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EDITORIAL NOTES

DESPITE the outwardly complete disappearance of the tail so closely associated with our anthropoid ancestors people—particularly people in the mass—remain in many respects surprisingly like animals. Take, for example, the behaviour of the members of a well established community on the arrival of a stranger. They will grin a welcome, wrinkle a supercilious nostril, raise their hackles or assume an air of cold aloofness according to their individual characters. And what is the effect of this on the new comer? Probably a nervous reaction productive of all of his or her worst qualities. Some of the very nicest people are the shyest and a shy person will often appear proud and haughty or devastatingly dull and feeble until confidence is restored and the real personality revealed.

Then, again, different people react very differently when confronted with a new job. Some will dash into it with a false air of confidence and assurance while the others are so diffident they can hardly be persuaded to "have a go" in the presence of their more experienced fellow workers.

Land Girls are no different from other people and so at this time of the year when we expect many new members to join the ranks it might be well to pause and think how we shall receive them. In hostels it should not be difficult. Members of the house committee can make it their business to welcome each new girl and show her round. Let her sit between two of them at her first meal and help her to overcome her natural shyness as quickly as possible. At work the forewoman can keep an unobtrusive but watchful eye on new members of the gang and see that they are shown how to handle their strange tools in the easiest way and that they know what they are supposed to be doing and why they are doing it. All this may mean a special effort but it will bring its own reward in new friendships for ourselves and more food for our homes.

On 18th April, the enrolled strength of the Land Army was 25,176.

PASTURES NEW

Vacancies

Bedfordshire. Wanted for pigs and poultry section on demonstration farm, girl with technical knowledge, able to instruct students. Cottage billet. Wages above minimum.

Northants. Good type of girl required, able to machine milk and keep records. Gascoigne milking machine, herd of 16-20 shorthorns. Usual wage, village billet.

Oxfordshire. Wanted immediately, responsible girl 20-30 interested in gathering, preparing and selling (two days a week) produce from Horticultural School. Comfortable billet, wage according to capabilities.

Responsible person required to take charge of small herd of Guernseys and dairy work for the estate. Knowledge of hand and machine milking. Salary above minimum. Furnished cottage available or billet in Bailiff's house.

West Suffolk. Vacancies occur for two experienced milkers, interested in Relief Milking, for eight to ten weeks' Relief Milking Training Course at W.L.A. Hostel, Shimpling, nr. Bury St. Edmunds. Applications invited.

Wiltshire. Driver-Forewoman wanted for W.L.A. Hostel at Calf-Rearing centre near Marlborough. Pay well above minimum. Very interesting work.

Land Army Members who qualify for a willing release by length of service may apply for the following post.

Australia. Woman Farmer specialising in breeding of Arab horses and Shetland ponies has vacancy for two ex-land girls who are experienced with horses and general farm work. Should be between 25 and 35 and willing to settle permanently in Australia and prepared to share the cooking and house work with one other. Wages for head girl £A4 15s. and for the second girl £A3, plus keep. Assisted passages will be arranged for the right type of applicants who should be able to guarantee £10 passage money. Apply to W.L.A. Headquarters for further particulars.

Posts Wanted

Surrey. Two excellent poultry workers seek employment where cottage provided, can provide furniture. Good references, in Land Army since 1939.

E. Sussex. Two experienced hand milkers and general farm workers, efficient and reliable, would like job in Southern Counties where cottage provided. Furniture available.

LANDGIRL'S LIBRARY

Here is an additional list of books and pamphlets which members who belong to Landsman's Library can borrow from Applegarth Studios, Augustine Road, London, W.14.

Hedge Trimming, A. G. Street; Breeding and Management of Livestock, A. W. Lipscombe; Pig Keeping and Breeding, Alan Morley; Fertilisers and Manures, E. Vanstone; Gardening on Nothing a Year, M. Griffith; The 1947 Fruit Year Book.

The following Y.F.C. Booklets are for sale,

price 1s.:—

Farm Implements, The Farm, Garden and Farm Insects, Cows and Milk, Arable Crops, Farm Figures, Farm Reckoning and Farm Machines.

"ROPESIGHT"

My introduction to the centuries-old craft of campanology was in 1944 after the war-time ban on the ringing of Church bells had been lifted. The local band had scattered during the war and I responded to an appeal for new recruits. Since then I have become reasonably proficient in some of the easier methods of change-ringing such as Grandsire, Stedman, Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob. Double Norwich Court Bob Major (to give it its full name!) is next on the list and after that I hope to tackle Cambridge and Superlative. I tell you this that you may know some of the fascinating names which are part of the bell-ringing terminology—for it has indeed a language of its own. For instance, before you are a proficient ringer you have to know how "Bobs" and "Singles" affect the course of your bell; how to "course the treble;" what happens when you "go in the hunt;" when to "lead a whole pull wrong" or "right;" and when, or whether, to do a single or double "dodge."

