

THE LAND GIRL



No. 8, Volume 6.

NOVEMBER, 1945

Price 3d.

A MATTER OF CHOICE

BY the announcement of a system of releases for members of the W.L.A., the Government has honoured its contract with those who joined for the duration of the war. By doing so despite the present urgent need for the services of the Land Army, it has thrown a heavy responsibility on every volunteer. If a person is denied his rights he can naturally think of little else but fighting to secure them but if his rights are conceded, a fair and generous man considers the good of the community before he exercises them.

For some volunteers the choice will be easy. There are those who must go to training courses or to jobs which are waiting for them or can't be kept open any longer. There are also those who know they want to stay on the land as long as they possibly can. But the large majority of volunteers will have no such clear road to decision and it is to them that the Minister appealed when he asked as many as possible to stay in the Land Army as long as they can.

There are good reasons why to stay may be a wise decision. At present openings for jobs are mainly limited to callings in which labour is needed in the national interest. Lack of materials and the needs of the export trade have closed many which are ordinarily available—but in two or three years' time this position should be much improved and the removal of Ministry of Labour controls will greatly enlarge freedom of choice in the labour market.

As to the present urgency of food production, little need be added here to the grim warnings which have been given by statesmen the world over. No moral is needed to adorn the tale of graves already dug because the diggers will be too weak to dig them later on when they will be required.

It is better to dig for life than for death. Whether she digs or milks, gathers potatoes or pulls sugar beet, hoes or weeds, ploughs, cuts cabbages, tends stock or carries on any other of the manifold activities in which the Land Army has become so skilful, every volunteer should hesitate before she gives up what she is doing to help feed our hungry world.

M. A. P.

TEACHING

If every boy or girl who had received a secondary education before 1945 were to be told they belonged to a very small privileged class of society they would probably think the idea quite ridiculous. Yet this statement is literally true; a sound education is one of the most valuable possessions anyone can have but in the past a very small proportion of the boys and girls in the British Isles were able to achieve it.

A Charter for Youth

The new Education Act, which came into operation in April this year, is a minor revolution for by its provisions every child in the country is entitled to secondary education of a type suited to its needs and inclinations irrespective of its father's income. Instead of sitting for an examination at the age of eleven to determine whether it is to be allowed a secondary school education or not, examinations, school records and vocational tests will help to decide what kind of secondary education will be most profitable to each individual child. On the results of these tests children will pass on from primary schools to modern secondary schools where a broad general education will be given, or to grammar schools where they may be prepared for the necessary examinations for entering professional training, or to technical schools where they will be prepared for commerce, industry and technical trades.

The new Act is really a Charter for Youth. It assumes responsibilities for children when they become eligible for places in nursery schools at the age of three years. It carries that responsibility on until they find their way into trades and professions at the age of 16 and upwards. The responsibility will include a free health service. For the boy or girl who becomes a wage earner at 16 educational facilities are not over, young people's colleges will continue their education until they are 18 and incidentally offer opportunities for study to qualify them for more responsible posts as they get older. All this is part of an adult education scheme which is not yet in being but is planned to operate at the earliest possible moment.

What it Needs

The "Earliest possible moment" is the crux of the matter. The new Education Act from start to finish is dependent upon the number, quality and character of the teachers available and the fact is that before

any of these reforms can be fully implemented we shall need many thousands more teachers.

Teaching is and always will be one of the most important of all the professions. The influence of the teacher extends in widening circles from one generation to another. Not even ministers of religion have this power over the lives of others, for while some people go to church nearly everybody is compelled to go to school. Psychologists tell us that the influences of early youth affect profoundly our whole lives and our adult point of view. In a democracy such as ours where every normal adult has a vote, and therefore a voice in the Government of the country, the teacher holds a key position for she has the power to train the young in the traditions of service, good citizenship and a sense of social responsibility. Only if we begin to see our new educational system as an adventure and a crusade against ignorance and human wastage can we hope to produce good results. For then the right people will consider teaching as a worth while career—perhaps the most worth while career there is; not those who want security, a free training and a pension at 65 but young men and women of vision, integrity, courage and abounding faith in the future. This is the type of teacher we need for the new Education Act.

Salaries and Training

Although no one should enter the teaching profession solely for the advantages it offers, these are in fact quite considerable. Though salaries are not high they are reasonable and compare very favourably with other professional rates of pay for women. At the end of training, which can be entirely free, women teachers in all types of schools now start at £270 a year, rising to £420 with additional sums for degrees and posts of special responsibility. No longer is the choice of school governed by the salary earned in it for teachers of younger children and teachers of older children, specialist teachers and non-specialist teachers have the same basic rates of pay.

Training for the teaching profession normally takes two-four years, depending upon the type of post to which it leads. Primary school teachers and some in modern secondary schools will spend two years at a teachers' training college to obtain the Ministry of Education certificate. Grammar School teachers and specialists normally take a University Course followed

by a year of specialised training in teaching methods. Nursery school teachers train at special colleges. They work with very small children usually from three-five years old.

Because the shortage of teachers is so acute and the need so very urgent the Ministry of Education has started an Emergency Training Scheme for older people who wish to train and who have the right kind of background but who have not necessarily passed the usual examinations or been at secondary or public schools. The majority of the first candidates for this training are ex-service men and women and others who are released from other forms of national service.

It is entirely free and maintenance grants are given during the training period which lasts one year. Application is made on special forms which can be obtained from the Ministry of Education, Teachers Branch, Lennox Gardens, S.W.1.

The need for teachers of special subjects such as Domestic Science, Physical Training, Art, Music and Speech is urgent too, but training in these cases is taken at the appropriate kind of training college and is recognised by the Ministry as a qualification to teach the subject in all kinds of schools.

Calling the Land Army

In all this where lies the special interest for the Land Army? A great many people think that country schools and country children have not in the past had a fair deal as compared with urban schools and town-dwelling youngsters. Recruits to the teaching profession have largely come from town schools, their training has not included nearly enough about country ways and needs and interests, and better opportunities after training have attracted them to stay in the towns. This has meant that not only has the country school frequently had to put up with second best but also that the town child has not learnt, or absorbed from those who teach him, the knowledge and love of the countryside which are essential to a fair and balanced education.

This is where the Land Army comes in. Given the necessary training its members will be well suited to teach in country schools because they already know and love country life. They will be just as valuable in town schools because they will be able to convey to their pupils what they have learnt, and learnt to love, during their life in the Land Army.

I. F. HILTON, M.Sc., F.L.S.,
Dep. Org. Sec., W.E.F.

A BOOK OF VERSE

Some little time ago a member of the W.L.A. suggested that it would be a good idea to produce a book of poetry written by the Land Army. The final result of this suggestion will shortly be on sale—a book of poems and verses written by members of the W.L.A., with a Foreword by Miss V. Sackville-West, who has very kindly chosen the poems to be included. Some of them have appeared in the LAND GIRL, a few in other journals but the majority have not been published previously. Altogether there are about eighty.

"Poems of the Land Army" will cost, including postage, 2/9 for a single copy, 16/- for six copies and 31/- for 12 copies. They can only be obtained from W.L.A. Headquarters, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1. Orders, with cash, may be sent any time now and will be fulfilled directly the book is in print, probably about December 10th. All profits from the sale of the book will be given to the Benevolent Fund.

At the Alamein commemoration dinner, Field-Marshal Montgomery gave Mr. Churchill a copy of "Poems of the Eighth Army" as the best present he could think of. What better present can a Land Army member give to her friends and relations than a copy of "Poems of the Land Army"?

Congratulations to J. A. Phillips, 105191, Mon., who was 1st in the Ladies' Ploughing Competition at Usk and also won the prize for the best ploughing in any class using a plough with semi-digger bodies.

And to E. Jarrett, 85541, E. Sussex, who for the second year running has won 1st prize and a cup for the best tractor ploughing at Bexhill Ploughing Competitions and repeated her success at Eridge.

And to P. Lade, 8158, E. Sussex, who won 1st prize for ploughing in the W.L.A. section at Lodge Farm, Ringmer.

And to I. M. Hicks, 110013 and J. E. Mack, 29227, both of Norfolk, who were 1st and 3rd respectively in the N.W.A.E.C. clean milking competition, women's section.

