



Vol. I.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

TO all our readers we send best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. For some members this will be their first Christmas in the Land Army and everyone may not be lucky enough to get home for it. Fortunately the Christmas spirit is portable and universal so those who cannot go home are sure to be made welcome in hostel or billet and to make their own contribution to the general cheerfulness and goodwill.

The New Year is traditionally a time for good resolutions. Most readers will make and probably break a number of their own personal resolutions but we suggest that the Land Army as a whole should make and keep one or two. How would it be to resolve to be adaptable and energetic and to set ourselves a high standard at work? To be cheerful and considerate to others in hostels and billets? To welcome newcomers and help them to settle down happily in their new surroundings? If each land girl and every member of the staff really keeps these resolutions the Land Army's reputation—already high—will be enhanced.

It will not be easy. In fact the test may come almost at once. Owing to the phenomenal weather last spring and summer the corn harvest was easily and quickly gathered and the root harvest is light. Consequently, many of the jobs generally done in the winter are now finished. There may therefore be a temporary shortage of work on the land and new recruits may wonder if they are really wanted. They need have no doubts and the old hands know, that in a month or two there will be work in plenty for all. Meanwhile it may be necessary for some members—particularly those in Committee gangs to do jobs somewhat remotely connected with agriculture. We would ask them to accept these jobs cheerfully in the knowledge that they will go back on to the land at the first opportunity and that by accepting them they are helping production and saving dollars.

On 18th November, 1947, the enrolled strength of the Land Army was 26,808.

PASTURES NEW

Vacancies

Gloucestershire. Wanted on Cotswold Hill Farm girl able to take entire responsibility for Guernsey herd of 15 cows. Simplex milking machine. 70 acres pasture land, 300 arable. Farm run by owner, 3 men employed. Salary approximately £5.

Kent. Head cow-woman wanted. Herd of 40 Jersey cows. Modern cowsheds. Gascoigne milking machine. 50 acres pasture, 90 arable. Cottage billet. Salary according to experience.

The following job is one for which Land Army members can apply who qualify for a willing release by virtue of length of service:—

Channel Islands. Two experienced girls required in Guernsey in nursery specialising in propagation of shrubs. Salary £3 10s. (low income tax). Good billet.

Posts Wanted

Oxfordshire member, aged 26, with Newton Hall training, thoroughly experienced in all branches of pig keeping, wants job with breeder of pedigree large black pigs in Home Counties. Some secretarial work not objected to.

Ambitious Hertfordshire member, aged 24, with six years' service wants post as Assistant Labour Officer in South. Experienced in all branches of general farm work and milking. Would be prepared to share a cottage but would prefer private billet.

Two Cornish members, aged 22 and 26, experienced in glass house and market gardening work, want double vacancy. Excellent Swanley training reports.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH'S PRESENT

Land Army members will want to know what wedding present they have given to Princess Elizabeth. She chose the gifts herself and they are a Sheraton balloon-shaped clock by George Clarke of London and an old Sheraton mahogany oval-shaped breakfast table with a cherry wood inlaid border, a suitable present from Land Girls who have done so much towards providing the Nation's breakfast. These presents were on view at St. James's Palace and were sent with the following inscription: "To Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth on her Marriage with every good wish from the Members and Staff of the Women's Land Army for England and Wales."

The following letter of thanks has been received from Her Royal Highness:

"The Women's Land Army have sent me a present which I really value, and I ask you to tell all who have subscribed towards it what immense pleasure they have given me. The beautiful clock and the Sheraton breakfast table are objects which I shall use and shall value for themselves; but it makes me very happy, too, to think of the loyalty, affection and goodwill which I know this present represents. Please convey my warmest thanks to all who so generously subscribed towards it."

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

W.L.A. members appeared in the Milk Marketing Board, National Savings Campaign and Carburol tableaux and 35 tractor drivers took part in the Ford Motor Company exhibit "Farmers' Steel Commando." All those taking part both enjoyed themselves and did credit to the W.L.A. Our readers may be interested to know that Land Army Headquarters has received, through the Association of Agriculture, a warm letter of thanks from the Lord Mayor and from their Chairman, Col. Walter Elliot. From the Ford Motor Company at Dagenham comes the following tribute: "The girls you detailed to drive the tractors operated them in a manner that exceeded our most sanguine expectations. The way in which they held their positions in the procession and maintained the very short gaps without any kind of hitch was most commendable; their appearance and bearing also reflected great credit on the Women's Land Army."

W.L.A. CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Entries can be accepted at any time of year for the Correspondence Courses run for Land Army members by the College of Estate Management on "Elements of Agriculture," "Dairy Husbandry" and "Farm and Estate Book-keeping." The courses are based on the following books:—"The Farming Year," 4s. 6d., "Cows and Milk," 1s., "Farm and Estate Book-keeping," 8s., and the fee for each course is 15s. A limited supply of the books is still available. If you are interested, write to your County Secretary for an application form. Please note that no course in horticulture is in operation.

