



No. 1, Volume 6.

APRIL, 1945

Price 3d.

## REWARDS AND VALUES

THE Government's pronouncement that the W.L.A. would be <sup>of</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>1945</sup> from all post-war financial benefits granted to other war Services received with strong protest throughout the country. Nearly 200 Members of Parliament have signed their names in support of one or other of the three Motions put down by Mrs. Cazalet Keir, Mrs. Mavis Tate and Sir George Courthope. The Prime Minister has been asked to receive a deputation of Members representing all three political parties and there is to be a debate in the House of Commons.

If, nevertheless, the Land Army does not receive the practical reward it has earned there will be many members and officials whose natural impulse will be to throw down their spades and ploughs, their pens and typewriters. Personally satisfactory as such action would be, it cannot be recommended. Lady Denman's resignation has done all that was necessary to rouse public opinion and record a protest on behalf of the W.L.A. If the rest of us went, the Government would not suffer but the country would. It would be the people we have helped to feed and the babies for whom we have helped to produce milk who would go short.

Even if the war against Germany ends before these words are in print, it will not lessen the need for the bread without which man cannot live. For Europe the threat of starvation looms dangerously and the need for the Land Army's work will be every bit as urgent, perhaps even more urgent, when Germany's surrender throws upon the Allies the whole responsibility for feeding Europe.

The high place the W.L.A. has won in the opinion of the people of Britain has been demonstrated by the public sympathy shewn for its cause. Neither resentment at unjust treatment nor the elation of victory must tempt members of the Land Army to do anything which will lower that reputation, or imperil the production of food for lack of which even one man, woman or child might starve.

M. A. P.



## AMERICAN IMPRESSIONS

*Miss Janet Strang, author of this article, is Chief Instructress at Northamptonshire Institute of Agriculture, Moulton. She was the only woman member of a party of four British agriculturists who paid an official visit to North America recently.*

While I was in America recently, I had an opportunity of visiting a great many farms and rural homes, and Land Girls may be interested to know a little about conditions there. America is of course an enormous country and there is a great deal of it which I didn't see, so anything I write applies only to the part which I visited and should not be taken as typical of the country as a whole. My trip took me mainly to the New England States which are on the Eastern seaboard, although I went also to New York State and Ohio in the Middle West. In addition, I spent a short time in Canada. I was fortunate in being able to see New England in the "fall." It is a country with great natural beauty, with its mountains, its lakes and its woods. I do not know whether it is the soil or whether it is the weather which gives the maple and oak trees their marvellous colourings, but they are certainly more vivid than anything I have ever seen. Apart from its beauty, however, the sugar maple has quite an important economic value as a source of sugar. The maple sugar industry means a great deal to many of the people in that area. The trees are tapped in the early part of the year, and the sap which is collected from them is converted into maple syrup and maple sugar. On one small farm the syrup from the trees in an uncleared part of woodland had been sold last year for 1,000 dollars—or about £250. Many country people, who may not be farmers, make maple sugar. They may tap trees in their gardens or on the village common. Maple syrup is used in all sorts of ways but it is very popular served with hot girdle cakes for breakfast.

Most of the farms in the New England States which I saw were comparatively small—the average would not be more than 100—150 acres. Farmers there seemed to prefer to buy their farms, mainly I think because they haven't security of tenure, as tenants have in this country. This didn't mean that the farmers were necessarily wealthier, as their farms were often mortgaged through the banks. A farmer with very little capital seemed to be able to raise a mortgage but he'd probably spend the rest of his life trying to pay it back. Most of the farms were family farms with very little hired labour except perhaps for seasonal

work, and the farmers seemed to do a great deal of the manual work themselves. In other words, they were what the Americans called "dirt-boot" farmers.

In New England, dairying and poultry-keeping appeared to be the most important branches of farming, although on suitable soils a great variety of fruit was grown and also tobacco. The weather there is very cold in winter, so cold that most kinds of livestock have to be kept indoors during the winter months. Poultry are kept in multideck houses, with 2 or 3 or even 4 storeys. These houses are fitted with all sorts of labour saving devices. They usually have droppings-pits instead of droppings boards, and the pits are not cleaned out more often than once a month. Water is laid on to the houses and they have a continuous drip feed system, and this saves carrying water. They have elevators for taking the food to the different floors, and overhead conveyors to carry it to each compartment. Usually there is a master lever for opening and shutting the windows.

With these labour saving devices one man is able to look after 2,000 to 3,000 birds. I am not suggesting that this system of housing is one to copy in this country. I imagine that it has been developed because it is necessary in that climate to keep stock indoors in winter. In my opinion, however, where weather conditions permit, it is better to allow not only breeding stock, but potential breeders access to an outside run.

The most popular breed of dairy cattle in the States is the Holstein or Friesian, although there are also numerous Guernseys, Jerseys and Ayrshires. Most of the dairy herds were tuberculin tested and many were carefully bred pedigree herds. Milking is largely done by machine and the milking machines are of very similar makes to those in this country. Much importance is attached to the immediate cooling of milk, after it is removed from the cowshed. Every farm I visited had an efficient water cooler, but the flat type of cooler with which we are familiar in this country was not in general use. Where electricity was available, the usual arrangement was to have an electrically cooled tank fitted with a lid and containing water. The milk was strained



into the churns and the churns were placed in the tank. By this arrangement, the milk was not only cooled quickly, but was kept at a low temperature until it was collected.

The farm buildings are very carefully arranged to save labour, and to provide reasonably comfortable conditions for the workers. There is usually a hay loft above the cowshed and a silo at one end of it. Every cowshed I saw had a feeding passage in front of the cows, in fact feeding passages were considered essential in all buildings used to house stock.

Their method of feeding cows was a little different from ours. The bulky part of the ration generally consisted of hay or lucerne and silage. Roots are seldom grown. The silage is made from maize but the maize, although not completely ripened, is usually allowed to get to the cob stage before being cut.

The shortage of domestic help in the States, not only now but in pre-war days, has resulted in a great deal of attention being paid to labour saving arrangements in the home. Electricity, although not available on all the more remote farms, is pretty generally available in most of the rural areas and is used to run many of the labour saving gadgets in the home. Most housewives would aim at having an electric cooker, washing machine, iron, vacuum cleaner and refrigerator. Owing to their warmer summers, a refrigerator is looked upon as a necessity and it certainly ensures much better keeping quality in the case of perishable foods.

Community Ice locker plants are becoming very popular, and seemed to me one of the things well worth copying in this country. There are some 4,500 of these plants now running in the States. At a cost of £3 to £4 per year a housewife can rent her own compartment at a central plant. She is provided with a key for her locker and is the only person who has access to it. Foods can be put into ice storage at any season of the year when these particular foods happen to be plentiful and used later to help out a "leaner" period. They need no special preparation apart from wrapping or putting in a proper container. Foods like strawberries, raspberries, plums, asparagus, beans and peas thereby become available at any season of the year and chickens can be killed during the spring and summer for winter use. One plant which I saw had a machine which was used for shelling peas prior to putting them into the lockers. At another the owner had arrangements for slaughtering animals and dressing the carcasses. For this ser-

vice there was of course an extra charge, but farmers would take their own pigs, sheep and even cattle, to be slaughtered and dressed. They would take away the joints which they wanted for their immediate needs and put the rest in cold storage, to be drawn upon as required.

These ice locker plants should not be confused with the ordinary household refrigerator. The latter is usually run at a temperature of about 40 degrees Far. and while most useful in helping to keep perishable materials temporarily fresh, it will not preserve them indefinitely. The ice locker plants are usually run at 0 degrees Far. (32 degrees below freezing point) and this low temperature, coupled with quick freezing when put into the locker, ensures that most foods will keep for more or less indefinite periods. It is true that there are some private home-freezing plants in use in the States and they are ideal, but their cost of running puts them beyond the reach of the average householder. It costs very considerably more to run a freezing plant at a temperature of 0 degrees Far. than it does to run a "frig" at 40 degrees Far. Incidentally, it is claimed that food stored in a freezing plant has a higher nutritional value than food which is preserved by canning or bottling. However, canning (which really means bottling) is done by most housewives and I don't remember visiting a single rural home without seeing a considerable quantity of bottled fruit and vegetables—in some households as many as 200—300 bottles.