And to W. M. Waton, 32455, Mon., who has resigned from the W.L.A. upon her appointment as Assistant Labour Officer to the M.W.A.E.C. Miss Waton has been a member of the W.L.A. since June, 1940, and has been employed by the Committee for over four years. We are glad to announce this recognition of the good work she has done.

TEACHER'S PET



Drawn by M. Browne, 69848, Lon. & Middx.

A Land Girl, known as Prudence Wiggs, was put in charge of fifty pigs; they were her pride and her delight—she used to kiss them all good-night. She studied them from every angle and fed them all that she could wangle. And when the acorns were in season she worked like mad (beyond all reason), gathering bushels every night to give the pigs a tasty bite. She knew each one of them by name and when she called them, up they came. Some of her friends would laugh and say, "You'll turn into a pig one day; how can you love the creatures—pooh!" She said "Gratuities to you."

One day she had an inspiration to give her charges education for so intelligent were they it seemed a shame to let them stay in ignorance of all the joys of learning known to girls and boys. So Prudence held a class each night and taught the pigs to read and write; one of the sows was very clever and had no trouble whatsoever

in mastering the alphabet, and soon became her teacher's pet, but this same learning came to be her ultimate undoing, see?

She had some piglets, eight or nine, and every afternoon, if fine, she used to take them for a stroll, the park was usually her goal. She liked to sit and watch folks pass while the piglets rooted up the grass. One afternoon, in sunshine bright, she saw a most unusual sight—a basket fixed upon a tree with writing on it plain to see: "Please place your litter here" it read. "That's not a bad idea," she said, "they've even put some paper in it, to make them snug all in a minute. I'll pop them in and off I'll get to have my tail shampooed and set."

So this she did and off she went, on beautifying mission bent, but when at length she hurried back to take them home—alas! alack!—the basket had been emptied quite, and not a piglet was in sight. Poor creature, she was in despair, she hunted here, she hunted there, till someone said "Now don't take on, for I can tell you where they've gone. All litter's taken in a clump to the Corporation rubbish dump." So there she went, and there she found the piglets shut up in the pound; the gate was locked and standing guard was a plain-clothes man from Scotland Yard. "Are these your piglets, ma'am?" he said, "you'll want to take them home to bed, but first there is a form to sign—I CERTIFY THESE PIGS ARE MINE—but as I know that pigs can't write, you'll have to leave them here all night." Mamma replied "Just let me tell you I can read and write as well." She wrote along the dotted line, ICERTIFY THESE PIGSAREMINE.

When they got home, she said to Prue, "It may be very well for you to read and write, but not for me; I've learnt my lesson thoroughly; reading got me in that plight—but I was glad that I could write!" Herts. E. Manton, 84630.

W.L.A. Crested Xmas.Cards.—5/3d. per doz. Carr. paid.

W.L.A. Crested Calendars.—1/3d. each. Carr. paid.

Penguin Supply Co. regret to inform all members that this year they have not been able to obtain materials for **W.L.A. Diaries.**

N.B. Owing to restriction in supply and difficulties we have only a very limited number of Calendars and Xmas Cards and cannot accept any orders after Nov. 30th and guarantee any delivery. All orders will be dealt with in rotation and delay may be experienced, but all orders will be sent or money returned as usual.

PENGUIN SUPPLY CO.,
Quality House, Wood Street,
MANCHESTER, 3.

Sheep Farming, No. 16 in the Young Farmers' Club Booklet series is by Mr. Seward, Principal of Chadacre Agricultural Institute. It is comprehensive and most interesting, very clearly written and beautifully illustrated. Add this to your collection of these booklets, you'll enjoy it whether you have a professional or only an amateur interest in sheep. 9d. or 1/- post free from N.F.Y.F.C., Oaklings, Canons Close, Radlett, Herts.

"Infanticide is a powder for killing babies."

From the Land Worker



Last party at Usk. For four years the Monmouthshire Institute of Agriculture provided a happy home for fifty land girls.

LIFE AT USK

I am a showman's daughter and when war broke out I went to work in a factory to help my country. I stuck it for about two years but with me not being used to working inside I had to pack it in, as it made me ill. So one day I was walking down the road and I saw a lorry with farm produce on it so I thought I will have a go at that job, so off I went to the Labour Exchange and told them I would like to join the W.L.A., so off I went home and told my Dad and Mum, and my Dad said he would give me a week and then I would want to come home and my friends laughed and said I would not stick it, but I said I would show them whether I could take it or not.

So off I was sent to a place called Usk. I had never heard that name before, only as the husk on coconuts. Well, I found Usk all right and got off the 'bus outside the Institute. It reminded me of my schooldays, when I was a boarder at a convent. I walked up the drive and there I saw some boys digging and I asked one of them the way to the Matron's office. He asked me how long I was in for; I looked at him dumb-struck and asked him what he meant and he said he was a Borstal boy, and I said "Are you being funny?" and walked away.

Well, I met the Matron and she told me what I had to do and what not to do whilst waiting for tea-time. I had a stroll round and I thought to myself I will never stick this as I was used to the bright lights and noise of the fair ground. Tea-time came and I met the girls; they seemed to me a nice crowd. A week went by and I was

feeling home-sick, but I said to myself I will stick it if it kills me. I was put on tractor work and it was strange to me after driving a car. One day they sent me and another girl out to do some ploughing. Neither of us knew anything about it and they told us the farmer would help us. He was very nice and showed us how to start the work; to say we knew nothing about the land and what we can do now is hard to believe.

At the Institute we used to do a fire watch once a month. One day they asked for volunteers to join the Decontamination Squad, so eight of us joined. I was the stoker on the boiler for the hot water for any possible casualties. One afternoon we had to give a demonstration and I could not get the fire going, but I bethought myself of some old oil in the workshop and oh boy, did that water get hot! We have had many a good laugh about it since.

We have had some good times with dances and film shows and entertaining the wounded Service men. Altogether we enjoyed our stay at Usk very much. Once they told us we were moving to another place but nothing came of it. One day in July this year they again said we were moving; we laughed and said we had heard that one before, but anyway it was true and we were sorry we had to leave but did not mind so much when we knew Service men were taking our places. On Friday, July 13th, we all went out to celebrate our stay at Usk and I don't think any of the girls will ever forget our last night in Usk. Even Matron will not forget.

Mon.

N. E. Ingham, 63644

DIFFERENT PEOPLE

2. The Firebrand

Private Norah T., of the A.T.S., had no easy time in the Army; hardworking and quick in the uptake though she was, promotion never seemed to come her way. She was popular with her room-mates up to a point, always willing to do a good turn for someone and definitely good fun at a concert party where she could sing, act and dance better than many, but both her fellow A.T.S. and her officers had a complaint about her and that was her hasty temper which could spoil many friendly contacts at one blow—for this temper came up at such unexpected moments. One day, for instance, Norah, Helen and Eve were getting ready for a dance, all smiling and humming together and teasing one another about the "boys" who would be there. "I wonder if Sergeant Flagpole will be dancing every dance with little Norah again," said Eve. They all remembered how the tall, thin sergeant had singled out short, plumpish Norah a fortnight ago.

"You can have your Sergeant Flagpole all to your little selves," burst out Norah, "I am not going." And flinging down her hairbrush she rushed from the room. Nor could anyone persuade her to change her mind. Helen and Eve were really hurt and upset. They had meant no harm and it was the custom of the three to discuss their friends and dance partners among themselves. So why did Norah suddenly take this remark amiss? Had she by any chance taken a real fancy to the sergeant? If she had, she did not show any sign of singling him out when they met in the course of their duties and she kept away from the dances for several weeks. But her moods seemed to become more changeable and she even had her week-end leave stopped for losing her temper on duty more than once.

Then Norah's sister turned up one day—a smart Wren officer, tall and slim, older than Norah. She got friendly with Helen and Eve and they told her how worried they had been about Norah. They even mentioned the "Flagpole" incident. Joan T. laughed in her quiet, pleasant way. "This is like old times," she said, "when we were going to dances. At our dancing school the mistress always tried to partner those of more or less equal size. Norah, who was a little bit on the stocky side, usually got some funny 'fat boy' for her partner and I, being then particularly lanky, usually got the 'Flagpole' type of boy. Now the funny thing was that Norah seemed to take a liking to any boy

who was my dancing partner and simply despised the ones that were chosen for her or that used to choose her of their own accord. She was better-looking than I, as she still is, but definitely had some grudge about being small and was most sensitive about it. I think her temper has a lot to do with this."