The first lessons consist of learning how to manage and control the bell. This is followed by ringing "rounds," i.e., the bells follow one another in the same order all the time—123456123456, etc. Then will follow the first stages of change-ringing—and doesn't it seem difficult at first! But if you stick to it the day will come when, quite suddenly, you realise that you have got "rope-sight," without which you will never be a good ringer—and once it's come it will never leave you.

But apart from the thrill of having anything from four to twenty hundredweight of metal under your control and the working out of intricate patterns in conjunction with 5 or 7 or 9 other bells there is, to me at any rate, the fun of making new friends, visiting new towers, and being dead certain of a friendly welcome in any belfry in any corner of the country.

Being a hard-worked tractor driver and stock-looker-afterer I do not get a lot of time for travelling around but I have rung in about thirty towers in various parts of the country and I once had the privilege of ringing in Winchester Cathedral. I was also lucky enough to be in the belfry of Chester Cathedral when the nightly curfew was rung on the huge tenor bell; a centuries-old custom to call in the labourers working outside before the city gates were shut for the night.

So far I have only rung in one Quarter Peal (1,260 changes of Plain Bob Minor in 45 minutes) and one Peal (5,040 changes of Plain Bob Minor). The latter took 2 hours and 54 minutes and coming at the end of a day's work was fairly exhausting!

I would very much like to hear from other W.L.A. ringers and would like to try and arrange a "Land Army touch" at a District meeting sometime.

Hants. O. D. G. Wade, 128863.

"ELECTRICITY LENDS A HAND"

Miss Ethel Webb is an ex-member of the Land Army who now lectures and demonstrates for a large Electrical Company.

I have been asked to try to give you some idea of how electricity can "Lend a Hand on the Land" and by so doing can help solve two of the farmers' greatest problems, that of man-power and of expenditure.

We all know that farming is of great national importance to-day, we must produce more food and in view of the shortage of labour must endeavour to do so with the limited amount of man-power available. Farmers, farm-workers and Land-Girls are all doing a grand job of work but their tasks can be made a great deal lighter and less arduous by the more extensive use of that great helper—electricity. It is impossible in this short article to describe all the farm activities which can be made easier and more pleasant with the aid of electricity, but, I will give you some instances of how it can help that V.I.P. The Dairy Farmer. Work on the farm often begins in the dark hours of the early morning and does not cease until after sunset. If electric lamps in outdoor fittings are used to light the roads, pathways and open spaces and electricity is used for illuminating cow-sheds and barns, a great deal of time, labour and temper is saved. How much easier to "switch on the light" and have instantaneous effect, than to light candles or oil lamps which often give trouble and must be shielded from draughts and in any case give insufficient light. The most important factor in milk production is of course hygiene. The use of electricity will help to maintain the very high standard of cleanliness and efficiency that is required.

First of all there must be an adequate water supply, this is absolutely essential on the farm. Where mains water is not available or where for some reason a local source such as spring or well is preferred the question of pumping becomes an important one. The Electrically Driven Pumping Equipment answers that question, it ensures a constant labour saving water supply for a minimum of labour and attention. It cuts out all the old idea of pumping by hand, filling two buckets and trudging along with tired aching muscles spilling half the water on the way—Oh, I remember those Land Army days!

I won't bother you with the details of pumping water by electricity, but will just tell you that the general cost would be 2d. per 1,000 gallons from a shallow well and 2d. to 6d. per 1,000 gallons from a deep well. So, obviously, it is comparatively inexpensive and solves the ever present demand for water.

Now for the actual business of milking. Milking by hand can be a long rather tedious business, especially for the inexperienced. Machine milking is simple and very much more economical and the electric motor is generally recognised as being the most satisfactory means of driving the vacuum pump. Incidentally, it can never "blow up the cow!" It works purely by suction and would only "blow" if wrongly connected, in which case it could never be attached to the cow's udder. The electric motor is ready to start at any instant, is entirely free from cold weather starting troubles and, while the cost of working varies with the type and make of plant, it is economical at any of the tariff rates generally available. For any reader interested in statistics the following figures may be of use:—The consumption of 900 to 1,000 units of electricity per year may be expected from a farm milking 30 cows, that is approximately 2s. 6d. per cow per year. Stripping out by hand is advisable after removing the milker from the cow but even so the saving in time and labour is considerable; for example, 90 cows can be milked in one and half hours by six workers, three of whom are washing, strip-

ping and drawing fore-milk, whereas without the machine 10 workers would be required.

The next step is cooling the milk. Electricity can play a vital part here. In the simplest type of cooling plant a refrigerant is allowed to evaporate inside the actual milk cooler (which becomes part of the refrigerator circuit) while the milk is flowing down the outer surface. Or the Duplex cooler can be used, here the milk is water cooled to a temperature between 65°-55°F. in the first stage, and then refrigerant-cooled in the second stage, completing the cooling, to between 45°-40°F. As the cooler cannot be dismantled, steam covers are provided for use when sterilizing. The running cost is only about 1s. 8d.-2s. 6d. per cow per year.

