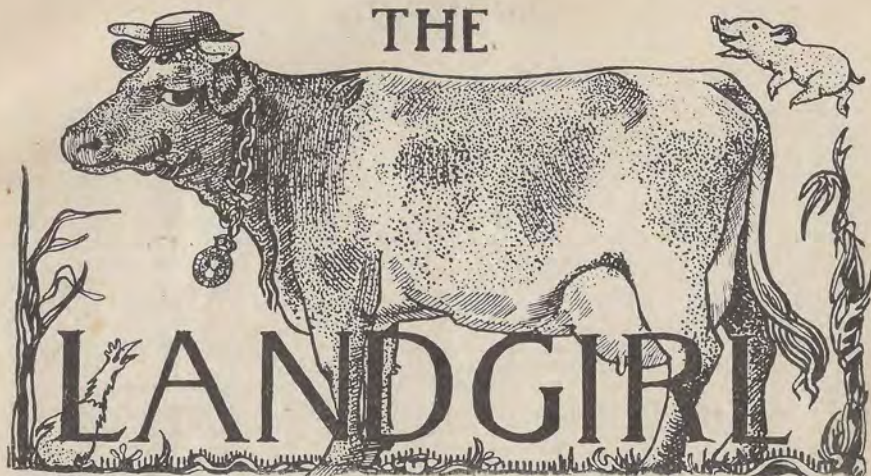


B. F. Hewitt



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JULY, 1943

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I'VE BEEN TO LONDON TO VISIT THE QUEEN

PUSSY cats are not the only people who go to London to visit the Queen. On Saturday, July 3rd, Land Girls and Land Army officials from every county in England and Wales, from Scotland and from the Timber Corps went to Buckingham Palace to a birthday party given by the Queen. What could be lovelier than that?

The British monarchy is a glorious example of this nation's capacity to make a system of government which will work, often to the envy and exasperation of other nations with more logical minds but less practical genius. Even our enemies agree that we are a democracy: that is, "a state in which the supreme power is retained by the people," but a king is "a man with supreme power over a nation." A little thing like that doesn't worry us at all and we like regarding ourselves as "King's men" while we fight for our survival as a democratic state. With our minds we may agree with the Roundheads but we have the hearts of Cavaliers.

To embody an Empire's romantic sensibilities and to unite millions in loyalty to an idea is no easy task but it is one our King and Queen have accomplished to the admiration of the world. They have brought to it a selfless and single-minded devotion, a human understanding and a simple dignity and graciousness which could not fail.

As our Patron, the Queen commands a special place in the hearts of members of the Land Army. The Land Girls who were lucky enough to go to Buckingham Palace were delighted, like the Land Girls who went to the Goldsmiths Hall party in 1940, by the Queen's interest in their particular jobs and by her appreciation of their difficulties and of the stories they had to tell. "It's been a grand day" said one volunteer who surely spoke for everyone "the Queen, ah, she's lovely and couldn't she smile her way into anybody's heart?"

M.A.P.

FORDS & FORDSONS

"I want to be a tractor driver," said Lyn. Pat and Steve looked at her as she stood before them, lips and finger nails matching the Burgundy accessories to her smart grey coat and skirt, then at one another and grinned. It was their lunch time and they were drivers for a contracting firm and had been loading sugar beet into a railway truck and had just decided that if all the folk who clamour for more sugar knew what it was to load 24 tons of beet on to a trailer, drive it four miles to a station at four miles an hour and re-load it into a truck, they would forego sugar for the rest of their lives.

Pat told her of their first day's work.

"The boss led us to a smug-looking yellow Fordson with a formidably wide-looking cultivator attached to it. 'So you think you can drive that along the road?' he asked Steve. 'Oh yes,' Steve blithely assured him, and I held my breath. She could drive a car, but I knew that one hundred yards along a deserted country lane was the extent of her tractor road-work. A struggle with the gears and we were off. Eventually it came to us that rather than trust to luck in passing anything on the road larger than an Austin 7 it was safer to pull in to the side and let the other fellow figure it out.

"At our destination the boss set us on to our work and left us. At midday it took us ten anxious minutes to find out how to stop the tractor; when we had managed it the silence was deafening. The next half hour, apart from eating, was spent in revising our mainly theoretical knowledge of how to start a Fordson tractor. Having compromised our ideas, we got to work. Half an hour later we had collected a small army of self-styled Army mechanics and one N.C.O., who, despite numerous unhelpful suggestions from the rest of the company, finally located the trouble, and when the boss arrived we were once more tearing extremely zig-zag lines across the stubble. That night, Steve and I climbed dazedly into bed to dream of the 'bumpety-boomp' of the tractor, and woke up with the sound of the engine still ringing in our ears.

"We call that tractor the 'Rocket,'" added Steve, "except on cold mornings when she refuses to start up. I would not like to tell you what her name is then—!"

"Is it a very cold job?" Lyn asked.

"The other day we were working on

top of a range of hills during a 40 miles per hour gale."

"Fifty," interrupted Steve.

"Anyway it was darned cold," continued Pat. "I was drilling, and managed to keep moderately warm by running behind the drill whilst Wilfred drove it along the field. But Steve was struggling along with her tractor in low gear and told me afterwards that she did not know whether to sit still and scream or send the tractor hurtling down the steep hill-side for relief."

"The soil was gritty and Pat's eyes, hair and clothing were full of earth thrown up by the wheels of the drill and the wind," Steve added. "It's not always as bad as that, but when the ground is wet and the tractor wheels start spinning we often have literally to put our shoulders to the wheel! If we cannot get the tractor through a wet patch with that extra help then it means unhitching the implement we are using, 'teasing' the tractor out of the bog and dragging the implement out by attaching it to the tractor by a long chain. I spent two days discing one rough, boggy piece of land and during that time I learned that there were more ways of getting 'stuck in the mud' than I had ever thought possible. The end of that piece of work was that my tractor dug herself into the mud so deeply that I had to abandon her until the ground dried up sufficiently to enable the 'Rocket' to pull her out."

"But how do you fill in your time apart from tractor driving?" asked Lyn. "Aren't there certain times of the year when there is no demand for that type of work?"

"Yes," agreed Pat. "Sometimes Steve drives a van, delivering fuel to tractors working in various places, or fetching spare parts and parcels from the station. She is giving me lessons and says that by the time she has taught me to drive her nerve will be so shattered that I shall have to do all the driving."

"It is just that her habit of dropping the wheel and begging for help at the sight of an Army lorry scares me to death," explained Steve. She grinned and dodged a sugar beet aimed at her head by Pat.

"Otherwise," continued Pat, "we clean and repair the implements and overhaul our tractors—with the able assistance of Pete."

"Pete?" asked Lyn.

"Pete is our agricultural engineer," said Steve. "He is a darn good pal and

can be relied upon to explain any of the mysteries of an engine which may puzzle a mere girl."

As they clambered on to the heap of beet on the trailer and prepared to start the afternoon's session of loading and unloading, Lyn said she liked the sound of the work, "but," she asked, "what about billets?"

"Why—we are treated more as members of the family than anything else in our billets," said Pat. "After a hard day's work we cycle home to our smiling land-

lady and a well-cooked and plentiful meal—followed (if we wish) by a cosy fireside chat, which may be 'old-fashioned' but is very welcome."

By this time Pat and Steve were busy loading sugar beet, and as Lyn left them she heard Pat say: "Sugar beet—sugar beet! May I never take sugar in my tea again," and Steve grinned and said: "Never mind, lass. Here's to that hot dinner and an armchair by the fireside. Come on—let's get cracking!"

B. Mitchell, 52465, E. Kent.

MOLE CATCHING IN LANCASHIRE

We are employed by the Lancashire War Agricultural Committee on Pest Destruction, our particular job being mole catching. We began work on March 8th and have since visited many farms in the vicinity of Treales, Roseacre, Wharles and Weesham with Medlar.

