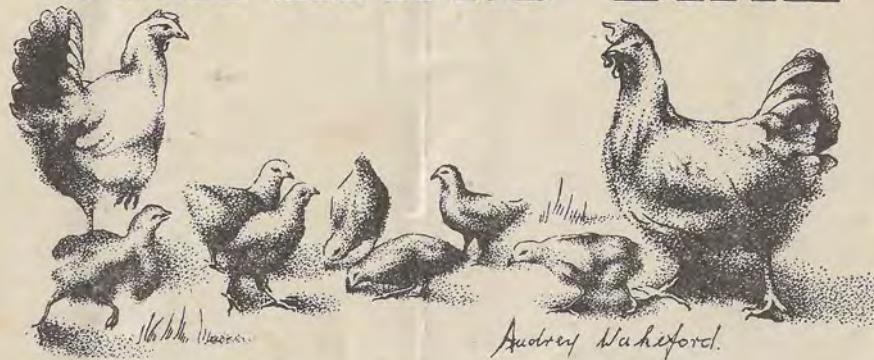


# THE LAND GIRL



No. 9, Volume 6.

DECEMBER, 1945

Price 3d.

## CINDERELLA ?

AT the time of going to press, final arrangements are being made for the Land Army's great day on December 7th when Her Majesty the Queen will present armlets at the Mansion House to those volunteers who have served six years or more in the W.L.A. Earlier in the day there will be a march through the City, led by the band of the Grenadier Guards.

This proud occasion has been fairly earned. There are nearly 800 volunteers in England and Wales, and in Scotland, and 80 officials and office staff who have worked in or for the Land Army from the autumn of 1939. This is a striking testimony not only to the individuals concerned but to the Service.

When the Land Army takes to itself the name of the Cinderella service it is perhaps sometimes apt to forget that there are two sides to this matter. The point of Cinderella's story is not that she sat among the ashes but that she emerged from them to wipe the eye of the Ugly Sisters and capture the Prince from under their guns.

Like Cinderella, the Land Army has had to put up with some unkind treatment but it has had its compensations. Its members chose it in preference to any other form of war work and many of them have found their choice to be fully justified. They have been promoted to responsible jobs and they have had the opportunity to exercise initiative and enterprise. Even the routine work, though hard, has usually been more interesting and varied than the routine of office or machine.

Land Army members have had considerable independence and have been free of irksome discipline. Last month a volunteer from every county came to London to give her county's views on the administration of the Benevolent Fund, to inspect the Committee of Management and to discuss the problems and difficulties of members of the Land Army.

The proof that you have done a job well is that nobody wants you to give it up. The Land Army can have no complaint on this score. The demand for its services by the farmers of Britain, even if they do not say it with glass slippers, is just as urgent as was ever the Prince's search for Cinderella—and let us hope that it will have as happy an ending.

M.A.P.

**SHOP WORK****POST WAR CAREERS No. 3**

There should be many opportunities for girls in the retail distributive trades now the war is over but, though salesmanship is a career young women can enter without any special training, it isn't by any means a "soft option." Almost anyone can get into a shop to sell something these days because most firms are very short of staff; but to make a really worthwhile career of salesmanship takes grit, staying power and a capacity for hard work, in addition to intelligence and a pleasant personality.

During the war most big shops were staffed by older women, many of these were very successful as saleswomen but now younger women are being demobilised the chances are all in their favour.

A good physique and a look of general health and vigour is an enormous advantage in applying for these vacancies. Land girls should score heavily as a result of the healthy active life they have been leading but it is necessary to realise that the work will mean a great change. It is entirely indoor work, usually in a centrally heated atmosphere in winter. This is apt to be tiring if you are used to a great deal of "unwarmed" fresh air. Though it may not appear a very strenuous life, being a shop girl is quite hard work physically—it involves a lot of standing and a lot of running about and most exhausting of all—a lot of keeping one's temper and one's patience with the kind of customer who doesn't know what she wants to buy and won't be happy till she buys it!

Now about conditions of work and the variety of jobs to be found in shops.

As a saleswoman you begin as an "assistant" which really means fairly near the bottom. Most large shops and chain stores have their own training departments and newly recruited staff go through this school before starting to sell. At the beginning salaries are not high and vary a great deal, but many firms have their own excellent hostels where staff can live very cheaply and well. Commission is usually earned on sales but until you become a senior saleswoman this is very small and again it varies with the kind of goods you are selling. It would obviously be higher on the sale of fur coats than on small fancy goods.

In very large firms it is possible to work up to the position of Departmental Manager with a number of assistant saleswomen to direct. This type of post calls for

managerial ability as well as capacity to sell goods and it is very important to be able to get on with other people.

The most highly paid posts for women in shop work are on the buying side. Occasionally a specialised knowledge of some particular class of goods, e.g. books, china, old furniture, may lead to direct appointment as a deputy buyer—but by far the greatest number of buyers work their way up through the selling side or by becoming secretary to a buyer.

Much more than ability is required for this job. A successful buyer should be able to anticipate fashion and know what kind of things her class of customer will want to buy. As she may be spending thousands of pounds of her firm's money she can't afford to "guess wrong" or to indulge in gambles; she must develop an unerring instinct for the right type of goods at the right time. In other words she must have a first class business head and be a very good judge of people.

Apart from buying and selling there are many other openings for girls in the shop world. Here are a few of them.

**Clerical and secretarial work and book-keeping.** All big shops employ routine clerks and typists, ledger clerks, invoice clerks and girls with a knowledge of book-keeping. These posts have their own avenues of promotion and buyers' and directors' secretaries can earn salaries of £300-£400.

**Restaurant work.** Many large stores have excellent restaurants for the convenience of their customers. Girls with catering and cooking experience are needed here and at the top there are very well paid openings for Catering Manageresses.

**Hairdressing.** Shops which have a service side frequently have a large hairdressing and manicure department.

A good hairdresser and a good manicurist can always find work. Hairdressing is the better opening and excellent cheap trainings are available at trade and technical schools. The Hairdressers' Registration Council will always advise on training.

**Dressmaking and Millinery and the Making of Fashion Accessories** is another very profitable line and a number of firms have their own Designer Cutters and Milliners working for them. There are openings in retail and wholesale work but in either case a good technical training is essential and generally easily obtained if you live in or near a large town.

Trade methods of cutting and finishing

are quite unlike private dressmaking. Ability to make your own clothes would not secure a well paid job as a designer cutter but if you like this type of work and are prepared to train prospects are good.

**Mannequins.** Many people think this the easiest and most glamorous of all careers but the more one knows about it the less attractive it seems.

First mannequins must be tall and slim but not too tall—they are trained to walk and move in a certain way and to wear clothes to the best advantage. Their working day is spent getting in and out of models which they cannot hope to buy themselves—a tedious and frustrating business for anyone who is vigorous, active and intelligent. This to me seems the least attractive opening in shop work but opinions differ—certainly it has fewer prospects for the average girl than the other openings.

I. F. Hilton, M.Sc., F.L.S.

The Benevolent Fund Advisory Conference in London on November 20th was a great success. It was attended by two delegates, one of whom was a member of the Women's Land Army, from every county in England and Wales.

Lady Denman, Chairman of the Management Committee, welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the Conference, which was to get the opinion of the Land Army itself on how the Fund was being used and its advice on future plans for spending it.

Miss Moncrieff, Secretary of the Fund, gave some interesting facts and figures. The Land Army itself has raised £140,000—a really splendid performance. The Government gave an original £10,000 and has announced its intention of making a further grant of £150,000, so that the Fund now totals £300,000. Over £28,000 has been expended in grants to nearly 5,000 volunteers. Homecraft courses, free legal assistance and advice on future careers have also been given.

Future plans for a convalescent home, a contribution to the Ex-Service Women's Club, higher grants in sickness and methods of making the Fund known to ex-members who might need its help were among the subjects discussed. Lady Denman urged delegates to tell their counties all about the day's discussion and to do their best to see that the assistance which the Fund could give should be made known to those who might need it now or in the future.

**THE FIFTH CHRISTMAS**

It was my fifth Christmas day at work and I didn't feel at all inclined to turn out of my warm bed: but the cows were waiting as usual.

So I got up—AND wasn't it cold turning the corner, going down the hill! I shivered—I wondered why I'd ever left home, why anyone, anybody, couldn't have had my job instead that morning, why animals were so dependent on Land Girls, why this and why that, until I was one long questioning grumble.

I arrived at the farm and set to work as usual. I cleaned and fed and watered and then I settled down to milk.

As I worked, the gentle "ping" of the milk into the pail, the froth appearing and gradually creeping up the bucket, the placid munching of the cows, the smell and warmth, the quietness and the content, the bleat of the calves in their boxes, the occasional stamping of the horses and the rattling of their chains; all the normal sounds and the quietly persistent life of the farm—they all made me realise my good fortune.

This, surely, was the RIGHT place to be on a Christmas morning. This was what Christmas really meant. I suddenly knew I had something which only a lucky few ever experience. My Christmas mornings in the cowsheds were part of the country legacy which would always be mine.

