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## THE FOLLOW ON

AT UNO last month "the monstrous crow" of starvation unfortunately did not succeed, as it did with Tweedledum and Tweedledee, in "frightening both the brothers so they quite forgot their quarrel," but it was a sharp reminder that the forces of Nature are still more deadly than any that the ingenuity of man can devise.

Vast numbers of human beings will die of hunger in the next few months and vast numbers more will suffer from its effects, both direct and indirect. Starving people are desperate people and hunger is the enemy of wisdom. There can never have been a time in the world's history when the sanity and safety of mankind depended so much on the few who produce its food.

Members of the Land Army have an important part to play in the recruiting campaign which will be launched next month. They are doing the job and have the best right to ask others to join them; they know the kind of person who will succeed and are in the best position to tell others about the work. It is their opinion which will be trusted and respected and it is their persuasion which can be really effective. They must all have sisters or cousins or even moderately juvenile aunts, among whom the wise volunteer can spot a good possible recruit. The W.L.A. wants 30,000 new members—its best chance of getting the quantity and quality it needs is through those who have already given such splendid service.

Next month the LAND GIRL will start a series of special articles for new members. No one can write these so well as present volunteers whose memories of their first job will show them just how and where the experience they have gained can benefit the newcomer. The LAND GIRL offers prizes of one guinea each for articles which will help a new member of the Land Army who has previously had an indoor job and is quite ignorant of country life. Smaller payments will be made for helpful tips, e.g., how to deal with blisters, backaches, chilblains and cross farmers; how to make dull jobs more interesting; how to make landladies loving and fellow workers friendly.

Just think what you would most have liked to know during your first month on the land, write it down and send it up as soon as possible to LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.

M.A.P



## NURSERY SCHOOL TEACHING

POST-WAR CAREERS—No. 6

If you went to visit a nursery school one morning, you would be rather surprised to find that it did not look much like the kind of school you went to when you were young. You would not find any desks and there would be no lesson books and no blackboards. Instead, you would find yourself in a large airy playroom with big windows opening out into a verandah and, beyond that, a garden. In the playroom and garden there would be groups of busy children, all occupied with their own affairs. Some might be clearing away the tables after the morning milk or orange juice and helping to wash up the mugs, some would be setting up easels on the verandah and equipping themselves with paints and little pinafores before beginning to paint a picture. Others would be busy climbing, jumping and swinging on the "jungle gym" or the swings in the garden, and others would be engaged in a realistic game of house-keeping, in which all the dolls' clothes would come in for a thorough scrubbing.

At first sight, all this might not seem very like a school, but the purpose of the nursery school is to provide the space and the materials which little children need if they are to develop fully, and its purpose is, therefore, educational in the widest sense of the word. The nursery school provides for the first stage of education when the child is between two and seven years. It is during this period that the child grows and learns at a very rapid pace, and it is this period, therefore, which should be safeguarded with particular care. Just as mistakes in the feeding of the young child can lead to irreparable damage to his future health, so can mistakes in his early training lead to serious flaws in the development of his mind and character. It is vitally necessary, therefore, for both parents and teachers alike to co-operate in providing everything good that the child needs at this stage, to help him to grow into a healthy and happy person. Nothing can minimise the parents' responsibility, but the assistance of a good nursery school and its teachers can be of the greatest benefit to parents and children alike.

The nursery school then sets out to foster the sound development of the young child in co-operation with the parents. The care of the child's health is a primary consideration. Open-air

living, good nourishing meals, constant supervision from doctor and nurse, regular mid-day rest periods and careful attention to the development of good personal habits of cleanliness are guiding principles of the nursery school programme. The young child's mental development is encouraged through all kinds of play, through story-telling, through simple songs and games and through rhythmic movement to music. The toys and dolls, the sand and clay and paints, are the materials which the child uses in his effort to learn about himself and to understand the world around him. The fact that in the nursery school he plays and works in a group of his own equals, gives the opportunity for learning those lessons in social living which are so hard to learn when left too late.

The teacher in charge of the nursery school must have a special aptitude for getting on well not only with small children but with their parents also. Her work is intensely interesting, as her small charges grow and develop so rapidly under the special opportunities of the nursery school, but, nevertheless, it requires much patience since growth cannot be hurried. The nursery school teacher interferes very little with this process. Her task is to provide the children with the materials and the setting they need, and to give them confidence in their own powers of experimenting and learning. She must be able to build up a happy, friendly relationship with the parents, so that they will come to feel that the nursery school is really theirs, an extension or addition to their homes and not something outside their scope, with an impossibly high



*Danger! Men at work.*



## THE LAND GIRL

standard. It is only when this relationship is firmly established that the nursery school teacher can feel that her job is being fully met.

The training of the nursery school teacher is the same as for all teachers in primary schools. The normal course of training is two years, although some girls prefer to take a three-year course. There are a certain number of Training Colleges which specialise in nursery and infant school training (i.e., for the period from two-seven years) and the normal entrance qualification is School Certificate. Grants can be obtained to help with the cost of training. For girls who have been engaged in any form of war service, the one year free emergency teachers' training is open, and this includes a nursery school training. It is not necessary to hold School Certificate in order to be admitted to the emergency course, and each candidate is selected individually. The teacher completing the emergency training satisfactorily is fully qualified, and will receive the same rates of salary as the teacher trained at one of the older Training Colleges. All primary school teachers receive the Burnham Scale Salaries, and an assistant teacher may expect to start earning £270 per annum in her first post. Salaries increase with service and are higher for posts of responsibility.

The Nursery School Association has a Centre in London, where there is a permanent exhibition of nursery school photographs and materials and where all information may be obtained. The Centre is open every day, except Sunday, from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. The Secretary will be delighted to welcome members of the Women's Land Army and to discuss the possibilities of nursery school work. The address is: 1, Park Crescent, London, W.1 (Telephone: Welbeck 9269).

Margaret Marshall, B.A.,  
late Secretary, Nursery School Assocn.

### FILMS TO LOOK OUT FOR

"**They Knew Mr. Knight**" (starring Nora Swinburne), a film of family life from the novel by Dorothy Whipple.

"**The Dolly Sisters**," a technicolour musical, with Betty Grable, June Haver and S. Z. Zakall.

"**My Name is Julia Ross**." In this melodramatic story Dame May Whitty gives a magnificent exhibition of restrained villainy.

### AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Ministry of Agriculture has announced in the Press that Senior and Junior Scholarships in agricultural subjects may be applied for by *bona fide* agricultural workers. The scholarships are very limited in number and, though members of the W.L.A. are eligible, these scholarships are primarily intended for the sons and daughters of farmers and farm workers who cannot take advantage of other Government Training Schemes. It should be noted that allowances paid in connection with scholarships compare unfavourably with those paid under the Further Education and Vocational Training Schemes. All enquiries about scholarships should be addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Block 4, Bickenhall Mansions, Baker Street, London, W.1.

It was very pleasing news that Lieutenant O'Donald Mays of the U.S. Army (who has always taken an interest in the Land Army, having twice visited the Club in London and once Headquarters at Balcombe) was married in December to Grace M. Roberts, W.L.A. 69549, Hants. Mrs. Mays, who had worked for three years on soft fruit and dairying work, was married in a wedding dress lent her by the W.L.A.

An ex-A.R.P. worker, who wishes to remain anonymous, has most generously made over the gratuity she received in respect of her A.R.P. services to an ex-member of the W.L.A. who has given the same length of service as herself. The amount of the gratuity is £31 13s.

**Congratulations** to Miss E. Forster (Scotland) on receiving the award of the Royal Humane Society. Miss Forster, who is employed as a Land Girl on the farm of Potholm, Langholm, Dumfriesshire, courageously saved the life of a soldier in imminent danger of drowning in the River Esk; she is the first person in Eskdale ever to receive this award.