Now it is common knowledge that all dairy utensils and appliances must be kept scrupulously clean by washing and sterilising. Electricity can provide constant hot water without labour and makes sterilising a very simple job. There is no need to build, stoke and clear out boiler fires, indeed, no need at all for boiler rooms or fuel stores. What a saving in time and labour and the cost of buildings as well as the blessed absence of fumes, dirt and dust!

How does electricity do the job? For hot water a "lagged storage heater" is used, that is a tank packed all round with cork or other similar packing to prevent heat escaping and being wasted. A heating element is fitted inside the tank and is controlled by what we call a thermostatic switch. This switch is automatic and maintains the water at a pre-determined temperature usually of 140°-170°F. The heater is piped to the required points which in itself is very useful and thereby it provides constant hot water wherever it is needed without the use of man-power. For sterilising dairy utensils there are one or two different types of electric sterilising chests. As you probably know, the most effective way of sterilising dairy utensils is to place them inside a chest with steam passing into it until the required temperature of 210°F. is reached, and then to maintain that temperature for a further 10 minutes.

With the self-contained electric sterilising chest, an electrically heated steam generator is fitted underneath which produces the required pressure, and which can be connected to outside jets for teat-cup clusters and a churn stool. With the present coal situation, it is interesting to note that there is a great saving in fuel costs by using one of these chests, the popular 27 cu. ft. steriliser consumes only six units of electricity, that is about 6d. per sterilisation.

With regard to the feeding of cows, such machines as crushers, cake-breakers, root-cutters and chaff-cutters can all be easily converted to electric drive, but have you met the small Automatic Hammer Mill for grain grinding? It is a very reliable little machine, driven by a 3 h.p. motor and it has a great many advantages. It costs little, will meet all the grain grinding requirements of any farm and will often replace the other larger mills which might otherwise be converted to electric drive and require 30 h.p. motors. The mill can be set to grind for a definite period of time, or can be set to switch itself off when the control hopper is filled. Another real advantage is that the mill can be safely left to deposit the ground meal just where the farmer wants it, whether it be on the floor, into sacks, or better still into bins, and all this is done automatically.

So much for the actual farm, what about the farmhouse and that other V.I.P. the farmhouse wife? Electricity can make life so much more pleasant for her. Consider lighting alone, electricity provides clean, bright light at the touch of a switch, no more trimming, filling and cleaning oil lamps; the room decorations and ceilings keep so much cleaner too. Then there is the joy of cooking with a clean, fumeless cooker, which again works at the touch of a switch—no more of the drudgery and expense of cleaning and using the old-fashioned coal-range.

The electric storage heater will provide constant hot water for her also, no need to have a fire in the summer merely for heating water.

There is the electric vacuum cleaner, washing machine and wireless and many more appliances which would help the farmer's wife, and they are all practical, labour saving and economical.

Yes, electricity is capable of lending a very big hand on the land and remember, the Electrical Industry is definitely "farm conscious" ready and willing to help agriculture in this great fight for prosperity.

Ethel Webb.

IN THE LAND ARMY . . .

Tramping across fields with haversack, auger and map, I have been taken for a variety of people from Mole Catcher to Hiker when actually I have just been taking samples of the soil to test it for lime deficiency. I am a member of the County Lime Survey team, and we have a complete survey of the whole country as our ultimate aim.

We work in a block of about six parishes at a time, the first job for each parish being of course map tracing. This we do mostly on days when we are held up outside by weather conditions. We trace from Ordnance Survey Maps 6 in. to the mile putting in all the details that will be helpful when we first venture on the new territory. Unfortunately the landscape often changes quicker than the new Ordnance Survey Maps are made. We number each field, filling in the acreage and boundaries of every farm and holding.

The patience needed to make a good map is rewarded when we do eventually reach our new pastures. We cut it carefully and each taking a piece we go our ways cross-country. As we enter each field we must check it for size and shape and the type and condition of the crop or crops. If there is only one crop it usually means one sample for the whole field but that depends on local conditions. If there are two or more, then a separate sample is taken for each crop. We must get a good representative sample of soil by taking top soil to a depth of 6 ins. with our soil auger 12 to 15 times, crossing the area of the crop diagonally, deciding which way we go according to configuration. We need a good pair of legs, a genuine interest in our work and we need to be utterly content with our own company. The last thing we do before setting off, is to plan a definite route. These plans are often thwarted by rivers that have changed course or bridges that are no longer there but anyway the plan is made and we have our target for the day.

We put the soil into a small numbered bag and write a short report. This process is repeated in every field of more than twenty acres until the whole area of the parish has been covered. Slowly but surely as the days pass the fields are crossed, the samples pile up, then off we take them to the laboratory to test for lime deficiency. It is interesting to find out if one's diagnosis is correct.

Last but not least comes the clerical work which we usually do on wet days. We set out complete results for each farmer individually and then make a total of the whole area sampled, together with a total of the deficient areas.

Of all the different jobs connected with this work I enjoy most of all the hours spent away at the back of beyond. Here I find real happiness and contentment and the satisfaction of knowing that the job I'm doing is worth while. Most farmers welcome us too, well, it's just old fashioned not to be interested.