The mole has a beautiful dark grey smooth fur, very much like velvet. It is short-sighted but has very keen hearing and sense of smell. We have to be careful not to have any foreign smell about us, such as scented soap on our hands, when we are trapping. Moles live on worms chiefly and they have families of about four or five as a rule. Everyone knows the look of a mole heap. It is the result of the burrowings of the little animal in its search for food—a pains-taking business in which all the work of burrowing and removing the excavated earth is done with the forepaws which are so like hands.

The ground underneath a chain of mole-hills is a maze of tunnels, and the first job is to track the main run by finding one single run into which the maize of workings leads. The trap is then set in this main run and leaves, old grass or straw are used to shut out all light. They are set any time of day and left till next day when they are looked over and re-set if necessary. The traps are left about four days on each farm.

When crops are high, as now, it is impossible to find the run; so then we use poisoned bait—the bait is worms, for which we dig. But we prefer trapping, as then we see the results.

Up to date we have caught 1,300 of these troublesome little pests. We skin each mole and hang the carcass on a barn or gate so that the farmer can see it and keep the record of our kills.

M. Foy, 96807

Lancs.

F. Ryding, 96857

A SHINING MOMENT

The first pale gleams of light appeared above the horizon, heralding the approach of dawn. From the direction of the stable came the familiar sound of the stall chains being pulled across the edge of the mangers, as the horses nosed round their hay-racks, punctuated by the clang of hooves on stone and the voice of the wagoner. Somewhere, a dog barked. A cock crowed. The farm workers began to arrive on their bicycles, exchanging greetings followed by the inevitable discussion on the weather.

By this time the sky had lost its grey-ness and the east was infused with a brilliant silvery opalescent light. The horizon was tinged with pink, which seemed to deepen every second as I looked at it. A low humming sound, which developed into a steady roar, told that a day of threshing was before us. Three of the men were already climbing the ladder on to the wheat stack. The engine-man was poking fussily round his machine with a long stick. His mate had mounted the drum ready to receive the sheaves.

My own part in this farming drama was that of removing the pulp and chaff from under the machine and carrying it to the yard. As I returned from one of these journeys the sun had risen in a fiery ball flooding the sky with flaming red light. The man on the stack formed a lively silhouette against a blood red background. The black smoke from the engine chimney swirled round the workers. The next time I looked up, the ruddy glow had disappeared and the sky was now clear blue, flecked by soft, white clouds. It is moments like these, shining moments, brief though they may be, that make all the back-breaking tasks, long hours of toil, jobs done in driving rain and biting winds well worth while.

M. Neville, 65376 (Lindsey).

ON BUTTERFLIES

"THERE'S a moth—kill it," I once heard an old Scotch lady say, as she flapped round the room with a duster after a Peacock butterfly.

With the shy diffidence becoming in the young (this was many, many years ago), I tried to convince her that it was not a moth and that even if it had been, no moth of anything near its size would have been in any way harmful to her household goods. She pitied my simplicity and remained convinced that the evil creature was only waiting its opportunity to tear greedy mouthfuls from her sheets and blankets.

The poor old dear did not know the difference between a moth and a butterfly and I suspect that a very large number of workers on the land is equally uninformed. A little knowledge might enable them to appreciate and admire these beautiful creatures without fearing for their furs or their blankets, their roses or their cabbages.

Butterflies and moths both belong to an order of insects whose Latin name means "scaly-winged," the meal, or down, or fluff as you probably call the colouring matter on their wings being really an arrangement of scales laid as neatly as a well-tiled roof.

Which Is It?

Of the two orders there are, in this country, only 65 species of butterflies, though there are nearly 2,000 species of moths. Now how are you to know which is which? Well, there is only one infallible sign, but it is infallible. On the head of the insect you will see what you no doubt describe as "horns." Now these are not horns, but very delicate and sensitive organs called antennæ. Every one of the butterflies has knobs, very slight in some, but still definite knobs or swellings, at the ends of the antennæ. Moths have many types of antennæ, varying from those like a hair to others very like diminutive ostrich feathers.

All British butterflies are day-fliers and seldom then, unless the sun is shining. There are, of course, many day-flying moths, but their flight usually seems less definite and purposeful than that of butterflies.

Life is full of Changes

The life cycle of both is the same and the insect goes through four distinct and very different phases. The perfect insect,

that is the butterfly or moth, lays eggs singly or in clusters, usually on the food plant of the caterpillars which are to emerge. After a period, varying in the different species, a minute caterpillar emerges, at once starts to feed and grows rapidly. It casts its skin at intervals, some completely changing their colouring at each change of skin. When fully fed it becomes sleepy, and in the course of a day or so changes from a caterpillar into a chrysalis; this with moths usually being a black or brown object rather like a mummy, pointed towards the tail end and without legs or wings and almost incapable of movement. The chrysalides of butterflies are rather more varied in form and colour. Examine a chrysalis closely and you will be able to see the outlines of the legs, wings, antennæ, etc., of the future butterfly or moth, all carefully folded away.

After periods, again varying with the species, the chrysalis burst open and the perfect insect emerges. Its wings are then soft and crumpled; in all other ways it is fully developed. It crawls up the stem to which it has been attached or up some handy tree or fence and hangs with its wings drooping down. In the course of an hour or so they have expanded to their full size and the insect is ready for flight.

On the Black List

As most of the 65 butterflies are of great beauty, it is satisfactory to know that only three of them are in any way harmful, though a much larger number of moths should be on the black list. The wicked ones are the Large White, the Small White and the Green-veined White. As is only too frequently experienced, the caterpillars of these three do great damage to all members of the cabbage family. The caterpillar of the Clouded Yellow, a beautiful insect, very like a Large White with orange or yellow colouring in place of the white, feeds on clover and might be a nuisance if it were sufficiently abundant, but this it never is. The caterpillars of all our other butterflies feed on such things as nettles, grasses and other weeds or such trees as elm, holly, sloe, etc.

What's in a Name

In a short article it is impossible to tell you much about the different species, but if you are a lover of beauty, you will be well repaid if, when some strange butterfly settles near you, you walk up care-



J. Lievers, 73355, ploughing, in Lindsey, Lincs.

fully and look closely at its colouring and marking. Don't let your shadow fall on it, it is pretty sure to fly away if you do.

Few of you will see the magnificent Swallow-tail, it is only found in the fens, and perhaps fewer the majestic Purple Emperor, whose large wings are a brilliant iridescent purple, which usually haunts the tops of lofty trees; but everyone should see the Brimstone, a large butterfly the colour of a daffodil; the Orange-tip, white with the fore part of its front wings the colour of a marigold; different species of Blues like windborne harebells; Fritillaries, fore-wings chequered black and a shining brown, and underwings green and a glistening silver; the Green Hairstreak with wings fawn on the upperside and green underneath, rather like a Land Girl; the Peacock, the Red Admiral, velvety black and boldly scarlet on the upper sides and marbled and mottled with an indescribable mixture of colours on the under.

Spare a little time for the butterflies, watch them in their flight, note the beautiful curves of their wings and their colouring, often gorgeous, never gaudy, and you will say: "Thank God that He gave me sight." E. W. Chaplin.

Congratulations to Pembrokehire, which won the National Trophy in the Victory Churn Contest launched by Mr. Hudson a year ago. This trophy is to be given annually to the county achieving the most meritorious increase in milk output. Pembrokehire scored 50 per cent. more marks than its nearest rival.

SONNET

War, which has brought to others fear,
Pain, sorrow, slavery and death,
To me has brought what I held dear
And longed for but could not possess.
Has given me wide stretch of sky,
The sailing clouds, the wind's sharp
breath,

A roof of leaves, the wild flower's eye,
Bird song, all woodland loveliness,
Health, vigour, deep content, and faith
That at its source our stream runs clear.
What have I done? I never meant
To be a wartime profiteer!

Hebe Jerrold 1157, W.T.C.

From The Children's Newspaper.

