

FAIRS

Community Fairs.

Home demonstration agents aided in organizing and carrying on 38 community fairs. In the reports they made of these fairs one is impressed by the fact that more attention is paid to the right type of recreation, through local talent plays, contests, games, etc. There also seems to have developed a tendency toward exhibits of higher quality rather than great quantities of mediocre order.

The agent in Johnston County give this following interesting account of a fair in her county: "A two-day Smithfield Township Fair with four county-wide features was very successful. The fair which was held in the Smithfield Armory was well attended on both days. The Armory is well adapted to such occasions and those in charge of the various booths, together with special committees, and members of the National Guards, working together, made the place attractive with pines, corn, pumpkins, etc.: Not one cent being spent for artificial decorations. The purpose of the whole fair was easily seen in the exhibits which stressed better homes, better churches, better schools, better farms, and better fun.

"A feature of this better homes exhibit was a large sand table showing the contrast of homes with grass and shrubbery and those without. Local dealers and others accepted our invitation to arrange exhibits in the better homes department. These included furnished kitchen, breakfast room, living room, splendid display of furniture and 'built-ins' from wood shop here, florist, lighting plant, sewing machine, and music exhibits. One of the very striking things of the fair was the better church exhibit in a large booth built in the shape

of a church and covered with cotton bagging. An unusually artistic display of posters and a large sand table representing the 'Church by the side of the Road' was displayed. The better fun part of the slogan was well understood before the close of the Friday evening program which was given in the crowded court room. The hog and chicken calling contests were won by women; the spelling bee a tie. This was followed by stunts put on by Boy Scouts, Church, Business and Professional Women's Clubs, and a Home Demonstration Club. This club worked out several scenes portraying the life of a family beginning to feel the influence of a home agent. A local orchestra furnished delightful music during the stunt program. By charging 25¢ and 15¢ for the evening program the sum of \$125.00 was raised. This was our means of financing the fair. As in the cotton festival the best part of the fair was the fact that the county and town worked together so well."

County Fairs.

A large measure of the success of 24 county fairs held in the State this year is due to the efforts of the home demonstration agents. Reports of work done at these fairs were made by 26 agents.

More attention was paid this year to arrangement and decoration of the exhibits. The agent in Pitt County says: "It is very noticeable that the people are paying more attention to the educational side of their exhibits and are learning that the products themselves make the best decoration. Pierce Community, which won first prize, papered their walls with cotton and used a border of bright leaf tobacco. It was a most effective display."

Many booths were arranged this year to show what projects the

club folks are carrying on. Such exhibits as a girl's bedroom, shown at the Chowan Fair with seven pieces of furniture done over at the small cost of \$3.85; a child-feeding booth at the Nash County Fair and the exhibit of a week's supply of home canned fruits and vegetables accompanied by menus for the meals of a family of six, attracted the interest and attention of everyone who passed.

At nearly all the fairs team demonstrations were given by both women and girls. At the Rockingham County Fair five women's clubs had booths competing against each other. Each club was required to give three demonstrations during the week. These demonstrations included House Furnishing, Basketry, Bread Making, Steam Pressure Cookery, Jelly and Pickle making, School Lunch, Refinishing Floors, Making Home-made Floor Wax and Clothing.

A feature of the Cabarrus County Fair was a Cotton Dress Contest in which 56 women and 21 girls, all club members, exhibited dresses they had made.

As in the Community Fairs the agents report less quantity but greater variety and quality in the exhibits.

District Fairs.

Home demonstration agents exhibited and assisted in arranging five district fairs. At the Roanoke Fair home agents from the surrounding counties put up exhibits representing the project work being carried on in the clubs. Pitt County, which won first place, had the following projects represented in its booths: Clothing for girls, Arts and Crafts, Landscape Gardening, House Furnishing, Foods, and Health and Sanitation, Food Preservation, Marketing, Poultry and Gardening. At this fair also a model kitchen was equipped by one of the home agents with the most modern equipment to be had. Five or six demonstrations in Food Preparation were given in this kitchen every day.

The exhibits at these district fairs were similar to those at the County Fairs only on a much larger scale.

Folk and Iredell Counties had a Boys' and Girls' Club Fair at which time the club members exhibited their work and gave demonstrations and told about their achievements for the year. In Iredell County 112 entries were made by club girls in canning, cooking and sewing.