



No. 11, Volume 6.

FEBRUARY, 1946

Price 3d.

"WHERE FEAR IS, WISDOM CANNOT BE"

EVERYONE knows that a frightened animal is a fighting animal. Even a blind kitten will spit at you if you put down your hand to pick it up.

The greatest danger to peace just now is fear. Now that fear of Germany no longer unites her enemies, they have to conquer a more difficult foe than Hitler—their fear of one another.

It would be better if each nation were rather more afraid of its own actions and rather less of its neighbours'. We know we don't mean any harm by such and such a move but is that so clear to other nations? And if not, won't they naturally make a counter move which seems to them protective but to us aggressive? After that the board is all set for checkmate with an atom bomb.

Only Justice can remove the causes of fear. It will be hard to achieve justice among nations; many people think it is impossible but no doubt the idea that law courts would put swords and pistols out of business would have given our ancestors a good, hearty laugh. For them, the rights of the case weren't of any importance compared with a strong right arm but to-day the strength of Hercules avails not at all in a Court of Justice.

In international affairs UNO has got to fulfil the roles of Parliament, Law Courts, Armed Forces and Police. Excellent speeches were made at the Central Hall last month but it is easier to applaud speeches than to put them into practice. "Give and take" sounds fine, but when tried it often feels (to both sides) like all give and no take. "Sacrifice of national sovereignty" means that you will accept decisions about your own country even if you think them unfair, and without even allowing yourself to remember that you've got more bombs than the other fellow.

Of course this means that we must run risks but have we not learnt to run risks for a great stake during the last six years? "Safety first" did not win the war and will not save the world. We shall not gain the victory for peace until we are all, and particularly the biggest and strongest among us, willing to come unarmed to prove our quarrel just.

M.A.P.

OFFICE WORK

POST-WAR CAREERS—No. 5

Clerical work is one of the largest fields of employment for women. Every year hundreds of young girls enter this profession with great hopes and very little accurate information about the real prospects ahead of them.

At present there is a serious shortage of clerical workers of all kinds and of shorthand-typists in particular; consequently salaries are high and anyone with training or a little experience can find well paid work easily. This state of affairs is tempting many girls from the Services and Land Army to think of changing from their pre-war job to become clerks or shorthand-typists or private secretaries. They believe the pay will be better, the hours shorter and the work easier than in many other jobs they might choose. All this is probably true at present but before choosing clerical work as a post-war career I would advise all Land Army girls to think very carefully and consider the following facts.

Careful Calculations

First—present salaries are unusually high and will almost certainly drop as soon as large numbers of clerical workers are demobilised from the Forces and the shortage becomes less acute.

Second—nearly all clerical jobs are of a sedentary nature, often in dull and unattractive surroundings. Most offices in this country bear no resemblance to the luxurious ones pictured in American films. If you have acquired a taste for an active life with plenty of fresh air you may find working in an office tiring and uninteresting.

Third—most employers prefer young secretaries, consequently prospects tend to get worse as you get older, not better. If you are thinking of secretarial work as a career and not merely as a short-term job until you get married, it is essential to become really well qualified so that you can compete for the responsible posts as you get older and be reasonably sure of well-paid, interesting work. If you fail to do this you can easily be replaced by younger women who are cheaper but can do your job equally well.

Lastly—remember there is all the difference in the world between a shorthand-typist and a good secretary; the first needs a certain amount of technical ability but the second must have this, plus the qualities of mind and temperament which enable her to take responsibility, act with discretion and understand her employers'

business so well that she can save them time and trouble at every turn.

Though clerks and shorthand-typists are numerous, good private secretaries are rather uncommon. The people who are fortunate enough to employ them do not want to lose them and their prospects are not conditioned by the general state of supply and demand among office workers but by their own ability. There is always a market for their services.

Types of Training

Having considered these cautions you may still want to work in an office. How, then, should you begin and what are the possibilities?

If possible, take a training in general office work including shorthand and typing. Become as proficient as you can in the technical subjects and try to develop good speeds but remember that slow, accurate typing is better than fast typing which is mis-spelt and badly set out. Shorthand-typists who cannot spell are a menace in any office.

Good secretarial courses lasting from six to twelve months are available at a number of private colleges; they vary in cost from about £25 to £150. The large commercial schools are often good and very much cheaper and most technical schools have day and evening classes in commercial subjects at very cheap rates. If you prefer, you can study from textbooks in your spare time but this is hard work and usually it takes much longer to achieve any standard of proficiency.

Some firms recruit clerical staff without training and teach them the work they are required to do while giving opportunity for further study and possibilities of promotion.

The Civil Service, local government, and the Post Office have their own special grades for clerical workers and generally recruit by competitive examination. The Post Office is seriously short of clerks, telephonists and shorthand-typists at present and girls under the age of 30 going in on a temporary basis should have a fair chance of getting on to the permanent establishment, thus having an absolutely secure job with a pension and good opportunities for promotion.

At present salaries for clerks and secretaries are higher outside the Government service than in it but it is important to remember that commercial rates of pay depend on supply and demand; Government salaries are fixed by the Treasury and

THE LAND GIRL

the posts carry with them security of tenure and their own avenues of promotion. The great disadvantage in Government service is the marriage bar but this may not always remain. A number of private firms made the same condition before the war and will no doubt return to this bad old pre-war practice.

Plenty of Variety

Apart from large offices where do clerks and secretaries find employment?

Shops and factories have clerical departments and some vacancies for competent secretaries; hospitals employ clerks and secretaries in all the administrative and the medical departments. Schools, colleges, professional organisations and charitable societies employ secretaries. Advertising agencies employ clerical workers of all kinds and heads of departments have their own private secretaries. Newspapers, magazines and trade journals could not appear in print without the help of clerks and secretaries.

In addition a great many private individuals employ private secretaries to help them in their work. These are the posts which are usually considered most desirable; girls who are setting out on a secretarial career always think it would be interesting to be a secretary to a doctor, an author, an M.P. or a bishop, according to personal inclination.

Private work can be most interesting and delightful but even at its best it has certain grave disadvantages. Its prospects are generally very limited and it may come to an end suddenly. In a large concern, if one job comes to an end there are usually others available and the great variety of work offers better chances of promotion. It is really possible to start as the office girl and end as the director's private secretary, though admittedly this is not very common!

Generally speaking, a good educational background is necessary for private work and it is desirable to have some knowledge of your employer's business. There is one type of private work which I think is worthy of special mention because it combines the advantages of private and general office work and also offers security and possibilities of promotion. The chief clerk in an Almoner's department is really the Head Almoner's private secretary. Her work may bring her in contact with patients and may involve a certain amount of reception, the keeping of records and the typing of confidential reports. She would also be responsible for the supervision of the junior clerks in the department. Many girls who are deeply inter-

ested in social problems are unable to take the necessary training to become an Almoner; for them clerical work in a hospital social service department might provide a very good alternative.

Additional qualifications are always useful in clerical and secretarial work. An ability to deal with figures and ledgers, certificates in bookkeeping, languages or foreign shorthand will all help in finding the job which is a little bit better than the rest. An interest in the accurate filing of papers is another marketable asset. All these extras will help but the most important qualifications for anyone who aspires to become a good secretary are these:—A sound knowledge of shorthand-typing and general office routine; a pleasant personality and neat appearance; a good general education obtained at school or acquired by your own efforts later; and, last but not least, the ability to speak, write and spell the English language fluently and well.

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

WINTER COMPETITION

The Winter Competition in the LAND GIRL closes, as previously stated, on March 1st.

