



No. 8, Volume 3

NOVEMBER, 1942

Price 3d.

SENSE OF VALUES

CINDERELLA has been getting quite a lot of kisses lately. Everybody has been saying nice things and there is a general recognition of the value of the Land Army which is now 50,000 strong. The only people who sometimes don't seem quite certain of their own importance are the volunteers themselves. Perhaps the widespread appeals for the W.R.N.S., the A.T.S., and the W.A.A.F. have something to do with this. Large numbers *are* wanted for these Forces but *not* from the ranks of the W.L.A. No volunteer should feel that the call is for her—she is wanted where she is, on the most important job of all, the production of the nation's food.

The other day a volunteer with two years' experience in the Land Army asked to leave because her heart was not in her work but "out there with those other men and women in khaki and blue." Perhaps this is an occasion when the head should rule the heart. A volunteer with two years' experience is a valuable worker and cannot be adequately replaced. Although the present needs of the Land Army are met by the volunteers anxious to join it so that public appeals are not required at the moment, new recruits cannot possibly replace the experienced workers whose sense of responsibility should be increased by a realisation of their own value to their country.

Occasionally there are stories of volunteers who overstay their leave or who are an hour or two late for work. No doubt not one of them realised that if 50,000 Land Girls were only one hour late once in a year it would mean the loss of the work of twenty Land Girls for a whole year or one thousand for a week—and that if she overstayed her leave not only would her own employer be inconvenienced but that the Land Army's fight to get regular leave for all its members would be made much harder. By the exercise of a little more of their undoubted intelligence, members of the W.L.A. can see to it that there is no qualification whatever attached to the tributes they have deservedly won from all who know their work.

M. A. P.

MORE UNIFORMITIES

AS the war grows older, coupons have to last longer and we all have to spend a great deal of time and thought making do with clothes that would normally be cast aside. Already a number of useful ideas on economy in wear have been published in THE LAND GIRL. Here are a few more suggestions.

All cotton garments can be patched, shirt collars can be reversed and by the way, Land Army shirts should be pulled into shape before being dried. There is a certain amount of elasticity in all cellular shirts and they need a good firm pull to keep them in shape. Treat them as you would a woollen jersey that has just been washed.

The Land Army hat suffers in silence, it is emphatically not a fashionable style that becomes the wearer when perched at an angle. Ask for a hat that will really cover your crown and stay in place on a windy day without any help from chin straps.

Owing to the shortage of rubber, most of us are forced to do the best we can with leather. After all, it is only comparatively recently that gum boots have been worn so universally. There are attentions you can pay to leather which will help towards repelling water. First of all, wherever a needle has pierced the leather of a boot or shoe, it leaves a hole and water makes for holes. Therefore, give up all ideas of having a shine on your boots, grease them regularly with dubbin, particularly round the welts. When you run your nail along the leather a thin film of grease should be visible. It does no harm either, to give the soles and heels a layer of grease. Dry your boots slowly and try to grease them when they are as dry as possible. Stuff your wet footwear with newspaper or hay or straw if you can get it. If a crack appears across the soles it is absolutely certain you have put them too near the fire and burnt them. The wise ones among you will ask for two pairs of boots and one pair of shoes, then you can be sure of having time to dry your wet pair properly and slowly. The boots are stiff to begin with, just like the army ones, and you will have to break them in to your feet. Many of you may find it necessary to take half a size larger in boots than you do in shoes, this is due to the fact that boots come above the ankle joint.

Canvas leggings are now being distributed. The canvas is waterproof, but you can help it to remain so by occasionally using khaki webbing cleaner.

Some of you will still have gum boots, these should be treated with great respect, do not wear them unless you are engaged on a very wet job. It is really criminal to walk to your work in them or wear them on a dry day. It means more bother in changing footwear but if you were on a desert island and knew you could not buy more footwear, you would take care not to wear what you had unless it was essential. The gum boot position to-day is just like that. Do take them to be mended before they are too badly worn. Repair facilities are now available to everyone through retail repairers. Acids and some disinfectants have a very destructive effect on rubber, if you work among them you MUST hose your gum boots immediately you have finished your work. This is most urgent and vital as without a thorough cleansing the rubber fabric will rot with horrifying rapidity.

To turn to wool, some people are much harder on stockings than others. If you know you go through the heels quickly, it is an excellent plan to darn the heels of new stockings before wearing them. Knitted patches to fill up larger holes are very satisfactory, the darning wool can be got from unravelling old worn out stockings and if you belong to the knitting tribe it is quite possible to re-foot old stockings. Do mend your stockings regularly.

PLEASE NOTE that the supply of sou'westers, gloves and belts is temporarily exhausted, so do not ask for any more order forms for the present. It is hoped to obtain further stocks, you will be told by your County Office when these are ready for sale. If more gloves are obtained it will be necessary to surrender two coupons for every pair purchased.

K. DOMAN.

(Continued from opposite page)

We leave the soldiers to their battle school and ride back through the low empty farmyards, the full warm fields of corn and cool meadows.

We think of the little round grey towers on the beach and wonder if our ancestors were so very funny after all.

M. RAINSFORD, W.L.A. 22345.

(E. Suffolk.)

Evacuation

TO-DAY is all warm summer sunshine. We are riding through swelling seas of lazy oats and soft barley, and wheat standing like millions of stiff little soldiers in green busbys. There is the wide blue tidal river flashing with white gulls and a sea wind blows the tang of glistening mud and green weed in our faces. Golden whins smell sweetly sticky and the humming bees are in the heather. Fresh bracken, warm friendly pines, silent firs. Just a rim of yellow shingle and then a cool green sea and blue sky.

The lane turns again into low water meadows of bending willows and brown weeds; kingcups, dragon flies and ragged robins. Young things gentle each other and gaze softly over the hedge. Some hens run in front with stiff swinging strides, poking necks and no sense.

There is a notice outside the village shop saying: "Closed at 3.0 p.m., as we have to pack as well as you," and a pony cart bowls by, with two elderly people in front separated from their children on the tail board by a jumble of chair legs and pot plants. They have a black and white dog as well and we wave and hope they have found a nice place to go to.

First we work in the sugarbeet fields and then we go loading young field peas. These are taken away to be made into silage. A lot of soldiers are here now putting up barbed wire fences and notices saying "Danger" and "You do so at your own risk." They are very brown and jolly and wave the lorry loads of peas to slow down so that they may pull our handfuls of the haulm and take off the pods.

One very warm day we are leaning on our forks waiting to load and gazing over the flat marshes, feeding red cattle and horses, to the yellow shingle ridge where a squat round tower stands. Someone says it is a Martello Tower built to keep Napoleon away. Another says no, it was something to do with a Dutchman and a broom. Anyway, we think our ancestors' methods of defence very primitive and amusing and go on loading peas.

As time gets short, more and more people pack up their possessions and their animals and go away. The soldiers have put the wire and the notices nearly all round and the peas are all cut and packed into silos. Our work is finished for a while until we come back to harvest the corn.

(Continued on opposite page)

Broadcasting the News

"SHE PRODUCES FOOD FOR BRITAIN. YOU CAN HELP HER BY SAVING." This is the caption on the latest National Savings Display Piece which has as its subject a member of the W.L.A. set against a background of newly ploughed acres. It will form part of the advertising campaign of the Post Office Savings Bank and will be widely exhibited over the next few months.

Mrs. Stevenson, chief woman officer of the Women's Timber Corps who took part in the W.L.A. broadcast in August, has been broadcasting a talk on the work of the Corps to America with such success that we understand that she will broadcast again shortly. On the Home service an East Sussex volunteer was one of those who took part in a special harvest broadcast in the Country Magazine, now a regular and popular feature at lunch-time on alternate Sundays.