This was what the First Christmas must have been like. The Christmas of all Christmases, and her was I, nearer to its spirit than millions of the less lucky ones.

Suddenly the grumbles and the cold didn't matter . . . and I was very glad that I was a Land Girl who had to go to work on Christmas day.

Kesteven (Lincs.) J. B. 36864

Volunteers will remember that the W.L.A. was expressly included in the Government scheme for Further Education and Training and some of them may have wondered just how much this would amount to.

They will be interested to know that so far 35 members of the W.L.A. have received grants to cover from two to three years either at a University or at an Agricultural College.

Under the Vocational Training Scheme 52 volunteers are taking free courses at Farm Institutes or schools.

To all these volunteers we send our congratulations and good wishes for a happy and successful future.

**SHOP WORK****POST WAR CAREERS No. 3**

There should be many opportunities for girls in the retail distributive trades now the war is over but, though salesmanship is a career young women can enter without any special training, it isn't by any means a "soft option." Almost anyone can get into a shop to sell something these days because most firms are very short of staff; but to make a really worthwhile career of salesmanship takes grit, staying power and a capacity for hard work, in addition to intelligence and a pleasant personality.

During the war most big shops were staffed by older women, many of these were very successful as saleswomen but now younger women are being demobilised the chances are all in their favour.

A good physique and a look of general health and vigour is an enormous advantage in applying for these vacancies. Land girls should score heavily as a result of the healthy active life they have been leading but it is necessary to realise that the work will mean a great change. It is entirely indoor work, usually in a centrally heated atmosphere in winter. This is apt to be tiring if you are used to a great deal of "unwarmed" fresh air. Though it may not appear a very strenuous life, being a shop girl is quite hard work physically—it involves a lot of standing and a lot of running about and most exhausting of all—a lot of keeping one's temper and one's patience with the kind of customer who doesn't know what she wants to buy and won't be happy till she buys it!

Now about conditions of work and the variety of jobs to be found in shops.

As a saleswoman you begin as an "assistant" which really means fairly near the bottom. Most large shops and chain stores have their own training departments and newly recruited staff go through this school before starting to sell. At the beginning salaries are not high and vary a great deal, but many firms have their own excellent hostels where staff can live very cheaply and well. Commission is usually earned on sales but until you become a senior saleswoman this is very small and again it varies with the kind of goods you are selling. It would obviously be higher on the sale of fur coats than on small fancy goods.

In very large firms it is possible to work up to the position of Departmental Manager with a number of assistant saleswomen to direct. This type of post calls for

managerial ability as well as capacity to sell goods and it is very important to be able to get on with other people.

The most highly paid posts for women in shop work are on the buying side. Occasionally a specialised knowledge of some particular class of goods, e.g. books, china, old furniture, may lead to direct appointment as a deputy buyer—but by far the greatest number of buyers work their way up through the selling side or by becoming secretary to a buyer.

Much more than ability is required for this job. A successful buyer should be able to anticipate fashion and know what kind of things her class of customer will want to buy. As she may be spending thousands of pounds of her firm's money she can't afford to "guess wrong" or to indulge in gambles; she must develop an unerring instinct for the right type of goods at the right time. In other words she must have a first class business head and be a very good judge of people.

Apart from buying and selling there are many other openings for girls in the shop world. Here are a few of them.

**Clerical and secretarial work and book-keeping.** All big shops employ routine clerks and typists, ledger clerks, invoice clerks and girls with a knowledge of book-keeping. These posts have their own avenues of promotion and buyers' and directors' secretaries can earn salaries of £300-£400.

**Restaurant work.** Many large stores have excellent restaurants for the convenience of their customers. Girls with catering and cooking experience are needed here and at the top there are very well paid openings for Catering Manageresses.

**Hairdressing.** Shops which have a service side frequently have a large hairdressing and manicure department.

A good hairdresser and a good manicurist can always find work. Hairdressing is the better opening and excellent cheap trainings are available at trade and technical schools. The Hairdressers' Registration Council will always advise on training.

**Dressmaking and Millinery and the Making of Fashion Accessories** is another very profitable line and a number of firms have their own Designer Cutters and Milliners working for them. There are openings in retail and wholesale work but in either case a good technical training is essential and generally easily obtained if you live in or near a large town.

Trade methods of cutting and finishing

are quite unlike private dressmaking. Ability to make your own clothes would not secure a well paid job as a designer cutter but if you like this type of work and are prepared to train prospects are good.

**Mannequins.** Many people think this the easiest and most glamorous of all careers but the more one knows about it the less attractive it seems.

First mannequins must be tall and slim but not too tall—they are trained to walk and move in a certain way and to wear clothes to the best advantage. Their working day is spent getting in and out of models which they cannot hope to buy themselves—a tedious and frustrating business for anyone who is vigorous, active and intelligent. This to me seems the least attractive opening in shop work but opinions differ—certainly it has fewer prospects for the average girl than the other openings.

I. F. Hilton, M.Sc., F.L.S.

The Benevolent Fund Advisory Conference in London on November 20th was a great success. It was attended by two delegates, one of whom was a member of the Women's Land Army, from every county in England and Wales.

Lady Denman, Chairman of the Management Committee, welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the Conference, which was to get the opinion of the Land Army itself on how the Fund was being used and its advice on future plans for spending it.

Miss Moncrieff, Secretary of the Fund, gave some interesting facts and figures. The Land Army itself has raised £140,000—a really splendid performance. The Government gave an original £10,000 and has announced its intention of making a further grant of £150,000, so that the Fund now totals £300,000. Over £28,000 has been expended in grants to nearly 5,000 volunteers. Homecraft courses, free legal assistance and advice on future careers have also been given.

Future plans for a convalescent home, a contribution to the Ex-Service Women's Club, higher grants in sickness and methods of making the Fund known to ex-members who might need its help were among the subjects discussed. Lady Denman urged delegates to tell their counties all about the day's discussion and to do their best to see that the assistance which the Fund could give should be made known to those who might need it now or in the future.

**THE FIFTH CHRISTMAS**

It was my fifth Christmas day at work and I didn't feel at all inclined to turn out of my warm bed: but the cows were waiting as usual.

So I got up—AND wasn't it cold turning the corner, going down the hill! I shivered—I wondered why I'd ever left home, why anyone, anybody, couldn't have had my job instead that morning, why animals were so dependent on Land Girls, why this and why that, until I was one long questioning grumble.

I arrived at the farm and set to work as usual. I cleaned and fed and watered and then I settled down to milk.

As I worked, the gentle "ping" of the milk into the pail, the froth appearing and gradually creeping up the bucket, the placid munching of the cows, the smell and warmth, the quietness and the content, the bleat of the calves in their boxes, the occasional stamping of the horses and the rattling of their chains; all the normal sounds and the quietly persistent life of the farm—they all made me realise my good fortune.

This, surely, was the RIGHT place to be on a Christmas morning. This was what Christmas really meant. I suddenly knew I had something which only a lucky few ever experience. My Christmas mornings in the cowsheds were part of the country legacy which would always be mine.

This was what the First Christmas must have been like. The Christmases of all Christmases, and her was I, nearer to its spirit than millions of the less lucky ones.

Suddenly the grumbles and the cold didn't matter . . . and I was very glad that I was a Land Girl who had to go to work on Christmas day.

Kesteven (Lincs.) J. B. 36864

Volunteers will remember that the W.L.A. was expressly included in the Government scheme for Further Education and Training and some of them may have wondered just how much this would amount to.

They will be interested to know that so far 35 members of the W.L.A. have received grants to cover from two to three years either at a University or at an Agricultural College.

Under the Vocational Training Scheme 52 volunteers are taking free courses at Farm Institutes or schools.

To all these volunteers we send our congratulations and good wishes for a happy and successful future.

## IN MANCHESTER

I remember one day when my hair was blown awry, my shirt and breeches looked anything but spruce and my gumboots were still suffering from the effects of an undrained midden-stead, my boss stopped me in the yard and said, "I bet you dare not walk down Piccadilly like that?" I smiled and replied that I dare do it but I should never get the chance! That was three years ago!

For a whole fortnight, perhaps not as dishevelled as I was that day in the farm-yard, I had the privilege of trundling at least one kit of milk along Piccadilly every day. With two other Land Girls and three students I helped to demonstrate the model dairy at the recent Manchester Farm Week Exhibition.

It was situated at one end of the shippion, which can only be described as "the cow's dream of Heaven." Inside the dairy we had all the latest equipment and everything worked when you pressed the right button. Needless to say it took a day to learn which was the right button but once mastered we had the job at our fingertips. There was plenty of "washing-up" because there were five milkings daily, four of them in public. In the slack periods, and surprisingly enough there were a few, we were able to answer such questions as "Do they swill the cows' feet to prevent foot and mouth disease, Miss?" and "Do they bring the cows in here to milk, Miss?"—this latter after they had passed the milking-bail!

The cows themselves were "such stuff as dreams are made of." Next to the milking-bail were four Ayrshire Shorthorn cross cows, one of whom distinguished herself by giving her three gallons of milk each night in under three minutes. Their immediate neighbours were four pure-bred Ayrshires and above them again were four pedigree Shorthorns. At the top of the shippion the Friesians reigned supreme. Four blue-blooded ladies whose beauty could not but arrest the eye of the most ignorant onlooker.

