

PAMPHLET

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The Sixteenth Annual Report

of the

National Federation of Women's Institutes

for the year ending December, 1932.

WORK IN THE COUNTRY.

In the hall of the National Federation's Office in London, hangs a notice board which records the total number of Women's Institutes in England and Wales. Almost daily the number changes, and before a month of the New Year, 1933, has elapsed, it is probable that news of the formation of the 5,000th Institute will have been received. This happy event marks another landmark in the Federation's history.

Expansion has continued during the past year at about the same rate as in 1931. 222 Women's Institutes have been formed compared with 197 in 1931, and 48 have lapsed, bringing the total on December 31st to 4,984. There has been an increase of 2,300 members and the total membership of the National Federation amounts approximately to 297,000. It is again noticeable that the increase is concentrated in one or two counties and that in over half the County Federations membership has either remained unaltered or has diminished. The economic depression is no doubt partly responsible for this state of affairs but, where a decrease in membership has occurred, no efforts should be spared to seek out the cause and to find the right remedy.

The last Annual Report recorded a national crisis of exceptional severity and referred to the contribution which the Institutes were hoping to make towards the solution of the country's difficulties. There has been a determined effort during the year to carry out this task, in spite of various handicaps. The voluntary relinquishment of the government grant for handicrafts resulted in a reduction in the National Federation's income, whilst some, though happily not all of the County Federations have been hampered by the curtailment or suspension of help from the County Councils. In some districts, too, distress has been acute, and the hard times have naturally reacted on the financial resources of the Institutes. These obstacles have, however, been most part triumphantly surmounted and work and activity continued apace.

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CITY OF LONDON POLYTECHNIC
FAWCETT COLLECTION

Calcutta House
Old Castle Street
London E1 7NT

The outstanding event of the year has been the National Federation's Handicraft Exhibition held in London during the autumn. For months beforehand W.I. members had been busily preparing work for this Exhibition. The final selection was limited to exhibits of the very finest workmanship and, in consequence, the display of articles shown was of such beauty and excellence as to bring praise and congratulations from far and near. It was an added satisfaction to realise that many of the most beautiful exhibits came from cottage homes and many also from the distressed areas where the practice of handicrafts has proved a valuable resource in times of trial and difficulty.

The Federation's agricultural activities have this year had a direct bearing on national affairs. Interesting developments have resulted from the Institutes' efforts to improve the quality and quantity of homegrown foodstuffs. A Marketing Conference held in the spring revealed the existence throughout the country of various Women's Institute markets which were supplying an outlet for the country grower, and more especially for the small cottage producer. It was felt that the development of such markets might be of national value at the present time, and that the moment was opportune for giving advice and help from headquarters. The N.F.W.I. Executive Committee was supported in this view by the Carnegie Trustees whose generosity made possible the appointment of a special N.F.W.I. Marketing Organiser. The Committee has also received encouragement and support from the Ministry of Agriculture. As the result of the action taken by headquarters and the interest which has been focussed on this subject new markets have been formed during the year and the older markets have received fresh impetus.

Towards the close of the year it became evident that economic recovery was not yet in sight, and that throughout the winter many villages as well as towns would be faced with the problem of unemployment. Responsibility rested once again upon the National Federation and, shortly before Christmas, a letter was sent from headquarters suggesting ways in which Women's Institutes could help in occupational schemes for the unemployed. The Executive Committee is confident that there will be a ready response on the part of Institutes to this call and that they will be eager to help where help can be given.

WORK AT HEADQUARTERS.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee has held eleven meetings during the year. A full list of the Officers and Committee will be found on page

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting was again held in the Albert Hall, London, but for reasons of economy it was reduced from a two-day to a one-day meeting. About 2,600 W.I.s sent delegates, representing 52% of the total number, as compared with 53% in the previous year. 5,500 visitors' tickets were issued.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

The National Federation remains represented on the Adult Advisory Committee of the Board of Education, British Federation of Musical Competition Festivals, Central Council for Broadcast Adult Education, Commission on Cultural and Educational Films, Council for the Preservation of Rural England, English Folk Dance and Song Society, Joint Committee for the Administration of the Carnegie Grant for Music and Drama, Maternal Mortality Committee, National Council for Domestic Studies, National Council of Social Service, National Council of Women (Cinema Committee), National Playing Fields Association, National Rabbit Council, Women's Advisory Council of the League of Nations Union, Women's Farm and Garden, and the Youth Hostels' Association. The N.F.W.I. is also an Associate of the Central Council of Health Education and of the Girl Guides' Association. In addition, the N.F.W.I. continues to co-operate with a number of different specialising societies.

Affiliation of County Federations and Institutes with the following organisations has been sanctioned:—

The Arts League of Service, British Drama League, British Federation of Musical Competition Festivals, Council for the Preservation of Rural England, English Folk Dance and Song Society (county branches), National Council of Women (local branches), National Gardens Guild, National Poultry Council, National Savings Committee, National Utility Poultry Society, Royal Horticultural Society, Rural Community Councils, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Victoria League, Village Drama Section of the British Drama League, and the Workers' Educational Association. 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.

OFFICE AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee has met eleven times.
LONDON GUILDHALL UNIVERSITY
FAWCETT LIBRARY

REFERENCE

ONLY

Income and Expenditure.

By means of the economies referred to in the last Report the Committee has been enabled to carry on its work throughout the year without any fresh Government grant. The balance at the beginning of the year 1931 was £2,716, which was reduced to £2,541 by March 1932, and by the end of this financial year (February 28th, 1933) is likely to be further reduced to £2,200. Thus it will be seen that the policy has been continued of employing the accumulated balance to meet excess of annual expenditure over income.

The Institutes continue to support their national headquarters with great generosity and once again the Committee is glad to record that every County Federation has sent a donation, whilst of these only six have not given at the full rate suggested. This is a notable achievement in face of hard times and the fresh responsibility incurred through the pooling of fares for the Annual Meeting. The total of affiliation fees and donations shows a slight increase on the amount received in the previous year, but expansion is naturally taking place more gradually than in the early years of the movement.

Information for Voluntary County Organisers.

The Committee has again prepared an explanatory statement of the N.F.W.I. accounts for use by V.C.O.s.

Income Tax.

Headquarters continues to recover Income Tax for Women's Institutes owning property. Forty-three claims have been dealt with during the year.

Future Policy.

After very careful consideration the Committee decided in the autumn again to apply to the Treasury for a grant in aid of the Federation's handicraft activities, since it was realised that without financial assistance it would be extremely difficult to carry on the work effectively. An application was made for a grant of £500 for use in 1933-34, but no decision has yet been reached by H.M. Government.

AGRICULTURE AND ROYAL SHOW SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee has met eleven times. In September the work of the Sub-Committee was divided, and a separate Committee formed to deal with Marketing. An account of the activities under this heading will be found on page 00.

The Committee, with the assistance of the Hampshire Federation, organised a National Federation Stand at the Royal Show. A change was made in the type of exhibit shown which this year illustrated the various activities of the Institute movement. Produce formed the main section, and the exhibits were of a high standard, though there were fewer than in previous years. Special portable lunches were included for the first time, and contributed by the Hampshire Federation. In addition, there were sections showing crafts, model stages, stage properties, W.I. programmes and photographs of interesting works of permanent value undertaken by Institutes or County Federations. The demonstrations included Fruit Bottling and Canning, Salad-making, Rushwork, and the making of musical pipes.

A most satisfactory report has been received on the work of Miss Adams, Chief Instructress on the Domestic Side of the Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station, Bristol. Miss Adams has visited Berkshire, Cheshire, Devonshire, Derbyshire, Dorset, Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Surrey and Warwickshire since October, 1931, to give courses in fruit and vegetable preservation. The Committee is hoping that the University of Bristol will be able to make a similar arrangement regarding Miss Adams' services during 1933.

Following a recommendation made by the Consultative Council, arrangements have been made in co-operation with the University of Bristol for a Course and Tests in Fruit and Vegetable Preservation to be held at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, during September, 1933.

The first edition of a panel of Speakers on Food Production and Marketing was issued to the counties in November. The panel has been very carefully compiled as the result of a suggestion made at the N.F.W.I. Marketing Conference, and only the names of speakers who have been heard and approved by members of the N.F.W.I. Sub-Committee have been included. It is hoped to add further names shortly.

The W.I. entries at this year's British Dairy Show though good in quality were disappointingly few. The Committee is considering how to ensure a better exhibit at the 1933 Show.

The Committee has accepted an invitation from Messrs. Barrow, Birmingham, to hold an exhibition and sale of produce and crafts at their Stores in March, 1933, and a schedule was issued in September.

The Committee has continued its enquiries regarding humanely farmed furs, and has found that the Ministry of Agriculture holds out no hope of a mark for British farmed furs, nor can the R.S.P.C.A.

give any list of farms approved by the Society. Information about Major van der Byl's white list of furs was published in the September and October issues of "Home and Country."