Helen and Eve thought about this story that Norah's sister had told them and decided that it would not help to mention this to Norah, but that they were definitely going to stop teasing her about her size or that of her partners. Then the concert programme for the next show of the Mixed Battery came to be planned. A dance number was proposed and Norah was, of course, the best person for it. But who should be her partner? The Entertainment Officer asked for volunteers. Sergeant Bicks alias "Flagpole" stepped forward. "I should like to try," he said firmly. They tried a step number and it seemed to everyone that they were an extremely good pair for all their difference in size, so it was decided to leave things like that and have one or two more rehearsals for the show. No one made any remarks about the partnership, Helen and Eve having primed the other girls not to ruffle Norah's feelings. Strangely enough, this partnership had a most wholesome effect upon Norah's temper. She never once got across her superiors in those weeks and even in their rooms she seemed to be fairly contented with the world.

Then came the evening of the concert. Stockings, powder and scent were well mixed up in the bedroom where the three friends were getting ready when there was a knock on the door and a message: Private T. to go on special duty to-night! Helen looked at Eve and Eve at Norah. And the automatic reaction set in that everybody had feared: "Tell the Commander to . . ." Helen flew outside to speak to the messenger. After three minutes, Helen and the messenger disappeared together. Norah had flung herself on her bed, one stocking on, one off, burying her head. Eve was dressing slowly and listlessly. Then Helen returned. "Norah," she said, "I have got permission to do the job for you. The Commander quite understands about you having to be in the show." Then they left Norah to deal with her tears and to get ready as quickly as possible. The crisis had been averted.

Friendship did something for "Firebrand" Norah T. that saved more than the immediate situation. As everyone will expect, the story ends in an engagement

between Norah and Bicks and in a great improvement in Norah's temper all round. Her temperament, of course, cannot be changed all of a sudden and she will always be liable to a certain amount of impatience. What had been broken was the old chain of automatic reactions that went back, as Norah's sister had said, to their early days. Probably there were cases of temper between the two sisters even earlier than either of them could remember and many unreasonable jealousies and childish feelings that so often persist into adult life. The person who suffers from such feelings, leading to outbursts of temper such as Norah had, really does not know that this is an old story but blames the incident which has caused the present outbreak.

"The Commander might have more consideration", in terms of childish feeling, can really be translated "Mother

always disturbs my fun" and the annoyance at being teased by grown-up friends can lead back to "My sister thinks I am only a little one and no good." It helps enormously if someone in the environment is wise enough to see this and make allowances where possible. It is true that one "ought" not to have a temper but then it is also true that one does have and cannot help having one. If the sufferer knows his complaint and can get over each attack fairly quickly then no great harm need follow. It is also a comfort that people liable to temper have got other more pleasant qualities in their make-up which help to compensate for this failing. And lastly, if there are good friends who help not hinder a person's adjustment, the consequences of a hasty temper need not be too alarming.

M. Hicklin.



At a Sugar Beet Hoeing Competition in Norfolk. G. Darwin, Winner with 97½ marks, is on the extreme left.

Variety in Cooking. Price 1/6 *From the W.L.A. Office, National Provincial Bank Chambers, Bangor, North Wales.*

"What a wonderful book, so comprehensive, even the dog is catered for," was my thought as I noticed a recipe called Dog Biscuits, but closer inspection of this and other pages made me wonder whether there would be anything left for the dog or not. This all goes to prove that the best time to read a cookery book is either at a meal or immediately afterwards.

The recipes are varied and the directions concise and clear, though the National

Bun loaf of Wales must remain a delectable mystery to most of us until the days of plenty return.

The "tip" on the last page of the book probably explains why I heard a chemist say to a customer, "I'm sorry, madam, but it's all in America," in response to a request for the latest margarine substitute. You must buy "Variety in Cooking" to find the answer to this one. The fact that all proceeds go to the Benevolent Fund should be an added inducement.

The one blemish is the misspelling of Lady Denman's name. K. D.

FASCINATING FLIES

The house fly, *Musca domestica*, doesn't bite and couldn't, even if he wanted to, because his mouth is not equipped to do so. The tongue is shaped rather like a "boot", and the fly gets its food by moistening it with saliva and then sucking up the dissolved food particles. If you are working on the land next summer and what appears to be a house fly settles on you and bites you, don't write and tell me that I'm all wrong and that flies do bite! I never said that flies do not bite, merely that house flies don't bite, but to make things more difficult there is another fly that looks almost exactly like a house fly and is very fond of human blood. The house fly, too, will settle on you, but only to suck up the moisture from your skin on hot days. And although this doesn't hurt, it can be very annoying if you're trying to take a nap!

Flies occur practically everywhere, except in the Arctic and Antarctic regions, and the hotter the climate the more numerous they become, and so be thankful you work in temperate climes—in England, in fact. The house fly breeds in manure and refuse and in warm weather it takes only 10 days from the egg to the perfect insect. Each female lays 100 to 120 eggs, and in the south 12 or 13 generations follow each other in a season. In Northern Europe the increase is not quite so rapid, but even here the flies appear in unpleasantly large numbers.

An experiment was once carried out at Rothamsted Experimental Station at Harpenden, Herts, to find out what kind of refuse flies preferred for breeding. Several buckets, one with kitchen scraps, one with manure, another with rotting cabbage stumps and a fourth with damp tea leaves, were set out in a row near a kitchen door where there were plenty of flies. After a day they were removed to a laboratory and each one covered with a muslin bag. Now, as you probably know, a fly lays eggs, like any other insect, and in a few days time the little grub hatches and begins to feed. And then, when it is full grown, it changes into a pupa. The grub of a house fly is legless, and dirty-white, and its pupa is dark brown, rounded at both ends, rather like a miniature beer barrel. After a resting period, when the grub inside the pupa slowly changes into a fully formed insect, the fly at last emerges, fully grown, a perfect insect.

A very careful watch was kept on all the buckets in the laboratory and a record was made of how many flies emerged in each. Now which bucket do you think

produced most flies? The one half full of tea leaves. You see they like this warm soft mass of stuff to lay their eggs in and the young grubs evidently thrive on spent tea leaves. I believe the results of this interesting experiment have been used in this war, and at military camps one of the rules of the cook house is that all tea leaves must either be burnt or buried so that flies are not encouraged to breed nearby.

House flies are thieves and will help themselves to morsels of every kind of food, and particularly sweet liquids and sugar. The disgusting habit of paying alternate visits to rubbish heaps and plates of food makes the house fly a disease carrier of the first magnitude. No insect is more fastidious over its own toilet, but its hairy body and legs are nevertheless ideal for carrying germs and bacteria. Flies have been known to spread cholera, plague and T.B. and if the larvae themselves get into the human system they can give rise to a whole series of more or less dangerous symptoms.

Scientists are now said to have discovered a new insecticide that should prove invaluable in the fight against flies. It has already been used extensively in the Army and we hope it will be available soon in the home and on the farm. Some day perhaps this magic preparation called D.D.T. will make it unnecessary for cows to whisk their tails continuously and perform all those other anti-fly antics which so harass the milker, as they will merely be sprayed once a week or so with the chemical to become completely immune. Walls and windows can be treated in the same way to kill every fly who dares enter the home.

I suppose the most ferocious of the larger flies is the Robber Fly. It lives up to its name all right, as it swoops down on other insects with the swiftness of a falcon and wraps its long hooked legs about the body of its prey. It will attack and kill almost any flying insect, even creatures far larger than itself, dragonflies, bumble bees, crane-flies, bees and even some kinds of beetle and, of course, moths and butterflies. If you look at the face of one of these fierce insects through a magnifying glass you will see that its great eyes are made up of thousands of separate lenses. A scientist in America has actually counted them and has put on record that there are more than 4,000 of these lenses in the compound eye of a robber fly.

