



EDITORIAL NOTES

IT has been said that the chief drawback to joining the Land Army is the absence of opportunity it offers for promotion. There is some truth in this criticism but much of the attraction of the Land Army lies in its freedom from regimentation. Though there is no way through N.C.O.'s and officer ranks to the Field Marshal's baton every land girl must be capable of acting on her own initiative at any time and often at short notice has to assume responsibilities which would be most unlikely to come her way in a more regimented service.

However, in the Land Army recognised forms of promotion do exist though they are not marked by stripes or pips. For example, some land girls who started with trembling fingers to draw a few drops of milk from a reluctant cow, have risen to the position of Head Herdswomen in complete charge of pedigree attested herds valued at many thousand pounds. Others control acres of food-stuffs, the correct cultivation of which makes all the difference between well-being or hunger to hundreds of animals and human beings.

Another form of promotion is connected with field work. Just now when hundreds of new recruits are joining each week, Gang Leaders and Forewomen are much in demand. In the Land Army, Gang Leaders and Forewomen work with their gangs and do not just stand aside and order them about. A Forewoman may do some clerical work but not more than 25 per cent. of her time may be spent in this way. These posts are no sinecure. Not only must the Forewoman and Gang Leader possess qualities of leadership and be able to inspire a team spirit in those she leads. She must also be so expert and knowledgeable herself that she can teach new recruits the easiest and quickest way of handling unfamiliar tools and tackling jobs which are utterly strange to them. And more important still, if she knows enough about agriculture herself she can awaken interest in even the most monotonous jobs by explaining to her gang the place and importance of each operation in the cycle of the seasons.

Any land girl who would like to be considered for promotion to Gang Leader or Forewoman should get into touch with her County Secretary. The change of job may

mean a move within the county or even to another county for all will appreciate the truth of the saying "a prophet hath no honour in his own country".

PASTURES NEW

Vacancies

West Sussex. Experienced poultry worker, with knowledge of incubators, required for flock of 700. Lt. Sussex and Rhode Island Red. Paraffin incubator now. Electric Tapworth to be installed shortly. Salary above minimum. Farm 42 acres. Another girl required for elementary tractor driving, general farm and milking one cow. Both girls to share bedroom and sitting room.

Staffordshire. First class poultry farm requires experienced worker to take charge. Poultry side being extended. Billet on the farm. One other girl is employed on general work.

Isle of Wight. Experienced general and poultry worker required with understanding of incubators. Must be prepared to take over and be responsible for rearing of chicks. Village billet. Wage above minimum if sufficiently experienced.

West Riding of Yorkshire. Girl required to take complete charge of W.L.A. Hostel Garden. Would be entirely responsible for planning and management and should have good experience of vegetable growing. A little flower work. Wage £3 9s. Billet in hostel.

Posts Wanted

Lancashire member, Swanley trainee, aged 23, wants job in school or institution under good head gardener. Would like ornamental and flower garden if possible in Midlands or South.

Experienced Warwickshire member wants post at Research or Experimental Station in Midlands. Has received training in general horticulture at Swanley. Ambitious and enthusiastic.

Experienced Essex member, aged 36, wants private garden post under good head gardener. Flowers and propagation if possible. Some market gardening not objected to. One year's training at Swanley. Satisfactory report.

TRADE UNIONISM AND THE W.L.A.

Every member of the Land Army should give serious thought to the pros and cons of trade unionism and decide for herself whether or not to join a Union. The two largest Trade Unions whose membership is open to agricultural workers are the National Union of Agricultural Workers and the Transport and General Workers' Union. Many Land Army members have joined one or other of these Unions.

In an article contributed during the war to the Land Army's magazine, Mr. Arthur Holness of the N.U.A.W., writes as follows on

the advantages of trade union membership:—

"In nothing is the value of Union membership more clearly shown than in the free legal help it arranges. As a rule, solicitors charge anything between three and five guineas to attend Court, and when one considers the small contribution paid by members, even on this benefit alone they reap great advantage. If members of the Union meet with accidents they are well looked after. In addition to accident benefit and weekly compensation payments, the Union obtains lump sum settlements in many cases. In running down and miscellaneous accident cases outside working hours, legal advice and assistance is given. The Union has dealt successfully with a number of claims on behalf of volunteers.

"There is no matter affecting the conditions of rural life which is not a matter of interest and effort to the Union. It works not only for economic but also for social and cultural ends. Many women will want to stay on the land when their Land Army service is over. They cannot do better than join the movement upon the success of which the future of the land worker depends."

CONGRATULATIONS

To Margaret Mills, ex-W.L.A., 59101, W. Suffolk, who has passed the first year examination for the N.D.P. and has also come top in the Harper Adams Agricultural College examinations.

And to May Pickstock, 55758, Oxon., who for the second year in succession has won a ploughing competition for two-furrow ploughing. The other five competitors were men.

