



Vol. I.

APRIL 1948

No. 11.

EDITORIAL NOTES

FOR the Land Army, as for many other things, springtime is growing time. The 1948 recruiting campaign opened officially on 14th March with a pictorial advertisement in a national Sunday paper. Similar advertisements will appear during the spring and summer in many papers and magazines. Results to date are encouraging for over 2,000 coupon inquiries have been received at headquarters and passed on to the counties concerned, where plans are already well advanced for local recruiting events. But the best recruiting appeal for the Land Army is the Land Girl. She has only to appear in her well-known green jersey, overcoat and breeches, for envious eyes to follow her down the street and for people to say how well she looks and how happy. This air of health and happiness which is characteristic of the Land Army is infectious and soon members may be asked to help recruiting by taking part in rallies, or by taking charge of a Land Army recruiting stall or exhibit in a cinema, at an agricultural show, or elsewhere, in fact, wherever potential new recruits are likely to gather. We ask everyone who can do so to take part in these events, even if it means giving up precious spare time. No one can tell an inquirer so satisfactorily what she wants to know or is better able to persuade a doubting parent to allow a young daughter to join the Land Army, than the girl on the job.

The need for new recruits is really urgent. Headquarters has registered over 1,500 vacancies in A.E.C. gangs and on private farms and market gardens and this number increases every day as more and more prisoners leave the country. All these vacancies must be filled and filled quickly if this year's harvest is to be safely gathered. If every member of the Land Army will cash in on her "drawing power" and will try to bring in at least one new recruit during the next three months, the result of the agricultural programme for 1948 should no longer be in doubt and one more step will have been taken towards giving every housewife the full larder she so badly wants to possess.

On 18th February, 1948 the enrolled strength of the Land Army was 25,330.

R.S.P.C.A. BRONZE MEDAL

We would like to offer our congratulations to Joan Jamieson, 68008, who has been awarded the Bronze Medal and Certificate by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, for the brave part she played in rescuing cattle and ducks from burning buildings. Joan is 26 years of age and on 29th March had served for six years in the W.L.A., having been employed by Mr. Gibson, Carlbury, Piercebridge, for the whole of her service.

On the night of 10th February, 1948, Joan went to bed early. Shortly after midnight a driver of a taxi which was passing by noticed flames coming out of the farm buildings. He gave the alarm and Joan was the first on the scene while her employer Mr. Gibson telephoned for the fire brigade. Joan rushed to the small byre next to the blazing buildings where there were eight cows in calf. Although she could hardly see for smoke and the flames were coming very near, she fought her way in among the fear maddened, struggling animals. She had great difficulty in loosening their chains which had become horribly twisted in the wild struggle for freedom. She did, however, manage to free six of the eight beasts by the time Mr. Gibson joined her and it took a tremendous effort on the part of both of them to free the last animal whose chain was almost impossibly entangled.

Joan then went on to a shed which housed young cattle. These were not chained and when she opened the door a roaring bunch of terror stricken beasts charged out into the countryside. With the flames growing bigger, Joan fled to save the ducks whose house backed on to the burning building. When she opened the door she found the birds were paralysed with fear and half suffocated with smoke and she had to grope her way inside and "shoo" them out. Birds and animals were scattered around the country-side and it was some time before they were all rounded up.

Thanks to Joan and other helpers the loss was not as serious as it might have been and Mr. Gibson is very proud of his Land Girl and says it took a stout heart to go in among the fear maddened beasts. Joan is very shy about it all and says she never thought of any danger but her one idea was to get the animals safely out of the building. Her fellow workers tease her about her "V.C." as they call the Bronze Medal but under their kindly banter there is great admiration for a job well done, a brave action, a stout heart and a grand lass.

PASTURES NEW

Cumberland and Westmorland. Two Forewomen-drivers required, one for hostel accommodating 14 girls and another for hostel accommodating 20 girls. Wages 10s. above minimum.

Herefordshire. Clerk Drivers required. Salary 10s. above minimum if satisfactory. It is essential that girls applying for this post should be experienced drivers.

Experienced and responsible girl required for a herd of Dairy Shorthorns, 41 in milk. Total herd 140. Farm 412 acres. Hand and machine milking. Good wage with bonus on production.

Hunts, Cambs. and Ely. Reliable girl required for milking, dairy and stock. To take entire charge of 25 Friesian-Shorthorn cows. Good farm, 50 acres pasture, 500 arable, simplex milking machine. Good wage plus bonus on production and passing of clean milk tests.

Nottingham. Several Forewomen are required in the Nottingham area. Application for these posts should be made to your County Office.

Oxfordshire. Driver-Forewoman required at relief milkers' hostel. Salary £4 5s. after probationary period. Must be capable of working with and controlling 16 girls. Experience of hostel life and ability to milk an advantage.

Two reliable gardeners required, one to take charge of two acre vegetable garden at camp for orphan children. Billet in staff quarters. Minimum wage to start.

Surrey. Efficient girl required for pig farm to take full charge of pigs and poultry. Billet in house. Wage by arrangement.

