, Horkstow Vicarage, Barton-
on-Humber.
Miss Cartwright, Willson Lodge, Bigby
Road, Brigg.
Miss Hall, The Limes, James Street, Louth.
Mrs. Huxtable, 24, Willingham Road,
Market Rasen.
Miss Lupton, Scrivelsby Rectory, Horn-
castle.
Mrs. Wintringham, Little Grimsby Hall,
Louth.

MERIONETH

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

MIDDLESEX

Mrs. Button, The Cedar House, Hillingdon.
Miss Kuhner, Avenue House, W. Drayton.
Mrs. Leach, Wilton Lodge, Hillingdon.

MONMOUTHSHIRE Miss Muriel Davies, Greenfield, St. Mellons, Cardiff, Glamorgan.
Miss N. Davis, Llandegoeth, Caerleon, Newport, Mon.
Miss Jackson, Lion Street, Abergavenny.
Miss Penton, Belgrave House, Abergavenny.

MONGOMERYSHIRE Mrs. Hughes, Isfryn, Llanbryn-mair, Mont.
Mrs. Sockett, Hampton House, Four Crosses, Llanymynech.

NORFOLK Miss Burgess, 3, Davey Place, Norwich.
Mrs. Roper Caldbeck, J.P., Lenwade Lodge, near Norwich.
Mrs. Burton Fanning, 90, Newmarket Rd., Norwich.
Mrs. Mahon, O.B.E., Runton Links Hotel, West Runton.
Mrs. H. Peacock, J.P., South Runton, King's Lynn.
Miss O. A. Peacock, South Runton, Kings Lynn.
The Dowager Lady Suffield, J.P., Harbord House, Cromer.
Lady Vincent, Gt. Ormesby, Gt. Yarmouth.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Mrs. Barker, Moulton Lodge, Northampton.
Miss Bouverie, Delapré Abbey, Northampton.
Mrs. Brown, Sulgrave, Banbury.
Mrs. Gawthrop, Quinton Manor, Northampton.
Lady Knightley, Fawsley, Daventry.
Mrs. William Luddington, Milton Manor, Northampton.
Miss Parkhurst, Buckingham House, Brackley.
Mrs. Steward, Whitehall Farm, Brigstock, Thrapston.
Miss M. Steward, Whitehall Farm, Brigstock, Thrapston.
Miss A. Stops, The Chantry, Duston.

NORTHUMBERLAND Miss Craster, South Farm, Crastor, Northumberland.
Mrs. Baker Creswell, Hauxley Hall, Amble.
Mrs. Fisher, Hudshaw House, Hexham.

Miss Hoyle, Branxton Vicarage, Cornhill-on-Tweed.
Miss Middleton, Belsay Castle, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Mrs. N. Newall, Low Warden, Hexham.
Miss G. Nicholson, Ashgill, Clayton Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Mrs. Pumphrey, Hindley House, Stocksfield, Northumberland.
Mrs. Scott, Newton House, Christian Bank, Alnwick, Northumberland.
Mrs. Collingwood Thorp, Belvedere, Alnwick.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Miss Blagg, Redlands, Burton Joyce.
Miss Fox, East Bridgeford Hall, East Bridgeford.
Miss B. Marriott, 4, Larkdale Street, Nottingham.
Miss Minkley, "The Fields," Hoveringham.

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Miss Deneke, Barnett House, Oxford.
Miss Drummond, 11, Marston Ferry Road, Oxford.
Miss Grace Hadow, Barnett House, Oxford.
Miss Henman, Raybourne House, Islip.
Mrs. Hiley, Ducklington Manor, Witney.
Mrs. Kettlewell, Westhall Hill, Burford.
Mrs. Stokes, Peppard Common, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.

PEMBROKESHIRE Miss Lewis, Henllan, Narberth.
Mrs. Middleton, Scotchwell, Haverfordwest.

RADNORSHIRE Mrs. Lewis, Evancoyd, Walton, Kington, Herefordshire.
Mrs. Coltman Rogers, Stanage Park, Bucknell, Shropshire.
Mrs. Evan Thomas, Caerwnon, Builth Wells.

SHROPSHIRE Lady Berwick, Attingham Park, Shrewsbury.
Mrs. Crowther, Harper Adams College, Edgmond, Newport, Salop.
Miss Cunliffe, Bradeney, Bridgnorth.
Mrs. Peak, Berrington Rectory, Shrewsbury.

Miss E. D. Sykes, Rangers Lodge, Hawkstone Park, Shrewsbury.
Miss Walshe, Windsor House, Windsor Place, Shrewsbury.

SOMERSET

Mrs. Giddings, Park Close, Keynsham, near Bristol.
Miss D. Lowe, Hinton St. George, Crewkerne.
Miss Newman, Westlands, Winscombe.
Miss Peck, Ferndale, Porlock.
Mrs. Poynton, Kelston Rectory, Bath.
Mrs. Sykes, Wadbury, Frome.
Miss Vernon, Alcombe, Minehead.
Miss Rees-Mogg, Corner, Temple Cloud, Bristol.
Mrs. Weaver, Dulverton, Somerset.
Miss Woodforde, Castle Carey, Bath.

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Miss Boucher, Sharpcliffe Hall, Ipstones.
Miss Duke, The Abbey, Gt. Haywood, Stafford.
Miss Holland, Holland House, Barton-under-Needwood, Burton-on-Trent.
Mrs. Stokes, Knowlehurst, Lichfield.
Mrs. Derington Turner, Oulton House, Newport, Salop.
Miss Wardle, Bird Grove Farm, Mayfield, Derbyshire.
Miss Strachan, 15, Eastgate St., Stafford.

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Mrs. Bernard, Copdock, Ipswich.
Mrs. Biddle, Stradbroke, Diss, Norfolk.
Mrs. Chevallier, Aspall Rectory, Debenham, Stowmarket.
Miss Martin, Hemingstone Hall, Coddenhams.
Miss R. Smith, Wetheringsett Rectory, Stowmarket.

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Miss Dunn, Rosemount, West Road, Bury St. Edmunds.
Mrs. Martineau, Walsham-le-Willows.
Mrs. Hitchcock, The Mill House, Bures St. Mary.
Mrs. Rust, White House, Rattlesden, Bury St. Edmunds.

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Miss S. Drew, Blatchford, Chilworth.
Mrs. Neville, Copthorne Farm, Crawley, Sussex.
Miss C. Harvey, The Willows Holmwood, near Dorking.
Miss Sutherland, 112, High Street, Guildford.
Mrs. Weir, Bell House, Merstham.

SUSSEX (EAST)

Miss Dayrell, Floretta, Haywards Heath.
Miss E. Hamilton, Cheyne House, Rye.
Mrs. Huddart, Merrifields, Haywards Heath.
Dr. Jean Mills, 25, Clinton Crescent, St. Leonards-on-Sea.
Lady Julian Parr, Elm Court, Ringmer.

SUSSEX (WEST)

Miss I. Butler, Rosemary Cottage, Harting, near Petersfield.
The Hon. Mrs. Colvin, Shermanbury Grange, Henfield.
Mrs. Hodgson, Barnfield, Cowfold.
Miss Marshall, Corner House, Steyning.
Miss Nash, Eastergate Rectory, near Chichester.
Mrs. Neville-Smith, Burwells, Lancing.

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 Mrs. Hopkins, The Priory Cottage, Warwick.
 Mrs. Hosking, Horton House, Rugby.
 Mrs. Howard, Barford, Warwick.
 Mrs. Lister Kaye, Manor House, Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Rugby.
 Miss Melly, Meriden, Coventry.
 Mrs. Rotherham, The New Lodge, Ashorne Hill, Warwick.
 Mrs. Ryland, Moxhull Hall, nr. Birmingham
 Mrs. Russell Taylor, Ragley Cottage, Alcester.

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 Miss Crane, Elmhurst, Arnside.
 Mrs. Day, Cliburn Rectory, Penrith.
 Miss Elmslie, Elterwater, Ambleside.
 Miss Punchard, Kearstwick, Kirkby Lonsdale.

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 Miss Impey, Sheldon Manor, Chippenham.
 Mrs. Marriage, Heronslade, Warminster.
 Miss Eyre Matcham, Newhouse, Redlynch, Salisbury.
 Mrs. Thelwall Maurice, Burbage, Marlborough.

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 Miss Gresley Hall, Graycombe House, Pershore.
 Miss Hingley, Middle Hill Park, Broadway.
 Miss C. F. Severn-Burrow, St. James', Malvern.
 Miss Slessor, Saintbury Rectory, Broadway.
 Miss Wallace, Eardiston, Tenbury Wells.
 Miss M. Williams, 27, Park Avenue, Worcester.

YORKSHIRE

Mrs. Adams, Rillington, Malton.
 Miss Bowman, The Homestead, Hinderwell.
 Miss M. Denison, 6, Hollin Lane, Far Headingley, Leeds.
 Miss Garstang, 35, Weetwood Lane, Far Headingley, Leeds.
 Miss Hamilton, Ouse Bridge Chambers, York.
 Mrs. Hey, 3, Princess Terrace, Ripon.
 Miss E. Pease, O.B.E., Hill House, Richmond.
 Miss Purchas, Westow Vicarage, York.
 Miss Topham, Middleham House, Middleham.
 Mrs. Wayte Hicks, The Cedars, Haxby.
 Mrs. Weller, Northfield, Thorne, Doncaster.

SUMMARISED REPORTS FROM COUNTY FEDERATIONS.

with

names and addresses of Presidents, Chairmen and Secretaries.
(Number of Affiliated Women's Institutes in each County Federation shown in brackets).

BEDFORDSHIRE (46).

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

Vice-Chairman : Miss Fenwick, Tilsworth, Leighton Buzzard.

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

ORGANISATION. Two new Institutes have been added, making 46, with about 2,880 members.

The Council has met 3 times and has had addresses from Mrs. Nugent Harris on the Problem of the Young Member and from Miss Kelly on How to Organise a County Pageant, also discussions on The N.F.W.I. Survey of the Constitution and The Pooling of Fares. Attendance of delegates has been good.

The Federation was represented by 32 delegates at the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting. It was also represented at all the Consultative Council Meetings, the Secretaries' Conference, Health Services' Conference, and Inter-County Conference. A Health Sub-Committee has been formed.

Information supplied by W.I. Secretaries in the Monthly Report Cards enables the Organisation Sub-Committee to keep in close touch with the Institutes, as well as providing statistics of meetings and other activities for the Annual Report.

One new Group has been formed.

HANDICRAFTS. Provision for the sale of small articles at a Tea Shop in Bedford has not met with much response, either from buyers or sellers. This is due in some measure to lack of window display. A share of work for the Queen's Quilt has been undertaken. A schedule on the lines of the N.F.W.I. Exhibition has been issued for a Handicraft Exhibition to be held in Bedford on October 2nd.

For the first time the Federation was represented at the County Agricultural Show by a W.I. Tent and exhibition of Handicrafts, which attracted many visitors.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. The feature of the year was the successful presentation at Dunstable by a group of 11 Institutes of "Scenes from Tudor Days," in which 270 members took part. The help of the Village Drama Society in the person of The Hon. Mary Pakington, was invaluable.

At the Bedford Music Festival four choirs were successful and three folk-dance teams.

COUNTY COUNCIL AID. The grant from the Education Committee has been expended chiefly in Dressmaking Classes. Good use is made of the Poultry Instructress's services as lecturer and adviser.

The School M.O. has written a memorandum on The Prevention of Rheumatism in School Children which was circulated among the Institutes, and shortly explained has aroused interest and thought.

The County Library is extending and is increasingly appreciated. The County Librarian frequently gives lectures on "How to make the most of Life and Books," "Books about Bedfordshire," etc. A list of books, designs, etc., of special interest to W.I. members is issued, and selected boxes are provided on request.

W.E.A. The services of the Lecturers and of the Tutor Organiser are much appreciated; some of the lectures are being followed up by short courses on Local Government and Local History.

N.F.W.I. ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS (1927) have in many cases been made the subject of action or discussion in programmes for 1928.

Lectures and courses of classes have been held in Domestic Science and Health subjects.

Emphasis is to be laid in the coming year by the Health Sub-Committee on a special syllabus dealing with Food Values and the Hygiene of Food and Drink.

A number of Institutes have had lectures on the Poor Law.

With the exception of rather isolated villages, the county is well supplied with Rural Telephones. Where the question of a guarantee has been discussed, there is reluctance to press for a service which is still considered a novelty. It is interesting to note that at a village in the county within easy reach of two W.I.s, the first Village Automatic Exchange has been installed.

Quite a number of Institutes admit girls on leaving school, and encourage them to take an active part in their W.I. and provide folk-dancing classes, choirs, etc., for them. Others do not admit them under 16 or even 18 years, where space is limited.

COMMUNITY WORK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. Eighteen Institutes have branches of the National Savings Association; many have coal or thrift clubs. In some cases outings are made to places of interest on which lectures have been given. Unusual competitions have been a verse on John Bunyan, an additional verse to "Keep on Hoping" and Hidden Titles of Books. Most Institutes have talks on the League of Nations, and many are corporate associates of the Union. Talks on the Cancer Campaign are sometimes given by a local doctor.

One Institute has been chiefly instrumental in getting a Village Hall built and opened free of debt; another has purchased ground and started building; a third raised funds for necessary improvement.

Most Institutes do much to help with the general maintenance and usefulness of Village Halls.

Hospitals have been helped by egg collections, silver paper collections, making of garments and supply of linen, etc. Other societies such as the Blind Welfare Society, and the District Nursing Association have been supported. A few Institutes organise their own flower shows, and some have exhibitions of school children's work.

BERKSHIRE (92).

President: Mrs. G. Herbert Morrell, C.B.E., Streatley House, Reading.

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

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

The chief Institute activity undertaken this year has been the organisation of the Historical Pageant, which was held in June, in Windsor Home Park, by gracious permission of His Majesty the King. The Pageant was written and produced by Mrs. Squire, and it was greatly due to her able direction that both performances went through without a hitch. About 2,000 members of the Berkshire Institutes took part, and, in addition to being a financial success, the Pageant brought all the Institutes into close touch with one another in a way which must have a lasting effect on the movement within the county.

ORGANISATION. Eight new Institutes have been formed during the year, and the total membership has increased by 463.

Four Delegates' Councils have been held at which the chief speakers were Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I. Organiser, on "The Teaching of Food Values," Miss Scanlan, School Dental Officer to the County, on "The Care of the Teeth," Miss Mary Kelly, Hon. Sec. to the Village Drama Society, on "Village Drama," and Commandant Allen on "The Work of Women Police."

HANDICRAFTS. The Handicrafts Sub-Committee for the first time organised a Christmas Sale, for which a shop in Newbury was hired. The Institutes were asked to send articles of all kinds, and plenty of work of a good standard was received. Sales were good, and the experiment fully justified itself. Arrangements for next year's Handicrafts Exhibition are well in hand, and most of the Groups have now appointed Handicraft Advisers, who should prove of great assistance in developing the crafts most suited to their centres.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. A very successful Produce Exhibition was held in Reading in September. The number of entries was considerably larger than last year, and in many of the classes the judges remarked on the high standard achieved.

Agricultural Conferences, led by Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, were held at Wantage, Abingdon and Newbury. The Government Scheme for Egg Grading and Marketing was fully discussed and papers on various subjects were given by W.I. members.

The Market Stall at Newbury continues successfully, and is open weekly. It is now entirely out of debt and self-supporting, and many improvements have been made in its organisation.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. Owing to the preparations for the Pageant, no Choral or Dramatic Competitions took place this year, but, in May, 650 members took part in a mass rehearsal of the pageant songs, conducted by Miss Nettleship. Eight Institutes competed in Health Tableaux organised at the time of the Produce Exhibition.

COMMUNITY WORK. Most of the Institutes have undertaken community work in some form or another. Gifts of flowers, eggs, tinfoil, scrap-books, or produce from seed potato competitions have been sent to local hospitals. Cold Ash gave a tea for the inmates of Cold Ash Children's Hospital, and Shaw-cum-Donnington gave a whole meeting to working for the local Children's Hospital. Hospital baskets are provided frequently by two Institutes, and fifteen Institutes have had treats for school children and old

people, and one raised money for the purpose by means of a comic dog show. Chieveley provides cocoa with bread and butter for school children on three days a week. Stanford-in-the-Vale's Dramatic Society helped two neighbouring W.I.s and Sunningdale held concerts for the village schools and Windsor Union.

Twyford and Ruscombe have given refreshments for the Scouts' Fete, donations to St. Dunstan's and towards the village bier and have placed an Anti-Litter Board in the village. Other Institutes also raised money for St. Dunstan's and organised flag days for the Red Cross and the Waifs and Strays; also one undertook the Haig Poppy Day Fund Collection, as well as sending a large donation to the Infant Welfare Centre.

Other activities undertaken include the heating of the Parish Hall, care of the War Memorial for the year, collections for local Nursing Associations, and gifts of 2/6 savings certificates to members' babies.

Many Institutes organise Benefit Clubs for their members, others run National Savings Clubs at their Monthly Meetings, and several are endeavouring to raise money for their Village Halls.

BRECONSHIRE (16).

Chairman : Miss Butler, Aberllynfi, Glasbury, Herefordshire.

Secretary : Mrs. J. D. Berrington, Ty Mawr, Llyswen, Brecon.

The number of Institutes in the County remains the same as last year, as although one has lapsed, one new one has been formed.

Council Meetings were held in June and October. In June a lecture was given on Children's Welfare Centres. At the second Council Meeting an exhibition of Handicrafts was held, at which Miss Armes gave an address to the members on handicrafts generally.

The County Federation has provided demonstrations for the Institutes on home-dyeing and cutting-out of patterns and lectures on the League of Nations.

BUCKS. (92).

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

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

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

ORGANISATION. One new Institute has been formed making a total of 92, with a membership of approximately 6,000.

There are now 15 Groups which cover the whole County. Seventeen meetings have been held. Mrs. Nugent Harris spoke at two of these, and at another a speaker from the National Council of Social Service gave valuable advice on Village Halls.

Both Annual and Council Meetings have been very well attended, and several interesting resolutions have been brought forward by W.I. members.

AGRICULTURE. A very successful Produce Exhibition was held at Aylesbury in October. Although only 45 Institutes sent exhibits, the Hall was full. The exhibits were excellent and met with the approval of the Judges, who were experts.

There was a marked improvement in the bottled fruits, very few being unsatisfactory. Mr. Page, who judged the bread and cakes, was so impressed with their excellence that he offered either a medal or cup to be competed for at the next Produce Exhibition. Two exhibits consisted of apples, graded and packed for transport. Ballinger W.I. won the silver cup, having the largest number of marks in proportion to their membership.

HANDICRAFTS. The Annual Christmas Sale of Handicrafts was held at High Wycombe on November 29th, and 43 Institutes sent articles for sale. A sum of £148 was realised. Home-made sweets sold like the proverbial "hot cakes." This year 1d. in the shilling was deducted from all Sales but this commission did not cover expenses.

A Group Exhibition and Sale of Handicrafts and Produce was held at Slough in September. Co-operative work was well represented by two beautiful Layettes and a woman's Trousseau. The Exhibition was a financial success, and, after all expenses were paid, about £18 was given to the Federation.

DRAMA AND MUSIC. A Dramatic Competition in Scenes of Shakespeare was held in Aylesbury in April. Hambleton W.I. won the picture presented by Miss Grenfell. Taplow W.I. has given two excellent performances of Scenes from Henry VIII.

A Producers' School, conducted by Miss Gwen Lally, took place in October; a large number of W.I. members attended.

Very many W.I.s have choirs, and Loosley Row was first in the class for W.I. Choirs in the Bucks., Berks. and Oxon. Competition.

COUNTY COUNCIL AID. As usual, the County Education Committee has arranged classes in Dressmaking and Cooking, also lectures on Health questions, First Aid and Home Nursing, as well as Instruction in Household Repairs, Poultry Keeping, Preparing Fowls for the Table and Market, Dairying and Horticulture.

MARKET STALLS. High Wycombe and Aylesbury Market Stalls continue to flourish, turnover of the former for 1928 being over £500 and of the latter £600.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Institutes continue to help at local Flower Shows, and many have given the old folks and children Christmas and New Year Treats. Folk dancing is still popular, and many classes have been held by teachers from the Buckinghamshire Branch of the English Folk Dancing Society.

Lectures on many subjects including Travel, The Women of India, Famous Women, St. Dunstan's (by a blinded soldier), Russian Folk Lore, Life in Old London and Care of the Teeth. Demonstrations in Cookery, Knitted Rugs, Sweets of all kinds, Cake Icing, Feather Mount-making, Upholstery, Soft Toys, and many other subjects have been given.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE (62).

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

Secretary : Miss Warrington, 17, St. Edward's Passage, Cambridge.

ORGANISATION. Four Institutes were formed in 1928. Quarterly Council Meetings have been well attended. Speakers have dealt with The Adolescent Girl in the Village, The Care of Cripples, Women's Interests in Agriculture, Community Singing, and The Report on the Practical Education of Women for Rural Life. Nineteen Institutes drew up a ten-minute history of their village, and read it at a Council Meeting.

Group Conferences are held twice yearly in the sixteen groups in the county. "What is the County Federation Doing?" was discussed at the Spring meetings.

Conferences for Officers and Committee members have been held in three groups.

Several Institutes are facing the difficulty of finding what are felt to be "suitable" officers, but in every case one or another member is trying in a most commendable manner to carry on.

Programmes in the majority of Institutes are drawn up for a year and show the varied interests of members.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. This side of the work continues to develop. An increasing number of lecturers are asked for from the County Council Staff. Gardens are showing the benefit of stocking from the fruit trees and bushes and garden seeds purchased co-operatively by the Federation. Potatoes have been added to this year's purchases.

✓ Courses of Classes in the Use and Preservation of Garden Produce continue to be asked for, and the standard of bottled fruit and jam at the Horticultural Show is very creditable.

The poultry section has received a stimulus from the appointment of a Poultry Instructor on to the Agricultural Staff of the County Council.

Miss Simpson conducted a two-day Agricultural School in the autumn.

HEALTH. Health Exhibitions were again arranged in six village centres. An Institute which held an Exhibition in 1927 followed it up with a six lesson course of lectures on Food Values.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the County Council has now promised a deficiency grant in connection with the arrangement of these Exhibitions.

Nearly every W.I. programme records talks on the vital matter of Health.

HEMOCRAFTS. The biennial exhibition earned from the Handicraft Organiser the comment "Thoroughly wholesome and practical." Nineteen courses of classes, mostly covering a period of fifteen weeks, are being held under the County Council in domestic subjects and two in other crafts.

A very practical course in Household Jobbery is a feature of this year's courses.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. Five Choral Classes and four Drama Classes are being held under the County Council.

CARDIGANSHIRE (44).

President : The Countess of Lisburne, Crosswood, Cardiganshire.

Chairman : Mrs. Stapledon, y Glyn, Llanfarian, Aberystwyth.

Hon. County Secretary : Miss Thomas, Garth Villa, Llanarth, Llandyssul, Cardiganshire.

ORGANISATION. Two new Institutes have been formed and one has lapsed. Two new V.C.O.s, Mrs. Douglas and Miss Davies, have been appointed, making six in the County altogether. Over 40 visits have been paid by V.C.O.s and Executive Committee members.

Delegates have been sent to the following :—Inter-County Conference at Carmarthen ; N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting ; Health Conference and Consultative Council, London ; County Secretaries'

Conference, Harpenden; a One Day V.C.O. School at Llandrindod Wells, held by Mrs. Nugent Harris; Welsh Conference, Shrewsbury; Montgomery and Carmarthen Council Meetings.

Two Council Meetings have been held. At the April Meeting at Aberayron, Mrs. Gervas Huxley, N.F.W.I. Hon. Treasurer, gave an interesting address, chiefly dealing with Finance. The address given by Miss Hirst Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, at the November Council Meeting, dealing with Women's Place in Agriculture and Horticulture, was much appreciated. Miss Simpson also held Schools for W.I. Officers and Committee members at Lampeter and Aberystwyth, and addressed meetings at New Quay and Rhydypennau.

Six Group Meetings, addressed by Mr. Glynne Jones, B.A., O.B.E., Commissioner for Wales of the National Savings Associations, were held in November. Several Institutes have started branches of the War Savings Association, and it is hoped many more will take it up in the near future.

FINANCE. A donation of £15 7s. 6d. has been sent to Headquarters.

