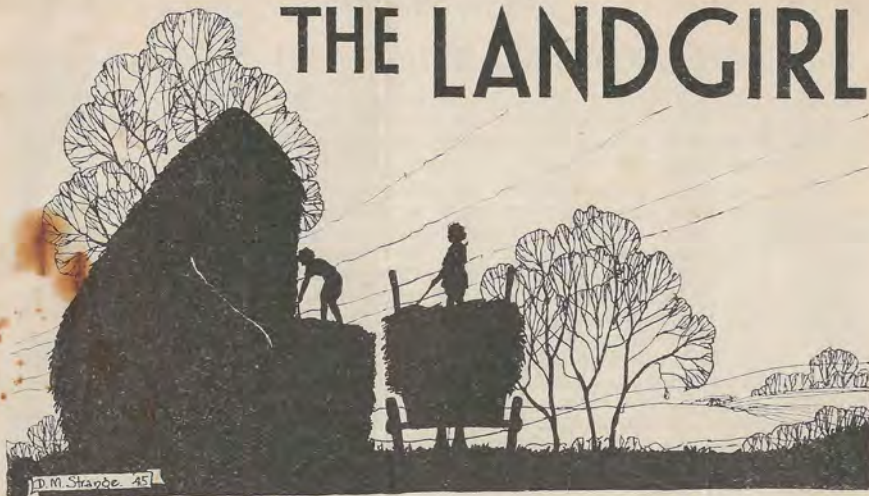


THE LANDGIRL



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COURSE SET FOR HOME

ONE cannot imagine any farmer saying to a new and totally inexperienced Land Girl, "Here's a cow—feed her", but a new wife can easily find herself confronted with the problem of feeding a husband about whose basic ration she has only the haziest ideas. A teacher has to spend many years passing examinations before she may teach a child of five its ABC but a girl can, and often does, embark upon the tremendous task of bearing and rearing that child with the minimum of skilled advice and help. This is surely an extraordinary state of affairs to find in a country which acclaims the home and the family as the foundation of national life.

When marriage or domestic service were almost the only careers open to women, some training for them was automatic since most daughters helped their mothers to cook and clean, mind the baby and do the shopping. But now that nearly every girl takes a job, and often leaves home, when she leaves school, she may have to undertake the management of a home and a husband without knowing the first thing about the job.

Members of the Land Army are luckier. For the last fifteen months, the Benevolent Fund has been running short Homecraft Courses and these Courses have been so successful that a new Centre near Melton Mowbray is being opened this month. The present one at Bury St. Edmunds is a delightful place, a lovely house in a big garden. Each course lasts a month and includes both lectures and practical work in groups not only on cooking, housework, laundry, etc., but on how to paint and distemper a room and do odd jobs about the house, how to give the family first aid and how to prepare a weekly budget. Other items, which are very popular, are visits to the hospital to bath the new babies there and talks given by a woman doctor which fill up gaps left even nowadays in the sex-education of many young people. All this costs the volunteer nothing. Her fare is paid and also 10/- a week pocket money.

Any member or ex-member who wants to start her married life with some confidence in her ability to tackle an obstinate stove, a blown-out fuse or a hungry husband, should ask her County Secretary about the Homecraft Courses—or, if she prefers, she can write to Mrs. Binfield, whose untiring efforts as Hon. Secretary have been largely responsible for the success of the scheme, at Cromwell's Cottage, Whepstead, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

M.A.P.

WELCOME TO THE LAND ARMY

This is an introductory article to the series for New Recruits which the LAND GIRL will print during the next few months. It is written by Mrs. Preston, Organising Secretary to Shropshire W.L.A. since 1940, who was formerly on the staff of Harper Adams Agricultural College.

Within three years of the outbreak of war it was stated in one of the leading weekly papers that "among the young women of the Land Army are more intelligent minds than have ever before been exercised in British farming." If this statement was based on the supposition that the pre-war agricultural worker was a dullard and that the land girls, coming from the towns were more intelligent, it is open to criticism and far from being true. If on the other hand it meant to imply that most of the girls who had joined the Land Army were intelligent it is indeed true but incomplete. The success of the Land Army cannot be attributed to intelligence alone—courage, individuality and a spirit of adventure are all part of the land girl's make up. It could not have been easy for the young girl accustomed to working often with hundreds of her fellows, and whose leisure hours, too, were spent amidst many people, to leave all this behind her and embark upon a totally different life as a solitary individual.

The observer, probably more than the land girl, realises just what part the Land Army played during the war and can play during the post-war period of its existence. It is difficult to explain how the world could reach the year 1939 and there still be a strong feeling of mutual suspicion between the town and country people. Much of it is probably due to the influence which "environment" plays in our lives, we tend to think that life, as we see it in our own immediate circle, is beyond criticism. This form of wishful thinking makes us suspicious of the people whom we do not know and so the town dweller was pleased to suppose that the country dweller was slow, stupid and to be pitied, while the country dweller thought the townsman rather crafty and boastful—his very clothes proved that he wanted to show off and much good they'd be to him in a thin wind or a downpour of rain!

Hardly a day passes but we are reminded in one paper or another that not until suspicion between nations is removed can we hope for world peace. How can we hope that a better understanding will arise between peoples of different colour, race and religion until friendship and mutual trust are firmly established between such near neigh-

bours as town and country people? It would be impossible to calculate how far the land girls during the past six years have taken us along this road. Five years ago the farmer in applying for a land girl almost automatically added "a country girl if possible." To-day it is not unusual for him to stipulate that he wants another like the one he had three or four years ago and who is now returning to her home in London, Manchester or Leeds—any city could equally well conclude the sentence. We look to the recruit of 1946 to strengthen this better understanding won by our first volunteers.

For the new member of the Land Army the sudden change from indoor to outdoor life calls for great output of energy but if she will use her powers of observation and note quickly how her fellow workers are holding and handling their tools she will find her work infinitely easier. No job on a farm is too difficult for her though quite a number are beyond her physical strength and these she should leave to the men-folk who she will find are really very kindly disposed towards her, and ready and willing to help. Lots of land girls have suffered unnecessary muscular strain caused by bravado and have blamed it on the farmer. Please believe, Miss 1946, that when your farmer says "do you think you could do this, that or the other," he really is asking a question. Suppose it is the job of loading and carting sacks of potatoes and there are many tons to move entailing days of labour, don't, because you are determined to tackle every job on the farm, say "yes" and then a week or so later say "I've strained my back and it's all the boss's fault for making me lift these blank potatoes!" "Strength" is often confused with "knack", remember this when for instance you are loading or spreading manure or have to tackle any strenuous job, be wise from the start, watch and think and learn to farm without tears—tears of despair or rage or sheer fed-upness. It can be done even when the weather is awful, the new boots hard and you are miles from home or you haven't a living soul to talk to and the postman hadn't so much as a postcard for you.

Lack of rest doubtless causes a land girl to believe that the job of the day is

unduly hard and calls for sheer brute force. Insufficient sleep dulls the mind and instead of exercising her intelligence and realising that her mate is doing better than she, because he has sense enough to go to bed early, the job becomes another of those irritations for which the boss is to blame. Who knows what it is that leads some land girls to believe that they can grow—most land girls being still at the growing stage—work outside all day, stay up half the night, and remain fit and (in the farmer's estimation) value for money?; actually such a one is heading for that fashionable complaint known as "Nervous Debility." But the land girl who has even a modicum of sense about herself thrives and in so doing causes real joy to her country friends who delight to see her gain in weight, while her pale cheeks change colour like the apples in the orchard.

Land girls could probably tell us a whole lot about farmers. To the man in the street the definition of a farmer is "someone who is only happy when he is grumbling." Would it, one wonders, surprise, not only the man in the street, but the land girls too, to know that many farmers really enjoy boasting of the merits of their respective land girl? Even if it is not unheard of for a farmer to ring a county office and ask "Have you any vacant land girls?" and for the reply to vary not only according to the position of supply and demand, but to the immediate mood of the Secretary, that same Secretary probably chuckles a whole lot when she recalls the hundred land girls each of whom according to her farmer is the best in the Land Army, let alone the county!

