

THE LAND GIRL



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LADY Denman's resignation from her post as Honorary Director of the Women's Land Army, announced on February 17th, is a shattering blow to all those who have been connected with the Land Army during nearly six years of honourable history.

Lady Denman entered public life at the age of twenty when she became Chairman of a London Liberal organisation. She spent three years in Australia when Lord Denman was Governor General and returned just before the last war during which she was connected with the Land Army of those days. She has been Chairman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes since its beginning, was a member of the Executive Committee of the Land Settlement Association and of Lord Justice Scott's Committee on Land Utilisation, and is a Trustee of the U.K. Carnegie Trust. In her spare time she has shewn considerable prowess and great activity in various sporting fields; she is a skilled performer with an axe and during Land Army days has frequently yielded it to good effect—during her leisure.

The W.L.A. has been very fortunate to have as its Director one with such wide experience of public work and intimate knowledge of country life and ways. Lady Denman's wise leadership has guided the Land Army through many doubts and difficulties. She has fought its battles with valiant determination and faced its problems with the steady impartial judgment for which she is famous.

Lady Denman's keen, personal interest in members of the Land Army has made her visits to counties for Rallies and meetings her happiest experiences of the war years. She has felt and expressed the warmest admiration for the cheerful and steadfast spirit in which volunteers tackled hard and unfamiliar jobs in every kind of circumstance and all sorts of weather. For *their* interests and well-being she was always the first to fight, for her own the last.

Leaving the Land Army, she takes with her our gratitude, our admiration, our affection and our confidence that though we have of necessity lost our leader we have not lost our friend.

M. A. P.

FAREWELL

I have felt it a great honour to be Honorary Director of the Women's Land Army which through dark and dangerous days has helped to deprive Hitler of his weapon of starvation.

England owes much to you members of the Land Army for what you have done and you will realise that the people of this country appreciate the service you have given.

I am indeed sad to say goodbye to you, but I hope that my resignation may draw public attention, including the attention of the House of Commons, to the privileges and rewards given to the Forces and Civil Defence which are not extended to you.

I know that many of those working in the Land Army organisation would like to add their protest to mine, but I hope that Chairmen, Members of County Committees, County Secretaries and their staffs and Local Representatives will feel able to stay in their posts, as it is on them that the smooth running of the Land Army so greatly depends. The need for your work is as great now as it has always been, the years after the war will be lean years in this country and a time of want and starvation in many parts of Europe. You experienced workers have the satisfaction of knowing that in working for agriculture you are helping to stave off the disaster of an under-fed population.

When you are no longer needed in the Land Army many of you will want

to stay on the land and for you the Ministry of Agriculture is planning courses to give you the opportunity of adding to your knowledge and to help you to fill responsible jobs. I hope that I shall live long enough to see many ex-members of the Land Army in charge of herds, managing farms and gardens, holding posts in Farm Institutes and training centres and working in research.

To those of you who go back to the towns I ask you not to forget the country. Remember I not only as an incident in your own life (I hope a pleasant one to look back on) but give the countryside your practical interest.

You know the value of agriculture to the nation, you know the avoidable disadvantages under which country people live. Make townfolk realise some of this (especially parliamentary candidates when they ask you to vote for them) and the countryside may not be as neglected in the future as it has been in the past.

Wherever you are, in cities or in the country, you will always have my gratitude, my admiration and my wishes for your happiness.

I have been touched and grateful to you for the many letters and telegrams which I received from you when I resigned. Your support made all the difference to me and I wish I could write to each of you individually. As I cannot do this I say now thank you, goodbye and good luck.

G. Denman.

Congratulations to Miss D. Gould, 148673, Glos. on being instrumental, together with Mrs. Jennings and her daughter, in saving the life of her employer, Mr. Jennings, when he was attacked by a bull and badly injured.

And to Joyce Steel, 101650, N.R. Yorks for trying to stop a cart horse which bolted. Miss Steel unfortunately broke her arm in doing this.

And to Sheila Molony, 106011, and Sally Smith, 26387, Isle of Wight, who have been chosen to represent their Y.F. Club at the Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Y.F.C.'s. Miss Molony is Secretary of her branch.

And to Shincliffe Hostel, Durham, on winning the Trophy for the Inter-hostel Choral competition.

And to Betty Robinson, 62670, for her courageous act in helping to rescue a

young horse which fell through the ice in Greatham Creek and was frozen in before discovered.

And to B. V. Wood, 108891, Surrey, who had the honour to be selected to demonstrate the art of hand milking to a gathering of 42 prospective judges.

And to two E. Sussex volunteers, P. Swaine, 26040, and B. Kriete, 102923. P. Swaine has been looking after her employer's farm, with only one boy to help her, whilst he has been undergoing an operation. B. Kriete rendered efficient First Aid to her employer when he severed an artery with a swap-hook.

And to W.L.A. employees of the Yorks N. R. W.A.C. for their splendid record in a competition organised by the Committee for the highest working output each month.

THE LAND ARMY CASE

The pros and cons of the Land Army's claim to post war benefits are now a common subject of discussion everywhere. Here are some of the more usual arguments—and a final comment.

The W.L.A. is not a "State Force." It is part of industry and its members should be treated as other industrial workers are treated.

The W.L.A. is run by a State organisation which is part of a Government Department. It is recruited, uniformed and trained by the State. One third of its members are employed by the State.

Members of the W.L.A. are in the same category as regular agricultural workers and should not receive special consideration.

Regular agricultural workers are not mobile and live in their own homes. Many of the post war schemes for, e.g., training, re-instatement rights and re-settlement grants do not concern the regular agricultural worker who has not left a peace-time job nor interrupted a peace-time career for war service on the land.

The Land Army is a volunteer service. Its members are not liable to conscription or direction and they can leave their employment at a week's notice and can resign from the Land Army at any time.

This is true but very many of its members volunteered for the Land Army at the time when their age group was due for call up so that they would otherwise have been conscripted for, or directed to, other war work. If they resign they become at once liable to direction.

The W.L.A. is neither a part of normal agricultural industry nor is it in the same position as the other women's Services. It occupies, in fact, a position of its own. The Minister of Agriculture, speaking in the House of Commons after Lady Denman's resignation said:

The Government consider that while the W.L.A. have rendered national service of the highest value and often at great personal sacrifice the differences in conditions of recruitment and service that exist between the W.L.A. and other Services preclude treatment on the same basis. The case of the W.L.A. is under separate and I can assure hon. Members, sympathetic consideration

and I hope to be able to make an early announcement on the matter.

As the **Land Girl** goes to press, the Land Army is still waiting the promised announcement.

We hope this will be all we could wish but, whatever the outcome may be, the W.L.A., by sticking to its job, will continue to justify the widespread sympathy which has been expressed for its cause.

If their public reward is not what they hope, members of the Land Army will go on helping to give the nation its daily bread for they will not allow their personal interests to interfere with the steadfast service in the national interest which has won them such a high reputation.

Dear Editor,

I should be very glad if you would express in the **LAND GIRL** the very great admiration and gratitude which I, and I am sure every volunteer in the W.L.A., feels for Lady Denman for the way in which she has fought for us, to the point of handing in her resignation.

I sincerely hope that Lady Denman's gesture will not be in vain and that we shall be allowed to enjoy the privileges extended to other Women's Services. I do think that we have the same right to be included as those in Civil Defence Services, at least. Most of these girls receive about £2 10s. 0d. per week and live at home. Also, they have, as do those in the other Services, the chance of promotion and higher rates of pay.

I have been in the W.L.A. for nearly two years and I think it is a simply grand life. I wouldn't change it for any other war job, so please don't think I am grumbling, but I do consider it unfair for the Government to exclude us from the Gratuities Scheme. Many of us have given up excellent, well-paid jobs to serve the country and whilst we are doing it willingly, it is rather disheartening to be left out in the cold when we once more want to take up a civilian post.

