



THE LAND GIRL

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BACK TO NATURE ?

MANY members of the W.L.A. who chose that form of war service because they "liked the country" have probably learnt an entirely new meaning of that phrase. A stroll along a lane overhung with trailing hedges, through a wood romantic with fallen trunks and hollow trees, out on to a field of bracken and bramble, may have been a soothing and pleasant pastime in pre-war days. Now, it would make the seasoned volunteer cry aloud for billhook and axe, ploughshare and dung. It is the difference between the man who cultivates his garden and the man who lets it become a wilderness.

The wilderness is delightful in its own place but the tragedy of Britain between the two world wars was the gradual deterioration of her lovely green fields, her neat hedges, her good, arable land into happy homes for nettles and scrub, ragwort and bog.

"Nature knows best" has led man woefully astray. If man wants to get the best from his land, he must give the best to it.

But the best is expensive. If we do not spend money on agriculture we shall lose the immense gains which the needs of war-time food production have brought to our land. Most of the money in Britain is in our towns and agriculture will flourish only if townspeople realise its importance to the well-being of the country. Members of the Land Army will be able to help the friends in the cities to a right understanding in this matter.

At present, all political parties and all public men agree that British agriculture must be strongly maintained. But the choice between good or husbandry will ultimately lie with all of us, for it is the people of Britain must decide whether or no they are willing to pay the cost of keeping land in good heart.

"AN ELEGANT AND HEALTHFUL OCCUPATION"

"Gardening", says a writer of the eighteen-sixties, "is an elegant and healthful occupation for young gentlewomen". The same writer suggests "a hand-fork, a small border-fork, a rake, a hoe and a good useful pair of scissors" as the most suitable equipment for a lady gardener. Those were the days! No mention is made of spades, muck-forks, billhooks and other weapons well-known to the Land Army gardener of to-day. It is assumed that there will be a man to do the digging!

But although gardening has become a much more energetic and less elegant occupation for "young gentlewomen", it is still a very healthful one. Generally speaking, it is not such exhausting work as many Land Army jobs because the gardener is not required to work at the pace of farm machinery, but it is definitely not "a nice light job". If there is any job more back-aching than double digging on a clay soil I would hate to tackle it. However, it is very satisfying to see a nice patch of digging, evenly turned over, lit up by a winter sunset and decorated with a cheeky robin perched on the last spadeful. In fact, the chief fascination of gardening is that the gardener sees the results of her own labours. Before she sees them she may have some anxious moments. There are the long days and weeks after she has sown her first onion crop and not a sign of the seedlings appears. She will have heard that onions do not always germinate if the ground is cold, that onion seed is very poor this year. She will wonder if she has sown them too deep or too shallow, if she has made the seed-bed too firm or too loose. Then she goes out one chilly Spring morning and behold! a row of tiny emerald green hooks pushing up through the soil.

The gardener's work, like the housewife's, is never done. This fact sometimes gains for the gardener, especially if she is on a hostel garden, the reputation of being a little eccentric. Hostel gardeners are often seen collecting slugs before breakfast and sometimes are out after dark fixing up protection for their young tomato plants. This is not a matter of conscience but just—well, you can't let your cherished tomatoes get frosted any more than you could leave a baby to shiver in the cold night air. Gardening is like that. There are gnarled

and whiskery old gentlemen who croon like mothers over their chrysanthemums and forbid the lady of the house to cut the roses. Six months on a garden and it is "my garden"—even though it may be a dismal swamp surrounding a sternly austere hutment.

Gardeners have two other vices besides possessiveness. These are dahlias and onions. The Land Army gardener, being on food production may not meet with dahlias, but she is very likely to fall victim to the fascination of the onion. No other vegetable is quite such a source of anxiety and pride. No other vegetable receives such careful weeding, such delicate hoeing, such a minutely balanced diet and no other vegetable is so much discussed with other gardeners. Marrows attain a great size and runner beans a great length but nothing is more significant of abundance than a nice string of big round golden onions.

The gardener is very often solitary and soon learns to watch the wild life of her territory. This is not always entertaining. A family of baby rabbits at dawn is a sweet sight, but *not* when they are cutting their teeth on your newly-planted cauliflowers; and a flock of tits bobbing along the hedge in winter is a lovely visitation, but what about the cheeky little beggar who removes his head from a choice ripe pear only to make a rude remark and move round the other side of the tree? Still, there are compensations. The robin who follows you while you dig and tells you in a confidential whisper that winter is coming and it will be very cold, is a real friend and eats lots of ground caterpillars too. The hedgehog you find rolled up in the hedgebottom is your night-shift partner, going on slug patrol while you sleep.

It is somehow rather a privilege to work in a beautiful old garden, where many generations of gardeners have done their part in the creation of graciousness and charm, even if your part is to grow beans and carrots. On the other hand, it is a rousing challenge to be placed on a patch of field and told in effect to turn it into a garden. Either of these is a quite likely experience for the Land Army girl and either style of gardening is absorbing and stimulating.

This is a rather rambling account of

HILLCROFT COLLEGE

Readers of the LAND GIRL may remember previous accounts of Hillcroft College, the Residential College for Working Women, which provides a one year course in non-vocational subjects for adult students. They may be interested to hear of the successes of former W.L.A. members who have recently finished their year's course at Hillcroft. One of them has won the only extra-mural scholarship to London University, and will be reading for a degree in English at Queen Mary College. Another has a scholarship to Ruskin College, Oxford, and will be studying for a diploma in social science. The third is now teaching while waiting for admission to one of the Emergency Teachers' Training Colleges.

Next year there will be six W.L.A. members among the students, two of whom have already taken Hillcroft College Correspondence Courses. More students than ever will be in residence during the coming year, and the College has acquired another house as an annexe. Candidates for 1947-8 are already being interviewed, and anyone who wishes to apply is advised to do so soon, as she can then be told what preparation she should make in the interval so as to get the fullest possible advantage from the Course. It is also easier to raise the necessary funds from Local Education Authorities and other sources if they can be approached in good time.

Subjects studied at Hillcroft include Literature, Social History, Psychology, Economics, Art Appreciation, and in fact almost any non-vocational subject for which there is sufficient demand. The College also offers Correspondence Courses in most of these subjects and in Art, including an interesting experimental course in "Expression through Drawing and Painting". The Secretary will gladly send information to anyone interested who could also be put in touch with one of the old students mentioned who would be pleased to answer questions. The address is Hillcroft College, South Bank, Surbiton, Surrey.

The forewoman and girls of St. Colomb Hostel, Cornwall, have been congratulated by Mr. Marriott, Hostels Officer, for the splendid work they have done in the fields. They recently lifted 3½ acres of potatoes in one day.

the "elegant and healthful occupation" as it stands in the Land Army, but it is quite impossible to give a cut-and-dried description of the average gardening job—there is no such thing. There are gardens enclosed in high walls, and gardens exposed to every biting wind. There are gardens where you would not be surprised to meet a crinoline lady in the dusk and gardens where scientific cropping under Dutch lights is guarded by every modern method from pest and disease. There are gardens with velvet lawns and unfortunately gardens with large tough patches of squitch grass. Gardening jobs are all different and the same garden does not behave in the same way every year. That is the charm of gardening.