It is very clear that the war-time land girl "made" the Land Army and that she was expected to be strong and healthy, intelligent and adaptable, willing and friendly and ever ready to turn her hand to a hundred and one different jobs. How she must have welcomed the demob. scheme! You are quite wrong, Mr. Man in the Street, many of the land girls who have claimed their release have done so by force of circumstances and been sorry to go and already some are seeking reinstatement. The call of the land awakens a latent longing for the freedom of open spaces and for a creative form of work. In the past, alas, it was only a war that brought to the majority of town girls the chance to answer this call. We look now to the new recruit to help to feed the many who are hungry and in so doing she will more than gain her due reward in the

fullness of the life that she will discover. Also she will bring further proof to the world that the young woman of to-day, no less than the young man, is determined to keep alive that spirit of courage and enterprise which is the tradition of our nation.

Congratulations to T. Livingstone, 62532, Surrey, on her appointment by the Surrey W.A.C. as a woman supervisor.

And to N. Sanders, 140401, Devon, who has been placed top in the whole county in the examination following the termination of evening agricultural classes. As 95% of the entrants were men, we feel it was an outstanding feat.

And to Y. Taylor, 23872, Derbs., who won first prize and championship with a young bull which had been in her sole charge.

And to A. Penstone, 62093, E. Kent, on winning a Speaking Competition at a local Y.F.C.

And to the Dorset tractor girls about whom some very complimentary things are said by Mr. Bush of the W.A.E.C. Machinery Dept. and in particular to I. P. Cox, 110399, who, Mr. Bush says, is quite capable of going to a job, sizing it up for herself and making up her mind as to the best way to tackle it.

And to P. Mackintosh, 151930, Hants., who has won a scholarship to the Winchester Art School for a four years' training to become a teacher.

Under an Agreement between the United Kingdom Government and the Commonwealth Government of Australia, it will be possible for certain suitable British subjects to be granted assisted passages to Australia. As from the opening date of the scheme (which is unlikely to be before the end of 1946) application forms and information about settlement prospects will be available at all Ministry of Labour Local Offices, including Resettlement Advice Offices, and at Regional Appointments Offices and at Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour of Northern Ireland. Full information about conditions in Australia will be obtainable from the office of the High Commissioner for Australia, Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.2. Some details of the scheme are given in a Ministry of Labour leaflet (No. P.L. 181A.) now available. A booklet describing conditions in Australia will be obtainable from any Local Office of the Ministry of Labour or from the Office of the High Commissioner for Australia.

FIVE YEARS ON THE LAND

In March, 1941, I joined the W.L.A. and worked at a horticultural nursery in Sussex, only 800 yards from an aerodrome, therefore I experienced some exciting and frightening times as well as many sleepless nights.

The nursery consisted of sixteen glasshouses and seven acres of arable land. I was packing shed fore-woman with a staff of nine, and crops went to market all the year round. Tomatoes and lettuce took the place of chrysanthemums and bulbs. As the staff grew less through calling up, I had to take over a block of five tomato houses, as well as the packing shed work. Six months out of the year work began at 6.30 a.m. and finished at 8 p.m. I must say one felt exhausted at times, especially when the raids on our aerodromes were in full swing during the "Battle of Britain." After five months I was fortunate to be sent to a job only three miles from my home in Hertfordshire to work at the Experimental and Research Station, Cheshunt, and it was there I learned the soundest information I could on growing tomatoes, lettuce, mushrooms and chrysanthemums. My job was to take full charge of the white fly parasite house, where tomato plants were grown as hosts for the white fly

and parasite to breed on. It was all very interesting. The white fly, a pest to tomato plants, were allowed to breed in this house and the parasite known as *Encarsia Formosa* was introduced; she laid her eggs in the eggs of the white fly, so destroying and controlling the breeding of the pest. The parasitised leaves of the tomato plant were gathered and sent out to various nurserymen who were bothered with the pest, as a method of control. I had to keep a stock of plants growing all the year round.

After two years in the white fly house, I was transferred to being in charge of the tomato propagating house. One thousand eight hundred plants of 26 different varieties were propagated to supply the whole nursery at planting up time and the cleanest of methods were used. When propagating time finished, I was put in charge of four 100-foot tomato houses where four different varieties were grown under various treatment with fertilisers. My second year's crop was the best, the plants in one house bearing 18 trusses of tomatoes, but when a buzz bomb destroyed my block of houses the total amount of 1,920 plants, bearing from 14 to 18 trusses of fruit, some ready for market, some for seed stocks, lay heaped up among the glass and sashbars. We



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managed to save some of the fruit for seed but none for market as it was full of glass.

When tomato growing was out of season I learned the art of growing mushrooms in various kinds of composts. This is very interesting work.

In March, 1945, I applied for my third job in the W.L.A. and on April 14th I began a new and responsible venture as manageress of 15 acres of land. With the help of my employer's 14-year-old son, the laborious task of putting 15 acres of rough land into shape fit for agriculture began. Labour and equipment were short so it was rough going, but we managed to get in the ground peas, beans and tomatoes, and clean up the two greenhouses. With three Land Girls and (in August) a man just out of the army, we were making a bit of headway. I planned the whole 15 acres out for the first year—six acres of potatoes, five acres of grass for hay, two acres of mixed vegetables and one acre of fruit already established. The half-acre of garden had to be left as a wilderness as gardening was a pleasure out of the question; the other half-acre of spare ground was used for chicken runs, ducks, and pigs. The farm buildings had all to be renovated. Gradually we got our equipment through. A larger water

main had to be put in, which meant a 200-foot trench three feet deep had to be dug, so we got down to it. Up to 31st December our crops showed good results. Twenty-seven rows of peas, 146 feet long, yielded just on 1,000 lbs., eight rows of runner beans, yielded 1,500 lbs., from 2,000 tomato plants 3,050 lbs. of fruit were returned, the six acres of potatoes yielded 36 tons 18 cwt., the orchard returned 2,115 lbs. of fruit. From the grass we made an eight-ton stack of hay. So the first year's results showed me something for my work.

Now I have 5,000 cabbages in to be cut early spring. The two greenhouses are planted up with 1,078 lettuces and tomato propagating has begun for this season's crop. There are great plans in mind for 1946. Clearance work still goes on but we are now fairly well equipped with machinery and I think the worst and hardest job is over. I hope to remain in agriculture to the end of my days, leaving the W.L.A. when I am demobilised, but always remembering what the letters W.L.A. stand for and the battle that army had to fight.

Herts. C. Chase, 40850.

The drawings on this and on the opposite page are by E. B. Wells, 86575, Oxon.





Second Birthday Party at Redenham Hostel, Hants. The cricket team from this hostel has played against the local farmers and the darts team won great admiration in the Hampshire Darts Tournament.

BOOKS ARE TO BE READ

A lot of people shy off if you talk about books or reading—but reading isn't something by itself; it makes everything else more interesting and more fun, because the more you know about anything, the more interesting it is. At least that's how I've always found it.

What is your main interest or hobby? The pictures? There are books about film stars, their lives and careers, books about how films are made, books on which films were based. Or perhaps you love cooking? I know a keen amateur cook who has nearly 50 books on cookery and is still adding to them. Take dressmaking and needlework. There are excellent practical books about dressmaking and tailoring, knitting and fancy work of all kinds. Or home decorating, or music—knowing something about the lives of composers and the theory of composition all adds to one's understanding and therefore enjoyment of the music itself.

So many of us are fed up with the ordinariness of our lives. "If only I had plenty of money, I'd travel," we say, and yet we never bother to walk into a library—a free library too—and get hold of books about every country in the world. Then there's history. "Good Lord, do you expect me to want to read about stuffy old dead and gone kings and queens?" I do not. I couldn't face it myself, but if you know a more interesting book than, say, the Quennells' books on the history of everyday things, I'd like to hear about it. And there is the excellent series published by Batsford about old English inns and

cottages and English villages and hamlets.