Herts.

D. E. Bunter, 113100.

(Lack of space prevents the appearance of other letters to the Editor to the same effect).

A new volunteer in Dorset, having milked a drying-off cow reported "I've emptied that one, couldn't I have a full one now?"

MANAGEMENT OF A DAIRY HERD

Miss T. Birtwistle, 9825, writer of the following article, was an original member of the Land Army, came from Lancashire, has been working with a herd of pedigree Friesians in Wiltshire and was awarded the B.E.M. a year ago.

Whatever the size or breed of dairy herd, its object must be the production of the maximum quantity of milk of the best possible quality. Perhaps the most important factor in obtaining this object is **RECORDING**. By recording we discover the cows which ought to be culled. By recording we can detect any change in health because if a cow is in pain or ill, her milk yield will be sure to drop. By recording we can discover which of the bull calves have the best milk-producing parents (on both sides) and should therefore make the best herd leaders.

Herd Personnel

It has been truly said that a good bull is half the herd and a bad bull is the whole herd, and he is worthy of as much good food and comfort as the best cows.

For the good type of dairy cow there are several requirements.

A. Straight top line (or back). B. Deep through the heart (or girth). C. Short legs. D. dairy type of head with broad muzzle. E. tail well set on. F. A healthy square shaped udder, starting high up between the hind legs and hung well forward under the belly with four teats set well apart and evenly spaced so that they do not give the udder a "split up" appearance. G. Prominent milk veins. H. Sound feet. I. Width across the pinbones. J. Plenty of room between the hindlegs to hang a good square shaped udder.

Feeding

If a cow is to give a lot of milk she must eat well, have plenty of clean water to drink and, beyond being fed and milked regularly, left in peace to chew the cud and so properly masticate and digest her food.

The great art of feeding is to do it regularly and individually. Each cow must be fed with special items in view—the amount of milk she is giving, the number of days she has been calved, her next calving date and her general condition. As much as they eat up in a reasonable time is a good rule for all dairy animals—and overfeeding is as bad as underfeeding. Cows should eat about 32lb. of dry matter a day; they are fed on **Maintenance** and **Production** rations which are balanced so that the greater the milk yield the greater the production ration and vice versa. Maintenance rations include hay, oatstraw, roots and kale. Cereal and protein foods (oats, barley, beans, maize, bran, linseed, palm kernel and other cakes and compounds) are production rations—silage may be either.

During the spring and summer, grass is the chief feed. When the grass is young and sweet it takes the place not only of the maintenance ration but also of part of the productive ration. A cow ought to give up to 3 gallons a day on good young grass. For each gallon more



than this she should be fed with 3lbs. of concentrates. As the quality of grass deteriorates the rate of concentrates should increase.

During the winter months each daily gallon of milk should earn 3½lbs. of balanced ration. Hay should be fed first thing in the morning and last thing at night—or the same quantity may be given in three feeds. Good short oat-straw may be used as a substitute for hay. Turnips or other roots should NOT be given just before milking as they are apt to taint the milk.

A cow should be dry about 6-8 weeks before calving and they need "steaming-up" before they calve again. In other words, they must have some production ration—perhaps beginning at 1lb. and reaching about 6lbs. according to the milk the particular cow is expected to give after calving. A cow may take 8 to 10 weeks after calving before she reaches the highest yield of her lactation.

The Young Idea

When calves are weaned, perhaps the day they are born or a few days after their birth, they must be given milk which is blood heat as when it comes from the cow. It does not do to give a young calf milk from one cow one day and another the next; it should be given mixed milk or always from the same cow.

Normally calves have 4 pints of milk twice a day, but bull calves require four pints three times a day, as it is essential that they do well. Gruel may be added very gradually at about 6-8 weeks whilst at about three months the feed may consist wholly of gruel. A calf may start eating hay at about four weeks, but only very little and no dry food such as bran, oats and beans until six or eight weeks.

Bedding

Cattle should be well bedded down. Chopped wheat straw is the best bedding to use in a cowshed (shippin or byre) and long wheat straw in the loose boxes for cows, bulls and calves. Oat straw makes poor bedding as it holds the wet. Barley straw is bad on account of the little pin-like bits of straw which are liable to get into cows' teats and cause trouble. Small calves require very dry bedding otherwise they may catch a chill very quickly and even if they do not die, their growth will be stunted if they are not cured quickly. Dry cows and young heifers can be kept well and cheaply in

straw yards with a shelter to go in if they wish. Roots and corn may be given in addition to the oatstraw. The latter should be put on the ground and that which is not eaten is trodden in to make excellent manure.

Heifers should be served at about 18 months so that they calve down in the autumn, preferably at about 2 years 3 months. Then they should not be served for about three months, in order to give them plenty of rest and time to grow before calving again. Should they fail to get in calf at 18 months, there is still plenty of time as after a winter running with a bull they may calve down at three years by which time they will be big, well-grown heifers. Heifers calving early will grow just as big in time and probably milk better and have an extra calf to their credit.

Wilts.

T. Birtwistle, 9825.

CATS

Cats in the window, sunning,
Purring, and gentle as silk,
Winking an eye, twitching whiskers,
Stretching and waiting for milk;
Rising to meet an admirer,
Licking the dust from their fur—
Who would consider them feline.
Who be misled by their purr?

Cats in the darkness, spitting,
No longer cuddlesome, nice,
Backs in an arch, scratching, clawing,
Forgetful of sparrows and mice:
Eyes in a frenzy of hatred,
Fur in a halo of spite,
Moaning and loud caterwauling
Splitting the stillness of night.

Which of the two is your Ginger?
Is Fluff the pure virgin she seems?
Is the lady in blue who is Persian
The answer to every cat's dreams?
The Siamese smile is alluring?
Are tortoiseshells aristocrats?
The answer is simple, dear reader.
The male and the female are—CATS.

Frances Turk.

HAIR RIBBON. W.L.A. GREEN.

3 yards—2s. 3d.

BON TON, BALUSTRADE,
BATH.

STAR TURNS

This is the first of a series of accounts of notable performers in the W.L.A.



Maisie Garside, W.L.A. 22474, joined the Land Army on September 4th 1939. Although she lived in the country she had not previously tried farm work, but the month's training at Askham Bryan Institute of Agriculture soon taught her to appreciate the joys of pulling mangolds and sugar beet, mucking out, milking, washing dairy utensils and all the rest of it. "All the time" she says "being informed by the Instructors that this wasn't farming. How right they were."

She arrived at her first job in a blizzard, all eagerness to begin and utterly undeterred by slipping on the ice and falling into the midden or by being taken for a postwoman in the local town.

Miss Garside has always been on dairy farms and her second post was, she says, "amongst a herd of pedigree Friesians," which certainly sounds as if she got right down to the job.

From her Friesians, Miss Garside went to her third and present farm at Richmond where she has three other volunteers under her and has a post of much responsibility, including the care of young stock. She has reared over 130 calves without losing one and recently three of her two-year olds won 1st, 2nd and 3rd

prizes in their class at a Northern Show. "Individual attention" is her motto and it is not at all surprising that the local Young Farmers Club asked her to talk to them on calf rearing.

Maisie Garside has spent over five years in the hardest of all Land Army jobs; starting from scratch, she has won a position which is a fine tribute to her steady determination, intelligent enterprise and capacity for hard work—qualities which we have learned to expect in a Yorkshire volunteer, wherever she may be working or whatever she may be doing.