Worcs.
B. Hughes, 45078

Congratulations to K. M. Hindle, 68334, and M. Skinner, 141635 (Som.), gardeners at Locking R.A.F. Station, who have won the R.A.F. Unit Garden Trophy for England and Wales.

And to R. Griffith, 63426, N. Wales, who is the only woman amongst 20 representatives of the Y.F.C. invited on a visit to France.

And to I. Wilson, 56825, W. Suffolk, who has left the W.L.A. after four years' service, to take up a post as Survey Recorder at the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Askham Bryan, Yorks.

And to V. Freeston, 67397, W. Suffolk, who has won the gallantry medal of the R.S.P.C.A. for the act of courage described in the July LAND GIRL.

And to Stocksfield Hostel, Northumberland, who ran a Bring and Buy Sale in aid of the Benevolent Fund and raised £60 in three hours.

And to A.P. White, 11757, Hants., who has obtained a Junior Scholarship through the Ministry of Agriculture for one year at Aberystwyth University.



J. Ray, 65149, Salop, with "Watchman".

HAYMAKING IN NORWAY

The following was written by Mrs. Rodahl who used to be Joan Hunter, W.L.A. 20178, and worked in Wiltshire. She was a very energetic money raiser for the LAND GIRL Spitfire Fund and was one of the volunteers chosen to be present when the cheque was presented to the R.A.F. She is now married and living in Norway.

During the various journeys I have made in Norway, one of the most striking things that I have noticed travelling up and down the countryside has been the long lines of props covered with grass—the method of haymaking commonly applied by the Norwegian farmers, and which is so entirely different from the method in practise in the British Isles.

Owing to the inconsistency of the weather, particularly in the north of Norway, and the lack of sunshine compared with the comparative plentifulness of wind, the farmers in these areas find it impossible to dry the hay as in England, by turning it on the ground and letting the sun dry it. Instead a method known as the "hesje" is used. Posts are placed in lines across the field at suitable distances according to the weight of the crop. The posts in the line are about three yards apart and the end ones are anchored by wire or chains into the ground. Strands of wire are then

stretched from post to post beginning with one about a foot from the ground. The grass is then placed lengthwise across the wire and when this is full another line of wire is stretched on top of the first, and so on until from six to nine strands have been used. The last layer of grass is placed especially carefully to act as a roof for the rain.

The grass is then left to dry and afterwards it is loaded on to carts and hauled into the barn to be stored in the usual manner.

The advantage with this method is that the hay in rainy weather will be protected from humidity, as only the top layer is wetted. The sun can do its share in the drying and the hay, when placed in this fashion, can be more effectively dried by the wind.

In England this method would be impracticable in most areas not only because of the great and vast areas of pasture and the general use of mechanised haymaking apparatus, but also because the weather is generally more certain in the summer months, and there is usually more sunshine than wind. But in Scotland where the climate is much more like that of Norway it is an idea which could be introduced, in my opinion, with great success especially in the many small holdings which constitute the Highlands of Scotland.



The author at work.

November, 1946

A LION IN THE PATH

I see a thing of dread!

Behold, in wrath.

There is a mighty Lion in the path!

Bold staring yellow eye.

Sharp tooth, rough mane, it rears itself ahead—

I dare not pass it by.

Perdition lies before;

I must turn back

And with sharp knife take aims to free the track.

All nature holds its breath:

The noonday hush seems waiting for its roar

As I attempt its death.

Now Samson be my aid

And Hercules!

Daniel and Jerome—I think of these

Brave heroes of the past,

Who met with Lions and were not afraid.

And conquered them at last.

So, with my knife in hand

I pant and strive

Determined that the brute shall not survive

Hack off the handsome head

Wrench out the fangs, and all triumphant stand—

The Dandelion is dead!

Warwickshire.

A. M. Coats, 2026.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FARMERS

The Nuffield Foundation, in co-operation with the N.F.U., is to be congratulated on having introduced into the educational sphere a highly commendable innovation. It is the offer of travelling scholarships to farmers managing their own farms or who intend to do so in the near future. Those selected will be enabled, over a period of six months, to visit countries abroad to study modern methods of farming in those countries.

Up to now, similar facilities for such travel and study have been restricted mainly to people of academic training. The necessary qualification for a Nuffield scholarship is a "sound practical experience of farming". The progressive farmer will absorb new ideas and give effect to them so that not only he himself but his neighbours also are likely to benefit. From the educational and national point of view there can be no more useful demonstration farm.

(From the "Farmer and Stock-Breeder")

November, 1946

GOING MY WAY?

The war-time innovation of "thumbing up" a passing motorist still obtains I notice. As a land girl I am more than pleased about this and though I'm often diffident of hailing a lift, I've never been let down whenever I have plucked up my courage to "thumb" somebody going in my direction. Once, at Christmas time when trying to get home, I was stranded with five miles to walk to the nearest town. I saw a stationary car by a garage and, hoping for the best, I asked the driver which way he was going. My heart sank when he told me he was going the way I had come. "But hop in", he said. "I'll take you into B—, it will be my good deed for the day!"

More recently I was foot-slogging along a country road, having been turned away from the two-hourly bus because there were "five standing already". (Why can't the W.L.A. have priority tickets for the buses anyway?) I had two and a half miles to go to catch my train and haymaking all the week had made me tired and burnt my neck, face, back and legs.

Presently throb, throb behind me—a car. To thumb or not to thumb? Will he think I've got a nerve? Well—here goes—I jerk my thumb at him and the car draws up. "Want a lift?" Do I? I scramble into the back seat and find myself sharing good fortune with three other "pick-ups", a soldier, a nurse and a sailor.

The hospitality of the road is a boon to many. To the motorist who responds to "thumbing" I would say "Thank you. Your kindness is much appreciated by at least one member of the W.L.A."

Wilts.

M. Lusty, 161742.

Fed at the rate of 40 lbs. per head per cow, a half acre of sugar beet will supply sufficient tops for 30 cows for about one week.

"MISS BAXTER AND I"

by ISOBEL MOUNT

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CANADIAN HOLIDAY

It was during January that the chance to fly to Canada was offered me and I had to ask my employer to allow me to have six weeks' holiday (to which he kindly consented) but it was not until June 20th that my aunt and I could go. At last the great day dawned. On arrival in London, we made our way to the offices of Trans-Canada Airlines and from that moment we were in their very capable hands. We flew from Croydon to Prestwick in a Dakota, my first experience in flying and perfectly lovely. Next morning at 8 o'clock we were off in a beautiful gleaming Lancaster and after taxi-ing across this aerodrome at what seemed a terrific speed, we were airborne—all set to cross the Atlantic. It was a perfect crossing and what a thrill when you first glimpse Newfoundland.