So far I haven't said anything about fiction because quite a lot of people will read stories who won't face anything else. All the same, if you read only the short stories in magazines you're missing the best that fiction has to offer you. If you want to meet people, living real sort of lives, meeting and settling the very problems that worry you at times, turn your back on those books with the violent pictures on the jackets and go to authors like Somerset Maugham, J. B. Priestley, John Buchan (he wrote "The Thirty-Nine Steps" that was filmed), Marjorie Sharp, Noel Streatfeild, Marjorie Bowen—there are dozens of them, none of them "high-brow" but all good, and easy to read.

What other sort of books are there? Well, books about science. "Ghastly!" Why? You're only running away from a word. Science is part of your everyday life. I'm not talking about abstruse tomes on splitting the atom (though, heaven knows that has become practical enough lately) but books that explain about your body, about food values, or how a car works (if you've ever been stranded, as I was recently, miles from anywhere, you'll appreciate the advantage of knowing what can go wrong with the distributor and how to put it right!), and the radio (doesn't it madden you when you particularly wanted to listen to "Music Hall" and the wretched set won't work? And yet, if you know—from a book—perhaps all you need to do is cut off the frayed end of that wire and join it up again). That's all science, not forgetting knowing how to put in a new fuse if the light goes out or

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you can't use the electric iron.

Are you beginning to get the idea—that books are part of ordinary life? It's a good idea to have because it opens up so many doors. Books add point to everything else, from telling you why those last snaps were so fuzzy to explaining why baby always wets the bed when he goes to Ethel's and never does it at home.

Which brings us to books on psychology. These are as thick as berries and some of them are just popular bilge, about on a par with fortune telling by the stars.

"Well, I'm one of those who don't know. How can I avoid the rotten books not worth reading." Well, there is someone who *does* know, and someone whose job and interest it is to know what books are worth reading on any particular subject, and that's the librarian at your public library. She took up the job because she liked books and she has spent years training to know how to help people like you. Go and have a chat with her, tell her frankly you don't know much about it, ask her to put you on to a good book to start with on any subject and then suggest others to follow up. Whoever runs the village branch of the free library will probably help you quite a lot and you are entitled to go the county headquarters and get books from there if you do strike unlucky in the village.

Well, there it is. Even if reading is stiff going at first, carry on. You'll never regret it. You need never be lonely with a book, never have nothing to do. If you are broke, or have missed the only bus, or can't find anyone to go to the flicks with you, there are always books, to take you miles away at a moment's notice and give you a real interest that no one and nothing can take from you.

M. E. Barraud.

The designer of this quarter's cover is D. M. Strange, 26538, W. Sussex.

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L. TWEENWAY, Ltd., Horley, Surrey

IN DENMARK NOW

You asked me to write something about girls working at the farms in Denmark. We have not had much news about England for the past years, but I understand that in England lots of girls have been working in the country under the Women's Land Army.

We have not got such an Army here in Denmark. The only way in which you can do farming in Denmark is to choose this as your ordinary job and, till now, only a very few women are doing landwork in this country. Of course, lots of girls who work as maids at the farms are helping at the outdoor work, but their main work is in the household.

During the war we have had a new idea, that is young girls helping the farmer and the farmer's wife during their summer holidays, and hundreds of girls from High School and offices, etc., joined this work.

There were two different ways: The one was for girls between 15-20 years' old. They went to a camp, where they had a life like the life at the Danish "Hojkskole," a special school, where the pupils stay for about five months listening to lessons about different subjects, but they have not to take any exam. At this camp the girls go out working at the farms in the morning and in the afternoon they get lessons, make excursions and have a pleasant time. The other sort of holidays is, that the girl is sent to a farm, for at least three weeks, and there she stays and helps in everything the farmer wants her to. She helps the farmer's wife, and she helps at outdoor work in the harvest. This is a good training for a girl from the town who never used herself for manual work.

But if you want farming as a job you will have to go another way. I have done it myself, so I will tell you how I managed. First, I went to different farms for three years as a pupil. There I had to do just the same work as the young men. We started at five o'clock in the morning milking the cows. All day we were in the field ploughing, etc., and in the evening we milked again and finished about 6.30 o'clock. People always say: "What a hard work for a woman." But you never felt it so. It is lovely to work in the open-air instead of sitting in an office; and doing farming you feel that you really do something and get a result of your work. And, besides, I find that the work with the animals is just something for a woman.

When these three years of practical training were finished I went to a school for Agriculture for nine months. This is a school for the practical farmer, but for those months he is only working with his brain. After this school most pupils return to the practical work at the farms, but we were a few (all men, I was the only girl among 140 men) who went on to the Royal College of Agriculture (Copenhagen) and studied there for three years before our final examinations as graduates of Agriculture. This examination gives us the right of being teachers or consultants for Agriculture.

I had a research job at the College of Agriculture for a year and a half. Now I am a consultant for the farmers, but this is in a special way teaching them how to build their new buildings or make the old ones better. This is awfully interesting and very useful as if you improve the buildings you reduce quite a lot of the daily work. But this consultant work is not usual work here in the country as we are only about six people doing it, so I won't tell you more about that.

A few years ago it was fairly seldom that women became graduates of Agriculture, but now there is about one or two every year. But there are more girls doing practical work as pupils at the farms. Lots of them are only doing it for a year or two, because the only way they can stay at the work after the time as pupils is to buy a farm themselves if they don't go on to the theoretical work.

It is to be hoped that more girls in the future will try to do the farm work, even if it is only for a few years. It gives you some lovely experiences and even if you want to do some other work afterwards, the farm life will teach you something for life.

I will end this by sending my best greetings to you girls in England. We in Denmark admire you for the work you have done during the war.

Inger Host-Madsen.

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

COWS!

If you are so very foolish as to tell people that you are joining the Land Army, you can expect but one thing:—
"Fancy you milking cows!"

This followed by a horrible guffaw which indicates the Londoner's attitude towards cows and such horrors viewed only in olde rurale Englande. They conjure up visions of you seated on a three-legged stool, sweating like a bull in a vain endeavour to get some milk out of the poor beast; they see the cow's leg outthrust, the milk spilled on the floor of the dark, miserable, smelly shed and you somewhere in a manger, loudly bemoaning your bruised anatomy.

Please allow me to tell you from personal experience that this does not always happen.

In the first place, the farmer gets you used to the animals by allowing you to call them in and hustle them along by wallowing them good and hard on their rumps. By this method, you soon learn that cows are more afraid of you than you are of them. Then, you are privileged to clean out the sheds, which are not dark and miserable, although they certainly smell until you clean them out. You are allowed to wield broom and bucket until you wonder if charring would not be your best post-war occupation. Then the great day arrives. For something like three weeks you have watched the facility and ease with which the others get that smooth, even flow of milk from the animals. You are righteously indignant when your farmer says he has picked a quiet cow who gives her milk easily, and look at him with the contempt which such a statement deserves.

You pick a stool and trail along after the farmer with a pitying smile for his ignorance in thinking that you won't be able to get any milk. You know he is thinking that, because all farmers have a complex about raw land girls.

The cow eyes you, and you eye the cow. She looks anything but mild as she chews the cud with nothing short of murder in those glazed eyes. You place the stool as far away as possible and give her a timid pat, more to encourage yourself than her. Fervently you wish you had not hit her quite so hard whilst chivving her from the field.

The farmer tells you to move your stool nearer. Weakly, you move about an inch. He gives the stool a great push and you appear to be in the best possible position to receive a kick. Now, he airily says, he will "leave you

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to it." So, of course, you move out again. What triumph when you see the thin thread of milk appearing! Who said you couldn't milk! But how on earth do they get more to come out at a time? Must be the cow.