And to G. Pyman, 84025, Cambs., who has been appointed Dairy Assistant and Demonstrator to the Milk Advisory Officer of the C.W.A.E.C.

And to Elsie Carter, 59741, Essex, who was a successful competitor in the driving class at the Royal Windsor Horse Show, winning a first prize silver cup, merit badge and rosette awarded for the best exhibit in the class by the National Horse Association. Altogether her pony has won six firsts this year and two seconds.

And to Kathleen Hood, 96372, W. Suffolk, who is the first woman to be elected to the Stanningfield Farmers' Club Committee.

And to Rosemary Walker, 48684, Yorks., N. and E.R., a six-year volunteer, who has obtained a Ministry scholarship from Newton Hall Training Centre to Aberystwyth for three years.

And to Joan Birchall, 51136, Surrey, who gained first prize (2 rosettes) at the Haywards Heath Autumn Show and Sale for the pedigree attested Jersey cow and its twelve weeks old calf which she had reared from birth.

And to K. Thompson, 171207, Som., who at Yeovil Show won four prizes for cheese-making and the Reserve Championship.

A "DIRT FARMER" TOURS U.S.A.

Lady Worsley-Taylor, W.L.A. Chairman for Lancashire, has recently returned from a trip to America and passes on to the Land Army some of her agricultural experiences.

"A real dirt farmer" this is how America describes those of us who are *not* what we in this country call "knob stick farmers". I expect most members of the W.L.A. feel the description to be both true and expressive. Anyway I was proud of the compliment when I heard myself described as a "dirt farmer" to my first American audience and as a "dirt farmer" I travelled all round America from East to West and from North to South seeing much and learning much, making new friends and everywhere receiving the warmest of welcomes and the most hospitable entertainment.

First of all I had to learn that "corn" in America means what in England is called Indian corn or maize and that wheat, oats or barley are called "small grains". Until that fact is firmly implanted in one's mind, talk is apt to be at cross purposes. Next, I realised that not all rural houses in America have the modern amenities of electric appliances and water supplies that we conjure up in a mental picture of life over there. The American country housewife is better equipped than her English sister but the "deep freeze" or even the electric iron is not yet universal in rural homes and quite a number have not even an inside water tap. This last I think does not apply to the more prosperous districts.

I went from state to state in America and it was in Pennsylvania that I saw what must surely be one of the most intensively managed turkey farms in the world; perhaps turkey "factory" would be a truer description. Here 20,000 birds yearly are grown on the battery system. That is to say that they are incubated, hatched, reared, fattened electrocuted, plucked on a conveyor belt, and finally handed over to the retailers with a ruthless efficiency which to me seemed to deprive them of that small amount of individuality to which surely even a turkey is entitled. I should eat my Christmas dinner with less relish if I felt the poor bird had met its fate without any of the pleasures of a good wing stretch and picking around for an occasional titbit on a green sward; not to mention the fun of scaring the more timid visitors.

In Oregon on the far West Coast, I found the world's record butter fat Jersey cow. This was a farm of a very different character. Here only a small herd of about thirty Jerseys was kept and looked after by a man and his wife without any hired help, but with an extreme of individual attention and loving care. Lovely animals these Jerseys, but housed in wooden buildings with wooden floors which would have brought all the health authorities in England in a buzz like a swarm of angry wasps on to the doorsteps. I asked the farmer if he had far to go for a pedigree market but he told me that he could sell every animal in the herd before it was born, chiefly to South America.

The Jersey is almost the most popular breed of dairy cow in the U.S.A. with Guernseys, Holsteins, Ayrshires and Brown Swiss all strong rivals. At the University Farms I saw, —of which I think there is one in every state, —I found all of these herds but far fewer Shorthorns than we see in England. Where Shorthorns are kept they are of the "dual-purpose" rather than the real dairy Shorthorn type. One very fine herd I did see about thirty miles from San Francisco with a "romance" attached to it. The farmer and his wife had first met over Shorthorn showing at Chicago and a very happy marriage had resulted. The wife's family had been in Shorthorn breeding for five generations and her children, the sixth generation, were showing equal interest. The farmer told me that his

land was very rich in the mineral content of the soil, and judging from the size and condition of the stock, this must have been true. I told him that if he was not careful his herd would revert to the aboriginal "bison" for size and stamina. (Here I must mention that I did see one small herd of wild bison grazing quite near the train on the journey from Los Angeles to New Orleans.)

Near San Francisco I saw something of a type of farming of which we know nothing in this country, namely vine growing and wine production. California produces every type of wine made on the continents of Europe, but the Americans still seem to prefer the products of the old vineyards and pay very high prices for imported wines. I visited one winery which had been started by a Finn about a hundred years ago. He was a retired sea-captain by trade and had fitted up his office like a cabin on board ship and so it remains to-day, a monument to the love for the sea that seems to abide forever with so many of those who have once known a sea-faring way of life.