And to D. Darrell, 73679, and M. Seel, 73823, of Yorks. N.R., who, at the Eisteddfod in Stokesley on 13th Feb., obtained first place for the soprano solo and the pianoforte solo respectively. They have both been in Stokesley Hostel since it opened in Nov., 1943.

And to Pamphill Hostel volunteers (Dorset), who helped in painting the furniture in their dormitories, each room following a separate colour scheme.



## THE LAND GIRL



*Mrs. Warde, County Secretary, Miss Turk, Assistant County Secretary, and Mrs. Priestley, Committee Member, at a Four Year Armlet Party in Ely.*

### WHAT?—A RELIEF?

*Last month, Mrs. Jenkins described a scheme put into practice by East Sussex to provide regular relief milkers so that milkers on farms should get one day off a week. The following article is by a volunteer who has worked under a scheme in East Suffolk which provides stop-gap milkers in emergency.*

Yes—that is me—a Relief Milker. There are now six of us in East Suffolk whose work it is to travel round to various farms in this area, helping out where labour is temporarily short, either due to sickness, holidays or someone walking out. We are not supposed to stay on any one farm for more than from four to six weeks, but as recruits for milking are in such short supply, we often have to stay longer, until a permanent man or girl can be found to take over. We are frequently on the move and since I started the work I have seen much of Suffolk, learnt a great deal and thoroughly enjoyed myself.

A Relief must be able to take over any post, from that of Head Cowman to mucker-out-and-swiller-down and her heart and soul should be in the work. The normal procedure on each new farm is: one week spent in getting accustomed to the routine of work, four in spring cleaning and the last in

enjoying the now clean dairy and sheds, which are all ready for the next worker!

On every job, farmer, cowman, cow and local dialect vary. I have worked in a cowshed, nettus and ca'ouse; have loaded freights (small loads) of stuvver (seeds, hay) for the horses, and have mixed rations containing koshy tosh (flaked maize) for the lairy (soft, silly) narky (cross-grained, irritable) cows to help keep up the milk supply until the lash (luscious) grass comes in Spring. Cobweb, Girlwyn, Singing Duck and Bantail—what lovely names!—had ugly wrets (warts) on their teats.

The farmers, on the whole, have been extremely kind and I have learnt much from them as well as having been taken to several Shows and Sales.

Heavy snow one winter taught me to stay in and enjoy life in my billet. Sometimes one can even give the mother whose husband is overseas, a hand with unmanageable children. What a fight I had with nine-year-old Brian one winter evening! He would not help his mother or sister with any of the routine household or outside jobs, so I told him off and amid shrieks and kicks pulled him outside and made him bring in some sticks. In one family of ten children, even the eight- and nine-year-olds could and did wash and comb the hair of the youngsters ready for school. I say



"wash," but it surprises me how some people do keep clean when the only available drinking water is hand-pumped from a land mine crater in the middle of a meadow and for all other purposes a rubbish dump must be crossed and buckets filled with a green liquid full of fleas, flies and frogs.

Every farmer I have met so far (with one exception) swears by his ideas and is certain that none but his are the correct ones. But as each man's methods differ it is highly amusing to learn them all. At every new place I pretend great ignorance until I am well accustomed to the new ways.

Our wages are forwarded weekly from the local W.A.E.C. office on their receipt of a completed time sheet from us, but the farmer only receives a bill from the office when we have gone and are well out of ear shot! For even though one farmer said "If you were pinchable I'd have you, but you're only hireable, aren't you?" I bet as he heard my cycle rattle down the drive for the last time he turned into the house humming happily "WHAT a relief!"  
E. Suffolk. Elfrida Lewis, 100828.

### VOCATIONAL TRAINING

In March, fifty members of the W.L.A. started a one year's course in Agriculture and Horticulture at Newton Hall, Cambridgeshire, under the Vocational Training Scheme. Good luck to them all.

### GIRLS !!

Spare your poor backs and hands!

Send for fully illustrated leaflet of the  
**DUPLEX DISC HOE,**

persuade your employer to buy one and give him twice the work in half the time with a straight back and gloved hands.

**Central Garage, Reddish, Stockport**

The results of the Winter Competition will be announced in the April LAND GIRL.

Here is a tip from P. Darling, 38452, Salop, on how to make panties from an old shirt.

First of all cut away all above the armholes and turn the body round so that the side seams become the centre front and back seams of the panties. Put elastic round the waist and a square gusset into the slit that was at the side and is now going to make the legs.



Miss Sylvia Bosley, 11151, was a sculptor before the war. She joined the W.L.A. in 1939 and was trained as a tractor driver at Wye during that summer. In May, 1940, she took a job in Huntingdonshire and progressed from a 10 cwt. van to a five ton International lorry. "Standing on the ground I couldn't see over the bonnet," she says, "and every time I shut the door the window broke. After the third window we gave up."

When the Land Army began to enrol large numbers of recruits, Miss Bosley managed a farm for the W.A.E.C. and helped to train new volunteers. After eighteen months she was given a special appointment and visited Committee farms all over the county. She used to take her gangs of Land Girls to visit flax and sugar beet factories and to M.O.I. film shows and talks, all of which helped to make the volunteers' jobs more interesting. She also helped with residential training courses ending in practical and written examinations. She has had her reward for she and her team of W.L.A. volunteers worked right through the snow and rough weather of last year when many others could not stay the course.

Miss Bosley represented Huntingdonshire both at the Buckingham Palace Party in 1943 and the Benevolent Fund Conference last November. She received her six-year armlet at the Mansion House in December and was awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours.

"I think I have tried my hand at nearly every job from looking after poultry and stock and doing row crop work with a little Fergusson to driving a cub excavator," says Miss Bosley, and it is this wide experience, joined to strength of character and capacity for wise and tactful leadership, which have made her such an invaluable and outstanding member of the W.L.A.



## THE MIGRATION OF BIRDS

*Part of a lecture by Mr. W. Murray to the W.L.A. Club at Horam, Sussex.*

If you are fond of the country-side you cannot fail to have a lively interest in birds, they are such vivacious, cheeky, daring, timid things. So cheeky that when you straighten your back with a groan and pause a moment in your digging the robin will perch on the handle of the spade still warm from your touch. So shy, that you may live in the country for many years and never see a water rail or a lesser whitethroat. Even if you are not fond of birds they sometimes force themselves upon your attention. How persistent is the cuckoo! Does he never sleep?

Before men took any real interest in birds they couldn't fail to notice the cuckoo. We, who live so near Heathfield, know perfectly well that the old woman lets that bird out of a basket on Cuckoo Fair day, on April 17th. She's rather careless and sometimes lets it out by mistake a week before. People writing to the papers vie with one another in reporting it as early as February and January, but as a very profound journal observes "there are many cuckoos in many places but the bird is first heard in the first fortnight in April."

As summer draws on we gradually become aware that we no longer hear his voice. We notice that the swifts, house martins and swallows are gone but there are more starlings and magpies, and the fieldfares and redwings have started on the haws.

At first students of nature could not make out what happened to the birds. There were some fantastic theories. Even the famous Gilbert White paid men to dig up the river bank to see if they could find swallows hibernating there. One ornithologist quite seriously declared that they went to the moon for the winter. But it was a German, Gatké, who lived on Heligoland and observed the oversea movements of birds, who first put forward the theory of migration. In this he was correct, but he made many wild guesses at what he could not prove. For example, he suggested that the golden plover did 3,200 miles at one stretch at a speed of 212 miles per hour. We can smile now, for we know that the average bird does not do more than 40, while most do less.

The British Isles are very suitable for bird watching stations because they are

in a midway position in the path of myriads of migrating birds, for although birds have no definite routes there are, however, Sky Highways. But there were difficulties in observation because in the first place migration nearly always takes place at night. You will ask how do we know this? The answer is the amazing sight which is presented at the lanterns of Lighthouses and Lightships. On many nights in Spring and Autumn birds of many kinds can be seen fluttering out of the blackness to come in their hundreds, sometimes their thousands, sometimes tens of thousands, and beat around the light desperately trying to find a foothold. Many dash themselves to death against the glass. Naturalists who have spent many lonely hours on the watch have seen and picked up the bodies of larks, ducks, finches, waders, hawks, warblers, cuckoos, and so on. Indisputable proof that birds travel, and travel by night. Where do they go you will ask? And how can you find out?