BENEVOLENT FUND

Miss X was a hairdresser for some years before she joined the Land Army. After five war years of land work she felt she wanted to return to her old career with a business of her own. The Benevolent Fund gave her a grant towards buying a hair-dryer, waving irons and overalls and offered a loan towards the initial expenses of opening her own shop. Unfortunately, it was difficult to find premises, so for several months she worked up a connection by visiting people in their homes. By her enterprise she also got a contract to do the hair-dressing for the women patients in a big hospital.

At last Miss X found suitable premises but she still needed a permanent waving machine and other equipment, so she applied for the loan towards purchasing these. Since then Miss X's trade has steadily increased and she has just written a most enthusiastic letter in which she says she now has more work than she can manage and hopes to engage an assistant. She ends her letter: "It all works very well and I am very happy and grateful." The Benevolent Fund Committee are also happy to know that they have been able to help one more ex-member to re-establish herself successfully in civilian life. Fortunately for Miss X she is outside the scope of the Control of Engagement Order, otherwise she might not have been permitted to continue her work.

Quite recently the Committee of the Benevolent Fund presented a framed pictorial map of Norfolk to the Queen who is patron of the Fund. Her Majesty was pleased to accept the gift and expressed great interest in the map for in that county lies the Royal home of Sandringham.

THE SEA FISHING INDUSTRY

The following article has been contributed by the Fisheries Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Mr. A. T. A. Dobson) who is indebted to Mr. Michael Graham (of the Ministry's Scientific Staff) for valuable advice and assistance.

Agriculture and Fisheries go together in Government and fish and chips go into the same piece of newspaper, so there seems to be some natural connection between them. Certainly many a homesick fisherman dreams of a farm; do land girls in the dust of a summer day ever long for the sea?

Most landmen know little of sea-fishing and when they are busy on their own affairs they pay little attention to it, except in war time and other scarcity periods when fish suddenly seems very important. When they are not busy, English people take a natural interest in sea and fishing and nobody in that mood ever thinks the industry insignificant.

There are three main classes of fish, apart from whales. Whales which provide meat, bone meal and oil, are not fish but warm blooded mammals suckling their young. Indeed there are special structures in the young whale's throat that enable it to take in its mother's milk without getting sea water with it. There are many other interesting things about whales, but they are not fish, and are hunted by whale catchers not fishing vessels, so that they are not the concern of this article.

True fish are nearly as cold as the water they swim in, but they are not all that cold blooded. Herrings have been described in states of mass ecstasy—like bees when they are swarming, and many fish, perhaps all, woo and mate like other animals. They also have a social order, like the cows described in Land Army News No. 7. Fish higher in the social order have a better appetite, get more food and grow faster. The three classes of fish already referred to are (1) "Shellfish," (2) Fish living on or near the bed of the sea, technically called "demersal" fish and (3) Fish living mainly, in the middle or surface waters of the sea. These are called "pelagic" fish.

The principal "shellfish" are oysters, mussels, crabs and lobsters. There is a story about the new ship's boy who asked the skipper how long an egg should be cooked for. "Oh. Twenty minutes, boy; the same as any other shellfish." But we cannot let the fisherman include eggs in this class—miscellaneous though it is. Crabs and lobsters, and whelks are caught in traps of wicker or netting called pots, on the same principle as a cage rat trap, but rather more effective. Oysters and mussels grow on beds between tide marks, or just below low water and are raked up or dredged at low tide.

"Demersal" fish include cod and haddock, and plaice, turbot and sole, and brill, hake and fishes with bizarre names such as witches, megrims and topnots, as well as many other kinds. They are "trawled up" mainly in the open sea from depths between 30 and 1,000 feet. The trawl is essentially a bag of net, dragged along the bed of the sea, fitted with heavy "otter" boards to shear through the water and keep the mouth open, and towed on 50 to 500 yards of great wire rope as thick as a big man's thumb. The same kinds of fish are taken on baited lines, two or three miles long, laid on the bed of the sea, or in seine nets which surround the fish.

"Pelagic" fish consist of herrings and others; the others of less importance than the herring, are sprats, pilchards, mackerel tunny and bonito. All these fish tend to be blue above, to match the deep colour of their background of sea, and silvery below, to match the sky which is the background against which their enemies such as the cod, generally see them.

Herrings are caught mainly by small steamers or motor vessels called "drifters," because they fish by paying out nets, a mile or two of them, and drifting with them. The nets form a nearly continuous wall of

netting suspended from a little below the surface by means of floats. Into this wall the shoals of herrings swim, only to find themselves caught by their gills, snouts or shoulders, until the time comes for the nets to be hauled in when the silver harvest of fish is shaken out into the hold of the vessel, which then makes straight for home, hoping to catch the early market.

Herrings and mackerel are very perishable fish and, if they are to be sold fresh, must be landed within a few hours of catching. But most of the enormous catches that frequently occur are either turned by smoking into kippers or bloaters, or are cured or pickled in salt for the foreign market which in past years always absorbed the greater part of the catch. Without the foreign market or something revolutionary in the home market, herring fishing cannot expand to its natural level. Efforts are being made to increase herring consumption at home by quick freezing and other methods.

Apart from herrings the bulk of the fresh fish consumed in the British home consists of cod, haddock and whiting and flat fish like plaice and sole. In 1938 the last full pre-war year, the total weight of fish of all kinds (except shellfish) exceeded 1,000,000 tons, almost the exact equivalent of the total weight of fresh meat produced by the British farmer.

