



THE LAND GIRL

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FIRST COURSE

IT is idle to plan a better world unless we plan to feed the people in it. Before the war, half the people in the world had much less to eat than we had in war-time Britain—and even in the best fed countries twenty to thirty per cent. of the population did not eat enough to keep healthy.

The world has never produced enough food for everyone and we have never made the maximum use of what it did produce. People in India starved while in the Argentine wheat was burnt for fuel.

The first attempt to produce the plenty without which there will never be peace, was the creation in 1943 of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations with Sir John Boyd Orr as Director-General. Its aims are to improve the exchange of goods and to raise production to a new high level. There are countries with excellent untapped resources which lack machinery, livestock, seeds, training colleges and expert advice.

Proposals for a World Food Board are also being studied. It would buy, hold and sell surplus wheat and other commodities, keep prices stable and dispose of surplus agricultural products where most needed. Not only would this increase the amount of food in the world but it would banish the tragic but absurd dilemma of people in one country dying for lack of what people in another country are throwing away because no one will buy it.

We have proved by bitter experience that no country can hope to live by itself in peace or prosperity. Ever since he emerged from his original cave, man has had to learn to depend on the co-operation of others—first his family-group, then his village, then his country. Now he has to learn that the world is his community and there will be no peace in that community unless and until its members are adequately fed.

M.A.P.

LAND ARMY SPEAKING

As an ex-land girl I feel entitled to make a few comments on the article written by Mrs. Aileen Wing of the W.A.A.F. which appeared in the October issue of the LAND GIRL. I must admit that I was only in the Land Army for three years but even so I've a fair idea of the conditions.

In the first place you say we have no idea of the life of the Servicewomen and the appalling conditions under which she works. Haven't we? You seem to be quite familiar with some of ours so why shouldn't we be with yours. I have a sister in the A.T.S. and that somehow helps, she was in the Land Army once, and is now a Medical Orderly, and says that she wouldn't change for the world, and that the Land Army was too much like hard work.

Naturally you would feel rather bitter about the way you were sometimes treated by Corporals etc., and the way in which you were more or less made to feel that you were unwanted. Have you ever been sent to a billet where your landlady bitterly resented your presence and was not polite enough to hide it? That also hurts especially if you're by yourself, you know nobody in the village, which is often two or three miles from where you are billeted, and even then it will probably only contain the "local" and perhaps a little grocery. As you're a town girl you're inclined to be looked upon as a person of low morals, until at last (after say a year) you've proved that they are wrong and then some are not willing to accept the fact.

I was a milker. Have you ever been in a cowshed before it's cleaned up, when the cows have been laying in all night and then after milking helped to muck-out—I doubt it. You get rather filthy, not filth such as oil and grease that Flight Mechanics get dirty with, but much worse I think, manure smells too, and the hay for feeding is often full of filth which gets right inside your clothes not just on the outside of your overalls. After the day's work is over you go to your billet and put one foot at a time (no room for two) into a small basinful of lukewarm water (if you're lucky) and try and get the dirt off the day off. When a land-girl is a milker, that is an early riser commencing work somewhere about 5 a.m. every morning (Sundays too!) you don't often find her in a hurry to get glamourized ready for dancing in the evenings, and if she does

summon up enough energy to do so, isn't half the glamour due to her lack of make-up and also her fresh clean look that fresh air and soap and water and a good scrubbing tend to give. Not all land-girls have the time to still wear their hair long you know, cleanliness often comes before looks.

Unfortunately this, my first job as a milker and land-worker, came to an end when I had an accident to my back fracturing the third lumbar vertebra, the inconvenience of having to have my whole body in plaster was slightly eased by the thought that after all I had had the accident whilst working for my country. In hospital the nurses showed their sympathy for the W.L.A. Every week any servicewoman was given a free issue of cigarettes by the Red Cross and was supplied by the hospital authorities with a hot supper each evening. They had so much pocket money each week (I can't remember how much) not so the land-girl. I was fortunate enough in being granted Workman's compensation the sum of 28s. out of which I paid 21s. hospital expenses. Some months went by and I managed to rejoin the L.A. I had missed the open air (I'm a Londoner). I did lighter work in a Market Garden and was billeted in a Hostel. I was very happy there and realised what I'd missed, it was common to all Servicewomen, the feeling of comradeship which existed between all the land-girls. We were all content, although we had no electric light just oil lamps which left smuts on your faces if they weren't trimmed properly and that was often the case. We also had bare boards to walk upon and wooden bunks. I must say that no one complained, when you work hard all day, your rest at night is appreciated and you sleep on anything.

Many land-girls too, had good jobs before joining the W.L.A. I myself was in the Civil Service, yes the job was reserved, and I took three months in which to gain my release. You see I wanted to do something, I'd lost two brothers in the Air Force and the best way to do my bit was to work as I'd never worked before, and the Land Army was the answer.

Members of the Civil Service (and many other jobs) who joined the Services had their money made up and the promise of their jobs back after the war. Not so the Land Army. A friend of

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mine in the W.A.A.F. had her pay made up and all her pay increases during her time in the Services, she is now demobbed, has her job back not losing any seniority, she is getting married soon and is still entitled to her marriage allowance; she also has a substantial gratuity, a good few coupons, and, unlike the Land Army, paid leave on demob. When I gained my release I had to apply for work as soon as I could, I was not entitled even to unemployment money, "having left of my own accord".

May I add that my last situation was a perfect one, my employer one of the best and my billet was as near heaven as the stars, my landlady was one of the best you could wish for, it was then I felt sorry for the Servicewoman and the conditions she had to endure. My respects go to them, that is those Servicewomen who have had to rough it but even so don't forget that we have as well. To all land-girls may I say Good Luck, carry on the good work, and you've earned every ounce of praise people give you.

W. Sussex. D. R. Spearman, 104164.

Here are a few more comments from the many received on Mrs. Wing's article.

From the weather point of view, life could be grim indeed. It is no small joke to get up on a cold morning and tramp over the fields to call the cows in for milking, and when the water supply is very inadequate to trudge down to the well and haul up freezing water in a pail, after having broken the ice first. As for the moment when she has to plunge her hands in that icy water and wash the cows' udders clean, well that unfortunate girl wonders why she ever wanted to join the Land Army.

Essex. G. Rowland, 113889.

The conscript had seven days' leave every three months and several forty-eight hour leaves besides. We get seven days once a year and a week-end possibly every six weeks—if we're not busy—which we always are! And when there is no water laid on, when every drop has to be pumped and heated on the fire, or alternatively put into the copper and the fire lit under that—and then carted in bucketsful to the bath-tub—well, there isn't much prospect of more than one hot bath a week for us either.

Yorks., W.R.

E. Oddy, 100220.

To quote from your letter . . . "When she goes to a dance, she can be as

glamorous as her looks will allow" We are pleased you put it so; after a day's threshing with dirt and filth getting into one's hair, eyes, ears and nose, looks leave much to be desired. When evening comes along there is a constant noise in the head, eyes are so swollen sight is almost obliterated and hair just a tangled mess.

W.L.A., Shincliffe, Co. Durham.

What about sorting potatoes in the middle of a field or on a hill without protection of any sort from rain, snow or terrific heat. In the winter it was enough to make one cry with the cold, in fact we sometimes did!

Herts.

J. Childs, 95290.



Me and my bull.