Miss Simpson has visited the following counties in her capacity as Agricultural Organiser:—Cheshire, Glamorgan, Lancashire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lindsey (Lincs.), Monmouthshire, West Sussex and Warwickshire.

Miss Simpson has also continued her work for the Northamptonshire Agricultural Wages Board, has attended meetings as a Governor of Swanley College, and has been appointed by the Development Commissioners as their representative on the Finance and Business Committee of the Agricultural and Horticultural Department of the University of Bristol.

GENERAL EDUCATION AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS SUB-COMMITTEE.

The work of the General Education Sub-Committee was divided at the beginning of the electoral year, and a separate Sub-Committee formed to deal with Health and Domestic Science. Three meetings were held before and three after the change was made.

Cinema Reform.

The resolution passed at the Annual Meeting in May was sent to the Film Censorship Consultative Committee of the Home Office, and to the County Councils' Association. It was also sent to the National Council of Women, the Mothers' Union and the National Union of Women Teachers, with a suggestion that a joint conference be held between the interested societies. This meeting was held in July and as a result it was decided to form a joint committee consisting of representatives of the N.F.W.I., the National Council of Women, the Mothers' Union and the Public Morality Council. This committee has agreed on a common policy with a view to taking joint action when the necessity arises. The Executive Committee is also represented on the Commission on Cultural and Educational Films by Miss Hadow, and on the Cinema Committee of the National Council of Women by Mrs. Haldane. Information on cinema questions has been sent to the County Federations and published in "Home and Country."

Children Act.

The resolution passed at the February meeting of the Consultative Council concerning a clause of the Children Bill was endorsed by the N.F.W.I. Committee and forwarded to the Home Office when the Children Bill was still in Committee stage. The became law in July, and contains the clause in question.

When considering this Act in detail the Committee noted that it did not deal with the question of criminal assault, and decided to enquire from the N.S.P.C.C. and other specialist societies whether they were proposing to urge the introduction of legislation to give effect to the Departmental Committee's Report on Sexual Offences and if so, to ask that the N.F.W.I. might be identified with these representations.

The Committee was represented at a meeting held in November by the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene which is hoping to introduce legislation on this question.

Education of Young School Children.

At the invitation of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education a memorandum was prepared on the school education of children up to seven plus. The memorandum was based on information obtained from Women's Institutes in many parts of the country and was sent to the Board's Consultative Committee in February. A useful discussion on the memorandum was held at the Consultative Council in October.

Electricity.

A meeting was held in June with Sir John Snell, Chairman of the Electricity Commissioners. Sir John referred with appreciation to the figures on expenditure on fuel and light collected by the N.F.W.I., and stated that the Commission had already made considerable use of these particulars. Sir John also stated that he considered that the success of electricity schemes in rural districts depended largely on adequate propaganda work; and he suggested (a) that the Commissioners should write to the local electricity undertakers urging them to employ women lecturers and to get into touch with Women's Institutes; (b) that the Commissioners, in consultation with the Electrical Association for Women, should issue some simple pamphlets dealing with electricity from the rural point of view. Both these suggestions were subsequently adopted and the leaflets on electricity are being stocked by the N.F.W.I.

Rural Preservation.

The Committee gave permission to the Scapa Society to ask through the County Federations for the help of Women's Institutes in connection with an extensive enquiry which the Society is making into the problem of the disposal of village refuse.

Public Questions Memorandum.

A new edition of this Memorandum was prepared and published in August.

HANDICRAFTS SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee has met five times.

During the year the department has not been in receipt of grant aid from H.M. Treasury but after most careful consideration the Sub-Committee has recommended that application be made for a renewal of the grant during 1933. The Sub-Committee is convinced that the Handicrafts activities of the Federation are proving to be of special public value in these difficult times, and that a grant-in-aid from Treasury funds would be justifiable. Without such a grant it would be impossible at this juncture to carry on the work satisfactorily.

The Sub-Committee wishes to express its appreciation of the help and advice received from Mr. Marston, the Adviser to the Rural Industries Bureau, whose presence at its meetings ensures that close contact is maintained between the Federation and the Bureau.

The year 1932 has been one of great activity for the Sub-Committee on account of the Handicraft Exhibition which was held at the new Horticultural Hall, London, from November 10th to 16th, 1932. The Exhibition was honoured by a visit from H.M. the Queen. Exhibits were received from every County Federation and the standard of work displayed was generally admitted to be far in advance of that of any previous N.F.W.I. Exhibition. More than twenty thousand people visited the Exhibition, and many counties ran special trains and excursions. The Sub-Committee tenders its most grateful thanks to all stewards, helpers and visitors to the Exhibition who did so much to make it a success.

Under the schemes for assisting County Federations to obtain Handicraft teachers grants have been made to the following counties:—Cardigan, Durham, Norfolk and East Suffolk.

Miss Armes, as N.F.W.I. Craft Adviser, and as Judge for the Co-operative Rooms Class at the London Exhibition has visited:—Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cumberland, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Isle of Ely, West Kent, Middlesex, Norfolk, Somerset, East Suffolk, Surrey, East Sussex, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire.

Miss Armes was also present at the "B" tests held in London, Devon, Durham and Worcestershire.

She has visited the Methods of Teaching School, the Crafts Conference at Chester, a Consultative Council Meeting and has conducted a two-days' Refresher School in Quilting in London; she spoke on Handicrafts at the V.C.O. Refresher School in May, and was in charge of the staging and arranging of the N.F.W.I. Exhibition in November.

Miss Rowe, as Craft Organiser and as Judge of the Co-operative Room class at the N.F.W.I. Exhibition has visited Berkshire, Cheshire, Cumberland, Durham, Essex, East Kent, West Kent, Lancashire, Shropshire, Somerset, East Suffolk, Surrey, Radnor, Warwickshire, Yorkshire. She has also been present at all the "A" tests held in January, September and December, and at the Crafts Conference at Chester. Miss Rowe also conducted a two-days' Advisory School in Rug-making in London in June, and was in charge of the Handicraft exhibit at the Royal Show, and also of the raffia stall at the N.F.W.I. Exhibition.

The membership of the Guild of Learners now exceeds 1,550, showing an increase of almost 200 in last year's membership. The continued increase in the membership of the Guild is due to the efforts of County Federations who have the organisation in the counties in their hands, and also the special facilities allowed to Guild of Learners members for sending in work for the N.F.W.I. Exhibition. Counties have reported many Guild of Learners conferences, excursions and outings.

"A" tests have been held during the year in 26 crafts and in these from an entry of 267, 137 members gained proficiency certificates. The test papers were revised in January and sent to County Federations. A new test paper in Patchwork has been drawn up.

"B" or Lecture tests have been held in London, Devon, Durham and Worcestershire, and out of an entry of 25 candidates, 12 gained first-class certificates and 9 second-class certificates. The practice of insisting that candidates entering for this test must do so through and with the sanction of the County Federation concerned has been continued, and has proved satisfactory.

The Sub-Committee has under consideration at the moment its policy with regard to Judge's Tests, and a statement concerning these will shortly be issued to County Federations.

The loan collections, of which there are now thirty, and which are maintained by the interest on the grant so generously made to the Federation by the Carnegie Trustees, have been replenished with new specimens obtained from the N.F.W.I. Exhibition, and are available for use by County Federations, groups, teachers and W.I.s. Conditions of loan will be found in the Guild of Learners' leaflet, a free leaflet obtainable from the N.F.W.I. Office.

A Methods of Teaching school arranged to be held in Leeds in September was postponed owing to lack of students. Arrangements have been made to hold the school in London in April, 1933.

An interesting conference was held in Chester in March, and was attended by 96 members from 27 County Federations. The Agenda contained a discussion on how handicrafts may be most usefully employed to help in the present crisis, followed by a Roll-call on How County Federations are carrying on their handicraft work in spite of reduced help from the County Education Authorities. Miss Armes gave a talk on plain sewing in the afternoon.

An exhibit of rush-work was arranged by the Sub-Committee in the N.F.W.I. stand at the Royal Show held at Southampton in July. Demonstrations in sedge-work and rug-making were also arranged in conjunction with the Agriculture and Royal Show Sub-Committee.

HEALTH AND DOMESTIC SCIENCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

A new Sub-Committee was formed in May to deal with health and domestic science matters. This Sub-Committee has held three meetings.

Maternal Welfare.

Useful information and advice were obtained on this subject from Dame Janet Campbell, Ministry of Health, who attended a meeting of the General Education Sub-Committee in January. Dame Janet's advice was handed on to the Health and General Education Section of the Consultative Council. County Federations were subsequently informed of the offer of the Association of Infant and Maternity Welfare Centres to provide speakers on Maternal Welfare.