Of course, in California I drove through wonderful fruit farms. I had expected fruit farms in California, but what I had not realised was how much of the fertility has been made possible by irrigation and how arid the country is away from the coastal belt. Los Angeles, those "sixty suburbs looking for a city", is dependent upon water brought very long distances.

Olvera Street in the old quarter of this town would be a grand place to spend all a year's savings on "souvenirs". Gaily coloured handkerchiefs, Mexican hats of enormous size, painted tortoiseshells, fantastic and delicious glass ornaments. All the oddments it is such fun to buy and so difficult to house. Dollar shortage enabled me to resist temptation.

It was amongst the cotton fields and tobacco plantations of South Carolina that I struck the strangest coincidence of my trip. There I met an "exchange" school teacher who was coming to an English country school which proved to be in a remote village not ten miles distant from where I am now writing.

This gave me a thought. If "exchange" school teachers why not "exchange" land girls. We have a lot to learn from America and America from us. It would be a grand experience for both sides. If Mr Tom Williams reads the "Land Army News", I hope he will think it a good idea.

WHY NOT BE A HOSTEL ORDERLY?

If your choice is the Land Army but not to work on the land itself, why not be a hostel orderly? It is domestic work like polishing and scrubbing but of course that can be very interesting.

I get up every day at half past six and begin by polishing and dusting the hostel, office. I have breakfast at seven o'clock and for this I am allowed three quarters of an hour. Then I wash up and start on the common room—a very attractive room which the girls keep bright with flowers.

I have a special job for each day of the week so the work does not become monotonous. I may be scrubbing out the common room, or the Warden's bathroom or perhaps the larders and passages. I have a break at ten o'clock until ten minutes past when I finish off what I call my own work, then I peel the potatoes and wash the greens. When this is done and I have had lunch it is usually about two o'clock. I am finished then until four and as there is plenty of hot water I can always have a bath.

At four o'clock we begin work again and as there are two of us, one makes some tea and gets the plates ready while the other lays the tables for the girls' dinner.

My last job was selling sweets in a Woolworth's Store and there's a lot of differ-

ence between domestic work and confectionery. However I am not sorry I joined the W.L.A.; as a matter of fact it is the only job I have been really happy in since I left school. When I went for my interview in London and was told that I would have to go to a hostel, I rather dreaded it but it's a grand life and I wouldn't go back to shop work for anything. So I repeat, why not be a hostel orderly?

W. Sussex.

Eunice White, 179688.

LANDGIRL'S LIBRARY

Your Smallholding. Edited by Alan Thompson. A Penguin handbook. 1s.

Whether you are interested in the subject or not, expend 1s. and read what a team of experts, (controlled by the well-known broadcaster and editor of "The Poultry Farmer"), has to say on a most controversial way of earning a livelihood. Every aspect is covered, from milk to bees, and when the last page has been turned, the reader will know the difficulties and trials which beset those who adopt this way of life. In spite of this, the door has not been completely closed to those who aspire to wrench a living from the soil and at the same time to be their own master.

There are some excellent illustrations, the whole book is well up to the standard expected of Penguin books.

K.D.

We are grateful to the "Farmers Weekly" for allowing us to reproduce a list of books for winter reading designed to provide "background knowledge" of the farming industry and farming life. A further list will be published in another issue.

Rural Rides and Cottage Economy, by Cobbett; **The Farming Ladder**, by George Henderson; **Norfolk Life**, by Lilian Rider Haggard; **The Farm on the Hill**, and all others by Alison Uttley; **No Rain in those Clouds**, by David Smith; **The Country Labourer**, by J. L. Hammond; **The Living Soil**, by E. B. Balfour; **The Road to Nowhere**, by Maurice Walsh; **Great Farmers**, by Scott Watson and Hobbs; **Corduroy and Silver Ley**, by Adrian Bell; **The Way of the Land**, by Sir George Stapledon; **The Snow and the Earth Remain**, by Crichton Porteous; **Tinker's Pride**, by Nigel Tranter; **The Wisdom of the Fields and Where Man Belongs**, by H. J. Massingham.

Giving books this Christmas? Some copies of "Miss Baxter and I" by Isobel Mount are still to be had from the Editor, LAND ARMY NEWS, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1. Price, including postage, 2s. 9d. each, 16s. for six, 31s. for twelve.

DEVON

I wonder if the birds still sing
In those Devon lanes,
And if the rainbow sweeps the sky
Whenever it rains.
Does the dog still wait by the gate
With puzzled eyes?
What of the dark grey clouds,
The blue skies?
Is that stream bubbling still,
Down through the meadows,
Where in heat of day the cows stood,
Casting plump shadows?
Still in my heart will no years alter
One hand on a dog, one hand on a halter.
I go through Devon lanes,
Hear the birds sing,
Laugh at the blue skies,
Scorn the frost's sting.

