

Home Economics Convention

Many subjects of interest to farm women discussed at Convention of Home Economics Societies held at the Manitoba Agricultural College

The granting of the request of certain members of the Home Economics Societies for the appointment of an advisory board, on which there should be representatives appointed by the women assembled in convention, was the most important feature of the gathering. This board is to be composed of the Minister of Agriculture or his deputy, the president of the College, and the senior Home Economics lecturer, together with three representatives from the societies, to be appointed in the convention annually. The representatives for the coming year are: Mrs. Speechly, Pilot Mound; Mrs. Hunt, Benito, and Mrs. Cooper, Minnedosa.

The convention, which was held in the College residence, began on the morning of Tuesday, February 16, and continued until the evening of the 17th, thru four busy sessions, crammed with interesting and instructive addresses.

Following President Black's very cordial address of welcome, Mrs. Salisbury spoke briefly on the work of the Home Economics Societies during the past year.

Nine new societies have come into being, bringing the number actually listed up to twenty-three, and the membership to 1,675.

Useful Work Accomplished

The work of these societies is widely varied, including the establishment of rest rooms by ten societies, improvement of cemeteries, organization of magazine circles, assisting unemployed girls to find homes in the country, introducing the curfew bell, encouraging country fairs and the lighting of town streets. Swan River and Oak Lake are maintaining well-equipped libraries, and Pilot Mound is conducting sewing classes for girls. A great many of the societies are helping most generously with the various patriotic funds and relief work.

The Extension Department of the College has paid out \$309.75 in grants to the Home Economics Societies. During the past year a library, consisting of two hundred and forty volumes representing forty different subjects, has been purchased for the use of the Home Economics Societies. Two or three volumes at a time are sent out to any society upon the request of the secretary, and these may be kept for two months, with the privilege of renewing for another two months.

During the year many of the clubs have been taking up correspondence courses in home nursing. In the coming year the subjects of the correspondence courses will be the theory of foods and the principles of cooking and plain sewing. There are now at the disposal of the societies four circulating libraries containing from twelve to fifteen volumes each.

Miss Gowse, speaking on the Field Work of the college, expressed her pleasure in meeting again many of the women whom she had visited in their societies. She explained that special courses on literature, home nursing, personal hygiene, cooking, study of

foods, sewing and laundry work were now available for the use of the societies.

Miss J. F. Yeman, Souris High School, spoke on the relation of the Home Economics Societies to the school. She suggested that they take the school grounds under their care, see to their beautification, to the sanitation, ventilation and water supply of the school building and be prepared on every occasion to uphold the hands of the teacher.

Since many schools lacked the equipment for teaching cooking and sewing Miss Yeman said she thought that instruction might be given in these things in the home, and the children given credit for it upon the mothers reporting to the teacher.

Victorian Order of Nurses

The visitors to the convention had the rare privilege of hearing Miss Mary A. McKenzie, of Ottawa, explain the work of the Victorian Order of Nurses beginning with its organization by Lady Aberdeen in 1897 as a jubilee offering to the late Queen Victoria. So greatly was the queen pleased with this offering that she granted this organization a Royal Charter which, in its anticipation of possible emergencies and principle of self-government, has proved itself a masterly conception.

At the outset Miss McKenzie stated the objects of this society to be four-

a nurse is secured for a rural district. First it would be wise to communicate with the Headquarters, Victorian Order of Nurses, Ottawa, Ont., asking for their co-operation.

To carry on this work it is necessary to elect a local board of management, and this is best done at a large public meeting of the people concerned. This board has complete power to fix the membership fee for the order in that district, which varies from one to ten dollars a year, and to draft its own by-laws, also settling the fees which shall be charged for attendance of this nurse upon people fully competent to pay.

The cost of maintaining one of these nurses for a year is about eight or nine hundred dollars. The nurse receives forty-five dollars a month and her board. There is an initial expense of seventeen dollars for a properly equipped bag and a very small cost for gauze, cotton and dressings.

