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
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, 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 Love-lorn" 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 begin 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 see 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. Coates, 2026

September, 1945
THE LAND GIRL

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.I.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' hairdresser 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

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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 puff 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.
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.

**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 me 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 have 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 bring 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 hopefully.

"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: "'Hallo, 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
THE LAND GIRL

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.

September, 1945
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 pot of tea, 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 Prince's 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 for 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 washed 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

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 slenderess; 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.

By courtesy of The Kent Messenger (County paper of Kent)
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 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 curtsey. Then three speeches: Lady Violet, who has a real gift for expressing herself with simplicity, clarity and charm. Next the Duchess whose slight foreign accent, added to her evident delight, made us all laugh. Lord Cornwallis, whose enthusiasm for the Land Army burst out again, as it always does whenever given the chance. No wonder that he is to be 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-tents, but was 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 girls have become? I thought how elegant they looked, compared to some of our rather exuberant styles of hairdressing swirling round her.

Congratulations must go to all concerned. To those who had the strenuous job of organising this splendid Army show, 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 homage to the army, the country itself. It was more than worth while, 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 awarded for the occasion by the Winchester City Council in order to help the army on its “march in the weather,” and the thousands who attended were well rewarded by the long and interesting programme which had been provided. It was arranged 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. B. A. Edwards, Feeding Stuffs Official, 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. 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 Hunley Fox Hounds, with Mr. Fred Garston (Hunley) and an exhibition of shearing-sheds at work by Mr. M. Hayton, of Itley. City folks who had never seen the wonderful agility of these animals must have been astounded at the marvellous dexterity with 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. in Hampshire) spoke from the microphone at the ring side 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 Wiltshire horse gave us years 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 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 driven harness and driving, many riding, huntley 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. Tuffs of Winchester.

One of the outstanding exhibits was the interesting Horticulture Tent, arranged by Mr. C. A. C. Penrose, Technical Development Committee of 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 plants. 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, who was responsible for many of the 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 and had passed their Proficiency Tests. 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 standard of efficiency they had gained in that work as evidenced by the girls 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 cooperation of every man and woman. “Let us all get behind the Government and give it every chance to do its work” he urged. “Schemes may not 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 who have been connected with the W.L.A. of Yorkshire which has set the standard for the country to maintain its reputation and set an example to the other counties of the country.”

Miss Marie Cornish, who presided at 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. Walmsley, Forewoman of the Stokesley Hostel.

59 girls received their red armlet for four years service from Lord Normanby, and 86 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 cream enamel centre, on which was pasted 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, Mr. 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 silver shields. 19 other representatives received their four-year armlets. We feel all these awards were thoroughly deserved.

The Land Army song, price 1d. (2d. post free) or 1½ a dozen, post free, can be obtained from the Land Army Secretaries, LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1. Profits of sales go to the Benevolent Fund.
SCOTTISH NOTES

DEER & TURREIFF.—A successful dance in aid of the W. and B. Fund was organised by Miss C. Pettigrew, Mrs. A. M. Cordquer and Miss E. H. Turreiff on 28th July. A £21 was realised.

DUNBARTON & LENFREV.—The High Church Hall, W.I.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 supper (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, £250 15 0; North Ayrshire Flag Day—£131 13 0; Dance in Renfrew—£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.I.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 Hill, Arundel. The joint activities were welcomed by both corps in affording an opportunity to get to know another better. In addition to several successful dances, there were lectures, musical evenings, table tennis matches, cookery talks, beeke driving 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 Tichurist, Braithwaite, Boltby, Chartridge, Castleton and Stocke Rochford. Members working on the Home Front will enjoy these interesting talks on health by Dr. Powell Heath of the Central Council of Health Education and the four Timber Corps representatives who attended the recent W.I.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 Wellington ten or twelve inches high from well. Toe-cap protectors. Pull-on loops. Foot-shaped Wellingtons. Fitted with rubbers or irons. Water-dressed uppers. WARM AND COMFORTABLE. Also special shoes, socks 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 1d. 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, Swanmore, Hants.


FOR SALE.—Tennis racquet, press and cover, 15s. Black velvet evening coat, white fur collar, £3. Coaling, Greystones, Send Marsh, Ripley, Surrey.

FOR SALE.—Evening frock in claret crepe, bust 36, hips 40, extra long; also gold satin jacket, £3 10s. complete, no coupons. 8, Eldin, Cougallah, Kidder, Tidbury, Argyll, Scotland.