Devon.

J. M. Winn, 72135.

CORRESPONDENCE

From an ex-Land Army member now in her third year at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Dear Editor,

I should like to put down a few of my impressions during two years at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

It seemed strange at first not to rise with the lark to call the cows but those five years on the land were an experience that few of us would be without. They were long enough to show the wholesomeness and satisfaction of this type of existence but also long enough to show the seamy side of the labourer's life and to make us grasp at the opportunity of bettering ourselves in the agricultural world.

The first year of the three year course here consists entirely of pure sciences and seemed, at first, rather far from our needs but much of it forms a very necessary grounding for the applied sciences of agriculture which follow.

The academic part of the life, however, is by no means a full time job (except, perhaps, at certain critical seasons!) and it is possible to balance the physical and social activities against the mental to obtain a well ordered whole.

There are over a thousand students here—a little more than two thirds of them men who, as in most of such institutions, are predominantly "ex-Service". Ten members of this hostel are ex-members of the Land Army and we seem to have brought our own particular flavour to the mealtime conversation. Some of our stories of farm life may have caused the music and art students to raise their eyebrows. Familiarity breeds confidence and our Land Army experience has stood us in good stead, for nothing in university life can give cause for such trepidation as one feels when faced with one's first cow, a bucket and stool and a grinning circle of farm labourers. One is perhaps most grateful for those long sometimes hard years in the Land Army when, at an oral examination, only a potato haulm and a formidable pile of examination books separate one from one's professor.

For those who pine for a more active life of the old sort there are long vacs, during which one can fall into the familiar routine of farm life from which it is difficult at times to realise one has ever broken away.

For my part I shall always be grateful to the W.L.A.—not only for rescuing me from the soul-killing monotony of a Westminster office, but for setting my feet on the road leading to knowledge and understanding of the natural world about us.

Berks.

M. E. Gillham, 39170.

Dear Editor,

I do wish to thank everyone concerned for the help I received from the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.

In taking the course at the Constance Spry School of Flower Work, I gained experience and knowledge which I now find of great benefit to me in my work in a florist's shop where I am very happy indeed.

Lancs.

Barbara Hayton, ex-W.L.A.
76043.

Dear Editor,

I think Betty Green of West Sussex must have visited a "gentleman's farm". From what I have seen of French country women, they work as hard, if not harder than the men and not only harvest all fruit and vegetables but also trudge to market with the heavy baskets. They do nearly all the field work, often working all daylight hours and feeding the chickens is left to the toddlers!

Kent.

D. Suckling, 124346.

On 18th October, 1947, the enrolled strength of the Land Army was 26,700.

BENEVOLENT FUND

In the early months of 1945 the Land Army was over 60,000 strong. Many of its members were making plans for weddings when their fiancés could be released from the Forces, whilst others had to leave the Land Army to care for their parents. Most of these girls had known very little of home management in an era of rations, and so the Committee of the Benevolent Fund decided to open a centre where girls could have a free training in homecraft before undertaking their household responsibilities. The Land Army is considerably smaller now, which means that the demand for training vacancies has lessened. For this reason it has been decided not to continue the courses after the end of February, 1948. When you read these notes, there will be only three courses left so don't lose your last opportunity. If you wish to reserve a place for yourself, write immediately to your County Secretary for further particulars, and remember to ask your employer if he can let you have a month's leave. The course is free and the Benevolent Fund will give you a pocket money allowance.

Here is the story of another girl the Fund has been able to assist during a serious illness. Three years ago Miss X left the Land Army after long and excellent service. She had always been lame but this disability became more of a handicap and eventually she had to undergo a serious operation. She had no near relatives to whom she could turn and the Benevolent Fund assisted her during a long period of convalescence. By her own enterprise Miss X has now obtained a resident post in Canada and has just flown out to start her new life. To this girl who has had such a very difficult time we send our best wishes and hope that she will thoroughly enjoy her new home and work.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Following the announcement in the September issue of LAND ARMY NEWS under the above title it is feared that some members may have interpreted this scheme rather optimistically so this further note is being given to clear up points which may not have been fully understood. The student exchange scheme was originally designed to help young British farmers, with a varied experience of conditions in this country, to go to a farm abroad and work there for six to twelve months in order to learn different methods and farming systems and later apply that knowledge to their own farms. In return, young farmers from abroad would come and work on British farms for similar periods. Land Army members may be included under this scheme but the number that can be placed is likely to be small for some time owing to difficulties in placing women on farms abroad, and to the greater difficulties in arranging for a farm to take the exchanged foreign worker. All applicants wanting to go abroad must be fully trained workers able to do useful work on farms to which they are sent and for this purpose Land Army members must have a number of years' experience and preference will always be given to members with the longest service. The scheme is at present operating only with Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Switzerland and France, and since the agricultural students may not always be placed with English-speaking families it is advisable that they know enough of the language of the country to make themselves understood. The wages abroad are designed to cover living expenses and allow for pocket money but fares to and from the country must be paid by the student. The National Farmers' Union will receive all applications and will select applicants in consultation with W.L.A. Headquarters. Selected applicants should then obtain passports and make their own travel arrangements ready to proceed to the appointed farm when instructed. All applicants should consider carefully the