Entries in the second section, an essay on "Which do you think Britain's best year—1600, 1700 or 1800?" and for the third section, a short story or sketch, or two short "Cautionary Tales for Land Girls," or 800 words on "My most surprising experience in the W.L.A." should be sent to the Editor, THE LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1, and must be despatched on or before March 1st. Any competitor in the first section, "Home-grown Handicrafts", should write to the Editor as soon as possible giving full particulars of her entry, especially its size. Instructions on what to do with the entry will then be forwarded.

The Minister of Agriculture, speaking to a large gathering of farmers and farm workers at Norwich on January 26th, said: "A number of the members of the W.L.A. are claiming release under the scheme announced in October, as they are fully entitled to do under the terms of their engagement. I am glad to learn, however, that the number who have claimed release so far amounts to no more than one-quarter of the strength of the L.A., and I hope that all those who can possibly stay will do so to help us through the very difficult period ahead."

THE LAND GIRL

HONOURS LIST

The LAND GIRL offers warm congratulations to the officials and members of the W.L.A. who adorned the New Year Honours List.

Miss Cox, County Secretary for West Kent, who was awarded the M.B.E. in the 1914-1918 war, has been promoted to O.B.E., a very fitting recognition of her excellent work since early in 1939. It is largely due to her ability and devotion that Kent has possessed the fine organisation which has enabled it to play such a leading rôle in the Land Army throughout the war.

Mrs. Sunderland Taylor's M.B.E. has given great pleasure to East Suffolk. Time and again, that comparatively small county has stepped up out of its place to join the front ranks of Land Army activity. This is quite a natural consequence of the energy and indomitable enthusiasm which its County Secretary both possesses and inspires, while tempering these qualities with the wise judgment which alone makes them fully effective.

The B.E.M. was awarded to 13 members in England and Wales and to 3 in Scotland. There is not room to detail the individual histories of these volunteers but all of them have splendid records of long and gallant service. Their names and counties are—Miss D. Alderson (Yorks, E.R.), Mrs. O. Bass (W. Kent), the Misses S. Bosley (Hunts), D. Buckmaster (Bucks), S. Curtice (Hereford), G. Ellis (Northants), H. Foxton (Leics), B. Gouldbourn (Salop), E. Jackson (Monmouth), P. Jarvis (Worcs.), L. Orton (Som.), Mrs. Robins (N. Wales), the Misses D. Tyrrie (Devon), M. Alexander (Renfrewshire), J. McGuire (Edinburgh), and E. Wyllie (Angus).

FRESH WOODS

It is now 3½ years since I joined the W.L.A. but I still recall clearly my first day on the land as if it were yesterday. I had been sent to a mixed farm for my training. My first job was feeding the bullocks—a forkful of hay in each rack and then mangolds to chop up. After this the cowshed had to be mucked out and the permanent Land Girl had to come to my rescue, for I couldn't budge the loaded barrow. She wheeled it away as though it were a toy one.

My next job was with the wagonner, carting away all the hedge-trimmings from the fields and burning them; when told to "lead her on" I was completely nonplussed but soon there was nothing I liked better than working with the horses.

After my training I was sent to a mixed farm in the Weald of Kent, where I learned dairying and then tractor-driving. The latter I enjoyed very much. Although haymaking and harvesting entail hard work and overtime, they are the jobs that have the greatest attraction for me. It was a wonderful moment when, at 10 o'clock on a summer evening after a hard day's haymaking, the farmer appeared with home-made cider and bread and cheese for us all.

From time to time I wonder what I shall do when the W.L.A. no longer need me. I could not contemplate a return to office work so I hope one day to farm on my own. Of one thing I am certain; whatever strange impulse prompted me to take up land work, I have never once regretted the day I volunteered to be a Land Girl.

E. Kent A. M. Penstone, 62093

THE LAND GIRL

She came from haunts of book and pen
Where typewriters did clatter.

In Shorthand speedy notes she took
On many a solemn matter.

She tired of ledger, ink and files

So joined the girls in breeches,

They sent her right out in the wilds

Where townsman seldom reaches.

So up at Philips' farm she rolled,

To toil and sweat and shiver,

In days of heat and days of cold,

For work goes on for ever.

She walks a dozen miles each day,

She carries bales of straw,

She cuts the corn and mows the hay,

She learns to chop and saw.

She ploughs, she sows, she tends, she reaps

The harvest when it's ripe.

She milks the cows—her records keeps,

(It's time she had a stripe!)

She toils with pitchfork, spade and knife,

She very rarely stops,

But ask her if she likes the life,

She answers, "It's the tops."

Cheshire. E. Entwisle, 146834.

At Kwahu, a district on the Gold Coast, potatoes were unknown two years ago. This year it has produced nearly 11 tons. It is true that the total acreage was only 4½ acres and that the yield was under three tons per acre. Probably yields were not much more when potatoes were first grown in this country. Every effort is being made to encourage farmers in the Kwahu district to grow more potatoes. For next season more than 30 farmers have asked for "seed," and as they gain experience yield per acre should substantially improve.

THE LAND GIRL
STAR TURN No 12



Daphne Cullen, 5083, West Kent, joined the W.L.A. in March, 1939—on the outbreak of war she started work on a poultry farm with 200 White Leghorn and Rhode Island Red pullets. By rearing extra day-old chicks these were increased to 400 by 1940, but they were reduced with a bump to 100 when feeding stuffs rationing came in.

Under the ploughing-up order of 1940 she worked on adjoining land and ploughed thirty acres and gradually increased her flock again. In 1942 the breed was changed to pure Brown Leghorns which were later approved under the standard-bred scheme of the Poultry Club; the flock is now about 250 during the winter

THE LAND GIRL

and each year for the last two years she has reared about 200 replacement pullets of her own breeding. The egg average is 30,000 a year, all sent to the packing station and the whole of the work is done by Daphne alone.

In the early days of the war she broke a pony to harness, nearly breaking her own neck in the process, the pony obviously taking the view it was beneath his dignity to help with poultry.

She is secretary of the Sevenoaks Land Girls' Club, gives lectures to local poultry clubs and is always one of the first to help in any scheme in aid of the Benevolent Fund.

In 1944 she passed her Poultry Proficiency Test with 93 per cent. but her biggest thrill was on December 7th, 1945 when, with 750 others she marched through the City of London, and in the Mansion House Her Majesty the Queen spoke to her and presented her with her 6-year Armlet.

BLUE-SHELLED HEN EGGS

Odd colour? Yes! But the birds and eggs are quite all right. The egg is produced from a rare breed called "Araucunas," a light breed from Chile. If an Araucuna is crossed with a white-egg breed, the female progeny will eventually

lay blue-shelled eggs. They are quite wholesome and edible.

UNSOLICITED TRIBUTE

At the annual dinner of the National Farmers' Union held in London on January 22nd, the Vice President in proposing a toast to the guests (of whom Mrs. Jenkins, Chief Administrative Officer of the W.L.A., was one) spoke with high praise of the Land Army's work. He said that he did not know where the farmers would have been without the help of the Land Army which was as much needed to-day as ever before.

The question of cruelty to animals is one of great difficulty and perplexity and it rouses all sorts of feelings which make people behave in a manner which often does more harm than good to their cause.

Those who want to help lessen animal suffering in the most effective way might well join the **Universities' Federation for Animal Welfare**, 284, Regent's Park Road, Finchley, London, N.3. Its new prospectus, with delightful drawings by Fougasse, is practical, unprejudiced and contains a list of the Society's excellent publications. Though primarily formed for University graduates U.F.A.W. accepts other members.



[By courtesy of Cumberland News

M. Hodgson, 145001, Cum., and her employer's wife with triplet calves born to a 4-year-old Ayrshire.

MALICIOUS MOSQUITOES

There is no escape from the venomous mosquito. You can go to the desolate wastes of the Arctic or the Antarctic, to the steaming jungles or the temperate plateaus, crowded cities or the open country side and you will still be attacked. There is only one place where you would be certain of being left in peace, the arid desert, but then you can't live there anyhow.