LANDGIRL'S LIBRARY

By courtesy of "The Farmers' Weekly" we print below a further list of books for winter reading.

Good Neighbours, by Walter Rose; **Portrait of Elmbury**, by John Moore; **English Farming, Past and Present**, by Lord Ernle; **Hannaboys Farm**, by Marjorie Mack; **A Farmer's Year**, by H. Rider Haggard; **Our Village**, by Miss Mitford; **Out of Old Fields**, by Anne Blakemore; **The Endless Furrow and Strawberry Roan**, by A. G. Street; **The Farmyard**, by Fraser Darling; **Your Village and Mine**, by C. H. Gardiner; **Life on the Land**, by Fred Kitchen; **Precious Bane and The House in Dormer Forest**, by Mary Webb; **Hansel Craig and Fiddler's Doom**, by Allan Fraser; **Sweet Thames Run Softly, Coming Down the Wye and Lovely is the Lee**, by Robert Gibbings; **Tess of the D'Urbervilles and The Return of the Native**, by Thomas Hardy; **The Splendid Fairing and The Lonely Plough**, by Constance Holme; **Shepherd's Empire**, by C. W. Twine and E. N. Wentworth.

SOCIAL ORDER AMONG COWS

The following article was written for "The Farmer's Weekly" by Professor W. E. Petersen of St. Paul's University, Minnesota, who is America's leading authority on milking technique and is at present on a visit to this country. We reproduce the article by courtesy of "The Farmer's Weekly."

The dairy cow has two major problems in "social" adjustment. One is that of adjustment to her own social order and the other is that of adjustment to the human element with which she comes into such intimate contact.

In every cow herd there is a well-established social order with a boss cow followed by a definite scale down to the last cow in the social order. The boss cow insofar as the herd is concerned is first whenever she chooses to be so and last when that suits her fancy. She is usually happy, for once she has attained her position she is no longer subject to challenge of authority even though she may be feeble from old age.

We observed one seventeen-year-old cow respected by all other members of the herd even though she was crippled and could not have withstood a physical challenge from any member of that herd. It should be pointed out that cows attain their social position from successes in physical combat but apparently once a superior position has been attained no further challenge is offered.

In larger herds we have observed that cows in the middle of the social order are often poorly adjusted. It is in this group that the more irritable members are found and those that are more apt to cause trouble in handling.

A tentative explanation is that they are aggressive and aspire to a higher rank in the social order but do not possess the power to rise higher and therefore suffer possibly from frustration complexes with various manifestations.

While adjustment to her own social order is a real problem, satisfactory solution is more often attained in this sphere than in the adjustment to humans, largely because of failure of people to understand the importance of the problem.

Cows that are unhappy in their own society can be made thoroughly happy by a little special attention from their caretakers. As a matter of fact by a little friendly attention such cows can be so changed that they do not care for their own society, craving human companionship in preference.

Now just a word about some of the basic principles involved in cow reactions. The basic fundamental is that cows quickly make associations pleasant or unpleasant, with people.

The veterinary surgeon, for instance, is quickly put on the undesirable list by the cow because of necessity he must do that which is unpleasant—such as taking blood samples and making injections. His mere presence at milking time may cause such excitement that many cows will not let-down their milk.

The experimenter, unfortunately, often falls in the same category from the cow's viewpoint for the same reasons. One experience will prove the point.

In our studies on milking, an experiment called for testing an electrical stimulus of the teat for its possible effect upon let-down of milk. This experiment proved most distasteful to the cow involved. She rightfully blamed the writer for the unpleasant experience and became much disturbed for the next eighteen months whenever she saw or heard him, having made an association of his person and voice with this unpleasant experience.

While many other examples can be cited these will illustrate the basic principles involved and explain why some people get so much

better results from cows than others do—a fact which has long been known by practical dairy-men. Just what the individual can do in this connection is revealed in our studies on a cow that developed the habit of only letting down her milk completely on occasion to the regular herd milkers. As a result she dried up rapidly.

After three lactations of this kind her milking was taken over by a man in whom she had confidence. Even though she was milked by machine she let-down her milk regularly when this man did the milking.

For experimental purposes on two occasions of a week each the regular herd milker did the milking, when she again failed to respond to prove that it was the man who was responsible for the improved milking.

In this case, which of course is an extreme one, 61.2 per cent. more milk was obtained in three hundred and five days than in any of the three previous lactations. This difference must be credited to the man doing the milking.

In attempting to analyse the reasons why this man got better results, the first and most important point to note was that he liked cows and felt kindly toward them. This attitude is quickly sensed by the cows, resulting in relaxation in contrast to the situation where the caretaker dislikes cows.

The second important point was that he knew how to work effectively with cows. In other words it is not enough to like cows but one must also be possessed of the necessary skill and technique to carry out the correct procedures.