Below the eyes of this insect is a curious long beak which sticks out between a mass of bristling hairs—like the cartoonists

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picture of the "original" Farmer Giles, with his nose poking out between his whiskers! Robber flies do quite a lot of good as a matter of fact, killing millions of mosquitoes, but sometimes they take it into their heads to perch on the branch of a tree above a hive of bees and then they become a real menace to the bee keeper, for in a day they will kill and suck dry literally hundreds of honey bees. But even the most carefully brought up boys will sometimes climb a wall and steal the apples from the orchard!

L. Hugh Newman, F.R.E.S.

STAR TURN—No. 9



It took some time to persuade Rosalind Cox, 29202, that she was qualified to appear in the gallery of Stars. "I don't see what I've got in common with all these wonderful people," she said, "except that I can certainly say I've never been late." Rosalind is in charge of a Turner grain dryer at one of the largest farms in West Sussex belonging to Mr. H. Tupper at Bignor, Pulborough. This dryer, which also takes grain from neighbouring farms, has already dealt with 45,000 sacks this season. She has another Land Girl as assistant, a man being sent along to help sometimes when they are particularly busy, and she is responsible for the care of the machinery and the number of sacks dealt with daily. Rosalind is certainly the only girl in this county, and possibly in the

whole of England, to undertake this particularly arduous and responsible job.

Rosalind comes of a famous Sussex cricketing family, both her father and brother having played for the county. On leaving Horsham High School she went to Bradley's and trained as a fur saleswoman, afterwards going on to employment at Peter Jones. In December, 1939, she left the shop and returning to her home in Warnham, joined the Land Army and started work for Mr. Burgess at Andrews Farm in the village. Throughout that snowy winter and during the next three and a half years she drove a motor milk round and did general farm work of all kinds, including all the grubbier jobs.

In May, 1943, she was transferred to Bignor. At this famous farm, high up on the Downs and seven miles from the high road, she has been working ever since. Her employer says she is as good as any man, and considerably better than most.

When occasion offers, Rosalind has taken a leading part in Land Army Club activities and was opening batsman for the Horsham Land Girls' Club team, which played several matches on the County Ground at Horsham in the first two summers of the war. Recently she has regularly cycled seven miles after a hard day's work on the dryer to attend the Club, which met in the next village to hers at Bury. She is a particularly keen supporter of all C.E.M.A. concerts and possesses a very lovely singing voice herself.

Last year she was chosen to be photographed for a special feature "A Day in the Life of a Land Girl" which was published in *Picture Parade*, the special edition of *Picture Post* issued for the Forces in the Middle East.

Rosalind means to remain on the land after the war and is quite decided that she could never go back to an indoor job. It has been difficult to get the material for these brief notes from her; with her outstanding ability and an appearance almost uncannily fitted to her name she combines a reticence rather characteristic of the native of "Silly Sussex." "Oh, but you couldn't put that in," she says, "that wouldn't interest anybody." She is, in fact, a typical example of those six volunteers who left their cosy, well paid jobs when war began and have been doing the hardest, dirtiest jobs with a conscientious artistry ever since.

A Simple Problem

A farmer went to market to buy 100 head of stock with £100. He could buy cows at £10 each, pigs at £3 each, and

chickens at 10s. How many cows, pigs and chickens did the farmer buy?

Answer on page 12.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

Please could you or your readers inform me what to do with rabbit skins to make them usable. Do skins of hares have the same treatment?

Essex.

C. M. Musson, 127983.

Dear Editor,

My sister, a W.L.A. veteran, has sent me some back numbers of your really "tip top" magazine and I thought I would write and let you know how much I enjoyed reading all the W.L.A. news and the very interesting articles therein.

My pals, though not "sons of the soil" like myself, also showed very great interest in your magazine—needless to say the charming photographs in particular were the centre of interest; after being among "Eyties" for over a year now we found the photographs very refreshing, I can assure you.

I think, in fact I am sure the W.L.A. is the, shall I say "Pin up" of the lads in the C.M.F. Many of the fellows I have come in contact with since being abroad are up in arms about the treatment of the W.L.A. as regards the gratuity and clothing issue on demob. question; we all think you've had a raw deal.

In closing I would like to wish the LAND GIRL still further success in the future, and love to all the gals in W.L.A. from the "D Day Dodgers" of the C.M.F. Good luck to you all.

Cpl. A. Barley

Dear Fellow Land Girls,

Having been discharged from the W.L.A., I cannot let this opportunity pass without reference to our Benevolent Fund, who have so kindly helped me in my difficult time.

Their generous gift has helped me restart and I must say how grateful I feel for their help. It is for us all to realise what support the Benevolent Fund is in times of need.

I therefore appeal to all W.L.A. members to support this cause wholeheartedly.

Discharged Land Girl.

Miss Helen Petersen (whose address is c/o Box 385, East London, South Africa) has been very kind in sending sweets and magazines to the Warden of the London Club for distribution amongst volunteers staying there. As Miss Petersen would very much like to hear from some members of the W.L.A., perhaps some of our readers would like to write to her?

Meet the Members—A Record of the Timber Corps

It was a happy inspiration to produce a book about the Timber Corps written almost entirely by its own members. The articles of which "Meet the Members" is mainly composed have been very well chosen and skilfully arranged in sections with brief introductory headings. There are also excellent photographs, a few poems and verses and a well-written and comprehensive introductory chapter, so that the picture of the life and work of the Timber Corps is complete. It will be a revelation to those who are not familiar with the wide variety of hard and skilful work which has been so successfully and gallantly carried out by our lumber Jills.

Anyone who can possibly do so should get hold of this delightful book, with its vivid, personal accounts of all the different jobs, the interesting information about timber and its uses and the cheerful, indomitable spirit and lively humour of the authors. Could you recognise "alder buckthorn," and do you know what it is used for? Would you like to crawl through brambles and briars with a paint brush in your teeth and a paint pot hung on somewhere? Do you recognise a Liner Chain saw and could you sharpen it? Have you ever ridden down a steep incline on a bogie with a most inadequate brake? Whether you have or not done any or all of these things you will enjoy reading about them. Both Editor and authors are heartily to be congratulated on producing a book which is well worthy of its subject.

Price 2/8 including postage. Order from Ministry of Supply, H.T.P.D., Vassal Road, Fishponds, Bristol.

Special Announcement

LOCAL DISCUSSION GROUPS

The W.F.G.A. has 15 Regional Officers and numerous local discussion groups throughout the country. Send for our map leaflet.

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Courtauld House, Byng Place, LONDON, W.C.1 Euston 3651.

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THE LAND GIRL

PRINCESS ELIZABETH IN SOMERSET

It is difficult to know whether the members of the W.L.A. or the citizens of Bath most enjoyed the visit of Princess Elizabeth on Saturday, Oct. 20th. At any rate, it was for the W.L.A. that H.R.H. came and a royal reception they gave her. All the morning trains, looking like Land Girls' Specials, and numerous buses brought members from all over Somerset into the City. The Rally started early in the afternoon with a March Past, H.R.H. taking the salute on the steps of the Guildhall. Over 1,000 W.L.A., assisted by four bands and seven moving tableaux, made a spectacle which will long remain in the minds of the vast crowd in Bath. The tableaux showed W.L.A. members at work—a tractor with a trailer on which were milkmaids and a rolling machine; a pest destruction van with a wonderful larder of dead rats and rabbits; another tractor drawing a harvesting scene with miniature ricks and stooks of corn and workers with pitchforks; a market gardening display with every kind of vegetable tastefully arranged; shepherdesses, with sheep-dog and lambs, brilliantly housed under a thatched roof, demonstrating sheep-shearing; a tree spraying demonstration with W.A.E.C. workers in their black oilskins; Timber Corps members sawing logs and showing an encouraging pile of pit-props.

