



No. 6, Volume 6.

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A MESSAGE TO THE W.L.A.

THE Minister of Agriculture has sent the following message to members of the Women's Land Army and the Secretary of State for Scotland has sent a similar one to Scottish members.

Members of the W.L.A. who undertook on joining to make themselves available for service on the land for the period of the war, have loyally carried out their undertaking by continuing to serve till now. They will understand, however, that the end of the war does not mean that there is any immediate improvement in the serious food situation throughout the world. Members of the W.L.A., like other agricultural workers, cannot be spared from the land for the present, especially with a vital harvest to be secured.

The Minister recognises that some members of the W.L.A. who now wish to return to their former employment will be disappointed that it is not possible to give them a very early release. He is accordingly giving special thought to their position and is considering how far it is possible to reconcile the desire of these members of the W.L.A. who may wish to obtain release with the country's needs for maintaining food production.

A further statement about release from the W.L.A. will be issued as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Minister appeals to all members of the W.L.A. to remain at their work, and ensure that this year's harvest is safely gathered.

The whole of the Land Army will look forward with interest to the further statement which the Minister hopes to make. While waiting, members will certainly do their full share in garnering the vital harvest of 1945.

M. A. P

GROWING UP AND BEING GROWN-UP

3.—A HAPPY MARRIAGE

How many couples of your acquaintance do you think are happily married? You may at once name the Greens and the Browns and perhaps Mr. and Mrs. Smith too; but next you come across a name which makes you wonder! Are they or are they not, really happy together?

No stranger, not even an intimate friend can judge the degree of happiness a married couple are enjoying; they may look happy to the outside world but have constant rows at home; or they may quarrel in front of other people but lead a most contented life in the privacy of their home. Husband and wife may even criticise their partner openly or in private but might, nevertheless, not wish to be parted for anything in the world.

If it is so hard to tell whether a couple is happily married, how is one to learn about the right way to achieve married happiness? When it comes to deciding whether Bill or Joe is the right man; when your reason says "Bill" and your heart says "Joe," or your heart seems to beat now for Joe and now for Bill, *how* do you decide? "Advice to the Lovelorn" as offered in some of the popular papers and magazines, can surely not quite fit your own personal problem which is different from any other, since you are different, your partner is different, and the circumstances are not fully known to the brave person who undertakes to advise you from a distance. No, you have a more reliable and, at times, a more tyrannical guide at your disposal. This guide directs you very quietly, but persistently; often you are not aware of him but when you make your choice he is sure to have a hand in it. This pilot is a kind of mental picture, made up of memories, impressions and feelings as old as you are and begun when, as an infant, you first became aware of your parents and formed the loving picture of them in your heart. If they are, or were, happy in marriage that fact goes a long way to encourage a good choice in your own case. Some people believe that a girl nearly always chooses a husband who in some respect resembles her father. Not perhaps in his looks but in his character, or in the way he walks and talks; but more important is the memory of father as he seemed during one's childhood; the perfect father whom the little girl admired even before she could speak may suddenly have taken on the form of Bill or Joe and

lead to what we are used to calling "love at first sight"; you may say you love Bill or Joe for some very concrete qualities—he thinks the way you do—he likes the things you like—or simply "he is the man I was waiting for"; all these are perfectly good reasons and they contribute to the fact that he has suddenly, in your heart, taken the place of that early love for your father which is now no longer so powerful.

When this change has taken place in a woman's life, then she has reached true maturity; the test of many a woman's feeling is, however, the relationship not only with her father but with her mother.

For many women, the tie with mother remains the most powerful thing in their feeling life. It is a sign of this that when marriage becomes a strain, the idea of "going back to mother" invariably presents itself. Jokes about mothers-in-law and the proverbial tension between a husband and his wife's mother are a common expression of this fact. The husband has to take the place, in some respects, not of the real mother of a grown-up girl but of the all important mother of the small girl's early days. He provides for her, as mother used to do, the physical and spiritual contentment she needs. She suffers, as the little girl used to do, pangs of frustration when he is not present or is not able to give her what she needs in life; and for many women, the dependence upon the husband is as absolute and complete as the one upon mother used to be.

Modern girls often scorn the woman who finds her whole contentment in marriage; they think it is silly to be sentimental and clinging; they promise never to be like that and they jealously guard their independence by keeping at work when married. That attitude has some effect upon the question of children in a marriage. Young couples who decide not to have children—so as to keep mutually independent—are often very much put out when a baby makes an appearance before they are ready for it. The young wife may even resent the child so much that she is prepared to hand over its care to her own mother or her husband's mother in order to follow her career. Financial circumstances may, of course, make this necessary but in many cases the true reason is the young wife's reluctance to devote herself to her baby.

THE LAND GIRL

During wartime, it was thought natural for a mother to take up war-work and Day Nurseries were provided to enable even the youngest baby to be cared for during mother's absence at war-work. The baby had its regular food and care but it did not have the close contact with its own mother which makes such a big difference to its happy development. On the other hand, we got to know young mothers who stayed at home with their young children while father was in the services, and who felt tied down with the care of them and cut off from friends and amusements to such an extent that they began to feel the children as a burden. This made both mother and children irritable and short tempered and in such a case a good nursery could often help to relieve the strain and give mother the chance to find outside interests in work and leisure.

Happiness in marriage also depends, to a large extent, upon mutual tolerance between the partners; when all the points of difference between them are fully discussed and brought into the open, resentment and ill-feeling need not fester; if fear or distrust of the partner prevent this healthy ventilation, then one may see one of those permanently embittered marriages that are often beyond repair and a very great source of distress to the children. Their fate, as we have seen earlier, is intimately bound up with the good or bad relationship between their parents; and parents can only help them to healthy growth if they are able to maintain a positive balance of love—a happy marriage.

M. Hicklin

THE BIRDS IN THE BICYCLE BAG

Late in March I went for my bicycle after work and found an odd mess of straw hanging out of my bag.

"Now who has been playing with this?" I asked. "Oh!" exclaimed the head-gardener, "I forgot to tell you—a robin hopped in and out of your bag on Saturday and again this morning." One end of the bag was open, so of course I peeped inside—there was the beginning of a nest!

The next morning I put my cycle in the same place and as I passed the kitchen window the cook remarked "You're late this morning." "Am I?" I said, glancing hurriedly at the clock. "Well, that robin of yours thinks so anyhow, she's been hopping about for the last hour with a feather in her mouth waiting to get on with her building." And so it continued. Every night I cycled home with a

nest in my bag and next day found the robin waiting for me. She became quite tame and worked hard all day. Naturally she was sometimes annoyed when I rode off with her nest in the evening and I *did* feel a brute!

Then a problem arose, I had a week-end off, and couldn't leave my cycle out all that time. I couldn't bear to take the nest away, so I hooked the bag high up on the wall above where the cycle had stood, over it erecting a shelter.

My first thought on returning, was my robin, but alas!—no robin was to be seen, nor further building done. "Well," I thought "that's that"—but was it? You see when the bag had been on the cycle the bird had gone in by the open end which was facing forwards but when the bag was on the wall, that end faced sideways. Soon my persistent little friend found her way in from the front again and hectically started building another nest beside the old one, but before this was finished she laid six eggs in the old one and hatched out four. The baby robins soon outgrew their home so their mother slept in the unfinished "twin bed." Meanwhile, a larger home must have been built near by, because as soon as the young birds could flap a wing, they removed, and for a week or two both parents came down regularly in search of crumbs.

Lancs.

J. Hanson, 42535

TURN OF THE YEAR

Kate, the blackberries are ripe,
And the nuts are falling;
Squirrels leaping in the woods,
All the starlings calling.

Falling—calling!
Gossamers like silver spread
Line the paths for you to tread.

Here and there along the slopes
Bracken's turning yellow;
In the orchard by the brook
Pears are ripe and mellow.

