

Danger.

THE LAND GIRL



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THE THIRD YEAR

A recent count of long-service volunteers in the W.L.A. revealed some interesting figures—1,784 members have served for over five years, 3,004 have served for over four and less than five years, and almost 13,000 have served for over three and less than four years. The Women's Timber Corps was not included in the count and undoubtedly their long-service volunteers would bring the total of those who have worked for over three years to somewhere round 19,000. This is a very fine record, especially when we remember the small beginnings of the W.L.A. and the fact that its rapid expansion had not begun three years ago.

The virtue of its long-service volunteers has brought for the Land Army the rather doubtful reward of being even more needed than before. To be asked to serve another three years may be a matter for pride but it is certainly a severe strain on those who feel they have earned a rest or change or who want to take a more striking part in making a better world.

In this country, we believe that the best hope for a happier and more peaceful world lies in the government of countries by ordinary citizens rather than by dictators or systems or single parties. But no ordinary citizen can use his brain or his judgment sanely and fairly if his stomach is empty. Starving people rarely build a better world but they can easily wreck a peaceful one. Anyone who helps to fight the enemy of starvation which now threatens Europe need have no doubts about the value of his or her work.

Recently someone sympathised with a Warwickshire volunteer, a milker, who has got up at ten minutes to five every morning for the last two years. "Yes," she said, "it's a hard job but it's a good job. I've done it for two years and I can do it for another two—and then we'll see about the odd year." That is the spirit which makes the Land Army as important now as it has ever been during the last bitter years.

M.A.P.

GROWING UP AND BEING GROWN-UP

2.—A WOMAN IN THE WORLD

Boys and girls who left school in war-time had a very similar prospect before them: to take up essential work or to join the Services. Many of them were enrolled in pre-service organisations and their ideas and hopes were based upon the day when they could wear the King's uniform in earnest. Under these circumstances, the personal choice was often taken for granted to correspond with the need of the nation. The views of parents took second place when there existed this vital emergency, and as for the boy's or girl's own ideal in life, it had to disappear in the background for the time being.

For years to come, the influence of the war and of post-war social needs will make itself felt in the lives of young people. Young women who grew up in war-time may feel themselves the equal partners in work and in struggle with their men comrades and be justly proud of their achievement. Equality of work and pay is, in fact, one of the things women are at present struggling for and they have achieved it in some branches of industry, after proving that they could, in fact, do the work as efficiently as the men. But is there not another side to equality and is it quite certain that every woman's highest aim lies in measuring up to masculine standards of work?

Our mothers and grandmothers mostly led lives of devoted work in the home, with little open reward or recognition for their labours. The nature of this work has been such that it could hardly ever be done efficiently by men. Yet why is it that you do not see young men struggling for the honour of being allowed to work in the home, rear families, cook and sew, and bring up the children? There are two important reasons for this: one is based upon the fact of childbirth and the other on our social habits of many hundreds of years. The first, an unalterable natural law, makes the young baby dependent, as we have seen, on its mother very much more than on its father. The second, the social habit of our Western civilisation, has made man first the hunter, then the farmer and producer of goods for the family. This full-time job he had to carry out, often at great hazard, while his woman partner was as fully occupied in protecting and caring for the young. Certainly the care of large families and the pursuit of domestic crafts such as pottery, weaving, preserving, did not leave

her any time to join father in the hunt. There were exceptions, of course, as there always are. The Amazons, a tribe of female Greek warriors, cut off one of their breasts to show they had given up part of their femininity and became feared by men for their ferocity. Such female Amazons are found among us too. They believe woman and the feminine life to be inferior to man and it is their aim to imitate the men in all they do. They show themselves as ardent feminists and hostile to men but do not understand that the woman's make-up is different, and perhaps superior in some respects.

Speaking about being superior to men, we immediately acknowledge that there is a struggle between the sexes. This, too, is a natural law; it is based on the primitive desire of the man to conquer the woman, and of the woman to submit eventually to the one she loves. In a primitive kind of society, this relationship of the sexes will be the openly acknowledged law but there may be elaborate regulations to be observed with regard to all the steps of courtship and marriage.

Western man, and Western woman, have more or less relegated the struggle of the sexes to the privacy of the home. It is there that domination by one of the partners in marriage is often achieved. Officially the husband and father is still the head of the family but in many cases this is only a position of honour and the real leader may be the mother. This is especially the case where the wife and mother is aware of her special powers as a woman. Understanding her husband and her family, giving them her sympathy in the many difficulties of everyday life, she becomes the indispensable centre, the haven and refuge for the male and female members of the family alike. This aspect of the woman's domestic life is very often not sufficiently recognised and valued. Her drudgery, due to imperfect living conditions, is made the excuse for regarding her contribution to the family as inferior. The truth is, however, that enduring this drudgery by means of her powers of love, she is showing herself not merely the equal of man but capable of the most important achievement on which the continuance of civilisation rests. Never was this more truly shown than during the war when the ordinary housewife, faced with almost unbearable anxieties and deprivations, kept on with the daily task—and won the war as much as any soldier.

THE LAND GIRL

The young woman of to-day is determined not to allow herself to become the drudge she thinks her mother was. Smaller families have already made it possible for the woman to follow a career if she so wishes. Yet the conflict between a home and a career, children and ambition, is raging in many a young mind. Need there be this conflict and is it necessary that a career should be achieved at the expense of home life? The men are probably responsible for putting the question in the alternative: either home—or career. They can hardly be blamed for preferring to keep their wives to themselves, if they can manage to keep them safely at home. Jealousy is natural, and as everyone knows, it need not be based on facts. A job can be an object of jealousy as well as a person. But there is no doubt at all that many young women who have been allowed to work in congenial jobs will want to continue in them. Talent in a woman is as valuable as in a man and it may be of a technical nature, or organising, or manual, or academic. In any case, there is room in the world for men and women workers; what one needs in order to overcome the jealousy and rivalry between the sexes is a common aim. Such an aim was possible in war-time because stark necessity welded the nation together. All divisions of class and sex seemed to disappear for the time being. Why cannot this happen in peace-time?

It is because during the war, there is a visible enemy that everyone can hate and join against; the peace-time enemies are harder to recognise and harder to agree upon. Beveridge has named some of them and so has the late President Roosevelt: *Want, Disease, Ignorance, Insecurity*, are formidable Hitlers in our midst, and it needs the power of the whole nation to overcome them. *Want* is overcome by production and distribution of essential goods: women can and must help in this work, by giving their opinion on the kind of houses and appliances they want, by helping to design and build, to test and improve, the goods that are being produced. They can thus play a vital part in production even apart from the manual work in factories which is open to them. *Disease* is combated by knowledge about health; by care of children to prevent them from falling ill; by insistence upon a good health service for all; and by a sufficient number of women going into nursing and allied professions. *Ignorance* must be fought in the homes and in the schools; women are needed as teachers, both for children and adults; librarians,

workers in the book trade and printing trade, journalists and writers; and they are also needed as readers of good books and intelligent papers. On them will depend the battle for education which is being fought. *Insecurity*—an arch enemy of women, has so many arms and heads that this fiend alone needs every man and woman fighter in the country. But it is the housewife who stands to gain or lose most in this battle; her children, her husband in ill-health, her old age, are all in danger from this giant. To lay him low co-operation is needed.

Social security can only function when there is a belief in the value of the community and of every member in it; not where there is strife and hostility between groups, first nationally, then internationally—with the ultimate result of another war.

Here the most vital task of woman can be found: her contribution to peace. While the nation's elected leaders are planning ways and means of patching up the world after a devastating war, the future of this generation and the next depends on the lives they are leading now in their homes. The woman who is building a home now, who is deciding to bring up children, is the guardian of the peace of the world as much as any man in uniform. She can bring up her children to be happy and free and to know real love, so that they may later love in turn and keep the peace.