R. Baldwin, 81155, Bucks.

THE TOOLS OF THE WORKER

How useful it must be to have all the tools necessary for one's trade and one's toilet, permanently attached to one's person! The honey-bee is lucky in this respect; brushes, combs, baskets, pump, pincers and spoon, she carries all these about everywhere, together with a most effective dagger to protect them. There are more marvels packed into this half-inch insect than in the dinosaur. She has a brain, a nervous system, a digestive system, a breathing system, a heart, and circulation of the blood, and no less than nine different sorts of glands. Many books have been written about her anatomy, and research is still going on.

Her five eyes (two large ones of innumerable facets and three tiny ones on the crown of her head) can distinguish all colours except red—which looks grey to her—also the ultra-violet rays invisible to man; her fragile-looking wings are capable of 400 beats a second, and enable her to fly backwards as well as forwards; her body is covered by six different kinds of hairs, which serve many purposes besides those of protection, ornament and clothing. She has neither voice nor ears, as we understand them, yet she can dance and sing—can change the note of her hum, which is partly caused by the beating of her wings and partly by the forcing of air through her breathing tubes. (Any beekeeper will recognise the change of tone from the hum of a contented bee to the irate buzz of an angry insect bent on attack.) She communicates with her companions by the play of her sensitive antennæ, and also through the medium of ballet; for when a particular bee has discovered a rich source of nectar or pollen, she performs a sort of dance when she returns to the hive, which, together with the load that she carries, seems to convey to the other bees the extent of her treasure-trove and where it is to be found; and off they go to exploit it. This "dance" has been recorded by several observers.

Most of her tools and toilet accessories are carried on her six legs. The back pair are the most complex; on what might be called the shin (only a bee's leg has nine joints!) there is a stiff curry-comb wherewith to comb out the grains of pollen that cling to the feathery hairs all over her body; this pollen is then transferred to the pincer-like joint between the shin and the thigh, which in turn pushes the pollen up into the pollen-basket on the thigh—a horny hollow fringed with stiff curved

hairs, which act like the wings of a haywain to hold up great balls of the golden booty, which make the laden bee look as if she was wearing clumsy yellow plus-fours. When she returns to the hive this load of pollen is dislodged by a lever or pick, in the form of a stiff spine attached to each of the middle pair of legs. It is the front legs that carry the toilet articles—a brush for cleaning the eyes, another brush for other parts of the body, and a special semicircular hollow, closed with a flap and lined with stiff hairs, through which the antennæ are drawn to be cleaned. Each of her six feet is furnished with claws for clinging to rough surfaces, and sticky pads for walking on smooth ones.

The tongue and mouth-parts are far too complicated to be described here; enough to say that the tongue is long and flexible, and has a tiny little round spoon on the tip; that when there is a lot of nectar to be drunk, the mouth-parts close down into a tube round the tongue, which sucks up and down like a pump; but when the quantity of nectar is very small, it is drawn up two minute runnels or tubes on the underside of the tongue, by capillary attraction. Such very small tubes might easily get clogged (the whole tongue is hardly thicker than a hair) but the ingenious bee can blow her tongue out like a balloon and clean the tubes when they are turned inside-out—again with the brushes on her front legs.

So clean a little creature in her person and habits—so industrious and ingenious a worker! No wonder beekeepers get fond of their little pets, feeding them with candy, dosing them when sick, and cossetting them with hot-water bottles!

Warwickshire.

A. M. Coats, 2026.



M. Wilson, 159483, Staffs. and farm friend.

LAMB OF DECEMBER

Melancholy, hid the sun through its grey veil weeping.

Across the rounded slopes came wailing North winds, sweeping

Into my face, relentless and bitterly tearing.

Striking to the heart, cruel, unheeding and uncaring.

Benumbed, my feet over hoof-pitted land were stumbling.

Frozen, aching fingers with swinging knapsack fumbling.

Fool! To leave your home! Bright warmth of the city, remember?

Why did you leave it all for this uncouth brute December?

Head bowed against the wind, my own folly scolding.

And, in my protesting hands, new steel-cold shares holding.

Nine hours yet before I stumbled back, my steps retracing.

Hours of stale bread and cheese, cold tea, and Winter's rough embracing.

Suddenly, shocking the wind to silence, came bleating.

Helpless and bewildered, intermittently repeating.

In a sheltered hollow, with its weary ewe lying

Proudly by, a lamb of spotless purity was crying.

Bucks. C. M. D. Upton, 53729.

WINTER COMPETITION

Important Notice

Please note that the closing date for this Competition will be February 1st and not March 1st as stated in the October number. The following are the particulars for sending in entries:—

1. *Collections.* Particulars of all collections should be sent to the Editor, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1, if possible by the middle of January, although the actual collecting can go on till February 1st. Instructions will be sent to each competitor as to what to do with the collection. Collections of funny stories, local customs, etc., should be posted on or before February 1st to the Editor, address as above.

2. *Essay.* Entries for the best essay on the "population question" should be sent on or before February 1st to the Editor, address as above.

LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

Twenty-six L.A. milkers and three tractor drivers formed part of the Lord Mayor's Show with a tableau depicting London's Milk Supply.

My day at the Lord Mayor's Show was, I think, the most thrilling of my life so far.

Punctually at 11 o'clock we started our march and found ourselves leading the procession directly behind the Band of the Sea Cadet Corps; from that moment we heard nothing but cheers, whistles and much clapping all along the route. Crowds of people had turned out for the Show and were perched upon window sills, pillars and every imaginable place. Occasionally confetti floated down upon us, and three times a Land Army hat went bowling along the road!

At 12.15 p.m. a halt was called and we found ourselves in the Strand and by a small snack bar into which we all dived, followed by the Navy; we fell in again at 1 o'clock refreshed and ready for anything.

Still more cheers and claps greeted us, not only those of children, who thought our Fordson Majors were "tanks" we had brought along, but of men and women who really do appreciate the work we are doing. I know this because of the various remarks I heard all the way along such as "Those are the girls for me", "It's a grand job you're doing girls" and "Come on give the Land Army a special clap!" People were really wonderful—it gave us all such a grand feeling and I felt prouder than ever that I was a member of the Land Army.

Whilst having refreshments after the Show the Lord Mayor drove along to thank us all and to apologise for the fact "that he couldn't give us a sit down meal".

It was a day I shall never forget.

W. Kent. A. Tester, 158190.

Other members who represented the W.L.A. in the procession have also written to say how popular the L.A. was all along the route.

E. Vallance, 91835, Derbs., has had a chrysanthemum named after her. Perhaps some other land girl has had a cabbage or a Brussels sprout named after her?

It is interesting to note that over 2,500 copies of Miss E. M. Barraud's book "Set My Hand Upon the Plough" have now been sold.



We are delighted that Miss Baxter has now got her second wind and makes a reappearance in the Christmas number.

Just before Christmas my friend Miss Baxter and I decided to retire from the Land Army. When we told our farmer he said didn't we know that Great Missenden was closed and Miss Baxter said yes, so we had applied to the Indigent Home for Ancient Gentlewomen and did he know if they got extra fats there because we would have to have our paws buttered when we left the farm even though it had been rather tiresome of late having to stand about so much to be like the other Ordinary Agricultural Workers.

And I said after all we were pre-L.D.V. models and when we left he could get two brand new ones at cost (because he once gave us a rise when we had been up one night helping Gladys have her calf, the next filling in forms for BUY, BUX, harvest rations, extra coal and a permit for killing the pig, the next making a cake for his birthday and the next 'phoning for the doctor).

Miss Baxter said he really couldn't expect us to last for ever, even though they said cracked pitchers with long ears lasted longest.