Beyond these ladies, King Bill, Tarvin Geertje's Advance, from the herd of Mr. G. B. Radcliffe, worth 38s. 4d. per pound, ruled like Solomon. With supreme indifference to the 20,000 faces that peered at him each day, he reclined and chewed his cud with regal disdain. Throughout the whole exhibition he was never heard to utter one word of complaint.

Directly opposite him were four of his progeny, two bull and two wye calves, all of them the product of artificial insemina-

tion, and healthier or happier calves no one could wish to see.

To our sorrow we were confined to the dairy and not, as was at first suggested, allowed to milk the cows. The three cowmen who had charge of all the livestock had that honour and incidentally in direct contrast to the luxurious conditions of their charges lived and slept on a bed of straw in a little hut 12 ft. by 8 ft., where everyone, from the Chairman of the Show to us humble dairymaids, was welcome to a "brew" of tea.

My experience was confined to one small portion of the exhibition which, I am sure, was the most comprehensive of its kind ever to be staged on 2½ acres of land and though washing a milking machine with 1,000 people looking on was somewhat hair-raising, especially with a facetious commentator, I wouldn't have missed it for worlds.

Lancs.

B. M. Oxley, 29340.

*Miss A. Wakeford, who drew this quarter's cover design, writes:*

"You may be interested to know that the two hens reared their chicks in our garden. They hatched them in nest boxes side by side on the same day, and brought them up in perfect agreement as one family. There were nine cockerels and nine pullets—lovely R.I. Reds."

In August last, the Milk Marketing Board held a Recorders' Proficiency Examination, the results of which have just been published. Out of 31 candidates who gained 75 per cent. or over, 15 were members of the W.L.A. This was a magnificent result and it is equally good that G. P. Burnett, 9435, Lancs. was top in the whole country with 173 marks out of 200. Heartiest congratulations to her and to the other 14 as well.

Experiments in America have shown that cotton stockings treated with wax wear four times as long as they would otherwise. A piece of ordinary candle or paraffin wax is rubbed on the heel and toe areas of the stocking and much of the benefit will last through about four washings so that the stockings need not be waxed every time they are washed. The experiments were only tried in the U.S.A. on cotton stockings, but it is believed that the toe and heel waxing method would also add to the life of wool or rayon stockings and socks.



[By courtesy of Sussex Daily News.]

Congratulations to M. Whittem, 58897, Oxfordshire, who has weaned 200 calves in the last three and a half years.

And to K. Laver, 138440, and E. Green, 124878, Dorset, who took entire charge of the farm while their employer and his wife had a week's holiday.

And to M. Wilford, 13511, Leics. and Rut. who, during the past two years has won two firsts and a third prize in ploughing contests held in the county; and also to G. Hearne, 52339, winner of the ploughing contest organised by the Leicester District Technical Advisory Committee.

And to volunteers in the Melton area who answered the recent appeal for blood donors. The local press wrote "top marks should be awarded to members of the W.L.A., who accepted the experience as calmly as they do ploughing and hedging."

And to M. Smith, 73607 and W. Watson, 74031, of Lancs., who claim they have beaten J. Davey's record for cress-cutting (printed in the Oct. LAND GIRL). Their average speed is 50 doz. punnets per hour and they can cut 80 doz. in one hour.

And to J. Heath, 94515, W. Kent, on her appointment as Assistant Labour Officer by the Bucks, W.A.C. Miss Heath has worked in W. Kent since 1942.

And to the girls of Wing Hostel, Bucks., on having won the Silver Inter-Hostel National Savings Cup.

**SINISTER SPIDERS**

Humans have always hankered for gossamer garments, and in 1710 the French Academy of Science actually exhibited a pair of stockings and a pair of gloves made from spiders' silk and it was suggested that this might be commercially utilised. However, the difficulty of keeping the silk producers supplied with quantities of live flies, and their incurable tendency to escape during the early stages of their lives, soon put an end to the venture.

The liquid which solidifies into spiders' silk exudes from some small wart-like growths, called spinnerets, on the underside of the abdomen. Seven different kinds of glands produce the liquid, each one a special "brand." There is the sticky silk which actually captures the unfortunate creatures who collide with the web, the special "safety line" silk which the spider always keeps attached to its body, the silk used for spinning cocoons and nursery chambers, silk for the spokes of the wheel and for the stays, in fact a specialized product for every requirement.

Each species of spider spins its own typical web according to a set plan and even the first effort of a youthful spider is a perfect piece of craftsmanship. They have no need to learn the art, they know the right method by instinct. The most beautiful webs are spun by the orb weavers; large silken wheels suspended vertically between twigs or branches. Others sp'n a wheel wth one section missing or a triangular net. Some very common species spin the hammock-like webs which lie over the grass on autumn mornings, while others simply put out a bewildering tangle of threads in al directions.

Not all spiders trap their victims in webs. All the so called Hunting Spiders roam about and catch their prey by suddenly jumping out of a hiding place. But even these spiders are capable of spinning, and use their skill for making elaborate nests, lined with silken tapestry, or special nurseries to hold their eggs. One rather small brown spider which is found on heath land spins egg chambers which look like little white bells suspended from the heather. When they are completed they are covered on the outside with a plastering of mud which makes them less conspicuous and saves the eggs from the attentions of the parasitic wasps which pierce the nests to lay their own eggs inside them. The trap-door spider makes itself a silk lined nest in the ground, fitted with a hinged door that can only be opened from the inside and is so beautifully

camouflaged with bits of moss and grass on the outside that it is almost impossible to detect unless you happen to see the spider coming out and leaving the door open. Many hunting spiders surround their eggs with a very tough wrapping of silk and carry this bundle about with them wherever they go until the youngsters hatch.

Long before man had thought of conquering the air, spiders had taken to ballooning. The young crab spiders set out on aerial journeys on fine autumn days and often travel fifty miles or more in this way. Sitting on a twig some way from the ground they spin a long thread and let it float out on the breeze. Eventually the pull on the thread is strong enough to lift the spider, and attached to this line they fly before the wind until chance brings them down to earth again. Darwin observed them 60 miles out to sea, and in Germany the gleaming, floating filaments are known as "Mary's Threads."

On the whole spiders are very unsociable creatures, and the small males often approach their much bigger wives at the peril of death. Many of them try to please their ladies by performing a ritual dance or even bringing gifts of choice flies to support their suit, but nevertheless many a female spider is a self-made widow almost as soon as she is a wife.

The water spiders are a great exception to this rule, and in their underwater dwellings the males and females make themselves adjoining chambers, linked by a covered way. These nests are silken diving bells filled with air which the spiders bring down from the surface, clutching the bubbles between their hairy legs. A certain species of South American spider actually lives in large communal webs, each individual having a little chamber of his own.

**"SLIPCLEAN"**  
The Antiseptic and Hygienic Skin Cleanser

Removes Oil, Grease, Paint, Tar and Dirt—like Lightning. Keeps skin soft and supple. Prevents Milking Dermatitis and infection caused by Pyogenic Germs—Abscesses, Boils, etc.

Granted the Certificate of The Royal Institute of Health and Hygiene

Send for Illustrated Leaflet :—

**PINKSTONE LTD.,  
Lower Park Row, Bristol, 1.**

All spiders are poisonous creatures, and although very few are harmful to man, they have a bad name and many people loathe the sight of them. The Black Widow and the Tarantula are perhaps the two most ill famed, but even they are not nearly so dangerous as their reputations make out. True, the Black Widow's bite can cause severe illness and even death, but she is not aggressive and very few people have actually been killed. The alarming chorea said to have been caused by the Tarantula's "sting" is now believed to have been a form of mass hysteria, which might easily have broken out amongst superstitious and frightened Italian peasants during periods of poverty and pestilence, while the Tarantula itself really had very little to do with it apart from acting as a scapegoat.

The largest spiders are the tropical bird spiders, who are actually large enough to pounce on small birds and kill them. Occasionally these huge hairy creatures come to this country, particularly in the banana ships. My greengrocer once rang me up some years before the war, to say he had found a huge spider in a crate of bananas, and would I please come and take it away. When I arrived at the shop I found the spider crouching in a corner, and it certainly looked rather frightening. With its hairy legs outspread it gave the impression of being quite as large as a clenched fist. I caught it in a butterfly net, secured it in a box and sent it up by rail to the Zoo in London where it was exhibited in the Insect House.

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

Every Herefordshire Land Girl has received three very nice letters, one from the W.A.E.C., one from the County Branch of the N.F.U. and one from the Herefordshire Branch of the N.U.A.W. In each letter the W.L.A. is congratulated on its splendid work and in each is expressed the hope that all members who are able to do so will stay on the land for as long as they can.

An acre of ground may have eighteen tons of earth brought to the surface yearly by earthworms.

B. Willis, 100758, Kent, supports the cure for warts which E. Manton mentioned in her article "Country Humour" in the Oct. LAND GIRL. Miss Willis says that she used the same device, which originated with a Cornish doctor in her case, and that her warts disappeared soon afterwards.



