

THE LANDGIRL



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ON VICTORY

AT an Old Stagers' Party in West Sussex on May 18th, Mrs. Burrell, Chairman of the W.L.A. County Committee, told the six-year members present how the idea of such a party had first occurred to her. In the days when bombs were falling, when the news was black and bitter, when we woke every morning relieved that there had been no invasion during the night, she had thought "Well, if we ever get through this, we'll have a whale of a party to celebrate—and here we are" she ended.

We could all say a mouthful on the disappointments of peace. It seems monstrously unjust that after years of toil and sweat we should not be given the reward we know we have earned. And as danger past is quickly forgotten we do not all realise, perhaps, what the cessation of the flow of blood and tears has meant to us.

"Here we are" indeed—but we might well not have been. However disgruntled we may feel now, where should we have been if we had lost the war? Instead of celebrating Victory Day we should all have been contributing with far more toil and sweat and infinite blood and tears to the building of Hitler's new barbarian age.

However hard it may be to find the resolution and the patience and the goodwill which we need to build a peaceful world, it is right that we should pause to honour the men and women who saved us from the fate which seemed imminent six years ago. And it is right too that we should remember that Victory was won, with our Allies, despite obstacles which once seemed insurmountable.

Such a memory will enhearten us to face and overcome the difficulties which beset the path of peace.

M.A.P.

WHY DO I STAY IN THE W.L.A.?

The following essay won 1st prize in a Devon competition.

I went to a show; I saw a news reel; not about sports or War; about Famine in Europe; empty fields; empty shops; empty stomachs; a nation being slowly exterminated by hunger; babies thin and wasted, dying of starvation; I shall remember that picture always.

I joined the Land Army to say I had helped during the War; I am staying in the Land Army to say I helped prevent a crisis which will make History. Every potato I plant; every seed I drop is now a minute step to that prevention. I can say I helped; every girl with me can claim that she too did her share. Every one of us know in our hearts it is worth while; if a job is worth doing it is worth doing well. What then was the good of starting a job in war time if in peace we leave it unfinished and so undo all the good we have wrought?

There, then is my answer; I'm staying because I am needed; I was born in a city, but the city lives only through the countryside.

A. Baron, 147074.

Holidays. Write to Y.W.C.A., Great Russell St., London, W.C.1, for booklet on holiday centres in England.



M. E. Jones, 99334, and G. Mills, 124128, Mon., snapped during a visit to London.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter has been received at Headquarters.

I am an ex-Land Girl and am writing to ask if I may rejoin. I was released, at my own request, in March. I came home determined, so I thought, to settle down and make some sort of career for myself. I cannot concentrate on my work. I am all the time longing to jump through the window into the fresh air. When I do get outside the dust gets in my eyes and up my nose and I long for good clean cow-dung again. Does this surprise you? I was only in the W.L.A. a short but happy seventeen months. Would you please re-enrol me that I might have the opportunity of making it longer. Much longer!

I was proud of being a Land Girl, even though the farmers took us so much for granted. Since I came home everybody says "Out? Don't blame you—you had a raw deal." At which I feel I belong back "in".

I was a milker, in Dorset, but I don't mind where you send me. Just give me time to give in my notice, send me some kit and a farm to go to, I'll be content.

D. Ashby, ex-W.L.A. 149136.

Dear Madam,

I am writing to ask for my release at the end of this month as my husband is being demobbed.

I have completed three years on the 24th and want you to know they have been the happiest three years of my life. If I wasn't married I would be very happy to complete another three. I wouldn't have missed it for anything. I'm going to hate leaving, and all my friends I have made.

I now take the opportunity to thank you and the other persons for enabling me to become a land girl three years ago.

D. Freeman, 121061.

M. Haslett, 162566, the youngest relief milker in E. Sussex, was delighted when the system of relief milking was introduced as she had always been keen on the idea. She has found both her landlady and her fellow workers very kind and she says "the men all seem very pleased—for some of them it is the first time off they have been able to have for some months."

In the Ministry of Agriculture's "Rogues' Gallery" of harmful mammals the first three places are occupied by the Rat, the Rabbit and the Grey Squirrel, in that order.

SCOTTISH NOTES

BANFFSHIRE.—A very successful Whist Drive and Dance in aid of the W.L.A. W. & B. Fund was held at Portessie. It was run by the local L.G.'s with Miss I. McLean as organiser. As a result, the handsome sum of £92 5s. has been handed over to the Fund.

DUMBARTON AND RENFREW.—The Paisley and District W.L.A. Club ran a very successful and enjoyable dance on 3rd May in aid of their entertainment fund for the limless men at Erskine Hospital. A profit of £14 was realised. The Club has already given two entertainments and hope to entertain other men soon. The parties have been very much appreciated.

ROSS AND CROMARTY.—On April 11th, the Arabella S.W.R.I. Dramatic Team very kindly came to Dingwall and gave a performance in aid of the W.L.A. W. & B. Fund. Mrs. D. J. Ross, M.B.E., Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee presided. The plays were "The Visitors at Birkenbrae", "Campbell of Kilmohr" and "The Family Group", and the acting of all three was excellent. At the close of the performance, Mrs. Sinclair proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman. The sum of £31 6s. 3d., which included the handsome donation of £15 from the Dingwall N.F.S. Club, has been sent to the Fund.

As Bayfield Hostel is to close shortly, the Warden and remaining W.L.A. members gave a most enjoyable farewell party in the Territorial Hall, Nigg, to their many friends in the district. Young and old joined in games and dancing, and special mention must be made of the very delightful tea provided by the Warden, Miss Mackenzie. This is a very small hostel but it has been a very happy one. The girls have fully entered into the life of the parish and taken part in all the local activities, and in years to come, will recall with many happy memories the time spent in the W.L.A. at Bayfield Hostel and the kindness of so many friends in Nigg.

WELFARE AND BENEVOLENT FUND.—The Fund total is now £41,232 14s. 3d. Since the beginning of the year, donations have been slower in coming in, but May has shown a marked improvement—Women's Timber Corps £50, Ross and Cromarty £31 6s. 3d., Banffshire £92 5s. Profit from sale of Christmas Cards and Calendars £428 7s. 5d. Since the beginning of the Fund over 500 cases of illness and hardship have received assistance at a cost of £3,563 16s. 7d. Over 200 girls have received grants for Post War Training and re-settlement amounting to £2,772 17s. 6d.

The Welfare and Benevolent Fund Committee are indebted to the English Benevolent Fund for reserving a number of vacancies each month in their Homecraft Training Centres at Melton Mowbray and Bury St. Edmunds. Several of our girls have taken advantage of this training and are full of praise for the tuition received and the happy time spent south of the Border.

FARM EXHIBITION AT CROYDON

Surrey's Recruiting Campaign opened on Saturday, 30th March, with a procession through Croydon of some two hundred Land Girls headed by the Croydon Town Band and followed by farm wagons drawn by Shire horses and Suffolk Punches, tractors, milk cart, etc. They were received at Kennards by Lt.-Col. D. H. Rees Williams, M.P., who, after appealing for support for the Recruiting Drive, opened the Farm Exhibition.