Miss B. Miles, 43624, is publishing her poems in a volume to be called "Poems of a Land Girl," and is generously giving part proceeds of sales to the Benevolent Fund. Copies, price 2s., can be obtained from her at The Bungalow, Mendlesham Street, Nr. Stowmarket, Suffolk.

It is not known to everyone that it is contrary to the Prisoners' of War Regulations to despatch (except by post) letters to enemy prisoners of war now in this country. It is an offence to do this even if the letters themselves do not in any way endanger the safety of the State; the offence is in sending any letter at all, otherwise than by post.

The names of the winners of the Good Hints competition and a summary of the hints received will be published in the August issue.

This quarter's cover design is by G. Foxwell, 39292, Northants.

HEADQUARTERS' NOTES

The Land Girl's Charter

One of the Land Army's great difficulties has always been that it is a nationally organised Service but its members individually are for the most part in private employment. A Land Girl's working contract is with her employer and for a woman agricultural worker in England or Wales, conditions tend to vary according to the Wages Orders of the County where she works and the ideas of the farmer by whom she is employed.

From the outset the Land Army has worked towards standardising minimum conditions for its members. It began at the outbreak of war with a Land Army minimum wage and a guaranteed employment week. Gradually as the Land Army has grown in size and importance, it has become possible to add to and improve the conditions on which its labour is supplied. Now revised minimum conditions have been published, which give all Land Army members real and reasonable security.

This is "the Land Girl's Charter" on which you should now be able to count wherever and by whomsoever you are employed in England or Wales:—

A minimum wage after you have worked up to 48-hours a week in winter or 50 in summer and after you have paid for board and lodging, of 22/6 if you are 18 or over, and 18/- if you are under 18.

Sick pay at full wage rates if you are off work through genuine illness, until your employer has given you one week's notice from pay day and that notice has run out.

Maintenance between jobs at home or in a billet at a cost of 35/- a week, if you lose your job through no fault of your own and are fit and ready to begin work again.

Reasonable working hours with a half-day off each week, Sunday work to be reduced as much as possible.

A holiday of one week in the working year and an occasional long week-end when working time lost may have to be made up.

Free travel to any job to which your Land Army office sends you and two free rail warrants on leave in each working year to any station in England or Wales.

This is what the Land Army guarantees for you and if your employment is not on these terms, you must tell your Local Representative or County office so that

either conditions may be put right or you may be removed elsewhere. Your side of the agreement is that you will keep your promise of mobility and be ready to go to work wherever you are needed; that you will accept the job which the Land Army offers you and will not try to find other work for yourself; that you will not leave your employment without the Land Army's knowledge and approval and that, while you are in your job you will give the good and cheerful service for which the Land Army has now rightly become famed.

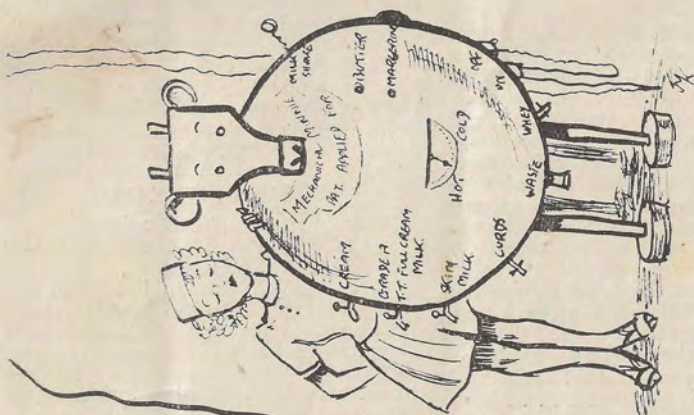
Inez Jenkins.

IN NORTHUMBERLAND

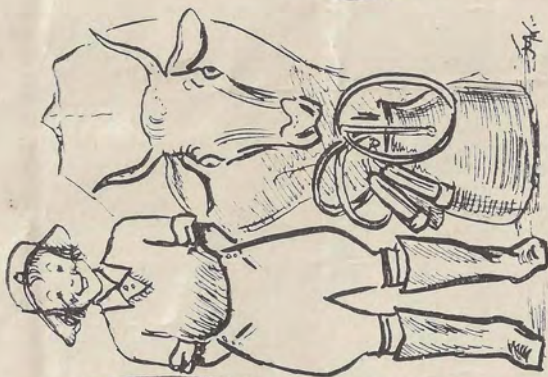
The Rally was held at Cockle Park, the County's Experimental farm and research station, on June 24th. Over 400 Land Army members managed to attend, and in spite of the unusual and very welcome warm weather, most of them took part strenuously in the Sports Programme. After a picnic lunch, the company listened to speeches from Lady Grey (our County Chairman), Mr. Donald Scott, M.P., Dr. R. W. Wheldon (King's College, Newcastle) and Captain Charles de Burgh, D.S.O., R.N. Tributes were paid by the speakers to the work of the W.L.A. and it is worth recording that whereas certain members of the audience were recumbent on the grass when the speeches began, everyone appeared upright and attentive before the proceedings ended—surely a testimony to the quality of the speeches on a hot day. Demonstrations and exhibits arranged by King's College and the staff at Cockle Park, occupied the rest of the afternoon, with Sports Finals, and singing by the winning team from Nedderton Hostel. Finally, Lady Grey presented the sports prizes and the drama cup, and shook hands with the long-service members.

Everyone present that afternoon must have been impressed by Mrs. Ord's magnificent work of organisation. We are also deeply indebted to Mr. Smith and his helpers for running the entire sports programme and to the other members of the staffs from King's College and Cockle Park for their hospitality and their most generous and unflinching kindness throughout the day. We are grateful to the ladies of the A.R.P. canteen who provided tea and coffee from their van. We hope that these and all other helpers felt rewarded by the very obvious enjoyment of the W.L.A. members present that afternoon.

THE LAND GIRL



WOMEN'S LAND ARMY -
- 2043 -
St. Kate 67/12 (Warranahall)



WOMEN'S LAND ARMY -
- 1943



Women's Land Army — 1743

IDIOSYNCRACIES OF THE VINE

The vine is a queer customer and very temperamental.

In spring it begins to sit up and take notice—but, allowed to have its own way, you'll soon find it developing into something akin to a tropical undergrowth. As soon as the foliage and small bunches of grapes (at this stage not unlike sprays of green millet seed) begin to appear, it's time to train the young wood or shoots, to the horizontal wires of the vinery. The idea of this is to train the shoots in such a way that their leaves will cover the whole area of glass and thus shelter the fruit from the strong sun-rays. This is a tricky job as the young wood is very brittle, likes to "straggle" about, and resents handling. A heavy pull—snap—and at least 15/- worth of fruit has gone west . . . head gardeners, as well as vines are apt to prove touchy about this.

About the middle of May, the grapes themselves come into their own. A fair-sized vinery should average from about eighty to a hundred bunches of fruit. This is very fine, but think of the poor Land Girl who has the job of thinning out each separate bunch in three different vineries. The process of thinning-out is highly important, its purpose being to allow more room for each grape to swell, and thus prevent bruising of the fruit. Care must be taken NOT to reduce the bunch to five or six grapes . . . The perfect cluster, after thinning, should be triangular in shape, wide in the shoulders and gradually sloping to a point.

During the summer months in particular, the question of heating and airing the houses needs a lot of consideration. On a hot day, for example, it is not advisable to go off for lunch and leave the vents tightly shut. A charred m  le of leaves and fruit is the inevitable result. Again, it is not advisable to dash off to a dance at night and forget that you have left the vents wide open. This is an equally effective method of mass-destruction. On the whole, the vines are happiest in a nice even temperature of about 65°-75°.

One might think that with the coming of autumn, by which time, the fruit must have been either scorched, frozen or sold, that the Land Girl's trouble must be at an end—but no, having gone to the bother of training the shoots in spring, taking care not to break a single one of the precious things, in autumn, you lop them off wholesale, till nothing is left,

but a very denuded and sad-looking bark. In the course of the winter months this has to be untied, taken down, washed and re-washed in Sulphur compound and examined for signs of the vine pest, the "Mealy Bug."