There is no career which can compare with this one, and the woman whose talents are all centred round the home is able to do work of vital importance; and, like every good worker and fighter, she needs good tools, decent working conditions and the appreciation of her mate.

M. Hicklin.



Drawn by M. Phillips, 2599, Cornwall

THE LAND GIRL



*Amid the Apple Blossom.
Long-service Volunteers in Monmouthshire.*

FESTIVAL OF EMPIRE,

May 24th, 1945

This Festival of Empire was for most of us our first experience of Britain's annual tribute to her Services. That it should also be the first held since the Allies' victory in Europe and that we should be representatives of our own service made it doubly important to us.

A fanfare of trumpets proclaimed the opening of the Festival and first to enter were the red-coated Chelsea pensioners and the British Legion, the youthful figures of the children of the Empire following in contrast.

Then came our turn and down into the sea of faces we marched to be greeted by a great cheer which made us feel far from the unsung heroes we were called in the programme.

Following us were the many civil forces, pipers of the Scots and Irish Guards, representatives of our air, land and sea forces and lastly the Ensigns and Flags who stood to attention whilst in the foreground a tableau of Britannia and her Empire was formed.

Hymns, anthems, poems spoken by Valentine Dyall and a tableau made up the second half of the programme which ended with that grand old hymn "Abide With Me" sung by choir and audience and then once again the National Anthem rang out, the lights went up and their Majesties stood waving to the crowd.

Their friendliness symbolised the feeling that pervaded that Empire festival; the feeling that has helped us through the first, and for us, most dreadful part of this war and upon which we hope one day to rebuild our Empire and world peace.

Herts.

M. Browne, 69848.

(Held over from last month).

The Director of Agriculture in Canada would like to arrange for a woman land worker from each of their agricultural camps to correspond with a member of the W.L.A. He would therefore like to get in touch with 20 or 30 volunteers. Will anybody interested write to A. Maclaren, Esq., Dept of Agriculture, Ontario Farm Service, Toronto.

THE LAND GIRL

" . . . WENT TO MOW A MEADOW "

On a hot sunny day in June, there are certainly worse places to be than seated on the back of a mowing machine. One soon grows oblivious of the drone of the tractor, the purr of the knives and the clickety-clack of the connecting-rod, and although an eye must be kept on the machine, and the knives must be raised and lowered at just the right moment at every corner, there is plenty of time to look around.

We started early, while the lavender scarves of mist still hung in the valleys, promising heat later in the day. The first few turns on the outside of the field took us along the rose-scattered hedgerow, and the air was heavy with the perfume of honeysuckle and the pungent meadowsweet. As the ripe grass fell before the knives, little puffs of pollen hung for a while in the still air, as though imitating the light fluffy clouds that drifted in the egg-shell blue sky. I began to amuse myself by seeing how many varieties of grass and wild flowers I could recognise; there was ryegrass, of course and cocksfoot, dogstail, catstail (or Timothy) and sweet vernal, which gives the new-mown hayfield its unique fragrance. There was purple and white (Dutch) clover, a sprinkling of buttercups, and here and there a patch of golden Meadow Vetchling or a handful of big white daisies like largesse scattered by nature in one of her careless moments. Thistles and docks were happily few and far between.

During the afternoon the sun blazed down with furious intensity. Tea was a pleasant meal, eaten as we sprawled in the shade of a convenient oak, but the great white cumulus clouds which had been gathering all the afternoon were beginning to join forces, and before very long the sky was threateningly overcast. However, we refused to be intimidated, and later in the evening the clouds began to disperse, showing the sickly white face of a ghost of a moon peering through at us.

Now I began to calculate how many more turns would be necessary to eradicate the remaining island; but appearances were, as ever, deceptive, and it was some time before the last swath was laid low. Then leaving the field to its four, six, and eight (or more) -legged inhabitants, who were no doubt mourning their blitzed abodes, we made our way homewards, under a sky that was a flaming sea of crimson, scarlet and gold.

"Dot."

Congratulations to Mrs. O'Gorman, 136896, Essex, who went to the aid of her employer when he was attacked by a cow which had just calved and saved him from serious injury.

And to Miss K. Baron, 91671, N. Wales, who recently represented the Penmynydd Branch of the Y.F.C. in the Trussing and Poultry Judging competitions at the Anglesey Y.F.C. Rally, and was first in both.

And to V. Dicker, 9057, and O. Lay, 140981 (Devon), who won the sheep shearing class in competitions held by the Moretonhampstead and Woodbury Y.F.C.'s respectively.

And to D. Dawson, 97096, Cumberland, on being chosen as a delegate at the Annual Meeting of the N.F.W.I. held in the Albert Hall.

And to Phyllis Beeson, 78521, Middlesex, who with an ex-L.A. volunteer, J. McClelland, went to the aid of a boy struggling in the water by Richmond Bridge. Both girls jumped in and towed the boy to the bank.

And to A. Walker, 155351, Derbyshire, who went forward to a blazing plane which had dropped in the field in which she was working, to try and rescue the pilot. Unfortunately, the pilot was burned to death, but Miss Walker saved his papers.

And to M. Sliney, 120997, I.O.W., for rescuing her employer when she was attacked by a young Jersey bull.

HAMPSHIRE WEEK-END

Hampshire is, I believe, the first county to arrange week-end courses for the W.L.A. I was one of fifteen volunteers who went to one on Dairy Cow Management at Brambridge Hostel, near Eastleigh. We are all keen on our work, so when we were not being instructed, we discussed between ourselves everything to do with our jobs. In fact the last word I heard before finally going to sleep about 1.30 a.m. was "Cow"!

On Saturday afternoon we had a most instructive talk on the rationed feeding of cows in milk, by Mr. W. Longrigg, Animal Husbandry Officer, Hampshire W.A.E.C., who most kindly gave up his week-end to improve our knowledge. After tea we were all taken to Stroudwood Farm, Upham, where Mr. Parrington and his son have a Shorthorn-Guernsey cross herd and use a pedigree Guernsey bull. Very interesting was an old pasture which had always been waterlogged and full

of rushes, which they had drained, ploughed and reseeded last July. It has been grazed twice this spring, and the cows will soon be going in again. Mr. Parrington's daughter does all the dairy work and calf rearing which are a credit to her.

On Sunday morning Mr. Longrigg talked to us on calf rearing, drying off and steaming up the cows. He also invited questions and had plenty to answer. With a picnic lunch, we were taken to Durley Manor Farm. We were thrilled to find that the pedigree T.T. Ayrshire herd of 45 cows in milk, at present, is entirely run by Mrs. Clark, wife of the farmer, and two members of the W.L.A. The young stock looked remarkably well. We saw the cows come quickly into the fixed bail to be milked, when called by name. We had to be dragged away for Durley Manor Farm is certainly the dairymaid's dream come true! After a grand tea at the hostel, we had to say good-bye and return to our jobs in all parts of Hampshire feeling most grateful to everyone who made such a very happy and instructive week-end possible.

Hants.

J. Spurgin, 18.

THE HOLIDAY

I was riding happily, gaily along

On my first day off of the year,
And April was bursting her heart with
song

On my first day off of the year ;
The hawthorn's leaves were a brighter
green

The fields of corn had an emerald sheen
The sky was the bluest I've ever seen
On my first day off of the year.

The woolly lambs were as white as snow
On my first day off of the year,
You could almost see the bluebells grow
On my first day off of the year ;
The gorse's bloom was a brighter blaze
The hills were majestic above their haze
The song-thrush was trilling his happiest
lays

On my first day off of the year.

I love my own, my native land
On every day of the year
I wouldn't change for a foreign strand
On any day of the year
But there's one day when it's lovelier
still

The mighty sea, the tumbling rill
The sweeping valley, the climbing hill
It's your first day off of the year.

N. Wales.

Lois Bacon, 22059.