PROPAGATING PLANTS

Mr. Pickering, Estate Manager of the Land Settlement Association Estate at Newbourn, writes that "the authors of the following article have been many times commended. On one particular visit the Horticultural Officer remarked that this particular holding was not only a credit to this estate but to the Association as a whole."

Having read many accounts of girl's experiences with the W.L.A. we thought we would like to give a rough idea of our work with one of the many propagating departments of the Land Settlement Association Ltd.

This Association has twenty estates scattered over England, varying in size but all run on the same principles, i.e., a fairly large area of land split into smallholdings of from two to ten acres in extent. Each estate has a central farm depot which includes Service Dept., tractors, horses and implements for carrying out cultivation on the smallholdings; also a packing shed which receives and packs all the produce centrally from whence it is despatched to market. Each holding consists of a glasshouse, piggery, dwellinghouse and small outbuildings. It was intended that the holdings should be run as mixed stock and glass, the stock consisting of pigs and poultry. Owing to the war and cuts in feedingstuffs, however, the majority of the holdings on this estate have turned over to market garden produce.

The main function of the propagating department is to provide the tenants with good tomato plants; altogether about 250,000 tomato plants alone were propagated this year. In addition, tenants get other plants including cucumber, melon, brassicas, lettuce, etc. Part of the land is used as a nursery plot for the propagation of soft fruits—the remain-

der is cropped intensively with market garden crops. The Department consists of glasshouse, Dutch Light Structures, cloches and about five acres of arable land.

Although the Propagating Department is run as one large unit, actually it comprises two separate holdings and my friend and I are in charge of one of about four and a half acres. Our busiest time is from March to June when we propagate the tomato plants. It is necessary to mix and prepare very large quantities of soil which is steam sterilised. Many of the seedlings are first of all raised on the other holding and when ready for transplanting they are brought along to us. By this means fuel and labour are saved. The propagating season is usually finished by the middle to end of June and we then plant up our own glass-houses for a tomato crop.

On the Nursery plot we have young blackcurrant bushes, strawberry plants from which we are taking runners and small stocks of chrysanthemums. Three quarters of an acre is cultivated as a trial plot with Barn type cloches. At a recent demonstration eighty-five growers from round about saw what can be grown with the aid of this cloche.

We all like our work and we all appreciate greatly the help and guidance we get from the officials of the Association.

D. M. Brooks, 44740.
E. Suffolk. V. V. Sawyer, 119268.

KNITTED GLOVE

The following pattern, which comes from Cumberland, has proved very successful. It makes a firm and warm glove, with a better surface for holding tools than the usual knitted glove, and made in scarlet and green it looks very smart.

This pattern is for size 6½, knitted on four No. 13 needles in 4. ply wool—finer if obtainable. Abbreviations as follows:—K.—knit, P.—purl, pl.—plain, r.—row, st.—stitch.

Cast on 56 st. (20, 20 and 16) and K.2 P. 2 for four inches or for required measurement of cuff.

Begin pattern which is formed by two rows all K. and one row K. 1. P. 1.

Right hand glove.

1st r.—K. 3., P. 1., K. 1., P. 1., K. to end of row.

2nd r.—Repeat first r. 3rd r.—K. 1., P. 1., to end. 4th and 5th r's as second

r. 6th r.—as third r. 7th r.—K. 3., P. 1., inc. on next st. (to form thumb) P. 1., K. to end

8th r.—K., keeping the two P. st's with two pl. st's between on first needle. 9th r.—K. 1., P. 1., to end, but keep 2 pl. st between the two P. st. on first needle.

10th r.—K. Make one st. on each of the two pl. st's between P. st on first needle. Repeat these three r's, inc. on first and last pl. st. on thumb until there are 17 st between P. st on first needle. Slip these 17 st for thumb on to a piece of wool.

Cast on three st's after 4th st. on 1st needle (for back of thumb) and continue in pattern until there are five more ridges.

Now divide for fingers.

1st finger—Take 8 st. from each side and put rest of st. on piece of wool. Make 2 st. between the 16 picked up; these 18 st. are the base of 1st finger. K. round on 4 needles in pattern until 16 or 17 ridges according to length desired. To cast off, K. 2 tog. for 1 round. Put all st. on 2 needles and graft as for toe of sock.

2nd finger—Pick up 7 st. from each side, make 2 at each end (18 st. in all) and K. as for 1st finger for approx. 17 or 18 ridges. Cast off.

3rd finger—Repeat from 2nd finger for approx. 15 or 16 ridges. Cast off.

Little finger—Pick up remaining 7 st. on each side. Make 2, (16 st. in all) at side nearest the 3rd finger. K. in pattern for approx. 11 ridges. Cast off.

Thumb—Pick up the 17 st. and a further 3 between 1st and last st., making 20 in all. K. in pat. for approx. 14 ridges. Cast off.

Left hand glove.

Cast on and K. cuff as before. Begin pattern for left-hand glove by P. 1., K. 1. Work up to seventh r. as in right-hand glove.

7th r.—Work to within 5 st. of end of 3rd needle. P. 1. make 1, P. 1., K. 3. Continue thumb as before, and slip the 17 st. on to a piece of wool.

The rest of the glove is knitted as for the right-hand glove, taking care that the st. for the fingers are picked up beginning at the side away from the thumb.

M. Walton, 114189, Warwick, sends us a nice quotation about the L.A. from "The Lion's Roar" which is published by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures Ltd. No less than 22 members of M.G.M. staff have joined the L.A. since war began.

TWO HUNDRED BABIES

The chicks arrived one evening in March, two hundred tiny balls of yellow fluff, looking more like decorations for an Easter egg than potential laying hens. They were cold after their long ride from the hatchery and set up a plaintive peeping. Huddled together round the hover lamps, quivering and swaying on their spindly legs, they seemed such fragile creatures that my rosy visions of a record rearing, faded. Warmth was their chief need at first, and wondering ruefully how many of them would survive the night, I closed the hovers and left.

In the morning I hastened to the Brooder House, anxious to know how they had fared. Although I raised the hover lid as gently as possible there was a scuffle and the occupants scattered in all directions, revealing five pathetic corpses in the peat moss litter. With sinking heart I made an inspection of the other three hovers, collecting twelve dead chicks in all. These I duly cremated in the boiler fire, feeling like a criminal.

Towards midday the chicks became more active, venturing away from the lamps, pecking and even scratching in the litter from sheer instinct. Deciding that food was indicated, I mixed a mash of cod liver oil and meal and endeavoured hopefully to perform the offices of a broody hen. I tapped on the food hoppers and water fountains and sprinkled a little of the meal on the litter to attract their attention. Soon some of the more daring had come forward to eat and drink, and hesitantly at first, with little darting runs, others followed their example during the day. A great many, however, still remained round the lamp without feeding at all, and although each had taken enough nourishment from the egg to last forty-eight hours, I was possessed of unreasoning panic lest they should die of starvation in the night.

Fortunately these fears were groundless, and next morning I found only four casualties, and two whose half closed eyes and laboured breathing indicated that they were "going off." Much to my relief all the others came out to feed later on, and showed less inclination to huddle. At intervals I closed the hovers to prevent any becoming chilled through remaining out too long, and when I lifted the curtains again there was quite a stampede for the food and water. I varied the diet with a little finely ground chick corn but this was not nearly so popular as the mash.

During the next few days they grew apace, their wing and tail feathers became distinguishable, and they lost their first endearing fluffiness. They became stronger and more lively, clamouring for their food when kept waiting, and even clambering all over my hands as I put the food hoppers down. When a week had passed without any further casualties I crossed my fingers and with a sigh of relief acknowledged thankfully that my chicks had passed the most critical stage in their development.

Warwicks.