Of this quantity herrings accounted for 5½ million cwt., and demersal fish over 15 million cwt. In addition, shellfish was landed to the value of £409,000. But quite a considerable quantity of fish of all kinds was imported from Iceland, Norway and Denmark, and to a lesser extent from France, Holland and Belgium. During the war, the imports from Iceland were greatly increased and constituted a welcome addition to the home catches which were terribly reduced on account of nearly three-quarters of the British fishing fleet being taken for naval service. Although imports from other countries proved impossible during the war, a number of foreign vessels sought the sanctuary of our harbours and their catches all through the war were also much appreciated.

The larger steam trawlers, especially those which go within the Arctic Circle and stay away for three or four weeks are expensive things to run, but it should never be forgotten that the fisherman has one advantage over the farmer. On the sea there is no ploughing, harrowing, seeding or cultivation. No expensive fertilising. The harvest is there for the reaping, but we have to remember that the fisherman's life is hardly a picnic, although he faces with cheerfulness all the dangers that beset those that go down to the sea in ships. During the war when supplies were low, housewives did not perhaps realise what dangers the fishermen faced in landing their catches, not only the hazards of storms, but all the additional perils brought by the war, from the air, from surface boats and from submarines.

There is an old saying that there are better fish in the sea than ever come out of it, a suggestion that the supplies are inexhaustible. Up to a point that is no doubt true, but such a thing as over fishing, or fishing an area too much does exist and is causing great anxiety to our fishing industry and that of other European countries, so much so that they have got together and agreed that certain steps are necessary to remedy the situation. If all the eggs of the female fish turned into fishes and if all the young of the various species grew to maturity, all would be well, but the sea is full of natural enemies that prey upon the eggs and the young of fishes, so that only a fraction of the young that is hatched out of the eggs ever reach the adult stage. A female turbot has for example over 4,000,000 eggs but alas, all these do not grow into fine large turbot. We all notice herrings and other fish full of roe, the hard roe being the eggs of the female. Roes are very tasty and every time you eat a herring you deprive several hundred thousand eggs of the chance of turning into herrings, which is perhaps, just as well otherwise there would be no room in the sea for water. Nevertheless

many survive, otherwise there would not be the enormous shoals of herrings that appear regularly off our coasts and wait to be caught.

Fishing is not farming, and never will be; but it is the use of a natural resource, and, strange as fishing is, it is part of proper life.

FARM MACHINERY COURSE

How very much I enjoyed the Farm Machinery Course at Winchester and how helpful and interesting it was! I was very fortunate in being accepted for this month's course which is almost exclusively for Service trainees. It gave me a wonderful opportunity to see for myself some of the ingenious machines in use in food production to-day.

The maximum number of students allowed for the course is 15 but when I attended there were only seven ex-service men and one ex-service woman. This gave us greater scope for asking questions during lectures and also for being really inquisitive when visiting farms and machinery agents.

We also attended lectures in electricity as applied to farming at Sparshott Farm Institute, which was most instructive and enlightening. I gathered from the general trend of conversation that most of the trainees were ambitious to become farmers on their own account and this insight into the best methods of utilising electricity will prove valuable in the future. Although a lover of the internal combustion engine for its own sake, I can readily appreciate the advantages of electric power.

There was only one disappointment. The rain clouds persisted in showing themselves every day. Not that I minded getting wet—I'm used to that! But the rain spoiled the ground for ploughing, although we did manage to put in quite a number of days on the tractors when the ground dried up between the storms.

We were shown films on ploughing, potato ridging, various types of drills and the mechanism of the binder, etc. These were introduced during lectures and were most helpful as it is always easier to understand something which one can see. We were also shown the principle of the internal combustion engine but unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately!) there was not one available for us to "take down." However, on our visits to various agents we had the opportunity of seeing tractors in various stages of dismantle, which I for one, found most intriguing. I have helped to decarbonise and grind valves, etc., but so far have not seen the transmission apart. I am still hoping!

The instructors were extremely painstaking and very patient as were the tractor and machinery agents and farmers we came in contact with.

Some of the large farms have wonderful workshops and equipment and I could have spent much longer in conversation with their operators. How many Land Army members have had the opportunity of seeing the 12 foot Massey Harris, Model 221, self propelled combine harvester, with its electrically controlled lift? It is well worth seeing because, at the moment, it is the only one in use in Europe and it is to be seen at West Stoke Farm, Stoke Charity near Winchester. I must be quite honest and say that machinery interests me much more than the farming itself, although it is essentially farm machinery that I like, perhaps, because it is combined with the things of nature.

Surrey.

Blanche Lee, 62530.

"F AND S" CHART

The most popular of the "F and S" charts, "Points of a Dairy Cow," is obtainable, price 6d., post free, from the Farmer and Stock-breeder, Ltd., Dorset House, London, S.E.1. The chart includes eleven illustrations demonstrating the characteristics of the dairy cow.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY RALLY

The W.L.A. Rally held in the Connaught Hall, Newcastle, on Saturday, 6th March, began on a rather sad note when Elizabeth Michie, a present member, and Dorothy Black, a past member, presented Countess Grey with a sixteenth century first edition of Gerard's "Herbal." They made the presentation of this remarkable book on plant life on behalf of all those connected with the Land Army in Northumberland, in appreciation of Lady Grey's services as Chairman of the County Committee since the Land Army began nine years ago.