The weather just held until the March Past reached the Pavilion. When the procession was seated and the hall filled to overflowing, the Royal visitor arrived and H.R.H., charmingly dressed in green, stepped on to the flower laden platform amid a storm of applause. After the presentation of a bouquet, the Chairman, the Hon. Lady Langman, expressed her pleasure at the Princess's presence and her thanks to the W.L.A. for their splendid

services to agriculture in Somerset. Mr. W. D. Hay, County Agricultural Organiser, followed and reminded his audience of the gaily dressed, curiously shod, would-be land workers of Sept. 1939, who arrived at the Som. Farm Institute for training. H.R.H. then presented about 180 Long Service and Proficiency Badges to a rapidly moving column of volunteers, including members of the Timber Corps. The great moment of the afternoon was the Princess's own speech, in which she paid special tribute to members in Somerset who had worked a long way from home. The reception of this speech can be imagined and after a vote of thanks by Capt. D. M. Wills, Chairman of the S.W.A.E.C., the meeting adjourned for tea. The excitement was by no means over as H.R.H. stayed to tea and after the presentation of several 1939 volunteers, the Princess was nearly mobbed by the L.G.'s, the outer ring standing on backs of seats in an attempt to see and hear her easy conversation. When H.R.H. finally attempted to leave, she was again surrounded and smilingly gave a number of autographs.

After the departure of the Princess, a delightful surprise was sprung on the County Secretary, when Miss N. Smales on behalf of the members present voiced appreciation of Miss Spencer's work since 1939, and Miss Attwell presented her with a diamond brooch, a gift from the Som. W.L.A. There were tremendous cheers while Miss Spencer expressed her gratitude. The afternoon finished with a delightful entertainment of dramatic sketches by Miss Elspeth Douglas Reed from London. Although there were long distances to go, everyone was sad when the day was over. Bath, with the co-operation of its City Authorities, had given the L.A. a magnificent welcome.

BENEVOLENT FUND

On October 31st the Fund totalled £149,842. The Monthly Total was £1,833 2. 2. HANTS. has the highest total of £8,443 1. 8., and the Women's Timber Corps the highest monthly total of £500.

Our congratulations and thanks this month go to the W.T.C. who, as can be seen from their splendid total, are high in the list of the Fund's enthusiastic supporters. They have achieved the month's highest total once again, this time with a fine contribution of £500. The runners-up are: SURREY who have sent £300 from their Flag Day; LEICS. & RUTLAND with £165, £100 of which was raised by Miss Ranken aided by volunteers and farmers in Melton Mowbray, £50 by Uppingham Red Cross Antennae, and a further £11 from a Rutland Draw. DENBIGH raised £150 including £104 from Colwyn Bay Fete, a wonderful result from such a small county; STAFFORD sent £65 from their local dances, and over £65 was received from E. SUSSEX.

During October more than 400 grants were made totalling over £2,600. This is the largest number of grants for any single month to date. Most of this money has helped in cases of illness and misfortune, but some grants have been made to assist volunteers restarting in civilian life—including a hairdresser, a pastry cook, a mannequin and an artist!

NOTE.—Since going to press SURREY'S monthly total has reached £521, and they have beaten the Women's Timber Corps by a short head. Congratulations!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards with W.L.A. badge, a greetings message and V sign

Price 6d. each

Order from your County Office

All proceeds to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund

VICTORY AND HARVEST AT CHICHESTER

No one who attended the Special Service of Thanksgiving for Victory and the Harvest held in Chichester Cathedral on Sunday, Sept. 16th will ever forget either the slow procession of Land Girls, headed by the Dean, up the aisle to the chancel steps where the Bishop received from each girl the farm or garden produce (bottles of milk, baskets of eggs or apples, etc.) which she had carried—or the singing of the hymns—or the Bishop's moving address—or the beautiful reading by two volunteers of the prayers which were specially written for the occasion by the Bishop's Chaplain, the Rev. D. L. Couper.

After the Service, W. Sussex L.A. headed by the Band of the Royal West Sussex Regiment marched to Chichester High School for Girls. Here inspiring speeches were given by Mrs. Jenkins, C.B.E., Chief Administrative Officer to the W.L.A. and General Sir Ronald Adam, Adjutant General to H.M. Forces, who congratulated the Land Army on its work and said that for the preservation of civilisation two Armies had at present to be maintained: the Army of Occupation to establish order in Europe and the Land Army here to feed the people who would otherwise starve. After this, G.S. Badges were presented to those with five years' service and over who had marched in a special contingent at the head of the procession and it was particularly pleasant to see so many of these "veterans" there.

An excellent tea followed, served by helpers from the Chichester British Restaurant in the School Dining Hall, after which a really brilliant entertainment was given by artists sent from the Arts Council of Great Britain.

"THE LAND GIRL"

Published Mid-monthly

Order from your County Office or from THE LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.

THE LAND GIRL EAST SUSSEX RALLY



[By courtesy of the Sussex Express & County Herald]

The first East Sussex County Rally was held in Lewes on Sept. 28. The streets were crowded as over 900 volunteers, led by the band of the East Surrey Regiment, marched through the town to the Dripping Pan and their smart appearance and fine bearing drew applause all along the route. The honour of leading the Parade went to 70 volunteers all with over 4½ years' service. Following them and marching in order of length of service, came nine units representing all types of work, including the W.T.C.

On arrival, the Parade marched past Her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk, who took the salute, and joined up with their working units already demonstrating on the ground. Also on the platform with Mrs. Brooke, County Chairman, were Mrs. F. C. Jenkins, C.B.E., Chief Administrative Officer, and Mr. Burdett-Coutts, Chairman East Sussex W.A.E.C.

Mrs. Brooke, in welcoming the volunteers and introducing the Duchess of Norfolk and Mrs. Jenkins, recalled that during the past six years of

strenuous work in the county, members of the W.L.A. had faced days of invasion, bombs and doodle-bugs and not one had asked to be moved from the danger area. The Duchess of Norfolk presented G.S. badges—10 to volunteers with 6 years' service—and afterwards recalled that two years ago the same volunteers received their 4-year armlets from her husband. Mrs. Jenkins said that 800 original volunteers were still serving, 21 in East Sussex. Mr. Burdett-Coutts thanked the Duchess of Norfolk and Mrs. Jenkins, and paid high tribute to the work done by the members of the L.A. in the county. Gifts from E. Sussex W.L.A. were presented to Lady De La Warr and Mrs. Lowman, former Chairman and County Secretary, by R. Hobden and K. Darby—while M. Allen and J. Murray presented bouquets to the Duchess of Norfolk and Mrs. Jenkins.

The afternoon ended with the inspection of the working exhibits, and a dance in the Town Hall in the evening, in aid of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, ended a very successful and happy day.

WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS

The doors of the Village Hall at Bramfield were open wide for the first time in six years when the Charcoal Burners held a dance for the villagers on Friday, Aug. 31st. Thanks to the efforts of our tractor drivers, Miss Joan Pennell and Miss Joyce Bretton, the cobwebs were swept away and the floor almost shone under a coating of French chalk. A gallant band of R.E.M.E.'s provided excellent music in spite of the fact that several octaves of the piano had been eaten away by mice. Even a loud speaker was erected half-way down the forty foot hall. After the local had sold out its quota for the next two or three weeks, refreshments in a more teetotal form were provided by the tireless efforts of Miss Joan Wagstaff assisted by Miss Wilson. Dancing was only once interrupted for an auctioneering session when the magnificent sum of £8 4 0 was raised. Thanks Carol—U.S.A.A.F. for your most generous sacrifice of one bottle whiskey and one bottle gin, also to our friends Mr. Clark and Mrs. Waller of Bramfield for one doz. eggs and a most attractive box of fruit. Tickets were then drawn for the Land Army Doll—which by this time looked as if she had spent a most energetic day in the wood and was minus both socks. However, the lucky soldier who won her didn't seem to mind. Perhaps he can put in for a replacement. Everyone agreed that the whole evening was most successful—£12 being raised for the Comforts Fund—and the existence of a charming village and also of Timber Corps Beat 9C was very much enlivened.

NORTH WALES AREA RALLY

The University College of North Wales was an impressive setting for the Rally and Handicraft Exhibition held at Bangor on Sept. 22nd. Miss Griffith, the North Wales Area Chairman, presided, with Colonel W. H. Wynne Finch, Lord Lieutenant of Caernarvonshire, present to welcome Mrs. Jenkins and Mr. Morgan Jones, the Welsh Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture. It was very evident that Mrs. Jenkins' visit and her charming speech pleased everyone and that Mr. Morgan Jones' review of the present food position was enlightening and timely. Sir Wynne Cemlyn Jones' vote of thanks was gloriously refreshing, whilst equally appreciated was the generous tribute from Mr. Hugh Owen, Chairman of the Caernarvonshire W.A.E.C. Exhibits for the Handicraft Exhibition showed ability and unexpected ingenuity and were admirably displayed by Mr. Samson of Messrs. Wartski. After a tea that measured well to expectation, a delightful C.E.M.A. Concert brought to a happy ending this sixth anniversary of the W.L.A. in the Counties of Anglesey, Caernarvonshire and Merionethshire. The Kathleen Ellis Cup for the best Hostel Garden, was presented by Mrs. Wynne Finch, to the Valley Hostel.