In spite of all this, however, I do love the vines, but on consideration—wouldn't it be easier to grow tomatoes?

P. Russell (Scotland).

BOOKS OF THE DAY

"Plan for Britain." (Routledge, 6s.)

"The Ship." By C. S. Forester. (Michael Joseph, 8s. 6d.)

"How do we want to live when this war is over?" Mr. Cole is apparently a little shocked that nearly all the people to whom he has put this question seem to have only one idea in their heads—to get back to their homes and do again whatever they were doing when the war began. The great exception is the former Unemployed. They do not want to be back where they were and no one else wants it for them. Most of the contributors to **Plan for Britain** who are the spokesmen of the Fabian Society, concentrate on this problem and decide that it cannot be solved without extensive public planning. But about the nature of the plans and the people who are to execute them, each has his own ideas, and a surprising variety of proposals are to be found in this little book. Mr. Easterbrook, for instance, thinks that the War Agriculture Committee have done so well that they should have a large part in carrying out plans for the land.

Sir William Beveridge calls his section "Freedom from Idleness"—perhaps not a very attractive title to some few of us who feel that freedom *for* idleness is our chief need at the moment. Still, we know what he means. His plea is for open-mindedness and, though a Socialist, he thinks that employers' plans should not be ignored. While Mr. Cole praises Briton's courage and resourcefulness in an emergency, but is not so pleased with their capacity to go on thinking when the emergency is over, Sir William obviously feels that British good-humour will be even more urgently in request after the war, and in that we may all agree.

The Ship is an account of the adventures of H.M.S. "Artemis," a light cruiser, in protecting a convoy to Malta, and a very fine story it makes, in which the withdrawal of the Italian fleet, the saving of the convoy, the rescue of Malta from starvation, the control of the Medi-

terranean, and so, perhaps, the result of the whole war, depend upon a single lucky shot from the "Artemis's" guns. Mr. Forester shows what goes to make up that "lucky" shot, the work of the captain, the officers, the engineers and the sailors, each a person with his own individual character and private thoughts, yet blended into the perfect team. This is how we like to think of our navy and, whatever the proportions of fact and fiction, it is satisfying to find that it rings true.

M. Jaeger.

Besides its excellent pamphlets, the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs is producing "**The Story of the Countryside**," a series of "guide books to the exploration of the real countryside." *The Village, The Market Town, and The Farmyard* have now appeared. They are all extremely interesting, very clearly written, beautifully illustrated and cover a great deal of ground in a small space. *The Farmyard* traces the origin and development of the British farmer, describes the history and types of our stock animals, and also outlines the different types of British farm. The other two books will increase our knowledge and our interest as well as making us much more useful and intelligent inhabitants of our village or our market town. Price 2s. 6d. each or 2s. 10d. post free, from the N.F.Y.F.C., Selwyn House, Endsleigh Street, London. W.C.1.

NAIRNSHIRE RECORD

Twenty lassies from Glasgow have come to work in a Highland County's W.L.A. gang. None of them had experience of land work before last year, but they have become experts at farm work and go to it with all their energy. Amongst the jobs they do so well are—hoeing, thrashing, thatching, tractor and truck driving; two of them work a pair of horses quite excellently.

They are a jolly party in their hostel, sharing each others fun as well as burdens, and have become popular members of society in the county town, and needless to say in the rural areas also.

At a concert given by the Ladies Choir of the town, two members of this gang were amongst the sopranos, and charming they looked and sweetly they sang, at the end of a long 9 hours in the field. One was struck by the energy which made them come out so daintily garbed and coiffed; one of them surely broke all records by giving a blood transfusion between her day's work at agriculture and her singing at the concert.

RECLAMATION

Just a long, straight ditch with well-sloped banks—really quite uninteresting to the ordinary onlooker, but what a difference it is going to make to the marshy land through which it runs.

There has always been a ditch here, but for years and years it has been neglected and the grasses and reeds have grown over it, and there has not been any channel for the water, consequently the ground all round about has become waterlogged.

The job of reclaiming this land for cultivation has been taken over by the War Agricultural Committees.

My part is to drive the Cub excavator, a truly wonderful machine which lifts all the mud, clay and weeds (and frogs and eels) into a large 8 cubic feet scoop. This scoop is raised up out of the ditch, swung round and emptied on the bank a good distance from the newly-made bank, or the spoil would soon fall or be washed back into the ditch.

My day begins at 8.30 a.m., when I arrive complete in overalls and gumboots, with lunch tin and mackintosh. After a few words with the workmen I oil and grease the machine, one of the men starts her up and off we go. As we (the machine and myself) clear the bulk of the spoil from the ditch so the men, following with spades, dig out any residue and bater the sides even and smooth.

For every yard the excavator digs it removes $1\frac{1}{4}$ cubic yards of spoil, a task impossible for men to do in the same time. The number of yards covered per hour varies (according to the state of the ground) from 22 yards to 10 or less. Owing to the waterlogged state of the banks along which the excavator must travel, it can only proceed on timber mats which are placed alongside one another on top of branches laid on timber. Heavy planks on each side of the excavator, fastened to the mat with chains, prevent it from plunging off. Six mats are supplied with each machine so when the ground these cover has been traversed, the whole foundation and the mats must be taken up and laid down ahead.

The result of the work is a straight, clean-cut ditch into which the water from these waterlogged fields will quickly seep. At 5.30 p.m. I knock off work and go back to my billet having enjoyed doing a good day's work and happy in the thought that very soon all this land we are reclaiming will be ploughed up and growing food.

H. Roby, 99458 (Cumberland)

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I wonder if there are many land girls whose mothers were in the land army of the last war? Mine joined up when she was 19 and worked on farms; I have been in forestry since the beginning of 1940, having volunteered a few weeks before the war broke out.

Mother was on a recruiting parade in Kendal, and as she was marching along an old farmer standing at the front of the onlookers caught hold of her arm as she was passing, and said, "I'll have you on my farm, you look a strong, likely lass!" She told him that he was not allowed to take her without referring to Land Army headquarters, and he was rather unlucky because she never saw him again.

I have never regretted my 3½ years in the Land Army, and I think I will be able to tackle any job after being toughened and hardened with forestry work.

Cumberland. W. Brandon 11051

Dear Editor,

In reply to Isobel Young, our old cowman says moles always come up at 12 noon and 6 p.m., and the best thing to do is to wait silently with a spade until you see them digging then dig them out with great speed and chop off their heads. He swore he had killed many that way but frankly I never saw him do it!

Like J. Spurgin, I was one of those who volunteered on the National Service Book form and I too, hate being away from work, though my line is gardening, and my job tomatoes, but I bow to her record of attendance. What percentage of the early volunteers are still at it and loving it? Hail, veterans, and all our later sisters.

Warwicks. Thelma Floyd, 8322.

Dear Editor,

I did like M. G. Cross' article on Hands in the April magazine. I always think a pair of well-worked hands are much worthier of admiration than the lily-white, pink-tipped variety. But they mustn't look too well-worked!

It doesn't really take any time to take that little bit of care to keep hands reasonably presentable. Horny palms are not noticeable if cuticles are kept well back, nails trimmed short and knuckles and wrists free from chaps.

No farmer can grumble if a girl rubs her hands in the grease when she finishes washing the dairy things, or before she starts mangel pulling and beet sing-

ling. Vaseline is very useful, but I find a certain make of udder-salve—green and non-greasy—is excellent. We bought a tin for the cows, then, finding a superior brand for that job, ceased using the former and so I took charge of it! Of course, one could hardly keep a tin in the bedroom—it is rather large, and the smell is rather of disinfectant—but for out-of-doors this doesn't matter.

I always feel rather pleased when people say "Your hands look very nice considering the hard jobs you do!"