After twenty to thirty minutes hard labour you manage to cover the bottom of the bucket, and proudly show it to the farmer. He grins and says you are doing fine. Then he goes back to the cow and gets about another half-bucket full.

By this time, your arms are aching so much from the strain of milking that you can hardly lift a bucket of water to the cow, and you curse her right and left because she drinks one and obviously wants more.

Cows!

Worces.

D. M. Baker, 150929.

CALF'S LAMENT

My name is Pat. I am a Calf.
My land girl often makes me laugh—
The way she thinks she knows just how
To bring me up to be a Cow.

Why won't she let me eat all day,
And guzzle luscious meadow-hay?
Or fill my tummy up with swede?
Life should consist of one long feed.

Outside this yard I'd like to run,
To chase a hen would be such fun.
She seems to think I'd do some harm
Investigating round the farm!

Thank heaven for the day-to-be
When all my grief shall turn to glee,
For when she milks me in a pail
I'll love to lash her with my tail!

W. Kent.

M. Baxter, 62953.

WINTER COMPETITION

Section 1, "*Home Grown Handicrafts*" produced disappointingly few entries but the doeskin waistcoat made by **Miss P. Darling**, 38452 (Salop), could not possibly have been better. She receives a prize of two guineas and **Miss G. Fenton**, 8076 (Warwickshire), is highly commended for her donkey made from an old felt hat.

Section 2 on "*Britain's best year*" showed that several members of the W.L.A. have read that excellent best-seller, Trevelyan's "*English Social History*." All the entrants except one picked 1600 and most of them gave sound reasons for their choice. **Miss A. E. Guest**, 123231 (Surrey), whose entry took the form of a Brains Trust in Elysium, wins first prize of two guineas and **Miss L. Newell**, 38355 (Dorset), half a guinea. **Miss A. P. White**, 117517 (Hants.), and **Miss J. Field**, 4387 (Bucks.), are highly commended. It was a little surprising to find "*Hamlet*" recorded by one competitor as one of Shakespeare's best known plays "which is read and acted to-day by many school children."

The entries in Section 3 were varied and interesting. **Miss E. Manton**, 84630 (Herts.), and **Miss J. Ryder**, 62746 (Cheshire), are awarded one guinea each for their short stories. Miss Manton's description of a Land Girl's romance is better written but Miss Ryder's idea is the more original. **Miss W. Farrow**, 1313 (Herts.), gets half a guinea for her Cautionary Tale of a Land Girl who neglected to strip a cow. Other good entries came from **R. Clayton Barker**, 22658 (Wilts.), **M. Will**, 150619 (Northants.), **J. Orman**, 98050 (Beds.), and **J. E. Forrest**, 22334 (E. Suffolk).

Special Announcement

LOCAL DISCUSSION GROUPS

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

THE WOMEN'S FARM AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION,

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

Membership 12/6 a year including regular news sheets



Mrs. I. Deveney, 149390, with two friends, planting broccoli in Cornwall.

The Queen Thanks Sir Howard. M. H. McClintock (Murray 18/-). The Cross and the Arrow. Albert Maltz (Harrap. 9s. 6d.).

In general, a wary reader learns to shun biographies written by near relatives of the subject. They are too apt to resemble enormously swollen tombstone epitaphs. Mrs. McClintock, writing the life of her distinguished father, Sir Howard Elphinstone, evades this pitfall, though it is difficult to see just how she has done so. For the essential goodness of Sir Howard seems to be as remarkable as any epitaph ever claimed; he had all the virtues and one cannot detect any faults. He could not, however, have been entirely without guile since he succeeded in keeping on good terms with Queen Victoria throughout the thirty-one years during which he was the governor and later the chief adviser of her third son, Prince Arthur. He was often the only person who could manage her and was called in to smooth over other people's difficulties. Here, no doubt, is the key to the charm of this book. Victoria was a great character and no narrative in which she plays a large part can be uninteresting. The book is full of her letters, obviously dashed off with a fluent pen, expressive, opinionated, imperious, abounding in kindness and solicitude, peppered with underlinings. High politics mingle with a mother's concern for every detail of her boy's domestic life—she must have been about the earliest of the fresh-air fiends. Her remark about the preparations for the Prince's wedding, "The Eastern Question is not more difficult than is this one to settle," make one feel homesick for those stable days.

"The Cross and the Arrow" is an intense and fascinating story of the Germany of 1942 that was an unknown nightmare region to the outside world. Willi Wegler, a middle-aged munition worker who has just been decorated for his loyalty and hard work, is caught one night setting fire to an arrow shaped in hay which will signal the position of the camouflaged factory to the British bombers overhead. He is shot by an over-zealous S.S. guard and remains apparently unconscious throughout the next day while the Gestapo and the police try desperately to find out why he did it, fearing that he must have accomplices who will repeat the attempt. Meanwhile, the reader learns through the gradual reconstruction of the worker's past life how he has been brought to this pitch of desperation, and, incidentally, how fatally natural it was

for decent men, uninterested in politics, to accept what their government did until it was too late for anyone not a hero to resist. Portraits of workmen, soldiers, farmers, housewives in the trap of that unhappy Germany bear the stamp of authenticity. In spite of some incidents and situations which appear a little forced to fit the theme, the book has a real tragic grandeur.

M. Jaeger.

COUNTY PICTORIAL MAPS

The Secretary of the Benevolent Fund has now received the programme of publication for the Pictorial County Maps during 1946. Three, i.e. Kent, Norfolk and Sussex, are already on sale. Orders for maps, price 10/6 each, may be given through W.L.A. County Offices. Further details of publication will be circulated to County Secretaries concerned towards the end of April.

April.—Wiltshire, Northumberland, Yorkshire (W. Riding).

June.—Somerset, Derby, Yorkshire (E. Riding).

Sept.—Oxford, Cambridge, Yorkshire (N. Riding).

Dec.—Devonshire, Cornwall, Lancashire.

In 1946, UNRRA will ship over 50,000 tons of seed to nine European countries and to China, to provide green vegetables for millions of undernourished farm and city families and to help reforest hills and woodlands denuded by the enemy. Vegetable seeds for China, Greece and Yugoslavia will be packed in bags for individual farmers, each containing enough seed to sow about half an acre. Simple directions for planting are printed on the cover in the appropriate language and each packet should produce enough food for family use and a surplus for marketing.

When the feet of the long socks are darned to "saturation" point, a useful pair of shorter ones can be fashioned by cutting off the original foot and sewing across toe. I have done this since joining and always have a supply which, though useless for wear with breeches, are a boon with dungarees and can even (if very long) take a second cutting, reducing them then to ankle length—ideal for summer wear.

Beds. J. F. Orman, 98050.

"Poems of the Land Army" 2/9 each, including postage. Order from the LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.

THE LAND GIRL

BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund total has now reached the impressive figure of £310,000, as the Treasury have forwarded the promised grant of £150,000. Counties are still keeping up their magnificent efforts to raise money. W. Kent's Drive has brought in a cheque for £1,061 this month and put the County's total up to £9,674—once again ahead of all competitors. Bravo, Kent! Congratulations also to Worcs, who have sent £330 from their Autumn Drive and brought their total to over £3,000.

£64,800 of the total raised has been expended—£50,600 on grants and loans, and the balance on homecraft courses, administrative expenses, advisory service, etc. £6,800 was expended in March and the number of grants—754—accounted for over £5,500 of this amount. Another monthly record! It is good news to know that the Fund is now helping so many Land Army members and ex-members in their difficulties.

Interesting post-war cases this month include help to volunteers who are starting a wool shop, a flower business and a travelling photography concern. Assistance with fees has been given for such widely diverse trainings as cookery, missionary work in Canada and riding instructress, and several ex-members embarking on nursing careers have been helped with their initial expenses. One volunteer has received help towards heavy expenses incurred through serious asthmatic trouble and other girls suffering from prolonged illness have had substantial help.

CORRESPONDENCE

To all L.A. members and ex-members.