Yellow—mellow!
For your jewels you shall wear
Rowan-berries in your hair.

Mushrooms in the meadow grass
Wait for you to find them;
All the Autumn's treasures pass
While we never mind them.

Find them—mind them!
Come with me and you shall hold
Armfuls of September gold.

Warwicks

A. Coats, 2026



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.

Drawn by M. Clough, 97111, Northants

SOMETHING ACCOMPLISHED, SOMETHING DONE

The following article was written for the LAND GIRL by Mr. A. H. Lugg, Assistant Horticultural Instructor, Herts. Institute of Agriculture.

When, in August 1942, a reclamation scheme for orchards and pruning services was talked of, the first difficulty to be met was the provision of skilled labour to carry out this task.

It was suggested that members of the W.L.A. should be trained for this purpose and I must admit that I was rather sceptical at that time as to the success of this venture, but I had failed to take into consideration the versatility and adaptability of the modern girl, provided the will to learn and overcome difficulties was present.

At the end of September my first team arrived, training in the orchards at "Oaklands," and by a process of elimination we had formed our first pruning team by mid-October. By the end of the first fortnight the basic principles of pruning individual trees, according to variety and general characteristics had been mastered, together with the correct way to use the saw and the particular angle at which the cuts were made to ensure quick and clean healing.

So far trees of a bush type, fifteen feet high, only had been attempted and it was with mixed feelings that I first introduced my team to an orchard of cherry trees at Kings Langley in November. These trees, all approximately sixty feet high,

badly needed thinning and the removal of dead wood.

This looked, and was, a formidable task, especially for girls whose past working lives had been spent as tailoress, dressmaker, photographer's assistant and ladies' hair-dresser respectively; but nothing daunted, they climbed the long ladders and ere long the only sound that disturbed the peace of the orchard was the rasp of the saws and occasional thud of the branches as dead and crossing boughs fell to the ground.

Having passed the first milestone the team had to meet the sternest test of all, for a series of demonstrations had been arranged on the pruning of established orchards and the girls were to be the central figures in demonstrating their skill before the critical eyes of the experienced growers. From this test they emerged with flying colours and greatly increased confidence.

The result of these demonstrations was that applications for the services of the pruning team came in from growers all over the county and the team embarked on its real mission—to improve the quality and quantity of the fruit in the county.

From this stage on they became a self-contained mobile unit, one girl being taught to drive. During the first season some forty acres of fruit were dealt with and every grower without exception, was full of praise for the efforts and behaviour of the team and booked their services again for the following season. No better testimony is possible.

The acreage covered and standard of

work attained has improved from year to year, and during the past season, despite the prolonged hard weather, the 100 acre mark was nearly reached.

Pruning has not been the only activity of the team, for grafting and budding was the next step and to this they are applying themselves with equal enthusiasm. They were booked for budding some thousands of stocks in July and it is hoped they will have mastered the grafting in order to be available for this work in the spring of 1946. During the summer months fruit picking is their lot and in the 1944 season an average of 1 ton 1 cwt. 48 lbs. per girl per picking day was achieved.

It has been my good fortune to be responsible for this team, and it has indeed been a pleasure. During the three seasons I have visited them practically every day, at all hours, and I have yet to find them either late or wasting their time.

The W.L.A. can well be proud of them, for they have forged a good name by sheer industry and enthusiasm.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation of the loyal support I have always received from the team. The Leader, Minnie Wright, has set a fine example and I know she has always received the wholehearted support of the rest of the team—Hilda Lee, Vera Nanson and Betty Dickson—they can best be described as "Four Pals with but one single aim—efficiency."

"Four Portraits," Peter Quennell, (Collins 12s. 6d.).

Mr. Quennell regards the four people he has chosen to portray in this book—Boswell, Gibbon, Sterne and Wilkes—as representing in England the eighteenth century civilisation which many thinkers regard as the highest point our western civilisation has reached or is likely to reach. Certainly, our forefathers of that century had inadequate drains, no central heating, no motor-cars, no radio, no atomic bombs; even their manners, though much finer than ours in some respects, were considerably more ruthless in others. John Wilkes fought two duels, Boswell was frequently drunk, Sterne, though a clergyman, wrote books that could be put into the hands of no young person, Gibbon's sneers were dreaded in society. Why then should they be regarded as more civilised than ourselves, and their age as more civilised than ours? One thing these odd and diverse people—biographer and tuft hunter, historian, novelist and political agitator—had in common. They were afraid of nothing in the realm of thought and imagination. No idea and

no feeling were unwelcome or forbidden to them; they investigated everything with unbiassed curiosity; so far as material limitations allowed, they did everything that it occurred to them that they would like to do. That is why they were so odd and so diverse. They lived most of their lives before the French Revolution, which frightened Europe into Victorianism. Yet the author shows that each of them did something to prepare the ground for the catastrophe. When it came, none of the three who survived liked it. Mr. Quennell does not actually put the question, "Can men have a civilisation without at the same time destroying it?", but his vivid and interesting book inevitably suggests it.

M. Jaeger

A GOLDEN RULE

A nasty accident happened last March to a young member of the W.L.A.

She was working by herself and was preparing to hitch up a roller to her tractor. According to the report received it is customary in the locality whilst preparing to attach an implement to the drawbar, to leave the tractor in reverse gear after securing the clutch in the de-clutch position by a hook. Everything points out that this is what the young woman had done and that the hook holding the clutch outslipped or was knocked off accidentally whilst she was bending to attach the drawbar. The result was that the tractor, being in reverse gear, was driven on to her and she was pinned down under the tractor's off wheel. The tractor was fortunately prevented from going further back by the roller or the girl might have been crushed to death. She was so badly injured that she is still crippled although likely to make a good recovery in time.

The practice of leaving the tractor in gear and then to hold the clutch in the disengaged position by the hook is very dangerous and everything possible should be done to discourage it. The proper method is for the gear lever to be put in neutral when hitching up; but if the outfit is standing on a slope and there is a risk that the tractor would move away by gravity, the brake must be applied. On the old pattern Fordson this is done by fully de-clutching and holding the clutch pedal down with the hook, but on the newer pattern by applying the brakes with which the tractor is fitted.

Always put the gear lever in neutral when about to hitch up an implement.



Three winners of a Surrey beauty competition.
Left to right :—M. Stolls, who won first prize ; P. Pearse and J. McArdell, who tied for second prize.

Her Majesty the Queen has honoured the Benevolent Fund by repeating her previous donation.

The following is part of an account written by P. Wells of the Victory Service at St. Paul's (see next column).

It was great fun being able to walk past the police cordon and into the Cathedral. Our seats at the South Entrance were at the back but by craning our necks we were able to spot different celebrities as they came up the aisle. A fanfare of trumpets announced their Majesties . . . Joan and I were determined to see the King and Queen leave so we slipped past the kindly police at the door after the service and ran round to the front of St. Paul's. Slipping in between two Horse Guards we were in time to see their Majesties and the Princesses leave the steps of St. Paul's and enter the red and gold landau. Attended by outriders they drove through cheering crowds. We saw various Royalty and statesmen leave and the crowds went wild when Mr. Churchill drove away making the V sign.

ARABLE CROPS, 2 is number 15 of the Young Farmers' Club booklets. It is well up to the usual excellent standard of this valuable series and was written by Mr. Thomas of Dauntseys who is an old friend of the Land Army. The illustrations are admirable, there is a useful list of books and table of facts and figures. Volunteers on farms should all read this booklet, 9d or 1/- post free from N.F.Y.F.C., Oaklings, Canon Close, Radlett, Herts.

Congratulations to Patricia Wells, 38436 (Surrey) and Joan Mumford, 40323 (Essex) who represented the Land Army at the Victory Service at St. Paul's on August 19th. They have both been in the W.L.A. for over four years and have each worked all the time on one farm mostly at milking and general farm work. Both gained Proficiency Badges for milking and Miss Wells had 97 marks in her Test. She was a clerk before the war and Miss Mumford was a shorthand typist.