We find out quite simply by marking the birds, not with paint, but with small aluminium rings fitted to their legs. These rings bear the numbers and the addresses of the ringing authority. Scientific bodies in many countries work on the same plan. When a bird is ringed a record is kept; what, where and when. When such a ring is recovered it is hoped the finder will inform the Natural History Museum. Thus a bird ringed in Kent can be recovered in Nigeria, or one in Cumberland recovered in America, or a swallow in Sussex recovered in South Africa. Of course, many thousands have to be ringed before the chance of a single recovery, but many hundreds of thousands have been ringed, and we now know the movements and Sky Highways of nearly all our migratory birds.

As the sun comes north vast numbers of birds come flooding northwards from Africa to Europe, to Britain, to farther north. They spread out, mate, breed, and then as the sun returns south so do the birds return. At the same time another host of birds which has been breeding farther north than the British Isles, and farther east, comes south and west, and winter in our milder climate. Waders, geese, swans, crows, redwings, starlings, bramblings, and so on, come to us from Iceland, Norway, Finland and the Baltic.

You will see there is a very wonderful movement, the whole body of birds moves with the sun or from cold to mild and then back again.



## THE LAND GIRL



*B. M. G. Pike, 140270, with friend, in Devon.*

### THE LAY OF LUCY, THE LOST LAND GIRL

I am Lucy, the Lost Land Girl.  
I eat crusts which make my hair curl,  
So have a neat and shining pate,  
Even when I get up late;  
Though *that's* a thing I do but rarely,  
For I *love* to rise up early.  
When the Warden rings the bell,  
Do I say "Oh, go to —"  
Oh, dear no—I quickly clean,  
Hands and face and all that's seen.  
I never grumble over food  
For I know that it is good.  
And if a meal I must forego  
I always let the Warden know.  
My uniform is clearly marked  
And my gumboots always parked  
Clean and polished, in their place—  
(That's the sign of perfect grace)  
On "cigs," my cash I do not waste,  
For chewing gum I have no taste—  
Bits of rubbish I don't scatter  
In dorms or bathroom—for the latter  
Shining should be kept and clean  
In aid of something called "hygiene."  
I never linger at the gate  
When the hour is growing late,  
But, with a tender "Bye, bye, Gordon,"  
Say goodnight to my dear Warden—  
Doff my clothes, put out the light,  
And sweetly sleep throughout the night.

Northumberland.

M. E. Goodhard.

### BEFORE DAWN

It was about 5 a.m. on a July morning  
and I was travelling two miles across  
fields to where 16 cows were waiting to  
be milked.

It was still quite dark, but dawn was  
not far away, for straight ahead, where  
the rough track met the lane a pale pink  
sky glowed behind a group of black  
beeches. On either side of the track  
stooks of corn stood like still dark  
sentinels. A rabbit scampered out of  
the corn and a partridge rose from the  
ground; without a cry, but with a noisy  
flutter of wings, it swiftly disappeared.  
Then Peace—such perfect Peace that I  
felt a trespasser in another world, for I  
was the only thing that moved or  
breathed in this wonderful tranquillity.

W. Kent.

S. R. Crump, 145480.

### "SET MY HAND UPON THE PLOUGH"

by E. M. BARRAUD (ex-WLA 9600)

This is the real thing—the first serious  
account of life and work in the Land  
Army, by an original volunteer.

Illustrated with photos taken on the job  
by the author.

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## THE LAND GIRL

### MY TRIP TO RUSSIA

*The following article has been written by Pauline Spalding, 93390, Holland (Lincs.), who was chosen to represent the W.L.A. on the youth delegation which recently visited Russia as guests of the Anglo-Soviet Anti-Fascist Youth Organisation.*

"How I wish they were all here." This is what I have thought at least once a day during these last eight weeks which have been the most wonderful experience of my whole life.

As you know, I had the very great honour of representing the Land Army on a British Youth Delegation to the Soviet Union and the enjoyment and experience of the trip I now want to share with you as much as possible. I hope I shall be talking with some of you and showing you my photographs but if any of you would like to know more, as this article must necessarily be brief, please write to me and I will try and give you the information.

We took off by plane from Croydon at 10.30 on the morning of December 22nd and owing to bad weather conditions had to leave four of the fifteen members of the Delegation behind. It was three days before they arrived so we spent Christmas Day in Berlin waiting for them. This was particularly interesting as later on we were able to compare Berlin with the ruined cities that we visited in the Soviet Union. On Boxing Day we flew to Moscow, a six-hour flight, where the time, by the way, is three hours in advance of Greenwich time. We were met at the air port by members of the Anti-Fascist Youth Committee, by whom the invitation had been extended, and were given champagne, chocolate and fruit by way of refreshment. Our poor insides little knew what was in store for them in the weeks to come! We were then taken to the best hotel in Moscow where no foreigners had ever stayed before and this was to be our headquarters during the whole trip. The maids were most intrigued with us and our luggage and would make any excuse to come into our rooms to see what we were doing. An enormous banquet was provided soon after we arrived and we were then told that we could rest until 11.30 p.m. when some more guests would be meeting us for supper. This shook us somewhat after the day's excitement, but determined not to let the side down so early in the proceedings, everyone sat through what turned out to be a second banquet.

By the end of seven weeks, I am afraid we had ceased to care two hoots whether the side was let down or not.

The New Year in Moscow is full of lovely celebrations. Funfairs are set up in the squares with gigantic lighted Christmas trees in the middle and all the children are given wonderful parties and entertainments. On New Year's Eve we joined in one of these and then had a party of our own given by our Russian friends.

On January 2nd at 7 p.m. we left for Leningrad on the Red Arrow Express, arriving at 11 o'clock the next morning. I think this was the most beautiful city we saw. Nearly every building was coloured either pale blue or orange or pink or green and there were many fine palaces remaining from the Czarist days. Although the people had suffered so much during the siege, the centre of the city was damaged very little. It was about four miles outside that the severe fighting had taken place.

Many times we went to the ballet and the opera, indeed in every place we visited, and no words of mine can convey to you the beauty and magnificence of these performances and of the theatres themselves. Music and art and all forms of culture play a large part in the life of every Soviet citizen and they have indeed something to be proud of.

Much of our time was devoted to seeing schools and youth clubs and it is obvious that every child has an equal advantage of obtaining the best educational and recreational facilities that are provided and they certainly make use of these advantages. There are none of the numerous Youth Organisations that we know in this country; instead, their Pioneer Organisation caters for the children from 7-16 years of age and after that they may join the "Comsummols" or Young Communists League. To every factory and institution is connected a Workers' Club where the employees can take advanced courses in a great variety of subjects, and entertainments and concerts of a high standard are provided.

On our return from Leningrad after nearly a week, we spent a few days in Moscow before setting off on a tour. We had our own plane and on January 15th flew to Kiev. This was the coldest journey we ever made with the temperature under 35 degrees Fahrenheit and we had to organise a fight all the way in the plane to get warm.

The centre of Kiev had been very badly destroyed and much of the surrounding country, including the



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village of Rokosov where we saw a collective farm. It was unfortunate that everything was covered with snow and I could not see nearly as much as I wanted to, but I did go inside the stables, chicken houses, pig styes and the cow shed, and here I gave a demonstration of the Land Army at work when a cow named Staglika was led out for me to milk! This particular farm had been occupied by the Germans and every single building and animal destroyed, but the speed with which they were re-building was amazing. The head of the farm gave us a short talk and then we were the guests of honour at one of their famous farm dinners which lasted nearly five hours. Some of the village girls were in national costumes and they sang and danced with us and we sang Tipperary until we loathed the sound of it as this was the only English song they knew. I showed them photographs of the Land Army and they wanted me to convey to you their best wishes and friendly greetings. There was undoubtedly a wonderfully happy atmosphere there that day.