D. M. Abbott, 104076.

MEMORIES

I remember the very first day. Naturally it was raining—more! the train was two hours overdue; we sat in pools of misty lamplight on our cases for so long that the sympathetic, almost apologetic, smiles froze on our faces. Mackintoshes steamed. Small fretful children wept ceaselessly demanding impossible fruits. There was, I remember, a quiet little woman, very old and very patient who moved slowly up and down the platform for two hours radiating that kind of gentle tolerance which in such circumstances drives one frantic.

I knew every caption of the "Digest" by heart.

So rigid had our minds become in the hours of waiting that we were in York station almost before we knew it, before we had become conscious of the horror, common to all humans, of being touched. Eight in a compartment. Eight drooping, wet, irritable people, their cheeks swollen with weariness, cigarettes listlessly on their lips all secretly summoning up courage enough to produce their parcels of sandwiches. Shortly—inevitably—the child in the corner was sick and in the polite, laboured pandemonium that followed the greatcoat fell off the rack, completely enveloping the still sleeping elderly spinster.

We jerked into drowsiness. The spinster was snoring coyly. A row of dirty boots and shoes pushed out into the middle of the compartment floor, all of them wriggling, tapping, stretching, the very last part of us to fall asleep. Odd how you can form idle opinions about people by watching their boots, or raising the lids a little can surmise about the hands laid carelessly open and curled into cups on the knees. Bright pin-pointed mice from beneath the muddy-black the hands thin and tapered: hands discovered amongst a bowl of daffodils arranged in a sunny window—June sun-



Loading sugar beet in Essex

By courtesy of Southend Standard.

light creeping up the stairs, tea in the garden, newly cut lawns and young people playing tennis. One always imagines by peace-time standards—war!—war!—station canteens—letters home—the difference between sugar-beet and mangold tops—back ache—crowds—the drugged train-wheel monotony of the Leningrad symphony—machines—and boots shuffling up and down corridors, thudding on bare boards, over flagged floors, through muddy gateways, over granary floors. Boots and shoes wriggling in friendly communion on the floor of the compartment.

We jerked through drowsiness to wakefulness. People sitting opposite each other suddenly opened their eyes together and exchanging early morning grimaces and grunts. We nibbled sandwiches self-consciously, our eyes turned fixedly out of the window avoiding the glances of companions, we tucked back our friendly feet and made them behave themselves. There was a yawn of early sunshine and at the next station a boy sold newspapers through the window.

Swing and clatter! Go for a stretch in the corridor nervously clutching one's belongings and swaying back at intervals to peep at the case on the rack. The countryside is deep hollowed in the morning sunshine and—Good Heavens! those people are still leading oats.

Oh! the horror of having no penny for the Ladies' Room! Could one force in a halfpenny and rattle the door? This

is such a lazy station and no one about, it lies open with a soft smile to the blue sky shivering a little in the first heat and from its gates a road escapes down the hill recklessly to lose itself in the maze of low browed houses in such a higgledy-piggledy of a village that one might believe that the houses lifted their creamy skirts and, moving with a crinolined sway, settled down wherever they pleased.

I remember the farm as I first saw it. There were two fir trees and between them, as we climbed the hill, sighed a thin drift of blue wood smoke. I remember the warmth of the tall hedges and the soft red stone of the doorstep; I remember the dog Drum, and John forking corn into the high barn with that easy grace of strength that comes with the rhythmic handling of a pitch-fork; I remember the smell of baking, scrubbed arms and the gleam of the brass—so many confused and happy impressions that now, sitting the eighth in a compartment, my sandwiches on my knee, come back to me.

A splendid leave! The train was two hours overdue and we talked about it in groups on the misty platform; then crowding into the compartment, settled down eagerly and lighting cigarettes, stuck out our boots and told each other who we were, how we lived and what we wanted most in the world, our minds turned inside-out like dusty trouser-pockets.
Devonshire.

E. Burns, 37632.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I was very interested in the article "Farm Secretary" in the January LAND GIRL but I think that the scale of pay suggested is too low. In my view a farm secretary, capable of dealing with correspondence and of doing accounts (including P.A.Y.E.) should earn at the rate of at least £3 a week or £156 per annum. To insure this income, allowance must be made to cover time spent in bicycling from farm to farm and to provide a holiday with pay which the farm secretary would not get in the ordinary way as she is not working for one employer. There is the further consideration that her services will be needed by the smaller farmers who do not employ a full-time secretary and that some of these will employ her for only one half day per week. Her livelihood may therefore depend on 7 or 8 employers and it is possible that at any time she may have one or two half days which she is unable to fill. Further, several weeks might elapse before she could find work on a new farm if one of her employers no longer needed her. To cover these contingencies I suggest that 2/6 an hour is the least that she should charge. Assuming that she were fully employed and worked for 7 hours each week-day and 3 on Saturdays, her takings would be £4 15. 0. a week. I do not believe the margin of £1 15. 0. a week would be more than enough to cover the times which she could not always fill in, to provide for occasional days of sickness, her holidays and Bank holidays when she would earn nothing, not to mention the upkeep of her typewriter and her bicycle.

I should be very interested to know what the writer of the article and farmers think of the scale of payment which I suggest.

It would also be very helpful if any of your readers who have experience of working on an hourly basis for a number of people would tell us what they charged for their services. Teachers going from house to house or from school to school in country districts must have dealt with some of the problems which will face the farm secretary of the future.

Yours truly,
"Office Worker"

Dear Editor,

I have now been over two years in the Land Army on market gardening and many and varied are the jobs I have to perform, ranging from planting all manner of things to felling trees for timber

for new greenhouses. I love them all. There are seven of us land girls here, besides four men, a boy and the Head Gardener himself. We girls get along famously together. If we find ourselves at all bored by any special job (i.e., weeding) we while away the time with a General Knowledge Quiz amongst ourselves and it's really surprising what a wealth of knowledge can be gained from this and how enjoyable it is.

My friend and I have been very fortunate in having a peach of a landlady who considers nothing is too much trouble to do for us. Land Army landladies are helping the war effort in a big way and I'd like to give them a very big thank you.

Two years of land work in all weathers and I've thoroughly enjoyed it and never felt better in my life.
Staffordshire. D. Holdcroft, 88382.

Dear Editor,

We were very interested to read F. Sculthorpe's letter in January's LAND GIRL, but we simply must challenge her statement that her boss is the best man under the sun to work for. Now we are absolutely certain that no other members of the W.L.A. have a boss like ours to work for. It's very nice to read letters from employers praising their L.G.'s, but we think it is time that they themselves had a pat on the back.

G. M. Howell, 11113.

Essex.

J. O. Budge, 108280.

(To the Secretary of the Benevolent Fund)
Dear Madam,

I wish to thank you and the Committee of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund for their generous and very welcome cheque. Such real practical help when needed must surely be the very best way of inspiring one to fresh efforts.

It is now five years and four months

INDUSTRIAL SHOES

For FARMERS & FOOD PRODUCERS

ONE COUPON ONLY.

Wartime Model Shoes as illustrated.
Leather uppers. Beechwood
soles. Keep feet warm.
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BOOKS OF TO-DAY



N. Chenery 114160 (Norfolk) with Duke

since I joined the Land Army, and, although I gave up my career on doing so, I have not once regretted it, but feel more than ever proud to belong to such a body whose patrons are so concerned with our welfare as well as our work.

"Long service volunteer"

Dear Editor,

You may be interested to know that I have been sending THE LAND GIRL to my husband, who is serving overseas, for nearly two years. Thus our magazine has travelled to at least ten different countries. My husband finds it most interesting and when finished with it, passes it on to his co-operator on the wireless truck, whose fiancée is a Land Girl, and to an ex-farmer, who says he's learnt quite a lot from it.

Cornwall.