Major J. G. G. Rea, D.S.O., well-known to the Land Army at past rallies, was our guest speaker. He paid tribute to the good work the Land Army had done since it first came into being and spoke of the vital need for the maximum production from this country's soil.

Mary Dryden in an apt little speech thanked him for his talk. Mrs. Clement spoke of the invaluable work that had been done since 1939 by the committee members and representatives, and Elizabeth Michie thanked these voluntary workers on behalf of present W.L.A. members and Dorothy Black did so on behalf of past members.

The evening ended in a jolly mood helped by well-known Tyneside variety artistes who gave a most enjoyable entertainment which produced hilarious laughter.

Northumberland. Edith Pearson, 66060.

NEWTON HALL OLD STUDENTS' REUNION

On Saturday, 21st February, 1948, between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. a Students' Reunion was held at the W.L.A. Club in London. Out of the 35 students who took the course at the Government Training Centre, Newton Hall, in 1946 only 20 were able to be present, the remainder having sent letters of regret. The time was spent in comparing notes, discussing presents and futures and, of course, recounting old memories of the happy days at Newton, still very vivid in our minds.

A tea party had been arranged for us at the Club and this is a fitting opportunity to thank all those members of the staff at 2, Chesham Street, who prepared it and for helping to make the reunion such a success.

THE SECRET PLACES

I shall remember my old haunts:
Where violets, deeply purple, grow by the tangled hedge or in the spinney by the road, perfumed and sweet; where golden coltsfoot lights the bank before its leaves appear and windflowers, creamy white, carpet the woods in March.

I shall be far away.
Yet shall I see the wild cherry's filmy blossom rake the sky, in some remembered spot, and touch again the sticky chestnut buds, and watch the dandelion, that gorgeous sunflower of the spring, brilliant and untamed, cluster in field and lane.

I know where primroses
Will make pale pools of light, and drifts of bluebells, bringing heaven to earth, will hang their drooping flowers in woods where peace abounds.

Speedwell grows by the stream;
Meadowsweet, fragrant and honeyless, spreads beauty there, and lilac ladysmocks bloom at cuckoo time.

There will be scabious
Purple and blue, along the hill-top road, and ragged-robin, cowparsley, yarrow and rose-bay willow-herb. Honeysuckle, heady and sweet, will haunt the heart; and meadows, shut for mowing, will be painted with bright flowers, big white dog-daisies, enamelled buttercups, and red with ripening sorrel . . .

I shall remember my old haunts.

Kathleen Girling.
Ex W.L.A.

LANDGIRL'S LIBRARY

Here are the names of some books that will interest you.

Background to Farming, H. I. Moore, Allen & Unwin, Museum Street, W.C.1, price 10s.
Wild Animals and the Land, F. Howard Lancum, Crosby Lockwood & Sons, 20, Tudor Street, E.C.4, 10s. 6d.
England's Green and Pleasant Land, J. Robertson Scott, Penguin Book, 1s.
Watching Birds, James Fisher, Penguin Book, 1s.
Care of Farm Animals, F. Fraser Darling, 2s. 6d.
Miss Baxter and I by Isobel Mount, obtainable from W.L.A. Headquarters, 6, Chesham Street, S.W.1, 2s. 9d., post free.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I read a copy of the "Land Army News" the other day and it was with mixed feelings that I devoured every item of news it held. It was good to see mention of "gum boots" and "milking," and "a party has been arranged . . ."

I left the Land Army last year in order to come to Hillcroft College on a year's course. There are five of us here who are ex-Land Army, all of us with different aims in view; one is following up this course with an emergency Teachers' Training, another will be working for her Social Science Diploma and so on. I hope to go on to an Agricultural College next September and the present year has helped me tremendously to get back into the way of studying and to help me see it as a pleasure and not a grind. I was astonished to see how many things have "tied" with my farm experience; in economic geography I find myself doing instead of pages and pages of maps, analysis of farms in different countries. This term too, I am in charge of gardening operations and I find it all helps so much to make the course a valuable transition period between the useful years I spent in the Land Army and the useful work I hope to do in the future. If this should interest any volunteers they should write now to the Secretary, Hillcroft College, Surbiton, Surrey.

Although I am a volunteer now in spirit only and not name I still feel part of me "belongs" and gladly take this opportunity of wishing you all "good luck" in the work you are doing.

Doris Moore, ex-W.L.A.

Dear Editor,

It was with a feeling akin to dismay that I read that the Voluntary Workers of the W.L.A. were to be resigned on 1st June, for I feel that no one nor any scheme, can replace them. From a Land Girl's point of view these voluntary workers in the guise of Chairmen, Committee members and District Representatives were the Land Army. Someone near at hand to whom we could turn for help, (so much easier than writing to the office), someone coming round at regular intervals to see if we were all right: to bring us uniform replacements; to lend us books; to lift us into town to the dentist's; to give us the use of a bathroom once or twice a week. No, only land girls know what these kind people have done for us, never sparing themselves, and with no thought of ultimate reward.