type of farm they wish to visit, and consider the country of their choice in relation to the farming practice of that country since there is little purpose in visiting a country to study a type of farming that is less advanced there than here.

This exchange of workers with other countries should be very valuable experience for all concerned but it should be remembered that a lot of hard work is involved and it is not a holiday scheme, but an opportunity for gaining experience offered only to people who are already making a career of agriculture. The choice of farm will be made by the sponsoring authority in each country, but it is not expected that any farmer will take more than one trainee at a time.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

Higher rates of National Health Insurance benefit will come into force next July. If you are in doubt as to whether your contributions are up to date ask your Society. You will lose your right to sickness and disablement benefit from January, 1948, unless you have thirty-six contributions to your credit for the year ending 6th July, 1947. The latest date for paying arrears to make up the thirty-six contributions is 30th November, 1947. In your own interest you should check the contributions on your record card now and if in doubt refer to your Society as this year Approved Societies will not automatically notify members of what arrears are owing.

Please avoid the horrible fate
Of Jane Jemima Clackett;
She froze and died at a terrible rate
For the want of a Windproof Jacket.

Windproof jackets may be purchased from
your County Office for £1 and 4 coupons.

COUNTY NEWS

MONMOUTH.—A lot has happened in this county since the last County Newsletter was published. It was with sincere regret that we said goodbye to our County Secretary, Miss C. E. E. Hopkin, M.B.E., who had held this post since the Land Army's inception. She takes up her new post as Secretary of the Women's Farm and Garden Association with our very good wishes for her success and happiness in the future. On September 20th a Farewell Party was held in Newport, to which every land girl and those closely connected with the Land Army in Monmouthshire were invited. The Lady Raglan, our Chairman; Mr. H. J. Morgan, W.A.E.C. Executive Officer; Mrs. Apin, Committee member, and Mr. Blake, Farmers' Union, all expressed their admiration for Miss Hopkin's work during her time with the Land Army. Nora Poole, who has been in the Land Army for eight years in this county, presented Miss Hopkins with a wallet containing £57 16s., a gift from all land girls and those connected with the Land Army. Lady Raglan gave Miss Hopkin the first eight-year armlet to be presented.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome as County Secretary Mrs. P. M. Davies who has been on the staff since 1941, and is well known to all girls during the past three years as an Organiser. On October 2nd we moved to new premises, and our address is now: W.L.A. County Office, Avenue Road, Abergavenny, where we held a housewarming party for the office staff, at which Lady Raglan and Miss E. A. Parry, Regional Organiser, were present.

NORFOLK.—Winter activities in Hostels are now beginning in earnest. Mrs. Harkness Browne of the Central Council for Health Education is giving talks at all Hostels; the tour began on October 13th and finished on October 24th and was much appreciated. A mobile film unit will also shortly be doing a tour with a new series of films, which will be very welcome at the more isolated hostels. Help and advice is being received from the Norfolk Education Committee, and Dr. Ralphs, the Youth Services Organiser, is hoping to arrange for some classes in hostels to take place shortly and for others in the New Year. The County Drama Organiser is also visiting a hostel, where it is hoped that his talk will be the prelude to the production of a play. North Creake Hostel has re-opened and the Warden and girls have raised £20 for Kelling Sanatorium by means of a whistle drive and dance. The County Welfare Fund has benefited by £14 6s. from Long's House, and £3 12s. 6d. from Thurning Hall—the result of dances. Plans are being made to enable some privately employed members to visit a sugar beet factory, provided that transport difficulties can be overcome, and a party will be held at the Lads' Club, Norwich, on December 13th for all who can come. The entertainment will probably consist of a play and community singing. Our hearty congratulations go to J. Fletcher, 17299, F. Hood, 20753, Mrs. Long, 9251, and P. Walpole, 17251, who have all completed eight years' service.

NORTHANTS.—The outstanding event during the last two months was the County Agricultural Show on September 13th. The W.L.A. had a very successful tent, where all W.L.A. members were able to meet. There was a Recruiting Stand and Information Bureau and an exhibition of easily made, coupon free, Xmas presents, with Miss Muggleton, one of our Wardens and an expert in Handicrafts, in charge to help with ideas and suggestions. There was an excellent tea, which 300 enjoyed and also a liberal supply of ices. Miss Lees, our County Chairman, was helping and various Committee members and almost all the office staff, and everyone enjoyed meeting everyone else.