Mrs. M. E. Edmunds, W.L.A. 13248, drives a Fordson tractor and does nothing but tractor work, chiefly ploughing in winter, also cultivating, sweeping, hay-making and binder work in harvest time. She is entirely responsible for the maintenance of her tractor and machinery. I found her eating a picnic lunch beside her tractor and reading a book—she had just finished painting her plough bright red “to cheer it up.”

She lives alone in a small isolated slate-built cottage without water and light, which she has decorated and furnished beautifully in pale cream and green, with a red and cream kitchen and pictures of the downs by a local artist on the walls. The view from her bedroom across the Downs to Salisbury Cathedral is one of the loveliest I have ever seen.

She is passionately fond of music and practises the violin in her leisure time. As she owns a car she is able to get to Salisbury where she belongs to the Salisbury Orchestral Society and the Chamber Music Club.

She joined the W.L.A. for six months at the end of the last war and in this war had enlisted for ambulance driving, but saw a poster in Croydon saying people were badly needed on the land, so she joined the Land Army in July 1939. On Sept. 4th she went to train at Reading University and worked two months at Idmiston before going to her present farm at Winterbourne Gunner, where she has been since Nov. 5th, 1939. She is a grandmother but looks about 35 years old with the energy of a schoolgirl.

Mrs. Edmunds finds work on the land

the most satisfying she has ever done and fears that she will sadly miss the W.L.A. when she reverts to her peace-time status of non-agricultural grandmother.

A VISIT TO A CHICK HATCHERY IN COUNTY DURHAM

By kind permission of the manager of a large chick hatchery and poultry farm in the north, I had the interesting experience of seeing how four W.L.A. volunteers employed at this farm set about their various jobs.

Eva Gowland has been working at this hatchery for 4½ years; previously she had been a bakeress. Ann Batty has worked here 2½ years, her previous work was very different too; for 15 months she was "head sales" in a large shop in a northern city. Dorothy Harwood has been working here for nearly a year and Lilian Deans has only lately arrived.

Considering what these girls used to do, it is really wonderful how quickly they have grasped this intricate work and are very successfully doing what was always understood to be a man's job.

Hatchery work demands high skill, because it is most important that no mistake should occur and up to 40,000 eggs are handled weekly in the peak period.

The Mammoth Incubators are mammoth indeed! The one I saw in operation contained 16,000 eggs—each tray is labelled with coloured cards to indicate at a glance when it will be ready; the cards are indexed and marked with date, accredited farm code number, etc. The incubators are electric and self-adjusting to the correct heat required, and there is a system of vapour cooling.

The girls are responsible for packing the eggs into hatching trays (breeds are kept separate), setting them into the incubators, running the machine and checking the heat and humidity thermometers.

The eggs are eighteen days in the Mammoth Incubators, then they are tested and "live" eggs placed in the hatch trays in the Hatchery Incubator, where they remain for three days. This is another of science's wonders, as there is no heating but it is so arranged that there is no inlet of air, an even temperature being maintained and the heat given off by the eggs being sufficient to hatch out the chicks.

Hatching days are very busy ones and work starts early, between 6 and 7 a.m.; the baby chicks are removed from the trays, graded, packed into boxes and labelled according to breeds, accredited farm code number, etc. These are placed

on shelves carefully spaced so that sufficient air gets to the chicks. Before being despatched as day-old chicks, they are sex-tested by an expert—the Japanese were the first people to discover this process and, until the war, held the monopoly. It looks a very simple operation, but is one requiring much experience, delicate handling, steady nerve and a quick, keen eye.

At this season of the year cockerels for future table birds are mostly in demand, especially in these days of rationing. Ann was kept busy seeing that the tester's tray of chicks was well supplied and scooping up those that had been tested into boxes. After this segregation of sexes, the chicks are packed according to orders for despatch.

Eva was packing and tying the boxes together with wire. It was a hot day, so she made extra holes in the boxes and placed blocks of wood between each box to allow for good ventilation. The openings of the lids were all to the centre of the package, so no one could take a sly peep on the journey. Very neatly she wrapped special wire round, and with an odd-looking gadget, had twisted a marvelous knot and cut the wire all in a second or two, the label being wired on in the same operation!

It is very important that the girls know how to pack, as this depends on outside weather conditions and the time of year; also that they have a knowledge of geography, because it is important to know when to despatch so as to avoid unnecessary delay and risk of loss in transit to destination, as live delivery is guaranteed. I was amazed at the quiet certainty as to where almost unheard-of places were, and the manager's geographical knowledge of remote hamlets sounded incredible.

The incubators are thoroughly cleansed, hatching trays scoured with strong disinfectant and the incubator fumigated before another hatch is put in—for one diseased chick can infect the whole hatch. This risk is greatly mitigated by drawing the eggs from accredited farms, and with each despatch is a form asking for the "history" of the chicks till a month old—by this means a check can be kept as to how many chicks die, etc. A healthy chicken is extraordinarily strong and the losses are amazingly few in a well-run hatchery.

I was interested to learn there is a great future in chicken hatcheries and W.L.A. volunteers who are interested in poultry should consider taking proper training.

M.W.

IS THAT INSECT A PEST ?

The following article has been written for the LAND GIRL by Dr. C. B. Williams, Head of the Etymological Dept. of the Rothamsted Experimental Station.

It has been said that insects destroy on an average about 5-10 per cent. of the agricultural produce of the world. Whether this high estimate is true or not, they are at any rate one of the most destructive groups of animals, and yet at the same time one of the most interesting.

They are particularly remarkable for the very great number of different kinds that have been developed. In Great Britain alone there are over twenty thousand different species of insects, each with its own particular life history, food plants and seasons of occurrence, all of which have to be studied. This number is far more than all the different kinds of birds, mammals, reptiles, fishes and plants in this country all added together. So it is not surprising that there is still a great deal that we don't know about them and their control.

Practically all insects lay eggs, and often these are in great numbers—up to one thousand or more from one female. The eggs hatch out either into grubs, maggots or caterpillars (as in the case of beetles, flies and moths) or into tiny insects somewhat like their parents, but without wings (as in the case of grasshoppers, cockroaches and their like). When insects in the young stages want to grow they do so by casting off their old skin and swelling into a new skin which has formed below the old. Grubs and caterpillars, after having grown all that they require, change into a resting stage or "chrysalis"—from which eventually the adult winged insects emerge. It is very important to remember that no insect grows after it has reached the winged stage, so that a small winged insect can never be the baby stage of a larger one.

Insects have a great variety of food—almost nothing is free from their attentions. Many eat growing plants; others only eat dead and decaying plants; some live inside trees, or burrow in leaves; some live in ponds and streams, and there are even one or two that live in the sea. Others eat dead animals, or even eat the flesh or suck the blood of living animals; many species of insects live as parasites or predators on the other species of insects. If an insect feeds on something we want we call it a "pest" and try to destroy it; if it feeds on something we want to get rid of (as, for example, a "pest") then we call it

"beneficial" and try to encourage it. But what is a pest in one locality may possibly be a beneficial in another, just as a rose bush is a "weed" if it is growing in a potato field.

In general, insects which eat plants are likely to be "pests" to the farmer, while insects which eat other insects (such as "lady-birds") are more likely to be beneficial. It is not always easy to distinguish between a vegetarian insect and a predatory one at sight, but there is one rule that may help you to make a good guess.

Plants cannot run away, but insects can do so, therefore to feed on plants an insect need not be very active. But to feed on other insects it must be able to catch them, and so must be at least more active than its prey. Therefore if you find a small grub or insect which is very inactive and sluggish in its movements—maybe entirely without legs—it is probably a vegetarian and so suspect. But if it has long legs, active movements, and perhaps big jaws, it is much more likely to be a predator and so to be useful. "Why have you got such long legs?"—"All the better to catch you with!" "Why have you got such big jaws?"—"All the better to eat you with!" The wolf in the old nursery tale was *not* a vegetarian!

This is a good working rule, but of course there are exceptions; so always get your first impression confirmed as soon as possible by someone who has had the opportunity to learn more about it than you have.



