

THE LAND GIRL



B.N. L.

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SECOND WIND

ON June 7th, the Minister of Agriculture told a conference of Women's Land Army Chairmen and Secretaries from all the counties of England and Wales that the services of Land Army members and of the Land Army organisation would be needed "at least until the harvest of 1948."

The nation is still at war. The food situation has never been more difficult and farming has never faced the prospect of a more acute shortage of labour. Clearly the Land Army must find its second wind. It has won a fine reputation and it must finish in style the job that it has carried through triumphantly so far.

To some Land Army members we have to say goodbye. To all those who are setting up homes with their husbands, as well as to those who are in the categories released for special training, we send out warm thanks for the service they have given and our heartiest good wishes for their future. We hope when they do their household shopping, they will not forget their old friends who have grown what goes into their baskets.

For the rest—the Land Army members who intend to see the job through—there are some who hope to stay on permanently in agriculture and if these need further training to fit them for more responsible posts, they will get it we hope while still in the Land Army. Of those who will eventually go back to town life, some are already trained for jobs to which they will return; others will need training and should be able either to get it free of cost under the Government's training scheme or to get help through the Land Army Benevolent Fund. But now is the time for every member to be thinking ahead, deciding what she really wants to do when the Land Army is disbanded, getting advice about the best kind of training and about future earning prospects. All this she can do in the Land Army and through the Land Army.

Work on the land does not deaden either mind or spirit. The Land Army whistles while it works; it can also think.

INEZ JENKINS.

GROWING UP AND BEING GROWN-UP

I.—OUT OF CHILDHOOD

This is the first of a new series of articles by Mrs. Margot Hicklin

When a boy or a girl leaves school, be or she is nearly always expected to take up some form of livelihood which means, at least to some extent, responsibility. Yet one only has to look at the 14, 15 and 16 year olds to find a good many who do not strike one as adult. They are neither fully grown in body nor mature in mind. This is as it should be for adolescence, that is the period of growing up, takes many years to be completed. What is difficult, though is for parents and other people to realise that the young wage-earner is in need of both independence and support. Adults tend to grant only one of these at a time: if support is demanded of them, then they may withhold the independence, and if they are willing to give independence they may resent having to offer help and guidance as well.

Let us see if we can find out what being grown-up means. We know that growth goes on in the child from the day it is conceived; there comes the time at about eleven or twelve, when growth of the body is quickened and children tend to shoot up suddenly, often feeling very awkward and looking it, too. There are the growing pains which add to the discomfort and mentally there is a kind of dread of the unknown development which is going on in the body. Unknown of course, because the child cannot observe what goes on inside, in the glands and organs of the body which are beginning to ripen. What need not be unknown to them is the meaning of all this growing and ripening. Nowadays, most people are agreed that early adolescence, i.e. the twelfth year approximately, is the proper time for children to be fully informed about the meaning of their organs and the only thing that is not so clear is who should be the person to give that information. Schools will all be teaching general biology soon and the human being, as part of that study, will of course be fully represented. But there is more in this knowledge than biology. Children of all ages are vitally interested in the nature of birth and death and therefore in the nature of their own and other people's bodies. Sensible parents take this interest for granted and satisfy it when the child demands to know, asks puzzled questions or shows bewilderment at times of mother's pregnancy and the arrival of new brothers or sisters. No

mystery, no fairy stories, and no special precautions are required when a loving parent gives the information the child is seeking. It can be as natural to the child to know, as it is to the parent to tell, the simple and true facts of existence. But unfortunately the tale does not appear as simple and natural to all parents. Their own anxiety about the problems of sex, their own shyness or dread of the subject may mar the impression they give the child of this most important subject. When that happens, the child at once accepts the parents' attitude of fear and doubt and, though it may not know this, that attitude can last all its life.

At the time of growing up, the real or imagined knowledge of the bodily processes involved is very much upon the young person's mind. When there is no chance to talk about it children may begin to brood upon the subject and lose interest in school work and games.

That is the time when tactful and understanding help is so very valuable. Elder sister or brother, cousin or friend, can often relieve the child's depression where father and mother fail. Only the adolescent is very sensitive at that time. He may easily shrink if clumsily approached and withdraw even further into his shell. Others again, to hide their embarrassment, may begin to show off and become aggressive. But nearly all adolescents are moody and changeable; gay one moment, sulky the next and never to be depended upon. It is no use at all trying to hurry the child out of childhood; he will grow out of it in time but each one takes a different length of time to do it. One knows 15 year olds who are quite grown-up in appearance, especially girls. On the other hand, some 17 year olds can look like boys and girls of 13. Again, the completion of bodily growth does not mean that adolescence is finished. The second half of growing-up is the maturing of mind and character which really leads to adulthood.

Some people never really grow up at all; they remain children in their ways and usually need someone to lean upon. Independence is not achieved at one stroke but has to be fought for step by step. It is not the external dependence I now have in mind but the freedom of action and of feeling which makes us truly ourselves. Friendships are of the greatest

HONOURS LIST

help towards this development. When we make friends who are also struggling to grow up, then we can to some extent dispense with the closeness of the family tie which has been the strongest bond during childhood. Parents would indeed be selfish if they did not allow their growing children to make such friendships. Discouraged from open association with the persons of their choice, the young people might seek other less desirable contacts secretly and then the relationship with the parents would indeed be strained. If parental ties are to continue through life, adolescence is the time to loosen them and then the young men or women will of their own free will return to their parents with love and respect whenever they can.

Friendships between boy and boy, girl and girl, are one of the great needs of early adolescence and they may be started at school or at work. The common interest of school achievement or working condition forms a solid basis and leisure time with its hobbies, outings, social interests, extends the scope of such friendships. But in the second half of adolescence, roughly between the 15th and 20th year, the time will come when the opposite sex attracts the young person irresistibly. Now the choice will not be made on a basis of mutual social or professional interest alone, but as a result of powerful, not fully understood emotions which seem, at that time, to be almost uncontrollable. It is a very difficult thing for the young person to keep these emotions in check. Under conditions of strain, as for instance in wartime, control may break down and young people may be swept into experiences which would not have occurred in normal times. It is not so much the absence of the restraining hand of father which has caused this breakdown in emotional control but the absence of stability in family life. For at no time (early childhood excepted) is a happy home of such importance as in adolescence. If the boy or girl can bring friends home, if he or she can find sympathy and understanding in a united family setting, then the pitfalls of this period may be avoided successfully. Otherwise the young person feeling "up against things," may so easily stumble into some adventure which may lead to the Juvenile Court or into serious personal troubles.

Being grown-up means that the young person is ready to take his or her place as a citizen. With a mind of his own, work of his own choosing, friends that are congenial and interests in his leisure time, the young citizen can indeed feel the equal of any adult in the country.

We offer our warm congratulations to Miss H. M. Medley-Costin, who has been awarded the M.B.E. in the recent Birthday Honours List. Miss Medley-Costin was W.L.A. County Secretary for Devon from September 1939 until July 1941 and since then she has been working in that county as a full-time voluntary County Organiser.

And also to the Misses B. Baldry, 3413 (Herts), E. Buckerfield, 21032 (Kesteven, Lincs), J. Hawkins, 43332 (E. Sussex), M. Kinloch, 14356 (W.T.C.), C. McRiner, 902 (Scotland) and B. Paul, 1417 (Norfolk), who have been awarded the B.E.M.

With the sole exception of Miss Hawkins (who joined up in 1941) these volunteers have been in the Land Army since 1939. Miss Baldry was appointed Supervisor of Land Army training at the W.A.C. Training Centre at Shimpling in December 1942, and up to date 300 trainees have passed through her hands, of whom remarkably few have been failures. In the early part of 1944 she lost the sight of one eye, but she has not allowed this disability to interfere in any way with her work.

Miss Buckerfield has been continuously employed away from home since March 1940 as a tractor driver and general farm worker on an estate. She is active in all Land Army doings in her district and her aid is also constantly sought in connection with village activities.

Immediately after Miss Hawkins enrolled, she was sent to E. Sussex where she has remained with her employer ever since. During the five years of her service she has carried out her duties in a most praiseworthy manner and has shown consistent zeal for her work as threshing gang leader.