Finally I think I would like to quote someone who has watched the team with interest from the beginning. He says that after a year at this work one develops a far away look and becomes in one sense, a complete isolationist. I think there is something in what he says.

Leicestershire.

A. M. Rowland. 111538.

Like the Land Girl, the Policewoman spends a lot of her time out of doors, but with what a difference. Having been a Land Girl myself, I can compare the two occupations and see where the difference lies. No longer do I follow the plough keeping my eyes fixed ahead to get a straight furrow, now I must keep my eyes wide open looking all around me in order to see what goes on, if there is anyone committing a breach of the law or requiring help of any kind. No longer do I work among the various beasts of the field, but among human beings. This has helped to broaden my outlook and give me an inside knowledge of the way in which people live.

As I walk around this town with my colleagues (we generally go out in pairs), I see myriads of faces, the faces of people who are going about their daily tasks. How right Shakespeare was when he said "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players." A police woman sees these different players and their parts as she goes out daily on her patrols and enquiries into the various parts of the town, the richer and the poorer districts each have regular visits. The people of the town look to us and we must always appear smart and ready to help anyone who requires our assistance.

When we are in the Police Station Office or even during our leisure hours we have to study the Statutory Law and of course the Bye-laws of the town. There are various examinations which we can take, consequently it is essential that we learn all we can.

There is, of course, the sordid side of this job but then does not the Land Girl have her sordid times too? After all the pig sties must be cleaned out, perhaps this is not quite the right comparison, but the meaning is there. I know in the life of a Land Girl there is a great deal of variety and that we must keep patrolling the streets but we have variety too; it may be hidden but if we seek surely we shall find it.

Meanwhile, instead of being a Land Girl to help win the war, I am now a Policewoman to help keep the peace.

Policewoman '5'—D. Dawson,
ex-W.L.A.

"She has never been known to grumble on any occasion whatever (this is literally true!)" writes her employer about Kathleen Hobden, E. Sussex, 6323, going on to describe her loyalty, reliability and cheerfulness during her eight and a half years' service. Kathleen has looked after the herd of pedigree Guernseys at Manor Farm, Chalvington, and every animal reared in this herd since 1939 has passed through her hands at one time or another. The impressive list of successes which this herd has won speaks for itself. In 1947 it won three cups in the National Herds Competitions, one for the best bull and progeny, all breeds, for England and Wales and for the best herd, all breeds, in Kent. Surrey and Sussex, and was runner-up for the best herd, all breeds, in England and Wales.

Not only has Kathleen been in entire charge of the poultry on the farm and done a great variety of other jobs but she has also been a leading light in local affairs. She designed and executed most of the posters for local events and ran a very successful club for school children. She also took part in discussion groups, sat on many committees and made herself generally useful to the community. The whole of Chalvington wishes her luck on her return to civilian life.

MRS. BYRNE
Land Army News records with sorrow, the death of Mrs. Byrne who worked for nearly eight years as Land Army Committee Member and Chairman in Essex. We extend deepest sympathy to the Land Army in Essex by whom she will be greatly missed.

E. Tame, 174815, Somerset, has sent a photograph to the County Office of a carrot, grown on the farm where she works which weighs 4lb. 7oz. and which measures 13 inches. Can anyone beat this?

Members and friends of the Land Army seem to have taken advantage of this lovely spring to launch into a round of festivities. Dances, whist drives and concerts have followed in quick succession and the underlying purpose of all these has been to raise money for the Land Army's Benevolent Fund. Since the beginning of this year over £800 has been raised by entertainments alone.

The largest amount recently sent in as a result of a single effort was £61 15s., raised by three privately employed members of the W.L.A. in Devonshire who ran a sale of produce and handicrafts, etc. Theirs was a really fine effort because there are very few Land Girls in that district and so they had little help in preparing the sale but they were well rewarded by the support they received from those who attended.

As we have said before, we much regret that we cannot acknowledge all individual efforts in these notes, but we should like to take this opportunity of expressing our very grateful thanks to so many County Committee members and District Representatives who have taken such interest in the work of the Fund and who have so often helped to raise money for it.

In addition to the grants from H.M. Treasury, approximately £180,000 has been raised by private enterprise since the beginning of the Fund. Nearly 20,000 grants and loans have been made to members and ex-members and the Fund has already spent almost £191,000 on various branches of its work.

First impressions count for a great deal when you are applying for a job and it is well to remember that the first thing that your prospective employer sees is the letter you write in answer to his advertisement. It is a good plan to read the advertisement over two or three times and to answer the points mentioned in it one by one. Never let it hang about, answer it at once, using the best note paper you have and writing clearly. You should give all necessary details such as your name, age, training, experience and state the salary you require. Give the names and addresses of your previous employers, mention the date upon which you will be available for employment and remember also to give the dates upon which you will be free to attend an interview.

Do not be too ambitious, the more attractive jobs will always draw a larger number of applicants and so reduce your chances of success. Lastly, do not be disheartened if you do not get an answer to your letter. Very few employers can spare the time to answer the letters of the unsuccessful applicants and there is always the old proverb to be remembered. "If at first, you don't succeed, try, try, try again!"