PIGS FOR PLEASURE

Since joining the W.L.A. four years ago, I have worked on a one-acre pig farm at Harrow and although the work is hard I have enjoyed every minute of it.

I leave home at seven o'clock every morning and cycle five miles to the farm where my first job is to milk my employer's two cows. Then I feed the calves and chickens and about 200 pigs. That done, there is the swill to be collected. There are 100 street bins on my round and from these and various cafés in the district I collect swill on alternate days. When I get back to the farm, the food collected is cooked for two hours in a steam boiler, mixed with meal and allowed to cool for the evening meal.

My next job is to clean out the sties: this is not such a bad job as it sounds. Pigs are quite clean animals and rarely make a mess of their sleeping quarters. They select one particular spot for their toilet and all use it, which I think is very thoughtful of them! They have their last meal at four o'clock in the afternoon.

I love the old sows best and am always being told what a quiet and intelligent lot mine are. This is mainly because I never allow anyone to hit them or shout at them. Some of my sows have had as many as 24 pigs in a litter but the average litter is about 16. Not all survive as the sow usually rolls on some of them. The average litter reared is about ten or 12.

The young pigs are fattened and at eight or nine months are ready for bacon. I take them to Walls' Bacon Factory where they enter as fat young pigs without a care in the world and later emerge as bacon and sausages. I have grown used to the idea though at first it made me sad.

My worst experience with pigs was when about 20 of them caught swine fever. Poor things, they were a sad looking lot; they turned blue and would not eat. All they wanted was to drink water. Each pig had to be given a pill and a half three times a day; they will eat almost anything as a rule but they were determined not to swallow their pills. As soon as my back was turned they would open their mouths and drop the pills on the ground. In the end I had to push iron tubes down their throats and roll the pills down followed by a drop of milk. All our

treatment was in vain and they were taken away to be examined by the Vet.

I think that any girl who is fond of animals and wants an interesting job would enjoy working with pigs. I have always liked them and hope one day to have a herd of my own.

Middlesex.

M. Blackburn, 105280.

A LAND ARMY STAR

Sheila Purkiss, 105259, W. Suffolk, is a versatile young woman. Before the war she excelled herself as a cook and her employer of those days still complains that he has never had such good meals since. She left cooking to take up work with Pye Radio, Cambridge, where she became an expert radio machine operator.

In 1942 she joined the Land Army and was employed by Sir John Agnew at Rougham on general farm work and soon showed her skill when she was one of the few people able to control a very difficult pony on a milk round. For four years she delivered milk and worked in the fields. She passed her general farm Proficiency Test with distinction in September, 1944.

The urge to learn something new came over Sheila once again and in January, 1947, she was transferred to Shimpling Training Hostel for a milking training. The following May she passed her milking Proficiency Test with distinction. She was then appointed Dairy Instructress at Shimpling and has since done valuable work training new recruits and relief milkers.

She is much interested in the theoretical side of farming and has done well in local agricultural quiz matches. Last spring she was chosen to represent West Suffolk W.L.A. in their County Agricultural Quiz Team. She also shared the £10 prize presented by the Suffolk Agricultural Association to our most outstanding Land Army milkers.

There is still time to order a copy of "Miss Baxter and I," by Isobel Mount, for that last-minute Christmas present. (Price 2s. 9d., post free, from the Editor, LAND ARMY NEWS, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.)

WHAT AM I?

My first is in Land
But not in Shower,
My second in Garland
But not in Bower,
My third is in Weather
But not in Sky,
My fourth is in Drainage
But not in Dry,
My fifth is in Shocking
But not in Twine,
My sixth is in Plough
But not in Line,
My seventh in Mangold
But not in Swede,
My eighth is in Cattle
But not in Feed,
My ninth is in Trough
But not in Sow,
My tenth is in Turnip
But not in Cow,
My eleventh in Harvest
But not in Corn,
My whole is why
The Land Army's born.

Leics.

J. Gregory, 145969.

(Answer on page 3)

Those of you who read Professor Petersen's article on this page may like to add to your book lists "Technical Aspects of Milk Production in North America" (H.M. Stationery Office, 2s.).

BENEVOLENT FUND

We would like to remind those members who have been unfortunate enough to develop rheumatism that the Committee of the Benevolent Fund can help them to obtain expert advice. The Committee is most anxious that no Land Girl should just "grin and bear" this tiresome complaint as it may prove very serious if not treated quickly and correctly. A number of Rheumatism Specialists in different parts of the country have agreed to see members of the Women's Land Army. The Benevolent Fund will pay the fee and also help the girl with the cost of any treatment which may be advised if she is unable to meet this herself.

If you are under treatment for rheumatism, or even if you have only just got the first signs, ask your Doctor whether he would think it a good idea that you should be examined by a Rheumatism Consultant. For further particulars of this scheme ask your County Secretary.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Edith Brown, 43582, Berks., on obtaining particularly high marks for clean milk at tests carried out in London, on milk produced at the farm during the heat wave in July and August.