"Where shall you go, ducks?"

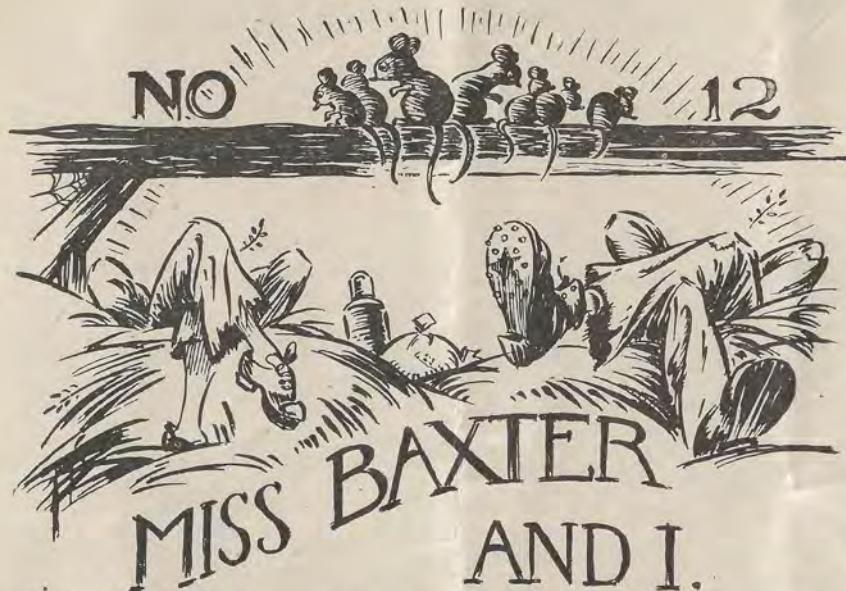
"Somewhere quiet in the country of course, dear!"  
[By courtesy of Birmingham Evening Despatch.]

To-day there is more machinery on farms than ever before. Farmers and farm workers should use all machinery with care and take every precaution possible. The Ministry of Agriculture's illustrated leaflet "Farm Machinery—Prevention of Accidents" calls attention to some of the ways in which accidents on the farm can be prevented. The leaflet can be obtained free and post free from the Ministry at Berri Court, St. Annes, Lytham St. Annes.

**THE LAND GIRL**

Published Mid-monthly

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



At breakfast on Christmas Eve our farmer said to my friend Miss Baxter and I that there was still one pole in the West Meadow that we hadn't used for fire-wood and we had better fetch it in as the grieve had mended the stack-yard wall with the stuff the coalman brought.

I said there were only Italians in the West Meadow now because all the Poles had gone to Siberia, but our farmer said he meant poles, 180, enemy aircraft landings, for the obstruction of, and we would need the tractor, a long chain and a railway sleeper.

Miss Baxter said if he meant the station-master he only slept by day when he was on night-shift and this week he slept at night because he was on day-shift unless the shifts had been shifted. And our farmer said what he wanted shifted was the obstruction pole and to let the bread-knife represent the pole, this butter-ball the tractor, the marmalade jar the sleeper and that bit of straw on my boot the chain.

I said he had forgotten to represent Miss Baxter and I and would I pass the honey? And he said no, the boiled eggs would be better because they were both cracked.

Miss Baxter said it all reminded her of the time she represented the patient in her Girl Guides First Aid Class and they had diagnosed Foot and Mouth Disease and if our farmer wanted something to represent himself, here was a bit of toast that was getting tough. And I said if he wanted us to fetch the bread-knife at once he would

have to finish washing Alvar Liddell in the dairy himself. And our farmer said he would, as soon as he had heard Alfa Laval reading the news. Well, we had just got the tractor out of the shed which is quite easy now because the doorway has been getting wider ever since we came to the farm, when an army car drove up with a Captain in it.

He looked pleased when he saw Miss Baxter and said how about some Combined Operations when she had got her scarecrow set up and was ready to go hay-making? And Miss Baxter said if he meant the cracked egg on the butter-ball that was me after making an Obligatory Surrender to the W.L.A. Clothes Rationing Scheme and she only made hay while the sun shone.

The Captain said then Military Intelligence indicated Bright Intervals later but actually at the moment he had to see the farmer about 180 obstruction poles and did she know where he was? And Miss Baxter said well actually he was washing Alvar Liddell and the Captain said On the Kitchen Front? And Miss Baxter said no, on the dairy floor, and let in the clutch.

It was 9 o'clock by this time so we went into the barn to have our elevenses and I was just telling Miss Baxter about Cousin Bernard who changed his name to Brown by deed poll because it was Bull before and he wanted to start a china shop and Miss Baxter was saying had the poll made a brown bull and I was saying no, it was the dead that made a Bull Brown, when Sandy

the Cattleman came in and said he'd heard tell o' Red Poles but no' brown yins and Miss Baxter said well look at the White Russians and what did Sandy think they would do to our farmer for having burnt 179 Obstruction Poles.

Sandy said Fegs, but it wad cost him a puckle siller gin they didna jail him for destroying His Majesty's property and Miss Baxter said Well, in the last six years we had destroyed 16 pairs of His Majesty's dungarees, 12 pairs of his shoes, 5½ pairs of his gumboots and sundry sundries and His Majesty hadn't said a word and Sandy said they wouldn'a ha'e fittit him onywey and went back to the byre.

When we got to the field we saw the last of the 180 standing by the ditch. So we fixed up everything as well as we could remember though we weren't sure whether the straw off my boot should be fixed to the marmalade jar or the bread-knife but Miss Baxter said we might as well be hanged for a dog in one basket as an egg with a bad name, and let in the clutch.

The pole came out quite easily.

Well, things like that don't often happen to us but we got the tractor out of the ditch, a small tree out of the radiator, a sparrow's

nest out of Miss Baxter's hat and my face out of the mud and towed the pole back to the farm.

On the way we met the Captain's car and he stopped and said where were we taking the pole? And I said where all the others had gone—on the sitting room fire. And the Captain got into his car and drove away without saying a word though the sun was shining like anything by that time.

When we got back to the shed our farmer and Sandy were gathering bricks off the floor and our farmer said a Captain had just been trying to sell him the poles for £10 and our farmer had said they were no use to him and they were so much in the way that he had meant to apply for extra compensation but as a special favour to the captain he would dispose of them himself and say no more about the compensation if the Captain would give him £5 to cover the cost of removal and the Captain had, so now he could afford to have the shed wall rebuilt for a Christmas present for Miss Baxter and I.

And Sandy said Aye, and eneuch ower tae buy a neep for yon Brown Polled bull's Christmas Stocking forbye.

Isobel Mount

#### IN 1871

The activities of the Society of Friends on behalf of the victims of war have been as energetic and varied in the past as they are now.

After the Franco-Prussian War the seizure and destruction of cattle by military requisition in the Loire area had caused much suffering and death, especially among children. The Friends' War Victims Relief Fund decided to import a herd from Spain and did so in 1871—about 400 head of milch cows, bulls, calves and goats. The cattle were of many species, including the Andalusian breed, specially in demand for Spanish bull-fighting. After getting the herd across the frontier, they were pastured for two weeks on the banks of the Bidassoa River, whence the French Government provided free special trains and unusual facilities to transport them to Blois. Each of the wagons was labelled "Special Train. Speed 40 kilometres per hour (about 25 m.p.h.) by order of the Ministry of Agriculture. Milch cows, destined for the relief of the poor cultivators injured by the war and given by the English Society of Friends."

An exhibition of the herd was held in the Place de la Republique in Blois, opened by the Prefect of the Department, whilst in the evening a banquet, with

#### AUTUMN PRUNING

I went into an orchard to prune an apple tree,

An apple tree quite young and slim,  
I had to make it neat and trim,  
And very pleasant work it seemed to me.

There is grass in the orchard, green and  
fresh and strong,  
There are chickens in the orchard cackling  
along,  
There are yellow leaves whirling whene'er  
the wind blows,  
There's the call of the blackbird and  
cawing of crows.

I stood on a ladder and I snipped the  
apple tree;

I took out all the shoots that crossed,  
The leaders too I tipped, and tossed  
The pieces to the winds that played  
around me.

There is blue in the sky and the clouds are  
loose and white  
And the wind will be blowing strong and  
fresh to-night  
And my little tree will stand alone, bathed  
in wan moonlight—  
Young, slim, neat, trim that tree will be  
to-night.

Berks.

J. Hopkinson, 76541.

extravagant speeches of gratitude, honoured the event.

The animals were then distributed to the various needy communes in the valley of the Loire.

As a precaution against their being requisitioned or otherwise disposed of, all the original gift, their offspring and those purchased later were to be branded around each horn with the word "Quakers."

There was a curious international complication in that the Spanish cattle did not at first settle and were restive when being milked because they did not understand the French language. Accordingly, a few Spanish peasants brought the next load and stayed a few days to settle the cows in.