And now, although I have been writing about my American impressions, I cannot finish an article for "The Land Girl" without mention of the great tribute which was paid by the Americans and Canadians to the work of our Women's Land Army in this country.

### *Special Announcement*

#### **POST-WAR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

The W.F.G.A. has 40 years experience in placing women in skilled jobs on the land and advising them on training facilities.

Interviews daily 11—12.30 and 2.30—4.

#### **THE WOMEN'S FARM & GARDEN ASSOCIATION**

Courtauld House, Byng Place, W.C.1 • Eus. 3651

Membership 10/- a year including regular news sheets





Violet Turpin, W.L.A. 57886, has been in the Land Army for three and a quarter years and she has been all this time on one farm in Dorset, where she trained in General Farm work and as a Shepherdess. Before the war she was in domestic service but she seems to prefer sheep and actually "knows the ewes by their faces," surely a sign of great powers of discrimination.

Miss Turpin works with a pedigree flock of 300 Hampshire Down ewes. She can pitch hurdles and work a sheep dog—in fact, during the summer when she takes the sheep on the downs she works the dog by herself. Like many of us she likes the spring best when the young lambs are growing and she has the necessary patience for dealing with their suckling problems.

During the heavy snows and bitter frosts of last January, the Head Shepherd fell ill and Miss Turpin had full responsibility for the whole flock during the day. She kept the lambing yards in order and about 70 lambs were born while she was in sole charge. No wonder her employers write that "her knowledge, skill and experience make her work of real value" and that when the shepherd fell ill "we knew the sheep would be well cared for—Shepherding is lonely work and often very cold. We do appreciate the good work being done by this volunteer of the Women's Land Army."

Violet Turpin is an example of many volunteers who have taken on an entirely strange job, stuck to it until they have become really proficient and so won the respect and gratitude of the employers to whom they have made themselves invaluable.

### SHEEP

Up on the hillside  
The gorse is flowering.  
The sheep leave traces of their shaggy  
coat  
Upon the prickly plant.  
At my approach they hide,  
Timidly cowering  
Within a dried-up moat,  
Bleating a mournful chant.

E. Kent.

B. M. Kidd, 46423.

Members of the W.L.A. will be sorry to hear that Lady Denman had to have an operation on March 19th. They will, however, be glad to know that she is making an excellent recovery and hopes to be perfectly fit again after a few weeks' rest.

Miss C. Wood, Girls Training Corps, 37, Topham Square, Tottenham, London, N.17, would like to correspond with a Land Army Volunteer working in a lonely district.



## IMPRESSIONS OF WINTER

One's first impressions are of wrestling hopelessly with inanimate objects far more vengeful than any live enemies; of winds cutting ruthlessly through clothes, and bullying straw and hay into wild involuntary dances about the yard; of cold hands curled up inside damp woollen gloves, wet breeches clinging to the knees, and icy iron handles of an unbelievably heavy dung-barrow. There are nightmare thoughts every evening of the next morning; six o'clock in a strange cold dairy or a long cow shed full of shifting unknown cows; thoughts of tough great udders full of unwilling milk; of legs ready to strike wickedly, and of the grotesquely triumphant sound of a kicked bucket clanging on a concrete floor. The miserable feeling of being dung-spattered and tired, of dragging the shovel to the wall, and propping it up, of it falling to the ground, and of having to prop it up again before plodding the long mile home.

But gradually the broom begins to lose weight and become an active and indispensable ally, and there is ease and a vigorous pleasure in handling the fork, shovel, and hay-knife, while even a bitter wind or driving rain makes one realise with a sense of exhilaration the heat and strength in one's body.

Sometimes there is moonlight at six o'clock; the church windows glitter as one speeds past, and the time by the church clock can be seen as well as heard. There are black starless mornings; one's boots ringing up the village street; faint lights from a few small thin-curtained windows, occasionally the muffled burr of an inmates' alarm-clock, and a "Good-morning" from someone else who passes by on a dimly lighted bicycle at the same hour.

There is the dawn, spreading, a tinge of pink in the east, and the sun, a blood red globe, shining through the bare trees, making the mist rose coloured where it lies in dips and hollows.

Home to breakfast, with the distant hills looking like banks of opaque grey cloud, a church spire rising from them as though motionlessly afloat, and above, a fiery streak of gold tearing open the dullness of the sky.

Frosty mornings, still and blue-skied, when fields, roofs, gates, fences and hedges are thick with white, and the rimed telegraph wires look like silver spider's threads.

Black frosts, when an icy wind stiffens the face, drives away moisture and turns

every puddle into a smooth transparent block, and trees and buildings are outlined hard and clear against the pale sky.

Snow; footsteps sounding like the soft creak of leather in the unresisting whiteness; great rounded clots of snow bearing down the branches of the trees, and a mauve light over it all.

Then there is the end of the day; the sky growing dark blue, and a sharp new moon rising over the stable roof. A hurricane lamp in the stable, and queer shadows moving inside, half seen through the door. The horses, heads drooping, led by the carter back from their last drink, the sound of their tired hoof beats intermingled. Pitches of hay being borne upwards and dropping into the racks, their means of support invisible. A man leaning against the door, cap pushed back, the inevitable home-rolled fag between his lips glowing and dimming in the dusk.

The light on in the cowshed too. The eager rattling of chains and munching of hay; cows almost hock-high in crisp short straw. Dust rising and the shed growing warmer; the milky muzzled bull-calf, looking up alertly, tongue tip protruding, small puffs of steam coming from his nostrils. The dairy locked, the boiler stoked, and the last door closed. Milk cans are picked up. Old Bert puts his bottle in his bag, carefully places his pedal in the right position, swings warily on to his bike and sets off slowly up the hill.

"'Night, Alf."

"'Night, Dave."

And so, through the cold darkening evening, to light and warmth and food.

Surrey.

R. Blake, 86926.

### HILLCROFT COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

The main work of Hillcroft College is the provision of residential courses for the adult education of women, the aim being to "enlarge the vision of the students, to develop their latent capacities for leadership and service and to stimulate their mental and spiritual growth."

The Correspondence Courses include:  
ENGLISH COMPOSITION,  
DRAWING AND PAINTING, CHILD  
PSYCHOLOGY, CITIZENSHIP FOR  
WOMEN, BIOLOGY, ETC.

Scholarships are available for members of the W.L.A. at half the normal fee.

Apply to the Secretary for Correspondence Courses, Hillcroft College, South Bank, Surbiton, Surrey.



CHILD LIFE—IS IT WILD LIFE?

*This is the first of a short series of articles written for the LAND GIRL*

*by Mrs. Margot Hicklin*

What is your first picture when somebody speaks of children? Is it—"dear little angels," or "horrid little beasts"? Are you remembering a classroom full of cherubic little faces, bent over tidy school books, or hordes of unruly evacuees who would get mixed up with the hay or the hens or the turnips, and get in one's way all over the farm? Probably, you have met both kinds in the course of your life? and strangely enough, they might have been the very same children, at different times. But it is amazing how one's ideas about children, may vary. Those ideas we all have got about children and how they ought to be brought up, are not so much based on our experience of other people's children, but on our experience of the children of our parents, i.e., our own childhood. The way we were reared, though we may differ in our opinion from our parents, has a lasting influence upon our outlook in this matter.

It is due to this fact that mothers of young children often find it difficult to follow the advice they are given in the Clinics, and I am often confronted with an intelligent young woman who says: "I have read it all up in modern books on the bringing-up of children, and when it comes to my own child, I find myself doing what my mother used to do with me! And yet, at the time, I did not like it at all. . . ." It is true, in a sense, we never forget our own childhood, though we may not remember many details about it.