The V Calf and its Land Army attendant, Miss Watson, continue their peregrinations through England collecting for the Red Cross Agriculture Fund and Miss Watson reports that wherever she goes fellow Land Army members prove generous supporters. Look out for her this month at markets in Northamptonshire, Peterborough, Rutland, Cambridgeshire & Lincolnshire.

WAR SAVINGS

An appeal to members of the W.L.A.

The War Savings Agricultural Advisory Committee makes a special appeal to the W.L.A. to support the campaign for increased Savings among those who work on the land. Help to run, or join a Savings Group in your district, or invest your savings in National Savings Certificates or Defence Bonds, or put your money into the Post Office or Trustee Savings Banks.

★

Full particulars from your Local Savings Committee or Post Office.

Issued by The National Savings Committee

In Oxfordshire

Within the ancient cloisters of St. John Baptist College, Oxfordshire Land Girls were privileged to hold their first *public* Fruit and Vegetable Show on 30th September. Nothing could have been kinder than the ready help given by the College dignitaries. It would have been difficult to find a happier setting.

Providentially, it was a fine day. Sunlight streamed through the old collonades, catching the high lights of tomatoes, potatoes, carrots and marrows. Golden leaves of chestnut and vine, trails of creeper, masses of autumn flowers and foliage decorated the tables, flanked by beans, peas, celery, cucumbers, onions, beet, turnips, cabbages, lettuce—all in tidy heaps with name cards attached. Weird-looking gourds, blue beans, aubergines, mammoth pumpkins, apples, pears, quinces, grapes, figs, blackberries and other delights had their place too, with some splendid collections, not for competition, from the gardens of Blenheim Palace, Middleton Park, Watperry Horticultural School and Lady Margaret Hall. Then there was the education section, where were specimens of garden pests (those wireworms, flea-beetles, etc., we all fought through the summer), mercifully counterbalanced by drastic destroyers, fertilisers, a marvellous diagram illustrating the soil's treatment and dietary, leaflets for beginners and for the more advanced, and some less usual tools—all carefully arranged by Miss Haverall and Mr. Bevan, the County Council's Horticultural Organiser, and explained by his assistant, Mrs. Hodgman.

At three precisely, the presentation of the prizes awarded by Mr. J. Bevan and Mr. J. Anderson, the Judges, took place. Lady Tweedsmuir reminded us that we were almost the only people in the world to-day who are doing constructive work, and Miss Ashhurst, who presided, read a letter from our Minister of Agriculture.

"I am very glad," he wrote, "to be able to congratulate the members of the Women's Land Army in Oxfordshire and throughout the country, on the splendid work that they have done in the past year. Never was it so vital that we should get every possible pound of food from our own soil. The work that has been put into this year's harvest will see us through the coming winter. But now, without a moment's delay, we have to prepare for a greater harvest and even

greater efforts next year, so that we may see the country through the winter of 1943-4. I know the Women's Land Army will play a gallant and successful part and continue its high traditions of service."

A delicious picnic of sandwiches, buns and tea made in the college kitchen followed and meanwhile stacks of exhibits and useful articles—given by Land Girls and other friends—were sold for our Welfare Fund. Our last impressions at 6 p.m., when nearly everyone had gone, were of a Land Girl staggering under the weight of a gigantic marrow and a huge basket crammed with fruit and vegetables for one of the hospitals, while another was collecting every scrap of paper and vegetable debris for salvage and the compost heap. The end of a perfect day!

Every day in peace time ships brought into this country:—

1,000,000 lbs. of Tea.
11,800,000 lbs. of Sugar.
1,227,000 lbs. of Butter.
7,500,000 lbs. of Meat.
61,300,000 lbs. of Corn and Grain.
1,500,000 lbs. of Oranges.
24,000 bunches of Bananas.

From the "Landworker."

An invaluable handbook for all members of the Women's Land Army

LAND GIRL

By

W. E. SHEWELL-COOPER

New and completely revised edition now available

Price 1/- net
(Postage 2d. extra)

"Here are the answers to all the questions you forget to ask your District Representative when she calls!"
The Land Girl

THE ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES PRESS LTD.

St. Hugh's School, Bickley, Kent

Miss Baxter and I—No. 6

When they began cutting our oats the farmer told my friend Miss Baxter and me to set the sheaves into stooks. Miss Baxter said had he sown them himself and were they wild oats? But the farmer said no, the Government didn't subsidise that kind and not to be discouraged if stooking seemed rather like Hercules and the Aegean Stables. Miss Baxter said did he mean the Hercules that lost her two shillings on the St. Leger and the farmer said no, and not the one that made the bicycles either and to begin stooking at the potato pits. I said why did they smell like that and have green sprouts all over and the farmer said if I filled in a form in triplicate the Government would no doubt send me a pamphlet about it. Miss Baxter said had they a pamphlet about why they let potatoes rot when she had worked her fingers to the bone gathering them to feed the nation and what was the Farmer's Union for anyway? And the farmer said to get thermos flasks for its members and went away.

Well, Miss Baxter picked up a sheaf and put it down again and began pulling thistles out of her fingers and I picked up another but it was semi-detached so Miss Baxter stood on the other end while I jerked and when she had picked herself up and pulled more thistles out of other places, we each got two sheaves and leant them against each other. And the heads of Miss Baxter's slid past each other and the butts of mine tipped up and they all fell down.

Just then Sandy the cattleman passed on his way to the cow-field and said Losh keep me! for-why werena' we bindin' the louse? I said wouldn't it be better to squash it and Sandy said Dinna be daft wumman and did we ken hoo to mak' bands? Miss Baxter said yes, with two saxaphones and plenty of swing but Sandy said he meant stray-bands and he twisted some straws together and tied them round a bundle of loose ones to make a sheaf and went away.

I said had Miss Baxter been taught to tie knots for stray-bands in the Girl Guides but she said no, only ones for hauling fallen men up cliffs so after a while we decided just to use that kind instead.

Well, we had made eight stooks and three of them were still standing when Will, the tractor-man, came along and said no' to set the sheaves ower far apart and a little later the roadman put

his head over the hedge and said no' to set the sheaves ower close. Then the foreman's son passing on his way to school said did we no' ken tae keep the knots tae the outside? And after a while a voice from the road shouted that sure was a swell job for a pair of palookas, yes sir!

Miss Baxter said did that sound like Alvar Liddell to me and I said no, more like Stinker Murdoch being the three Stooges but it was only the butcher's boy delivering bread because it was the fishmonger's day on the Observation Post.

Well, after that we decided to compromise and build a bit of each stook the way each person had told us. I was to stand on the semi-detached ones while Miss Baxter jerked and she was to make the bands because her sister Maud had once fallen over the Brighton pier. After an hour or two we got to the end of the row and there were four stooks standing and Miss Baxter said did I think it was sabotage and I said no, Compromise, and what about making them our own way? So we did and when we had worked back to the potato pits there were thirty-two stooks standing. I was just telling Miss Baxter about my great-great Uncle Clarence who fell on the field at Flodden and Miss Baxter was asking if he tripped on a sheaf, when the wind got up and blew all the stooks down, except the one at the gate and just then the men came in for their 'elevenses' and they each took a sheaf from the standing stook and sat on it.

Well, we started again and I said they never fell down when you were watching them so when they were all up suppose we did that and we could mop up the blood from the scratches on our arms at the same time. I would take the night shift because I had only one pair of pyjamas left and couldn't get another because Bill, the horse, had eaten my hat eight months ago so now the volunteer couldn't present her coupon-equivalents in full Land Army uniform, but perhaps it was all for the best because now I wouldn't have to buy all the other things on the coupon that I didn't need or forfeit them which I should simply loathe.