Answer to problem on page 9.

The farmer bought five cows, one pig and ninety-four chickens.

SCOTTISH NOTES

80 L.G.'s as well as 24 T.C. members, saluted H.M. the King, who was accompanied by H.M. the Queen and the Princesses at a great national parade in Edinburgh on 26th Sept. The occasion was unique from a L.A. point of view as this was the first time girls from every part of Scotland had taken part in a march past in the Capital and everything possible was done to make the day a memorable one for those who were invited.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE.—Sir Harry Lauder recently attended a rally and badge presentation to L.G.'s from South Ayrshire in Ayr Town Hall. He had a great reception and sang some of his favourite songs in which the L.G.'s joined. "You're a wonderful lot," he told the girls. Provost Murray, who introduced Sir Harry, spoke of the L.A.'s success and said that the strength in South Ayrshire at present was 410. He spoke of the debt of gratitude the girls owed to the ladies committee which had kept in touch with them and paid regular visits. He mentioned particularly Miss Frood, Chairman, Mrs. McPadden, Vice-Chairman and Mrs. Granly. He praised the W.L.A. Club in Beresford Terrace which was reputed to be the best in Scotland. Col. Morman Kennedy of Doonholm presented long service badges and wished success to all those returning to civilian life. Mr. Bell thanked Sir Harry Lauder and Miss Frood thanked Provost Murray and Col. Kennedy. The principal badge winners were: 6 years' service—R. Craig; 5½ years—B. Ure; 5 years—C. Jack, M. Sangster; 4½ years—Mrs. Eaglesham, D. Welsh, H. Gerson; 4 years—M. Crawford, M. Forrest, M. Houston, A. Burke, H. Edgar; 3½ years—M. Gibb, E. Gibson, A. Imrie, J. Kemp, G. Matthews, J. McAuley, B. McGee, M. McDonald, M. McEwan, J. McGarry, McGoff and J. Bayne.

DUNBARTON & RENFREW.—Armadae Hostel, Clynder ran a very successful dance in aid of the W. & B. Fund on 19th Oct. The proceeds amounted to £34. The Hostel girls are to be praised for the smooth running of the dance and the way in which a crowded hall was catered for with tea and cakes, etc.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—£6 was raised for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund as a result of a successful stamp held at Borgue recently.

A fellow members from the Mayfield Hostel at Kirkcudbright formed a guard of honour with pitchforks at the wedding in St. Mary's Church of Miss M. Hodd, W.L.A. to Mr. R. Henderson of Leslie, Fife. Rev. R. R. Y. Minto officiated and the bride, who was dressed in white, was attended by her sister, The Stewartry W.L.A. Comm. was represented by the convener, Mrs. Grierson, Culter.

At a social evening organised by Miss Todd of the W.L.A. and held at Leathes Farm, Miss J. Gentles was presented with a beautiful leather handbag by L.A. members and friends, together with a handsome sum of money from Messrs. Barbour and Miss Beattie. The guests spent a most enjoyable evening dancing, refreshments being provided by Mr. Barbour and Miss Beattie. Johnstone's Band played for the dancers and during the evening Mr. Kirk and Mr. Riddick provided pipe music for several sets. Miss Gentles leaves shortly to take up a course on the handling of milk at the Agricultural College Auchincruive.

To celebrate the bumper harvest and the victorious conclusion of hostilities, a victory rally of members of the W.L.A. in the Stewartry and many friends was held in Kirkcudbright Town Hall. Long service awards were handed over by Mr. John McKie, M.P. In the evening, a dance arranged by the W.L.A. girls in the Kirkcudbright Hostel was held. The sum of £22 7 9 was handed over to the W. & B. Fund.

RINCARLINE.—A very successful dance organised by Mrs. I. Jeffrey was held in Marykirk Hall on 9th Oct. in aid of the W. & B. Fund, when £21 5 0 was realised. A successful variety concert

held in the Memorial Hall, Fordoun, under the auspices of the W. & B. Fund, was arranged and produced by Misses W. Cooper and J. McKenzie. Mrs. Reid, Auchinblae, county organiser, gave facts and figures regarding the Fund. Mr. Garden, Redmyres, was chairman. The Fund has benefited to the extent of £44. A dance followed, with music by Mrs. Jolly's band, and the spot waltz was won by Miss N. Taylor and Mr. H. R. Mitchell.

SKYE.—A Flag Day was held in Portree on Sept. 29th in aid of the W. & B. Fund. £5 13 6 was raised.

STIRLING & CLACKMANNAN.—A dance was held at Buchanan School, Drymen, on 2nd Oct. in aid of the W. & B. Fund. W.L.A. members H. Brodie and A. Kerr, were responsible for the arrangements. All expenses were donated and the Fund benefited by £14 19 6.

WEST LOTHIAN.—The Victory Harvest Home Party took place on 20th Oct. Mrs. Tennant (Chairman) presented souvenir posies to 10 long service girls and G.S. Badges and Armbands to 11 others. The funds for the party, Mrs. Tennant said had been subscribed by the West Lothian farmers and their generosity was proof of their high regard for the W.L.A. Miss J. Walter thanked Mrs. Tennant and the W.L.A. Sub-Committee for arranging the party and asked for the L.G.s' thanks to be conveyed to the farmers. On behalf of the L.G.s she then presented Miss Easton, Organising Secretary, who is leaving at the end of the year, with a beautiful Venetian bowl in appreciation of her work. A special tram-car then conveyed the girls to the Empire Theatre to see "Hip-Hip-Hooray" where their presence was not overlooked by the comedians.

HONOURS LIST.—We offer hearty congratulations to Mrs. George Grant, Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee for Banffshire, on receiving the M.B.E., and to W.L.A. 902 Chrissie McRiner of North Ayrshire on receiving the B.E.M. at the Investiture held by H.M. the King at Holyroodhouse on 27th Sept.

W & B. FUND.—We apologise for an error which appeared under W. & B. Fund in the Sept. LAND GIRL. "North Ayrshire Flag Days £404 10 0" should have read "South Ayrshire Flag Days £404 10 0."

WILTSHIRE RALLY

A full scale County Rally was held at Bishops Cannings by kind permission of Mr. Jim Combes, at Manor Farm on Oct. 13th, where girls from all over Wilts. took part in a variety of agricultural competitions. Thanks to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Boyd, supported by the County Staff, the day proved most successful. Demonstrations and exhibitions were staged by the War Agricultural (Technical Development) Comm. Sports arranged by Captain Keen of Dauntsey School made a grand finish to the day's events. After the presentation of diamonds and armbands for long service, Lady Katharine presented the prizes for the competitions and sports. The Chairman, the Hon. Mrs. Methuen, expressed her sorrow at the loss of Lady Katharine's services and thanked those members of the W.A.E.C. who had been so co-operative in the organising of the Rally. Any proceeds from the Rally will be sent to the Welfare Fund.

POEMS OF THE LAND ARMY

with a Foreword by

V. SACKVILLE-WEST

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COUNTY NEWS

LONDON AND MIDDXX.—Five of the Volunteers working in the Sunbury area decorated a farm cart with Union Jacks, fruit and vegetables and drove in Sunbury's Victory Procession on Sept. 29th. Competing were several other carts and cars decorated to represent various "war efforts." The Services were represented and the procession, accompanied by bands, toured the town. The judges complimented the L.G.'s both on their turnout and especially on the work the L.A. had been doing during the war, and awarded the Volunteers 1st prize of £3. Prof. tests are being arranged and those interested should ask their District Rep. about the syllabus.

We hear that Miss Illingworth and Miss White, late of Howgate Hostel, have sailed for S. Africa where they have a farm.