I went to a State farm at the next place we flew to, Stalino, and you can imagine how long it took to drive from one end of it to the other when you know that it was 27,000 acres in size. It was similar to the Rokosov farm and we were entertained in the same way. Stalino is the centre of the Dombass mining area and we spent a few exciting hours down a coal mine, wriggling about in a mixture of coal and mud and water.

Some of our most enjoyable days were spent in Sochi on the Black Sea, a famous health resort. As we stepped out of the plane we were each presented with bunches of mimosa, narcissi, japonica and evergreens and I would not like to say how many pounds of tangerines we had eaten before we left there. We stayed in one of the Red Army Rest Homes on the edge of the Black Sea with the Caucasus Mountains behind. I cannot describe the beauty of the place and the country. Many sub-tropical plants and trees grow there including oranges, lemons, bananas and palm trees. The weather was very mild and the town had only suffered from very slight bombing.

We flew back to Moscow and spent two days in the country resting, skiing, skating and tobogganing and then made our last flight to Stalingrad. When I saw Berlin I thought nothing could be worse than that but even the destruction there could not touch that of Stalingrad. Not one single building remained intact and it was as though a great roller had

flattened the whole city, and yet there was no atmosphere of despair as in Berlin. People had come from all over the Soviet Union to re-build and there was a very real spirit of energy and determination to re-build as quickly as possible. Already schools had sprung up which were working on a shift system and we went into one or two of these.

After another week in Moscow we left on February 15th for Berlin, but owing to bad weather had to land at Riga in Latvia. After two days we flew on to Berlin and from there travelled in a troop train to Calais and made the Channel crossing on February 19th. Then I discovered I never knew how beautiful England was until I came back to it after eight weeks.

Perhaps you now have some small idea of the interesting and thrilling experience I have had and with great sincerity I would like to thank Mrs. Jenkins particularly and the Land Army as a whole (including Holland County Office, who did so much for me before I went), for sending me and also my employer, Mr. Hardy, for making it possible for me to go. It has been the chance of a lifetime and I trust that even in a very small way I may use it towards creating a better understanding between our two great countries.



*All smiles in Essex.*



## THE LAND GIRL

**Set My Hand Upon the Plough**, by E. M. Barraud. Littlebury & Co., Ltd., The Worcester Press, Worcester. 7/6.

Miss Barraud set her hand upon the plough, so to speak, as a member of the W.L.A. on Monday, September 4th, 1939, but during the years that followed she found time to set her hand upon the pen also and to very good purpose. Readers of the anthology *Poems of the Land Army* will already have discovered her as one of the outstanding poets in that highly creditable band; readers of the *Manchester Guardian*, *Agriculture*, *The Countryman* and other publications will likewise be familiar with her work; and readers of the *Daily Mirror* will have enjoyed her weekly articles under the pen-name of Hilary Johns. The essays in the present volume are mostly reprints of her *Manchester Guardian* articles, and the high standards of that paper are sufficient to speak for the quality of Miss Barraud's contributions.

There is always a great satisfaction in the conviction that an author really knows what he or she is writing about, knows the subject back to front, and has a vast background of cognisant familiarity which may not be actually expressed but which "comes through" almost in despite of the author's restraint. Miss Barraud tells us a lot,

but leaves us with the comfortable feeling that she could tell us a lot more. Her voice is authentic, as well it should be after her years of close contact with the land, its moods, its workers, the ups and downs, the trials, the moments of despair and the moments of pure pleasure. So many writers on country life have the smell of the week-end cottage visitor about them; they are tourists, not inhabitants; they write in a language they have learned quite well, but which we still suspect of not being their native tongue. None of these reproaches could be brought against Miss Barraud, and her book is one which every true countryman will recognise as being the real thing.

I should like to mention especially the single verse which stands as a dedication. It has a grand, over-life-size simplicity about it which strikes me as altogether rare and admirable. Conceived on heroic lines, it should find its place in many future anthologies.

My shadow is ten yards high;  
I am as big as the giant of Cerne Abbas  
Or the Long Man of Wilmington.  
I march astride golden shocks of cut corn  
And between my thighs is all the fruit-fulness of the earth.

I am the farm worker going home at evening.

V. Sackville-West.

### BENEVOLENT FUND

The total raised for the Benevolent Fund by the end of February exceeded £158,000. Over £1,500 was sent from Counties during the month—the three best totals coming from Cornwall (£250), Glamorgan (£133), Berkshire (£116).

£58,000 has now been expended—£45,100 on Grants and Loans, and the balance on Homecraft Courses, Administrative Expenses, Advisory Service, etc. £6,100 was expended during February, over £5,000 on grants alone. A record number of grants—623—has been made this month, the great majority towards expenses of illness and maintenance during sickness. Hairdressing, Dress-making and Secretarial Work still seem to be the most popular post-war careers, and help from the Fund has been given to a number of girls taking Courses and starting businesses in these trades. Several volunteers are being assisted to take training in Housing Management, and one in Beauty Culture. A girl who is re-starting her pre-war tailoring business has had a grant towards renovating and re-decorating her premises, and another volunteer is starting a drapery business with her mother. Two ex-

members have been helped to return to their homes in South Africa, and several budding artists to take courses in Commercial Art.

The first Homecraft Training Course at the Benevolent Fund's very own Centre—The Square House, Bury St. Edmunds—started up in February. The staff accomplished miracles to get the house ready in time, and everyone is now looking forward to Lady Denman's visit in March.

**STOP PRESS:** £400 just received from the Timber Corps.

### 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**



## THE LAND GIRL

### CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I have read with great interest the leader "Where Fear Is, Wisdom Cannot Be," in the February LAND GIRL.

The United Nations Organisation has before it a hard and wearying world to *plough, re-seed, weed* and generally tend before a *rich harvest of abundance* can result.

The *ploughing* will be rough going because the whole field is in a bad condition for it has undergone harsh treatment during the last six years. Obstacles have to be overcome and removed from the path of the U.N.O. plough. When all the obstacles have been removed the field will be ready for *re-seeding* with the seeds of love, kindness, faith and trust. But amongst these plants of goodness will doubtless appear some *weeds*—hate, jealousy, mistrust and cruelty. Unless these weeds are uprooted and checked they will strangle and kill the plants. The work and sacrifice must continue and understanding, patience, perseverance and a will to succeed will provide that *rich harvest of abundance*—International Brotherhood; the final prevention of war; the equal rights of men and women everywhere and of nations both large and small.

Probably there will be a branch of the United Nations Association in your town or village (several branches of the League of Nations Union have constituted themselves branches of U.N.A.). We can all join and so follow the plough of the U.N.O. in the vast International Field.

W.R., Yorks.

C. D. Sumner.  
ex-W.L.A., 84588.

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest B. H. Turner's method of curing skins in the January number of the LAND GIRL. I have cured a lot of lamb and mole skins, a few rabbit and hare, and have made out of them slippers, gloves, coat collars and waistcoats. I have worked on the land for nearly thirty years (waggoner, beastman and shepherd) and always had the dead lambs given me. I soak the skins in paraffin for 24 hours, rather longer for the thick ones, then wash well and stretch on a frame to dry, stitching the edge of skin to the frame (or pin on a board). When dry rub the skin a little and it is quite soft. This method I got through a gamekeeper who did deer skins this way. I have often dyed the skins too after curing.

E. M. Flint. 6035  
(now released).



H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth at Bedford.  
(From an account by Joan Denison,  
20343, Mon., of the Mansion House  
party.)