Our hostels are now full and we welcome the many new volunteers who have come to help us. Winter activities in hostels are being organised; a "Table Tennis Tournament," "Brains Trusts," "Concert Parties," "Handicrafts Exhibition," and various other entertainments.

We welcome Miss Newell, who has returned as a County Organiser. She finds many old friends here and is making many new ones.

NORTH'D.—In October a cheque for £500 was sent to H.Q. from the County Office for the Benevolent Fund. This sum had gradually been accumulated during the past year through the keenness and hard work of W.L.A. members both on farms and in hostels, of members of committee and the office staff. Dances seem to have been the most popular source of income. Order your Xmas cards in good time from the County office, and so save yourself the disappointment of hearing they are all sold out.

£12 was our contribution towards the Land Army wedding present to Princess Elizabeth. Unfortunately, many subscriptions came in too late to be included.

Congratulations to the 12 Committee members and local representatives and the 35 members who joined the Land Army before the war and who are now due to receive an armlet for eight years' service. E. M. Kendle, 29108, and R. N. F. Whitfield, B.E.M., 25768, will qualify for this award in December.

581 members were employed in the County in October, about 100 less than at this time last year.

OXON.—At the Thame Agricultural show on 18th September, the W.L.A. had an Information Tent which attracted many visitors, as well as past and present Land Girls. The Harvest Festival Service was held at the City Church, Oxford, on 5th October, and we were delighted with the splendid attendance of over 100 Land Girls. The Bishop of Oxford preached and the many generous gifts were presented by eleven of the girls and the Lesson was read by another one. On 22nd November we are holding a Handicraft Exhibition in the County Hall, Oxford. There are several classes ranging from a design for a Christmas Card to the best darned Land Army sock, so we hope that many hidden talents will come to light. During the winter we are having a series of M.O.I. Film Shows and also hope to organise Cookery Demonstrations and Keep Fit Classes. Our heartfelt congratulations go to the nine Land Army members in this County who have completed eight years' service.

We were very sorry to say goodbye, on 18th October, to Miss Bowring who has been our Hostels Officer for the past three years. However, she is not quite lost to us as she is going to work in the Stationery Department at Headquarters and we wish her the very best of luck there.

SALOP.—Montford Bridge Hostel girls are still missing their Warden, Miss White, who has been seriously ill and we hope that she will soon be back with us. We should like to thank the West Sussex Office Staff who have been so kind about visiting Miss White whilst she has been in hospital in that county. Five further outings bring to an end our series of one-day trips arranged for hostel and other volunteers. These have proved a very welcome innovation and have been greatly enjoyed. Volunteers have been most enthusiastic about the Health Talks recently given by Mrs. Harkness Brown of the Central Council for Health Education. We hope she will return to us early in the year to complete a course of three lectures. Shropshire Hostel Wardens attended an Inter-County Wardens' Conference which was recently held in Cheshire, and would like to express their thanks to Miss Keith for her most interesting and helpful talk, and to Mrs. Harkness Brown who was the second speaker. We wish to thank Cheshire for inviting us to their County and for their kind hospitality. The R.A.F. National Horticultural Trophy was recently won by Cosford Aerodrome, and we must congratulate D. Lawson, 168600, J. Adamson, 173400 and J. Morris, 170934 who work there, for the part they played in securing the Trophy for the Station. As a token of appreciation from the R.A.F. our volunteers went to London to be presented with the Trophy and were given their travelling expenses.

SOM.—Looking back over the changes of the past eight years it is interesting to note that our Chairman, Lady Langman, has been our leader from the commencement of the W.L.A. in Somerset. To celebrate the eighth birthday of the W.L.A. Lady Langman gave a party at her lovely home, Cadbury Court, where long service members and district representatives spent an enjoyable afternoon inspecting the farms and partaking of a sumptuous tea—finishing off with an enormous cake on which burnt eight candles. Beckington Hostel is to be congratulated on winning prizes for flowers and vegetables in the local Flower Show and for organising a successful dance which raised over £14 for the Benevolent Fund. We have received 17 entries for Proficiency Tests which are being held next month.

We were sorry to say "goodbye" to Mrs. Crossley, one of our County Organisers, last month.

STAFFS.—The harvest of hay and corn having been successfully achieved, the sequence of the farming year is now seen in activity amongst roots; the cry for weather-proof leggings and gumboots is heard, and backs have to be broken into the task of bending. New recruits, mainly for export, are keeping our Enrolment and Employment Department busy. There is a certain amount of home sickness, and we are particularly grateful to the experienced Land Army members who with such kindness strive to make things cheerful for the new-comer.

