

The Spirit of Homemaking

In her own homemaking, Mrs. Hoodless must have been closely in line with home economics' present trend toward simplicity and an appreciation of the intangibles. A daughter says:

"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 on non-essentials', and I think much of her success was due to her wise choice of essentials and her concentration on them".

In the early days of MacDonald Institute there was some little controversy over Mrs. Hoodless' determination to have "Ethics in the Home" included in the course of study. She argued that more attention should be given to the "spirit" of homemaking. And her family remember that once, after she had addressed the students of a college in the States, the president said: "I would give a very liberal salary to any woman who would bring into my college the spirit which you have introduced into the education of women in regard to homemaking". Perhaps in her work in her own country this "spirit" was her greatest contribution of all.

An Educationist Ahead of Her Time

As an educationist Mrs. Hoodless was years ahead of her time. Fifty-five years ago, in an article on New Methods of Education, she wrote:

"The traditional idea of emphasizing the classics as a basis of all culture has been a difficult one to combat. At the present day there is conflict between the idea of personal freedom and the organization of the social life. Our writer says: 'The ultimate development of personal freedom leads to anarchy, and the final development of organization to socialism.' What must be done is to develop to the fullest extent the two great social forces, education and organization, so as to secure for each individual the highest degree of advancement."

Without doubt, Adelaide Hoodless had the far-sighted vision of the pioneer. She had also the pioneer's hardships. Speaking at a celebration of MacDonald Institute's twenty-fifth anniversary, her son mentioned this in a very moving tribute to his mother. He said:

"After a bitter fight Mother succeeded in having domestic science introduced in the Hamilton schools. Today one can hardly conceive that the attacks made upon her could have occurred. She was derided in the press and from the platform as one of those despised 'new women'. 'Let her stay

home and take care of her family' was one of the pieces of advice most often handed out. As to staying at home and taking care of her family—well! No mother was ever more devoted nor any home better managed . . . She was a great mother and her wonderfully developed maternal instinct was large enough to include all classes and creeds."

Reviewing the life of this great educationist, one is amazed at the tremendous amount of straight, hard work she did. One report tells of over sixty addresses given in two years. This was when the Minister of Education asked her to help in educating public opinion so as to warrant the government passing legislation permitting, and giving grants for, the teaching of domestic science in public schools.

Lord Tweedsmuir

Lord Tweedsmuir was born John Buchan in Scotland, August 25th, 1875, the son of Reverend John Buchan. He was a noted historian, novelist, and was Governor-General of Canada from 1935 to 1940.

In 1901 he was called to the bar, and from 1927 - 1935 he was a member of the British House of Commons for Scottish Universities.

In 1935 he was titled "Baron Tweedsmuir". Some of his biographies and historical works include - Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Walter Scott, Julius Caesar, Oliver Cromwell, The Massacre of St. Bartholomew, The King's Trace

Some of his novels were: The 39 Steps, Salute To Adventurers, "Memory. Hold The Door", The Three Hostages and one of his latest works, John Buchan, the first Lord Tweedsmuir, died in Montreal on Feb. 11, 1940. His library was bequeathed to Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario.

Lady Tweedsmuir

Susan, wife of our beloved Governor-General, has written many plays, children's books and reminiscences. She was an ardent W.I. member in England, and was made an Honorary Life Member of the F.W.I.O.

She advocated that our organization across Canada compile the histories of our local communities and villages.

She returned to England, following the death of her husband and is still residing there (1962)