And to Mrs. D. M. Nichols and her eighteen-year-old daughter Doris, who get up at 5 a.m. seven days a week to help turn out part of Worthing's milk supply. Neither knew anything of farm work before the war and Doris has no intention of returning to work in a shop. Is there any other mother and daughter working together in the W.L.A. ?

And to Miss Barnham, 20758 (Norfolk) who has been appointed Assistant Milk Production Officer under the E. Suffolk W.A.E.C.

Mrs. Edmunds, the subject of Star Turn Number 6 in the August issue of the LAND GIRL is working in Wiltshire.

DO YOU KNOW

1. How many (a) sheep, (b) dairy cattle, (c) beef cattle there are in Australia ?
2. How many sheep were lost in the Australian drought of 1944-45 ?
3. For what dogs a licence is *not* required ?
4. The uses of (a) white, (b) black mustard ?

Answers on page 12.

APPEARANCES ARE DECEPTIVE

The following story won 1st Prize in a Hertfordshire Land Army Competition

I had never seen Aunt Margaret nor Uncle James, and only knew that they lived in the Home Counties, that Uncle James had retired from business, and that they were rather "difficult" people.

It was, therefore, a complete surprise for me, in my fourth year of service in the Women's Land Army, to receive an invitation from Aunt Margaret to go and spend a few days with them during my next leave.

Aunt Margaret's home had been described, by those who had been privileged to visit it, as a model of cleanliness and good order, and I shuddered to think of going there carrying farmyard samples stuck to the soles of my shoes, and of spreading stable and cowshed aroma throughout her immaculate domicile.

Aunt Margaret welcomed me warmly on my arrival at "The Acres," but I was perturbed when she gave a long sniff as I stood in the hall, I felt much worse when she continued sniffing after we had settled down in her drawing room. I felt that the "difficult" period had arrived, and that I should have to make use of my sheet anchor by going home at once.

But to my surprise Aunt Margaret burst out laughing and said:—

"Do you know, my dear, I have not had such enjoyment for years." Another prolonged sniff.

"You wouldn't think that your old Aunt could heave a bull round by the tail, would you? I have done it, my dear, over thirty years ago. I was in the Women's Land Army in the last war, and the smell of the farm, that you brought here with you, is as good as a tonic to me: it takes me back to those days when I looked very much like you; I was twenty-three then."

Uncle James being out somewhere, Aunt Margaret and I had tea together and I found her most kind and interesting, altogether different from the person I had expected to meet.

We were talking about farming generally when she said that one cow in particular stood out from all the rest in her experiences with cattle, and this is her story.

"This cow, Stella by name, was the quietest and meekest of the herd, but, because of some malformation of her horns and the set of her head, she had a terrifying look. Stella also had a habit of closely following people about, hoping to get a bit of cake or something else tasty to eat."

"This innocent habit, on one occasion, nearly frightened the life out of a man, who

used to pass the farm daily and whom we knew well by sight. He was a little man, slightly built, very well dressed, always with a flower in his buttonhole, and he carried the inevitable umbrella. On occasions, he wore a frock coat and silk hat.

"There was a short cut to the railway station through one field, and one morning the little man came along it. As it happened, the cows had been turned into that field just before he made his appearance, and, as usual, Stella trotted after him hopelessly.

"The field was large and the little man spotted Stella following him when he was a quarter way across it. He quickened his pace and so did Stella; glancing again over his shoulder Stella gave a playful snort and, catching sight of her head at its most fearsome angle, he took to his heels, showing an amazing turn of speed.

"He cleared the gate with six inches to spare and went his way leaving Stella gazing after him mournfully and disappointedly. What Stella thought I don't know, but my own thoughts were far from complimentary.

"Returning from Town that evening outside the station I had to run the gauntlet of a group of loafers who used to stand around the entrance. As I passed, one tried to chuck me under the chin while another tried to hold my arm. Someone behind me told them to stop molesting a young lady and to behave themselves. I turned round, and saw the little man, complete with frock coat, top hat, umbrella, and the flower in his buttonhole.

"My heart sank at seeing the broken reed that had come to my assistance; it sank further when the biggest bully said:—'Hullo, Cissie!' tipped the little man's hat over his eyes and knocked his umbrella to the ground.

"To my amazement, the little man turned towards the bully and with lightning rapidity, gave him one blow on his chin that knocked him out completely.

"After enquiring whether any other loafer required similar treatment and receiving no response, the little man straightened his hat on his head and retrieved his umbrella. Then, after waiting until I had started on my way, he resumed his interrupted journey home without saying a word to me."

I was on the point of asking Aunt Margaret if she saw the little man afterwards, when she said that Uncle James had just returned, and into the room walked a little man, slightly built, very well dressed, and with a flower in the buttonhole of his coat.

I. Hughes, 45183

STAR TURN No. 7



Eileen O'Sullivan, 57594 (Bucks.) is described by her employer as "an extraordinarily good Land Girl" of whom it is his "duty to express a little appreciation." She has been in the Land Army and the same job for nearly four years. She lodges two miles from the farm but has never once been late at work, no matter what the weather. She does cheerfully whatever job is most needed at the moment although milking is her favourite—usually she milks (by hand) eight or nine cows but can cope with the whole herd when necessary.

True to her name, Eileen O'Sullivan comes from County Cork and has an Irish brogue—also a great many brothers and sisters. She is hoping to see one brother, resident for some years in America, on his way back to America from Germany where he is serving as a Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Army. She would like to stay on the land but may have to go home to Ireland when the Land Army ends, to look after father and brothers.

When she first came to England Miss O'Sullivan was a domestic worker in a boys' school but much prefers a farm. She is reported to be particularly good with animals and able to manage horses which have failed to win any popularity with other workers. Perhaps her experience with small boys has proved useful on the farm?

She regards a sun bonnet (hers came from France) as the ideal wear for harvesting and hot weather, it "just makes all the difference." She also says that where she works none of them need clocks or watches because the farm is near the rail-

way and the trains are their time signals. This sounds as if the trains on that line were very well arranged both as to time and number, but it is alarming to think how late dinner would be if there were a railway strike.

Please note that in future all communications for the Land Girl should be addressed to the Editor, The Land Girl, W.L.A. Headquarters, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.

CAUTIONARY TALES No. 2

"Isn't Polly coming to the Dance?"

"No, she says she can't afford a ticket."

"But she wouldn't come to the cinema last week, she can't be as hard up as all that."

"Oh, well you see poor Polly was ill all that time and she used up all her savings and more."

"But why on earth use up her savings?"

"What else could she do, I'd like to know?"

"If her insurance money wasn't enough to keep her, the Benevolent Fund would have helped. I know, because they did for a girl on the next farm. Did Polly get her Insurance money?"

"Well, no, I believe she never got a certificate or something."

"Well, of all the idiots . . . why on earth do we pay insurance, and get on a panel and join a Society and everything?"

"She never thought about it I suppose."

"Well she'll have plenty of time to think now, when she pretty well can't afford to do anything else, poor Polly."

Directly you fall ill, ask your doctor for a certificate which he will give you without charge. Send this within three days to your Insurance Society. You must go on sending a doctor's certificate every week as long as you are ill. If you do not send it within three days, and each week afterwards, you will not get your benefit money. Several members of the Land Army have had to pay expenses which they need never have incurred. In one case the volunteer actually lived opposite the agent of her Approved Society but failed to send in more than one week's claim and had to pay for weeks of illness out of her own pocket.