M. Stewart, 14459 and M. Kirk, 2306, Scotland.

IN A TOMATO NURSERY

Summer is the busy time of the year for those of us engaged in growing tomatoes under glass. There are a hundred and one jobs to be done all the year round, but during these few months of summer we see, literally, the fruits of our labours.

In this nursery we are divided into "blocks" of twelve or six houses, each in the care of a chargehand and two girls, or a chargehand and one girl, according to the size of the block. The glasshouses are 150 feet long and planted with four rows of plants arranged to form bays with nine plants in each bay. From April to September our work consists of trimming and tying, leafing, watering about twice a week, feeding with artificial manure about once a fortnight, damping to set the bloom and picking on alternate days. Soon after the first fruit is picked the beds are top-dressed with manure and straw by a gang of men, the girls following behind to water it in.

Very often we hear the remark—"Don't know how you stand the heat"—and I must admit I had misgivings about it when I first started this work. But when the sun is getting stronger about midsummer, the plants are high enough to form an archway of green which produces an effect of coolness. Except when the plants are very small and delicate, the vents in the roof are regulated according to the temperature and the wind, so we have plenty of air and don't find it nearly so hot as most people imagine.

During the crop, when we work in the same block all the time, we become quite attached to the houses in our care. It is always more interesting when one can see the results of one's work, and a well-trimmed house is a very pleasing picture with the sunlight slanting through the leaves and the trusses of fruit ripening. There is always an air of competition and we keep a keen eye on the door-charts which indicate the "score" of each house after every picking. About October, we lose our individuality as a block, and become merged into gangs.

During the summer, we begin work at 6.30 a.m. but soon after we are out of our blocks we start at 8 a.m. There is no more trimming to be done and we go around picking-out, that is picking first the ripe fruit and then the green, which is graded according to size some for ripening, and the rest for pickling. Sulphur is then burned in the houses and the plants, dead and dry, are ready to be pulled.

After that, winter jobs start in earnest; manure is raked from the beds and carted out, the soil is steamed (by men) and dug, lime is watered in. This last is a cold job, standing in squelchy mud, and there is quite an art in finding the right amount of old clothes to produce the maximum warmth. I recommend almost two of everything—and a great-coat on top!

The glass has to be washed down and thoroughly scrubbed inside to ensure that no spiders are comfortably multiplying in the corners of the wood frames. There is more digging in of manure, pots must be scrubbed clean and soil sifted and mixed ready for propagating. This starts soon after Christmas, and a team of girls is kept busy till about April. Benches are erected in a number of houses where the temperature is kept high and regular, and there the pricking off and potting is done.

Meanwhile the houses are being prepared for planting, the beds levelled and trodden to give a firm surface, measured, marked and finally the holes are dibbed. Carrying the plants from propagating house to trolley for transport to each block is done by girls with hand-barrows. Until one gets used to it, it produces back-ache, corns on the hands and tired feet! They *do* say it does wonders for the figure, if you breathe properly—maybe we don't breathe properly.

When the houses are planted, there is stringing to do, from plant to wire, and shoots to be taken out. Watering regularly of course, and damping when the sun is hot.

I find that the yearly rotation of jobs really does make "tempus fugit," and it is not long before we are back in a block, reaping the harvest of all the work that has gone before.

Hants.

O. M. Lutman, 137894.

HILLCROFT COLLEGE

Hillcroft College does not train students for the teaching profession. Therefore, under Ministry of Labour regulations volunteers cannot be released from the W.L.A. now to take a course at the College.

It has, however, excellent correspondence courses and full particulars of these and of courses which volunteers can take when they can be released, may be obtained from the Secretary, Hillcroft College, Surbiton, Surrey.

Is the renewal of your subscription due? If so, **don't forget** to send it to your county office.

THE LAND GIRL

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I see from the June issue of the LAND GIRL that two L.A. girls were chosen to represent their club at the Y.F.C. annual conference in London. They mention in their letter that a proposal that members of Y.F.C.'s in Britain should visit other countries, was passed unanimously. Our own representatives from our club thought we should start and exchange members of Y.F.C.'s in different counties of England first.

I am very proud to have been chosen to go with one boy from our club to Leicester for one week in August. We are going in exchange for two members, who are coming up to Chester-le-Street from Leicester.

I thought I might mention also that through a Y.W.C.A. scheme I am writing to two L.A. girls in Australia and an office girl in New Zealand and I find it very interesting to compare work and ideas with them. I have sent them all a copy of Miss Sackville West's book "The Women's Land Army" and they all think it is very good indeed.

Durham

J. Douglass, 133243.

The following letter from an employer was received in the Devon county office.

I thought the following facts and figures might be of interest to you, as they are largely obtained as the successful work of one of your Land Girls.

I keep Graph Charts here in respect of the production figures of the largest items of production on this 100 acre farm. The percentages of monthly INCREASES in MILK production are, I think, very exceptional.

Joan Balogh (W.L.A. 39824) took over the cattle and cows on October 1st, 1944. The increase in output of milk is as follows: 1944—Oct. 157 per cent., Nov., 157 per cent., Dec., 137 per cent. 1945—Jan., 201 per cent., Feb., 210 per cent.

These are actual increases on corresponding months of the preceding year.

You will conjecture that the production figures for the previous year were very low; I quite agree, they were—but they were figures I got, after employing successively, a foreman, a practical farmer and finally an experienced cattleman from an estate of very large acreage.

The secret of the success of these milk production figures is, I think, that a Land Girl (in this instance, Joan Balogh) is amenable to the adoption of methods which can be found in any handbook on

milk production, and of rationing systems and will conscientiously follow out instructions to the letter.

Frank G. Horne.

HEADQUARTERS' NOTES

Those coupons!

One is forever hearing in the Land Army—and outside it—sad tales of poor land girls who have made their coupon surrender year by year for use of their uniform, who have needed their few remaining coupons to keep themselves provided with underclothing, have then on health grounds perhaps had to leave the Land Army and have been turned out on an unfriendly world with no clothes and no coupons to buy them! The couponed life is not easy for anyone who has to do their shopping nowadays but do not let us make ourselves out to be more ill used than we really are. Here are the facts.

The Land Army member who is worst off in the matter of coupons is the girl who joined before 1942 for she has had to make three annual surrenders of coupons for use of uniform and has given up 72 coupons in all. BUT during these three years she has received 196 coupons—26 from the Land Army as a special issue, three civilian rations of 48, 44 and 48 respectively and three occupational supplements of 10 apiece. Now 72 from 196 is 124. Divide that by three and you find the "poor land girl," after making her surrender, has had 41½ coupons a year for private spending plus her full working kit. The ordinary person has 48 coupons a year for all purposes and no working kit. A land girl who joined after 1942 is even better off.

If a member is released, she receives back a proportion of the coupons she surrendered according to the stage in the rationing year at which she resigns and the length of time she will have to wait for her new clothing book; if she is given a willing release after two years' service, she also receives a small bonus refund. Should her civilian clothes have been stolen or destroyed by some cause outside her control or become hopelessly outgrown, then her County Office will submit to the Board of Trade a hardship claim on her behalf for a special coupon issue.

Now it does not take 41½ coupons a year (or better) to keep oneself provided with underclothing and the odd pair of woolly gloves. One should either have been able to buy other things as well or have coupons in hand. Let us then be honest and admit that if the clotheless, couponless discharged land girl really exists, her sad state is in part at least her own fault.

Inez Jenkins.

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HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN, AT THE BERKSHIRE RALLY



Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, graciously attended a Rally and County Fair held in Windsor Great Park on Saturday, June 30th, by kind permission of His Majesty the King.

Seven hundred volunteers marched through Windsor led by the Band of the Royal Horse Guards, and were drawn up in formation on the parade ground to await the arrival of the Royal Party.