If our parents were the kind of people who expected absolute obedience of children, at any time, no matter what the circumstances, then we ourselves may tend to take it for granted that our children should "jump to it" when we require them to do so. If, on the other hand, our upbringing was of the happy-go-lucky kind, we may trust our own children to grow up, not unlike the animals in our care, with just the most necessary rules and regulations to secure their health and comfort. Which of the two ways does modern knowledge approve?

A good deal has been learned about the nature of childhood during our century. Children, we have discovered, are neither savage little animals who need to be curbed in everything they try to do, nor are they the vulnerable, precious beings that some over-protective mothers imagine them to be. They are above all,

human beings like ourselves, and as such, entitled to some respect for their personality. Children, like adults, are individuals. Although you do not recognise, among a battalion of uniformed strange soldiers, the kind of person each one is, you are soon aware of it if one of the faces under the service cap turns out to be a familiar, or even beloved one. Otherwise, they are merely a group of soldiers to you.

In the same way, children remain "just children," until you get to know one well; if it is the child of a friend or relative, someone who matters to you, then you are more inclined to study this child, and find out what sort of a person he is. How much more so, if he is your own child. Let us, therefore, for a moment, study an infant which you may imagine, if you will, is your own. You can give him any features you like, fair or dark, blue-eyed or hazel-eyed, and you may think he looks like yourself or like his—future—daddy.

He is born, and though he is perfectly normal and healthy, he does not seem to like the world, for he created a pitiful sound of protest. No wonder, for he has led a life of perfect security and comfort for nine months, and it is a big change to have unfamiliar touch and sound round one. Fortunately, he brings with him, the ability to suck for his living—an important piece of work. Of course, in trying to carry it out, he needs some encouragement, as he has not performed the feat before. Yet, marvellously, he will persist in learning the job, unless... unless his mother is so anxious about it that she discourages the poor mite from further attempts. Both may then give up trying, and one of the best chances for mother and child to "get together" early and intimately, is lost. Much patience is needed, especially with the first child, to find the right way of feeding in comfort; but it is worth it.

Even where the baby is not breastfed, feeding time should be a quiet period for the "Nursing Couple," as Dr. Middlemore, a famous woman doctor, termed the mother and child in the feeding situation. It should be free from noise and hurry, if possible, and the child should not be chivvied if he tries to play and gurgle in between or afterwards. His feeds should be regular, but there ought to be no too rigid routine. Rather, if for some reason that he cannot tell you,



he is out of sorts at meal-time, and cannot feed properly, he should be offered a feed again as soon as he seems to be in better mood.

Weaning should be gradual, and you must understand that it is in every case, a hard experience to the child. It helps if by the time he is weaned, he has learned to do things such as reach for his cup or spoon, sit up, babble and say a few words. He should be allowed to crawl about in the room or in a play pen, and given objects to touch and experiment with. Also, the bottle or cup which contains his new food, should be introduced before weaning, and first take the place of one feed a day. Mother would be wise if she spent a good deal of time making baby familiar with this new method before insisting on it.

There can be many things disturbing to a helpless small infant, and anyone who really studies his face and gestures, can soon learn what it is. Stark light, loud noise, unfamiliar faces. Strangely enough, the state of mind of the mother, has sometimes got a good deal to do with the child's apparent listlessness or bad temper. He cries, and you happen to be on edge, for other reasons. You may have said crossly: "oh, shut up," and instead of shutting up, he increases his crying. Does he do it to spite you? Some mothers have told me that they felt the tiny infant cried "just to make life difficult" for them. In fact, mother and child, before the age of one, are still so closely linked in body and mind that they affect one another all the time. If mother has a cold, or frets, baby usually is none too bright. And of course, if baby is out of sorts, mother frets. Thus a vicious circle may be set up, unless you understand he is not trying to be extra difficult, but is naturally reacting to your mood. You, being the stronger one, will perhaps be able to cope with your difficulties more easily, and not blame the child for contributing to them.

### RIVAL

I drew a little drawing  
For the L.A. mag.  
A clever little drawing  
(Excuse me if I brag)

But do you think  
They published it?  
Why no, you see,  
They were saving the space  
For good advice  
By E.M.B.

Anon.

"Four Years Harvest." Frances Donaldson. (Faber, 7s. 6d.)

"The Five Grey Geese." Frances Turk. (Wright & Brown, 7s. 6d.)

Mrs Frances Donaldson is a war-time farmer who knew very little about the matter when she began in 1940. She certainly knows a great deal now. It is a piece of good luck that she also knows how to write and can make an interesting story of her experiences. Her first book on the subject, "Approach to Farming," describes her training and the two years during which she ran her farm through a bailiff. "Four Years Harvest" begins with her bold decision that this method brought her insufficient knowledge and small satisfaction in her chosen profession and that, whatever the risks and difficulties, she must run her farm herself. It is unnecessary to describe to Land Girls all that this involved, though they will enjoy reading of all the crises, the triumphs, the hard slogging work that they know so well from a different standpoint—the sudden vanishing of indispensable helpers, the Irishmen turning up to top the beet before the plough had arrived to loosen it, the sheep with foot-rot, the terrible anxiety of corn cut by a combine harvester when there is no certainty that any means of drying it exists. As for the comparatively mild remark that "there is something peculiarly nasty about form filling" we can all, land-workers or not, sympathise with that. Mrs Donaldson has certainly had a gruelling time in the last few years, but she emerges keener than ever, and at the same time full of ideas for improvements. Some of her opinions—for instance, with regard to the value of "muck," and about lay farming—are heretical and could be criticised only by experts. Politically, she is in favour of the nationalisation of land and calls the typical farmer, in effect, an ignorant stick-in-the-mud on this point. Anyhow, she has the root of the matter in her—that the only right attitude is to say, in the future no less than in the present emergency, "We are here to feed the people and this we insist on doing." The book includes some attractive photographs and a plan of the farm.

"The Five Grey Geese" is a novel showing five Land Girls of greatly differing temperaments and backgrounds quartered together in an old mill in the Fens and telling what they made of it all,—each other, the eerie but fascinating Fen country, the peculiar local brand of humanity and their picturesque employer. The story is romantic in tone and ends with an exciting account of breaking dykes and flood, which, as crises do, bring out the individual quality of those involved and resolve many of their problems.



## SCILLY ISLES

The Isles of Scilly, a low lying, wild and rugged group, break out of the ocean in a tangle. Five are inhabited and Land Girls work on at least three of them. Ours—Tresco—is the second largest, only three miles by one perhaps,—but there is a village with a harbour, a church, a shop and a post office. Of course there's the school too and the children from the neighbouring island come across daily by boat; and their fathers must row to Tresco if they want a drink in the evening. Palms grow in our pine woods, rhododendrons run wild, with curious tropical vegetation everywhere. The bays too are South Sea-ish, curving, with yellow-white sands, deep blue sea and woods growing down to the shore. Only in the north, Tresco is wild and almost bare of soil with scrub heather and moderately high cliffs. Southwards, the village straggles across the narrowest part of the island and south of that are our farm and gardens. There is the dairy herd as milk and some of the meat ration have to be supplied to the islanders, but the main business is crops for export.

Fields are long and narrow, and divided into small enclosures or gardens by tall windbreaks of shrubs or rushmatting, for wind is the great enemy of the crops. Frosts are rare; snow and sleet not often known (though this winter has been an exception) but winds sweep the Isles with hurricane force and unprotected crops would often be shrivelled, brown and useless, after the spring gales.

Early potatoes, tomatoes, onions and cabbages are seen through all their stages from first planting to grading and packing, and in between we lend a hand with other work.

There are no cars and no cinemas in Tresco and the mail only comes every second day, but this doesn't worry us for we make our own fun—concerts, plays (we've made over £50 for charities), socials, spelling bees and all the other activities of our club, which we run with our own committee, keep us happy in the winter, and during the summer we get the boating, swimming and outdoor activities which are usually associated with an extra good holiday in extra good weather.

Cornwall.

