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EDITORIAL NOTES

A PROPOSAL of the Agricultural Wages Board for an increase in the minimum wage for men and women agricultural workers has recently appeared in the press. If the proposal goes through, women of twenty-one and over, including members of the Women's Land Army, will receive 68s. and those of eighteen to twenty-one 63s. per forty-eight hour week. Objections to these proposals may be made at any time up to August 19th when the Central Committee of the Board will meet to consider objections and to make final decisions on the amounts of the increases and the dates on which they shall take effect. It is probable that a national maximum board and lodging deduction will also be fixed so that the minimum cash wage received by land girls billeted by their employers will no longer vary from county to county. We would remind readers that these proposals have not yet been confirmed and no land girl should as yet ask her employer for an increased minimum wage. As soon as a definite announcement is made, Headquarters will inform County Offices and will give the new rates in LAND ARMY NEWS. When these operate, the land girl's starting wage will be a good one. A good wage must be earned by good work.

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Harvest time is the climax of the agricultural year. Though Land Army members are then working all out to reap the fruits of the earth, it is worth using that half-hour break for refreshments or those few seconds before falling asleep at night to think what fruits of the mind we should like to reap during the winter months when work will be slack and there are long dark evenings to while away. If land girls are to have the sort of educational and recreational facilities they would like next winter, Land Army County Offices must know what is wanted months and months beforehand. Entertainers, teachers and speakers get booked up very early and must be engaged now if we are to get what we want. Difficult though it is while the sun is shining to imagine a cold dark winter's evening, we hope land girls whether in hostels or in private employment will give this subject a few minutes' thought and will

tell their visiting Local Representative what form of recreation or education they would like provided for their hostel, club or local group when next winter comes.

PASTURES NEW Vacancies

East Suffolk. Two vacancies near Halesworth and Ipswich for experienced milkers to look after goats, poultry, and to do some market gardening.

West Suffolk. Two experienced and responsible girls required to work T.T. Ayrshire herd, machine milking, and to show cattle. Share rent free cottage with another girl. Salary £3 10s. to start.

Buckinghamshire. Experienced calf rearer for vacancy near Aylesbury—live in both with other girls. Salary above minimum.

Isle of Wight. Poultry vacancy near Ventnor for girl with experience of laying battery cages—some general work, also until poultry increases to full-time job. Salary above normal.

Shropshire. Opportunity for experienced girl to help in building up a flock of poultry with a view to taking over management and possibility of partnership. Salary £3 per week, all found, live with family.

Posts Wanted

Northumberland member, aged 29, joined Land Army 1941, wants permanent post in a northern county combining tractor work with secretarial duties. Well educated, good L.A. record, qualified to do typing, record keeping and accounts.

London & Middlesex member, aged 20, joined Land Army 1944, was previously a shorthand typist, wants job with horses. Can ride and has three years' experience of looking after thoroughbreds.

Two members, free on completion of one year's government training August 14th, would like to work together in charge of dairy herd (preferably Friesians). Will also undertake some secretarial work.

Ex-member with two and a half years' service, strong and good personality, wants general farm work and secretarial duties in Surrey, Sussex or Kent. Available September. Has taken Ministry of Labour secretarial training in shorthand and typing. Now taking correspondence course in Farm Book-keeping.

FUTURE CAREERS

The Women's Employment Federation has helped many volunteers to decide on a career after their war service in the Land Army. The Federation is still willing to advise Land Army members on careers for a special reduced fee of 1s., whether for interview or letter. The address of the Federation is, 251, Brompton Road, London, S.W.3. (Telephone No. KEN. 9237/8.)

LANDGIRL'S LIBRARY

Press Officer Please! F. Howard Lancum. (Crosby, Lockwood & Son. 10s. 6d.)

In his introduction the author says "given the necessary data a good journalist can write a story about anything." As Press Officer at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Lancum has had to supply material to many types of journalist, both British and foreign, and his book gives interesting and amusing examples of how his material was treated. The book deals principally with the war period and a whole chapter is devoted to the W.L.A. The interest is maintained from cover to cover and the author throws an amusing and instructive light on some of the activities of government Press Officers. At the same time he proves that those who sit in Whitehall do sometimes know something of the practical side of the subjects on which they write and talk.

Whatever does the Almoner Do? Dorothy Manchée. (Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 6s.)

This is a day to day account of the life of a hospital almoner, written in popular style. A Land Army member who is thinking of taking an almoner's training after leaving the W.L.A. should study in particular the final chapter which gives details of official training schemes, costs of training and prospects of employment after training.

A LAND ARMY STAR

"She's the farmer's right hand." Many a land girl deserves such praise but none better than Miss Mona Mackellar, B.E.M., who has served the same employer since her enrolment in September, 1939.