Kennards is a very large Store in the heart of Croydon and the transformation of their basement floor into a farm drew such large crowds that the Exhibition had to be extended for a second week. The livestock included rabbits, geese, hen and chicks, ewe and lambs, pigs, cow and two pigeons. Demonstrations were given by Land Girls of milking and thatching, and a baling machine and potato riddler were amongst the agricultural implements on display. Despite the difficulty of keeping livestock in these rather unusual conditions the

cow's milk yield definitely increased and the chicks, pigs and lambs all thrived. It is true that the sheep took a walk into the china section one early morning and broke a most expensive glass and the pigeons flew off one evening and were finally captured in the hosiery department, but we are happy to record that no real damage was done.

HAMPSHIRE CELEBRATES

Victory celebrations combined with a recruiting march made a memorable day for Hampshire volunteers on May 4th. At half-past one everyone assembled for either a tour of Southampton docks or for a trip down Southampton water, on one of the Isle of Wight pleasure steamers. By 3.15 p.m. the trips finished and the procession was formed. Tractors led the way, followed by horses and carts kindly lent by the Southampton Corporation. The carts were freshly painted for the occasion and the horses beautifully decorated. June Larkins carried the Hampshire Banner in front of the 50 long service girls. Then came the band of the Royal Marines from H.M.S. Excellent, followed by the rest of the party of 500 girls. At the Civic Centre long service badges and the Hostel Shield were presented and speeches made. The recruiting speech was made by Frederick Allen from the B.B.C. and we were lucky enough to have as one of our guests Miss N. Bower from Headquarters. One of the high spots of the day was the tea which followed the parade. The great Guildhall was laid for 700 guests, all at small tables. The beautiful flowers arranged on the stage where the band played throughout tea, were provided by Mr. Ibbett, the County Horticultural Officer.

After tea those who wished could go on conducted tours of the old city walls and museum. The residents of Southampton turned out in large numbers to see the show and we should like to thank the Editor of the Southern Daily Echo for his excellent publicity.

OLD STAGERS IN WEST SUSSEX

On Saturday, May 18th, West Sussex had a glorious party at Northlands Hostel, Chichester, for its old-service volunteers. Committee members and district representatives—ninety altogether. Lady Denman and Mrs. Pyke (Editor of the "Land Girl") were the guests of honour. Some very nice and well-earned tributes were paid in toasts and speeches, but the evening was mainly hilarious in tone. Lady Denman set the pace in a speech which included several jokes she claimed to have censored before publication in the "Land Girl"—this pace was well maintained in a two-minute roll call of "funniest experiences in the Land Army" and then by Miss Colleen Clifford who could surely hardly be bettered as an entertainer. Her songs, jokes and stories were immensely appreciated and her impersonations, ranging from an American woman broadcaster and a stout opera singer to a professional pianist (using his feet as extra hands), reduced her audience to a state of uproarious mirth. Miss Clifford would not only make a cat laugh, she would turn it into a Cheshire one.

Throughout the evening any mention of Mrs. Burrell, County Chairman, aroused great enthusiasm and it was clear that both she and the County Secretary, Miss Forbes Adam, are valued as they ought to be.

On behalf of W. Sussex Land Army, Miss Rosalind Cox (who led the Land Army March of six-year volunteers last December) made a presentation to Miss Kathleen Stiles whose work as Assistant Secretary was so justifiably appreciated by all who know her and whose departure is so widely regretted.

Games and Auld Lang Syne brought to a close an evening which will be a happy memory to everyone who was lucky enough to be present.

Answers to questions on page 7.

1, 25 million. 2, 16. 3, Westmorland. 4, Sheep shorn once. 5, Cold air is heavier than warm, so flows downhill.

COUNTY NEWS

BEDS.—Recruiting has been to the forefront of late and is showing steady results. We hope to organise concerts in the Agricultural Camps next month with an appeal for volunteers, and our special broadcasting van will make a regular appearance at all outdoor county functions—gymkhanas, flower shows, etc.—throughout the next three months. Ten of our volunteers attended the Victory Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Church, Bedford, on 9th June. G. Cross was chosen to represent us at the London Victory Parade on 8th June. In connection with the drive against food waste, useful talks have been given by Ministry of Food officials at several hostels. Leighton Buzzard Hostel recently celebrated their fourth birthday with a very successful party, and 12 original members present received their scarlet armlets from the County Secretary. Wrest Park Lodge, where there are still 4 original members, held a similar party on Empire Day.

All the best wishes of the county go to our Chairman, Mrs. J. B. Graham, for a quick recovery from her recent operation. We are very sorry to lose yet another County Organiser in Mrs. Nelson, who joins her husband in Italy shortly. She is being replaced by Miss Fuller who has served nearly a year as Employment Section Officer in the County Office. We welcome Miss Collier in her place.

BERKS.—It is with very real regret that we have said good-bye to Miss Rogers, our County Secretary, who has worked untriflingly for the W.L.A. since the early days of the war. She has always taken a very keen interest in the welfare and happiness of all volunteers and her enthusiastic and genial personality will be sadly missed by everyone throughout the county. We should like to thank her for all that she has done and wish her good luck and every success in the future. We welcome Miss Blunt, our new County Secretary, who has also been a member of the W.L.A. organisation for many years. We wish her every success in her new sphere and hope that she will be happy amongst us.

We were very busy during April with the arrangements for the Recruiting Campaign. We had a recruiting van in all the towns in the county on various dates in the month. On the 13th we had a parade in Reading which consisted of various decorated trailers and tractors. We would like to thank all those who worked so very hard in making it a success. We have had quite a good response to our appeal for more recruits, some of whom have already started work on the land.

Special Announcement

POST-WAR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

The W.F.G.A. has 40 years' experience in placing women in skilled jobs on the land and advising them on training facilities.

Interviews daily 11—12.30 and 2.30—4.

THE WOMEN'S FARM AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION,

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

Membership 12/6 a year including
regular news sheets

BUCKS.—In connection with our recruiting campaign stalls have been held in various market towns, displays arranged in shop windows and the recruiting van has toured the County throughout the month of April, and has attended the Point-to-Point at Kimble and gymkhanas at High Wycombe and Amersham. A number of girls working for the W.A.E.C. were in evidence in the threshing and ploughing demonstrations at the exhibition held at the County Farm, Stoke Mandeville, on 23rd May. Another successful tour of Arts Council concerts was held in April, when Mr. Felix Kok, Miss Winifred Lancaster and Miss Daphne Ibbott visited three of the larger hostels, to which transport of girls from billets and adjacent hostels had been arranged. Mrs. Godfrey Phillips has given another tour of her popular lectures on hygiene, all of which were most appreciated during her visits to a number of hostels in all parts of the County.