Holborn Borough Council have inaugurated a War Resettlement Scheme to help those from the Services normally resident in the Borough. The aims of the scheme are "to provide, where necessary, loans for the purchase of tools, stock or other equipment, and to give, on request, advice and guidance on the many problems which will accompany resettlement." The object of the fund is to supplement, not supplant, any provision made by the Government in this connection. We are grateful to Holborn Borough Council for including the W.L.A. among those who may be helped through their scheme.

MON.—Local ploughing matches organised by Young Farmers' Clubs and Ploughing Societies in Mon. have met with an enthusiastic response from our L.G.'s, and a number of awards have been won recently. Outstanding were the all-round achievements of J. A. Phillips, 105191 (mentioned elsewhere). D. Jones, 29049, carried off 1st prize of £4 in a ploughing competition at Llangattock and 2nd prize at Usk. Mrs. J. Marney, 71403, won 1st prize in a ladies ploughing match at Raglan. A 2nd prize of £3 was won by M. Butterworth, 67129, and 3rd prize of £2 by E. Price, 113602, at Llangattock. We offer heartfelt congratulations to these volunteers. Recent efforts to swell the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds include a special show by the talented Marion Rathbone Victory Players at Abergavenny. The items were two one-act plays and four Shakespearean excerpts and the cast included 2 ex-L.G.'s. The entertainment was greatly appreciated by a large audience and we hope to be able to announce a substantial increase for the funds as a result. A C.E.M.A. concert with Therese Canall (comedianne) and Marjorie Few (pianiste) will visit several hostels early in Nov. Performances will be given at Llangattock Manor on Monday, Nov. 5th, Llanvaypley Court on Tuesday, Nov. 6th and Mount Ballan Hostel on Wednesday, Nov. 7th. All at 7-30. All L.G.'s in these areas will be welcome.

NORFOLK.—Many entries have arrived for the Handicraft Exhibition to be held in Suckling Hall, Norwich on Saturday, Dec. 1st. Lady Albarle is to open the Exhibition and the general public will be admitted to view the many articles sent in. Popular classes are posters and poems, though the biggest number of entries are, to date, in the needlework section. Norwich Thanksgiving week is from Oct. 20th-27th. A Parade has been arranged for Oct. 20th and a contingent of the Norfolk members of the L.A. will be present. We were sorry to close Woodton Hostel but the W.A.E.C. have given up management of the farm, and sold the dairy herd, so that the need for L.G.'s there came to an end. A grand farewell party was held and representatives of the W.A.E.C. were welcomed; we wish the now scattered members from Woodton all good luck in their new posts.

We welcome Mrs. Sanderson as a new member of the County Committee and hope that she will find the work enjoyable and interesting.

SOM.—The Bath Rally (which is separately described) must form the centre-piece of our County News, but normal events go on and we should like to congratulate 26 volunteers who recently passed

their Proficiency Test in Milking and dairy work, 8 with Distinction! Special mention must be made of Miss J. Green from Lanes., whose pluck in attacking a cow with a pitchfork saved a friend from being badly mauled. Evidently she is not "afraid of cows"! To our great regret we have lost our Assistant Secretary, Miss P. R. Bishop, who left in Sept. to take up work abroad. Miss Bishop has been with the W.L.A. since 1939 and we wish her all luck in the future. We should like to welcome our new Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Cairnes, who already knows the L.A. in Hertis. The time for parting with some of our well-tried friends has unfortunately come and we should like to send them all our best wishes. Two of our overseas volunteers are shortly leaving for home, Miss R. Knowles, who came from the Bahamas to work for us, and Miss E. Meyer, who is returning to Switzerland. Congratulations to Miss S. Wolfenden and Miss E. Grant who have started their University training in Wales and to Miss D. Thornton, who has a shorter course vacancy at Moulton in Northants.

STAFFS.—Activities have been very quiet during the busy harvest season. A very successful Garden Party was kindly arranged by Mrs. Haszard in her garden at Milford Hall, Stafford, on Aug. 18th in aid of the Benevolent Fund, £61 10s. being added to our total. We much regret it has been necessary to close White House Hostel. This Hostel although very small has been one of our happiest. Fortunately we are not losing Mrs. Blockley, the Warden, who has run this hostel so efficiently. She is taking up duty as Assistant Warden at one of our larger hostels at Brewood.

We were very sorry indeed to say good-bye to Mrs. Rhoden who has been our County Organiser for two years. She is at present on the high seas on her way to Australia to join her husband. We envy her leaving England just as the winter is commencing and arriving in time to enjoy another summer. We are sure she will often think of her many friends in Staffs., battling with rain, snow and fog and we all wish her a very happy reunion and an enjoyable visit to our Dominion. We welcome Miss Lowbridge to our staff as County Organiser for the south of the county.

E. SUFFOLK.—We are very sorry that Miss J. Woodgate has relinquished her job as Assistant Labour Officer of the E. Suffolk W.A.E.C. in order to take up that of a practical farmer, but feel lucky to retain her co-operation as a member of our County Committee. Two of our volunteers who joined the W.L.A. in 1939 have recently been released to take up the responsible work which Miss Woodgate has been doing. We congratulate Miss M. Rainsford, now Assistant Labour Officer, and Mrs. Bilson, her "second in command," and wish them every success. We are organising a Benevolent Fund drive which will culminate in a special week—Dec. 10th-15th—when there will be a Handicraft Exhibition, a Sale of Work, etc. We hope every volunteer in the county will send a contribution, in money or kind, and that we shall be able to send a really large cheque to help the Fund. L.G.'s provided a Guard of Honour for our new Minister of Agriculture, Mr. T. Williams, when he came to Lowestoft on Sept. 30th to speak at the opening ceremony of their Thanksgiving Savings Week. All the fighting services were represented but the L.G.'s were in a prominent position looking extremely smart and Mr. Williams spoke to several of them personally. As an importing county we are shrinking rapidly in numbers as our L.G.'s become eligible for transfers but the demand for agricultural workers, particularly in the cowsheds, is greater than ever.

W. SUFFOLK appreciated Miss Scott's visit to Leavenheath and Risby Hostels and to the District Reps.' Conference in Bury St. Edmunds. At all these meetings she gave us a clear picture of the Post-War Employment and Training Schemes and we are most grateful to her for coming to this county. We were very pleased to welcome our neighbours, Norfolk and E. Suffolk, to a Pest Proficiency Test. There were seven candidates and



Lady Graham (Chairman), Lady Celia Coates (Vice-Chairman), and Miss Jacob Smith (County Organiser), with some of the 25 North Riding volunteers who received special shields in recognition of five years' service in the Land Army.

five passed. Our thanks are due to the judges, Mr. Ashton and Mr. Sharpe, who travelled from Lancs and Herts respectively to judge this test. We are busy preparing for our Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Competition on Dec. 1st and those who have forgotten to send in their entries we hope will do so without delay. Our congratulations and good wishes go out to Miss J. Herring on receiving the B.E.M. Miss I. Spence, who is our first Milk Tester, and Miss Blanchard, who has been accepted for a Milk Measuring post.

We welcome Miss Curtis as County Organiser, who succeeds Miss Ennals, our new Assistant Secretary.

SURREY.—Great interest has been shown by a number of Surrey volunteers in the Benevolent Fund Advisory Conference which is to be held in London on Nov. 20th. Three meetings have been held in the county to discuss the agenda and various suggestions have been put forward. We look forward to hearing the report on the Conference from our Reps., Mrs. Biggar and Miss Rabbits. 60 Surrey volunteers took part in the recent Thanksgiving for Victory Parade at Epsom. The salute was taken by the Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter Ede, who warmly congratulated the W.L.A. on its fine service. At a fête kindly organised by the Military Convalescent Depot under Col. Martyn in Richmond Park, the sum of £166 3s. 9d. was raised for our Benevolent Fund for which we are most grateful. Lady Craig arranged the selling of the programmes, helped by a group of W.L.A. volunteers. Preparations for the Handicraft Exhibition are going forward and two excellent lectures have been given by Mrs. Hincks on slipper making. The Volunteers present were enthralled by the beautiful display of slippers and slippers which can be made by hand and all were determined to set to work at once.