Chauffeuse to her doctor father in pre-war days, Mona spent a holiday on a farm and soon discovered that she had a "way with animals". She was among the first W.L.A. recruits and now helps Mr. Chapman of Saxton Grange, Tadcaster, with his prize-winning Friesian herd. She keeps all the complicated records which show that in 1946 this herd had the highest average milk yield in Yorkshire. Leader of a team of seven girls employed by Mr. Chapman, Mona is an expert tractor driver and has also mastered the art of stack-building. Her skill in this complicated process is the admiration of older farm-hands.

Mona's long and excellent service has won her all the Good Service Badges obtainable. In December, 1945, she received from Her Majesty the Queen her Six-Year Armband, which is now resplendent with three added half-diamonds. At a presentation in Leeds on April 26th, she received the special award given to West Riding members with more than seven years' service.

Mona devotes any spare time she has to the local Young Farmers' Club and she is also an expert horsewoman.

On 18th July, 1947, the enrolled strength of the Land Army was 26,883.

THE ROYAL SHOW

Two Newton Hall trainees have written to us about their visit to the "Royal." Here are extracts from their letters:—

Much of my time was spent in the livestock section, especially among the dairy cows, but I found time to visit the farm horses which, despite increasing mechanisation, are still very popular.

I found the milking machine stands interesting and here, as elsewhere, the attendants were most helpful. The Ministry's "Farming To-day" exhibition was worth hours of study. Plots of grasses, cereals and other crops showed in a crowded quarter of an acre the results of many years' research. In the animal husbandry section, feeding, breeding (including artificial insemination) and disease control were dealt with.

I also managed to see the poultry and beekeepers' tents which were well planned and interesting. The flower show and forestry section were among the exhibits I did not have time to visit. There was so much there that a three-day visit was far too short but what an unforgettable three days.

Cambs. B. M. Richardson, 100071.

It was difficult to decide what to see first. Although laden with pamphlets from the fertiliser and feedingstuffs stands, I was lured into the machinery section by its irresistible whirr and hum. There I found many amazing exhibits.

I wish now that I had spent longer at the "Farming To-day" demonstration where the exhibits were informative and the advisory staff inexhaustible.

I saw but a fraction of what I had intended to see. Half a day could be spent profitably on the different makes of milking machines alone.

It may give some idea of my impressions if I close with a word of advice to anyone seeing the "Royal" for the first time:—

1. Obtain your ticket by post. You will grudge time spent queueing at the entrance.
2. If possible devote three days to the Show.
3. Go alone, do not meet too many friends there—that is if you wish to see the Show.

Cambs. F. R. Walker, 48684.

THE TERRIBLE STORY OF BESS

There was a girl whose name was Bess,
A careless wench I must confess,
She shut her ears to this advice
—On pain of death, at any price,
Never to leave a cow unstripped,
Or she would from the farm be whipped.

One afternoon, in haste to go
To London town to see a show,
She could not stay to milk her cow:
"I'll milk her quickly, anyhow,
'Tis only Mabel old and tough:
I'll leave some in, that's good enough."
Then off she sped in merry glee
To seek her pleasure, conscience free.

Next morning, when she reached the farm
The whole place registered alarm.
A cavalcade of Royal Vets
Filled all the yard. Large wagonettes
With plasters, poultices and pills,
Brandy, and strong emetics, sequills,
Scalpels and crutches, balsams, balms,
Weird amulets and philtres, charms.
But nothing in the surgeon's art
Could save the poor cow's broken heart.
For on an operating table,
Lay last remains of patient Mabel.

The moral plain I show you now
Always, always strip a cow.

Herts.

W. Farrow, 1313.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Mrs. M. L. Kirkby, Warden of Blomville Hall Hostel, East Suffolk, who won first prize in the East Suffolk competition for Packed Lunches.

The packed lunch must, I think, be the main worry of every Warden. To produce a popular and well-balanced lunch pack even with the advantage we have in the way of extra rations for the heavy worker, is a most difficult proposition. We have to remember that what seems to us at the time of preparation a fairly successful effort may have quite another aspect when taken out of the lunch tin several hours later and eaten, perhaps, in a draughty transport or under a hedge. We have also to remember that part of the lunch will be eaten during the "break" at 9 or 9.30 a.m. so that the pack must be outside.

I try to manage twice a week or so a slice from a joint for the sandwiches but this always depends upon the type of meat issued to us by the butcher.

Eggs are popular in most forms—Scotch eggs in particular; but here again, so often one can obtain the egg but not the sausage meat or vice versa.

Some time ago I obtained permission from the Food Office to exchange my cake licence for the approved ingredients to be made up in the hostel. This entails quite a lot of work but makes it possible to produce a more wholesome and satisfying luncheon and to give greater variety. I am perhaps fortunate because not only am I keenly interested in cooking myself but I have a cook who really co-operates and takes great pride in the meals of the hostel.

From a relief milker.

Dear Editor,

This is a grand worthwhile job with lots of interest and humour attached to it.

During my first week I discovered two things, firstly that very few cows kick at a strange person if spoken to and handled quietly but a great many of them do hold up their milk until they get used to your hand.

Secondly that everyone has a different method of doing the same thing and that to keep each farmer's method clear in your mind, is one of the most important parts of one's work.