Dear Editor,

When I had received my grant from the Benevolent Fund to help me set up in pig farming I found the price of pigs had increased greatly and therefore I hung on for a while before buying, then I was lucky to get four young gilts, three pedigree Wessex Saddlebacks and one large White. With the help of the Ministry of Food's Inspector, bacon and hams department, I looked for a large white boar. Then things seemed to be finished, boars were very scarce and the few I inquired about, very dear, ranging from 50 to 100 guineas. This was impossible for me but one day, after trying very hard to get one, I went to Salisbury market, there I met a gentleman who kept a large and very well known herd of

large white pigs. He had one boar which of course was beyond my buying but he advised me to go to the Ministry's live stock officer and explain to him. This I did and he promised to do all he could for me. After another wait of three weeks he purchased a boar for me under the Ministry's Premium Scheme. I paid the actual cost of the boar, 30 guineas and when the Ministry had passed it, 15 guineas were returned to me and when, after 12 months, I can guarantee by register from the Ministry that the boar has served 12 sows I can get another 10 guineas refunded. Thus the boar should only cost me five guineas. The payment for his services to other pigs is 10s., which I am allowed to keep, I have already collected £7 10s., so now the boar is mine for nothing and I am £2 5s. in hand! After two years the Ministry will replace this boar by another one, and they also allow me extra meal to keep him fit.

On Monday last two of my gilts had their young ones, one had ten the other nine, one more has hers in three weeks' time and the fourth in about six weeks' time. I have enough meal on hand for a month and I am very lucky with swill, etc., I am one who never looks very far on the bright side of things, I always see the dark side, but with this new scheme and how things are going at the moment, I am really looking at it in a much better light and am convinced things will turn out very well.

I am very interested in it and put all my spare time into it with my husband assisting me, all this is seen to in our after-working hours but who could be happier than we are? You should come and see everything for yourselves especially when we kill our annual pig. Mrs. Hastings, our local D.R. called to see me yesterday and was very interested and has ordered two of the baby pigs for herself when they are old enough.

Pigs are not my only hobby I am hoping to get some ducks and we are replanting an old orchard with new trees and about half an acre with potatoes so I don't think I shall visit the unemployment exchange just yet.

E. M. Fry.

Ex-W.L.A.

MONMOUTH.—We were very sorry to lose Miss G. G. Jones, County Organiser, at the beginning of March, but wish her every success in her work in Gamorgan. Miss Wharton, who was a member of the Women's Land Army for seven years and for the last two years was County Organiser, will be missed very much by all personnel of the Monmouthshire W.L.A. We are glad that she has not left the county and hope that she will be very happy at Llanthony. We welcome Miss Jean Palmer, our new Organiser for the Northern half of the county, whom I am sure will be a great help to all of us. On 18th March a dance was held at the Drill Hall, Newport, for all W.L.A. members in this county and their friends. At this dance Lady Raglan, County Chairman, kindly presented the prizes for the Needlework and Knitting Competition which had been judged previously. The articles were displayed at the dance, and congratulations to Dorothy and Phyllis Meredith, Mount Ballan; Mary Morgan, Court Farm, Llanover; Laura Baird, Witla Court, and Clarice Thomas of Newport, all of whom won prizes. Everyone enjoyed the dance so much that we are hoping to make this an annual affair, as it gives all members a chance of meeting their friends who have been moved to different hostels. A total of £14 was made at the dance, of which we allocated £7 to the Benevolent Fund, and £7 to the County Welfare Fund. The County Welfare Fund statement shows a balance of £43 12s. 4d.

NORFOLK.—Preparations are well advanced for the Royal Norfolk Show to be held at Keswick, Norwich, on 30th June and 1st July. The hand milking competition for the Suffield Cup will take place under the Long Service awards will be presented to the girls by Sir Henry Upcher in the Grand Ring. The Land Army will have a marquee and examples of handicraft will be on view. There will be various sections and if sufficient articles are sent in these will be judged at the County Office, prizes will be given, and as space is limited, the winning articles only may be shown. There will also be a display of Land Army photographs. The W.V.S. have been asked to provide a mobile canteen as this was so much appreciated last year. Three Arts Council Concerts have taken place. 5th April at Dilham Village Hall, 6th April at Barton Bendish Village Hall, with girls from Barton and Crow Hall, 7th April at the Church Room, Wells-on-Sea. This was attended by volunteers from Longlands House and the Shooting Box. The artists were:—Daphne Ibbott, Piano; Margaret Mann, Soprano; Gethyn Wykeham-George, 'Cello. They gave a delightful programme and much interest was shown in the singer when it was known she had been a member of the Land Army for three years during the war. A whistle drive at Rackheath arranged by the Misses Hudson and Sewell raised £12 8s. 9d. for the