We realise how much time and thought we have taken up, and we appreciate the fact that a different organisation is needed for the W.L.A. in peace-time, but we shall miss our voluntary workers and their "little nameless unremembered acts of kindness and of love." May I, on behalf of all past and present members of the W.L.A., say a very fervent thank you to our Voluntary Staff for all they have done for us in the past eight years, and wish them all the best for the future.

Dorset.

Beryl M. Puzey, 1453.

COUNTY NEWS

BEDFORD.—Toddington and Kensworth hostels have been taking glove making classes helped by a visiting instructress from the Bedford Education Authorities. We are hoping to arrange more classes as soon as the instructress has dates available. A very enjoyable dance was held at the Corn Exchange, Bedford, arranged by our Welfare Officer, Mrs. Truman and our Uniform Officer, Mrs. Sharman. This was a most successful evening for that we are shortly to lose our Employment Officer, Miss P. Collier, who is leaving in April to get married to Mr. J. Watts of Luton. She takes with her our heartiest congratulations and warmest wishes for a very happy future. Those who knew her will be sorry to learn of the death of Ethel Eaton. Ethel was an outstanding tractor driver and ploughman having won the open County Ploughing Competition at Eaton Socon, 1943. She will be greatly missed. Milton Ernest hostel celebrated their sixth anniversary with a party and a veteran member of the staff—D. Skeggs (4½ years)—cut the cake with the help of the County Secretary. We shall shortly be opening a new hostel near Sandy. Hasells Hall is a lovely old house set in a park. A working party of land girls are busy getting the kitchen garden ready and we hope to be happily settled in a few weeks' time.

BERKSHIRE.—The better weather has brought a great increase of work throughout the county. Several hostels too have been busy in starting evening amusements. Brimpton have started a slipper making class, held at Lady Mount's house. Chieveley have a ballroom dancing class, and Wallingford have organised a netball team, and have played some local matches. A party is being held on 17th April for all girls in the County who have served six years and over. We are very proud of the 80 girls who are eligible for this. The Minister of Agriculture addressed a large meeting of the N.F.U. at Reading on 14th February, and in the course of his speech paid a very high tribute to the work of the Land Army. Six serving members acted as Stewards for the meeting, and were entertained to tea in the Mayor's Parlour afterwards.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.—We would like to make special mention of two recent examples of outstanding courage. The first is that of Mrs. Fautley, an Assistant Warden who lost the sight of one eye through a shooting accident; the second is of Miss Sheila Taylor, who fell from a rick into a threshing machine, and had to have one leg amputated above the knee. The cheerfulness and fortitude displayed by both Mrs. Fautley and Sheila have been an inspiration to us all in this county. A most successful "Talent-Spotting" Competition has been held this year, with entries for vocal and piano solos, dancing, and drama and recitations, two prizes being given in each section. The judging of the dramatic entries took place on 12th February, at Shelburne Road hostel, High Wycombe, when a large audience of Land Girls and visitors was present. There were individual recitations, and 12 girls from Sentry Hill hostel, Marlow, took part in a clever sketch, written by Mr. Reynolds, husband of the Warden, which showed various amusing scenes in the career of a Land Girl. The judging of the other classes was held at Stoke Mandeville hostel on 4th March, when again a large audience enjoyed the dancing, vocal and piano solos. On both occasions the judges were experts, who gave a helpful summing-up. On 23rd February, a Quiz (Land Army versus the local Young Farmers' Club) was held at Shelburne Road hostel, High Wycombe. It was most enjoyable, but unfortunately the Land Army lost by 44 points to 72. It is hoped to have more of these events in other hostels during the next few months.

CHESHIRE.—Wybunbury Hostel is again in the news. The village Committee, by arrangement with Miss Willis the Warden, still holds whist drives at the hostel and a further sum of £10 has been given in to charity, this time to the Benevolent Fund. Tabled hostel has arranged a further whist drive in aid of "Help the Children Fund." This is the second whist drive to be arranged by this hostel this year, the last one being held in January for the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. The sum of £16 5s. was sent forward by the girls and Mrs. Grundy, the Warden. Mrs. Harkness-Browne has been to all our hostels and has given the first two of her lectures. We are looking forward to the third one towards May. A dance is being arranged by the National Union of Agricultural Workers, Houghton Branch, for the 1st April. The proceeds from the dance will be divided between the N.U.A.W. Benevolent Fund and the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.

CORNWALL.—The volunteers have all been very busy during the past two weeks of lovely spring weather, dropping potatoes, and cutting broccoli throughout the county and the Isles of Scilly. Various activities are under way and are planned for the near future. Cookery demonstrations were given in two hostels by arrangement with the Cornwall Electric Power Company, and included useful hints for packed lunches. Mrs. Clarke by kind permission of Helena Rubinstein gave (exceedingly sensible, if we may say so), lecture demonstrations at three hostels on "Care of the Skin and Control in Makeup." Mrs. Godfrey Phillips is touring the hostels between 19th and 31st March, and will talk on "Your Health and Happiness." Mrs. Godfrey Phillips' visit has been keenly awaited. There is to be a Milking Demonstration at the end of the month at the farm of Mr. R. J. Martin, Trewine, Grampond Road, and a milking class will be held at regular intervals. W.L.A. members will be welcome to the class. The Young Farmers' Clubs of Cornwall have been holding Public Speaking Contests and Miss Daphne Powell, of St. Hilary Vicarage, Hostel has reached the Semi-Final. Science, experimental farms, and every speech. Pencubitt hostel, Liskeard, have Folk Dancing weekly and the Volunteers gave a demonstration at the Liskeard entertainment for the Silver Lining