So far my greatest thrill has been when a cowman said to me, "Having you here makes all the difference, before that I hadn't had a day off for months."

Hampshire. J. H. Hamilton, 2948.

Dear Editor,

I wonder if you would like to hear of a funny occurrence on this farm recently. From the lower end of the cow-shed I heard a plaintive mewing at the entrance and found crouched beneath a milking stool in the stall which we keep "cow-less" our old pussy, Tibby, crying and swearing alternately at a hen which was sitting on the nest in the manger, where Tibby had that morning transferred her three kittens from the stable. I removed the hen and Tibby settled rapturously with her children which I duly admired. It was a great business keeping that hen away but eventually she left Tibby in possession.

But the story didn't end here. Next morning, hearing a triumphant clucking, I dashed into the shed to see the hen again on the nest and quickly removed her to find—three kittens, one cat and one brown egg! Evidently Tibby and she had come to some agreement!

Cumberland. M. Collier, 21414.

GET TO KNOW YOUR COUNTRYSIDE

If you have a flair for geography, you will undoubtedly take an interest in the part of the country in which you work. A good map helps to keep this interest alive and you may like to know that in the last two years the Ordnance Survey has published revised editions of nearly 4,000 maps on scales ranging from 16 miles to the inch to 25 inches to the mile.

BENEVOLENT FUND

It is good to hear of ex-members of the Land Army who are happy and successful in their civilian careers. The Committee of the Benevolent Fund has helped many of these girls to start their new jobs and has received a number of interesting letters from them. One long service girl who, with the help of the Fund, started a cake business in December 1945, says that this is really flourishing and she has now been able to open a small tea room which is "overwhelmingly successful." Other encouraging reports come from hairdressers, dog breeders, dressmakers and smallholders, many of whom appear to be enjoying their new life in spite of hard work and having to adjust themselves to entirely different surroundings from those they were accustomed to in the Land Army. The total number of grants made by the Fund during the first six months of 1947 to members and ex-members of the Land Army was 3,007.

THE WORKING OUTFIT

Present day manufacturing difficulties are striking at the legs of the Land Army and the prospect of obtaining fresh stocks of Land Army shoes in the most popular sizes 5, 5½ and 6, is poor indeed. If one of these is your size and you are likely to need footwear replacements this autumn, we suggest that you ask for leather boots and leggings now so as to break them in for work before the bad weather comes.

Another useful tip—"Nev." This is a preparation which, by a simple process, renders articles of clothing completely water repellent. A 4 oz. jar costs 2/9 and it is obtainable from Messrs. Peel and Campden, 183-189, Queensway, London, W.2.

SANDWICH SUGGESTIONS

An economical way of preparing moist cheese sandwiches without margarine is to grate the cheese, mix to a thick paste with a little milk and spread thickly on both slices with a lettuce leaf between.

A chocolate spread that is particularly good with brown bread can be made from cocoa mixed with water and a little margarine and sugar.

COUNTY NEWS

BEDS.—There was a warm welcome for our Chief Administrative Officer on July 31st when she toured the county and saw many of our girls in training, at work and at proficiency tests. The day ended with a large gathering at the Barracks in Bedford where Mrs. Jenkins presented long service badges and proficiency certificates to those who had gained distinction. Cople Hostel gave a special entertainment during the evening.

Proficiency tests in all branches of farm work are in progress and seventy girls have competed so far. Results have been excellent and distinction has been gained in general farm work by M. Goodwin, J. Greener, M. Hammond, B. Gray, M. Perry and E. Day; in horticulture by E. Day and B. Prole. We welcome over a hundred new recruits who came to our county from Derbyshire, Lancashire and London and Middlesex. We hope they will be happy and settle down with us in Bedfordshire.

BERKS.—The raffle held throughout the county during July to raise funds for the County Welfare Fund has been most successful and widely supported. Forty-one prizes were contributed by Committee members and Representatives, hostels, volunteers and friends of the W.L.A. and over 4,000 tickets were sold. The final figures are not known yet but we hope to have raised over £100. Several ex-Berkshire volunteers have been successful in recent examinations and we congratulate Joyce Harroway and Joyce Holmes on gaining Diplomas in Dairying at Reading University and Barbara Allen on successfully passing her Intermediate. We are very glad to hear that Dorothy Richardson, who has been at the Royal College of Music has been appointed music mistress at Newbury High School. Hall Place Hostel, Sparsholt, was closed on June 14th and the staff and girls were very sorry indeed to lose such a happy home. A new hostel has been opened at Challow to take its place and we hope that Miss Gladwell and all volunteers there will be happy and make new friends in the neighbourhood. A milking course is being held at the training hostel at Hewens Wood and eleven girls from London and Lancashire are having their first experience of dairy work.

BUCKS.—It is with the greatest regret that we have to announce the resignation of our Chairman, Mrs. Fellowes, who has given inspiring leadership to the W.L.A. in this county since 1943, but is now going abroad for an indefinite time. Her enthusiasm and untiring efforts for the welfare of the organisation will be long remembered. We are glad to welcome her successor, Lady Carrington, who is

GOOD ADVICE

The National Agricultural Advisory Service

By J. A. Scott Watson, C.B.E., M.C., Chief Education and Advisory Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture.