Warwicks. L. M. Player, 23846.

Dear Editor,

The L.A. was well represented in our "Wings for Victory" parade in Bedford. We secured a large bomb and anti-aircraft gun mounted on a lorry to lead our contingent, carrying a large notice, saying "These are Hitler's weapons," followed by an arrow pointing to our Land Girls saying "These are ours!" One of our farmers lent one of his pedigree cows to walk in the procession with three Land Girls in attendance. She received tremendous applause and behaved beautifully.

Beds. J. Eugster (County Sec.).

Dear Editor,

My sister, Daphne Webb, enrolled in the W.L.A. in July, 1939, spent two weeks on a farm in August, had four week's training in October and started dairy work in November.

I enrolled in July, 1941, and started on a farm in August. I spent a year doing tractor work and am now on a small farm doing dairy and general work; I've been at this nearly a year now.

We both love our work and hope to continue it after the war. Between us we have done nearly 6 years' land work; she is 21 and I am 24. An elder sister doing Government work spends her week-ends with one or other of us helping on our farms. Can any other sisters beat this record?

Hants. (Mrs.) M. Jarvis, 49804.

Has anyone found a good way of discouraging flies—especially in warm weather?—Ed.

WANTED.—Caravan for one. Write Taylor, Manor Farm, Foxley, Malmesbury, Wilts.

PLEASE NOTE

The next Land Army Broadcast will be at 1.15 p.m., in the Home Service on SUNDAY, JULY 25th.

WOOL FOR LORD WOOLTON?



There was an exceptionally large attendance at the W.L.A. Rally and Demonstration held in conjunction with the Bucks War Agricultural Committee, at Walton Court Farm, Aylesbury, by kind permission of Mr. R. Rowland, on Saturday, May 29th. The formal opening took place at 2.30 p.m. when, after a parade by members of the W.L.A., the Rt. Hon. Lord Woolton addressed the public. Among those present were Lord Cottesloe (Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire), Mrs. P. Fellowes (Chairman of the Bucks W.L.A.), Mrs. Clifford Smith (County Secretary), Mr. and Mrs. R. Rowland, Miss Brew and Miss Walton from L. A. Headquarters, Mr. Ralston (Merchant Seaman), Mrs. Paterson (Mayor of Aylesbury) and other distinguished guests. Points stressed by Lord Woolton in his speech included the vital part which home production was playing on the food front, and the part the Land Girls—many of them fresh from soft living in towns—were playing in the battle of the fields. The sight of a Land Girl when she came to town was a heartening, as well as a delightful sight to a townsman, and he was grateful to whoever had designed their inspired uniform. Lady Woolton presented Good Service Awards to 18 W.L.A. volunteers who had com-

pleted three and a half years' service, and the Chairman read a list of girls to whom the W.A.E.C. are presenting certificates for special service to agriculture. Other speakers were Mr. George Ralston, who gave a moving account of his terrible experiences adrift on a raft for 31 days, and the Rt. Hon. Lord Addison, who moved a vote of thanks.

Members of the W.L.A. competed in horse work, dairying and field work, and the awards for these contests, many of which took the form of National Savings Certificates, were presented by Mrs. Fellowes later in the afternoon. Preliminary contests had already taken place in all parts of the County. The winner of the Fellowes Cup for milking was Miss M. Keene; of the Bonsor Cup for field work, Miss I. Spiller; of the Heywood-Lonsdale Cup for horsecwork, Miss M. Marks and the Vansittart County Challenge Cup for milking, Miss M. Keene. Great interest and enthusiasm were displayed by everyone present over the very high standard of efficiency shown by the whole body of W.L.A. Girls. There were some very attractive sideshows, and stalls displaying produce and gifts for sale in aid of the Benevolent Fund, and the County Welfare Fund, the proceeds from which passed the £500 mark.

FOR SALE.—Brown leather riding boots, 7½, good condition, 50s. Apply Editor.

FOR SALE.—Lotus brown suede low heels 5. Latest style, almost new; 35/-. Write 58547, c/o Editor.

Scottish Notes

Ayrshire County had a field day at Auchincruive, when about 250 girls managed to get leave from their jobs to take part, or watch others taking part, in a series of competitions including hand and machine milking, horse-work, and singling. The judges were local farmers, who thought so well of the competitors' prowess that they gave marks as high as 98 per cent. for singling and horse-work, 93 per cent. for hand milking, and 88 per cent. for machine milking. The prize-winners, all of whom received savings stamps, were:

Horse-work—Mrs. Eaglesham, M. Moore, Mrs. Kennedy and J. McLintock (tie). **Hand Milking**—M. McGinn, M. Tait, A. Neil. **Machine Milking**—V. Burnie, A. Wink, M. Donald. **Singling**—C. Scott and C. Robertson (tie), M. Cunningham. (One competitor did 400 yards singling in 63 minutes!).

The organisers of the event, Miss MacDougall, D.O.A.S. and Mr. Russell, Auchincruive, are due thanks for staging this mass demonstration of what L.G.'s. can do, and all the competitors are to be congratulated.

Aberdeen & Ellon.—At a rally in Aberdeen, G.S. Badges were presented by Sir John Orr, who praised the girls for their splendid work. P. Blakie won a prize awarded by Mrs. Manson for the best darned pair of L.A. stockings. Miss Leith, with the help of the girls in the district, ran a very successful café chantant which raised over £50 for the W. & B. Fund.

Aldford & Deeside.—Several dances have been held for the W. & B. Fund, so that the district is likely to keep the record established in connection with the Spitfire Fund. Sheriff Laing presented G.S. Badges after a grand muster of the W.L.A. at the Ballater "Wings for Victory Parade."

Deer & Turriff.—Sybil Munro, with a committee of L.G.'s, organised very successful dance for the Fund.

Banffshire.—A very successful dance held at Keith raised over £50 for the Fund.

Dumbarton & Renfrew.—At a rally in Paisley, presided over by Mr. Lumsden, chairman of the A.E.C., Major Lloyd, M.P., who presented G.S. Badges, was the main speaker and many were the nice things he said about the L.A. There was an excellent programme of singing, dancing and milking, and of course tea. The Paisley Club is still going strong—they had a grand picnic the other day.

Kincairdineshire.—G.S. Badges were presented and an encouraging address given by Lord Abruthnott, after a "Wings for Victory" Church Parade in Laurencekirk, and by Miss Dunn, at a dance arranged for the W. & B. Fund by Mrs. Deans, at which Major Reid and Mr. Davidson of the A.E.C. also spoke.

E. Lothian.—The W.L.A. Concert Party from Marygold and Slowbigging, raised over £50 for the County "Wings for Victory" week. Rina Hill Jean Maxwell raised £19 at a dance for the same purpose. The W.L.A. was well represented at the parades held at Haddington, Dunbar and N.

Berwick.—More hostels have been opened—Quarry Court, North Berwick, Eaglescarnie, and Humble. The County Comforts Fund has sent another donation to the W. & B. Fund.

W. Lothian.—Kirkliston Hostel girls ran a concert at which the versatility of the W.L.A. was well displayed; a sketch entitled "In the Cloak-room at Foxhall," provoked much mirth, the many references to local employers being thoroughly enjoyed. Rena Crear organised a well supported dance at Blackburn for the W. & B. Fund.

Perthshire.—The local W.L.A. took part to some purpose in the "Wings for Victory" parades in Dunblane and Crieff and advantage was taken of these gatherings to present G.S. Badges, Mrs. Stirling of Keir performing the ceremony at the former, and Mrs. McNair Snadden at the latter.

Roxburghshire: The Countess of Minto presented

G.S. Badges at a rally in Hawick and announced that three more hostels would soon be opened, bringing the total in the county to 8. She complimented the girls on the excellence of the reports on their work coming in from employing farmers. After the presentation the Duke of Buccleuch gave an excellent address.