I want to thank you all for your Benevolent Fund. I was discharged from the L.A. in July last year and recently I had cause to ask for financial help from the Fund. Until then I had never wanted any help, like other L.A. members I just about managed to live respectably on our "gigantic" salary. The help was granted in the shape of a cheque and I was overwhelmed by the generosity of it. When I wrote to the Secretary of the Fund, I didn't forget the people who were responsible for me being able to have this help—the girls who with organising whist drives, raffles and dances in the local village hall made possible the help I have had and I want to thank everyone of you again. I am sure other girls in the same position as

myself feel the same way as I do.

Cheerio and keep up the good work.
Warwickshire. W. Fitter, 105429.

Dear Editor,

Studley W.L.A. Hostel is unlike any other in this county; the girls who occupy it belong to Studley Dairy Training Unit. There are eight trainees, coming in gangs of four every fortnight.

When I arrived Mrs. Quinney met me and other trainees and took us in her car to the hostel. With her cheerful hearty manner she had made us feel quite at home by the time we reached the hostel. We were not surprised to learn that once Mrs. Quinney had brought two girls from the station, who had been so overwhelmed by her greeting that it was not until they arrived at the hostel that they gathered their wits and hesitatingly told Mrs. Quinney that they were very sorry but they were nothing to do with the W.L.A.

During afternoon milking we were taught how to bag wash—one girl wrote to her mother that she had got up on early shift at 5.30 a.m. to bag wash. Her mother wrote and asked her why she didn't put the bags into soak overnight and get up half an hour later!
Warwickshire. N. Treneman, 157903.

To the New Recruit.

A few hints for your material well-being. For the first night or two rub methylated spirits into hands and feet to harden the skin. Keep your nails short—or you're sure to break them. Grease your boots and shoes regularly (after thoroughly drying)—the neat's foot oil the waggoner uses on the saddles is marvellous for boots.

Finally, love beast and man, fear no one, honour the cowman—and may you be as happy in the life as I've been.
Salop. C. H. Scott, 122679.

There is no need to get your hands all rough and horrible, just a little hand lotion each night will save all that worry, if you do it at the beginning not wait until they are chapped before you put anything on them.

Leics. I. W. Bentley, 149162.

To prevent and dry up blisters on the hands rub with surgical spirits each morning before beginning work. I found this particularly invaluable in my first days in the W.L.A. when my hands were very soft. After a hot and tiring day massage the feet well after washing and they will be cooled and refreshed and will not become tender.

Leics. M. Bentley, ex-W.L.A.

THE LAND GIRL

SPRING IN CORNWALL

Quite the most interesting event for us has been the Spring Show at Penzance, at which we displayed a few of the excellent exhibits submitted for our Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

It was lovely to see all the beautiful Spring flowers back again in something of the glory of pre-war days. For as you walk the lanes in Penzance you frequently smell the elusive scent of violets, or feast your eyes on the rich colouring of the anemones; or come across a sea of yellow daffodils; all in sight of the real sea, which so often takes on the true Mediterranean blue. But it was not all daffodils, there were broccoli, lettuce, radishes and other early vegetables from the market gardens where our girls work. Every morning from the train one can see the girls in their overalls and gum boots stooping over the rows and rows of produce; food for the Nation.

Great interest was shown by the general public in this "finer art" of our W.L.A. members and they thronged the stall admiring the work. One farmer came rushing up to the table on several occasions with fresh people, saying "Look what our N—— did, and she's dropping potatoes to-day".

The Exhibition at the County Offices far exceeded the display at Penzance. Miss Smith, Housecraft Organiser, from the County Hall Educational Department, judged the classes, and expressed her pleasure in the marvellous work. She found it so difficult to judge one class, that she then and there offered to give a Special prize.

In addition to the Exhibition, the office staff organised a Caledonian Market with tables laden with goods of every description. By this we raised approximately £90 for the Benevolent Fund.

HANDICRAFTS IN SURREY

The most interesting event this month in Surrey has been the Handicraft Exhibition in Guildford on March 22nd and 23rd.

The entries were many and varied, ranging from patchwork quilts and exquisitely fine embroidery to toys and poetry; all of such a high standard that the judges had a most difficult task in awarding the prizes. About 2,000 people visited the Exhibition during the two days, and on Saturday afternoon the prizes were presented by Miss Yvonne Arnaud. Introduced by the County Chairman, Miss Talbot, she was presented with a bouquet in L.A. colours, by M. Chennell (a special prize winner).

In a delightful speech, Miss Arnaud said how glad she was to have the opportunity of saying "Thank You" to members of the W.L.A. for all the splendid work they have done, and for their unselfishness and unflinching good temper at all times.

The prize winners were:—*Knitting*.—A. G. Long, S. Adams, R. Mermagen, M. Tysoe, D. Good-enough, N. Walker. *Needlework*.—C. Johnson, M. Chennell, E. Hyder, K. de la Haye, P. Barker, A. G. Long, M. Newton, E. Bennett, A. Ferguson, D. Heasman, J. Grohmann. *Slippers*.—E. Richards, M. Laming, S. Buller, J. Grohmann. *Toys*.—G. Rees, J. Grohmann, S. Biles, J. Parker, O. Rabbitts, M. Newland, M. Parker. *Leatherwork*.—M. Laming. *Posters*.—M. Newton, T. Roddy. *Painting*.—M. Newton, A. M. Ferguson, R. N. Bradbury. *Essays*.—G. Rees. *Short stories*.—M. Willy, P. Dowling. *Poetry*.—M. Willy.

Edna M. Birchall, ex-W.L.A. 107657, N. Wales, recently left the L.A. to join her people in Spain, after three years excellent work as a hand milker and general agricultural worker on a farm near Caernarvon. In 1939, Miss Birchall went from London to Barcelona via France and had the experience of walking over the Spanish frontiers as there were no trains going through. She worked for a time at the British Consulate at Barcelona but returned to England in 1942 to enrol in the W.L.A.

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.—Dark green boucle coat, Persian lamb on collar and pockets, small fitting, good condition, 30/-; navy Saxone leather shoes, patterned front lace tie, high heels, size 5, 22/6. 91450, Hurl Bridge, Hatherleigh, Nr. Okehampton, Devon.

FOR SALE.—2 pairs field boots, brown (7), narrow, 35/-; £1. Large haversack, £1. Scaffe, Combe-in-Teignhead, Devon.

FOR SALE.—Ladies brown riding boots, 4½, £3, and breeches, 26 ins., 30/-. As new. Fellingham, 5, Westwood Road, Stretford, Manchester.

FOR SALE.—Clog wellingtons (5). Two months' wear. 25/-. Blad, 59, Wolsey Road, East Molesey, Surrey.

FOR SALE.—Navy blue light-weight coat, bust 34, 50/-. Pair black suede shoes, pair burgundy suede shoes (4), 30/-. Hanley, Wraxall, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

FOR SALE.—Ladies breeches, waist 26 ins., new, worn twice only, 30/-. Black suede sandals, size 3½, low original heel, 10/-. Peace, Rosemary, Jesson Lane, St. Mary's Bay, near Ashford, Kent.

FOR SALE.—Ladies brown riding boots, as new. Size 6. £5. Durham, 41, Heathfield Road, Liverpool, 22.

FOR SALE.—Hockey stick, 10/-. Bagatelle-table, 30/-. **WANTED.**—Well-cut jodhpurs, slacks, riding jacket. Bust 33 ins., waist 25 ins., hips 35 ins. Grace Schiller, 74, Wigmore Street, London, W.1.

WANTED.—Ladies riding coat, good condition. Bust 36 or 38. Turner, Higher Farm, Middle Chinnock, Crewkerne, Somerset.

WANTED.—White tennis shoes, size 4½ to 5. Hobbs, Thenford, Banbury, Oxon.

WANTED URGENTLY.—Swimming costume and cap. Any price. Dobson, 56, Taylor Street, Gorton, Manchester, 18.