CUM. AND WES.—The Recruiting Campaign has made April and May a busy time for us. The parade of decorated lorries and farm machinery, held in Carlisle on April 6th, was most successful and we should like to thank everyone who took part and helped to make it such an enjoyable event. Our congratulations to Longtown Hostel on winning first prize in the competition and to Bolton Hall and Gelsdale Hostels who tied for second place. The Judges found the task of choosing the second prizewinner so difficult that Col. Ballentine Dykes generously doubled the prize money! A series of hostel parties ended on May 18th in a grand recruiting dance at the Drill Hall, Carlisle (by kind permission of the A.C.F.). Here Louisa Fenn was elected "Miss Agriculture, 1946" for Westmorland and Cumberland, from sixteen picked competitors. The runner up was Olive Newton. A colour picture of the Carlisle Parade and of the W.L.A. at work on a Cumberland farm has been shown in Workington and Whitehaven with gratifying results, many new recruits having enrolled after seeing it.

We should like to thank Miss Duff, who has been Supply Secretary here during the last three months, for her untiring efforts on behalf of the W.L.A. in these counties. We extend a warm welcome to Miss Tebbutt, our new County Secretary, and to Miss Russell, who has been appointed County Organiser for N.W. Cumberland.

DERBS.—Recruiting has been our chief concern during the last two months. The results have been excellent and our grateful thanks go to all who helped to make the Campaign such a great success. Events in connection with the Campaign have included three Brains Trusts, five Dances, a Quiz Party and a Parade in Sheffield. We have also had window displays and advice bureaux in all the principal towns and loud speaker vans have toured many parts of the county. As we are an exporting county, most of our recruits have been placed in other counties, and we send them our very good wishes and hope they are settling down and like their new work. Our thanks are due to the Warden and L.G.'s at Eaves Hall Hostel who organised a dance and raised £9 10s. for the County Welfare Fund; to Mrs. Laban. K. Oldfield, 135241; N. Banks, 76966; K. Laban, 76717; and B. Goodison, 112847, who also organised a dance and raised £17 for the same fund. Money has been raised for the Benevolent Fund during the past few weeks but the exact amount is not yet to hand.

DEVON'S Recruiting Drive started with a procession in Exeter of tableaux depicting L.G.'s thatching, rat-catching and milking—this last tableau causing much amusement as the "cow" was borrowed from the local pantomime and proved very lively! At five cinemas L.G.'s gave short talks, illustrated by slides, on the work of the W.L.A. The Press were most generous with their limited space and put in many articles and biographies of volunteers. Every town and most villages heard our message through a loud speaker van which toured Devon for a fortnight, covering 457 miles. At Plymouth, a L.G. at the micro-

phone commanded the attention of busy shoppers. "Hallo Plymouth. This is operation Countryside calling you on the Land Army wave length. Calling all girls between the ages of 17 and 40 to join us and help win the Battle for Bread". An essay competition on "Why I am remaining in the Land Army" brought in 84 entries, the winners, judged by Mr. Freddie Grisewood and Mrs. Pyke, being (1) A. Baron, (2) D. R. Thompson, (3) S. Pearce. Devon seed firms kindly contributed cheques, and district winners were P. Fry, K. Clarke, M. Hughes, E. Saunders, J. Menagh, P. Bailey, D. Abbot, P. Charlett and B. Holland. Congratulations to Mrs. Drew, the "Uniform Queen" on her six years' service. A birthday party was held in her honour on May 16th. Over 100 applications for field work proficiency tests have been received and preparations are well under way to have these held within the next month also two milking tests.

We say good-bye with much regret to the following D.R.'s—Lady Poltmore, Mrs. Dutton, Hon. Mrs. Whitely and Mrs. Worthington and also Miss Libert, who has been a Comm. member since March, 1939. Many thanks to them for the time and untiring energy they have given to us. We welcome two new organisers, Mrs. Rafarel and Mrs. Grover.

DORSET.—Two of our volunteers have been at the Homecraft Training Course in April and we hear that they have enjoyed it very much indeed. The recruiting campaign has been in full swing and is bringing in some very promising recruits. Great interest was created at the Point to Point Meetings in the County (where we had a L.A. stand), by a picture which had been painted by Miss Watson, the daughter of one of our District Reps. This depicted the winning post at a race meeting with a horse named "Food Production", ridden by a L.A. girl in her green jersey, winning from a white horse labelled "Famine", which was ridden by a skeleton. This picture is being used as a centre-piece in various recruiting stands. Congratulations to C. Bottomley, 50759, who was able to fill one of the vacancies at Plas Dinam for a horticultural training. She has written a most enthusiastic letter telling of the work there.

DURHAM extends a warm welcome to our new County Secretary, Miss Griffith, and to Miss Birkett-Dick, now Organiser for the northern half of the county. She is filling the vacancy caused by the resignation, for health reasons, of Mrs. Walker, to whom we wish a speedy recovery. Very many thanks are due to Miss Leach, who has acted as County Secretary for the past five months.

S. Roberts, 23215, who has just received her golden armband for six years' service in the L.A., represented Durham in the London Victory Parade on 8th June. Several volunteers took part in the Victory Parade at Darlington. Recruiting continues to make steady progress, applications for enrolment have been received from over 700 Durham girls. The kind help of voluntary interviewers has been greatly appreciated by the County Office. A dance at Sunderland on 3rd May in support of the Recruiting Campaign and the Benevolent Fund owed its success to the kind and generous support of the Mayor of Sunderland, Superintendent Smith of the Sunderland Police, Mrs. Greenhields, Mrs. McLaren and the Organising Committee. Special congratulations are due to J. Croft, 152403, who raised £37 13s. at a whist drive and dance in aid of the Fund, and to M. Sell, 136281, who designed a poster and collecting box. Wolviston Hostel gave a surprise supper party in honour of their Warden, Miss Walker, who has retired after 34 years' devoted service to the Hostel. The girls presented Miss Walker with a picture and the staff gave her a reading lamp.

ESSEX.—The Recruiting Campaign kept everyone very busy during April, and interviewing new recruits has gone on almost daily throughout May. The results are really encouraging and we are now in a position to fill nearly all vacancies notified to

us. We are grateful to everyone who helped our various recruiting efforts, especially the many busy people who found time to speak for us and those who gave up several afternoons a week to interviewing volunteers. Most of the larger towns in the County had window displays and ran a special week of recruiting propaganda. This included processions in Saffron Walden and Colchester, led in the latter case by the band of the Essex Regiment, a march in Braintree and tractor drives through Romford and Chelmsford. Stalls were held in some markets, and a sale of flowers in Chelmsford realised £40 8s. 1d. for the Welfare Fund. Dances were held at Braintree and Chelmsford.

We welcome Miss Nicholson as a new County Organiser, and Mrs. Coad as Warden of Dunmow Hostel, and hope they will be happy in Essex. Our smallest hostel, Golf House, Nazeing, closed at the end of May but, with so many new recruits, the remaining hostels should soon be nearly full.