Our farmer said that depended on how badly cracked they were and it was the length of tooth, not ear, that counted and had appearing in book form gone to our heads or why did we want to leave?

And I said when I had told people I had been in for five years they used to say have you really! but now when I told them I had been in for seven years they said what were you in for?

Miss Baxter said she was going to form a Men's Mines Army starting at ten shillings a week and working up to forty-seven after seven years because she had wanted to help the Government ever since they had been so sensible about appointing a thin Minister of Food instead of the fat one.

Our farmer said perhaps they were using him for Mass Observation and

went away without telling us what to do that morning. It was the first time he had ever forgotten and Miss Baxter said she hadn't been so complimented since she left the Girl Guides and they gave her a pink satin tea-cosy embroidered with roses in ribbon-work.

I said did she think our farmer would give us one too and it had started to snow so what about taking the horse sledge up to the wood for evergreens and we would take the tie we were knitting for our farmer's Christmas present too.

So we harnessed the horse, Sense, and led him out to the sledge. We use the tractor more than the horses so when Sense had got one chain twisted round his sparking plug and the other round his feeding tank, we went to the byre for Sandy the cattleman.

Sandy was leaning against Gladys the cow, writing, and I said was he asking for something special for Christmas Day and Sandy said aye was he—'twas hame an' yin awa'. Miss Baxter said would the Indigent Hame for Ancient Gentlewomen do for one but Sandy said they wouldna' stand a chance wi' Rangers and did we no' ken he was a cattley and no' a horseman? But Miss Baxter said this horse was a pretty kettle of kittle cattle so his Union probably wouldn't mind.

When we got to the wood we found we had forgotten the axe but I said I would swing on the branches while Miss Baxter knitted and soon there was a big pile of broken ones.

Well I was just telling Miss Baxter about Professor Pinch, of Snuff, who went in for psychiatry and Miss Baxter was saying had he to come out without it or was it under the counter? when we noticed the sun was shining and all the snow had melted.

I said perhaps sledges were like Ships of the Desert and would run on rocks and Miss Baxter said no, they only rocked on runs but she had finished the tie so we would load the branches and tie them on with that. And I said we would wind some of my pullovers round the runners because I was wearing three. Well we did that but when we made the noise that makes a horse go, it didn't make Sense. Miss Baxter said what about sitting under this tree till it began to snow again.

I said we could start re-knitting the tie to fill in the time because now it was three yards long so we did and we were just discussing whether to knit the yellow (my old pixy) next to the green (Miss Baxter's pullover cuffs) or between the pink and the blue (the crochet off the

egg-cosies and my bed-sock) and deciding we would retire before it was time to give our farmer a birthday present, when our farmer himself appeared. There was no sign of pink satin or ribbon-work about him and he asked why we were sitting there and Miss Baxter said we were arranging our retreat and waiting for some snow to fall.

And our farmer said it had been falling for the last twenty minutes and he had bought an in-calf cow when he was in town, some butter suitable for paws, and currants and icing sugar for a Christmas cake and the doctor had changed his 'phone number so we couldn't leave after all.

So we are still at the farm.

As Miss Baxter said as we all rode back in the sledge later, after seven years it seemed a pity to spoil the sinking rats for the want of a tarry nail.
Scotland. Isobel Mount.

Copies of the book "**Miss Baxter and I**" (containing the first twelve articles) by Isobel Mount, can be obtained from the LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London S.W.1. Price 2s. 9d. including postage.

Congratulations to E. Scott, 54376, E. Kent, who won first prize for ploughing in the Thanet Ploughing Match.

And to L. Darke, 112870, Herts., who won the County Ploughing Cup.

And to M. Pickstock, 55758, Oxon., who won first prize for two-furrow tractor ploughing. The six other competitors were men.

And to H. Merish, 136235, Hants., who won first prize in the H.W.A.E.C. section of the County Ploughing Match.

And to G. Gilham, 120676, Dorset, who has won first prize for the best kept hostel garden in the county.

And to E. Davies, 102642, Cards., and E. Lewis, 74496, Carmes. who have been appointed Assistant Labour Officers with their W.A.E.Cs.

U.F.A.W. (The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare) offers two prizes of two guineas each for essays on "Improvements I should like to see in the care of farm animals" and "Market Day from the animals' point of view". If the essays are sufficiently numerous and of a high enough standard, second prizes of one guinea each will be awarded. Entries should be marked W.L.A. COMPETITION, and be sent before February 28th to U.F.A.W., 284, Regent's Park Road, Finchley, London.

NATURE DIARY

This is the first of a series of nature notes written for the LAND GIRL by David Gunston, writer on nature and countryside subjects.

It is the birds that attract our attention most at this season, for plant life is mainly at a standstill and the wild animals that do not actually hibernate in the winter lie up under cover in cold weather and are consequently rarely seen.

For the birds it is the peak of the endless struggle for food; insects are hard to find and other foods like the hedgerow berries beloved of the thrush family may be well nigh exhausted in many parts. Whether they be the perky little tits or nuthatches on our bird-tables—and we can do no better service to the small birds than to put out our scraps for them daily—or the birds following the plough on the headland, it is a life and death struggle we are watching. Almost everything depends on weather conditions and if a severe spell prevails there may be no telling what bird turns up in the garden to search for food. All the familiar ones are there in force, the frenzied starlings constantly squabbling among themselves, the robins more confident than ever, excitedly fluttering in mid-air after hanging food. But the rarer visitor to the food-scrap often include the tropical-looking green woodpecker, the two smaller black-and-white ones, a plump, thirsty wood-pigeon or two, fieldfares, redwings and shy brambblings, winter visitors from the far north. Even jays, magpies and hawks may come and I have known a hen-harrier on winter migration drop out of the blue into a garden. It is always the joy of seeing the unexpected that makes bird-watching such a fascinating pursuit.

Life is harder still out in the open countryside and the flocks behind the ploughman are larger than ever. Gulls, often miles inland, hordes of rooks, grey daws and lapwings are usually accompanied by wagtails, starlings and many smaller birds, all snatching up whatever tit-bits are turned up by the share. Although they follow the rattling tractor as readily as the team of horses, it is interesting to note that they keep just a little farther behind the more recent arrival to the fields.

When preparing onions for a salad, slice them a little while beforehand and sprinkle with sugar. They will then be odourless.

(From "The Young Farmer")

CAN I HELP YOU?

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

I hope to obtain a post with an agricultural seed grower. In the meantime I would like to increase my knowledge of seeds and seed growing. Is there any way in which I can study plants by themselves, apart from reading books on the subject?

We would suggest (a) that you get in touch with the Seed Production Committee, National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, who should be able to give you the help you require, and (b) if you should be interested, you might try to obtain a book called "Farm and Garden Seeds" by S. T. Mercer (Crosby Lockwood & Son, 10s. 6d.)

My fiancé and I want to go to Australia. Can you tell us where to write for details about accommodation, jobs, transport, etc.? We are willing to work on a farm and as we have not very much money we wondered if there was a scheme to help young people who wish to emigrate.

Although Government assisted passages to Australia are very much restricted, you might apply to the Ministry of Labour for their leaflet (P.L.181A) describing the scheme. You should also write to the Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women, 3, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1., and to Australia House, Strand, London, W.C.2, for information about settlement prospects and conditions in Australia.

Australian women's magnificent wartime work on the land is reflected in their showing in the Royal Melbourne Agricultural Show for 1946, in which women played a larger and more varied part than in any previous Show.

Women were found among the exhibitors of stud stock, farm produce, poultry and dogs. They exhibited horses in all Show classes besides riding in arena events.