The male mosquito is invariably harmless, it is the female of the species that is always dangerous to mankind and has an insatiable appetite for warm red blood. The details of her method of attack are interesting. Having alighted on your bare skin with the grace and delicacy of a ballet dancer, she selects a likely spot and with the deftness of a skilled surgeon makes a minute incision by rapidly sawing through the epidermis with her elongated jaws. Into the wound she injects a drop of saliva, which stops the blood coagulating and then quickly draws up through her long proboscis sufficient food to fill her stomach. She then flies away without any further ado to settle in a secluded corner and digest her meal.

Without this nourishment that we are all so reluctant to provide her with, the female mosquito cannot propagate her species. Once she has satisfied her hunger she commences to search for a suitable place to lay her eggs. Nearly all mosquitoes lay their eggs in water, but their method of egg laying varies tremendously. Some deposit their eggs singly, others in long strings, while the common European species *Culex pipiens* makes a little floating raft of eggs. In warm summer weather the eggs hatch in a day or two, the larvae pass through their four skin changes in eight days and then spend another week under water as pupae. The whole metamorphosis thus takes only a fortnight. Although the larvae and pupae develop in water they do not breathe with gills like fish, but have to wriggle up to the surface frequently for fresh air. This peculiarity in their mode of life gives man the chance, if we like to take it, of destroying them in large numbers. A thin film of oil spread over the surface of any water where mosquitoes are breeding prevents the larvae from obtaining their essential supply of oxygen and they suffocate.

A mosquito sting is not only unpleasant, but it can be highly dangerous. Malaria, yellow fever, elephantiasis and several other diseases are transmitted by mosquitoes. The species that spreads the dread malaria occurs all over Europe, but unless

a female has previously fed from a human being suffering from this disease she will not transmit it. In other words she has to catch the disease first before she passes it on. After getting the microbe into her system, it reaches a certain state of development and it is ready to be passed on to its next host, man, when she takes her next meal.

Compared to the ordinary common mosquito, the malaria-carrying species is easy to distinguish. Its wings, instead of being clear and transparent, are covered with dark blotches and when at rest its body and proboscis form a straight line tilted at about thirty degrees from the surface on which it is resting. You needn't trouble about those you find in your bedroom sitting in rather a hunched position, with the body almost parallel to the wall or ceiling.

There is an interesting story relating to the building of the Panama Canal. It is a well-known historical fact that this great engineering feat was almost abandoned because of a violent epidemic of malaria. For a long time nobody could discover where the mosquitoes bred as there was no stagnant water on the ground anywhere. Eventually it was found that the mosquito larvae developed in pockets of water which collected in the gaudy exotic flower chalices and in the giant cup-like leaves of plants that grew high up amongst the branches of the forest trees. Daily tropical showers constantly replenished this water supply, thus enabling the mosquitoes to complete their life cycle.

In South-Eastern Europe there occurs a small mosquito with a terrible reputation. The old folk tales say that it originated near the village of Golubae in Serbia, in the grotto where St. George killed the dragon, according to legend. Actually this insect breeds in fast-running mountain streams and all the pupae hatch about the same time in late April or early May. The dense swarms of imago drift down the mountain valleys and ferociously attack herds of cattle, horses, pigs and goats. In 1923 in certain parts of South-West Rumania a total of 16,474 domestic animals were actually killed by this scourge of mosquitoes, which penetrate into the animals' nostrils, causing death through suffocation and poisoning.

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

Congratulations to K. Bricknell, 113501, Hunts., who took sole charge of Mr. H. Walston's herd of Jersey cows at Hinchingsbrooke, Huntingdon, when the head cowman was taken to hospital with scarlet fever.

THE LAND GIRL

"FOR THIS RELIEF MUCH THANKS . . ."

"Would you like to be a milker?" Most Land Army members had to answer that question at their first interview and in very many cases the answer was "yes". At one time the Land Army had over 20,000 members employed as milkers.

How would those members answer the question now? Very many would still say "yes" but most of those who have worked on the smaller farms would add "... if only the hours weren't so long" or "... if only there wasn't so much Sunday work." There lies one of farming's biggest problems to-day. Adaptable as she is in many ways, the British cow fails to grasp the principle of the six-day week; she insists upon being milked every day of the seven and twice—sometimes three times—every day. How then is a six-day week to be assured to the milker on the small farm where there is no fellow-worker who can take over one day a week?

The problem must be solved for now that the war is over and we no longer feel that anything is better than "that Hitler", the tired milker on the small farm is tending to drift away from his or her skilled occupation to some other where, even if less is earned in overtime, a regular day off can be counted on each week. And if the milkers go, then it is only a matter of time before the herds must go.

The seriousness of the position has long been realised and for some years now the words "relief milkers" have floated on the agricultural air. In certain counties, Land Girls have actually been employed as relief milkers but they have in fact been working as stop-gaps only, relieving on farms in time of crisis when the regular worker was sick or on holiday. The problem of the seven-day week has never really been tackled . . . until now, when the Land Army may fairly claim to have led the way.

In East Sussex it happened that there were a large number of milking vacancies on the books of the County Office and a certain number of Land Girls suitable to be trained as milkers. So the Land Army called on certain farmers in one district who between them wanted six milkers and offered to supply the workers provided the farmers would employ them on the basis of a six-day week and would on the seventh-day employ a Land Army relief milker. The farmers somewhat doubtfully agreed, the cows somewhat doubtfully blew through their noses, and six Land Army members somewhat doubtfully accepted the jobs.

Then somehow, out of a hat, East Sussex conjured a really experienced

milker—you can see her in this photograph arriving at one of the farms—and attached



her to the unit as the official relief. From the first everything went with a swing. The farmers were delighted, the Land Army milkers were delighted, the relief milker loved her job and the cows were one long, happy moo. And the beauty of the scheme is this—the relief milker does not relieve each regular worker in her unit on the same day each week. The rota moves forward one day a week to avoid the same girl always having Sunday as her day off. This rotation of days is contrived by the girl whose turn it is to be relieved on the Sunday, being relieved on the next day—the Monday—as well, thus getting a long week-end. If you work that out for yourself you will find that each worker in the unit, including the relief milker (who also has her day off each week), gets one long week-end in every seven. Then if her employer for once can manage the Saturday afternoon milking himself, she is free from midday Saturday till milking time on Tuesday morning.

Good news travels fast and in East Sussex there are now four relief units in operation and more starting up. Other counties are taking up the idea and two have their plans of action almost ready. As a well-trained Land Army member, you will be wondering how the relief milker gets her own assured weekly wage. In East Sussex she is on the pay roll of the War Agricultural Committee which acts as her employer and collects in from the

THE LAND GIRL

farmers in the unit payment for her services at an hourly rate sufficient to give her a weekly wage above the minimum and to cover the Committee against the risk of illness and for the cost of the annual holiday. In one of the other counties which is hoping to start a relief scheme very soon, one farmer in each unit will act as employer and collect at a fixed day-rate from the others.

Don't imagine that the problem of the seven-day week has been solved outright. Geography is a troublesome business and in many counties, the small one-milker farms do not group themselves conveniently into sixes within bicycling distance of one another. But a beginning has been made and a promising beginning at that, and there is nothing like a good start.

Inez Jenkins

ANOTHER TRAINING CENTRE OPENED

On February 1st, 40 members of the Land Army started a one year's course at the Government Vocational Training Centre at Plas Dinam, Montgomeryshire. 25 are taking the Agricultural and 15 the Horticultural Course. We wish them all success.

The Ministry expects to open several Training Centres during 1946, and we hope that by the end of the year most of you who are on the waiting lists will have started your training.