GLAM.—To open our Recruiting Campaign a very successful Parade was held in Cardiff with the help of the G.W.A.E.C. Tractors, Thrashers, Balers and other machinery, all very spick and span, were on show. Some very good tableaux were included and the Pest Dept. had a very good exhibit. A band headed the procession of marching girls and, of course, there were girls either driving or adorning the machines. We also had a very unusual exhibit with a six-in-hand of white horses drawing a wagon load of bonny L.G.'s. The girls looked grand and drew many admiring comments from the watching crowds. A most successful Exhibition was held for one week at a leading Cardiff store when recruiting was brisk. The Open-air Demonstration of L.A. work held at Swansea in May was, unfortunately, marred by bad weather. Window displays will be going on throughout the County during the next few weeks. We were pleased to welcome Mr. D. McCullough and Mr. E. Clegg when they visited Glam. in connection with the Pictorial Map.

We were all more than sorry to say good-bye to Mrs. Kinrade-Evans and wish her the best of luck in her new appointment. We have been very fortunate in having Mrs. Bowen-Bravery, our late Assistant Secretary, to take her place.

GLOS.—The Bristol Recruiting Procession and Rally on April 6th went off very well indeed and our thanks are due to those who helped to make it such a successful day. Applications are steadily rolling in and we hope they will go on doing so. M. M. Fiske, 37710, is the winner of Mrs. Bathurst's special prize this quarter for long good service, and best wishes go to her from us all. The Dance at the Rotunda in Cheltenham in aid of the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds resulted in a profit of over £20. Lady Dulverton's Dance raised £50 for the Fund and Mrs. Raban's Whist Drive raised £36. We hope to have another Bring and Buy Sale in August for the Welfare Fund as we did last year. Barbara Dart, 30095, was chosen to go to London on June 8th to represent Gloucestershire in the Victory Parade.

HANTS.—The Hostel Sports were held on the Saturday before Easter week at Redenham Hostel and were part of the inter-hostel competition in outdoor and indoor sports and recreations. The weather was perfect and large numbers gathered from every hostel. The Redenham girls had decorated the hostel beautifully and in every way lived up to their reputation as good hostesses. The staff had surpassed themselves in the matter of tea and refreshments. After the sports everyone adjourned to the village hall for an entertainment to which every hostel present contributed at least one item and the result was a really excellent show with not a dull moment.

The visit of the King and Queen to Winchester provided a memorable occasion for many girls. The Land Army was asked to help to line the



(By courtesy of West Midland Photo Services, Ltd.)

At the Shropshire Rally, Lady Boyne, County Chief Administrative Officer, on her left, and

Chairman, is in the middle with Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Preston, County Secretary, on her right.

route and after their duties were over the volunteers had many opportunities of seeing Their Majesties as they toured the city.

HEREFORD.—The Recruiting Campaign has taken first place during the last months. One of the high spots was the particularly good window displays. The County has become definitely W.L.A. conscious and many are the bouquets that have been showered on our Service. It is with real pleasure that we welcome back many old members to our ranks. Only two W.L.A. Clubs are still meeting regularly. Leominster Club is particularly active and have had some excellent lectures, especially on Central Europe by a member of U.N.R.R.A., and on China by someone who has just returned after 16 years out there. Brook Farm Hostel is closing this month much to everyone's regret. The girls there have had two outings lately, one to Aberystwyth and one to Blackpool. Doreen Lewis held her wedding reception at Ledbury Park Hostel in very friendly and happy style—Congratulations!

We are sorry to lose Miss Gwyer, Comm. member for Ross area, but welcome Mrs. Eccles in her place. Mrs. Eccles is known to many of you already as a D.R. and very real friend to the W.L.A.

HERTS.—The Recruiting Campaign in the County met with more response than we had hoped for, and it is very pleasant this month to find an increase in our numbers instead of the steady decrease we had become accustomed to. The finals of the Milking Competition were held on May 21st at Millhouse Farm, Bedford. The Challenge Cup was won by A. Noble, 39165, whom we congratulate most heartily. Miss Peacock, who judged throughout the competition, was very pleased with the number of entrants and the standard of work. After the competition the volunteers were given tea at Serge Hill Hostel, and we all appreciated the immense trouble Mrs. Karl had taken to arrange a real tea party. On June 1st a grand Gymkhana was held at Barnet in aid of the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds. We are most grateful to our kind friends for organising this.

We have all been saddened by the death of Jane Burnett on May 10th as the result of a road accident. She had been in the W.L.A. for four years and was one of those volunteers who enjoyed her work and loved the life. Her invalid father has our deepest sympathy, for Jane was a good daughter as well as a good land girl and did much to ease his life.

HUNTS., CAMBS. AND ELY.—May has been a month of good-byes. Mrs. Warde left us on the 18th after six years as County Secretary. Her family is being demobilised from the forces and she feels her place is at home. We wish her the best of happiness in the future and thank her for all she has done in the past.

Miss S. Bosley, B.E.M., left on the 18th also, to take up her new position as County Organiser to the Young Farmers' Clubs. She has been associated with the Huntingdon Y.F.C. since its inauguration and, although the L.A. is the loser, we know she will give to her new job the foresight and organising power she has so amply displayed in the County. Then we said good-bye to Great Gransden Hostel on the 25th. The owner requires the house and the girls have been transferred to Fenstanton Hostel. Our special thanks go to Mrs. James who has been warden of Gransden since its opening. She has been a magnificent warden, loved by everyone who knew her. What other county, we wonder, can claim a warden of 82 with the energy and enthusiasm of a forty-year-old?

F. Skevington (Hunts.), J. F. Brown (Cambs.) and M. D. Howarth (Ely) were our representatives in the Victory Procession in London on June 8th. All three have been grand workers and richly deserved the honour.

E. KENT.—A most enjoyable Victory Party for L.G.'s in E. Kent, was held at Hythe on May 18th, with about 200 girls present. The first item on the programme was a ride in the Hythe light railway to Dymchurch. The girls were met at the station by the officials of this smallest railway in the world. After tea, which was served at the Stade Court Hotel, Hythe, the girls were taken by coach to the

Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone, where they saw a new play, called "Dear Murderer". The management of the theatre presented a most effective tableau, "Salute to the Land Army", which was very loudly cheered by the audience and deeply appreciated by the girls themselves. It was a great day—the weather was fine—and everyone was in the best of spirits. The L.G.'s in E. Kent, are grateful to the Welfare Fund Committee for making this party possible.

W. KENT like everyone else has been busy recruiting. A Rally was held at Bromley in April. The girls marched through the town headed by the Bromley Home Guard Band, the end of the procession being brought up by several agricultural vehicles lent by the K.W.A.E.C., the last being a threshing machine, driven by Mrs. O. Bass, of which she has been in complete charge for the last four years. Major Baker White, M.P. for Canterbury, took the salute and made an excellent speech. Speeches were also made by Lady Violet Astor, the Hon. Mrs. Sackville Tufton and Miss Vincent, the Mayor of Bromley. An inspection and excellent tea brought the afternoon to an end. Eighteen members of the Sevenoaks W.L.A. Club spent a delightful afternoon at Wye Agricultural College. They were taken over all sections of the farm and some of the College buildings, and soils, ley farming, poultry and stock were discussed with great interest. The K.W.A.E.C. took the party by coach and they enjoyed it all very much, including the particularly good tea that ended up the day.

