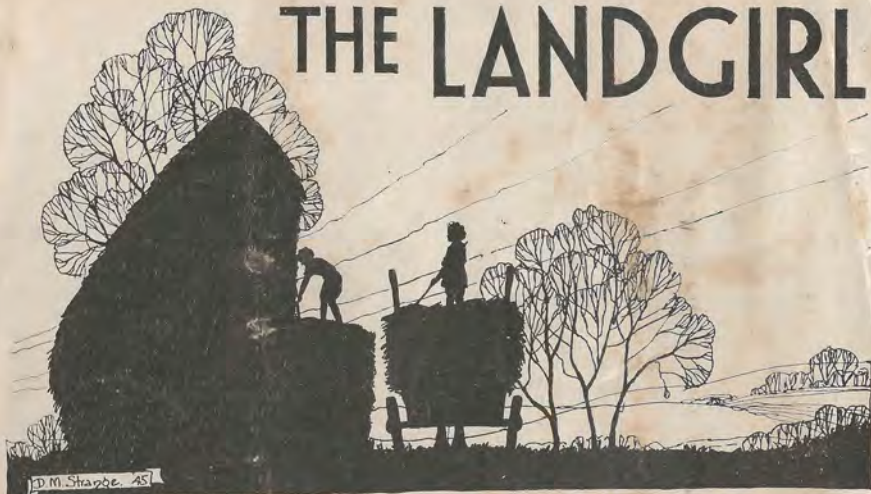


THE LANDGIRL



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REPAYMENT

“WHEN I eventually leave the Land Army, my gratuity will go with me, not in the form of money granted by the Government, but rather something no money can buy, robust health, a contented mind and a feeling of a job well and truly done.”

This was written by S. Pearse, 94937, a Devon member who was one of many who entered that county's competition for the best essays on “Why I am staying in the Land Army”, and the same feeling was expressed in nearly all the articles by present members written for the benefit of new recruits.

Before the war many a city worker had pleasant, even rather yearning thoughts of country lanes and nightingales, of haymaking on summer evenings and the scent of honeysuckle—but no girl left her typewriter or her counter or her permanent wave machine or her dustpan to go and work on the land.

Thousands of people whom war sent into the Land Army have found a new health and happiness and a much wider mental horizon than they ever had before. They have learnt the ways of animals and vegetables which they never used to see outside a shop; they know the names and habits of trees and flowers and birds and most important of all, they have come to understand and appreciate the people of the countryside. Members of the W.L.A. respect the wide and varied ability of the worker on the land and never again will they value slickness more than patience, smartness more than understanding, a ready tongue more than intimate knowledge of the job.

The energy and enterprise of village life have also been a revelation to many volunteers. Those who have joined Women's Institutes know the extent of the countrywoman's interest in public affairs and her capacity for co-operation, while the readiness with which small villages have risen to every emergency of war time, from Home Guards and evacuees to jam making, ought to make the far more populous towns realise the sense of individual responsibility which arises in a small community.

The great majority of members of the W.L.A. will return one day to life in a town. They will take with them a wealth of experience and knowledge—a happy heritage from the Land Army. Each of them can be an Ambassador from the country to the town. There are ten townsmen to every countryman in Britain. It is perhaps natural that the ten should be profoundly ignorant of, and indifferent to, the needs of the one but it is disastrous that this should be so since our country's welfare and indeed her existence are dependent on her land.

Countrypeople have been good friends to the Land Army—members of the Land Army can repay this debt by fighting the battle of the countryman, his needs and his rights, when they get back to town.

M.A.P.

WELCOME TO THE LAND ARMY—No. 2

This article, the second in the series for recruits, is by a W.A.E.C. forewoman and contains as much good advice for the employer of a new volunteer as for that volunteer herself.

It may sound odd, but the first thing I would say to a recruit is "Don't work too hard". Newcomers, particularly the best ones, are on their mettle; anxious to prove themselves; eager to show that they can "take it"; so they go at the job hammer and tongs, trying to keep pace with experienced farmhands—with the frequent result that before the end of a week they find themselves in the surgery queue. Strain, particularly abdominal strain, is the land girl's bug-bear. It so easily comes and once there it never really goes but dogs the whole of her farming life and may even later cause her serious incapacity; and yet it is quite easily avoided by taking care, particularly in the first few weeks. So, farmers, don't let your new girl work too fast at first. Set her a slower pace that she will be able to keep up, rather than having her work flat out with frequent rests. Remember that the mere fact of being outdoors all day is tiring at first, quite apart from any work. I have found the following jobs most suitable for beginners, in this order: serving a thatcher, sorting potatoes (but not moving the sacks), dressing corn, riding drill, setting potatoes, clearing and burning thorns after the hedger, hoeing (but not singling), stooking and pulling flax, some threshing jobs such as moving chaff and feeding wires into the baler. *Don't* set her to muck out the sheds because it is a foolproof job that needs no explaining; remember muck is heavy and a girl needs some experience before she can handle it easily.

Later, teach your land girl those jobs which need skill rather than strength. Over and over again I have seen threshing with a man on the drum cutting bands and another feeding and the girls pitching up the sheaves, or girls pitching at harvest-time for a man loading. Land girls have shown that they can cut bands and load wagons as fast and as well as any man; those are the jobs they should be doing and it is up to the farmer to give them the chance.

To the recruit I would say this. You have to use your brain to make up for your lack of brawn. There is a knack in every farm job from starting a tractor to lifting a bucket. Find out what it is and practice it. Don't expect the farmer or the farmhands to do too much explaining for it is very hard to analyse and explain actions which one has per-

formed almost instinctively since childhood. It is a task which would tax many a trained teacher, so have pity on the farmer! But when you are given a tip, act upon it. Otherwise, keep your eyes and ears open and your wits about you and don't be afraid to ask questions; don't expect the farmer to know by instinct what you would like to have explained. Learn to use pitchfork and spade with either hand. It is quite easy, with a little determination at first, and once mastered, you will find that by changing hands at intervals you can work for twice as long without tiring. It is also invaluable if you are using a fork in a confined space like the top of a Dutch barn. And above all, be willing. Farmers will forgive many things to a girl who is a "trier".

One last point. Under the panel system, one is expected to go straight from complete inactivity to full work. This comes hard on the land girl whose muscles naturally soften in the course of a week or more on the panel. Try to persuade the doctor to sign you off on a Friday so that you can work on Saturday and then have a day's rest before tackling the full week.

No land girl is really pulling her weight until she can do her work without effort and this will happen sooner under a policy of "slow and steady" at the beginning.

M. Clough, 97111.

SPRING

I have seen such lovely things -
A butterfly with golden wings,
The blackthorn's snow against a sky
That's surely borrowed from July,
And fields of barley newly rolled
In strips of jade and emerald,
The sheen of dew upon the grass,
And windflowers nodding as you pass,
The brown and yellow bumble bee
The gleam of sunshine on the sea.