At present, as we all know, there is great concern about our future food supplies. In most other countries there is more or less anxiety on the same score. Every country, and also the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, is doing all it can to help farmers to increase production.

Some farmers, indeed, remembering what happened after the first World War, feel that there is a risk that production will be too greatly increased—so much that markets will be glutted and prices will fall to unprofitable levels. This of course could happen if we had the same conditions in the cities that prevailed in the 'thirties—widespread unemployment and allowances so small that many families could not buy needed food. But it can be hoped that these conditions will not return; and there can be no fear at all that the total world output of food will be greater than the world's real needs.

One hopeful fact, when we consider the future, is that scientific discoveries and inventions, which should enable production to be increased, are following one upon another at an ever-increasing speed. For instance, weeds have been one of the farmer's greatest worries in the past, and the last few years have seen the introduction of three or four new and better weed killers; some of our greatest insect enemies, like the turnip fly and the wireworm, can now be very effectively dealt with by new insecticides; some of the most destructive animal diseases, like abortion and swine fever, can be prevented by vaccination; new varieties of cereals, with stiffer straw, can be more liberally manured than the old sorts, and so made to yield bigger crops; there is real hope that new varieties of potatoes, that will be immune from the blight and other diseases, will soon be available. Again, tractors, combine harvesters, pick-up hay balers, milking machines and many other labour-saving tools have been invented in the past generation, and efforts are being made to contrive, or to perfect, beet and potato harvesters, dung loaders and many other tools which will help to increase the output of food, to eliminate the hardest jobs and to make farming less dependent on the weather.

But all these new developments are making farming a much more difficult job. The new weed killer, improperly used, may damage the crop; the new insecticide may kill useful insects as well as harmful ones. The new variety of oats may give a better crop, on good land, than the old; but on poor land, or in a cold district, it may fail altogether. A new and complicated machine usually needs more skill and care on the part of the operator; and an expensive machine, even if it does its job well, may be an unprofitable investment for the smaller farmer. Hence all countries are coming to the conclusion that, if all the new resources are to be used to full advantage, it is necessary to have better advisory services for farmers than have existed in the past.

One way to provide for better advice is to give the adviser a chance to specialise. It is becoming quite impossible for any one man or woman to be really expert in every detail of farming. So the N.A.A.S. has its grassland officers, whose job it is to know all about leys and permanent grass, reseeding, pasture management and so forth; it has its livestock husbandry officers who see to it that bad bulls and boars are not kept for breeding, who help in the running of Artificial Insemination Stations and who advise farmers about the breeding and feeding of their herds and flocks. Similarly there are entomologists to deal with insect pests; machinery officers to advise on the selection, use and care of farm machines; farm buildings advisers, poultry officers and many more.

Another difficulty in the past has been that many new things were offered to the farmer before they had been fully tested. Progressive farmers have often paid good money for a new sort of potato, or a new sort of machine, only to find that their money has been wasted. Others, too conservative, have stuck too long to old things and old ways. What is needed is some means of producing reliable information, based on practical experience, as quickly as possible. In order to get this information the N.A.A.S. is setting up about a dozen experimental farms, scattered over the different parts of the country and covering all the different sorts of land, from deep rich silt to thin chalk and heavy clay, and all sorts of climates from that of the dry sunny south coast to that of the wet uplands of Wales and the North.

Then there is another important point. Many countries have had advisory services which have not lived up to expectations because they failed to take account of the fact that the best adviser, in many cases of difficulty, is not the "expert" with a University degree and a training in science, but a good local farmer with long practical experience of the particular conditions. In many cases we can find the right answer to a problem only by a combination of scientific knowledge and practical experience. This is why the N.A.A.S. has been so planned that its staff shall work in close co-operation with the County Agricultural Executives and their District Committees.

It will take several years to get together the staff that will be needed to do all the work that needs to be done and to get the Experimental Farms and laboratories fully equipped. There is a great need for more bulletins, leaflets, films and other means of spreading information. Finally, our science is still very far from complete, and there is need for much more research. It is one of the duties of the N.A.A.S. to sort out the problems that cannot be answered and to pass them over to the research stations.

A World of Plenty will not be achieved overnight. It can be realised only through the combined efforts, over a long term of years, of research workers, teachers, advisers and, above all, farmers and farm workers. But it can be achieved.

CUB EXCAVATING IN SHROPSHIRE

When we were offered the job of "Cub Excavating" we had visions of digging out little foxes! It sounded unusual, so we asked for further particulars. When it was explained that we were wanted to drive a ten ton excavator on land drainage we were a bit doubtful, but eventually took it on. After two weeks' training at Priestman's Driving School, Hull, we came back to Shropshire to take over a machine of our own.