HANDICRAFTS. The Annual Exhibition was held at Lampeter in April. Trefilan W.I. won the cup presented by Lampeter W.I. for the largest aggregate of marks gained. The Exhibition Committee handed £33 2s. 7d. to the County Funds.

A Dressmaking School was held at Lampeter and at Aberystwyth in February; 22 students attended.

Upholstery Schools were held at Aberystwyth and New Quay in September; 13 students attended. Miss Woosnam acted as demonstrator for both crafts.

Exhibits were sent to the National Eisteddfod at Treorchy, and also to the Royal Show at Wrexham.

A very good schedule has been drawn up for next year's Exhibition. The Countess of Lisburne has offered a special prize for Quilting.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. Competitions were held throughout the County in March, and a Festival was held at Aberystwyth in July.

Miss von Jones, Ysbytty Ystwyth W.I., attended the Drama School held at Harlech, and is now available to address W.I.s on Drama Production.

COMMUNITY WORK. A number of Institutes made Poppy Day Collections. Some Institutes have raised substantial sums of money for their Memorial Halls, the Association for the Blind, Aberystwyth Infirmary, and the XRay Installation for West Wales Sanatorium, and have become guarantors for Village Public Telephones.

HELP FROM COUNTY COUNCIL AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS. We are greatly indebted to the County Agricultural Committee for the valuable services of Lecturers on Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy Work, Poultry Trussing, etc., and also to the County Council for classes in Domestic Science and various Handicrafts.

The Cardiganshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society has very kindly offered to provide classes in First Aid and Home Nursing free to W.I.s in the County for one year. Already a number of Institutes have sent in applications for classes.

CARMARTHENSHIRE (26).

Chairman: Lady Enid Williams-Drummond, Edwinstford, Llandilo.

Hon. County Secretary: Miss Lloyd Price, Bryn Cothi, Abergorlech Road, Carmarthen.

ORGANISATION. Five new Institutes have been formed, making a total of 26.

There are 5 V.C.O.s in the County, two of whom were sent to Mrs. Watt's Opportunity School at Bangor in October. The Group system has been inaugurated, and promises to be successful. Two Council Meetings have been held, at one of which the speaker was Miss Pratt, of the Ministry of Agriculture. In February a Debate on the Hampshire Scheme for the alteration of the Constitution was held, and aroused great interest. Two students were trained at the Liverpool School of Cookery in February, and are now available to demonstrate in the Institutes.

In response to a request from the Rural Industries Bureau, the Carmarthenshire Institutes have collected names of quilters in the County, and these were forwarded to the Bureau.

During the year delegates have attended the following:— N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting and Drama Festival, Consultative Council at Bury St. Edmunds, Health Conference in London, and the Special Consultative Council to consider changes in the Constitution and the Pooling of Fares.

FINANCE.—The County Funds have not increased much, but the County has been able to do without a grant from Headquarters this year, and to give a donation of £5.

HANDICRAFTS. The number of demonstrators on the County panel has increased from 17 to 42; the number of crafts demonstrated from 10 to 22. In May a very successful Handicrafts Exhibition, opened by Sir Mervyn Peel, was held in Carmarthen.

The entries were nearly double those of last year. The Silver Bowl for Handicrafts was won by Llansawel, and the Copper Urn for Produce by Manordeilo.

Carmarthenshire sent articles to furnish one stall in the Arts and Crafts Department at the National Eisteddfod at Treorchy.

COUNTY COUNCIL. The help received from the County Council has again been most valuable and generous. Arrangements have been made for every Institute to visit the County Farm Institute, Pibwrlwyd, for a butter-making demonstration during the winter.

COMMUNITY WORK. All Institutes in the County have helped in one way or another towards raising funds for the County President's Fete at Edwinsford, by which £2,700 was made for the West Wales Sanatorium near Llanbyther. Drefach has given £10 to Cardigan Hospital; Laugharne is undertaking to collect funds for a children's playground; Newcastle Emlyn has given £2 to Cardigan Hospital; Pencader has equipped a bed for the Carmarthenshire Infirmary; Conwil has given prizes at local Eisteddfodau; Llandefeilog has given a prize to the local Agricultural Show and £2 to Carmarthen Infirmary; Whitland sent £5 to the local Memorial Hall and Abergorlech £3 3s. 0d. to Swansea Hospital; Manoldeilo have again collected for Earl Haig's Fund; and Ferryside have again contributed eggs, fruit and vegetables to the Carmarthen Infirmary.

CARNARVONSHIRE AND ANGLESEY (56).

President and Chairman: Mrs. Drage, J.P., Parciau, Criccieth.

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

ORGANISATION. Five new Institutes have been formed, three in Carnarvonshire and two in Anglesey, and three re-started. Several Institutes have been visited by Organisers, and villages canvassed with a view to forming new Institutes.

A Three Days' School for W.I. members was organised under the leadership of Mrs. Watt, M.A. The University College Authorities very kindly allowed the use of the Council Chamber for the School. Mrs. Watt also attended one County Executive Committee meeting.

Quarterly Council Meetings have been held. Speakers included Miss Derrick on Handicrafts, the Carnarvonshire M.O.H., the Anglesey Director of Education, and the Commissioner for North Wales of the War Savings Association. Great disappointment was felt at the Autumn Council that Mrs. Aurbach, owing to illness, was unable to attend.

Delegates have attended Handicrafts and Health Conferences organised by Headquarters, as well as Consultative Councils, the Welsh Conference, and the Annual General Meeting. Resolutions were sent to the Annual Meeting and Welsh Conference.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. A second successful School for conductors was organised in May under the leadership of Mr. E. T. Davies, Director of Music at the University. The first Music and Drama Festival was held in Criccieth in June. The Institutes took a keen interest in it, and a good balance also proved its success. A School for Producers (the first of its kind to be held in Wales) was held in October, and was also so successful that it is hoped to hold a similar School again in the autumn.

HANDICRAFTS. As the Music and Drama Festival was held in June, no Handicrafts Exhibition took place. The Handicrafts Committee have been dealing with the question of the teaching of Handicrafts to the Mentally Deficient in Carnarvonshire. A good selection of rugs was sent to the Royal Welsh Show, and a rug-making demonstration given.

Three of our Guild of Learners who have passed their "A" Test, are working diamonds for the Queen's quilt.

Anglesey Institutes have received a £10 grant from the Anglesey County Agricultural Committee to help towards the formation of classes in Basket making. Lord Boston has kindly given the osiers.

HELP FROM COUNTY COUNCILS. In Carnarvonshire this is given in the form of evening classes and lectures. In Anglesey, a grant is given towards classes. In both Counties Demonstrations and Lectures on Agriculture, Gardening, etc., are given free.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Institute reports show that some community work such as donations to hospitals, nursing associations, League of Nations, and the Miners' Distress Fund, is undertaken by almost every W.I. One Institute raised £38 for the Miners' Fund, and another £21, as well as gifts of clothing. Christmas trees and tea parties are also given to school children.

CHESHIRE (58).

President: The Countess of Stamford.

Chairman: Mrs. Douglas Greenshields, The Beeches, Malpas, Ches.

Secretary: Mrs. Crowther, Well Street, Malpas, Ches.

ORGANISATION. The Executive Committee has been helped in its work by the following Sub-Committees:—Organisation, Finance, Handicraft, Exhibition, Music and Drama, County Fête,

and Agricultural Show. Members of the Executive have attended each N.F.W.I. Consultative Council and visits have been paid to Staffordshire, Shropshire, Hampshire, and Flint and Denbigh County Federations.

At the Annual Meeting in March, every Institute except two answered the roll call. Mrs. Bromley Davenport spoke on Rural Preservation, and the resolution urging the Institutes to support the newly-formed Pug-pup Society started by Chelford W.I. was carried unanimously. Lady Denman was present at the afternoon meeting and spoke on the proposed revision of the Constitution.

The Half-yearly Council was visited by Mrs. Harris and Miss Nettleship both of whose talks were most helpful.

Tours have been arranged for Miss Petty, Miss Edwards of the Good House-keeping Institute and for lecturers from the Dental Education Board. Travelling expenses in each case have been paid from County Funds.

Competitions for the best Programme, the best County Badge, and an Essay on Local History have proved very popular.

Five V.C.O.s have been working during the year and, although only two new Institutes have been formed, seventy seven visits have been paid by the Organisers. Two members who attended the N.F.W.I. School at Chester have now been appointed V.C.O.s. Mrs. Harris held one day Conferences for W.I. Committee members at five centres in October, which were well attended, and proved most helpful.

Terms of reference for W.I. Sub-Committees have been prepared, and are being used by many of the Institutes.

FINANCE. A special Conference for W.I. Treasurers has helped to clear away difficulties in keeping accounts correctly.

The County Treasurer visited many Institutes and gave a short talk on County Finance, the result of which has been a substantial increase in the donations towards the Federation.

HANDICRAFTS. The chief work has been the preparation for the second exhibition of Handicrafts, to be held in March, 1929.

Arrangements were made to hold "B" Tests for members of the Guild of Learners, and three members were successful in gaining their certificates. Two sections of the Queen's Quilt have been worked by members in this County. A small County Loan Collection is proving useful.

AGRICULTURAL SHOW. Refreshments were arranged at the Grand Stand at Chester Show, and a Rest Tent provided on the grounds. Tickets for sale were circulated in the Institutes previously on behalf of the Society.

COUNTY FETE. One of the most important activities was the Fête at Peover Hall, by kind permission of Mrs. and Mr. John Peel. Almost every Institute made the event their summer outing, and favoured with fine weather, the result was most satisfactory in every way.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. The first School for W.I. Conductors held at Chester last April, was attended by 49 students, who were so enthusiastic about the teaching of Miss Nettleship that a second School has been promised by the Executive.

HOME AND COUNTRY. Another important development has been the commencement of the *County Supplement* in "Home and Country," as the outcome of a well considered resolution brought before two Council Meetings and passed unanimously.

COUNTY COUNCIL. Continued assistance is given to the Institutes by the Council in the provision of lectures from the School of Agriculture. Books on Arts and Crafts are always available through the Rural Library Scheme, as well as boxes of books for use of Institutes. But most important of all is the allocation of a grant of £100 for educational purposes in the Institutes. This is greatly appreciated, and should prove an enormous help.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. W.I. reports show an increasing variety of service rendered to the community. The children in many villages have had extra attention through the W.I. Summer and Christmas parties. Girl Guides have shared the W.I. Tennis and Badminton Clubs, and Folk Dancing Classes. Boy Scouts have been helped in running their Fêtes. Hot dinners have been provided towards which gifts of potatoes, fruits and vegetables have been given. One school (at least) has been provided with a complete Ambulance Outfit. An Institute helped financially to renovate a school floor, and in many cases the children have been invited to hear special lectures at the W.I. Meetings. City children, in some cases, have been given a country holiday, and one small Institute arranged for one of its members to be taken by car each week to visit her daughter at a Sanatorium.

Almost every Institute records egg collections for hospitals, one alone collected over 5,000. Gifts of flowers, fruit, vegetables and other provisions have been regularly sent to various Institutions, and some Institutes have held sewing parties for the same objects. Money has been contributed towards the local Nursing Fund; and in the latter part of the year collections of clothing and money have been given for the Relief of Distress in the Mining Areas.

Institutes have supported the Pug-pup Society and have provided means for the removal of rubbish. Some have followed up the N.F.W.I. Resolution *re* Humane Slaughter of Animals by finding out if the Rural Council have adopted the Bye-law, and also by making many local inquiries.

Interchange of visits have proved enjoyable and helpful.

CORNWALL (69).

President and Chairman: Mrs. Harcourt Williams, Penair, Truro.

Secretary: Mrs. E. Fox, 16, Greenbank, Falmouth.

ORGANISATION. During 1928 two new W.I.s have been formed. No Institutes have lapsed, and the general tone of the Rural Institute is one of happy—if slow—progress. One student attended the V.C.O. School at Headquarters and we have pleasure in welcoming her as a successful student. Five Sub-Committees are in existence: Organisation, Handicraft, Finance, General Education and Music. Two Council Meetings have been held, in March and November, at the Truro W.I. Centre. We greatly enjoyed Lady Listowel's talk in March on the Drama, and Mr. F. R. Pascoe's address on Women's Work at the November Meeting. The general feeling at the Council Meetings is noticeably one of camaraderie; the individual Institutes seem to realise that a very real link exists between them and their County Federation.

During the year, from the Executive Committee, delegates have attended the Annual Meeting, two Consultative Councils, the Health Conference, and the County Secretaries' Conference.

The Cornwall Federation has sustained a very great loss in the death of the President, Ingeborg Lady Molesworth St. Aubyn, who has always lived the ideal W.I. life, and has shown such a wonderful example to all members. Lady St. Aubyn had been President of the Federation since the beginning of the movement in Cornwall.

The work of the Handicraft Sub-Committee has increased to a great extent. It has been found necessary to form a General Education Sub-Committee (in which is included the Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committee) which will deal with all matters on General Education, Health, and Agriculture.

The Annual County Rally was held this year at Perranporth and Perran Round, and an interesting lecture was given by Dr. T. F. G. Dexter, on "Perran Round." About 300 members were present and all enjoyed a very happy day together.

HANDICRAFTS. In November a Sale of Arts and Crafts was held at the Truro W.I. centre; beautiful specimens of work were on sale, and the Bazaar element—so distasteful to real handicraft workers—is practically, now, non-existent at our sales and exhibitions. The chief crafts shown and taught include: Embroidery, Basketry, Chair-caning, Grass-covered stools, Upholstery, Leather work, Raffia and Rug-making. One Student has passed her test in Embroidery, and another in Upholstery.

MUSIC. In October a Musical Conference was held at the Truro W.I. Centre. This was very much appreciated and was of rather an informal nature, no special speaker having been engaged. A music library exists in connection with this Sub-Committee, from which W.I.s may borrow part songs, etc., free of charge.

HELP FROM COUNTY COUNCIL AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS. We are again greatly indebted to the County Council for the valuable services of Lecturers on Poultry, Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy work, Dressmaking, Millinery and Cookery. The County Dressmaker is always in great demand, and works practically the whole year for the W.I.s. The services of the Cookery teacher have been granted to the Federation for one day per week for six months. Many W.I.s are taking up Lectures on Home Nursing and First Aid, and Lectures on Health and Food Values are increasingly popular. On our panel are to be found lecturers on Folk Lore, League of Nations, Citizenship, Local Government, History, Astronomy, Art, Literature and Music.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Social activities are flourishing and include Concerts, Choral Classes, Folk Dancing Classes, Whist Drives and Dramatic Societies. Nearly all W.I.s possess their own libraries, and hope, ultimately, to possess their own halls.

CUMBERLAND (84).

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

Chairman: Mrs. Selby Chance, Broadfield, Carlisle.

County Organising Secretary: Miss D. Melville Jackson, Government Buildings, Carlisle.

ORGANISATION. Six new W.I.s have been formed during the year. Total membership in October, 1928 was 4,260, an increase of 413 members. A special letter of congratulation was received from the N.F.W.I. upon this notable increase in membership. One V.C.O. attended the Advanced School, and one new V.C.O. has been appointed, making a total of nine V.C.O.s in the County. The Annual Meeting was held in Carlisle in October, and over 200 delegates and visitors attended in spite of storms and floods, 74

out of the 82 W.I.s then formed being represented. Short Talks were given on "Mental Welfare" by Dr. Cunningham Brown, of the Board of Control, and on "The Ministry of Agriculture's approved scheme of Egg Marketing under the National Mark," by Miss Melville Jackson. The N.F.W.I. schemes for equalisation of fares of Delegates were explained and discussed, and a roll call was taken on B.B.C. Wireless Talks for W.I. members. In the afternoon Mrs. Gervas Huxley gave an address on Finance, and also on The Report on the Practical Education of Women for Rural Life.

At the Half-yearly Council Meeting at Whitehaven in April about 150 delegates and visitors were present. Miss Hilda Chamberlain spoke in favour of the "Hampshire Scheme," and Lady Denman spoke against it.

A talk on "Slippers for School Children" was given by Mrs. Mitton, and Mrs. Nixon explained the Yorks. Handicrafts Scheme.

The Spring Group Meetings were well attended. Talks and Demonstrations were given by Mrs. Pringle on "Angora Rabbits for Wool Production," showing the rabbits; on "How to tell a Good Layer," by Miss Melville Jackson, using live hens, and by Miss Ann Macbeth on "Handicrafts."

The Autumn Group Meetings coincided with terrible gales, but were successful nevertheless. Miss Elkin, of the N.U.S.E.C., explained "The Responsibilities of Women in the Local Government of their District," and the new Poor Law proposals. A short talk was given as well on "Egg Marketing and the new scheme for the W.I.s," by Miss Melville Jackson.

Schools for W.I. Officers were held in July at Whitehaven, Keswick and Carlisle. These were addressed by Mrs. Baker Cresswell, Mrs. R. Scott, and Mrs. Collingwood Thorp, all of Northumberland County Federation. 200 W.I. Officers attended.

FINANCE. A "Shop" was held in Carlisle, the W.I.s sending gifts of produce and other goods to be sold for the benefit of the County Federation funds, and over £50 was cleared.

The balance sheet shows that as a result of the year's working the financial position has been well maintained, but the increased activities necessitate further outlay for the coming year. A substantial sum is expected from the proceeds of the County Exhibition to be held in 1929.

HEALTH. "Slippers for School Children." In response to an appeal from the Medical Officer of Health a large number of pairs of slippers have been made for distribution by the County Health Education Authorities to those Schools where they are most needed.

A County Federation Health Sub-Committee has again been formed this year. The Medical Officer of Health is a member and also the Superintendent of the County Nurses, the County Organiser of Domestic Studies, and the County Nurse, who lectures to the W.I.s.

At the first meeting, Dr. Morison, M.O.H., gave an address on "Maternal Mortality in Cumberland," illustrated by a new series of diagrams which he has prepared, and the County Federation Executive Committee are taking steps to co-operate with him in this urgent matter.

EDUCATION. An enlarged Panel of Lecturers and Demonstrators has been published in a separate handbook. It includes directions to W.I. Secretaries, information as to County lecture tours, and regulations for County Council classes.

A one-day School for Speakers was held at Keswick in April, by Miss Lucy Bell. Miss Petty again visited Cumberland in June, and 17 W.I.s enjoyed her visit.

AGRICULTURE. 35 entries were received for the Poultry Competition, and members' farms were visited by Miss Melville Jackson and Captain Distin from May to October, advice being given and marks awarded on a competition score-card. The competitors showed great keenness, and the improvement in methods of poultry management was most encouraging. Certificates were awarded to 23 competitors, and the Institute prize was won by Beckermat W.I.

Besides the addresses on the Egg Marketing Scheme already mentioned, a number have been given at W.I. Monthly Meetings. W.I.s are being allowed to take shares in the first Co-operative Egg Marketing Society registered in Cumberland, so that individual members may receive the same benefits as large poultry farmers, through their W.I. The County Executive Committee has a representative on the Board of Directors of the Society. A questionnaire on the Marketing of Eggs was filled in by the W.I.s, and the information was passed on to the Economics Department at Armstrong College, Newcastle. Egg Marketing exhibits were organised in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Newton Rigg Farm School, at Carlisle and Brampton Agricultural Shows.

Members visited Lt.-Col. Arthur's large commercial poultry farm, by his invitation in April, and were much interested in the lectures and demonstrations.

The W.I. Tents were filled again at Carlisle, Brampton and Gosforth Agricultural Shows, and the standard of the exhibits was very good.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. Many W.I. Choirs took part in the Carlisle Musical Festival in March, and the Banner was won by Warwick W.I.

Greystoke W.I. entered for the N.F.W.I. Dramatic Festival, producing the first act of Barrie's "Quality Street."

HANDICRAFTS. Classes in Furcraft have been held in Carlisle, the teacher being Mrs. Bailey, of Lowther, Penrith. Miss Ann Macbeth held a School for Advanced Handicrafts at Patterdale in the Spring and new work, including the Ullswater Rug, is being taught to the W.I.s by her pupils.

A County Exhibition of Handicrafts and Produce is to be held in Carlisle and in Keswick in May 1929.

W.I. ACTIVITIES. Branches of the National Savings Associations have been formed in many W.I.s, and help given to hospitals and infirmaries in the County.

Bassenthwaite W.I. has succeeded in getting water laid on for the village, and several Institutes have either built halls, enlarged existing ones, or kept them in repair.

DERBYSHIRE (59).

President: Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire.

Chairman: Lady Inglefield, Flower Lillies, Windley, nr. Derby.

Secretary: Miss M. Tyson, Hefford's Buildings, Queen Street, Derby.

ORGANISATION. One new Institute has been formed. The total membership is 3,274.

V.C.O.s and members of the Executive Committee have paid over 50 visits to Institutes. Three new V.C.O.s have been appointed.

Delegates have been sent to the N.F.W.I. Consultative Council Meetings, Annual General Meeting, Health Conference, and the special meeting on the "Survey of the Constitution."

Three Council Meetings have been held. At the Annual Meeting in January, the morning was devoted to business, and the afternoon to a talk from the "Pudding Lady," Miss Petty.

Miss Hadow came to the Spring Meeting, and explained the Agenda for the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting. For the Autumn Meeting we went to Chesterfield, when interest centred in the N.F.W.I. schemes for the pooling of delegates' fares.

A County panel of lecturers and demonstrators has been prepared.

Group reports show that meetings have been interesting and well attended. Two new Groups have been formed.

One Group spent its County Exhibition Prize money on a Demonstration in "Household Jobbery," followed by a one-day class.

FINANCE. Almost all Institutes have met their financial obligations to the National and County Federations, although many districts are affected by present conditions in the coal industry.

A Treasurers' Conference was held in March, when Miss Hadow's help was greatly appreciated.

HANDICRAFTS. Advanced Classes in Basketry, Gloving and Embroidery were held in the Spring, and four members attending have passed Guild of Learners' Tests in Gloving, Basketry and Chair-seating.

A W.I. Tent, organised by the local Group, was a new feature at the Bakewell Agricultural Show. Much interest was aroused by Handicraft exhibits, and demonstrations in Upholstery, Gloving and Rush work.

HORTICULTURE. A successful Gladioli Show was held in August, 515 members from 33 Institutes competing.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. A Community Singing Competition was held in the Spring, when the 24 competing Institutes were judged at their own meetings.

Dramatic work has been encouraged by a Shakespeare Scenes Competition and Play Reading introduced to many members by the illustration given at the Autumn Council Meeting.

COUNTY SUPPLEMENT. A grant from the N.F.W.I. enabled us to have a *Supplement* in "Home and Country." This has been most successful, and we have the distinction of being the County taking the most copies in proportion to membership numbers.

HEALTH WEEK. Nearly all Institutes arranged special lectures on Health subjects. The two W. I. Centres carried out arrangements for the Dental Board's Hygiene Exhibition.

COUNTY COUNCIL AND RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL AID. The Education Committee have continued their generous assistance in financing classes in crafts and other subjects.

The Rural Community Council has arranged 30 single lectures on many varied subjects.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY WORK. Useful public work has been done by many Institutes, several have collected eggs, or raised money for hospitals. In one W.I. each member grew a potato, and the crop, totalling 1½ cwts., was given to the Women's Hospital. Various charitable organisations have been assisted, particularly the Miners' Distress Funds.

One Institute is entirely responsible for a branch of the National Savings Association, another has provided the village with baskets for litter, and placed a "Save the Countryside" poster above each.

Other forms of service to village life have been the provision of a cooking stove for the school, re-seating chairs for the church, purchase of a portable boiler for village use, provision of seats in the village and recreation ground, and purchase of two wireless sets for the use of bedridden villagers.

DEVON (127).

President: The Lady Clinton, Bicton, E. Budleigh, Devon.

Chairman: Mrs. Phillips, J. P., Sudbury Lawn, Honiton, Devon

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

ORGANISATION. Twelve new Institutes have been formed during the year, making the total membership about 8,400.

Mr. Murray (Principal of the University of the South West), on "Education" and Miss Simpson on "Outdoor Activities of Institute Life," were the speakers at the Summer Council Meeting, held in The Bishops Palace Gardens, Exeter. At the Annual Council Meeting, Miss Warner spoke on "Our Debt to Animals." The 1/6 lunch arranged by the County Executive Committee for Delegates and Members of the County Committee, which has been held for the last three years at the Annual Meeting, is always appreciated.

Mrs. Graham and Miss Spilman spoke at the Autumn Group Meetings. A new Group—the Dart Vale—has been formed. Miss Simpson spoke at some Institute meetings in June. The Schools for W.I. Officers and Committee members, taken by Mrs. Nugent Harris, which were held at Plymouth and Exeter in March, were very well attended.