We arrived at Goose Bay at 7.45 p.m., had a quick meal and off again to Montreal which we reached at 1 a.m. B.S.T. but 8 p.m. E.T. so had to put back our watches. We spent the night at Montreal and next morning flew to Vancouver, touching down on the way at Ottawa, Toronto, North Bay, Kapuskasing, Armstrong, Winnipeg, Regina, where we flew into a storm and I discovered what the large canisters were used for. The plane gave a very good impersonation of a plane doing a Highland Fling and eleven passengers out of fourteen were sick. As it was so bad they decided to stay at Lethbridge for the night and we crossed the Rockies first thing in the morning, a sight I shall never forget—the snow-capped mountains, the green and blue lakes with the sunrise tinting it all a lovely pink. We flew at 14,000 feet and had to wear oxygen masks. We arrived in Vancouver in time to be greeted by an earthquake tremor which only lasted a few seconds, but quite long enough. By this time we had travelled 6,000 miles in less than 72 hours.

We met my uncle next day and drove out to New Westminster to some friends and our first taste of true Canadian hospitality. Everything was wonderful, the food, scenery, the cute little wooden houses with their neatly-cut lawns, the bright clothes and unusual fashions. We caught the midnight boat to Vancouver Island and arrived at Victoria in time for breakfast. We spent two lovely days there looking round Parliament Buildings, the Cathedral and Thunderbird Park with its lovely totem poles,

but the Okanagan Valley was our real destination so we had to catch the boat back to Vancouver. We sailed eighty miles through lots of small islands, past the Siwash Rock with its Indian Legend, then Prospect Point and under the Lions Gate Bridge which has the largest single span in the British Empire.

We finished our journey by train and had a glorious welcome. Everybody seemed to be so eager to do something to make our stay pleasant. Judging by the spreads that were prepared for us, Canadians must have thought we had been starving and I am sorry to say that my appetite did nothing to change that impression. The food was really wonderful and after six years of war time fare, I did justice to it. We had white bread, salmon, flapjacks and maple syrup, clam chowder, blueberry pie and as we were staying on my uncle's orchard farm, unlimited fruit, peaches, apricots, apples and cherries.

Plenty of outings were arranged for us, and to one who lives in East Anglia, the scenery was almost awe-inspiring. We spent a weekend at an auto-camp, swimming in lovely Kalamalka Lake, climbing 6,300 ft. Silver Star Mountain, and round Coldstream Ranch with its 11,000 acres. At home we had our own little beach by Skaka Lake and when the temperature is round about 100°, it is the ideal spot. We had moonlight bathing parties, picnics, a beach party which was great fun with a huge bonfire in which we toasted weiners on sticks and boiled the coffee, and a marvellous weekend in a log cabin at Sleeping Waters. One visit was to Oroville in the United States, a real piece of the Wild Woolly West. There were cowboys with ten-gallon hats and high-heeled boots, and also several Indians, but I was disappointed in them or perhaps I expected too much, but anyway not one Indian did I see with feathers. Another lovely trip was to the Summerland Experimental Farm where I had a long talk with the head cowman and saw the loveliest herd of Jersey cows.

Whilst we were in Kaleden, the cherries had to be picked and it was a case of everyone to work. Apart from falling off the ladder once, I managed to do some picking. The fruit is all sent to the packing house and during the fruit season everyone is pressed into service. Colonel Robertson had made a dehydrator and invited us down to see it work, and afterwards gave us a packet of dehydrated cherries.

By now our time was getting short and we had reluctantly to say farewell to those happy, friendly and extremely hospitable people who had done so much to make our holiday unforgettable; and so back to New Westminster and Vancouver and two glorious days sight-seeing—Stanley Park with its lovely trees and rose garden, the Theatre under the stars, Lumberman's Arch, Capilano Bridge and the shops with everything imaginable to buy and no coupons to

worry about but as we were restricted to sixty-six pounds of baggage, we did the best we could.

Once more we climbed on a plane, this time a Lockheed Lodestar, to start our 6,000 miles journey home and as we took off I silently expressed the fervent hope that not too many years would pass before I found myself back in beautiful British Columbia.

E. Suffolk.

D. R. Clark, 64144.

General Knowledge Questions

1. When were the first glasshouses built in England, and what were they called?
2. About how much milk is needed to make a pound of butter?
3. What are conifers? Name four.

(Answers on page 13)

Among the Gaumont British releases is "Black Beauty", a film which should interest all country-lovers, particularly those who love and understand horses.

Copies of a new series of advisory leaflets entitled "Making the Dairy Herd

Pay" are obtainable free from Messrs. R. Silcock & Sons, Ltd., Stanley Hall, Edmund Street, Liverpool. No. 1 in the series is "The Cow Herself".

Miss P. M. Few, 94573, of 3, Stanhope Road, Reading Berks., who is employed as an excavator driver, would be interested to hear from other volunteers engaged on the same type of work.

All stains are most easily removed when fresh. Boiling water poured over a tea stain immediately will remove it completely, but if the stain is left to dry into the fabric removal is more difficult.

(From "The Young Farmer")



One fine day in Durham. Wolviston Hostel harvest gang at work.

THE LAND GIRL SHEPHERD'S HEY

A question of cupboard love. These five lambs, brought up by Miss D. Stubbs, 76894.



Bucks., on the bottle, know where to go for their dinner.



When I looked through the railway carriage windows in my Civvy Street days (I worked in an office then) I took a very big interest in the sheep which dotted the landscape. I imagined that all the farmer had to do was to procure a flock and shut them in a field, and then they would look after themselves. However, after my first few months in the W.L.A. I realised my mistake, and now after over four years, I have decided that sheep are a great worry but I like them just the same.

I enjoy the lambing season most of all. This year we have had more than three hundred lambs on the farm and I have assisted in each case when help was needed. I adopted seven of them and brought them up on the bottle and

although they are now sturdy and independent, I still feed them once a day. Each morning they used to stand at the orchard gate awaiting my arrival at the farm.

Sheep simply hate to be shorn and how confused they look when they step out of their coats. Dipping is another process they detest but in they go, despite all their protests. Then there is the awful job of "maggoting"; hot weather is ideal for breeding the pests and the poor sheep suffer agonies with irritation.

Round about the middle of October the ewes are carefully selected and sorted into groups and turned out with the rams and apart from feeding them there is not much else to do except when they

THE LAND GIRL

LULLINGSTONE SILK FARM

The Sevenoaks Land Army Club recently paid a visit with other land girls to Lullingstone Silk Farm. Everybody was most interested in all that they saw and perhaps others might like to hear about sericulture, as the production of silk is called.