LEICS. AND RUT.—We are now seeing the results of our recruiting efforts and extend a welcome to our new members and hope they will enjoy the life and gain much good health and happiness from it. On a recent visit to the Melton Mowbray Homecraft Centre, I found an exceedingly cheery and enthusiastic household so thoroughly at home that it was difficult to believe they had only been there a short while. Great enthusiasm is shown by the trainees in the various subjects, especially in the cooking course. At a tea party given on 9th May by the City Farms Committee, a warm welcome was given to the ex-service men returning to the farm and a farewell to the L.G.'s who had carried on their work for them during the past five years. Each girl received a beautifully designed certificate of appreciation for the loyal and conscientious manner in which she had helped the food production of the country. We would like to thank those who have contributed to the Benevolent Fund during the past two months, especially the Leics. W.A.E.C. for their cheque for £159 15s. 4d., the proceeds of a dance. This was a huge success with a splendid result. We have received many letters of appreciation from absent and resigned volunteers for grants given, helping them through periods of sickness and rehabilitation.

HOLLAND (Lincs.).—Whilst not being able to recruit to any great extent in our own County, we are very pleased to have with us so many new volunteers from other Counties, particularly those who have come to join their friends and sisters.

Bulbs were a wonderful sight this year, and many of our girls worked amongst them.

LINDSEY AND KESTEVEN (Lincs.).—Much excitement was caused in the County when Daisy the Cow arrived and was met by the local press photographer. She was lent to us by E. Suffolk and, although only a "Model", did good work in our Recruiting Campaign, taking part in a clean milk display in Lincoln and being on show in the foyer at the State Cinema, Gainsborough. "Make-up" demonstrators from Messrs. A. & F. Pears, Ltd., have toured the hostels during the month, enhancing the already excellent complexions of Lindsey and Kesteven L.G.'s. The demonstrators had innumerable hints to give us and were very helpful in answering the many questions put to them by the girls. Trips to the sea and visits to the theatre are now being arranged in the hostels, following on the good time had by Little Ponton girls who went to London on Palm Sunday.

County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total £ s. d.			Em- ployed
Kent	9754	15	6	1800
Surrey	5510	12	1	1282
Essex	5645	3	6	1085
Hants.	8656	11	8	1017
Yorks., W.R. ..	3016	14	4	1013
Herts.	4386	13	10	962
Leics. and Rut. ..	2613	18	11	869
Worcs.	3072	11	2	848
Somerset	2384	5	9	836
Warwicks.	7516	9	9	817
Northants.	2837	16	1	788
W. Sussex	5165	15	10	770
E. Sussex	4118	10	9	766
Bucks.	4903	0	2	753
Cheshire	3216	12	4	693
Cornwall	1475	5	11	681
Glos.	2690	9	4	634
Lincs, Lindsey and Kesteven	3263	13	0	625
Northumberland ..	2108	10	3	604
Beds.	1053	13	2	594
Norfolk	6267	5	7	584
Wilts.	1963	9	11	583
Oxon.	3842	14	3	552
Notts.	1831	0	0	540
Yorks, N.R.	2165	6	7	538
Lancs.	2805	18	6	491
Berks.	3680	18	2	441
Salop	1953	18	11	438
Hunts, Cambs and Ely	3746	16	7	436
Durham	1886	15	10	435
E. Suffolk	3557	15	0	431
Cumbs. & West'd ..	707	13	0	418
Dorset	1408	5	8	414
Mon.	994	8	0	401
Staffs.	1785	13	3	400
Devon	4103	9	3	374
Herefords.	1864	7	5	361
Flints.	665	7	6	348
W. Suffolk	2157	0	5	345
Glam.	1180	13	9	334
N. Wales	1923	4	2	323
Lincs, Holland ..	2036	8	9	319
Yorks, E.R.	606	14	8	318
Denbighs.	1016	16	11	312
London & Middx. ..	1279	12	7	292
Derbys.	1453	15	4	260
Pembs.	1122	2	8	193
I.O.W.	288	5	8	192
Cards. & Carm's. ..	742	18	5	172
Brec. & Radnor ..	394	12	6	164
Mont.	463	4	6	149
W.T.C.	7074	4	1	606

The number of volunteers in employment on 18th May, 1946, was 29,605.

"THE LAND GIRL"

Published Mid-monthly

Order from your County Office or from THE LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.

WELCOME TO THE LAND ARMY—No. 3

There are many difficulties the new land girl will encounter, especially as in the majority of cases she will be new to the countryside and to the work she will have to do. But there are two qualities she must possess if she is to make a success of her new life, for it is more than just a new job. Willingness and adaptability are these two basic necessities, not only for her work but for her private life. It goes without saying that a learner of any new job must be willing and a farmer has no respect for a worker who will not try even if eventually the job proves to be beyond her. And adaptability is most certainly needed to cope with the change from a city or service life to the loneliness and individuality of a farm job. It is rather the relation of these two qualities to her private life that I would stress.

To many girls coming from a crowded life into the quiet of the countryside the change, after the first novelty has worn off, is very marked. It is then that willingness to adapt oneself to these new conditions is most needed.

In the country much enjoyment is derived from home-made sources. If you cannot make your own fun but have to travel perhaps several miles to the nearest cinema or dance hall as your only relaxation, the effort, expense and energy used are often hardly worth-while. There are usually enjoyments to be found in the nearest village—socials, whist drives, dances, etc.—and though these may at first seem very tame, if you join in and get to know the local people, you will find these affairs very enjoyable. Young Farmers' Clubs and Women's Institutes also are open for you to join and other youth clubs will welcome you.

In your billets you may find your powers of adaptability very severely

strained. Oil lamps, earth closets, pump water, lack of privacy and above all the fact of living (probably for the first time) in a home other than your own, all make you feel at sea for a while. Of course, conditions may not be as bad as these but the amenities of a town house are usually lacking in a country cottage. If you accept them, strange though they may be, if you join in with the life of the household in which you are living, you will be happier than if you are always grumbling and making unfavourable comparisons with your previous job and home.

Don't expect too much from your landlady; usually she has more than enough to do and if you expect extra attention, special living conditions and different food, she will soon prefer your room to your company—and you may do worse next time as good billets are scarce. Don't lie down under bad treatment but don't expect the earth for your Land Army billeting money.

Loneliness is a big problem to combat. For girls living in hostels it is a minor affair but for girls billeted out in private houses or on lonely farms it is a serious one. But you have an advantage over those of us who started in the Land Army at the beginning of the war. Land girls are recognised now as part of the country community—then we were looked upon as strange, probably rather immoral young women, who knew nothing about farming and "of course" wouldn't stick it for long anyway. We have proved the country critics wrong and in so doing have helped you, who come after us, to be accepted without question into the life and work of the countryside.