WANTED.—Brown riding boots, size 6. Dunstan, W.L.A. Hostel, Ely, Cambs.

WANTED.—Pair dancing sandals, size 4, low heels. Black or silver preferred. Budea, Station House, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Maldon, Essex.

WANTED.—Jodhpurs, waist 26-28 ins., also riding jacket, bust 34 ins. Smith, Inglenook, Newton Regis, Tamworth, Staffs.

WANTED.—Mackintosh (good condition), large, fit girl 5 ft. 9 ins. Riding boots, brown, size 6. C. Davis, Manor Farm, Hill Deverill, Warminster.

WANTED.—Pair ladies jodhpurs or breeches. Size 30 waist. Collins, 91, Highfield, Sutton, Hull.

WANTED.—Ladies lined, belted, fawn raincoat. Good condition essential. Chris Beaton, Kingston, Garmouth, Morayshire, Scotland.

WANTED.—S.W. coat, not navy. Summer frocks, 32 bust. Sandals 4. Hall, W.L.A. Hostel, Halsall, Lancs.

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

Country Craftsmen, by Freda Derriek. (Chapman & Hall, 10s. 6d.)

As we have used old farm implements and tools, as we have gone in and out of ancient barns and shippens and stables, sat in old farm and cottage kitchens, we have handled and seen many ancient objects, and questions must have come into our minds why they were made just like that—why, and how. Perhaps we have asked questions, and found the people we asked did not know the answers. They just did so and so because that was how they had been shown to do it, the

reasons lost in the mists of time. Here is a book to answer our questions, and the author has plentifully illustrated it with charming and clear drawings of carts, waggons, barns, farm furniture, smiths' work and the like. I recommend it confidently to all of you—it is a lovely book about lovely things and a record of so much that is dying out in this mass-production age.

E. M. Barraud.

"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 Pyogenic Germs—Abscesses, Boils, etc.

Granted the Certificate of The Royal Institute of Health and Hygiene

Send for Illustrated Leaflet:—

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

We have received neither *Scottish Notes* nor *Timber Corps Notes* for this number. We hope to publish both next month.

COUNTY NEWS

BERKS.—We are very sorry to have lost the help of several Comm. members who have been with the L.A. since its very beginning in Berks. and have taken an unflinching interest in the girls. Since the end of last year Mrs. Taylor, Miss Palliser, Mrs. Baring and Mrs. Clifton Brown have left us. We know how much all volunteers who worked in their districts appreciated their help and interest. Their places have been taken by Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Robertson Glasgow, Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Rome. With the exception of Mrs. Rome, all the new Comm. members have been D.R.'s since 1939 and have done a tremendous amount of work for the L.A. Mrs. Rome has also worked with the L.A. for several years in Herts. During the last month, we have had a large number of applications for assistance from the Benevolent Fund and they have covered a wide variety of difficulties from help with medical expenses to assistance with maintenance and training fees. A number of volunteers have already started their year's training courses at the special Centres and we are very pleased that a number of girls have been successful in gaining admittance to various Universities. We hope that further volunteers will be able to do so when the next term starts in Oct. Various plans are being made for the Recruiting Campaign and amongst other activities, it is hoped to stage a procession in Reading. We do hope all volunteers will help wherever possible.

BUCKS.—At a party in Aylesbury on March 9th, we had the great pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Jenkins on her first official visit to the County. She presented 4 six-year armlets and 27 scarlet ones and gave an inspiring address to an audience of L.G.'s, employers, hostel wardens and "landladies." Gifts of appreciation from the County Comm. to 6-year volunteers and Administrative Staff took the form of specially bound copies of "Poems of the Land Army." The County Chairman, Mrs. P. Fellowes, asked the girls to put behind them now for good the "gratitude grouse" and to look forward to the new chapter

in L.A. history. Both she and Mrs. Jenkins urged the need for new recruits and pointed out that L.G.'s themselves are our best recruiting agents.

Mr. H. V. Raffety, Chairman of the B.W.A.E.C., thanked Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. Fellowes and asked volunteers to stay on a little longer and see the job through. A basket of produce was handed to Mrs. Jenkins by J. Field, and a spray of flowers to Mrs. Fellowes by J. Pettitt. Miss Ramage, County Secretary, was presented with a diamond, ruby and pearl brooch and earrings, a gift from the County Organisation in appreciation of 6 years' work. Mrs. Jenkins cut a birthday cake iced in L.A. colours and bearing six yellow and four red candles. In Feb., Miss Elspeth Douglas Reid and Miss Dorothy Folkard gave recitals in hostels in the County under the auspices of the Arts Council. These were very well attended and much appreciated by girls and their friends.

CARDS. AND CARMS.—We held our first Proficiency Test this year on March 20th—in Milking and Dairy Work—at Llwyndurris Farm, Llechryd, by kind permission of Mr. James, Chairman of Cardiganshire W.A.E.C. All who entered were successful and Mrs. James provided a wonderful tea for everybody. Felinfach Hostel have organised two very good dances; one in Jan. which raised £8 17s. for the Benevolent Fund and an even more successful one in March, raising £17 10s. for the County Welfare Fund. Other efforts for the Benevolent Fund were a Bring and Buy Sale at Strancy Castle, Llanelly, which realised £30 and we were also very pleased to receive £8 17s. from a collection made by the W.V.S. in Llandovery.

We were extremely sorry to lose Mrs. Falls, our Assistant Secretary, at the end of last year, who left to set up house for her husband, but we extend a welcome to Miss Lewis, our new Organiser, and hope that she will be very happy with us.

CHESHIRE.—By the time this news is printed, Cheshire will have lost one of its foremost members of the staff in Miss E. A. Dewhurst who formerly did voluntary work and has been a County Organiser since February, 1942. Miss Dewhurst has always been a keen and excellent helper and we feel that she has really earned the holiday which she is now taking and our very best wishes go with her. Preparations for the Recruiting Campaign are now in full swing and the highlight of our programme is the Agricultural Fete and Gymkhana which we are holding at Woodbank Park, Stockport, on Easter Monday.

CORNWALL.—We welcome this month, Mrs. Osenton, who has been appointed Assistant County Secretary, who came to us from the Red Cross Penny a Week Fund, where she did a great deal through the War.

We are sorry to lose Miss Hodgson, Regional Officer, but hope that the inspiring job she has gone to will be all that she hopes and desires. In her place we welcome Miss Medley-Costin, and promise her the loyal support we extended to Miss Hodgson.

CUM. AND WES.—This month everything else is overshadowed by the Recruiting Campaign. An intensive recruiting week is being held in this county commencing on 6th April with a L.A. Pageant in Carlisle. All the hostels, privately employed volunteers, pest and drainage girls are taking part and a prize is to be awarded for the best decorated vehicle. The Lord Lieutenant of Westmorland, Major J. W. Cropper, the Mayor, Mrs. Isa Graham, have kindly consented to act as judges. An outstanding feature of the campaign is a series of dances organised by various hostels at which one girl will be chosen to compete in the final for the title of "Miss Agriculture" for Cumberland and Westmorland. The final award will be made at a dance in May. These functions have been made possible by the kind co-operation of the Cumberland and Westmorland W.A.E.C.,

who have lent vehicles for transport and for the pageant. An excellent farewell party for 7 volunteers leaving the W.L.A. was held at Gelsdale on 21st Feb.

Miss Fagan, County Secretary, has left and Miss Duff has been sent by Headquarters to act as Secretary until a new one is appointed. Miss Harwood, Organiser for West Cumberland, leaves at the end of April to take up other work. For the present Miss Tebbutt will take over the southern half of her area and Miss Gower the northern half.