All these I've seen -
such lovely things,
On sunny days, when
April sings



A D.R.'s DAY

Way back in 1940 I was asked, just by the way, would I help the Land Army and smooth out any worries or difficulties that arose between farmers and girls near by home. There was very little to it, said the Committee Member, and anyway there were only two girls in my district and one of those was leaving. I agreed brightly. I had only one baby then and some help in the house, it all seemed simple enough. Since then—tons of W.L.A. paper has flowed in and out of this house, telephone wires have hummed, girls have come and gone, and now my typical day goes something like this:—

Rise, wash and dress children, cook breakfast, hear a knock on the door and find land girls on their way to work. One says may she have new dungarees hers are split and not respectable—exhibits large rent in the seat with vest visible. Hastily agree—suggest patch but she insists that it is no good she has put on a stone since joining the land army and must have a larger size. Other girl wants replacements—shows me piles of ragged garments—examine them and leave a list on hall table for future reference and rush off to save breakfast from ministrations of Farmer Husband and toddler. Breakfast over, get on with jobs when interrupted by large and perspiring farmer at the door—is it essential, he wants to know for his girls to have half a day a week off? Yes, most essential I assure him. What is he to do when his men want one too? I suggest that they should have one and point out that anyhow it is a Land Army condition. Farmer bursts into highly complicated calculations of land army wages and men's wages—I reel under the weight of his figures and smell ominous burning from the kitchen. Insist again that the girls must have their half days, somehow check a further torrent of figures and persuade the farmer to go—tear to the kitchen to find salty potato water has boiled over into the custard. Dealing with damage (as far as possible) when F.H. emerges from the telephone tearing his hair after a battle with the telephone exchange. He cannot wait any longer he explains but will I give a message when the call comes through. Explains highly involved message—I summon what brain remains to me to try and understand while toddler shrieks from upstairs that baby has upset the soap flakes. Assure F.H. that I understand perfectly (feeling very hazy) and rush upstairs to discover what

horrors have been perpetrated by the children. Find baby has emptied last remaining soap flake ration on to the bathroom floor and is pouring it happily backwards and forwards from the tooth mug—toddler improving the situation by sweeping it up with F.H.'s precious shaving brush. Repair damage and loss as far as possible amid screams of protest from baby whom I dump in the pram out of further trouble. Telephone rings—attempt to deliver F.H.'s involved message and to extract coherent answer while toddler carries on a series of questions in my ear. During comparative calm that follows I try to organise the dinner. While doing so the phone rings again—land army office—can I possibly transport one of our own land girls to her proficiency test five miles away by 2 o'clock. original arrangements having broken down? Promise very rashly to do so. Send toddler out to find girl—F.H. comes in in great haste as usual in need of dinner at once—break the news gently to him that I must have the car to take the girl to test. Miraculously he doesn't need it at all so all is well except that toddler slipped in the cow sheds while looking for the girl and is covered from head to foot in dung.

Having driven the girl to her test. I pass the rest of the afternoon in peace. After tea I pack the children into the car to inspect a billet. Eventually find the cottage and am met at the door by slightly hostile landlady who resents having her cottage inspected by "some official." Try placating tactics and admire her garden—she softens—after inspection of really delightful cottage assure her that everything is perfect and all that remains to be found is the perfect land girl for her. Toddler co-operates by falling out of the car into the landlady's arms and we are friends for life.

Home to find weeping land girl consumed with home sickness waiting for me. Attempt to comfort her but she assures me between sobs that she hates the country, loathes cows and horses and thinks country people are dreadful. Suggest I might arrange for her to go with some other girls to a nearby town in her spare time—no she doesn't like towns or strange girls. What does she like? I ask in desperation—"London"—she sobs. I inquire as gently as possible if she expected to get a job in the Land Army in London, to which I understand her to say that she didn't want to have to join the A.T.S. At last she calms down and seems a little

happier—as she goes I breathe a sigh of relief at the sight of two red armlets driving their tractors home. They stop and ask if I have some tea tickets for the rally. I wilt a little as my mind is quite blank on the subject, but light suddenly dawns as I remember lots of little blue squares which arrived in a circular letter I have not yet studied. Find the tickets and they go away happy.

Rush upstairs to rescue children from F.H.'s bathing which is apt to be violent and when they are safely in bed, settle down to fill up uniform replacement forms. Discover that toddler has cut up my lists of replacements for coupons to play shops. Collapse and abandon Land Army—to-morrow I must confess to the girls and hope they'll forgive my inefficiency!

B.M.B.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund total has now reached over £311,000 and although, at the time of going to press, the amount received this month, £833, is rather less than usual, it does include some very interesting donations. H.M. The Queen has graciously forwarded a cheque for £100 received from the Women's Central Progressive Conservative Association of Toronto, Canada. The Leicester W.A.E.C. officials organised a dance which brought in nearly £160, while a performance of "Aladdin" by a Lindsey volunteer and her friends raised over £27. Collections at point-to-points in Herts. resulted in a cheque for £40. One of the most generous individual donations was £25 from Mr. C. W. Whatley, the Chairman of the Labour Committee of the Wilts. W.A.E.C.

£64,200 has now been expended of which £50,780 is accounted for by grants and loans. During April the number of grants made—674—amounted to £5,051. A very tragic case this month was that of a 6-year volunteer who was killed in a road accident just before she was due for release. The Benevolent Fund has given her elderly parents a substantial grant towards the funeral expenses and to help them through this sad time. A number of long-service volunteers, claiming their release from the Land Army, have been helped to have a short holiday before resuming civilian work which they could not otherwise have afforded. Many post-war cases have been helped and, as usual, hairdressers, secretaries and dress-makers head the list. Two volunteers have started shops—one for baby linen. Another two are training as tracers with a view to working in a drawing office. Several girls, training as teachers, have

had help with extra expenses not covered by the Government scheme. The arts have not been neglected and two volunteers, both showing considerable promise and talent, have been assisted to train for dancing and drama. Although the Committee in most cases discourage the starting up of small-holdings in any form in view of the great risks involved and difficulty in making a reasonable livelihood, there are of course exceptions to this as to every rule. Several girls have in fact received help from the Fund to assist them in agricultural or horticultural undertakings after the most careful enquiries have been made to ensure that their ventures are sound and on a businesslike footing.

FILMS TO LOOK OUT FOR

In "Whistle Stop", George Raft is co-starred with Ava Gardner and Victor McLaglen. This is a story of life in a small American town, centred round their local station of "Whistle Stop".

Maria Montez and Robert Paige have the starring roles in "Tangier", a film full of exciting mystery.

In "Gilda", Rita Hayworth and Glenn Ford are seen amid the exotic surroundings of a gambling-house in Buenos Aires.

More than 100,000 rats were killed last year in North Staffordshire. It is estimated that in food and damage each rat on the farm costs a farmer about ten shillings a year.

Congratulations to O. Stuart, 18899, E. Sussex, who gained second prize in the Y.F.C. Speaking Competitions at Plumpton.

And to P. Spencer, 132354, North'I'd, one of the speakers in the Earsdon Y.F.C. Team which won the Farmers' Union Shield in the Debating and Public Speaking Contest at Newcastle-on-Tyne. Miss Spencer gained 35½ marks out of a possible 40.

And to M. Bowen, 161643, Cambs., on having been chosen to play in the Cambridge County netball team in the all-England Tournament held at Romford, Essex, in April. She has also been chosen to play in the 2nd Territorial (Eastern) Team on May 4th at Bristol.

And to M. Baker, 20572, Essex, who displayed great courage in driving off with a pitchfork a bull which attacked the milk roundsman on the farm where she worked. Miss Baker received leg and chest injuries and she undoubtedly saved the roundsman's life.



At Northamptonshire Institute of Agriculture, Moulton. W.L.A. members who intend to farm as a career began a course last October. All those in training are volunteers of long experience though much of the theory may be new to them and there are various branches of the practical work which they may not have met before. Below is part of a letter from a Surrey volunteer.

I've not had a dull moment since I came here—we've all been much too busy. When we first arrived we all felt that it was too good to be true and that we should eventually wake up and find it was all a dream. As you may imagine, this feeling of unreality was not lessened when we found that rising time was 7.30, breakfast at 8.

Our first 'bus was a great disappointment—a ramshackle covered lorry with a couple of insecure forms to sit on, a floor swimming in water, and several leaks in the ancient roof. We didn't mind though. The excitement of being the first W.L.A. trainees, of getting to know each other and getting used to writer's cramp instead of backache carried us through. All the same it was nice to find a big comfy 'bus awaiting us one day.

Our lessons started straight away combined with a certain amount of practical work, farm walks, and demonstrations. The pace was very fast and when Xmas holidays came, we had reached saturation point. I doubt if any one of us could have carried on successfully without that two weeks break. Also we came back, half at a time, for a whole week of practical work which I found

very helpful as many of my notes on milking and poultry, etc. were an absolute mystery to me. During that week I really came to know my way about the Institute Farm and was initiated into the mysteries of machine milking.

The term has been easier for me and I really do feel I know something about farming now. We are all busy swotting for end of term exams., next Friday.

A week or two ago we visited the Northampton Co-op. Creamery and saw the pasteurising and bottling plants, etc., and then to-day we visited a local flour mill. It was terribly hot and dusty—I felt thankful that I'm a land girl. Our next visit, I think, will be to a brewery.