P. H. Roberts, 36765.

"What do you mean, 'This mangel reminds me of something?'"



Mic



Oh never let me see again  
Another yellow mangel  
I've trimmed them till I look like one  
From every sort of angle.  
Surrey. H. Holl, 40221.

The above drawing is by M. Clough, 97111 (Northants).

This quarter's cover design was drawn by P. Newton, 104644, (Devon).



## THE W.L.A. AT SCHOOL AGAIN

I may as well frankly admit that when the Editor asked me to go and see the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund Homecraft Training Centre at Little Bradley Place, my heart sank a bit. I said to myself "I shall want to say nice things, but I'm afraid it'll be just another hostel and I don't see how it can be the right sort of place to train girls to run their own homes."

Now, after a lovely afternoon spent wandering about there, seeing everything, I still don't see how it can be done, but it has been done, and the magician in the case is Miss Gamble, the Warden.

This was a big venture for the Benevolent Fund. Many of us have received very welcome help from the Fund, but help with hospital expenses, or the dentist, or the oculist are not very exciting things, blessing though they are. Little Bradley is something new, something constructive, something for the future to which we are beginning to feel we really may now look forward.

The house has been used as a W.L.A. Hostel, and Miss Gamble was there then. It is a lovely house, with a low wide frontage, and plenty of big windows, and forsythia all round the big front door. The rooms nearly all face south looking over some of the nicest country in Suffolk, and it is difficult to believe Miss Gamble when she tells you they were dark and gloomy once. The Homecraft girls have changed all that already. Every room is now gay and cheery with walls discoloured (after thorough stripping and preparation) by the girls.

The bedrooms are of reasonable size, so that there is no temptation to exclaim "Dormitory!" as soon as you set foot inside them. The two or three little beds in each room are decorated with lovely patchwork quilts sent by the American Red Cross; the usual hostel furniture has been transformed by cheerful paint. Even Mrs. Binfield, who is doing wonders as the Hon. Secretary for the whole scheme, was taken by surprise by this latest move of Miss Gamble's!

In the dining room there were bowls of flowers on the tables, but then there are bowls of flowers everywhere at Little Bradley, and a girl who is being trained in looking after a home with plenty of flowers about is going to get the right ideas from the outset, she can't help it.

But although I'm all for brightness and gaiety and comfort (and the armchairs are comfortable—I tried them!), the most important thing about any home is the

kitchen and the other domestic "back rooms." The kitchen at Little Bradley is not bristling with intimidating new gadgets. They have no electricity there, and only carbide gas, so they cook by a good old coal range, with an oil stove as auxiliary so that the girls who are going to live in the country will know how to handle these things.

That's the big point about Little Bradley: it is first and foremost practical, adaptable—the real thing, in fact. The girls who come here for a month's course are girls who are going to have to do their own work, to make do with the best they can get. They learn to work their passage.

Each course lasts a month, and during that month each trainee has a week of household management training, which includes budgeting, marketing, preparing cooking and serving meals; a week on housework, which means cleaning (you should see the brick floor in the kitchen, and the scrubbed white wooden tables), laundry, and the proper planning of the daily chores; and the third week is spent on such things as make-do-and-mend, simple household repairs, decorating. In addition to all this, the girls also get a certain number of talks, including some on pre-natal care of the mother, baby-craft, first aid and home nursing, simple household accounts and so on.

Nor is all the time spent in the house. The girls are taken shopping, the local butcher shows them how to choose meat and how to cut it; the local electricity people arrange demonstrations so that those who will have the use of electricity will know something about it, and even be able to do minor repairs, like putting in new fuses, or replacing worn flex.

You want to know how to get there, what it will cost you? How to get there? See, or write to your County Secretary and tell her you'd like to take the course, which is open to all Land Girls who are married or going to be married and set up homes. The cost: absolutely nothing but your railway fare (and even with that, I understand, the County Welfare Funds will help if necessary.....) And you will be given 10s. a week pocket money while you are there.

Who is the Good Fairy in the case? You Yourself, and all the good friends who have contributed to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. It's **your** show.

E. M. Barraud.

Two years ago the total number of Milk Recorders was 100—today there are 600 and nearly 200 are members of the W.L.A.



## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I wonder if all members of the W.L.A. know that their land army stockings can be re-footed by hand. If they have two pairs of stockings of like kind and colour, which are worn in the feet, cut off the feet just above the worn part at the ankle. One pair will now unravel, the wool being wound round a tin or similar object and tied into skeins. These are made wet and rewound around the tin and left to dry (to take the curl out). The stitches of the other pair are picked up on 4 needles (the size I used was 14, but a slack knitter would require a finer size) and new feet knitted on. Any pattern of socks or stockings can be used so long as the number of stitches stated before the turning of the heel was the same as the number picked up and that the ribbing of the leg was continued along the top of the foot.

The good part of the feet could also be unravelled, starting from the toe, and this can be used either for darning or made into ankle socks, gloves, hoods, etc. Yorks, E. R. E. Barnard, 129332.

Dear Editor,

I was very interested in the "Fitting into Village Life" article in the "Land Girl" dealing with the running of youth clubs as I myself have been running a guide company for the past two years. On an average I get 22 to 25 girls to meetings and we have been lucky in being able to snatch one or two week-end camps between more serious affairs. Our first Christmas we held a bazaar and raised £45 much of which was spent on the purchase of camping equipment and by camping close to the farm and getting some of the older girls to help with the jobs while I milked I managed to spend a number of daylight hours with the guides.

Any L.G.'s taking the same course may be interested to hear that I have qualified for the general farming diploma issued by the Bath Agricultural Correspondence College.

I have been in the Land Army four years, the last 2½ years of which have been spent working for a vet, the assisting with operations providing an interesting break from the routine of the regular farm jobs. Berks. M. E. Gillham, 39170.

Dear Madam,

I am enclosing a donation which I raised from a Whist Drive in aid of the Land Army Benevolent Fund. It has

given me great pleasure to do this little bit for the girls. I have one living with me. I have had her three years on the 25th April and my husband and myself wouldn't be without her. We feel she belongs to us, so you can guess why I did this Whist Drive. I hope to do another one later on in the year. L. Davis.

Dear Editor,

It was both interesting and encouraging to read of 1st Radio Officer S. Yeadon's tribute to the W.L.A., and of his generous contribution to the Benevolent Fund recorded in the Correspondence page of the LAND GIRL for February. I am sending this letter to express my appreciation and admiration for his effort.

Yes! I am sure we Land Girls are very proud of our uniform and like it very much. Congratulations and Good Luck to 1st Radio Officer S. Yeadon. Cornwall. G. M. Callister, 115450.

(Received in a County Office)

Dear Uniform Officer,

When I joined the Land Army, I didn't know that there would be a guardian angel watching over me to see that I got just what I asked for, when I asked for it. But it seems there is one and I suspect it to be you. In the whole of my two and a half years service I feel that I've been waited on specially and if you treat all the girls the same, they've no need for complaint.

After having wasted a few of your precious moments reading this, I hope you'll feel better and realise that without you and your helpers, we girls would be no good at all.

Thank you so much. I really appreciate all you've done, and while we get such good service to h-l with gratuities, I say.

(Sgd.) E. Skilbeck.



M. Tyrrell, 115959, M. Dixon, 104195 and Mrs. Hawkins (Kent)



## A HELPING HAND

This month we want to give you news of how the Benevolent Fund is being spent.

During the first three months of 1945, 715 grants for varying sums have been made from the Benevolent Fund to a total of £4,292. For the same period in 1944 the number of grants was 328 and in 1943 only 30. This gives some idea of the increasing help which the Fund is giving and the growing demands which are being made upon it.

The great majority of grants have been to help in cases of financial hardship caused through illness. Assistance has also been given towards dental and optical expenses, ambulances, surgical appliances, Rest Break fees, special treatment and fares to hospital—to mention only some of the ways in which the Fund has helped.