Miss Paul has a responsible post helping in the management of a dairy Shorthorn herd and with the market garden. She is also responsible for the care of pedigree poultry and for seven hives of bees. She is Treasurer of the local W.I. and runs a Farm Savings Group of 70 members which has raised £9,000 since 1940.

Miss Kinloch is the subject of our Star Turn on page 6, and Miss McRiner appears in the N. Ayrshire section of Scottish News.

The death of Mrs. Lea, O.B.E., J.P., is a sad blow not only to Worcestershire of which she was Chairman, but to her many friends and admirers throughout the Land Army. All will want to send their sympathy to Commander Lea and their children.

MY MONTH'S TRAINING

I volunteered for the W.L.A. in the spring of 1944 just before my eighteenth birthday, and was posted to Wiltshire just at the commencement of the hay-making season. It was a real adventure to me. For one thing I had never been so far from home before, and to work on a farm after sitting in an office for three years was a great contrast.

My first task was to water and feed ten young heifers. These I took a fancy to directly and since then the farmer has given me one of them, named Bambi, to rear myself. The first real job of work with the tractor was grass-cutting. The farmer and I together cut about 16 acres, then I was shown how to use the side rake. When the hay was dry it was my job to sweep it down to the rick where the farmer and two or three helpers were waiting to stack it.

After that I was introduced to Jolly the horse, and the horse-rake and (after the haymaking) to horse-hoeing. The only skill needed for this is to be able to keep one's toes from under the horses' hooves when turning, and Jolly is no light weight!

I have also had the pleasure of "muck-out" Billy the Bull. The first time he landed me a good kick with a hind leg, but I was more surprised than hurt.

The farmer has done some fencing since I have been here and I am proud to say I can now hit a staple in straight, but I have many scars on my hands both from barbed wire and misfires. Before the fence was repaired we had a very busy time chasing one of the heifers in about three times a day and she thoroughly enjoyed giving us the longest run possible.



Four years in the Land Army has taught H. Gillam, 38776, (Dorset) how to get on top.

I have helped to plant about three-thousand cabbages, a backaching job, but by no means unpleasant; the farmer and I took it in turns, one to make the holes and the other to heel in the young plants. I am now crossing my fingers hoping that they will grow. I have driven the tractor pulling a large drill and have drilled so far about three acres of roots, turnips, etc.

Ploughing I like very much although I have done very little as yet. The farmer says I do not "shut my furrows" but as they say "practice makes perfect" I shall have to do more of it.

There is one more little job that I like and that is drawing thatch, although I have only drawn two or three bundles as I am rather slow. Milking fascinates me, but as the farmer does not really need me to do any, I think I prefer to watch. I have not done any hand-hoeing, but I am informed that this is a pleasure in store for me to start my fifth week.

Wilts.

O. Johnson, 143967.

NON-MEMBERS

Who rises tired from six hours' rest
And battles with the fire,
Then sounds the gong and serves the
throng,
Some still in night attire?

The Kitchenmaid.

Who tidies up the same bunks daily
And lifts things from the floor,
And scrubs the baths and sweeps the
paths,
And shovels mud galore?

The Housemaid.

Who boils the eggs the Land Girls
bring
Scarcely remembering when
She tasted one directly from
A genuine barn-yard hen?

The Cook.

Who racks her brain for sandwich
fillings,
Only to see them spurned,
Who dozes in her chair at night
Till every girl's returned?

The Warden.

Who enter into everything
And keenly toil like ants,
For dances, concerts, socials, fetes,
Ignored in talks of "Grants"?

THE STAFF.

Westmorland.

P. Dubarry.

CAUTIONARY TALE

"Have you heard about Joan?"

"No, what?"

"Every blessed thing she had has been burnt."

"Gosh, not all those things she got for herself when she furnished that hut to live in?"

"Yes, all of it, everything she had."

"How perfectly sickening—but I suppose the Insurance people will pay for it all."

"She wasn't insured."

"Gosh!"

This is a perfectly true story about a volunteer in Wiltshire, and here are three other perfectly true stories. Two Hampshire volunteers lost all their personal possessions and clothing in a fire at their Bournemouth home. One Northumberland volunteer lost £16 worth of clothing and belongings when they were blown against an electric fire. In Essex, all a volunteer's civilian clothes were stolen.

Not one of these volunteers was insured, so that each of them is faced with a devastating financial loss.

Any reputable Insurance Company will tell you through its local Agent how to take out a simple Insurance Policy. It should not cost you more than about 7/6 a year to cover a loss of up to £100.

Are YOU insured? If not, why not?

A YEAR AT COLLEGE FOR YOU?

There may be many members of the Women's Land Army who had to leave school at 14, but would have loved to continue their education. There are certainly some who gained scholarships but were not able to hold them, or who were ill at the time of the examination, and have ever since regretted what they missed. Do they know of the existence of Hillcroft College, Surbiton, founded some twenty years ago, precisely for women whose education was cut short at an early age? Hillcroft is a residential college; students spend a whole year in excellent surroundings studying the subjects they most want to learn. So far students have chiefly desired the following subjects:—English Literature, History, Psychology (including Child Psychology), Economics, Central and Local Government; also the History of Art, Crafts, Music and Domestic Subjects. There are no examinations either before entry or at any other time.

The College's great aim is to "broaden the outlook of students, to increase their knowledge and strengthen their good citizenship."

Although it is not the College's business to prepare people to earn their living or to change their jobs, there is no better preparation for a change than a year of general education, and of the opportunity to think and to exchange views.

Old students of the College now do many kinds of social work, e.g. they are Probation Officers, Personnel Supervisors, some are nurses, some wardens and matrons of children's homes. Many do voluntary work as County and Town Councillors, as Trade Union Organisers, some are missionaries abroad; others are now serving in U.N.R.R.A.

The College boasts that before the War the fees were always found by one means or another for suitable candidates, and hopes that this may continue to be true.

If you would like to hear more of this most interesting College, write to the Secretary, Hillcroft College, Surbiton, Surrey.

M. K. Ashby (Principal).

Do you work with seed dressings? If so, do you read any directions there may be on the tin? And if one of these is to tell you to tie a handkerchief over your nose or wear a mask, do you do as you are told?

A volunteer had to be invalided out of the L.A. recently because she had not carried out the instructions issued with certain kinds of seed dressings and had got frontal sinusitis as a result. Don't think it is all right for you because it is all right for Mary Jones. Some people aren't affected at all, but for others the danger is really serious, so don't take any risks if you are warned to take precautions with any particular seed dressing—put on your nosebag and don't take it off till you've finished the job.



Is this you? This photograph was taken on VE-day in London. Write to the Editor if you want the negative.

STAR TURN No. 5



Miss Margaret Kinloch, W.L.A. 14356, Women's Timber Corps, has one claim to fame which can have been equalled by very few, if any, other members of the Land Army. She joined up in 1939 and she has not missed a single day from work since she started. Not many people in war service will be able to put up such a record as this.

It is all the more surprising, because before the war Margaret Kinloch was doing secretarial work in London—not the best

preparation for work on the land. She was, however, always interested in outdoor life, either plants' or animals' and says that she really began to enjoy life when she joined the Land Army.

Like many other early members, she had a somewhat varied career for the first few weeks and did potato picking, dairy work and market gardening. Finally, however, she went to Culford Camp and since 1940 has been in charge of felling operations for the Timber Production Department of the Ministry of Supply, and was, in fact, the first girl to be given this responsible job.

It evidently runs in the family, as she has two brothers who took their degrees in Forestry at Edinburgh University—although she admits that it rather surprised them when she started to do the same kind of work. Besides seeing to her many duties, which include the measuring up and despatching of timber, pit props, pulp wood and telegraph poles, etc., making out pay-sheets and filling in Income Tax cards and numerous produce returns, Miss Kinloch is an expert timber feller herself and has helped her Timber Corps gang to reach a standard of workmanship which has even earned praise from the wondering old man who remembers "as a boy, planting those very trees."

In the recent Honours List, Miss Kinloch was awarded the B.E.M., and no honour can have been more justly earned.