How to Keep Well Courses.

During the past year courses and lectures arranged through the British Red Cross Society have been given to 88 Women's Institutes in ten counties, this being a slight increase on the number given last year.

Denman Report.

Lady Denman and Mrs. Wintringham spoke at the Autumn Council Meeting of the Association of Principals of Normal Training Colleges on the necessity for students to be given a training which will equip them to teach in rural as well as urban schools.

A letter has been sent to the Minister of Agriculture urging the Ministry to include scholarships in rural domestic economy among those which it offers every year to the sons and daughters of agricultural workers.

Satisfactory reports have been received on the students trained at the two N.F.W.I. Cookery Courses held in 1931. Nearly all the students are now teaching and the majority have been recognised by their County Councils.

The Committee has recently been informed that the Board of Education has recognised an arrangement whereby a student trained at an agricultural college has been allowed to complete her training at a domestic science college. Although this recognition applies to a particular student only, it is hoped that it may lead the way to further joint training schemes on the same lines.

Government Milk Enquiry.

In response to an invitation from the Milk Commission, information was collected from various parts of the country regarding milk, and a summary was submitted to the Commission in July. The information showed that tinned milk was often used in country districts and in schools.

Royal Show.

The Sub-Committee made arrangements for the domestic science exhibit at the Royal Show, which included a display of portable meals.

"HOME AND COUNTRY" SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee has met quarterly. "Home and Country" has suffered from the economic depression which has overshadowed the country. Advertisements have not been procured without increasing effort and many Institutes have been compelled to reduce the number of copies ordered monthly. In consequence of these adverse conditions less profit than in former years has been paid into the National Federation Funds. On the other hand many Institutes have succeeded in increasing their orders for "Home and Country," and for this loyal support the Sub-Committee is most grateful.

The subsidized County Supplement Scheme which includes twenty-one County Federations continues to work satisfactorily.

The most popular articles in the magazine during 1932 have been Mrs. Mottram's on Health, while the articles on food, handicrafts, history, music, and the Institute Movement have been very much appreciated. The Current Events, correspondence column, the Home Page and the Children's Page continue to be attractive features. The competitions for which there were most entries were Gardening, Anecdote competition, the Poetry competition, and the Postcard Exhibition competition.

The following figures give the circulation in 1932 :—

January ...	62,930	July ...	63,255
February ...	62,304	August ...	62,795
March ...	62,488	September ...	63,294
April ...	62,878	October ...	63,426
May ...	63,077	November ...	63,633
June ...	63,378	December ...	63,768

Faithful voluntary service continues to be at the disposal of "Home and Country." Grateful thanks are tendered for this and for the suggestions, criticisms and help which come from interested readers.

INTERNATIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Sub-Committee has met quarterly.

The resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting in May concerning the limitation of armaments was sent to the Prime Minister, the Foreign Office, the British Delegates to the World Disarmament Conference, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, to the International Commission of Agriculture, and to women's organisations in the Dominions and other countries with whom the National Federation has been in touch.

The Committee at the request of the London School of Economics, sent a brief account of the work which is being done in the Institutes to encourage a friendly understanding of other nations and a further enquiry concerning the interest taken by Women's Institutes in international subjects has been made in a limited number of counties to supplement this report. Christmas greetings were sent by the National Federation to women's organisations in other countries with whom the National Federation had been in touch when compiling the report on Country Fare and on other occasions.

The Committee considered a memorandum from the Secretary-General of the League of Nations with regard to the co-operation of women in the work of the League, and a report was sent showing the interest already taken by the National Federation in questions with which the League is concerned, and giving the resolutions which had been passed concerning the League of Nations at Annual General Meetings. The Secretary-General was also informed of the number of Women's Institutes (611) which are corporate associates of the League of Nations Union.

The Committee decided this year not to send any delegate to the meeting of the International Commission of Agriculture held in Lausanne in July. The National Federation delegate had already at the previous Commission meeting made suggestions for the agenda of the next Congress, which is to be held at Budapest

in 1934. The Committee has been requested to keep the Commission informed of the progress of the N.F.W.I., so that this may be noted in quarterly bulletins which the Commission is issuing. Copies of "Home and Country" have therefore been sent regularly, together with reports. The Committee has also sent information concerning National Federation publications for a list which the Commission is issuing.

At the request of the Commission a report of steps taken in Great Britain to meet the agricultural crisis was sent in the names of the Horace Plunkett Foundation and the National Federation, the two affiliated societies from Great Britain. The report was prepared by the Horace Plunkett Foundation.

The N.F.W.I. Office continues to arrange correspondence partnerships between Women's Institutes in this country and overseas. The following summary shows the number of "links" of which the Office has a record: Africa (20), Southern Rhodesia (7), Zululand (3), Australia (13), Canada (72), India (1), New Zealand (43).

MARKETING SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee which was formed in September has held two meetings. Representatives of other organisations interested in co-operative marketing have been co-opted as members.

The Committee arranged a Marketing Conference in February which was very well attended and at which great interest was shown in the possibility of developing marketing activities. Since the date of the Conference, the Committee has taken the following action :—

(1) Investigated the position with regard to Institutes taking part in trading undertakings and issued to the County Federations suggestions for developing markets without altering the character of the Institute movement.

(2) Secured the services of Miss Digby (through the kindness of the Horace Plunkett Foundation) for a limited time in 1932 to advise in all matters concerning the registration of markets as provident societies.

(3) Drawn up with the assistance of the Horace Plunkett Foundation model rules for the registration of market stalls.

(4) Compiled a Marketing Leaflet.

(5) Secured from the Carnegie Trustees a grant of £1,000 to be spread over four years, thus enabling the Federation to employ a full-time Marketing Organiser. Miss Cox was appointed in September, and since that date has visited the following counties :—

Bucks, Devon, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Isle of Wight, Kent East, Oxfordshire, Pembrokeshire, Somerset, Suffolk West, Sussex East, Sussex West, Wiltshire, Worcestershire.

The Committee is extremely indebted to the Carnegie Trustees for their generosity in making a grant for this purpose.

Though much interest has lately been aroused in W.I. Marketing, it should be noted that this development is still in its infancy and headquarters has so far been in touch with only twenty or thirty stalls. The following registered societies have been formed during the year as the result of the advice given by the Committee :

Horsham W.I. Market Stall Society.
Berkshire Women's Institutes Market Stalls Society.
Isle of Wight Women's Institute Market Stalls.
Essex Women's Institutes Stalls.
Somerset Women's Institute Market Stalls.
Oxfordshire Women's Institutes Co-operative Society.
West Suffolk Women's Institutes Stalls.
The East Kent Women's Institute Market Stall Society.
Buckinghamshire Women's Institute Co-operative Market Stall.

MUSIC, DRAMA AND DANCING SUB-COMMITTEE.

This Sub-Committee has met six times. During the year the Sub-Committee has given careful consideration to the agreement of the N.F.W.I. with the Performing Right Society. In January a questionnaire was sent out to all County Federations in order to ascertain the amount of overlapping existing in regard to musical copyright agreements in rural areas. Acting on the information thus obtained, the Executive Committee were able to arrange a reduction of 20% on the annual amount payable by the N.F.W.I. to the Society. The Committee continues to watch the situation carefully, and is prepared to negotiate for further alterations to the agreement, if and when it seems advisable to do so.

The Sub-Committee's work concerning dramatic copyright has not been so successful. Negotiations with the British Society of Dramatists have broken down without any progress being achieved. The National Council of Social Service on behalf of its constituent bodies is now approaching certain publishing firms with a view to asking them to reduce acting fees on plays performed in small halls in rural areas. The Sub-Committee hopes to be able to make a report on this early in the New Year.

Members of the Sub-Committee have again served on the Joint Committee of Representatives of the National Council of Social Service and the N.F.W.I. set up to administer the Carnegie Fund for Music and Drama. Particulars of the conditions under which grants from this fund are available may be obtained from the National Council of Social Service, 26, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

The N.F.W.I. panel of speakers and judges in music, drama and dancing has been enlarged. The Sub-Committee has under consideration the re-organisation of this panel so that it may be more useful to County Federations and Institutes.

In February and March programmes of music drawn up by members of the Sub-Committee and especially suitable for performance by village choirs, were broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

In conjunction with the N.F.W.I. and the National Council of Social Service the British Federation of Musical Competition Festivals organised a successful school for conductors in London in November. More than 100 students attended and instruction was given by Mr. Plunket Greene, Dr. Thomas Armstrong, Mr. Arnold Goldsbrough, Mr. Ernest Read, Mrs. Lampson, Major Bavin, Miss Ibberson and Dr. Harvey Grace.