Stirlingshire.—"Wings for Victory" Parades, with G.S. Badge presentations were the order of the month here as in other districts. At Bridge of Allan, Miss Tod was the speaker, while at Stirling, Mrs. Paulin (D.O.A.S.) handed over the badges and had something to say about uniforms and other matters. At Falkirk, Mrs. Griffiths provided tea at Toc H and presented badges.

Wigtownshire.—At the parades in all the towns in the County the W.L.A. contingents compared well with the trained Services and evoked appreciative comments from the bystanders.

Heard at the Edinburgh Zoo (True story): "What are these funny birds, Mummy?" "Penguins, my dear."

Later: "And these, Mummy?" "Parrots, dear—they come from South America."

Later still: "Oh! look, Mummy, at these funny beasts with green backs and brown legs! Are they searching for worms?" "Hush, dearie, these are Land Army Girls, working amongst the vegetables."

STAFFORD RALLY

On Saturday, May 29th, we held our second Rally in Staffordshire, at the Borough Hall, Stafford. The Girls assembled on the Grammar School field, and headed by the excellent W.A.A.F. Band, marched through the main streets to the Hall. His Worship the Mayor, accompanied by the Mayoress, took the salute in the Market Square, and although not experienced marchers, the Company did great credit to the L.A. Our congratulations go to members of the Timber Corps employed in Stafford, for their tableau and also for the wonderful collection of £23 12s. for the Benevolent Fund. The dray was most artistically decorated and the horse was not at all perturbed, even when passing the band. On arrival at the Hall, we were greatly honoured to have our Director, Lady Denman, with us. After presenting Good Service Badges to Volunteers who had done 2 years or more service in the Land Army, Lady Denman gave us a very encouraging talk and inspired us to an even greater effort. We were very interested to hear all the stories Commander Scaife told us of adventures at sea and we came away resolved to do all we could to relieve the burden of these brave men. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Haszard and her helpers for the most excellent tea, it really was marvellous. After tea we were entertained by E.N.S.A.

Land Girls of High Legh, Cheshire, write to express their thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Cooper, their D.R., for the happy evening and concert she gave them.

County News

Lon. & Middx.—It is with great pleasure that we welcome Mrs. Jackson as County Secretary. Mrs. Sykes, who since the early days of the L.A., held the position of County Secretary, returns to us now as a additional County Organiser. We are delighted about this and offer her our best wishes. We also warmly welcome Miss Leach, as Assistant County Secretary.

On June 5th, the annual Area Rally was again held, by kind permission of the Middlesex County Council, at Harefield Place. A substantial tea was provided by the Committee and District Representatives. After a delightful speech by Mrs. Beale, Lord Porter presented G.S. Badges and ten Special Armlets. Mr. Neal came again to enthral us with his conjuring tricks and a variety of amusing side shows were arranged by Mrs. Rogers, the prizes for which were National Savings Stamps.

A number of Southgate and Wembley L.G.'s. appeared on the stage with representatives of the Women's Services during the showing of "The Gentle Sex" at the Odeon, Uxbridge. Our first hostel, at Potters Ear, was opened on May 31st. Thirty-seven members are in residence. Miss Baynham and Miss Whitmore organised a whist drive and raised £9 for the Benevolent Fund.

Monmouth.—This month we are basking in the reflected glory of our County Secretary, Miss Catherine Hopkin, whose award of the M.B.E. in the recent Birthday Honours was such an occasion for pride and rejoicing. Our Benevolent fund continues to make good progress; a dance organised by St. Mellons hostel recently realised £38 10s., a magnificent sum. A new hostel at Witla Court opens on July 5th, 24 girls will be accommodated there. The up and coming Y.F. Club (L.G. Section) Bassaleg and District held a milking competition recently. Prize winners were: 1st—M. Park, 2nd—M. L. Gibbon and D. M. Giles (tie) and 3rd—Joan Cullimore. The M.O.I. is sponsoring another film tour of Monmouthshire hostels beginning July 12th. Usk Agricultural Institute Hostel celebrated its 2nd birthday with photographs and a dance in aid of the County Welfare Fund. To Mrs. Scudamore (Ruby Davies) Mrs. Essex (Gertrude Ingham) and Mrs. James (Iris Wilkinson) all June brides; we offer our warmest congratulations. We regret to announce the tragic death of Winifred Murdoch, at Chepstow, who joined the L.A. in February, 1941. She will be sadly missed by her fellow Land Girls—19 of whom were present at her funeral and we extend our deepest sympathy to her husband. Plans are proceeding to make Farm Sunday a day to remember in the annals of the L.A. We all appreciate the special significance of this honour.

Norfolk has been very active with "Wings for Victory" weeks. I do not think any parade has been without its contingent of L.G.'s. In Norwich, 50 marched splendidly on a broiling day, and stayed the course as well if not better than any other Women's Services. At Diss, the W.L.A. Club defeated the Y.F. Club in a "Farming Quiz" by a narrow margin. Gissing W.L.A. Club took charge of a side-show during the same week, with very good results. Bungay W.L.A. Club (a joint Norfolk and E. Suffolk Club) ran a stall at the Fair, organised pony rides for children, a barrel organ and guessing the weight of a calf, and played no small part in the success of the week.

Lily Merritt has done a splendid piece of work in carrying on with her milking after a serious fire on the farm where she is employed, in which the milking sheds were destroyed and the milking machines lost; in spite of the difficulties all the work was done as though everything was normal, and the cows milked at the proper time. We have had some very nice appreciations of L.A. work, when receiving recommendations for half-diamonds, here are two: "It gives me much pleasure to recommend D. Goulty for her half-diamond; she has been perfectly satisfactory in her

work and in every way and I hope you will find me another girl like her; I could ask for nothing more." And: "I would like to recommend I. Marshall for any proficiency badge she is entitled to have. She came to us nearly a year ago; since she has been with us, she has been doing general farm work and is very capable; takes a great interest in her work and does it well. She adapts herself to everything and everybody. She takes the place of a man on our farm and is certainly doing her share in the national effort."

Northants.—The visit of our Assistant Director to the County makes our most important news. Mrs. F. C. Jenkins was the guest of our Chairman, Lady Spencer, from May 3rd to May 5th, and a full programme was arranged for her. On Monday afternoon, Mrs. Jenkins first visited the County Office and uniform store, the headquarters uniform store at Rushden, and the Institute of Agriculture at Moulton, where she met Lady Spencer, the principal, Mr. Stewart, and the chief instructor, Miss Strang, who had arranged a tour of the farm and an inspection of Land Army trainings. On Tuesday, a meeting of the Welfare Sub-Committee was followed by a coffee party, to which Lady Spencer had kindly invited all members of both L.A. Committees, L.A. officials and the W.A.E.C. Labour Officer and his assistants. At 11.30 a.m. Mrs. Jenkins met the County Committee. After luncheon a visit was paid to the Harrison Farm, an off-shoot of Moulton, where all W.A.E.C. trainees are sent daily from the Wilby Castle W.A.E.C. Training Centre. There Lady Spencer had arranged that the Chairman of the W.A.E.C. and the Chairman of the Labour Sub-Committee and Machinery Committee, the Executive Officer and other officials of the W.A.E.C. should meet Mrs. Jenkins. After an inspection of the farm and the trainees the whole party went on to Wilby Castle where the Warden, Miss Hunter, kindly entertained them to tea.

There were some very useful unofficial conferences between the W.A.E.C. officials and the Assistant Director and from the point of view of the County, Mrs. Jenkins' whole visit was most helpful as well as being a great honour and pleasure.

There have been a series of delightful badge giving parties all over the County. Daventry, Yelvertoft, Lichborough, Whitebury, Kislingsbury and Denton have all had them.

We are full of pride and pleasure at the award of the O.B.E. to Lady Spencer, who, as well as being our Chairman is our very real friend.