While waiting for my turn I felt a queer nervous feeling somewhere low down in my stomach, but as my name was read out I went forward feeling that it wasn't real and "was this charming lady with the lovely smile really the Queen?", and I must say Ma'am, and 'left foot behind' and I do hope she speaks to me", in fact such was my state of mind that I don't know what she said as she handed me the armlet, I just said "Thank you, Ma'am" as I shook her hand and "bobbed" (left foot behind), and then the wonderful thing happened, she went on speaking "And what have you been doing?" she asked. My brain swam, how could I explain I was at College? Then I managed to say "I've been a cowman, Ma'am, and now I'm on a Dairy Farming Course." Her Majesty smiled again and said "You are carrying on with it then?" and I replied "Yes, Ma'am," bobbed again (right foot behind, bother!) and made my way out down the other aisle, still in a daze but thrilled beyond words.

It has been suggested by Miss Margaret Bolton, of Devizes, Wilts., that the unusual animal mentioned in Mrs. Edmunds-Edwards' letter to the Editor in the February LAND GIRL might have been a cross between a stoat or weasel with a female brown ferret.



## THE LAND GIRL GREAT DAYS AT BEDFORD



Bedfordshire's celebrations last month were the grandest ever undertaken by any county in Land Army history. They opened on St. Valentine's day with a march past at which the salute was taken by Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth. The marching of the volunteers to the band of the Second Battalion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment was really magnificent and so was the manipulation of the many and varied machines composing the second half of the procession. These followed one another at the shortest possible interval, but nearly all the drivers managed an "eyes right" as they passed the saluting base. It was a most impressive display. A brisk contingent of the office staff, followed by the band, brought the procession to a close.

After this, the company moved to the Corn Exchange where the Princess received a charming basket of flowers and bound copy of the souvenir programme and presented armlets to one Six-year volunteer, Lucinda Croft, W.L.A. 2365, who had not been able to go to London last December, and to many Four-year volunteers. Mrs. Eugster (County Secretary) read out each girl's record—the large number who had spent several years in one job, often milking or in general farm work, was in itself a testimony to the success of the Women's Land Army in Bedfordshire. After a welcome from the Lord Lieutenant, Her Royal Highness spoke and her charming appearance and delightful voice were as much appreciated by the Land Army as the warm praise given for its work. Mrs. Bramwell Graham thanked Her Royal Highness for her visit and (quite unperturbed by a sudden "Hear, hear," from the organ) spoke of the history of the Land Army in Bedfordshire and the need for as many and more volunteers in the hungry times ahead. She ended by saying she thought of this day as representing "six years' hard and happy work, rewarded by Your Royal Highness's visit, and two years' hard and happy work ahead."

After the speeches there was some really lovely singing by Cople Hostel volunteers, trained by Mr. J. Robinson and conducted by Mr. Leslie Woodgate, and then a tour of the Exhibition which was arrayed all round the Hall, followed by tea. After the departure of Her Royal Highness there was a large crowd to see the Exhibition and in the evening a concert for the W.L.A. only.

On the 15th and 16th, the Exhibition remained open and there were raffles and prizes and a sale

of produce for the Benevolent Fund, films and demonstrations, and on Friday evening a public concert at which Mr. Trevor Howard and Miss Elspeth Douglas-Reid appeared, and members of the W.L.A. sang, danced, acted and gave a P.T. display. These tremendous three days wound up with a dance on Saturday evening.

The Exhibition covered a very wide range—there were modern machines and antique ones from Luton Museum. Potatoes were sorted, thatch made, seed winnowed, roots pulped. Milking by old and new methods was demonstrated, there were live hens and livelier little chicks, there was every sort of produce, exhibits of photographs and uniform and others contributed by Women's Institutes, Young Farmers' Clubs and Girl Guides. There were specimens of every description of entry for a Land Army Handicraft Exhibition which had produced work of a very high standard. There was a Land Girl in one of the wedding dresses given by America, and last, but far from least, there was a Souvenir Programme with messages from Mrs. Jenkins and Lady Denman, a history of the Land Army in Bedfordshire and many delightful photographs.

The organisation of such a large scale affair, with the close attention to detail which ensures success, must have entailed the most prolonged and arduous labour by all those connected with the Land Army office in Bedfordshire—their reward was the obvious admiration and respect accorded to the result of their efforts by the citizens of Bedford, from the Lord Lieutenant down to the grubby four-year-old who had to be evicted from the Special Visitors' Enclosure.

### JOINT RALLY OF THE THREE RIDINGS OF YORKSHIRE

A most successful Rally was held in York on January 19th, which Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal attended. The Lord Mayor and Sheriff of York were present with their wives. The three County Chairmen, Lady Bingley, Katharine Lady Graham and Lady Dunnington-Jefferson were also present.

In spite of the rather bad weather a large number of W.L.A. members turned out. Those members who had already received their Six-year Armbands from Her Majesty The Queen formed a Guard of Honour for the Princess Royal. Later Her Royal Highness presented long service awards and proficiency badges.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal spoke with admiration of the work our members have



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already done and appealed to all those who could do so to stay in agricultural work, at least for a time. She herself employs two of our members in her grounds and knows from experience what their work involves.

After the ceremony a very good tea was provided in a room kindly lent by Messrs. Rowntree & Co., Ltd., who had decorated their premises with shrubs and the familiar potatoes and sugar beet!

### BERKSHIRE MILKING COMPETITION

We thought that before many of our old members left us it would be nice to hold a Competition for the best milker in this county, so one was arranged on December 13th and 14th, and Mrs. Howard Palmer very kindly presented a silver cup as first prize. Professor J. Mackintosh, O.B.E., Head of the Dairy Husbandry Department at the N.I.R.D., Reading, kindly acted as Judge, and Miss J. Matthews, the County Dairy Adviser, who has arranged all the Milking Proficiency Tests in the county, organised the Competition. The entrants were those members of the W.L.A. who have gained a distinction (i.e., obtained 90 per cent. or more) in their Proficiency Tests during the last six years. Nine volunteers qualified: out of these two had resigned, one transferred and the other, S. Sidebottom, was unfortunately unable to attend. The following took part: P. Wilkinson, P. Howse and E. Hiron—Machine Milking; R. Wells and B. Roskilly—Hand Milking. The tests took place at Milehouse Farm and Mayridge Farm, Theale (by kind permission of Mr. A. H. Benyon) and at Haywards Farm, Theale (by kind permission of Mr. Cumber). After a most exciting contest, E. Hiron was judged the winner, with B. Roskilly a very close second.

Mrs. Howard Palmer very kindly invited all the entrants, together with members of the County Committee, to a presentation party at her farm at "Heathlands," Wokingham. Professor Mackintosh congratulated the girls on the very high standard of their work.

Some little time ago the girls of Birmingham Club had a Farewell Party at which 60 members and ex-members of the W.L.A. were present. There was a grand supper, then a presentation to Mrs. Godfrey and then some speech-making. All present were united in wishing Mrs. Godfrey good health, luck and happiness in the future and everyone felt very sad at the thought of losing such a popular representative.

### PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

**FOR SALE.**—Tailor made jodhpur riding habit and boots. Sizes, jodhpur waist 24-25 ins., coat bust 32 ins., boots 34. Pre-war, as new, no coupons. £12. Betts, 51, Wernbrook Street, Plumstead, S.E.18.

**FOR SALE.**—Navy blue short-sleeved "Wolsey" jumper, almost new, bust 34 ins., £4; blouse in two colours of pale green and pink, 38 ins. bust, 19/-.

**WANTED.**—Ladies brown riding boots, 5, good condition. 58547, Vine Farm, S. Luffenham, Rutland.

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

**WANTED.**—Riding jacket in good condition, tweed preferred. Bust 35. Also jodhpurs, waist 28 ins. Cuff, Earl's Corner, Oaksey, Nr. Swindon.

**WANTED.**—Ladies brown tweed riding coat. Bust 36 ins. Oldham, 20, Northesk Street, Stone, Staffs.

**WANTED.**—Tennis racket and press, good condition and make, weight 11½ ozs. Mayall, 48, Gwynan Road, Pennanmawr, N. Wales.