And to Irene Barrett, 104106, Hants., a tractor driver employed by the H.A.E.C., who has taken first prize for the second successive year in Growmore Club ploughing matches at Petersfield.

And to Jean Walker, 183145, Lincs., who won 38s. in a Wilfred Pickles Contest in October.

And to Mary Cassidy, 161359 Berks., who was recently left in sole charge of a flock of 200 sheep when her employer took a fortnight's holiday.

And to P. Bentley, 61613, Herts., on winning the cup for W.L.A. ploughing at the Hertfordshire Championship Match.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I paid a two weeks' visit to the Netherlands recently under the auspices of the International Land Club when I stayed at an extensive fruit farm in S. Beveland.

I lived in a world of horse-drawn sprays, cherry orchards, nurseries, acres of strawberry beds, large russet apples, pears and plums of every description. Even grapes flourished in the open and I was especially attracted by a miniature railway used solely for fruit-carrying. The drought had affected the country badly. In Walcheren the salt seeped through the soil again, water-carts reappeared in the streets cattle had to be fed on precious winter fodder, sheep were tethered down like goats owing to the dry dividing dykes.

I visited several farms in the province, nearly all of them practically identical and consisting only of one great wooden barn. A passage runs the entire length of the centre of the building, the animals being housed on either side. It is not uncommon to see six or twelve horses on a single farm. Winter fodder is stored in the roof and in some cases the farmer's family share the same building.

I loved the little uncommon touches in farm life—a tame peacock strutting on a farm gate, a square of tobacco growing amongst the ripening maize, the crops in their perfect parallelograms.

We visited the Landbouwhuis School across the Schelde at Terneuzen and the fruit-export factory at Kapelle-Beizelinge. We will not easily forget the overwhelming hospitality of the Dutch people and hope it will not be too long before we visit their delightful country again.

Flints.

M. Stott, 162309.

Dear Editor,

I feel that you would perhaps like to know a little about the life at Newton Hall. There are 38 of us here from various parts of England and Wales, mostly land girls but just a few from other services, though most of us have had at least two years' farm work.

I am sure if everything goes on as it has begun we are going to be a very happy community. The food and conditions are excellent, rules are few and we do a little practical work daily and spend the rest of our time in study, etc. Our day is from 6.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and we have early morning duties (practical work). Study is interspersed with more active pursuits, such as farm visits and tours to places of interest. Recreation, sport and leisure facilities are all included. The house is a stately residence with extensive grounds which must have been very beautiful when kept up though now rather overgrown and unkempt. Fifteen of us older girls have an excellently converted army hut which makes a complete residence with all comforts and a separate common room close by. We are allowed to arrange our individual rooms as we like but are also responsible for their cleanliness, etc. We consider this much better than sharing a more luxurious room at the Hall itself where girls are three and four in the capacious bedrooms. We all dine however at the Hall. We seem to have everything from a sewing machine and electric iron to a piano and wireless set. We are loaned an excellent text book (Watson & More) embracing a whole range of agricultural subjects; most of our exercise books are also supplied free of charge and the instructors are understanding and helpful. We even have transport into Cambridge on Saturdays and Sundays for our requirements and church attendance. Our week-ends are free—this to me and many of us an almost forgotten bliss. Altogether you will conclude that the course should be a happy and enlightening experience.

I could write in much more detail but trust my poor attempt will give some idea of what this privilege means to me and to all of us. It is a pleasure too to be surrounded by such keenness as is abounding here.

Thank you all for this happy time; it is such a great change from continual practical work (though I loved that too). I am so fully occupied that there is hardly time to miss all my old friends though nevertheless I think about them every day.

I hope many other girls will get this happy chance.

Beds.

J. F. Orman, 98050.

(Reprinted from the Kent News Sheet)

Dear Editor,

I expect those of the W.L.A. who do Market Garden work often wonder what happens to all the fruit and vegetables that they pack after they leave the farm. May I interest you with a few details about what is done up at Spitalfields Market where a great deal of it is sold. Our lorry driver has been on holiday and I have been going up with the market load for him each morning. Our load has to leave at 4.30 a.m. so as to be there in good time to be unloaded before the buyers arrive. My employer has his own market stand and his salesman sells only his produce. Other farmers often send to general salesmen who handle stuff from several farms. On arriving at the Market, one has to unload from the lorry to market porters. They are not allowed on the lorry to help and you are not allowed to help them on the ground. This is to do with the Porters' Union. Only produce lorries are allowed in the Market. The buyers' lorries have to park in the streets outside. Buyers arrive about 6.30 a.m. and the market porters then load up their clients' purchases on two-wheel barrows which take about half a ton at a time, and push them out to their lorries outside. Woe betide anyone who stops one of

these barrows when loaded. You hear some choice language if you do, because having such a big load on, they are very difficult to start off again. The Market folk are all a very cheery lot with a grand sense of humour. One gets many a good laugh—and lots of cups of tea. I was given another land girl for a lorry driver's mate and she and I were able to put down our loads in good time, as she was a grand worker. We usually had to load up again with all the empties we could lay hands on, as the empty-return question is a very big headache to all farms as I expect you know. You just can't pack fruit or bag greens if you have nothing to put them in. I hope some of you will perhaps be lucky enough to go up to one of the Markets yourselves one day and see how very interesting it all is.