All our hostels are full, and plans and discussions for evening occupation during the autumn and winter months are under consideration. Dunston has organised a representative committee, in co-operation with the Warden and Assistant Warden, for this purpose. "Make do and Mend" nights, still necessary with reduced coupons, are popular. Each hostel has its open night once a week for visitors. Arrangements are made for visits to cinemas and dances as frequently as possible. Brewdow held a successful dance in aid of the County Welfare Fund last month. The S.W.A.E.C. organised a Party and Dance in the Borough Hall of the County Town, to which L.A. members were invited to meet European volunteer workers now living and working in this County. Several members have enjoyed a rest at Rest-Break House, which they left with great regret, full of vigour in readiness for future work. The office re-union party, held in September, was a very happy occasion and terminated with a visit to Wolverhampton Repertory Theatre, where the play "It Pays to Advertise" reduced everybody to convulsive hilarity.

E. SUFFOLK.—The sugar beet harvest is now well under way and one sees again large mounds of beet by the roadside waiting to be carted to Sugar Beet Factories. Fortunately the weather so far has been really grand and lifting has not been quite such a messy job as usual. We congratulate the three volunteers in this county who have served their country so well over the past eight years. Their record of excellent work and devotion to duty should be a real example to the many new recruits whom we have been pleased to welcome during the past few months. Winter social activities have been arranged in most of the Hostels, such as playreading, dressmaking and cookery classes, slipper-making, French classes, etc. It is hoped to get country dancing, musical evenings and travel talks going very soon. We look forward to another concert by the Arts Council of Great Britain this autumn; the one they gave us in the spring at Sutton Hoo was thoroughly enjoyed. A series of lectures on dairy, poultry and general farm work have been arranged for private farm girls at two centres, Ipswich and Yoxford. These are a preliminary to Quizzes which are planned for after Christmas, and are most interesting and popular. We must congratulate three of our long service members who have been chosen to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show in London. They are to drive tractors, and we shall look forward to hearing all about the show when they return. Many recruits who had their dairy training at Columbyne Hall will remember Violet Alexander, who, with Jessica Farley, went to Newton Hall Training Centre last month, and we wish them both the very best of luck.

W. SUFFOLK.—Congratulations to G. Russell, 152739, who has secured a vacancy at the University of Wales for the National Dairy Diploma Course, and also to Frances Turner, 55613, who has been accepted at the Herts. Agricultural Institute for a vocational training in Horticulture. We were very sorry to lose our County Organiser, Mrs. Maxwell-Gumbleton, who with her husband has gone to Ireland to take up poultry farming, and also one Committee member, Mrs. Douglas Jones, who is going to South Africa. Mrs. Meakin has left Risby Hostel to set up house with her husband, but we welcome Miss Catchpole, who was a W.L.A. Warden in Dorset for 3 years, in her place.

Hostels have begun their activities. Mrs. Podger has given a Health Talk in them all and plans are now in force for Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes parties. Our annual Christmas Party will take place at the Old Town Hall, Bury St. Edmunds on November 29th at 3 p.m. "Alice" has promised to bring her Variety Highlights to entertain us again. The Agricultural Quiz is on the map again and a challenge has been accepted from the Stanningfield Farmers' Club.

SURREY.—We are glad to report that at the Milking Proficiency Tests held at Gosden Farm during the latter part of September, all six entrants passed. The standard attained, as indicated by the marks allocated, was very good indeed. On Sunday, October 19th, all volunteers who joined the W.L.A. in 1939-40 and all those who had just completed five years' continuous service by March 1947, attended a most enjoyable party at Hampton Court. Proceedings commenced with a most interesting tour of the Palace conducted by Mr. Rainbow, the Curator. The Company then assembled at the Mitre Hotel, where, in the presence of the Chairman and members of the Committee, H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, presented 8-year armbands to eight volunteers who joined in 1939 and have an unbroken record of service. Books and certificates were also presented to all those who had completed five years' service. At the close of the presentation, the company adjourned to Messrs. Nuthall's Restaurant where they enjoyed an excellent tea. The entertainment which followed, given by Miss Colleen Clifford, entertainer, and Mr. Fawthrop, piano, was greatly appreciated.

E. SUSSEX.—It is sad that so many representatives are laying up their cars this month and so giving up their Land Army work. We are particularly sorry to say goodbye to Miss Maynard as District Chairman for South Cuckfield, to Mrs. Plyman and Miss Marshall. We are glad that Miss Maynard is staying on the County Committee. Miss Bothamley, too, has had to resign on domestic grounds from the Committee and we shall miss her very much. The Land Army can ill afford to lose representatives who have been working so long.

