

Women's Institutes and their Work

The Woman's Institute a Necessity

While we must admit that the Women's Institute has apparently failed in some localities, with equal candor we must state that in the majority of instances it has progressed to a wonderful degree.

Where failure is prevalent, the fault lies not in the Institute movement itself, but rather in the ladies or their local conditions. Many things may contribute to either success or failure, but frequently success may be obtained if an honest effort be made to locate the weakness of the organization and the members make a determined stand to overcome the same. Some Institutes seem to know how to turn everything to a successful issue. Possibly much of their success may be attributed to thorough business methods. Punctuality, topics well prepared, discussions and questions bearing directly on the subject, with special attention to the fact that no two ladies are allowed to speak at the same time. By the exercise of a little tact the President can overcome this difficulty, and the discussions carried on in a parliamentary way, allowing all to benefit by the statements made by the different members.

The social spirit is diffusing itself, and it is a common occurrence to hear ladies say, "I never knew Mrs. A— till I joined the Institute; and as for some of the other ladies, I had no idea they were so genial and interesting."

In many small towns, villages, and rural communities, people move in cliques, or meet only in their own church organization. If the Institute accomplished nothing else than the bringing of ladies to know and appreciate one another, it would be well worth all the time, energy and money expended on it. It has, however, done infinitely more than this. We cannot begin to estimate the value of knowledge spread broadcast, of training gained in the exchange of ideas, of the development of womanhood and home life.

The Institute movement has come to stay and to leave its impress on the age. It fills a want such as no other organization has done, and we

may add: "Success to the Women's Institute in all its undertakings." ISABEL RIFE. Waterloo Co., Ont.

Making and Baking a Cake

By Mrs. T. O. Brown, Member of S. Tarentorus Institute C. Algoma.

When about to make a cake gather all the materials together on your cabinet or table. See that you have enough dry wood on hand so that you do not have to mend your fire, when your cake is rising. This is where a great many make a failure.

Carefully read over the recipe, grease the tins in which the cake is to be baked so that as soon as the batter is ready, it can be put into the oven without delay. Beel suet dripping may be used instead of butter for greasing purposes since it does not burn so easily.

If the eggs are cold their whip far more easily and better than if warm. Add a pinch of salt to the whites. The yolks and whites should be beaten separately.

Always sift the flour; eggs and rising material will have far more effect in less time on well sifted flour than on a compact mass of the unsifted material. A cup of flour pressed hard as in a sack or barrel, weighs much more than a cup of sifted flour.

When fruit is to be added to the cake batter, see that it is prepared before hand, so that it is perfectly dry by the time it is used. It is a good plan to wash and pick over the fruit when it first comes from the grocer. Wash in hot water several times, then rinse in cold water. The use of hot water first, makes the fruit plump, swelling it out, and it also kills any germs. Perfectly dried fruit should be added to the batter just before the last of the flour is stirred in. Turn the flour in the bowl, then the fruit, and stir both in together. Batter containing fruit should not be too thin. Therefore, when fruit is to be added to an ordinary recipe, add more flour than usual to give the batter sufficient body to support the weight of the fruit. Butter should never be melted but put in a warm place for a short time before using, if it is very cold.

Now, first of all, the butter should be thoroughly creamed, then the measured sugar should be added. Sometimes only a very little butter

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