If you have put your name down at your county office or at headquarters for a one year course in Agriculture or Horticulture and later decided not to take the training, please do not withhold this information until a training vacancy is actually offered to you.

This means unnecessary work and also delay in filling the Training Centres and may even prevent someone else from taking advantage of the vacancy caused by your withdrawal. Tell your county office at once if you change your plans.

The House of Heron, by Frances Turk (7s. 6d.—Wright & Brown).

Miss Turk's new novel is very different from her last one "The Five Grey Geese". In "The House of Heron" she traces a family from its Regency founder, Black William, who enlivened the Eastern counties with his escapades and peopled them with his offspring, to its more civilised but less colourful representatives to-day. There is plenty of incident and a great variety of characters pursue their lively way through a story which is briskly told in a style that goes well with the content.

HOMECOMING

Six months ago I finished my work in the Land Army and now I am continuing with similar work in my island home of Guernsey.

My parents and I left Oldham, the town to which we had been hurriedly evacuated in 1940, on August 25th. We spent two wonderful days in London, much enjoyed by the Guernsey schoolboys. The boat train seemed to take such a long time to reach Southampton, so eager were we all to see the boat that would carry us home. Fortunately the sea voyage was very comfortable and we saw the islands about 6 a.m. on Saturday, August 28th. It was so wonderful to be really home again. Our house was in fairly good condition, and after I had helped to get things straightened out, met and talked to friends I hadn't seen for five years, I got a job at the Caledonian Nursery.

This is a very lovely nursery, dealing with rare shrubs and plants, as well as all the usual nursery stock.

I work in the propagating part and love it. The Germans banned my employer from doing any propagating during the whole five years, so we have got a lot of time to make up. They also stole an enormous amount of stock plants and dug tunnels in the grounds. But gradually it is all being tidied up.

Before the war the nursery had one of the biggest stocks of magnolia trees. They will look lovely when they are in bloom. In one of the greenhouses they grow lemons, oranges, grapefruit and tangerines.

Next week another Land Girl, who has been in Stafford during the war, is coming to work with me. So you see the Land Army is still unofficially being carried on over here. It's a grand life and I wouldn't change it for anything else.

Denbighshire. V. Williams, 122564

"SLIPCLEAR"

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 Pyo-
genic 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.

"British Journey", Bernard Newman, (Hale, 15/-).

"A Journey to the Interior", P. H. Newby (Cape, 9/6).

All Mr. Newman's journeys (and he has covered all Europe and most of North America as well as bits of Africa) are worth pursuing, and his journey through Britain in the crucial summer of 1944 is as interesting in its way as the others. Primarily a lecture tour, it was also a cycling tour, with air lifts to the Scillies and the Orkneys, in which the lecturer gathered as well as dispensed information. The book is accordingly full of facts, but facts selected no less for their entertainment value than for their practical importance. Mr. Newman talked to miners and mine-owners and reports what they said in their own forcible language. He tells British car manufacturers how they lost their market in Spain because, in that hot climate lady passengers stuck to their imitation leather upholstery. Most people everywhere, he says, were demanding organisation and the abolition of controls in the same breath. He reveals that the Germans also suffered from rumours—they thought that our bays were full of man-eating sharks and our cliffs and beaches covered with bird-lime! Incidentally, Mr. Newman assesses the inhabitants of every place as lecture audiences, with interesting results including a compliment to Land Girls.

It is fortunate that the hero of "A Journey to the Interior" is recovering not only from a bereavement, but also from an attack of typhoid, because this enables the reader to discount any excessive oddity in the people and the events of his story as the exaggerations of a feverish imagination. For the Europeans at the little oil-station in the small Arab State of Rasuka, where he goes for convalescence, are certainly eccentric beyond the accepted eccentricity of isolated communities; and the story has the peculiar force of feverish dreams, suggesting a significance which one can never precisely define. In the end, Winter recovers his mental and physical balance by involving himself in several strange experiences, including a mad escapade into the desert interior of Rasuka, nor does he seem greatly concerned that his salvation has involved the ruin of one probably innocent young Arab and the death of another. After all this, the conventional "happy" ending is a trifle disappointing. Finally, one does not feel at all sure whether the enigmatic quality of the writing is due to the subtlety or to the inadequacy of the author. But readers like the lady who preferred novels "about odd happenings

to queer people" will enjoy this book.

M. Jaeger

BENEVOLENT FUND

The total raised for the Benevolent Fund by the end of January exceeded £156,750. Just over £700 was received from counties during the month. Over £51,000 has now been spent, £10,400 during January. 583 grants were made, the highest total reached in any month to date.

A number of volunteers have been helped this month with Rest Break Holidays and arrangements have been made with a Convalescent Home in Surrey for some volunteers to recuperate there after illness if their doctors advise it. A few long service members have been helped with holidays on leaving the L.A. before taking up a civilian job.

Cases dealt with during January include help with Youth Service Training Courses for two volunteers, a year's course in Institutional Management at a Domestic Science College, intensive courses in cookery, and several refresher courses in secretarial work. Help has been given to volunteers training as hairdressers and dressmakers and to one four-year volunteer who has obtained a post as a canine nurse in the Channel Islands. Substantial grants have been made to seriously incapacitated volunteers, or those who have been ill for long periods; one sad case being that of a girl whose long illness culminated in the amputation of a leg.

Volunteers will be interested to hear that Pauline Spalding (Holland), the W.L.A. representative on the youth delegation at present in Russia as the guests of the Anglo-Soviet Anti-Fascist Youth Organisation, broadcast over the Moscow radio on 11th January. The delegation had just returned from a most interesting week in Leningrad where they had been given a magnificent reception. There had been splendid opportunities of visiting factories, hospitals, schools and clubs and of seeing the work carried out among the children and young people. Pauline was particularly interested in the kindergarten attached to a large factory where young children could be left all day in the care of well-trained nurses; she had been shown the various recreation rooms and found everywhere an extremely happy atmosphere.

Pauline ended by saying how glad the members of the delegation had been to make contact in Leningrad with so many young people and she expressed the hope that this would continue as they went on their journey through the Soviet Union.

THE LAND GIRL

CORRESPONDENCE

(From a Worcestershire employer to the County Office)

For four years I have had to rely very largely on the W.L.A., and the services rendered have been magnificent. It is no exaggeration to say that without them we could not have produced more than 20 per cent. of the output actually attained. The work has been very strenuous and exacting at times, often demanding great fortitude and determination, but almost invariably the girls have stood up to it and have come out with flying colours. I am certain the nation owes to the Land Army an inestimable debt of thankfulness, for it is evident that the food supply of this country would have been disastrously inadequate without them.

Furthermore, I would like to say how highly I have valued the skilful and ready service of your office staff in so successfully fitting each girl into the appropriate job.

G. Wilson Revill

Dear Editor,

One day last week, I was invited by a member of the L.A. working for the Merionethshire Pest Department to have a look at the unusual animal she had caught in her trap the previous night. It was suggested that it was a polecat but I am very doubtful of this as it did not emit any unpleasant smell; a volunteer, who had worked with the Forestry Commission, thought it was a marten. Can any reader of the LAND GIRL help us to identify this unusual bag?

It certainly belonged to the weasel family, it was about the length of a small rabbit but with much more slender lines. The ears were small but few details can be given of the head as this was partly injured. The fur was close, a lovely brown colour with a golden underfur. Very definitely it must have looked a very graceful animal in movement. It was trapped in one of the more remote hill districts of Merionethshire.

Best of all it provides me with a new hat for the skin has been sent away to be cured and modelled into a fur cap.