**WANTED.**—Two pairs of ballbearing roller skates, sizes 5 and 5½ or small 6, with or without boots. Urgent. Miller, 41, North Lane, Canterbury, Kent.

**Partner Wanted** by Landgirl renting 1½ acres orcharding and garden. No capital needed. Thrower, Peterchurch, Hereford.

**House, with garden,** in Herefordshire, offered to lady in exchange for part-time work caring for Jersey young stock. Apply Miss Braby, Merrivale, Ross-on-Wye.

## SCOTTISH NOTES

**ANGUS.**—A social evening arranged by Inverkeilor W.L.A. Club was held recently. Dancing and games were engaged in by a company of about 70. Songs and recitations were contributed by members of the company. At another meeting held in Arbroath the club members entertained Miss Ireland, County Organiser, and Miss Jackson, District Rep., to tea and presented them with gifts. In handing over the gifts Miss M. Douglas, Secretary of the Club, expressed the girls' appreciation of the kindness shown to them by Miss Ireland and Miss Jackson. Miss Ireland thanked the girls for the services they had rendered to their country and wished them all success in the future. As most of the members are due for release the club is to be disbanded after having been in existence since March, 1943, during which time the members have raised money for local charities and the W. and B. Fund.

**DEER AND TURRIFF.**—A dance attended by over 100 couples was held in St. Ninian's Hall, organised by members of the W.L.A. in aid of the W. and B. Fund. During the evening, Miss Henry, liaison officer, addressed the company and praised the girls for what they had done during the war years. She also, along with Mr. J. Masterton, led off the Grand March. Messrs. J. McIntosh and R. Barclay were M.C.'s. Tea was superintended by Mr. J. Young. Arrangements were carried out by a committee with Miss H. Marr, secretary, and Mr. J. Masterton, treasurer.

**DUMFRIESSHIRE.**—The thrilling story of how a young Land Girl courageously saved the life of a soldier, who was in imminent danger of drowning in the River Esk, was told in Langholm on Feb. 14th. The heroine of the incident was Miss E. A. Forster of Prospect House, Scales, Aspartria, Cumberland, who has for some time been employed as a L.G. on the farm of Potholm, Langholm, and the rescue took place in the Potholm Pool on the River Esk, a favourite resort of local bathers. Miss Forster was presented with the award of the Royal Humane Society—the first time in history that such an award has been given to anyone in Eskdale—at a meeting of the Langholm Branch of the W.R.I. in the Buccleuch Hall, the gift being handed over by Provost Ewart. Mrs. E. J. Bell, Hillside, past president of the Institute, presided at the presentation ceremony, and was accompanied on the platform by Miss Forster, Dr. P. Carlyle, Milnholm, Provost Ewart, and Mr. Charles Constable, Town Clerk.

**DUMBARTON AND RENFREW.**—On Jan. 9th, Mrs. Fletcher, Hon. President of the Kirkintilloch W.L.A. Club, gave a farewell party in her home to the members of the Club, most of whom are leaving to resume civilian employment. During the course of the evening a presentation of a picture was made on behalf of the Club to their Secretary, Mrs. Jennie Deans, on the occasion of her marriage. Mrs. Deans was congratulated on her efficiency as Secretary. This Club, although not large, has done very well in raising money for the W. and B. Fund and also in giving donations to various charities in Kirkintilloch. Many good wishes have been conveyed to Miss Goodwin, the President, and Miss Smart, for their success in starting a floral shop in Kirkintilloch.

**KIRKCUDBRIGHT.**—Miss E. S. Anderson who has been Organising Secretary in the Stewartary since May, 1943, has been transferred to E. and W. Fife and Kinross. Before leaving Castle Douglas she was presented with a silver hot water jug and a Cree Mill travelling rug by the Sub-Committee and W.L.A. members. Mrs. Grierson spoke in appreciative terms of Miss Anderson's



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work and wished her success in the Area to which she was going. She called on M. Gradwell and M. Stenhouse to hand over the gifts. Miss Anderson feelingly replied.

**ROSS-SHIRE.**—A very happy function in the form of a Christmas treat took place at the W.L.A. Hostel, Invergordon, when a number of parents and children were hospitably entertained by Miss Munro and the girls. All joined in the fun, which was greatly enjoyed. Tea was served and each child received fruit and sweets before leaving. The parents take this opportunity of thanking Miss Munro and the girls for a very enjoyable afternoon, which the children will long remember.

**SUTHERLAND.**—At a meeting of the A.E.C. held in Golspie on Jan. 10th., M. Burd, Balranald, Brora, was presented with her four-year armlet. Miss Burd is the first L.G. in Sutherland to have completed four years' service in the L.A. Mr. Sudlow, Chairman of the Committee, congratulated Miss Burd on her excellent work and presented her with her armlet.

### "Virus Diseases of Farm and Garden Crops" 10s. 6d. Worcester Press.

A very interesting and instructive book, written in plain terms which can be understood by the average person who is at all interested in these subjects.

The information regarding the diseases of Tomatoes, Raspberries and Strawberries, is well explained, and should be most useful to growers of these crops.

The illustrations are particularly good and helpful in distinguishing the various forms of virus mentioned.

H. J. Taylor.

## COUNTY NEWS

**LONDON AND MIDD.**—Laleham Club, after five years of widespread activities, has closed owing to the release of many of the older members. Our very sincere thanks are offered to all the friends of the Club who have given most generously of their time to further the Club's interests. We welcome the Club recently formed at Halliford through the efforts of B. Riddlesworth and P. Small and wish them every success. Nine girls attended the first meeting and membership is increasing. Meetings are held weekly. Volunteers who are taking or have taken their release in this county number: January 44, February 37, March 11. We shall be interested to receive applications from any friends of these or other volunteers, to whom agricultural work appeals and who are prepared to enrol for two years' work. We wonder if many ex-Land Girls are going as far afield as M. Haines. Recently married, she is leaving in March for Siam. We wish her luck in her new home.

**MON.**—This month has seen a round of dances and entertainments resulting in a considerable increase in our Benevolent and Welfare Fund totals. White Lodge Hostel enlisted the aid of a nearby R.A.F. camp for their highly successful Valentine Dance—proceeds were £17. M. Morgan, 48808, and M. Hewett, 110947, have once again put their considerable organising powers to good use and made £12 as a result of their dance at Llanover. Llanishen Hostel made £4 4s. with an ambitious Fancy Dress Ball and many and varied were the costumes displayed. At a Children's Party given by girls at Llangattock Manor, eighteen village children were entertained. Michaelstone-y-Vedw Hostel recently re-opened with 26 enterprising new recruits and they show great keenness in organising their hostel life. A new hostel will shortly be opened at Ynys Hafod, Usk, where 40 girls will be accommodated. 4 of our long-service volunteers have left this county for Horticultural and Agricultural Courses at Plas Dinam, Mon. We wish them every success for the future. Mrs. M. Yates, 72375, writes enthusiastically about the Homecraft Training Course. Mrs. Tamplin of the Council for

Health Education has just completed a very instructive tour of the hostels when she lectured on Social Hygiene.

**NORTH'D.**—Since Christmas, talks have been given on "Post-war Occupations Open to Women," by Miss Scott, W.E.F. Cookery Demonstrations have proved very popular and two C.E.M.A. Concert Tours enjoyed by several hostels. It is the intention of the County Comm. to hold a Rally this year. The date will be announced in the April News Bulletin and details sent to each member. 500 people attended the W.L.A. Ball, held at Hexham on Feb. 19th, when the sum of £83 was raised for the Benevolent Fund. Congratulations to the Hexham District W.L.A. Benevolent Fund Comm. who organised and carried this effort through so splendidly—Mrs. E. Straker (Chairman), Mrs. Clement, Mrs. Blackett-Ord, Miss Wilcox (Secretary) and Miss Dodd (Treasurer). Members at South Berrington are to be congratulated too for running a dance and raising £2 for the fund.