The Benevolent Fund will not pay up the money you have lost by your own carelessness in not making a claim, but it will make a grant in addition to benefit money in a hard case.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

It was with much regret that I had to apply for my release from the W.L.A. in June, for I had loved the life in the country and with the animals. However I still take the LAND GIRL as I do not feel that interest in agriculture ever truly wanes once, even for a short while, it has become part of the action of one's life. Thus do I secretly envy those who continue in this enchanted life, still facing the wind and weather—biting frost, the early morning clank of pails and flick of the cow's tail, the harvest heat and hurry and the dew on the stubble.

Cambs.

J. F. Kenyon Rogers, 67299

The following is part of a letter received in the N. Riding Office about a recent trip to London by members of the Scarborough Club:

We arrived in London early on Saturday morning, and went to the Club for breakfast. We found the Club well stocked with comfortable chairs and thought the paintings on the dining room walls were fascinating. After breakfast we toured all the big shops, finishing up in Selfridges where—mentally—we spent fortunes! Later we saw an exhibition of new Fordsons and the talkative demonstrator generously offered us each an explanatory leaflet. When only two of us accepted he confessed that he was much relieved as he only had a few! After lunching at the Marble Arch Lyons, where a sympathetic waitress gave us an extra potato each, we set off for the Zoo. Our time there passed very pleasantly and before long it was time to join the inevitable queue for tea.

That evening, we saw an excellent show at the Princes Theatre—"The Three Waltzes." We tried, without success, to get something to eat afterwards and returned to the Club absolutely famished, though somewhat cheered by the knowledge that there were some sandwiches left over from our journey. And so to bed—and those beds were heavenly too!

Next day we felt so hungry we could have eaten breakfast three times over. Most of the morning we spent at the Daily Express "Horror Camp" Exhibition; then in the afternoon we went sight-seeing—Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, 10, Downing Street, etc. At tea time we set off to the Regent Palace Hotel and stayed there until train time. In the lounge after dinner we had a most interesting talk with a farmer and his wife who told us all about their farm in Belgium. At 10.15 p.m. we set off for Scarborough again—

and work; by 7 o'clock on Monday morning we were reporting for duty. Somehow we got through that day but we were very weary. It had been well worth the weariness however—in fact we are ready for a repeat performance!

N.R. Yorks.

M. Cornish, 27292

Dear Editor,

We, having been in the L.A. for three years, know what it's like to be in our uniform from 6 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Perhaps the person who wrote the letter, in our position, would be only too glad to change into a dress and a pair of shoes that will bend, which as you know, run away with fourteen coupons, and besides, what are we expected to sleep in. At least we need sixteen coupons for pyjamas.

As you are aware, we have only one overcoat, which isn't fit to dress up in after working in it in the winter. You say we have 41½ coupons, well, take these 30 from 41½ and it only leaves 11½ for underclothes including one pair of stockings.

We have worked willingly and well during our three years' service but we are looking forward with anticipation to the day when we get demobbed with one shirt, one pair of shoes, one coat and no gratuities.

"Three Northamptonshire Land Girls."

Dear Editor,

Some years ago I bought a second-hand pair of W.L.A. shoes for 5/-. Recently I went for a long walk and had either to wade a stream, six yards wide, or retrace my steps for three or four miles, so I waded shoes in hand. Half way across I decided to throw them on to the opposite bank but unfortunately they fell in the water and began to float downstream. I retrieved them, put them on and walked home dry foot!

W.L.A.

Miss Hodges, W.L.A. 62565, of Top View, Combe Down, Bath, hopes to emigrate to Ontario, Canada, later on. She would like to correspond with another member of the Land Army who has similar plans.

The 34/- sent to W.L.A. 58547 for a pull-over advertised in the November LAND GIRL (which had already been sold) has **never been claimed** although mentioned twice in the magazine. **Unless it is claimed by November 1st it will be given to the Benevolent Fund.**

THE LAND GIRL GALA DAY IN KENT



By courtesy of The Kent Messenger (County paper of Kent)

A lovely day, a lovely Princess, and sixteen hundred brown hats and green jerseys, marching past her on Canterbury's historic cricket ground. The band of the Kentish Buffs playing. Great white clouds. White tents. Flags fluttering. Speeches. Cameras clicking. Cheers and laughter. Pride and happiness. That was the Rally on July 28th.

Before that, we had had the service in the Cathedral, the nave entirely filled with the girls in green and fawn. It was their day, with only a sprinkling of other people: the officiating clergy in their rich vestments, the choir in their purple and white, the Duchess of Kent, very pretty, very youthful, all in white, in a chair too big for her slenderness; a few specially invited guests. Lady Violet Astor, Lord Cornwallis, the Mayor of Canterbury, Mrs. Heron Maxwell, Sir Edward Hardy, Miss Cox . . . but really it was the girls' day, and they filled the great church, and it was their young voices that rose

singing that poignantly suitable hymn.

"We plough the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land . . ."

It was extraordinarily moving to hear those girls singing that hymn—moving, because one knew that they had actually done the things that they were singing about. They had ploughed and sown and harvested and threshed. They knew what it all meant. And they sang with a will.

Afterwards, H.R.H. drove away to visit a hospital and a Youth Centre, giving the girls time to form up into their procession and march to the parade ground. Each section was headed by a banner, grouping them either under their occupation or the name of their hostel; the picturesque green berets of the Timber Corps aroused a good deal of envy. And how surprisingly well they all marched!

Arrived at the parade ground, we had time to admire the big red threshing machine, the only one in the whole of England manned entirely by women.

Then came a stir, some applause, a movement in the crowd, and H.R.H. appeared, escorted to the stand by Lady Violet and the Lord Lieutenant. The band struck up, marching ahead of the long, long line of girls; past the stand, eyes right, all round the field, forming up finally in a great phalanx opposite, so perfectly carried out that it was difficult to believe that many rehearsals hadn't taken place. Then came the presentation of long-service armlets and of proficiency badges, received by each girl with a smile and a curtsy. Then three speeches. First Lady Violet, who has a real gift for expressing her self with simplicity, clarity and charm. Next the Duchess whose slight foreign accent, added to her evident shyness, surely delighted us all. Finally Lord Cornwallis, whose enthusiasm for the Land Army burst out again, as it always does whenever given the chance. No wonder that he is so popular among members of the W.L.A. in his own Kent.

H.R.H. fully deserved her tea by that time, and was led off towards the tea-tent, but was she allowed to reach it without interference? No, she was not. She was literally stormed on the way by a surge of girls, who surrounded her so enthusiastically that the white figure completely disappeared into a mass of green and brown.

Did anybody notice, by the way, how very sleek and restrained the famous Princess Marina curls have become? I thought how elegant they looked, compared with some of the rather exuberant styles of hairdressing swirling round her.

Congratulations must go to all concerned. To those who had the strenuous job of organising this supremely successful rally; to those who attended it, not forgetting our thanks to those employers who allowed their girls a day off. But above all we must say that the whole thing was designed as a tribute of honour to the Kent W.L.A. itself. It was more than well deserved, and we must conclude by saying that we rejoiced to see how many were able to be present and by sympathising with those who for one reason or another were unable to come.

V. Sackville-West

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY SHOW AND GYMKHANA

On July 28th one of the most successful shows ever staged in the county was held at the King George Memorial Field, Bar End, Winchester, which was loaned for the occasion by the Winchester City Council. The weather was real "show weather," and the thousands who attended were well rewarded by the long and interesting programme which had been provided.

The idea originated with Mr. Percy Yates, a farmer who secured the co-operation of other farmers and members of the W.A.E.C. Thanks are especially due to Mr. A. G. Edwards, Feeding Stuffs officer, who acted as Secretary. The result of the committee's efforts was so successful that it is hoped to make the event an annual one. On this occasion it was in aid of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and although the final result is not yet known it will certainly run into four figures.