Just when we had reached the end of the row and every stook was standing, the farmer came along and said we had built them too near for the binder to turn so would we just run over them again and build them further out.

ISOBEL MOUNT, Scotland.



At a West Suffolk Demonstration

At Worcester

Worcestershire held its annual County Rally on October 10th at which about 550 Land Girls were present. It began at 2 p.m. when 350 girls met at the Shire Hall and, preceded by the band of the Worcestershire Regiment marched through the main street of Worcester to the Guildhall. The Assembly Hall was soon filled with this large audience which reflected the growing sense of fellowship in the Worcestershire W.L.A.

The speaker this year was the Earl of Dudley, our Regional Commissioner, who had generously given up his time to meet the girls who are endeavouring to carry out the agricultural programme of this county—a cause very dear to Lord Dudley who is so well known to Worcestershire. The Chairman of the Worcestershire W.L.A. Committee, Mrs. T. C. H. Lea, M.A., J.P., was in the chair, and Dr. Moore Ede attended as Deputy Mayor.

Mrs. Lea opened the meeting with a speech which was both an inspiration and a challenge. Her very real sympathy and admiration for the unspectacular but

arduous work done by members of the W.L.A. were expressed with humour and topical illustration which was received with laughter and appreciation. But her call to courage and sustained effort was the inspiring note throughout her speech.

Lord Dudley paid tribute to the achievements of the Women's Land Army in Worcestershire during the past year. He spoke of the very serious responsibility that they shouldered in providing for the sustenance of the Nation and thereby challenged them to even greater service in the harder times we might expect to face. He then presented the prizes to the winners in the Fruit and Vegetable Show.

The Show, though not large, reached a very high standard, and the County Judges congratulated competitors on their splendid efforts. There were 33 classes, and although it is not possible to name all the winners, Miss D. Jackson, who took the prize for the "collection of not less than six distinct kinds of vegetable," and Miss C. K. Collis, who carried away the County Office Cup for the highest number of points in the Show deserve special mention.

The Care of the Feet

A. J. R. Bride, B.Sc., Chiropodist to Diabetic Clinics at University College and Central Middlesex County Hospitals, has written the following Article for THE LAND GIRL.

ALMOST more than any other part of the body the feet of workers on the land need constant attention and care. Face and hands are exposed to the sun and the four winds of heaven; clothes allow free circulation of air to cool the body and remove excessive sweat. Feet, however, enclosed in close-fitting footwear, live under most unhygienic conditions: stagnant air, high temperature and excessive moisture.

Here are a few general rules for the care of your feet and you may be confident that the result will be worth the extra time you spend over them. First, wash your feet every night with warm soapy water, preferably after knocking off work. In spite of popular opinion this does not make feet tender. The skin between the toes requires particular attention, as dirt and sweat tend to accumulate there. Dry with a rough towel because friction improves the circulation.

Now look to the nails—scrub them with a nailbrush, remove dirt under the edges of the nails by gently scraping with an orange stick. Take care not to scratch the skin. Toe nails are free down both sides almost to the base. If the nails are too long cut them straight across level with the ends of the toes. Never cut down the sides. Finally, powder your feet with starch, boracic or talcum.

Care of Footwear

At night turn your stockings inside out and hang them up to air. Two or three times a week, or oftener, wipe out the inside of your boots with a damp cloth. See that there are no breaks in the lining or irregularities in, or nails projecting through, the sole.

Wipe dust or wash mud off your shoes and rub dubbin well into the leather frequently, to keep it soft and pliable and waterproof. Wet shoes should dry in a warm place, not in front of a fire.

Foot Ailments

The commonest foot disabilities are blisters, cracks in the skin between the toes, callous, hard and soft corns, crumpled or overlapping toes, bunions, deformed and ingrown nails, fungus infection of moist skin in angle between toes (athletes foot). Warts occasionally occur on the soles of the feet and

because they grow inwards and not outwards are often confused with corns. Most of these disabilities need expert treatment and *it is dangerous to treat them yourself*; so go to a chiropodist. There is usually one even in a small town and he or she will give you expert treatment for a reasonable fee. Always be suspicious of anyone who asks more than you would expect to pay a doctor for similar treatment

First Aid to the Feet

Scrupulous cleanliness is certainly the first essential because if the skin is broken in any way there is then little likelihood of the place becoming septic. Also, for those who unfortunately suffer from excessive sweating of the feet, washing is about the only means of preventing them from becoming offensive not only to yourself but to others. Moist feet may also be powdered and the inside of the boot should be first wiped out with spirit and then powdered.

Blisters should be punctured with a needle which has been held in boiling water or methylated spirit or other antiseptic. After gently pressing out the fluid, cover with a piece of gauze or lint moistened with weak antiseptic and held in place with a piece of strapping. Cuts and scratches need similar treatment. Punctures or scratches by nails, even if slight, are particularly dangerous. For burns or scalds, if not involving a large part of the foot, after very gently removing or cutting away the stocking, cover the injury with gauze or lint smeared with vaseline or tannic acid ointment. Sprains or bruises are relieved by placing the foot in very warm water for three minutes, then very cold water for half a minute; repeating the process about 10 times. Cover a bruise with gauze or lint. Strap a sprain fairly tightly and, for a day or two, use the foot as little as possible, but continue the alternate baths. Chilblains, are a matter for medical treatment. Broken chilblains, however, must be covered with lint soaked in very weak antiseptic, not iodine which irritates. Notice condition of skin between the toes. Dab tender skin with cotton wool moistened with methylated spirit.

A final word: Take as much, if not more care, of your feet as you do of the rest of your body and although they will obviously be tired after a hard day's work, the fatigue will not be excessive and will soon disappear after washing them and getting into comfortable, soft slippers.

Tractor Tips

Miss Bush, who has written the following article for THE LAND GIRL, was one of the first members of the W.L.A. to be chosen by the Ministry of Agriculture to train tractor drivers. Some volunteers may have seen her in an M.O.I. Film on ploughing.

NOW that the work is once again in full swing, it is important that your tractor shall keep running and run well. Too much attention cannot be paid to the importance of cleanliness. Clean oil, clean fuel, clean rags, clean grease and grease gun, and a clean filter-funnel. Time spent on seeing to your tractor's cleanliness is well spent, it will save loads of trouble which otherwise will always occur when you are busy.

Always use a filter to refuel, and clean out the sediment bull regularly. One tiny piece of grit in the jet will mean the removal of the hot plate—an unnecessary loss of time.

Try always to keep your tractor at just below boiling point. Do not put your blind on the radiator lower than four twists down. It is better to run the Tractor too hot than too cold. The paraffin will not vapourise properly if the temperature is too low, and your hot plate and plugs will carbon very quickly.

Always replace the cap on your oil, petrol and paraffin tins, and remember to wipe the grease nipples before using the gun.

Then the water in your radiator must be soft and clean. You will find the deposits in hard water will block the radiator tubes. If your water is very hard, just put a little washing soda in it to soften it.

Clean off all superfluous dust and dirt, and keep the oil in the air cleaner checked regularly. Dirty oil will cause a lot of trouble.

Change your sump oil every 50 working hours, when the Tractor is warm. If you do this at lunch time and leave it to drain for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, you will have no trouble in restarting the Tractor.

Get to know what the engine should sound like when running well, and do not be content with anything that is not quite right. The longer you leave it the worse it becomes. Investigate the cause of bad running immediately and if you can put it right, do so.

We want the W.L.A. to set a high standard of driving. Do not be persuaded that it is too much trouble to do these things, you will be amply repaid for the extra care you have taken.

P. BUSH (W. Suffolk.)

Proved in Practice

Here are a few more tips from the "Adaptability" essays.