A. Edmunds-Edwards

(From a letter to a County Secretary)

Thank you for letting me go to St. Elmo, Torquay—it was the happiest and most enjoyable Christmas I have spent, quite apart from the holiday it afforded me.

Mrs. Lake and her staff gave up their holidays to entertain we Land Girls and arranged parties and a grand pantomime for us to attend, hot meals when we came in at night and, to top it all, a Christmas present and a 10/- note each off the tree.

It was indeed a treat to us all and the Christmas fare left us all happy and I must confess not a little sleepy.
Lancs. J. D. Thompson, 49681

Dear Editor,

I was very interested in your account of Star Turn No. 9—but would like to say that I feel your statement that Rosalind was probably the only Land Girl to operate a drier rather sweeping! In the harvest of 1944, I operated a Turner Oxford drier with the help of one other Land Girl and a college boy spending his holiday on the farm. Of course it was on a much smaller scale—drying just over 1,000 sacks of our own corn. It would be interesting to know of any other Land Girls who have undertaken this job.

Hants.

B. M. Walker, 66912

(We must apologise for an error made in our November "Star Turn" account. The number of sacks dealt with by the grain drier was 4,500 and not 45,000 as published).

Dear Editor,

I wonder if this snapshot is of interest to your readers. The marrows are part of our year's crop. Our total weight in marrows must have been close on 700 lbs. Our pride and joy, of course, was the largest of them all; it weighed 39 lbs. I wonder if anyone grew a marrow to beat it. It was grown in the gardens of Ampleforth College without any special care or attention.

Yorks., N.R.

B. Leng, 59214



THE LAND GIRL

SCOTTISH NOTES

THE SCOTTISH W.L.A. WELFARE AND BENEVOLENT FUND

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1940)

Donations List as at 31st October, 1945

Area	Total	Average per Girl Employed
East Fife	£ 1300 9 2	£ s. d. 5 7 11
Nairnshire	235 0 8	5 4 5½
Huntly and Garioch	534 15 0	5 2 10
Deer and Turriff	180 0 6	3 18 3½
Kincardineshire	260 9 1	3 8 6½
Banffshire	205 12 1	3 3 3½
Stirling and Clackmannan	585 11 0	3 2 7½
Orkney	12 3 6	3 0 10½
Alford and Deeside	514 4 10	3 0 1½
Kirkcudbright	560 17 6	2 19 11½
Wigtownshire	317 3 7	2 18 2½
Morayshire	205 5 4	2 17 0½
Aberdeen and Ellon	316 6 6	2 17 0
North Ayrshire	1078 2 0	2 15 5½
Skye	13 4 6	2 12 10½
Inverness-shire	220 1 2	2 8 10½
West Fife and Kinross	437 14 2	2 6 1
Caitness	59 3 4	2 5 6½
North Argyll	112 13 0	2 0 11½
South Ayrshire	850 0 0	2 0 5½
East Perthshire	255 4 10	1 19 1½
Angus	424 16 0	1 18 7½
South Lanarkshire	462 9 11	1 16 8½
Dunbarton and Renfrew	585 15 2	1 15 10
Sutherland	16 16 6	1 10 7
West Lothian	95 4 4	1 5 4½
North Lanarkshire	241 1 8	1 4 11½
Paebleesshire	90 7 0	1 4 9
Roxburghshire	185 13 1	1 3 2½
Bute-Arran	30 0 0	1 3 1
East Lothian	300 13 0	1 3 0½
West Perthshire	130 11 6	1 1 7
Midlothian	355 5 3	1 0 4½
Berwickshire	185 5 5	18 10 10½
South Argyll	78 12 0	17 10 10½
Dumfriesshire	216 9 8	16 9 9½
Ross and Cromarty	82 12 9	13 2 2½
Selkirkshire	18 0 0	11 7 7½
Bute and Cumbræes	1 12 6	1 2 2½
Women's Timber Corps (Scotland)	1039 13 0	1 17 2
S.W.R.I. (Central Council)	45 0 0	—
Scottish Women's Bowling Association (Eastern Section)	19 9 2	—
Broadcast Appeal (proportion)	136 11 0	—
Special Collections (Miss MacDougall)	62 16 11	—
Special Donations	120 15 0	—
Headquarters	286 10 0	—
Scottish Football Association	105 12 9	—
National Farmers' Union and Chamber of Agriculture (Mid and West Lothian, Dumfries and Selkirk Branches)	13 3 0	—
Profit from Sale of Christmas Cards	584 4 6	—
Share of royalties from Miss Sackville-West's Book	130 0 0	—
Treasury Grant	1000 0 0	—
Grand Total	£15299 2 10	

Dear Editor,

I cannot allow my release from the W.L.A. to pass without paying tribute to that grand, hard-working person, the Welfare Officer.

In my district I was under the care of a lady, the memory of whose kindness, patience and understanding, I will remember always with the deepest gratitude. No task was too great for her to undertake, no worry was too small and her gift of reducing my mountains to molehills was miraculous.

Thank you, W.O.'s, for the magnificent job you have done. You wore no uniform, it is true, but the service you have rendered your land girls, your king and your country, is beyond price.

S. L. Munro, Ex.-W.L.A. 7523
Deer and Turriff Area, Scotland.

WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS

We have said goodbye during the last few months to a large number of friends and colleagues. We wish those who have left, every success and happiness in their new life. Those who remain know that their services are still for some months at least required on timber production if pitprops are to retain their proud record of *not* being "in short supply."

We would like especially to extend our good wishes to those who may be leaving the Corps shortly for service with the Timber Section of the Allied Control Commission in Germany. There is undoubtedly a big job to be done out there if the devastation of British woods and forests is to come to an end shortly.

Good wishes also to those who have applied for vacancies in timber census work with the Forestry Commission.

The supply of the Timber Corps book, "Meet the Members," has at last caught up with the demand and orders for additional copies can now be accepted. Order from:—Ministry of Supply, H.T.P.D., Vassall Road, Fishponds, Bristol. Price 2s. 8d., including postage.



This snapshot was sent by N. Noble, 108145, Westmorland—it was taken at the Newcastle "Farm Week" Exhibition last autumn at which the W.L.A. played an important and successful part. Accounts from Miss Noble and other volunteers arrived too late and were too long for inclusion in the LAND GIRL.

We extend our congratulations to Mrs. Gibson, Chairman, East Lothian W.L.A. Sub-Committee on her being awarded the M.B.E., and to the Misses Mary M. Alexander, Dunbarton and Renfrew, Elizabeth C. Wyllie, Angus, and Josephine McGuire, Kincardine, who each received the B.E.M.

COUNTY NEWS

BEDS.—We were very glad to welcome Miss Bower, Senior Administrative Officer, at a conference of District Representatives held at the Chairman's house last month. In spite of the bad weather, representatives from all over the county attended. Fourteen Bedfordshire volunteers were among the six-year service girls who attended the Lord Mayor's Party at the Mansion House on Dec 7th and J. Garratt, 5698 and M. Hull, 1631 two volunteers who enrolled in August, 1939 had the honour of receiving their armlets from the hands of Her Majesty the Queen herself. The W.L.A. have recently taken over hostels relinquished by the Y.W.C.A., who have been happily associated with this county since the first hostel at Milton Ernest opened in Feb., 1942. Farewell parties have been given and expressions of thanks exchanged between the organisations. We welcome several new wardens, in particular Mrs. Empsall who worked with us before going to the Far East on welfare work. She is now our Acting Pioneer Warden. Our thanks go to E. Milton, 63210 and D. Ream, 104413 for contributions to the Benevolent Fund from dances and whilst drives they have so ably organised.