Altogether there were 19 classes and events. From 11 a.m. when the judging commenced until nearly 9 p.m. the ring was the scene of event after event, interspersed with such attractions as the Hursley Fox Hounds, with Mr. Fred Garston (Huntsman) and an exhibition of sheep-dogs at work by Mr. M. Hayton, of Ilkley. City folk who had never seen the wonderful sagacity of these animals must have been astounded at the manner in which they obeyed their master's whistled directions.

During the afternoon Mrs. Inez Jenkins, C.B.E. (Chief Administrative Officer of the W.L.A.), spoke from the microphone at the ringside, and expressed the gratitude of the whole Land Army to Mr. Percy Yates and his Committee for their generosity to the Land Army Benevolent Fund.

The entries in the horse show were of a very high standard, especially in the agricultural classes, which

in these days of mechanised farming is encouraging to those of us who love the sight of a Shire, a Clydesdale or a Suffolk in his "shining armour." The exhibits were well up to pre-war standard and beautifully produced. There were contests for the best driving turn-out, hunters, pony riding, hackney driving championship and many others. In the best kept cart-horse and harness competition a special prize was offered to W.L.A. drivers and the award went to Miss M. Tufts of Winchester.

One of the outstanding exhibits was the interesting Horticulture Tent, arranged by the Technical Development Committee of the W.A.E.C., with the co-operation of Hampshire growers. Here was to be seen the story of the tomato—the seed, the seedlings, the pot plants and the "fruit" ripening on the plant. There was also a splendidly arranged exhibition of fruits and vegetables, and at the end of the day the produce was auctioned by Captain Holmes. Mr. Chester was responsible for many attractive side shows and the National Farmer's Union had a most effective display, the central feature being a diagrammatic arch showing agriculture as the keystone supporting the other major industries.

YORKSHIRE RALLY

July 28th was an important day for the North Riding W.L.A. for on that date 214 girls, W.L.A. and W.A.E.C. Officials and Representatives and farmers and their wives who had kindly allowed the Proficiency Tests to be held on their farms, attended a Rally held at the Allertonshire School, Northallerton. All the girls who attended had completed four or five years' service or had passed their Proficiency Test. The awards were presented by the Marquis of Normanby who congratulated the girls not only on the nature of the work they were doing but on the high standard of efficiency they had gained in that work as evidenced by the large number who had won proficiency badges. Now that the war was over there was a tendency to relax but there was still need for all to pull together. The newly-elected Government had promised to win the peace but they could not do so without the support and co-operation of every man and woman. "Let us all get behind the Government and give it every chance to do that work" he urged. "Schemes never materialise from any Government by just putting them down on paper. Measures have to be taken for carrying out these schemes, and it is up to all of us to help to carry them through." He hoped the W.L.A. of Yorkshire which had set the standard for the country would maintain its reputation and set an example to the other counties of the country.

Miss Marie Cornish who, in 1944 passed the proficiency test in general farm work with distinction and in 1945 passed with distinction in field work, proposed the vote of thanks to Lord Normanby and this was seconded by Miss P. Walden, Forewoman of the Stokesley Hostel.

59 girls received their red armband for four years' service from Lord Normanby, and 80 their Proficiency Badges, 16 of these having passed with distinction, and 25 girls with five years' service received a special award of a wooden shield with a raised centre on which was painted the W.L.A. crest. In addition to the girls who received these special awards for five years' service, the North Riding Chairman, Katharine, Lady Graham, and Vice-Chairman, The Lady Celia Coates and one of the County Organisers, Miss W. Jacob Smith, all of whom have been connected with the W.L.A. since its formation in the North Riding also received these shields. 19 representatives received their four-year armbands. We feel all these awards were thoroughly deserved.

The Land Army song, price 1d. (2d. post free) or 1s. a dozen, post free, can be obtained from the Editor, LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1. Profits of sales go to the Benevolent Fund.

SCOTTISH NOTES

DEER & TURRIFF.—A successful dance in aid of the W. and B. Fund was organised by Miss C. Peter and Miss M. Cordiner and held at Tortoston Hall, near Peterhead, on 20th July. £21 1 0 was realised.

DUNBARTON & RENFREW.—The Helensburgh W.L.A. Club had a most successful picnic on Friday, 3rd August. They all went up to Glen Fruin in the evening and a few bathed in the Fruin, after which they had an excellent picnic around a really "super" fire. It was one of those glorious evenings and the only unwelcome guests were the midges. At the end, they had some songs and ended up with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. McNaught of Blairnairn who had given them his field and started the fire for them.

INVERNESS & NAIRN.—The presentation of armlets and badges to Inverness and Nairn volunteers took place in the Old High Church Hall, Inverness. There was a large representation of both county detachments, and their parents and friends, and members of the L.A. Committee. The presentation of badges was kindly performed by Mr. Logie Macdonald, Morayston, and there were with him on the platform Miss Ellis, Invergarry, County Commandant of the L.A., who presided, the Hon. Mrs. M. L. Campbell, Auchindoune, Nairn representative, and Mr. D. Scott Swanston.

Miss Ellis, in a happy address, welcomed all the guests and members of the L.A., their friends from Nairnshire, and Mr. Logie Macdonald. The farmers, in whose employment the L.G's were, were deeply indebted for their hard work. Mr. Nairn, manager of the Playhouse, she would like to add, had reserved seats at the cinema for the girls after the show in the High Church Hall was over.

Mr. Logie Macdonald said that as Chairman of the Inverness-shire Labour Committee he was pleased to be present. The farmers for whom the girls worked were all glad to have their assistance, and testified to the fact that the girls had done so well.

Miss Henry, the Department's liaison officer, then read out the names of 15 girls from Nairnshire and 43 from Inverness-shire who received awards.

On the motion of the Hon. Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Logie Macdonald was heartily thanked. The L.G's, she said, were deeply indebted to Mr. Macdonald for the help and consideration he had given them in solving the problems that faced them.

Mr. D. Scott Swanston, in moving a vote of thanks to Miss Ellis, said the girls of L.A. were deeply indebted for her help. She was responsible for the various matters which the corps had to organise. The function at which they were present was under her guidance. She was also responsible for financial matters, and it was due to her they were going to the Cinema that afternoon. He would like to tell the members of the L.A. that they possessed what was better than any certificate, and that was blooming health. The Labour Committee took a keen interest in the welfare of the W.L.A., and the business committee discussed their problems every Tuesday morning. The meeting would agree with him that Miss Ellis and her assistants deserved a hearty vote of thanks for organising the function at which they were all present. This was passed with acclamation and afterwards a substantial tea with cakes, sandwiches and ices was provided.

MIDLOTHIAN.—Damage estimated at £7,000 was caused by fire to the North-west wing of Crookston House on 31st July. The Mansion House, which belongs to Captain Borthwick of Crookston, has three floors originally of Adam design. The barking of dogs awakened Mrs. Borthwick who, on going out to investigate, saw smoke coming from the North-west wing in which the W.L.A. were billeted, and immediately aroused the household. The girls at once tackled the job of carrying their bedding and belongings out to the lawn; then formed a chain to pass pails of water in an attempt to keep the flames in check before the

arrival of the N.F.S. detachments from Edinburgh and Galashiels. The girls are to be congratulated on the splendid way they worked under such an alarming experience.

NORTH LANARK.—W.L.A. members, Margaret Gilhooley and Annie Haffey who work at Easter Farm are to be congratulated on the success of the Dance which they ran on the 17th August in Wilson's Hall, Busby. As a result the W. & B. Fund will benefit by £21 5 0.

W. AND B. FUND.—July was a record month for the Fund. £1,760 4 3 was received, including the following outstanding donations:—Kirkintilloch Club, Sale of Work—£150; Dunbarton and Renfrew, Free Gift Scheme—£190; South Lanark, Auction Sale—£287 19 5; Timber Corps, £350 15 0; North Ayrshire Flag Day—£131 13 0; Dance in Arran—£30; North Ayrshire Flag Days—£404 10 0.