Kent.

E. A. Haines, 32663.

In olden days thieves were hanged on giblets.

A mortgage is where dead people are put when they die.

Lager beer is bigger than a small one.

Crazy paving is caused through drink.

(From "The Land Worker")

Answer to puzzle on page 2: Agriculture.

COUNTY NEWS

BEDS.—Proficiency Tests held in October included Milking and Dairy and Poultry; A Tractor Driving Test was held in November. Successful candidates were A. Wildman, 163332, E. Pyke, 143484, and D. Sing, 112879. Several interesting letters have been received from volunteers taking Agricultural Courses and from Swanley. They seem to be working hard but thoroughly enjoying their work. The W.L.A. Fancy Dress Dance held at the Corn Exchange on 10th November was a great success. Over 50 per cent. of the volunteers attended in fancy dress as well as many members of the staff. The Mayor of Bedford, Councillor J. A. Canvin, and our Chairman, Mrs. J. B. Graham, kindly acted as Judges, and Mrs. Graham presented the prizes. Winners included R. Gammon from Ravensden, E. Robinson, 170799, Cople, and three from Aspley Guise: B. Doughty, 174848, J. M. Taylor, 177228, P. Sheehan, 146165. Congratulations to B. Sumner, 69080, who attended the Milking and Dairy Show at Olympia on 31st October. She was selected by the Y.F.C. to represent Bedfordshire in the Poultry Judging Competition and tied for 1st place. Kensworth House and Bolnhurst Hostels recently celebrated their 5th Anniversary with very successful parties.

BERKS.—The harvest has been gathered in in record time this year. Hostel girls have been very busy recently over the potato harvest, which will soon be finished. The first meeting of the Old Girls' Association was held at the County Office on Saturday, 27th October. The Chairman (Lady Mount), Mrs. May, (the Hon. Secretary), Miss Bayne Jardine, Miss de la Pole and 23 Old Girls were present, and very much enjoyed the opportunity of meeting each other again. Letters were read from Old Girls now in other countries, and some girls present told of what they had been doing since leaving the W.L.A. It is hoped to hold a larger garden meeting next summer. Our Hostel at Strathfield House, Mortimer, is once more occupied after extensive repairs and redecorations, and now looks very fresh and smart. We hope Mrs. Brown will be fit to come back soon. Congratulations to Margaret Roberts, B.A.E.C. Supervisor, on obtaining a vacancy at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture. Hostel girls subscribed towards a present and gave her a brief case. Wallingford Hostel presented her with a shoulder bag. A new training course started at Hewens Wood on 10th November. Shrivvenham Hostel held its 4th Anniversary Party on 26th November.

Proficiency tests in Machine Milking and Dairy Work were held by Miss Matthews, the County Dairying Advisory Officer, on 11th November. Enid Strange, 158953, Josephine Lovett, 164127, and Elizabeth Hibbins, 147349 all passed.

BUCKS.—Our congratulations are due to the three girls who were chosen as tractor drivers in the Lord Mayor's Show on 10th November—I. Rowe, 54543, (6 years' service), D. Fletcher, 104329, (5 years' service) and M. Caulkin, 143767, (3 years' service). We would also like to congratulate Elizabeth Mace, 89144, on the fact that two calves of her own rearing won first and third prizes at the Y.F.C. Annual Show in High Wycombe. Unfortunately Elizabeth was not able to show them herself, as she was away thoroughly enjoying a course at the Homecraft Training Centre. Congratulations also to Anne Wheen, ex 56856, who was with Messrs. Ashton & Hibberd's Dairy Shorthorns at the Dairy Show, one of which was described in the B.B.C. commentary from Olympia.

At a Festival of Remembrance and tableau in Aylesbury on 9th November, arranged by the British Legion, the W.L.A. was represented by P. Lang, 168027, D. Arnold, 172575, C. Grogan, 172060 and N. Radford, 170653. At

the local parade and Church Service in High Wycombe, 20 girls from Shelburne Road Hostel took part.

During November two delightful weddings have taken place directly from hostels, with the most helpful co-operation of the Wardens and staff. The two volunteers in question were Agnes Patterson, of Shelburne Road Hostel, High Wycombe, 176448, (who incidentally wore one of the Land Army wedding-dresses), and Jean Brown, 146943, of Brill Hostel.