Wilts.

R. Clayton Barker, 22658.

Congratulations to S. Bosley, B.E.M., 11151, Hunts., on her appointment as Organiser to Huntingdon Y.F.C.

And to D. I. Abell, 15732, Northants., who has been appointed County Organiser of the Lindsey Y.F.C.

And to B. Toms, 32807, Glos., on winning the silver spoon presented by the W.L.A. County Committee at the Gloucestershire Dairy School Calf Club Show recently.

And to D. M. Strange, 26538, W. Sussex, artist of this quarter's cover design, who has received £10 10/- from the Wallpaper Manufacturing Co. of Gt.

Britain for a nursery frieze of "Flower Fairies of the Seasons".

And to M. Pearson, 72728, Durham, who on her release from the L.A. has been appointed a "Lay Tester" (Poultry) under the Ministry of Agriculture (Veterinary Dept.) and is training at the Weybridge laboratories.

And to A. Noble, 39165, Herts., who won the Challenge Cup at the finals of the Milking Competition held at Millhouse Farm, Bedmond.

And to the girls and staff of Rowney Priory (Herts.) who won the Hostel Competition for tidiness; and to Cheverells Hostel which was a very close second.

And to H. Hobden, 30306, who at the Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes at the Albert Hall, seconded a resolution which was passed, urging Institutes to help the organisation of schemes for relief milking. Miss Hobden has done fine work as a relief milker in East Sussex.

And to L. E. Fenn, 57703, Cum., on having been elected "Miss Agriculture, 1946" for Westmorland and Cumberland.

And to M. McGee, 115795, Durham, a member of the Durham County net-ball team, who was selected to play as "shooter" in the county match against Essex.

FROM CURLS TO COWS



Miss May Mills, W.L.A. 42399, of Hants, went from a hairdresser's shop in Portsmouth to Mr. Machin's farm at Quarley in May, 1941. She had never been within speaking distance of a cow before and was plunged straight into an Outdoor Milking Bail with a herd of sixty cows with a bull running with them. Her employer wrote "For four and a half years she has toiled on that bail in all weathers on an exposed farm that faces north and east, and has never complained. Her herd has never had a faulty sample of milk and no girl ever worked more strenuously or loyally."

When a door-key is hung outside a house in Sweden it is a sign that the family is not at home. If this is done in England it is a sign that the family is not all there.

(From "The Land Worker".)

WORK WITH AN AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTOR

As I always like to read in the LAND GIRL about what other volunteers are doing, perhaps a few notes on my work might be of interest to others.

I work for an agricultural contractor and our main job is ploughing. We plough anything, from little bits of an acre or so for market gardeners, to forty or fifty acre fields for some big farmer who has perhaps got behindhand through a breakdown to one of his tractors. Sometimes, however, on the small farms we go right through with the job, ploughing, cultivating or discing, etc., and so on to drilling, harrowing and rolling.

In summer time we are kept busy mowing and perhaps we are also asked to come back and sweep up the hay when it is fit. When harvest time comes we shall be busy with the binder and then carting the corn. In the meantime there is plenty of summer ploughing to fit in and it's a job to get round to everybody just when they want us.

We have two Fordsons and a 10/20 International, and we are constantly up against the job of shifting from one farm to another—putting on and taking off wheel bands and then getting stranded at some out of the way farm having left our means of getting home at the last farm. I get to and from work on my motor cycle and consider it the ideal form of transport for this sort of job. I am surprised one does not see more land girls on motor cycles, though doubtless it is a question of £ s. d., but I should be interested to hear if there are any who ride in this district or near London.

I find contract work very interesting. It gives a wider experience, both in the way different farms are run and in varying types of soil and the way they react to different cultivations.

When the weather is too bad to work the tractors on the land there are various jobs we can do, for instance drilling basic slag on grassland and dung carting, and then perhaps we get some belt work for the tractor such as chaff cutting, grinding or baling. I am not sorry we have no threshing drum and up to date we have been spared from this job—the bane of all farm workers.

Herts.

P.F., 109884.

Don't forget to renew your subscription.



TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A LAND GIRL

Friday was one of those days when *everything* goes wrong. To begin with, the fire refused to burn. In a frenzy, I doused it well with paraffin but only succeeded in singeing my eyebrows.

Eventually I made my way to the cow-pens and, grabbing a bucket and stool, ordered Polly to "set her foot". Polly evidently resented the tone of voice and told me so in no uncertain manner. I upset Polly, who in return upset the milk, thereby upsetting the boss who did his best to upset me.

At the first house on my milk round I broke a jug—crash!—and had to face a very irate housewife who gave me the history of the jug in full detail. It was, of course, a genuine antique—like its owner, I thought.

I managed to get away after my fiftieth apology and called at the butcher's for the family joint! Staggering from the shop under the weight of one small tin of corned beef, I heaved myself into the float, startling the pony, which bolted, trying to take the butcher's van with him.

After placating the indignant butcher, I found the pony had dispensed with all but one small churn. This meant a severe cut in the milk ration. I slunk down garden paths to a chorus of "You can't do this to me, I've got priority!"—and "I can't possibly manage with this drop, I'll report you to the Food Office!"

I made my way farmwards, brightening at the thought of midday dinner—but the boss had gone to market and in his absence the cows had found their way

into the rickyard and were having a grand time. For the next twenty-five minutes I played hide and seek in the mud with the cows around the ricks.

An exhausted, hungry and harassed land girl made her way into the house, but in a few moments her troubles were all forgotten as she made short work of a large plateful of piping hot stew.

Warwickshire. M. Allen, 151284.

VICTORY VISIT

On our way to the Isle of Wight for our Easter holiday we broke our journey at Portsmouth in order to see the "Victory", Nelson's flagship.

We were fortunate enough to be cut adrift from the rest of the sight-seeing party and were able to browse at our own sweet will. The contrast between this graceful vessel and present day battleships is too great to describe in full, but various small things caught my eye. The guns seemed like enlarged toys, each was tied with rope to prevent it rebounding too far after the shot. At the side was a tub of water and a mop. The latter was thrust down the barrel after each shot. Water was pumped up to keep the tubs full. What a business in the heat of battle!

Nelson's quarters were light and exceedingly pleasant. His bed was like a child's cradle with beautifully embroidered coverings done by Lady Hamilton, who apparently spent quite a lot of time on board even when the ship was at sea! The lower decks in contrast were dark, dank and gloomy, lit only by candles sparsely set in cupboards, V shape with glass fronts to reflect the light. The officers' cabins were only about six foot square, perhaps people were not so tall in those days. Captain Harding we know was over six foot but he had the deck in his cabin raised. We were glad after this to board our own "ship".

Northants. S. Rumney, 51766.