**NOTTS.**—There have been a great many parties at the hostels over Christmas and the New Year, some rather original. Calverton invited 10 girls from a blind training school and each guest was adopted for the evening by a Land Girl, who gave her a present and saw that she had a good time. This party has led to other meetings between the girls. Hawksworth had Father Christmas to distribute the presents to girls and guests alike. Farndon, Coddington and District Farmers gave a farewell dinner and entertainment to girls of the two hostels, some of whom were claiming their release. Gringley Hostel gave a Christmas and farewell party to the children of the Cripple Hospital, giving each child a present and really "party" refreshments. A happy evening was had by L.G.'s, Wardens, Children and Hospital Staff. C.E.M.A. Concert parties have toured the hostels giving concerts to the girls, which have been very much appreciated.

**SALOP.**—We were delighted and proud to learn that Betty Gouldbourn, 10322, was awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours. She has been in the W.L.A. since 1939 and it is doubtful whether there is any job on a farm which she is unable to tackle. She is a tractor driver but is also a capable milker and stock rearer. Before the war, she was a hairdresser on her own account, but will not be returning to this type of work as she intends to farm. We extend all good wishes for her success to J. Pilling, 54122, who has started her training course at Plas Dinam. Talking of Plas Dinam, we were sorry to lose our Uniform Officer, Miss A. Davenport, who before coming to our office was a W.A.A.F. Warrant Officer. We were pleased to learn that she had been offered and accepted the post of Superintendent of catering and domestic arrangements at Plas Dinam. Bourton Hostel have held a series of Whist Drives in aid of St. Dunstons and with the proceeds entertained a party of men and two girls from St. Dunstons, Church Stretton, on the evening of Feb. 12th. We extend our grateful thanks to the employers' wives and neighbours who worked so hard to make the party a success.

**SOM.**—Great plans are in progress for the recruiting campaign in April. We are to take part in the Regional Week in Bristol and in particular in the recruiting march on April 6th. So many of our members recently claiming release write to say how much they have enjoyed the life, that we hope they will go home as "missionaries" and encourage their friends and younger sisters to join. We would welcome any suggestions from members as to recruiting "stunts." Congratulations to L. A. Orton on her award of the B.E.M. after more than 6 years in the same job, reaching a position of responsibility. In late Jan., Stogumber L.G.'s had a delightful party for 60 local children. After tea and games, Father Xmas distributed presents to all the hostel's young friends. This Hostel has heard with great sorrow of the departure of Mrs. Coad, their popular Warden, at the end of March. We wish her every good fortune in the future. Members in the Bath area



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will like to know that Miss Paget-Taylor, a new County Organiser, is starting a regular At Home evening on the first Friday in each month at 35, Park Street. Also, the Bath Y.W.C.A. has kindly placed at the disposal of L.A. members a club room for use each week.

**STAFFS.**—The outstanding events of the last two months have been the excellent Pantomime Parties organised at the invitation of the County Welfare Committee and Local Reps. The Party for the North of the County was held at Hanley, and for the South of the County at Wolverhampton. Each was preceded by a really wonderful tea. At Wolverhampton Miss Harrison, O.B.E., County Chairman, gave a short address in which she congratulated the volunteers on their healthy, happy appearance, thanked them for their work and enlisted their help in trying to persuade as many as possible of their friends, who would be suitable for work on the land, to join the W.L.A., in view of the National urgency with regard to food. Both Pantomimes were thoroughly enjoyed and many happy reunions took place. We have received the following donations for the Benevolent Fund: £27 10s. 0d. from A. M. Bastone, 58035, proceeds of a Whist Drive at Penkridge; £6 from Miss Parris, 38640, result of a Dance at Chorley Institute, organised by herself and friends; and £14 14s. 0d. from Lea Hall Hostel volunteers, to be divided between the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds. We congratulate and thank all concerned. We welcome Mrs. Lewis as one of our County Organisers.

**E. SUFFOLK.**—We are all absolutely delighted at the award in the New Year's Honours List of the M.B.E. to our County Secretary, Mrs. Sunderland-Taylor. We feel that it is a well-deserved reward for the tremendous energy and enthusiasm she has expended on the L.A. in this county ever since 1939. Several volunteers have been to the Torquay Restbreak House recently and have written most enthusiastically of the kindness of the Warden, Mrs. Lake, and the real benefit gained from their fortnight in such pleasant and comfortable surroundings. We would also like to record the appreciation of L.G.'s in this county who have had help from the Benevolent Fund. We have put in a great many claims lately, and they have all received most sympathetic consideration. We feel very strongly that the good offices of the Benevolent Fund are helping materially to restore the confidence of our L.G.'s, which was somewhat shaken by the lack of Government recognition—a feeling well conveyed in this extract from a grateful volunteer's letter: "Maybe we don't get war grants in the W.L.A., but we do get good friends, which is much better." It is very sad saying goodbye to so many long-service volunteers. They have established a fine tradition of cheerful and excellent service which we sincerely hope will be carried on by our more recent recruits. We would like to thank all the "old brigade" who for various reasons are taking their release, and to wish them the very best of luck in the future.

**W. SUFFOLK.**—We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Acheson on the Comm. and Mrs. Miller, our new County Organiser. Mrs. Godfrey Phillips from the Central Council of Health Education has again toured the Hostels, and her visits were much appreciated. Shimpling has embarked on a series of cooking lessons, which are proving popular and successful. Various activities have been organised for the Benevolent Fund. Elveden L.G.'s had a very successful Whist Drive which brought in £20, and Cavendish W.L.A. have sent £10 as a result of a very successful Dance. Candidates for the hand and machine milking proficiency tests will be examined at Shimpling on March 19th. The g.f., field, poultry and outdoor garden tests take place at Chadacre on March 12th. It seems that Lady Briscoe's challenge cup will be hotly contested this year. 7 teams have entered for the Agricultural Quiz and Mr. Sayce has kindly agreed to organise the contests. The finals will take place in April. We have just received further contributions for the

Benevolent Fund being profit on Dances arranged by members of the W.L.A.—£30 from Lakenheath, £9 from Woolpit, and £10 12s. 6d. from Higham.

**SURREY.**—The Committee's Party for "five and six year" volunteers went with a great swing at Alders Restaurant, Croydon, on Jan. 5th, and our only regret was the impossibility (owing to lack of space, etc.) of including the "four year" volunteers too. The guests were welcomed by the Chairman, Miss Talbot, and after a very complimentary speech by Mr. Moon, Chairman of the Surrey W.A.C., were presented with a Certificate and a copy of "The Farming Ladder" as a memento of their long service. After tea, the Party wound up with a very charming Song and Piano Recital by Mr. Fabian Smith and Miss Turnard who congratulated the audience on their youth and beauty after five years of toil on the land. Preparations are going forward for our next three major events—The Handicraft Exhibition at Guildford House, Guildford, on March 22nd and 23rd, when Miss Yvonne Arnaud has kindly promised to present the prizes, the Recruiting Campaign in April and the Rally to be held on Saturday, May 25th, if arrangements can be made. We offer our congratulations and best wishes to 9 Surrey volunteers who have been granted Agricultural and Horticultural Training under the Government Scheme—M. Shearman, L. Butcher, E. Hyde, D. Ashmore, J. Martin, D. Hoddinott, B. Staines, K. Squirell and M. Ryan.