DERBS.—We are pleased to report that our County Secretary is now making a steady recovery from her long illness, and hopes to be back with us soon. Mrs. Baker, our Committee member who is ill, is very much missed especially in the Sheffield area where she has worked for so long. We wish her a complete and speedy recovery.

Health Talks were given in three of our hostels recently by Mrs. Browne of the Central Council of Health Education and were thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The girls at Stanton Hostel, assisted by Mrs. Cope, the Warden, organised a very successful dance on 29th October and £10 is being forwarded to the Benevolent Fund. Congratulations to Edwina Jerram, 6610, who on 13th November completed eight years' service in the W.L.A. Miss Jerram has been employed on the same farm since her enrolment. Congratulations also to Hilda Law, 55346, and Kathleen Laban, 56717, on qualifying for their six-year armlets, and to Beatrice Cain, 34508, and Audrey Stubbs, 136191, who on 25th September broadcast on the Home Service in the programme "Farm Visit."

We welcome Miss Beale as our new Regional Organiser, Miss A. Burslem as Warden of Trusley Manor Hostel and all new recruits who we hope will be happy in our hostels.

DEVON.—There has been a considerable increase in the number of volunteers in Committee employment during the past two months and we have been glad to welcome recruits from Wales, the North of England and London. Their help was timely for the lifting of precious potatoes and other root crops. We hear also that the W.L.A. has been much in demand for pruning. 136 girls have just completed proficiency tests in field work but the results are rather disappointing. There will be greater emphasis in the future on preliminary instruction for all recruits.

On Armistice Day, seven long-service members represented the Devon W.L.A. at the Festival of Remembrance held in the Civic Hall in Exeter.

Mrs. Godfrey Phillips has paid a return visit and her health talks have been much appreciated. The season of carnivals has ended happily with the girls of Tiverton Hostel winning a prize for their decorated lorry and original tableau entitled "Helping Hands"; the members of Cleve House also took part in a local procession, as did a group of private farm girls at Colyton. Guy Fawkes was commemorated at Cleve House, Exwick, by a huge bonfire and a display of fireworks. It was a lively, enjoyable evening. Camborne House, Newton Abbot, organised a very successful dance and raised £22 for the National Institute for the Blind. Fairfield House, Honiton, raised £12 for the Devon Welfare Fund at another Dance. A team from the County Office has played two hostels at Table Tennis, victoriously so far.

DORSET.—We regret that owing to ill-health our former Assistant Secretary, Miss C. M. Martin, has had to resign. We can only hope she will soon make a complete recovery. In her place we welcome Miss R. Pickard-Cambridge as Assistant Secretary and hope that she will be happy in the Dorset W.L.A.

As the last of the record harvest was being garnered, Land Girls and Representatives set out from all parts of the county on 12th October to take part in the Harvest Festival at Sherborne Abbey. A number of Land Girls bearing gifts of eggs, loaves and corn followed a procession of choir and clergy to the altar where the gifts were received by the Bishop of Sherborne. After the service, which was most inspiring, the Land Girls were entertained to a light supper in the Digby Assembly Rooms. This was an opportunity for girls from distant parts of the county to get together again. Some of them met girls with whom they had been trained many years previously but had not seen since. The time went all too quickly and most girls were loth to leave. Before the party broke up everyone agreed that it had been grand to "get together again" and expressed the desire for more such rallies. We hope that many of our girls will interest themselves in evening classes and correspondence courses during the winter months, for now is the time to use those added hours of darkness to learn some new subjects or polish up one's knowledge of others.

ESSEX.—The 95 volunteers at Mark Hall Hostel, Harlow had a most unpleasant experience last month when all but one small wing of the house was destroyed by fire during the night. After the dry Summer, it was difficult to get enough water to fight the flames and although as many as ten fire engines arrived they were powerless to save the main building. The cause of the fire is not known. Fortunately no-one was hurt but the Warden and many of the girls lost all their personal belongings and very few of them were insured. We feel that others might well take warning from this disaster and make sure that their property is insured when it is in a Land Army Hostel. After the fire most of the girls went home for a few days rest and in ten days a new emergency hostel was opened at Orsett, near Grays, where Miss Baker is again in charge. Thirteen Essex volunteers took part in the Lord Mayor's Show this year and thoroughly enjoyed the day. According to all reports they looked very nice and did real credit to the W.L.A. Arts Council Concerts have been enjoyed by four of our hostels which have been visited by Therese Carroll and Victoria Kinsley. We hope they will be able to go to all the others after Christmas.

FLINTS.—The various hostels have been very active in the past few months. Queensbridge raised £6 for the Benevolent Fund by a dance. Rhuddlan also gave a dance and raised £45. £39 was allocated to the Benevolent Fund and £15 to the County Welfare Fund. The hall looked really lovely decorated with Michaelmas daisies and sheaves of corn. St. Asaph are also arranging a dance. Now that the weather has broken and there is likely to be more unemployment, we have been making a great effort to provide both recreation and instruction for the girls. Handicraft classes have been suggested and dancing classes. Mrs. Podger of the Central Council of Health Education is making a tour of the Hostels and there are to be some lectures on agriculture by Mr. Humphreys, Chief Advisory Officer to the National Agricultural Advisory Service. A Warden's Conference was held on 14th November when Miss Parry, Regional Organiser, addressed the Wardens.