One of the chief activities of the Sub-Committee during the year has been the planning of the N.F.W.I. Drama Festival to be held at the Scala Theatre, London, on May 29th and 30th, 1933. Thirty-eight County Federations have entered teams for the Festival and the preliminary selection of teams for performance in London will be made by two judges between the middle of February and middle of April 1933.

A successful Drama Conference was held in London at the end of October, when 71 members from 35 County Federations attended. At the morning session Mrs. Streatfeild opened a discussion on Drama in the Institutes and in the afternoon Miss Pickersgill, of the School of Dramatic Art spoke on Mime and Miss Gullan of the Polytechnic School of Speech Training, on Verse Speaking.

The Sub-Committee arranged an attractive exhibit at the Royal Show at Southampton in July. This consisted of home-made properties, miniature stages and scenes from plays. A demonstration in the making of pipes also attracted much attention.

ORGANISATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Sub-Committee has held eleven 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 voluntary county organisers, and gives them when appointed additional help in their work by means of conferences and advanced schools. It is also responsible for the arrangements for meetings of the Consultative Council and for the Welsh Conference.

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 transference of Institutes from one Federation to another, and has dealt with various problems connected with W.I. organisation.

During 1932 thirty-eight V.C.O.s were trained at Schools held at High Leigh and Bristol. 180 V.C.O.s attended a refresher school held in London after the Annual Meeting in May. An Advanced School, the agenda of which dealt mainly with educational subjects, was held in October, and was attended by twenty-eight students. The total number of V.C.O.s who have been working during the year is 383 and altogether they have paid 2,820 official visits to Women's Institutes.

A Conference for County Secretaries and members of the National Federation staff was held at Swanwick, Derby, in June. The Conference, which was attended by nineteen County Secretaries and six members of the headquarters staff, proved extremely useful and was much enjoyed.

As a result of a discussion held at the February Consultative Council upon group systems the Sub-Committee has made a comprehensive survey of the various types of organisation in the counties, and has since revised the paragraph in the Handbook concerning groups. The Sub-Committee has also revised other parts of the Handbook, has amended "Hints to Secretaries," included in the Record Book and the leaflets "Try what an Institute can do," and "W.I. Monthly Meetings."

The Sub-Committee arranged a section of the W.I. exhibit at the Royal Show to illustrate the development of the movement. Successful W.I. programmes in County Competitions, and photographs of work of permanent value undertaken by the Institutes or County Federations, were shown.

The Sub-Committee has supervised the work of the National Federation Organisers, Mrs. Nugent Harris (half-time), Miss Simpson (half-time), Mrs. FitzRandolph (quarter-time), and Miss Morris Jones (auxiliary Welsh-speaking organiser). The organisers have visited the following counties:—

Mrs. Harris. Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Cambridgeshire, Cardiganshire, Devon, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Holland (Lincs.), Kent West, Norfolk, Northants, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Suffolk West, Surrey, Sussex West, Worcestershire, and Yorkshire.

Miss Simpson. Berkshire, Cheshire, Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Holland (Lincs.), Kent East, Leicestershire, Lindsey (Lincs.), Isle of Ely, Monmouthshire, Northants, Oxon., Somerset, Suffolk E., Sussex West, Staffordshire, Surrey, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Yorkshire.

Mrs. Fitz Randolph. Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, Pembrokeshire, Shropshire, West Sussex.

Miss Morris-Jones. Anglesey, Carnarvonshire, Pembrokeshire, Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire.

PRINTING SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Sub-Committee has met eleven times during the year. Its work has been to advise the Executive Committee concerning the form and sale of new leaflets, to make arrangements for the printing of new and revised publications and to supervise the work of the Literature Department in the N.F.W.I. Office.

This year's publications are as follows:—

New.

Produce Exhibition Handbook.
Model Rules for Market Stalls.
Marketing Handbook.
Committee badges.
Stewards' badges.

Revised.

Handbook, 1932-1933.
W.I. Rules, 1932-1933.
Try what an Institute can do in your village.
A Women's Institute Monthly Meeting.

The Sub-Committee has also procured for sale in the Literature Department copies of:—

What the Countrywomen of the World are doing.
Music and Drama in the Villages.
The Village Hall.
How Schools can help to Preserve the Countryside.
Rural Housing.
The Film in National Life.
Cinema Paper No. 3 (Mothers' Union).
The Control of the Cinema in England and Wales.
The Case for Electricity.

Sixteenth Annual General Meeting,

HELD IN

THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON,

ON

TUESDAY, MAY 10th. 1932

Chairman : MISS GRACE HADOW.

RETURNING OFFICERS AND TELLERS :

The appointment of the Returning Officers and Tellers was moved by LADY TREVELYAN (N.F.W.I. Executive), seconded and *Carried*.

AUDITORS :

MISS BERTHA JONES (N.F.W.I. Executive) moved the re-appointment of the Auditors, Messrs. Knox, Cropper and Co., Chartered Accountants, of Spencer House, South Place, London, E.C.2. This was seconded from the body of the hall and *Carried*.

THE MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH 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 body of the hall and *Carried*.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BALANCE SHEET.

MRS. HUXLEY (Hon. Treasurer, N.F.W.I.), moved the adoption of the Annual Finance Statement and Balance Sheet. This was seconded and *Carried*.

THE RESULT OF THE BALLOT FOR THE N.F.W.I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE was announced by THE CHAIRMAN.

STANDING ORDERS OF N.F.W.I. ANNUAL MEETING.

The following resolution was moved from the Chair and *Carried*.

“ From Standing Order 12, N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting delete all after ‘ meeting ’ and substitute ‘ shall after the mover of the motion has been offered the right of reply, be at once put. ’ ”

POOLING OF FARES.

MISS ROME (Lancashire Federation) moved and MISS SMITH (Durham Federation Executive Committee) seconded the following resolution :—

“ That the cost of the fares of delegates attending the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting be shared by the Institutes sending delegates, that the rules be altered accordingly, and that the details of the scheme be decided by the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee. ”

The following amendment was moved by MISS BUXTON (Essex Federation) and seconded by MISS HARVEY JONES (Brentwood W.I., Essex) :—

“ Delete the words ‘ shared by the Institute sending delegates ’ and substitute ‘ shared by all the Institutes. ’ ”

Carried.

The resolution as amended was *Carried* by an overwhelming majority.

LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS :

MRS. VERNON (Gloucestershire Federation Executive Committee) moved and MRS. BULL (Essex Federation) seconded the following resolution :—

“ That this meeting wishes to register its appreciation of the work done by H.M. Government in the direction of the reduction of armaments, and wholeheartedly supports any further efforts on its part to induce the nations of the world to reduce expenditure on armaments by mutual agreement. ”

An amendment moved by MISS MANFIELD (Rounton W.I. Yorkshire) and seconded by MRS. LACY (Bagshot W.I., Surrey) :—

“ That this meeting urges Women’s Institute members to keep themselves informed of the position of armaments throughout the world before expressing an opinion upon a subject of such vital importance to the British Empire. ”

was *lost*.

The unamended resolution was then *Carried*.

POSTAL BALLOT FOR COUNTY FEDERATIONS :

The following resolution was moved by MRS. COLTMAN ROGERS (Radnor Federation) and seconded by MISS BUTLER (Brecon Federation) :—

“ In County Federation Rule VI (1) after the words ‘ by ballot at a meeting of the Council of the County Federation ’ insert ‘ or by postal ballot according to the decision of the County Federation. ’ ”

For ... 1,272
Against 1,041 *Lost.*

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF HOME GROWN FOODSTUFFS :

MRS. BATTEN (East Sussex Federation) moved and MISS GURNEY-FOX (West Kent) seconded the following resolution :—

“ That present economic difficulties render it desirable that Women’s Institute members should do their utmost to improve the quality and quantity of foodstuffs they raise, using these to greater advantage in the home and increasing the amounts offered for sale through Women’s Institute Co-operative Markets or otherwise. ”

An amendment :—

“ To delete all after ‘ the home ’ and to substitute ‘ and at the same time to increase the number of Women’s Institute Co-operative Markets and to encourage a larger number of producers to offer goods for sale. ’ ”

to be moved by East Hanningfield W.I. (Essex) was not taken, as a vote that the question be now put was carried after some discussion on the resolution. The resolution was *Carried.*

CINEMA CENSORSHIP.

The following resolution was moved by Brasted W.I. (West Kent) and seconded by Durham Federation :—

“ That this meeting deplors the present moral and artistic standards of the majority of films exhibited in this country, and urges the Government to create an effective censorship independent of the film industry with full power to control these exhibitions and the undesirable posters advertising them. ”

“ That in the meantime Women’s Institutes be urged to appeal to their local Councils and Watch Committees to exercise the right of censorship which they already possess to prevent the exhibition of objectionable films. ”

“ That in addition action should be taken by the responsible authority to prevent the admission of all children of school age and under to films passed by the censor for ‘ adults only. ’ ”

The following amendments were then considered :—

(i) “ In the first paragraph of the resolution delete all after ‘ meeting ’ and substitute ‘ welcomes the establishment by the Home Secretary

in November last (1931) of the Consultative Committee of Representatives of Local Authorities, and urges that it should press for greater vigilance in excluding objectionable incidents and dialogues. ’ ”

Moved by Barton and Dunstall W.I. (Staffs.). Seconded by Cambridgeshire Federation.