Although women have always judged the cookery, knitting, handiwork and other sections of women's industries at Melbourne's annual Show, this is the first year they have judged equestrian events.



Doris Richards, 48662, Cornwall, with her favourite cow, Teddy.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The total raised for the Benevolent Fund now exceeds £321,000. At the time of going to press nearly £1,000 has been received this month, including two fine cheques from counties—£500 raised in NORTHUMBERLAND nearly all of which came from their Newcastle-on-Tyne Flag Day and £100 from various efforts in CHESHIRE. Over £111,000 has now been spent—grants and loans accounting for nearly £90,000. The number of applications for assistance has risen this month and over 700 grants have been made amounting to approximately £5,000, whilst the total number of grants now made exceeds 12,000.

Applications for assistance towards civilian careers continue to increase and, during the last month, the Fund has made grants in one or two unusual cases. Among these was a girl who had given long service in the Land Army and who, after her release, took over a small shop for the sale of farming and garden seeds, tools, fertilisers, etc. She needed financial help to replenish the stock and to place an order for bulbs, which are nowadays so expensive. The Committee have made a grant towards these expenses and look forward to hearing in the future that this ex-member is having success with her venture.

Another ex-member is taking a two years' training in child psychology. The training itself is free, but there are many

initial incidental expenses which this girl will have to meet and the Committee have assisted towards these and hope that she will enjoy her training.

One ex-volunteer, who served for seven years in the Land Army has had a severe nervous breakdown and must undergo special treatment from her home for a prolonged period. The Benevolent Fund have very willingly made a substantial grant towards this girl's expenses to relieve her of financial worry.

It may not be generally known that the Benevolent Fund Committee devotes very special attention to ex-members of the Land Army who are suffering from chronic or serious illness and such cases are helped substantially in order to give these girls every possible chance of recovery.

The Benevolent Fund is glad to announce that Land Army and ex-Land Army patients can now be admitted for convalescent treatment to Ashton Wold, near Oundle, Northamptonshire. It has been previously mentioned in these notes that thirty-five beds in this Red Cross Home will be reserved for the Land Army and maintained by the Benevolent Fund. Application for admittance must be made through a Land Army county office.

No matter how well a plough is set, good ploughing cannot be done if the tractor is driven too fast.

BOOK NOTES

"Private Angelo", Eric Linklater. (Cape. 8s. 6d.)

"Hands Across the Water", Ralph Arnold. (Constable. 8s. 6d.)

Private Angelo, an Italian soldier in the late war, lacks, as he is well aware, "the gift of courage", but is otherwise a delightful person. His adventures in an Italy occupied by Germans, liberated by British and Americans, and overrun by all races and nationalities, are amusing to read, however painful to experience. A helpless pawn, he serves in the ranks of Italian, German and Allied armies in turn, running away whenever he can and surmounting both misfortunes and shortcomings with realistic philosophy, as lovable and exasperating as those captured Italians who exploded their grenades for fun as soon as they knew the battle was over for them. At least, Angelo turns out to have the ultimate gift of survival and, in the end, viewing the singular domestic circumstances in which the changes and chances of war have left him, his English friend of the Dragoon Guards even allows him courage of a very special kind, too. It is a fascinating story, full of incidental wisdom, in which people say not what they would say in life, but what they might say if they had the gift of intellectual courage and were as articulate as Mr. Linklater.

"Hands Across the Water" has nothing to do with Anglo-American relations. On the contrary, it is a gentle and soothing book, even somewhat old-fashioned, being, in essence, a picture of the English country village of Farthingsole as seen by a visitor from the Far East. The date of the story is supposed to be post-war; but, if the picture is true to life, nineteenth century conditions must still survive in some remote corner of the country, since we have here the gentry in the saddle as of old, public school standards rampant, and a docile peasantry. The eastern gentleman who intrudes upon this idyll and is curiously known as "Mr. Retting", is in search of the prospective re-incarnation of a "Living Buddha", who is improbably prophesied as about to be born in the neighbourhood of Farthingsole. This quest enables Mr. Retting to study the district thoroughly, incidentally straightening out the tangles caused by the conventional standards of many of its inhabitants. The story glides to a peaceful and satisfactory conclusion. One does not believe a word of it, but

must be grateful for the charming atmosphere and the lucid style.

M. Jaeger.

"The Invisible Sun", by Margaret Willy. (Chaterson. 3s. 6d.)

Margaret Willy, now ex-W.L.A. 64115, recently received one of the coveted Atlantic Awards for literature from the Rockefeller Fund. Now she has published a volume of thirty-five poems, for which Mr. Richard Church has written an enthusiastic foreword. My own first comment is that it is a delight to read a new poet who is not derivative; one gets so weary of the near-Brookes and after-Housmans that are not very near, and such a long way after! Land Girls will, I suppose, particularly enjoy the country verse—"Cart-Horses", "Bonfire in November" and "January Oak"—but my own choice is this:

You, who have threaded all my days with light,

Flung up the sash on unimagined steepes,
And sent the shrill stars singing through my night—

You ask me to forgive.

Dear heart, who weeps
Pardons existence the dumb ache of living

At last, and birth's fierce pang when the child lies

Warm at the breast. So how should I, forgiving

The tears implicit in each rose that dies,
Take love and grudge its grief?

Invite the future
With this rich faith new loves cannot destroy:

No present anguish is too high a payment
To life for our brief summer day of joy.

That is certainly not "merely private": it is a lesson all the poets have tried to teach us but one, alas, we must each learn for ourselves. Margaret Willy can sing, but there are words to her songs, and the words have meaning.

E. M. Barraud.

W.L.A. Maroon Leather DIARIES

Gold Crest. 4/- each

No stock of Xmas Cards left.

PENGUIN SUPPLY COMPANY

10, Dolefield, Manchester, 3.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter has been received from an employer by the North Wales Area County Secretary.

You will remember that Miss Barbara Eggleton (163532), one of the Land Girls here, took the course on Potato Roguing at the College Farm and did very well.

You will now be further interested to hear that our potato crop has been certified for *Stock Seed*. This S.S. Certificate is the highest grade issued, and as Barbara did the whole of the roguing herself, without any help from outside, I am sure you will agree with me that this is a further "feather in her cap".

In passing, you will like to know that both the girls that came to us in February last, Miss Barbara Eggleton, 163532, and Miss Brenda Stobbs, 163539, are doing very well here.

C. E. D. W. Freeman.

Dear Editor,

There are right and safe ways of handling cattle as N. E. Jesty writes in her article "Welcome to the Dairymaid" (Oct. issue), but I must say the methods suggested would fall far short of gaining an animal's confidence.

Forethought and planning are very necessary when dealing with cows, but plenty of patience comes first, to my mind. A little time spent on talking to the cows and petting them works wonders (it is wonderful what a little tickling behind the ears will do!) and saves a great deal of time, temper and energy in the long run.

Kickers are made not born, and from my experience of cows (6½ years spent entirely with them) sticks, ropes, "bull dogs" and tail twisting only ask for trouble in this respect. Tails are such delicate members and so easily broken. A young heifer will soon learn to "move over" if you firmly "heave" her over by standing near her and using your own body, saying each time "over" in an ordinary tone. An unhappy, uncomfortable and frightened cow will never give of her best.

Here, on this farm, we have a herd of Guernseys who are a joy to the two herdsmen and myself and, I hope, our employers.

No sticks, no "bull dogs", ropes or dogs, just firm but gentle handling and attention.