Our apologies to West Suffolk for inadvertently giving their Relief Milking Training Course to East Suffolk. J. Johnson and J. Hollins at present at Shimpling seem to be enjoying the Course very much and we look forward to having them back in East Sussex. Ten Relief Milking Units continue to flourish in the County, although they have suffered casualties due to higher wages and the lower milk yield. Three new Units await milkers who are at present in special training. The Land Army was represented at Burgess Hill's Trade Exhibition on October 21st and much interest was shown in the attractively laid out exhibit.

W. SUSSEX.—The main event has been our Rally and Fete at Chichester on 20th September, at which we were honoured by the presence of Miss Bower, Senior Administrative Officer of the W.L.A., who made an excellent and heartening speech at the opening ceremony and presented eight-year armlets to eight members. There were excellent entries for the "Smartest Land Girl Competitions" judged by a panel of farmers, who had a hard task to choose the winners. As a result of the fete £100 has been sent to the Benevolent Fund and about £230 to our own Welfare Fund, and everyone spent an enjoyable afternoon in spite of doubtful weather.

The Land Army took part in a beautiful Harvest Festival Service in Chichester Cathedral at the invitation of the West Sussex Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. Some thirty girls were in the procession and Miss R. Cox, a seven-and-a-half-year member, read a portion of the Service. Plans are well under way for a variety of talks, entertainments and classes at clubs and hostels and the season opened with a most enjoyable tour arranged by Messrs. Pears, at which we all learned a great deal about the care of our skins and hair, and some lucky members who acted as models were transformed before our eyes.

N. WALES.—We are all very glad to welcome Miss E. S. Martin (ex-Denbighshire office), our new Assistant Secretary; she succeeds Miss G. J. Thornton, who remains with us as an Organiser. Our good wishes to them both in their new appointments.

Everyone here was exceedingly sorry to see the closing of the Llandudno Rest Break Home, and we should like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to Miss Stamper whose kindness and charm brought happiness to so many. Our congratulations to M. Brooker and R. Bousefield on obtaining their N.D.D. and our best wishes to R. Moody who has just entered the University of Wales for the same course. Recent events include a Harvest Dance at Gresford and a Whist Drive at Abergwynant. We congratulate Coed-y-Glyn who have just sent £11 4s. 3d. to the Benevolent Fund. By the time this is published we shall have moved to our new address at 65, High Street, Bangor.

WARWICKS.—Owing to the exceptionally good weather the harvest was in very early and land girls are now settling down to the autumn work. Now that the nights are longer it is hoped to arrange some entertainment for the hostels. Several of the hostels have already had harvest suppers and dances—the money for which has gone towards different charities, and it is hoped that these will continue throughout the coming winter. Our congratulations to Miss O. G. Gilbert who has just taken her course at the Bicton Farm Institute and come out tenth. We hope Miss Gilbert will find that her training there will prove useful to her in the future.

Miss Hazard has now almost completely recovered from her operation and is having a final convalescence at Milford-on-Sea. Members of the Warwickshire W.L.A. will be delighted to hear there is just a possibility that if things go well, Miss Hazard may be able to return to work with the W.L.A.

WILTS.—Friday, September 26th, was a "Red letter" day for the Wiltshire W.L.A. when we had the honour and pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Jenkins, C.B.E., who had made a special visit to this County to present our long service volunteers with their six to eight-year armbands. Of 46 volunteers who received armbands, 10 had given eight years' service. Mrs. Jenkins's speech to the volunteers was greatly appreciated and enjoyed. After the presentation and tea, an hour's entertainment was given by the Melksham R.A.F. Concert Party, which added an amusing finish to a very happy afternoon.

Mrs. Cotter, our County Secretary, left on September 27th to be married and we wish both herself and her husband every success in their farming activities. We welcome Miss Holloway who came from Buckinghamshire to replace Mrs. Cotter.

We wish to congratulate Jean Pounceford on obtaining a certificate on completing her year's training at Moulton and also H. Paget and K. Hatt on passing their Proficiency Test in Horticulture. H. Paget did particularly well to gain distinction in this test. Girls from Mere Hostel recently took part in the local Carnival and won second prize for their lorry, decked with sheaves, hoes, scythes, etc., the girls themselves being dressed to represent "Before and after work". The Hostel Committees are now organising winter activities, including darts matches, dances and concerts.

YORKS., N. AND E.R.—During August Guisborough Hostel in the North Riding created a record by scoring 147 points in the Hostels Competition which is the highest ever recorded in North Riding Agricultural Hostels. A letter of congratulation was sent to the girls by the North Riding Labour Sub-Committee. Guisborough, of course, headed the list for North Riding Hostels during that month. A presentation dance was organised in Stokesley Town Hall during October when a number of long service awards were presented to volunteers by Katherine, Lady Graham. Mrs. Bottomley and all her helpers are to be congratulated on a splendid effort which raised £15 for the North and East Ridings' County Welfare Fund.