F. M. Castle, 82081.

HEADQUARTERS' NOTE

Training Courses in Homecraft

Members of the Land Army who are obliged to resign in order to set up homes for their husbands may, if they wish, spend the four weeks following the termination of their final employment in the Land Army at a Training Course in Homecraft which is being financed by the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund to help volunteers embarking on married life to become good housewives.

The Courses are held at Little Bradley Place, West Suffolk, until recently a Land Army Hostel and training is given free. In addition, the Benevolent Fund provides each student with a pocket-money allowance of 10/- a week.

Application should be made in the first instance to the W.L.A. County Secretary.

"Friday Mornings," Harold Nicholson, (Constable 8s. 6d.).

"Mrs. Parkington," Louis Bromfield, (Cassell 10s. 6d.).

It is difficult to be kind to everyone and at the same time amusing. Mr. Nicholson is one of the rare people who can do it, and, like most of our gentler English essayists, he achieves this largely by making himself his own butt. Engaging blunders on his part bring out flashes of personality from the interesting people he has met. His attempts to make munitions reveal to him that his true vocation is that of a saboteur.

"Friday Mornings" reprints Mr. Nicholson's articles in the "Spectator" from the autumn of 1941 to the spring of 1944, but few of them seem at all out of date. We are still discussing the Beveridge proposals, the great Public School squabble, the aptitudes and achievements of women in Parliament and out, what, if anything, can be done with the Germans. In all these vexed questions, an almost universal friendliness, combined with acute penetration in an original blend, comes as a refreshment to vexed minds. Best of all, perhaps, are the character sketches of the notable dead. Who would not want to know more of a person of whom it can be said:—"even when she was known as one of the loveliest women in Europe, there was always something wrong about her nose?" But it turns out that it was an attractive nose, even though not classical. And how much more agreeable to read, "I do not dislike the Americans because they are boastful; I like them because they are warm-hearted; I do not dislike the French because they are bad-tempered; I like them because they are very intelligent," and so on, rather than the other way round! Anyone who has difficulty in taking a sixth year of war amiably will find here both a stimulant and a sedative.

"Mrs. Parkington" has an unusual, but attractive subject. It is the portrait of a rich old lady who has acquired wisdom through a long life of varied experience. Only one member of her family who is worth anything remains—a great grand-daughter—and in her affairs Mrs. Parkington is able to act as a disposing goddess. The family are fashionable New-Yorkers and it is the complications and disasters of people too wealthy to incur the normal troubles of ordinary folk that make the story. Still, we all like to read of doings of rich people who have, or should have, some control over their circumstances; and if, none the less, they make a sad mess of life, that also has its consolations. The heroine, at least, leaves her money where it will help to undo "two great American falsities—that making money is distinguished and important and that motor-cars and lavatories have anything to do with what we call civilisation." Rather sweeping, perhaps, but a wholesome corrective.

M. Jaeger.

SCOTTISH NOTES

NORTH AYRSHIRE.—Two dances were held recently, one by Lochridge Hostel and the other by Beith Club to raise money for the Red Cross P.O.W. Fund and local charities. Both dances were very successful financially as well as socially.

At a rally held in Dalry in Dec, the Earl of Glasgow presented G.S. Badges to 40 members including one four year armband to Jean McClintock. After a very good tea the Craigie Dramatic Club gave a short entertainment. The Dramatic Club paid a second visit to Dalry in Jan. to raise funds for the Church and in Feb. they entertained members of St. Andrews Church, Kilmarnock. Chrissie McRiner, Isa Williamson and Mary Paton have all completed five years in the W.L.A. Isa has been on the same farm all the time.

DEER & TURRIFF.—The very bad conditions of the roads at the beginning of February kept many people from attending a very enjoyable dance in aid of the W. & B. Fund at Lonmay, organised by the Misses Watt, Robertson and Longwill.

DUMFRIES-SHIRE.—A very successful whist drive was run at Millhead Hostel, Kirkmahoe, Dumfries on 18th January in aid of the W. & B. and Local Welfare Funds. All the surrounding farmers were most helpful in supplying prizes and all helped to make the evening a success. Mrs. Crabbe, Duncow Estate, sent some very nice prizes and gave her services in a most charming way. The proceeds from the Drive were £21 11s. 9d., which was divided evenly between the two Funds.

DUNBARTON & RENFREW.—Mangavie W.L.A. Club's first dance in aid of the W. & B. Fund was an outstanding success and realised £16 8s. The girls of the Paisley and District W.L.A. Club were a pleasing sight in their breeches and green pullovers when they acted as hostesses to 30 blimble soldiers from Erskine Hospital. The party was held in the Picture House Cafe. A delightful high tea was provided, followed later by ice cream, chocolates and cigarettes. The girls afterwards entertained the men to recitations, a short sketch, cowboy songs in costume, singing and a violin solo.

WEST FIFE & KINROSS.—Mrs. Craig and the girls of Fernwoodlea Hostel raised £31 2s. for the W. & B. Fund at a very successful concert and dance at Oakley. Great credit is due to the organisers for their hard work. The W. & B. Fund has also received £27 8s. from Miss Betty Elder, the result of a very successful and enjoyable Whist Drive organised by L.G.'s in Markinch area.

KINCARDINESHIRE.—A very successful and enjoyable dance, organised by Miss Isobel Jeffrey, was held in Marykirk Hall on 9th Feb. The W. & B. Fund benefits by £18 4s. 1d.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—Approximately 30 W.L.A. members in Eastern Area were guests at the S.W. R.I. Federation annual party on 17th Feb. They were welcomed by Miss Stewart, President of the Federation in the Stewartry, in the presence of a large attendance of Institute Members. In a very happy and friendly atmosphere games and dancing were enjoyed and an entertainment was given by both Institute and W.L.A. Members. The W.L.A. soloist was Josephine Bosas with Jinty Waddell as accompanist. A feature was the originality of the games, some of which were new to many of the members present. Mrs. Grierson, Convener of W.L.A., introduced Mrs. Wilson, Drum, Beeswing, who congratulated the girls on the work they had done in a time of urgent necessity. She thought that girls who had joined last year deserved a special word of recommendation for having "stuck it"—they did not yet have the knowledge of the pleasures of the land under good weather conditions. It could be said that it had been the worst year for weather that many people born on the land had experienced. She handed

badges to girls with 4½, 3½, 3, 2, 1½ years' and 6 months' service. Mrs. Grierson thanked the S.W.R.I. Members for inviting the girls and for allowing them to share such splendid entertainment as they had enjoyed. She conveyed the thanks not only of the W.L.A. members, but of the W.L.A. Committee, for it gave them a happy opportunity of making contact with the girls in the farther end of the County.

NAIRN.—The girls of the Nairn Hostel held a most successful dance in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund and raised the magnificent sum of £103. It was this contribution to the Fund which carried it over the initial target of £10,000. It also gave Nairn first place in the list of county donations with £3 14s. 7½d. as the average contribution per head.

W. & B. FUND.—Nairnshire with only 63 girls is highly congratulated in reaching the splendid average of £3 14s. 7½d per girl, and for bringing the Fund over the £10,000 mark. The following counties have passed the £2 per head average:—East Fife—£2 9s. 9d., Stirling & Clackmannan £2 8s. 8d., Aberdeen & Ellon £2 6s. 6½d., Morayshire £2 0s. 4d. The sale of Christmas cards was an outstanding success, the Fund benefiting by £584 4s. 6d. The Standing Committee are deeply grateful for the support given by the girls in this venture.

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

The cost of advertisements in this column is 2d. a word.

Advertisements quoting a price are accepted only on the understanding that if a would-be buyer sends cash with her order, she is at liberty to return the goods and will then receive her cash back, less cost of postage.