This farm, which is the only one of its kind in this country, was started by Lady Hart Dyke in 1932, and from a small beginning is now a flourishing industry. The breed of silkworm which has been found to be best suited to our climate is a Cyprus crossbreed. They are fed entirely on mulberry leaves, of which they eat great quantities. The white mulberry is the kind used at Lullingstone, and there is a plantation of twenty acres.

The eggs are not hatched until there is a sufficient supply of mulberry leaves for the worms, so that during the winter they are kept at a cold temperature in a cellar. Then when required they are put on to trays in incubators. They are started at a temperature of 66° F. and raised half a degree each day to 71° F. so that they take ten days to hatch. As soon as the worms hatch they are given their first feed of young mulberry leaves. They climb up on to the leaves and so can be lifted out and put on to the rearing trays. These are long racks which are covered with paper. The leaves are spread out on these at each feeding. The worms have to be fed every two hours and the leaves have to be in a fresh state and not damp, as otherwise this sets up digestive trouble and disease.

The silk worm's life from hatching to the cocoon stage is a short one, thirty to thirty five days. They eat all the time except at intervals of about a week when they go into a sleep for roughly a day. Silkworms are not very beautiful, but as they look just like their mamas and papas, I suppose we cannot blame them! When the worms are a month old their colour changes and they become semi-transparent. In a day or so they seem restless and start to climb in order to spin their cocoons. Straw arches of about a foot high running the length of the trays are given them, although the demonstration ones that we saw had little trusses of straw for them to climb into. They spin first a saffety net and then the cocoon proper. The silk is spun from a viscid or gummy fluid coming from two tubes in the worm's body. This takes four to five days and the silk is a mile to a mile and a half in length. The silk worm now becomes a chrysalis

stray. Most sheep seem to fancy the pasture in the neighbouring fields much more than that provided for them and they force an entry through the most impossible looking places. That is all right from the sheep's point of view but pity the poor land girl when faced with a justly irritable farmer. She feels much worse than Little Bo-Peep.

So the sheep year rolls on. A shepherd never has time to get bored as the work varies each passing week.

I love the work and when I return to Civvy Street it will be with a better idea of how much work has gone into providing my mutton chop. The only snag is that I can no longer put myself to sleep by counting sheep as it results in a nightmare.

Bucks.

D. Stubbs, 76894.

CAN I HELP YOU?

Readers are invited to send questions for answer in this column.

Can I have my State Paid Holiday if I have worked for twelve months after the date on which I could have claimed my release but have not definitely signed on for twelve months' service?

No. Only members who have signed definitely for twelve months' service can take advantage of the scheme for holidays at Government expense. You can still sign for another twelve months and get your State Paid Holiday provided you sign before 31st December. The length of your State Paid Holiday would be reckoned in accordance with your total length of Land Army service to the date on which you signed for the additional twelve months.

I want to learn thatching but am unable to find anyone locally to teach me. Do you know any book on the subject?—E. Oddy, W. Riding, Yorks.

In some parts of the country, Rural Industries Bureau have advisers who can help by putting would-be learners in touch with craftsmen. You might also consult your local Y.F.C. and W.A.E.C. There is a book published by Pitman (3s.) called "Tables for Measuring and Manuring Land, and Thatcher's Work" by J. Cullyer.

J. I. Laker, W. Sussex, sends another tip for removing tomato stains from the hands.

• Rub citric acid well into the hands before starting work. After work wash the hands with soap and all the yellow stain will come off. Citric acid can be bought cheaply from any chemist.

and if left will turn into a moth. The moth has no mouth so gives off an acid which eats through the silk to liberate it. This naturally spoils the silk so that only those wanted for breeding are allowed to change into moths. Having no mouth they are unable to feed so their life is short. After mating and laying their eggs they die. In order to prevent the moths forming, the cocoons are baked on the tenth day to kill the chrysalises.

The machines for reeling the silk from the cocoons looked most complicated to us. The cocoons are placed in a bowl of water kept at boiling point. A brush is fitted over them and this rotates forty times to remove some of the gum and to find the leading threads. It switches itself off automatically. Then the operator, having found the threads, passes them across to another who threads them on to revolving discs. The threads travel through a series of pulleys on to looms which form them into skeins of beautifully fine silk. It is generally golden in colour but varies according to the breed. The waste silk from finding the leading threads is used for embroidery silk. The silk from the nets, spun before the cocoon, becomes spun silk; the rest is used for crepe-de-chine, silk stockings or silk tweed according to the weight and number of strands used. Once the silk is reeled into hanks, it has to be tested for breaks. If any are found it must be unravellled and rejoined which is rather a tedious job.

We were shown too, samples of the beautiful purple velvet and white satin used for the Queen's and the Princesses' Coronation robes, the silk for which was spun at Lullingstone.

W. Kent.

D. H. Cullen, 5083.

MORAL WELFARE WORK

There is to-day a very pressing need for assistant workers in the various homes run by the Church of England Moral Welfare Council, and there are many openings for women with domestic tastes and those with a gift for handicrafts, games, music, etc.

Any ex-members of the W.L.A. who are interested should write for full particulars and details of training to the Church of England Moral Welfare Council, Daere House, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Don't forget to renew your subscription.

THE MILKY WAY

Ever since I've been of age to volunteer for war service, I did my best to join the W.L.A. Unfortunately I wasn't lucky until the day previous to Peace being declared but better late than never!!

I was sent to a farm in Muthill, Perthshire, to train for dairy work. For one who used to be terrified of cows, even although they were on the other side of the fence, this was I think a bit hefty. However, it was entirely my own blame and as yet I have not regretted it.

The first night in the byre I was introduced to our dairy stock, numbering twenty-eight. I was handed a pail of warm water, a jar of Lavalaid and an udder-cloth and told to do the needful. Ye Gods!!

All who have looked a cow in the eye for the first time will appreciate how I felt. However, I managed to pluck up enough courage to venture near and was more successful than I had ever anticipated.

After the first week in the W.L.A. I felt as if I'd had been at the job a lifetime. As it happens (school holidays excepted), the nearest I'd ever got was reading about country life as I used to be a librarian in Boots' Book Lovers' Library. Incidentally I would be very pleased to hear from any ex-librarian, or for that part any ex-"Bootite".

The only thing that bothered me for a while was the early rising. 5 a.m. is a great difference from 8 a.m. when I used to get up in time to scramble to the shop to take down the dust-covers and prepare for early customers.

One of my many jobs was delivering milk round the village on foot. After milking was finished, I had to gulp down scalding hot porridge and start on my milk round so that other people might have an enjoyable breakfast. If I happened to be a little late any morning I would be greeted by an irate housewife with "You don't need to tell me you slept in—I know". "Sandy always delivered it on time" and again "My bairns hae been waitin' fur their breakfast fur hours" and so forth!

It was really very humiliating but the "customer is always right"!