I'm quite sure they all know their own

names; they hear them often enough as we talk "to" them as well as about them, during our work. The cows repay us by their obvious affection and never resent us when they have their calves, and you should see our Recording Sheets!!

E. Sussex.

O. L. Thomas, 7408.

Dear Editor,

I think some of your readers may be interested to hear about the holiday which I have just spent in Denmark under the auspices of the International Land Club.

Our main object was to learn as much as we could about Danish Agriculture, and although we only covered a small area we saw many places of interest. I suppose the highlights were our visits to the State Experimental Farm and Dairy in northern Sealand, but we also saw many private farms of varying sizes and two co-operative dairies; also a small windmill grinding oats for cattle food, a surprisingly efficient and cheap method of doing the job, and not uncommon in country districts. We saw a plant breeding station which does a little selective breeding; this was owned by the farmers' co-operative society. This co-operation is the foundation of Danish Agricultural prosperity, as the farmers themselves are the members and so control every stage in the production and marketing of their goods and get a share of all the profits. There is also a large measure of State Control which enables a very uniform product to be obtained.

Besides these agricultural visits we were able to visit some of the beautiful Danish castles and museums and the famous Cathedral at Roskilde where the Danish kings are buried.

Throughout our visit the Danes did everything they could to make our holiday perfect. Their great hospitality and friendliness is something we shall not forget and I hope we may some day be able to visit them again and also welcome them to this country.

If anyone is interested in this sort of a holiday they should write to the secretary of the Club, Miss Atkinson, 90, Parr Road, East Ham, London, E.6.

W. Kent.

B. M. Richardson, 100071.

"VARIETY IN COOKING".—Price 1s. 8d. each, including postage. From W.L.A. Office, Bron Castell Annexe, Bangor, North Wales.



D. Atherton, 143011, Devon, receiving the Whidden Cup after winning the Newton St. Cyres Y.F.C. stock-judging competition.

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.—Riding mackintosh, good condition, average woman's size. No coupons. Longstaff, Leighland, Roadwater, Watchet, Somerset.

WANTED.—Ladies off-white riding mackintosh. Good price offered if in good condition. Rains, 61, Dean Road, Scarborough.

WANTED.—Pair ladies slacks, waist 32, inside leg 30, nigger or green preferred.

FOR SALE.—Scarlet dance shoes, 6, £1. Maundrell, Inglesham, Highworth, Swindon, Wilts.

FOR SALE.—Navy slacks, 28 waist, 15s.; also Girl Guide tunic, little worn, 42, £1. Morley, Downview, Plumpton, Sussex.

FOR SALE.—Ladies tan breeches, wool material, leather strappings, waist 26. Good condition. Best offer. Lewis, 70, Wychwood Avenue, Luton.

FOR SALE.—Teddy-bear coat with belt, length 44, good condition. £4. Miss Barrett, West Leigh, Modbury, S. Devon.

FOR SALE.—Cherry "Ajax" jigger coat, £4. Powell, 47, Craven Gardens, Wimbledon, London, S.W.19.

FOR SALE.—Brown costume, one button fastening, S.W. £2. Pink blouse, S.W., 5s. Fawn coat, bust 36, 50s. Harris, Morcott, Nr. Uppingham, Rutland.

GUERNSEY BREEDERS AT CHALVINGTON

The authors of this article were, according to their employers, largely responsible for the success of the day described. They did splendid work getting the farm ready. This is practically an all women farm as Miss Andrews and Miss Spencer, who own it, run the farm with the help of these two land girls.

On Saturday, September 7th, members of the Guernsey Breeders' Club accepted the invitation of our employers to visit their Chalvington Attested Herd of Pedigree Guernseys.

Each animal was numbered and every visitor was presented with a booklet containing the pedigrees and number of each member of the herd.

The guests assembled in the paddock, then the bulls were paraded, followed by Beauty of Baissieres D.M. This cow is thirteen years' old and has given well over fifty tons of milk at over five per cent. butter fat.

The visitors then walked through paddock and fields inspecting cows, heifers and young stock, where we heard many comments on the docility of the animals and expressions of admiration for their appearance and constitution. This was followed by an inspection of yard, sheds, dairy, etc., where all certificates won by the herd were displayed with individual Diplomas of Merit. Tea was served in the barn which looked very festive set out with small tables and decorated with flowers.

Major R. W. Cooper proposed a vote of thanks to the Misses Andrews and Spencer, to which Miss Andrews replied.

We all felt the visitors had thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon as had all members of the staff.

K. Hobden, 6323,
O. L. Thomas, 7408.
E. Sussex.

SCOTTISH NOTES

MIDLOTHIAN.—Airybank Hostel was all in wedding array when W.L.A. member, Irene Swan was married there on November 7th. The ceremony was performed by the parish minister, the Rev. S. S. Walker of Cranston. The bride, who was given away by the Warden, Mrs. Wood, looked very charming in a white embroidered dress with a tulie veil and a Russian headdress of orange blossom. The bridesmaid, May Wood, was very pretty in pink silk.

A marvellous supper was followed by a dance until midnight. The Warden is to be congratulated on the arrangements made for such a happy gathering.

COUNTY NEWS

BEDS.—A most successful Fancy Dress Dance for the L.A. was held on Oct. 18th at the Corn Exchange, when over 250 girls and their guests attended. Mrs. Graham, our Chairman, Mr. J. C. Robinson, Chairman of the B.A.E.C., and Mr. J. A. Canvin, Mayor of Bedford, had the difficult task of selecting the winners. Volunteers from all Hostels were among the prizewinners, including M. Jones, 135427, Supervisor Elstow Hostel, B. Pentelow, 59341, Forewoman Silsoe Hostel, M. Conlin, 146294, Forewoman Milton Ernest, G. Nunn, 155746, and J. Turner, 156302, from Cople House. The sum of £13 for the Welfare Fund resulted, the L.G.'s own contribution to their fund. Lectures on hygiene have been given in all Hostels and a successful concert tour by artists from the Arts Council of Great Britain has just been completed. Evening classes in Physical Training and Ballroom Dancing are proving a great attraction. Our best wishes go to G. M. Gray, 58933, on her selection for training in agriculture at Moulton, and E. M. Johnson, 11455, who went to Swanley last month. A Christmas Party for privately employed W.L.A. will be held at the Shire Hall on Dec. 14th. The girls will be entertained by local L.A. talent.

BERKS.—A further Milking Course has been held at Hewens Wood Hostel and we should like to welcome these volunteers to Berks. and wish them every success in their new work. A Forewomen's Course has also been running at this hostel and it is hoped that all girls will have found it both interesting and helpful. One amusing evening was devoted to a Brains Trust, which was very popular with both spectators and participants. Several of our girls have now completed Courses at the various Training Colleges. They unanimously agree that the Courses are both interesting and enjoyable and are finding their training most helpful in the more responsible posts which they have taken. A number of our oldest volunteers have obtained vacancies at Universities this autumn and are taking either Degree or Diploma Courses. We wish them every success and are glad to know that, so far, they are enjoying their new sphere of life. Ten girls attended the dress rehearsal of "Piccadilly Hayride" and they thoroughly enjoyed the performance. We were very proud that three of our girls were asked to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show. B. Green drove one of the tractors and O. Geddes and J. Payne represented the Berks. dairy contingent. They were all thrilled with the day's experiences and thoroughly enjoyed the Show.