Tours were arranged for Miss Watkins and Mrs. Clowes.

EXHIBITIONS. There was a large increase in the number of exhibits at the County Handicraft and Produce Exhibition in Exeter in April. A new feature was the division of the Exhibition into two sections, with a separate Secretary for each section. Miss Armes opened the Exhibition. Aveton Gefford W.I. won the Handicraft Challenge Cup. Butterleigh W.I. won the Produce Cup.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. 85 lectures and 32 demonstrations were given by the County Agricultural Committee Staff, the greater number being in Horticulture and Fruit and Vegetable Bottling. Three Institutes entered for the County Small Fruit-growing Competitions. Fifteen Institutes entered for Potato-growing Competitions. At two Institutes experiments, one in slug extermination, the other in potato tasting, were carried out. Twenty-one Institutes organised Flower Shows. There were 2,000 entries in the Produce Section of the County Exhibition.

DRAMA. A course of Dramatic Classes under the W.E.A. have been held in one W.I.

COUNTY COUNCIL AID. Classes in Domestic Subjects have been held in many Institutes. Home Crafts have been a popular subject. Many lectures have been given by the County Medical Staff and many Institutes organised meetings in the County Health Week.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Institutes have contributed to Hospitals and the Orthopaedic Hospital and Clinics. In one Institute a member is appointed monthly to visit the local hospital and take small gifts. One Institute has worked for the Middlesex Hospital and another has sent flowers monthly to a London Mission. Parcels of clothing have been sent to London for R.S.P.C.C. Funds have been collected for the Thames Flood Disaster, and money and clothing for Miners' families. One W.I. has got a telephone installed in the village post office; another has had water laid on in the Village Hall, and a third presented the village with one electric street light with guarantee of upkeep for one year. Other activities have included the formation of a Literary Society, and of a Sub-Committee to get Rural Housing considered, a petition to the Rural District Council *re* the Slaughter of Animals with the Humane Killer, the provision of cocoa for School children at mid-day, and the organisation of a Stall for an East End Settlement. One Institute sent a sick child to the seaside; another clothed a child in the Barnardo Home, and one provided a Maternity Bag. Funds have been raised for Men's Football and Cricket Clubs. Thrift Clubs and a Coal Club have been organised, and branches of National Savings Associations have been started.

DORSET (117).

President: Francis, Viscountess Portman.

Chairman: Miss Style, J.P., Hillbutts, Wimborne.

Secretary: Mrs. Heenan, Barrowfield, Burton Bradstock, nr. Bridport.

ORGANISATION. The Federation began the year with a new development. Benita, Lady Lees, to the regret of all, resigned the

Honorary Secretaryship, which she had held for ten years, ever since the commencement of the movement in Dorset. With the ever-increasing secretarial work, a permanent office seemed now necessary, and in January this was established in the stage dressing rooms of the W.I. County Hall, and a County Secretary appointed.

Two new W.I.s have been formed; the new Institutes have received the usual three visits during the months following their formation; instruction has also been given to their Committees on their work and procedure. Members of the Executive Committee and V.C.O.s paid 65 official visits and at least 59 visits by private invitation.

Group Conferences were held at Wimborne and Dorchester this year, the mornings being given to discussion on the work of officers and committees and sub-committees. Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser, addressed the afternoon meetings on "How to Share in the Monthly Meetings," and also gave helpful criticism on the exhibits of jams, bottled fruits and vegetables, which were arranged at each Conference.

EXHIBITIONS. The Bath and West Agricultural Show was held at Dorchester this year, and the Federation had a large Tent for the Exhibition and Sale of Handicrafts and the exhibition of Co-operative exhibits of Domestic Science Produce. In the Handicraft Section there were 1,130 entries and 27 banners; in the Domestic Science Section 510 exhibits. Great interest was shown in the work by W.I. members and the general public; it was said to be one of the most popular stands at the Show.

HANDICRAFTS. Classes to teach the making of "Old Dorset Buttons," have been held and a county test is to be taken in May, 1929, after which it is hoped many more members will learn this old county craft. A member of the Committee, Mrs. Pickard Cambridge, sent an article with illustrations of this craft to the "Queen," which was accepted and published. In October, Mrs. Parker, from Durham, toured the county for a fortnight, giving demonstrations and lessons in Quilting; these were much enjoyed, and a county test is to be held in May. The usual Home-crafts Exhibition was held in September, 36 certificates being awarded; a county basketry test was held at the same time.

MUSIC, DANCING AND DRAMA.

There was again a good entry of W.I. teams at the Dorset Choral Association Festival. The classes for W.I.'s have now been divided again, one for Institutes with a membership of over 100, one for those with a membership of over 50 and under 100, and one for those with under 50 members.

A Competition for Folk Dance Accompanists proved helpful and interesting. The judge was Miss Woods, of E.F.D.S. There were fourteen competitors. The Folk Dance Competition was marred by wet weather, and so had to be indoors, otherwise it was a great success. There were 30 women's teams and 4 mixed teams. Miss Sinclair, of E.F.D.S., judged, and her criticisms were much appreciated.

The Shakespeare Competition again proved most attractive. Mrs. Meyrick Jones and Mrs. Penelope Wheeler were the judges. A two-days' Producers' School was held in February.]

EDUCATION. Miss Pratt, H.M.I. Ministry of Agriculture, came to the Committee and talked about the Report on the Practical Education of Women and Girls for Rural Life. A Health tour was arranged for a fortnight, Dr. Helen Thompson, M.B., being the lecturer, and was so successful that it is hoped to arrange another next year. A Horticultural scheme to encourage the growing of "small fruit" by W.I. members in their own gardens has been arranged, and the County Council Horticultural Adviser is giving the talks and demonstrations. A short tour was also arranged for Miss Edwards, who spoke on "Good Housekeeping."

"HOME AND COUNTRY" DORSET SUPPLEMENT. The Supplement so far pays its way and this year the Committee has been able to supply one free copy for six months to the new W.I.s formed since 1927.

DURHAM (89).

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

Hon. Treasurer : Mrs. Willis, Weardale House, Wearhead.

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

ORGANISATION. Eight new Institutes have been formed during the year, and 142 visits were paid by V.C.O.s and members of the Executive Committee. Unemployment in the mining areas has caused much distress in the county, and the help sent by Somerset and other southern counties has been gratefully received.

Three Council Meetings have been held and well attended. A record number (381) signed the attendance sheets at the last annual meeting. The special speakers were Mr. Edward Hodgkin, on the "History of County Durham," Mr. Nugent Harris on "How the Town needs the Country, and the Country needs the Town," and Mr. Rowland Rich on "The Making of Character." Resolutions were passed that the county quota remain at the present rate for 1928; that Institutes with less than 30 members should only

contribute 25/- a year ; that the fares of a delegate from each W.I. attending Council Meetings should be refunded out of county funds ; and that the Institutes would consider what could be done for girls between the ages of 14 and 18 who are not already members of an Institute.

Leadership and Opportunity Schools were held at two centres, and the students much enjoyed Miss Simpson's talks. 84 County Council classes were applied for this winter, and with few exceptions they have proved the greatest success. 300 copies of the "County Handbook" were issued.

Mrs. Beadle has been appointed Hon. Literature Secretary, and the sales of literature have increased tremendously.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. The Poultry Competition showed an increase in the number of entries and the quality of the birds shown. The judge was lent by the Cumberland County Council, and Lord Daryngton presented the Challenge Cup which was won by Mrs. Reed, of Frosterley. A ten weeks' course in Poultry and Rabbit-keeping was offered free at the Quarry Hill Poultry Farm, but only one student wished to take the course.

DRAMA AND MUSIC. The first Drama Festival was held in July. 17 teams took part and the adjudicator was Miss Gwen Lally. West Auckland won three first-class certificates.

HANDICRAFTS. The Biennial Exhibition was held in July, 700 exhibits were sent in and Heighington won the Shield for the third time in succession. Special prizes were also given for the member who gained the most certificates, and for the best exhibits on the Guild of Learners Stall and the Children's Stall.

Miss Armes, from headquarters, who opened the Exhibition, specially commended the beautiful work in the co-operative room. Four members attended an Advanced School for Linen Embroidery at Ripon. About 100 members attended a Handicraft Council Meeting, when Quilters were specially invited. The Quilting industry has been developed, and work has been sent to about 40 members. Twelve members attended a Raffia School in June. A "Methods of Teaching" School was held at Haughton-le-Skerne in October.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Numberless special efforts were made for the local hospitals. Shincliffe, a small W.I., collected 1,500 eggs and Gainford contributed 2 stones of silver paper. Hylton undertakes the care of the village War Memorial.

Sedgefield, besides helping the hospitals, sent slippers to the N.S.P.C.C., dolls to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and eggs to other Institutions. Leamside helped St. Dunstan's, and New Brancepeth

formed a branch of the Nursing Association. Sherburn produced an operetta. Hurworth has a market stall and Gainford has a Christmas market for the sale of members' work. St. John's Chapel, numbering 58, take 23 "Home and Country" magazines, which are shared by 42 members. Haughton and Esh Winning believe in organisation, and each have six sub-committees, so that the work is divided.

The "Survey" has been widely studied and Brancepeth specially studied the Hampshire scheme. Croft has displayed the "Save the Countryside" posters, and Bishop Middleham ascertained that the Rural District Council had passed a bye-law enforcing the use of a humane killer.

ESSEX (184).

Chairman : Mrs. F. S. Tabor, Everage, Bocking, Braintree.

Hon. Organising Secretary : Miss Dora Christy, Priors, Broomfield.

The Essex Federation consists of 184 Institutes, ten new W.I.s having been formed during the year. The Groups, which number seventeen, have held conferences in the Spring and Autumn. In the Spring Miss Nightingale gave most interesting talks on Health facilities and the autumn conferences took the form of Food and Produce Exhibitions.

Handicrafts play an important part with the majority of the Institutes. The Grant from the County Education Committee has been increased, which enables more Institutes to participate in classes. The County Exhibition was held at the Moot Hall, Colchester. The presence of Lady Denman, Chairman of the N.F.W.I., gave very great pleasure to all.

Forty-four choirs entered the Preliminary Choral Competition, twenty-two reaching the final. The finalists were judged by Mr. Armstrong Gibbs at Saffron Walden.

This year no preliminary Drama Competitions were held, but the companies were judged on consecutive days at Brentwood and Braintree, by Miss Gwen Lally. The new arrangement seemed to give universal satisfaction.

The Folk Dancing Competitions were held in most beautiful surroundings, and a larger number of teams entered than last year.

Thanks are due to the County Council for again making the Federation a grant which enables Institutes to hold courses of classes. The most prominent subjects being Dressmaking and Basketry.

Many W.I.s have worked hard in connection with the disposal of rubbish. Help has been given to hospitals, both in money and kind. The National Savings Association has had keen support, many Institutes investing large sums of money.

FLINT AND DENBIGH (38).

President: Mrs. Griffith, Plas Newydd, Trefnant, Denbighshire.

Hon. Secretary: Miss H. Williams-Wynn, Twining Hill, Overton Bridge, Wrexham.

ORGANISATION. Three new W.I.s were formed during the year, making a total of 38.

The first Council Meeting, held at Rhyl, in March, was attended by 80 members from 26 Institutes. An address was given by Mrs. Crowther, County Secretary, Cheshire Federation.

The second half-yearly meeting, held at Mold in October, was attended by 100 representatives from 29 W.I.s. The County President took the chair, and an address was given by Mr. Bevan-Evans, Director of Education for Flintshire, on "Rural Education."

A Group Meeting of 75 members, representing 10 W.I.s, was held at Mold in May, when an address was given by Miss Armes, on "Handicrafts in the Institutes."

The President, Secretary, V.C.O.s and 9 W.I. Delegates attended the N.F.W.I. Meetings in London.

HANDICRAFTS, AGRICULTURE AND GENERAL EDUCATION. The Annual Federation Competitive Meeting, held at Rhyl, showed decided improvement in the Handicrafts and Needlework sections. The essays were pronounced by Mr. Robertson Scott to be of a high average of ability, and a poster from Llanfair was of outstanding merit. The Challenge Cup was won by Nannerch W.I., with 94 first-class certificates from 224 exhibits. There were 1,043 entries, which showed an increase on former years.

The appeal for the "Gift Stall" realised £14 for County Funds.

The two hospitals were grateful for exhibits left in the food section, which were divided between them.

Flint and Denbigh and Carnarvonshire Federations sent beautiful exhibits to the Women's Institute Tent at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, which was supported financially by the other Welsh Counties. Donations amounting to £10 9s. 0d. were received towards the expenses of the tent. Demonstrations of

Mat-weaving, Rug-making, Cane and Raffia work were given during the three days. The exhibits and demonstrations aroused much interest and were instrumental in forming at least one new W.I. There was also a stall of publications from Headquarters. The "Rest Tent" proved a tremendous boon, to the members.

Three "Diamonds" for the Co-operative Quilt to be presented to H.M. the Queen, allotted to the Flint and Denbigh Federation, have been issued to Capel Garmon, Llanrhaidr and Rhydymwyn W.I.s.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Two W.I.s have started a League of Nations Union Branch; five have had Health and Home-Nursing addresses; two sent help for distressed miners' families; three sold poppies on Armistice day; one had a flag day for the National Blind Institution; one had a special meeting to discuss rural education, and the proposed changes in the N.F.W.I. Constitution. Most Institutes contribute to Parish Nursing Associations, and several organise garden shows.

GLAMORGAN (15).

President: Mrs. Fletcher, Margam Castle, Port Talbot, Glam.

Chairman: Miss Simons, Robins' Rest, Port Eynon, nr. Swansea.

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

ORGANISATION. Two new Institutes have been formed during the year.

V.C.O.s have visited each Institute, and have readily given help when required.

The Organisation Sub-Committee has been most active.

Two Council Meetings have been held. Miss Talbot, N.F.W.I. gave a most interesting address on "Propaganda in the Institutes" at the summer meeting; Miss Macausland, N.F.W.I., attended the Annual Meeting in November and explained the "Equalisation of Fares Scheme."

Four Group Meetings have been held during the year. On each occasion the meetings have been well attended. Miss Nightingale, N.F.W.I., spoke on "Health Education" at the Spring Meetings, and Miss Macausland took as her subject "Aims and Objects of the W.I. Movement," and at the Annual Meetings "Propaganda Work."

Delegates have attended the Annual General Meeting and the Welsh Conference at Shrewsbury. The County Secretary attended the Secretaries' Conference held at High Leigh, Hertfordshire.

HANDICRAFTS. The third Annual County Exhibit was shewn at the Gower Agricultural Show in September, and proved a great success. There were a large number of entries in the competitive classes.

The Co-operative Quilts, Rugs, Leather work, Furcraft and Needlework were of a high standard. Exhibits were also sent to the National Eisteddfod (W.I. Section), which was held in August at Treorchy.

COUNTY COUNCIL AID. The Agricultural Committee are always most ready in giving free lectures and demonstrations whenever required.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Community work is reported from most of the Institutes in the County. Contributions have been made to hospitals, nursing funds, and the N.S.P.C.C. Much is also being done for the relief of distress in the mining areas.

Amongst the varied activities are to be found demonstrations in the old-fashioned Quilting, lectures on Broadcasting to Institutes, Village Drama, The Ancient Music of Wales, also Community Singing.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE (128).

President : Her Grace the Dowager Duchess of Beaufort.

Chairman : Miss M. E. Miles, Kemble Lodge, Cirencester.

Secretary : Miss A. Harris, Community House, Gloucester.

ORGANISATION. Six new Institutes were formed during the year, making a total of 128, the membership of the Federation being approximately 7,814 (exclusive of new W.I.s). Seven V.C.O.s worked in the County during the year, and paid 92 visits to W.I.s and Groups. The Half-yearly Council Meeting was held at Cheltenham and information regarding telephone facilities in the county, obtained as a result of a roll-call, proved very valuable.

The Executive Committee has endeavoured to keep in touch with the wider aspects of the work by sending delegates to the following meetings organised by the N.F.W.I.:—the Annual Meeting, two Consultative Councils, Handicrafts and "Home and Country" Conferences, and County Secretaries' Conference. Representatives also attended Council Meetings of five neighbouring Federa-

tions. As a result of the increased circulation of "Home and Country," the county has been able to enter the N.F.W.I.'s subsidised Supplement scheme.

Thirteen Conferences on Duties of Officers and Programme Planning, were held during the winter, and a successful Residential School was organised for W.I. members at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 35 students being present, in addition to many daily visitors. The lectures, given by eminent speakers, included the following subjects, "Health," "The Younger Generation," "The Part that W.I. Members can take in Agriculture," "Ideal Citizenship," and "The Portable Mid-day Meal." Mrs. Huxley, Miss Simpson and Miss Armes spoke on Institute matters.

A Letter of Welcome has been adopted, and is issued free of charge to Institutes.

HANDICRAFTS. A Winter Handicraft Exhibition was held in Gloucester in May, and a Handicraft Tour among 19 W.I.s in the south of the County took place in June, the work exhibited at the latter being seen by 700 people. In co-operation with the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Federations, a stall was held at the Three Counties' Show at Hereford, and exhibits were also sent to the Royal Show at Nottingham. Members of the Guild of Learners have given 73 lessons and 39 demonstrations. A schedule for the Handicraft Exhibition to be held in 1929 was drawn up, and considered by a meeting of delegates.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. 23 W.I.s benefited by short courses of three lectures on poultry or gardening, given by the staff of the County Council and a W.I. lecturer. There was an increase in the entries at the Three Counties' Show. A Produce Exhibition is to be held at the same time as the Handicraft Exhibition in 1929, and a schedule has been prepared.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND DANCING. The Village Drama Society's School at Cheltenham in April was attended by 13 W.I. members. In May, 32 W.I. Choirs took part in the Women's Village Choir Day at the Countryside Music Competition; 25 first class certificates were gained, and Mr. Herbert Howells, the adjudicator, expressed pleasure at the standard attained. His offer to dedicate a unison song to the Federation has been gratefully accepted. A Conductor's Conference was held in September, when useful discussions took place, and helpful suggestions were given.

COUNTY COUNCIL AID. The grant given by the County Council has enabled 18 Institutes to have courses in domestic subjects, and two First Aid courses. Nine Institutes benefited by the lectures given by the British Red Cross Society and Dental Board.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER SOCIETIES. The Federation is represented on the Rural Community Council, and has direct representation on the Music, Drama and Rural Preservation Committees of that Organisation.

W.I. ACTIVITIES. Reports show that there is a noticeable increase in the number of Institutes which are doing some form of community work. Many Institutes act as the distributing agent for the boxes of books from the County Library. From answers received to a questionnaire in connection with work being done for girls between 14 and 18, it appears that most Institutes admit members at 16 years of age, although many admit them at 14. The total number of W.I. members under 18 does, however, appear to be small.

HAMPSHIRE (168).

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

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

Hon. Secretary: The Lady Rosemary Portal, 57A, High Street, Winchester.

ORGANISATION. Hampshire has 168 Women's Institutes. Two new ones were formed in 1928.

The County Federation was very proud that the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Miss Chamberlain, was co-opted on to the National Federation Executive Committee.

During the year two Schools for Presidents of Women's Institutes were held in Southampton and Petersfield.

The County Federation sent delegates to all the Consultative Councils, to the Health Conference arranged by the National Federation and had the pleasure of accepting several invitations for representatives to attend adjacent County Federation Meetings.

The Voluntary County Organisers have been most zealous in visiting each month a number of Institutes. Programmes continue to show a very marked improvement, most Institutes now appointing Sub-Committees to work up the special activities they are constantly taking up. In order to maintain the closest possible co-operation between the County organisation and the Institutes, six Presidents are invited each month to attend the meeting of the Organisation Sub-Committee.

Hampshire sent an Organiser to the Advanced School on "The Countryside," and has two new candidates who hope to attend the next possible School for training new Voluntary County Organisers.

AGRICULTURE. The County Federation this year has paid special attention to the Agricultural side of the movement, especially to the increasing of production and conservation of Home Produce. A special Produce Sub-Committee has been established by the Executive Committee, and a most inspiring address was given by Mrs. Huxley at the Council Meeting in November on the Economic Conditions of Farming. Following this, a Conference on Home Produce was held in Winchester in December, representatives from the Farmers' Union attending by invitation and the gathering being addressed by speakers from the Ministry of Agriculture. The Produce Sub-Committee are hoping to arrange a County Exhibition of Produce from Women's Institutes in Winchester in the early autumn of 1929.

HANDICRAFTS. A County Exhibition of Handicrafts was held in the summer in Winchester, and revealed some wonderful work among the large number of entries. Miss Armes visited the Exhibition from the National Federation, and brought down the Loan Collection. Demonstrations in several crafts were given by workers, and the various judges commented on the high standard of the work.

Two Handicraft Schools have been held in Winchester—one in Toy-making and one in Embroidery.

A Sale of Members Work was held just before Christmas at the County Federation Office.

DRAMA. A County Drama Competition was held at the same time as the Exhibition in Handicrafts. Eliminating trials had previously been held in four centres in the County, and the sixteen teams gaining highest marks competed in Winchester. The scenes were all from Shakespeare and a very high standard was reached. It is hoped to arrange another Drama Competition in the early summer in 1929.

The Federation arranged also a Producers' School, which was well attended.

Future arrangements already made besides those mentioned include a Tent for display of Handicrafts and Produce at the Royal Counties' Agricultural Show, held in Southampton and a show of Handicrafts at the Old English Fair organised by the Rural Community Council, to be held in July 1929. Active work among the Institutes has been begun for some time for these various undertakings.

HEREFORDSHIRE (72).

Chairman : The Hon. Mrs. E. M. Dunne, Gatley Park, Kingsland, Herefordshire.

Hon. Treasurer : Mrs. Ord Capper, The Northgate, St. Weonards, Herefordshire.

Secretary : Miss B. Lilley, Canon's House, Hereford.

ORGANISATION. Since the last report, six new Institutes have been formed in the County, bringing the number of Institutes up to 72, with a membership of approximately 3,500. One Institute on the border has been transferred to the Shropshire Federation.

The year 1928 has brought great sorrow to the Federation in the death of one of its original members, and most enthusiastic workers, Mrs. Leather. Until the beginning of 1928, Mrs. Leather had been a member of the Executive Committee since 1919. While the Federation mourns her loss, it may well feel proud that she was one of its members, and may continue to benefit by her wisdom as the years go on.

One V.C.O., Mrs. Tinsley, has resigned, much to the regret of the Federation. She will still, however, continue to give lectures. A new V.C.O., Mrs. Warden, has been appointed.

Delegates from the County have attended a Consultative Council in London, the Half-yearly and Annual Councils of the Gloucestershire Federation, the Half-yearly and Annual Councils of the Worcestershire Federation, the Annual General Meeting of the N.F.W.I. and the Health Conference arranged by the N.F.W.I. in November. The Half-yearly Council of the Federation was held in March, at which the Hampshire Scheme for the re-constitution of the N.F.W.I. was discussed. Lady Denman spoke against it and Miss Chamberlain in its favour.

As a result of a Programme Competition Mansel Lacy W.I. won the banner presented (for the year) for the best six months' programme, and Avenbury that for the best twelve months' programme.

DRAMA. A most successful Masque of Modes and Manners was acted at the Kemble Theatre, Hereford in April, all the Groups in the Federation taking part. After paying the expenses, which were heavy, the Federation has a sum in hand of £123 4s. 10d.

HANDICRAFTS. The Three Counties' Agricultural Show was held this year at Hereford, and the Federation ran a W.I. Tent in conjunction with the Worcestershire and Gloucestershire Federations. The Annual Christmas Sale of members' work was held in the Town Hall, Hereford, in November.

AGRICULTURE. Certificates have been obtained by members of many different Institutes in Poultry and Dairy work, Fruit Bottling, etc., in which work a keen interest is displayed.

"HOME AND COUNTRY." At the beginning of 1928, it was decided to accept the offer of the N.F.W.I. to print a two page Supplement to "Home and Country," at a cost of £12 per annum. This has proved quite successful, and the Supplement accounts show a balance in hand at the end of the year. The Federation are, however, very anxious to make the Supplement more attractive by reducing (if not eliminating) the advertisements. The only way in which this can be accomplished is by increasing the number of copies sold, and so reduce the cost of the printing at Headquarters. The Federation has appealed to every member to take a copy of "Home and Country," monthly.