Carried.

(ii.) “ In the second paragraph of the original resolution delete all after ‘ That ’ and substitute ‘ In the hope of expediting the work of the Consultative Committee, this meeting urges Women’s Institutes to appeal to local cinema authorities in their areas asking them to exercise fully the powers of control which already exist. ’ ”

Moved by Barton and Dunstall W.I. (Staffs.). Seconded by Cambridgeshire Federation.

Carried.

(iii.) “ Delete the last paragraph. ”

Moved by Barton and Dunstall W.I. (Staffs.). Seconded by Cambridgeshire Federation.

Lost.

(iv.) “ Add ‘ That any authority controlling the exhibition of films should include women. ’ ”

Moved by Westmorland Federation Executive Committee. Seconded by Kearsy W.I. (Westmorland).

Carried.

(v.) “ Add ‘ and further, this meeting asks the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee to explore the possibilities of taking action in conjunction with the National Council of Women, the Mothers’ Union and the National Union of Women Teachers, believing that the united action of these four great women’s organisations would prove an invincible factor in bringing about the reforms we so earnestly desire. ’ ”

Moved by Norfolk Federation Executive Committee. Seconded by Cley W.I. (Norfolk).

Carried.

W.I. ANNUAL MEETINGS.

“ From Women’s Institute Rule VIII. (2). ‘ The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of November, December or January each year, but in very exceptional local circumstances an Institute may hold its Annual Meeting in a different month by consent of its County Federation, ’ delete ‘ in very exceptional local circumstances. ’ ”

Moved by Cambridgeshire Federation. Seconded by Yorkshire Federation Executive Committee.

Carried by a large majority.

SPECIAL ADDRESS :

PROFESSOR GILBERT MURRAY addressed the meeting on “ Women’s Institutes and their International Responsibilities. ”

Thirtieth Meeting of the Consultative Council,

HELD AT THE

CAXTON HALL, LONDON,

ON

FEBRUARY 2nd and 3rd, 1932.

PRESENT :

Delegates and visitors from fifty-six County Federations. Seventeen members of the National Federation Executive Committee.

Chairman of the Full Council : ... THE LADY DENMAN.

Chairmen of the Sections :

Agriculture	...	...	MRS. ALFRED WATT.
Handicrafts	...	...	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.
Health and Education	...	...	MISS MILES.
Music and Drama	...	...	MISS GASKELL.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT, MAY 1ST TO NOVEMBER 30TH, 1931.

This Report was considered and *approved*.

INSURANCE OF W.I. PROPERTY.

A report on this subject, previously circulated, was *adopted*.

TIME-TABLE, 1932-1933.

It was moved by the Isle of Wight, seconded by Durham :—

“ That for the year 1932-1933 only two meetings of the Council be held.”

Agreed.

BUDGET :

The Hon. Treasurer presented the budget for 1932-1933 which had previously been circulated.

DISCUSSION.

A discussion on the group system opened by Cumberland revealed general agreement as to the undesirability of making groups part of the constitution. It was suggested that County Federations which had successful group systems should send in particulars to headquarters.

RESOLUTIONS :

The following resolutions were discussed in principle :—

1. “ That the rules should be altered to allow of the Postal Ballot being adopted by any County Federation which desires it.”

Moved by Radnorshire, seconded by Breconshire and *Lost*.

2. “ In County Federation Rule V. (2) delete the word ‘ twice ’ and substitute ‘ once ’ so that the paragraph shall read ‘ A meeting of the County Federation Council shall be held at least once a year, and that the County Federation rules be altered accordingly.’ ”

Moved by Somerset, seconded by Shropshire and *Lost*.

3. “ In Women's Institute Rule VIII. (2) ‘ The Annual Meeting shall be held in the month of November, December or January each year, but in very exceptional local circumstances an Institute may hold its Annual Meeting in a different month by consent of its County Federation’—delete ‘ in very exceptional local circumstances.’ ”

Moved by Cambridgeshire, seconded by Yorkshire and *Lost* by a narrow majority.

4. “ In W.I. Rule IX. *re* payment of Affiliation Fees—delete the word ‘ on ’ and substitute ‘ not later than ’ so that it shall read—‘ Affiliation fees shall be paid annually not later than October 1st, to the Treasurer of the County Federation concerned.’ ”

Moved by Essex, seconded by Cumberland and *Lost*.

5. “ That when a member who has paid her subscription afterwards leaves the village and joins another Institute, she shall not be asked to pay a second subscription for the current year. The Secretary of the second Institute may claim from the first one a proportion of the subscription calculated at 2d. a month for each month after the member left the first Institute, until the end of the Institute year (to be added to W.I. Rule IV.)”

Moved by Hampshire, seconded by West Sussex and *Lost*.

6. “ That before accepting nomination for election on a Committee of a Women's Institute, the member must have belonged to a Women's Institute for at least six months, (to be added to W.I. Rule VI.)”

Moved by Dorset, seconded by Montgomeryshire and *Lost*.

7. "That the National Federation should adopt some form of national thanks badge or medal, to be awarded by County Federations to anyone outside the movement who has rendered valuable service to their County Federation."

Moved by Northumberland, seconded by LADY TREVELYAN (N.F.W.I. Executive Committee) and *Lost*.

A resolution moved by Lancashire, seconded by Durham, was *carried* in the following form:—

8. "That the cost of the fares of delegates attending the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting be shared by the Institutes sending delegates, that the rules be altered accordingly, and that the details of the scheme be decided by the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee."

It was noted that this resolution was intended for the Annual General Meeting Agenda and the Chairman made an appeal that amendments on matters of detail relating to the resolution be withheld as tending to confuse the issue.

9. "In Standing Order 12, N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting, delete all after 'meeting' and substitute 'shall after the mover of the motion has been offered the right of reply be at once put.'"

Moved by THE CHAIRMAN on behalf of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee and *Carried*.

A resolution moved by Warwickshire was put to the meeting in the following form after amendments by Salop and Worcestershire had been accepted:—

10. "That first speakers to all resolutions at the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting be limited to ten minutes, seconders to five minutes, and supporters and others to three minutes each, unless the meeting should decide otherwise."

Lost, but the Council welcomed the Executive Committee's decision to notify movers and seconders beforehand of the approximate time which could be allowed for their speeches.

11. "That no outside speakers be invited for the Annual General Meeting this year."

Moved by Shropshire, seconded by Montgomeryshire and *lost*.

12. "That resolutions on the Agenda for the N.F.W.I. Annual Meetings should be framed in simpler language."

Moved by Cheshire, seconded by Dorset and *Lost*.

REPORTS OF SECTIONS:

(i.) *Agriculture.*

The question of sales at the Royal Show had been discussed. Worcestershire had pointed out that it was rather hard for the cottage member to undertake to send her exhibits to the Show if she were not sure of a sale. A suggestion had been made that the County Federation should undertake the expense of sending the exhibits, but it had been pointed out that the Royal Show is primarily a show and only in a very secondary sense a sale.

It had been reported that the Committee was considering the possibility of arranging a Market Stall at the Royal Show at Southampton. In the opinion of the Section, Southampton was not a good centre for this purpose, and it had been suggested that it should be postponed until another year.

On the resolution moved by Herefordshire, with regard to Co-operative Creameries, the Section had recommended that information should be obtained with regard to these Creameries, provided that it was understood that this should not necessarily be done immediately. They had also recommended that the information should not at the present juncture be circulated to the Institutes.

The Section had given its unanimous approval to the other two resolutions on this part of the Agenda.

BUSINESS ARISING ON THIS SECTION'S REPORT.

RESOLUTIONS:

(a) "That this meeting requests the National Federation of Women's Institutes to obtain information on the working of Co-operative Creameries."

Moved by Herefordshire, seconded by Shropshire and *carried* on the understanding that the enquiry could not be undertaken at once. *Endorsed.*

(b) "That present economic difficulties render it desirable that Women's Institute members should do their utmost to improve the quality and quantity of food stuffs they raise, using these to a greater advantage in the home, and increasing the amounts offered for sale through Women's Institute Co-operative Markets or otherwise."

Moved by East Sussex, seconded by West Kent and *carried*. *Endorsed.*

(c) "That this meeting asks the National Federation of Women's Institutes to consider the possibility of some scheme for providing tests and recognition for teachers in the preservation of fruit and vegetables."