Northland.—Norham Hostel, with 71 marks, won Lady Grey's Cup in the Drama Competition held in Newcastle on May 1st. Heydon Bridge Hostel (67) was second and Stocksfield Hostel (65) was third. The adjudicator, Mrs. Margaret Marshall, of Durham, commented on the closeness of the



*Volunteers from Swineshead Hostel,
Holland, Lincs.*

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results, and considered the standard of acting and production good for the first competition of its kind to be held for the L.A. It is hoped that next year groups of girls working on farms may be formed so that they may take part.

Nedderton Hostel (the only Hostel to compete) won the Women's Institutes Choral Competition in Newcastle, beating all the W.I. teams. They were coached by their Assistant Warden, Miss Cooper, and they sang again at the Rally on June 24th.

Notts.—Members of the W.L.A. who attended the Brains Trust at Newark must have been very proud of the nice things said about the L.A. by some of the speakers and by the members of the audience who proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Donald McCullough. The Mayor and Mayoress of Newark are very interested in our activities and have on many occasions visited Girls in hostels at work. The Mayoress is particularly anxious that Girls shall have every possible facility for recreation in their leisure time, and the L.A. in consequence is always sure of a very real welcome in Newark.

A small number of Nottinghamshire volunteers attended a course of instruction in Pest destruction in Leicester at the beginning of June. A new club has been formed at Lowdham.

There appears to be an epidemic in this county of cutting a heart shaped piece from the armlet and sewing it on to the overcoat sleeve. May we again remind volunteers that this is against all regulations and the armlet must not be cut or altered in any way.

Our new County Organiser, Miss Armitage, has already made friends with many girls and farmers in the Northern part of the county.

Oxon.—In spite of many set-backs caused by the weather and unavoidable delay of the Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteen, a very successful Welfare Sale was held in the uniform dept. at New Street, and £22 12s. 6d. was raised. At the Midlands Fair at Birmingham there were attractive toys made from old L.A. hats, shown by Mrs. D. Parkes (L.A. representative for Ilfley) also a shopping bag made from bits of an old L.A. mackintosh; and knitted shawl, and refuted stockings from unravelled worn-out L.A. stockings. Ducklington and Goring have raised £17 3s. and £12 16s. for the Benevolent Fund by dances, Benson L.G.'s, and W.I. and D.R. sent £5 15s. and Ramsden £5. Ilfley and Headington have done very well for "Wings for Victory" and the Red Cross.

Pembs.—During "Wings for Victory" week our L.G.'s. joined in three parades, at Haverford-west, Milford Haven and at Neyland respectively. They were coached by members of the Home Guard and certainly did credit to the L.A. They were complimented on their good marching and their smart appearance. W. Hatfield, 79741, writes: "At Neyland the Parade was followed by a service held under the wings of a sea plane with all the services forming a horseshoe—never before had I felt so bucked and inspired by our grand display."

On Sunday, 6th June, after the 1 o'clock news, one of our girls, Miss P. Harcourt Roberts broadcast with Mr. Lockley in the "Country Magazine." I am sure those who heard her would agree that she spoke very well. Our numbers of W.L.A. members are increasing rapidly in this County, we shall soon be opening four more hostels.

E. Suffolk.—Volunteers have been adding to their ordinary strenuous day's work by helping in many ways to raise money for "Wings for Victory" weeks and the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. For the latter, Land Girls in the Pettistree and Loudham Districts Club raised the record sum for any one effort in this County, of £56 3s. by means of a dance and raffles.

There are now 13 Hostels, the three most recently opened being at Sutton, Shelley and Hoxne. Preston Hostel has started a Club for their district which includes members of the W.R.N.S. stationed

nearby. It will meet weekly under the attractive name of The "Wrenland" Club. Twenty-two members of the Trimley and District Club attended a party at the Brightwell representative's house on June 16th; teams named after types of aircraft took part in exciting games and there was a grand treasure hunt. Altogether in the words of our Trimley representative—"one of the happiest parties I have ever attended." We are making preparations for a Rally in Ipswich on July 17th. Lord Woolton has kindly agreed to come and we hope to see a large proportion of our volunteers, so many of whom help valiantly with his favourite crops of potatoes and sugar beet.

W. Suffolk.—With very deep regret we have to record the death of our committee member, Miss Huddleston. She has been an invaluable help to the Land Army since the beginning of the war, and will be sorely missed by everyone who knew her.

A delightful new hostel with a lovely old tiled barn will soon be ready for occupation at Alpheton, and lucky will be the volunteers who find themselves in these charming surroundings. Our public engagements have been numerous, lately, Lakenheath volunteers marched in two "Wings for Victory" parades on one day. Shimpling Hostel came in for a most impressive service on Rogation Sunday when the Bishop of Dunwich blessed the crops. We have promised to take part in demonstrations on Farm Sunday, and also to get one mile of pennies during the Prisoners of War week.

Clubs are increasing in this county. Mildenhall volunteers have just formed one, and we hear are shortly organising a social-cum-concert. We wish them every success in their activities. Entertainments in aid of the Benevolent Fund are still very popular. Icklingham and Saxham volunteers have organised a most successful dance and whist drive respectively. Great encouragement was given to Lakenheath hostel when the Duchess of Grafton and Miss Williams visited them, and volunteers feel more than ever eager to get on with this vital work of food production.

W. Sussex.—One of our members, Miss Pearl Turner, of Chichester, broadcast in the B.B.C.'s programme to North America on Sunday, 2nd May. "Wings for Victory" marches have been taking place in all parts of the County and the L.A. has taken a particularly successful part in those held at Bognor Regis and Worthing. The father of a L.G. arranged for the Dramatic Society from the neighbouring village of Plaistow to give a play in Loxwood Village Hall, in aid of the Benevolent Fund. This raised over £12. Several of the leading parts were taken by L.G.'s, and the Loxwood L.A. Club helped with the arrangements. New Clubs have been formed at Billingshurst, Funtington and Milland and all are going well. L.G.'s from Chancetonbury area met at Henfield, on Whit Monday by kind invitation of Lady Davidson, where a programme of sports was organised by troops stationed in the neighbourhood. Afterwards they enjoyed an excellent supper at the George Hotel and went on to a local dance.

Two Henfield L.G.'s. have responded to the appeal made at the Parish Church for more bell ringers to make up the team. We congratulate them on their enterprise in learning this ancient art and hope that their example will inspire other L.G.'s. The 24 girls in Todhurst Hostel are justly proud of the effort made by their Savings Group for the local "Wings for Victory" week. They reached the grand total of £33.

N. Wales.—When Mr. Hudson recently toured N. Wales, he had tea at the L.A. Hostel at Tydwellig and showed great interest in the work and the welfare of the girls. A number of L.G.'s. from this area and other Welsh counties have been attending a course at the College Farm of the University College, N. Wales; these girls have been trained to inspect the crops of farmers growing seed

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H.R.H. The Princess at a Rally in Shropshire—with the County Chairman, Lady Boyne, and Secretary, Mrs. Preston.

[Photo by E. Wood.]

potatoes under a special scheme and are doing a job that in former years was done by the men science students during their summer vacation. During the period of inspection, each girl is expected to manage 50 acres weekly. A very large number of volunteers took part in "Wings for Victory" Parades and everywhere the public commented favourably on their smartness and physique. N. Wales area has now contributed to the Benevolent Fund a total representing a £1 per head for each volunteer in employment. A third hostel was recently opened in Anglesey and we would like to welcome Mrs. Wassal, the warden and her staff and all the L.G.'s, who have come there.

Warwick.—Over 100 volunteers took part in a special L.A. parade to the Ministry of Agriculture Food Exhibition in Birmingham on May 29th. Headed by the band of the Coldstream Guards, they marched through the City and were received at the Exhibition by the Lord Mayor and our Chairman, Mrs. Fielden. After spending some time round the interesting stands, the column returned and marched back to the Y.W.C.A., where Mrs. Godfrey entertained everyone to a marvellous tea and the day ended with a delightful concert given by E.N.S.A.