The W.T.C. are very proud of Margaret Kinloch. As they say, she is a "truly outstanding example of war-time service and has been a grand inspiration to all those who have known her."

not tell him afterwards he had not warned me.

I did not take his warning seriously. If the river flooded the bank in early spring I would do the sowing later on. As to pests and water rats I supposed the man had not taken enough trouble. There are plenty of remedies against pests and I would set traps for the water rats and encourage my cats to choose the 'rivergarden' as a hunting ground.

I worked hard in the winter to remove the rubbish and to cut down and burn bushes and brambles. The place began to look tidy. Then the river rose and submerged it. The water departed in late spring leaving behind a layer of fine sand and a collection of objects, pleasing to a salvage collector. Old tyres, rubber boots of different sizes, a leaking children's bath and a fender were amongst them.

Not before April was I able to start with digging. The soil was as hard as concrete and to break up and clean only a small bit took a very long time. I cannot say I enjoyed it, but passers-by seem to derive pleasure from watching me. Some of them encouraged me with approving remarks, others did not approve that I, a woman, should do such heavy work, but they seemed not to understand my hints that I could do with some help, particularly from a person so keen on gardening. No, I did not get any help from the spectators but a great deal of advice.

When I started sowing, the old man who worked the neighbouring plot, asked me: "What are you going to grow? Cabbages?"

I replied that I was not going to grow cabbages.

The old man was surprised: "Don't you like cabbages?" he asked. I explained that I did like cabbages but that I could easily buy them and that I intended to grow some unusual vegetables. The old man looked at me with distrust. "No cabbages," he said "and no potatoes and no carrots." he shrugged his shoulders disdainfully.

Yes, it was my ambition to grow vegetables I could not easily obtain in a shop: Indian corn, kohlrabi, celeriac, parsnip rooted parsley, salsify and several others. I also tried melons but did not succeed. I was luckier with ridge cucumbers.

The young crops were heavily attacked by all the insects and pests there are. Using the appropriate remedies I kept them down. The cats watched over the water rats. Pigeons were discouraged by the appliance of black threads. The plants progressed favourably and particularly the Indian corn looked very promising.

I went away for a week. When I came back I discovered that disaster had overtaken the garden by the river. The Indian corn, so lovingly tended, was broken. It looked as if heavy feet had trampled on most of the crops nearest to the river. Who could have done such a thing?

My neighbour's plot was undisturbed. I asked the old man whether he knew what had happened. He looked up from his work: "You'll never guess who did it. He has never come up my garden." "Who?"

"A swan." The old man nodded his head and turned back to his work. I think he believed that my attempts at growing 'fancy' vegetables had either attracted the swan's interest or displeasure.

It had left his cabbages alone because the old man had never thought of growing any other stuff than was known to him and his forefathers.

I admit, I was discouraged. I did not know how to deal with a swan. Besides there were hundreds of swans on the river. I was annoyed that these arrogant, useless birds should be protected and pampered. How much less spoiled are their useful cousins: geese and ducks.

I put in a row of sticks along the water front and tied strips of rags and paper to them. It was far from being ornamental—but the swan never came again. Of course it might not have come again in any case.

The broken Indian corn did not recover, but the other vegetables did all right and in the autumn I had a fair harvest. I presented the owner with a choice of the best, but he seemed not very impressed and murmured something about a very favourable year for vegetables. "Honestly" he said, "if you work out the hours you spend on it and the cost of the fertilisers and other items—well, you'd get the vegetables much cheaper in a shop."

This I admitted. "But it is wartime," I said "and we are told to grow vegetables."

"The war will be over soon. . ."

"Then I will grow flowers. . ."

"Flowers? Yes, that is not a bad idea, you might get a fair price for early ones."

I gave it up. This man would never understand the joy in helping to create something, not for the sake of making money out of it. He would never imagine the pleasure of having grown vegetables which one could not buy in a shop, or flowers for the sake of their beauty. We are all supposed to leave the world a better place than we found it; anybody who makes a garden has certainly contributed in a small way to this end.

Francesca Enns.

Congratulations to Moor Park, Weeton and Hillthorpe Hostels, W.R. Yorks, who tied with 100% in the April W.A.E.C. Competition. This is the second time that Hillthorpe and Weeton have received 100% and the third time that they have been top of the competition.

And to A. Wilson, 127135 (W. R. Yorks) whose presence of mind and prompt efficiency saved the life of a volunteer whose leg was caught in a threshing machine.

GARDEN BY THE RIVER

Sometime ago I came to live in a house overlooking the river Exe. The bank in front of it, overgrown with brambles and used as a dump, was an eyesore. To the right and left the banks had been converted into allotments. I felt I ought to do the same, although it would mean working Sundays.

I got in touch with the owner of the land. He listened patiently to my proposals. In the end, he declared that I was free to do what I liked, in lieu of rent he would be pleased to accept a few vegetables—if, he added ironically, there were any. He and others had tried years ago to cultivate the plot, but their labour had been of no avail. In spring the river flooded the bank and what wire worms and other pests did not destroy was finished up by water rats. I should



CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter was received by the Warden of Bubwith Hostel, Yorkshire, from an airman in Iceland.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I suppose you will be surprised to receive this letter from a stranger, but nevertheless, I can't help writing just a few lines to you, as regards to the very pretty Land Girls, of your hostel, who have given their blood for the men of the fighting services.

I am not a Yorkshire born man, but there are quite a few boys out here with me, and a friend of mine, Bernard Baker of Market Weighton lent me his "Hull and Yorkshire Times" and I couldn't help but say what a very nice group of young ladies there were on the front page of the paper, and I should like you to pass on my very best wishes to them all, and we service men really thank them for the way in which they have come forward in the time of need.

Well, I must close now. Wishing you and all the girls the very best of luck in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Edwards.

See photograph above.

Dear Editor,

As a more recent but enthusiastic ringer I write to correct a few erroneous statements made in the May issue of the LAND GIRL.

Firstly, the number of bells varies in different towers. 6 is not the fixed number, they vary from 3 in the smaller churches to 12 in the cathedrals. Also, in towers

where methods are rung, there are no boards giving the numbers of the bells to take; it is impossible to look at these and also look which bell you are following as the bells are changing position at every stroke. Boards are only used where call changes are rung and one simply continues to follow the bell given on the board till a call is made, when one takes the next number.

With regard to the peal, this is, correctly speaking, any number of changes above 5,000, but there must be no two changes alike. A true peal can only be rung on 7 or more bells. On 6 bells one can only ring 720 changes, and a peal then consists of these changes repeated seven times by different methods or callings.

As a matter of interest, six changes are obtainable on 3 bells and about 368,000,000 on 12 bells.

Notts.

M. Bower, 60246.

Dear Editor,

I completed ten years' work on the land in the two wars on November 10th, 1944 and perhaps it might interest your readers to hear a little about the very early days of the last war.

We got our training on one of Lord Rayleigh's farms in Essex and were paid 15/- a week for our keep. Of course, no kit was issued to us and after I had been some time in my first job I wore a gym tunic over a yellow hockey club shirt, a white sweater and my father's gaiters to work in.

I think the training was well thought out.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

Is artificial insemination going to be the outstanding veterinary discovery of the century? Is it going to be the salvation of the livestock industry and, in particular, of English cattle breeding? Or is it an overrated, new-fangled idea doomed to disappear from the realm of practical breeding policy?

For one thing, it is not so new-fangled as some of us might think. As long as ten years ago, it had already reached an advanced stage in certain foreign countries (notably Russia) and was beginning to be spoken of, and practised (if only experimentally) over here.

But before I go any further, let's look at one popular objection to it, the objection that it is "against nature." Frankly, I think that objection is simply silly. Our whole civilisation, on which we pride ourselves, is "against nature." Knives, forks, houses, clothes, our food—everything is, if not man-made, at least man-adapted and controlled. The breeding of cattle has been most carefully ordered for centuries. No, you can't condemn artificial insemination on *that* score without condemning the whole world as it is to-day.