Her Majesty presented five-and-a-half and five-year armlets to seventy volunteers, and spoke to each girl personally, asking about her type of work. The volunteers then marched past the Queen, who was most impressed by the way in which they kept step. The Royal Party were then entertained by the Household Cavalry who gave an Armoured Display, after which the Queen and the Princesses visited a large marquee containing all the stalls.

W. SUSSEX.—Has had no rally or fete this year but it had a big spring drive for the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds—the target was £1,000; the result was £1,560.

The two big areas of Worthing (Mrs. Somerset) and Chichester (Miss Bray of Compton) did splendidly with £333 and £204 respectively, but it was the efforts of the little villages which has made the opening of the morning post so exciting in West Sussex lately; the tiny hamlet of Chilgrove, way up on the Downs, held a fete one Saturday afternoon and sent in £50; Wisborough Green held a jumble sale and sent £40, the small town of Midhurst had another and raised £50; three little hamlets, Dial Post, Shipley and Coolham (which usually rank as one) held three separate efforts, and sent over £60. The Hostels, too, have all raised excellent sums but it is perhaps of Henfield that we feel most proud.

Henfield is a pleasant, straggling little village at the foot of the Downs—45 L.G.'s work in and around it and it has a very flourishing L.A. club, thanks largely to Miss Gibson, Local Representative. Helped by local artists and the Girl Guides (whose captain is one of our 5½-year members) Henfield volunteers have raised £100, over £2 a head, a really magnificent effort.

Her Majesty was much interested in the Land Army Exhibit Tent, and asked for information about many of the different things displayed.

A Dog Show was another popular event, and we were fortunate in having Miss Anne Crawford, the film star, to present prizes to the winners for the various classes. Mr. Clay Keyes, of "Old Town Hall," very kindly sponsored the Grand Auction, which was another feature of the day. Other attractions included a Children's Dancing Display, Morris Dancing, Pony Rides, numerous Side Shows and novel competitions.

The whole day was a wonderful success and when we have finally settled our accounts we are hoping to send a really large sum to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. We felt so very proud at being honoured by the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, and the delightful inclusion of the two Princesses completed the day's success.

SCOTTISH NOTES

DEER & TURRIFF.—A very successful dance arranged and organised by M. Morgan, 8960 and E. Robertson, 27766, was held in Longside Hall at the end of May in aid of the W. and B. Fund. £29 6 5 was realised.

DUMFRIESHIRE.—A very enjoyable dance was held in W.V.S. Canteen, Lockerbie on 4th July—W.L.A. members and friends turned out well from Moffat, Lockerbie and surrounding parishes. Most of the refreshments were given by the farmers' wives and members of the Sub-Committee. Small charges were made for them and thus the expenses of the dance were paid.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs. MacDonald, Miss Crawford, Miss Gray and all the willing helpers on the call of Miss Peggy Craigmyle who has been a member of W.L.A. for fully five years.

Mrs. MacDonald, W.L.A. Organising Secretary raffled in aid of the W. and B. Fund a beautiful sewn picture, made and framed by herself. The lucky winner was Mrs. Hickling, Drumpark, Dumfries. The handsome sum of £15 was realised.

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DUNBARTON & RENFREW.—On 16th June the Paisley Club enjoyed an extremely successful picnic to Glentyon, Kilbarchan, which was favoured with excellent weather. On 23rd June a L.A. Rally as held in Barshaw Park, Paisley despite rather uncertain weather. Miss Bell, Chairman of W.L.A. Sub-Committee presided. Lord Inverclyde presented G.S. Badges. M. Alexander and J. Buchanan received badges for 5½ years service; it is interesting to note that Lord Inverclyde gave these two girls their first badges for six months service at the beginning of the war. Badges for five years service were presented to C. Campbell, S. Cullen and O. Lorimer and for 4½ years—M. Robertson and M. Tweedie. Eleven girls received four year armlets. After the presentations the girls took part in Sports organised by the A.E.C.

On 30th June another very successful Rally was held, but owing to the weather it had to be in the Burgh Hall, Dunbarton. Mr. Lumsden, Chairman of the A.E.C. presided and Lt.-Col. K. Barge, D.S.O. presented the G.S. Badges. P. E. M. Scott received a badge for five years, M. McHarg for 4½ years, and four girls received four year armlets. There was a display of country dancing by the Helensburgh Club, followed by sports, run by the A.E.C.

Mrs. Barge very kindly drew the raffle which brought in £190 in aid of the W. and B. Fund.

Mary Goodwin, president of the Kirkintilloch Club presented the Fund with £150, raised at a very successful sale of work; £75 to be credited to Dunbarton & Renfrew, £50 to North Lanark and £25 to Stirlingshire.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE.—A very successful auction sale organised by the W.L.A. Sub-Committee in aid of the W. and B. Fund realised the splendid sum of £287 19 5.

MIDLOTHIAN.—Our good wishes go with N. Petrie who has done general farm work for three years, on her marriage to Corporal Peter Jeller of the American Army. The marriage took place in St. Ninian's Church, Edinburgh, with Nuptial Mass. Their home will be at Clein, Montana.

PEEBLESHIRE.—One evening this summer, Miss Mitchell drove Miss McCaig and Monsieur Heinz to visit the girls at The Pantiles Hostel. Mr. Heinz spoke to the girls about Caen, the town in France which Edinburgh has adopted. Contrary to one's pre-conceived ideas of a Frenchman—dapper appearance and close clipped beard—Mr. Heinz was young and boyish looking and rather quiet and shy on the drive out to Pantiles.

On our arrival they were welcomed by Mrs. Barratt, the Matron and Mrs. Thomson, the Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee. After a little discussion we were taken into the lounge where the girls were gathered round the fire, chatting and knitting. Miss McCaig spoke first for a few minutes on the merits and needs of the W. and B. Fund, and afterwards Mr. Heinz spoke to them of Caen, about the Underground Movement there and about all the thrilling and brave things that had been done to help our soldiers and airmen. The girls sat spellbound and there was no doubt about the success of the young Frenchman's talk.

Miss Isa Marshal proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Heinz. It was warmly given.

WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS

A small book, "Meet the Members," has been compiled as a record of the W.T.C. for England, Scotland and Wales. It is based on contributions from members with a foreword by Mr. Lenanton, Director of the Home Timber Production Department, Ministry of Supply, as a short introduction and is illustrated by photographs. The price will be 2s. 6d. and all profits will be given to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. In spite of the inevitable delay in printing, it is hoped that the book will be available in August. Order forms may be obtained from Welfare Officers or from the Chief Officer, Women's Timber Corps, Ministry of Supply, H.T.P.D., Fishponds, Bristol.

Members who have knitted Elastoplast mittens for the Navy Comforts Service have received many letters of appreciation and thanks from the men in the Merchant Navy and others, who have found these mittens very serviceable. Congratulations to all those who have helped to raise the Timber Corps total number of pairs knitted to over 1,000. We hope you will keep on knitting since the demand for these mittens still greatly exceeds the supply. Material and instructions can be obtained free of charge from Welfare Officers.

Members employed in Berkshire very much enjoyed taking part in the L.A. Rally at Windsor at which the Queen and the Princesses were present. The Timber Corps were determined to look their best. "For several days beforehand we washed, pressed, spat and polished, and when the lorry arrived on Saturday morning to pick us up we could really hardly be recognised as the same grimy, dishevelled creatures that had been toiling in the woods the day before," writes a member who took part. Members in Buckinghamshire also attended a most successful rally at Eton College where the guest of honour was the Duchess of Kent.