**E. SUSSEX.**—The County Comm. gave a Farewell party in Lewes on Jan. 26th to those volunteers who had taken their release during Dec. and Jan. Thirty-five girls had tea in the County Office and afterwards played games. A great surprise was a visit from Mrs. Jenkins who spoke to many of the girls and thanked them on behalf of the W.L.A. for their long service. Buns and cocoa were followed by a visit to the "Babes in the Wood," produced at Lewes Town Hall in aid of the Benevolent Fund by Mr. Robert Mann, one of our employe farmers. Mrs. Tew took a party of L.G.'s from the Burwash district to the pantomime and afterwards gave them tea at the Tatler. Our Relief Milking Scheme is growing fast and we now have five units working and three others ready to start. A visit from "Picture Post" photographers caused excitement on the farms where D. Perry and N. Hawkins relieve the cowmen, and we look forward to seeing the results in one of the March editions. Congratulations to J. Rapley, 39068, on gaining distinction in her milking test at Plumpton last month, and to P. Adkins, 28299, M. Jacob, 629341, M. Maynard, 135985, and M. Zeal, 149341, who all passed well.

**W. SUSSEX.**—Winifred Bury was guest of honour at several Christmas parties and club meetings and her delightful songs and her leadership of community singing enthralled everyone. Several Clubs raised excellent sums by carol singing for Benevolent and County Welfare Funds. Midhurst Club's pantomime, "The Sleeping Beauty," was a grand show which played to packed houses at Midhurst and at Horsham, raising £93 for L.A. and other charities. Two more series of entertainments sent by the Arts Council have been thoroughly enjoyed. Elspeth Douglas Roid's entrancing character studies in particular giving great delight. Rustington Club had a helpful visit from Miss Scott of W.E.F., and Henfield Club's dressmaking classes have proved so successful that a second series is being arranged. Red House Hostel, Bosham, has been dequisitioned and the hostel has moved to other quarters at Northlands, nr. Chichester. The County Uniform Dept. has left its old quarters and is in the old County Office which, in turn, has moved to more convenient quarters at 31 and 32, West Street, Horsham. Warrnam Club raised the magnificent sum of £30 for the County Welfare Fund with a Valentine Dance—a most gay and entertaining affair.

We very much regret the resignation of our County Organiser, Mrs. Herdman, but are glad that she will act as Rep. for the Horsham District and to welcome in her place, as County Organiser, Miss Davis Scourfield of Steyning.



# THE LAND GIRL

**N. WALES.**—The award to Mrs. R. Robins, 2229, of the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours has made us all very proud of this London volunteer, who has done so effectively and conscientiously a job of work neither glamorous nor over much in the limelight; by such of its members has the L.A. achieved and maintained its reputation and prestige. The lectures given in January by Mrs. Podger from the Central Council of Health Education repeated the great success of her previous visit; this month we are having concerts given by Miss Victoria Kingsley and Theresa Carroll, under the auspices of the Arts Council. The recent overflow of Bala Lake gave us some anxious moments and we were extremely relieved when the floods subsided and we knew that Eryl Arran was not going to be marooned.

We welcome Miss Thornton as our new Assistant Secretary and also Miss McPherson and Miss Segar, who have joined us as Hostel Wardens.

**WILTS.**—It is gratifying to be able to record that from this county two volunteers have been accepted for Degree Courses at Reading University, namely M. Chetwynd-Stapilton and P. Ripman, and by now they must be well on their way with their studies. Y. B. Percival will be going to Reading in October to study for Dairy Diploma. So far two candidates have been accepted for training under the Government Vocational Training Scheme. P. Parrot is doing well at the Moulton Farm Institute, Northampton, and J. Lyster will be going to Newton Hall, Cambridge, this month. In several cases very generous allowances have been made for financial assistance with the training under the Government's Further Education and Training Scheme. We wish all these volunteers the best of luck and success in their careers.

**YORKS, E.R.**—On Jan. 19th a Joint Rally of the North, East and West Ridings was held in York, when between 160 and 170 volunteers attended to receive Four, Five and Six Year awards from H.R.H. The Princess Royal. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Sheriff and His Lady, and Miss Beale, Regional Officer, were also present. Messrs. Rowntree very kindly allowed us the use of their Theatre for the presentation ceremony and afterwards everyone had tea in their beautifully decorated canteen. Volunteers who had previously received their Six-year armlets from H.M. The Queen, formed the Guard of Honour. D. Alderson, V. Cole, M. Haller and E. Yardley came from the East Riding. Just before tea, presentations were made to H.R.H. of long service volunteers and W.L.A. Comm. Members and Reps, and the following were presented—Miss Charlotte, the Misses Margrave, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Storey, W. Adams, D. Alderson, B. Matthews, E. Page, M. Thornes, M. Tweddle, R. Walker. We would like to congratulate Doreen Alderson, who has done six year's service on the same farm, on receiving the B.E.M. in the New Year's Honours List. B. Bucknall, J. Brammer and K. Jacob organised a very successful dance at Holme on Spalding Moor on Nov. 30th, when £6 10s. was raised for the Benevolent Fund.

**YORKS, N.R.**—The joint rally for the West, North and East Ridings was held in York on Jan. 19th, when H.R.H. Princess Royal honoured the W.L.A. by coming to present awards to six, five and four-year girls and to those who had gained their proficiency badges. A guard of honour was formed by the girls who had attended the London party in Dec. Some girls and reps. from each Riding were also presented to the Princess Royal—those from the N. Riding being—The Lady Celia Coates, Mrs. C. Dawney, Mrs. R. Fife, Miss M. Davies, Mrs. Ingram and F. Leadley, E. Routh, M. Cornish, M. Jarrah, V. Matthewman and J. Bradley. Our Handicraft Exhibition will be held at Thirsk Hostel on March 30th; many entries have already been received but we hope still more will be made. Plans for the recruiting campaign are now being made and it is hoped to hold exhibitions or demonstrations in Scarborough, Whitby, York, Middlesbrough and possibly other centres.

## County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em- ploved
	£.	s.	d.	
Kent .. ..	8554	1	0	2234
Surrey .. ..	5478	2	1	1421
Essex .. ..	5642	13	6	1288
Hants. ....	8623	1	5	1141
Leics. 926				
Rut. 153	2424	14	11	1079
Herts. ....	4345	18	10	1039
Yorks., W.R.	3016	14	4	1023
Somerset ..	2364	17	9	998
Northants.	2790	15	5	911
E. Sussex ..	4103	9	1	902
Worcs. ....	2742	11	2	900
Bucks. ....	4895	9	3	897
W. Sussex ..	5138	10	1	875
Devon .. ..	3396	0	10	851
Warwicks.	7497	13	3	845
Cornwall ..	1373	0	11	828
Cheshire ..	8194	15	0	787
Norfolk ..	6239	6	1	749
Lincs.—Lindsey and Kesteven	3117	7	6	737
Glos. ....	2501	10	5	702
Northumb'd.	2108	10	3	678
Eads. ....	1053	13	2	654
Wilts. ....	1924	8	5	634
Notts. ....	1814	5	0	631
Berks. ....	3580	10	8	624
Oxon. ....	3831	17	1	602
Hunts. 137				
Camb. 243	3685	15	0	595
Ely 215				
Yorks., N.R.	2165	6	7	591
Lancs. ....	2777	12	4	584
Salop. ....	1953	18	11	523
Cumb's. & West'd.	704	13	0	480
Dorset .. ..	1398	0	6	472
E. Suffolk ..	3528	8	10	465
Durham .. ..	1813	4	3	461
Staffs. ....	1836	19	0	451
Herefords.	1858	10	5	412
Mon. ....	971	8	0	410
Glam. ....	1170	13	9	397
Yorks., E.R.	573	10	2	392
W. Suffolk ..	1996	11	1	383
N. Wales ..	1865	0	9	364
Lincs.—Holland	2008	17	4	329
Denbighs.	1016	16	11	323
Flints. ....	668	7	7	296
Derbys. ....	1438	15	6	291
London & Middx.	1279	12	7	290
Pemb. ....	1122	2	8	216
I.O.W. ....	275	15	8	213
Cards. & Carm's.	742	15	5	198
Brec. & Radnor	393	11	6	186
W.T.C. ....	7074	14	1	932

The number of volunteers in employment on 28th February was 34,417.

## "THE LAND GIRL"

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