Benevolent Fund. Eighteen prizes were given and a magnificent iced cake by Roys of Wroxham with red and green W.L.A. on top. There were seventeen tables. A dance arranged by Miss J. Fransham brought in a further £3 1s. 3d. On 28th April there will be a dance in Banningham Parish Room, also in aid of the Fund, with a special Orchestra, and refreshments.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—A very successful party was held on 3rd April, at the Hind Hotel, Wellingborough, when presentations were made to Mrs. Simpson and Miss Allen on their retirements. The former was given a suitcase, book and cheque, and the latter a picnic basket, book and cheque. The only sad part was the thought that this would be the last time that Committee members, Representatives and Girls would be meeting together under the old regime. Miss Lees, our Chairman, was given a lovely book by Mrs. Simpson, the Organiser and office staff, and before making the presentation to Mrs. Simpson and Miss Allen she said how grateful she was to all connected with the Land Army for their help, and expressed her regret that the time had now come for the voluntary part of the organisation to be wound up. Mrs. Simpson and Miss Allen spoke of their great gratitude for the loyalty and support given them by everyone in the Northants. W.L.A. since 1939, and said how very sorry they were to be leaving. They were also so very touched by their lovely gifts, and sent their most grateful thanks to everyone who had subscribed towards them. A delicious tea was enjoyed by everyone and the Chairman said how sorry she was that it had not been possible to invite all members. Miss Lees would like to take this opportunity of wishing Land Army members, County Secretary, Organisers and office staff a very happy future, and is so sorry it has not been possible to say goodbye personally to everyone. We are very pleased to welcome our new Organiser, Miss Rosson and hope that she will be happy in this county.

NORTHUMBERLAND.—As an account of the County Rally in Newcastle on the 6th March appeared in April's News Letter, no further space need be given to this event in these notes, except to mention that those who did attend were surprised that so few members and ex members came in proportion to the large number who had been invited. Membership figures have dropped again to a new low level equivalent to that for December 1941; 566. During the first three months of the year nine members recovering from illness, accident or operation, spent a most enjoyable convalescent holiday at Ashton Wold, and one had a holiday at the Torquay Rest Break House. During January, February and March 36 grants from the Benevolent Fund were made to members and ex members in this county involving a total sum of £211 7s. 4d. On the income side during these three months we have received £8 18s. 10d. in donations to the fund. £3 10s. of this came from the 1d. a week collection by members at Wooler Hostel. All Land Army members in the county will wish to thank Committee members and Representatives who will finish their official work for the Land Army at the end of May, most of them having given their interest and time since the Land Army started. It is hoped that they will keep in personal contact with any members who work in their immediate locality.

SHROPSHIRE.—We are very sorry to lose a number of our volunteers who have been married within the last few weeks, and wish them every happiness in their new life, particularly Miss M. E. Barron and Miss J. Pettford who have both given over six years' service in Shropshire. The latter's employer has now written a most appreciative letter regarding her. We are delighted to hear that Miss Sylvia Lonsdale is now able to get about on crutches and hopes to be able to leave hospital in about three weeks' time after her serious accident. One of our volunteers from Bridgnorth Hostel recently attended a weekend course in dairy farming at the Shrewsbury Technical College organised by the County Council. She says: "I really feel I have learnt a considerable amount in a very short time and if possible would love to attend any future courses." These we hope will be arranged and more volunteers will be able to attend. A new series of six dressmaking classes started at Morville Hostel on 7th April. Our best wishes go with Miss A. A. Haslam, lately one of our Hostel Orderlies, who has now returned to her home in Canada. The second of our informal Wardens' Conferences will be held on 23rd April at Bourton Hostel, Much Wenlock. We plan to have one of these Conferences alternate months at each hostel in turn, and hope that they will be helpful to all concerned.

SOMERSET.—The County Welfare Fund has received a very welcome donation from Stogumber Hostel as a result of their dance. Stoke Hostel held an enjoyable Valentine party. Miss Abbot has given another film show at her house and employers and girls enjoyed this very pleasant evening, when films of the Royal Wedding were shown. We are glad to welcome Mrs. Parkes as a third organiser in the county and hope she will soon be able to visit the girls in her area. Our "newest" and largest hostel, Freshford, has opened near Bath. We hope soon to open another at Ilton. The Land Army stand at the Silver Lining Week held in Taunton was much admired—we are most grateful to the members who made "Land Girls" and painted badges and hope that they will be seen again in Yeovil and Bridgwater shows. All hostels have enjoyed a visit from Iclima beauty demonstrators recently and displays of films by the Central Office of Information.

SURREY.—We should like to send our best wishes to Miss Spiret and Miss Poynter who sailed for Australia on 21st April. Both these volunteers have given over eight years' service; also to Betty Abbott who sails on S.S. Aquitania to Canada on 25th May. A very interesting letter has arrived from W. Gardner, who, with D. Fawcett, arrived in Canada last November. They are both happily

settled but miss the life in the Land Army very much. Some of our volunteers are engaged on the Ministry of Agriculture Vegetable Seed Trials at the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley. Those Surrey volunteers who started their careers at Surrey Hills Hostel will be sorry to hear it has now closed down. We would like to welcome Miss Read who will become one of our County Organisers soon after these notes go to press. It is with regret that we say goodbye to Miss Talbot, our Chairman, the Committee, and the Local Representatives who have been such good friends of the Women's Land Army for nearly nine years. During this period, and particularly during the war years they have given unstinted service and help, often under arduous and trying conditions. To our gratitude we add the hope that the help so freely given in the past may be ours again in the future should the need arise.