**"Long, Long Ago", Alexander Woollcott (Cassell, 8s. 6d.).  
"The House that Berry Built".  
Dornford Yates (Ward Lock).**

The insatiable curiosity of Alexander Woollcott, who would have been quite pleased to be compared to the Elephant's Child, is a great loss to the world. All the more reason for enjoying this last salvage from his treasure house. For it was human beings that interested him exclusively and especially human beings in odd situations, humorous, poignant or pathetic, or all three together; and it mattered nothing to him whether such situations occurred in the past or in the present, near at hand or far away. There is the same piquant flavour in all the sketches, essays, talks or what have you in "Long, Long Ago", whether they come under the heading "Friends and Neighbours", "Ways That Are Dark", "Shouts and Murmurs", "On the Air", "Book Markers" or "Programme Notes". Whether the persons dealt with will always appreciate the deal they receive as much as does the reader seems doubtful. Bernard Shaw, of course, and other public figures must be ready for anything. The actors and actresses who are the most frequent subjects, will probably not mind much, even the now famous couple who once starved themselves for economy's sake in a cheap hotel while the management was, in fact, giving a free Christmas dinner. Criminals and dead celebrities are also fair game. But one public school, though perfectly genuine, hero will probably squirm, and some obscure American citizens, treated with what Mr. Woollcott no doubt regarded as tactful sympathy, may well have felt inclined to shoot it out. However, the author might have pleaded that he himself took "The Man Who Came to Dinner" with perfect sportsmanship; and to the ordinary reader, he has the enormous

merit of making life more interesting, and of stimulating one's own perception of the drama concealed in the queer incidents that come in everyone's way at times and never more than in recent years.

It is a shock to find that Mr. Dornford Yates's family group of Berry and Co. were actually driven by taxation and the rest of it to give up "White Ladies" in the latest instalment of their adventures, "The House That Berry Built". They had always lived in such a fairyland of wealth, beauty and good fortune. And other painful things had happened to them, too. But it turns out to be a false alarm. There is plenty left to build a delightful new home in the Pyrenees. Nor, above all, has the matchless Berry lost his gift for inspired clowning which is one's only, but quite sufficient reason for reading these most unashamedly escapist of escape novels.

M. Jaeger.

M. Standley, 118289, Cheshire, writes a most appreciative letter of the happy time that she had at the Scottish Rest Break House. She thinks "Miss Webster, the Matron, is the nicest person I have ever seen" and she "cannot speak highly enough of the Scotch people" and their kindness.



[By courtesy of Burton Daily Mail.]

On the swing in Derbyshire

December, 1945

## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I hope you will find room for a word of appreciation of the Local Representatives. Their constant care is for our welfare and nothing seems to be too much trouble for them. They trudge over ploughed fields and plunge across yards, deep in muck, in search of us. They earn our grateful thanks.

Berks.

E. K. Field, 56350

Dear Editor,

Many members of the Land Army will be qualifying for the State paid holiday this spring. It may very well happen that a volunteer may not be able to spend this time in a really restful atmosphere or she may have no home, and nowhere to go. One way in which those representatives who are in a position to do so could help, would be to welcome into their houses those members of the W.L.A. who are unable to use this extra holiday profitably. A real rest of a week or a fortnight in different surroundings would be of enormous benefit to volunteers. A small charge could be made for outgoing expenses.

Representatives could send the names of those in need of such a holiday to the County Office, where a panel of willing hostesses could be set up. Friends of representatives might also be persuaded to undertake this good work.

"A Prospective Hostess."

Dear Editor,

I went recently to speak to a L.A. Club at East Grinstead and I enjoyed the evening club immensely. The girls, looking so fresh and bonny and well groomed, in their uniform, were an audience after a speaker's heart, catching all the points like lightning and laughing in all the right places. Some of them had cycled in quite a distance and evidently their club night is an event for them. Excellent refreshments were served after the talk and

altogether it was a very happy party; after a long day's work it must mean an effort for the officials of these clubs to prepare refreshments and arrange these gatherings. Meanwhile I congratulate East Grinstead on a very jolly club.

M. Pallister.

Dear Editor,

I have, in my opinion, achieved one of the most interesting jobs in the W.L.A. We work an Alfa Laval combined milking recording plant of five units. I have the job of taking it apart, as well as all kinds of dairy work.

We have 75 cows in milk and three of us manage the whole dairy. I was trained at Steambow Farm. I was rather disappointed that my first job was machine milking, however I made myself settle down to it and I am now very keen.

A little while ago our cowman left and I was left in charge of the dairy with two other L.G.'s to help me. I can honestly say I never regret joining the W.L.A. as it has been one of the happiest times of my life.

Som.

H. Lunt, 145424

Dear Editor,

I have been a tractor driver for the N.R. W.A.E.C. for three years and have made a record of my work for six months which might interest some Land Girls. I've worked for 128 different farmers and in six months I've ploughed 122 acres, disced 408 acres, rolled 131 acres, drilled 88 acres and reaped 220 acres.

M. Bowen, 97574

*The following letter from an employer about a volunteer in Gloucestershire has been received by the County Secretary.*

Iris Bradford has been very useful and always willing and cheerful. The following little story about her is, I think, amusing.

She started off one morning with a farm cart and a big horse and before leaving she said to the carter, "What do I do if he falls down?" He replied "Oh, sit on his head." The horse did fall down when in a remote and lonely part of the farm so Iris promptly sat on his head and waited. No help came in response to her calls so after much crying and many prayers she ultimately stood up and the horse did the same. There was no damage done and she proceeded on her journey.

Some of these girls have been just wonderful.

Lady offers home to paying guest. Fond of country life and animals. Own sitting room. Accommodation dogs, poultry. Miss Pearson, The Hermitage, Ampleforth College, York.

**INVEST ONE COUPON AND KEEP WARM**

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



**L. TWEENWAY, Ltd., Horley, Surrey**

December, 1945

## SCOTTISH NOTES

**ANGUS.**—Brechin and District W.L.A. members with Mrs. Morrison, District Rep., as organiser, held a dance at Brechin, and whist drive and dance at Careston in October; these raised £61 for the Welfare and Benevolent Fund. Mrs. Morrison has given W.L.A. members in her district many enjoyable evenings in her home and they are greatly indebted to her in many other ways.

**SOUTH ARGYLL.**—The Welfare and Benevolent Fund benefited to the extent of £18 12s. from a fancy dress dance in Kilmun arranged by Miss P. Devaney.

**DUNBARTON & RENFREW.**—On 30th Oct. the Kirkintilloch Club held a most happy Hallowe'en party, to which they invited all the ladies who had assisted them with their successful sale of work last May. The members presented a Medici print to Mrs. Fletcher, their Hon. President, in recognition of her generosity and keen interest in the Club. The President of the Club told the gathering that they had had two marriages in the district; Miss J. Fleming had married a local farmer and Miss B. Wilson had married a Canadian sergeant. Miss Fleming was unfortunately unable to be present, but Miss Wilson, now Mrs. McLennan, received a cheque from the girls of the Club. L.G.'s invited local Service men and some of the young farmers to a Hallowe'en party. This also was a most successful evening and much amusement was caused in the "dooking" for apples.

**WEST FIFE & KINROSS.**—At Fernwoodlea, Oakley, the first of a series of conferences was initiated, after a preliminary try-out in Berwickshire last year, to give W.L.A. members a chance to discuss post-war problems. Under the auspices of the W.L.A., in co-operation with the Y.W.C.A., the conference was attended by over 50 members and proved most successful, with its varied programme of discussion, talks and social items. Speakers included Miss E. V. Baxter, M.B.E., president, Scottish Welfare and Benevolent Fund; Mr. Crowe, Rehabilitation Officer of the Ministry of Labour, who answered questions on rehabilitation problems; Mrs. Wailes, Miss Robson, Mrs. Methven, Miss McArthur, Mr. J. B. Manson and Mrs. Bofrey, Canadian Y.W.C.A. On Saturday evening, after discussion, a party was held to which several local farmers were invited, and on Sunday afternoon, Mrs. I. Beck, secretary, was question-master at Brains Trust, consisting of 7 members of the Canadian forces from Edinburgh. Later on there was a spelling bee—Canadian Army v. W.L.A.

**NORTH LANARK.**—More than 700 people attended a ball held in Glasgow City Chambers in aid of the W. and B. Fund, the largest gathering held in the city since before the war. The guests were received on arrival by Mr. James Welsh, the Lord Provost of Glasgow, and the Duchess of Buccleuch. Sir Patrick Laird, Secretary to the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, addressed the gathering and explained the objects for which it was being held.

As a result of the ball and ancillary efforts and the generosity of individual patrons, a cheque for £4,000 was presented by Mrs. J. C. Luke, M.B.E., Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee for North Lanark to Miss E. V. Baxter, M.B.E., Chairman of the S.W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.