Moved by West Sussex, seconded by Shropshire and *carried* on the understanding that the resolution be referred to the Executive Committee and not to the Annual General Meeting.

Endorsed.

(ii.) *Music and Drama.*

It had been *agreed* to recommend that the Music and Drama Sub-Committee look into the question of the necessity for obtaining the Lord Chamberlain's approval of a new play before its first performance, and that some information on this be issued for the guidance of Women's Institutes.

The following statement embodying the N.F.W.I. solicitor's opinion *re* dramatic performances at Monthly meetings, had been read:—

"Royalties must be paid on all public performances of plays on which an acting fee is charged. No breach of copyright is committed if a play is performed in private without the consent of the owner of the copyright, and the owner of the copyright cannot demand a fee for a performance in private."

"In the opinion of the N.F.W.I. solicitor, a dramatic performance given at a W.I. monthly meeting to which no visitors are invited constitutes a private performance of a purely domestic character, and on it no acting fee need be paid. It is the presence of visitors, *i.e.*, people who are not members of the W.I. at the monthly meeting at which the performance is given which changes the character of the performance from a private one to a public one. A royalty must be paid on a performance given at a group conference, council meeting, exhibition, etc. The fact that no charge is made for admission does not make the performance a private one."

A visitor from Middlesex had asked whether the National Federation would give its support to any Institute which, acting on this opinion, might be sued for acting fees by a publisher or author who held a different opinion.

The answer had been that the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee could not pledge itself to support a test case, but would give every possible assistance to any Institute which finds itself in difficulties.

(iii.) *Handicrafts.*

It had been reported that the Committee had been asked to publish the names of the "A" test judges in "Home and Country" with the results of the "A" tests. The Committee had considered this matter and had *decided* that this should be done.

The Section had discussed this decision of the Executive Committee and had thought that it might lead to difficulties in procuring suitable judges for the test as the judges would probably not wish to have their names published. They had, therefore, *decided* to suggest that the Executive Committee should be asked to reconsider its decision on this matter.

It had been reported that the Executive Committee had been unable to arrange for the Handicrafts Exhibition to be moved to the provinces in November, 1932. The reason for this had been the impossibility of obtaining a suitable hall.

The attention of the Section had been drawn to the action of the Executive Committee in deciding to renounce the grant from the Development Commissioners, and the budget for the year 1932-1933 for the N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Department had been discussed. It had been pointed out that part of the expenses for this department during this year would be paid for from Exhibition funds. The Section had considered the position of the department for 1933-34, and it had been *decided* to recommend to the Council that if necessary in considering the budget for 1933-1934 the Executive Committee should be asked to take steps to find some means of ensuring that the activities of the Handicraft Department of the N.F.W.I. should not be curtailed.

BUSINESS ARISING ON THIS SECTION'S REPORT:

(a) It was *agreed* that consideration of the recommendation from the Section concerning finance be postponed until the next meeting of the Council.

(b) The Council *endorsed* the recommendation of the Section that the decision to publish the names of judges for the Handicraft tests be rescinded.

Endorsed.

(iv.) *Health and General Education.*

The Section had asked that a report should be drawn up for its consideration on the answers received from Institutes to the questionnaire regarding the education of children under 7 years recently sent out by the N.F.W.I. at the request of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education. It had been reported that great interest had been taken by many Institutes in the questionnaire.

It had been reported that the Ministry of Health had asked the N.F.W.I. to give further publicity to the facilities provided by the Rural Workers' Housing Act, 1926. Mrs. Huxley had pointed out that under the Act, not only could grants be obtained for repairing old cottages but also for improvement of water supplies.

After discussing the provisions of the Act the Section had suggested that particulars should be given in "Home and Country" of the conditions attached to grants for water supplies under the Act.

The Section had considered a report of a discussion regarding Maternal Welfare between representatives of the N.F.W.I. and Dame Janet Campbell, of the Ministry of Health.

Arising on this report mention has been made of the great diversity of the health services in different counties, also the differences which occurred even in single counties between the success or failure of individual health activities such as ante-natal clinics, etc.

In view of the fact that midwifery in rural areas is mainly carried out by District Nurses, it had been agreed that close and friendly co-operation between County Federations and County Nursing Associations was very desirable in order to try and raise the status of the District Nurse.

It had been felt that County Federations could assist in making known the available maternity services in their counties and that useful enquiry might be made into the question of the County Inspectors of Midwives being overworked, as it was generally agreed that these Inspectors were at present very hard pressed. Above all, it had been agreed that much might be done by educating public opinion to take advantage of the health facilities which are offered by the county.

The resolutions on the Section Agenda had been referred without discussion to the full Council since they were intended for the Annual General Meeting.

BUSINESS ARISING ON THIS SECTION'S REPORT :

(a) A resolution moved by Buckinghamshire was *Carried* in the following form :—

"That the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee be asked to urge Women's Institutes to study the regulations governing the sale of all foodstuffs with a view to their better enforcement."

Endorsed.

(b) "That this meeting welcomes the inclusion of Clause 62 in the new Children Bill making it compulsory for intending foster parents to apply to the local authorities concerned before receiving a child in return for payment or reward, and urges that the Clause be passed."

Moved by Oxfordshire, seconded by Anglesey and *Carried* on the understanding that this resolution be referred to the Executive Committee for immediate action and not to the Annual General Meeting.

Endorsed.

(c) A resolution moved by Hertfordshire, seconded by Montgomeryshire was *Carried* in the following form :—

"That this meeting welcomes the fact that the Town and Country Planning Bill has received a second reading in the House of Commons, and urges members of County Federations and Women's Institutes to make a special study of any planning schemes in their County with a view to obtaining full advantage of the facilities provided by this Bill and other relevant Acts."

Endorsed.

SELECTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

From thirty resolutions sent in for the Annual General Meeting, six were recommended for certain discussion and five for discussion if time permits.

The Executive Committee was asked to embody in one resolution the main points of the resolutions on Cinema Censorship sent in by Brasted W.I. and Durham.

Thirty-First Meeting of the Consultative Council,

HELD AT THE
Y.W.C.A CENTRAL CLUB, LONDON,

ON
OCTOBER 25th and 26th, 1932.

PRESENT :

Delegates and visitors from fifty-five County Federations.
Thirteen members of the National Federation Executive Committee.

Chairman of the Full Council ... THE LADY DENMAN.

Chairmen of the Sections :

<i>Agriculture</i>	...	...	MRS. ALFRED WATT.
<i>Handicrafts</i>	...	...	MRS. HERON MAXWELL.
<i>Health and Education</i>	...	...	MISS HADOW.
<i>Music and Drama</i>	...	...	MRS. EDWARD SHAW.

N.F.W.I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT, DECEMBER 1ST, 1931,
TO AUGUST 31ST, 1932.

This report was considered and arising thereon :—

(1) The Chairman announced that after careful consideration the Executive Committee had applied to the Treasury for a renewal of the grant from the Development Fund in assistance of the Federation's craft work. An application had been made for a grant of £500 for the year 1933-34 and a reply was still awaited.

(2) The Chairman referred to conversations which had taken place with the Townswomen's Guilds and to the suggestions which had subsequently been made to the counties in a letter dated September 23rd.

With regard to the Women's Section of the British Legion counties were asked to report to headquarters specific cases of difficulties, in order that the Committee, after considering this evidence might take such steps as seemed advisable.

COUNCIL MEETINGS, 1933-1934.

The Council *agreed* that during 1933-1934 two meetings only should be held, both to take place in London.

ALTERATIONS TO COUNCIL.

Suggestions for the alteration of the procedure of the Council were brought forward by Miss Chamberlain, on behalf of the Executive Committee, and *approved* in the following form :—

" (1) The main work of the full Council should be to consider the report of the Executive Committee's work, to consider resolutions sent in from the counties, to prepare for the Annual Meeting, and to encourage following up work on Annual Meeting resolutions.

" (2) The main purpose of Sections should be to give opportunities for :—

" (i.) Consultation between the N.F.W.I. headquarters and the counties.

" (ii.) Interchange of information between the counties.

" Their main purpose should *not* be to prepare the work for the full Consultative Council.

" (3) Resolutions sent in for the Full Council should not be automatically included on the Section Agendas.

" (4) Suggestions made as a result of discussion at Section meetings should be sent straight to the appropriate Sub-Committee at Headquarters without reference to the Full Council, and normally no reports should be made from the Sections to the Council.

" (5) Two Sections only should be formed at present. The agendas for the meetings of these Sections should be drawn up by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Sub-Committees concerned, and should include suggestions received from the counties. The N.F.W.I. Executive Committee should decide with which subjects each Section should deal.

" (6) Each County Federation, in addition to its delegate, should have the right to send one representative (to be elected by the County Federation Executive Committee) who should be given power to speak and vote at the Section meeting not attended by the delegate. The County Federation Executive Committee should decide whether its county delegate is to attend the same section throughout the year.

