## Cornwall Wome

# Land Army

LETTER.

## MONTHLY N

October, 1942.

DEAR MEMBERS,

DEAR MEMBERS,

Shall I call this letter the Harvest News Letter or the Birthday Number? Afthe two occasions coincide. The Land Number of the Harvest News Letter or the Birthday Number? Afthe two occasions coincide. The Land I want to me had I am glad to say that my list of subscribers has trebled itself since my first nervous effort of a year ago. Last month, as you know, there was no News Letter; it was with great pleasure, therefore, that on meeting several Land Army members in the town, I have learned from them that they were looking forward to the October number with its News Letter. I could not help feeling pleased; everybody likes to be missed, don't they? After all, the main purpose of this letter is to keep Cornish members abreast of what is happening, and to help them get in touch with each other.

I am always hoping to receive letters from you, which I can use each month, giving me new ideas for making this letter more interesting to you. If I don't receive quite as many as I should like, I know it is because most of you are too busy and probably, like most people, hate letter writing, and that when you have written home and to your friends and sweethearts, the rest of your lessure is user largeing seems to loom what I gather, daring seems to loom what I gather, daring seems to loom to ge in your private lives. Don't I have not thing it the properties of the seems I am always hoping to receive letters

what I gather, darming seems. Don't I gree in your private lives. Don't I it. Darming is the gree in your private lives. Don't I in the need for a life becomes more and retant. It is quite impossible to get any sort of domestic we housekeepers have to do more of our daily chores and a sort of system becomes whosehold jobs and still have time left over for my private life, but the darming rears its ugly head at most inconvenient moments. I am never finished. I try to systematise it, and save it all up for one glorious darning "binge" once a fortnight. And, oh, the joy of seeing the pile on one side of my chair diminish as the pile on the other side grows. But my system does not always work. Three wet days in a row and I am all behind again. My son comes home from a game of Rugger, somehow on other wide contrives to be covered in contributed to foot the flowered in considered a real day unless they are wet to the waist; more socks needed. When I become Dictator of England (and you never know) my first reform will be to have our boys, as well as our girls, taught darning in schools.

We still have not decided whether to the waist the birthday or the harvest

schools.

We still have not decided whether to call this the birthday or the harvest number. Nothing could matter less, of course. As a country at war, we have every reason for being proud of this year's harvest, and as hard working members of the Land Army, able to give us first-hand accounts of bringing in the

sheaves, you have being proud of you interesting and into me this month Harvest." It was of Food, and conting for the Ministry of Food, and fascing some of them. The food of the Ministry of Food and fascing for the Ministry of Food and fascing for the Ministry of Food and makes a delicious, significantly astringent preserve, rather like harmalade. Elderberries in equal quantities with blackberries produces a jam very like blackberries produces a jam very like blackberries in equal quantities with blackberries produces a jam very like blackberries produces a

ripen indoors. If we very disappointing. Did I do something wrong, or have they contracted a tongto disease?

I me Sha choras in the office of two we have something with the students at Coll rish. One was at Ludgvan Vicer see at the church garden fete, and the other, at Canonstown Chapel, was to televite the successful harvest. There are a number of excollurian students were at a number of excollurian students with the harvest should be to bring home the harvest should be to celebrate it. Three arthers we very helpful to them, and his wife reself an ex-Land Girl, played violing to the harvest should be to be to celebrate it. Three arthers we very helpful to them, and his wife reself an ex-Land Girl, played violing to the harvest with Miss cholas were all too short. I do wish be would arrange to let me have a function of these nice little items of me.

Miss Violet Ferris is month was married to Mr. John lityn. I met her the day before hey ding. She said "Web are gett" the ding. She said "Web are gett" the ding. She said "Web are gett" thought at was simply splendid, and I hoof Mr. and Mrs. Parkyn will enjoy the well-deserved honeymoon when they to the first of the first was income and help well-deserved honeymoon when they to the first of the Conwall W.L.A. Web Fund.

Permission has now, received from the W.V.S. that Land lis should be granted admission to helr canteens in this country. I to give you the complete list of canteent the follow-complete list of canteent in the country. I to give you the complete list of canteent the follow-complete list of canteent in the country. I to give you the complete list of canteent in the country. I to give you the complete list of canteent in the country. I we give you the complete list of canteent in the country. I we give you the complete list of canteent in the country. I we give you the complete list of canteent in the country. I we give you the complete list of canteent in the country. I we give you the complete the country in the content in the country. I we give you

ing three in the West Cornwall area are already at your disposal: Porthcurno, Moorlands; Penzance; and Landithy Hall, Madron. I hope to be able to give you a further list next month.