I have been ten months in the W.L.A. now and have enjoyed every minute of it.

I hope there are many new volunteers this year to help carry on the good work.

Scotland.

M. Peebles, 28595.

CORRESPONDENCE



Dear Editor,

I receive your Land Army magazine regularly each month from my fiancée, Miss Patricia Bill, 170327, (Staffs.), and I assure you all the boys of our mess read it with great interest.

Enclosed is one snap, afraid that we are only in working rig at the time.

Yours faithfully,

R. G. Edwards, Sto.1,

D/KX 725691,

H.M.S. Monara (ex Gould),

c/o F.M.O., Colombo, Ceylon.

(See photograph above)

From a letter to the W. Kent Secretary from H. White, 45985, who is working for Mr. Winston Churchill at Westerham.

I had a very exciting time last Thursday. Mr. Churchill was given the finest cow on Jersey Island and I was allowed to go to Reading with Miss Mary Churchill to receive it on behalf of her father. I had a wonderful time being photographed—it was very gratifying to hear all the nice things people had to say about the W.L.A. Lots of the Jersey breeders made speeches with many remarks about the Land Army and then I led the very beautiful "May Belle of the Isle" back to her box. She too was very proud. Now I have 600 guineas worth of headache to keep me awake at

night. Next time you see me I shall be old and grey.

Dear Editor,

We are five English land girls who would like to tell you how much we enjoyed our holiday at Edinburgh Rest Break House. Never again will we let any one joke about Scotland; the people we met in restaurants, the buses and tram service and on our outings, and above all our Warden are the finest and most pleasant people anyone could wish to be with.

One fact we would stress is the way the Scottish people appreciate our Service and look upon it as one of the highest and hardest jobs done during the war.

We would thank everyone who contributed to our unforgettable holiday and to the W.L.A. who made it possible.

H. Paddock (North'd.), P. Chiplin (Beds.), G. Minns (Beds.), J. Fricker (Bucks.), J. Moore (Warwicks.)

Several communications have been received with regard to Mrs. Wing's article "The Other Side of the Picture" which appeared in the October LAND GIRL. It is hoped to print a selection from these in December.

BENEVOLENT FUND

Over £320,300 has now been raised for the Fund, and over £112,000 has been spent. More than 11,000 grants and loans have been made by the Fund, approximately 500 of which were given during October.

An unexpected donation of 500 dollars (approximately £125) has been sent to the Fund by the British Post War Relief Committee of Mexico. We are deeply grateful and send our thanks to this Committee for taking such a friendly interest in our work and for giving us this generous gift. It is indeed pleasing to find that the hard work of the Land Army is recognised by friends so far distant from this country, and the Benevolent Fund feels proud to receive this welcome contribution which will assist the Fund in continuing its work.

Our thanks are due to Messrs. Harrods Ltd. who, as we go to press, are very kindly staging a display of the pictorial county maps which are being sold for the benefit of the Benevolent Fund. It is interesting to know that the maps, designed by Mr. Ernest Clegg, have been selected as examples of fine printing for the printing section of the "Britain Can Make It" Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum. These maps (price 10s. 6d.) make interesting Christmas presents and are on sale in most bookshops. It is hoped that Somerset, Derbyshire, and the East Riding of Yorkshire will be on sale in time for Christmas in addition to the six counties already published.



M. Head, 145813, Norfolk, one of three sisters in the W.L.A. She and this pony together do a milk round.

BOOK NOTES

Country books continue to pour from the publishers. Here are two, with rather telegraphic comments, to help you choose among the many.

"The Good Life" is a collection of quotations, prose and verse, made by C. Henry Warren, well-known for his own country books. His selections range from the Bible to modern writers such as Adrian Bell and Alison Utley and even if you already know some of the passages included, you will bless Mr. Warren for introductions to a lot of people you do not know. If you want to convert anyone to country life, this book is the one to do it—if, having bought it, you can let it go again! (Eyre & Spottiswoode are the publishers; price 10s. 6d.)

I wonder what you'll make of "Journey Home", by E. H. Partridge, who is a school-master. It is interesting, but I think most of us who have done a hard job of work, hour after hour, day after day, on the land will be a bit out of patience with people who regard the country as a means of saving their souls, contaminated with the town and modern so-called civilisation. Maybe it is, but you've got to live in the country and work in it to get any real benefit from it. I felt like saying "Never mind your guns and your dogs—come and do a few hours hoeing spuds, or help me muck out the stable, or get up at half past four on a winter morning and take your share in the cow-lodge!" I yield to no one in my enthusiasm for country life but the *real* thing isn't all beer and skittles and much of the daily routine can be as soul-destroying as anything in the town. But even if, after this, you don't feel like buying the book, do read it—if only to stock yourself with arguments. Mildred Eldridge has done some nice pictures—particularly one of plovers. (Faber, 10s. 6d.)

E. M. Barraud.

RALLY AND GARDEN PARTY IN WEST SUSSEX

This year's Rally in West Sussex was combined with a Garden Party and took place on Sunday, 8th September, at Wiston, near Steyning, which was kindly lent by the Proprietresses of the Monkey Club, the well known girls' finishing school.

The setting was delightful: Wiston is one of the most perfect examples of Elizabethan architecture in the county and its terraced gardens looking straight on to the Downs with the famous Chantonbury Ring, which was planted by a former owner, match the house in beauty. The weather, by contrast, could not have been worse. With one short interval when the sun struggled through it poured with rain from early morning until the evening.

All the same the spirits of the large crowd of Land Girls, friends and general public proved equal to anything and they entered into the amusements provided with a happy disregard for the weather. Indeed people had evidently become so accustomed to the wet this summer that they no longer noticed it and throughout the afternoon groups of mackintoshes figures could be seen all over the garden eating ice creams and chatting merrily.

The programme opened with a parade of Land Girls and short speeches by the Hon. Mrs. Burrell, County Chairman, who as usual set exactly the right note of gaiety and enjoyment for the start of the proceedings. Col. Goring, the owner of Wiston and the guest of honour, Mr. Jack Warner, Mr. Warner thanked the Land Army for all its hard work in helping to feed the nation and stressed the need for more recruits to carry on the good work. In conclusion he gave one of his famous verses on "odd jobs", specially written for the occasion and dealing with a "holder up of cows' tails". He was most charmingly and competently

COUNTY NEWS

LONDON & MIDD.—Josephine Rich, 42090, writes after her B.B.C. Spelling Bee effort:—"This was an unusual job for a W.L.A. member, used as we are to meeting the unusual, and I approached it with as much trepidation as when I sat down to my first Cow. Studio 3E was small and friendly, and the familiar voices of Joan Clark, the producer, and Roy Rich, the spelling master, were introducing themselves and my fellow spellers. The other members of the 'L' team were a linguist, a literary critic and a lyric writer; two of them had broadcast before. Our opponents were the twice victorious 'J' team, including a joke expert and a journalist. They looked exceedingly experienced and confident. After preliminary coaching through a loud speaker by the technician in his sound-proof glass box, we had trial rounds. These were words which have been used for previous Bees, and included 'dachshund', 'choreographer', 'turquoise', etc. Confidence was built up and as quickly shattered when Roy Rich announced that one round was to be reverse spelling. At 12 noon, zero hour, there was a little delay, a horrifying silence, a sudden green light and Roy Rich was formally introducing the teams. We had time for only four rounds, gradually increasing in complexity until the climax of spelling words backwards, a dismal failure on my part. Suddenly it was all over with the score 11—10 in our favour. We lived to fight another day and also await that peculiar experience—hearing one's own voice for the first time."