FOR SALE.—Small ladies coral angora frock £1, embroidered housecoat 15s., Vyella blouse 10s. 6d. Spiers, 7, Blenheim Terrace, Bovey Tracey, Devon.

FOR SALE.—Riding jacket, fawn herringbone tweed, good condition. Bust 34-35 ins. 30s. 35952. c/o Rudloe Stables, Box, Wilts.

FOR SALE.—Two pairs Utility Corsets, size 32, with suspenders. As new. 8s. pair. Winder, Wellbrook, Abbeystead, Lancaster.

WANTED.—Ladies riding jacket, 36 in. bust, brown or fawn. Bennett, 12, Lancaster Road, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs.

WANTED.—Pair brown Jodhpur boots, size 5 or 6. Boynton, Old Sulehay Lodge, Wansford, Peterborough.

WANTED.—Pair ladies Jodhpur boots, size 5, 73176. P.O. Box 49, Kirby Corner, Coventry.

WANTED.—Tennis shoes, size 4-5; also wire hairbrush. Groves, 6 Machon Bank, Sheffield 7.

WANTED.—Jodhpurs, any colour; waist 26-28 ins., length waist-ankle 40 ins. Kimble, 46, King George Avenue, Walton-on-Thames.

WANTED.—Brown Jodhpur boots, size 3½ or 4, good condition. Write stating price, etc., to Cook, Kithurst Lane, Storrington, Sussex.

WANTED.—Riding breeches, good condition, hips 40 ins. waist 28 ins.—Lees, Pitney Hill, Pitney, Nr. Taunton, Somerset.

WANTED.—Ladies brown riding boots, 7 or 8, also ladies skating boots 7.—Woolmer, 12, Manor Grove, Beckenham, Kent.

WANTED.—Book "Rich in my Heritage" Anne Blackmore. Full price paid. Peacock, Holsworthy, Oldway, Bishopston, Swansea.

WANTED.—For soldier overseas, sound "lilo" air-bed. Sutton, 32, Broadstone Avenue, Walsall.

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WOMENS' TIMBER CORPS

In several Divisions, members have formed knitting parties to make elastoplast mittens for the Merchant Navy Comforts Fund. These mittens are a real boon to the men in the "Little Ships," and it is proposed to hold an inter-divisional competition throughout England, Wales and Scotland to see which Division can make the top score. Material and knitting instructions can be obtained through Welfare Officers.

The Divisions who organised sales of toys at Christmas time have sent in glowing accounts of successful sales. The many beautiful dolls made by members and their friends were specially commended and aroused great admiration among their prospective owners.

Some extremely interesting lectures on the trees of Great Britain and the Empire have been given by the founder of the Society for Men of the Trees. These lectures illustrated by many fascinating tree-lore legends of other lands, have had appreciative audiences.

Another series of lectures on timber given recently has also proved very popular.

COUNTY NEWS

MON.—We regret to announce a tragic accident which resulted in the death of one of our tractor drivers Miss I. Jones of Ebbw Vale, who had been a faithful member of the W.L.A. for nearly three years. Twenty of her fellow Land Girls were present at the funeral. We offer her parents our deepest sympathy in a loss in which we too share. At the same time Miss B. Carter, 54480, received head and leg injuries, but she has now been discharged from hospital.

A most successful C.E.M.A. concert is at present touring our hostels. An Agricultural and Gen. Knowledge Bee was held at Llangattock Manor Hostel. Congratulations to the L.G.'s who beat the opposing Y.F.C. team by 19½ points to 13½. A new club has been formed at Usk. Members plan to study French and music among other things and they have already raised £21 for club funds with a Xmas Bazaar. They have also formed a War Savings Group and have issued a challenge to a similar Group at Mount Ballan. Llanishen Hostel Drama Club has entered the Monmouthshire R.C.C. Drama Festival; we wish them every success. Other hostels are going ahead with rehearsal for our own Drama Festival. This month

brings another amusing number of the Mount Ballan "Diary."

NORFOLK.—A Milking Competition has been arranged by the W.A.C. open to all men and women in the County engaged on milking. Much interest is being taken in the event, and a large number of entries are expected from the L.A. The girls at The Shooting Box gave a party shortly after Christmas to local children and in return the members of the W.I. are entertaining our volunteers to tea and a social evening on Mar. 23rd. Barton Bendish Hostel held a Dance with an American band and raised over £6 for the Benevolent Fund and the Sunshine Home for Blind Babies. £60 was the grand total for the Benevolent Fund raised by a Whist Drive and Auction at Long Stratton organised by Mrs. Alexander and volunteers, particularly D. Liddament and M. Alexander, who in the worst weather of the winter collected articles for the sale. Mrs. Everett, L.R., the Warden and girls at The Shooting Box raffled a turkey and held a Dance, and sent a cheque for £54 15s. to the Norfolk War Charities for the Benevolent Fund. An interesting show of M. of I. films was held at the Anglo-American Club, Attleborough on Feb. 26th.

NORTHUMBERLAND.—had its share of the universal frosts and blizzards which have interfered with land work since the New Year; but other activities continued. The Scottish South African Disease, Elspeth Douglas Reid's third visit proved very popular. Several hostels have begun rehearsals for the Drama Festival which will be held on April 14th at The Little Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne at 4.30 p.m. The Adjudicator will be Miss Susan Pearson of King's College, Newcastle. Proceeds will go to the Benevolent Fund and tickets are obtainable from Mrs. Ord, Ballachan, Rothbury from March 5th onwards, price 2s. 6d. numbered and reserved. Proficiency Tests are to take place as follows, provided sufficient entries are received:—Poultry Keeping and Tractor Driving, on May 4th at West Larmouth, Cornhill-on-Tweed. Milking and Dairywork on May 28th at Nafferton Farm, Prudhoe. Gardening, Field Work and General Farm Work on June 9th at Cockle Park, Morpeth. W.L.A. Members who have not yet entered for any Proficiency Test should consider entering for one of the above and applications must be received at the County Office by April 1st.

NOTTS.—Nottinghamshire was able to send in a cheque for £1,050 for the Benevolent Fund this



M. Parry, 100657, a Red Cross Queen in Denbighshire

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month. £137 was raised by the girls working on private farms at Collingham, by a Whist Drive and Dance at Christmas time, as well as other splendid amounts raised by girls in different parts of the country. As a result of this activity much interest has been aroused and in consequence more requests than usual for help from the fund have been received from past and present members of the W.L.A. A very successful dancing class has been started at Hawksworth Hostel, and we hope to start them in some of the other hostels soon. A most delightful farewell party was recently given at Farndon Hostel by the Forewoman, Miss Harman, who was leaving to marry a local farmer. The girls and staff at the Hostel gave her a very nice tea and dining service and the local farmers showed their appreciation by a handsome cheque. L.S.'s subsequently formed a guard of honour at her wedding.

OXON.—Although some of our winter activities have been curtailed by the severity of the weather, we have been able to enjoy many interesting lectures, concerts and film shows. A C.E.M.A. tour proved that Classical Music can find an appreciative audience in the W.L.A. Make-do-and-Mend Courses have been very popular throughout the season, and a solution to the Gift problem has often been found in these classes. A special event recently was a Field Work Proficiency Test for Forewomen. A very high standard was reached and a special achievement was that made by Miss H. Wakefield, 33851, of Woodstock Hostel—99 per cent. Great was our joy when our County Secretary, Miss Rowley, returned after a serious illness; but this was quickly overshadowed by Miss Greaves, Asst. Secretary, leaving the County to take up her appointment as County Secretary for Durham—lucky Durham!

PEMBS.—We should like to congratulate E. Woosely, a volunteer employed by the W.A.E.C. at Priskilly Hostel, who has vaccinated over thirty pedigree lambs born on the farm attached to the hostel.