On June 22nd, we held our first conference for Warwick W.L.A. hostel wardens and were delighted to welcome Mrs. Grace from Headquarters. Twenty-six wardens came to the conference and it proved a most interesting and helpful day, when many wardens were able to meet for the first time and discuss their various problems. A series of District Representatives' meetings has been held recently in all parts of the County, and successful dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund have been organised by volunteers in Solihull, Kenilworth, Anley and Fenny Compton.

Wilt.—There have been many "Wings for Victory" processions, at which the girls acquitted themselves nobly and have been congratulated on all sides for their smart turn out and good marching. One club produced a variety of vegetables as a centre-piece which were afterwards auctioned. An enterprising club member at Purton

gave lessons in tap and ballroom dancing and, at 6d. a lesson, has collected £10 2s. for the Penny-a-Week Red Cross Fund. Other clubs have held sewing bees and have organised cycle rides to places of interest in the neighbourhood. Easter dances run by the clubs realised £42 for the Benevolent Fund. One of our new hostels was lent to the W.A.E.C. for a residential course in machinery, one of the first to be held under war conditions in this county. The demand was so great that a second course was held for both men and women drivers. Mr. Thomas, of Broadchalke, has been lecturing to A.T.S. on rural conditions in Wilts. He took two W.L.A. members with him to answer questions and they were such a success we understand the A.T.S. are seriously considering a change over to the land.

Wores.—On May 30th, Rogation Sunday, The Dean of Worcester held a special service in the Cathedral for the W.L.A. and the W.A.C. More than 150 L.G.'s. marched through the town to the Cathedral in beautiful weather. After a most inspiring service the Dean conducted some L.G.'s. round the Cathedral, while the rest walked through the Deanery gardens to tea. The W.V.S. canteen which welcomed and served the L.G.'s, was kept very busy. Everyone felt the day to have been a great success and many of those present paid high tribute to the L.G.'s. work. "Wings for Victory" parades have been attended by L.G.'s. at towns all over the county. In every town the L.G.'s. were cheered with enthusiasm; their obvious good health and high spirits marking them for special attention. Hostels have responded generously to "Wings for Victory" appeals for more saving. Littleton Hostel raised £60 in one week, and Wilden Hostel £73. With our Chairman, Mrs. Lea, as a member of the National Committee for the Benevolent Fund, L.G.'s. are supporting her valiantly. Clubs and groups are specially active. Several of our own L.G.'s. have been helped by the Fund, thus making us all the more keen to increase our efforts for it!

Yorks.—"Wings for Victory" parades have been one of the main activities during May and June. At many of these there have been large

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contingents of W.L.A. members and wherever possible a tea-party has been held afterwards. At York, in addition to taking part in the parade, W.L.A. members appeared in a pageant showing the contrast of gardeners in 1900 to those of 1943. Several new hostels have been opened recently and there are now 27 in Yorkshire and it is expected that 9 more will be opened shortly. At the present time we are not very proud of our Benevolent Fund total but it is hoped that this will soon show a considerable increase.

From July 1st there is to be a separate East Riding Office at Finkle Street, York. Miss Carmichael will be the County Secretary. We shall be very sorry to lose the East Riding Girls and although they will cease to come under the Harrogate office we shall still look upon them as Yorkshire Girls.

M. Kelly, 80531, of the newly formed Huddersfield Club, writes of a very interesting expedition to the Harden Moss Sheep dog trials.

(Omitted in error last month)

Holl. & Kes.—By far the most interesting piece of news from Holland & Kesteven is the marriage of our secretary, Miss S. D. Frowd to Mr. J. H. H. Sutcliffe, secretary of the Holland War Agricultural Committee, at St. Mark's North Audley Street, on May 1st. The office made the most of the opportunity of showing its affection and appreciation by giving a luncheon party to the bride and bridegroom, and presenting half a dozen Georgian Dublin silver spoons. The chairman, Mrs. Neville handed a cheque for £20 to Mrs. Sutcliffe on behalf of Land Girls, collected mainly in 1d. and 1½d stamps. A triumph of organisation this, as it had been kept a complete secret, and for once the County Secretary did not know what was going on in the office! Gifts have also been received by the bride from both W.A.C's., which is felt to be a testimony to her popularity and tact.

Mrs. Sutcliffe is retaining the Secretaryship of Kesteven though Holland is losing her. Lucky Kesteven!

Benevolent Fund

On June 25th, the Fund totalled £29,076 8s. 3d. The monthly total was £3,805, 1s. 8d. Northamptonshire has the highest total £1,033 19s. 6d. and also the highest monthly total £659 1s.

We congratulate Northamptonshire on being the first County to contribute £1,000 to the Fund and special thanks are due to the Chairman, Lady Spencer, who started by contributing nearly £160 by her tea dance and has now sent us £591 5s. as a result of her appeal to firms and employers.

Other outstanding contributions this month came from Bucks: £300 by Rally and donations. Wores: £167 14s., Mrs. Lea's appeal and County Welfare Fund. Dorset: £100. Farmers' Union County Committee. Glos: £70. Corn Hall Dance, Cirencester, organised by Mr. D. A. Stewart. East Suffolk: £56 3s., Wickham Market dance. Devon: £52 10s., Farmers' Union County Committee. Cheshire: £51. Mrs. Brooke's "bring and buy" sale. Hereford: £50, Hereford Times, £25. Three Counties Agricultural Society. Hants: £50. Little Oaks W.L.A. club dance. Monmouth: £50. Usk Institute dances. Montgomery: £50. Major Marriott Space does not permit the publication this month of a more detailed list of donations.

Messrs. F.sons, of Ipswich, have given £150 under Deed of Covenant, which will bring in £300 a year for 7 years. This form of subscription is most valuable and should be encouraged.

July 31st will be the Fund's first Birthday. Presents to mark the occasion will be very welcome and those received before July 25th, will be included in the County totals published in the August magazine. With the September number we shall publish a comparative table showing the amount raised for the Fund by each County per employed volunteer, so look to your County's laurels and see how high you can come.

County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Yorks	150	16	6	5405
Kent	247	17	11	3916
Essex	314	13	10	3536
Leics 1945	353	16	0	2235
Rut. 290	30	3	3	2192
E. Sussex	313	17	7	2153
Herts	654	17	10	2150
Surrey	576	4	9	2041
Hants	555	17	8	1787
Wores	839	10	0	1744
Warwicks.	1033	19	6	1727
Northants	749	6	2	1721
Bucks	144	15	0	1683
Somerset	424	16	11	1563
Cheshire	221	16	11	1518
W. Sussex	180	16	9	1504
Wilts	169	9	7	1478
Lancs	345	16	1	1475
Devon	542	7	4	1394
Glos.	686	11	10	1369
Norfolk	719	11	3	1292
Berks	45	5	0	1253
Cornwall	140	12	6	1249
Notts	115	12	7	1206
North'd.	255	10	2	1192
Hunts 321	637	5	6	1037
Camb's 508	229	3	6	1025
Ely 363	170	1	6	1004
E. Suffolk	264	12	10	991
Oxon	222	8	3	984
Kesteven	87	19	5	938
Salop	118	0	0	840
Cumbs. & West.	207	12	6	792
Durham	349	3	1	786
Staffs	213	0	7	771
Dorset	408	13	6	708
Lindsey	477	19	5	635
Beds	341	15	8	629
Glam.	147	9	7	610
W. Suffolk	178	2	3	578
Herefords.	124	13	0	524
Mon.	144	15	6	496
Lon. & Middx.	179	12	0	486
Holland	210	3	0	483
Derbys.	68	15	0	434
Flints.	22	4	0	371
Denbighs.	80	11	11	331
Pemb's.	128	1	0	236
I.O.W.	335	18	4	Not rec'd.
Brec. & Rad.	476	3	9	"
Mont.	101	18	7	3935
Carm. & Cards.				
N. Wales				
Timber Corps				

On June 30th there were 69,400 volunteers in employment.

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