Several girls who have had to be released from the Land Army for health reasons and who did not qualify for assistance under a Government training scheme, have received help from the Fund. Grants have also been made towards tuition fees of volunteers still in the Land Army who are taking recognised study courses in their spare time.

## DAUGHTERS OF THE SOIL

While travelling in a rural bus recently, I was fortunate in finding myself sitting opposite two nice girls. Both were easy on the eyes, so I had no difficulty in perceiving that one was a WAAF and the other a Land Girl.

They were deep in conversation and, always the little gentleman, I did not listen very hard, until suddenly the Daughter of the Soil announced loudly and in a tone of finality: "Yes, dear, but you see mine's a *real* job!"

I do not know what led up to this remark, but one may assume that some comparison of their respective occupations was toward.

What was clear about the remark, however, was the speaker's satisfaction in making it. She drew herself up a perceptible inch; I observed a marked degree of chest expansion. And her hand went up to her perm in that familiar gesture of self-satisfaction of which, as far as my observation goes, there is no masculine counterpart.

The discussion might go on, and did. But her mind the climax of the argument had been reached and the last word said. It was about as candid an expression of conscious superiority as polite

conversation would permit and maidenly modesty stretch to. "I'll tell the world," she seemed to say, "that I'm a more useful citizen than you are. Get off me foot."

I would not say her attitude to her companion displayed contempt. It was, rather, a kindly but firm reminder of her relatively greater importance to the maintenance of the community. The town we were approaching was crowded with uniforms representing every branch of national service; but it was clear that this young woman would pass through the streets conscious of a functional aristocracy which set her somewhat apart from the common ruck of WRNS, WAAFS, ATS, female firemen and she-cops.

They were all very well in their way, but—she was *On The Land*. She knew that by all true standards of social value the symbolism of her picturesque but practical costume outshone the smartness of all the uniforms, and she felt there was a double truth in the observation of the poet—"Honest labour wears a lovely face."

"Loose End"

(From the "Dairy Farmer" by kind permission)

**Congratulations to M. Peacock, W.L.A.** 65176, Wilts, for gaining 1st prize in a competition run by the "Farmers Weekly" for the best design for a three bedroomed agricultural semi-detached cottage.

**And to Mrs. Moughton, 100126, Essex** for saving her employer's life when he was attacked by a bull. There was no one else present and she drove the bull off with a pitchfork, shut it in another yard and then helped her employer into the house.

**And to B. Wyllie, 62, (Scotland)** on gaining two 1st and four 2nd prizes in two ploughing matches at both of which she was the only woman competitor.

**And to Ida Nicholls, Carol Upton and May Thompson, Bucks,** for winning prizes in a recent ploughing match at Mursley at which the Duke of Norfolk made the presentations and paid glowing tribute to the work of the Land Army.

**And to two Bedfordshire hostels** on winning cups—Hulcote Moors for the best working hours and Leighton Buzzard (coupled with the name of M. Burgess, 62715) for the best garden.

**And to E. Couse, 75613, (Northumberland),** who was a member of the Y.F.C. team which won a county debating contest at Morpeth.



## SCOTTISH NOTES

**ANGUS.**—The L.G.'s in the County are taking a very active part in the Young Farmers' Clubs. Two W.L.A. girls act as Secretaries and many others act on the Committees.

Miss Betty Wylie, 62, has shown what a L.G. is really capable of doing by being the only woman entrant at two ploughing matches. At Tannadice and Oathlaw, Betty won first place for tractor ploughing, first for finishing and second for feering in a field of 12 competitors. At Finavon, where there were 43 competing, she gained second place for ploughing, second place for finishing and second place for feering.

To Miss Wylie we extend our heartiest congratulations in her splendid achievement.

**N. E. ARGYLL.**—For the third year in succession, Mrs. Lees-Milne, Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee for North-East Argyll, gave much pleasure to members of the W.L.A. and W.T.C. in this area by inviting them to the Play House Cinema, Oban, to see the film "Lady Hamilton." After the performance they were entertained to a delightful tea, when G.S. armlets and badges were presented by Mr. Monteith, Manager of the Oban branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

The warm vote of thanks was proof of the appreciation and enjoyment felt by them all for Mrs. Lees-Milne's kindness.

Early in the year Miss Margaret Gibson organised a very successful dance at Lochbuie, Isle of Mull, in aid of the W. & B. Fund. The Islanders turned out well to support Miss Gibson and were rewarded by having a very enjoyable evening and the Fund benefited by £12 10s.

**S. ARGYLL.**—At a dance held at Kilmartin in aid of the "Welcome Home Fund," Miss M. Mackay brought honour to the W.L.A. by gaining first place in the "Pin-up Girl" competition.

**KIRKCUDBRIGHT.**—Members of the W.L.A. in the Stewartry have launched an all-out drive in aid of the Scottish W.L.A. Welfare and Benevolent Fund. As a result of whist drives at Buittle High End and Kirkhouse (by kind permission of Mrs. MacMyn), the sum of £64 has already been raised and a further series of efforts has been organised for the coming weeks.

Twenty-three tables were occupied at the whist drive at Buittle High End when the company was welcomed by Miss Margaret Stenhouse and the prizes were handed over by Mrs. Brotherton, The Manse, while Miss C. V. Stubley moved the vote of thanks. At this drive the sum of £33 was raised, while fully £31 was realised at a private whist drive held at Kirkhouse the same evening.

Castle Douglas W.R.I. Players have agreed to present their two plays "The Green Monkey" and "Cobbler's Luck," at Kirkcudbright on 5th April, to be followed by a dance in the Town Hall at 10.30. The effort will be wound up with a dance in Castle Douglas Town Hall next month.

At present the Scottish Fund stands at over £10,000 of which the Stewartry has contributed £360—a figure which, it is hoped, will be substantially increased as a result of the drive now under way.

## BENEVOLENT FUND

On March 31st the Fund totalled £124,247. The monthly total was £1,776. KENT has the highest total of £7,404 and the highest monthly total of £516.

Bravo Kent! By raising £500 (and we understand this is not the final result) at a highly successful Sale at Maidstone they have again taken the lead from Warwick.

This month we have also received from ESSEX £198 (the balance of their drive last year), DEVON £134, which includes £63 from a splendid dance

at Thurleston, LANCs £105 and NORFOLK £68. Two whist drives in HEREFORD raised £70 and another in BUCKS over £37. The Edstaston Hotel dance in SALOP produced £55 and a concert at Eastbourne, E. SUSSEX, raised £28.

In this issue of the Land Girl you will find an article about the Homecraft Courses which the Fund is financing and also details of the grants which are being made.

## 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.**—Pre-war coat, grey and red plaid on navy, belted, bust 36 ins., new, £6. Laycock, Maccyslyn Farm, Llangollen, Denbighshire.

**FOR SALE.**—Ladies green velvet corduroy breeches, zip-fasteners at sides; waistband 28 ins. good condition, £3. Grabham, Southenay Cottage, Sellindge, Nr. Ashford, Kent.

**FOR SALE.**—Ladies floral dress, 32 ins. bust, £1; also Ladies costume, small broken check, brown-fawn suiting, 32 ins. bust, 36 ins. hips, 45s.; both excellent condition. Dalton, 3 Schoolfield, Barcombe, Sussex.

**WANTED.**—Riding jacket, good condition. Fawn, brown or mixture, bust 38 ins. Also Ladies Golf jerkin, waterproof or corduroy, fawn or brown, zip fastening preferred. Beaton, Kingston, Garmouth, Moray, Scotland.

**WANTED.**—Ladies brown jodhpur boots, size 5½ or small 6. Write stating price—Moss, New House Farm, Hadnall, Shrewsbury, Salop.

**WANTED.**—Jodhpurs fawn, good condition, waist 24 ins., length of leg 29 ins. Write stating price to Mick, W.L.A. Hostel, Stanton, Shrewsbury.

**WANTED.**—Ladies riding jacket, tan or fawn preferred, bust 34 ins. Adams, "Oakhurst," Watlington Road, Battle, Sussex.