BUCKS.—We were proud to have the three following volunteers from this County in the Lord Mayor's Show on Nov. 9th:—C. M. D. Upton, 53729, who drove one of the tractors drawing the trailer tableau. She has been employed by the Bucks. W.A.E.C. as a tractor driver since 1941, and before joining the L.A. was a Civil Servant;

E. B. Mace, 89144, took part in the parade of milkers. She has been in the L.A. since 1942, and before joining was a dressmaker; J. D. Peppercorn, 59302, also took part in the parade of milkers. She joined the L.A. in 1941, and before that had done a certain amount of land work after leaving school. Another course of Health Lectures took place in the County during Nov., when Mrs. Podger visited a number of the hostels, and addressed unusually responsive audiences of volunteers. The number of those who attended was above the average, and requests were made for a second lecture as soon as possible.

CARDS. AND CARMS.—We have welcomed many new recruits during the past two months owing to the re-opening of Ffostrasol Hostel and the opening of a new hostel at Cross Hands. We hope that they will all be happy in their new jobs and homes. Winter activities have already started. Bow Street hostel are having dressmaking classes. St. Clears and Ffostrasol are taking up leatherwork and stool making and all others hope to do some kind of craftwork. Mrs. H. M. Lewis, one of our Comm. Members, organised a very successful Whist Drive in Oct. and sent over £16 for the Benevolent Fund. St. Clears held a harvest festival service at the hostel and sent the collection money, £3, to the County Welfare Fund. Friars Park have had a Whist Drive for their hostel fund and the Benevolent and Welfare Funds. Cross Hands held a Whist Drive on 23rd Nov. for the Benevolent Fund, and Ffostrasol held a dance on the 23rd Nov., also for the Benevolent Fund.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Miss Lewis, our County Organiser, last month. However, our loss is Pembroke's gain and we hope Miss Lewis will be happy there.

CHESHIRE'S high-light this month has been a Bring and Buy Sale at the Smallwood Hostel at which volunteers and employers took part. Each girl provided something and toys, table-mats, and clothes pegs, etc., were the order of the day. A successful auction was held by the manager of the local dairy and a good cheque for the Benevolent Fund will result. It is regretted that at the time of these notes going to press the final figure is not available. Light refreshments were provided by the Warden and hostel staff, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

We welcome Mrs. Lanceley, a new Organiser, to our County, and hope that her stay with the Cheshire W.L.A. will be a happy one.

CORNWALL.—It is with much regret that we are to lose Mrs. C. E. Pierrepont, our County Secretary, after four and a half years with the W.L.A., during which time she has given every encouragement and help to all. We shall miss her very much and wish her the best of luck for the future. We have also reluctantly said farewell to Miss Race and Miss Williams, County Organisers, and extend a welcome to Miss Carlisle.

The Christmas Sales of Work are in full swing in aid of the County Welfare Fund. Apart from their stalls, Barn Lane Hostel has undertaken to run a Dance at Bodmin on Dec. 6th. Poltair had a Concert on Nov. 22nd, and St. Columb holds a fortnightly Whist Drive. We are glad to welcome many new girls who have recently arrived in the County. Two more hostels have just been opened—Place House, nr. Falmouth, and Drytree Camp, nr. Helston, the latter taking the place of Leslie House.

CUM. AND WES.—We have been busy with Proficiency Tests and send our heartiest congratulations to all successful volunteers, especially to the following who passed with distinction:—O. Newton; O. M. Wells; E. Davies; S. Brodie; J. Hirst; F. Beckett; R. Martin; M. Elliot; Q. Tyler; E. Hall; E. Walker; M. Reay; E. Anderson; M. Haddock; E. Pearson. A Forewomen's Course is in full swing at Gelsdale Hostel, and was

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addressed on its opening day by Joan Hirst, Forewoman at Lazonby Hostel, who spoke on the duties of a forewoman. Each of the Cumberland Hostels is represented. Following the example of Scaleby Hostel where a successful draw in aid of the Benevolent Fund was held, we have arranged a Grand Xmas Draw in order to benefit the County Welfare Fund. We hope all volunteers will help to make this a success. Congratulations to the following girls who have been accepted for further agricultural training:—S. Trimble, Swanley Horticultural College; M. Clayton, Moulton Farm Institute; K. F. Pearce, Newton Hall, Cambridge.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Miss Russell, County Organiser, who has returned to the A.T.S., but we welcome Miss Mawson who has come in her place. We hope that she will settle happily here.

DENBIGH.—We were very much regret Miss Jagger's and the Club Committee's decision to close the extremely popular Llangollen Club. Most W.L.A. members of the Llangollen area have claimed their release and we wish them all luck in their future civilian life. The Club holds the record of winning the Jagger Cup three years in succession. It has collected many pounds for the Benevolent Fund and local charities and amongst countless other activities gave the original "landladies tea party". It is understood that the Club is to hold a "winding up" Social in the near future and, all would like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Jagger for the service that she has given. We extend a welcome to the new girls in the County and hope that they will settle down and continue to keep up the reputation of our old members.

DERBS.—Eighteen of our Land Girls billeted at Eaves Hall Hostel, Chapel-en-le-Frith, were involved in a road accident on 6th Nov., and it was with the deepest regret that we heard that J. Croft, 164935, had received fatal injuries. Miss Croft was very popular and extremely interested in her work and she will be greatly missed. We offer our sincere sympathies to her family in their grievous loss. Several other Land Girls received injuries but we are pleased to report that they are all making good progress. We are grateful to the Warden of the hostel and her staff for their prompt and kind attention to the girls involved.

The W.L.A. have taken over the management of Stanton Hostel and we are very pleased that the Warden and staff are staying with us. Most of the hostels have had social events and are busy with their winter activities. Our thanks are due to M. Leeson, 31509, who, assisted by Miss Needham, the daughter of her employer, raised £11 8s. for the Benevolent Fund.

DEVON.—Work in the fields is going strong and farms are clamouring for milkmaids. Evening classes in cookery, dressmaking, slipper-making and soft toy making have been organised. Cleve House and Moretonhampstead Hostels have had successful dances, and Ventnor House had a Hallowe'en party. The commemoration of Guy Fawkes gave Redworth House an opportunity for a bonfire and fireworks. Much enthusiasm has been shown for table tennis, and Miss Woodiwiss, County Organiser for S. Devon, has arranged some good contests among hostels in her area. Some of the office staff ventured to challenge Cleve House and had an enjoyable evening. We all look forward to Saturday, Dec. 14th, when an exhibition of handicrafts and drama competition will be held in Exeter. Rumour has it that much dramatic talent has been so far undiscovered and that the hands that till the soil can also turn a fancy stitch! J. Gay and V. Dicker have gone to Newton Hall for a course in agriculture and D. Fisher has obtained an interesting post on the staff of Darlington College as gardener and part-time instructress. Mrs. Bennett organised a very successful dance at which £12 10s. was raised for the Benevolent Fund. With this contribution we reached the target of £1,000 which we set ourselves eighteen months ago.

Mrs. Roberts left us at the end of Oct. after 3½ years as Assistant Secretary. She will be greatly

missed by her many friends in Devon. We were sorry also to say goodbye to Mrs. Hayward and Miss Hellins.