SOMERSET.—A delightful party was given by Miss Hincks on Jan. 9th to members in the Taunton area. A pre-war tea was followed by entertainment from the R.A.F., and a Bring and Buy Sale (bringing in £9) completed the programme. Recruits are told they must be prepared for all weathers, but parts of Jan. were beyond a joke for everyone. Great credit is due to those members who carried out their daily routine undaunted. Bishops Lydeard's dance, postponed from the night of Somerset's best blizzard, raised £30. Other Ben. Fund Dances have been held at West Pennard, Old Cleeve, Backwell, Brent Knoll and Frome. Asham House sponsored a joint dance with the Y.F.C. at Wellington. Westbury-sub-Mendip and Ston Easton contributed splendidly with a whist drive and social. Stogumber Hostel's Children's party will long be remembered in the village and brought the volunteers a fan mail in return for their kindness. Cookery Classes already flourishing in the West have spread to Stoke under Ham Hostel. Asham House has started Classes in Glove making. Volunteers at the Tractor Depot are to be congratulated on starting a new club at Bruton in the Y.M.C.A. Room.

E. SUFFOLK.—Everything seems overshadowed at the time of writing these notes by our deep regret at the resignation of our Honorary Director, and by our anxiety as to the post-war position of Land Girls all over the country. We are, however, looking forward to two forthcoming events of a cheerful nature, our final Variety Concert in Ipswich in aid of the Benevolent Fund (the last of a series of these Concerts given in different parts of the county) and our Rally in Ipswich on April 7th with a grand march through the town. Congratulations to Henstead and Freston hostels who have got the highest totals in the two first periods in the inter-hostel three-monthly War Savings Competition, with the splendid averages per

head per week of 10s. 6d. and 8s. 2d. respectively. Members of Kalsale Club got up a very amusing pantomime in this village on Jan 11th. The proceeds of £15 were given to the Benevolent Fund. Miss B. Hancock, who was a professional piano teacher, now employed as a gardener at Shelley Hall Hostel, has kindly agreed to give lessons to fellow Landgirls and already has six promising pupils. We were very glad to welcome Mrs. Ball of "The Farmer and Stock-Breeder," who visited the cowsheds and stock yards attached to Sutton Hoo Hostel, and wrote an account for her paper of the work there which is all carried out by five L.G.'s with Miss Maxine Lewis acting as forewoman.

W. SUFFOLK.—very much regrets the fatal accident, which occurred at Lakenheath and resulted in the death of Miss J. Hart, W.L.A., 138799. We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to her relatives and friends.

Proficiency tests in milking, general farm and field work have recently taken place, and we hope this year to have more entries and if possible a higher percentage of passes. An analysis of results up to the end of 1944 show 126 entries; 93 volunteers passed, 20 gained distinction and only 13 failed. The Lark Club, which is our most recent one, has had two very successful social evenings in Bury St. Edmund's and they are now hoping to run these entertainments once a month. We are very grateful to Miss Luke for putting a room in her beautiful house at the disposal of W.L.A. in the West Stow and Wordwell area.

All sorts of entertainments are being organised in aid of our County Welfare Fund. Our winter campaign continues until Easter.

SURREY.—W.L.A. Clubs have been very active this winter and we are glad to be able to welcome two newcomers—Dorking and Chiddingfold. Dorking has had several interesting lectures and entertained wounded soldiers to a Christmas Party. Chiddingfold meets once a week. Farnham Club which started in 1941 and is therefore the oldest in the County, had 12 W.E.A. Lectures on the U.S.A. and Russia which have been well attended, and the Club is to be congratulated on its vitality. The Chertsey Club has had rather a trying time, having been homeless for some weeks but a good number turned out to hear Mrs. Wakefield of the International Wool Secretariat give a talk on Wool. West End and Bisley Club is having classes in Handicraft and it is hoped to make occupational parcels for P.O.W. The Grasshoppers Club has spent much time producing a "Panto Sketch" written by P. Sanwell one of its members and produced before an enthusiastic audience in Jan. At Lingfield the Club meets monthly and on one occasion, Mrs. Hellard, the E. Sussex Co. Organiser kindly gave the members a very interesting talk on Nigeria. The Co. Secretary has been touring the Clubs and hopes to visit those she has not yet had the pleasure of meeting, in the very near future. Mention must be made of the Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk" produced by Miss de Bunsen our Co. Organiser, and played by the Volunteers of Dial House Hostel to several Hospitals with great success. The Surrey W.A.E.C. is organising Clean Milk Contests throughout the County.

E. SUSSEX.—We regret to have to say 'Good-bye' to our Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Davies, who has found it necessary to resign to run her home, but are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Fletcher, in her place.

A Y.F.C. has been started in Hartfield, meeting every Tues. night, and we are sure the attendance of L.G.'s will be good. A Discussion Group has also been formed at Battle, by the W.A.C. and the W.L.A. This is held once a month, and some interesting discussions have already taken place. A most successful concert and play was given by L.A. and Forestry girls at Battle, in Jan. Over £18 was raised for the Benevolent Fund. 12 girls attended a course of Lectures and practical dem-

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Thorpe Audlin Hostel (Yorks W. R.) who gained 100 per cent. in a W.A.E.C. good time-keeping Hostel Competition. Brooklands (Selby) and Sherburn-in-Elmet were equally successful.

onstrations in Milking and Dairy work at Lewes and Plumpton Training College, to prepare them for their Proficiency Test, which will be held as soon as possible. Congratulations to the nine girls who volunteered for Blood Transfusion in Lewes.

W. SUSSEX.—Plough Sunday was celebrated in many churches, and at Chichester Cathedral the L.A. took a prominent part in providing a guard of honour for the plough. Miss H. Newmarch took part in the ceremony of asking the Bishop to bless the Plough. A series of three talks entitled "You and the Post-war World" has been brilliantly begun at Chichester and Horsham by Dr. Ina Russell of UNNRA. Worthing is also having a series of Talks on different aspects of the Post-war World. New Clubs have been formed at Rusey and Harting; Arundel Club made over £19 for the Benevolent Fund with a Dance on an exceptionally snowy night, and Compton over £26 for the County Welfare Fund and the Merchant Navy Comforts Fund with a sale. Another delightful C.E.M.A. tour visited five centres in early February when Barbara Kerslake (piano) Lena Tanner (violin) Martin Lovett (cello) and Helena Wolska, the ballerina enchanted audiences with their playing and dancing. Throughout Jan. there was of course a spate of Christmas parties and before Christmas, several clubs went carol singing; thirty Arundel members sang all over the town including the Castle and raised over £24 in aid of the P.O.W. Midhurst has produced a brilliant pantomime "Cinderella" which raised £54 half for the P.O.W., and half for the County Welfare Fund.

N. WALES.—Mrs. Grace's visit to North Wales gave us all much pleasure and her address to the Wardens' Conference left us stimulated and much encouraged; we were very pleased to have with us on the same occasion Mrs. Wynne Finch, Mrs. Mansell and Mrs. D'Arcy from Denbighshire, Mrs. Coombs and Mrs. Podger whose lectures on health to our hostels gave timely information and proved universally popular. We have been entertained and educated very pleasantly by C.E.M.A.; E.N. S.A.; and the M.O.I. while the Handicraft shown at the Hostels' Conference testified to the good use of our leisure hours.

We welcome Miss Snell, our new Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Burke who joins the staff at Valley.