As you may guess, we are beginning to look out for positions to take up when we leave here in July. I shall look for a place in Gloucestershire nearer home, but shan't refuse an attractive one further from home. Miss Strang, principal instructress at Moulton, hopes that most of us will take dairying or poultry jobs, and according to the advertisements in the farming magazines there certainly seems to be a demand for girls in these kind of jobs.

M. Shearman, 47161.

RECRUITS' COLUMN

Hints

1. Wearing boots for the first time for most of us comes hard. If the uniform is received before going away, try them on and walk a little in them every day. I found the backs so hard they caused blisters but after soaping the stiff leather and banging it, it soon became pliable. Another good tip is to get your shoe-repairer to leave your boots on his stretcher for a few days. This will only cost a few pence.
Essex.

V. Carder, 108282.

2. **Do not forget** to shut gates on the farm for grave trouble can be caused if you do. One of the most exhausting mornings of my life was spent in trying to coax sheep out of a meadow when driving them through the lanes to the farm, all because somebody left a gate open. No easy job without a dog.
W. Kent.

S. R. Crump, 145480.

3. Working on the land gives one ample opportunity of expanding one's knowledge of wild life; I have learnt the names of a good many birds and flowers which were new to me. I recommend anyone who is about to take up a new life in the country to furnish herself with a good bird and plant book.

You will hear many strange local words used by your fellow-workers and it is worth jotting them down as you find out what they mean so that you will remember them afterwards.

E. Yorks.

B. M. Barton, 23967.

4. It is a good plan to equip yourself with a large tin of Elastoplast for cuts and blisters and a tin of boracic ointment for chapped hands. Your circulation will improve with the open air life and you should not have any chilblains.

Som.

N. Masters, 149986.

General Knowledge Questions

1. How many stomachs has a cow?
2. How much does a gallon of water weigh?
3. How many bushels are there in a quarter?
4. Which has highest normal temperature—horse, pig, fowl, sheep?
5. When does a heifer become a cow?

(Answers on page 13)

SAVING FOR PEACE

There is just as great need for National Savings now as there has ever been.

Just as we had to save to make guns and aeroplanes and battleships for war, we must save to win health and education and houses in peace time.

That is from the Country's point of view. For each of us too, saving is worth-while. There is little we can spend money on now and everything is still expensive. It will pay us better to save our money now to help later when we want to marry or start a home or build up a new career or settle on the land.

Hostels and villages and groups of people can all start a Savings Group. The National Savings Stamp Scheme is the simplest way of helping people to buy Savings Certificates by putting 6d. or 1/- aside once a week. Another popular scheme is the National Savings Club under which subscriptions for holidays, Christmas, etc., can be collected and put in the Savings Bank on behalf of members until the time comes to draw them out.

There is a good range of posters which any hostel can have to brighten up the walls. Help in forming a Savings Group can be obtained by applying to your Local Savings Committee. If you don't know the address write to the National Savings Committee, Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.



Mervyn Wilson.

"Must you do homework every evening, dear?"

(Reproduced by permission of the Proprietors of PUNCH)

GREEDY GRASSHOPPERS

The cheerful chirrup of the grasshoppers is an integral part of the summer scene, and we would not be without them in this country. But the dreaded locust belongs to the same family of insects and no sensible person welcomes an invasion of them, for where a swarm has passed by not a vestige of a leaf is left in the whole neighbourhood. Fields of maize are eaten down to ground level in a few hours, trees entirely stripped of foliage and where fruits hung in clusters only the stones remain attached to the twigs.

The hobby of music making is the prerogative of the male grasshopper, and it is often astounding that such a comparatively small creature should be able to make such a loud noise. The "music" is produced in two different ways. Those grasshoppers which are characterised by long antennæ "play" by rubbing their hard wing cases together. The left wing, which overlaps the right one, is furnished with a raised ridge of sharp teeth, which rub against another ridge on the lower wing. Here too is a patch of thin taut skin, rather like the top of a drum. As the wings are rubbed together this membrane is set in motion and accentuates the noise. Some of the most famous musicians of this class are the so-called Katydids, which occur in the southern States of the U.S.A. Their song has sometimes been interpreted as "Katy-did-she-did", and has a rather pleasing rhythm about it.

The type of music which is produced by rubbing the thighs of the hind legs against the wing cases is of a harsher and more grating quality. The speed with which the rubbing is done will influence the tone and the faster the musician fiddles the higher will be the pitch. As might be expected the large grasshoppers produce a bass note, while the little ones are up in the treble.

Only a grasshopper can fully appreciate grasshopper music, and to this end they are equipped with rather singular ears. Those that play with their wings only have their ears on the front legs, while those that use both wings and legs for music making listen with ears situated on the first segment of the abdomen. These "body ears" consist of thin ear drums stretched over a hollow cavity from which special nerves lead to the higher centres. On large grasshoppers the ears can be seen with the naked eye as rather light coloured patches. The "leg ears" which are in a rather more dangerous position

generally have the ear drum protected by a chitinous covering, with a slit or two to admit the sound waves.

Most grasshopper females take great care over hiding their eggs. They are generally equipped with an ovipositor, which is sometimes quite as long as the body. The eggs are laid in a little parcel, tucked into the bark of trees, into plant galls or in soft earth. The eggs do not hatch into grubs, like so many insects', but into baby grasshoppers. These grow and change their skins four or five times, gradually growing longer antennæ and larger wings, and becoming more and more like their parents. Not until they reach the final stage are they able to fly. One African grasshopper has rather an interesting life history. The adults are very quiet and placid creatures, seldom jumping or flying, but content to sit on their favourite bushes, well camouflaged in green streaked with white. The eggs are laid inside large succulent leaves, and the young grasshoppers on hatching are so unlike the parents that for a long time they were thought to be a different species of insect. They are almost black in colour, look like little ants and are extremely lively and active and not afraid of being seen. Not until the fourth skin change do they settle down and become sedate and adult in their behaviour.

Readers of this article in the LAND GIRL may remember Walt Disney's film, "The Grasshopper and the Ants". The signature tune was "The world owes me a living" played on his fiddle by a lazy old grasshopper. Winter approaches, the leaves fall off the trees and the grasshopper turns from green to blue, shivering in the cold. The ants rescue him from death and carry him down into their nest. They revive him with food and hot mustard baths. He is then taken before the Queen and ordered to work—and the film ends with him happy again, playing his old signature tune. The point of this story is that last winter I was asked by a school teacher in the course of my scientific work, to send her an ants' nest for demonstration purposes. I went into my garden and dug down deep under a tell-tale mound and right in the heart of the nest I found a large green grasshopper comfortably ensconced, showing that all Disney films are not mere fantasies.

L. Hugh Newman, F.R.E.S.

The poem and the drawing on page 2 are by D. M. Strange, 26538, W. Sussex.

FRUITS OF INDUSTRY

It is fine to see acres and acres of vineyards, with luscious dark grapes hanging underneath the green vines, and deep yellow oranges showing through the glossy green of the thick-set orange trees.

Oranges and lemons are graded and wrapped in tissue paper and packed in cases ready for export. Wine grapes are specially grown to make the high-quality Australian wines that are popular in England. Others are dried—when one sees juicy bunches of grapes, one can hardly imagine that they will be transformed into currants and raisins and sultanas.

Milduna, in northern Victoria, is one of the main small-fruits districts. The name will be well-known here because that is where our "Sun Rayseed" Dried Fruits come from. It is interesting to see the drying-process. Apricots and peaches are split open and stoned and dipped in a sulphur solution and placed on trays in the sun to dry. Tiers of racks with flat roofs and open sides are built in or near the vineyards and the fruit is placed in these racks on their trays when the sun is too strong, and also placed there at night to keep the fruit away from the dew and rain. When you buy one pound of dried fruits you actually receive the equivalent of four pounds of choice sun-ripened fruit, with only the moisture removed by the process of evaporation.