**MIDLOTHIAN.**—The girls at Crookston Hostel held a Dance and raised £23 for Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

**PEEBLESHIRE.**—Under the auspices of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee for Peeblesshire and through the generosity of the farmers in the district, the L.G.'s and their friends were entertained at Victory Harvest Dances in West Linton and in Peebles. At West Linton the dance was held on Friday, 12th Oct. in the Graham Institute, and was thoroughly enjoyed by a large company. Before introducing the Chairman of the A.E.C., Mrs. Thomson, Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee, spoke appreciatively of the work of the

L.G.'s and the pleasure she had derived from her contacts with them. Speaking on behalf of the farmers, Captain Thomson thanked the members of the Sub-Committee for giving them the opportunity to show some measure of their gratitude for the great work the Land Girls had done on the farms during the past six years. On behalf of the L.G.'s Miss Mabel Richardson thanked Captain and Mrs. Thomson and the farmers of the district for their kindness and generosity. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the Georgians Band, Mr. Ralph Jackson, who acted as M.C., the ladies of the Pantiles Hostel Committee who so graciously assisted with the tea, and to the Misses Mitchell and Reid in making the evening such an unequalled success. The Peebles dance was held on Thursday, 18th Oct. With its decorations of flowers and many tinted autumn leaves the usually drab Drill Hall took on a distinctly festive appearance and the large gathering of L.G.'s and farmers and their friends spent a most enjoyable evening. Music for a full and varied programme was provided by the popular Georgians Band, while Mr. Hunter Smith, as M.C., kept the entertainment going with a swing. Ladies of the W.V.S. assisted in the serving of the refreshments. In the interval Mr. John Jardine, Secretary of the A.E.C., welcomed the company on behalf of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee, and introduced Mr. W. D. Jackson of Wester Haiprew. Mr. Jackson, who has proved himself on many occasions a staunch champion of the L.G.'s, expressed the sincere appreciation and thanks of the farming community for the grand work done by the girls during the war years.

Miss Reid, on behalf of the girls, thanked Mr. Jackson, and said that the girls would never regret their time spent "down on the farm."

**SELKIRK.**—The girls of Riverside W.L.A. Hostel, Selkirk, gave a very successful Hallowe'en party recently.

## COUNTY NEWS

**BEDS.**—A representative gathering of volunteers associated with milking were invited to attend at the Corn Exchange, Bedford, on Nov. 21st, on the occasion of the presentation of the Victory Churn to the Bedfordshire farmers. A warm tribute was paid by the Chairman of the W.A.E.C. to the girls for their share in this triumph. Kensworth House Hostel, and Bolnhurst Hostel, both recently celebrated their third birthdays with a party and dance. There were seven girls at Bolnhurst, and five at Kensworth House, who still remain from the original number on the opening day. Kensworth were able to give a splendid firework display, and ended the evening with a sing-song round a 20 ft. bonfire. Preparations are going ahead for the Grand Rally and Exhibition planned for Feb. 1946. Handiwork, P.T. and singing classes are in full swing. A smart contingent of volunteers joined in the Thanksgiving Procession at the opening of Bedford's Thanksgiving Week recently. We have had very encouraging letters from those volunteers who went to Moulton Institute.

**BERKS.**—We have not had any great events in this county during the last month, but several most enjoyable functions have been arranged. A most instructive day was spent by a party of girls who were taken over the University of Reading; afterwards they went round the National Institute of Research and Dairying at Shinfield and were shown over the University of Reading Horticultural Station. The staff and girls of Jealotts Hill Hostel, Warfield, entertained many of the local troops at a Hallowe'en party; Woodrows Hostel held a party in aid of the local Welcome Home Fund and the programme included a film show, dutch auction and several raffles. E. Cox, 39143, organised a most popular dance at Didcot, the proceeds from which will be sent to the Benevolent Fund. Proficiency tests have been held in field and g. f. work and 6 girls have been successful in gaining their Proficiency Badges. Clubs are again engrossed in their many winter activities.

## THE LAND GIRL

**BUCKS.**—At a very successful party on 12th Nov. the Countess of Rosebery presented the Inter-Hostel National Savings Cup to Wing Hostel. This cup is presented periodically to the hostel showing the highest average per head in their National Savings group and was won this time by the Wing girls with an average of £2 2s. 6d. per head when they were actually in residence at Mentmore Towers, the home of Lord and Lady Rosebery. The runners-up were "Pannells" with an average of £1 14s. 5d. and Grove Farm with £1 10s. 10d., this latter hostel having been the winner on two occasions. Mrs. Fellowes, Chairman of the W.L.A. in Bucks, introduced Lady Rosebery, who made a charming speech of congratulation to the girls and thanked them for their services to their country. Two W.L.A. members, J. Littlewood and G. Fulwood, took part in a tableau depicting "Women at Work and Play Throughout the Ages" in the Town Hall, High Wycombe, in aid of the National Savings Week. An attractive pageant was staged.

**CHESHIRE.**—We feel sure all connected with the Cheshire W.L.A. will join us in sending good wishes to Mrs. Fenner, who has been Assistant Secretary since Oct. 1939, and who has now left the organisation to return to her home on the demobilisation of her husband. Miss Craighead, who has also been in the organisation since the early days, has been promoted to the post of Assistant Secretary in charge of employment. We welcome Miss Walker who has been appointed Assistant Secretary in charge of welfare, and Miss Kennedy who has joined us as a County Organiser. Mrs. Davies, a member of our Committee who has also been an Area Rep. for the Wirral, has had to resign owing to pressure of other work. Miss Donald, who has been associated with the Land Army from the very early days, has been appointed in her place. Whilst thanking Mrs. Davies for the work she has done, we would like to give Miss Donald a hearty welcome.

Our Rally took place in October. The weather was kind to us but the attendance disappointing. However, a pleasant time was enjoyed by those who did attend.

**CORNWALL.**—Some 20 volunteers with six years' service to their credit are eagerly anticipating the "party" in London, and we all hope they will have an enjoyable time and be a credit to the county. All hostels are flourishing. Poltair has been re-opened recently and is housing 30 volunteers. Helston Hostel arranged a dance on Nov. 23rd and are sharing the proceeds between their "Piano Fund" and the Benevolent Fund. Truro Vicar collected £24 for National Savings.

We were very pleased to have Mrs. Jackson (from London and Middx.) as Deputy Secretary for a time in Nov., as Mrs. Pierrepont is unfortunately away on sick leave. Two new organisers have recently been welcomed to the county, Miss Medd for the Wadebridge area, and Miss Poncione for St. Austell and district, and we hope they will enjoy their work among us.

**DENBIGHSHIRE.**—Comm. Members, Hostels and girls have been very busy this autumn with a Benevolent Fund Drive, each area contributing its bit. Mrs. Osborn, helped by the Bod Nod and Abergele Hostels ran a most successful Fete at Colwyn Bay. Mrs. Kearsley and Mrs. Bellis each ran Whist Drives. The Denbigh and Rhosnessy Hostels ran dances. The Pwllford Club (which is a joint Cheshire and Denbighshire Club) sent £5 0s. 0d., and we hear that Miss Jagger's Club is giving a play called "A day in the County Office." Ruthin and Coed Poeth Hostels are holding dances in the near future. A radiogram has been offered as a prize to the Hostel collecting the most money for the Benevolent Fund by March, 1946. The Clubs have re-opened for the winter and we wish them every success and hope there will be strong competition for "The Jagger Cup." Many girls have taken part in Thanksgiving Week Parades and have been praised for their smart appearance.

**DERBS.**—Our newly formed L.G.'s Club in Melbourne is running very successfully and we have had some interesting evenings. We are sorry the numbers are so small but those attending are very regular and enthusiastic. On Nov. 10th and 11th we held a L.G.'s Conference at Trusley Manor Hostel. 3 L.G.'s from each hostel came as delegates and were entertained for the week-end. We were much interested in all Miss Scott of the W.E.F. had to tell us on post-war plans and jobs available and we also had with us Mr. Turner, Assistant Director for Secondary Schools, Derbyshire Education Committee, who gave an interesting and instructive talk on teaching as a career and he explained fully the Government Training Scheme. All the volunteers present were very keen with their questions and answers. Excellent work was done by the five volunteers taking Proficiency Tests in Milking and Dairy at Thulston Fields Farm, nr. Derby.—E. Bryant, 108187, 98 marks; M. Mason, 33643, 98; M. Smith, 97006, 94; J. Kirk, 100882, 92; and B. Sellers, 50778, 88.

**DEVON.**—The Rally on Oct. 27th must take pride of place in our news. 326 girls went to Exeter to march through the city to the Cathedral, where the Bishop conducted a special Harvest Festival Service. This was followed by a sumptuous tea, talk, entertainment and dance. The R.A.F. Band played and boy friends were invited from surrounding camps and barracks. The office staff arranged a "Bring and Buy" Sale for the Devon Welfare Fund and raised £75. Mrs. Baber, 38053, and Supervisor, Totnes Hostel, attended the Benevolent Fund Advisory Conference in London as the volunteers' delegate. We are very sorry to lose Miss R. Martin, ex-W.L.A. and Assistant Labour Officer, D.W.A.E.C. Our good wishes go with her on her forthcoming marriage. We welcome Miss Rivers Moore, whom some Surrey volunteers may remember, as County Organiser, N. Devon. Tiverton Hostel and farm girls staged two excellent tableaux for the Thanksgiving Week Torchlight Procession.