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

WANTED.—Lady for part time work with particular reference to a position for small house in beautiful situation. Baby, Merivale, Ross-on-Wye.


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

WANTED.—Riding jacket medium size also Jodhpurs or boots. South, Flanders Cottage, Hurley, Nr. Atherstone, Warwick.

BENEVOLENT FUND

On August 31st the Fund totalled £10,431 2s. 2d. The monthly total was £2,735 6s. 8d. The weekly collection has the highest total of £7,770 19s. 5d., and BERS, the highest monthly total of £2,000.

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

Two Garden Fetes raised most of STAPTON’S fine total of £104. Miss Shaw-Hilman’s effort at Wombourne Wodhouse contributing £1 and Mrs. Haszard’s at Milford Hall £10 10s. Among other good efforts were £50 from CORNWALL; £24 from W. NOFFOLK including over £20 from a Fete and Gymnastics at Leavenhath Hostel and £26 from a W.V.S. Pie Scheme; £72 from E. and N. RIDING’S Dance at York.

Virtually every one of whom have happy memories of Wombourne Hall Convalescent Home, will be interested to know 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 without special permission, but the Editor cannot print any contribution of which the author is unknown to her.

September, 1945

THE LAND GIRL

COUNTRY NEWS

LONDON & MIDDE.—Marjorie Baynam was chosen to accompany Mrs. Jenkins to represent the Land Army at the VE-Day Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul’s Cathedral. The Service was performed on July 20th.

WANTED.—Lady for part time work with particular reference to a position for small house in beautiful situation. Baby, Merivale, Ross-on-Wye.


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W.L.A. GREEN HAIR RIBBON

2/3 for 3 yards (including postage)

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

BON TON, BALISTRAD, BATH.
NORTH'LD.—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 work. 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 their job, a wide choice of careers. A very high standard was reached at a Poultry Proficiency Test when three volunteers passed with Distinction. A similar trip has been arranged by the girls from Crowland and Miss Ord kindly lent her grounds and organised a garden fete in aid of the Benevolent Fund. We were delighted to welcome back to Staffordshire Mrs. Evans, and longer ago, Mrs. Worthington. We cannot thank them sufficiently for all they have done for us. Our new members with Proficiency Badges in Dairy Work are particularly good dance which raised over £25. The Glen Hostel enjoyed a C.E.M.A. Concert in July.

Pemb.—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 competition nor the weather affected 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 Adviser, Mr. Ord gave very great assistance and helped the two L.G. stewards. All the competitors did well; our special congratulations to Miss Midgley, 1st £5; Miss E. Stevens 2nd, £2 10s.; Miss M. Dawson 3rd, £1 10s. Several L.G.'s were present at a large Agricultural Exhibition organised by the W.A.E.C. from the Stackpole Home Farm, and Miss R. Woosley helped to show the sheep from the W.A.E.C. farm at Priory. Miss A. Jones was awarded a three years' scholarship to take a course at Crowland.

Som.—We have recently had to say good-bye, with much regret, to several of our D.R.'s, Mrs. Fipps, Mrs. Fish, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Davison, Mrs. Lavington, Mrs. Painter, Mrs. Worthington, and Miss Ord who has just been awarded a three years' scholarship to take a course at Crowland. When I grow up I am going to be a landlady, and when 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 bay and corn harvest have demanded much of our time. Miss Painter of Springfield Martins, Stogumber, has however found time to continue to give dress-making classes to about 50 A.T.S.s at Crowcombe Camp, which shows good co-operation with 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, and to M. E. Gill and J. Wernig, who are to have Somerset C.C. scholarships to the Farm Institute, Cambourne, for shorter training starting in October.

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

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**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

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September, 1945
WEST SUFFOLK.—Our outstanding event has been a very successful Gymkhana at Levensheath. £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 Fete 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. 14th. 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.

We are very proud of our first relief milker among 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
July successful dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund were held at Withyham and Uckfield; the performance in Letters of "A Little Bit of Fluff," organised by Mr. Robert Mant, raised £35.

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

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

YORKS, E.—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 Warden and her staff. 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 £56 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 pleasant 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 Miss Riley, Warden of Bala Hostel our sincere 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 £20 which is to be divided between the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and War Charities.

YORKS, N.—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 good number of W.L.A. girls and the Chairman 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 no 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 Wilts. 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
Order from your County Office or from THE LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London S.W.1.

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