The W.L.A. in Flintshire have contributed £7 10s. towards a present for Princess Elizabeth.

GLOS.—The volunteers at Oaklands Hostel are to be congratulated on having arranged a lovely "Outing" for the children from the Poor Law House in Newnham. They hired a luxury coach and took 25 children to the Bristol Zoo, giving them tea there, visiting the Fun Fair, etc. The majority of the money was raised by the volunteers giving a dance in Blakeney, so that their weekly donations to a Fund they have started for giving tobacco to Old Age Pensioners in the district, did not have to be drawn on. Ten Gloucestershire volunteers will be receiving invitations to the 8 Year Party which the National Farmer's Union are giving in London on 16th January, 1948. Our Chairman, Mrs. Morrison, and 6 Members of the County Committee also qualify for the invitation, as do 7 of our Area Representatives. Fieldgrove Hostel, Bliton are arranging a dance for the Benevolent Fund and County Welfare Fund very shortly and Miss Flemming, County Organiser in Bristol, has arranged for a small district in the City to have a house to house collection on 6th December. Miss Janvria and the Office Staff are planning a dance in Cheltenham for early in the New Year. Seventy-three of our volunteers are now billeted in the National Service Hostel, Bishops Cleeve, and their places in the Hostel from where they were transferred have been filled by new recruits from other Counties. We extend a very warm welcome to these new-comers and wish them the best of luck in Gloucestershire.

HANTS.—Some girls were fortunate enough to go to the Dairy Show at Olympia. Betty Saint, who last visited the show in 1938, was chiefly interested in the poultry exhibits. She says "As my particular job is poultry farming I naturally spent most of my time in the Gallery which was devoted entirely to poultry, pigeons and equipment. Some of the pigeons and bantams were really grotesque and perhaps what one would expect to find in a Persian Market! Above the continuous noise, the crowing of the smallest bantam cockerel could clearly be heard throughout Olympia." Reports are coming in of activities in aid of the drive for the Benevolent Fund. Mrs. Heseltine sent us £50 as the result of a draw and auction at her dance. Three volunteers at Medstead organised a dance which brought in over £24. It was a delightful evening and the band, dressed in Land Army shirts and dungarees worn over evening dress and crowned with Land Army hats, brought the house down! Hook Hostel also organised a successful dance and the girls at Ropley raised £12 12s. from a whist drive.

On 14th November we had the great pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Jenkins to Hampshire. In the morning she toured the office and met all the staff. This was followed by lunch with the County Committee. In the afternoon she spoke at the Representatives Autumn Meeting and afterwards had tea with them. Everyone enjoyed her visit and all feel inspired to tackle the next few difficult months of food crisis.

HEREFORDS.—We had a very interesting visitor at the end of September, Miss Sallie Hill, Home Department Editor of "The Progressive Farmer" from Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A. Miss Hill was only able to spend one day with the Land Army but she saw several hostels and privately employed girls. She was much impressed by what we were able to show her. A most successful draw was held in the county, the results of which were announced at an Old Time Dance held on 3rd October in the Town Hall, Hereford. The draw realised approximately £120, to be divided between the Benevolent Fund and the County Welfare Fund. The Old Time Dance was not run by the W.L.A. but the proceeds were very kindly given to our funds. We have, at last, been able to start the Relief Milking Scheme in the Ross-on-Wye area. R. M. Goodwin is our relief milker and she is interested in the scheme which, we hope, will continue to develop. We are all looking forward to the Christmas party on 29th November and are delighted that Mrs. Jenkins is able to come. It will be her first visit to Hereford and we hope she will enjoy it. The girls at Weobley Hostel have had a dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund, and Perrystone girls ran a whist drive for their local cricket club. Over 120 new recruits have come to this county during October and November, and we hope they will all settle down happily.

HUNTS, CAMBS. AND ELY.—We said goodbye to Miss Rowley on 25th October after fifteen months in this area. She has taken up an appointment as Organising Secretary of the Derbyshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs. We wish her every success in her new post.

On 7th October girls from Mepal, Ely and both the Thorney hostels took part in a demonstration of the modern methods of Potato and Sugar Beet Harvesting and Conveyancing which was organised by the Cambs. and Isle of Ely Agricultural Society in conjunction with the Isle of Ely A.E.C. and the British Sugar Corporation Ltd. The demonstration took place at Plantation House,

Littleport, and the latest labour saving machinery was on show. D. White, 61189, was awarded the special prize for a member of the W.L.A. in connection with the Clean Milk Competition organised by the Cambs. A.E.C. This was presented at a gathering at the Village College, Impington, on Monday, 3rd November, when the film "The Science of Milk Production," was also shown. We were very glad to have three excellent artists at Thorney, Ely and Newton Hall on 10th, 11th and 12th November when thanks to the services of the Arts Council, Miss Maxwell Lyte, Miss Cecilia Keating and Miss Margaret Newman entertained highly enthusiastic audiences. Other recent welfare events include a very successful whist drive on 29th October when people had to be turned away from an overflowing hall, and the dance held at the Guildhall, Cambridge, on 13th November from which we hope to send a donation to the Benevolent Fund.