**WANTED.**—Ladies Riding jacket, 35 ins. bust, good quality and condition. Write stating price etc., to Kirk, Beauchamp Grange, Kibworth, Leics.

## WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS

An interesting exhibition, Home Timber at War, was held recently at Hawhurst Divisional Office. Many members who have been working on trackways for the use of our Armies on D-Day and subsequently were particularly interested in the ingenious Meccano model of a trackway wiring machine. There was also a well set up model of a Kent mine colliery and coal face, showing the use of pitprops and coverboards. The other exhibits ranging from photographs showing the use of oak in building ships and railway wagons to matches and match boxes made from poplar, showed the great variety of uses to which home timber has been put—boat skins from larch, parts of aircraft, stretchers, tool handles and farm instruments of all kinds from ash, utility furniture and the soles and heels of shoes from beech, artificial limbs from willow—to mention only a few.

For some visitors, the collection of tools and equipment held a special interest, recalling days of happiness and fulfilment in the forest.

Congratulations to all those who helped to achieve such a well deserved success.

Another Division has started a competition—a few lines describing or commenting on the most outstanding characteristics of nature during the current month—the flowers, the birds and animals, their growth and development, etc. A prize is offered for the most original and observant entry.



## THE LAND GIRL

### COUNTY NEWS

**BEDS.**—The results of the Proficiency Test held on the 19th March in milking and dairy work are good. 9 candidates competed, 2 gained distinction. Milton Ernest, the first of our Hostels to be opened, celebrated its 3rd birthday in February. Six of the original Volunteers are still there, had received their diamonds at the party from the Chairman, Mrs. Graham. Miss Squire, Y.W.C.A., also attended. C.E.M.A. Concerts have been very thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by hostels. 37 Volunteers have already availed themselves of the privilege of attending B.B.C. studio concerts. Our heartiest congratulations go to four Volunteers in the village of Upper Dean for their splendid efforts in raising £65 for the Returned Servicemen's and Servicewomen's Fund. They held a "Bring and Buy" sale, a Whist Drive and Dance.

Lady Denman's resignation came as a sad blow to the County, but the resulting publicity, we feel sure, will greatly benefit the W.L.A. cause.

**BERKS.**—During the last month a short refresher course was held at Hewens Wood, Bradfield, for forewomen, followed by a special and rather more extensive one for chargehands. Twenty-one volunteers attended the forewomen's course and all seemed to enjoy the syllabus arranged. The chargehands course was attended by twenty-three girls and an interesting and rather more detailed programme was planned. There were both indoor and outdoor lectures and a variety of social entertainment was arranged for the evenings, including a Brains Trust which was, apparently, enjoyed as much by the audience as by the members of the Trust. A milking course is being held at Strathfield House, Mortimer, and new recruits from many parts of the county are being initiated in the delicate art of "how best to deal with a cow." Proficiency Tests have been held in milking and dairy work, fruit growing and tractor driving, and we should like to congratulate S. Sidebottom, P. M. House and M. Wilkinson who obtained distinctions in their milking and dairy tests. The many Clubs in the County are hives of industry at the moment, concentrating on slipper making, glove making, soft toys and leather work.

**BUCKS.**—A Confirmation service was conducted by the Bishop of Buckingham at Ellesborough Church in Feb., when several W.L.A. members were confirmed. The presence of Mrs. Churchill among the congregation was very much appreciated. We are very grateful to receive the sum of £10 as proceeds of a Dance given by the W.L.A. Club at Brill in aid of the Benevolent Fund. The membership of this Club is not large, and the result of this effort is particularly good and reflects credit on the organisers of the dance, and their helpers.

The sum of £21 17s. has also been raised by a dance held at Prestwood under the auspices of the girls at Little Hampden House Hostel, in aid of the British Red Cross Society. The dance was held in the village hall, and a number of members of the Forces attended and very much appreciated the excellent band, refreshments, and other arrangements that had been made by the girls and their friends. Owing to the great success of parties given in various Hostels to wounded members of the Forces, the girls at an Aylesbury Hostel attempted entertainment on a larger scale and hired a local Hall for the purpose. 70 blinded and wounded men were entertained and the girls were extremely grateful for all the help given them by friends and employers, and for gifts of cigarettes and provisions.

**CHESHIRE.**—E. Wilcoxon, 100428, sends an interesting account of International Women's Day on March 8th at Manchester. She was one of four L.G.'s in the Briush section of the Pageant which opened the proceedings. Among those who spoke were Miss Elizabeth Denby, recently appointed a Director of Tarrans Ltd., (she will supervise the building of 15,000 post war houses) and a French

Headmistress straight from Paris whose school had been over-run by Germans; she told a most moving story of one of her staff, a member of the Underground Movement, who had refused to give information even when tortured and was finally found strangled in the street.

**CORNWALL.**—We are glad that our Benevolent Fund total has now gone beyond the £1,000 target and that there is continued interest in aid of this worthy cause. A "Bring and Buy" Sale held at the County Office raised £38 and a very successful Dance organised by J. Roper, 93179 at Crowlas £21. The "Dolly Gray" Players—a private dramatic company from Falmouth—gave the W.L.A. Club at Grampound a good evening's entertainment last month and the proceeds, £8 4s., were handed over to the Fund. An enjoyable party was held last month at Trewidden, Penzance, at the invitation of Mrs. Charles Williams (County Chairman) for volunteers in the district in private billets. The convalescent Soldiers staying at Trewidden seemed to enjoy the party as much as the L.G.'s, also the good ENSA show. Congratulations to the volunteers in St. Columb Hostel who recently gave an excellent dramatic performance of "Ladies in Waiting," and also to M. Warden, 62067, forewoman, who was the winner in a Housecraft Competition at Helston Hostel.

We are sorry we are losing the services of both Miss Brodie (Assistant Secretary) and Mrs. Gifford (County Organiser for E. Cornwall) and hope that Mrs. Walker and Miss Stewart, their respective successors to whom we extend a sincere welcome, will enjoy their new work.

**DERBYS.**—At a recent afternoon party for L.G.'s in the Chesterfield area, we were honoured in having a visit from Mr. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, who was on a visit to Derbyshire. The party was arranged by Mrs. Wilson, Comm. Member for this area, with the help of a Committee, and Mr. Hudson "dropped in" for a few moments just before tea was served. A cup of tea was handed to Mr. Hudson, who smilingly said he did NOT take sugar! Alvaston Fields Hostel, Derby, has now been closed, and the volunteers who were there have been transferred to Aston and Stanton Hostels, and some into private billets. We have recently had some very interesting Talks in our Hostels on MALTA. Lt. Miller has only recently returned from a very long stay in Malta, and gave us most descriptive accounts



C. King 10574 who has just completed 2 years on one farm in E. Sussex.



## THE LAND GIRL

of Malta and life there during the height of the Blitz, with very special reference to the question of food production and supplies and the various methods used in Agriculture. L.G.'s asked many questions of Lt. Miller, and we hope to continue these talks in those Hostels not yet visited. Two excellent C.E.M.A. Concerts were held at Repton and Trusley Manor Hostels on March 13th and 14th. By invitation of Mrs. Edward Baker, Comm. Member for the Sheffield area, a party was held at the Y.W.C.A. Hall on Feb. 10th. L.G.'s and their friends, numbering about fifty-two, turned up.

**DEVON.**—Plans are well in hand for forthcoming County Competitions at Exeter, April 14th; Barnstaple, May 5th; and Ivybridge, May 12th. There will be various classes such as planting cabbages (for speed), identification of roots, crops and common weeds, dung spreading, horse and cart, rolling churns, etc., and also an inter-district tug of war. Even employers and their wives will not be left out, for there will be a weight judging competition for the former, while the latter can demonstrate their skill in cake, jam making and fruit bottling. The office dance in Feb. organised by Miss Medley-Costin, Mrs. Pickett and Miss Morrison, brought in £190. £50 has been sent to the Red Cross Agricultural Fund, and the balance to the Devon W.L.A. Welfare Fund. Congratulations to the ten L.G.'s who recently competed in the public speaking competitions organised by the Y.F. Clubs. At least three will be competing for their respective clubs in the finals, to be held just before going to press at the Exeter Theatre. Numerous parties and dances have been held in aid of the Benevolent Fund and over £237 has been raised this year. Thurstleton's magnificent effort raised £63. We hope every district will have made an effort to run something before the summer; even shillings collected add up into pounds.