We are mobile workers, our stay lasting from two weeks to six months on one farm, according to the length of ditching to be done. For convenience we had a caravan for eighteen months and moved about, gypsy fashion, wherever our work took us, until we found, one frosty morning, that the bedclothes were frozen to the wall. So we went to live in the Hostel, got a van supplied to us, and drive out daily to work.

In spite of all its intricate gadgets, hand levers, foot gears and what nots, driving an excavator is not so complicated as it looks; though after four years we have probably become "mechanically minded"! The whole procedure is quite simple and rhythmic. The scoop or shovel, for digging, is attached to two ropes, one for hoisting and lowering, the other for dragging in and loosing out, and is operated by hand levers and foot pedals inside the cab. The scoop is lowered into the ditch, dragged to the side and then hoisted out. The whole is then swung clear of the ditch and the contents deposited. Rarely a full week goes by without some minor breakages, such as broken ropes, chains or pipes. The minor repairs are

done by the drivers, the others by a special mechanic who comes for half a day each week for maintenance.

We start our day with greasing the machine, not a very welcome job these cold mornings, and then we set about "starting up". Fortunately we had a self starter fitted recently which is a great help, but not always reliable, and many a cold morning we have to "swing her over". Just when we are about to drop we hear that welcome chug-chug and away she goes. After letting her warm up for a few minutes, we set to work, one in the machine and the other either trimming the already excavated ditch or de-branching trees.

Of course there is always the possibility of getting "bogged", i.e., the ground giving way, and the tracks sinking in. We have been quite lucky in this respect—our worst experience being whilst travelling across some wet, peaty moorland. Suddenly the machine tilted and down went one track, almost out of sight. As we were about to mount the timbers placed in readiness to take the machine it somersaulted over, the crane lying across the grounds, the tracks going round in the air. It took a D4 crowbar with a winch, and about twenty German P.O.W.s a week to re-right her, the cab smashed a little but apart from that no harm done.

Drainage is really a worthwhile job, the completed ditch lies before you like a huge snake, the water draining into it from the fields; and you know that with necessary care and attention from the farmer, your work will last for a good many years.

Salop.

J. Bowler, 36039.
J. Pearson, 29448.

CONGRATULATIONS

To P. Steed, 92812, Norfolk, on winning the Suffield Challenge Cup in the hand milking competition with 96 marks.

And to A. Fuller, 97027, Norfolk, who was the runner up with 95 marks.

And to J. Rivers Fletcher, 17299, and R. Griffiths, 105045, Norfolk, who had the honour of arranging the flowers in Keswick Hall, Norwich, where Their Majesties the King and Queen had lunch on the day of the Royal Norfolk Show.

And to W. B. Wills, 80382, and E. M. Pinches, 172198, lately working in Dorset, who have volunteered and are the only two W.L.A. excavator drivers selected to go from another county with their cub excavator to help in drainage and rehabilitation work in the Fen District.

And to B. Loynes, 160979, Norfolk, who has been awarded a County Council scholarship for her vacancy at the Midland Agricultural College.

And to M. Clayton, 21882, Cumberland, who gained distinction and first class prize on completion of her Vocational Training in agriculture.

And to P. Le Fanu, 28073, East Sussex, who also gained distinction and second class prize on completion of the same course.

And to A. Gathergood, 140232, Norfolk, who has just completed her Vocational Training course in horticulture and gained first prize for examination results.

And to A. Rogers, 160190, Devon, on her coolness and courage in averting a serious accident to her employer when the bull he was leading to a drinking trough started to attack him. Miss Rogers diverted the bull's attention with the aid of a yard broom.

And to E. M. B. Day, 36558, Beds., on gaining three distinctions in recent proficiency tests. Miss Day gained 100 per cent. for field work, 96 per cent. for outdoor garden and 93 per cent. for general farm work. Can anyone beat this record?

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

also keenly interested in the work of the Land Army.

At a party held at Stoke Mandeville, on June 21st, when Lady Barlow (better known as Miss Margaret Rawlings, the famous actress) presented long-service awards, a parting gift of a travelling clock, and a book recording Land Army activities, written on parchment by an Organiser, Miss E. Ryland, and illustrated by Miss Marion Rivers-Moore, an ex-volunteer in this county, was made to Mrs. Fellowes, who expressed her appreciation and said how much the work of the Land Army was still needed.

We have suffered a further very great loss by the resignation of Miss Oxley, County Organiser, who has worked with us since 1939, and now unfortunately has had to leave the County.

We have to report the closing down of three hostels, Little Hampden House, Hambleden Place and Berryfields. Arrangements for entertainment have not been necessary during the busy summer months, but a series of dancing classes has been held at High Wycombe Hostel, and the purchase of a substantial number of new books made possible by a grant from our Welfare Fund.

CORNWALL.—We are delighted to have Mrs. Lindsay Scott with us during the absence of our Secretary. We hope she will enjoy her stay in Cornwall. We are very glad to have good reports of Mrs. Osenton's progress and wish her a speedy recovery.