The sources of revenue are the membership fees, the fees charged for the nurse's services when people can afford to pay, annual subscriptions from fraternal societies and grants from the municipality. To make smooth the way of the beginner the Victorian Order of Nurses is prepared to make up to the Board of Management any deficit in their funds at the end of the year, the money to be paid from the Duchess of Connaught Fund.

tracts the local officers have complete jurisdiction and that there has lately been appointed an advisory committee of seventeen women from the various districts, with whom he can consult concerning the policy of the institutes.

The work covered by this very large body of organized women is naturally very diversified, including household matters, the whole big field of school improvement, civic improvements, social centres, libraries, rest rooms and local charities.

In his address on Rural Economics Mr. Putnam explained what was being done in Ontario in the way of short courses, in giving extension lectures and demonstrations in home economics and sewing, a small charge being made for these lectures originally, which has since been discontinued.

A paper prepared by Mrs. Howden, of Neepawa, on Idealism, was read by Mrs. Harrison of that place. It pointed the way very briefly and beautifully to the idealization of the common things of life.

Mrs. M. Cooper, of Minnedosa, gave the story of the ups and downs of their rest room, or more properly the downs and ups of it, since the first year's deficit of thirteen dollars has been changed within the past year to a credit of fifty-five dollars.

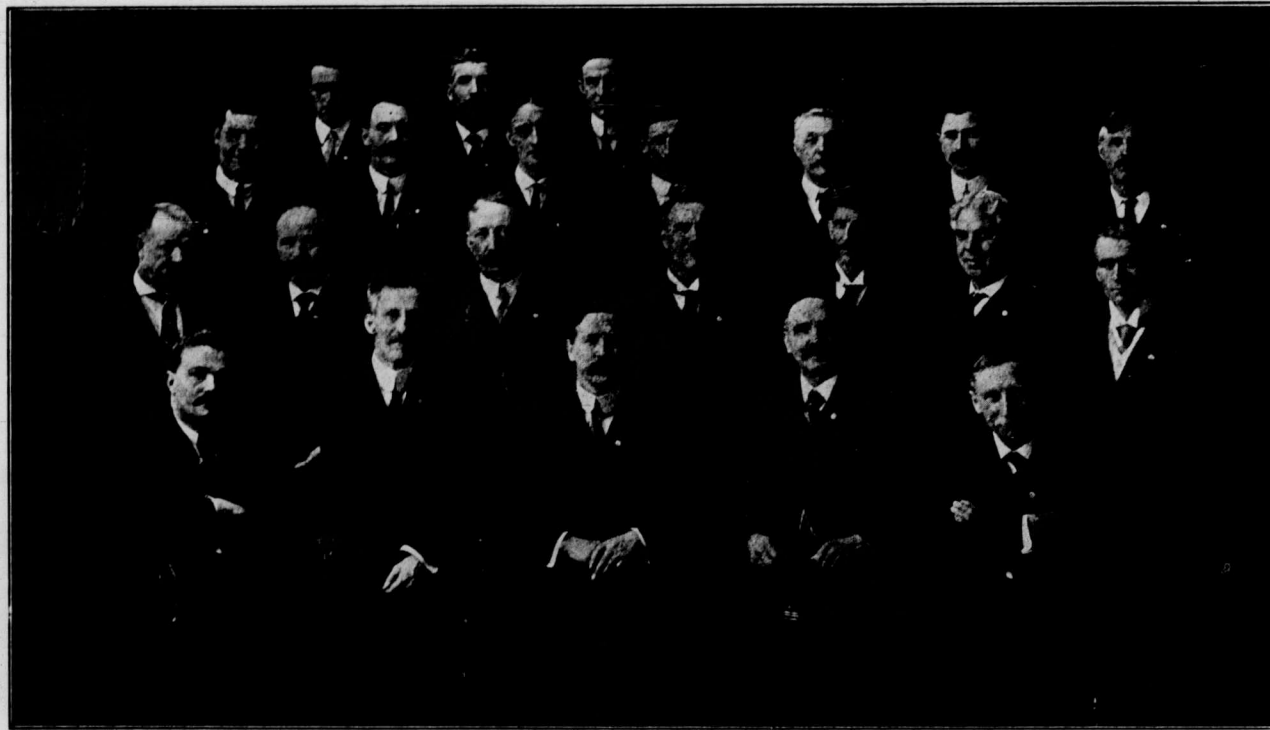
The influence upon the children and neighborhood of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs being organized by the extension department of the college was the subject of a paper by Mrs. Hunt, of Benito. She emphasized particularly the tendency of these clubs to develop independence and self-reliance on the part of the children, besides giving them a wholesome respect for the profession of agriculture.