We welcome Miss Huggins, from Torquay, who has taken Miss Grant-Dalton's place as County Organiser in S. Devon.

**DORSET.**—Three Hostels enjoyed most delightful evenings with performances by C.E.M.A. artists. Proficiency Tests in hand milking have been held at Sturminster Newton, Stalbridge Park, Ham Preston, and Horn Park, Beaminstor. 17 volunteers gained Badges, and the Misses S. Churchill, 127160, P. Freke, 96517, P. Harman, 30238, and Howell, 105520, obtained distinction. We are most grateful to Miss Evans, (County Dairying Instructress), for organising these Tests, and to the judges—Messrs. Gifford, Dufosse, Trehan and Holloway. We have also had a Field and G.F. Test, at which the judges were Messrs. Jackson, Bennett and Child. The 9 entrants all passed, Misses J. Little, 27415, and J. Bartlett, 13271, gaining distinction. Miss Debenham had a most delightful party for the Sherborne area on Feb. 10th, with entertainments by ENSA, and a local concert party. Many

volunteers have been doing excellent handicraft work, and there will be a County Exhibition in Dorchester on May 12th. Sherborne Club has had some lessons in basket making, and at the Maiden Newton Club some interesting talks and a fancy dress dance to help the Agricultural Red Cross Fund. Mrs. Aston, our Chairman, was invited to represent the W.L.A. when H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent visited Dorchester recently.

**DURHAM.**—A Y.W.C.A. Ceremony of Remembrance was held at the L. A. Hostel at Consett. It was the Land Girl's special night during World Fellowship Week. Miss Brown, the leader of a Y.W.C.A. Club, kindly came along from Newcastle to officiate. She opened the ceremony by saying a prayer and lighting the first candle. Twelve Land Girls, Y.W.C.A. members, also took part by reading out messages and greetings to fellow members in other lands. Each girl in turn lit a candle in remembrance. Eleven girls wore national costumes, and one wore uniform.

Miss Brown also taught the girls several international songs and dances. As the members wore national costumes for the dancing, it made a colourful scene and so ended a very enjoyable evening.

**GLAM.**—Our outstanding feature of the last few months is undoubtedly the result of the Xmas Prize Draw. Everyone connected with the W.L.A. has taken so much interest in it, that notwithstanding the short time at our disposal, (we wanted the prizes out for Christmas), we were able to raise £264 for the Benevolent Fund and £98 for our Welfare Fund. As it has now proved, the outstanding prizes were the sacks and half sacks of potatoes. We are not sure if the Draw was the stimulus, but all over the County groups of L.G.'s are arranging functions for the Benevolent & Welfare Funds. Bonvilston Hostel have recently had a dance, result not yet known, and Rhossili Club although very small were able to get £6 12s. 6d. from a dance at the Village Hall. Club and Hostel members are taking an interest in many varied activities. Lectures on Current Affairs, Philosophy and Social Security have been very much appreciated. Practical work in Embroidery, Plain sewing, Leather work, Drama and Cooking give a good idea of what is being done.

**GLOS.**—Proficiency Tests in Milking and Dairy work were held at four centres during March. There were 24 entrants and 18 passed, two with distinction, F. Bennett, 123906, and Mrs. Huband, 50591 obtained over 90 marks. The Office Staff in conjunction with the W.A.E.C. raised £150 at a dance at the Guildhall, Gloucester in aid of the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds.

**HEREFORD.**—During February a very successful W.A.E.C. Leaders' Refresher Course was held; splendid lectures on a variety of subjects were given by members of the W.A.E.C., County Council, National Union of Agricultural Workers, and W.L.A.; the Course was rounded off by a talk given by Mr. Donald Scott, M.P., Ministry of Agriculture Liaison Officer. Visits to a flour mill, cider factory, canning factory and two large farms to inspect herds of pedigree cattle were arranged. Evening activities included an Agricultural Film Show, and a Brains Trust. A C.E.M.A. Concert has received a great welcome from some of the hostels. Also, a series of lectures has been given by Mrs. Tamplin of the Central Council for Health Education. Several hostels are having classes in cookery, housewifery and handicrafts, while clubs are still going strong and enjoying talks on a variety of subjects, and a Brains Trust has visited all the larger hostels. Volunteers in Marden, Sutton, Bodenham areas, and the Canon Pyon Club members have raised over £70 for the Benevolent Fund.

**HERTS.**—We were very pleased to welcome Miss Bower to our Local Representative's Meeting on March 22nd., at the County Hall, Hertford. 48 L. R.'s were present and all appreciated Miss Bower's most helpful and constructive talk. Proficiency Tests were held for Hand and Machine

*Look inside  
your shoes*

*If you find this mark*

**PARKER SHOES**

*stamped on the sock, your shoes  
are one of a quarter of a million  
pairs we have been proud to make  
for you and your friends in the  
W.L.A.*

**Remember the name PARKER**

*..... it denotes good shoes!*





*Sussex by the Sea.—A party given by The Misses Lamb at Bognor Regis, W. Sussex*

Milking in February, there were eight entrants, seven of whom passed. Clubs and Hostels are busy with their numerous social events, but judging from the number of entries we have received for the Handcraft Exhibition for May 12th many members of the W.L.A. in the County must be spending much of their spare time on some form of needlework. Our good wishes go to I. E. Browne, 78171, J. Fardell, 69644, E. Fautley, 81046 and B. Beaumont, 92889 who are leaving us at the end of this month to start their training for the teaching profession.

**HUNTS, CAMBS, ELY.**—We were very pleased to welcome Mrs. Grace of the Headquarters Hostel Dept. at our Warden's Conference on 28th March. Unfortunately, we did not receive the entries we had hoped for at the Music and Drama Festival at Sawtry Hostel on 14th April. Certificates of Merit were awarded to competitors. A very interesting Course was run by the Hunts, W.A.E.C. at Buckden Towers for girls employed by the Committee from 26th Feb. to 3rd March. The Course was split into two groups, Machinery and Field, and the girls were given thorough instruction on Binders, Drills, Thatching, Hedging, Stooking and Clamping Potatoes, with lectures and films during part of the day. Miss S. Bosley, W.L.A. 11151, Assistant Cultivations Officer of the Hunts, W.A.E.C., was in charge. Miss K. Rayner, W.L.A. 69261, is the Secretary of the newly formed Y.F.C. at Haddenham and the club has already held a Ploughing Match and arranged a Milking Demonstration. Slipper making classes in the hostels are proving very popular, as are the Cooking demonstrations at Fendrayton Club. Miss R. M. Anderson, W.L.A. 120695, runs a very bright and interesting monthly Magazine called "Hostilities" in aid of the Benevolent Fund. Hostel News includes dances run in aid of the Fund.

**I. O. W.**—After a severe winter we are beginning to see brighter days, which is a special relief to field workers who have stood up manfully to snow, ice and fog. There is nothing more drenching than Brussels-sprouts which have been be-fogged! Signs of Spring are renewing our energies and we are about to start Proficiency Tests again, first for Horticulture, and later for Dairy. Early in January the girls at our Sandown Hostel gave a successful entertainment in aid of the Benevolent Fund. They had no outside help whatever, producing pianist, singers, tap-dancers and dramatic performers from amongst themselves, the only office missing was that of Prompter and it does great credit to all that such an office was not required. The performance plus Whist drives realised over £16.

Sheila Molony, 106011 of Ryde and Sally Smith 26387 also of Ryde, have been chosen to represent the East Wight Y.F.C. at the Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Y.F. Clubs in London in April.

