



EDITORIAL NOTES

QUITE a lot of people are interested in the idea of going overseas to one of the Dominions or Colonies where they probably think that everyone has more chance of success than in this rather overcrowded island and where there is the attraction of being in a relatively new country. But from the article printed on another page it seems that there are few opportunities for women who wish to make agriculture their career. There are no organisations comparable to our Women's Land Army and it appears to be an uphill and lonely life for anyone going out on her own.

The best hope for a would-be emigrant who really only wants a change, might be to consider first the opportunities in this country. Better or more interesting jobs in agriculture can nearly always be found by those who are keen and willing, if necessary, to go to a hitherto unknown county. There are some branches for which women are particularly well suited, milking is one, the care of stock and poultry keeping are others, not to mention market gardening, and those who really want to get on are well advised to concentrate on these rather than to hanker after tractor driving or other heavy jobs which men regard as their prerogative and for which, by sheer physical strength, they are better fitted to undertake.

There may soon be increased facilities for training in the Land Army which should help those with ambition, but in the meantime there are correspondence courses and proficiency tests which give land girls a chance to prove to themselves and to their employers that they have reached a reasonable standard of efficiency and can be classed as someone who is skilled at her work. Practically any job becomes more interesting the more one knows about it and those who feel that there is nothing left for them in this country might find that there is a lot that they had not noticed before.

On the 18th September, the enrolled strength of the Land Army was 22,906.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Edith Ellis, 60310, Lancs., who entered 16 horticultural exhibits at Langworth Show and won 14 prizes.

And to N. Partridge, 47672, Northamptonshire, who won the Royal Horticultural Society's Banksian Medal for the competitor winning the largest amount of money in prizes at the Pytchley Horticultural Society's Show.

And to Marjorie Hartley, 89862, Lancs., who won the Championship for a two-year-old calf and first prize for a year-old calf at the Y.F.C. Show at Coniston.

And to Viola Streicher, 42450, Berks., who after seven-and-a-half years in the Land Army has been appointed bailiff on a farm in Berkshire, a post previously always held by a man. She is to take full charge of a large herd of dairy Shorthorns.

And to Dorothy Chamberlain, 16576, Essex, who was awarded a special prize for the best woman student of the 1947-48 course at the Kent Horticultural College, Swanley.

BENEVOLENT FUND

One aspect of the Fund's work which is probably unknown to most people is the provision of bursaries for agricultural diploma or degree courses. During the war some admirers of the Land Army, a well-known firm of agricultural specialists, subscribed a sum of money to the Fund to provide bursaries for Land Army members who wished to obtain educational qualifications enabling them to take posts of greater responsibility in the agricultural world. Until the end of the war, however, it so happened that those Land Army girls who secured a vacancy in a college or university also qualified for a grant under the Government's Further Education and Training Scheme and, therefore, this special donation was put on one side for a rainy day.

Only a small section of people now qualify under the Government scheme but the Benevolent Fund Committee, through this gift, has happily been able to avoid disappointment to several Land Army members who gained admission to a college or university but who lacked part of the means to pay the cost of the training. There are now six members in receipt of bursaries, four of whom have completed one year's training and two who are about to begin. Here, then, is another example of how the Land Army's fine work has been recognised in a very practical way. One student writes as follows: "I am very, very grateful for the enormous help which you have given me, which far exceeded my wildest hopes. I hope that I shall prove worthy of it, and that some day I may be able to return the money without which it would have been quite impossible for me to go to college."

This month we should like to say a special "thank you" to the West Riding Hostels who have sent us £115 for the Fund.

Christmas cards will again be sold in aid of the Fund, price 6d. each. The sale of these

cards is not restricted to the Land Army so if you or your friends want to make sure of getting some, write at once to your county office.

THE PLOUGHING MATCH

Whenever it is suggested that I enter a ploughing match I know I can be certain of two facts. One is that everyone will be as helpful as possible, and the other that in spite of this, I shall be worried to the point of distraction. The few days—in fact weeks—prior to a ploughing competition are just one big worry. There is never much certainty as to what is going to happen, and one always anticipates the worst. Also, the state of the ground has to be considered. Is it going to be so hard that the ploughs will not enter, or shall we have so much rain beforehand that the tractors cannot get along?

I remember arriving at one match and being told that I was the only competitor in the Ladies' Class. Feeling it was rather foolish to compete against myself I was quite ready to relinquish my part in the proceedings and enjoy the day watching other people's prowess. However, the powers that be decided to judge me on points and I had to go through with it. On this occasion the weather was not very helpful. The rain poured down during the whole length of the match.