LO.W.—The annual Harvest Home Party was held early in October and resulted in our sending £15 to the Benevolent Fund. This event is not designed as a "money maker" but to give the members a happy evening with good refreshments at low cost and to make only a small profit from raffles etc. About 250 W.L.A. members and friends attended. 35 Hostel girls were present at the annual dance organised by the staff of the A.E.C. held on 21st November, and since this happened in the week of the Royal Wedding and was in addition to local celebrations, there was plenty of gaiety. On 8th December Mrs. Godfrey Phillips came to give us the first of two talks sponsored by the Central Council for Health Education. The Warden managed to create quite a party atmosphere when she herself told fortunes for the benefit of our local Welfare Fund.

Congratulations to E. Cotton, K. Gell, M. Higgs, G. Moody and Miss Lewis who are due to receive armlets for eight years' service which will be presented on 16th January by Mr. James Turner, President of the N.F.U.; also to Enid Chessell, who won 1st and 2nd prizes in Y.F.C. competitions in September; and to H. Kingswell and G. Barker both of whom were married in November—the former having been a member for six years and the latter for four and a half.

KENT Land Army members have figured in more than one Lord Mayor's procession during November. Three formed part of the great Lord Mayor's Show in London, driving in the "Farmers' Steel Commando" arranged by the Ford Tractor Co. There were over 30 Land Girls altogether driving tractors with farm implements attached and the spectators were much struck by their smart and efficient appearance. Six Land Girls took part in the Mayor's annual Parade and Service at Ramsgate. It was a cold sunny morning and the uniforms of the girls stood out in sharp contrast against those of the Royal Artillery Corps whom they followed, and the St. John Ambulance Brigade who came behind them. The girls had had no chance to rehearse and are to be congratulated on the excellence of their marching. A very successful party was given at Malling House to all the Hostel Wardens on 21st October. After an excellent tea prepared by Mrs. Gamble and her staff, they enjoyed a very delightful entertainment of music and anecdotes given by Miss Arabella Tulloch, Lady Violet Astor, the county Chairman, and Mrs. Lance Monckton were present, which gave everybody great pleasure.

LANCS.—We would like to give a special welcome to the new recruits at both our hostels and feel sure that the Wardens and the older members will do their utmost to help them to settle down and make them feel at home. A very happy evening was spent at Birkdale Hostel on 5th November, when the girls invited the County Secretary to their bonfire party. Refreshments were served outdoors and consumed round the fire and the whole evening went off with a "bang." Our thanks are due to Miss Todd the Warden, for a very successful party and also to Miss Watson, the Local Representative, for her kind assistance in obtaining a good supply of fireworks. The girls at Halsall Hostel have started a "Keep Fit" class and are enjoying it immensely and the Instructress is delighted with their enthusiasm. Miss Hall, the Warden at Halsall, has decided that the best way to overcome the possible shortage of dried egg this winter is to keep hens. The girls have worked very hard and have made a satisfactory hen hut from an old bunk and are now waiting hopefully for the hens to repay them for their labour. Congratulations to Marjorie Herbert, 3459, who gained the Institute Certificate when taking the Vocational Training Course at Moulton. We send our very best wishes to Joan Murphy, 108545, who was married from Birkdale Hostel on 1st November.

LINCS.—We are proud in this County to have still with us five Land Army volunteers who have given eight years' service. We hope that they, together with our Assistant Secretary, Miss Panther, will have an enjoyable time at the Tea Party to be given by the National Farmers' Union in London on 16th January, when Mr. James Turner, the President, will present them with their Eight Year Armbands. Congratulations to Barbara Maxted, 125480, on becoming the first Relief Milker in the Lindsey Division. After many set-backs the Unit is operating successfully in the Saxilby Area, and much of the success is due to the hard work put in by Miss Maxted. Arrangements are now in hand for the forming of a second Unit. Volunteers are needed for the Milking Training Centre at Stow, near Billingborough. Here a four weeks' course is given to the volunteers in Milking and Dairy Work before they take up employment on private farms. On 26th November, a Warden's Conference was held in Lincoln when Miss Keith, Hostels Administrative Officer from Headquarters, came up to meet our 29 Wardens. This was held at Eastgate Court and all were invited to luncheon by the County Welfare Fund Committee. It is hoped that our Wardens not only enjoyed meeting each other, but will benefit from the pooling of ideas.