DERBS.—We were very pleased to receive a glowing account of the Homecraft Training Course from A. M. Whitacre, 82243, who has just returned after taking the course at Bury St. Edmunds. Several members have written to say how much they have appreciated all that has been done for them during their stay at the Rest Break Houses. Mrs. Wright and the L.A. girls in the Brailsford Area raised £16, and Mrs. Ellis, 49963, has raised £21 for the County Welfare Fund. We are very busy getting ready for the Recruiting Campaign which will take place during the month of April and we hope that members and ex-members of the W.L.A. will help whenever possible and also attend the events which will be held during the campaign.

DEVON.—We have said farewell, but not goodbye, to Miss Medley-Costin, M.B.E. For over 6 years with Devon W.L.A., first as Secretary and since 1941 as Organiser, she leaves to take up the appointment of Regional Organiser, W.L.A. Our best wishes go with her and we are delighted that Devon is in her area. In her place we welcome Miss M. Foster, a D.R. who has kindly stepped into the breach. Congratulations to Miss Rivers-Moore, Organiser for N. Devon, on her marriage to Mr. J. B. Hayward. We are glad we are not losing her. Sidmouth Club has been closed owing to so many members being demobbed. J. Sheeres, the popular Secretary, was presented with a handbag at the farewell party. In 2 years the Club has raised £82 for the Benevolent Fund and £160 for various causes. Miss Barbury-Turner, the D.R., gave a farewell party to all past and present members of the "Seaton Frolic" and was presented with a silver nankin ring. Employers as well as girls joined in the party. At a milking proficiency test held at Bowden Farm, Yealton, 4 out of 5 entrants passed—P. Weymouth, distinction, V. Worthington, S. Paine, S. Pearce. Hearty congratulations to the L.G.'s who did so well in Y.F.C. public speaking competitions in Feb. We were much impressed with B. Crow, J. Shearcroft, H. Elsworth, M. Batchelor and N. Sanders. Good luck to the first two, who compete in their respective teams in the final.

DORSET had a Resettlement Meeting when Mr. Barrett-Brown, Regional Officer of the Ministry of Labour, and Miss Hodson spoke on Resettlement problems. Many questions were asked and much information was received. Over £50 goes to the County Welfare Fund from the Valentine Dance in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester. Our thanks are due to Miss Findlay, Miss Tod and their helpers for organising such a successful evening. Our congratulations to C. Bottomley, 50759, who has started a year's training in Horticulture at Plas Dinam, and is thrilled with it all. Mrs. Ashton gave a party in Feb. for volunteers in the Shaftesbury area; they had dinner and went to see a film. In the Milk Recorders' Proficiency Examination, the women came out far above the men! Congratulations to Miss Gadsden who was top and to Miss Puzey who was second. Manston Hostel has had its delayed Christmas party and was entertained by members of the R.A.M.C. at Shaftesbury, who gave a delightful concert and played for dancing. C.E.M.A. concerts and E.N.S.A. films have been enjoyed in various hostels. We have had many letters from employers regretting that their L.G.'s are leaving them under the Release Scheme and sneaking of their appreciation of their services. We are so grateful

to these volunteers who have set such a magnificent example for the "young" L.A. to follow.

DURHAM.—The Recruiting Campaign takes a very prominent place in the County, which is one of the most thickly populated for its size in England and Wales. Volunteers will be interested to hear Lady Starnier has most kindly offered a prize to the L.G. in Durham who brings in the largest number of new volunteers. Reps. in the Sunderland area are organising a dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund and also as a means of bringing the need for more L.G.'s before the young population. It is sad that three of our private house type hostels have closed, Grey Road, County Club and West Hartlepool, but those girls who knew Miss Laurie and Miss Brown will welcome the good news that they are now at Grindon and Chester le Street Hostels respectively. Friends of Betty Crossling will be sorry to hear of her serious accident, which occurred during the course of her work. She is now in Durham County Hospital and would gladly welcome any visitors and letters. Our sympathy and good wishes also go to Miss Greenwell, Warden of West Hartlepool Hostel, who is in the Cameron Hospital recovering from a serious illness. The Health and Hygiene lectures sponsored by the National Council of Health Education and given by Mrs. Wardroper, have caused great interest and been very successful in this county.

ESSEX.—For the Recruiting Campaign events include a Grand Recruiting Dance at Shire Hall, Chelmsford, on April 24th, and processions in Romford, Ilford, Braintree and Saffron Walden. Wynters Hostel has closed but we are glad that Miss Bullock and Miss Soper are still with us—they have gone to North Street. Stansted has been taken over by the W.A.E.C. for agricultural training purposes and Mrs. Rayner and the staff and girls moved to Thundersley. Rettendon and Butlers have also closed. We congratulate D. Bull, B. Chapman, E. Clewer, G. Pyman, G. Roach and G. Rowley on obtaining vacancies at the Agricultural Training at Newton Hall, Cambridge, and G. John and H. John at Plas Dinam, Mont., for Horticultural Training.

We are very sorry to lose Miss Bentley after nearly three years as Organiser for the Colchester area but we wish her every happiness in her new work. We welcome Miss King in her place and hope she will like working in Essex.

GLOS.—On April 6th, a Recruiting Procession is being held in Bristol. Several demobilised volunteers are going to help us try and make this effort a success and the G.W.A.E.C. are providing Agricultural Machinery of every description in the Parade when we hope 400 volunteers from Gloucestershire and Somerset will take part. Congratulations to E. Pearce, 8091, who has been awarded Mrs. Bathurst's special prize for long good service on the land. We hope this will be presented at Bristol on the 6th when other volunteers will receive their 6-year armlets from Lord Pakenham, who is also taking the salute. Mrs. Tamplin of the Central Council for Health Education has finished her tour of all the Hostels where her talks were greatly appreciated. She is coming shortly to give another set of talks, at the request of the volunteers, 100% of whom (except in the case of one Hostel) turned up to her talks. A Benevolent Fund Dance is being arranged for 3rd May at the Rotunda Rooms, Cheltenham. Further details will be published in the News Letter. Miss Marshall has settled down in Mrs. Rydon's place as Assistant Secretary, and to her and Miss Fletcher, our new County Organiser, we extend a hearty welcome.

W.L.A. STATIONERY

3/6 per box.

W.L.A. CALENDARS

1/3 each.

Carr. Paid

PENGUIN SUPPLY COMPANY,
Quality House, Wood Street,
Manchester 3



Like me, like my pig. This young farmer is following in Grannie's footsteps, for she is Mrs. Fletcher, a member of the W.L.A. in the last war.

HANTS.—Great preparations are being made for the recruiting drive in April, which ends with the Rally in Southampton on May 4th. The L.A. are to be the guests of the City and there will be a recruiting march through the streets, speeches and presentation of Badges from the Guildhall steps. As entertainment for the volunteers there will be tours of the Docks, a trip down Southampton Water on one of the Isle of Wight boats, tea in the Guildhall to the accompaniment of music from the Royal Marine Band from H.M.S. Excellent and after tea a tour of the antiquities of the town for those who are interested. The Hostel Shield for inter-hostel sports competitions will be presented on May 4th. Darts, Table Tennis, Whist and Netball heats are being played off and on April 13th the outdoor sports will be held at Redenham Hostel together with the Handicraft Competition. The Hostels are also very busy with Make-do and Mend and Cookery Classes organised by the County Education Comm. On March 15th, a Hampshire employer, Mr. A. D. Walter of Hayling Island, gave a party to all his past and present L.G.'s in appreciation of their splendid war service. This took the form of a dance at Kimbell's Café, Chichester, and nearly 200 guests were present. It was a most enjoyable occasion and most gratifying to feel that the volunteers had been so much appreciated.

HEREFORD.—During March we were very pleased to welcome Miss Bower who came to speak to Comm. Members and D.R.'s. We were also delighted to meet Miss Medley Costin, our new Regional Officer, though regret losing Miss Hodgson after so happy an association throughout the war years. We send her our best wishes in her new venture. During the month we have had an excellent tour by C.E.M.A., a concert at Ledbury Hostel, while at the Clubs there have been several excellent travel talks. Plans for the Recruiting Campaign are going ahead and it's not likely that there is anyone in this County who isn't aware of our need for recruits. Plans for another Gynkhana in Leominster during August are already under way.