**E. KENT.**—For the past two months we have all been very busy with rehearsals and arrangements for the East Kent L.A.'s own Revue which, with a cast of over 80 volunteers, will be performed in several towns in aid of the Benevolent Fund at the end of April. The Revue has been arranged, and the volunteers are being trained by our talented County Organiser, Miss Josiffe. We have learned with pleasure that one of our younger volunteers, Margaret Plater, is being taken into partnership after the war, in the farm on which she is now employed.

Congratulations to the following volunteers who have completed five years satisfactory service:—N. Coppins, J. File, R. M. Headley, A. L. Longhurst, J. Chandler, D. V. Freeman, B. Gimbert, D. Hogben, J. Jones, P. Freeman, D. I. Law, V. Markham, A. C. May, S. Pearson, A. G. Price, W. E. Spencer, Mrs. M. Stewart.

**W. KENT.**—During the winter we have been planning and working for our Sale in aid of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, which was held in Maidstone on March 20th. It was opened by Lord Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant of the County, with one of his usual delightful and happily worded speeches. Each "District" ran a stall, most of the articles having been made or provided by the girls and other helpers connected with the L.A. The result was really wonderful, toys, dolls, and all sorts of useful goods were on sale. Farmers contributed most generously to a Produce stall and a selection of lovely home made cakes was given by the various Hostels. A delightful Puppet Show with comic scenes from the life of a Land Girl was run by Staplehurst volunteers, and there were numbers of Side Shows and Raffles. A Dance followed in the evening and as a result we have been able to send £500 to Balcombe for the Benevolent Fund.

Our congratulations to Florrie Tredgate on her marriage to Pte. A. Humphreys A.C.C., she is the first West Kent girl to be married from a Hostel where the reception was held. Three Hostel girls were bridesmaids and a guard of honour with crossed pitchforks was provided by 12 others.

**LANCS.**—Since our last news more money has been received in response to Lady Worsley Taylor's appeal. The districts in which money making efforts have been held are:—Ulverston, Litherland, Woodplumpton, Colne, Cherry Tree and Fenis-



## THE LAND GIRL

owles, Prescot, Catforth, Fulwood, and Huyton and Prescott. The Clubs in Parbold, Garstang, Wigan and Wrea Green have all held very successful and enjoyable dances and social evenings, all members taking their part with great enthusiasm. A special account of the Garstang Club Dance was sent in, describing the artistic decorations, novelty dances and delicious refreshments for which the Club is noted from previous occasions. We are sorry to have said goodbye to Mrs. Miller who was Warden of the Birkdale Hostel for over a year. She will be very much missed and our good wishes go with her in her new work. Just before she left, the Hostel ran a very successful Bring and Buy Sale raising £75 for the Benevolent Fund. Volunteers have taken part in Pageants celebrating International Women's Day in Southport and Wigan. A new Club has just been formed at St. Annes-on-the-Sea which we hope will have a very successful career. A new series of Proficiency Tests is being arranged. Any volunteer who wishes to take a test should send her name to the office.

**LEICS & RUT.**—We were very sorry to lose Mrs. Francis our Assistant Secretary and our best wishes are extended to her; in her place we welcome Miss Bonner.

A most amusing and enlightening Brains Trust  
ter on Feb. 17th, with Donald  
sion Master. A collection made  
Fund, amounted to £54 18s.  
men, and volunteers have all  
last 2½ months organising  
for the Benevolent Fund.  
the following on the  
which they organ-  
ington and Newbold  
ddington and friends  
10s. Miss D. Jones  
ppingham volunteers  
winford volunteers  
orell and Quorn vol-  
Seaton volunteers  
ance. Also Miss W.  
£3 in 3d. pieces and  
15s.

Herbert Butcher, M.P.,  
House, Spalding, on  
History and Bank House,  
G's in billets in the  
meetings as well as the  
s were held to discuss  
pilation and Mr. Butch-  
ak first to the girls and  
ised. We welcome Mrs.  
Mrs. E. G. Taverner,  
County Committee. We

congratulated the girls who married Sergt. Rollinson, of the U.S.A., at Boston R.C. Church on the 31st Jan. During March L.G.'s in Holland have been very busy organising concerts, whist drives and dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund. We congratulate the girls at Wrangle Hall and Holbeach Grove Hostels for the excellent concerts produced. The girls at St. Lambert's Farm, Weston, have been very energetic in their drive for the Benevolent Fund. Major's Farm girls gave up their sweets ration for the month to fill a pre-war sized box of sweets, which was raffled at the dance organised in Holbeach St. Mark's on the 23rd.

**LINDSEY, Lincs.**—We have lost our County Secretary Mrs. New and hope that a successor will be appointed shortly.

We have been very busy with Proficiency Tests in milking and dairy work, field work, G.F. work and horticulture. Congratulations to Lilian M. Lambert, 40685, Jennie Stones-Story, 36957, Gwen Townsend, 58669, Joyce E. Simpson, 31177, Dorothy V. Baron, 57881 on passing with distinction. We hope to have many more entries for the autumn proficiency tests. We should also like to congratulate Miss Lilian Lambert, 40685, one of our four year's service volunteers who has been appointed Dairy Instructress at the W.A.E.C. Training Centre at Inelchv.

## County Returns

County	Ben. £.	F. s.	Total d.	Em- ployed
Kent .. .. .	7404	19	3	3773
Essex .. .. .	5496	10	9	2971
Surrey .. .. .	4539	10	9	2050
Hampshire ..	2212	17	11	1864
Yorks, W. Riding	1229	6	5	1815
East Sussex ..	3187	7	4	1761
Herts .. .. .	4064	5	9	1756
Leicester 1519	1975	15	11	175
Rutland 232				
Norhants .. ..	2540	1	8	1672
Somerset .. ..	2011	3	0	1584
Devon .. .. .	3417	12	1	1573
West Sussex ..	3480	13	1	1473
Bucks .. .. .	4597	5	7	1450
Cheshire .. ..	1634	17	1	1449
Warwickshire ..	7293	13	3	1425
Norfolk .. ..	3450	13	0	1414
Cornwall .. ..	1091	16	3	1345
Wiltshire .. ..	1479	4	4	1312
Lancs .. .. .	2511	13	3	1258
Gloucester .. ..	1957	14	7	1183
Northumb'land	1803	7	0	1175
Notts .. .. .	1647	3	0	1143
Yorks, N. Riding	528	3	5	1093
Hunts 258	3508	7	6	1075
Cambs 476				
Ely 341				
Berkshire .. ..	1399	1	5	1042
Bedford .. .. .	983	17	5	992
E. Suffolk .. ..	2100	18	9	960
Oxford .. .. .	3664	4	11	930
Yorks, E. Riding	426	6	4	896
Salop .. .. .	1722	18	4	894
Durham .. .. .	1659	12	4	906
Cumbs & West'd	668	12	2	776
Lincs—Kesteven	1312	19	3	765
Staffs .. .. .	1346	6	2	722
Glamorgan .. ..	970	14	9	695
Lincs—Lindsey ..				672
Hereford .. ..	1323	9	7	629
Monmouth .. ..	706	12	7	577
Lincs—Holland ..	987	8	4	567
W. Suffolk .. ..	1463	13	5	559
London & Middx.	958	0	4	535
Denbigh .. .. .	636	7	11	533
Derbyshire .. ..	1252	14	5	521
Flintshire .. ..	591	5	1	509
N. Wales .. ..	1457	17	11	502
Pembroke .. ..	1075	5	2	375
Cards & Carms ..	576	15	5	304
Isle of Wight ..	173	15	5	290
Brecon & Radnor	347	12	0	256
Montgomery .. ..	308	18	8	238
Timber Corps ..	5174	4	1	2677
Worcester .. ..	2550	17	2	Not recd.

On 30th March, 1945, the number of volunteers in employment was approximately 60,950.

## "THE LAND GIRL"

*Published Mid-monthly*

Order from your County Office or from THE  
LAND GIRL, Balcombe Place, Hayward's  
Heath, Sussex