Clothes

M. Ward Hunt (Northants) finds the leg portion of old Wellingtons make excellent gaiters in wet weather, so do strips of sacking bound round like puttees and fastened with a cross lacing of binder twine. She has also lengthened the life of an ancient jacket by using wash leather to bind the cuffs and to tack strips along the pockets and under the arms.

L. Fenn (Westmorland) made a pair of knickers out of old locknit pyjamas—she slit the legs at the side, opened them out flat and cut out the knickers.

Food

E. Taverner (W. Kent) finds peanut butter delicious, especially when eaten with crisp lettuce and spring onions.

J. Daubeny (Somerset) likes wood sorrel leaves for salad with cheese, and also sandwiches made with wood nuts cut up fine and mixed with salad cream, chopped onion and tomato.

Miscellaneous

K. Dainty and H. Evans (Worcs) recommend castor oil and salt for removing grimes and nourishing the hands, and lanoline emulsion as a good substitute for the proprietary brands of skin food. They put all stale pieces of soap into a jar, pour over hot water and use as a liquid shampoo.

Competition for Land Girls

Prizes of £10, £5, £3 and
Consolation Prizes for

ESSAYS

of about five hundred words describing
your farming experiences

Send your essay, with your photograph,
by Dec. 1st to

The DAIRY FARMER

10, Tavern Street, IPSWICH

West Suffolk Rally

On 30th September, West Suffolk held their third annual rally in Bury St. Edmund's. At 2 o'clock five hundred Land Girls and visitors trooped into the Athenaeum, which volunteers had been busy all the morning decorating with the "fruits of the earth." The scene closely resembled a harvest festival—with this difference—a large drawing of the Land Army Badge adorned the back of the stage and a clever reproduction of the Timber Corps badge decorated the front.

We were particularly glad to welcome so many Timber Corps girls, who were wearing their smart green berets for the first time. Some of these "lumberjills" opened the proceedings by singing the Song of Liberty to Elgar's stirring music, after which Lady Briscoe, Chairman of West Suffolk W.L.A. warmly welcomed everyone and said how extremely thankful they were for the bountiful harvest. "I suppose it is one of the best harvests we have ever had and it may in the end prove a decisive factor in winning the war," she said.

This was followed by a delightful speech from Mrs. B. I. Stevenson, Chief Officer of the Timber Corps. We felt it was most appropriate that Mrs. Stevenson was with us on this occasion to present the new Timber Corps badges, as West Suffolk was the first county to employ Land Girls in forestry work in large numbers.

It was very sad that Lady Cranworth was prevented by illness from presenting the Good Service Badges, but we were most grateful to Mrs. Martin Smith, Chairman of Herts W.L.A. for stepping into the breach at the last moment. 105 girls received Good Service badges, 15 of them their sixth. In a striking speech Mrs. Martin Smith exhorted the girls to be proud of their country's achievements and the Land Army uniform which they were privileged to wear.

The prizes given by the Suffolk War Agricultural Association were next presented by the Vice-President, Sir William Hyde Parker. In awarding these prizes, volunteers were divided into five groups and consideration was given to length of service with one employer, progress, good conduct and morale.

The Mayor honoured us by attending and Capt. Walmsley, Chairman of the W.A.C. and Col. Long, both employers, expressed their satisfaction with the work of Land Girls. B. Odgear and J. Guillaume, who have already excelled themselves on the land, now brought the programme to a close. J. Guillaume

thanked Mrs. Martin Smith and presented her with "Salar the Salmon," and B. Odgear thanked Sir William for the prizes from the Suffolk War Agricultural Association.

After an inspection on Angel Hill by Mrs. Martin Smith, W.V.S. mobile canteens served a very excellent tea.

Cheshire Rally

By train, bus and bicycle members of the W.L.A. invaded Chester on Saturday, October 3rd. From an early hour the ancient thoroughfares were brightened by the green of Land Army uniforms. The scene from the Town Hall steps was interesting; directly below, a stream of buses unloading their passengers, to left and right the side walks of Northgate Street overflowing with people, in front of the Town Hall a never ending stream of Army and civilian vehicles making a gallant effort to move down to Eastgate Street, and from every direction the hurrying figures of Land Girls.

Speakers in the Town Hall during the afternoon included Mrs. Johnson, Chairman of the Cheshire W.L.A., who welcomed Lady Denman to the City; the Mayor of Chester, Lady Denman, who thanked all those who had worked so hard for the Cheshire W.L.A., and lastly the W.A.C. Representative and Mr. Mercer, Executive Officer, both of whom thanked the Volunteers for the great help they had given to war-time agriculture. On behalf of the Land Girls, Miss Hocking, of Reaseheath, thanked Lady Denman and the other speakers.

The Rally was concluded with a fifty minute E.N.S.A. concert which was followed by tea.

J. RYDER (W.L.A. 626746).

Leicestershire has found a successful pattern for machine made gloves. This can be obtained for 6d. (9d. post free) from Mrs. Broughton, W.L.A. Hostel, Wycliffe House, Melton Mowbray, Leics. The morey obtained by the sale of these patterns is going to the Benevolent Fund.

The Land Army Broadcast will be on Thursday, 26th November, in the Home Service Programme during the "Farming To-day" period which begins at 6.45 p.m.

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

We felt it would be rather nice to let you know what a lot of lucky girls we feel we are having such a delightful farm to work on and also a dream of a hostel where the six of us live. Our House-keeper is awfully good to us and its quite a mystery to me how she manages to keep the hostel in such good order with six hefty land girls about. Its lovely to sit round a blazing fire now that the evenings are getting longer, knitting, reading or listening to the wireless.

I think the system of work here is very well planned. We each in turn work a fortnight in the dairy and then help with the outside farmwork for a month. We get three weekends off during a month. I enjoy working in the dairy best although once upon a time (it seems years ago) I was scared stiff of cows. Our dairy T.T. herd consists of 45 Avrshires. Freda, one of our newly calved heifers, is continually jumping over the gate, whenever she feels inclined, and leading us a wild goose chase trying to get her back into the cowshed ready to be milked. Actually its nice having one heifer different from the rest—the others seem too placid to think of jumping over gates. Potato picking is now in progress and we anticipate another two weeks of this rather back aching job.

It is lovely to look back in one's diary, to see what a really good year this one has been, with harvesting and the other hundred and one things we do on a farm. It is a comfort at least to feel that we know how much we are helping the war effort and also how fit we ourselves feel. Warwicks. A. Hands, W.L.A. 55616.

Dear Editor,

I often read in THE LAND GIRL about our members who look after the larger animals but I have not seen many articles about the busy little insects that I help take charge of, namely bees. When I was first asked to help with them I was not sure whether I should like them but now I should not like to give it up. We have worked in a shed, separating and bottling honey, with sleeves down and collars turned up in a tropical atmosphere which almost turned us to greas-spots, with every article made to look like currant pudding by an army of bees. However, even though they caused us to have swollen noses (to the great amusement of the other members of our staff) and arms, etc., when we see the

array of pots filled with honey, we know all our "agony" was worth it.

Now we have put our charges to bed for the winter and will not be seeing them again until December when they get candy to feed on. Then we will get all our tackle in order for the next season which we hope will be even better.

Kesteven.

E. Wray, W.L.A. 72137.

Dear Editor,

I feel I must let you know something about my work, which is both unusual and interesting.

On Sept. 17th, 1941, I was sent to the North Wales Counties Mental Hospital, as a Volunteer, to supervise a number of patients in the garden. The Hospital grounds extend over about 200 acres, most of which is used in farming and market gardening for the production of meat, milk, vegetables and other food, for a total population of about 1,600 persons.

At the beginning I was given about twenty patients but after a while they were reduced to twelve; after quite a short time and with a little patience they really became wonderful workers and thoroughly enjoyed coming out on to the land.