COUNTY COUNCIL HELP. The Education Committee of the County Council is again giving courses in Cookery and Needlework to the Institutes, which are very much appreciated. They also supply lecturers in Poultry and Dairy Work, and in Horticultural subjects.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. The work of the Institutes has gone steadily forward during 1928. Egg Collections have been made, and part of the proceeds of very many fêtes, etc., sent to the different hospitals in the County. In many villages the District Nurse is mainly supported by the Institute. One Institute sent a parishioner to the West of England Rest Home at Weston-super-Mare for a change. Some Institutes run clothing and boot clubs in their districts. Village Halls are springing up in every direction, in most cases as a result of the efforts of the local W.I. National Savings Associations have also been started in many Institutes.

HERTFORDSHIRE (93).

President : The Lady Hunsdon, Briggens, Ware.

Chairman : Mrs. E. Martin Smith, Codicote Lodge, Welwyn.

Secretary : Miss Collingwood, Codicote, Welwyn.

ORGANISATION. During the year seven new Institutes have been formed, and one has closed down. The Executive Committee has been helped in its work by the following Sub-Committees : Organisation, Finance, Agriculture, Drama, Handicrafts and Music.

Representatives from the Hertfordshire Executive Committee have attended all meetings of the Consultative Council. Thirty-nine delegates attended the Annual General Meeting in London, and the resolution proposed by the Hertfordshire Executive Committee was passed at the meeting.

The Spring Council Meeting was held in Hitchin, and was attended by delegates from 70 Institutes. Institute difficulties were discussed, and in the afternoon Miss Chamberlain, the Chairman of the Hampshire Federation spoke for, and Mrs. Alfred Watt, member of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee, spoke against the scheme for the alteration of the National Federation Constitution, as proposed by the Hampshire Federation. A short musical programme was given by Miss Hay's trio.

The record number of 73 delegates attended the Annual Meeting at St. Alban's in October. Lady Denman spoke on "The Practical Education of Women for Rural Life."

At the Spring Group Meetings, Miss Watkins spoke on National Health Insurance.

Group Leaders have been asked to meet the officers of the Executive and Organisation Committees twice during the year when Group matters have been discussed. Meetings of Group Leaders with the Presidents and Secretaries of the Institutes in the group have also proved of great value.

The six V.C.O.s have paid 112 visits to the Institutes. Each Institute has been offered one free visit from a member of the Executive Committee, or a V.C.O., and many such visits have been arranged. Mrs. Martin Smith and Lady Acland have now qualified as V.C.O.s. Mrs. Martin, who has worked in the County since March 1923, has gone to Surrey. Her loss will be a very real one to the County.

ACTION TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT COUNCIL MEETINGS. The Institute members in villages where there are no easy transport facilities to clinics for children requiring dental treatment, have been urged to start schemes of practical help.

The Rural Community Council has conducted an experimental collection of tins in the Ashwell district. The tins collected were sold, but the profit did not cover the cost of collection. An offer was received from a local firm to clear away dumps of tins only, free of charge, if a sufficient number of these could be guaranteed in any district.

All Institute Secretaries have been sent copies of a specimen letter urging local councils to adopt the Ministry of Health's by-law enforcing the use of the humane killer.

Notification of the existing facilities for telephones in rural areas was sent to W.I. Secretaries, and the Executive Committee wrote to the Members of Parliament for Hertfordshire asking them to be present in the House when a discussion on rural telephones took place.

The chairman attended a meeting organised by the Watford branch of the National Council of Women, to consider the subject of Women Police, and also formed one of a deputation to the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire. The activities have resulted in the addition of two policewomen to the force in this County.

FINANCE. For the fourth year in succession the County has been able to send its full contribution to National Federation Funds. The Hon. Treasurer arranged three meetings to discuss County Finance with W.I. Presidents and Treasurers.

AGRICULTURE. This is the second year that a Sub-Committee for Agriculture has been formed. Institute members have been encouraged to visit the County Agricultural College near St. Albans, and to take a more active interest in the Hatfield and other Shows, and the women's side of agricultural work.

DRAMA. Four companies entered for the N.F.W.I. Drama Festival from the County. The three short plays were judged by Miss Lally. Widford W.I. acted "Everybody's Husband," and was chosen as one of the reserves; Bovingdon W.I. acted the whole of "Twelfth Night." This was played in Bovingdon and judged by Mrs. Gibson. Twelve W.I.s entered for the Drama Competition held at Hatfield in November. Miss Lally was the judge. Widford gained the cup, and Codicote the challenge Picture. All the Institutes competing gained certificates of merit.

HANDICRAFTS. This Committee has been busy with the preliminary arrangements for the County Exhibition which is to be held in Hertford in May 1929. Institutes have been encouraged to arrange handicraft classes, in addition to their regular monthly meetings.

MUSIC. The Musical Festival was held in April, and 25 Institute Choirs competed on the W.I. day. There was one entry for a mixed voice choir. The cup was won by Wigginton W.I. Much Hadham won both the banner, for gaining the second highest marks, and the baton given by Mrs. Leslie to the best choir conducted by one of its own members. Sixteen choirs gained certificates. Dr. Stanley Marchant acted as adjudicator.

A School for Conductors, taken by Miss Nettleship, was held at Hatfield in December.

COUNTY COUNCIL HELP. The County Council have paid grants towards the expenses of lectures of an educational value and the staff of Oaklands Agricultural Training College have given free lectures on horticultural and agricultural subjects. The Education Authorities have allowed the Executive Committee

the use of a room for meetings and Institutes have had the use of school rooms at reduced charges.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Programmes have shown a wide variety of interests and reports have emphasised the fact that Institutes have become more and more an integral part of village life.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE (34).

President and Chairman: Mrs. Garrod, Alconbury Hill, Huntingdon.

Secretary: Mrs. Turk, Buckden, Huntingdon.

ORGANISATION. During 1928 two Institutes were suspended but one has re-opened, and is now working with new life and enthusiasm.

Three Council Meetings have been held. At the Annual Meeting in January, Miss Gaskell spoke from the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee point of view on the Hampshire Scheme for the revision of the Constitution. At the Spring Council, Miss Armes gave a most interesting and instructive talk on Handicrafts, and Mrs. Trounson of the "Health and Cleanliness Council" spoke on "Woman the Health Maker." At the Autumn Council a talk was given by Miss Nicholls on "The Nation's Mothers," and an hour's Community Singing, conducted by a local expert, was enjoyed. The attendance at all the Council Meetings was remarkably good.

A new V.C.O., Mrs. Goodchild, has been appointed.

Group Meetings at eight centres were held in the Spring and Autumn. Major Bavin toured the Groups in the Spring, and since then Community Singing has become a special feature in almost every Institute. Miss Blythe gave "Folk Song Recitals" at the Autumn Groups.

A Programme Competition was again held and it was noted with satisfaction that more entries were received than in the previous year.

HANDICRAFTS. A stall of County Exhibits was arranged at Burghley House, Stamford, in connection with an Exhibition of Arts and Crafts.

A Women's Section Tent was again arranged by the Hunts Federation at the County Agricultural Show. The Handicrafts shown were the work of W.I. members, but the produce (Competitive) Section was open to all women.

Central Classes have been held for Glove making and Cane Basket making, while many Institutes have had classes for Rush work.

Exhibits of Rush Work and a Mat made from waste binder twine, were sent to the Royal Show at Nottingham.

COUNTY COUNCIL AID. Increasing use is made of the services of the County Horticultural Adviser whose lectures are free to the Institutes. The County Agricultural (Education) Committee allow a grant of up to £40 to be used for the fees and travelling expenses of lecturers on special agricultural subjects and rush-work.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES. The greatest effort of the year was a Gipsy Fête held in connection with the Combined Show of the Fur and Feather, Horticulture and Beekeepers' Associations when all Institutes worked for Federation funds. Institutes continue to work for the establishment of Public Telephones. The hospitals and Wyton Sanatorium are well supplied with money and kind from the Institutes. One Institute is working very hard to provide a Hall, not only for its own use but for the public. Many tea parties to children and old age pensioners have been given. Folk dancing in the Institutes is gaining interest. Reports from the Institutes show that lectures and demonstrations of a very varied nature have been enjoyed.

ISLE OF ELY (34).

President: Mrs. G. W. Sharman, "Hendford," March.

Chairman: Mrs. Glenfield Martin, Littleport, Ely.

Secretary: Miss B. E. Shepperson, Benwick, March.

ORGANISATION. Four new Institutes have been formed during the year. The Voluntary County Organisers have been in great demand with the new W.I.s, and have also helped others over difficult times. The membership in the County has considerably increased. There are now 2,670 members (equal to 1 in every 10 women in the Isle).

Three Council Meetings have been held, one at Ely in May when Canon Addleshaw gave a talk on the Drama Scenes Chosen for Competition. The second Council was held at Wisbech in September, at which Miss Pratt spoke on the Report on "The Practical Education of Women for Rural Life." At the Annual Council, held at March in January, Mrs. Gervas Huxley gave an address on "Work of the W.I.s in relation to the Health Services of the Country."

Two series of Group Meetings have been held. In the Spring, owing to the illness of Mrs. Watt, who was to have spoken at each Group, separate speakers attended each meeting; Miss Warrington at Ely on "The W.I. Movement"; Mrs. Pemberton at Wisbech,

on "How to be a good W.I. Member"; Miss Nicholls at Stretham, on "Russia"; and Dr. Mackintosh at March on "Woman the Health Maker." In the Autumn Miss Simpson addressed all Groups on "Work of the W.I."

COUNTY ACTIVITIES. A Handicraft Tent was arranged at the County Agricultural Show, which proved a great success. The Annual County Fête at Wisbech was an unprecedented success. Every W.I. in the County chartered a 'Bus to convey members to this popular Fête. For the first time two separate tents were necessary for the Handicraft and Produce exhibitions. The Choir, Drama, and Folk-Dancing Competitions, as usual, attracted many spectators.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. All Institutes have had a busy year, and there has been an increase in Community Work. Many have given old folks teas, some have given coal to old age Pensioners, others have helped Dr. Barnardo's Home, and the National Institute for the Blind. Local Nursing Associations have also been assisted. Two Institutes have given invalid chairs to their village, one has given a hand bier which was much needed, and one has given an ambulance hamper.

ISLE OF WIGHT (21).

President and Chairman: Laura Lady Simeon, Swainston, Isle of Wight.

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

ORGANISATION. One new Institute has been formed making a total now of 21. The many applications from the Institutes for speakers on educational subjects, mostly history and travel, gives great encouragement.

The Annual General Meeting of the N.F.W.I. was attended by 21 delegates out of a possible 24. A special meeting was convened for all Officers of the Institutes to meet the Executive Committee in Conference to consider and discuss the ballot papers for the election of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee and the Agenda for the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting. Four Council Meetings have been held, all of which were well attended. Subjects of much interest have appeared on the Agendas and have been discussed with great keenness. Several of the resolutions passed have been put into practice. The County Executive Committee hopes that Domestic Science instruction in all its branches, may soon be within the reach of all the Institutes.

A Class for W.I. Treasurers was arranged, three lessons being given by a chartered accountant. The Course was full of interest and great practical value.

"HOME AND COUNTRY" SUPPLEMENT. This venture is still a great success, and is of great interest to members.

EXHIBITIONS. Two Exhibitions were held during the year; Arts and Crafts, in May, and Horticulture and Food Production at the end of September. This was the first food exhibition, there being over one thousand entries.

MUSIC AND DANCING. The Folk Dance Central Class at Newport is still doing excellent work. Eleven teams entered for a competition in Folk Dancing at the Isle of Wight Musical Competitions Festival. Carisbrooke for the fourth time carried off the Silver Challenge Cup. A silver challenge cup for Glee Singing, and medals and certificates for other entries were also won by the Institutes.

COUNTY COUNCIL HELP. The County Medical Officer and his colleagues continue to render valuable service in giving talks at the Institutes on Food Values, Hygiene, Care of the Teeth, etc., The judging, too, in the competition "Best School Lunch for Children," has proved both helpful and interesting. The Dairying School has again visited the Island and was taken advantage of by the members.

COMMUNITY WORK. The united efforts of all members and their splendid co-operation on behalf of Pound Day for the County Hospital resulted in a well filled store-room, 1,983½ pounds in weight were collected in provisions, as well as nearly £100 in cash.

The All-Island Baby Show was again a great success, over two hundred entries being made, four silver cups being competed for. The Show was a record for high standard of healthy and beautiful babies.

The Women's Institutes in touch with W.I.s across the seas are delighted with the interesting letters received. Handicraft specimens also are being exchanged.

EAST KENT (77).

Chairman: Mrs. Bradford, Burstled Manor, Upper Hardres, nr. Canterbury.

Secretary: Miss Alderson, Federation Office, 8, High Street, Canterbury.

ORGANISATION.—Seven Institutes have been formed during the year. Two Council Meetings have been held. At the first of these, Mrs. Alfred Lampson spoke on and conducted Community

Singing : at the second Miss Ferguson told of the working of the National Federation. In March, Mrs. Gervas Huxley explained the pros. and cons. of the Hampshire Scheme to a meeting convened for the purpose. Mrs. Sidebottom, who was to have spoken for the Scheme, was ill and unable to do so. Schools for Officers were held in Ashford, Sittingbourne and Canterbury, by Mrs. Nugent Harris and Miss Hurst Simpson. Two new V.C.O.s have been appointed. This year will stand out in the annals of the Federation as in it the Market Stall was started, the first East Kent Supplement to "Home and Country" was printed, the County Office was opened, and the first Produce Exhibition was held.

Group Meetings are much enjoyed. Mrs. Clowes and speakers from the Protection of Birds Society addressed many of the Spring Meetings.

AGRICULTURE. The new venture, the Market Stall at Ashford, was opened on February 7th, 1928. It has succeeded beyond all expectations, and in eleven months the gross takings have reached the sum of £1,310 17s. 0½d. The work has been carried on by voluntary helpers except for a salaried accountant and the solid wooden hut has had to be doubled in size. The capital expenditure has been paid out of the 1d. in 1s. commission taken. A new department for hot drinks has already paid off its initial cost, and shows profit; a balance of some £25, equalling the loan from the E.K.F.W.I., is kept at the bank for emergencies.

There were more than 500 entries for the Garden Competition and some very good gardens. The bulbs presented to the Federation by the National Gardens Guild for one village, were given to Eythorne with Elvington, as a district prize.

HANDICRAFTS. The Kent Education Committee has provided Centre Classes in Gloving, both at Canterbury and Ashford, and a Home Jobbing Course in Ashford, besides the usual courses given in the villages, twenty of which have been given during the year. Mrs. Clifton gave a week's intensive course of Linen Embroidery in Canterbury. Two Guild of Learners members have passed the "A" Test, and one the "B" Test. An experimental and successful Sale of Christmas presents, made by members, was held at the County Office.

MUSIC AND DANCING. The Choral Competition was held in Dover. Mrs. Rigg from Sussex was the adjudicator. Ten Choirs entered, four of these being new ones. Courses of Classes have also been arranged; eight have been held in Folk Dancing, and one in Choral Singing.

COMMUNITY WORK. A Folk Dance Party was arranged in May, in connection with the Dover Shopping Week. In June a

procession of Agricultural Workers of the Past went to Maidstone, and took part in the Fête organised by the Kent Rural Community Council. A great number of Institutes have sent eggs, fruit, flowers, groceries, linen, etc., to the local hospitals, and several have had potato-growing competitions, and sent the proceeds to the hospitals. Many help with the collections for Rose Day, Earl Haig's Fund, St. Dunstan's and the National Institute for the Blind. Teas are provided for flower shows, fêtes, etc., and entertainments arranged for the children and old people. One Institute runs a Child Welfare Centre; another provided a village dustcart; a third supplied the contents of a Red Cross Cupboard; another is putting down, planting with roses, and maintaining two paths leading to the Church as a living War Memorial; a Junior Group had a doll dressing competition for members' children. The dolls have been sent to Ashford Hospital, and to the Waifs and Strays.

WEST KENT (104).

Chairman : Mrs. Johnson, Northgate, Maidstone.

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

ORGANISATION. Three new W.I.s have been formed during the year. Two Council Meetings have been held. The Annual Meeting was attended by nearly 400 members.

The County Federation has sent delegates to all the N.F.W.I. Meetings, and to meetings of neighbouring Federations. The Federation is represented on several of the Kent County Council Sub-Committees, the Kent Rural Community Council, and the Maidstone Division of the Girl Guides' Association.

Acting on a recommendation received from a District Conference, a School for W.I. Officers was arranged, which proved most popular and helpful.

The County Supplement is proving a successful venture. In May the price was reduced to 1d. which resulted in a large increase in circulation, while in December the size was increased to 12 pages, in order to allow full space to be given to W.I. reports.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. The big activities for the year were the Drama Competition and Festival, and the Flower Show. Plays and pageants were judged in the various villages by Miss Edith Craig, the two winning plays being performed at the Festival. The Flower Show was held on the same day, and was well supported.

We were very proud that the Scenes from "Julius Caesar" produced by members of the Holmesdale District were selected to be performed at the N.F.W.I. Drama Festival.

Thirty-eight W.I.s entered for the W.I. Community Singing Competition. Miss Nettleship, the adjudicator, was greatly pleased with the "community feeling" she found in the singing.

HANDICRAFTS. Specimens of craft work were accepted for the N.F.W.I. exhibit at the Royal Show; the Federation also arranged an exhibit of representative craft work at the Tunbridge Wells and South Eastern Counties' Agricultural Show. A School of Embroidery was held in the Spring, which was attended by four students from West Kent, three from East Kent, one from Bedfordshire, and one from East Sussex. We are indebted to the Kent Education Committee for 69 courses of lessons in craft work, home nursing and folk dancing.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. A three days' School of Agriculture was held in the spring. Cookery tests for teachers have also been held; Four groups of W.I.s held District Garden Competitions during the summer.

COMMUNITY WORK. Institutes are taking a growing interest in the welfare of girls of school-leaving age, and are co-operating with Girl Guides in many ways. Farningham held an open meeting with a talk on the work of the Guides, which resulted in the formation of a Company in the village. Westerham has built a room attached to the W.I. Hall, for the use of Guides. One Institute has 11 Guides and Rangers among its members. Institute members seem to be invariably ready to help with village activities. They arrange teas for village sports or flower shows, sell at the travelling shop of the National Institute for the Blind, organise the Rose days for the village and sew, collect eggs and produce, or arrange special money-raising efforts for the local hospitals. Some Institutes have started Infant Welfare Centres; one has applied for, and obtained a public telephone box; another has bought an invalid chair, which can be hired on payment of 1d. an hour. One W.I. has started a link with an Indian W.I., and has organised both a Flower Show and a Cookery Exhibition for the village and neighbourhood.

KESTEVEN (40).

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

Secretary: Miss A. W. Stewart, 20, New Street, Sleaford.

ORGANISATION. One new Institute has been formed during the year, bringing the number up to 40, and 3 in Holland are also

affiliated to Kesteven. The total membership is approximately 2,109, an increase of 146.

The County Federation has sent Delegates to the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting, to the Consultative Council in October, and to the "Health" Conference. Many Institutes sent delegates to the Annual Meeting.

Council Meetings were held at Sleaford in April, and at Grantham in October. At the Spring Meeting, Mr. Shillaker gave an address on "Tennyson," and at the October Meeting Mrs. Nugent Harris gave an interesting address on "The Ideal W.I." The attendance at both Council Meetings was very satisfactory.

The County Rally and Fête was held at Stoke Rochford on June 21st, by the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Turnor. Mr. Turnor very kindly opened the Fête. Twenty Institutes gave their active support, and £32 was realised.

Miss Talbot visited the County in February, and conducted 6 Group Meetings.

The following Lecturers and Demonstrators visited the County during the year, and toured among the Institutes. Mrs. Smith, "Herbs and their Uses"; Mrs. Greensted, "Soft, Toys, Tinkering and Eiderdowns"; Miss Grantham, (Reciter); Miss Fitz Randolph, (Lecturer); Miss Watkins, V.C.O.; and Dr. MacIntosh, Health, and Cleanliness Council Speaker.

The County was one of those chosen for inclusion in the "Health Survey." Miss Warrington made the survey, being accompanied at the various interviews arranged by officers of the County Federation.

Health Lectures were given in conjunction with the British Red Cross to four W.I.s for seven consecutive weeks.

COMMUNITY WORK. One W.I. runs a Clothing Club. Another has built a Hall for the village. A large number have given practical support to their own parish funds, to the Hospitals, Nursing Associations, Poppy Day and Red Cross Days, and to the Blind Associations. One Institute has bought a bath chair, and other sick nursing appliances and lets these out at a nominal charge. The majority of Institutes have assisted in raising funds for the "Restoration of Lincoln Cathedral."

COUNTY COUNCIL HELP. The County Council have again kindly given a grant of money, which has been apportioned among various Institutes and helped towards classes for Dressmaking, etc.

LANCASHIRE (51).

Chairman : Mrs. Assheton, Downham Hall, Clitheroe.

Secretary : Mrs. Danson, School House, Broughton, Preston.

ORGANISATION. Greater interest and enthusiasm have been evident in the Institutes during the past year. Three new Institutes have been formed, bringing the total to 51, with a membership of 3,733, an increase of nearly 500. V.C.O.s have paid 96 visits, and members of sub-committees have attended Institute meetings as lecturers or as visitors. The County Federation sent delegates to the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting and Consultative Councils, and 29 Institutes were represented at the Annual Meeting.

Two schools for W.I. Officers were held early in the year, when 138 officers took advantage of the opportunity to discuss their difficulties and compare methods of dealing with Institute work.

Group Meetings were held in April, at which addresses were given by the medical staff of the County Health Department on "What the County Council does for Children," a subject which proved to be of great interest to many members.

The great event of the year has been an Old English Fayre, held at Preston in October, to augment the County Federation funds. The event was a decided success, not only in adding nearly £1,000 to the funds, but in stimulating a spirit of friendliness and co-operation in the Institutes.

COUNTY COUNCIL HELP. The free lectures and demonstrations offered to the Institutes by the County Federation and the County Council jointly have again been very popular. Each Institute may have three lectures or demonstrations in different subjects, and the fact that this year every Institute in the County has applied for them proves that the offer is appreciated. Three quarters of the cost up to £100 has again been paid by the County Council, the remainder by the County Federation. Institutes desiring them may also have courses of instruction in various subjects, and lectures on Agriculture and Horticulture, the County Council undertaking full financial responsibility. The use of the County Hall and Committee Room for meetings is much appreciated.

HANDICRAFTS. A very successful Handicraft and Produce Exhibition was organised by the Garstang Group; there were many entries and some beautiful work was shown. As a result a sum of £22 was added to Federation Funds. A competition for "Some-

thing new from Something Old" attracted a large number of entries, the work being of a high standard and shewing great ingenuity.

MUSIC. The second Singing Competition was held in April, 14 Choirs competing. A Conductor's School in September was very helpful. A tour of the Village and Country Town Concert Party was arranged, 11 evening and 8 afternoon concerts being given.

AGRICULTURE. A scale of points for judging at local shows has been drawn up with the help of the County Agricultural Committee, in the hope of securing a more uniform standard of judging.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. One Institute gained second prize at the London Dairy Show for a co-operative exhibit of bottled fruits, vegetables, jams, etc., and an Institute member won the Championship Cup for Lancashire Cheese at the Preston Cheese Fair.

Many Institutes report assistance to hospitals, local nursing associations, charitable institutions, and miners' distress funds.

Others have organised exhibitions of handicrafts, while one has provided seats for three villages, and another inaugurated a library, and provided a community lawn mower.

All report activities in connection with the Old English Fayre.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND (93).

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

Chairman : Mrs. J. C. Munro, The Homestead, Thrussington.

Secretary : Miss M. S. Halliday, 7, New Walk, Leicester.

The outstanding event of the year was the Birthday Party of the County Federation, held in June, to celebrate its tenth anniversary and attended by over 1,800 members. Competitions for bowls of hardy garden flowers, bouquets of wild flowers, and roses made a beautiful decoration for the hall. Folk dancing, a choral concert, plays, and the Band of the 4th Batt. Leicestershire Regt., combined to make the day a wholly successful one. The profit of £24 was earmarked for furniture to make our new offices a happy place for work.

ORGANISATION. Four new Institutes have been formed in Leicestershire; the total number now being 77 in Leicestershire and 16 in Rutland, and the membership approximately 4,700. All of the Institutes have been visited during the year by members of the Executive Committee, and 60 visits were paid by V.C.O.s.