COUNTY NEWS

BEDS.—We are giving a Grand Garden Party and Dance at Sharnbrook Hostel in collaboration with the Beds. W.A.E.C. for hostel volunteers on the 28th July to mark our appreciation of the fine work they are doing. There will be inter-hostel competitions during the afternoon including a Tug-of-War and an ENSA concert in the evening as well as cabaret turns by several volunteers. Elstow and Silsoe Hostels celebrated their second birthdays recently by parties. Two very successful tennis matches were arranged recently between members of the Beds. W.A.E.C. and W.L.A. volunteers and Staff when we were defeated by a very small margin. Any girl in the Bedford Area who would like to play in the next match should let us know. Two dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund are to be held in the Corn Exchange, Bedford, during August. Further details and tickets can be obtained from the County Office. It is hoped to arrange an Exhibition and Drama and Musical Festival during the winter. Ideas and suggestions will be welcomed.

We should like to congratulate Miss Jones on her promotion to Assistant Secretary and to welcome Miss Young as our third Organiser. Many hostel volunteers will remember her.

BUCKS.—At a farewell party given in London recently for repatriated P.O.W. who were going back to Australia, the L.A. was toasted, and also the staff and girls at hostels in Bucks. who had given entertainment and welcome to these troops when they were billeted in this County. Volunteers living at the Rectory, Drayton Beauchamp, enjoyed a unique experience on June 16th. They formed a choir and afterwards, a guard of honour for Miss Dorothy Martin, ex-W.L.A., who was married to Lieut. (E.) Donald Andrew, R.N. They were trained for their choral work by Mr. Reynolds, husband of the Warden, and lead the congregation in the singing. They were congratulated by Mrs. Fellowes, Chairman of the Bucks. W.L.A., who was one of the guests. A garden fete, also at Drayton Beauchamp hostel, was held on 21st July in aid of the County Welfare Fund. A number of soft toys, including a doll dressed as a Land Girl, all of which had been made in the hostel, were auctioned, and there were side-shows, stalls and competitions. The fete, which was opened by Mrs. M. Stewart, Com. Member, realised £15 for the Fund.

CHESHIRE.—We must apologise to Cheshire volunteers for having "missed the bus" with our June contribution, but we hope that our notes will prove none the less acceptable at this late date. We are glad to have Mrs. Clarke as County Organiser for the Stockport area, and we should like to welcome Miss Parry who has replaced Miss Brant as Regional Organiser.

In the "money making field" we feel very proud of our Benevolent Fund Drive and particularly of the

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sum of £1,047 10 0, which was raised by Flag Days held in May. Congratulations to M. S. Casling and R. Moyinhan who have successfully secured vacancies at Universities for the 1945 courses in Horticulture.

Congratulations also to the 33 Cheshire volunteers who have passed Proficiency Tests, five with distinction. Our best wishes to the spate of volunteers who have left our ranks to be married during the last few months, and a hearty welcome to all the new volunteers who are coming forward to take the places of those old stagers.

CORNWALL.—Potatoes and hay harvest are occupying everyone's attention at present and a certain amount of overtime is being put in by most L.G.'s in the county. The threshers are already beginning to think of the task awaiting them in September when, weather permitting, the corn will have been carried. Truro Veau Hostel is ready for opening but it is to have a "house-warming" before the L.G.'s take up residence. Like other counties, Cornwall has offered hospitality to a party of New Zealand ex-P.O.W. who, before returning to their own country are studying agriculture over here and visiting farms and places of similar interest. It is they who will inaugurate our new Hostel and we are pleased and proud for them to stay there and hope they will return to New Zealand with pleasant memories of Cornwall and the W.L.A. in particular. Miss Keith, from H.Q., was good enough to allow the L.A. to encroach on her holiday, which she has been spending at Newquay, to the extent of paying some informal visits both to the County Office and to hostels in the vicinity. We were glad to see her and hope she will come again.

CUM. & WES.—We have been very busy with Proficiency Tests during the past two months; the following girls have been successful in passing the test—the first five with distinction:—M. R. Holdsworth, L. Nichols, A. Taylor, H. Evans, F. Addison, J. Tompkins, I. Ross, I. Lomas, F. Beckett, M. Whitfield, A. Randall, E. Pearson, M. Goodair, B. Rudge, E. Dean. We offer them our heartiest congratulations. L.A. parties have been held recently in Penrith, Carlisle, Workington and Kendal. All had similar programmes, tea followed by a concert party and dancing. We should like to thank all the Com. members and Reprs. who worked so hard to make them a success. The W.A.E.C. have been holding hoeing competitions; these proved most popular and Geltsdale Hostel was awarded First Prize in the hostel teams.

It is with much regret that we say good-bye to Miss Barrett, County Organiser, and wish her the best of luck for the future. We welcome Miss Tebbutt, organiser for S. Westmorland, and hope she will be happy and successful in her new work.

DERBS.—Eaves Hall Hostel held a very successful "Bring and Buy" sale on June 2nd. The fete was opened by our Acting Chairman, Mrs. W. H. Olivier. The Warden, Mrs. Wyatt, a committee of ladies and L.G.'s at the Hostel worked splendidly and the stalls were full of good things. The Warden handed over £50 to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, but the final result of the sale was well over £115. £50 was given to the Y.W.C.A. and the balance to the Red Cross. Mrs. Wilson, Committee Member, held a very happy party on June 17th. About 20 L.G.'s turned up and all had a splendid tea, followed by a ramble. Mrs. W. Stubbs (mother of A. Stubbs, 136191) and the ladies of Mickleover Hut Rest Centre organised a whist drive and sent a cheque for £10 to the Benevolent Fund. Congratulations to A. Walker, 155351, mentioned elsewhere.

DORSET.—The Handicrafts Exhibition on May 26th was a great success and the judges were very pleased with the high standard of work. There were 156 entries, the best class being Embroidery. Some excellent work was submitted in the Plain Needlework class, both machine and handwork. The class for Drawing was also very well filled and some interesting sketches and drawings were submitted. Winners of first prizes were: G. R.

Janman, 98331; M. W. Fraser, 25924; E. J. Cical, 37179; B. Puzey, 1453; J. M. Smith, 97325 and I. R. L. Waddon, 98552. Mrs. Jenkins, C.B.E., received a very warm welcome on her visit to Dorset. She first attended a meeting of D.R.'s, where she gave some excellent advice and information and then presented the prizes for the Handicrafts Exhibition and spoke to the volunteers and others present. Mrs. Jenkins was presented with a piece of pottery made by G. Gilham, 120676. Clubs in Dorset have lately been concentrating on Tennis. Some of the Hostels are still having ENSA films.

We are very sorry indeed to lose Miss Colwell as our County Organiser and our best wishes go with her.

DURHAM had a delightful visit on 12th July from Mrs. Jenkins, C.B.E., who addressed the County Committee and D.R.'s. This meeting was followed by an "At Home," kindly given by Lady Starmer, County Chairman.

Congratulations to the 16 volunteers who have passed Proficiency Tests, especially to B. Peck, 103596, and M. Shuttleworth, 29019, who gained distinction in G.F. work. The general standard of the candidates was very high and the judges expressed great satisfaction. It is hoped these results will spur others on to take the Tests. 14 volunteers have entered for the Milking and Dairy Tests, which have been postponed until Oct. B. Peck, 103596, and R. Ronaldson, 64132, have spoken at a Recruiting Campaign held in the R.O.F.'s, which are closing down in the county. The girls were a great credit to the Land Army; both spoke extremely well and had quite an ovation on the second day. E. Twitchett, 65617, and M. Murray, 108903, are to speak at a similar meeting. Thanks are due to Mrs. Proud and Mrs. McCullagh who organised a coffee party and a Bring and Buy Stall. Over £50 was raised for the Benevolent Fund. Lady Starmer kindly lent her house for two Dramatic Entertainments and over £19 was given to the Fund.

ESSEX.—During the Summer entertainments and activities in Hostels and Clubs tend to decrease and there is very little social news to report this month. Great Codham Hostel, however, held a most successful garden party to which they invited wounded soldiers from a neighbouring Convalescent Home. The Stansed Club is keenly pursuing its researches into English social conditions and they are enjoying weekly lectures on a number of topics. They will be glad to welcome new members from surrounding districts. Wynters Hostel, Rochford, is in the news again, their War Savings for exactly one year have totalled £255 3 6—a really splendid effort as the hostel's maximum is 16 volunteers.