Another argument sometimes put forward against the practice is that by diluting the semen and making one service from a bull do duty over perhaps ten or a dozen cows, you will be compelling Nature to make use of the weaker, less desirable generative agents. Well, all I can say to that is to point out that it has been estimated (and, of course, reliably estimated, by experts) that one service of a bull produces about 5 cubic centimetres of seminal fluid containing some *five thousand million spermatazoa*! To put it mildly, this would seem to leave room for quite a considerable degree of dilution without much likelihood of trouble.

Obviously the practice will not appeal very much to the bigger man with his pedigree herd, and first-class home-bred bulls. It is an easy matter for him to be self-contained in the breeding sphere. But it does seem to me that for the smaller man with perhaps a rather scratch lot of milking cows, it will be a very real help to have available the service of the finest bulls in the country at very little higher fees than he is at present paying for the use of a neighbour's rather second-rate bull. I believe artificial insemination can do almost untold good in grading-up our medium and poorish smaller herds.

E. M. Barraud.

We had a week at each branch of work, viz., sheep, pigs, calves, horses, dairy, under the regular farm hand, but we milked every day. That meant getting up at ten to four every morning to catch the very early milk train and in those days the churns went by pony-float. At the end of about six weeks we were selected by various farmers and went off in twos.

I got my first job as under cowman at the princely sum of 17/6 a week. Out of this we paid for our own food and clothes with lodgings free, and our landlady cooked for us for a small sum. In those days there were no overtime rates, and I remember feeling very disgusted at being offered an extra 2/6 after a very strenuous hay and harvest time, when we were often carrying by moonlight! At this farm we had more than our share of Zepp raids and had some bad times with panicky cows, so that we often had to patrol the cowsheds all night, turning the cows loose, as we lost so many calves at first. In the two years I was there I gained a lot of experience in all sorts of work. Then after six months on a lovely farm in Herefordshire I was moved to a big dairy farm in Surrey; then until May 1919, another girl and I had charge of a small farm in Derbyshire until the owner came back from the Ruhr. By this time our wages were 28/- a week and we lived in a cottage, and had a kind neighbour to cook for us.

During this war I have worked on one farm all the time and my present job is the nearest to my heart, as it is with horses. I am the carter.

On comparing the first years with these times I think that, although the work is still hard, and the weather what the weather always is, the conditions were harder, and we were less well cared for. We had no kindly D.R. to visit us and vet our lodgings, no generous and warm uniform to comfort us and with our low wages we fed badly but the job was then, and still is, the best in the world.

I think it is possible that I am the "Grandmother" of the Land Army, unless two of the original five at Baddow are working also. I have lost touch with these two.

Bucks.

K. B. Skinner, 5775.

This is to remind you that the London Club is closing for staff holidays and cleaning from August 20th to September 1st.

This month's cover design is by B. Ladler, 44054 (Middx).

Increasing numbers of volunteers are taking correspondence courses in their spare time to improve their chances of getting a job when they are released from the Land Army. If you are thinking of joining their ranks, it is **most important** that you should choose a good course and one that is not more expensive than need be. Before signing a contract with any Correspondence School or parting with your money, it would be worth your while to invest a 2½d. stamp in a letter to the **WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT FEDERATION**, 2 Cromwell Place, S.W.7. and take advantage of the free advice service available for Land Army volunteers. W.E.F. will be able to recommend the best course to take for your particular subject, if there is one. Don't forget W.E.F. only advises on subjects **not** connected with agriculture. If you want to take a correspondence course in an agricultural or horticultural subject, consult your County Secretary.

One last word—and this applies chiefly to girls who want advice about post-war careers—if you write to W.E.F., do tell them a bit about yourself. Don't just say "Dear Madam, I want to do something after the war—please advise me!" Give your age, particulars of your education and if you got Matriculation or School Certificate, what you did before the war, where your home is and **some** idea of what interests you.



The sunny side of the Land Army.

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

FOR SALE.—White boots, with skates (ice) attached, size 6. £4 or reasonable offer. Sanders, Trader Bank, Sibsey, Boston, Lincs.

FOR SALE.—Jodhpur boots, brown, size 4½, £2. Cream, "Aldo," Coleshill Heath Road, Marston Green, Birmingham.

FOR SALE.—Modern brown leatherette handbag, new, 18/6; also navy blue man-tailored winter coat, with belt, excellent condition, bust 34-36 ins, £5. 58546, Vine Farm, South Luffenham, Rutland.

FOR SALE.—Brown fawn check riding coat, bust 34 ins, as new, £2 10s. Childs, 24, Richmond Place, Lansdown, Bath.

FOR SALE.—Ladies brown riding jacket, good condition, waist 26 ins, bust 32 ins, 45/- Adams, Westons, Wadhurst, Sussex.

FOR SALE.—Brown Dolcis shoes, size 5, 25s. Lees, 10, Mitchelmore Road, Yeovil, Somerset.

FOR SALE.—Riding Breeches, medium size, £1. WANTED Riding jacket, medium size. Alexander, 3, Pad Road, North Lancing, Sussex.

FOR SALE.—Riding Jodhpurs (brown), waist 28 ins hips 38 ins, excellent condition, 40/- Morton, 92, Farningham Road, Caterham, Surrey.

FOR SALE.—Yellow silk blouse, 5/-; also tartan cloth handbag, 15/- 58547, Vine Farm, S. Luffenham, Rutland.

FOR SALE.—Showerproof brown and fawn zipped jacket, reversible, bust 38 ins., new, £2. Green and silver knitted cardigan, O.S., new, 15/- Enclose stamps for reply. Coop, Wellbrook, Abbeystead, Lancaster.

FOR SALE.—2 prs. canvas brown leggings, leather straps, as new, 7/6. Pope, 3, Ersham Road, Hailsham.

WANTED.—Riding jacket preferably brown (not essential), bust 34 ins.; also jodhpurs, light brown or fawn, waist 26 ins., length waist-ankle 41 ins. Sibson, Warren Houses, Temple Bench, Wellingore, Lincoln.

WANTED.—Secondhand Girl Guide Uniforms, all sizes, also Guiders Costume size 36 in. bust, 46 in. hips. Kemp, Dalham, Newmarket.

WANTED.—Bathing costume and cap, good condition and quality. Thomas, Stock Lane, Langford, Nr. Bristol.

WANTED.—Brown or dark green skirt, waist 27 ins or 28 ins. Callaghan, Hopkirk Cottage, Fawkham, Kent.

WANTED.—Ladies brown riding boots, size 7½. Write stating price and condition. Beattie, Stockwell, Birdlip, Glos.

WANTED.—Ladies brown tweed riding coat, bust 36 ins, sleeve from armpit 21 ins. Gwyn, Hyver, Midford, Bath, Somerset.

WANTED URGENTLY.—Good strong rubber bathing cap. Latimer, Bullhoosen Bungalow, Birsley, Surrey.

INDUSTRIAL SHOES

For FARMERS & FOOD PRODUCERS

ONE COUPON ONLY.

Wartime Model Shoes as illustrated. Leather uppers. Beechwood soles. Keep feet warm. Rubbers or irons extra. Also gloves, boots and a few Wellingtons.



All Sizes Post free

Send a stamped addressed envelope for list.

L. TWEENWAY, LTD.,
Horley Row, Horley, Surrey.



The Northumberland County Rally was held on the last day of May, in the grounds of Alnwick Castle by permission of the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland.

This historic and beautiful setting contributed much to the success of the Rally; the weather for once was exceptionally favourable to our activities, and Mrs. Ord has our grateful admiration for her work in organising such an ambitious and successful programme.

It was tremendously satisfying to experience the feeling which was abroad that day of being part of a co-ordinated body. We are an army of isolated and scattered sections, but here at least we could enjoy an atmosphere of unity and union with our fellow-members, on an occasion where, discipline being unnecessary, comradeship and friendliness prevailed.

The items arranged for our entertainment and instruction included sports, a most interesting tour of agricultural exhibits, (where the time available for each item, was, in the opinion of many of us, all too short); and an auction which gave rise to whole-hearted amusement bordering on hilarity, due

mainly to the dexterity and wit of the "assistants," and to an auctioneer whose pertinacity and persuasiveness would render him invaluable at any "mart."