Campaign. Talks on "One Hundred Years of Dress" were given in mid February by Miss N. Williams at Ponsandane, Poltair and Trevelloc. The Isles of Scilly Volunteers produced a pantomime during January and collected £20 for various charities. On 28th February, they organised an entertainment and dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund and made £6 7s. Poltair with the help of the Warden and Miss Stewart are taking up dramatics. Selections of one act plays have been obtained for this hostel and it is hoped they will produce one of these in the near future.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND.—We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Fisher, our newly appointed Organiser for Westmorland. Volunteers may contact her at the Kendal Club, where she will be on duty every Saturday afternoon. The Y.W.C.A., Fisher Street, Carlisle, have kindly lent us a room which we may use as a club on Saturdays from 3 p.m. till 5 p.m. Miss Chettle will be there to welcome you and to introduce new recruits. We have decided to keep the Uniform Store at the County Office open two Saturdays a month, so that volunteers visiting the Penrith Club may change and order uniform. Dates will be given in the County News Letter and a notice will be posted up in the Club. The winners of the competition for the best bowl of daffodils were:—Scaleby Hostel, Cumberland, first; Brampton, Cumberland, second. Best entry by a privately employed volunteer:—M. Chaney, Westmorland. Best individual hotel entry:—M. Reay, Causewayhead, Cumberland. Congratulations to Cliburn Hostel, Westmorland, on raising the sum of £6 for the Benevolent Fund by a raffle and dance at Askham, and to Milnthorpe Hostel, Westmorland, on their successful decoration of Kendal Club.

DERBYSHIRE.—Congratulations to Miss Y. Taylor, who this month qualifies for her eight year armlet and also to Miss M. N. Burch, who qualifies for her six year armlet.

Since our last news many social events have been held in Derbyshire. On the 30th January, our Chairman, Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire, C.B.E. and members of the Committee invited Miss Cain, B.E.M. and other long service members to an At Home at The Midland Hotel, Derby. It was very nice to meet so many old girls and we all spent a most enjoyable afternoon. The tables were beautifully decorated with spring flowers and an excellent tea was provided. Mrs. E. Browne gave Health Talks at Eaves Hall on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of February and these were very much enjoyed. Film Shows have been held at three of our hostels. Dances have been arranged by the girls at Stanton, Trustley Manor and Aston Hostels and all were very enjoyable and most successful. Sixteen members joined in a Silver Lining Week Parade in Derby on Saturday, 13th March. The girls looked particularly smart and we were pleased to hear many complimentary remarks made by the onlookers.

DEVON.—The wonderful weather has kept all the girls fully employed in this County, and their chief occupation has been planting potatoes. We hope that many of those who have planted this valuable crop will remain in the County to harvest it in the autumn. We are pleased to welcome new recruits from London and the North, and hope they will settle down happily in Devon. There is evidence also that girls employed privately on farms are being kept busy, and we anticipate an increase in the number of applications for dairy maids. A Warden's Conference was held at Cleve House, Exwick, on Friday, 19th March, and we hope that all those who attended benefited from the discussions. We congratulate M. Tranter and E. Burnside on passing their milking proficiency test, and we hope that the girls from the Honiton Cyst and Honiton units have successfully passed their field proficiency test which took place early this month. The Ventnor House and Fairfield House Hostels are becoming well-known for their successful dances. They recently organised one in connection with the "Silver Lining" week held in Honiton, and have been asked to arrange another for the Y.M.C.A. Charleton Rectory, Kingsbridge, held a dance in their district and presented the magnificent sum of £11 to the Devon County Welfare Fund. Moretonhampstead Hostel also had a dance on Friday, 19th March, which was a happy occasion. Cleve House, Exwick, has formed a netball team, having partly purchased the equipment themselves. Classes in needlework and cookery are drawing to a close, but it is hoped that outdoor activities will be substituted during the summer months. In the office we are very sorry that Mrs. Brockhurst, who has been on the staff for almost seven years, will be leaving at the end of March to go to London to join her husband. She has been responsible for many sections of the work, and is well-known personally and on paper to many people in Devon. We, in the office, particularly, shall miss her, but we wish her every happiness in the future.

DORSET.—About 30 girls and district representatives from the Sherborne area were entertained to a buffet supper and afterwards to a performance of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray," given by the Salisbury Players in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester, on the 17th February. Mrs. Aston, our county chairman, spoke to the girls after supper, and presented Good Service Badges. Miss Debenham was thanked most heartily for arranging such a happy evening for those in her area. A very enjoyable old time dance was held in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester, on the 3rd February, as a result of which £10 was passed to the County Welfare Fund. Due to the kindness of farming and other friends, such good things as a chicken, a brace of pheasants, and eggs were raffled! Although in recent months there has been a shortage of agricultural work in some areas, we look forward to the time—not far distant we hope—when it will be a case of "all hands to the plough," and feel sure that the W.L.A. members in Dorset will play their part in the working of the agricultural programme, which is more vital this year than it has ever been.