BERKS.—It is with very real regret that we have had to say good-bye to Mrs. Howard Palmer, who has worked continuously as Chairman since before the outbreak of war. Mrs. Palmer has always played a most active part in the W.L.A. organisation and has worked untiringly for the welfare of all members. She will be very much missed by everyone. We should like to welcome Lady Mount in her new capacity as Chairman; she has been with the W.L.A. organisation since before the war, first as a comm. member and then as organiser.

We were very proud that 28 girls in Berkshire qualified to attend the Mansion House party. They were accompanied by Miss Bayne-Jardine and Mrs. Parker and in the evening most of the girls joined a theatre party which made a most enjoyable ending to a really thrilling day. Christmas was the occasion for many parties, and the staff and girls of Hall Place Hostel, Sparsholt, arranged a real Christmas dinner which was followed by dancing and there was a cold supper in the hostel shortly after midnight.

BRECS. AND RAD.—Many of us were sad to say goodbye to Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn, our Hon. Organiser who resigned her appointment recently as she was moving to another County. We are glad to welcome our Assistant Secretary, Miss Price, and hope she will enjoy working amongst us.

Brecon and Radnor was proud to be represented by 3 members who took part in the City of London march. Mrs. E. Williams and Miss A. Wright have worked together since they enrolled in Oct. 1939, and Miss M. Brown, who comes from Lancashire, and has worked on the same farm for over 5 years had the honour to receive her Armlet from the Queen. Miss Brown is to be congratulated on being our first volunteer to be accepted for an Agricultural Course, and we all wish her a happy and profitable time at Plas Dinam Centre, Monts. Two large County Victory Dances were held recently which were enjoyed by members and their partners, who appreciated the excellent bands and buffet arrangements. Hostels have had classes in Make Do and Mend as well as Domestic Science. We are looking forward to hearing Mrs. Tamplin give another of her welcome Health Talks in March.

BUCKS.—Our hearty congratulations are due to Miss A. Buckmaster, ex-W.L.A. 6706, who was one of the volunteers to receive the B.E.M. in the New Year's Honours List. Miss Buckmaster has just been released after over six years in the W.L.A. A Christmas Fair in aid of the County Welfare Fund was held in Aylesbury on Dec. 8th, at which there were some amusing side-shows, and stalls for the sale of produce, gifts, toys and ornaments, books, jumble and "White Elephants." Many of the articles had been made or contributed by volunteers in hostels or billets, and found a ready sale, the result being a sum of over £200 for the Fund.

A very successful party was given at the Wing hostel on Jan. 5th, to which a number of wounded members of the Forces from Stoke Mandeville Hospital were invited. An entertainment was staged by the girls (compered by Miss A. Edge), followed by community singing, games and refreshments. A number of similar parties have already been or are about to be given in hostels, and are thoroughly appreciated by the guests.

CHESHIRE.—We are pleased to re-welcome Mrs. Allan Boddington as a Committee member, and Mrs. Rasbotham, who has been a District Representative for a considerable time. Mrs. Furness has joined our ranks as a County Organiser, but we are saying good-bye to Miss Kennedy at the end of the month when she is leaving the Organisation.

Cheshire was well represented at the Lord Mayor's party by our Chairman, Mrs. E. Johnson, M.B.E., J.P., and 22 volunteers.

CORNWALL.—We are very sorry to lose our Chairman, Mrs. Charles Williams, who is resigning at the end of Jan. She has taken such an active interest in our work, we shall miss her more than we can say. Her successor will be Miss Elizabeth Johnstone, to whom we extend a welcome and hope she will enjoy her work among us. We are glad to report that Mrs. Pierrepoint, County Secretary, has recovered from her recent illness and returned to duty in the New Year.

The "Six-year" contingent from Cornwall were very enthusiastic about their party in London and several members have written glowing accounts. It is encouraging to note that many volunteers are enquiring about post-war trainings, not only for land work, but for such unusual openings as a ship's stewardess. 6 volunteers were successful in a milking test at Lamellon in Dec., and it is hoped to arrange other Proficiency Tests in the near future. As soon as enough volunteers are available, a relief milking scheme will be started in the County, and a new Hostel, Trevelloe, in the Penzance district, has been requisitioned to house them.

DERBS.—Two Derbyshire volunteers were invited to the Mansion House party, but unfortunately, only one, E. F. Jerram, 6610, was able to accept the invitation. Miss Jerram was one of the 200 girls who formed a Guard of Honour for H.M. the Queen and she also had the honour of receiving her armlet from Her Majesty. The L.G.'s at Litton House Hostel held a "Bring and Buy" sale in Dec. and raised £15 for the Benevolent Fund. Miss Wardley (Comm. Member) has also raised 10 gns. and Miss Barton, 104979, £3 5 0 for the Fund. The Chairman and County Comm. very kindly gave two parties in Jan., one in Chesterfield on Jan. 8th., and the other on Jan. 15th. in Derby. We regret that more girls were not able to attend but I am sure that all who did spent a very enjoyable afternoon. We were very pleased that Mrs. Fowle, the Regional Officer from Headquarters, was able to join us at the Derby party. The girls who attend the Melbourne Club held their first party on Jan. 17th, and this was a huge success. Any L.G.'s living in the Melbourne area will be sure of a very warm welcome when ever they have an opportunity to attend the club. We are sorry to say goodbye to all the members who are taking advantage of the demobilisation scheme and they take with them our best wishes and thanks for their splendid work.

DEVON.—16 of the 18 Devon members who were eligible attended the Mansion House party. They were W. Palmer, D. Newcombe, Mrs. Staple, D. Thompson, M. Burgoyne-Johnson, C. Champion N. Tuckett, B. Devonshire, A. Fitch, M. Williams, M. Sanders, D. Tyrrie, E. Amery, B. Good, Mrs. Darell, K. Trigoll, W. Palmer and N. Tuckett received their armlets from the Queen and Mrs. Darell and B. Good were presented to Her Majesty during tea. Lady St. Aubyn and Miss Medley-Costin were also present, having completed 6 years' service with the W.L.A. The party was later joined by Miss Bastin, when they went to see

THE LAND GIRL



Eastbourne W.L.A. Carol Choir. These girls have raised over £200 for the local hospital during the last year and at Christmas time gave a very successful concert in Eastbourne.

"Under the Counter." An honour comes to Devon in the award of the B.E.M. to Miss D. Tyrrie, who has done 8 years' service on the land—2 years in the last war and 6 in this—though to see her you would never think it! Our hearty congratulations to her. Whimble and Honiton Hostels had bumper Christmas parties. A fruit-tree pruning proficiency test is being organised by the D.W.A.E.C at Crediton and takes place this month. A cheque for £32 10s. was received for the Benevolent Fund from Seaton Club as a result of a dance. Bere Alston raised £60 for the Fund from an entertainment and dance and Thorverton raised £21 from a dance.

DORSET.—2 of the 24 girls eligible to attend the Mansion House party were unable to be present. Those who did go thoroughly enjoyed it all and, to round off a memorable day, they were taken to see "Sweet Yesterday" at the Adelphi Theatre. Various Hostels have had most successful Christmas parties and the girls had achieved most novel and artistic effects with the decorations. Carols, with solos and descants, were most beautifully sung at the Woodyates Party. Pamphill raised £4 for the Victoria Cottage Hospital by means of a dance, and Woodyates sent £10 to the local Nursing Association being the proceeds of a Whist Drive. Rothesay House formed a carol party and raised £2 for a local Children's Home and £1 13s. for the Benevolent Fund. North Farm Hostel had a dance and raised £15 also for the Fund. C.E.M.A. concerts have been very popular at the Hostels and others are being arranged for March. Congratulations to H. Dempsey, 0101561, on gaining her proficiency badge for outdoor garden work. Several volunteers took part in a ploughing contest on Plough Monday and, though not successful in gaining prizes, put up an extraordinarily good show.