In Queensland the sugar-cane industry employs many workers and the best-grade sugar and syrup is obtained from the sugar-cane. In the same area, tropical fruits, such as bananas, pine-apples and paw-paws, etc., grow in abundance. Irrigation is the secret of the success of the small fruits industry. Thousands of miles of channels have been constructed to carry the water. The grower then makes small channels connecting with the large ones, and runs the water down the rows of vines or trees, so that he does not have to rely on the vagaries of the climate for moisture. The Irrigation System has transformed whole districts into prolific fruit-growing areas.

Apple-growing is another primary industry of Australia. Hundreds of thousands of acres are planted out in orchards and it is a beautiful sight to see a large orchard with several thousand apple-trees planted in perfectly straight lines whichever way you look, and the rosy red apples among the green leaves are a refreshing sight.

The trees are pruned back every year, so that they never get very high, and picking can be done standing on the ground. The orchards have to be well-cultivated and worked in between the rows, and sprayed with various solutions at intervals through the year because a dirty orchard will not produce the best quality fruit.

When the fruit harvest arrives, bands of pickers are employed and the fruit brought into the grading sheds, where modern machinery now accelerates the grading process. The apples are neatly wrapped and packed into cases by expert packers who are mostly paid on a piece-work basis, and a good packer can run up quite a good cheque through the season.

The sunny climate and fertile soil of Australia and Tasmania can produce the most luscious apples and pears, peaches and apricots, etc., unsurpassed for quality and flavour. Fruit for canning and jam-making is selected and graded and processed under the most hygienic methods.

W.T.C.

I. White, 30304.

The Editor thanks the many volunteers who have sent contributions to the series of articles for new recruits. There are too many for it to be possible to acknowledge them individually but they are all interesting and many of them are excellent. It will not be possible to publish more than a few since naturally they cover much the same ground but quotations from many will be used during forthcoming issues, particularly in the Recruits' Column. More tips and hints will be welcome at any time.

Because they considered that they would be better occupied producing food rather than eating it, three Yorkshire branches of the N.F.U. recently cancelled their annual dinner.

"This pest", a farmer remarked "emerges in April and remains dangerous until the end of October". He was referring to the public and he had cause to be embittered. A picnic party's fire had destroyed two fine ricks of his hay and that meant loss of winter feed, and, as he said, "Cows fed on an insurance company's cheque don't give milk".

Formed in 1933 the Milk Marketing Board, Thames Ditton, Surrey, controls the sales of all milk produced in England and Wales—over 1,200 million gallons last year.

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT COWS

(Reprinted by courtesy of "Country Life".)

I must admit, first of all, some cupboard love. Cows are profitable animals for a farmer to keep. In addition to producing a calf which, kept for three years, will grow into an animal as valuable as herself, a good dairy cow will yield in a year a thousand gallons of milk worth, in round figures, £100. To this extent, at least, my affection has a mercenary tinge, but there are many other reasons for my liking of cows.

Their independence, amounting almost to aloofness, gives them a dignity possessed by no other farm animal. Perhaps this is partly due to their ruminant habit. Most animals spend a long time in eating if they have the opportunity. Watch a horse intently cropping grass all day. The cow, however, having quickly packed away a good meal in her primary stomach, sits down to chew the cud. She falls naturally into a reflective mood, like an old man contentedly puffing away at his pipe as he sits by the kitchen fire.

I think that this habit makes cows extremely intelligent. Already knowledgeable, they are always eager to learn. I used to think that cattle were merely idly curious when they wandered about inspecting every strange object, even those obviously inedible. Since working with them I have formed the opinion that this curiosity is akin to that possessed by university research workers. It is a keen desire to know and to learn. How quickly a cow learns depends, of course, upon its mental ability. This varies among cattle in exactly the same way as among human beings.

No cow is really as stupid as she may sometimes seem to a short-tempered cowman. It must be admitted, however, that, for cows, some are stupid. On the other hand, others are extremely clever. All acquire some wisdom with age, as they have retentive memories and a lesson learnt in calfhood is rarely forgotten.

One of the most intelligent cows I ever owned was Brenda. She was born on my farm before I took it over and she could not regard me as anything but an ignorant interloper. She never reconciled herself completely to being milked by me. Her worst habit, and one which ultimately compelled me to sell her, was her contempt for my ideas of managing the grazing. She was very clever at opening field gates by lifting them with her horns. If she found the gate impossible to open she would always find a place at which she could climb over

the hedge. This she did whenever she felt that the time for removal to fresh pasture was overdue. Never once did she try to leave the little farm. She would walk about from field to field with complete disregard of the wishes of the owner. The other cows, acknowledging her leadership, followed her.

It was not until a heifer of my own rearing came into the dairy that I found a cow not only clever but co-operative. Little Bluebell calved young and always remained small. She had not only brains but great strength of character. At first a little wary of the bigger cows, she soon found that sheer weight and muscle counted for little against her own determination. Perhaps because of the attention I had given her when she was young and helpless, she formed a conclusion that collaboration paid.

None of us knows how much our human words are understood by an animal, but I feel certain that if it so wishes it can read the human mind. When I opened a field gate Bluebell would know instantly if it meant fresh keep for her and she would trot briskly towards me. The others would follow.

Unlike Brenda, Bluebell had no scruples about trespassing on neighbours' fields if it seemed desirable. She would never do this wantonly, nor if I were present to show the disapproval which her conscience prompted her to expect. In fact, I might never have known of these tendencies had I not noticed and wondered at a sudden jump in the quantity of milk I was dispatching. It was deep Winter. The cows, although fed indoors, spent the night in a sheltered field. Bluebell always led them down to the field gate in the evening. In the dark morning, when I went out with a lantern, she was always there, with the others forming a more or less neat queue behind her.



"Does it taste good?"

As I watched them suspiciously one evening in the dusk it seemed to me that Bluebell was crossing the field with rather indecent haste, considering that she had just finished an ample meal and that there was no possibility of her finding anything worth eating in the field. She had, however, found something well worth eating outside it. I discovered that she had been leading all the cows every night through a gap in the hedge to a neighbour's turnip field. Each morning she had shepherded them back to stand, with an innocent expression, at the field gate waiting for me to call them to breakfast.

The faces of cows are extremely expressive. They can run through the whole gamut of feeling except laughter. They can certainly cry. I remember an old cow which reared a big bull calf for me. I sold her to a farm some miles away and she was tied up in a loose box there for two days before being let out. Immediately she was free she broke bounds and found her way back home. I shall never forget her face as she strained her neck over our front gate, calling to her adopted son, with great tears rolling down her cheeks.

Of all the lovable qualities of cows, this maternal side touches me most. Few sights are more beautiful, or more moving, than that of a cow with its newly-born calf. If there be any moral fault in man's exploitation of animals it must surely be aggravated by the removal of a calf from a cow, an act I consider to be more cruel than death for the mother. As a higher animal, cows are little more prolific than human beings and the birth of their young comes after a long period of gestation. One has only to watch a cow calve in natural conditions out in a field to understand that she knows what is happening. Something more than blind instinct is displayed.

It is hard to believe that cows do not regard their offspring in very much the same way as human mothers. Not only do they seem to have the same sense of joy and pride but they also have a general interest—because they are mothers—in all other calves. One cow will not, of course, readily bestow her motherly love on another's progeny. Should she perforce adopt an orphan, however, she will, like a human being, develop for the foster-calf an affection almost as deep as that she felt for her own.

The mercenary note on which I began is too often struck by owners of dairy cattle. They are encouraged by hosts of

agricultural experts who are absorbed in the economic side of farming. I believe, however, that my views about cows are shared by many whose daily task it is to tend them. J. B. Thorburn.

TOTTENHAM PUDDING

Like myself, a lot of Land Girls have probably loathed the sight, smell and feel of Tottenham pudding and, in spite of its great nutritious value and appetising appeal to our beloved animals have felt like going on strike every time the lorry arrived complete with tubs or sacks, all steaming hot with "household waste food", otherwise Tottenham pudding.

I fed Wessex Saddlebacked pigs on it for several months and thought that I'd never go out of my way to see another pig or piece of "Pudding" as long as I lived; however, my natural curiosity got the better of me and when I was given the opportunity to see how household waste food was turned into these puddings, I jumped at the chance.