DURHAM.—We would like to welcome back to our County Lady Stamer, our Chairman, who has been staying in Jamaica for three months. We are indeed pleased to have her with us again.

FLINTSHIRE.—The Sandycroft Hostel held a dance on the 12th March in aid of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund which yielded the excellent result of £32. A series of first aid classes have also been inaugurated at this hostel and a drama class. At our Sealand Hostel the Young Farmers' Club were entertained at a social and dance. The proceeds were in aid of the Young Farmers' Club Fund. We have to welcome Miss Wilson as a new County Organiser who joined us in February. Her predecessor, Miss Roy, has gone to do welfare work in Greece.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—Once more the W.L.A. County Committee are presenting a Silver Spoon to the winner of the best W.L.A. Turn-Out at the Gloucester District Calf Club Show, on 30th April, 1948. The turn-out of the volunteer and the calf she shows are both taken into consideration, the former depending on neatness and correctness of uniform. The March winner of Mrs. Bathurst's Special Prize for outstanding Good Long Service, has been awarded to Miss Heather Marie. We all congratulate Miss Marie on this well deserved award, and send her our best wishes for the future. She has taken an Agricultural Course at Newton Hall, Cambridge, and passed her Proficiency Test for Milking and Dairy with 82 per cent. marks. Mickleton and Shurdington Hostels have both held dances for the Benevolent Fund and County Welfare Fund and are to be congratulated on their success. We hope other activities will be arranged for the Funds as the County have been most generously treated by the Benevolent Fund. During 1947, more than £800 has been distributed to members and ex-W.L.A. members in Gloucestershire, so it is encouraging to hear of hostels, and other W.L.A. members planning to try and raise money for their own fund in return. Our deep sympathy goes out to the parents and family of Peggy Davies, who died on 18th February, after a long illness. An area representative's meeting was held in the drawing room of the Town Hall, Cheltenham, on 20th February. Mrs. Morrison was in the chair and gave a short resumé of the Minister of Agriculture's speech to county chairmen and secretaries of the conference in London, on 26th January. About 36 area representatives were able to attend and it was arranged that we should have one more meeting in May.

HAMPSHIRE.—Volunteers are looking forward to the Spring Rally which will be held at Portsmouth on 22nd May. After a parade and march through the streets, the W.L.A. will be the guests of the Royal Navy in His Majesty's Dockyard. Tours are being arranged of the Victory and the Museum, and a modern battleship. We are very proud indeed at having received such a wonderful invitation. The hostel sports are being held on 8th May, and the events will be keenly contested. After tea we shall adjourn to the Andover Guildhall for the Drama Competitions. The drive for the Benevolent Fund will close on 31st March. Our latest efforts include a really first class entertainment and dance held by Curdridge Hostel which brought in £45, and a village dance organised by Miss Harding and assisted by members of the office staff which will bring in in the neighbourhood of £80. We are most grateful to all those people who have worked so hard to try and bring our total up to the target.

HEREFORDSHIRE.—We are very pleased to welcome our new County Organiser, Miss Wathen, who joined the staff at the beginning of March, and we hope she will be very happy with the Land Army in Hereford. We have been able to send to the Land Army Benevolent Fund over £14 as the result of a very successful dance held at Stoke Prior. This was organised by the privately employed girls in that area and they are to be congratulated on their enterprise. Mrs. Harwood, the Warden of St. Peter's Hostel still runs her weekly whist drives and the profits go to the Benevolent Fund. Great efforts are being made throughout the County to raise more money for the County Welfare Fund. We hope all hostels will try to contribute towards this fund by organising some form of entertainment. Congratulations to M. E. Goodwin who is due for her 84 year diamond during March. Also to Mrs. E. Dunlop, S. Price and D. Thrower who all gained their seven year diamonds in February. G. V. Davies had her 64 year diamond in February and M. M. Gill, D. H. Jones and D. A. Munns gain their six year armlets in March. All these volunteers have given excellent service during the years they have been in the W.L.A.

HERTFORDSHIRE.—Judging for Hostel Tidiness Competition has been taking place during this past week and our congratulations to the girls and staff of Serge Hill and Watton Hostels, who have been awarded the prize for houses and hutments respectively. Mrs. Felgate, one of our committee members judged, and her standard was very high. In neither of the winning hostels could she find a fault. There were some very close runners up and on the whole the Wardens and girls are to be congratulated, but there are still a few hostels where general untidiness is mistaken for homeliness. The annual Milking Competition starts next month. Once more Miss Peacock, Dairy Instructor for the county is judging the competition in its opening stages; the final round we hope to hold at Millhouse Farm, Bedmond, on 13th May. Ayot House is to be congratulated on the successful dance they held at Harpenden Town Hall in February. Forewomen's courses are starting in the near future as there is a growing need for trained forewomen and gangers in all our hostels. Many of our old volunteers have left or are leaving, and we have found difficulty in replacing them. One of our new hostels, The Arches, Felden, Hemel Hempstead, opens after Easter. This should be a very pleasant hostel and when all the alterations are completed, will hold 50 volunteers.