MON.—We have this month to welcome as our new Assistant Secretary Miss M. C. Brewer, who joined the staff in Newport as Hostels Officer; we wish her every success in her new undertaking.

A very successful C.E.M.A. concert is at present visiting three of our hostels. Artists include John Duncan, Tenor; Cyril Chapman, Clarinet; and Margaret Norman, Accompanist. Our enterprising White Lodge Hostel has once more organised a most enjoyable dance which realised the sum of £9—this goes to the County Welfare Fund to help pay for a sewing machine for the hostel. The Benevolent and the County Welfare Funds are the joint recipients of £11 which was raised by M. Hewitt, 110947, and M. Morgan, 48808, at another splendidly organised dance at Llanover. We are deeply grateful to these girls and to Nora Dickinson of White Lodge for their untiring efforts on behalf of the Benevolent Fund. All the girls who are lucky enough to visit one of the Rest Break Houses come back full of praise for the organisation which made their holiday possible. One recent visitor to Torquay writes to say "Thank you for such a lovely holiday. I enjoyed it to the last. I shall always remember how kind Mrs. Lake was to me."

It was with much regret that we learned of the death of an ex-land girl, Gwen Connors, one of our first recruits. She gave loyal service to the Land Army until she was forced to resign in May owing to an illness from which she has now died. Six land girls in uniform attended her funeral and their presence was greatly appreciated by her relatives.

NORFOLK.—Winter activities at the hostels are getting into full swing. Three hostels have been visited by the County Drama Adviser; one is now in the middle of rehearsals for a play production, and another hopes to start as soon as a producer has been found. A third hostel is enjoying a combined leather-work and embroidery class. Banningham and North Creake have held a dance and a social respectively, in aid of hospitals, both of which were successful from every point of view. Entries are coming in for the Handicraft Exhibition to be held on Nov. 30th. The new class for Photography is proving popular.

Eighty girls attended the Harvest Thanksgiving

thanked by Miss K. Alexander, 22790, who only regretted the absence of his brother Sid, because she said the Land Army would have liked to see that he never went short of a "reel reel".

This part of the proceedings terminated with a very delightful and warmly acclaimed ceremony when Mrs. Burrell thanked Miss Forbes Adam, County Secretary since 1939, for all her hard work, kindness and sympathy, and presented her with gifts subscribed for by Land Girls past and present, Local Representatives and Hostel and Office Staff. These included a gold watch, a cigarette case and an illuminated address.

After this everyone dispersed to tea, side-shows and a brilliant entertainment given in the great hall of Wiston by Miss Eve Maxwell Lyte, the well known singer of folk music, and Miss Colleen Clifford, the delightful comedienne.

Another high spot of the afternoon was a really first class display of physical training given by the girls of Little Thakeham Hostel, under their assistant warden, Mrs. Green. Despite the damp and mud of the lawn they gave a spectacular and very skilful exhibition.

Altogether in spite of the weather it was a highly successful afternoon; as one Land Girl remarked afterwards "I think it was the best Rally we've had. It had the real party spirit".

SCOTTISH NOTES

ANGUS.—It is interesting to note that Miss E. C. Wyllie, W.L.A. 62, has gained the College Diploma in Agriculture at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture, Aberdeen, and has now taken up a post on a large farm in Shropshire. Angus W.L.A. congratulate her and wish her every success in the future.

REST BREAK HOUSE.—Land Girls and ex-Land Girls all over Scotland and South of the Border will learn with deep regret that, by the time these notes appear, Scottish W.L.A. Rest Break House, Saughton Mains, Edinburgh, will have been closed. Circumstances outwith the control of the Committee of Management have rendered this step unavoidable. The girls who have had the good fortune to be admitted to Rest Break House will join in wishing Miss Webster and her staff a happy and successful future.

WELFARE AND BENEVOLENT FUND.—A very handsome donation for £383 12s. 6d. has been received by the Welfare and Benevolent Fund from East Perth W.L.A. Sub-Committee. This amount was raised by a raffle and an appeal for funds all over the Area, which was generously supported.

The Fund has now reached £42,157 8s. 7d. and approximately £700 per month is paid out.

Answers to questions on page 7.

1. In Queen Elizabeth's reign. Orangeries. 2. About 2 gallons. 3. Cone-bearing trees: pine, fir, cedar, cypress, larch, spruce.

W.L.A. CRESTED XMAS CARDS — 5/6 doz.

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Mrs. P. M. Fluck, poster girl of Bristol Farm Week Show in Gloucestershire, with Keltie and Clover who collected Ten guineas for the Benevolent Fund. Keltie presented an additional 10s. to the Fund—his prize money for being the best Shetland Sheep Dog in the Show.

Service at St. Margaret's, King's Lynn, on Oct. 5th and some of them were chosen to take up the collection at the service. We regret to announce the closing of the Y.W.C.A. services hostel, in the Cathedral Close, Norwich. Many L.G.'s have enjoyed a leave in Norwich whilst staying there and we are sure they would like to join us in thanking the Warden and all her helpers for the warm welcome they gave to the L.A., especially to those stranded late at night through missed train connections.

NORTH'D.—Privately employed members should contact the Warden of their nearest hostel re dates of forthcoming winter activities, which include an Agricultural Fireside Talk, Cookery Demonstrations and A.C.G.B. Concerts. J. P. Pitt has begun her Agricultural Course at Moulton Institute, Northants. J. Storm, M. McLain and N. Nicholson have gone to Swanley for a Horticultural Course. The Flag Day in Newcastle on 19th Oct. brought in over £470 for the Benevolent Fund and we thank everyone who worked so hard to make the day a success.

We are very sorry that Mrs. Ord is having to give up her good work as a County Organiser, but she will remain on the County Committee and continue as District Representative for Rothbury.

NOTES.—All the girls at Tuxford Hostel and many others who knew her well will be sorry to hear of the death of Miss Travis—Warden at Hodsock Priory then Tuxford—after a long and very painful illness. Miss Travis underwent a serious operation on her spine on Oct. 17th and passed away the same day. She will be very sadly missed at Tuxford where she did such good work and was a most excellent and conscientious Warden.