The Fund now stands at over £14,000. Christmas Cards will again be on sale this year, price 6d. each, also calendars, 1/- each. Orders should be sent to County W.L.A. Secretaries.

WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS

Members of the W.T.C. and the L.A. ran a most successful session last winter at the Mill Hut, Arundel. The joint activities were welcomed by both parties as affording an opportunity to get to know one another better. In addition to several successful dances, there were lectures, musical evenings, table tennis matches, cookery talks, beetle drives and knitting parties. It was decided to close down for the summer, though members are keeping up their knitting for the M.N. We wish the organisers every success for their next session. Successful dances have also been organised at Ticehurst, Braithwaite, Bolby, Chartridge, Castleton and Stoke Rochford. Members working on the Holme Wood unit enjoyed an interesting talk on health by Dr. Powell Heath of the Central Council of Health Education and the four Timber Corps representatives who attended the recent W.L.A. Conference in Cambridge were keenly interested, particularly in the discussions on post-war employment and emigration policy.

Answers to questions on page 6.

1. (a) 105 million, (b) nearly 5 million, (c) over 9 million.
2. 18 Million.
3. (a) under 6 months old, (b) kept solely for tending sheep or cattle, (c) by shepherds, (d) for guiding the blind.
4. (a) for feeding folded sheep or ploughing in, (b) for making mustard powder.

INVEST ONE COUPON AND KEEP WARM

In a pair of Leather Wellingtons ten or twelve inches high from welt. Toe-cap protectors. Pull-on loops. Foot-shaped Beechwood soles. Fitted with rubbers or irons. Wax-dressed uppers. WARM AND COMFORTABLE. Also special shoes, boots, and gloves. Wintry weather will soon be here. Stamped addressed envelope brings list.



L. TWEENWAY, Ltd., Horley, Surrey

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.—Black knee length field boots, size 6. £1. Nickels, Oak Tree, Swannmore, Hants.

FOR SALE.—Royal blue long sleeved woollen dress. Matching Jacket. Slim fitting. £1. Staines, Cranborne, Woodham Way, Woking, Surrey.

FOR SALE.—Tennis racket, press and cover, 15/- Black velvet evening coat, white fur collar, £3. Gosling, Greyfriars, Send Marsh, Ripley, Surrey.

FOR SALE.—Evening frock in clove crepe, bust 36, hips 40, extra long; also gold satin jacket, £3 10s. complete, no coupons. S. Ellis, Coulag-hairton, Kilberry, Tarbert, Argyll, Scotland.

FOR SALE.—Black boots (size 5½) ice skates attached. £4 or reasonable offer. Beazley, Trebanos, Edward Road, Dorchester, Dorset.

WANTED.—Ladies brown tweed riding coat. Bust 36 ins. Churton, Hasfield Hall, Huxley, Nr. Chester, Cheshire.

WANTED.—Lady for part time work with pedigree Jersey young stock in exchange for small house in beautiful situation. Beaby, Merrivale, Ross-on-Wye.

WANTED.—"This Above All" (Eric Knight). Full price paid. Bland, W.L.A. Hostel, Braybrook Road, Desborough, Northants.

WANTED.—Jodhpurs, waist 30 ins. Pleated shorts, waist 30 ins. Bathing costume, bust 38 ins. Riding boots, size 6 or 7. Hill, Spring Hill Farm, Fladbury, Worcs.

WANTED.—Ladies riding boots. Size 4½. Brown or black. Lanchbury, Howton Cottage, Pontrilas, Herefordshire.

WANTED.—Ladies brown walking shoes, size 4, good quality and condition. Sykes, Old Moor Steads, Longhirst, Morpeth, Northumberland.

WANTED.—Riding jacket medium size; also jodhpur or riding boots, size 6. Smith, Flanders Cottage, Hurley, Nr. Atherstone, Warwick.

BENEVOLENT FUND

On August 31st the Fund totalled £140,211 9s. 2d. The monthly total was £2,735 0s. 8d. KENT still has the highest total of £7,770 19s. 3d. and BERKS. the highest monthly total of £2,000.

Our warmest congratulations to BERKS who have sent us £2,000 from their June Rally and other activities in connection with it.

Two Garden Pests raised most of STAFFS' fine total of £164, Miss Shaw-Hellier's effort at Wombourne Woodhouse contributing £100 and Mrs. Hazard's at Milford Hall £61-10-0. Among other good efforts were £150 from CORNWALL; £126 from W. SUFFOLK including over £60 from a Fete and Gymkhana at Leavenworth Hostel and £60 from a W.V.S. Pie Scheme; £72 from E. and N. RIDING'S Dance at York.

Volunteers, many of whom have happy memories of Elton Hall Convalescent Home, will be interested to learn that a collection was recently taken for our Fund at the Hospital Chapel, and will be sad to hear that the Home is closing down.

Writers of letters, articles, poems, etc., for the magazine must send their names and addresses with their contributions. These will not be published if the authors wish otherwise, but the Editor cannot print any contribution of which the author is unknown to her.

COUNTY NEWS

LONDON & MIDD.—Marjorie Baynham was chosen to accompany Mrs. Jenkins to represent the Land Army at the VE-Day Thanksgiving Service in St. Paul's Cathedral. Marjorie was enrolled in October 1939. For a year and a half she worked in Derbyshire and since then has been with the same employer in Middlesex. As a milker she is doing one of the hardest jobs required of a L.G. Many Middlesex girls about to be married or to set up their own homes, have attended a Homecraft Training Course at Little Bradley House, and have written to say how helpful the course is and what a happy time they have spent during it. We are sorry to say good-bye to Miss Wight and Miss Illingworth at Howgate, and hope Miss Hodgson and her sister are going to be happy with us at Potters Bar. A departure which many of us are going to feel is that of Mrs. Sykes, who has worked for the L.A. in this area for nearly six years. Many of our Volunteers have known her personally and appreciate her untiring efforts for their welfare and happiness. We are very pleased to welcome Miss Birkett as County Organiser.

MON.—As is usual at this time of the year, work takes pride of place in our L.G.'s daily routine, and social functions go by the way. VJ holidays provided a welcome break and the volunteers who took part in the numerous Victory Parades were conspicuous by their smartness. A particularly successful hostel was opened in July at Newport—Fields Park Hostel is beautifully situated in a central position in the town and the 28 girls housed there are congratulating themselves on their good fortune. The visit of Miss G. E. C. Scott of the Women's Employment Federation, took place during the end of July, when she gave interesting lectures at various hostels in the County on all kinds of post-war careers, and opened up new channels of thought for all those who heard her. We are planning an extensive Recruiting Campaign in September with the aid of cinema shows and attractive recruiting booths—we hope to gain many new recruits. We regret that one of our long service volunteers, Doreen Walker, met with a very serious accident in the hay field when mowing. We hope that she will soon be fit again.

NORFOLK.—The L.A. was well represented at the Y.F.C. Rally held at Crown Point on July 14th. Miss J. Mack, 29227, of Heydon was the winner of their Clean Milking Competition. Miss Bantick and Miss Hornshaw both gained awards in the produce section. Mrs. Whotton, 110099, tells us that 126 acres of corn were cut in one week on her farm—a splendid achievement; the tractor and binder worked non-stop through the co-operation of Mrs. Whotton, her employer and the horse-man. In connection with the Norfolk War Charities week a parade was held to the Cathedral on Aug. 5th; 34 members of the L.A. attended and marched with contingents of the Navy, Army and Air Force and other organisations. On the return to the City Hall the salute was taken by General Ozanne, Commodore Duke, Group Captain Dunn and the Lord Mayor. After the proceedings an excellent lunch was served by the W.V.S. at the Elm Hill Club to the L.G.'s. A number of girls were prevented from attending owing to transport difficulties. We are arranging an Exhibition of Handicraft for Dec. 1st in the Sucking Hall, Norwich, and hope to receive many entries; full particulars are being sent out with this month's news letter.