The home of this pig fattening food is, as you might expect, in Tottenham, although there are several other sites on which this process is carried out. I spent an interesting, if smelly, morning going around the place and found everyone extremely helpful and anxious to know if I had found this food suitable and worthwhile, for my particular "family of pigs."

In this particular place, both pig and chicken food is prepared, the difference being that all chicken food is pulverised before the cooking takes place. Here, coupled with the pulverising or pulping process, was a most remarkable piece of modern science and ingenuity—a super powered magnet. This magnet attracted any foreign bodies (such as metal cans and containers which had inadvertently arrived in the swill) and ejected them on to a heap, thus eliminating the danger of poisoning, etc., caused by these metal parts being chopped up with the food. When finally ready for despatch to the various counties, chicken food looks as different from the pig food as grated cheese does to sliced.

The pig food, in which I was chiefly interested, was unloaded on to a moving belt which carried it up to the top of the boiler, into which it fell. As it was moving, a man watched for and removed all foreign matter such as paper, string, razor blades, of which there were remarkably few. Cabbage, celery, tomatoes, potatoes, dates, figs and oranges were only a few of the items which passed along the belt in the little time that I watched. Truly, pigs get all the best of the food. When the boiler is full, it is closed up and gauges, clocks

and other odds and ends, about which I couldn't tell you very much even if I stood and looked at them from now until Doomsday, let the initiated know just what is going on inside the boiler and when the contents are done.

A guillotine-like door is lifted to allow the pudding in an almost liquid form to flow out into round, deep, metal tubs, the flow being regulated by the lowering of the hatch doorway. These tubs are then drawn to one side to allow to cool and I noticed that the sparrows seemed to like it even in its fairly warm stages. A sack is then put over the top of the tub into which the pudding is turned; sometimes the tubs are sent to the farms in place of the sacks. As soon as the boilers are emptied, refilling starts again, and so it goes on, with the men working in shifts.

Not to be backward, as is so often attributed to him, the Englishman here has installed a dehydration plant, on similar lines to that employed by the Americans. This unfortunately was still in the experimental stages but in due course (if not by now) Tottenham Pudding and its first cousin the chicken food will be on the market, not only as the ugly pudding, but in a fine powdered form.

I was told that several farmers found Tottenham Pudding beneficial to cows and that no tainting of the milk had been noticed.

Back at the office, I saw the visitors' book, which included the names of the Queen, Queen Mary, Mr. Attlee and our ex-Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Hudson. Evidently others had for curiosity's sake risked a number of smells.

Cooking the food this way helps as a safeguard against foot and mouth disease, so as the pigs seem to thoroughly enjoy the taste and smell of it and seem to thrive on it, it looks as if Tottenham Pudding is here to stay.

E. Suffolk. D. Rimmill, 110473.

In a potato experiment in Flintshire, where sprouted potatoes were planted on 18th April, 1945, the yield was 14 tons 6 cwt. per acre. Where they were planted on 1st June, the yield was only 6 tons 6 cwt., thus emphasising the importance of early planting directly conditions permit.

A limited number of copies of "Poems of the Land Army" is still available. Order from the Editor, the LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1. Price, including postage, 2/9 for a single copy, 16/- for six copies and 31/- for twelve copies.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

When demobilisation started last December I was released from the L.A. but after a few weeks of civilian life I realised I could not easily settle down again. I longed for an outdoor life again so rejoined.

For myself, I can't think of anything I would rather be than a land girl, and I know I shall never regret having been reinstated into the W.L.A. My advice to any girl who would lead a happy, healthy, outdoor life is—join the Women's Land Army.

H. Luckett, 59573.

Dear Editor,

We hear so much lately about being the "Cinderella of the Forces" but no one seems to think there might be another side to the picture.

I am the only land girl working with people who have earned their living on the land for generations, yet they have nothing but the extra cheese ration and ten clothing coupons.

After all we are not under military discipline and not included in the forces anyway, yet we are provided with remarkably good uniform and working clothes, free travel vouchers four times a year, and those who like myself have signed on for another year have at least an extra week's holiday at state expense, besides which we have the cheese and coupons. Our supply of uniform far exceeds the coupons we have to submit.

Personally, I do not think we are at all hardly done by, and feel I should put the ordinary agricultural worker's side before the rest of the W.L.A.

B. Lee, 62530.

The following letter has been received by the Secretary of the Benevolent Fund from an ex-volunteer who has received a grant to help her to re-establish herself in civilian life.

Thank you so much for your letter and cheque. I cannot adequately express in words how grateful I am for this aid. I can assure you that the money will be used wisely and well.

Now that I am no longer a W.L.A. member I feel a distinct sense of loss. Many times I have marvelled at the personal interest taken in W.L.A. members as individuals and have always been immensely grateful for the assistance and advice which has always been forthcoming from any member of the splendid W.L.A. organisation which I have found to be a model of efficiency.

Again many thanks for everything.

S. E. Dixon, 63529.



Cheerful workers in Lea Valley, Hertfordshire.

DEMONSTRATION AT CHERTSEY

On April 11th a demonstration of produce grown under cloches was held at Chertsey.

All visitors were divided into six parties, a garden manager being allotted to each to conduct the tour. At quarter hour intervals each party moved off.

First we were shown flower growing under cloches. Here were some amazing results and a marked difference could be seen between seed sown under cloches and that sown in the open.

The gong rang and the party moved on past lettuce, intercropped with sweet peas (these had been decloched), blackcurrants and pear trees, till the Ruxbury Field was reached. This was divided into four plots called Wellington, Hurricane, Spitfire and Lancaster. In the first radishes had been sown in October and the first picking was on January 8th. French beans had been sown since. In the other three plots the predominating feature was lettuce and the amazing amount of 164 dozen lettuce had been cut three days earlier. Runner beans and tomatoes had been and were still being planted between the rows of lettuce. Part of the ground was being prepared for melons.

Once more the gong rang and on we moved to see rhubarb, gooseberries, red currants, trained on wires, all growing under cloches—then on to the electrical soil heating plot. Here remarkable results had been achieved with such things as chrysanthemums, daffodils, tulips, mustard and cress, radish, mint, asparagus and chicory. This experiment is one of its infancy but every day tests are being proved which make it appear that shortly one will be able to eat any food or see any flower at any time of the year, irrespective of season.

So ended a most interesting, indeed astounding, demonstration tour.

W. Sussex.

I. Wood, 84669.

Writers of letters, articles, poems, etc., for the magazine must send their names and addresses with their contributions. These will not be published if the authors wish otherwise, but the Editor cannot print any contribution of which the author is unknown to her.

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Advertisements quoting a price are accepted only on the understanding that if a would-be buyer sends cash with her order, she is at liberty to return the goods and will then receive her cash back, less cost of postage. Anyone sending cash should enclose stamps for its return if the goods have been sold.

WANTED.—Three two-piece bathing costumes, good condition. Miss Casey, 44, Beech Grove, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Yorks.

WANTED.—Riding jacket, bust 34 ins. Tweed preferred. Musson, Manor Farm, Lydeaway, Nr. Devizes, Wilts.

WANTED.—Riding jacket, bust 32-34 ins. Slacks, cord preferred, waist 24-25 ins. Drury, 25, Corporation Road, Chelmsford, Essex.

WANTED.—Girl's jodhpurs. Good condition. Waist 24 ins. Length 28 ins. Or size larger. Mrs. Hobson, Burton Yard, Lincoln.

WANTED URGENTLY.—One pair ladies tap dancing shoes (6). Miller, 41, North Lane, Canterbury, Kent.

WANTED.—Ladies' shorts, linen or flannel. Waist 25-26. Good condition. 143786 O'Grady, Ilmer House, Princes Risborough, Bucks.

FOR SALE.—Pair navy shoes, size 4 (court). Pair black suede and leather shoes, size 4. Jeffery, Trebehor, Porthcurno, Cornwall.

FOR SALE.—Black crepe dress length, 3 gns. New grey riding hat, 7/6. Skirt length. Lewis, 90, Town Lane, Bebbington, Cheshire.