The morning of the County Ploughing Competition, held at Bengoe, was beautiful. The sun shone as if it were April instead of November. It had been foggy the day before so it was a great relief to be able to see clearly across the field. When I arrived at the farm, together with some of my fellow sufferers, there were already many people there and the number was increasing rapidly. Judges and organisers were busy arranging last-minute details, and the competitors were giving and receiving last-minute hints. Then came the moment for drawing position numbers. As no other five furrow ploughs were entered my number was given me, and when the two- and four-furrow competitors had drawn for their positions we all lined up in front of our posts. How well in line the sticks were! I hoped the ridge I was about to mark would be just as straight! We all moved up the field towards our distant posts, trying to imagine that it was just an ordinary day's ploughing, and to forget that crowds of people were watching.

During the match interested spectators gave us an idea of how we were progressing in comparison with each other. Also, sandwiches and lemonade were brought to us, but I think a nerve sedative would have been more appropriate! At last the ploughing was finished and what sighs of relief there were. It was some time before the judges were ready, and even then our class was the last to be announced, and the time of waiting seemed interminable. Then suddenly I found myself holding a silver cup. I had won!

Hertfordshire.

P. Bentley, 61613.

WORK ON THE LAND OVERSEAS

This article has been written especially for the Land Army News by Miss Edith Thompson, of the Society for Overseas Settlement of British Women.

The Society for Overseas Settlement of British Women, has had a number of inquiries from women who are anxious to know what opportunities there are in the Dominions and Colonies for agricultural and horticultural work; such inquiries have greatly increased since the war. If the inquirer has a definite idea as to where she wants to go, and what she wants to do, the Society is always able to consult one of its representatives who is on the spot and able to give first-hand advice and information as to local conditions. Many inquiries, however, are of a very general nature from women who are prepared to go anywhere where the going seems likely to be reasonably good, and there is a fair hope of making a living.

So far there has never been any real demand from overseas for women for work on the land, and the people on the spot when asked for advice have not been encouraging. Most of those who go overseas under the auspices of the Society have obtained definite posts before they sail either through their own efforts, or through the Society's representatives, or they have excellent qualifications of some kind which are known to be in demand at their destination and will enable them to find a post easily. It is rarely that the Society is able to place land workers from this end though a number who have gone out with introductions and the spirit of adventure have subsequently made good.

During the war Australia had a Land Army run on much the same lines as the W.L.A. here, and some of those who worked in this during the war are now working for themselves. An Englishwoman is running a market garden in Tasmania, and recently wrote home asking for an assistant who has now joined her; a number of women are engaged in fruit picking and other seasonal work, but the general opinion in Australia and in Canada is that the land is no place for women, and the life is altogether too hard. All the same one finds there as elsewhere that during the war period many women managed to carry on their husband's farm while they were away in the Army.

Women gardeners are no new idea in Australia, and are employed in small numbers in the big cities in the municipal gardens, and also in private posts. Madam Melba was one of the first to employ women years ago in her lovely gardens in the Dandenongs where she had a bevy of girls clad in attractive uniforms. A qualified woman gardener should have a good chance of finding a post if she were on the spot, but it is unlikely that she would be engaged from England unless she had some personal contact. In Queensland there are many small holdings and small mixed farms, and one woman at least is growing pineapples and running a market garden with success somewhere north of Brisbane. Another still, more adventurous, is growing bananas and carrying on a general store in Norfolk Island.

The long winter in Canada makes it a difficult country for land workers, and labour is very hard to come by in many places. In Southern Ontario, near Niagara, in the Okanagan Valley, and in Vancouver Island, fruit and flower farms and market gardens offer possible openings. There has never been in Canada an equivalent of the Women's Land Army. A W.L.A. member with relations farming in Canada would almost certainly be welcomed with open arms. Someone prepared to go out and take a different job while she looked around might possibly find horticultural work to do, but even this work is not done by women to any large extent. One great stumbling block to the employment of women on farms in Canada is that the accommodation is all arranged for men. Efforts to find posts

for members of the Women's Timber Corps have not been successful.

In many respects South Africa seems the most hopeful country as labour is available. A number of women are doing reasonably well in Cape Province and in the Transvaal, mainly with fruit and flowers and small market gardens. They are for the most part, however, women who knew the country well before setting up for themselves, and had experience in handling native labour, a most important asset.

There is an old-established women's agricultural college near Harrismith in the Orange Free State, which is recognised by the Government for training on the land for both long and short courses. Students from there seem to obtain good posts and are in demand. It would be a very good plan for anyone with the time and money to take a year's course there before attempting to set up for herself. Two ex-students from this College, both Englishwomen, are successfully running a mixed farm in the neighbourhood and have established an excellent reputation, winning prizes and acting as judges in Free State agricultural shows.

Conditions are much the same in Southern Rhodesia, but the white population is small, the big towns few, and markets more difficult to find. Further, there has been a considerable influx of ex-service men taking up land in the last few years who are not yet firmly established.