" (7) Following-up work on Annual General Meeting resolutions of special importance should be discussed in the Full Council, and a special paragraph on such resolutions should be included in the report of the Executive Committee's work.

" (8) Where necessary the Standing Orders of the Consultative Council should be altered to give effect to these changes."

Endorsed.

RESOLUTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS.

(a) " That in future the N.F.W.I. Annual Meeting should be for one day only."

Moved by Yorkshire.

It was *decided* after discussion to take no vote on this resolution, but to consider the matter again after the next Annual Meeting. In the meantime delegates were asked to obtain the views of their Institutes through Council Meetings and otherwise.

(b) "That all arrangements for the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting, including the collection of money from Institutes for the pooling of fares, should be undertaken by the National Federation."

Moved by Warwickshire, seconded by Essex.

Carried. Endorsed.

(c) "That resolutions for the Annual General Meeting bearing on W.I. domestic business should take precedence of all others on the Agenda."

Moved by Dorset, seconded by Somerset.

Lost.

(d) "That no resolution involving a change in the constitution of the N.F.W.I. shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting, unless it has been first approved by the Consultative Council, and notice of the precise terms of the resolution so approved has been given to the Women's Institutes at least three months before the Annual General Meeting."

Moved by Middlesex, seconded by West Suffolk.

Lost.

(e) "That visitors to the Annual Meeting should be granted tickets only on condition that they intend to remain throughout the complete morning or afternoon sessions."

Moved by Derbyshire, seconded by Surrey.

Carried, with a recommendation that a sentence be printed on the visitors' tickets to this effect, and that a statement be made in "Home and Country."

Endorsed.

(f) "That there should be a time limit for speakers at the Annual Meeting."

Moved by Dorset.

It was pointed out that this resolution could only be discussed under Standing Order 11 with the consent of the majority of the Council. On a vote being taken, leave was refused by the Council.

(g) "That delegates' tickets for the Annual Meeting should be distributed through the County Federation Offices."

Moved by Cheshire.

This resolution found no seconder.

(h) "That the National Federation Executive Committee be asked to consider the return to the Queen's Hall, or some similar place, for the Annual Meeting, on the grounds that it is more important for delegates to be able to hear rather than to provide accommodation for such a large number of visitors."

Moved by Kesteven.

This resolution was ruled out of order since the Albert Hall is now the only Hall in London large enough to hold all the delegates, and any reduction in the number of delegates would involve a change in the Constitution, to which the resolution makes no reference.

(i) The following suggestions were brought forward by Lancashire:—

(a) "That speakers be encouraged to take lessons on speaking through microphones, and should practise speaking out-of-doors."

(b) "That when several propositions or amendments are brought forward by one county they should be asked to put up a variety of speakers."

(c) "That, with the consent of the proposers and seconders, amendments should be condensed by the Sub-Committee appointed to deal with the agenda."

(d) "That Cabinet Ministers only should be asked to address the Meeting."

Suggestion (d) was not approved by the Council. Arising on the other points:—

(1) It was suggested that improved arrangements should be made with regard to the microphone installation at the Albert Hall, which had been out of order at the last meeting and that, if necessary, a different firm be employed. Further, that short speakers should be supplied with a footstool.

(2) It was reported that the Annual General Meeting time-table had been altered to allow better opportunities for consultation between the movers of resolutions, also between movers of amendments.

(3) It was reported that the Executive Committee wished to suggest that when an Institute brings forward a resolution for the N.F.W.I. Annual General Meeting which has been accepted by its County Federation Council, the resolution should be moved at the Annual General Meeting in the name of the W.I., and that the County Federation should act as the seconder.

(j) Arrangements *re* Community Singing at the Annual Meeting.

Arising on the discussion opened by Miss Gaskell, delegates were asked to obtain the views of their Institutes with regard to Community Singing at the Annual Meeting, and it was *agreed* to discuss the matter further at the February Meeting of the Council.

(k) "That every County Federation be asked to write to its local M.Ps. asking them to support legislation which will ensure that no 'undesirable films' are released for exhibition by the British Board of Film Censors."

Moved by Kesteven, seconded by Lindsey (Lincs.).

Miss Hadow, in making a statement on the present position, pointed out that statutory powers of censorship rest with the local authorities and not with the Board of Film Censors. She suggested that the most useful and constructive course for Institutes to take was to create a demand for better films. The resolution was withdrawn.

(1) West Suffolk asked for a ruling on the method of electing a Consultative Council delegate. Mrs. Neville-Smith, on behalf of the Executive Committee, explained that the interpretation given to the rule by headquarters was that the County Federation Executive Committee could nominate as a body, but could vote as individuals. This anomaly could only be altered by a change in the rule.

(m) "That every N.F.W.I. Panel of Judges should include judges in all parts of the country."

Moved by Shropshire, seconded by Staffordshire, and *Carried*. County Federations were urged to send to Headquarters the names of any judges which they could recommend.

(n) "That this meeting requests the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Women's Institutes to devise some means of preventing W.I. meetings being used for the purpose of collecting money for charities, and that speakers be prevented from selling literature at the meetings."

Moved by East Sussex, seconded by West Kent.

After discussion it was suggested that the mover should, in consultation with the N.F.W.I. Organisation Sub-Committee, draft a resolution regarding this question for discussion at the next Annual Meeting. It was further suggested that the heading "Community Work" in the N.F.W.I. Annual Report for Women's Institutes might be re-worded so as to save misunderstanding.

(o) A resolution moved by the Isle of Wight, seconded by Kesteven, was proposed in the following form:—

"This meeting is of the opinion that it is detrimental to the work of the Women's Institute movement for members holding membership in

more than one Institute to serve on more than one W.I. Committee, and urges the National Federation of Women's Institutes to add to their rules—'That no member may serve on more than one Women's Institute Committee without the consent of the County Federation.'

Lost.

(p) "That space in 'Home and Country' should be allotted according to the number of Institutes in a County."

Moved by Shropshire, seconded by Montgomeryshire and *Lost*.

(q) MISS GASKELL (N.F.W.I. Executive Committee) opened a discussion on the reasons for the increase or decrease of membership during 1931. Amongst the reasons given for the decrease were dull programmes; rival organisations; lack of effort on the part of Institutes to obtain new members; falling-off of useless members after the first novelty had worn off.

It was agreed that discussions on this question could usefully be held at County Federation Council Meetings.

SECTION REPORTS:

(i.) *Music and Drama*.

The suggestions for the alteration of the Sections had been discussed. On the proposal of MISS GASKELL, seconded by the Northamptonshire delegate, it had been *agreed, nem. con.*: "That this section welcomes the reduction of sections to two, believing that it will lead to better representation from the counties."

Gloucestershire had moved, and Warwickshire had seconded the resolution:—

"That the N.F.W.I. be asked to arrange a Music Festival on the same lines as the Drama Festival."

It had been pointed out that a similar proposal had been turned down in 1928 on the grounds of expense and because there were already so many County Music Festivals. The discussion had shown that in most of the counties represented satisfactory musical festivals were already organised either by the County Federation or by other bodies, although some counties felt that the standard of singing and of adjudication might be improved by a National Federation Festival. The resolution had been *lost* (4 votes against 3).

BUSINESS ARISING ON THIS SECTION'S REPORT:

Warwickshire's resolution regarding a Music Festival which had previously been discussed in the Section was withdrawn.

(ii.) *Agriculture.*

The Executive Committee's proposals for the alteration of the Sections had been accepted with the exception of that which reduced the sections to two.

Miss Cox, the Marketing Organiser, had given a report on the action taken by the N.F.W.I. to follow up the Annual Meeting resolution on Marketing.

A discussion had arisen as to the attitude of local Show Committees towards the W.I. Stands. MRS. STAPLEDON had asked if the N.F.W.I. Stand at the Royal Show had received special terms as an educational exhibit, as the Stand at the Royal Welsh Show did not. MISS SIMPSON had replied that the N.F.W.I. had proved itself, and was now considered one of the chief exhibiting associations, and as such had been given a stand in the main thoroughfare. Some of the delegates reported that their Federations received special terms.

Middlesex had asked if the N.F.W.I. were represented at the Imperial Fruit Show. MISS SIMPSON had stated that this was not the case, but that some W.I.s had exhibited. It had been suggested that in future the Show Committee should be asked to get in touch with the local W.I.s.

BUSINESS ARISING ON THIS SECTION'S REPORT :

(a) Further instances were given of the success of joint conferences between Farm Institutes and County Federations.

(b) The Herefordshire delegate asked whether the N.F.W.I. were now in a position to take action on the resolution with regard to creameries passed at the February Council.

(c) THE CHAIRMAN introduced to the Council the new Marketing Organiser, MISS COX, and stated that she was now prepared to take engagements.