The fallacy which may have hitherto existed among us, that any speech-making or prize-giving occasion must of necessity be an extremely dull affair, was expertly contradicted. We would any time welcome more than "a very few words" from Mr. J. M. Craster. His appeal that we should, on our return to occupations and life in the city, act as propagandists as it were for the cause of agriculture and the land will be answered readily and with sincerity. A vote of thanks to Mr. Craster was proposed by Mr. MacDonald and seconded by Ruth Whitfield. Among the recipients of good service badges was Eleanor Wealleans who received her eleventh half-diamond.

Lady Grey's final vote of thanks to all who had helped to make such a joyous occasion of our first peace-time Rally was seconded in no uncertain manner by all of us present.

M.C., 77221

SURREY RALLY

It takes more than wind and rain to quell the spirits of Surrey volunteers and our Rally on June 2nd at Redhill was great fun in spite of the weather. Mrs. Jenkins, in her charming opening speech, made us all feel tremendously proud of the W.L.A., and Group Captain Sir Louis Greig, R.A.F., who took the salute at the March Past, said "We look upon you as a sister Service and congratulate you on all you have done. You have won for us the greatest victory this country has ever seen." This, from the R.A.F., we felt was praise indeed!

Music was by the Redhill Town Band, and there were many side-shows, exhibitions and other diversions. Three Surrey farmers, including the chairman of the W.A.E.C., had the perplexing task of choosing the prizewinners of a Beauty Competition. The longest queues of the day were outside the Fortune Tellers' booths—a never-ending stream of volunteers anxious to know what the future held for them. A magnificent high tea was provided by the W.A.E.C., and the day's festivities finished with Sports.

Miss Helen Talbot, the county chairman, presented the prizes at the end of a Rally which we felt had been a great success. We were particularly proud of our programme, with its original design by a Surrey volunteer.

(Photograph on p. 15).

BENEVOLENT FUND

On June 30th the Fund totalled £134,245. The monthly total was £4,446. KENT still has the highest total of £7,739, and N. RIDING the highest monthly total of £1,369.

N. RIDING'S fine Winter Drive totalling £1,369 put them only "a short head" in front of CHESHIRE who raised £1,290, including over £1,000 from their various Flag Days.

Although these two Counties easily won the Benevolent Fund Stakes this month, the following made excellent running: NORTHUMBERLAND who sent £193, including over £72 raised by the County Rally; £217 from KENT—£147 from E. KENT'S Revue; N. WALES' £125 included £54 from Bangor Bridge Drive; £119 from BUCKS, whose Chorley Wood Dance brought in £106; KESTEVEN'S £125 included over £64 from their Grantham Dance; while DEVON'S £120 was also mainly raised by entertainments. Other good totals included SURREY £65, CARDS, and CARMS. £56, DERBY £54, and MONMOUTH £53, while the "Backyards Brains Trust" at the Central Hall, Westminster, provided fun and information both for the audience and volunteers from Essex, Herts., Kent, London, and Surrey who collected £44.

* NORTHANTS sent £80 too late for mention last month.

SCOTTISH NOTES

ANGUS.—Two parties were arranged by the W.L.A. Sub-Committee to entertain the Angus members. At the first, on 12th May, there were 60 present; Miss E. L. Ireland introduced Mrs. Lamb wife of Provost Lamb, Arbroath, who handed over armlets and G.S. badges. After tea a programme of games, recitations, songs, a sketch and dancing was carried through. Mrs. Lamb was thanked by Mrs. Morrison, and the W.L.A. Sub-Committee by Miss I. Brown. At the second party, on June 2nd, about 130 Angus members of the W.L.A. were entertained in the Regent, Nethergate, Dundee. Miss E. L. Ireland introduced Mrs. Paulin of the Department of Agriculture, who handed over armlets and G.S. badges and congratulated the girls on their good work. Mrs. Morrison proposed thanks to Mrs. Paulin. Miss E. L. Ireland handed over donations amounting to £136 12s. for the Scottish Welfare and Benevolent Fund.

Songs, music, humorous recitations and Highland Dances followed. Miss M. Small proposed thanks to the W.L.A. Sub-Committee.

AYRSHIRE is proud of its original W.L.A. member, Christina McRiner, 902, who has been awarded the B.E.M.

Chrissie McRiner has been continuously employed in farm work in this county since October, 1939, except for a period of 9 weeks, when off work through being kicked by a horse, and for two years was in a farm where she had to walk over 4 miles to bus or town! She has given really "Good Service" to her country, and it is gratifying to know that it has been recognised. Her many friends will wish to convey to her their hearty congratulations on her well merited honour.

DUMFRIESHIRE.—A badge presentation in Langholm on 16th June to 37 volunteers was followed by a successful dance which yielded £21 17s. for the W. & B. Fund. Lady Milne Home the charming wife of the Chairman of the A.E.C., in reply to Mrs. Ralston who stressed the need for sustained effort in food production, referred in a neat speech to the hard tasks lying ahead of the women of the country.

DUNBARTON & RENFREW.—A Sale of Work and Fun Fair, run by Kirkintilloch volunteers, raised £300. Half of this is to be given to the Welcome Home Fund for Kirkintilloch and the other half will be divided up between N. Lanarkshire and Dunbarton and Renfrew in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund. Dr. Isabel Armstrong opened the Sale and was presented with six handkerchiefs and a doll dressed in a crinoline made out of flowers.

On 29th May, Paisley Club for the second time, entertained 30 limbless soldiers from Erskine Hospital. It was a highly successful evening and the men greatly appreciated all that the girls did for them. Mr. McCulloch very kindly came along and entertained the men for nearly an hour. The girls had subscribed all their sweet rations. Cigarettes and money were given to each man.

On 1st June, Cardross district volunteers raised £20 for the W. & B. Fund by a very successful dance.

E. FIFE.—A dance at W.L.A. Hostel, Backdykes Auchtermuchty has contributed £66 to the W. and B. Fund. Donations, amounting to £35 were solicited personally by Miss Morton, Matron of the Hostel. Other efforts in aid of the Fund were Cupar Hostel £21, Newtonhall (second effort) £21, Flag Day in Leven £27 16s. 0d.

HUNTLY & GARIOCH held a successful fete and sale in aid of the W. and B. Fund at Gordon Schools playing field. Major H. R. Spence, paid tribute to the valuable contribution of the W.L.A. to the War Effort, and expressed the hope that volunteers would receive a greater measure of appreciation and recognition in the future, and Brigadier Hamilton of Skene, opening the fete, appealed for help to provide training for those who desired to take up permanent agricultural work. There were numerous sideshows, and the pipe band

of Keith Home Guard played at intervals throughout the afternoon, Huntly Boy's Brigade gave a gymnastic display and the Drill Hall was crowded for the dance in the evening.

KINCARDINESHIRE.—Members spent a very enjoyable evening at the open night of Ardo W.R.I. Thanks were expressed to Miss Hunter and the members of the W.R.I. for their continued hospitality and kindness to volunteers in the district.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—There was a crowded attendance at a W.L.A. dance at Kirkgunzeon as a result of which the W. and B. Fund benefited by the sum of £29. During an interval, Miss Anne Dowling (Secretary) introduced Mrs. Grierson, county convener, who handed over G.S. badges to 13 members.

At a recent dance at Kirkbean, organised by members of the district, £12 was raised for the Stewartry branch of the Red Cross. Miss Margaret Fleming, Kirkhouse Dairy, acted as secretary. The dance and crooning competition organised by the W.L.A. in the Town Hall, met with gratifying success. There were almost a dozen entries, which was judged by Mrs. Landsburgh and Mrs. F. Walker, the winners being—Mrs. Rettie, Castle Douglas, and Sally Barr, W.L.A., Chapelton; Alex. Davidson, Kirkcudbright, and Harold McCormick, Castle Douglas. During an interval Mrs. Grierson, presented a number of G.S. badges and told the members that although they were asked to carry on their work now she would advise them to be thinking about their post-war careers, and she assured them of every possible assistance from the Committee. Mrs. Grierson also advised members remaining in the county to join the Young Farmers' Club. As a result of the effort of the W.L.A. W. and B. Fund will benefit by over £46.

WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS

A high percentage of members working in South Wales joined in the Cardiff victory parade. Gaily decorated lorries arrived just before lunch from north, east and west. The Divisional Officer and staff, who were all enrolled as honorary members of the W.T.C. for the day, were ready for them with a splendidly organised lunch in the office garden. Speeches followed, and then members formed up and marched off to join the other Services at the starting-point for the parade through the city. After the parade had been formally dismissed at the Law Courts, the Timber Corps contingent returned to the Divisional Office, where tea had been prepared for them. Everyone agreed that it had been a most enjoyable day, and Mr. Ryle and the office staff were warmly thanked for the trouble they had taken.

A member from Cumberland writes enthusiastically of the recent Land Army Rally at Alnwick Castle, to which she and other members of the Timber Corps were invited.

Successful dances have been organised by several units, including Hoff Lunn (£33 2s. 0d.) and Camberley (£20).



Australian Land Girls off to work.

COUNTY NEWS

MON.—Last month we held our first Drama Festival and the results were so encouraging that it is hoped to make the festival an annual event. Four plays were presented by St. Brides W.L.A. Dramatic Society, Llanishen Hostel, Mount Ballan Hostel and Cross Ash Hostel, and the players, new as most of them were to stage work, showed keenness and adaptability. The Hon. Adjudicator Mrs. G. J. Fisher, Newport, awarded an "A" to Llanishen Hostel for their well-balanced beautifully acted production of "Mrs. Grundy comes to Tea," produced by Mrs. Lacey, D.R., and acted by Yorkshire girls comparatively new to this county. Mount Ballan received a good "B" for their amusing "Teas Provided." Actor-producer was Winifred Bennett. Class "B" was awarded to St. Brides for their "Acid Drops." Joint producers were Miss A. Wintour and S. Ldr. Dodd. Cross Ash chose a difficult play and in spite of some very good individual acting obtained only "C" for their production of "Dear Departed," produced by Mrs. de Winton. In recent Proficiency Tests J. A. Phillips and B. Malcolmson gained distinction in Tractor Driving and B. Lewis and N. Dickinson in G.F. work. Owing to an oversight, several names were missed from the list of prize winners in our recent Handicraft Exhibition. We offer our apologies and congratulations to K. Harris and E. J. Jacques for 1st and 2nd prizes for rugmaking and to R. Millane for her special prize for a poster.

MONT.—A very successful Sale of Work was held in Welshpool on March 17th and 19th, at which we raised £100 in aid of the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds. In view of the fact that we are the smallest W.L.A. county in the British Isles we feel very proud of our effort, and we should like to take this opportunity of saying "Thank you" to the many kind friends who gave us their generous support. Congratulations and thanks to Mrs. Crocker, 74058, from whom we have just received the sum of £7 5s. 0d. part proceeds of a dance which she organised. We have recently opened a new hostel at Gungrog Hall, Welshpool, which will accommodate 46 girls though at the moment there are only 37 in residence. When we took the house over from the W.A.E.C. there were 18 girls already billeted there, and with them still in residence we embarked on the big task of adapting the house to official W.L.A. requirements. We had many setbacks and the staff and volunteers gained our highest admiration for the magnificent way in which they made the best of a very uncomfortable period.

NORFOLK.—Proficiency Tests have recently been held in milking and out-door gardening, with a real "field-day" on June 14th at West Barsham Hall, when tests for tractor driving, G.F. and field work were held by kind permission of Mr. J. A. Keith. The weather was cool and fine, although very windy, and all arrangements ran according to plan. Five girls took tractor driving, 18 general farm and 8 field work. Detailed results are not yet out but one entrant was asked to give a repeat performance of muck-spreading, as a demonstration. The Labour Sub-committee of the Norfolk W.A.E.C. organised a beet singling competition for the gang workers in their employment. 3 girls were selected from each hostel, and 3 from the gang operating from billets, making 24 entrants. Prizes were given by members of the sub-committee, the Labour Officers and the British Sugar Beet Corporation (Cantley Factory). The judges warmly congratulated the L.G.'s on the high standard attained; of the winner they said that her work was the most perfect piece of hoeing they had ever seen. Prize-winners were: 1. G. Darwin 97, 2. E. Harrison 97, 3. E. Owens 96, 4. D. Hudson 92, and P. Burton and E. Roberts. The leading hostels were: 1. Lingwood 286, 2. Thurning 275 and 3. Banningham 266. (Max. 300).

We are very sorry indeed to lose our two county organisers, Miss Parker and Mrs. Garrod. We extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Allin.

NORTHANTS.—By the kind permission of the County Agricultural Sub-Committee, Proficiency Badge Holders from Northamptonshire and the Soke of Peterborough were entertained at the County Institute of Agriculture at the invitation of the Chairman, Lady Spencer, and members of the W.L.A. County Committee, on June 16th. About 100 girls were present and with Committee Members, Members of the W.A.E.C., W.L.A. Representatives and farmers who had so kindly given their time and skill in judging for Proficiency Tests, the party numbered about 200. The organisation, which was in the hands of the Principal and Staff of the County Farm Institute, achieved the usual Moulton standard. A series of admirably staged demonstrations, covering almost every type of test, was followed by a wonderful tea and a very brief talk by the County Secretary on plans and opportunities for specialised agricultural training for members of the W.L.A. Mrs. Hannay (Committee Member) then presented K. Wright with the Silver Cup she had given for the highest marks (94) in the Milking and Dairy Test. M. Walker, W.L.A., then proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and County Committee and the Principal and Staff of the Farm Institute. A walk round the fruit gardens, a most exciting treasure hunt and an apparently limitless supply of the most delicious ices ended a lovely afternoon. Congratulations to Daventry Hostel which raised £65 by a fair and to Newnham Hall whose Whist Drive and Dance brought in £27, both for the Northampton General Hospital.

NORTH'D.—The arrangements for our Rally were largely the responsibility of Mrs. Ord, in whose praise as a patient and apparently untiring organiser of this and previous gatherings, too much cannot be said. We would however like her to know that her hard work is deeply appreciated. Among others whom we have to thank are His Grace the Duke of Northumberland for the use of the grounds and the Riding School at Alnwick Castle, which made (in every sense) such a splendid setting for the Rally; Mr. J. M. Craster who presented the Good Service Badges and Mr. W. Macdonald who proposed the vote of thanks at this ceremony; the Staff of King's College and Members of the W.A.E.C. for the help they gave in connection with exhibits and sports; those local farmers who also helped with the sports and with the auction; the supporters of the Stall and other efforts which altogether raised £72 9s. 9d. for the Benevolent Fund; the Members of the Y.W.C.A. Mobile Canteen who served tea and coffee. To all these and many others we give our warmest thanks. In the Spring Series of Proficiency Tests during May and June, S. Oliver 13223 gained Distinction in poultry keeping and M. Morrison 117246 in market gardening and field work although the number of entries was small there were no failures and the standard was high.

NOTTS.—The L.A. was represented at the service held at Southwell Minster on Farm Sunday, by our Chairman Lady Sibell Argles, members of the committee, and volunteers from Hockerton Hostel and farms in the district. It was unfortunate that rain prevented the procession to bless the crops from taking place. We were also represented at the Victory Thanksgiving Services at Nottingham, Newark and Workop, to each of which we were invited to send ten volunteers. Proficiency Tests have started this month, the poultry and fruit work tests having already taken place. The largest entries are for the Market Garden and Field Work, and Gen. Farm Work Tests which are to be held in July. There is a total of 72 entries for all tests. Successful Victory Parties have been held in many hostels. We congratulate Hawksworth Hostel where as a result of a Whist Drive and Dance, £10 was sent to Mrs. Churchill's Aid to Russia Fund, this was followed by a Victory Party for the village. Collingham Hostel entertained wounded service men from nearby hospitals to a very delightful social evening.