It is with sorrow that we record the death on 13th April of Dorothy Furse, an ex-volunteer who had been ill for the past three years and we extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

EAST SUFFOLK.—Almost every morning Land Girls in East Suffolk could have truthfully sung "Oh, what a beautiful morning" on their way to work. The farming year has made a very good beginning. Milk yields are going up as the cows get on to the meadows, and work on the land is remarkably forward. We only hope this happy state of affairs will continue. A new hostel has been opened at Blundeston, in the north of the county, where accommodation will be available for 80 Land Girls. We wish good luck to both staff and girls, and especially to the two Wardens, Miss Tharp and Miss Chattock, who have proved themselves such good friends to our Land Girls at Columbyne Hall Training Hostel. Several of our old hostels have heard they are having at least some rooms redecorated this spring, and we are sure that the residents will show great appreciation of the improvement. It is hoped to get some more pictures and to make the hostels more attractive in other ways during the year. We are all looking forward to a friendly contest to be held in Ipswich on 5th May. Picked teams from West and East Suffolk will compete again for the lovely Rose Bowl presented last year by the Suffolk branch of the N.F.U., and won then by the Western half of the County. Good luck to both teams, and may much agricultural knowledge be displayed. There will be a special Land Army tent at the Suffolk Show to be held in Christchurch Park, Ipswich, on 2nd and 3rd June, and we shall look forward to seeing many volunteers on those days. Unfortunately we shall not be able to provide refreshments, but hope that a place in which to rest, eat a picnic lunch, and meet your friends, will be appreciated.

WEST SUFFOLK.—We were very pleased to welcome so many friends to the farewell party for the voluntary workers, and the W.L.A. quiz final on 7th April. It was an extremely happy and successful evening, which was crowned by our two judges Mr. Rush and Mr. Shropshire, inviting the two teams to a sherry party at the Farmer's Club, and a theatre at the Playhouse on 23rd April. Mrs. Custerson's team beat Risby by 763 to 603, and so for the second time in four years won Lady Briscoe's Challenge Trophy. We were fortunate in having once again our busy Executive Officer as Question-Master. Mr. Sayce took the opportunity of informing the audience of the great need for more recruits in the Women's Land Army. P. Eve (Captain), general farm, S. Purkiss and J. Garrod, milkers, H. Tompkins, tractor and A. Farrington, poultry, will be going to Ipswich to represent West Suffolk in the Inter-County Quiz match for the N.F.U. Rose Bowl on 5th May. We are very much looking forward to the second annual contest with our East Suffolk neighbours. A series of proficiency tests in hand and machine milking, general farm, field and tractor took place in April. Our congratulations to the sixteen girls who passed, and especially to J. Hampton, G. King M. Ferguson, J. Garrod and J. Littlejohn, who gained distinctions. Our target of £100 for the Welfare Fund was reached on 2nd April, two months before time. All those who raised money by individual efforts, and took part in organising entertainments are to be congratulated on this wonderful result. Several new armlets have been awarded lately. Particular mention should be made of E. Siffert, who has gained her eight-year armlet and J. Wrightson, H. Parks, D. Jones and V. Freeston, who have now completed six years service.

EAST SUSSEX.—A grand concert arranged by Mrs. Brooke at Lewes on 14th April included Ann Pollak, (mezzo soprano) from Sadlers Wells, and Vera Maconochie and Harold Williams singing "The Cries of London" which were acted by members of the East Sussex Women's Land Army and their friends. It is hoped to send a good contribution to the Benevolent Fund as the result. The Sussex week-end at the Women's Land Army Club has proved very popular and 35 volunteers will be going up. Some are going to the Ballet at Covent Garden, others to Binnie Hale's show or the B.B.C. Trips have also been arranged to the City and to Windsor and Hampton Court. It is with very deep regret that her many friends heard of the death of Jeanie Ford, one of our long service members and Relief Milker in the Lewes Unit. Another tragedy was the death of Alice Lawrence in a car smash. Alice, who had only been four months in the Land Army, worked from Newick Hostel.