#### A New County Secretary for Cornwall

As you all know, Mrs. Clifford Smith has left Cornwall and taken up her duties as County Secretary for Buckinghamshire. It is eighteen months since I first met Mrs. Clifford Smith at the Land first met Mrs. Clifford Smith at the Land Army Office. I have enjoyed working with her ever since; my one regret is that I did not see as much of her as I should have liked, the office in Truro being an extremely busy place. I look forward to renewing my acquaintance with her after the war.

Meanwhile, I should like to take the opportunity of extending to Miss Race, our new secretary, our very best wishes, in which I am sure you all join me.

Correspondence

Miss C. J. Daw has just qualified for her first half diamond, and in a letter acknowledging receipt of it she

"I love the farm, the work, and the animals all so very much, and find a keen interest in all that has to be done; in fact, I like the farmer to go away, to feel that I am in charge,

cattle straying.

"In spite of the weather the harvest is all safely gathered in, and on Saturday we threshed. Although short of labour, we managed to fill the barn with three tons of oats. Most of the time we were only four hands strong, but we kept two waggons going. I fetched all the time. Whenever possible we had great help from three Canadian friends who are in the R.A.F. and used to farm on the prairies of Canada. We are now ploughing the land ready for the wheat."

ploughing the land ready for the wheat."

Good for you, Miss Daw, it is fine that you like the work so much and you evidently have grand friends. •

A long and very interesting letter comes from Stella Hallums, who is doing vegetable gardening at Lelant.

"To start with, my Land Army work consists of gardening, and although I have heard one or two remarks about only doing gardening, at times, it is quite as hard as being on a farm. This particular site happens to be on a steep slope, and I walk up and down it countless times a day. When I first came here the lawn was being taken up, and the ground being used for potatoes: that was tough work, taking nine to a dozen clods of velvety lawn and earth in a wheelbarrow 25 yards up the garden. I began to realise then what the poor old horse, called Rations, at the farm where I trained, felt like when he had a heavy load to pull. I had my reward some months later when I saw the potatoes which I had tilled growing strong.

"Then there is the weeding. Admittedly not heavy work, but, oh, how tedious, one row after another, and the

beastly little things seem to spring up while one's back is turned. But, do you know, surprising as it may sound, I like weeding, like the feeling of being able to look at a freshly-weeded patch of carrots, say, or onions, and see how neat they look.

"Getting pots ready for planting tomatoes sounds an easy job, but it is not just a case of putting a bit of earth in a pot, as you might think, but of finding little bits of crocks to fill the hole at the bottom and stop the earthfrom filtering through; and of sifting the earth—lumps and bumps are no good—and the constant watering when the plants are on the way to fruiting, putting up wire for the plant to support itself; it all takes time, and of a necessity must be done.

"Then, apart from the routine jobs, there are heaps of little odd ones in gardening." But now I must tell you about the

gardening.

gardening.

"But now I must tell you about the rabbits, which constitutes the main part of my job. Mixing their food entails quite a bit of time as it must be thoroughly washed before cooking, and thoroughly mashed. They and the hens do not like lumps. Then comes the feeding and giving them fresh water every day, and, of course, cleaning them out. But it is well

worth all the control ope to describe their pretty and fundy little ways. I put their food end the for eight or nine, in a fairly form trough, spreading it from end to end to the youngh, spreading it from end to end to the youngh, spreading it from end to end to the youngh, spreading it from end to end to they do that, oh, no, they must all push up one end, sit on one another; climb over each other; when I per the hutch door they are just all push up one end, sit on one another; all match, pushing and shoving the trail match, pushing and shoving the trail match, pushing and shoving the trail match, pushing and shoving the fatternoon, they have usually for the eathernoon, they have usually for the grooming each other, quite a quite still while over it.

"Of course, it is quite impossible to describe all their funny little antics, and it doesn't sound half so amusing writter down. But I never get tired of watching them; every day there is something different to catch the eye.

"We have quite the describe of the catch the eye."

the eye.
"We have que
Chinchillas, love
little English, fi oft, gentle utch, Blue Rex, with short Nutria Rex, whi s, also the rely brown also the and when young look exactly like Teddy Bears. Lastly, there are Beverens, blue and black, lively little beggars, full of energy and always

eating.
"That, I think, is as much as I can tell you. I do hope you have not been bored by it."
No, indeed, Miss Hallums, and thank you so much for such an interesting

### Lady Denman's Visit

Lady Deman's Visit

We are very honoured by a visit from the Hon. Director of the W.L.A., to take place on Synday. Or the W.L.A., to take place on Synday. Or the well at the synday of the works the hope that as many of you as possible will attend the various places of call, and that the sun will shine on all of us. Next month's letter will give as full a story as I can, but how much I should appreciate it if some of you would write me your impressions of the visit. My address is: "Fifola," 2 Farley-terrace, Truro.

Please help me in this matter, will you, girls. In these days of difficult travel I can only attend at one point in the itinerary.

itinerary.

With my best wishes to all of you. Yours sincerely, "FIFOLA."