OXON.—A very profitable evening was spent recently at our Swalcliffe Hostel. The Warden,

Mrs. MacDonald Murray, arranged a Mock Election and the results were interesting! Woodstock and Glympton Park will not forget quickly the visit of Mrs. Warren who told a thrilling story of how British women escaped from France in 1940. We hope Mrs. Warren will tell this to other volunteers in the County. A party from Oxfordshire are planning to go to the Rally in Windsor Great Park, and are very grateful to Berkshire for inviting them. Proficiency Tests have started again. The G.F. Test was the first, and Miss Arkell, 42170, and Miss E. Roberts, 87786, must be congratulated on getting distinctions.

We were very sorry to say farewell to Mrs. Lacey, County Organiser, who left us at the end of May, and to Mrs. MacDonald Murray who is going to the Continent to work with Toc H.

PEMBS.—We were very sorry to say goodbye to our Regional Officer, Mrs. Coombs and to our assistant Secretary, Miss Llewellyn. We congratulate Miss Llewellyn on her appointment as Secretary of Cards and Carms. and wish her every success in her new job. We welcome Miss Parry the new Regional Officer and Miss Greenough who has come from the Glamorganshire Office to take Miss Llewellyn's place.

We have held all the Proficiency Tests except the one in Gardening and congratulate all those who passed, particularly those who gained distinction. Out of 31 entries for Field Work 22 volunteers passed, 3 with distinction. All the Hostels sent candidates, the largest entry came from Priskilly. 10 W.A.E.C. volunteers for the Pest Destruction Test all passed, two with distinction, and 14 taking the Test in Milking and Dairy Work all passed, 2 with distinction. Volunteers from The Glen Hostel and farms near Haverfordwest took part in the Victory Parade in Haverfordwest. They were congratulated by the Lord Lieutenant of the County on their smart appearance. L.Gs. on very isolated farms in the Templeton District have formed a Club which meets every Wednesday evening at The Schoolroom, Martletwy.

SALOP.—16 Members of the Newport Club recently spent a pre-harvest holiday in London when they stayed at the W.L.A. Club. They were delighted with everything and filled with admiration for the way in which the Club is equipped and run. The kindness of Miss Cottle, the Warden, added in large measure to the great success of the trip and we hope that other groups of L.Gs. will follow Newport's example. Newport Club members are planning a week at the sea after harvest and we hope that this will prove an equally happy event, and feel that holidays or weekends spent in this way do much to promote a feeling of real fellowship and unity amongst volunteers. We offer all good wishes to Mrs. D. Cooper, nee Joyce Banks, who was married from Morville Hostel where she had been billeted. Her two bridesmaids and guard of honour were from the hostel and her bouquet a gift from the Local Representative. Music for a dance the same night was provided by Mr. A. C. Walker, the bride's late employer, who once again proved himself a real and generous friend to the W.L.A. We do congratulate our 25 5½ year olds and 17 5 year olds, and hope that for so long as there is a Land Army they will continue their magnificent work in the County.

SOMERSET.—We were very grateful to the many volunteers who took part in Parades and Thanksgiving Services following VE-Day. Although they did not head the marches, none had more right to be represented. A special letter of thanks came from Weston-super-Mare praising the excellence and neatness of the contingent. Rallies for L.Gs. are normal events, but we had one for Warden on April 30th when problems concerning hostel arrangements were discussed and two representatives from Headquarters gave us guidance. Volunteers who remember the hostels with pleasure will be sorry to learn that we are finally handing back Hinton Blewitt, Orchard Neville and Priddy. The W.A.E.C. will make alternative arrangements for training tractor drivers now that the Priddy School

will not be available. We are proud that a Decorative Map for Somerset has already been started. These maps are to commemorate the war effort of individual Counties and will be sold as souvenirs in aid of the Benevolent Fund. Some excellent Benevolent Fund Dances have been held recently at Norton St. Philip, Ditchat, Backwell, Churchill Frome and Taunton. Congratulations to Winscombe in raising £33 by their Dance and Social.

STAFFS.—Proficiency Tests in Milking and Dairy work have been held recently. 13 candidates entered, 3 gained Distinction and 10 Passed. Through the untiring efforts of our Committee Member and girls in the Leek District, a very successful Whist Drive and Dance was held at Cheddleton, £45 being raised for the Benevolent Fund. Other social activities have helped to swell the County Welfare Fund. The Wall Heath Hostel was the centre of a very pretty wedding, when one of our members was married at Swindon Parish Church. Fellow members of the Hostel formed a guard of honour outside the church with pitchforks and along with the Warden acted charmingly as hostesses at the reception. We send our congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple. Two members are at present spending a well-earned rest at the Rest Break House, Torquay, glowing accounts of their holiday are being received, including an excursion to view a German U-Boat anchored at Brixham. The London Club is proving very popular for weekend leave, many members making their first visit to this world famous city.

E. SUFFOLK.—We were very glad to welcome Mrs. Grace, from Headquarters Hostels Department, who attended a successful Wardens' Conference in Ipswich in May. Our Chairman, Lady Cranworth, members of the Office Staff, and L.Gs. working at Shelley Hostel and on nearby private farms, took part in a Rogation Day Service at Tendring Hall, at which the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich preached. Afterwards, by kind invitation of W. Suffolk, they all had tea at Leavenheath Hostel, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

There was a large number of L.Gs. at the Suffolk Show in Ipswich on June 6th. Several of them were with prize-winning animals, which they had taken a real share in preparing for judging, and were proudly leading round the ring. Special congratulations to June Cooper (Saxmundham) who was showing her own Friesians, one of which was the champion bull calved in 1943, Terling Philemon; and to Margaret Rudland, who was riding for Miss J. Campbell, and came second in the jumping. We started our new series of Proficiency Tests with one in Machine Milking at Columbyne Hall, on June 21st. The three candidates, Miss M. Brooke, Miss P. O'Flaherty and Miss J. Voss, were all successful, and the first named deserves special mention as being the first girl in this county to pass tests in two different subjects, this time with distinction.

W. SUFFOLK. has a mixture of good and bad news this month. We are very sorry to be losing our County Secretary, Mrs. Le Blond, who has been with us for 5 years and will be sorely missed by everyone. We cannot adequately express our gratitude and appreciation of all she has done for us, and extend her our heartiest good wishes in the future.

Our heartiest congratulations to B. Baldry, who was awarded the B.E.M. in the last honours list. Lakenheath Hostel has been unfortunate in another road accident, when one of their number was killed outright, and 3 other L.Gs. injured. We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved, and wish the injured volunteers a speedy recovery. Leavenheath Hostel has just celebrated its 3rd anniversary, and a very successful party took place to mark the occasion. Two Proficiency Tests have been held at Chadacre, one in machine milking, and the other in tractor and poultry. Eleven candidates entered and we are glad to say 10 passed, two with distinction. We are rather proud of the fact that our artists have supplied two of this year's cover designs for the magazine, and hope they will continue to put their talent to such good use.



At the Surrey Rally.

E. SUSSEX.—We were delighted to welcome Miss Hunter as County Secretary. She has been County Secretary in Warwickshire for 3 years, and now comes to us as her home is at Haywards Heath—a happy arrangement for both herself and the County North Cuckfield Area is very sorry to lose their Chairman, Lady Dorothy Macmillan, who has resigned to help her husband in the Election. We shall look forward to seeing her again when she returns to Sussex.

Congratulations to Jessie Hawkins (43332), on being awarded the B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours. Jessie came from Yorkshire in 1941 and is employed by the W.A.E.C. Volunteers took part in VE-Day celebrations in nearly all towns and villages and a contingent was included in parades at Brighton, Hove, Eastbourne, Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill. Well over 200 E. Sussex Volunteers have married Canadian soldiers, and some have already left for Canada. We wish them the very best of luck and happiness in their new life, and hope that their service in the W.L.A. will be of help to them, as many have married farmers. Among successful recent ventures for the Benevolent Fund were Hunter Trials at Crowborough, a Horse Show at Mayfield, a Concert at Eastbourne, and Dances at Copthorne and Horley. "A Little Bit of Fluff," performed at Lewes on June 15th, raised over £40 for the Fund. A County Rally will be held at the end of August or early September.

