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A conference of ladies interested in Women's Institutes was held at Little Ote Hall, Wivelsfield, on Wednesday, and proved most helpful. Representatives from six out of the nine Women's Institutes already formed in Sussex were present. Mrs. Bridge and Mrs. William Somers came from Burgess Hill, Mrs. Messel and Mrs. Bosley from Danehill, Mrs. Dearden and Miss Keightley from Lindfield, Miss Elizabeth Robins and Miss Macnamara from Henfield, Miss Waghorn from Ditchling, and Mrs. F. T. Godman and Mrs. Blaauw from Wivelsfield. The Lady Denman and Mrs. Watt, from the Agricultural Organisation Society, also attended, and the Women's County War Agricultural Committee was represented by Miss Scovall, the labour representative. Mrs. Watt opened the proceedings by a short explanation of the aims of the conference, and Mrs. Godman, President of the Wivelsfield Institute, was elected Chairman, and Miss Margesson, Secretary of the Scaynes Hill Institute, was elected Secretary. The first subject discussed was the winter's work for Sussex Institutes, and it was agreed that a need was felt for classes as well as lectures, and it was decided to make application to the Technical Schools at Lewes as to whether Instructors in different subjects could be sent to the various Institutes in turn.

It was further agreed that if any Institute had an especially interesting lecturer the

fact should be communicated to the others, so that all might benefit, one member of the conference being made responsible for receiving these communications. Mrs. Dearden, President of the Lindfield Institute, was proposed and accepted for this post. It was considered advisable to call the attention of the newly-formed Institutes to the need of increasing the interest in the various Government collections, such as the War Loan, waste paper, horse chestnuts, wool and blackberries, and to the conservation of food—so large a feature of Institute work. Co-operative marketing was the next subject discussed, and it was resolved that help to decide upon some scheme should be asked from the Agricultural Organisation Society. Mrs. Messel, of the Danehill Institute, described the plan they had of a stall in East Grinstead market under the the Food Production Department, and Mrs. Godman gave an account of the very successful stall held by the Wivelsfield Institute at the recent St. Andrew's sale of work at Burgess Hill.

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A co-operative programme for all Sussex Institutes was deemed desirable, and it was agreed that there should be a uniform cover, and Mrs. Godman, Miss Elizabeth Robins, Miss Macnamara and Mrs. William Somers were appointed to draw this up. Toy making then engaged attention. Mrs. Somers shewed some toys made by the Burgess Hill Institute, among them being the already famous "Outhbert." Mrs. Clowes next spoke on herb growing, and regretted that less was being done to encourage this industry in Sussex than in any other county, despite the fact that Sussex was a mine of wealth as regards herbs. A plan in respect to a scheme for co-operative herb growing and collecting was left for the present in the hands of Lady Denman and Mrs. Clowes. With a view to spreading the Women's Institute movement in Sussex, it was decided to try and arrange a large County meeting under the Women's County War Agricultural Committee. At the end of the proceedings it was felt by all that the conference had been so helpful that it would be well to have twice a year similar conferences of the representatives of the Women's Institutes. The MID-SUSSEX TIMES, from the first, has sung the praises of Women's Institutes, recognising what an immense amount of good they are capable of doing. Things are going to be different after the war, we are told. Women's Institutes are going to help make them different. If people are to be attracted to the land village life will have to be made brighter—brighter for the women as well as the men. And to this work Women's Institutes have already set their hands.