This, of course, is quite a new scheme for the Hospital, and, I am very pleased to tell you, a great success. So much so, that they applied for another W.L.A. member for the farm and they have made a good job on the land work there also.

The work we do is varied. In the winter we help to get in leaf mould and manure for trenching, other days we are clearing cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli plots for pig food and ploughing up at a later date. This summer we have had plenty of hoeing, scuffling and hand-weeding to do, also fruit picking and many other varied jobs on the land. By now, after a little patience, I really have a competent "gang" of workers.

The Hospital have done their best to make us comfortable. Miss Long (the farm worker) and I live in the Nurses' Home along with the Nursing Staff, and have a room to ourselves. Very often dances are held in the Hospital and during the winter months we have games of badminton and table tennis.

Yours sincerely,

Denbigh.

G. Turner, W.L.A. 30639

Dear Editor,

How many Land Girls agree with me

when I say there should be a rule made about the wearing of uniform either all of it or none at all. I saw a girl in Lewes with a Land Army hat, overcoat, shirt and jumper and a tartan kilt, Land Army shoes and stockings. I've never seen anything so ridiculous, this is only one instance, if only the girls saw themselves as others see them I'm sure they would never do it. I do hope you will print this because I'm sure others will agree with me.

E. Sussex. A. Gatehouse, W.L.A. 3765

Dear Editor,

I have been harvesting my potatoes this week, and was amazed to see such an excellent crop, on one haulm were four potatoes which weighed 1lb. 6ozs. each. I wonder if any Land Girl can beat that?

Wilts. J. Pearce, W.L.A. 45226.

Miss Mary Simpson, W.L.A. 37359, of Camp Hill, Barrasford, Hexham, Northumberland, would like to find a pen friend in Scotland, preferably from Dunbarton.

WILL D. Baron, of Peckham, London, write to M. French, Belton Gardens, Belton, Grantham, Lincs.

Merchant Navy Pen Pals. The Ladies' Guild of the British Sailors' Society has not succeeded in delivering any of the letters sent to them by members of the W.L.A. The Editor hopes it may be possible to deliver them by other means but apologises meanwhile for the delay.

Cornish Tour

WE had a very welcome visit from Lady Denman, on Sunday, October 11th, and although through difficulties of transport, it was not possible for a large proportion of volunteers to be present at the various meeting places during Lady Denman's tour of the county, a representative group of volunteers was able to be present at each rendezvous. The day's proceedings included an early morning visit to the W.A.C. Hostel at Bodmin, where some members of the Timber Corps had foregathered with volunteers from outlying districts. This was followed by a Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Mr. J. Hoskins's barn at Cartuther, Liskeard. Miss Roberts and her District Representatives had rallied a good crowd of volunteers

here, many having cycled in from distant farms. In the afternoon Miss Collett's farm, a horticulture and market-garden training centre, at Quenchwell, Truro, was visited. Here another small group of volunteers and county officials had got together amid a delightful setting of harvest products, the gates and hedges leading to the house being decorated with all kinds of vegetables, fruit and flowers. Next on the list was Helston, where Lady Seaton and the District Representatives had arranged a tea for volunteers in the District. A most happy and informal gathering this. The Community Centre, Camborne, was the next place to be visited and the somewhat strenuous day was concluded at the W.L.A. Hostel at Ponsandane, Penzance, where a fine crowd of volunteers was present to welcome Lady Denman, who had seen about 200 Land Girls during her day's tour.

More Lines from a Lonely Land Girl

May I protest in written rhyme
Re those two girls in the gardening line
Who, having not enough to do,
Did volunteer for overtime?
Send them to me, those volunteers,
Send them to me, complete with shears,
There's overtime enough for years

Where I am!

Send Pat and Joan and a few
Rosemaries

To help me straw the good
strawberries.

Send me a girl to pick the fruit,
She must not be TOO fond of cherries!
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze,
Are myriads of groundsel seeds

Where I am!

I grow the finest crop of hay
Was ever seen down Cheshire way.
I want a girl to mow it down
And cart it off in someone's dray.
A volunteer who would not blench
At something I dare scarcely mench.
(The length of a half-dug Celery trench)

Where I am!

Someone to raise the fallen hop
To fetch the mower from the shop,
To lend a hand with the spinach beet
And thin me out the carrot crop.
Send me only a couple more
Though I could do with half a score
To help the Land Girl win the war

Where I am!

Cheshire. "Conne" W.L.A. 46587.

Scottish Notes

The figure for employment and training is now approaching 6,000—a year ago it was under 2,000!

Bouquet for the Women's Land Army.—Scottish Headquarters recently had a visit from a W.L.A. employer who, in the course of his endeavours to help his 15 Land Girls over their clothing coupon difficulties, mentioned that although, to begin with, he was rather chary about taking inexperienced townswomen into his employment, he is now convinced that they not only pull their weight but are also an example to his regular-born-to-the-land women workers. The latter, he said, were inclined to down tools when it rained—not so the Land Girls who carried on heroically. Then when it came to hoeing, he said, they were always in the lead with the result that his work this year is further forward than it has ever been. Fine!

Welfare and Benevolent Fund.—Arrangements for the registration of our own Fund under the War Charities Act, 1940, are proceeding and meanwhile a small provisional committee of management has been set up consisting of Miss Smith (Chairman) representing the South-East, Mrs. Cook representing the North-East and Mrs. Kennedy the South-West. The acting Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (Miss M. M. MacLeod, 15 Grosvenor Street, Edinburgh), has to acknowledge with thanks the first donation from the W.L.A. to the Fund—a cheque for £10 from Georgina Kirkpatrick and Marion W. Paterson, who ran a dance at Borgue Village Hall, Kirkcudbrightshire.

Angus.—Land Girls employed at Findowrie, Brechin, raised £20 for the funds of the Strathcathro Emergency Hospital at a concert they organised at Menmuir. They also helped the Committee of the Careston Nursing Association to raise £40 for the funds of that Association.

Ayrshire (North).—A Harvest Festival Church Parade took place in Kilmarnock, 80 Land Girls participating. They lined up in the car park outside the British Restaurant for inspection and then, headed by the Glenfield Cadets Band, they marched in formation through the town to the Laigh Kirk, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. After the service the contingent marched back to the British Restaurant where a hearty lunch was partaken of in true Land Girl style. Sir Charles MacAndrew then presented Good Service badges including two special armlets and 6 badges for 2½ years' service. Mrs. Kennedy and her helpers who had arranged the proceedings were heartily thanked for all they had done to make the event so successful. A party is being arranged in honour of the Kilmarnock Club's 1st birthday.

Ayrshire (South).—A new hostel has been established at Wellington Square, Ayr, and the opening ceremony was recently performed by Sir Patrick Laird of the Department of Agricultural for Scotland, who was introduced by Colonel Kennedy,

Chairman of the A.E.C. Sir Patrick congratulated the committee on having been fortunate enough to secure such a fine house for the purpose of a hostel and he paid tribute to the proprietrix for having made available so much in the way of furnishings and equipment. Continuing, he thanked the A.E.C. for the results achieved by them and mentioned that Ayrshire has always been in the forefront in the employment of Land Girls. "But there must be no slackening," he said. Had it not been a perfect harvesting day about 70 girls would have had their Good Service badges presented to them by Sir Patrick—as it was they were on the job and just couldn't be spared. Addressing them in absentia, however, he thanked them for the important part they are playing in the country's struggle and exhorted them not to falter. "When you find the work hard and tedious," he said, "don't forget that dairy farmers and their families and employees have been doing this hard and tedious work all their lives for the benefit of yourselves and other city folk."