This year has brought the revival of many Agricultural Shows. On June 28th the W.L.A. arranged a demonstration and various exhibits at the Marazion Show. Great interest was shown by the public, and recruiting leaflets were distributed. Photographs were displayed together with vegetables, fruit, poultry, chicks and dairy produce given by our farmers; a Land Girl gave a demonstration of hand-milking; there was a competition for the "Best Turned Out Land Girl"; produce was auctioned and raised £10 for the Benevolent Fund. At the Royal Cornwall Show we aimed at exhibiting the different types of work done by the Land Army. A local firm lent machinery, including a Fordson Major tractor and implements, and our farmers sent an exhibit of young chicks and produce. There was also a selection of W.L.A. uniform and literature. We were delighted to meet the Land Girls and their employers. The crowds broke all records and there was a constant stream of people who showed a very lively interest in all that we displayed. Many recruitment forms were distributed and the part played by the Land Army in Agriculture was made evident at this very big event in Cornwall.

CUM. AND WES.—This has been a comparatively quiet month in our counties. A successful Turnip Hoeing Competition took place at Toppin Castle in the Carlisle area on 18th June. Lazonby Hostel carried off most of the honours, being the Champion Hostel and providing both the champion W.L.A. hoer, R. Tildsley, and the best hoer in the individual W.L.A. class, J. Turnbull. Brampton, whose P. Blanchard was Reserve Champion, ran a close second. We offer our congratulations to H. Kelso, M. Kellock and A. Burnett, all of Bolton Hall Hostel, who have obtained Proficiency Badges in Pest Destruction work, and to B. English and M. Elliott, both privately employed volunteers, for successfully completing the Correspondence Course. Cliburn Hostel has once again held a dance, this time at Great Strickland, and sent £6 to the County Welfare Fund. We should like to remind new volunteers that the Land Army Club at Woodland House is open every Saturday afternoon and every Tuesday evening. We are always glad to see new members.

DEVON.—It was a pleasure to have Mrs. Jenkins with us in June and her helpful talk to the District Representatives and Committee Members gave them encouragement for the final stages of their work with the W.L.A.

Our County Secretary was one of the four representatives of the W.L.A. throughout the country chosen to attend the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on July 10th. We have enjoyed hearing about the occasion. Charleton Rectory Hostel had a sports evening, and Cleve House Hostel have enjoyed Sunday outings to various beauty spots. The girls of Ventnor House Hostel have taken charge of the garden where they have a badminton court. Moretonhamstead Hostel girls have been entertaining, and been entertained by Pat Kirkwood who is staying in the district. She attended a dance and chose Connie Thomas for this year's Harvest Queen. A music circle has been started at Redworth House Hostel and gives those interested an opportunity of hearing good music. We congratulate Gwen Couch on taking second place in examinations at the completion of the course at Swanley Horticultural College, and H. L. Harrison who came fifth. These two members and D. Jolliffe passed the R.H.S. examination and we are proud of them. We are also glad to know that W. Lomas has done well at the Northants Agricultural Institute, and we wish her every success in the good post she has obtained as bailiff.

DORSET.—Our Chairman writes: "We are all very proud of the distinctions received in the Birthday Honours—the M.B.E. to Miss M. L. Beazley, our County Secretary, and the B.E.M. to Miss Joan Bartlett, W.L.A. No. 13271, one of the first girls who enrolled in Dorset in 1939. These recipients are outstanding for the long and devoted service which they have given in their own spheres and we have taken great pleasure in sending them our congratulations."

The Tolpuddle Martyrs Celebrations Week in Dorchester gave the Land Army in Dorset an opportunity to advertise itself. A decorated shop window in the town aroused considerable interest and a recruiting tent on the Carnival Ground on July 19th was very popular. The real centre of attraction, however, was the "Land Queen" (one of our earliest volunteers) who, with her four courtiers, charmingly attired in Elizabethan costumes which had mostly been made by an enthusiastic Committee member, rode in procession through the County Town on a beautifully decorated farm trailer; this was drawn by a Fordson Major tractor with a five-year tractor driver at the wheel. After the opening ceremony, the "Land Queen" was introduced to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Dalton, M.P. The hay-making and sheep farming tableau was greatly admired. Peasants, hay-makers and land girls in uniform all formed part of the colourful parade. Con-

gratulations to A. Hunt and M. Smith, two of our pest destroyers, who entered their van for the Decorated Vehicles contest and won second prize.

FLINTS.—We have had a large number of trainees in the county. These hail mostly from London and Yorkshire and have settled down remarkably well. Many of the girls declare that they never wish to return to factory or office work and their employers speak very highly of them. Congratulations to E. R. Townshend, 34840, N. Timms, 32667, and M. E. Lewis, 34537, who have been in the W.L.A. for seven years and have worked for the same employer for that length of time.

We are sorry to report that Mary Irving, 182272, met with an accident on her third day of training. Despite this accident, she is anxious to return and finish her training and to continue her work in the W.L.A. This speaks well of Mary's keenness and courage and we wish her good luck and a quick recovery.