Two Schools for Speakers, conducted by Lady Balfour, and one School for Leatherwork, conducted by Mrs. Brittain Riley, were a new development, and were keenly supported by members. A School for W.I. Officers and Committee members was most beneficial.

Forty-five delegates and three V.C.O.s attended the Annual Meeting in London. A visit from Miss Hirst Simpson (N.F.W.I. Organiser) to the September Executive Committee Meeting was much appreciated.

At the Spring Council Meeting, 62 Institutes were represented, and 74 Institutes sent delegates to the Annual Council. An address was given at the former by Mr. Christopher Turnor, a member of the Consultative Committee to the Board of Education, on Agriculture, and at the latter, Miss Pratt, from the Ministry of Agriculture, spoke on "The Practical Education of Women for Rural Life." Not only had the attendance increased, but it was observed that members spoke more freely.

Talks on Programme Planning were given by V.C.O.s at the 13 Spring Group Meetings. At the Autumn Group Meetings addresses on "Birds" were given by Miss Hirst Simpson, and Mr. Mayes, Leicester Museum, and on "Food in Relation to Health," by Mrs. Linsell, Rayne, and Miss Edwards, Good Housekeeping Institute.

A tour of lectures on Health from the British Red Cross Society was much enjoyed in addition to the usual lecture tours given by the Victoria League and many individual lecturers.

FINANCE. The annual balance sheet showed a sound financial position, and most Institutes have generously given the contribution for which they were asked.

HANDICRAFTS. The Exhibition held in November was even more successful than that of the previous year. Over 3,000 entries were received and many awards given. All judges remarked that the standard of work had improved. The N.F.W.I. Loan Collection proved a great attraction, and Miss Armes' presence was much appreciated. A successful tent was held at the Leicestershire Agricultural Society Show and was visited by the Duke and Duchess of York, who accepted for Princess Elizabeth a toy rabbit made by a member from Burrough-on-the-Hill W.I.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. The Farm and Garden Guild prospers, and we have joined with Worcestershire Federation in the publication of a Stud Register. A Poultry Competition was again organised for the best kept flock, and attracted 27 entries. Potato competitions were held by almost every Institute. Sixteen

flower shows were held by Institutes and some by groups. A very useful one-day School on Horticulture was conducted by the County Council horticultural expert. Forty members attended.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND FOLK DANCING. A successful tour was arranged for the Road Players, who visited twelve Institutes.

COUNTY COUNCIL AID. A grant of £50 from the Leicestershire County Council towards clerical assistance was again received and much appreciated. Twenty courses in Domestic Science subjects have been given by the Leicestershire County Council instructors, and many single lectures have been given by the County Agricultural and Horticultural experts. Lectures and demonstrations have been given by the Agricultural Department of the Rutland County Council, and the Council has given grants to Institutes having Domestic Science Courses, open to the whole village.

RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL. The Federation is much indebted to the Leicestershire Rural Community Council for the large number of lectures and short courses which they provide.

COMMUNITY WORK. Institutes have been generous in contributing money, eggs, potatoes, and garments to outside organisations. One Institute supplied slippers and hot cocoa to the school children during the winter months, another gave an invalid chair to the village, and a third provided a bier. A piano was given to the village by one W.I. and two wire baskets for litter by another. Some Institutes gave national savings cards containing five stamps to members' new babies, and several kept the village war memorial in good condition. Many tea parties to children and old age pensioners have been given.

Several Institutes have taken action on the Telephone Bill and have signed petitions to abolish the cruel steel trap for snaring rabbits. Requests have been made by the Federation for the appointment of more women magistrates and for the formation of a Vigilance Committee for the Preservation of the Countryside in our area.

LINDSEY. (67).

President and Chairman: Mrs. Amcotts, J.P., Kettlethorpe Hall, Lincoln.

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

ORGANISATION. Nine Institutes have been formed. One has closed down. Membership is now 3,043. Another V.C.O. has been appointed, and quarterly conferences of V.C.O.s have been held. Two Schools for Officers have also been arranged.

Fifty-three delegates attended the Annual Council, at which Professor Peers spoke on Education, Mr. Ramsden on Producing a Play, and Mrs. Wintringham on the N.F.W.I. Constitution. Lady Dorothy Meynell opened the Rally at Walmsgate.

At the autumn Members' Conferences the Federation welcomed Miss Macausland, and the loan collection of baskets was borrowed. Among the subjects discussed was the Preservation of the Countryside.

Badges were purchased for the 40 delegates who went to the London Meeting. Their tea party was honoured by the presence of Lady Denman and other members of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee and Staff.

Representatives have been sent to the Exhibition Conference, County Secretaries' Week-end, three Consultative Councils and the Health Conference.

The Federation is affiliated to the Rural Community Council, Drama League, and Forum Club.

AGRICULTURE. The President has been made a Governor of the Midland Dairy College; and the Federation is represented on Lindsey County Council Agricultural Sub-Committee. A Chick-Rearing Competition has been held, and a number of open lectures given by the County Council teachers in poultry keeping, cheese and butter-making and gardening. Uniform egg boxes were purchased for the County. Eggs and bottled fruit were sent to the Royal Show. The growing of willows has been the subject of experiment.

HEALTH. Many lantern lectures were arranged through the Rural Community Council. The Institutes have been studying food values. In October, Miss Warrington made a brief survey of the Health services. The Lincs. Agricultural Society was urged to provide better cloakroom accommodation at the Shows.

HANDICRAFTS.—Two members attended the school for training teachers; one has had lessons at the Dryad Works in willow basket making. A student was sent to the summer vacation domestic science course at Radbrook. The increasing demands of the Institutes enabled the Committee to secure from the County Council a reduction in the number of pupils for grant-earning courses, a promise of £400 in grants, and the appointment for next year of a domestic science teacher, who will be used during the winter for W.I. courses. The Committee received much help from Miss Armes' visit to the Exhibition Tent at the Lincs. Agricultural Show. The outstanding feature was the number and variety of the co-operative entries.

DRAMA AND MUSIC. Drama group meetings were held in the spring, and a singing festival at the Rally. The Road Players' tour proved immensely popular. Several classes in country dancing have been arranged by the Lincolnshire Folk Dance Society.

HOME AND COUNTRY. The half supplement subsidised by Headquarters has caused a considerable increase in circulation, and a keener interest in County affairs.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Donations have been sent to the Miners, Lincoln Cathedral, and many hospitals and charities. A wireless set has been lent to one lonely old lady, and a weekly sum has been set aside to maintain and provide someone to care for another. Renewals of clothes are given to a blind girl who is in training at the Midland Institute. Slippers have been made for school children. Funds have been raised for a new ambulance. A newspaper has been given for the year to a sanatorium. An Institute has secured a water supply for the village; another has persuaded the authorities to deal with the mosquito-infested swamps in its neighbourhood and a third has become a corporate associate of the League of Nations.

MERIONETH (22).

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

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

ORGANISATION. There are 22 Institutes in the County, one new one having been formed during the year.

Mrs. Clowes came to our Annual Meeting, which was held at Aberdovey in March, and Mrs. Watt attended our half-yearly Council Meeting held at Coleg Harlech in October.

Mrs. Morgan has again been appointed on the Executive Committee as the Welsh-speaking member. The County Secretary gave evidence on Rural Education in Wales before the Departmental Committee at Bangor.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND HANDICRAFTS. Our first Music and Drama Festival was held in April. It was a great success, and a Drama School at Coleg Harlech took place in October. In March an Embroidery School is to be held there, and the teacher will be Miss Joan Drew. Two members are busy with diamonds for the Queen's quilt.

HEALTH. The health services in Merioneth are well organised. Our Medical Officer of Health is very helpful to the Institutes, addressing them when asked. Also a speaker from the King

Edward VII. Memorial Association has been to several Institutes. We have also had a course of seven lectures in the county by Miss Fry, of the British Red Cross Society.

HELP FROM COUNTY COUNCIL. The Agricultural Organiser and his staff are always ready to help Institutes. The Federation still has a grant of £50. This help is much appreciated.

LECTURES. Lecture tours have been arranged for Miss Edwards of the Good Housekeeping Institute, on Cookery, and for Miss Plumer on The Menin Gate.

COMMUNITY WORK. Two Institutes have taken up the matter of a telephone for rural districts. Many have helped the Nursing Association, and some have undertaken the care of the War Memorial. Institutes generally have contributed to the Miners' Fund in money and in the sending of clothes to the distressed areas. They have organised Poppy Day in their districts, and sent contributions to the Cancer Campaign Fund for the County.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Institutes report classes in dairy work, poultry trussing, salad making, food values, dressmaking, cookery, soft toys, upholstery and leather work, papier mache and shell flowers. Lectures in Welsh have been given at most Institutes. Baby shows, flower and vegetable shows have also been held in many places.

MIDDLESEX (20).

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

Chairman: Mrs. Darlington, Park House, Potter's Bar.

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

ORGANISATION. The Executive Committee has been assisted by four Standing Sub-Committees: Finance, Organisation, Agriculture and Horticulture and Handicrafts. Drama and Music Sub-Committees have dealt with special work.

The March Council was held at the Middlesex Guildhall. Lady Denman, Chairman of the N.F.W.I., and Sir Benjamin Gott, Secretary of the Middlesex Education Committee were the speakers. The October Council was held at the Victoria and Albert Museum; Mrs. Holland Martin spoke on The Pooling of Fares, and Mr. Hudson, of the Selborne Society, on English Pictures. The Council was preceded by a lecture tour in the Museum.

All Institutes sent delegates to the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting; forty-five members altogether attended from the County.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. Seven Institutes had Flower and Vegetable Shows, four others staged exhibits at Village Shows. A Group Show was held by four Middlesex Institutes, and one from Hertfordshire, at which 451 exhibits from 107 exhibitors were staged. Two Institutes sent a collection of plants for gardens of Elementary Schools.

A Conference held in June was well attended—the main subjects discussed were the Maintenance of the Home Garden, W.I. Shows and Agricultural work, the Keeping of Angora Rabbits and Poultry Keeping and Trussing.

The County Agricultural and Poultry Instructors have served on the Sub-Committee and have lectured at Institutes and judged at Shows. Out-door pruning demonstrations have been arranged for groups of members.

The County Agricultural Education Committee staged an exhibit at a Council Meeting and at the Group Meetings.

The County Education Committee allows Institutes to buy, at moderate cost, surplus standard and bush fruit trees of good stock from the County Demonstration Station.

HANDICRAFTS. One member has passed her Guild of Learners' "A" Test in Knitting.

Group classes have been arranged in Toy making, Rug making and Embroidery. Two diamonds for the Queen's quilt are being worked by members who have passed the "A" Test for Embroidery. A Schedule for the 1929 Exhibition has been circulated.

DRAMA. Seven Institutes entered for the N.F.W.I. Drama Competition. The plays were judged by Mr. Geoffrey Whitworth.

MUSIC. Five Choirs entered for W.I. Classes at the London Musical Competition Festival.

COUNTY COUNCIL. The County Federation is well represented on the County Council and its various Sub-Committees.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. The smallest Institute in the County is saving money for a hut, and three Institutes give financial help to their Village Halls.

Half the Institutes have Helping Funds for their members, and nearly all help local and London hospitals and village nursing funds. Two institutes made soft toys and clothes for children's hospitals; another makes garments for waifs and strays. Help is also given to St. Dunstan's, Holloway Discharged Prisoners and Middlesex Association for the Blind. One Institute arranges and finances holidays for Hoxton children.

Special community work for the village includes an Infant Welfare Clinic, administered by the Institute, and a Village Gardens' Competition.

An Institute sent a resolution to the District Council and to the Society for the Preservation of Rural England, opposing a road-widening scheme and suggesting an alternative scheme which was adopted. Another made successful application for a "white line" at a dangerous corner, and for an improved rubbish collection.

DISTRESSED MINING AREAS. Two have called special meetings to consider what action shall be taken and at least one Institute has brought the question of the transference of a miner's family before its Rural District Council. Most Institutes have sent collections of clothes.

ACTION TAKEN ON N.F.W.I. ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS. Addresses on the subject of Women Police have been given in all Groups. Three Institutes sent Resolutions to their local M.P., and two to other authorities.

Two Institutes sent Resolutions with regard to Humane Slaughter to their Rural District Council.

The Executive Committee received reports from nearly all Institutes as to Telephone facilities in their villages. In July, at the request of the Committee, nearly all Institutes wrote to their M.P.s asking for support for a measure to get better conditions for Rural Districts.

Five Institutes are corporate associates of the League of Nations.

MONMOUTHSHIRE (39).

President: The Lady Treowen.

Chairman: Lady Mather-Jackson; St. Mary Hill, Abergavenny.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Edith Jackson, Lion St., Abergavenny.

ORGANISATION. Two new Institutes have been formed in 1928. Membership now numbers 1,284.

The Annual Meeting was held at St. Brides Institute. The members gave everyone a very hearty welcome, and the meeting place was a popular one.

Lady Mather-Jackson presided and Mrs. Ewan Rotherham, Chairman of the Warwickshire County Federation, gave an address on the W.I. movement. Mrs. Beverley Burton spoke on the choice of plays for the County Drama Competitions.

The half-yearly meeting was held at Usk. Mrs. Drage attended on behalf of the N.F.W.I. She explained the different schemes for the equalisation of fares, also the scheme which the National Executive had prepared for amending the Constitution.

Miss Cubitt who had acted as assistant secretary from the Annual Meeting until after the Exhibition in October was obliged to leave the County then to take up other work in London. Mrs. Molyneux has undertaken the editorship of the Supplement to "Home and Country," and Miss Brown has been appointed clerk at the County Headquarters.

FINANCE. Until this year the contributions to County Funds were raised by means of a County Whist Drive, but in accordance with a resolution passed at the half-yearly Council Meeting in 1927, a budget for 1928 to cover all expenses was circulated and each Institute asked to send a fixed quota. Contributions from 25 Institutes were received. To augment these contributions two prize draws were organised, and the County has for the first time been able to send its full quota to headquarters.

EXHIBITIONS. Handicraft exhibitions were arranged at the Abergavenny Agricultural Show, in connection with the Flower Show and Horticultural Society, and one was also arranged in conjunction with the Local Farmers' Union at the St. Mellon's Agricultural Show.

A small exhibition was also arranged in the Art Section of the National Eisteddfod, at Treorchy.

At the Biennial Exhibition the co-operative sections were very popular. Four groups out of the six in the County competed in the inter-group sections, and there were a good many entries in the inter-Institute sections. This co-operative work gave great pleasure both in the working and at the exhibition.

A Home Produce section was arranged at this exhibition, which proved very attractive, and there were two interesting demonstrations, one from Miss Ivatt, of Huntingdonshire, in rush basket making and one in upholstery from Miss Badmington.

HANDICRAFTS. Miss Armes met the Handicraft Sub-Committee in March, and made excellent suggestions which have been carried out, she spoke also at five Group meetings, and came again at the time of the exhibition, and gave useful lectures on the exhibits. In April Mrs. Kendall, of Chiddingfold, Surrey, held a very successful soft toy making class in Monmouth.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND DANCING. The annual competition was held on Shrove Tuesday in the Town Hall, Abergavenny. Five

Institutes competed. The banner for mixed teams was won by Llantilio Pertholey Institute, and that for women only by the St. Mellons Institute.

A very enjoyable School for Producers was held at Newport.

At the Folk Dancing Festival held also at Hereford, by the Herefordshire Branch of the English Folk Dance Society, the Women's Institute Challenge Shield was won by the Llantilio Crosseing Women's Institute for the second time.

LIBRARIES. Several W.I.s have become centres for the County Libraries, under the Carnegie Scheme. The Rest Room at Abergavenny is a centre, and has also a small permanent library.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Several village huts have been enlarged this year and one new one has been built. Institutes have helped in this work, and one has raised funds to put in an acetylene gas plant in the village hall. Six Institutes have made garments for the Cefu Mabley Sanatorium. Egg collections have been made for the Abergavenny, Hereford, Monmouth and Newport Hospitals by four W.I.s. Pound days for these hospitals have also been held. Contributions have been given to the Westminster Hospital Radium Fund, to wireless sets for poor people, to the Prince of Wales Fund for distressed Miners' Families, to rescue and preventive work, and to the County and local nursing associations.

COUNTY COUNCIL. An eight weeks' Course in Home Nursing was given at three Institutes, and an eight weeks' Course in Cookery at seven Institutes.

Demonstrators and Lecturers were sent from the County Agricultural Experimental Institution to 34 Institute monthly meetings, and parties of members from seven Institutes visited the Experimental Farm at the Rhyde, near Usk.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE (37).

Chairman : Mrs. Macpherson, The Forest, Kerry.

Secretary : Miss Riddell, Henley House, Middletown Hills.

ORGANISATION. During the year three new branches have been formed, bringing the membership up to 1,420. The Voluntary Organisers have given their services loyally.

The Annual Meeting, at which Mrs. Mary Morgan was the speaker, was held at Welshpool on June 28th. The Summer Council Meeting was held at Machynlleth, on June 6th, by invitation of the members. The speaker was Miss Edith Thomas, Criccieth.

Miss Hirst Simpson toured the County in February, and conducted Schools for W.I. Officers and Committee members, which were well attended and greatly appreciated.

Group Conferences were held in May and October. Miss Armes attended the Severn Group Meeting and spoke on the forthcoming N.F.W.I. Exhibition. Other speakers at these meetings were: Mrs. Louis Jones, B.A., Mrs. Richard Jones, B.A., Dr. Owen Morris (County Tuberculosis Officer), Mrs. Stapledon (Cardiganshire) and Mr. Owen Oakley (County Horticultural expert). Miss Noble, of the Selborne Society, visited the County in October, and gave addresses on "Empire Food."

Thirteen delegates attended the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting, and representatives have been sent to the Welsh Conference and to Cardiganshire and Shropshire meetings.

There were 11 entries in the W.I. Programme Competition for which Middletown won the prize given by Mrs. Lloyd Jones. Kerry was second and Four Crosses third.

HANDICRAFTS AND AGRICULTURE. The second Rest and Exhibition Tent was organised at the County Agricultural Show, held at Welshpool in September. The work of organisation was undertaken by Belan W.I. A weaving demonstration was the chief attraction.

The Exhibition Committee is working hard and it is hoped to hold a Crafts and Produce Exhibition on a large scale early in the autumn of 1929.

A W.I. Competition for smocking, plain sewing and embroidery is included in the Schedule of the Powys Provincial Eisteddfod.

COUNTY COUNCIL HELP. The Federation is most grateful to the County Council for their assistance. The Agricultural Organiser and his staff continue to give their valuable help and advice. Dairying Classes organised by Bwlchycibau and Four Crosses were most successful. The Director of Education has also given his very practical help. Thirteen courses in Cookery, Dressmaking, Needlework and Upholstery have been given during the season, the teachers being our own members.

COMMUNITY WORK. Several Institutes have been active in helping their local nursing associations and local hospitals and infirmaries. Others have supported institutions outside the County, the chief among these being the Royal Shropshire Infirmary, the Oswestry Cottage Hospital, and the Orthopaedic Hospital, the North Wales Cancer Campaign and St. Dunstan's. One Institute paid half the cost of stage curtains for its Village Hall.

Others have arranged Christmas parties and entertainments for the old people of the district, and have sent clothing to the distressed mining areas.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. One Institute organised an Eisteddfod; another a Tent at the local Agricultural Show, to which the other Institutes in the Group sent exhibits. One Institute has been educating its members in the subject of "Good Citizenship," following a lecture given by Miss Edith Thomas, and another is engaged on a community quilt.

Many money-raising efforts have been made for County Funds. The Institutes have responded most generously to the appeal for support, and special donations have been sent by practically every branch.

The Movement gains steadily in public favour, which is shown in the ready response met with when speakers are asked for. There is never any difficulty in getting outside help when this is needed, and our friends increase rapidly.

NORFOLK (158).

President and Chairman: The Dowager Lady Suffield, J.P., C.C., Harbord House, Cromer.

Organiser and Secretary: Miss M. L. Burgess, 3, Davey Place, Norwich.

ORGANISATION. At the completion of ten years' work in Norfolk it is gratifying to record a membership of 8,706 in the 158 Women's Institutes in the County. The progress made in the individual Institutes is fully maintained, a remark which is specially applicable to the administrative work.

An Educational Conference upon the local and national government of the country was organised on a large scale, and extended over two days. Viscountess Boyne, of the National Federation Executive Committee, and Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser, represented the National Headquarters, and rendered valuable assistance. Speakers representative of widely different schools of thought were selected for their expert knowledge of the subjects under consideration. It is hoped the conference will have a far-reaching and practical outcome in helping Institutes to realise the great work which lies before them in providing education for the new citizen.

A large number of delegates attended the half yearly Council in July at King's Lynn. By a unanimous vote it was agreed that the best interests of the movement would

be served by the Institutes declining to take part collectively in the election of individual candidates for local government elections. A resolution to this effect was sent forward to the Consultative Council, but was not confirmed. At the afternoon session Mrs. Rackham, J.P., spoke on the Government of the Countryside.

The County Supplement to "Home and Country" continues to make steady progress.

HANDICRAFTS. Three Institutes have availed themselves of the facilities offered by the Norfolk Education Committee for continuation classes, two in dressmaking and one in stitchery, and it is hoped to extend these in 1929.

The arrangement of dividing the County into four centres was again adopted for the Handicrafts Exhibition in April, but instead of each centre having its own scheme of decoration, a uniform scheme was supplied by the Handicrafts Committee. The Exhibition remained open for four days. Handicrafts workers benefited greatly by the presence of Miss Armes, the National Federation Handicrafts Organiser, who gave valuable advice.

The effort to bring the North West Norfolk area into closer touch with the County Organisation by the establishment of a Crafts Depot in Lynn, has met with considerable success.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. The Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association again invited the Federation to cooperate with a Produce Section at the Royal Norfolk Show, held at Crown Point, Norwich, in 1928, and besides providing an excellent Tent, made a grant of £25 towards expenses. The Exhibition was staged under the supervision of the Chairman of the Agricultural Sub-Committee, whose efforts were crowned with success.

Valuable advice and assistance have been given by the officials of the Norfolk Agricultural Station, the County Council Horticultural expert, and the County Poultry expert.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. At the Spring Handicrafts Exhibition the Music and Drama Sub-Committee arranged for the presentation of "Dancing through the Ages," by the Rainer School of Dancing. This afforded a beautiful spectacle, which attracted large audiences. The Choral Competitions have reached a high standard through the special efforts of this Committee.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS. Active co-operation continues to exist between the Institutes and the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association, the Norfolk Branches of the British Red Cross Society, the Nursing Federation, the Girl Guides,

the British Legion, the Needlework Guild, the National Council of Women, the National Savings Association, and the League of Nation's Union.

WORK IN THE INSTITUTES. Institutes have given careful consideration to the letter from Headquarters suggesting the adoption of a family from the distressed mining areas, but do not feel it a practical suggestion in view of the present state of agriculture, the shortage of houses, and the vast amount of unemployment which exists in the County. Help has, however, been given through money-raising efforts, and the supply of clothing despatched through the Needlework Guild. Activities in the Institute have included the entertainment of old age pensioners and children, maternity bags for village use; one Institute has started Girl Guides; another has made and maintained a footpath.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (111).

President: Lady Knightley, Fawsley, Daventry.

Chairman: Miss Bouverie, Delapre Abbey, Northampton.

Secretary: Mrs. Barker, Moulton Lodge, Northampton.

ORGANISATION. Nine new Institutes have been formed, making a total of 111; the membership now being 6,162.

Members of the Executive Committee and V.C.O.s have paid more than 200 visits to W.I.s, Group Meetings and Group Conferences. At the half-yearly Council Meeting held in Northampton in May, Miss Hadow, Oxfordshire Federation, spoke on Rural Community Councils. This Meeting was attended by delegates from 66 Institutes.

There are now 20 Groups in the County. Most of these have held Meetings, for which various tours have been arranged. Group 2 organised a very successful Produce Show at Kettering, at which there were more than 500 entries.

Groups 10 and 11 both organised successful Pageants, for which Miss Lola Morris (Mrs. Platt), of New Milton, Hants., acted as producer.

FINANCE. 94 W.I.s have sent donations to County Funds. In addition Group 7 sent more than £10 as a result of a gift stall for County Funds at a Group Meeting. One W.I. sent over £13 as a result of a Jumble Sale. Other special efforts have been made. The total amount received was £96 7s. 2d.

