

Adelaide Hoodless Story

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In 1900, through Mrs. Hoodless' influence, the Normal School for Domestic Science and Art was founded in Hamilton.

Mrs. Hoodless was interested in the National Council of Women, was for many years unofficially attached to the Department of Education in Ontario and became an internationally recognized authority on Women's training centres.

In 1901 she visited Sir William Macdonald in Montreal and persuaded him to donate enough money to build and equip Macdonald Institute at the O.A.C., Guelph, to be used as a training centre for girls interested in Home Economics. She joined the staff at the Institute as a lecturer, upon its completion.

In her own homemaking Mrs. Hoodless must have been closely in line with home economics present trend toward simplicity. A daughter says of her

"As a homemaker she was an inspiration. Our old home was open house, and she was the gracious centre around which everything revolved. Mother had travelled widely, and there were always interesting people coming and going - she had a stimulating and lovable personality that drew young and old alike. Yet she seemed to have time for everything. She used to say 'Women must learn not to waste valuable time in non-essentials'. I think that much of her success was due to her wide choice of essentials, and her concentration on them".

Reviewing the life of this great educationalist, one is amazed at the straight hard work that she did. One report tells of over sixty addresses given in two years.

Mrs. Hoodless' life was cut short at the age of fifty-two years when she dropped dead on the platform while addressing the Federation of Women's Clubs, February 25, 1910.

All through the years, the Women's Institutes of the World have honoured the memory of Mrs. Hoodless in many ways. Her portrait hangs in Macdonald Institute and in the Archives at Ottawa. In 1937 a cairn was erected to her memory at St. George, and in 1959 the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada purchased her birthplace at St. George. This home will be renovated and probably furnished as in the days of her early life there. It will be open to the thousands of world people who are interested in the Women's Institute Organization and its founder - the woman who had the vision, and gave herself the task of improving rural welfare and happiness. She had faith in her cause, faith in herself, and the determination to succeed.