Miss Owen has taken the place of Miss Ames as Assistant Secretary and Miss Walker will be looking after the south-western district instead of Miss Evans. We should like to welcome both.

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GLOS.—At the Area Reps. meeting in Cheltenham Town Hall on July 9th Miss P. Harden was presented by our Chairman, Mrs. Morrison, with Mrs. Bathurst's Prize for Long Good Service—a silver sugar bowl with inscription. There have been two delightful Area Reps. Sunday parties this month. Mrs. Milvain invited her volunteers to tea on July 8th when Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Heydeman spent a most enjoyable afternoon with them. Lady Dulverton's luncheon for her own volunteers and those of Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Lucas on the 15th was a lovely party of 25. Dumbleton Hostel gave a successful dance on July 14th. We much regret to report the sudden death of Dorothy Parker, 52107, and extend deep sympathy to her mother. Congratulations to Miss U. Beattie and Miss M. Munro who have been accepted by Swanley Agricultural College for horticulture trainings for degrees in the autumn.

We are very sorry to lose our Assistant Secretary, Miss Rawlins. She has been here for nearly 3½ years, and will be very much missed.

HEREFORD.—We are sorry to record that Lady Shuttleworth has had to resign from the County Committee. We shall miss her very much indeed, but are pleased to think we shall still have her help and co-operation as a Local Rep. We welcome Miss Gwyer in her place.

On July 2nd, a new hostel at Ledbury opened to accommodate 30 girls. The hostel is in part of a lovely black and white house scheduled under the Historical Monuments, and from the Rest Rooms deer can often be seen wandering in the park. Three Clubs have had celebration picnics; Leominster members went on horseback, 'cycle or by car; Bromyard were unfortunate with the weather, and had their meal in a farmer's house; Ledbury had a bathing party, and a fresh air meal followed by tea round a camp fire. On Aug. 11th, a Horse Show and Gymkhana is to be held in aid of the Benevolent Fund at Broadwood Hall, Leominster. There are special events for the W.L.A., including a cart horse race and 'cycle dressing race. These events will take place during the mid-afternoon. It is hoped all L.G.'s will endeavour to support this effort.

HUNTS, CAMBS and ELY.—We were delighted to have Mrs. Jenkins at our Conference on 21st July. It was her first visit to our area and our only regret was that more volunteers were not there to meet her. We were also glad to have Mrs. Wise of W.E.F. Unfortunately the Cambs. Agricultural Show was held on the same day and L.G.'s were demonstrating machinery and parading with prize cattle and goats. For the second time girls from Woolley Hostel were blood donors. A very interesting milking competition was held at Haddenham on 16th June, when members of the W.L.A. came out with flying colours against the Y.F.C. A milking competition is being held in Hunts, by the W.A.E.C. and a prize of £3 3s. has been offered by the Welfare Fund for the highest W.L.A. scorer. A proficiency test in milking and dairy was held on 23rd May. E. Kelly and K. Widdowson passed with distinction.

We welcome Miss Benn, our new Organiser for Hunts, and we are sorry to lose Miss Myer. We have been glad to welcome Miss Welsted to the Isle of Ely; unfortunately she is finding the work too strenuous and will be leaving us.

E. KENT.—We are very sad to report the resignation of Miss M. Smyth, M.B.E. After five years as County Secretary she resigns her post, genuinely regretted by all, genuinely loved, genuinely respected. It is not often that one gets efficiency, courage and loveableness all combined in the same person. You get it in Margaret Smyth and no one who has known her during the past five years will grudge her this voluntary retirement.

W. KENT.—A particularly interesting meeting was held on June 29th at Maidstone, when Miss Bower (Senior Administrative Officer at Headquarters) and Miss Scott, the consulting specialist of the W.L.A. at the Women's Employment

Federation, both came to address a gathering of Kent W.L.A. Com. members and District and Local reps. Over 60 W.L.A. officials were present to listen to Miss Bower's most informative talk on the future of the L.A. and to Miss Scott on the help that W.E.F. was prepared to give. At the end, both speakers answered questions from the audience in a most clear and helpful way. Proficiency tests have been held recently in tractor work, hand milking and dairy work, G.F. work and machine milking, and outdoor gardening and glasshouse work. The results were very encouraging, the tractor test being particularly satisfactory. Six out of the eight entrants passed, four with distinction, N. Bassett, R. Chidwick, E. M. Lewes and K. Furley. We offer them our congratulations and quote the following comment from the judges: "It is our opinion that the standard of ploughing and plough setting was very greatly improved since last year and in some cases the standard was very high." We also congratulate S. M. E. Roberts on gaining a distinction in hand milking and dairy work.

I.O.W.—The last few months have seen several changes: Lady Baring, Chairman, Miss Hume, County Secretary, Miss Fisk, a most active Com. Member and Rep. having resigned, but interest in the W.L.A. is still being maintained, especially by Miss Fisk who is continuing to make the welfare of L.A. members employed by the W.A.E.C. her chief concern.

A most successful fancy dress dance was arranged by the Warden of Sandown Hostel to celebrate VE Day. Costumes were judged by Mrs. Gardner, County Organiser, who awarded the prizes. Proceeds are being handed to the Benevolent Fund. Congratulations to M. Sliney, 120997, mentioned elsewhere and to J. Remsbery, 138354, for passing her hand milking test and M. Hill, 44015, Mrs. Seaman, 126555, Mrs. Footer, 76677, F. Smith, 73150 and H. Coard, 139295, for passing the machine milking test, all with distinction. Our best wishes also go to M. Smith, 10265, who has been released to take up a post as lay assistant to a veterinary surgeon.

LANCS.—Hard work on the land and in the hayfields has prevented much money being raised in the last two months for the Benevolent Fund, but Halsall Hostel sent a good contribution as a result of a collection and raffle at the Hostel Victory Dance. Pilling Hostel also sent a donation, and other volunteers throughout the County have continued their support through the envelope scheme. Volunteers at the Hostel in Birkdale are in the news again. A dance was held in the Banks Village Institute and the proceeds went to entertain 34 wounded soldiers from Southport Infirmary at the Garrick Theatre in Southport. George Formby sang "I wish I was down on the farm," and thanked the soldiers for all they had done. The party was appreciated by all those taking part, and thanks go to Miss Dunn, Warden, and to the girls for arranging such a successful event, which it is hoped will be repeated in the future. Mrs. Wise and Miss Scott, W.E.F., very kindly came to Preston in June to address a meeting of Local Reps. and to meet members who were able to go to Preston in the evening to consult them. They gave much good advice on trainings and careers for those volunteers who wish to think about the time when they will no longer be required on the land.

LEICS & RUT.—We should like to announce the birth of a son to Mrs. Francis, who was Assistant County Secretary from May, 1941 to March, 1945. Many L.G.'s will remember her and wish to send their congratulations and best wishes.

Since the victory in Europe a certain number of volunteers have been released to take up duties at home. We should like to thank them for their splendid service and to wish them every happiness in their new life. For many it will be the first real home they have made with their husbands. To those who remain we should like to say that they are doing a great service to the nation and that never was the production of food more important than it is now. The future of Europe is dependent on the

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BACK ROW:—Miss Ashurst, Chairman Oxfordshire W.L.A. Committee and Mr. Donald Scott, Liaison Officer. FRONT ROW:—Mrs. Giles and three of her four daughters. Two having been in the L.A. for over 4 years and two for 5 years. All are milkers.

1945 harvest. Proficiency tests have been held in many parts of the county with excellent results. It is hoped that more L.G.'s will enter in the autumn. Many volunteers are going on leave just now and to them we wish a happy holiday. The Rest Break Homes at Llandudno and Torquay have been a blessing to those who are recovering from illness or overwork. All those who have been to these Homes speak in glowing terms of the trouble which is taken to give them a real holiday.