It is with regret that we have to report the death of Miss Catherine Gladstone, Committee Member and Area Representative, of this county. We have lost a real friend. Miss Gladstone, whose busy life was in the main devoted to the interest of other people, took a particularly keen interest in the W.L.A.

GLOS.—We are all looking forward very much to the visit in the autumn of our Chief Administrative Officer, Mrs. Jenkins. Mrs. Jenkins will be speaking at an Area Representatives' and Wardens' Meeting and we hope she will have time to visit one or two of the hostels.

Barbara Dart, 30095, is the winner of Mrs. Bathurst's long, good service prize for September. Miss Dart was enrolled in the W.L.A. on April 24th, 1940. We all send her congratulations on winning this prize which she very much deserves, and wish her every success for the future. Our congratulations and thanks go to Barbara Tilley for her grand job of collecting for the County Welfare Fund. Miss Tilley is a driver for the G.A.E.C. at their Churchham Agricultural Camp and a collecting tin never leaves her side. One week recently she collected £2 4s. 6d. "Keltie" and "Clover", the two sheep dogs belonging to Miss Flemming, our County Organiser, have again collected for the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds at the Bath and West Show and the Three Counties Show. Two of our volunteers are at present at Ashton Wold Convalescent Home. They are full of appreciation of the grand way they are being looked after.

HEREFORDS.—Our County Secretary, Miss Davies, was married on 21st June, and is now Mrs. Walker. We wish her the best of luck for the future.

The Three Counties Show, held on July 10th, 11th and 12th, was a tremendous success. It was the first time the Show had been held since the war and a record attendance was achieved. The W.L.A. stand was a great attraction and we had a continual stream of visitors. We had an attractive display of fruit and vegetables, which the Vale of Evesham farmers supplied, and these were sold in aid of the Benevolent Fund. Gloucestershire and Worcestershire W.L.A. each had a day for looking after the stand and the two Shetland sheep dogs from Gloucester brought in over £4 for the Benevolent Fund. All the girls have been very busy in the fine weather, but several hostels have managed to organise outings. On June 29th, Brockington and St. Peter's Hostels went to Porthcawl and the girls from Morastown House and Three Crosses went there on 13th July. Woobley girls have been to Stratford-on-Avon and the Wardens and girls from St. Peter's and The Burcotts have been invited to a dance at the R.A.F. Sergeants' Mess at Credenhill. The Training Hostel at Morastown House was officially opened on June 2nd by our Chairman, Lady Lettice Cotterell, who welcomed the first trainees. We hope this training will prove really valuable.

HUNTS, CAMBS. AND ELY.—We welcome to our county the forty girls who are now in the new Hostel at Mepal. Amongst them are two Dorset volunteers, Miss Wills and Miss Pinches, who have volunteered to do land drainage in the fens. Mrs. Andrews is a very energetic and thoughtful warden and the Assistant Warden is Miss W. Stott, a member of the W.L.A. for five years and now a member of the Orderly Corps. Our model, "What the Land Army has done for you," has been touring the county Agricultural Shows and attracting a great deal of attention. It was displayed at the Cambs. and Hunts. Shows and then travelled to Lincoln for its great day at the Royal. It is hoped that it will be on show at Thame in September. Miss J. M. Arnold who claimed her release in April after seven years' service has not finished with the land. She is now running her uncle's farm in Devon. He has been ill for a long time and has had great labour difficulties so Miss Arnold has a big job in front of her. She intends to have a few cows, two pigs and a little poultry. Good luck to her. The forty volunteers who have taken the Government Training Course at Newton Hall left us on 14th August and the next batch of L.A. girls will be moving in shortly. The course at the Hall is very comprehensive and fits the girls for responsible jobs afterwards. Mr. Rhodes is a popular Principal.

I.O.W.—Proficiency tests in hand and machine milking were held recently. Seventeen volunteers took part successfully and four passed with distinction. Special congratulations go to Pat Ward for gaining 94 marks for hand milking and 92 for machine, the highest figure awarded in both tests. Although there was a fall in the number of volunteers employed in the Island last winter—largely due to appalling weather conditions—for some months now there has been a steady upward trend and it is interesting to note that the number now employed in dairy work is in excess of those employed in field work and horticulture combined. The Royal I.O.W. Agricultural Show was held at Newport on July 17th. Several L.A. members helped in the various tents and with the livestock. On June 22nd at the invitation of the Vicar, all the girls at Sandown Hostel attended Church Parade in uniform. They looked extremely smart and a warm welcome was extended to them by the Vicar in his sermon. After taking a horticulture course at Swanley, Phyllis King is back with her former employer Mr. Walmsley. Fay Read, ex-W.L.A. 154022, who was with us for over two years but returned to Middlesex last April, has now taken a job at a Rehabilita-

tion Centre for Disabled Seamen, near Guildford. Though still in the early stages of development, the work promises to be extraordinarily interesting. Some immense farm buildings are still under construction and a herd of Red Polls is being built up. We wish Fay every success. Cora Bramham has just resigned after over six years' service, five of these years being with one employer.