FOR SALE.—Blue woollen dress, bust 32. Dicker, Nurses' Home, Windsor Hospital.

FOR SALE.—Good riding habit, dark grey mixture, Bust 34-36. Waist 26-28. £4. Black riding boots, 7. Good. £2. Miss Warren, Abbott's Ann, Crowthorne, Berks.

FOR SALE.—Blue and white kid sandals (5). Low heels. 12/6. Oatmeal canvas courts (6). 10/-. King, Sunnysbank, Boxford, Colchester.

FOR SALE.—"Land Girl" magazines from first number up to date. 10/- or offers. Flint, The Haven, West Ayton, Scarborough.

THE LAND GIRL

A MEMORABLE DAY IN CARLISLE

At last the day arrived—April 6th, the day of the W.L.A. pageant in Carlisle. From early morn everyone was busy pressing clothes and decorating lorry, tractor and trailer for the competition with a coveted £10 prize.

At 1.30 p.m. we were all assembled on the Sands awaiting the distinguished visitors to come and judge. We had ample time to see and criticise the other hostels' attempts and by about 2 o'clock most of our self-confidence had disappeared. Most of the tableaux emphasised the need for new recruits in the Battle for Bread and we had a long wait before we saw the Mayor and the Lord Lieutenant of Cumberland, followed by the crowd of onlookers, coming towards our lorry. We were hoping they would stay long enough to read our characterised nursery rhymes illustrating the need for new recruits. We were too far from the speakers to hear the announcement of the winning team so there was a moment of suppressed excitement—eyes agog—hearts pounding—suddenly there was loud applause and all eyes were turned towards Longtown hostel's vehicles—their tableaux represented food from the field to the table. A few seconds afterwards our own D.R. was seen running towards us, her face beaming with excitement. "Congratulations girls—you have tied in second place with Bolton Hall." Our pent up feelings were let loose in a loud whoop of joy. The procession then moved through the main streets of the city and it seemed only a few seconds before we were back on the Sands dismantling vehicles and preparing for tea. The winning team and one representative from each of the other two teams were entertained to tea at the County Hotel where they received the prizes from the Lord Lieutenant.

Later in the evening we all met again for a grand dance in the Drill Hall where we found plenty of partners, food and minerals.

Thank you Miss Duff and all your willing helpers who made this such an enjoyable day, one that I know will long be remembered by us all as the first W.L.A. pageant to be held in Carlisle and we hope not the last.
Cum. L. E. Fenn. 57703.

Answers to questions on page 6.

1. Four.
2. Ten lbs.
3. Eight.
4. A fowl.
5. After birth of second calf.

LINCS. GOES TO LONDON

Volunteers from Little Ponton Hostel, Lincs., had a grand time when they all went to London by bus one Sunday last month. They started at 8 and got back at 11. In London they met hostel "old girls" recently released and split up in groups which visited Petticoat Lane, Buckingham Palace, The Tower, Whitehall and the Zoo. Several of the girls had trips up the Thames on the steamers.

"Variety in Cooking"—Price 1/8¹ each, including postage. From W.L.A. Office, Bron Castell Annexe, Bangor, North Wales.

W.L.A. STATIONERY

3/6 per box.

W.L.A. CALENDARS

1/3 each.

Carr. Paid

PENGUIN SUPPLY COMPANY,

Quality House, Wood Street,
Manchester 3

W. SUFFOLK BRAINS TRUST

The Athenaeum at Bury St. Edmunds was crowded on April 6th when the Earl of Cranbrook opened proceedings with a recruiting speech for the L.A. and a strong appeal to everyone to produce more food. Freddie Grisewood, a very popular Question Master, then took over with his "galaxy of brains", consisting of a past Chairman of the N.F.U., the W.A.E.C. Assistant Executive Officer, the M.F.H. for the Newmarket and Thurlow hunt, an eminent farmer, a farmer's wife, the Chairman of W. Suffolk W.L.A. and the most proficient L.G. in this county. E. M. Mills, 59101, has obtained distinction in two Proficiency Tests—g.f. and milking. The Trust solved many farming riddles and were unanimously of the opinion that a prosperous agriculture was essential to the prosperity of England and also decided that there was definitely a permanent place on the land for girls with stock, milking and poultry. Such questions as the lack of amenities in the countryside and the seven-day week for those working with stock called for animated discussion.

We are most indebted to the Mayor for the reception he gave in his parlour before the event and to the Homecraft Centre for the magnificent tea they provided afterwards.

The Land Army song, price 1d. (2d. post free) or 1/- a dozen, post free, can be obtained from the Editor, LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1. Profits of sales go to the Benevolent Fund.

SCOTTISH NOTES

DUMBARTON AND RENFREW.—As the Hostel at Clynder was to close on 28th Feb., the L.G.'s decided to give the local people a Farewell Whist Drive and Dance. Invitations were also given to the Naval Personnel. A decision was reached that the closing of the Hostel should be postponed; however, the Party went ahead and a most successful evening was enjoyed by about 150 people. Excellent prizes were donated for the Whist Drive which was followed by a delightful tea. The hall was then cleared for dancing and later on in the evening ices were served. A vote of thanks was made to the Hostel girls for the happy evening that had been spent, and many remarks were made by everyone as to how glad they were that the girls were not leaving in the meantime.

E. AND W. FIFE AND KINROSS.—Lady Elgin welcomed a number of W.L.A. members to a meeting of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute in Cupar at which she presented six-year and four-year armlets and congratulated the girls on their long and excellent service in a job which was considered of such high importance. Mrs. Paulin, Assistant Liaison Officer, thanked Lady Elgin and the members of the S.W.R.I. Federation for having the girls there that day. Mrs. Paulin had always encouraged W.L.A. members to attend Institute Meetings because she felt there was such a close link between the land and the Institute movement. E. Bell, E. Winton and A. Kettles received six-year armlets and thirteen others received armlets for four years' service.

ROSS AND CROMARTY.—A very enjoyable dance in aid of the Scottish W.L.A. Welfare & Benevolent Fund was held in the Playhouse, Invergordon, on Wednesday, 27th March. After all expenses were paid the highly satisfactory sum of £19 2s. 5d. was cleared. Great credit is given to all who contributed towards this successful effort and the members of the W.L.A. are specially grateful to Mr. Wm. MacLeod, Roskeen, for his help in organising the function.

WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS

We were all more than sorry to say "Goodbye" to Miss M. E. Hoskyn, our Chief Officer, who left us on Feb. 28th to go to Germany with the Allied Control Commission. We would like to wish her the best of good luck in this new venture.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. D. Simpson as our new Chief Officer. Mrs. Simpson has, for some time, been the Chief Officer for Scotland, and has now taken over the whole of England and Wales as well.

Five of our Divisional Welfare Officers and a few of the W.T.C. Measurers, who have knowledge of the clerical work connected with Timber Production, have also been accepted for employment with the Control Commission.

We have been able to leave on record some of our activities through the medium of the W.T.C. book "Meet the Members", which can still be obtained from the Board of Trade (HGTPD), Vassall Road, Fishponds, Bristol, for 2/8, including postage.

It is sad to know that the Timber Corps is now nearing an end after so much hard and essential work, of which we all have every right to be justly proud.

COUNTY NEWS

LONDON & MIDD.—We hear that the model farms which this county has on show at a number of big stores as part of our recruiting campaign are causing great excitement and not a little envy among the child population. The youngsters have for years seen nothing to compare with the beautifully made animals and horses and waggon. Toy departments are swamped with demands: "Please where can we buy the farmyard? Well, if not the farm, the animals then?" A milking test was held at Pinner on April 14th. Congratulations to the following successful candidates: J. Bingham, 86, M. Blackburn, 80, and B. Riddlesworth, 79 marks.

We offer our best wishes to Miss Johnson who has joined us as Assistant County Secretary. We also welcome our new Interviewers. These ladies are voluntarily giving their time to interview recruits at Keysign House, Oxford St., W., and are finding themselves kept fully occupied by a steady flow of applicants.