HOLLAND (LINCS.).—We are sure all the L.G.'s, who attended the Victory Party on 14th July enjoyed themselves. Mrs. Inez Jenkins, C.B.E., our Chief Administrative Officer complimented them on their appearance when they "marched past" Holland House and everybody in Spalding is in agreement over the precision of their marching. We all felt honoured and delighted to have Mrs. Jenkins with us. Holland L.G.'s. were most interested in all she had to tell them and were thrilled to receive their Service Awards and prizes from her. Our Chairman, Mrs. R. T. Proctor, presented a cheque for £920 16 11 to Mrs. Jenkins, the result, less 10 per cent. which goes to the County Welfare Fund, of the special spring appeal for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund made in this County.

It was a proud moment when Mr. Herbert Butcher, M.P. for Holland, 1938-45 (who proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Jenkins) said the L.G.'s. here had "won golden opinions for their work and their behaviour." We know Holland L.G.'s. will continue to give of their best in the interests of food production and they have been inspired to greater achievements by Mrs. Jenkins' words of counsel and encouragement.

We shall be very sorry to say good-bye to our County Secretary, Mrs. Kettlewell. She would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and for the charming and useful present she has received.

LINDSEY (LINCS.).—Since Feb. Miss Duff has been acting as County Secretary in Lindsey and on June 4th Miss M. Haigh was appointed as our County Secretary. She has been in N. Riding as Assistant Secretary for the past two years. A week later, Miss P. E. Sampson was appointed County Organiser for the northern part of the county. We hope they will both be very happy with us.

On June 23rd a Garden Party was held at Owston Ferry Hostel where over £60 was raised for the Welcome Home Fund. Parties have been given in Lincoln and at Wood Enderby Hostel for volunteers in these districts to meet Miss Haigh. At both gatherings problems were raised and questions answered and it was felt that more parties of this nature would be welcome in other parts of the county. New Leake Hostel had its first of a series of ENSA concerts on July 18th and we hope to arrange similar ones at other hostels regularly during the winter months. We regret to announce the death of M. Ryland, 64295, after three years of valuable service in the W.L.A.

BENEVOLENT FUND

On July 31st the fund totalled £137,476-8-6. The Monthly total was £3,398-3-10. KENT still has the highest total of £7,757-12-9, and W. SUSSEX the highest monthly total of £1,461.

Heartiest congratulations to W. SUSSEX who are top of the poll this month with their magnificent Spring effort total of £1,459, while second place

THE LAND GIRL

goes to HOLLAND whose Drive produced over £920 for the Fund—splendid from a small county.

Not content with sending us £102 which arrived too late for mention last month, W. RIDING have now forwarded another £137, and NORFOLK'S May and June contributions received this month totalled £155. Over £61 was very kindly sent from a W.V.S. Canteen formerly run for landworkers at Banstead, SURREY, and another W.V.S. donation of £25 came from Whaley Bridge, Stockport, DERBY. N. RIDING'S £54 was raised by a Dance at Richmond, and an E. SUSSEX employer produced "A Little Bit of Fluff" and thereby £35 for the Fund. L.A. activities at Chilcompton Tractor Dep., SOMERSET, contributed £29.

On the other side of the balance sheet 807 Grants were made during April, May, and June, totalling £5,012. This means that already over 3,500 Volunteers have received help from the Fund since it started to the extent of £21,200.

STOP PRESS.—Just received from N. WALES £108 from Mrs. Drage's Fete at Criccieth and £32 from a dance at LLANGFNI arranged by Miss Miller.

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

FOR SALE.—Fawn Harris tweed skirt, 30/-; brown check skirt, 20/-, both hips 38-40; dusty pink jacket, 30/-; navy flowered georgette dress and slip, 30/-, both bust 35-36; navy cuban heel laced shoes, 25/-, 116475, 1, Highfield Estate, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

FOR SALE.—Windjammer, medium size, £1. No coupons, good condition. Brookes, Pant Farm, Carmel, Nr. Holywell, Flint.

FOR SALE.—Brown tailor-made riding breeches, waist 28 ins. Kirkup, "Spanker," Ovington, Richmond, Yorks.

FOR SALE.—Good grey flannel shorts, waist 26 ins., 18/6. 58547, Vine Farm, S. Luffenham, Oakham, Rutland.

FOR SALE.—Brown riding boots, size 5, small fitting, £1 10s. Flint, The Haven, West Ayton, Scarborough.

WANTED immediately ladies' riding mac., hips 40 ins. Write stating price to Taylor, 26, Thackerays Lane, Woodthorpe, Nottingham.

WANTED.—Alarum clock—green floral blouse offered in part payment. Dicker, Standen Manor, Hungerford, Berks.

WANTED.—Rubber bathing hat to match blue costume; also bathing shoes, size 5. Write, stating price to, Bruce, Drews Farm, Leighterton, Tetbury, Glos.

WANTED.—Ladies Jodhpurs, medium size. Nash, 1, Albert Road, Dorchester, Dorset.

WANTED.—Tennis shoes, size 8; rubber bathing cap. Gwyn, Hyver, Midford, Bath, Somerset.

WANTED.—Brown flat-leathered shoes size 7. Ikin, Whin Lane Farm, Si klinghall, Wetherby, Yorkshire.

County Returns

County	Ben	F.	s.	d.	Em- ployed
Kent	7757	12	9	..	3470
Essex	5549	19	6	..	2728
Surrey	4707	17	11	..	2047
Hants	2226	8	5	..	1784
Yorks, W.R. ..	2671	1	5	..	1668
Leics 1436 } ..	2078	5	4	..	1646
Rutland 210 } ..					
Herts	4114	17	2	..	1636
E. Sussex	3415	2	2	..	1605
Northants	2684	16	7	..	1563
Somerset	2216	1	1	..	1517
Worcs	2656	16	2	..	1455
Devon	3697	11	9	..	1418
Warwickshire ..	7344	17	3	..	1383
Cheshire	2954	1	1	..	1378
Bucks	4736	10	3	..	1373
W. Sussex	4985	17	1	..	1364
Norfolk	4084	19	10	..	1286
Wilts	1491	1	10	..	1217
Cornwall	1095	4	3	..	1159
Lancs	2623	19	9	..	1139
Notts	1667	3	0	..	1122
Northumb'l'd ..	1999	13	0	..	1089
Glos	2273	5	7	..	1069
Yorks, N.R. ..	1951	19	10	..	1048
Berks	1521	1	5	..	967
Hunts 229 } ..	3629	17	6	..	963
Camb's 416 } ..					
Ely 318 } ..					
Beds	991	16	5	..	907
Oxon	3718	8	1	..	890
E. Suffolk	2237	11	8	..	832
Yorks, E.R. ..	486	7	5	..	823
Durham	1705	19	4	..	807
Salop	1785	12	4	..	804
Lincs, Kesteven ..	1447	19	8	..	717
Dorset	1273	3	2	..	713
Cumbs & West'd ..	703	13	3	..	701
Staffs	1408	1	6	..	682
Glam.	1006	8	9	..	653
Lincs, Lindsey ..	1445	7	3	..	639
Herefordshire ..	1428	11	2	..	588
Lincs, Holland ..	1908	15	3	..	582
Mon.	785	15	9	..	544
London & Middx. ..	1220	16	4	..	527
Denbighshire ..	641	7	11	..	506
Derbyshire	1334	17	8	..	503
Flintshire	609	0	1	..	501
N. Wales	1723	11	11	..	499
W. Suffolk	1487	4	9	..	498
Pembs	1085	13	2	..	346
I. O. W.	173	15	5	..	297
Cards & Carms ..	665	3	4	..	291
Brecs & Radnor. ..	354	6	0	..	227
Mont.	372	16	5	..	207
W.T.C.	6174	4	1	..	2267

On 30th July, 1945, the number of volunteers in employment was 56,635.

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