DORSET.—The number of entries for Proficiency Tests was rather small this autumn. Congratulations to E. M. Bishop, 136641, and B. Johnson, 161366, who passed the Test in hand milking and g.f. work held on 21st Nov., and to R. Mitchley, 148590, who gained a Distinction. It is hoped to arrange g.f. work, fieldwork and tractor driving Tests in the early Spring. A very successful play—"Aren't we all?"—was given in Dorchester by the Dorset Players in aid of the County Welfare Fund, which benefited to the extent of £24 18s. 7d. As the result of the Dance held in Dorchester on Guy Fawkes Night a further sum of £32 7s. 5d. was added to the Welfare Fund. We were very glad to know that G. Gilham, 120676, has won first prize again this year for the best hostel garden in the County, particularly as we understand she is shortly leaving to take up a post in South Africa. We are grateful to Miss Debenham for organising another enjoyable Party for volunteers in her area. Among the G.S. Badges awarded on that occasion were those to B. Yeates, 14015, and I. Wigmore, 21779, for 7 years' service. Our heartiest congratulations to them for their continued loyalty to the W.L.A.!

DURHAM.—Miss Bower, W.L.A. Senior Administrative Officer, received a very warm welcome when she visited Durham for the first time on Nov. 18th. To enable as many people as possible to have the pleasure of meeting her a Comm. Meeting was held, also a meeting for Local Reps., followed by a tea party kindly given by Lady Starmer, County Chairman, to which members of the D.W.A.E.C., Hostel Wardens and Office Staff were also invited. It is with regret the pending resignations have been received from Mrs. Dice and Mrs. Greenwood, Local Reps. of Ingleton and Shindcliffe areas. Many thanks are due to both for all their kind help. Mrs. Greenwood's delightful musical evenings at Shindcliffe Hostel will be remembered by those lucky volunteers who enjoyed her happy visits. A friendly welcome goes to Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Smith who have been appointed Local Reps. for Darlington and Trimdon areas.

Congratulation to the Warden and volunteers of Consett Hostel who organised a most successful dance and raised £25 for the Benevolent Fund; also to B. Harrison for raising £23 at a dance at the Croft Spa Hotel. The office staff are arranging another dance for the Benevolent Fund to be held on Feb. 7th at Three Tuns Hotel, Durham City. It is hoped to arrange transport if applications are made to the County Office. Tickets 5s. from County Office, Hostels and Reps. During 1946, 134 volunteers in this county have received Benevolent Fund assistance.

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

GLOS.—Shurdington and Alderton Hostels will open before this news is printed, and to all the volunteers who will be posted there, and to the members of the Hostel staffs, we send a warm welcome. There are to be many Christmas parties at various Hostels on different dates. Amongst them, a Dance at Wicks Elm; parties at The Studio, Oaklands Park, and Mickleton. At the latter Hostel, weekly dancing classes have begun, and judging from the attendance, they are very popular. D. Atkins, 61826, has gone to Newton Hall Agricultural Training Course, and we extend her our best wishes. B. Fry, 70981, who is taking a Horticultural Course at Swanley, came to see us in the office when she was on leave the other day. It was so nice to see her and to hear how much she is enjoying the training. Our sympathy goes out to E. J. Hooper, 121829, who has had a nasty toss from her bicycle. She is in Cheltenham Hospital and we wish her a speedy recovery. S. M. Healey, 85248; L. J. Barge, 111874; J. M. Geoghegan, 159566; R. M. Callen, 27485; and E. Worrall, 151452, are taking the Milking and Dairy Proficiency Tests at Brockworth Court at the end of the month.

HANTS.—The big events of the next two months will be the Christmas parties sponsored by the Welfare Sub-Committee. There will be six parties at Andover, Alton, Basingstoke, Fareham, Ringwood and Winchester. Preliminary notices have already appeared in the Dec. News Letter and during the next few weeks every volunteer will receive an invitation to the nearest party. To make these parties as enjoyable as possible the Welfare Fund must receive all the support possible during the next two months. A Caledonian market will be held in the office from Dec. 16th to 20th. Every Comm. member is sending 12 objects, every rep. 5 objects and every volunteer is asked to send at least one thing which can be sold at the market. There will also be the usual New Year Dance in the Guildhall, Winchester on Jan. 17th. Mrs. Madeley is responsible for both these events and the Welfare Sub-Committee owe her a great debt of gratitude for her unsparing efforts in this direction. Do please give her all the support you can. Volunteers in the news are Helen Marsh who won first prize in the H.W.A.E.C. Section of the County Ploughing Match. P. Stickland, M. Mitchell and S. Blatch have started their training at Moulton.

HEREFORDS.—We were very sorry indeed to say "Goodbye" to Miss Payne, our Assistant Secretary, who has left to be married. Our best wishes go with her for the future. We welcome Miss Wilson who has taken her place, and we hope she will be very happy with us.

During Oct. we opened a new hostel at the Three Crosses, Ross-on-Wye. We hope that the girls in this hostel will be very happy. A Christmas Party will be held on 14th Dec. at Bulmer's Institute, Hereford. This year instead of inviting a Concert Party we are having a hostel entertainment Competition; each hostel will do an entertainment lasting fifteen minutes. Many volunteers throughout the County are taking evening classes. The classes attended include French, German, Physical Recreation, Dressmaking, Cooking, etc. One hostel has already started First-Aid classes, and it is to be hoped that more First-Aid classes will be running in the near future. Congratulations to I. Needs, 26573, who has started one year's Government Training at Newton Hall, Cambridgeshire, also to E. Radford for gaining her Certificate for the Correspondence Course in Agriculture.

We are very sorry to say "Goodbye" to Mrs. Corbett, a member of the County Committee, who has done very good work for the L.A. in Herefordshire. We welcome Miss Gwyer, one of our District Reps., in her place.

HERTS.—We have said good-bye to Miss Beck, as a County Organiser, but we have welcomed her with great joy as a Comm. Member; her knowledge of the County and her real affection for, and interest in all L.A. volunteers is unbounded and

has always been of the utmost value. We lose with very great regret three of our Comm. Members, Mrs. Crossman, Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Sumner. Mrs. Crossman and Mrs. Wood have worked hard for the W.L.A. since its beginning and L.A. volunteers and officials in Herts. will miss them. Mrs. Sumner who joined the Comm. more recently is an old friend to many girls as she was previously a County Organiser. At the end of Oct. Miss Crook resigned her post and Miss Hoare has taken her place.

Proficiency Tests in Milking and Dairy, G.F. and Tractor work have been held. The 20 entrants passed and we congratulate especially M. Chamberlain, B. Pope, N. Reed who obtained distinction in Milking and Dairy Work, B. Walker distinction in G.F. Work and L. Darke who in addition to passing her Tractor Proficiency Test, won the Ploughing Cup for the County. Volunteers have also been to the final dress rehearsal of "Piccadilly Hayride", and V. Kipling, E. Wilcox and N. Bryant were 3 of the L.G.'s taking part in the Lord Mayor's Procession. We must thank our generous friends the Tomato Growers, some of whom have given three baskets of tomatoes a week during the season. These we have sold to the hostels and our Welfare Fund has benefited by £104 8s. This scheme was arranged by Mrs. Carr.