**DORSET** had its Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Dorchester on Oct. 20th when about 120 L.A. members and their friends were present. Canon Morrow very kindly held the service in Holy Trinity Church and gave an inspiring address. Gifts of eggs and bread were presented by L.A. members at the altar. The collection of £5 15s. 6d. was for the Benevolent Fund. Afterwards there was a bountiful tea at the Corn Exchange and then a talk by Miss Scott, of W.E.F., on training and careers in civilian life. Miss Debenham had a marvellous Victory party at Sherborne, on Nov. 7th. Dinner at a restaurant for over 100 L.G.'s and D.R.'s was followed by a concert party and presentation of G.S. Badges, when the Chairman of the W.A.E.C. thanked the W.L.A. for its good work. Four volunteers have gained badges in Pest Destruction Proficiency Tests, two with distinction; six in hand milking; three in tractor work. Congratulations to E. Howell, 105520, the first Dorset volunteer to start a year's training in agriculture under the Government scheme. She has written a most enthusiastic letter about life at Moulton Agricultural Institute. Congratulations also to E. R. Board, 2716, who has been accepted as a Milk Measurer.

**DURHAM.**—There was a great demand for L.A. volunteers to take part in numerous Thanksgiving Weeks. Sunderland had an Exhibition at which we had a W.L.A. stall, and a Parade in which Grindon Hostel volunteers arranged a Harvest tableau on a wagon while the girls from Ingleton Hostel and nearby farms drove tractors, binders and other farm vehicles. At the Mansion House party on 7th Dec., L. Harland, 1025, and K. Hutchinson, 22932, will receive their 6 year arm-bands from H.M. the Queen. P. Stewart and Mrs. Wilthew represented the Durham L.A. at the Benevolent Fund Conference in London on Nov. 20th and will be glad to meet groups who would be interested to hear about the Conference. Congratulations to F. Barclay, 38228, L. Harland, 1025,



N. Wales Rally. Marching along the terrace at Bangor University

and P. Stewart, 75580, on gaining the much prized Proficiency Badge.

Members will be sorry to learn Miss Greaves has had to resign owing to domestic reasons. Many thanks and good wishes go to her for any new ventures in the future. A welcome to Mrs. Walker who has been appointed County Organiser for the north east of the county. Congratulations to Mrs. Gill who is the artist of the clever sketches which have appeared in the county news letter.

**ESSEX.**—Since our last contribution appeared many activities have been organised to provide volunteers with evening occupations during the winter. We have had a number of talks by Miss Scott of the W.E.F., lectures by Miss Juta of the International Wool Secretariat, Ministry of Information and E.N.S.A. films and talks and 3 C.E.M.A. concerts. Volunteers have been transported from billets and outlying districts to several of these fixtures. Handicraft lessons are taking place at a number of centres which are being much enjoyed by the volunteers who are preparing for a Handicrafts Exhibition in the spring. All these arrangements have been made possible by the Essex Welfare Fund, which has advanced a considerable sum of money to cover winter welfare activities. The Fund is administered by the Welfare Committee, which has recently been reconstituted, and we are lucky enough to have a number of new and keen people on it. Several parties have been held for the presentation of red armbands to volunteers and local reps. who have worked for the W.L.A. for four years or more. 16 Essex volunteers will be attending the Mansion House Christmas party.

**GLOS.**—The Victory Rally at Cheltenham was a great success. Over 50 per cent. of the Volunteers in the County were present and were complimented on their smart appearance as they marched to the Town Hall headed by the Glos. Army Cadet Corps Band. Miss B. Hipkiss is the winner of Mrs. Bathurst's Special Prize for Dec. Miss Hipkiss says she has never regretted one moment of her 5½ years in the W.L.A. Replies to the letter sent out to all Volunteers who enrolled before the end of the war, telling them how they stand as regards demobilisation, are coming in well and we are delighted to see that the majority of Glos. members are staying on in the W.L.A. beyond the dates of their Groups. We hope to organise Flag Days in various parts of the County in Dec. and Jan. for the Benevolent Fund. Details will be announced in the News letter. In his letter to the County Office after being one of the judges at the General Farming Tests on Nov. 2nd, Mr. Pearman, District Technical Officer, G.W.A.E.C. says:—"We all enjoyed doing our share of the work involved, and I know I speak for all when I say that what we have done is simply a token of gratitude and appreciation in

return for the magnificent work the W.L.A. have done and are doing for the farming community.

**HANTS.**—On Nov. 20th, delegates from Hants attended the Benevolent Fund Conference in London. G. Lines represented the serving members of the L.A., Miss Howe represented the administrative side and A. Mason and Miss Dawnay went as visitors. We hope invitations will pour into the office for these four to visit clubs and hostels to tell volunteers about the Fund. Proficiency tests have been held in G.F. work and field work. Judges have remarked on the high standard of work done by candidates and we offer them our congratulations. We should like to thank the farmers on whose ground the tests were held for their wonderful co-operation and for the trouble taken to organise the tests. Redenhurst Hostel had a very successful second birthday party. A large proportion of the 80 girls have been in the hostel since it opened in Sept. 1943. The party opened with a cricket match, Volunteers v. Farmers. Then followed a clever and amusing "Pageant of Redenhurst" which recalled the early struggles to train 80 raw recruits! The County Welfare Fund will benefit by a dance run by Mrs. Maddeley at the Guildhall Winchester, on Dec. 17th at 8.30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from the office, 8s. 6d. each (5s. to members of the W.L.A.), including refreshments.

**HEREFORD.**—A Toy and Jumble Sale is being held at the Percival Hall, Hereford on Dec. 15th at 2.30 p.m. for the Benevolent Fund. Club and hostel activities include a "two years" birthday party at Brockington, various Guy Fawkes parties, a tour by CEMA which was very much appreciated and a visit from Miss Juta of S. Africa. Following the news of the demobilisation plans, letters of appreciation of the work of the W.L.A. in this county have been received from the W.A.E.C., NFU and NUAW. Copies of these letters have been sent to each volunteer. Our numbers have decreased lately as we are essentially an "importing" county, and many of our oldest members have successfully applied for transfers. There remains, however, the same demand for agricultural workers particularly milkers. Plans are going ahead for a Grand New Year Party on January 26th. 10 girls in this county qualified for an invitation to the Mansion House Christmas Party, and 2 members of the staff.

**HUNTS, CAMBS, & ELY.**—A Milking and Dairy Proficiency Test was held at Mr. Shepperson's Dairy, March, on 3rd Oct. The successful entrants were W. Adams, M. Boyce and J. McCulloch. J. Hague won the Special Prize offered by the County Welfare Fund in the Hunts W.A.E.C.'s Milking Competition. J. Harris also won a prize. The Wisbech Club has re-opened and Miss Carter,

the County Organiser, is acting as chairman. Wisbech girls attended a Sunday service and parade on 7th Oct. An employer writes: "I cannot speak too highly of the personality and work of my Land Army girl. She has won the respect of everyone on the farm"; and a volunteer writes: "I like the W.L.A. immensely and I wouldn't leave the land for all the money in the world. It's a grand job. I have been in the Land Army nearly four and a half years and I'm willing to do another four and a half years." The highlight of this month is the Handicraft Exhibition, for which we have received a great number of really excellent entries. Once more it is proved that L.A. girls have plenty of ideas and are useful with their hands. Toys, knitting and coloured embroidery seem the most popular classes.

**I.O.W.**—Members have been so busy recently getting in the potato harvest that social activities have been rather limited. The chief event was our Harvest Home celebration held on Oct. 9th which, being very well attended, enabled us to send a cheque to the Benevolent Fund, as well as a goodly supply of fruit and vegetables to the Royal County Hospital, Ryde, and to St. Mary's, Newport. On Nov. 29th a Fancy Dress Dance is being organised by Sandown Hostel at which prizes for the most original and effective costumes are being given—profits to the Benevolent Fund—and one of our members has dressed for a raffle a fine doll in L.A. uniform. At a 3-day Horticultural Show, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, held at Ryde on Oct. 17th-19th, several of our members were in attendance each day. Others took charge of stalls at the Shanklin Show, which was held a week or two later. Our girls, as always, took their places in Armistice Day processions throughout the island, those from the Sandown Hostel being a particularly smart contingent and almost everybody attending.

**W. KENT.**—It is a very sad blow for Kent that Miss Cox is giving up her post of Organising Secretary. She has worked most devotedly, never sparing herself, for over six years and we cannot be sufficiently grateful for her efforts. We shall all miss her very much. Comm. Members, Office Staff and L.G.'s, for she has been a wise and understanding friend to us all, and she takes with her our affectionate good wishes. The only bright spot in this sad bit of news is that Miss Cox is not being replaced by a stranger, but by Mrs. Stevens, who is equally well known to us and quite as popular. She may be certain of a very warm welcome.