WEST SUSSEX.—All our six hostels and five clubs and some individual members, took part in the Inter-Club and Hostel Competition for Handicrafts, Essays, Art, Music and Drama, and there were over 300 entries and the judges commented on the high standard of work. The Entertainment Classes, which included choirs, recitations, solo singing, variety entertainments, an original play and a charade, were adjudicated at Northlands and Forest House Hostels and Worthing Club, and provided most interesting and entertaining evenings. Such interest was shown that it became clear that no hostel would be large

enough for the final evening and the County Education Committee kindly allowed us the use of the new school at Storrington for the Exhibition Evening on 8th April. This delightful hall was packed out with 350 Land Girls and some friends. All work with over 75 per cent. marks was on show. Mr. Bartlett, the County Agricultural Officer, congratulated the entrants and spoke of the importance of the Land Army work. Our County Chairman, the Hon. Mrs. W. Burrell, O.B.E., presented the Certificates and Special Prizes—amid loud applause. Henfield Club were the winners with the highest average of marks, Northlands Hostel second and Horsham third. A delightful entertainment of selected items followed, ending up with Forest Houses' "Wild West" which had been awarded a Gold Star 90 per cent. in the Entertainment Class, and brought a most enjoyable evening to a close. A Hand Milking Proficiency Test was held in March with 12 entrants, of whom nine passed with flying colours. Our Arts Council Tour in March, the last of the season, was greatly enjoyed and we were delighted to welcome Mary Rowland back to West Sussex. Loxwood Hostel held a second successful dance on 3rd March, and as a result sent £7 to the Welfare Fund. Our new hostel, Westfield House, Fontwell—a delightful house—opens on 3rd May with 20. It will eventually house 50 girls.

WARWICKSHIRE.—We are very sorry indeed that Miss Hiron, who has been a County Organiser in Warwickshire for practically six years, has resigned and will be leaving us at the end of June. Miss Hiron we know, will be very much missed by all those who have had any contact with her during her very long service with the W.L.A. We are at the same time, glad to welcome to the County Mrs. Shiner, who has started work as an organiser in the north-eastern district of the county. Work with the W.L.A. is new ground to Mrs. Shiner and we hope that she will be very happy with us. Having been for so long without a Pioneer Warden, we are very glad to have in place of Miss Hazard, Mrs. Channon, who is based at Wolverton Court and will act as Pioneer Warden in this county. We hope that Mrs. Channon will also be happy and enjoy her work in Warwickshire. During May, at the Town Hall, Stratford-on-Avon, we held a very successful Wardens Conference, and it was very ably addressed by Miss Keith, Hostels Administrative Officer, from Headquarters. The rummage sale and fun fair, organised by the office in Kineton, in aid of the County Welfare Fund, realised £42 14s. 3d. and the contributions from the hostels total £54 14s. 4d. and this is without four hostels which for various reasons have been unable to send in their contributions before the date of writing. We feel that now there is a good balance in the Welfare Fund to carry us on for a little while for help in needy cases. The girls of Shipston Hostel showed their initiative by arranging for two motor coaches to take them and their friends to Coventry Hippodrome to see a variety show. The money for this was raised by themselves in various ways. The show appears to have been enjoyed by everyone.

WILTSHIRE.—Our congratulations to Elizabeth Coleman and Phyllis Hawkins of Mere Hostel for their presence of mind in saving a small boy from drowning while on their way to work; also to Valerie Baker for being accepted as a student of dairying at Aberystwyth University. All our gangs have been busy lately potato planting and we understand some have been complimented on the speed at which they have worked. Several of our members, including a number of milkers having a well deserved rest from their seven day week, and our Hostel Warden from Greenway Lane, Miss Burton, have recently spent a fortnight at Torquay. They have all come back with glowing accounts of their holiday and full of the admiration for the way the Rest Break House is run. We are building extensions to three hostels to accommodate extra girls, we are also hoping to change over to single beds in the near future. Several hostels have been brightened by the painting of the obligatory furniture a cheerful blue. We have just obtained a really excellent supply of novels through the kindness of the County Librarian and these are being circulated round the hostels. Handicraft classes will begin at Darley House on the 6th May and arrangements are in hand for fruit bottling demonstrations later.

WEST RIDING YORKSHIRE.—A party was held at Sherburn-in-Elmet Hostel on Friday, 14th February, to celebrate its sixth birthday. Quite a number of "old" girls were present; they mingled amongst the "new" girls hearing and telling of land army experiences. There was dancing and games, the music for the dancing being played on the radiogram which the girls of 1943 bought from money they raised themselves through raffles, small charges for making beds and cleaning shoes, etc. The main event of the evening was the presentation, by Miss Evelyn Brown—the first forewoman of Sherburn Hostel—to Miss Beaumont the Warden, of a lovely brass pewter tea set on a beaten pewter tray. This was a gift from the girls who have passed through Sherburn during the last five years. Miss Beaumont has been Warden of the hostel for all this time, and as the card read, which was attached to the present, it was "with love and grateful thanks from an appreciative group of Land Girls." It was a very happy party and everyone said how much they had enjoyed it.

We are opening new hostels in May and June to hold about 200 volunteers altogether, and Mrs. Rowles, our County Secretary has been inspecting suitable sites, and planning the accommodation which will be necessary. It is thought that ex-A.T.S. sites in one or two cases, will be chosen. Beginning with Otley Show on 5th May, we are arranging to have a Land Army stand at several agricultural shows to be held in the West Riding during the next few months. As everyone knows, going to a show is a most interesting way of spending a Saturday afternoon, and we are hoping that in this way would-be recruits will be encouraged to join the W.L.A.