The judicious selection of material for clothing was the subject of a lecture and demonstration by Miss M. Kennedy, professor of household arts, Manitoba Agricultural College. Miss Kennedy adorned the moral of the tale of the iniquities of manufacturers in the matter of adulteration of cloth by bringing to the meeting samples of three pieces of cloth sold to her by a clerk in a store as pure wool, which were wool and cotton or shoddy

and cotton. She showed how, by unravelling the edge of a piece of cloth and breaking off the threads, one could tell the nature of the fibre used in the weaving of it. The cotton thread when untwisted and pulled hard between the fingers breaks off short, while the woollen thread stretches. It is a common practice of manufacturers to use a cotton warp and a wool woof in the manufacture of cloth, in order to economize, but the purchaser should see when she pays the price of pure wool that the fabric is all wool. Cotton was adulterated by the use of sizing which was used to fill up the holes in a loosely woven material, making it seem quite fine until washed, when it went like a rag.

Mrs. A. Beatty, of Winnipeg, dealing with the domestic help problem, particularly as it related to rural districts, tactfully refrained from laying the

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SASKATCHEWAN GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION, 1915

From left to right, back row—T. M. Eddy, Bethune; J. L. Rooke, Togo, and R. M. Johnson, Eastview. Third row—M. P. Reddy, Rouleau; Frank Burton, Vanguard; W. H. Lillwall, Wilkie; G. E. Noddle, Lampman; W. T. Hall, Surbiton; C. O. A. Travis, Govan; F. M. Redman, Grenfell. Second row—C. E. Flatt, Tantallon; Thos. Sales, Langham; J. F. Reid, Orcadia; W. H. Beasley, Balbeck; J. W. Easton, Moosemin; T. M. Morgan, Aquadell; and W. J. Thompson, Warman. Front row—C. A. Dunning, Regina; J. B. Musselman, Moose Jaw; J. A. Maharg, Moose Jaw; A. G. Hawkes, Percival, and F. W. Green, Moose Jaw.

fold. First to supply thoroughly trained nurses for the very poor and moderately well-off at prices which they could afford to pay; second, the establishment of local boards to look after the engaging and financing of a district nurse; third, to set a high standard of competence in this special division of nursing; fourth the establishment of small hospitals and nursing homes.

In speaking on the third of these objects, the setting of a high standard of efficiency, Miss McKenzie scored very severely the usual hospital training, which sent its graduates out equipped for only institutional nursing, and under which system they were worked unreasonably hard, because what the institutions wanted most of all was cheap nursing.

How to Get a Nurse

In conclusion Miss McKenzie explained in detail the process by which

The work of these nurses consists in visiting expectant mothers and advising them concerning their diet and any dangerous symptoms, keeping an eye on the babies all thru that difficult first year of their lives and as well to nurse cases of illness and render first aid in the event of accidents.

Institute Work in Ontario

George A. Putnam, who has been superintendent of institutes for the province of Ontario for the past eleven years, gave two addresses dealing with the work and progress of the institutes and with the teaching of Rural Economics.

Mr. Putnam enjoys the distinction of being the official head of about 850 institutes, boasting a membership of 30,000 women. He explained, however, that the province is divided up into districts and that within these dis-