W.L.A. GREEN HAIR RIBBON

2/3 for 3 yards (including postage)

RED RIBBON to match badge on armlets - 1/- yard.

BON TON, BALUSTRADE, BATH.

NORTH'L.D.—Newcastle-upon-Tyne is holding a Farm Week from Aug. 25th to Sept. 1st. Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland will all take part in this big event, the object of which is to obtain a greater understanding and appreciation by townspeople of the life of the agricultural community. Skilled members of the W.L.A. from all four counties will help to bring the country to the town by demonstrating various processes in the handling of milk and crops, even tractor driving, which gives some indication of the scale of the proceedings. A W.L.A. tent will have exhibits to show the activities of the L.A., including a stall with farm and garden produce—all the work of L.G.'s. On Sept. 1st, the last day, a special feature will be the entertainment given by members of the W.L.A. Newcastle Farm Week is the only undertaking of its kind in England this year, and Northumberland W.L.A. are doing all they can to help to make it a success. An appeal is made to W.L.A. members to interest any friends who may be released during the next few weeks from factories or other occupations, with a view to getting new recruits for the L.A. Mrs. Ord is arranging the programme of classes and entertainments for the winter, some of which will start at the end of October and others in November. There will be M.O.I. Film Shows, Cookery Demonstrations, Courses on Marriage and Mothercraft, Talks, Concerts. Will girls in private employment please enquire about these at their nearest Hostel?

OXON.—A visit from Miss Bower (Senior Administrative Officer W.L.A.), and Mrs. Wise (Women's Employment Federation), was greatly appreciated and very much enjoyed by D.R.'s, Wardens, and Hostel Supervisors. In a most interesting discourse Miss Bower clearly outlined the future of the W.L.A. and Government Training Schemes in Agriculture. Mrs. Wise offered, to volunteers who wish to leave the land on demobilisation, a wide choice of careers. Our Welfare Sale, held at the end of July in the County Office Gardens, was favoured with real summer weather which contributed greatly to the success of our effort. Gaily decorated stalls, side-shows, raffles, competitions and refreshments (including ice-creams!) yielded good profits. Volunteers, Wardens, D.R.'s and Office Staff gave liberally and worked willingly. We are most grateful to Mrs. Fry, County Committee, who worked unremittingly to make the afternoon a great success. The County Welfare Fund is £180 richer! We were delighted to have Miss Keith at the Wardens' Conference on the 16th Aug. It was agreed unanimously that both morning and afternoon sessions were most profitable. A very high standard was reached at a Poultry Proficiency Test when three volunteers passed with Distinction. I. Corney (99 per cent.) D. Fox (99 per cent.) and E. Ridley. We congratulate them.

PEMBS.—A Milking Competition for W.L.A. members with Proficiency Badges in Dairy Work took place at the Haverfordwest Annual Show. Ten volunteers entered; fortunately neither the competitors nor the cows were much disturbed by the large crowd. Miss N. Evans, a former Milking Champion at the London Dairy Show, kindly acted as judge. Our Committee Member who is also Milk Advisory Officer, Mrs. W. E. D. Jones, gave very great assistance and helped the two L.G. stewards. All the competitors did well; our special congratulations to the winners: Miss G. Taylor 1st, £5; Miss B. Stevens 2nd, £2 10s.; Miss M. Dawson 3rd, £1 10. Several L.G.'s were present at a large Agricultural Exhibition organised by the W.A.E.C. Miss G. Wiggins led in some of the cattle from the Stackpole Home Farm, and Miss E. Woosey helped to show the sheep from the W.A.E.C. farm at Priskilly. Miss A. Jones was with the Flax Exhibit and Miss M. Pictou presided over the Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables. Several hostels have given successful parties in aid of the Y.W.C.A. Birthday Fund. Solbury held a particularly good dance which raised over £25. The Glen Hostel enjoyed a C.E.M.A. Concert in July. After the Concert the Warden and volunteers entertained the artists and visitors to supper and a dance. We are very sorry to say good-bye to some of our oldest volunteers who have left us to work nearer home. We welcome the new ones who have come to Pembrokeshire this summer.

SALOP.—We greatly appreciated and enjoyed having Mrs. Jenkins in the county at the end of June, when she addressed a meeting of the County Committee and Local Representatives.

Cornth Hostel is closing this month much to the sorrow of the L.G.'s who have been billeted there. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. Maltzahn who has been our Warden since September, 1942, and all the members of her staff who have worked so faithfully for us. Norville Hostel girls were up and about early one Sunday morning recently when 16 of them accompanied by their boy friends set off at 6 a.m. for Blackpool. They spent a great day by the sea arriving home at 12.30 a.m. Mrs. Griffiths, as always, supplied their material wants in the shape of a grand picnic lunch. A similar trip has been arranged by the girls from Bourton Hostel who no doubt will have an equally enjoyable time, and a well earned "breather" from harvest work.

SOM.—We have recently had to say good-bye, with much regret, to several of our D.R.'s, Mrs. Phipps, Mrs. Fish, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Lavington Evans, and longer ago, Mrs. Worthington. We cannot thank them sufficiently for all they have done for us. One of our Representatives has just had an unexpected testimonial. When looking for a L.G. on a farm, a small girl came up to her and said "When I grow up I am going to be a landlady, and then you'll come and visit me, won't you?" Somerset had its recruiting campaign from the 4th to 20th August. Though somewhat interrupted by the excitement of the VJ-Days, Minehead, Taunton Bridgwater, Weston-super-Mare, Bath, Frome and Yeovil were visited, and an amazing variety of waxen L.G.'s adorned the window displays. Recreational activities have been few lately, as hay and corn harvest have demanded long hours of work. Miss Painter of Springfield Maltings, Stogumber, has however found time to continue to give dress-making classes to about 50 A.T.S. at Crowcombe Camp, which shows good co-operation between the Services. Congratulations to M. J. Taylor, who has been awarded a three years' scholarship to take a Degree course at Reading University starting this autumn. Also, to M. E. Gall, B. Wright and J. Wermig, who are to have Somerset C.C. scholarships to the Farm Institute, Cannington, for shorter trainings starting in October.

STAFFS.—Once again Miss Shaw-Hellier kindly lent her grounds and organised a garden fete in aid of the Benevolent Fund. We were delighted to welcome back to Staffordshire Mrs.

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



At a party given by the Warden at Rest Break House, Llandudno.

Frith, our first County Secretary, who opened the Fete. Miss R. M. Harrison, O.B.E., our Chairman, and Mrs. Fowle, Regional Officer, were also present. A fine sunny afternoon added to our enjoyment and the grand sum of £100 was realised. We thank Miss Shaw-Hellier, her staff, the Hostel Warden, girls and many friends for all their hard work. A very pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent at the Seisdon Club when Members of H.M. Forces, who had helped with potato picking and hay harvesting, and friends were entertained on the occasion of the Club's Second Birthday at their Headquarters on July 18th.

E. SUFFOLK.—We have not had at all encouraging weather for the harvest in this county, but hard work seems to be getting most of the very promising-looking crops in quickly and safely.

There were Proficiency Tests in hand milking and general farm work at Columbyne Hall on June 27th and a gardening test at Chantry Park on June 28th. We congratulate the 14 successful candidates, and in particular Miss Joan Mayhew (Pettaugh) who gained a distinction in general farm work, having already obtained a distinction in a tractor driving test. We are getting glowing reports of the work of our seven relief milkers from all parts of the county, and only wish we had more than double their number. On Aug. 22nd, our Chairman, Lady Cranworth, held a party for our W.L.A. officials, staff and local L.G.s. There were about 40 of us, and we all thoroughly enjoyed original and energetic games in the lovely gardens of Grundisburgh Hall. We ended with a tug-of-war between the staff and L.G.s. The result was a draw, which was settled by a single between a picked representative from each team. In this, Doris Rimmill (Otley) defeated Miss Roberts, C. Organiser, after a tough struggle.