HUNTS., CAMBS. AND ELY.—A very successful and enjoyable party was given on Monday, 15th March by the Welfare Fund to those volunteers

who had completed four years and over in the Land Army. The George Hall, Huntingdon was tastefully decorated by members of the County Office staff and 63 people sat down for the meal. Miss Bower, Senior Administrative Officer, came down from Headquarters and was supported by Lady Shepperson, Chairman, Mrs. Priestley, Committee Member, Mrs. Turk, District Representative, Mr. B. T. Norman and Mrs. G. Flanders, Cambs. A.E.C., Mr. S. Yeoman, Ely A.E.C., Miss Leach, Miss Turk, Mrs. Freer, Mrs. Bush and Miss Carter, County Office Staff. After a few words, Miss Bower presented these armlets and half diamonds which fell due during the month of March. Among them were two half diamonds for eight-and-a-half-years service to Mrs. Gostelow and Miss Harradence, the first Miss Bower had presented to anybody. After the presentation a popular concert was given by local artistes, concluding with community singing. The evening came to a close after games and competitions. Mrs. Godfrey Phillips of the Central Council of Health Education, toured the hostels during February and once more proved what an inimitable person she is. Her talks were immensely popular and we were all very pleased to see her again. Quite a lot of our volunteers have been helping in the factories during the slack period on the land. Ely and Mepal girls have been working at Messrs. Chivers factory, Histon, and the Wilderness. Whittlesey girls have been working at Messrs. Smedley's factory, Wisbech. We are glad to say now that work on the land is commencing again and we hope everybody will soon be doing the work they want to do.

ISLE OF WIGHT.—March, so lovely this year, has been unkind to the office, and we are all very sorry that Mrs. Gardner, County Organiser, and Miss Munton, Uniform Section Officer, have had to be off-duty for several weeks. The Officers Quarters at Northwood Camp have been selected as the most suitable building available for a new W.L.A. hostel. This will house 30 volunteers and we are hoping to get the necessary adaptations made and the place equipped sometime in May. Sandown Hostel's monthly social produced £5, to be used for repairs or renewals necessitated by carelessness, and the girls are planning later in the year a day-trip to the mainland with a coach drive through the New Forest, lunching at a roadhouse. A concert is to be given by the members of the Youth Club at the Church Hall, Brighthelm at the end of April, and several Land Army members will be among the performers. The show is being produced by Mrs. Charlton, wife of the Rector, who since her coming to the village has been a most active and valued friend of the W.L.A. making them welcome at the Rectory and encouraging them to take part in the Handicraft Classes held every Monday. A sale of this work, some of really high quality, is to take place later in the year. A nasty accident occurred to a tractor driver recently when his machine got out of control and crashed through a hedge. He received head and other injuries and D. Widdlake, fetched hot bottles and helped make him comfortable on a bed of straw until the ambulance arrived.

KENT.—A reunion, to enable East Kent ex-members of long service to meet, was held at Canterbury on 14th January. This gathering also included representatives, hostel wardens and staff of the old East Kent office and present volunteers. Excellent refreshments were provided by a mobile kitchen, manned by two ex-County Organisers, Miss Sandford and Miss Young. Miss Smyth, the late County Secretary for East Kent, gave a short speech, and Mrs. Tufton also spoke, welcoming Mrs. Stevens, the present Secretary for Kent and Mrs. Monckton. A most successful dance, organised by Mrs. Connie Graham, was held at Ashford on 27th February, when the sum of £17 15s. was raised for the Benevolent Fund. Mrs. D. E. Walker gave a short speech during the interval thanking the Ashford Branch of the British Legion for the welcome given to L.A. members when visiting Victory House. Interesting lectures on "Housewifery" and "Babycraft" were given recently at the Hostel at Herne Bay. Brenzett Hostel are to be congratulated on raising £18 for the Benevolent Fund by a dance held in January and on their Savings Group total of £20 during the first fortnight's effort. The Lake House Hostel have also organised a dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund with the excellent result of £35 2s. Gransden Hostel have again contributed to the County Welfare Fund by organising a most enjoyable whist drive, this bringing their total effort to £53 2s.

LANCASHIRE.—We are very sorry indeed to report the death of Miss Rye who until she was admitted to a Sanatorium just over twelve months ago, had been our Local Representative in the Oldham district for several years. Congratulations to Miss H. Shepherd, who has recently sold for 85 gns. a twelve months' old pedigree bull, which she had reared from three days' old. We would like to put on record another instance of responsibility being placed in a member of the Land Army; Miss W. Whiting, one of our Long Service Volunteers is head cowman in charge of 68 beasts, mostly Ayrshires, has brought forty calves into the world unaided, and is left in sole charge during her employer's frequent absences. Miss Todd, the Warden of our Birkdale Hostel has almost recovered from the foot operation which she had to undergo last month, and we are glad to say she is back on duty once again.

LEICESTER.—We extend a hearty welcome to all recruits coming to us from other counties. Social activities have not been much to the fore since Christmas, but we should like to take this opportunity of congratulating Miss M. Ilett and her friends on the result of the whist drive and dance: £7 11s. was forwarded to the Benevolent Fund. Congratulations to Miss K. M. Wykes on her recent marriage. Miss Wykes recently qualified for her eight year armlet and attended the party in London. We regret to report the death of Miss S. Saunders who was killed whilst cycling to work, and extend our sympathy to her family. A drama club has been formed at Lubenham hostel and they are hoping to produce their first play in the near future.