HANDICRAFTS. The Demonstrators' List has been revised and reprinted, and it is encouraging to find that their services have been much more in demand this year.

The Inter-County Exhibition at Banbury was well supported by those Institutes who, by the rules, were allowed to exhibit at it. Northants' share of the profits amounted to more than £7.

At Burghley House Exhibition the Northamptonshire stall compared very favourably with others. The Federation had a Tent at the same time at the County Agricultural Show in Burghley Park. Six crafts were demonstrated all day.

Advanced Classes in the Office have been more in demand this year. Nine sets have been held.

The Exhibition and Sale on October 10th showed a much higher standard of work than in former years.

AGRICULTURE. The Federation again provided prizes for a W.I. Section in the County Fruit Show.

Sixteen members from different Groups attended a Class for Fruit Bottling, which was held in the Office. The lecturer was Mrs. Cranswick, of Oxford. These members are now available to teach W.I.s in their own Group. The cost of the Class was borne by the Federation.

Many potato growing and bulb growing competitions have been arranged. In most cases the County Horticultural Supervisor has been the judge.

HISTORY, MUSIC AND DRAMA. The Annual Dramatic Competitions were held on November 24th. Shakespeare plays only were allowed. There were twelve entries. The standard was much higher, and the judge, Mr. Cyril Wood, of the Interlude Theatre Guild, was pleased with the production as a whole. The first-class certificate was won by Guilsborough, the second by Harlestone, and the third by Geddington.

A competition for a short original play, written by a member, brought 7 entries. The plays were judged by the British Drama League. Lady Henley's "Ordeal" gained first award, Miss Eigene Manders' "The Angel of the Sea" second, and Lady Henley's "Good King Wenceslas" third.

Several Institutes took part in the Central and Northern Musical Competitions. Earl's Barton won the Agnes Nicholls Shield for the best interpretation given by any Choir during the Competitions, and won also the County Federation Cup. The Lady Horne Cup was won by West Haddon.

A great number of Institutes have formed both Dramatic and Choral Societies.

LIBRARY. The Library closed down in February last, and the bulk of the books were sold. Those which remained were

distributed between the Creaton Sanatorium, Mansfield Orthopaedic Hospital and Institutes in the County, who already had small libraries of their own.

COUNTY COUNCIL AID. The County Council has again been very good to us. Lectures and demonstrations have been given on Agricultural and Horticultural subjects, on Poultry Rearing and Breeding and many classes have also been held.

Some Institutes have helped to raise funds for their Village Nurse; others have helped the Mansfield Orthopaedic Hospital, and the General Hospital; one has paid for the turfing of their War Memorial; one has revived the local May Day Revels; two have built Halls; one held special classes at the local Horticultural Show; one gives 5/- National Savings Stamps to every baby born in the two parishes in which the members live; one W.I. raised £13 to help a needy member; teas have been given to children and old folks, and many Institutes have taken charge of the Carnegie Free Library. Baby shows have also been held. There is one flourishing Junior Branch which helps the Children's Guild in the village.

NORTHUMBERLAND (112).

Chairman: Mrs. Cresswell, Hauxley Hall, Amble, Northumberland.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Collingwood F. Thorp, Belvedere, Alnwick, Northumberland.

ORGANISATION. Four new Institutes have been formed during the year. This brings the number up to 112, with a membership of 7,300. We have now 10 V.C.O.s and they have paid 199 visits and all except 8 Institutes have been visited by an Organiser.

The April Council meeting and the Annual Meeting, the latter addressed by Mrs. Gervas Huxley, were both well attended, 107 out of 112 Women's Institutes sending a delegate to the latter. Delegates from this Federation have attended all the Consultative Councils arranged by Headquarters, and they were represented at the Conference on "Health" held in London.

Schools for Officers were held in four different centres in the County, and these were well attended and the students expressed themselves much pleased with the opportunity of learning more about business methods. Programme schools were held at the same centres.

Alnmouth won the prize offered by "Home and Country" for the best Programme.

We had the benefit of an excellent tour offered by the Council of Health and Cleanliness and Dr. Elizabeth Foley was in the County for two weeks. We also much appreciated a course of 7 lectures to 10 Women's Institutes granted by the British Red Cross Society, the subject being "How to Keep Well." These lectures were all well attended.

HANDICRAFTS. An exhibition of ancient and modern quilts was made at the County Show and proved an attractive feature. Many classes have been held during the year, embroidery and cookery being the most popular.

An inter-county conference of the Guild of Learners was held in Newcastle, when Miss Rowe was the Speaker.

DRAMA AND MUSIC. A School for Play Production was held in the Spring, and this resulted in a Drama competition in October when ten Women's Institutes competed. Miss Gwen Lally was the adjudicator.

Many Institutes have entered and done well at the various musical competitions held in this County.

LITERATURE AND PUBLICITY. A Handbook of the County is compiled by the Committee and contains reports of the various Sub-Committees, the balance sheet, lists of speakers and demonstrators. This book is sent out free to the Presidents and Secretaries of all Women's Institutes.

A Quarterly Gazette is published and is very popular with the Institutes, as it contains news of many Institutes which could not be published otherwise.

An Agricultural Sub-Committee has been formed, and will meet for the first time in February.

COUNTY COUNCIL. The Federation is represented on the following Sub-Committees of the County Council—Maternity and Child Welfare, Adult Education, Elementary Education, Agriculture and small Holdings and Rural Libraries. We are indebted to the County Council for much help from teachers and for the use of a room where we may hold all our Committee Meetings.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (46).

President and Chairman: Miss Fox, East Bridgford Hall, Notts.

Secretary: Miss B. E. Marriott, 4, Larkdale Street, Nottingham.

ORGANISATION. Ten new Institutes have been formed and one suspended during the year. The membership is now 2,304.

The four V.C.O.s have paid 31 visits to Institutes, in addition to preliminary and formation meetings, and propaganda work.

Group meetings were held during November, when Miss Hirst Simpson and Mrs. Hitchcock each spent a week in the County. Radcliffe Group also held a meeting in February. Mrs. Hitchcock conducted a Conference for W.I. Officers and Committee members, which was well attended.

The Annual Council Meeting was held in January, when Miss Champneys gave an address on "The Work of the Women Police."

The Summer Council Meeting was held in July. Miss Kelly, of the Village Drama Society, gave a talk on "Acting in the Institutes."

Other County activities were a School for Choral Conductors in February, the Choral and Dramatic Competitions in March, a School in Rush Basket-making in June, participation in the N.F.W.I. Stand at the Royal Agricultural Show, when many members helped as Stewards and the County Exhibition in September.

EXHIBITION. This year exhibits were arranged in sections, and there were no stall decoration competitions or Institute Stalls. Each Group of W.I.s undertook the decoration, arrangement and care of one or more sections, and the Federation provided the materials for decoration.

The standard of exhibits was higher than at the last Exhibition in 1925. Awards were made on a percentage system. There were about 2,000 exhibits for competition, sent in by more than 600 members, and in addition there were many things for exhibition or sale only. 1,169 exhibits obtained 80% marks or over, and 43 obtained gold stars (100% marks). In addition to the scheduled sections, there was an Open Class, which attracted many entries.

The Team work—Baby's Cots and Dinner Table Sets—was of a very high standard, and there were a number of entries.

The N.F.W.I. Loan Collection of Handicrafts, of which Miss Armes was in charge for the first day, created much interest. A new demonstration was one of Packed Dinners, arranged by two of the County Health Visitors. This was popular, and many visitors made notes of the food values and menus used. The dinners cost 6d. and 9d. each.

Prizewinning Institutes in the Choral and Dramatic Competitions were responsible for the entertainments.

The Challenge Urn was won for the third time in succession by Burton Joyce W.I., and now becomes their property. Sutton

Bonington W.I. came second on the list. The Challenge Urn for W.I.s with a membership of 50 or less was won by Keyworth W.I., with Kingston-on-Soar W.I. second.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Every Institute contributed a Voluntary Grant to the County Funds, and all worked for the County Exhibition, and a number for the Choral and Dramatic Competitions. County and Group Meetings have been very well attended; the latter being particularly successful this year.

Nearly all the Institutes have had efforts for their own funds; several are working for a Hut or Hall of their own.

Again a great deal of Community Work has been done for the Village and County. This includes libraries for the village, joint classes and lectures; help in kind and money for the local hospital, the Nursing Association, Cripples' Guild and new Hospital at Harlow Wood; support of the Rural Community Council, which gives the Institutes a great deal of help, especially in providing lectures.

Some work of national importance has also been done. One W.I. has formed a branch of the National Savings Association.

OXFORDSHIRE (85).

President: Miss Ashurst, Waterstock House, Wheatley, Oxon.

Chairman: The Hon. Mrs. Guy Feilden, Cokethorpe Manor, Witney.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Deneke, Barnett House, Oxford.

ORGANISATION. The membership of the Oxfordshire Federation is now over 5,000. Three new Institutes have been formed, one has lapsed, and one has been transferred from Northamptonshire.

The leading novelties of the year have been the Residential School for W.I. Secretaries at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, in April; the combined Handicraft Exhibition with Northamptonshire at Banbury in May; a large entry of Institute Choirs for the special class offered by the Oxon., Bucks. and Berks. Music Festival, in May; and a Cookery Book of Recipes collected by members, of which nearly 1,000 copies have been sold since October.

The agendas for half-yearly meetings continue to be lively; delegates have been argumentative and fluent; addresses on public questions exceptionally interesting, and the resulting resolutions usually translated into action. In fact the Federation have had a

prosperous year, except financially, of course. Their County Council grant has been drastically reduced, and they would like about three times as many donations. Nevertheless they flourish.

Three special subjects recommended for study by half-yearly meetings—Women Magistrates, Treatment of Young Offenders, and Kindness to Animals—have been followed up by speakers at Institute Meetings. The Federation have undertaken to assist the District Probation Officer, and have forwarded resolutions on water supply and women guardians to the departments concerned.

The Groups have had many lectures on Health Work, according to the recommendation at the N.F.W.I. meeting, and the Federation is well represented on the Rural Community Council Health Group. Their hearts are also with the Society for the Preservation of Rural England, and they anticipate useful work with them later.

EXHIBITIONS. The joint Exhibition with Northamptonshire was novel and successful, and both parties wish to repeat it. The Produce Show at Oxford was almost too successful, and the organisers say they cannot repeat it annually. The exhibit of graded apples was specially commended, and the Mayor announced publicly that he would like to steal it.

AGRICULTURE. Two Scholarships were kindly offered for training at the Campden Research Station, and the winners have qualified to demonstrate in the County in Fruit Bottling and Jam-making.

HANDICRAFTS have been affected by the reduction of the County Council grant, but it is the supply and not the demand for classes which has diminished. The gold medal prize nightgown from Steeple Aston, was taken by Miss Armes for Headquarter's Loan Collection. Thirty-six Institutes entered for the Competition for diamonds for the Queen's Quilt. The Committee have been given a beautiful Show Case by Mrs. John Buchan. They have also acquired patterns for toy animals, and the judge has promised to provide a small model zoo from each pattern for the next exhibition.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. Nine Institutes entered for the modern play competition. Twelve have had string quartette concerts from the Rural Community Council, and 21 a gramophone music lecture tour. The Oxfordshire Players have acted to 57 villages.

LECTURES. Institutes have booked 245 through the office, and seem to study everything from the stars to Sunday puddings.

There have been Schools and Conferences for Institute Secretaries, National Federation Delegates, Presidents, Treasurers and Group Convenors. The only people left to confer seem to be common members, who will meet in Oxford next Easter.

INSTITUTE NEWS. Special activities include painting the Parish Hall, providing curtains for it, a Poppy Day, help to the British Legion, writing to a Canadian W.I., collecting 800 eggs for the Waifs and Strays, getting the Post Office to re-open a village branch office, and asking the Parish Council for wire baskets for litter.

THE OXFORD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ASSOCIATION act as stewards at our exhibitions, entertain our lecturers, and repair our cars, and virtue continues to be their only reward.

PEMBROKESHIRE (23).

Chairman and President: Mrs. N. Seymour Allen, J.P., Paskeston, Pembroke.

Hon. County Secretary: Miss Olive S. Dawkins, Haylett Grange, nr. Haverfordwest.

ORGANISATION. A Meeting at Carmarthen on the Hampshire scheme for revising the N.F.W.I. Constitution was attended by a Pembrokeshire delegate, who was not of opinion that area representation was required now that the County Federations are kept so well in touch with Headquarters by visits from Organisers.

At our Spring Council Meeting Community Singing was the attraction, and a speaker from the Ministry of Agriculture on Egg Marketing and other matters of great interest to our rural audience gave immense satisfaction at our Winter Council Meeting.

We sent delegates to the Welsh Conference at Shrewsbury and to the special Consultative Council in London in December.

We had our first visit from Miss Hirst Simpson to an Officers' School, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

We are about to prepare a fresh Panel of Teachers for the County.

We welcome the re-appointment of our very faithful two V.C.O.s, and wish we could find them help by getting other recruits.

Household Jobbing proved very popular last year when the County Federation treated the W.I.s to a free demonstration.

HANDICRAFTS. Our Exhibition proved more satisfactory to members this year owing to the adoption of the N.F.W.I. system of marking. Next year we are making another improvement by having all exhibits sent in on the day previous to the Exhibition.

Some work from Pembrokeshire was sent to the National Eisteddfod, and was commented on and appreciated by visitors.

We are arranging for a Handicraft School to be held for 2 or 3 days in three different centres in the County, each centre taking a Craft which they can afterwards teach to other Institutes.

RADNORSHIRE (24).

Chairman : Lady Venables Llewelyn, Llysdinam, Newbridge-on-Wye, Radnorshire.

Hon. Secretary : Mrs. Claud Lewis, Evancoyd, Walton, Radnorshire.

ORGANIZATION. Two new Institutes have been formed during the year. One small Institute has been suspended through lack of Officers, but will be re-started in the coming year. The County membership is now 970. Nearly every Institute has now a yearly programme, and these show a great improvement on the earlier ones.

An Organisation Sub-Committee has been formed, and the County Treasurer has been appointed to the N.F.W.I. Organisation Sub-Committee. Delegates have been sent to the Annual Meeting in London, the Health Conference, the Consultative Council, the Welsh Conference, and Council Meetings at Shrewsbury, Hereford and Carmarthen.

At the February Council Meeting a Debate on the N.F.W.I. Constitution was held between Miss Hilda Chamberlain and Lady Trevelyan; and at the Autumn Council Meeting an admirable address on Handicrafts was given by Miss Armes.

A Handicraft Tent was organised at the County Agricultural Show in the Summer, and was very favourably commented upon by the local newspapers.

A one day School for V.C.O.s was conducted by Mrs. Nugent Harris at Llandrindod. V.C.O.s were present from Radnorshire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Cardiganshire and all found it most helpful. One Teacher was trained in Cookery at the "Calder College," Liverpool, at the expense of the County. Two other W.I. members have passed their "A" Test in the Guild of Learners. During the year Miss Petty, "The Pudding Lady," and Miss Pocock, of the London Dental Board have made tours round the Institutes.

It has been decided to hold a Conference for Officers during the morning at each Council Meeting. This plan was tried last year and found to be a great success.

COUNTY COUNCIL AID. County Council and the County Education Committee have again given the grant of £4 10s. 0d. to each Institute for Technical Classes, specifying the following subjects: Dressmaking, Home Nursing, Cookery, Basketry, Millinery, and Leather work. The Director of Education is warmly interested in the Women's Institute movement.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Egg collections for hospitals and infirmaries have been made by many Institutes. Much help has been given to distressed miners in the way of groceries, clothing, boots, as well as money raised by concerts. Five Institutes took part in a pageant enacting scenes from the history of Radnorshire, in aid of the County Nursing Funds. Many Institutes report teas and entertainments for children and old people; others report help given to their village halls, football clubs, special sick cases, a nurse provided for maternity cases, curtains given for a schoolroom. One Institute grew potatoes to supply a hospital, and another sent subscriptions to the Westminster Hospital for the purchase of Radium.

SHROPSHIRE (104).

Chairman : Miss Edith Ward, The Cottage, Acton Burnell, Salop.

Secretary : Miss E. Walshe, Windsor House, Windsor Place, Shrewsbury.

ORGANISATION. The number of Institutes in this Federation is now 104, including one transferred from Herefordshire. One suspended Institute has been re-started. There is also a Club at the Depot of the K.S.L.I., run on Institute lines under the auspices of the County Federation, which is doing very well, and a flourishing Town Association in Shrewsbury.

A Mass Meeting, open to all W.I. Members was held in the spring to consider the Agenda of the National Annual Meeting. Mrs. Alfred Watt was the speaker, and about 600 members attended. Group Conferences were held for officers and committee members, the principal subject for discussion being the Use of Institute Funds." These Conferences were led by the V.C.O.s.

The Summer Council was chiefly devoted to discussion on Handicraft Exhibitions and agricultural subjects. Dr. Crowther spoke on the Marketing of Eggs. At the Winter Council, Lady Denman spoke on the Education of Women and Girls for Rural Life, her address attracting much attention in the local press. Miss Ferguson was a welcome visitor. There were many resolutions and amendments, dealing with National, County and general business, and the delegates resolved to Eat More Wholemeal Bread.

FINANCE. The financial position continues to be satisfactory, and the large sums raised by the Institutes for outside objects prove that they can support their Federation without curtailing their benevolence.

HANDICRAFTS. The Handicraft Exhibition in May marked a great advance in standard of work. The arrangements enabled everyone to see the exhibits in comfort.

At the first "B" Tests held in the County, all five candidates passed, one in two subjects.

The Federation was again allotted a free space in the Education section of the West Midland Agricultural Show. Miss Mendel gave demonstrations in Furcraft.

Three Shropshire members attended the School at Darlington on Methods of Teaching, with great profit to themselves and the Institutes. Their expenses were defrayed out of County and National Funds.

A Handicraft Shop (The Corner Shop) started in April by W.I. members for all craft workers, finds that its stock consists entirely of W.I. Members' work.

MUSIC. The fifth Easter School for Conductors was held under Mr. Arthur Fagge and Miss Nettleship, and the attendance of school teachers was most satisfactory. Dr. Arthur Somervell gave them a special address. The Christmas Concert conducted by Mr. Fagge, was rather subdued, owing to the illness of the King at that time. The singers numbered 450 and sang with finish and delicacy.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE. The School of Cookery arranged by the County Council at Radbrook Technical School was attended by several W.I. Members, five being from other counties. This school was primarily intended for Domestic Science Teachers, but W.I. members teaching Cookery in the Institutes were welcomed.

DRAMA. A most successful School of Drama was held by Miss Edith Craig, at which she produced two plays and criticised eight W.I. Teams, and gave many valuable lessons. The average attendance was 69.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. The Food Production Committee has concerned itself with poultry dressing, the growing of fruit, the Ministry's new marketing projects, and other important matters.

The W.I. Market Stall in Shrewsbury Market, run by a Committee of the members sending produce, continues to increase its turnover.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Fifty Institutes took part in the County Programme Competition for the best programme for the whole year. This was won by Hodnet W.I. which was also second in the "Home and Country" Competition. Pant Glas won the County Banner for the third time, and retains it. Wem had the first Health Week in the County. The W.I. organised this at the request of the U.D.C. Several Institutes have entertained large numbers of town children for a fortnight in the summer. Institute programmes and reports show that the majority have advanced in their standards as regards speakers and demonstrators, and many have shared in Group Tours.

SOMERSET (130).

Chairman : Miss Rees Mogg, Corner, Temple Cloud, Bristol.
Secretary : Miss Vernon, Alcombe, Minehead.

ORGANISATION. Three new Institutes have been formed in the year. The Voluntary Organisers have made 109 visits.

A Conference for V.C.O.s from Gloucester, Devon, Dorset, and Somerset was held in Taunton, and conducted by Mrs. Nugent Harris, who gave much valuable help.

Miss Hadow, the Vice-Chairman of the National Federation Executive Committee spoke at the Annual Council meeting in Taunton, and Colonel Vignolles spoke at the Council Meeting in Bristol on the Development of Electricity in Country Areas. The Group Meetings grow more and more popular, and have had as speakers during the year, Miss Armes, Miss Denison, Miss Spilman from the National Federation, and Miss Mackenzie of the B.B.C.

Tours were arranged for the following Lecturers:—Miss Macdonald, Mr. Till, Mr. Montague Phillips, Miss Grantham, Miss Cholditch Smith, and a speaker from the National Milk Publicity Council.

HANDICRAFTS. The Exhibition of Handicrafts held in Bristol was opened by the Lord Mayor on the first day and by Lady Listowel on the second, and attended by a great number of people. Improvement in the standard of many crafts was very encouraging. Raffia and Toys still leave much to be desired.

A Guild of Learners' Conference was held in Taunton and attended by members from Devon, Dorset, Wilts and Somerset. Miss Armes spoke at this Conference and useful discussions took place on Handicrafts. It is hoped that further Conferences of this kind may be held.

Six students attended the N.F.W.I. School for coloured embroidery held at Alcombe in March.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND DANCING. The Competitions in Singing, Dancing and Scenes from Shakespeare were held at the same time as the Exhibition and were well supported. Roadwater had the distinction of being chosen to present its play, written by one of its members, at the National Federation Drama Festival in London.

AGRICULTURE. The Agricultural Committee organised a Depot at the Minehead Centre for selling graded and tested eggs from villages in the Exmoor district. The grading and testing still continue although other arrangements as to selling have been made through the winter. No difficulty has been found in getting a higher price for "Specials."

HELP FROM COUNTY COUNCIL AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS. The grant from the County Council has enabled many Institutes to have Classes, of which those in Dressmaking have been the most popular; several have had Drama and Elocution Classes. The Gardening and Poultry Lectures given by the County Council Instructors, have been remarkably well attended. The Poultry Instructor commented on the improvement that is beginning to be shown in the better understanding of poultry keeping. Classes in pruning garden and orchard Fruit trees are being held at different centres by Instructors from the Somerset Farm Institute with the co-operation of W.I. members, and as a result it is hoped that there will be some persons who will be able to profit by this training and who will be available to carry on this necessary work. Members of the Executive Committee serve on the Agricultural, Horticultural and Special Subjects Committees of the County Council.

The Somerset Federation and the Rural Community Council have recently formed a Joint Committee for Health work in the County to prevent overlapping, and it is hoped that good work will be done. Lectures to District Nurses seem to be asked for, and the co-operation of the County Nursing Association will be sought to meet this need.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Ten Institutes have organised schemes for the disposal of unburnable rubbish, and have in all cases made these schemes pay. In two places public telephones have been installed owing to the exertions of the Institutes. Ten Institutes agreed to organise a Car Panel scheme at the request of the Rural Community Council for assisting patients to hospitals Clinics, etc.

Another Institute has been instrumental in getting the Post Office re-opened and the postmistress, a W.I. member is also the Librarian of a branch of the County Library. Another started a

scheme for sending clothes and goods regularly to villages in distressed areas, which has been taken up keenly by many others. Many have assisted district nursing associations and hospitals with gifts in money and in kind. National Savings Associations and Libraries seem to be growing in the Institutes, as well as work for village halls, flower shows and the community as a whole.

STAFFORDSHIRE (99).

President: The Countess of Dartmouth.

Chairman: Miss E. Wardle, Mayfield Hall, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Vice-Chairman: The Countess of Lichfield, Shugborough, Stafford.

Secretary: Miss M. B. Strachan, 15, Eastgate Street, Stafford.

ORGANISATION. V.C.O.s have paid 160 visits to W.I.s during the year. Four new W.I.s have been formed, and one has been re-opened.

Two Council Meetings have been held, at the earlier of which Miss Hadow and Miss Chamberlain debated the question of the Hampshire scheme for the re-constitution of the N.F.W.I.; and at the latter Miss Pratt, substituting for Lady Denman, spoke on the Report on the Practical Education of Women for Rural Life. The questions of Health and Egg Marketing Reform were also discussed.

Group meetings have been held as usual, at which discussions took place on the Equalisation of Delegates' Fares, Overseas Settlement, The Production of Plays, Humane Slaughter, and Women, East and West.

A Rally of W.I.s between Stoke and Leek, with a demonstration of Massed Singing was held in November, and the outcome is the formation of a Group in that District.

The circulation of "Home and Country" with the Staffordshire Supplement at the end of January was 1,195.