The cartoon on the opposite page is by B. Ainsbury, 143551, Cheshire.

To the Old Members

Are those of you who live in hostels doing your best to make life easy for the newcomers? Even if you have been in the L.A. for six years, you may remember what it felt like to be a "new girl" yourself. Don't forget that you can make all the difference to the new recruit's enjoyment (or otherwise) of her first few weeks in a L.A. hostel.

SOME SAY "GOOD OLD SERGEANT MAJOR . . ."

"Yes", sighs the private mournfully, "and others tell the truth!" As long as we have had an army the poor old sergeant major seems to have been thought responsible by his company for most of their misfortunes. I wonder does the Land Army forewoman to-day share a similar fate?

The hostel girl, when allotted some task which she particularly dislikes, sets out in the morning feeling very sorry for herself and wishing her forewoman at the bottom of a deep and distant ocean; while in moments of exasperation her forewoman probably also wishes she were, if not at the bottom of that ocean, at least on the other side of it where she might get a little peace for five minutes.

I can sympathise with both parties, having spent some years in a hostel and viewed the situation, so to speak, from both sides of the fence; and I think it might soften the hearts of future hostel dwellers if they contemplate some of the trials which beset that unsuspecting mortal who agrees in a rash moment to take charge of them.

Somewhere in England a hostel opens, and girls arrive by ones and twos on the doorstep of what is to be their temporary home. Tough old stagers in a formidable array of red diamonds cast a knowledgeable eye over the new recruits, and find their look returned with a defensive hostility which dissolves into sudden laughter as an excited seventeen-year-old rushes up the path strewing a trail of garments behind her from a leaky suitcase. Gradually from thirty to forty girls have arrived and are getting acquainted, and from their conversation one clear fact emerges—they don't mind doing their bit but they are not going to be "bossed about" by anybody!

Into this rather critical atmosphere walks our forewoman, sometimes very like a lamb led to the slaughter. She may be new to her task, determined to see things through, but a little nervous as she introduces herself to members of her "gang". From now on she will distribute the work and see that it is properly carried out. Time sheets for each girl must be checked, countersigned, and sent in each week and she must ensure that hostel cycles are kept in good condition. Usually a forewoman also drives the lorry which is used for farms beyond cycling distance. Bicycle pumps, bells, etc., are issued as required and it is astounding how many reasons a ver-

satile land girl can give for having mislaid them.

I remember my own first morning as a forewoman, rising bright and early, calling every girl by name, and departing to get washed only when they answered; but alas no scene of busy activity greeted my return, for each sleepy head had sunk back on its pillow and gentle snores rose from all sides. After one or two episodes of this kind I adopted sterner measures but getting up, in our hostel at least, has never been a popular manoeuvre. (Except at holiday times.)

I also remember, during the potato-picking season, pacing out the field into even lengths which I marked with coats or sticks, only to find five minutes later that my "boundaries" had mysteriously vanished and someone was being accused of not doing their share. Experience soon brought me wisdom in dealing with situations of this kind, but most forewomen have to face similar happenings and they all have to contend with the type of girl who will not pull her weight; or who develops when it suits her purpose sundry aches and pains which vanish like magic after working hours; or who seldom arrives at her farm punctually but always has any amount of excuses which are difficult to disprove.

I do not want to give the impression that a forewoman's life is one long tale of woe, for this would be far from the truth. If she is as fortunate as I have been she and her "gang" will be united by a bond of shared experiences, and I think all hostel dwellers will take back to "civvy street" if not a gratuity at least a wealth of happy memories.

I shall remember Mary, whose irrepressible Yorkshire humour cheered us on even the dreariest days; and Myra who, sleeping in an upper bunk, insisted on putting moth balls under her mattress until one fell into the open mouth of her slumbering friend below—much to her discomfort and our uncontrollable amusement; and there was Hilda who walked through the village in her sleep and was almost arrested by the local constable for being "improperly dressed"; yes, and Dorothy, and Elsie, and many more. I shall remember too the qualities which they brought to hostel life which made it, on the whole, so well worth living: courage, loyalty, comradeship.

Gang labourers deserve quite a lot of credit for they have to do everything not once, like the girls on private farms, but over and over again as long as any farmer in the vicinity needs their help.

To thin turnips or pick potatoes for weeks, sometimes months without a break, nine hours a day, five and a half days a week, plus "overtime when asked", is not at all exciting and it is only natural that girls get "browned off" now and then. During the darkest days of the war when the only news was bad news someone remarked, "Well, if there is an invasion at least it will make a change!" and having thus summed up the situation hostel life continued placidly, without sign of fear or pessimism.

Being only human a forewoman is just as likely to get that occasional "deep purple" feeling as anyone else, and she has a job which makes her far from popular at times; so if she sends you potato-picking for the umpteenth time just when you feel you simply can't look another potato in the eye, don't judge too harshly. Remember there are many occasions when she would much rather be one of you than have to take responsibility for you.

Wes.

M. Oram, 65142.

FILMS—JUNE RELEASES

"Caravan", from Lady Eleanor Smith's novel. (Stewart Granger, Anne Crawford and Robert Helpmann.)

"Renegades", a story of the old days of the West.

"The Light that Failed", a re-issue film starring Ronald Colman and Ida Lupino.



P. Spalding, 93390, Holland (Lincs.), with her fellow-worker D. Thornalley, 74129. Miss Spalding represented the W.L.A. on the youth delegation which visited Russia last December.

RECRUITS' COLUMN

Hints

1. To save yourself the never ending job of mending holes in stocking heels, try waxing them with a little tallow from an ordinary candle. Just hold the lighted candle sideways and allow the tallow to drip on to the heel or toe. When washing the stockings, use just warm water and you will find the wax will stay in ready for the next time you wear them. I always do this and never get a blistered heel or a hole to mend. As an alternative damp soap may be rubbed on but I find wax the better of the two and more economical.

Norfolk. D. Ling, 145362.

2. Always take great care of tools—clean them before putting them away in the same place as you found them. Make haste slowly with farm implements as many are dangerous and must be treated with respect.

When you are set a dull job to do it is a good plan to set yourself a target. You'll be so busy trying to reach it that you'll not notice the monotony so much. Hants. B. M. Walker, 66912.

3. I would recommend each new member either to beg, borrow or steal—or better still *buy*—a copy of "A Book of Farmcraft", by Michael Greenhill and Evelyn Dunbar. It gives instructions with simple illustrations on how to do everything from handling tools to driving a tractor. It really is the most helpful book on farming I have ever come across. W.R., Yorks. H. M. Rowntree, 99461.

4. As it is advisable to wear something on the front of your head when milking, you will find that a triangular scarf tied turban fashion and worn back to front makes an excellent milking cap. Tapes stitched to the shoulders of aertex shirts will prevent stretching. Devon. J. Borwick, 141816.

General Knowledge Questions

1. How many acres of farm land are there in Great Britain?
2. How many toes has a cow?
3. What English county has the shortest coast line?
4. What is a shearling?
5. Why do crops on a gentle slope often escape frost?