HUNTS, CAMBS. AND ELY.—Mrs. Gurrin, our energetic Cambs. Organiser, left us in September to set up home and her place has been taken by Mrs. Bush, to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

Various activities are planned for the winter months—visits to the Pantomime at Cambridge and Peterborough, demonstrations by Messrs. Pears on the Art of Make-up, dances at Huntingdon, St. Ives and Cambridge, talks in the hostels by Mr. P. G. M. Dickinson, Huntingdon Borough Archivist on the Origin of Christian and Surnames. Mrs. Godfrey Phillips has paid her third visit to the county and was better than ever. Proficiency Tests have been held in Cambs. and the Isle of Ely. The successful candidates were—Milking and Dairy: M. Alvey, V. Auty, I. King and E. Roach (Distinction); K. Fussell, I. Haigh, M. Holland, B. Morris, G. Rowley, J. Sands and S. Stephenson (Pass); Poultry Work: D. Hoddinott (Pass); G.F. Work: N. Weatherall (Distinction). Ex-volunteers are settling into their new jobs, B. M. Evans in Grade B of the National Agricultural Advisory Service, E. Moody as a Milk Tester; E. Cooper King is taking a Domestic Science Course in London, and P. J. Edwards is taking an Art Training, after receiving a Ministry Grant; J. Phillips is a probationer at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and W. Eavers is Assistant Warden at Swaffham Prior Hostel, where she served the whole of her L.A. service.

LO.W.—A very successful Harvest Home Party was held in Newport on Oct. 5th. The programme was divided into four parts—games arranged by the Assistant County Youth Organiser, an interval for refreshments, a cabaret show given by the Newport Musical Society and finally a couple of hours' dancing. The profit of £9 17s. 6d. was credited to the local Welfare Fund. Slipper making classes are now in full swing at Sandown Hostel. We are most grateful to the Chairman, Lady Rowbotham, and her friends, Mrs. Dunlop and Miss Lauriston, for their help and instructions. On Sunday, Nov. 10th, volunteers from Sandown Hostel with a few from surrounding districts made a really fine show on parade at the Armistice Day Service in the Pavilion, Sandown. Considerable comment was heard on the extremely smart appearance of the girls. Wreaths were laid on the 1914-18 War Memorial, one by L. James, 129138, who with A. Cunningham, 129996, shares the honour of being the oldest member at present stationed at Sandown. P. King and B. Pickerrill are now enjoying a Government training at Swanley Horticultural College, Kent. Both are doing well and we are hoping for another horticultural vacancy.

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before long as well as a couple in agriculture. M. Smith has just obtained a permanent post as dairy maid at the I.O.W. County Mental Hospital where the conditions are a distinct improvement on the ordinary run of W.L.A. jobs. We congratulate this volunteer and wish her every success.

E. KENT.—Three of our girls, D. J. Corner, 105803, L. Gammon, 43439, and J. Harbinson, 117141, took part in the Lord Mayor's Show. They came back full of enthusiasm and spoke of the wonderful reception which the crowd gave to them. A Hand Milking Proficiency Test was held on Nov. 11th at Monkton Court, Nr. Ramsgate, with the kind permission of Mr. J. W. Smith. Six girls entered and all passed with very high marks. They were:—E. L. Plummer, 153482, D. J. Corner, 105803, M. Sigsworth, 50313, D. Bushell, 149787, J. Aindow, 135657, G. Battle, 97139. The judges spoke very highly of the standard of efficiency which the girls had reached and congratulated them on their prowess as Milkers. E. Scott, 54376, employed by Mr. Smith, Monkton Court, Nr. Ramsgate, won first prize for Ploughing in the Thanet Ploughing Match on Nov. 6th; in the same match D. Hogben, 29270, won a prize of £3. To all these Land Girls, we offer our hearty congratulations, and we are very proud of them.

W. KENT.—We offer our congratulations to A. T. Hall, N. Hunt and E. North, who have all been awarded Government Training Courses at the Kent Horticultural Institute, Swanley; also to J. Littlejohn and B. M. Richardson on being accepted for Training Courses in Agriculture at Newton Hall Government Training Centre, Cambs., and in particular to M. Grigson who has been successful in gaining one out of only five vacancies in the country for a Poultry Course at the Monktonshire Institute. Two W. Kent members, B. Richardson and E. Gilbert, together with Y. Swaine, one of our County Organisers, joined one of the 4 "INLAC" (International Land Club) parties who visited Denmark this summer. They had a delightful time and were most interested in the Danish methods of farming. They saw Castles and famous places galore and last but not least enjoyed the wonderful meals "with massive cream cakes and plenty of butter"! J. Chinery, A. Tester and M. Wright were the three W. Kent girls selected to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show with the L.A. contingent. They all enjoyed it thoroughly despite the rather dreary weather and felt very proud that the L.A. had the honour of leading the Procession behind the bands.

LEICS. AND RUT.—A visit to the Opera House with a tea afterwards was organised on Oct. 26th for a party of volunteers with 1-3 years' service to their credit. The programme was very much enjoyed by everyone. Expenses were met by the County Welfare Fund. We are very busily engaged with a Prize Draw in aid of the County Welfare Fund as this fund is very low at present. We anticipate good results as 1,500 books of tickets have been distributed. We extend our best wishes to the following volunteers: J. Parry, J. Millward, K. Archer, J. Abraham, who have just begun their year's training in Agriculture at Newton Hall, Cambridge. Messrs. A. & F. Pears are kindly giving a series of beauty demonstrations in our hostels. We very much look forward to their visits.

HOLLAND (Lincs.).—A most successful tour by Arts Council Artistes has just taken place and gave great enjoyment to all hearers. We offer our best wishes to Pauline Spalding for her Course at Newton Hall, Cambridge, and a welcome to Mrs. Malloch as Warden at our Swineshead Hostel. Miss Harris left Wyberton Rectory Hostel recently and we wish her happiness in the future.

Office staff changed by the departure of Mrs. Gibson, our Employment Officer, whose place is taken by Mrs. Holder, and Miss Marshall, County Organiser, has transferred to Northants.

County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total			Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Kent	9767	15	0	1686
Surrey	5528	15	7	1321
Essex	5645	8	6	1105
Hertfordshire ..	4701	14	2	974
Yorks., W. Riding	3337	15	4	957
Northants. ..	2875	8	5	936
Hampshire ..	8662	4	2	926
Warwick. ..	7546	9	9	875
Bucks.	4915	7	8	872
Leics. & Rutland	2671	0	7	868
Devon	4142	2	6	809
Cornwall	1675	5	11	769
Worcs.	3100	0	0	767
Yorks., E. and N.				
Riding	2880	1	2	767
West Sussex ..	5174	7	5	723
Norfolk	6299	9	6	684
East Sussex ..	4158	5	11	677
Somerset	2442	17	1	669
Beds.	1070	16	6	661
Northumberland	2858	10	3	637
Lincs., Lindsey				
& Kesteven	3273	18	0	620
Oxfordshire ..	3858	14	3	606
Hunts., Cambs.				
& Ely	3746	16	7	597
Gloucester ..	2706	1	2	594
Cheshire	3318	15	4	575
Notts.	1847	3	10	563
Wilts.	2072	8	3	514
Berks.	3556	10	8	511
East Suffolk ..	3601	19	3	480
Durham	2020	8	5	462
Glamorgan ..	1170	13	9	437
Staffs.	1808	14	9	431
Cumbs. & West'd	711	5	6	419
Salop	1954	3	11	416
Dorset	1461	3	5	405
Monmouth ..	1016	8	0	382
Hereford	1866	10	4	379
Lancs.	2840	8	11	353
Flint	708	3	6	349
Lincs., Holland	2075	2	0	345
West Suffolk ..	2161	7	0	323
North Wales ..	1928	14	2	314
Brecon, Radnor				
& Mont.	863	19	0	308
Denbigh	1209	16	11	283
Cards. & Carm's.	758	18	11	243
Derbyshire ..	1546	12	4	237
London & Middx.	1294	12	7	217
I.O.W.	295	15	2	176
Pembroke	1122	2	8	164

The total number of volunteers in employment on 18th November was 29,386.

"THE LAND GIRL"

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