KENT.—On July 8th our County Chairman, Lady Violet Astor, gave a most delightful party for the County Office Staff, County Organisers, District and Local Representatives and Hostel Wardens. It was particularly fortunate that Miss Doman, the Headquarters Area Organiser, was able to come too. Hever Castle is a lovely place, once the home of Anne Boleyn, and is full of beautiful and interesting things of great historic interest. Outside there is a wonderful garden with tennis courts and a lake in which guests were invited to swim. Unfortunately the weather was not very kind and only one member of the party was brave enough to have a bath! There was the home farm to see also with its famous herd of Guernseys and the splendid bull who scored such a triumph at the Maidstone Agricultural Show the next day. A picnic had been arranged but the weather was too cold and a party of eighty or so sat down to a very delectable tea indoors—altogether a most enjoyable afternoon.

A hand milking proficiency test was held at Borden Farm Institute, Sittingbourne on July 2nd. Seven W.L.A. members entered and five passed. The Judges considered that they all showed good practical ability.

Our congratulations to the girls of Swadlands Hostel who organised a successful dance in aid of the Great Ormond Street Hospital, and raised over £5.

LANCS.—It was very interesting and encouraging to note that all the letters in the correspondence column of the June issue of "Land Army News" were from volunteers recruited in Lancashire, and that in spite of their varied occupations prior to joining the W.L.A., they had all settled down and were enjoying their new jobs. On June 30th Commander Campbell of the B.B.C. appealed for volunteers for the W.L.A. and the Harvest Camps from the stage of the Trocadero Cinema in Liverpool. E. A. Bond, 67128 and M. L. Bond, 100514, two sisters who have completed over 5 years' service, were on duty in the foyer of the cinema to distribute the Harvest Camp leaflet, and they were thrilled when Commander Campbell asked to be photographed with them by the Gaumont British camera man. We would like to congratulate Joyce Campstey, 113257, who won the hand milking competition for the North Lancashire Y.F.C. on May 5th.

We are very happy to welcome home Lady Worsley Taylor, our Chairman, who has just returned from a most wonderful trip to America.

LEICS. AND RUT.—We are all very sorry that Miss Parker has left us but we welcome Miss Ross in her place.

Whissendine Hostel is now open. We hope the occupants will be very happy there. The first Relief Milking Scheme in Rutland is now operating and both milkers and farmers are well satisfied. We are very grateful to the Hostel girls and friends who have organised efforts to swell the Benevolent Fund on which we are continually drawing to help members who have fallen on bad times. The inter-hostel darts competition was won by Market Bosworth Hostel. The final match was very thrilling and it is hoped that this competition will be arranged again next winter.

LINCS.—As the wedding dresses sent to us from America are no longer available, the County Welfare Fund has kindly given one for the use of land girls in the county. It has been made by an ex-Timber Corps girl whom the Benevolent Fund helped with the purchase of an electric sewing machine. The dress has been so designed to be adjustable to the wearer and we hope to have a veil to go with it. The Royal Show being in Lincoln this year, we had the privilege of preparing an exhibit on behalf of the Land Army. We were pleased to see so many land girls from nearby and far distant counties, some coming with their employers and some alone. The farmers who paid us a visit took a delight in expressing their appreciation of the work their land girls had done and were still doing. We had many foreign visitors anxious to know how the Land Army was run.

Mrs. Rombulow-Pearse has joined our staff as Organiser for the North of Lindsey and we hope she will enjoy working with us.

THE ROYAL NORFOLK SHOW

The Royal Norfolk Centenary Show took place on June 25th and 26th at Keswick Hall, near Norwich, in perfect weather. We are proud to feel that the Land Army took a prominent part in such a distinguished event.

On the first day the hand milking competition for the Suffield Challenge Cup was held. Five land girls competed and the judge considered the standard of work very good. P. Steed was the winner with 96 marks.

The second day of the Show was full of excitement. Mr. Godfrey Beasley of the B.B.C. interviewed V. Eyans and the recorded talk was broadcast that evening. It was also the day on which Their Majesties the King and Queen visited the Show. On their arrival in the Grand Ring, various officials were presented, including our County Chairman, Lady Suffield, and the Chairman of the Welfare Committee, Lady Upcher.

Many land girls were among the watching crowds and the Queen spoke to several groups and seemed to have a special smile for those she could not speak to. On hearing that one group came from Creak, she told them "I know North Creak" which delighted them.

The climax of the day was reached after Their Majesties had returned to the Grand Ring. Miss Tillett, our County Secretary, led the Challenge Cup winner and seven other land girls who were to receive their six-year armlets into the ring. Miss Tillett was presented first to the King and then to the Queen and the girls then received their awards from Her Majesty. Those presented were P. Steed, M. Betts, K. Drinkwater, Mrs. Walpole, P. Downes, J. Doggett, V. Evans, C. Froude.

After this, Their Majesties entered their car, drove slowly round the ring and left the Show.