(Answers on page 12)

ADVICE TO THE NEW DAIRY-MAID

Enthusiastic volunteer

To cows and farming new,
I hope these hints will be of use—
The best of luck to you!
Be cheerful in your daily work,
To overtime resigned;
Cows will not work to Union hours,
As all too soon you'll find.
Be tactful with the herd's prize cow;
Respectful to the bull,
If after dinner you must bend,
Don't eat till you're too full.
Your fellow-workers, I expect,
Will tease you and advise;
Learn which is which, enjoy the jokes,
The wisdom don't despise.
And all those silly things you'll do
And think about with shame—
Well, Six-Year Landgirls once were new,
And they did just the same.
Herefordshire. S. Curtice, 16510.

Miss Curtice, who wrote the above poem, was one of the sixteen L.A. members who were awarded the B.E.M. in the New Year Honours.

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SAFETY FIRST—TO TRACTOR DRIVERS

Be Careful

1. **Keep all shields in place.**
2. **Stop Machine** to adjust and oil.
3. When mechanism becomes clogged, **disconnect power** before cleaning.
4. **Keep hands, feet and clothing** away from power-driven parts.
5. **Keep off tractor and implement** unless seat or platform is provided. **Keep others off.**

1. *Keep all shields in place.* The best designed and most expensive shield ever provided is worthless if left in the shed; yet accidents are reported where ample shields were provided with the

THE LAND GIRL



(“Croydon Times” photograph)

Sunshine in Surrey.

implement but left off through carelessness. Sometimes it is necessary to remove a shield for servicing but, remember, a few minutes spent in replacing it may save a life or a lifetime of regret. Shields are provided for your protection, keep them in place.

2. *Stop machine to adjust and oil.* Many accidents occur when adjusting and oiling moving machinery. Your wrench may slip, your sleeve get caught in a sprocket or some moving part, or your feet slip, throwing you against a moving part. It only takes a minute to stop and start your machine and accidents of this kind do occur; so play safe, stop your machine before making any adjustment or oiling.

3. *When mechanism becomes clogged, disconnect power before cleaning.* When trying to cure a clogged mechanism, remember the obstruction will often clear unexpectedly with the result that your hands or feet may be drawn into the machinery along with the material causing the clogging, unless the power is disconnected before attempting to clear the mechanism.

4. *Keep hands, feet and clothing away from power-driven parts.* Avoid

reaching around or climbing over any power-driven parts; your clothing can easily be caught on any moving part, you may slip and be thrown off your balance and your hand or foot drawn into the machinery. *Avoid loose clothing.* Remember loose sleeves or overalls will wind round a smooth round shaft in motion just as quickly as around a square shaft. If necessary to work around on power-driven implements, disconnect the power before doing so.

5. *Keep off implement unless seat or platform is provided. Keep others off.* You may see what appears to be a good place to ride but keep in mind the implement may drop into a ditch or hole or one wheel run up on a rock, the tractor stop or suddenly throw you off balance and into the machinery or out in front of it. Even if the implement is stopped and the power disconnected, don't just jump down, but look carefully; your clothing might get caught throwing you to the ground.

Be Careful. Read the five safety rules and observe them faithfully. **Remember! The best safety device ever known is a careful operator.**

BOOK NOTES

A Pullet on the Midden. Rachel Knappett. (Michael Joseph, 10s. 6d.)
Meeting at the Sphinx. Marjorie Deans. (Macdonald, 10s. 6d.)

In "A Pullet on the Midden" is to be found the prose counterpart of the poems of the Land Army published last year. It describes the author's experiences on Bath Farm, which lies in the flat country of southern Lancashire, and it is lively with the adventures, hardships and delights of a Land Girl's life—the hardships and adventures themselves being transformed into delights in retrospect. The writer might be suspected of having more than the usual complement of eyes and ears, since there seems to be nothing she misses in the farm, the countryside, her fellow-workers, the animals, the labour in the fields, even the machines; and she adds the artist's touch that brings them all vividly before the reader. No one could convey better the heart-breaking obstinacy of inanimate things, while the cats, cows and horses have hardly less personality than the Irishmen and the Lancashire countrymen. One's own back aches as one reads of the "work without end". "Tha n'er 'as finished", says the boss, "not until tha in a long box and we clod earth at thee". But the Land Girl found that the beauties she had expected "had not departed for ever. They had only retired to return again with twice their original charm".

Some people think that the filming of Bernard Shaw's "Cæsar and Cleopatra" was altogether too magnificent, and magnificent also is the book about its production, "Meeting at the Sphinx", a large part of which consists of gorgeous coloured pictures from the film, supplemented by some fine photographs at the end. The playwright and the producer, Gabriel Pascal, both claim in forewords a mutual affinity and they seem to have worked together with a sympathy and verve which miraculously overcame all the problems of a war-time production which had to be lavish or nothing. Shaw contributes characteristic letters on the costume and moustaches of Britannus; also, a new short scene, which did not eventually get into the picture. He had the actors he wanted and was agreeably surprised when he saw Vivien Leigh, since in his experience actresses who wanted to play this part were always "giantesses over fifty". But even such an author as Shaw is only one factor in film production and the chapters on the players, the music, the costumes and

décor, and the sets are even more satisfying to the curiosity of film-goers who want to know how the wheels go round.

M. Jaeger.

The Garden. V. Sackville-West. (Michael Joseph, 8s. 6d.)

I wonder how many other Land Girls carried Miss Sackville-West's "The Land" in their lunch bags as I did, almost constantly for 5½ years? Now I am out of the W.L.A. my only direct contact with the soil is through my garden, and I foresee that "The Garden" is going to become as constant a companion as the other book. Not only is Miss Sackville-West, of course, one of our outstanding poets so that I refrain altogether from comment on the poetry of the book, but she is also a practical gardener and the book is text book as well as delight. Next time you are near a book shop, get a copy. They will not be about for long these days of shortage.

Who Sit and Watch. Anne Blakemore. (Lutterworth Press, 10s. 6d.)

The author herself says she does not claim to be a scientific ornithologist but only a keen amateur field observer, but to my mind books like this are much more interesting than mere text books; one is continually exclaiming "Yes, I've seen that too" or "I don't agree—I find that so and so . . ." It is stimulating to talk with other people, and to read this book is to talk with the author.

E.M.B.

THE BUMBLE-BEE AND THE CRICKET

Drunken with the pollen, see the Bumble-Bee come
 Stumbling.
 Sleepily gluttonous, from the purple clover
 Tumbling.
 Drenched with the honied dust, heavy and cumbersome.
 Mumbling
 And grumbling, solemnly slumberous.
 Chirping and chirruping! Comes the cheeky Cricket,
 Clicking!
 Staccato and erratic, hear his creaking click!
 Picking,
 Jerkily and rollicking, his path through the thicket.
 Kicking
 And flicking! Lively little Cricket.
 Bucks.

C. Upton, 53729.