DURHAM.—Good wishes for a very happy New Year to all volunteers. Christmas parties at the Hostels were very festive and included dancing and successful entertainments. Everyone enjoyed them tremendously. All the L.G.'s have been very busy selling tickets for the dance held on 22nd Jan. in Darlington in aid of the Benevolent Fund. Health talks have been arranged through the Central Council for Health Education, and three lectures will be given during Feb. and March in each of the Hostels. Privately employed girls are invited to attend at their nearest hostel.

Everyone will be sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Westoll who was Local Representative for the Coniscliffe-Ingleton district of Darlington. Her loss will be greatly felt, especially by the girls in her area to whom she was unfailingly kind and generous.

ESSEX.—The winter programme arranged by the Welfare Committee has continued with a very successful tour by C.E.M.A. artistes. Angelo Andes and Consuela Carmona, Spanish dancers, with Eileen Ebsworth, violin, gave concerts at four centres and these were very much enjoyed by many volunteers. As transport was provided it was possible to include many privately billeted girls, as well as those from hostels. Miss Thompson, of the Overseas Settlement of British Women, gave a lecture, and the Handicraft courses previously arranged were completed. A conference of District Reps. was held in Chelmsford, at which Miss Bower spoke on the demobilisation scheme and the future of the L.A.

Our best wishes go with Mrs. Strickland, our County Secretary for more than a year, who left us on Jan. 19th to take up another appointment. We count ourselves lucky in having been privileged to work with her, for her enthusiasm, justice and understanding never failed and we are very sorry to lose her. Mrs. Wakeland Smith, who comes to us from Northants, has been appointed as our new County Secretary, and we hope her stay in Essex will be both happy and successful.

GLOS.—The Christmas season has been enlivened by several parties—notably the dance given by W/Cdr. and Mrs. Sinclair at Miserden, to which were invited the W.L.A. volunteers in the district and the County office staff. A gay and happy evening was enjoyed by all and we wish to thank our host and hostess and the G.W.A.E.C., who so kindly provided transport. Miss Hooper, our Area Rep., ably assisted by Miss O. Meek, and Miss B. Green, organised a most successful dance in Dursley in aid of the Benevolent Fund, making a net profit of 30 odd pounds. On Jan. 24th, the Hostel Wardens went to the Pantomime in Cheltenham. Glowing accounts have been given by the 16 or so long service volunteers, of whom we are very proud, who were at the Mansion House party.

There have been several changes in our office staff. Miss Needs, our invaluable senior shorthand typist, has been promoted to Hostels and Welfare Officer. It is with great regret that we say goodbye to Miss F. M. Davies, Employment Officer,

THE LAND GIRL

but we congratulate her on her appointment as Assistant County Secretary to Worcs. Her kindness and tact will be missed by employers and employees alike. Miss Margaret Stuart, one of our County Organisers, leaves us at the end of Jan. Her resignation will be a very real loss to all of us who have worked with her, and to the volunteers whose interests have been her first consideration.

HANTS is still reaping the aftermath of the Benevolent Fund Drive. Some time ago the Drive Committee was promised a heifer calf by Lord Portsmouth. As we had to wait for the lady to be of the right age and condition and also for the right sale, she unfortunately missed being included in the grand total. However, the great day came on Dec. 6th when, at a sale in Reading of tuberculin-tested Ayrshire cattle, Farleigh Joybell was sold for £105. May she have a happy home and a long life! Re-settlement seems to be a burning question at the moment. Ministry of Labour representatives are speaking at meetings all over the county and our delegates to the meeting on the Benevolent Fund follow up with accounts of how the Fund is prepared to help. Good-byes are always sad and we have had to say so many in the last two months. Now we must turn our attention to those who will be staying on in the L.A. Rumour has it that plans are being made for a Spring Rally. Southampton, one of the largest ports handling foodstuffs, is anxious to show appreciation of what the L.A. has done to relieve shipping space and is offering the hospitality of the town for the occasion. May 4th is to be the day.

HEREFORD.—As a result of the Toy and Jumble Sale in Dec., over £41 was divided between the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds. On Jan. 26th a New Year's party was held in Hereford. There was an excellent attendance of L.G.'s, comm. members, Reps. and office staff. The chief attractions were the fortune teller and the tea—a real feast was provided thanks to friends throughout the County. There was also an excellent concert party and other amusements included games and competitions, books and cosmetic stalls and dancing. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and where L.G.'s are gathered together there is always lots of talk, this party was no exception! We are very proud that one of our L.G.'s, Sarah Curtice of Glewstone, has been awarded the B.E.M.—Congratulations, Sarah. Leominster Club has now embarked on dancing classes; while Ledbury Hostel have arranged to have a Marionette Show. We are soon to have a further visit from Mrs. Tamplin of the Central Council for Health Education; while in March we are to have another C.E.M.A. tour.

HERTS.—We were all very proud to welcome H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent to our county on Jan. 23rd at a New Year's Party at Watford for volunteers and their employers. Long service armlets and badges were presented by the Duchess, who spoke graciously of the splendid work done by the W.L.A., and of the need for that work to be carried on. A bouquet of spring flowers was presented to H.R.H., who then stayed to see the Dress Show given by Claridges of Watford. Smart clothes at utility prices gave us plenty of ideas for wise coupon expenditure, and the mannequin parade was headed by three volunteers carrying new-born lambs and a very self-conscious piglet! During tea, 11 volunteers were presented to the Duchess, who chatted informally to each girl and showed great interest in their experiences of life on the land. The day started well with a grand march through Watford, headed by a bugle band, and closed with a loud and spontaneous cheer for the Duchess as she left the party. We were so glad Mrs. Jenkins was able to be present and were pleased to see representatives from neighbouring counties and many other good friends.

HUNTS, CAMBS. & ELY.—We were very proud to learn that S. Bosley, 11151, had been awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours. Miss Bosley has been in Hunts. since May 1940, and has done a grand job of work for the Hunts. W.A.E.C., including the running of two farms.

She was one of 20 girls from this area who attended the Mansion House party. Mrs. Shelley, Miss Lyons and Miss Harradence received their armlets from the Queen. Miss Bower of Headquarters Staff paid a visit to the District Reps. Conference in Cambridge on Dec. 12th. Her talk was very much appreciated and it was nice to see her in this area after so many years. The Handicraft Exhibition was a loss financially but we consider it well worth the experiment for it revealed astonishingly good work by volunteers. Miss Pentlow and Miss Dewhurst gained 100 per cent. for a doll and table mats.

Miss Benn left us in Dec. and we welcome Miss Tipping as our new Hunts. Organiser. We also welcome Miss Jones (Hostel and Welfare Section Officer) and Mrs. Dixon (Uniform Officer) in the places of Miss Turnbull and Mrs. Clark. Miss Turnbull is now married to F/O J. Black, R.C.A.F., and expects shortly to join him in Australia.

W. KENT.—We all feel very proud that Miss Cox, our late Organising Secretary, has been awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year Honours. We offer her our heartiest congratulations on this well deserved honour. Congratulations also to Miss Woods, a Section Officer in the West Kent office who has been awarded the B.E.M. for work in the National Fire Service and to Mrs. Olive Bass, W.L.A., who, too, has received the B.E.M. for her exceptionally good work on the land.

Twenty-two West Kent girls attended the party given by the Lord Mayor of London at the Mansion House on Dec. 7th to L.G.'s of over 6 years' service. One of them, Mrs. Gill, had the honour of being one of the two L.A. members chosen to make a presentation of country produce to Her Majesty the Queen.