MON.—We are in the throes of our Recruiting Campaign and normal activities have to take second place to the more exciting task of striving after our target figure of 500 new recruits. Mr. Donald McCullough of "Brains Trust" fame and

Mr. Ernest Clegg the artist happened to be visiting Newport for a Pictorial Map conference on the day on which we had planned to open our Recruiting Exhibition, and we were delighted when Mr. McCullough consented to open our exhibition. We felt nothing could be more fitting in view of his excellent work on the L.A.'s behalf. Our exhibition has been very well received, and the response has been excellent, but we feel that our best advertisement has been the happy, healthy-looking L.G.'s who have devoted precious spare time to recruiting speeches at cinemas and dances, and who are often to be found on Saturday afternoons explaining away various pieces of the intricate machinery to admiring crowds. Our most thrilling piece of news is a recruiting film which we have helped to make ourselves. Star of the film is Topsy Poole, W.L.A., and other L.G.'s in Chestow area play supporting parts. We were sorry to have to close Llangattock Manor hostel but we are pleased to announce the opening of a new hostel at Ynys Hofod which we feel sure will prove very popular with the girls billeted there. C.E.M.A. has just completed a very successful tour of the hostels.

NORFOLK.—Plans are now being made for the Rally to be held (by invitation of the Show Committee) at the Royal Norfolk Show, Crown Point, Norwich, on June 20th. We look forward to having Mrs. Jenkins with us for the first time. Our County Chairman has given two trophies, one for hand-milking and one for tractor driving, for which preliminary competitions will be held in May, and the finals will take place at the Show: a March-Past and Presentation of 6-year armlets will take place in the Grand Ring during the afternoon. A very successful dance was held during the Norwich Recruiting week; between 300 and 400 were present, many of whom came long distances. Spot prizes, raffles and exhibition dances were all part of the entertainment and over £25 will be handed to the Benevolent Fund. An appeal for recruits was made by Mr. Ronald Keefe. Two more dances, one at Diss on April 30th and one at Hunstanton on a date yet to be fixed will be in aid of the County Welfare Fund; further appeals will also be made for recruits at these. Recruiting appeals have been made at several Norwich theatres and cinemas; R. Pearce, 5507, spoke very well from the Hippodrome stage and without a trace of nervousness.

NORTH'D.—Congratulations to the following for raising money during April for the Benevolent Fund:—M. Laidler, 146404, and D. Dowland, 158524, £19 by a Whist Drive and Dance at Alnham. Mr. and Mrs. Weatherburn, £14 8s. by a Whist Drive and Dance at Norham-on-Tweed. Eight members at Stamford Farm, £10 by a Dance at Rennington. *Recruiting Campaign.* There have been many enquiries at the County Office and Newcastle Information Bureau (open during April) and the Campaign has done well. Members will have received their invitations to the County Rally to be held at Cockle Park, Morpeth, on Wednesday, May 29th, at 10 a.m. Mrs. F. C. Jenkins, C.B.E., Chief Administrative Officer of the W.L.A., will be the Guest Speaker. The programme includes sports, competitions, exhibits and demonstrations (arranged by King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne), literature and second-hand uniform stalls and a gift stall in aid of the Benevolent Fund, so please remember a gift, however small! The programme will be slightly changed should it be a wet day and will include some indoor entertainments. But we are all hoping for a very fine day.

NOTTS.—The whole county is busy this month with the Recruiting Campaign in which the L.G.'s themselves have taken a prominent part. On Saturday, April 13th, a parade was held in Nottingham led by a Women's Air Corps band, and spaced with tractors. Those taking part were the long service members and they looked extremely smart and were a great credit to the W.L.A. The Lord Mayor welcomed them to the Council House



B. M. Tudor Jones, 65673, Hants., with two young charges.

THE LAND GIRL

where a most excellent tea was provided, and afterwards the Lady Mayoress presented 6 and 4 year armlets, and half diamonds for 4½ and 5 years' service. The busy season has started and entertainments in the hostels are not so numerous. Sutton-on-Trent, Kinoulton, Calverton and Hoveringham hostels have closed, and the girls transferred to other hostels where we hope they will be happy.

We are pleased to welcome Miss Dawson as our third County Organiser, and hope she will be very happy with us.

We are very sorry to report the death from meningitis of Peggy Brown, 161586, aged 17, who has only been a member of the W.L.A. for 6 months.

SALOP.—We were delighted to have Mrs. Jenkins with us for our Rally at Shrewsbury on April 6th. Knowing her many commitments and responsibilities her visit will long be remembered with appreciation and pleasure. Of the 300 girls who attended the Rally, 170 received G.S. Badges from Mrs. Jenkins, and we particularly congratulate our six 6½-year olds, six 6-year olds and the drivers who took part in the mechanised section of the Procession. We were so glad to welcome a number of ex-members of the L.A., especially those who came all the way from Civvy Street in Lancashire to join us at the Rally. Past and present members of the W.L.A. gave Mrs. Preston, County Secretary, a gold watch and cheque, and the presentation was made on their behalf by E. Burton, a Lancashire volunteer who has worked on the same farm in Shropshire for nearly six years.

SOM.—After six and a half years, we felt very sad at parting with our County Secretary, Miss Spencer. We all wish her every success in the new work she has undertaken. The Committee presented Miss Spencer with a suitcase, shoulder-bag and wristwatch as a token of appreciation of her work. We welcome Mrs. Crossley, our third County Organiser, this month. As soon as the recruiting campaign ends Mrs. Crossley will take over part of the County, and will help to solve our problems.

The Recruiting Campaign is in full swing and is causing much interest in the County. 25 entries have been received for the Proficiency Tests. We wish the entrants every success. Weddings: Congratulations to Miss R. Porter, 162541, and Miss A. E. Marshall, 74931.

STAFFS.—The National Recruiting Drive is in full swing in Staffs., and very encouraging results are being obtained; the young people of England are once again responding to the urgent call of their Country. 50 of our reps, joined in the Mechanised Parade in Birmingham on April 6th and thoroughly enjoyed this outing; 8 of our oldest members acted as part of the Guard of Honour at the Council House. The Campaign opened in Wolverhampton with a Recruiting Speech by Mr. Frederick Allen, of the B.B.C., at a Dance at the Civic Hall, and a window display and recruiting Booth at Messrs Beattie's shop. A Mobile Recruiting Unit has toured most of the towns in Staffordshire and has caused great publicity. A Mechanised Parade will take place in Stoke and Hanley on May 4th. A number of our demobilised members are giving us invaluable help in our campaign, and we thank them for their continued interest in the L.A. Donations to the Benevolent Fund have been £6 4s. 11d., received from Mrs. Fryer, Lea Hall Hostel, the proceeds from the play "Night Must Fall", given by the Iscoll Players—a most excellent performance; M. Hynes, £1 6s. 4d. collecting box; P. Mellor, surplus funds from Lichfield Club, £16. All are gratefully acknowledged.

E. SUFFOLK.—Once again our news is chiefly of regretful farewells to many of our old friends who are terminating their service in the L.A. to plunge into matrimony or take up post-war careers. One of our very first volunteers, after a period of ill health, has, helped by the Benevolent Fund,

been able to open a baby linen shop of her own in Ipswich, and we wish her the best of luck. We are sorry to say that during the last few months we have had fewer recruits training in milking than ever before. However, things are now looking brighter, as during the last week or so a steady trickle of new trainees has come to our training hostels at Columbyne Hall and Sutton Hoo. We should like to welcome them all to our county and wish them every success in the interesting and immensely important work which they have undertaken. We are delighted at the prospect of another visit from Mrs. Godfrey Phillips, who is making a tour of our hostels, giving a further series of her talks on hygiene, which were so popular last year.