(iii.) *Health and General Education.*

The scheme for the alteration of the Consultative Council had been considered and had been generally approved.

A discussion had been held on the results of the N.F.W.I.'s enquiry into the education of children up to 7 plus in elementary schools. It had been explained that the N.F.W.I.'s report had been prepared from information collected from Women's Institutes in many parts of the country, and that the discussions held by W.I.s on this question had provoked great interest.

The discussions at the Section had centred round mid-day meals, rest-time, drying of clothes and lessons in the open air.

LADY TREVELYAN had given an interesting report on a soup kitchen organised in a Northumberland village for the school children which was self-supporting and had, according to the parents, noticeably improved the health of the children.

Various other schemes had been described and it had been suggested that Women's Institutes could do much to help in this matter by organising new schemes, by maintaining existing schemes, and by trying to get women appointed as managers of the schools. It had also been felt that it was important to educate the children to appreciate types of food to which they had not been accustomed, for example, soup, and it had been felt that here again Institutes could help by discussion at their meetings.

The Derbyshire delegate had referred to various ways suggested by the Medical Officer of Health in Derbyshire in which voluntary service could be given with regard to health questions. The Section had *agreed* to discuss at a future meeting voluntary social service with regard to health.

A discussion had been held on following-up work on the resolution regarding Cinema Reform passed at the last Annual Meeting. The delegates had reported that Institute members found this subject to be of great interest. Surrey, Lancashire, and Dorset had been amongst the counties which had approached their County Council, Surrey having joined the National Council of Women and the Mothers' Union in a joint deputation to urge discrimination with regard to the type of films shown to children.

(iv.) *Handicrafts.*

The suggested alterations to the Consultative Council had been considered and approved, but in view of the fact that very few County Federation representatives sat at this Section and also that annual Handicraft Conferences, at which from 30 to 40 counties were represented, were held, the Section had *decided* to suggest that at present the Handicraft Section of the Consultative Council should be suspended, but that if an urgent matter concerning Handicrafts arose, the County Federations or the N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Sub-Committee should have the power to bring forward this matter on the Agenda of the Education Section.

The resolution to be moved by West Kent at the full Council regarding the finance of the N.F.W.I. Crafts Department, had been seconded by the delegate from Durham Federation and supported unanimously.

A discussion had been opened by East Suffolk on the following points :—

(1) As to whether the standard of handicrafts was becoming too technical for the majority of W.I. members.

It had been pointed out that all possible help should be given to members to enable them to qualify for the standard which was required for County Exhibitions, and Institute and Group Exhibitions had been found very helpful in many County Federations for this purpose.

(2) As to whether it was advisable to teach crafts which entail spending of money in buying materials, and in making things which are of no use to the ordinary member in her home, and are only useful to those who have many leisure hours.

The discussion had brought out the following points :—

That it was impossible to lay down hard and fast rules as to what crafts Women's Institute members should learn ; that County Federations were enlarging schedules for their Exhibitions to include crafts for all types of workers ; that many County Federations were experiencing the difficulty of getting adequately helpful criticisms from the judges at their County Federations. The main reason for this seemed to be that often at County Exhibitions there was an inadequate supply of judges to deal with the exhibits which had been received.

With regard to the resolution which was to be moved by Buckinghamshire and seconded by East Kent that the names of Judges for Handicraft Tests should be published in " Home and Country," the Section had not given its consent to having this discussion re-opened at its meeting.

It had been suggested that Oxfordshire and Berkshire Federations should be sounded to see whether it would be possible to hold a Handicraft Conference in either of these counties.

It had been *decided* to suggest that the Standing Orders of the Consultative Council should be printed in the Handbook.

BUSINESS ARISING ON THIS SECTION'S REPORT :

The following resolution moved by West Kent and seconded by Durham, was *carried* in the following form :—

" This Council, realising the great need of thrift and economy in the home, urges the Executive Committee to consider every possible means of preventing a curtailment of the services of the N.F.W.I. Handicrafts Organisers during the coming financial year."

Endorsed.

It was left to the Executive Committee to use its discretion as to whether the resolution should be forwarded to the Treasury.

It was *agreed* to suggest that counties be asked to send particulars to headquarters as to the present position with regard to grants and classes provided by the County Councils and that this information should subsequently be circulated to the counties.

Leave having been given under Standing Order 11, the following resolution was moved by Buckinghamshire, seconded by East Kent and *Lost* :—

" That the names of the Judges for Handicraft Tests should be published in ' Home and Country.'"

An amendment requesting that the names of the judges should be published in the N.F.W.I. Annual Report was also *Lost*.

Report of the Welsh Conference,

HELD AT THE
AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS, ALEXANDRA ROAD,
ABERYSTWYTH,

ON
DECEMBER 6th, 1932.

Chairman: MISS BERTHA JONES.

PRESENT:

Thirty-seven delegates and visitors from nine Welsh County Federations. Three members of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee.

WELSH-SPEAKING MEMBER OF THE N.F.W.I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MISS BERTHA JONES was nominated for co-option as Welsh-speaking member of the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee for 1933-1934.

Endorsed.

WELSH CONFERENCE.

A discussion on the necessity of continuing the official Welsh Conference was opened by the Anglesey delegate. Opinion was very divided, and it was finally proposed by Merionethshire seconded by Anglesey:—

“That the discussion be postponed until the 1933 Conference, so that an opinion might be formed as to the value of the meetings of Welsh delegates at the time of the Consultative Council.”

Carried and Endorsed.

POOLING OF FARES FOR N.F.W.I. ANNUAL MEETING.

A discussion on the Pooling of Fares was opened by Carnarvonshire. It was evident from discussion that many of the very small Institutes would experience great difficulty in finding the 15s. 6d. required under the scheme; further that support

would be given to a revision of the 1932 resolution in order to ensure that only Institutes sending delegates to the meeting would be called upon to share in the scheme.

WELSH REPRESENTATION ON N.F.W.I. COMMITTEES:

A resolution:—

“That the N.F.W.I. be asked to consider the advantage to Wales of its representation on each Sub-Committee of the N.F.W.I.”

was moved by Carnarvonshire, seconded by Montgomeryshire and *Lost.*

ROYAL WELSH SHOW.

(a) A resolution:—

“That steps be taken to get the Council of the Royal Welsh Show to recognise the W.I. stall as an education exhibit.”

was moved by Cardiganshire, seconded by Montgomeryshire and *Carried.*

It was *decided* that Cardiganshire should forward a letter embodying the resolution to the Royal Welsh Committee.

(b) A resolution:—

“That the W.I. Exhibition at the Royal Welsh Show be non-competitive.”

was moved by Carnarvonshire, seconded by Merionethshire and *Lost.*

It was felt that the competitive element added greatly to the interest of the Show.

Arising on this discussion, it was decided to suggest to the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee that the dates of the Royal Welsh Show and the Eisteddfod should be inserted in the W.I. Diary for 1934.

PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT IN WALES.

The answers to a Roll-call on the progress of the Institute movement in the Welsh County Federations revealed that slow progress was being made in most cases.

ADDRESS.

An address was given by MR. IFAN AB OWEN EDWARDS on the Welsh League of Youth.

MR. OWEN EDWARDS stated that the aim of the Welsh League of Youth is to strengthen the citizenship of Wales and of the world ; to inspire the children of Wales to service for their country based on the tradition of the Welsh heroes. The movement is non-party political and non-sectarian. There are about 600 to 700 branches throughout the country, and Mr. Owen Edwards suggested that the reasons for the League's success were that it was a Welsh movement, created on Welsh ground, understanding Wales, and based on Welsh tradition. It was obvious that he considered Women's Institutes were having an anglicising effect on Wales, and he deplored this. Considerable discussion arose on this point and MISS MILES pointed out that if it was felt by Welsh members that it would be best for the Institutes of Wales to have a separate Federation of Women's Institutes, the N.F.W.I. Executive Committee would certainly not stand in the way of this, but would do all in its power to help them.

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Mr. Owen Edwards stated that the aim of the Welsh League of Youth is to strengthen the citizenship of Wales and of the world; to inspire the children of Wales to serve for their country based on the tradition of the Welsh heroes. The movement is non-party political and non-sectarian. There are about 400 to 700 branches throughout the country and Mr. Owen Edwards suggested that the reasons for the League's success were that it was a Welsh movement, created on Welsh ground, understanding Wales, and based on Welsh tradition. It was obvious that he considered Women's Institutes were having an enlightening effect on Wales, and he deplored this. Considerable discussion arose on that point and Miss Myers pointed out that if it was felt by Welsh members that it would be best for the Institutes of Wales to have a separate Federation of Women's Institutes, the N.W.I. Executive Committee would certainly not stand in the way of this, but would do all in its power to help them.