WARWICKS.—On Jan. 25th we had the honour of seeing Mrs. Jenkins, C.B.E., when she paid a very welcome visit to Warwickshire. After meeting members of the staff at the County Office in Leamington Spa, Mrs. Jenkins attended a luncheon party given in Coventry by our Chairman, Mrs. Fielden. Here, Mrs. Jenkins presented Four Year Armlets to about twenty L.A. members and then received Warwickshire's Benevolent Fund cheque which was presented to her by D. Barnett, W.L.A. She congratulated the county on raising the handsome total of £4,750 by its appeal and thanked all those who had helped. Hearty votes of thanks were proposed by Mr. Hughes, chairman of the W.A.E.C. and G. Wildman, W.L.A., to Mrs. Jenkins and to Mrs. Fielden, and then the whole party went on to the Pantomime at Coventry Hippodrome at Mrs. Fielden's invitation.

Plans are now being made in the county to hold another series of Proficiency Tests, and the two courses of Dairy lectures which have already started are being well attended.

WORCS.—As the Anglo-American discussion group at Upton-on-Severn has proved such a success, the British Council has arranged another series in the North of the county. These discussions take place at the Welcome Club, Kidderminster on Mon. evenings, and L.G.'s are playing a prominent part in the debates. Spring Hill Private hostel were given a sumptuous dinner one night followed by an E.N.S.A. concert. The employer very kindly provided this treat and the Co. Secretary was invited to join in the festivities. This hostel also gave a Fancy Dress dance on Valentine's Day and the costumes reminded one of peaceful days.

Diddington House, Bredon, gave a wonderful party for 120 children in the village hall. After tea, the children were entertained by a conjuror and two members of the U.S.A. provided music. Each child went home happily with an apple and a three-penny piece. The County Office arranged a dance in the Guildhall, Worcester, in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Funds. This was a great success, and over £80 was raised from one evening's enjoyment.

YORKS. E. R.—All the Hostels had Christmas parties and thanks are due to the Wardens for providing such excellent refreshments for these entertainments. The result of the raffle for Miss Sackville West's signed copy of "The Women's

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Land Army" was £18 18s; it was won by Mrs. Wells of Danthorpe. £82 7s. 6d. has been raised for the Benevolent Fund in the last two months. A collection of £12 16s. was made in the Derwent area. Driffield Hostel made £2 on their 2nd. birthday anniversary dance. A dance at Bishop Wilton organised by K. Sleightholme and S. Moore raised £11 15s. Alice Edwards organised a dance at Dunsweil bringing in £11 5s. 6d. Peggy Kilvington raised £15 5s. with a whist drive and dance at Shiptonthorpe. Mary Hall was responsible for organising a concert at Rudston raising £10 5s. Proficiency tests for Committee girls in W.A.E.C. employment for threshing and field work have been in progress during January and February. 82 girls have entered and so far no failures; the judges were very pleased with the high standard of work, as there are a good proportion of girls who have gained distinction.

YORKS. N. R.—Jan. and Feb. have been months of activity for the £1,000 drive for the Benevolent and Welfare Funds. At the date of going to press the exact result is not known, nor which hostel, group and individual girl have won the prizes offered to those who raise the most money. Not only have the W.L.A. members been busy but also the office staff whose last effort was the "Bring and Buy" sale held on Feb. 23rd. Sewing parties have been held during the last few months in the office twice a week after working hours and the handicraft stall at the Sale reflected all the hard work that had been put in at these sewing parties. The exact total for the sale is not yet known but it will be well over £100 making the office staff's contribution towards the drive over £220. "Bring and Buy" sales, dances, whist drives, etc., have also been organised at all hostels in aid of the Funds; at Stockton-on-Forest Hostel "Bring and Buy" sale one of the gifts was a calf kindly given by one of the local farmers.

YORKS. W. R.—Our Benevolent Fund Drive has been in full swing during the last few weeks and money raising efforts are being held in nearly every Area. Monies already received from the various Areas include, Bradford £80; Ripon £77; Wakefield £50; Huddersfield £20 and Holden Clough Hostel £15. The Drive ends with a Dance organised by the Office Staff in Leeds on the 28th Feb., and we are looking forward to a most successful evening. Four excellent shows were staged on the 17th Feb. in Leeds, when teams from Doncaster and Brooklands Hostel, and Huddersfield and Tadcaster Club, competed against each other in an inter Hostel/Club competition to find the Hostel or Club who could put on the best 'Half Hour's Entertainment'. There was much talent and originality shown, and Huddersfield Club won the most points with Doncaster Hostel a close second. Our sympathy is extended to Alma Malcolm, 130427, Weeton Hostel who had her leg amputated in a serious threshing accident, but she is recovering splendidly and we send her our best wishes for the future.

BENEVOLENT FUND

On February 28th the Fund totalled £122.471. The monthly total was £2,362. **WARWICKS** still has the highest total of £7,292 18s. 9d., and **LANCS** the highest monthly total of £250.

Arriving too late for mention last month the W.T.C.'s further £1,000 brings their splendid total to well over £5,100. **LINDSEY**, too, sent us £800 last month from their County Drive.

LANCS £250 came largely from dances organised by volunteers, **NORFOLK** sent nearly £150. **PEMBROKE** a further £100 from their Flag Day, £113 was received from **WORCS**, and £100 each from **CORNWALL** and **NOTTS**. The outstanding entertainment of the month was Mrs. Monckton's Concert in **W. KENT** which totalled over £72. Collections were taken at Brains Trusts held in **GLOS.** and **LEICESTER**, over £54 being raised at the latter.

STOP PRESS.—£114 just received from **Somerset**.

County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em- ployed
	£.	s.	d.	
Kent	6888	15	3	3762
Essex	5285	4	5	3007
Surrey	4536	9	3	2094
Hants	2211	12	11	1880
Yorks, W.R.	1229	6	5	1834
Herts	4045	17	9	1777
Leics. 1538	1913	2	11	1776
Rut. 238				
E. Sussex ..	3135	6	4	1763
Northants. ..	2515	12	8	1705
Somerset	2010	16	4	1604
Devon	3238	11	10	1597
Worcs.	2532	9	11	1540
Bucks	4545	12	1	1466
W. Sussex ..	3478	6	1	1454
Warwickshire ..	7292	18	9	1433
Norfolk	3381	13	4	1426
Cheshire	1634	17	1	1361
Cornwall	1091	1	3	1302
Lancs.	2406	13	3	1302
Wilts.	1468	4	4	1302
North'd	1803	7	0	1206
Gloucester ..	1952	8	1	1201
Notts	1647	3	0	1153
Hunts 254	3503	4	5	1086
Cambs 495				
Ely 337				
Yorks, N.R.	528	3	5	1074
Berks.	1398	13	11	1062
E. Suffolk ..	2003	12	3	973
Beds.	983	17	5	966
Oxon.	3615	0	5	908
Salop	1637	14	4	903
Yorks, E.R.	425	0	10	894
Durham	1659	12	4	851
Staffs.	1332	6	2	780
Cumbs & West'd	650	3	9	775
Dorset	1184	4	8	765
Lincs—Kesteven	1312	2	3	747
Glamorgan ..	963	14	6	684
Hereford	1252	18	11	640
Monmouth ..	695	13	1	586
W. Suffolk ..	1444	14	6	567
Lincs—Lindsey	1400	16	0	559
Lincs—Holland	987	8	4	550
Denbighshire ..	636	7	11	540
Flints.	588	15	1	532
London & Middx.	936	16	1	513
Derbyshire ..	1252	14	5	510
N. Wales	1457	17	11	505
Pembroke	1075	5	2	364
Cards & Carms.	576	15	5	306
Isle of Wight ..	173	15	5	294
Brecon & Radnor	347	12	0	256
Montgomeryshire	308	18	8	239
W.T.C.	5168	19	1	2787

On 27th February, 1945 the total number of volunteers in employment was 61,189

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