Sutherland.—Good Service badges were presented at a recent meeting of the A.E.C. in Golspie by the Chairman, Mr. F. H. Sudlow, of Ospisdale, and in the course of the proceedings, appreciative reference was made to the satisfaction expressed by employers at the way in which the girls, mostly city-bred, adapted themselves to the needs and difficulties of the district.

Also present at the ceremony were Mrs. Grant and Miss Paterson of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee.

Personal Advertisements

WANTED. Brown riding boots, good condition, size 7. N. Williamson, 29, Westfield Avenue, Wigston Fields, Leicester.

WANTED. Leather riding boots, 4½ or 5. W.L.A. 7482, Dyrham Park Farm, Barnet, Herts.



Mrs. Cook with Volunteers at an Alford and Deeside Hoeing match

County News

London & Middx.—A member of the Laleham W.L.A. club writes: On 8th Sept. about 140 people, over 40 of whom were members of the W.L.A., saw an M.O.I. film on thatching and another showing W.L.A. members ploughing. A collection at the door brought in two guineas which was divided between the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, the Middlesex County Welfare fund and our own club funds.

Eighteen L.Gs. attended the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Laleham and afterwards Good Service badges were presented by Austin Brown, Esq., J.P. Mrs. Atkins and Mrs. Millman received their sixth Good Service badges, all gained in the same employment.

Future activities of the Laleham club include a Brains Trust evening, on 19th Nov., in Laleham Village Hall at 7.45. 14th Dec., Ping Pong tournament, at 7 p.m., same hall, and on 11th Jan., 1943, a dance, also in the Laleham Village Hall. Visitors are welcome to all these functions.

Norfolk.—A grand after-harvest party was held at Kenninghall on October 10th and attended by nearly every girl in the district including three who arrived late after doing the evening milking; the head cowman on their farm was away ill, and the three, one of whom was a trainee, were left in charge. Full justice was done to a most unwarlike tea and games and competitions were thoroughly enjoyed. Guests from the Kenninghall Youth Service Club were welcomed, and we were very pleased to see Lord Albemarle who joined in "Sir Roger" which was the finale, except for the rousing cheers given to Mrs. Jameson and Miss Fletcher who organised the party.

K. and E. Newbold of Wolferton are first in the field with efforts for the Benevolent Fund. They have raised £3 11s. by getting up a dance, and enjoyed it so much that they are going to have another. Exciting rumours are reaching us about a Club that is being started at Walpole St. Andrew.

The County Education Authorities are proving most helpful, not least with the libraries in our hostels. One is already established and is being run by two of the volunteers under the supervision of the warden; the chance of "browsing" among books is enormously appreciated.

Northants.—It was a great grief that our Chairman, Lady Spencer, was ill and unable to be with us on Sunday, October 4th, when 300 of us attended the Harvest Festival at All Saints' Church, Northampton, together with Representatives and Officials. The Service was made very much a Land Army one and we are grateful to Canon Trevor Lewis for his unfailing interest and very real help. After Church we all marched to the All Saints' Canteen, where Lady Spencer had arranged a luncheon and where Mrs. Bell and a wonderful band of helpers served a most delicious meal. At the close of the luncheon Lady Wake presented

G.S. badges on Lady Spencer's behalf to a large number of girls and gave a delightful address. M. Storr, one of our oldest members (in terms of service!) proposed a vote of thanks and handed Lady Wake a small bouquet. The Secretary gave a special vote of thanks to Mrs. Bell and her helpers. The W.L.A. members asked that a telegram of sympathy and regret might be sent to Lady Spencer, and every member contributed to a gift of flowers and a book to be sent to her in the Nursing Home. Lady Spencer's contact with Volunteers is so close and personal that every individual member missed her.

Peterborough, too, attended their own Harvest Festival at the Parish Church, when a good contingent accompanied Mrs. Abbott, the representative, to church and were afterwards entertained to tea at the W.S. Canteen, by the generosity of the Committee.

On October 3rd, a most successful Harvest Home Dance at Higham Ferrers, raised over £50 for the Merchant Navy. It was organised by the local representative, Mrs. Bletsoe, and a committee of Volunteers—local farmers turned out in force to dance and to help.

Northumberland.—We congratulate the organisers of various efforts in aid of the Benevolent Fund. A Carnival Ball at Red Row, Morpeth, organised by Sadie Lowther cleared the splendid sum of £16 and Nedderton Hostel has raised £7. Various individual donations have been received. Collecting boxes may be obtained on application to the County Office. At the Red Row Carnival, Mrs. Norman Sample presented 12 half-diamonds including a sixth to Mrs. Brown and a fifth to Miss Joyce Curry. A new hostel has been opened at Charlton Hall, Alnwick. Northam Hostel is arranging a Harvest Festival Service on November 11th. This winter special efforts will be made to provide entertainments for volunteers in billets and in Hostels, including dances, concerts, and film shows. From Byker comes the news that a Young Farmers' Club has been started there. This is in connection with the Girls' Training Corps. The Agricultural Organiser, Mr. Smith, has been responsible for getting the Club under way, and the Women's Land Army is represented on the Committee by Mrs. Bird, district representative in Newcastle.

Salop.—Shropshire's most important piece of news is that the Mayoress elect for Bridgnorth is Miss Dorcen Barber, W.L.A. 28014. I think this must surely be the first time that any town has had a "Land Girl" Mayoress? Miss Barber takes up office on 9th Nov. and on the following Sunday we hope to have a large turnout of land-girls at a special Church Parade which will be Miss Barber's first official function.

During September we had a very successful demonstration at two of our hostels given by Mrs. Markham, from Messrs. Lever Bros., on knitting and dress renovations. We have arranged a further series for November. Three new hostels were opened during September, practically all the volunteers coming from Lancashire.

We should like to congratulate Whitchurch W.L.A. on the splendid result of their efforts on behalf of the Red Cross.

P. Hanson (W.L.A. 11352) writes "We had a produce stall which proved a great success. In the centre we had a miniature corn stock, beautifully made to scale, and at the front, sheaves of wheat and oats tied with the L.A. colours. Trade was brisk and the home-made cakes quickly disappeared. The proceeds from the stall were £34 19s. 4d. We organised also, a draw for a heifer calf, kindly given by a local farmer who employs a volunteer. By the sale of 6d. tickets we raised £99 16s. 0d. A dart competition brought in £6 7s. 6d. A lamb and other things sold by auction raised £9 8s. 6d. As a result we were able to hand to the Red Cross and R.A.F. Benevolent Fund £145 19s. 6d. There were sports and races

CRESTED SERVICE XMAS CARDS

FOR THE

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

6/6 per doz. with env., post free
6/- " " " " on gross lots
5/8 " " " " 7 " "

Embossed in green and gold on folded
Ivory board. Printed inset.

Limited Supply

Special Note.—Please print name and address
with W.L.A. No. in block letters as we cannot be
responsible for orders not delivered or lost in
post.

PENQUIN SUPPLY CO.

Quality House, Wood Street,
Tel: Blackfriars 3358 MANCHESTER, 3



The W. Sussex Cricket Team which beat the A.T.S. on the County Ground at Horsham

during the afternoon and we were challenged to a Tug-of-War by the A.T.S. stationed in the district. Both teams had been practising for some weeks and when the time came for the "Tug," the crowd was quite excited. The A.T.S. girls were bigger and heavier than we but we were not down-hearted. Our well-tuned muscles and greater stamina, together with some excellent training, helped us to gain a fairly comfortable victory in two pulls."

Somerset.—A gloom has been cast over the office by the absence of Miss Spencer, who has been ill. We are thankful to say that she is making a splendid recovery and we hope to have her back with us soon. There are so many daily enquiries about her that we realise it is not only the office staff who miss her, but all her numerous friends in the W.L.A.