W.I.s have been asked to report on what they are doing for girls. Half the replies received have stated that girls are admitted to membership at 14. It is clear that girls take fair advantage of a low age of admission, and also that W.I.s are encouraging them by giving them Committee responsibility.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. A three days' School for Dramatic Producers was held, directed by Mr. Howell Davies. The programme included discussions on Types of Plays, First Principles of Producing and Prompt-Book, Diction, and Gesture and Characterisation; demonstrations on Make-up and Collapsible Screens for Stage Backgrounds; an exhibition of properties, and rehearsals showing what a first rehearsal should be, and what common faults

are made in grouping, etc. This School was much appreciated by the 36 students, men and women, who attended.

COUNTY PAGEANT. In June, 71 W.I.s took part in a Pageant of Local History, the book of which was written by Sir Reginald Hardy and Miss H. L. E. Garbett; the costumes and colour schemes were designed by Mrs. Cookson, and the music arranged by Sir Reginald Hardy. The Pageant Master was Mr. Howell Davies, of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. The Pageant was performed at Alton Towers, by kind permission of Mr. C. Cowlshaw before an audience of 4,000, and was pronounced an artistic triumph. A profit of £211 was made, and this sum was divided amongst the funds of those W.I.s who had taken part.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. Lectures have been given by the County Council Instructors in Beekeeping, Clean Milk, Pruning, Poultry-keeping, Horticulture, and Fruit Bottling.

W.I.s in the mining areas are making use of the Farm Institute's offer to provide lectures on how to increase the food supply of small gardens.

The Rest Tent was organised as usual at the County Agricultural Show. National Federation Literature and County Pageant Books were on sale; and tea was served. A profit of £8 was handed over to County Funds.

HANDICRAFTS have occupied a great deal of attention in the county during the year. The County Council Instructresses have given in all 88 classes in the following subjects: Cookery, Millinery, Leatherwork, Dressmaking, General Handicrafts, Upholstery, and 224 demonstrations in Millinery, Leatherwork, Upholstery, Domestic Economy, Cookery, Furcraft, Needlework, and Embroidery, Boot-repairing, Dressmaking, Laundrywork, General Handicrafts. The Loan Collection has been enlarged and has been displayed at many W.I.s and county meetings.

In November Miss Rowe, National Federation Handicrafts Auxiliary Organiser, spoke at a small conference, and encouraged the County to further efforts in stimulating handicrafts.

HEALTH. The County Public Health Department and the Health Insurance Committee continued their help during the year, and many lectures have been given to W.I.s under the auspices of these two departments.

A Joint Committee has now been formed of members of the County Health Department and the Federation, to carry out the health policy suggested by the National Federation. The Committee is at present organising meetings in W.I.s to explain this policy in relation to the facilities offered by the County Health Authority, and is organising a Health and Home Exhibition to be held in 1929.

EAST SUFFOLK (98).

President: The Lady Cranworth, Grundesburgh Hall, nr. Woodbridge.

Chairman: Mrs. Talbot, The Cottage, Eyke Woodbridge,

Hon. Secretary: Miss L. Aldrich, Westerfield Hall, nr. Ipswich.

ORGANISATION. Two new Institutes have been formed; the membership is approximately 5,596.

Voluntary Organisers have visited 52 Institutes. Two Councils and eleven Group Meetings have been held; the latter were addressed by Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser.

Six Lecture Tours have been arranged and two series of Red Cross Lecture Courses. One hundred and ten lectures and demonstrations have been arranged through the Education Committee of the County Council.

The Rest Room is increasingly useful. It practically became the office of the Handicrafts Exhibition, and was also used for handicraft classes, though on these occasions a quiet corner in another room is arranged for those who really want "rest."

The circulation of "Home and Country" is 1,365.

HANDICRAFTS. The Exhibition was the chief event of the year; it is estimated that 1,250 members took an active part in it. A special Sub-Committee was appointed for the general organisation and worked in co-operation with the Standing Sub-Committees. Five hundred and sixty-six exhibits were accepted, of which 182 gained first-class awards, 23 gaining 100% marks. Banners were presented for General Merit, for Needlework, and for Co-operative work.

Courses of Classes in Leatherwork, in Soft Toys, and in Raffia work, have been arranged in different centres; the students afterwards gave a demonstration which over fifty members from various Institutes attended.

One member has passed the Guild of Learners "A" Test with 97% marks. Six specimens of handicraft out of eight submitted, were accepted for the Royal Show.

MUSIC AND DRAMA. At the Exhibition four Institutes gave dramatic performances and fourteen presented tableaux with some historical interest connected with their neighbourhood. The staging and the dresses were marvellous, and the poses were so well held that a remark was overheard in the audience:—"Nothing'll ever make me believe those are real people."

Nine W.I. Choirs gave songs and a concert was arranged at which all the artists were W.I. members.

The finals of the Singing and Dramatic Festivals of 1927 were held in the Spring, and the winning Institutes gave performances at the Exhibition.

A Community Singing Competition was organised and judged at the Monthly Meetings.

AGRICULTURE. An Exhibition was held at the Suffolk Agricultural Show. Twenty-two co-operative exhibits, each comprising seven articles, were shown and fifty-three individual exhibits. First class awards needed over 90% marks, and fifteen were given, seven being for co-operative exhibits. The Federation joined with West Suffolk in arranging expert demonstrations in fruit bottling and canning.

One Institute won the 2nd prize for bottled fruit at the London Dairy Show.

At the big Exhibition a stall of selected exhibits was arranged and gained special commendation from the National Federation Representative.

The County Council Dairy Instructress has organised poultry schemes in several Institutes, as well as giving classes and demonstrations in poultry trussing and in cheese and butter making.

FINANCE. The outlook is cheerful. Over 75% of the Institutes contributed their full quota to Federation Funds, and there was a profit on the Exhibition.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. The impression gained from the annual reports is that the Institutes have almost taken "Home" as a "golden thread." They have studied useful and thrifty crafts, also fruit bottling, cookery, home remedies, child welfare, and the use of electricity in the home. They have had talks on gardening and fruit pruning and competitions for bulbs, potatoes, home made jams, pickles, and cakes. Lectures have been given on Local History, Buildings and Customs, Suffolk Dialect, and Suffolk Churches. Singing, dramatic and folk dance classes have increased.

Twenty-three Institutes manage National Savings Associations. All have given some help to Hospitals or other Institutions.

WEST SUFFOLK (57).

President: The Marchioness of Bristol, Ickworth.

Chairman: Mrs. Rust, White House, Rattlesden, Bury-St.-Edmunds.

Secretary: Miss Dunn, 23, Angel Hill, Bury-St.-Edmunds.

ORGANISATION. One new Institute has been formed during 1928. The Executive Committee has met 12 times, and been

assisted by seven Sub-Committees. As a direct result of a resolution passed at the Autumn Council Meeting, a Rest Room has been opened in Bury-St.-Edmunds for the use of W.I. members and their children.

Only five V.C.O.s have been available during 1928, and they have paid 54 visits to Institutes.

Two conferences on the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting Agenda have been held, one in the North and the other in the South of the County.

In October, Mrs. Nugent Harris conducted a two-days School for W.I. Officers and Members of Committee, which was well attended.

Forty-three Institutes were represented at the Annual General Meeting in London, and four V.C.O.s were also present.

Nine very successful and enjoyable Group Conferences have been held with record attendances. The speakers were Mrs. Nugent Harris and Miss Ferard, of the British Red Cross Society.

The speaker at the Annual Meeting was Mrs. Huxley, and at the Spring Council Miss Berkeley delighted the members with a "Singing Talk" on Folk Songs.

The County Federation was delighted to welcome the members of the National Federation Executive Committee, County delegates and visitors at the 20th Consultative Council Meeting held at Bury-St.-Edmunds in October.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND DANCING. In view of the National Federation Drama Festival, Institutes were allowed this year to select their own play for competition, and each team was judged at Bury-St.-Edmunds by Miss Gwen Lally. Five Institutes competed and Clare's production, "Sister Clare," was selected for the Festival in London.

Five Institutes entered for the W.I. Singing Competition, and the County Festival at Ipswich. The Challenge Shield and Banner was again won by Cavendish and Pentlow.

HANDICRAFTS. An exhibition and sale of handicrafts was held at the Suffolk Show at Bury-St.-Edmunds. Honington and Sapiston W.I. won the Handicraft Challenge Cup for the third year in succession, and were presented by the County Federation with a replica cup to keep. For the first time a separate tent was devoted to the produce section, which was on a much larger scale than formerly. Barrow W.I. were the winners of the Cup offered in this section.

A very successful two-day handicraft sale took place in November.

A Guild of Learners' student in Leather work has passed her "A" and "B" tests, and has helped neighbouring counties.

The Ixworth Group this year held a Fete in aid of County Funds, which raised the splendid sum of £76 9s. 2d.

Members continue to make good use of the Office for the sale of their handicrafts.

COUNTY COUNCIL HELP. The Federation continues to benefit by the assistance of the County Council, by whose help demonstrations and courses of classes in Cookery, Dressmaking, Millinery and Upholstery have been given to 21 Institutes. Twenty-six single demonstrations and lectures in horticultural subjects have also been given.

The County Medical Officer and his Staff have given every help to Institutes requiring lectures in Health subjects.

The County Health Insurance Committee has also given valuable help in explaining to Institutes the National Health Insurance Benefits. With the idea of obtaining a grant from the Mileage Fund of the Ministry of Health, a report was prepared and sent to the County Health Insurance Committee of the number of villages having Institutes which were without telephones, together with the distance to their nearest doctor and nurse. No action, however, was taken by the County Health Insurance Committee.

Fifty-four villages which have Institutes are now served by the Carnegie Library Scheme—the remaining three are to be served early in 1929.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. The Institute reports cover a very wide field. Much work is done for outside objects. Activities include the collection of eggs and silver paper, and the dressing of dolls for hospitals; the arrangement of Treats for Old Age Pensioners, Discharged Soldiers and School Children, and help with the sale of poppies on Remembrance Day. One Institute has organised a house to house collection of unburnable rubbish, which has proved of great value. Other Institutes have joined the National Savings Association, and the League of Nations Union.

SURREY (109)

President: Mrs. Auerbach, Hethersett, Reigate.

Chairman: Mrs. Wentworth Martin, Great Meadow, Hambleton, Godalming.

Secretary: Miss M. K. Sutherland, 112, High Street, Guildford.

ORGANISATION. The Federation has a membership of 10,349; four new Institutes and one Centre have been formed during the year. Two new V.C.O.s have been appointed.

This has been a year of definite progress and development in the groups. As the result of a Conference between the Executive Committee, V.C.O.s and Group Chairmen and Secretaries, the Executive Committee issued a leaflet setting out the broad principles governing Groups in the County. While this general policy is adopted by all the Groups, each is individually left free to carry out whatever activities seem most likely to be popular and successful. Group Exhibitions and Pageants have been held, as well as Choral and Dramatic Competitions.

FINANCE. £428 14s. 11d. has been contributed to National and County Funds, and the Federation has sent a donation to Headquarters at the rate of 7s. 6d. per Institute.

HANDICRAFTS. The Handicraft Section of the Federation Exhibit at the Royal Counties Show at Redhill created much interest, and the work found a ready market.

The Handicraft Exhibit at the Guildford Museum, arranged by Miss Joan Drew, and consisting of specimens of work from very early days down to the present time, and representative of many different lands, has proved of great interest, not only to Women's Institute members, but to the general public.

DRAMA. In February a very successful performance of "The Merchant of Venice" was given by the Guildford Pilgrim Players, a society which is doing much to foster dramatic talent among W.I. members and to train village producers.

For the N.F.W.I. Drama Festival, Surrey entered eight short plays, which were judged at Guildford by Mr. Miles Malleson. For the Shakespeare play, Chaldon W.I. entered "Twelfth Night," and the Guildford Pilgrim Players "The Taming of the Shrew." These were judged by Mrs. Mabel Gibson, who chose "The Taming of the Shrew" for performance in London.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. This Committee was responsible for the Food Section of the Federation Exhibit at the Royal Counties Show at Redhill, which did a busy trade on all four days of the Show, and aroused much interest among many who visited the tent.

The Committee was asked by the Agricultural Sub-Committee of the County Council to nominate a representative of the County Federation to serve on it, and Mrs. Neville, as a practical woman farmer, has now been co-opted as a member of the Committee. Miss Darbyshire, another Women's Institute woman farmer, is now a member of the County Council Agricultural Education Sub-Committee, in addition to Mrs. Auerbach, who has served on the Committee for many years.

HOME AND COUNTRY SUPPLEMENT. The County Supplement, inaugurated in January, and published monthly in the Surrey Edition of "Home and Country," appears to have justified the hope that it would be a welcome addition to the magazine, since the circulation in Surrey has increased considerably during the year.

A Challenge Cup presented by Mrs. Auerbach, to be competed for each year on some branch of W.I. activity, was awarded this year for the best record of Organisation—and won by Capel W.I.

COMMUNITY WORK. The Surrey Anti-Litter League was started by Shere and Gomshall W.I.; since its inauguration over 40 Institutes have started branches for enrolment of members.

Guildford Group has throughout the year supplied the County Hospital with 600 swabs weekly—each W.I. in the Group being responsible for one month's supply.

One W.I. in co-operation with the Parish Council has succeeded in getting the Saturday afternoon post reinstated, and others have secured better 'bus services.

Practically every Institute contributes either in money or kind towards the upkeep of its local hospital; most invite inmates from the Union, either to a garden meeting or a Christmas party, while some have 'bus loads of East End children for a day in the country.

Increasing interest is shown in the League of Nations, and several more W.I.s have become corporate members of the L.N.U.

EAST SUSSEX (118).

Chairman: Mrs. Huddart, Merrifields, Haywards Heath.

Secretary: Miss V. E. M. Dayrell, Floretta, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath.

ORGANISATION. Three new Institutes have been formed, one has been suspended for six months; Membership is now 10,534.

Two new V.C.O.s have been appointed.

Two Council Meetings have been held with record attendances; resolutions were brought forward and well spoken to, by the Institutes.

Members of the Executive Committee have represented the County at all Consultative Councils and Conferences of the N.F.W.I.

The Federation has representation on Sub-Committees of the County Council, the English Folk Dance Society, and the Mental Welfare Association of East Sussex.

Two meetings were arranged for W.I. Officers and Committee, the speakers being Mrs. Stanley Johnson, West Kent, Mrs. May, Berkshire, and Miss Macausland, N.F.W.I. Attendance at these meetings was approximately 700.

Two Executive Group Secretaries' Meetings were arranged. Talks were given on "The Group Secretaries' Vision," "The County Secretary's Ideal Group Secretary," "Does the Competitive Element help forward the W.I. Movement," and "The Humanities."

Speakers' Tours were successfully carried out and the Panel of Speakers includes 84 speakers, 21 societies offering lectures, and in addition 41 talks which are given free to small Institutes.

In May a paper sold separately from "Home and Country" was started with a circulation of 900, which rapidly increased to 2,100. This paper is published mainly to further the work and knowledge of the movement in East Sussex, and it is believed the sale of "Home and Country" has not decreased.

FINANCE. The County Federation was able to send its quota to Headquarters, and is in a fairly sound position. Nearly all the Institutes and many of the Groups in the County have sent donations.

Mrs. Godwin King, helped by Institutes in her locality, arranged a Garden Fête at Stonelands. Over 1,000 people were present. This effort resulted in a gift of £112 to the Federation.

A successful Whist Drive, arranged at the time of the Christmas Fair, brought an additional £32.

HANDICRAFTS. A Christmas Fair was held in December, 1,841 articles being sent from 50 Institutes. £138 1s. 11d. was refunded to the members in respect of sales.

The Committee of the Tunbridge Wells Show generously gave the County a stand for the Exhibit of Handicrafts. The County Loan Collection was also exhibited.

A Handicraft Conference was held to discuss "The County Exhibition," "How Judges can meet Exhibitors," and "The possibility of a County Co-operative Room." Miss Armes, of the N.F.W.I., spoke on "Exhibitions."

FOLK DANCING. The Second Annual Folk Dance Competition was held. Thirty teams took part in the Competitions. Miss Olive Lett, of the English Folk Dance Society, adjudicated. After the Competitions, a Folk Dance Party was arranged. Miss Berkeley led Folk Singing.

AGRICULTURE. The Third Annual Competition for W.I. Produce Shows was held in the County. Twenty Institutes competed.

At the first County Produce Show about 700 entries of good standard were received; the Challenge Cup was won by an Institute gaining 55 first class awards. The East Sussex Agricultural Education Committee of the County Council exhibited cheese, bottled fruits, insect pests and poisonous plants. A butter-making demonstration was arranged.

The Lewes Market shows a successful year, but with a slight decrease in sales. A W.I. Market was started at Crowborough in May. The takings for the first four weeks amounted to £80, and are steadily increasing.

MUSIC. The Eighth Annual Choral Festival was held in April. Forty-four Senior and twelve Junior Choirs competed and there were 1,342 competitors altogether.

This was the first occasion in the history of the Festival that a work was taken, and the Combined Singing of a part of Wagner's Meistersingers with orchestra and soloists was a great achievement.

A Conductors' School, under Dr. Malcolm Sargent, was held in October, and was attended by over 200 members of Institutes and members of their choirs.

Competitive W.I. Community Singing was arranged. Adjudicators were sent to each competing W.I. and the six best were chosen to sing in the finals. Forty-one entries were received.

DRAMA. A Drama School was held in June, three days being devoted to the Study of Shakespeare. Shakespeare's Heroines were taken on the first day by Miss Edith Craig, Shakespeare's Crowds on the second by Lady Benson, and Shakespeare's Humour on the third by Mr. Miles Malleson. Twenty-seven Institutes took part, the premier award being gained by an Institute entering for the first time.

Three Institutes entered the competition for the N.F.W.I. Festival.

ART. The first exhibition of Pictures and Sculpture was held in May. About 250 people visited this exhibition of 108 exhibits from members of Institutes and men nominally resident in East Sussex. Only a small number of pictures were rejected, and a certain number were sold. Mr. Emile Verpilleux and Mr. Vignole Fisher acted as Selection and Hanging Committee. At the conclusion of the Exhibition, Mr. R. A. Wilson gave criticisms of the pictures, which were very much appreciated by a large number of the artists who attended.

INSTITUTE AND GROUP ACTIVITIES. Institute programmes have been excellent, and an increased desire to know more of the Institute Movement is evident.

The Groups have been very active this year. Handicraft Exhibitions have been held at three Centres totalling 1,817 Exhibits. Group Rallies, Parties and Lectures added to the enjoyment of members who are not able to attend the more distant activities of the Federation.

WEST SUSSEX (81).

Chairman : Mrs. E. T. Hodgson, Barnfield, Cowfold, Horsham.

Secretary : Miss Ainsworth Gilbert, 78A, North Street, Chichester.

ORGANISATION. One new Institute has been formed during the year at Sidlesham. The total membership on October 1st, 1928, was 6,395. Two new V.C.O.s have qualified and been appointed since the last report, bringing the total to six.

The Executive Committee has been assisted in its work by the following Sub-Committees: Agriculture and Horticulture, Anti-Litter, Education, Finance, Handicrafts, Music, Dancing and Drama and Organisation. The Executive Committee welcomed Mrs. Auerbach to its meeting in March. Two Council Meetings have been held and were well attended. Two Treasurers' Meetings were arranged at Chichester and Horsham at which W.I. Treasurers were invited to discuss the County Budget.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES. At the suggestion of a W.I. member, Institutes in the County combined to present a Shield to H.M.S. "Sussex."

A most interesting Study Circle Demonstration was arranged in December which members of the Executive Committee and of Sub-Committees were invited to attend. Those who came are hoping to give help in Institutes.

A Conference for all interested in Handicrafts was convened in October, and was conducted by Miss Armes. The County Federation has sent delegates to all Meetings and Conferences arranged by the National Federation and to Council Meetings of neighbouring Federations. Representatives visited also the Berkshire Pageant.

The Six Groups have taken an active part in County Work, especially in preparing for the County Rally. Two Conferences have been held in each Group. At the autumn Conferences Choirs sang two-part songs, which were criticised by expert judges. As a result more W.I. Choirs have entered for the West Sussex Choral

Competitions. Midhurst Group held an Exhibition in March and Steyning Group held its first social in November. The County Rally took place in June. Cowdray ruins were kindly lent for the occasion by Lord Cowdray. A Folk Dancing Competition was held in the morning; 37 W.I.s entered teams. There was Community Dancing in the evening. 5,164 people attended and the day was a great success financially.

A successful Drama Festival in two Rounds was held in March. The first Round was played in the Groups, the second Round took place at Horsham. Ten plays were acted there, including three original plays and two mimes. The Blue Coat by Miss Lucey was "reserve" for N.F.W.I. Festival in London.

Programme Schools at Chichester, Horsham and Midhurst were conducted by the Hon. Mrs. Colvin, and were well attended. The Institutes adopted the subject "Our County" for study for the programmes. In connection with this two Speakers' Tours were arranged, which were a great help to the W.I.s who secured the speakers.

During the year the circulation of "Home and Country" Supplement reached 1,250.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS. The West Sussex Rural Community Council held a two days' Fête in Arundel Park in July, at which the W.I.s and County Executive helped.

A series of Lectures by the Red Cross Association and Dental Board was held in the Spring.

The County Federation is still affiliated to the Brighton Branch of the National Council of Women and to the British Drama League. It is represented on the West Sussex Rural Community Council, the Sussex Playing Fields' Association, and the Agricultural and Horticultural, and Education Sub-Committees of the County Council.

An Anti-litter Campaign has been started and the question of a Health Campaign in conjunction with the National Health County Insurance Committee is being considered.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Several W.I.s have had debates, a fairly new departure, and inter-Institute Debates also appear on some Programmes.

Some novel Competitions are reported, such as How to Chair a Meeting, Impromptu Speeches, and Best Disguise in 5 minutes. Exhibitions included Husbands' work, Victorian Bonnets, Sussex Smocks.

Many W.I.s interchange visits. One is now offering to send members to give free help at any small W.I.

Large numbers of the Institutes contribute to Hospitals and local Nursing Associations.

A new W.I. is running a campaign to get the British and Empire grown flour used in the making of wholemeal bread.

From W.I. reports and the reports of V.C.O.s it is evident that the ordinary member is taking more active interest in the work and is willing to share responsibility.

Mrs. Colvin gave three W.I. Parties in the Summer, at which members from neighbouring W.I.s were invited to meet Mrs. Watt.

WARWICKSHIRE (95).

President: The Lady Ilkeston, 23, High Street, Warwick.

Chairman: Mrs. Hopkins, The Priory Cottage, Warwick.

Secretary: Miss Edith Walker, 7, Parade, Leamington.

ORGANISATION. Membership is now 5,855. Five new Institutes have been formed during the year. Meetings have been held in all the Groups. Two Conferences have been held in the County to deal with the subject of County Finance. Mrs. Gervas Huxley spoke on National and County Finance.

At the Spring and Autumn Council Meetings the addresses given were on "The Hampshire Scheme," and "The Pooling of Fares."

Special thanks are due to the Town Association for the invaluable help they have given by managing the catering at County events, by arranging for Emergency Speakers, at the Exhibition, and in many other ways.

HANDICRAFTS. The Handicraft workers throughout the County have made great strides this year. The following classes have been arranged by the Handicraft Committee: Plain Sewing by Miss Campbell of Hampshire, Raffia by Miss MacLaren of Essex, Raffia by Mrs. Oldham of Warwickshire, and Basket making by Mr. Crampton, of Leicester. The work of the Craft Mothers has greatly increased; their appointment has proved a great success. The W.I. Shop in Warwick has had a most successful year. We exhibited Craft work at the Royal Agricultural Show, at our own County Agricultural Show, and at the Royal National Eisteddfodd at Treorchy. The Arts Department of the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff bought specimens at our stall. At the Highland and Agricultural Show at Aberdeen several of our members distinguished themselves in classes open to all Rural Industries throughout the United Kingdom. The Dunchurch and Thurlaston W.I. Glove Industry has had a very good year. An order was carried out by them for 180 pairs of gloves for Philadelphia, U.S.A.

"A" Tests have been passed in Linen Embroidery, Rugs, Upholstery, Coiled Raffia, Soft Toys, Eiderdowns and Tinkering. The County Loan collection of Models and Designs is much appreciated, and is always in use.

At our Tenth Annual Exhibition 85 W.I.s exhibited. The standard of judging was high, but 42 exhibits received full marks and 388 1st class Certificates were gained. Miss Armes spoke to a crowded audience of Craft workers, and gave most useful criticism and advice. We were proud to receive visits from Miss Christy and Mr. Vaughan Nash, but even more proud when we received a congratulatory letter on the excellence of our Exhibition from the N.F.W.I. Handicraft Sub-Committee.