The Pears Cosmetic people have given demonstrations of make-up and hairdressing at all our

Hostels and gave the girls an interesting evening and many useful hints. Sutton-cum-Lound had a small social to celebrate the engagement of the Forewoman, Miss J. Ross. Farndon had a party and a whist drive to raise funds for the Children's Hospital, which were big successes.

We are very pleased to welcome Miss D. A. Leach as Acting County Secretary and hope that her stay with us will be a happy one.

SALOP.—Now that the corn harvest is over winter activities are in full swing at our hostels. Needlecraft, glove and toy making classes are proving very popular and a series of Whist Drives has enabled us to buy all the necessary working materials, leaving a surplus which will ultimately go to the Christmas Bazaar, planned for December in aid of the Benevolent Fund and the County Welfare Fund.

SOM.—With the approach of Autumn, plans for parties and social events are occupying our minds. Mrs. Luttrell's Saturday party for girls in her area was most enjoyable and after a sumptuous tea we all joined in the Spelling Bee, Agricultural Quiz and observation tests with great gusto. Mrs. Cheetham as timekeeper was most efficient. Guy Fawkes day was chosen by Miss Hincks for her party at Deller's Cafe; a most enjoyable time was spent and the evening went much too quickly. We have had most interesting letters from some of our members who have been working in this county and have now commenced training at various Agricultural Colleges and Institutes. We are glad to note that they are already settling happily into their new surroundings, although one volunteer states that she misses the farm and especially the animals. Cookery classes are being held at Stoke, Questel and Petherton Hostels. Messrs. Pears demonstrations have been most popular in this county.

STAFFS.—Two ex-W.L.A. members (Miss N. Hammersley and Miss D. Brassington) organised a dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund in Leek, on Oct. 11th. We thank them for their continued interest in the L.A. and also their helpers for raising the grand sum of £17. A very successful Whist Drive was held at Wombourne Hostel in aid of the Benevolent Fund, on Thursday, Oct. 17th. With the help of raffles and competitions, the splendid sum of £16 was made. Congratulations to the Warden, Staff and girls, who worked hard to obtain this sum. Loggerheads Hostel held a Dance and Social Evening also on Thursday, Oct. 17th. About 80 guests were present. We were very pleased to welcome back to the Hostel 20 of our old members, including one who is now living in Scotland. We hope we may have many more opportunities of entertaining them at the Hostel. Everyone enjoyed a very happy evening.

E. SUFFOLK.—Ruby Turner, ex-Dairy Forewoman, has qualified for a year's course at the Lancashire County Institute of Agriculture, and E. M. Bayley for a year at the Kent Horticultural Institute. Both these girls are finding their very different types of course extremely interesting and we wish them every success. We have had an excellent account of the Homecraft Courses at Melton Mowbray from E. Fairweather, who enjoyed her month there immensely, and wrote "so you see we have a very full and interesting time and learn practically everything to make us good housewives." Beauty Demonstrations carried out by Messrs. A. & F. Pears have been much enjoyed at several of our hostels.

We were extremely sorry to lose Mrs. Marshall, our Warden for over three years at Columbyne Hall Training Hostel, but feel proud that she has been appointed Warden of the Land Army London Club.

Harvest is at last over, and the sugar beet season in full swing. We have heard very good accounts of the hostel girls who often worked in the harvest fields until dark.

W. SUFFOLK is very proud of Miss V. Freeston, who was presented with a Bronze Medal and illuminated certificate from the R.S.P.C.A. on Oct. 18th for her brave action in the summer of rescuing 7 bulls from a blazing shed when the farm caught fire. The ceremony took place at the farmhouse, Bury St. Edmunds, and the presentation was made by Lt.-Col. G. B. Clifton Brown, M.P. A W.L.A. Christmas Party has been arranged at the Athenæum, Bury St. Edmunds, on Dec. 7th, and we hope all L.G.'s will bring their billets with them. The "Variety Highlights" from Cambridge have promised to come and give us an entertainment, and the semi-finals and finals of the Table Tennis Tournament will be played after tea.

We welcome Mrs. Maxwell Gumbleton as our new County Organiser, and Mrs. Laycock and Miss High, our new Wardens at Risby and Lakenheath, and hope they will all be happy and successful in our organisation.

SURREY.—Ten of our volunteers were invited to the Dress Rehearsal of "Piccadilly Hayride" at the Prince of Wales Theatre on Oct. 10th. From all accounts they had a very entertaining evening and much appreciated the kind invitation. An Auction Ball was held at The Lion Hotel, Guildford, on Oct. 17th, in aid of the County Welfare Fund. Over sixty gifts were presented by our kind friends, ranging from a Jansen bathing costume to a turkey and including chickens, wine, fruit and other good things to eat. Bidding was brisk, and over £70 was knocked up in half an hour. The total profits on the Ball were approximately £200 and we are most grateful to all our helpers, especially those members of the Surrey W.A.C. Staff who worked indefatigably to secure this excellent result. Surrey has been honoured by being invited to help with the W.L.A. Tableau in the Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday, Nov. 9th. The trailer, drawn by a tractor driver, J. Roos,

will stage a scene depicting the contribution made by the W.L.A. to London's Milk Supply and including two Surrey Milkmen.

We are all sorry to say goodbye to our County Organiser, Mrs. Biggar, who will be very much missed by her many friends in Surrey. We welcome Miss Sumner as our new Organiser in her place.

E. SUSSEX.—Ten of our girls went to see the new Sid Field Show, "Piccadilly Hayride", on Oct. 10th. They all had a grand time. Congratulations to K. Hobden, 6323, and O. Thomas, 7408, on all the work they did to help their employers when the Guernsey Breeders' Club met at Manor Farm, Chelvington. H. Hobden, 30306, one of our Relief Milkmen, was chosen to broadcast on her job, and gave a very interesting talk on the Overseas Programme in Aug. 6 volunteers have been successful in getting vacancies for a One Year Agricultural Course—J. Warde, A. Rollings, I. Humphreys, H. Burnham and J. Wilcox started at Plumpton on Sept. 23rd and P. Lefanu obtained a vacancy at Moulton for Oct. R. Hooper obtained a vacancy at Studley College where she is to study for her N.D.D. H. Morton is also going to Studley to study Horticulture. Our congratulations and best wishes to them all. Plans for the Sussex W.L.A. Exhibition to be held in Brighton in Feb. are going ahead well. Competition Schedules are out, and there are great signs of activity everywhere. We are delighted that W. Sussex are joining us and helping to make the Exhibition a success. D. Perry and P. Ware will represent this County in the Lord Mayor's Show on Nov. 9th. They are both Relief Milkmen and look forward to the great day very much.

We welcome our new Organiser, Mrs. Fisher, and our new Local Representative, Miss Perry, and hope they will be very happy with us.