We have had more than 130 girls coming from Middlesex to work as threshers. They are attached to threshing sets in pairs, and travel around with the thresher from farm to farm. Although the work proved too arduous for a few, the majority of them have responded splendidly, and have done a magnificent job, standing up to the dust and dirt, and tackling the heavy sheaves, in spite of the fact that it is their first experience on the land.

We have been busy organising amusements for the winter evenings in the hostels, each of which has formed an entertainment Committee. There will be weekly socials (including friends to dances) whist drives and various competitions. A small charge of 3d. per head will cover expenses. Other evenings are devoted to Community singing and dancing, and at Whitehall, Old Cleeve, we hope to stage a play at Christmas.

Mrs. Bevir, at Bath, Mrs. Colin Luttrell and Miss Davis have given delightful parties. How did they manage to produce such splendid meals in war-time?

The Warden at Priddy Hostel gave a supper party for her girls, and several other members of the W.L.A. living in billets nearby were invited.

It is very satisfactory to be able to record that, unlike earlier years, this autumn has not shown the customary falling-off in applications for W.L.A. members in Somerset—a happy augury for the busy season which will soon loom ahead.

E. Suffolk.—There seems to be little slackening in L.A. activity, in spite of the end of a marvellously abundant harvest. Requests for Land Girls are pouring in, especially for volunteers to undertake milking and cowshed work, and we are welcoming girls from other counties to help us to fill vacancies in these and other vital jobs. At our most recent Committee Meeting this month, it was decided to form a Welfare Sub-Committee. Now that we have 8 hostels and will shortly be opening 3 more, these will be used as far as possible as "social centres" for the other Land Girls in their vicinity, where it is hoped to arrange film shows, courses of lectures, demonstrations, etc. In other places, Land Girls will be helped to form clubs, where a large enough number in a particular area express a wish for regular meetings. Our chairman, Lady Cranworth, and Mrs. Armstrong, Hon. Treasurer, invited the Land Girls in Grundsburgh and neighbouring districts to a party in the Village Hall on October 21st. About 25 did full justice to an excellent tea, and thoroughly enjoyed "Musical Consequences" and other amusing games. 15s. was raised by a 2d. raffle for a tin of butterscotch which had travelled to Kenya and back, and it was voted that half the money should go to the Benevolent Fund and half to our new County Welfare Fund.

West Suffolk.—M. Showell is employed by the W.A.E.C. and has been invited to broadcast on November 4th in a series of talks "Women can't

THE LAND GIRL

do this." B. Morgan and M. Tompkins, who have recently come into the county are experimenting with a new invention in the shape of a tractor, which will lift and top sugar beet in one operation.

Culford Training Camp is just completing its fourth Training Course, when over 400 girls will have been trained in general forestry, saw mill work, tractor and lorry driving or timber measuring and allocated to employment somewhere in England and Wales.

Levenhath, one of our newer hostels, has started classes in knitting and art needlework, and Carrie Pendleton won first prize for an embroidered tea cloth at a local show. They have also started what promises to be a most successful concert party.

Surrey.—It is with great regret that Surrey announces the resignation of the Hon. Mrs. F. E. Bray from the Chairmanship of the County owing to ill health. We greatly appreciate all the work she has done and the unflinching interest she took in the work and welfare of the L.A. We hope she will regain health and strength. We welcome Miss Talbot of Esher as our new Chairman. There have been very interesting Film Shows by the M. of I. in ten different places in the County. On 12th September at Guildford Cattle Market, the W.L.A. was represented in a War-time Milk Demonstration at which Sir William Gavin and S. J. Watson, Esq., D.Sc., F.I.C. spoke. At Redhill Market Hall on 16th Sept. the L.A. had a stall at which good photographs were displayed. On 17th Sept. the Red Cross Agricultural Gift Sale was held in the Guildford Market Place and 17 volunteers helped with side shows and raffles.

M. Gilliam writes: "Mrs. Walker, our representative, arranged for us to meet on October 8th in Croydon, and over tea and biscuits we compared everything . . . and all agreed ours is the best job ever. We arranged other meetings, hikes, etc."

W. Sussex.—Special gatherings of Volunteers have attended Harvest Thankgiving Services in all parts of the county. At Chichester the Dean kindly arranged a special service at the Cathedral. Well over 100 L.G.s marched from the Market Place, preceded by the City Band and a number of friends joined them at the Cathedral for the service. An excellent tea was afterwards enjoyed at the Y.W.C.A. where tributes to the work done by L.G.s were paid in speeches by Mr. Lawson, the County Director of Agriculture and several well known local employers. All the employers in the District had been invited and tea was served by V.A.D.s. from the local hospital whose kindness is very much appreciated.

All the Clubs have started their winter programmes with great keenness. Worthing is forming a special L.G.s' Concert Party and is running a magazine of its own. Chichester had a most interesting lantern lecture "Farming in Kenya" by the Rev. Mr. Ross. Horsham was delighted to welcome Miss Brew from Headquarters who gave a delightful and inspiring talk on "What the Land Army has done during the last Three Years" and led a discussion on how it should be run in the future. With incredible strength of mind she prevented the mention of uniform and the discussion really became a roll call on "What the Land Girl requires of her Local Representative" "No. 11," the Club at Henfield, has been the recipient of some delightful offers of help: the R.A.F. travelling Film Unit gives a film show there once a week and members have been asked to play badminton with the R.A.F., they also had a stool ball match against Troops stationed in the neighbourhood, and a well known resident has kindly arranged a series of most delightful gramophone record concerts.

Our 31 gangs of threshers have settled in and are working hard and all the old guard, with our many new recruits, are settling down to the fourth winter of war with energy and confidence and the Office is frequently cheered by letters from volunteers

which say: "I never realised that any job could be so interesting, this has been the happiest six months of my life."

N. Wales.—To all Land Girls in this area we can say—Well Done—for in recent weeks you have helped to ensure the nation its food and done a magnificent job of work. We know that some Land Girls had to defer their leave and to all of you it has meant hours of overtime and really hard going. Social activities have been few but Menai Bridge Hostel girls thoroughly enjoyed the party given to them and to members of H.M. Forces by Mr. G. Williams, the Anglesey Labour Officer. At our Llanerchymedd Hostel the girls were invited to a dance given by Mr. Oswald Thomas, and this hostel too arranged a dance by which they raised the splendid sum of £10 towards the Anglesey Branch of the Agriculture Red Cross Fund. Llwydiarth volunteers have been very busy harvesting and threshing and good reports reach us of the work done by our girls at Coedyddinas. Many Land Girls employed in the county of Caernarvonshire have received invitations to see the films that the W.A.C. are showing in the various towns and villages. Many of our girls have recently got married, we wish them all a happy future and are very proud that they are nearly all staying on at their jobs. It is hoped in the next week or two to let every Land Girl know of the various activities and classes in her locality to which they are invited. These classes, etc., are a splendid opportunity for making new friends and finding new interests.

Warwick.—By the time this news is printed we hope to be well settled in our new County Offices at 21 Regent Grove, Leamington Spa. Besides being larger and more suitable than our old premises in Warwick, these new offices, just off the Leamington "Parade," will be handier for most volunteers and farmers to visit. Now that we have more space we are hoping soon to start a club at the County Office for the W.L.A. members round Leamington.