HUNTS., CAMBS. AND ELY.—Newton Hall Training Centre has been opened and volunteers from other counties are now in residence. The course will extend for 32 weeks and all branches of agriculture and horticulture will be covered. K. Bricknell is the only Cambs. volunteer amongst them. We offer a hearty welcome to the area to the trainees and hope they will be happy during their residence at the Hall. The Recruiting Campaign is naturally the outstanding event for April. Grand Concerts will be held in Huntingdon, Cambridge and Wisbech by the "On the Spot" Concert Party in aid of the Benevolent Fund at which there will be recruiting speeches by a L.A. volunteer. There will be shop window displays in all the towns, appeals in the cinemas and the press and every hoarding should have its recruiting poster as well as every W.A.E.C. lorry. We are not a large recruiting area—most of our volunteers come from other counties—but we are seeing to it that everybody knows we need recruits. The Cambridge Dance was a grand success and £38 was sent to the Benevolent Fund. It was one of those occasions when L.A. volunteers could meet to enjoy themselves and to talk shop. Several hostels have been closed within recent months and farewell parties have been held in all of them. It is sad to say goodbye to people we have known for a long time but they have served us well and we wish them good luck in the future.

I.O.W.—Since our December News paragraph, we have held three successful social events—a big all-Island Ball at Newport on Jan. 12th at which 250 dancers took part, and two events organised by Sandown Hostel. First a Fancy Dress Dance on Nov. 29th, and the second a Variety Show on 16th March. We are most grateful to the performers who gave so generously of their limited free-time to make this Show the great success it was. All these events were in aid of the Benevolent Fund and were financial successes. Our new Chairman, Lady Rowbotham, presided. Our afternoon Club on the first Saturday each month is usually very well attended for tea and competitions. We have sent 2 members for a very enjoyable three

weeks at the Rest-break House at Torquay, and have also through our local Welfare Fund or through the Benevolent Fund, been able to assist quite a number of members who needed financial help through illness or other circumstances. We are busy preparing for the Nation-wide Recruiting Drive in April and are lucky in having secured the services of the famous B.B.C. Announcer, Freddie Grisewood, to appeal for us on Easter Monday.

E. KENT has been busy during the past four months organising a grand drive in aid of the Benevolent Fund. A Dance at Canterbury, organised by Miss J. Barber, Welfare Officer at the County Office, raised the magnificent sum of £306 17s. 10d. A Dance at Grove Ferry organised by Mr. G. Holdstock and Mrs. A. Hoyle, raised £58 11s. 9d. Mrs. Hoyle also raised £7 4s. at Wickhambreaux. L.G.'s at Monkton and Minster helped by Mrs. Smith raised £16 with two Dances. Mrs. Maxted's Bring and Buy Sale raised £45 18s. 9d.; the Hon. Mrs. Sackville Tufton and Mrs. Stainton held a Dance at Barham raising £30 15s. 3d.; Miss Young's Dance at Faversham raised £35. Other sums raised include £12 10s. by Mrs. G. Finn for Whist Drive at Lower Hardres; £12 by Miss Broadley, proceeds of Whist Drive at Birchington; £13 10s. by P. Mills, being part proceeds of Dance at Folkestone; S. Slyth sent £3 1s. raised by a Social at Rhodes Minnis; Mrs. Vickers also sent £1 10s. Our very grateful thanks to everyone who helped to make our venture such a financial success.

W. KENT has been working hard for the Benevolent Fund of late and amongst various activities we would like to mention the following. A Whist Drive at Gillingham raised £30. A Dance and Sale at Maidstone organised by the Kent Branch of the National Farmers' Union produced the fine sum of £287 13s. 11d. We are indeed grateful to the N.F.U. for this splendid effort. In Feb. Mrs. Edwards of Rochester ran a most delightful Dance at Gillingham. Seventy local farmers kindly helped with subscription the K.W.A.E.C. and many local firms gave while the L.G.'s in the vicinity worked to help make a most successful evening. Total sum raised was £327 5s. 9d.

LEICS. AND RUT.—We are very pleased to have Miss White as County Organiser. We wish her every success and hope she will be very happy with us. We regret having to close 3 hostels in the Melton Mowbray area but are glad that the Warden and staff of The Elms have transferred to Somerby Hostel. We hope they will be very happy there. Wycliffe House is not lost to us as the Benevolent Fund Comm. have acquired it for a second Homecraft Training Centre and the Warden, Mrs. Broughton, and cook, Miss Bennett, are staying on to take over the management. We understand that the first training commences on 8th April. Several of our volunteers have been to the E. Suffolk Training Centre and have returned to say how very much they have enjoyed their four weeks and how helpful and instructive the training has been. We hope that many more will enjoy their stay in Leics. We are very sorry to have to say goodbye to many of our long-service volunteers and we wish them the best of luck in their new posts. We are delighted to welcome back at least one a week for reinstatement, saying how much they miss the life and fresh air, etc. We hope many more will return and bring friends with them as a result of the Recruiting Campaign. Everyone is very busy working up to this and we hope it will bring good results. Please tell your friends about the L.A. and the good things it offers them if they join.

HOLLAND (Lincs.).—Congratulations to M. J. Taylor, 841, on passing her Proficiency Test in Poultry-keeping held in a snowstorm. We are sorry to lose two of our Wardens to whom our thanks are due, Miss Casswell who has been Warden of Wrangle Hostel for 2½ yrs. and Mrs. Webster, who left us when Swineshead Hostel was relinquished at the end of Feb., with two other Huttment Hostels. Bank House have had some very successful Dances and Whist Drives and are now having weekly E.N.S.A. Cinema Shows.

County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em-
	£.	s.	d.	ployed
Kent	9675	7	0	2047
Surrey	5478	2	1	1323
Essex	5644	3	6	1151
Hants.	8639	11	5	1085
Yorks., W.R. ..	3016	14	4	996
Herts.	4346	3	10	986
Somerset	2382	15	3	953
Leics. and Rut. ..	2425	4	11	947
E. Sussex	4103	9	1	848
Devon	4088	17	6	844
Worcs.	3072	11	2	830
Bucks.	4895	9	3	826
Warwicks.	7497	13	3	816
W. Sussex	5138	10	1	804
Northants.	2790	15	5	799
Cornwall	1373	5	11	767
Cheshire	3213	3	10	747
Glos.	2547	17	5	676
Norfolk	6239	6	1	675
Lincs., Lindsey & Kesteven ..	3236	8	0	668
Northumberland ..	2108	10	3	616
Beds.	1053	13	2	599
Berks.	3580	18	2	589
Wilts.	1924	13	5	575
Notts.	1814	10	0	573
Oxon.	3837	16	1	566
Yorks., N.R. ..	2165	6	7	556
Hunts., Cambs. & Ely	3728	13	1	552
Lancs.	2775	3	2	543
Salop.	1953	18	11	485
Dorset.	1399	10	8	458
E. Suffolk	3542	18	9	446
Durham	1886	8	4	445
Cumbs. & West'ld ..	704	13	0	440
Staffs.	1779	8	4	421
Mon.	971	8	0	407
Herefords.	1858	10	5	395
Glam.	1170	13	9	365
N. Wales	1874	15	10	356
Yorks., E.R. ..	583	10	2	355
Flints.	655	7	6	347
W. Suffolk	2131	0	4	346
Denbighs.	1016	16	11	320
Lincs.—Holland ..	2032	3	7	317
London & Middx. ..	1279	12	7	273
Derbys.	1441	15	6	266
I.O.W.	275	15	8	215
Pemb.	1122	2	8	207
Cards. & Carms. ..	742	15	5	193
Brec. & Radnor ..	394	12	6	180
Mont.	90	8	1	148
W.T.C.	7074	4	1	824

The number of volunteers in employment on 18th March, 1946, was 32,166.

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