AGRICULTURE AND DOMESTIC SCIENCE. At the County Show 32 co-operative exhibits of Bottled Fruit and Home-Cooked Food were staged and a Silver Medal was again awarded to the Women's Institute Exhibition by the Warwickshire Show Committee. At the County Exhibition for the first time a separate Exhibition at St. Mary's Hall, Warwick was organised by the Agricultural and Domestic Science Sub-Committee. This proved most successful, 1,200 entries were received and the standard was so high that 800 Certificates were awarded.

Eleven entries were received in the Competition for humanely killed bacon at the County Show, and three humane killers were sold there to local butchers by the R.S.P.C.A.

In conjunction with the County Council Poultry Organiser the keeping of good poultry is being encouraged by lectures and by the Egg and Chick Distributing Scheme.

A Course of Lectures by Miss Edwards of the Good House-keeping Institute was given in 10 Institutes. These lectures were well attended and much appreciated.

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT. At the Leamington Musical Festival there were three classes for Institute Choirs. The adjudicator considered that the standard had improved.

The Shakespeare Competition was judged by Miss Gwen Lally, whose criticism was most valuable.

Two Producers' Schools were held in which Mime-work, Elocution, and Make-up were studied. Mrs. Streatfeild proved an inspiring instructress at the first. The second was held by Miss Pickersgill, who brought her own students to demonstrate.

At the Warwick Fête many Institutes combined in Folk-Dancing. The County Wardrobe includes a large number of dresses, mainly Elizabethan. There are a large number of plays

in the County Library. Two Groups, hold annual competitions in Folk Dancing, Singing and Acting. Dunchurch had a Pageant of its village history in which over 100 members took part.

HELP FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS. Sister Monica's lectures on "How to Keep Well," which are provided by the B.R.C.S. and Dental Board are still immensely appreciated in the County and prove of the greatest benefit.

Many thanks are due to the Clerk of the Warwickshire Insurance Committee, who has given lectures to many Institutes on Health Insurance.

The County Council Grant of £100 for 1928-29 has been spent on a course of Good Housekeeping Lectures, Handicrafts, a Producers' School, and Elocution Classes.

WESTMORELAND (57).

Chairman : Miss Cropper, Halhead Green, Kendal.

Secretary : Miss Punchard, Kearstwick, Kirkby Lonsdale.

ORGANISATION. Four new Institutes have been formed and one has been re-started after a lapse of 3 years.

Two Council Meetings have been held. Mrs. Holland Martin of the N.F.W.I. gave an interesting talk on the social side of the movement at the Annual General Meeting held in Penrith in May.

At the Half-yearly Council Meeting held in Kendal in October, Mr. Dimsdale, of Armstrong College, spoke on the better marketing of eggs. Mr. Hosker, Sec. to the Lunesdale Farmers, Ltd., opened a discussion on the subject and explained their system.

The Summer Group Conferences took the form of Garden Parties. Mr. Reginald Ward made a tour of the Groups during the autumn and spoke on Music as a Recreation.

Thirty-six visits have been paid to Institutes by V.C.O.s or members of the Executive Committee. Four V.C.O.s attended the Continuation School held in Newcastle-on-Tyne on June 29th.

Nineteen Delegates attended the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting in London and nine delegates attended the Consultative Council Meeting in London on December 12th.

HANDICRAFTS. Two Guild of Learners Students attended the School for Methods of Teaching, held at Haughton-le-Skerne, Darlington, in October.

One Guild of Learners member was asked to send an exhibit to N.F.W.I. Stall at the Royal Show held at Nottingham.

Course of Classes for Quilting, Gloving and articles made over were held at three centres in October.

A sale of work done by members, held during a week in April at a shop in Kendal, realised £15 9s. 11d. for those who sent articles for sale. Members are also allowed to send work for sale to a shop in Windermere. Some members attended the Handicraft Conference at Newcastle-on-Tyne on November 29th.

AGRICULTURE. A three days' Intensive Agricultural Course, held at the County Farm in October, was attended by 26 members, who gained practical experience in best methods to carry out that work.

MUSIC. Ten Institute Choirs competed at the Mary Wakefield Musical Festival.

HELP FROM COUNTY COUNCIL. Eighteen Institutes have had evening classes in Dressmaking, Cookery, Home Nursing and First Aid under the County Council and received grants towards the expenses.

A Golden Thread series of Lectures on "The House, How to Help it," has been arranged.

COMMUNITY WORK. The County Federation sent a letter to the local 'Bus Companies asking them to provide a receptacle for holding disused tickets in their 'buses. It was signed by the Chairman, the High Sheriff, the Chairman of the County Council, the Secretary of the Society for Safeguarding the Beauty of the Lake District, and the President of the Cumberland Federation of Women's Institutes. Very favourable replies were received.

Many Institutes by gifts of money or garments, have helped the miners, the Hospitals, the Y.M.C.A., local Nursing Associations, Life Boat Funds, Enham Village Centre, St. John's Ambulance, and the Not Forgotten Association. One Institute has had an anti-tuberculosis campaign; several have collected and sent eggs to Hospitals.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Lectures have been given on such varied subjects as Life Boats and their work, Local Names and their significance, League of Nations, Toc H, Tales of Greek Heroes, London, Child Welfare, Nature Studies, Household Accounts, Modes of Transport, Animals' Rights, Book Binding, Slave Trade, Music and the White Ant. Demonstrations and Classes also have been held in many subjects.

WILTSHIRE (98).

President and Chairman: The Countess of Radnor, Longford Castle, Salisbury.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Impey, Sheldon Manor, Chippenham.

ORGANISATION. Three new Institutes were formed in the year. Three were suspended by their own wish—one owing to want of a room for meetings, the other two because the membership was very small owing to houses and their cottages being empty.

A Drama Sub-Committee has been formed which will, it is hoped, be a help to Institutes in organising plays.

Group meetings have been held, twice a year, in all centres, and are popular. A Child Welfare Exhibition with lectures, open to the public, was held in Warminster, and over 2,000 people came to it. The plan in which Secretaries in a group meet and arrange tours for speakers is giving more variety in the programmes.

V.C.O.s paid 85 visits to Institutes, besides many paid by members of the Executive Committee.

FINANCE. It was a satisfaction to the Finance Sub-Committee to find that the figures on both sides of the Statement of Accounts corresponded very closely with the amounts budgeted. The quota for donations in Wiltshire has been 7d. per member for three years.

"HOME AND COUNTRY." The Supplement is popular and is issued free to subscribers to "Home and Country."

HANDICRAFTS. The Women's Institute Tent was held, as usual, at the County Agricultural Show. There was a larger supply of Handicrafts, both for sale and exhibition, and the standard of work had improved.

INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES. Funds for Wireless installations in County Hospitals have been largely helped by Institutes. Warminster are raising money to endow a cot in their hospital in memory of their late President, The Marchioness of Bath. Two Institutes have bought huts for use as village halls.

WORCESTERSHIRE (74).

Chairman: Miss L. M. Hingley, Middle Hill Park, Broadway, Worcs.

Hon. Financial Secretary: Miss Hyde, 51, Broad Street, Worcester.

Organising Secretary: Miss A. T. Hall, 51, Broad Street, Worcester.

ORGANISATION. The year has shown steady progress. The present membership is approximately 5,400. Three new Institutes have been formed.

Attendance at Group Meetings and Council Meetings held during the year was excellent, and a lively interest was taken in all discussions.

A very successful Speakers' School was conducted by Lady Balfour. The programme was prepared for Students of some experience in public speaking.

A series of seven articles, dealing with the wider aspects of the W.I. Movement, appeared in 14 local papers. Each article was written by an officer or Member of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee.

FINANCE. As a result of the passing of a resolution at the 1928 Annual Meeting, the assured annual income of this Federation has been increased by almost 50%. In this respect, Institutes have shown a splendid spirit of loyalty both to their County Federation and the W.I. Movement as a whole.

HEALTH. The General Education Sub-Committee organised six Group Lectures on "Rheumatism and its Prevention," expenses being covered by the County Insurance Committee. Attendances were so excellent that the Insurance Committee is now considering a scheme for further co-operation in health propaganda work. Institutes took full advantage of the offer by the Public Health and Housing Committee of free health talks. These schemes were a direct outcome of the Health Survey undertaken in this County by the N.F.W.I.

A trial Course of six fortnightly Classes in dietetics proved most successful. This was based on the syllabus drawn up by the N.F.W.I., which together with the County Council Education Authority, assisted the course financially. The lectures and demonstrations were given by Miss Underhill of the National Training School of Cookery, London. 32 Institutes were represented at the Course by some 80 to 90 members.

EXHIBITION. The 1928 Exhibition of Handicrafts and Agricultural Produce was a record in regard to number and standard of exhibits, attendance, general display and finance. The W.I. Challenge Shield was won by Three Hills W.I., for the second time in succession, and the Silver Cup was awarded to Worcester Centre for the best piece of co-operative work. New features of interest at the Exhibition were a co-operative Nursery and a section for Village Histories.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE. A class was held for instruction in the preparation, packing and display of produce for Shows. Exhibits (both agricultural and handicraft) were sent to the Three Counties Show and to the N.F.W.I. Stand at the Royal

Show. One exhibit was sent to the Dairy Show. The County Council gave a special single-bird section to W.I. members at the Worcestershire Laying Trials, 1927-28, and 20 entries were received from 10 different Institutes.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND DANCING. Folk Dancing continues, and interest in it is extending. One Group had a little Festival this year. Both the Drama and Music are doing well.

COUNTY COUNCIL AID. Fifteen courses of Instruction and 85 single lectures and demonstrations have been given this year. Subjects include: Dress making, Basket making, Cookery (all kinds), Household Jobbery, Poultry keeping, gardening, Fruit canning and bottling, Jam making, Bee keeping, Dairy work, Laundry work.

COMMUNITY WORK. Miss George, an Indian Social Science Student, spent a month at the County Office in order to get an insight into W. I. Committee work and office procedure. She hopes to take part in rural educational work amongst the women of Southern India on her return. Miss George attended all Committees, 12 Institute Meetings, and 4 Group Meetings, and was thus enabled to form a very good idea of the life and work of the W.I. Movement.

Several Institutes have combined in opening a W.I. Stall in Kidderminster Market for the sale of produce and handicrafts. The Stall, which is under the supervision of the Agricultural and Horticultural Sub-Committee, was opened temporarily for Christmas trade, and may be re-opened permanently in the Spring.

The majority of Institutes have undertaken useful community work, namely assisting hospitals, infirmaries and other local institutions, while several have sent gifts to the distressed mining areas. One Institute gave a First Aid Outfit to their local Fire Brigade; another provided waste paper baskets for the village; and one of the larger Institutes supplied the voluntary work, under the County Orthopaedic Nurse, in connection with remedial exercises for Elementary school children.

YORKSHIRE (216).

President and Chairman: Mrs. Edward Shaw, O.B.E., J.P., Welburn Manor, Kirby Moorside.

Secretary: Miss Amy K. Hamilton, Ouse Bridge Chambers, York.

ORGANISATION. Thirty-four Women's Institutes have been formed in 1928. One has been closed. The membership is now over 12,000. This great increase in the number of Institutes is most satisfactory, particularly as it has not been possible to do any organised propaganda work.

All of the 12 V.C.O.s have done valuable work. A Conference conducted by Mrs. Nugent Harris, Chief Organiser, N.F.W.I., was held in York for them in June.

The Executive Committee has met 12 times, and has been greatly assisted by the following Sub-Committees: Finance, Organisation, Handicrafts, Sales, Education and Agriculture, Drama and Music. An *Ad Hoc* Committee was formed for the Escrick Festival, and another has been formed to deal with the furnishing of the Yorkshire Room for the N.F.W.I. Exhibition.

A new Panel of Speakers and Demonstrators has been issued to the Institutes. The Executive Committee organised tours for Mr. Till, Cookery Expert, for Miss Grantham, Mr. Nugent Harris, and Mrs. Garner.

A Course of Health Lectures, under the Red Cross Society, was organised in November, nine institutes having courses of seven lectures.

The Yorkshire Federation Cookery Book continues to be a great success. 7,000 copies have been sold and there is still a great demand for it.

Two Council Meetings have been held. At the Annual Meeting in April, Miss Dent spoke on the Hampshire Scheme, and Miss Sybil Cropper gave a Lecture Recital on Folk Songs in many Lands. At the Half-yearly Meeting in November, the Countess of Listowel spoke on Pooled Fares, and Kirby Moorside and Pickering W.I.s gave an excellent performance of Macbeth.

Fifty-four Delegates from W.I.s and three Delegates from the Executive Committee attended the Annual General Meeting in London. Delegates also attended three Consultative Councils, the Health Conference in London, and the Handicrafts Conference.

A Group Convenors' Conference was held in York in January, at which Hon. Mrs. Colvin, N.F.W.I. Executive Committee spoke on Programme Making. Group Meetings have been addressed by Miss Armes, Crafts Adviser, Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser (who held 8 Model Monthly Meetings) and Mrs. Nugent Harris. Some of the Institutes have had to be re-grouped, and new Groups have been formed in several areas.

FINANCE. The great increase in Institutes enabled the Executive Committee to reduce the quota from the Institutes, and all W.I.s have loyally supported the Finance Scheme and the Federation is in a sound financial position.

COUNTY COUNCIL AND UNIVERSITY AID. The County Councils of the three Ridings have again assisted the W.I.s with Lectures

and Demonstrations and West Riding Council has arranged courses of Classes in Cookery and Dressmaking in several Institutes.

Leeds University have, in conjunction with the W.I.s arranged several Courses of Butter making and Cheese making Classes. They have provided Lecturers also on Agriculture, Horticulture, and many social subjects. Hull University have arranged Courses of Classes on Drama for Groups and offer to give Pioneer Lectures and Courses of Classes on Musical Appreciation and other subjects.

AGRICULTURE. Twenty-six students attended the Agricultural School conducted by Miss Simpson, N.F.W.I. Organiser. The Leeds University provided Lecturers on Bee keeping, Poultry keeping, and Clean Milk, and arranged visits to the University Experimental Farm, and a Grade "A" Tuberculin Tested Milk Farm.

HANDICRAFTS. A Handicrafts Conference was held in York in January, and as a result a Sales Sub-Committee was formed. Orders have since been received and executed by the W.I.s.

A Loan Collection has been bought, and several gifts have been received. There is a great demand for it in the Institutes.

A Stand at the Great Yorkshire Show at Halifax was very successful; demonstrations were given in making Binder Twine Mats, Sea Grass Stools, and Gloves.

Group Exhibitions were held at several Centres and W.I. members sent many exhibits to both the North Riding Rural Industries Exhibition at Leyburn, and the East Riding Education Committee Exhibition at Beverley. The majority of the awards at both the Exhibitions were won by W.I. members. Driffeld Group organised a stand at the Driffeld Agricultural Show.

DRAMA AND MUSIC. The Drama Competitions were held in York in April. The Adjudicators were Miss Gwen Lally and Mr. L. Ramsden. The Shakespeare Cup and the All Women Team Cup were both won by Escrick W.I. The Mixed Team Cup by East and West Ayton, and the Banner for the Original Play by Goathland W.I. and the Novices Cup by Norton W.I.

A successful Dramatic Musical and Folk Dancing Festival was held at Escrick Park, nr. York. Entries for the Folk Dancing and Choral Competitions were very satisfactory, and the Judges were pleased with the standard.

Wigginton and Haxby W.I. Team was chosen to represent the Northern Area at the Drama Festival held in London in May.

A Three Days' Dramatic School, held at Middlesborough in November, was conducted by Miss Gwen Lally. W.I. members from Durham, Northumberland and Yorkshire attended it.

A Choral Conference, held at St. William's College, York, was addressed by Miss Grace Hadow, Vice-Chairman of the N.F.W.I. As a result it has been decided to hold schools for Conductors under the Carnegie Scheme in different parts of the county.

COMMUNITY WORK. Several W.I.s have succeeded in getting the Telephone installed in their villages. Four Institutes have opened Village Halls, and several others are busy raising money to build Halls; many have been the means of starting Nursing Associations in their districts.

Two W.I.s give dinners to the School Children during the winter, one supports a Dr. Barnardo's Home Orphan, one sends literature to the Spurn Head Lighthouse, and another has had baskets put in the village for the disposal of rubbish.

Institutes have raised money for the following charitable organisations: Darlington Hospital, Leeds Infirmary, Hull Infirmary, York County Hospital, Richmond Hospital, Malton Cottage Hospital, Ryedale Hospital, Kirby Moorside Orthopaedic Hospital, North Ormesby Hospital, Greenbank Hospital, St. Dunstan's, Yorkshire Blind Associations, Yorkshire Hostel for Mothers and Babies, Harrogate Hospital Maternity Ward, Darlington Y.M.C.A. Hostel, and also for many local Nursing Associations.

Group Exhibitions were held at several Centres and members sent many exhibits to both the North Riding Rural Industries Exhibition at Leyburn, and the East Riding Education Committee Exhibition at Beverley. The majority of the awards at both the Exhibitions were won by W.I. members. Driffield Group organised a stand at the Duffield Agricultural Show.

Drama and Music. The Drama Competitions were held in York in April. The Adjudicators were Miss Gwen Lally and Mr. E. Ramsden. The Shakespeare Cup and the All Women Team Cup were both won by Eastrick W.I. The Mixed Team Cup by East and West Ayles, and the Banner for the Original Play by Eastland W.I. and the Novices Cup by Norton W.I.

A successful Dramatic Musical and Folk Dancing Festival was held at Eastrick Park, nr. York. Entries for the Folk Dancing and Choral Competitions were very satisfactory, and the Judges were pleased with the standard.

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CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

It is my very pleasant duty today not only to welcome delegates from 2,702 Women's Institutes in England and Wales but also visitors from Country Women's Societies in Czechoslovakia, India, U.S.A., Victoria, Queensland, Union of South Africa, Rhodesia and Scotland.

It must be very satisfactory to all of us to think that not only in our own country but all over the world, countrywomen are banding themselves together to add to their own happiness and to help on new ideas and to carry them into effect. In the past country women in most parts of the world have accepted the conditions of their lives and have had no power to alter them. They were not united in any organisation and had no means of considering the questions which affect them and of making their wishes known. Thirty years ago Canadian women formed the first Women's Institute and their lead has been followed in this country and the movement is spreading throughout the British Empire. Simultaneously, Associations of Country women have been growing in Europe and in the U.S.A.

It is I think very satisfactory to realise that now in most parts of the world groups of country women need no longer lead lives of utter loneliness. They can form an Institute, they can meet and make friends, they can enjoy acting and dancing and singing, they can study the past and consider the present questions of the day - they can take their share in promoting the good of their counties and the Peace of the World.

Now to our Report. In referring to the work done by your Executive Committee during the past twelve months, the fact is accentuated that as time goes on and the Institutes and County Federations become more established and better organised, the National Federation is called upon less and less to help the individual Institutes and one of its chief and increasing duties is to collect information on various matters, to think over and sift the facts and then to make the information obtained available to the County Federations and Institutes.

The work which has been done by the Education Sub-Committee illustrates this point. The Committee, as the result of its health survey has been able to bring before the notice of the County Federations the great difference which exists between one county and another with regard to the help which is available on health matters.

In some counties the County Authorities can supply no lecturers on health matters and in some there are not even teachers of Domestic Economy available and when the County Federation succeeds in finding the teachers the County Council does not even help towards the cost of the classes. It is not right that W.Is. should have to pay for cooking classes and for every kind of health teaching. The County Authorities should provide these to a great extent. Personally, I believe that those Institutes which have financial difficulties and find it hard to support their County Federations adequately are most often to be found in counties where the education and health authorities are not very active.

Institute members have been very patient up to now but I believe that the information which the National Federation has obtained from all the counties and which shows how some of them suffer from the neglect of the County Authorities and how unfavourably they compare with other County Councils who help the Women's Institutes so generously and who use them as a means of giving the education which it is their duty to give - I believe that that information will be a stimulus and encouragement to the neglected counties to get that help from their County Authorities to which they are entitled.

You will remember that the last Annual General Meeting instructed the Executive to consider what changes in the constitution or what adaptations of the existing constitution were necessitated by the growth of the movement. The result of their deliberations is embodied in the survey which has been sent to every Institute.

Your Executive considered very carefully a number of alternative schemes and came to the conclusion that no radical change is desirable. They believe that on the whole (although there are some obvious disadvantages) for the direct representatives of the Institutes to come together at this great meeting to settle the policy of the movement and for all the Institutes to elect their Executive which is directly responsible to them, is the most democratic and therefore the most satisfactory form of organisation. Without altering these fundamental principles the Executive will propose a scheme tomorrow which it is hoped will keep the Executive in closer touch with the counties and yet maintain the principle that the Executive is directly responsible to this meeting.

As you all know it is not the policy of your Executive Committee to bring before the notice of the Institutes any form of charitable appeal because we believe the Institutes are already very generous and there is no danger of them not helping their neighbours by raising money for hospitals and other charities. We feel that the danger lies rather in the other direction and that some W.Is. are apt to be too generous and to run the risk of frightening away the poorer members who do not like to refuse to do their share and yet sometimes can ill afford to spare enough, either time or money if the Institute devotes too much of its energies towards helping outside objects. We did not, however, feel that these arguments applied to the scheme for the Transference of Miners and when we were approached through the National Council of Social Service to co-operate with them we agreed to do so.

I would like to thank the Institutes for the very careful consideration which they gave to the suggestions which were circulated. Naturally, in most villages nothing could be done, either there were no jobs to be filled or there was the shortage of housing from which rural districts have been suffering for so long. In spite of these difficulties 12 miners and their families have been moved by the Institutes from the distressed areas and the men are now at work. This total is small but it would have been half as large again if in several cases there had not been two or three weeks' delay so that jobs which had been offered had to be filled before the arrangements for the transference of the miner had been completed. In any case 12 families represent probably about 60 people and to have given these families a fresh start in

life and to have removed them from hopeless surroundings has been well worth doing. I believe also that the enquiries made by the Institutes have in some cases resulted in private individuals employing a miner though this has not been done actually through the scheme initiated by the National Council of Social Service.

A good deal of work has been done during the year by the Institutes to preserve the beauty of the countryside and I should particularly like to congratulate the Surrey and Leicestershire Institutes which have helped to get Bye-laws adopted by their County Councils which make it illegal for the public to scatter papers and old pots and pans in the hedgerows and on the public highway.

I hope very much that these bye-laws will be a great success and that they will have the desired effect. I urge you all to watch the progress which is made in these two counties - news will be given from time to time in "Home and Country" - and if the bye-laws are a success, I ask every Institute to use its influence to get them adopted in other counties as well. How proud we should be if at our next Annual Meeting we could say that old papers and tins were no longer allowed to disfigure our villages and country roads and that we had been able to give a helping hand to bring about this reform.

Let us be energetic in trying to preserve the beauty of the countryside and let us get encouragement from our success last year with regard to telephones. As you know we succeeded in getting the amount of the guarantee reduced, and in addition to this there has been a very interesting development since the issue of the Annual Report. In the Chancellor's reference to rural telephones in his budget speech, it is proposed before July 1st next to embark on the installation of public call-boxes in the post offices or railway stations of five-sixths of the villages which are at present without telephone facilities. Although a call-box does not serve so useful a purpose as a public call-box or kiosk, since it will not provide an all-night and all-day service, it will obviously be a considerable gain to a village without facilities and no guarantee will be required from the village before its installation. Institutes in villages without telephone facilities will do well to communicate as soon as possible with their district telephone exchanges and ask to be included in the five-sixths of the villages to be supplied.

In conclusion I would say that the National Federation has had a satisfactory year. The number of Institutes has increased to 4,316, the demand for education, especially in practical subjects is growing, enthusiasm continues to be shown for Music and Drama. Voluntary County Organisers, the officers and committees of both County Federations and of the Institutes continue to give that unstinted time and devotion to the work to which its success is so largely due and which earns the gratitude of every Institute member.

Because we have had a successful year we must not become complacent. To get the best out of the Institutes needs constant watchfulness, not by Institute officers and others in authority but by every Institute member. We must be on the look out for criticism and benefit from it, we must get youth and energy into our movement, we must broaden our sympathies and be thorough in our thinking. We shall only go forward if, as individuals, we are learning all the time.

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