E. SUSSEX.—Proficiency Tests were held at Brighton on Oct. 10th, and M. Deadman, 82731, obtained 90 per cent. and G. Rennie, 38791, 75 per cent. in the Outdoor Market Gardening. Both girls are employed by the E. Sussex W.A.E.C. The Brighton W.L.A. Volunteers took part in the local Victory Parade and gained 2nd prize with their exhibit "Our Daily Bread."

We are very sorry to lose Mrs. Millar and Miss

Walker from the Office Staff after their many years of valuable service. Mrs. Millar will be missed by the Lewes W.L.A. Club, where she arranged many happy Wednesday evenings. We welcome Miss Lucas, our new Assistant County Secretary, and Mrs. Tidmarsh, our new County Organiser, and hope that they will be happy working in E. Sussex. We are sorry to learn of Miss Tindall's illness and hope that she will soon be back with us.

A very successful dance was organised by the Eastbourne Reps and girls at Devonshire Park on 15th Oct. in aid of the Benevolent Fund.

N. WALES.—The Handicraft Competition held in connection with the Rally surpassed all expectations and the entries fully deserved the high praise received from the Press and the compliment of being mentioned in the Welsh news of the B.B.C. Merionethshire deserves special thanks for the large number of entries submitted, as does the W.T.C. whose support was specially appreciated. The following prizewinners are warmly congratulated on their work and achievement:—L. Bacon, 22059, E. Brierley, 42519, E. Brown, 41471, B. Butcher, 48907, M. Davies, 106059, Miss M. K. Davies, D. Duncan, 136359, M. Griffith, 148663, S. Hewitt, 45581, B. Hughes, 86918, Miss Hughes Roberts, L. Irving, 48374, F. Johnson, 53058, Mrs. H. A. Jones, F. Lloyd, 61869, J. Lloyd, 98417, R. Mailley, 70152, Mrs. Odbert, D. Perkins, 145661, G. Scott, 150819, Mrs. A. Williams, and the following members of the W.T.C.—D. Chambers, A. Davies and K. Hill.

WILTS.—Everyone in Wilts, W.L.A., volunteers, District Reps. and all the staff will have learned with great regret that Lady Katharine McNeill has been obliged to resign Secretaryship owing to illness. During her six years' service, Lady Katharine has laboured untiringly for the L.A. in Wilts. in all weathers and in all hours. She has been at our beck and call and we can truly say it has been a labour of love. Her devotion and unflagging energy, her happy humour and cheery good companionship have helped us all and it is with a sense of personal loss that we record her going. We owe her a debt of gratitude we can never repay. We are very sad too that Mrs. Koe has had to resign for family reasons. We shall

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all miss her enormously. She takes with her our good wishes and very grateful thanks for all her work on our behalf.

YORKS., E. R.—Miss Scott, W.L.A. Representative of the Women's Employment Federation, visited Hull on Oct. 13th, giving a most interesting talk to volunteers. Much helpful information was given and it is hoped that volunteers will find this useful when the time comes for them to decide on their future careers. On Saturday, Oct. 20th, an Agricultural Pageant was staged on the final day of Thanksgiving Week at Bridlington, showing how the nation had been fed during the war and the W.L.A. were invited to take part. They were represented in every type of agricultural work including forestry tractor driving, threshing and the Young Farmers' Clubs. Congratulations are due to the following, who qualify for their 6-year armlets between now and the end of the year—M. Haller, 843, D. Alderson, 23969, J. Wallace, 844, M. Campbell, 25410, V. Cole, 28250.

YORKS. N.R.—We were pleased to have Miss Scott of the Women's Employment Federation to address a meeting on post-war careers on Oct. 18th of girls in the Scarborough area. Katharine, Lady Graham, our Chairman, also addressed the meeting. Kirbymoorside Club celebrated its 3rd birthday by a trip to Scarborough. The day's programme included a visit to the cinema and an excellent lunch and tea. Mrs. Fife, the area Rep. and Mrs. Kennedy, District Rep., accompanied the Club on their trip. Amongst news from our Hostels is that at Thirsk a farmer, who wishes to remain anonymous and who employs girls from this Hostel, was so impressed by their good standard of work that he offered a sum of money as prizes for the best workers. The prizes were awarded to the following:—1st: E. Goode; 2nd: T. Emms; 3rd prize divided between L. Dunn, N. Broadhurst, K. Davison, M. Lee, V. Taylor. Dishforth Hostel had their 2nd birthday party and to this they invited their friends and also the farmers and their wives for whom the girls have worked. The evening's entertainment began with a concert given by an A.F. concert party in which a W.L.A. member included. Then followed the presentation of S. Badges, supper and dancing. Easingwold Hostel had a Hallowe'en party.

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. Anyone sending cash should enclose stamps for its return if the goods have been sold.

FOR SALE.—Reddish brown wool dress, "Harrod's," bust 34-36 ins. 30/-; also ice-calf leatherette handbag 18/6. 58547, Vine Farm, S. Luffenham, Rutland.

FOR SALE.—Navy blue Paris model costume, 38 hip. Very fashionable. 5 gns. Heaton, Highridges, Botley, Chesham, Bucks.

FOR SALE.—Lady's good quality riding jacket, as new, dark brown heavy tweed. Bust 35 ins. £3 15 0. Houghton, Warninglid Lane, Plummers Plain, Horsham.

FOR SALE.—Ladies full length brown crepe coat, 39/6; multi-coloured striped summer dress, linen finish, 18/6; bust 34-36 ins.; silver ring with mauve stone and micasites, 12/6. 58547, Vine Farm, S. Luffenham, Rutland.

WANTED.—Riding jacket in good condition. Tweed preferred. 36 ins. bust. Smith, 2, Hillside, Liddington, Swindon, Wilts.

WANTED.—Ladies blue or grey winter coat. Bust 36. Length 42. Write stating full particulars 134174, West Leigh, Modbury, S. Devon.

WANTED.—Roller skates fit size 4. Also ice skates and boots, size 6. Both reasonable price. Hall, Halsall Hostel, Nr. Ormskirk, Lancs.

County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em- ployed
	£.	s.	d.	
Kent	7872	14	0	3138
Essex	5599	1	0	2303
Surrey	5303	12	1	1852
Hants	8443	1	8	1546
Yorks, W. Riding	2808	6	2	1510
Leics. 1297	2308	5	10	1503
Rutland 206				
Herts	4176	7	2	1410
E. Sussex ..	3537	8	1	1365
Northants ..	2721	17	4	1335
Somerset ..	2287	4	1	1327
Worcs.	2707	6	2	1218
W. Sussex ..	5078	9	0	1184
Warwickshire	7414	12	3	1177
Devon	3794	17	9	1156
Bucks	4818	7	1	1102
Wilts	1511	17	7	1057
Norfolk	4151	12	7	1043
Notts	1707	15	0	1002
Northumb'd ..	2083	10	3	933
Glos.	2433	11	2	920
Yorks, N. Riding	2017	12	10	916
Hunts 206	3656	15	0	876
Cambs 363				
Ely 307				
Berks	3556	15	8	864
Oxon	3773	12	1	852
Beds	1022	8	8	827
Salop	1895	2	5	731
Durham	1801	19	3	710
Yorks, E. Riding	548	8	2	665
Cumb'd & West'd	669	12	9	628
E. Suffolk ..	2298	7	3	627
Glam.	1025	3	9	614
Dorset	1329	18	2	612
Lincs, Kesteven	1468	17	8	608
Staffs	1663	12	6	598
Lincs, Lindsey	1466	12	0	570
Hereford ..	1528	19	10	536
Mon.	809	14	3	504
Lincs, Holland	1977	9	7	489
W. Suffolk ..	1638	7	9	484
London & Middx.	1261	12	10	459
N. Wales ..	1741	19	3	453
Flints	598	10	4	451
Denbigh	811	16	11	428
Derbyshire ..	1395	5	6	428
Pembs	1107	0	2	310
Cards & Carm's	678	18	4	276
I. of W.	205	15	8	255
Brecon & Radnor	366	16	0	235
Monts	401	15	5	191
W.T.C.	6674	4	1	1778
Cheshire	3009	16	2	Not rec'd.
Cornwall ..	1285	5	11	
Lancs	2676	1	0	

On 21st September, 1945, the total number of volunteers in employment was approximately 49,500.