**LANCS.**—Changes have occurred in the hostels at Birkdale and Pilling. Miss Dunn and Mrs. Sutherland, the Wardens, having resigned for personal reasons. Their places have been taken by Miss Todd and Miss Hall, whom we welcome very heartily. A Fifth of November party was held at Birkdale with a large bonfire, and at which friends, including employers, were entertained by Miss Dunn and the volunteers. Sums for the Benevolent Fund have been raised by Mrs. Raby and the Broughton-in-Furness volunteers at a whist drive and dance and by Mrs. Marsden and Mrs. Storey in Ulverston. Raffles have also been run by R. Whittaker, 121835, and M. Dennis, 110116, with successful results.

News of the resignation of Miss Arnison as County Secretary has been received with regret, but the best wishes of all go with her in her new sphere of activity.

**LEICS. & RUT.**—We would very much like to thank district reps. and volunteers for their help in raising the sum of £105 7 0 for the Benevolent Fund during the past few weeks. Their efforts are much appreciated and we hope that others will continue to carry on with the good work. V. Findley, 98439, (forewoman at Wycliffe Hostel) was chosen to move the target indicator on Market Day during Thanksgiving week. Another public spirited volunteer, D. Owen, 55648, is taking a leading part in a three act play the local rep. is producing. She is also helping with Girl Guides and is a member of

the W.I. L.G.'s in the Melton area should note that an Agricultural Library has been opened at the N.F.U. Offices. Here they may borrow for 2d. books of reference on all agricultural subjects also light reading dealing with rural life.

**HOLLAND (LINCS.).**—The greatest event of the month has been the tour of hostels in this county by three artists, Daphne Abbott, pianist, Winifred Lancaster, contralto, Felix Kok, violinist, by kind permission of the Arts Council of Great Britain. The concerts were given at W.L.A. Hostel, Leverton, Holland House, Spalding, W.L.A. Hostel, Holbeach Drove and Holbeach Parish Hall. Buses were provided to bring girls from other hostels so that everyone had an opportunity of hearing the concerts. 15 girls have entered for the Proficiency Test in Market Gardening and field work to be held at Mr. J. R. Neal's farm, Benington, on Nov. 26th. Two L.G.'s, M. J. Taylor and Mrs. Winkley, together with the County Organiser, Miss Griffin, have received invitations to the party at the Mansion House, London, to receive their six-year armlets. G. Johnson, Holland House, Spalding, represented Holland volunteers at the Benevolent Fund conference. It is hoped she will be able to give talks at the various hostels in the near future.

We are sorry to lose Miss Bedford, who has been County Organiser in the southern half of Holland for almost 3 years. She has gone to Bucks to take up a similar post.

**KESTEVEN (LINCS.).**—Volunteers and visitors greatly enjoyed the C.E.M.A. concert held on 8th Nov. at Little Ponton Hostel. Congratulations to Billingborough Hostel members on the originality of their costumes at the Fancy Dress Dance on 8th Nov. Prizes kindly given by friends were presented by Miss Smith, County Organiser. Our thanks go to Mrs. Gross, County Organiser, and the many helpers who did so much to make the dance at the Guildhall, Grantham, such a success. We regret it has been necessary to close Martin Manor Hostel, and hope the volunteers will be happy in their new hostel and billets. Much interest and enthusiasm is being shown in the Week-end School to be held from 28th Dec. to 30th Jan. at Greatford Hall. Our only regret is that accommodation is so limited that only a few of the volunteers who wish to do so can attend.

With regret we learn that Miss Kick, our County Secretary, is leaving us at the end of Dec. We are losing a great friend and we wish her every success in the future. We are sorry to know that Mrs. Gross will also be leaving Kesteven during Dec. to join her husband. Our good wishes go with her.

**LINSDAY (LINCS.).**—Last month we said good-bye to Miss Bradley, who has been Organiser in our county for the past 4 years. Although a loss to the L.A., she is not lost to agriculture as we hear she is to farm on her own account in Wales. Having been with us for so long we are sure she is going to be missed by everyone and we send our very best wishes to her for the future. We welcome in her place Miss Rachael King, M.B.E.

On Sunday, Oct. 7th over 100 L.G.'s from Lindsey and Kesteven, together with many District Reps., attended a Thanksgiving Service at Lincoln Cathedral. The L.G.'s made a very pretty picture as they approached the west door of the Cathedral; and this was followed by tea in the town and a talk from Miss G. F. C. Scott of the W.E.F.

#### PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

**FOR SALE.**—Turquoise marocain dress, bust 33, hips 36, 17/6. Red and black wedge heel soles, 7, suitable for sandals, 15/- Tan leather handbag, 35/- Gent's whipcord breeches, waist 43, 40/- 116475, 1, Highfield Estate, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

**FOR SALE.**—Ladies heavy-weight brown riding coat, 34 in. bust. Excellent condition. £3 3s. 0d. Also pair black hunting boots size 5, 14 in. calf, £1 1s. 0d. Blahey, Pennyacres Road, Teignmouth, Devon.

# THE LAND GIRL

**FOR SALE.**—Dark brown leather court shoes ("Dolcis") 5, with navy suede sandals, 5. Good condition—30/- Wright, 7, Cedric Road, Westgate-on-Sea.

**FOR SALE.**—Winter coat, blue, good condition, belted. Bust 36. £4. Plaid skirt 24 in. waist, 27 in. length. 15/-. Maundrell, Inglesham, Highworth, Wilts.

**FOR SALE.**—Black leather knee boots, size 6. Almost new. £1 10s. Player, Coughton, Alcester, Warwicks.

**FOR SALE.**—Brown skating boots. Pre-war. Size 6. As new. £2 10s. Wadling, Low Street, Northallerton.

**FOR SALE.**—Ladies riding coat, light brown tweed. Bust 34. £2. Carter, Post Office, Baginton, Coventry.

**FOR SALE.**—Ladies tailored costume. Wine. Unworn. Bust 36-38. Hips 39-41. £12. Wilson, Todhurst, Pulborough, Sussex.

**FOR SALE.**—Navy blue coat, bust 36 in, hips 38 in. Skirt to match. Good condition £4 10s. 57070, Skeet Hill Cottages, Dalton's Road, Chelsfield, Kent.

**FOR SALE.**—Bottle-green hand-knitted Patona costume. Skirt length 31 in. Bust 34 in. £3 10s. Webber Ferrier, Great Ruxton, Lancashire.

## County Returns

County	Bdn.	F.	Total	Em-
	£.	s.	d.	ployed
Kent	7880	17	0	2968
Essex	5599	1	0	2144
Surrey	5303	12	1	1806
Hants	8482	7	7	1508
Leics 1247	2380	7	4	1426
Rutland 179				
Yorks, W.	2808	6	2	1413
Herts	4188	5	2	1392
E. Sussex	3732	12	0	1288
Northants	2736	4	3	1258
Somerset	2287	9	1	1255
Worcs	2707	6	2	1203
Devon	3796	7	9	1186
Bucks	4826	10	1	1165
Warwickshire	7439	12	3	1134
V.	5088	2	2	1130
W.	3151	8	7	1067
	1285	5	11	1021
	4181	8	1	1019
	1861	17	7	1008
	1707	15	0	960
	2440	2	5	945
	3656	15	0	929
	2083	10	3	881
	3556	15	8	836
	2047	12	10	832
	1022	8	8	822
	3779	12	1	821
	2696	10	0	819
	1896	3	5	700
	1801	19	3	691
	669	12	9	628
	548	8	2	621
	2303	8	10	608
	1358	10	0	604
Lincs, Kesteven	1469	2	8	566
Glam.	1025	3	9	559
Staffs.	1754	17	6	555
Lincs, Lindsey	1482	7	0	532
Herefordshire	1779	10	11	509
Mon.	809	14	3	478
W. Suffolk	1638	7	9	473
Lincs, Holland	1977	9	7	458
Flints	611	10	4	453
N. Wales	1741	19	3	424
Denbighshire	811	16	11	423
London & Middx	1261	12	10	412
Derbyshire	1395	5	6	395
Pemb.	1107	0	2	295
Card. & Carm.	678	18	4	268
I.O.W.	205	15	8	240
Brecon & Radnor	366	16	0	228
Mont.	401	15	5	182
W.T.C.	6674	4	1	1553

On 30th November, 1945, the total number of volunteers in employment was 47,091.

## THIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE

On November 30th the Fund totalled £151,135. The monthly total was £1,293. HANTS still has the highest total of £8 455 17 7.

We are very pleased to acknowledge £350 from WILTS' Drive. This should have reached us earlier in the year, and was raised mainly by volunteers. HEREFORD sent £250, over £246 of which was profit from their August Gymkhana. £195 was received from E. SUSSEX, over £128 of which was raised by a Horse Show and Gymkhana organised by Mr. R. W. Mann assisted by the County Office, and another £60 came from Mrs. Dunlop's Grand Victory Dance at Eastbourne. The major portion of CHESHIRE's £121 resulted from their very successful "Bring and Buy" Sale at Delamere. LEICS and RUTLAND's good total of £72 was raised almost entirely by entertainments, including £29 from the Leire and Frolesworth Volunteer's Dance, a very fine effort for two small villages.

Over 450 grants have been made this month, including a number to help with post-war careers. One volunteer has had assistance in restarting her chiropodist's practice and another has been helped with fees for a University course in Social Science.