WEST SUFFOLK.—Our outstanding event has been a very successful Gymkhana at Leavenheath. £160 was collected and divided equally between the Essex County Hospital and the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. Other outside attractions have been a Sports evening at Shimpling in aid of the Y.W.C.A. 90th Birthday Purse, and boating expeditions organised by the Hadleigh Club. The Inter-Hostel Gardening Competition was won by Lakenheath and the cup presented by Lady Briscoe.

There were two entries for a hand-milking Proficiency Test. Both passed, one with distinction.

SURREY.—The great event of the month has been the Flag Day collection which was held on Aug. 18th. The permit was only granted to us for this date, and it proved a very difficult month as so many of our Registrars and friends were away on holiday, whilst many of our volunteers were working overtime on the harvest. However, we have cleared £1,400 and best thanks and congratulations are due to all those who worked so hard on producing this excellent result, which will be divided between the County Welfare and the Benevolent Funds. Surrey had the honour of being asked to send one volunteer to the Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Aug. 19th. P. Wells, 38436 was selected, and we look forward to hearing her account of this historic occasion. Plans for the winter programme are going forward and it has been decided to hold a Handicrafts Exhibition next March. Full particulars will be sent out in October so everyone will have time to prepare their exhibits. The Model Farm, made by a number of Surrey L.G.s under the direction of Miss Weir, is an excellent piece of work. It is now on view in the window of the County Uniform Department in Guildford.

E. SUSSEX.—We are sorry to say good-bye to Mrs. Fletcher our Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Sale our County Organiser and our good wishes go with them. Mrs. Tidmarsh has been appointed a County Organiser and comes to us in October.

We are very proud of our first relief milker (other than those employed by the W.A.E.C.) Polly Murray who started work at Glynde on Aug. 13th. Polly visits four farms in rotation giving six milkers 24 hours off every week, and in addition a long weekend every six weeks. We are grateful to the farmers who have co-operated with us over this venture and hope before long to have other units working so that our milkers will all get more free time. Our first County Rally is to be held at the Dripping Pan in Lewes on Sept. 28th. Farmers are responding splendidly to Mrs. Brooke's request that they should let their L.G.s off and we hope to have a large gathering. The Rally will be preceded by a mechanised Parade through Lewes and the Duchess of Norfolk is to be our chief guest. During

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July successful dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund were held at Withyham and Uckfield; the performance in Lewes of "A Little Bit of Fluff," organised by Mr. Robert Mann, raised £35.

N. WALES.—The death of our committee member Miss M. E. Owen, J.P., was a profound grief to us all and we offer our deepest sympathy to Miss Gertrude Williams and the family. The serious road accident to Phyllis Williams caused grave concern and we pray for her speedy recovery; to Miss Riley, Warden of Bala Hostel our sincere gratitude for her devoted care of Phyllis before her removal to hospital. We owe much to Mrs. Drage and Mrs. Flower for their magnificent fete at Criccieth which realised £108 for the Benevolent Fund and we have high hopes of the W.L.A. Cookery Book on which Miss Wilkinson and Miss Ellis have worked so hard.

A warm welcome to Miss Hirst, our new Assistant Secretary and to others who have joined our office and hostels staff.

YORKS., E. R.—On August 1st the North and East Ridings joined together with a W.L.A. Stand at the York Red Cross Agricultural Show. Some excellent display photographs were lent by Headquarters and many W.L.A. girls who were having the day off for the Show, paid us a visit. On Aug. 7th a very successful dance was got up jointly by the East and North Ridings in aid of the Benevolent Fund at the De Grey Rooms, York. A prize draw of farm produce was held in connection with the dance with many excellent prizes. After all expenses were paid we were able to send a cheque to Headquarters for £36 as our half-share of the proceeds. The following account was unfortunately received too late to appear in the June number:—

On April 17th, a very pleasurable evening was spent at Rolston Hostel. The girls invited men from a Battery near by, who provided first class music for dancing. Light refreshments, made by the Warden and her staff added to the enjoyment. On April 24th, a dinner dance was given at this nearby camp in appreciation of many happy evenings spent at Rolston Hostel. The girls did full justice to the excellent dinner served by the men, and with games and dancing, had a thoroughly good time. Since re-opening the hostel in February, the girls have collected over £10 which is to be divided between the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and War Charities.

YORKS., N.R.—Our Benevolent Fund total has been increased this month by the result of a Dance held on Aug. 7th in York and organised jointly by the E. and N. Ridings, W.L.A. It was attended by a large number of W.L.A. girls and the Chairmen of the two Ridings, Katharine, Lady Graham and Lady Dunnington Jefferson were both present. A profit of £72 was made and this was divided between the two Ridings. Another joint effort was a Recruiting Stand at the York Agricultural Show. Three hostels have organised trips to the seaside on Sundays, and a local bus has been specially hired by the respective hostels. By leaving early in the morning it has been possible to have a full day at the sea and this has been much enjoyed by everyone. Where there were not sufficient girls from the hostel to fill the bus, girls from local farms in the area were asked to join the party.

A volunteer in Wiltshire has sent the Editor the addresses of three land girls in Tasmania who would like to correspond with members of the L.A. here. Letters from those interested should, in the first instance, be sent to the Editor, W.L.A. Headquarters, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.

"THE LAND GIRL"

Published Mid-monthly

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County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total			Em- ployed
	£.	s.	d.	
Kent	7770	19	3	3433
Essex	5565	4	6	2619
Surrey	4708	2	11	2008
Hants.	2227	8	5	1676
Leics. 1414 } Rut. 206 }	2073	5	4	1620
Herts.	4123	11	8	1551
Yorks, W.R. .	2671	1	5	1544
E. Sussex ..	3430	5	10	1532
Somerset ..	2216	1	1	1482
Northants. .	2684	16	7	1481
Worcs.	2656	16	2	1413
W. Sussex ..	4991	17	1	1404
Devon	3714	13	3	1365
Cheshire ..	2955	1	1	1360
Warwicks. .	7344	17	3	1360
Bucks.	4736	10	3	1322
Norfolk ..	4102	10	10	1249
Wilts.	1491	1	10	1196
Cornwall ..	1245	4	3	1147
Lancs.	2624	19	10	1114
Notts.	1667	3	0	1091
Northumb'l'd.	1999	13	0	1049
Glos.	2293	17	11	1030
Yorks, N.R. .	1987	19	10	1027
Hunts. 224 } Cams. 408 }	3629	17	6	935
Ely 303 }				
Beds.	991	16	5	875
Durham ..	1705	19	4	787
E. Suffolk ..	2237	11	8	787
Yorks, E.R. .	522	19	11	784
Salop	1808	9	10	778
Dorset	1273	3	2	685
Lincs, Kesteven	1447	19	8	681
Cumbs. & West'l'd	704	3	3	678
Glamorgan ..	1006	8	9	670
Staffs.	1572	7	6	665
Lincs, Lindsey	1447	1	0	621
Hereford ..	1442	2	5	567
Lincs, Holland	1914	2	2	554
Mon.	787	5	9	533
London & Middx.	1220	16	4	513
W. Suffolk ..	1613	5	9	512
Derby	1337	17	8	499
Flint	609	0	1	490
Denbigh ..	641	7	11	484
N. Wales ..	1726	6	7	471
I.O.W.	173	15	5	287
Cards. & Carmes.	665	3	4	284
Brecs. & Radnor	354	6	0	224
Mont.	372	16	5	189
W.T.C.	6174	4	1	21119
Berks.	3521	1	5	Not rec'd.
Oxon.	3723	8	1	Not rec'd.
Pembs.	1085	13	2	Not rec'd.

On 31st August, 1945 the total number of volunteers in employment was approximately 54,900.