Through the generosity of the British Red Cross Society the sick-bays in our nineteen Warwickshire hostels have all recently been equipped with beautiful dressing-gowns, bed jackets, pyjamas, etc., and comprehensive first aid equipment. We are also delighted to know that in future, convalescent volunteers are to be transferred to the Auxiliary Hospital at Kineton House, the home of Mrs. Fielden, our chairman. The profit on the Welfare and Benevolent Fund Dance at Leamington on October 1st was £32 6s., and other successful W.L.A. dances have been held recently at Atherstone, Birmingham, Henley-in-Arden, Hampton-in-Arden, and Sutton Coldfield. On 21st Oct. the Y.W.C.A. L.A. hostel in Leamington had a grand Harvest Home dinner-dance to which farmers and staff of the W.A.C. and W.L.A. were invited, and during the next few weeks there seems to be a veritable rush of parties being planned at all our L.A. hostels and clubs.

Wilt.—A big increase in threshing gangs is the principal news this month. Some 60 girls are being taken on by the W.A.C. for threshing in various parts of the county, of whom about 40 will be new recruits. Another new development is a County News-Letter, which will go out monthly to all volunteers, and help them to keep in touch with each other and with the County Office. Just over 200 Good Service badges went out in October. There have been five marriages: Joan Bennett has become Mrs. Jennings, M. J. Langley is Mrs. Brindle, D. Jessop is Mrs. Coleman, L. McGrewer Fraser is Mrs. Harrington, and finally E. Bunn is now Mrs. Turner. Lockeridge training hostel has closed down for the winter, but will re-open in the spring. The W.L.A. Benevolent Fund has made a start in Wiltshire thanks to the activities of May Hughes, who raised £3 by means of a dance at Crudwell; Sheila Garrett, of Pewsey, ran a dance for the Navy League which brought in over £10. In Salisbury, the W.L.A. now has a tent in the Cheese Market

THE LAND GIRL

every Tuesday (market day) where representatives are on duty from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will be glad to welcome any L.G.'s. or farmers who wish to look in.

Benevolent Fund

We hear that there has been some misunderstanding about the way contributions to the Fund are allocated to counties and we should like to explain that every donation, no matter whether it is sent to the Editor or to the Hon. Secretary of the Fund, is credited to the county in which the donor lives. ALL contributions received up to the 25th of each month will be acknowledged in "The Land Girl." Official receipts will be sent if desired. Cheques should be made out to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.

We apologise for having given the £10 from Carrington Hostel to Holland & Ketteven last month when it should have been credited to Lindsey; this mistake has now been corrected.

The Fund has received great encouragement this month by a donation of £100 from the "Farmer and Stockbreeder," and not least from the letter sent with the donation by Mr. R. W. Haddon, who has often proved a good friend to the Land Army. He says that the donation is "a slight appreciation of all the W.L.A. have done and are doing in these, the most trying times of all." West Sussex has gone to the top of the Counties' list this month with a total of over £40, while Leicestershire and Rutland and Hereford are close behind. Mrs. Clark of Bucks sent £10 10s. and Miss Cox has opened West Kent's list with £5. Readers of "Mickey Mouse" collected £9 5s. 8d., and several volunteers have done very good work with dances and other efforts. East Sussex sent £20 from their Welfare Fund. October brought in £359 8s. and the Fund now stands at £726 8s. 8d. The October list follows:—

Berks: £1—Hewen's Wood Hostel. **Bucks:** £10 10s.—Clark. **Cum. & West:** 5s.—Shearson. **Derbs:** 5s.—Ward. **Devon:** 10s.—Sidgwick. **Essex:** £2 2s.—Tritton. **Flints:** 2s.—Armstrong. **Glos:** 5s.—Willis. **Here:** £12—Bywater (dance); 2s. 6d.—Marshall. **Total—£12 2s. 6d.** **W. Kent:** £5—Cox. **Leics & Rut:** £35 7s. 6d.—Donation at Rally. **Lincs (H & K):** 10s.—Allen; 8s. 6d.—Barr; **Total—18s. 6d.** **Lincs (Lindsey):** £1—Wardley; 2s. 6d.—Allen, Trueblood. **Total £1 5s.** **Lon & Middx:** £2 2s.—N. Hillingdon W.L.; 5s.—Two L.Gs. (Ship Halfpennies); 2s. 6d.—Anon. **Total—£2 9s. 6d.** **Norfolk:** £3 11s.—K. & E. Newbold (Dance) £2 1s.—W.L.A. **Volunteers Total—£5 12s.** **Hunts:** £6 6s.—Thorney Hostel (Whist Drive). **Northum:** £7—Nedderdon Hostel. **Notts:** 2s. 6d.—Wilson. **Somerset:** £10 7s. 6d.—per Kennedy (Dance). **Staffs:** 2s.—Worth. **E. Suff:** £5—Cranworth; £3 10s. 6d.—Office Staff; 8s.—per Raffle. 2s. 6d.—Thurlow. **Total—£9 1s.** **W. Suff:** £4 15s. 3d.—Collection at Rally. £2 2s.—Lakenheath Hostel; £1 1s.—Le Blond; £1—Le Blond. 13s.—Office Box; Under 5s.—Vowler. **Henning:** Also. **Total—£9 15s. 9d.** **Surrey:** £10—per Bray (Dance); £2 1s.—per Hargreaves; £1 1s.—Hargreaves, Campbell; £1—Heston, Money; 10s.—Van der Loos. **Total—£16 13s.** **E. Sussex:** £20—W.L.A. Welfare Fund. **W. Sussex:** £37 8s. 6d.—Worthing L.G. Club (Dance); £3 10s.—Chichester L.G. Club (Dance). **Total—£40 18s. 6d.** **Warwicks:** £15—Leamington Dance; 2s. 6d.—Grove. **Total—£15 2s. 6d.** **Wores:** £20—Dance at Tenbury and sundry donations. **Yorks:** £10 14s.—Holderness and Beverley North L.Gs., per Miller; £2—Hagyard (Raffle); 5s.—Garside; **Total—£12 19s.** **N. Wales:** 10s.—Edwards, Guise & Lewis; Under 5s.—Angrove, Robinson, Richards, Thomas, Blainey, Goude, O. Jones, M. Jones, Brown, Hughes, Morris. **Total—£1 19s.** **S. Wales:** 1s.—Owens. **Timber Corps:** £2 0s. 7d.—Dival, (hut 3) Culford. **Misc:** £100—"Farmer and Stockbreeder"; £9 5s. 8d.—"Mickey Mouse" Readers.

We regret that, although included in the final

Yorkshire total, a donation of £5 for the Spitfire Fund from Bridlington and Driffield volunteers (received after the fund closed) was not acknowledged in "The Land Girl."

County Returns

COUNTY	EMPLOYED
Kent	3096
Essex	2474
Hants	1820
Leics 1412; Rutland 252	1664
E. Sussex	1632
Herts	1504
Surrey	1473
Northants	1469
Wores	1367
Lincs (H. & K.)	1366
Bucks	1333
Warwicks	1289
Somerset	1240
W. Sussex	1216
Cheshire	1205
Lancs	1185
Glos	1113
Wilts	1081
Norfolk	1043
Berks	1031
Devon	1026
Northumberland	990
Notts	962
Salop	837
Hunts 250, Cambs 406, Ely 171	827
Oxon	806
Cornwall	799
Cumb & West	769
E. Suffolk	752
Dorset	699
S. Wales	638
Staffs	633
Lincs (Lindsey)	607
N. Wales	562
Glam	551
W. Suffolk	517
Durham	514
Hereford	514
Monmouth	500
Denbigh	458
Beds	448
Lon & Middx	351
Derbs.	306
Isle of Wight	282
Brecs	266
Yorks & Flints	Not received

On October 31st, there were over 51,000 volunteers in employment.

"THE LAND GIRL"

Published Mid-monthly.

3d. per copy, 3s. per year, 1s. 6d. per six months, post free. Cash with order. Order from your County Office or from THE LAND GIRL, Balcombe Place, Hayward's Heath, Sussex.