W. SUFFOLK.—Our outstanding event, which is described elsewhere, was the Food Production Brains Trust on April 6th. Seven teams competed for Lady Briscoe's cup and an eighth team of married ex-W.L.A. obligingly took part in practice matches to give confidence to the competitors. The finals was an excellent match between Mrs. Custerson's team and Shimpling Hostel, the former winning the cup by 89 marks to 85½. We were very pleased to welcome Mrs. Sunderland Taylor and Miss Talbot (E. Suffolk) and are very grateful to Mr. Sayce of the W.A.E.C. for organising the Quiz and providing us with many entertaining evenings. A Hand and Machine Milking Proficiency Test was held at Shimpling on March 19th. There were eight candidates. Two gained distinction and four passed. Our winter campaign for Benevolent and County Welfare Funds has ended with two outstanding dances organised by the Thurlow Agricultural Club at Thurlow, and Mr. Watson at the Corn Exchange, Bury St. Edmunds. Altogether the campaign has realised £495 18s. 8d. for the Benevolent Fund and £63 9s. 9d. for the County Welfare Fund.

E. SUSSEX.—The willing co-operation we have received in our Recruiting Campaign has helped us and we are most grateful to all shopkeepers, farmers, L.G.'s and ex-W.L.A. who have given so much of their time to our cause. Successful meetings have been held in Brighton, Lewes and Eastbourne with Frederick Allen as chief speaker. E. Walker, L. Gregory and J. Hawkins have also proved good speakers and broadcasters. The lorry filled with W.L.A. which toured Eastbourne one day was a great attraction and one visitor to the town said "Everyone in Eastbourne is talking about the W.L.A." The number of recruits coming forward is satisfactory. The Relief Milking Scheme continues to flourish with 5 Units working and 4 pending. We can now offer a month's refresher course to possible relief milkers and hope this will encourage some 2-year volunteers to take up this essential job. The article and pictures in *Picture Post* brought a visit from Pathé Pictorial and now the American United Press are to visit the county. We hope this publicity will help other counties in getting Units started.

We are all very sorry to say goodbye to Miss Tindall who has worked for E. Sussex W.L.A. for over four years. Her work has been much appreciated and she will be greatly missed by volunteers in Wadhurst, Battle and Rye districts. Miss Clarke has taken over this area and we welcome Miss Lawrie who will work in Brighton and Cuckfield areas in place of Miss Clarke and Miss Knox Dick.

N. WALES.—The Recruiting Campaign has made April a very busy month and here as elsewhere there have been plenty of reminders to the public that the L.A. carries on. The most important event for us was the broadcast entitled "Ploughing a New Furrow" on the Welsh Regional Programme, and we should like to tender our thanks to Mrs. Purves and the Montgomeryshire W.L.A. and to the Principal, Staff and Students of the Plas Dinam Agricultural Training Centre for taking on this broadcast. Those taking part included Mr. Rhys Williams, the Principal of the Centre; Mr. James, Chairman of the Mont-

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gomerysthshire W.A.E.C. Sub-Training Committee: Mr. William Morgan, one-time employee of the famous "Top Sawyer" and gardener at Plas Dinam for 60 years; and Land Girls M. Brown (Brecon & Rads.), M. Fisher (Devon), and R. Williams and P. Jones (N. Wales).

WORCS.—Recently we had the pleasure of welcoming Miss F. M. Davies, our new Assistant Secretary. Miss Davies has come to us from Gloucestershire and we hope she will enjoy working with us.

At the Land Girls' Council, held recently at the Shirehall, 6-year and 4-year Armlets were presented by Lady Lechmere. An excellent address was given by Miss Hodgson, Regional Organiser, who was visiting the county for the last time before going to Labrador. Mrs. Fowle, our new Regional Organiser, was also present and was introduced to the assembled company. Worcester-shire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire held a most successful Recruiting Exhibition in Birmingham, which lasted a fortnight and culminated in a huge Parade. Donald McCullough conducted a miniature Brains Trust with a Worcs. farmer and a Worcs. L.G., and addressed the L.G.'s who had taken part in the Parade. A similar Parade was held in Worcester and was followed by an address by the Chairman of the W.A.E.C. Those taking part were entertained to tea in the Shirehall and stayed on for a dance. Parades, followed by dances, have been held in Redditch and Hales-owen. The results so far have been most encouraging. Hundreds of girls have come forward, all anxious to start their work on the land as soon as possible. We hope many more will follow their example. Already we have received many letters from ex-members of the Land Army applying for reinstatement.

YORKS., E.R.—At the finishing up of the special Recruiting Week in York (April 8th-13th), a joint exhibition was organised by the North and East Ridings of "W.L.A. at Work", on a vacant space in the centre of the town. With the help of the E.R.W.A.E.C. some first-class animals were on view and volunteers were seen doing dairy work, and with pigs, sheep and poultry. Machinery was on view and there were girls demonstrating potato riddling, etc. There was also a horticultural exhibit. Shop window displays of uniform, etc., were also arranged in various places in the town for this week, and we were very lucky in being able to borrow from the printers the originals of the three Yorkshire Pictorial Maps for one of our windows.

Since the beginning of the year it has been necessary to close three of our hostels and we would like to thank the Wardens of Muston, Rolston and Keyingham for their work whilst in the E. Riding, and wish them every success in the future.

YORKS., N.R.—March and April have been busy months for us. An excellent handicraft exhibition staged at Thirsk Hostel brought in many entries of a high standard. Mrs. Claude Thompson of the Yorks. Fed. of Women's Institutes kindly acted as judge and after being introduced by Lady Celia Milnes-Coates, Chairman of our Welfare Comm., she commented on the work shown and then presented the prizes. We were busy with the recruiting campaign during April. This took the form of shop window displays in all the large towns and villages. Special weeks were held in York and Middlesbrough, each ending with a special effort on the Saturday. At York an exhibition entitled "The W.L.A. at Work" was staged on a bombed arcade in the main street—at this there were cows, a calf, pigs, sheep and lambs, etc., and implements such as a potato riddle, a thatching machine, worked by W.L.A. members. The Lord Mayor of York paid an official visit and spoke of the need for recruits. About 5,000 people visited the exhibition during the day. At Middlesbrough a parade of W.L.A. girls and farm vehicles headed by a band, paraded from the Town Hall to a playing field where the Mayor received them and urged all those who could to join the W.L.A.

County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total			Em ployed
	£.	s.	d.	
Kent	9706	19	0	1810
Surrey	5510	2	1	1277
Essex	5644	3	6	1069
Yorks., W.R. ..	3016	14	4	1036
Hants.	8652	1	8	1032
Leics. & Rut. ..	2613	18	11	940
Herts.	4386	13	10	918
Somerset	2384	5	9	867
Worcs.	3072	11	2	803
E. Sussex	4106	19	7	786
Northants. ..	2837	16	1	777
Warwicks. ..	7516	9	9	776
Devon.	4103	9	3	775
Bucks.	4901	14	2	768
W. Sussex	5163	6	10	733
Cornwall	1373	5	11	722
Cheshire	3213	3	10	712
Glos.	2567	17	5	636
Northumberland	2108	10	3	601
Lincs., Lindsey & Kesteven	3263	13	0	600
Wilts.	1950	3	11	570
Beds.	1053	13	2	567
Norfolk	6239	6	1	555
Oxon.	3842	14	3	546
Berks.	3580	18	2	543
Notts.	1814	10	0	530
Yorks., N.R. ..	2165	6	7	528
Hunts., Cambs. & Ely	3746	16	7	519
Lancs.	2775	3	2	515
Salop.	1953	18	11	457
E. Suffolk	3542	18	9	435
Dorset.	1408	0	8	430
Durham	1886	15	10	430
Cumbs. & West'ld.	707	13	0	415
Staffs.	1785	13	3	390
Mon.	971	8	0	387
Herefords. ..	1864	7	5	371
Glam.	1170	13	9	357
N. Wales	1906	19	2	341
W. Suffolk	2157	0	5	336
Yorks., E.R. ..	606	14	8	330
Flints.	665	7	6	323
Lincs.—Holland ..	2032	3	7	303
Denbighs.	1016	16	11	301
London & Middx.	1279	12	7	287
Derbys.	1453	15	4	261
I.O.W.	275	15	8	206
Pembs.	1122	2	8	194
Brec. & Radnor. ..	394	12	6	181
Cards. & Carms. ..	742	15	5	179
Mont.	463	4	6	133
W.T.C.	7074	4	1	609

The number of volunteers in employ-
ment on 18th April, 1946, was 30,167.

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