LEICS. & RUT.—Congratulations to Miss Hilda A. Foxton on receiving the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours. We are so pleased that her 6 years of service in the same job away from her home in London have been recognised. We hope that she will decide to stay with us for a long while yet. The volunteers of the Hostel at Market Bosworth organised a joint concert with the 13th Petrol Unit of the Army, which was a great success. Two plays were produced and part of the proceeds are being given to the Benevolent Fund. The staff of the same hostel gave a farewell party to long service volunteers who are leaving the W.L.A. under the Government Release scheme. They had a tremendous iced cake with scenes of the farm yard for decoration. Special thanks again to Reps., Wardens and volunteers for helping to raise the sum of over £69 for the Benevolent Fund. Every donation is appreciated, however small. The number of grants to volunteers has increased greatly in our counties of late and we hope that many others will endeavour to contribute and make it possible to help many more needy cases.

HOLLAND (LINCS).—Both the Holland volunteers who attended the Mansion House Party were delighted to be amongst those to have their six-year armlets presented personally by H.M. the Queen, and we offer them and Miss Griffin, our County Organiser, who accompanied them, our heartiest congratulations. Christmas parties went well at all hostels and Mrs. R. T. Proctor gave a most enjoyable party at her house for members of the office staff. Holland House Hostel members did nobly by their Xmas carol singing at the houses of various friends in Spalding, raising over £14 for local hospital funds. From Pauline Spalding, the L.A. member from Holland now on a visit to Russia as a guest of the Anglo-Soviet Anti-Fascist Youth Organisation we have a cable, and also hear that she is having a wonderful time. Recent activities include C.E.M.A. concerts by the Lydian Trio at Holbeach and Kirtton, and a small party have visited the sugar beet factory in Spalding.

Since August, Miss Duff has been Acting County Secretary, and we now have Miss Hirst appointed. She has until recently been in North Wales as Assistant Secretary.

Don't forget to renew your subscription.

THE LAND GIRL

Volunteers in Herts will be grieved to hear of the death of Aileen Vaisey, 66052, who has been with the Land Army since Feb., 1942. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her parents in their loss.

Nineteen L.A. members, many of whom during the past five sessions have attended classes run, in various hostels, in connection with the Kesteven Adult Education Scheme, enjoyed a Week-end Residential School at Greatford Hall, nr. Stamford, from December 29th-31st. Mr. H. L. Featherstone, M.A., gave a course of lectures on "The Future of Peace" which led to good discussions in an informal atmosphere. A talk on "Women's Dress in Seven Centuries"—with Land Girls acting as mannequins—made a pleasant finish to an interesting week-end.

When it was made known that the W.L.A. Hostel at "The Greens", Masham, Yorkshire would close on Jan. 31st, the local branch of the N.F.U. decided they would like to show their appreciation of the girls' work during the 2½ years the hostel has been open. This appreciation took the form of a gratuity to all girls who had been in the hostel for more than nine months and was at the rate of six-pence per week. 21 girls qualified and five of them received the maximum amount, having been in the hostel since it opened. The cheques for the gratuity were presented at the Christmas party. As there was a balance of money after the gratuities had been paid the farmers decided to spend this on taking all the girls to Leeds one evening, giving them tea and then taking them to a variety show.

We feel that it is nice to know that the W.L.A. has been so much appreciated in the Masham area and, as can be imagined, all the girls are sorry to leave the hostel but we hope they will settle down in the other N. Riding hostels to which they have been posted.

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Advertisements quoting a price are accepted only on the understanding that if a would-be buyer sends cash with her order, she is at liberty to return the goods and will then receive her cash back, less cost of postage. Anyone sending cash should enclose stamps for its return if the goods have been sold.

FOR SALE.—Silver court shoes, (3½), little worn, 8/6d. Scott, 64, Underdale Road, Shrewsbury.

FOR SALE.—Petrol blue coat, size 36 in. bust, £4 10s. Elizabeth Jeffery, Trebehor, Porthcurno, Cornwall.

FOR SALE.—Salmon pink taffeta evening dress, bust 32 in. 30/-. 58547, Vine Farm, S. Luffenham, Rutland.

FOR SALE.—Light fawn riding jacket, good condition, 34 in. bust, £1. Brown fur back gloves, size 6½ never worn, 30/-. Crossley, 123, New Lane, Thornbury, Bradford, Yorkshire.

FOR SALE.—Finest quality breeches, waist 27 in., buckskin strappings, made by Harry Hall to match W.L.A. uniform. Brown riding boots, 5½-6. Both as new. £15. No coupons. Juggins Marston, Princes Avenue, Petts Wood, Kent.

FOR SALE.—Ice skates attached to white boots, (size 6), £4. Roller skates attached to beige boots, £3 10s. Wellingtons, 10/-. All in good condition. Fream's "Elements of Agriculture" and Russell's "English Farming," both new, 12/6. Marlar, 27, Old Compton Street, London, W.1.

FOR SALE.—Size 5 skating boots, complete with blades for figure skating. £6 or near offer. Cannons, 9, Hilltop Road, King's Langley.

Variety in Cooking.—1/8½ each, including postage. From W.L.A. Office, Bron Castell Annex, Bangor, North Wales.

WANTED.—Ladies brown tweed riding coat. Bust 34 in. Also riding boots, size 5. Gregory, Hopton Court, Nr. Worcester.

WANTED.—Riding jacket, bust 35-36 in. Good condition. Beale, 116, Abington Avenue, Northampton.

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

County Returns

County	Ben. £.	F. s.	Total d.	Em- ployed
Kent ..	8035	7	9	2580
Essex ..	5599	1	0	1598
Surrey ..	5373	8	1	1577
Hants. ..	8622	15	2	1238
Yorks., W.R. ..	2988	2	7	1193
Leics. 1014)	2402	7	4	1172
Rutland 158)				
Somerset ..	2321	2	9	1073
E. Sussex ..	4016	0	0	1018
Bucks. ..	4826	10	1	1014
Northants. ..	2759	10	5	1014
Worcs. ..	2707	11	2	992
W. Sussex ..	5092	17	2	974
Devon ..	3919	3	1	960
Warwicks. ..	7463	8	3	947
Cornwall ..	1285	10	11	905
Lincs., Lindsey and Kesteven	3061	3	2	905
Cheshire ..	3157	5	0	862
Norfolk ..	6212	14	7	839
Glos. ..	2470	5	5	781
Notts. ..	1757	15	0	751
Oxon. ..	3784	12	1	743
Northum'd. ..	2083	10	3	738
Beds. ..	1022	8	8	698
Wilts. ..	1916	7	5	695
Yorks., N.R. Hunts. 166)	2047	12	10	688
Cambs. 269)	3658	5	0	680
Ely 245)				
Lancs. ..	2696	10	0	678
Berks. ..	3561	15	8	674
Salop ..	1918	13	5	592
Durham ..	1801	19	3	583
Cumb'd & West'd	679	12	9	565
E. Suffolk ..	3503	8	10	543
Dorset ..	1366	10	6	532
Yorks., E.R. ..	555	8	2	514
Stafford ..	1798	14	0	483
Monmouth ..	934	12	9	475
Hereford ..	1834	10	4	445
Glamorgan ..	1025	3	9	434
W. Suffolk ..	1638	7	9	408
Flints. ..	649	10	4	401
N. Wales ..	1741	19	3	394
Lincs., Holland	1977	9	7	377
London & Middx.	1261	12	10	339
Derby ..	1426	5	6	326
Pembroke ..	1107	4	2	249
I.O.W. ..	275	15	8	223
Cards. & Carm's.	717	15	5	220
Mont. ..	422	18	2	171
Herts. ..	4289	18	10	Not rec'd.
Brecs. & Radnor	383	11	6	"
Denbighs. ...	941	16	11	"
W.T.C. ..	6674	4	1	1116

On January 28th, 1946, the total number of volunteers in employment was approximately 39,200.