W. SUSSEX.—Proficiency Tests have been held, one for field work in which 9 out of 12 passed and one in Hand Milking, in which, out of five candidates B. Gascoyne, E. Jeffery and G. Netley, gained distinction. Three very successful series of cookery classes have been given at Chichester and Shoreham by the County Council Cookery Instructors and her assistant. Miss Winifred Bury, composer, has made two more tours of the county and has delighted everyone with her singing and playing. Worthing Club has had an enthralling talk on America by Mrs. Obermer of the M.O.I.

and Midhurst has very much enjoyed a violin recital by Miss Murray Lambert. Most of the Clubs have now closed down for the summer, but several continue to hold "outings" of various kinds and Worthing maintains its proud record of not having missed a weekly meeting for the last four years. Its very successful Variety Concert for the Benevolent Fund which was repeated at the local hospital was received on both occasions with immense enthusiasm.

We have lost an old and very valued friend by the death of Lady Hope, who has been L.A. Representative for Plaistow since the beginning of the war.

N. WALES.—Our Target of £2,000 for the Benevolent Fund by September is still to the forefront and we are most grateful for the splendid contributions recently received from the Bangor Bridge Drive, Conway Whist Drive, Chwilog Concert and the Cinema Collection—the result of the very successful dance at Llangefni is yet to be announced. Our latest venture is compiling a cookery book to be sold in aid of the fund. The Area Welfare Fund has also been well supported and we thank Tremadoc Club, Bala and the Glynllifan, Valley and Glyn-y-Weddw Hostels for their very welcome contributions. The Rally and Handicraft Exhibition is to be held at Bangor in September and much interest has been shown now that the schedules have been circulated. Congratulations to the successful candidate in the Tractor and Pests proficiency tests especially J. B. Brown, B. Daniels and N. Daniels, who obtained distinction.

WARWICKS.—During the last two months we have had many celebrations in our county, and also a very delightful and helpful visit from Miss Bower in May, when fortunately she was able to attend both the District Representatives' Meeting and the grand party given the preceding day by Mrs. Fielden our County Chairman, to all Volunteers qualifying for their four year armlets. Miss Bower made the presentations to forty volunteers, and after speeches

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by Miss Bower, Mrs. Fielden and Mr. Hughes, Chairman of the W.W.A.E.C., we had tea, followed by a visit to "She Stoops to Conquer" at the Stratford-on-Avon Memorial Theatre. We also had very successful Victory Parades in Leamington, Coventry, Birmingham and Stratford, in which the W.L.A. joined the Civil Defence and Services for both the march past and open air service.

The Committee and the County Office are very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. Walpole-Brown who, as a Committee Member and Organiser and in every other capacity since the start of the W.L.A. in Warwickshire has done such magnificent work in the County but are delighted to know that she is continuing with us in the future as a very active member of the Committee.

WILTS.—The Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Bazaar arranged by the Committee Member, District Representatives, and volunteers in the Salisbury area, was held in the Guildhall, Salisbury. It was excellent, and the stalls were most attractively arranged. Tea was followed by an Auction and a very pleasant afternoon concluded with a one act play given by the volunteers in the Allington area. A cheque for £90 has been forwarded to the Benevolent Fund, the proceeds from this event. Proficiency Tests have been held in General Field Work, Gardening, Tractor Driving and Milking. Five distinctions were obtained in these tests. Many volunteers took part in the Y.F.C. Rally at Dauntsey. Devizes Club arranged a VE-day outing and about 30 volunteers had a most enjoyable day at Bourne-mouth. Tisbury Club rang a VE-day victory peal on the Church Bells. Westbury Hostel held a dance making a profit of £14 0s. 6d. £7 7s. was handed to Queen Charlottes Hospital. £7 0s. 6d. went towards the purchase of a piano. The Benevolent Fund Drive has resulted in the sum of £1,230 16s. 4½d. collected in this county.

WORCS.—All Worcestershire is mourning the death of our late County Chairman, Mrs. T. C. H. Lea, O.B.E., M.A., J.P., who died on June 12th, after a long illness. Mrs. Lea will be sadly missed in the county for she was always the guiding spirit in all our activities, and she was ever ready to help at all times. We have, indeed, suffered a great loss. Lady Lechmere, who was already a member of our County Committee, has been appointed as our new Chairman. We are very glad to welcome her in her new position.

We are, at the moment, arranging theatre parties to Stratford-on-Avon Memorial Theatre. This is proving very popular. L.G.s are being conveyed by bus from the various hostels and the privately employed girls join the hostel nearest to them. After a rest period the L.G.s. Council met again on June 23rd, when Miss Scott from the W.E.F. came to talk about post-war training and careers. Hostels have been having anniversary and Victory parties. Britannia Square gave a dinner party to 24 wounded soldiers and afterwards entertained them with an E.N.S.A. show. Oakhampton, Clent and The Mount also held very successful parties. Congratulations to Miss Shail who raised £15 for the Benevolent Fund as a result of her Dance and Bowling Competition.

YORKS N.R.—Money for the Benevolent Fund continues to be raised—the largest amount this month £60, has come from a dance held at Greta Bridge, and organised by Mrs. Bigge's Club members in conjunction with girls from private farms and W.A.E.C. Billet Groups in the adjoining area. Scarborough Club arranged a visit to the London Club; they went for a tour of many famous buildings and also enjoyed looking round the shops. Stokesley Hostel had a most successful party—it was a joint celebration for their third birthday and a Victory Party. Miss Sturgess Wells arranged an excellent programme of games and in addition to the birthday cake there was also a Victory Cake. Easingwold Hostel have had a course of lectures on Psychology—kindly given by Capt. Holbrook of the Pioneer Corps. The interest shown in these lectures can be judged by the fact that the attendance was 28 girls out of a possible 32.

County Returns

County	Ben. £.	F. s.	Total d.	Em- ployed
Kent ..	7739	8	9	3606
Essex ..	5549	19	6	2820
Surrey ..	4644	7	4	2052
Hants. ..	2226	8	5	1805
Yorks, W.R.	2633	18	11	1765
Leics. 1458	2057	10	5	1665
Rut. 207 }				
E. Sussex ..	3354	5	4	1655
Herts. ..	4113	17	2	1644
Northants. ..	2641	11	7	1612
Somerset ..	2175	2	1	1542
Devon ..	3686	0	9	1454
Warwicks. ..	7312	12	3	1420
W. Sussex ..	3514	3	1	1410
Bucks. ..	4730	0	3	1410
Cheshire ..	2925	10	7	1385
Worcs. ..	2654	16	2	1366
Norfolk ..	3929	7	0	1329
Cornwall ..	1094	19	3	1272
Wilts. ..	1491	1	10	1244
Lancs. ..	2622	11	6	1238
Notts. ..	1667	3	0	1147
Glos. ..	2273	5	7	1115
North'd. ..	1999	13	0	1088
Yorks, N.R.	1897	19	10	1075
Hunts. 247	3618	12	2	1003
Camb. 424 }				
Ely 332 }				
Berks. ..	1509	11	5	1000
Bedford ..	991	16	5	939
Oxon. ..	3693	9	7	918
E. Suffolk ..	2215	5	2	896
Durham ..	1660	17	4	830
Yorks, E.R.	476	17	4	829
Salop ..	1762	18	4	820
Dorset ..	1262	12	2	737
Cum. & Wes. ..	703	13	3	730
Lincs., Kesteven	1447	19	8	721
Staffs. ..	1407	0	2	703
Glam. ..	1006	8	9	670
Lincs., Lindsey	1445	7	3	648
Hereford ..	1411	18	2	583
Lincs., Holland ..	987	18	4	573
Mon. ..	785	15	9	557
Flints. ..	609	0	1	519
W. Suffolk ..	1487	4	9	517
Denbighs. ..	641	7	11	509
N. Wales ..	1583	3	5	498
Derbys. ..	1307	7	8	497
London & Middx.	1217	10	10	469
Pembs. ..	1085	13	2	359
I.O.W. ..	173	15	5	307
Cards. & Carm's.	657	13	4	292
Brec. & Rad. ..	354	6	0	241
Mont. ..	372	16	5	214
W.T.C. ..	6174	4	1	2398

On 30th June, 1945, the number of volunteers in employment was approximately 58,196.

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