W. SUSSEX was delighted to welcome new recruits from Staffordshire and Durham on 14th October to a new hostel at Fernhurst which housed prisoners-of-war. They are busy picking potatoes and already getting over their stiffness. Another hostel is to open shortly at Loxwood. A very enjoyable party was held on 29th Sept. at Northlands Hostel for Representatives of Clubs and Hostels and District to discuss plans for recreation for the winter and our Sussex W.L.A. Exhibition. Ideas flowed and we should have a busy season. Cookery classes are already in full swing. Two of our L.G.'s have been successful in obtaining vacancies at Training Centres; E. C. Riddell, 30284, with 7 years' service, has gone to Moulton, and D. Knowles, 74242, a Relief Milker, goes to Cambridge in Nov.

We were very sad indeed to say goodbye to one of our County Organisers, Miss Davies Scourfield, who will be greatly missed, but delighted to welcome Miss K. Style, who has been our Assistant County Secretary up to April of this year and has now returned as County Organiser to the delight of her former friends.

N. WALES.—We are very proud of Rhian Griffith, 63426, who is the only woman amongst 20 representatives of the Young Farmers' Club invited on a visit to France; our congratulations to Hazel Woodruff who has been appointed an Area Forewoman to the Post Department of the Caernarvonshire W.A.E.C.—we specially congratulate this English volunteer on the initiative she has shown in learning the Welsh language. Our congratulations, too, to Menai Bridge who have been awarded the Ellis Cup for the Inter-Hostel Garden Competition. Our profits from the sales of our Cookery Book now exceed £200 and this is apart from any profit made by other Counties.

We are all saddened by the sudden death of Catherine Williams and the Area offers its deep sympathy to Catherine's family in their great loss and sorrow.

THE LAND GIRL

WARWICKS.—We are very pleased to welcome Miss H. Worrall who has been appointed as our new County Secretary. We wish her every success and hope that she will be very happy with us.

The past few months have been very busy ones as several new hostels have been opened in various parts of the county. The biggest achievement was the opening of the W.A.A.F. site of an aerodrome near Stratford-on-Avon which will eventually house 100 girls. Congratulations to the volunteers at Atherstone Hostel who got first prize in an August Carnival at Atherstone. They very kindly presented the prize money to the Welfare Fund. Hampton-in-Arden Club have also presented £10 to the Welfare Fund. Wolston Hostel have presented £5 to the Welfare Fund, being the proceeds from a dance held recently. The First Proficiency Test in hand-milking this year was held at Studley College with the kind permission of the Principal. V. Tunncliffe gained distinction and the following passed:—G. M. Carter, E. Andrews, M. Branson, M. Love and P. Thomas. J. Steele and K. Radcliffe have started a training course in Horticulture at Swanley. J. Shapley has been accepted for a training at Newton Hall, Cambridge. The long-awaited Relief Milking Scheme has started, and K. Rainey has begun her round of farms in the Long Compton area.

YORKS., E. AND N.R.—Congratulations are due to the following volunteers who have been accepted for Government Training Courses in Horticulture:—G. Gray, M. Whitworth, J. Gaunt, Agriculture:—M. Garside, R. Walker, H. Rowntree. A very successful tour of the hostels was made by Mrs. Godfrey Phillips and Mrs. Brown in Sept. Their lectures on "Health and Happiness" were very much enjoyed by all volunteers. £2 18s. 8d. was raised for the Benevolent Fund at the Stokesley Agricultural Show. We are very sorry that Mr. and Mrs. Shaw are leaving Dishforth Hostel and send our best wishes to them for the future. A very good lance was arranged by the girls of Stokesley and Juisborough Hostels at Stokesley Town Hall, when the sum of £17 8s. 0d. was raised for the Benevolent Fund. We should like to congratulate them on the success of their Harvest Ball.

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 URGENTLY.—Navy slacks. 30 ins. waist. No coupons. Lord, Dairy Farm, Firle, Sussex.

WANTED.—Clean copies of "Country Life", "Field", etc. Towle, 8, Southern Rise, East Hyde, Luton, Beds.

FOR SALE.—Wedding dress. White figured broche. Full length, high neckline, long sleeves. Bust 33. Waist 27. As new. No coupons. £5. Mrs. Harlass, 78, Farningham Road, Caterham, Surrey.

Wood-cut Christmas Cards. 4d. each including envelopes. Miss Agnes Phillips, 32, Regent Street, Rugby.

FOR SALE.—Ladies brown Harris tweed riding jacket. Bust 36. Fawn jodhpurs, waist 26, inside leg 32½, calf 14. Good condition. £6. Would sell separately. Wilson, 91, Beechwood Road, Sanderson, Surrey.

FOR SALE.—Brown Monk shoes, as new, size 4½. 25s. Pickersgill, Sharow, Nr. Ripon.

County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total £ s. d.			Em- ployed
Kent	9767	15	0	1774
Surrey	5510	12	1	1324
Essex	5645	8	6	1154
Yorks, W. Riding	3337	15	4	990
Hertfordshire ..	4701	14	2	986
Hampshire	8662	4	2	975
Northants. ..	2871	11	5	924
Warwick	7546	9	9	908
Leics. & Rutland	2644	8	11	887
Bucks.	4905	7	8	873
Devon	4129	12	6	827
Worcs.	3100	0	0	809
Yorks, E and N.				
Riding	2843	13	2	792
Cornwall	1675	5	11	785
Norfolk	6267	10	7	737
Somerset	2417	15	1	737
West Sussex ..	5174	7	5	723
Lincs, Lindsey				
& Kesteven ..	3273	18	0	715
East Sussex ..	4153	5	11	705
Beds.	1070	16	6	681
Northumberland	2358	10	3	658
Cheshire	3218	15	4	615
Hunts, Cambs. &				
Ely	3746	16	7	605
Oxfordshire ..	3858	14	3	601
Gloucester ..	2702	9	4	600
Notts.	1836	6	0	586
Wilts.	2072	8	3	517
Berks.	3556	10	8	515
Durham	1996	0	9	486
East Suffolk ..	3590	3	8	485
Glamorgan ..	1170	13	9	453
Staffs.	1808	14	9	441
Cumbs. & West'd	711	5	6	440
Salop	1954	3	11	435
Monmouth ..	1009	18	0	407
Dorset	1461	3	5	404
Hereford	1866	10	4	392
Lancs.	2840	8	11	383
Lincs, Holland	2075	2	0	366
Flint	697	3	6	353
West Suffolk ..	2161	7	0	343
North Wales				
Area	1928	14	2	326
Denbigh	1209	16	11	311
Brecon, Radnor				
& Mont.	863	19	0	308
Cards. & Carm's.	742	13	5	246
Derbyshire ..	1517	3	0	245
London & Middx.	1279	12	7	239
Pembroke	1122	2	8	176
I.O.W.	295	15	2	176

The total number of volunteers in employment on 18th October was 30,418.

"THE LAND GIRL"

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