Kenya is attracting large numbers of settlers at present, and the government is encouraging them to take up land. There is an agricultural college to which women are admitted, and many farmers' wives contrary to all preconceived notions have made a success of the farms during their husbands' absence on war service over a period of years. Here again much depends upon the handling of native labour, and it would be impossible to take up work of this kind with any hope of success without some apprenticeship. An Englishwoman is managing a riding school near Nairobi, and two girls who had charge of a dairy farm in Sussex during the war are carrying on the home farm and milk production for a large school in the Kenya highlands.

Farming for women in New Zealand is still confined mainly to the farmer's wife and family, but one woman is specialising in growing seedling trees for sale, and a few others are market gardening. There is an Agricultural College at Palmerston North where women are accepted as students. The conditions generally are easier than in Australia as the distances are so much less, but labour is even scarcer, and there are few large towns where a good market can be assured, and women are not encouraged to take up this kind of work. Some girls who worked on the land during the war have stayed in New Zealand and the odd girl getting out to New Zealand would quite likely find a job. There is some seasonal work for women, and during the war women went in for nursery work. There is, however, no request for recruitment of women for the land in New Zealand.

It will be seen that opportunities in farming outside this country are so uncertain and difficult that would-be settlers cannot be safely advised to embark on such a career. But given the right person with health, enthusiasm, and enterprise (and enough money for a return ticket if the venture failed), she would certainly have a wonderful time, and might with luck build up a successful business, or at least earn a living. It would be wise to select a part of the world where she had friends or reliable introductions, and to take a job as a start in any capacity until she finds her feet. There is always a demand for girls who are willing to help look after children, or as home help, and intending settlers would be well advised to take a post of this sort and earn their keep and a small salary while they learn the ways of the country and see the year round on the land.

HOSTELS OF VARYING TYPES

People constantly ask me to tell them about the hostels in which the land girls live, so your Editor has kindly agreed to give me space in "Land Army News" to do so, and I think perhaps some of you, especially those of you who have always been in private billets, would also like to know about them.

As Pioneer Warden I visit hostels all over England and Wales, therefore, have first hand knowledge.

W.L.A. hostels can be divided into two distinct groups, hutments and requisitioned houses. The first which vary in size, usually accommodate from 10 to 60 volunteers, and are built on the same lines, that is two main buildings connected by a passage. In one part are the volunteers' sleeping quarters, in the other, the day quarters, which consist of a combined dining and recreation room, and the kitchen and usual offices. Beyond the kitchen are the warden's quarters and the sick bay.

The dining and recreation room is generally very attractive and cheerful. The dining tables, etc., are at one end, where there is a serving hatch into the kitchen. At the other end there are easy chairs, a piano, radio, book case, table tennis table and a sewing machine.

Some hutments have previously been part of a Service camp, in that case the plan is quite different, which allows of more space for extra recreation rooms, which is a great advantage.

It seems to me that volunteers in hutments are happier than those in houses; it may be that they are not so scattered.

The hutment gardens are very often a joy to behold, especially those that are cared for by W.L.A. gardeners, for these girls take great pride in providing their hostels with early vegetables and fruit, not forgetting a wonderful display of flowers.

The houses are most varied. I never know what to expect when I hear I am to visit a requisitioned house. It may be in the depths of the country with a long winding avenue, a mansion house, an old hall, or even a very modern house equipped with Aga Cooker, electricity and central heating. In one hostel of this type I visited, there were marvellous bathrooms in different colours with sunk-in baths complete with various gadgets for hot and cold sprays—or it may be a house in a street in a small country town or village. In one case the hostel had been originally out-buildings which had been converted into quite a pleasant house; another hostel had once been a cottage hospital.

I was very interested to see in one hostel that the bedrooms were all in different colour schemes, bedrooms large enough for from six to 10 girls. The wardrobes, chests of drawers and beds had all been painted in the same colour; even the door handles, and the bed covers had been dyed to match. The rooms looked most attractive and were a great credit to the girls, who had done it all themselves.

The grounds and gardens are sometimes taken over with the house, but usually only part of the grounds are requisitioned by the W.L.A., whilst the owner keeps the gardens and allows the warden to buy some of the produce.

Many of these houses are very beautiful with lofty rooms, fine staircases and Adam fireplaces. And I think the land girls genuinely appreciate living in these lovely old places.

Some of the old houses, I am told, are said to be haunted, though I have yet to meet the land girl who has actually seen a ghost. I myself have at times slept in a room reputed to be haunted but have so far, seen or heard nothing ghostly.

Mary, Sutherland of Forse.

SUCCESS STORY

County Offices report that W.L.A. gangs are lifting record-breaking amounts of potatoes all over the country. Space does not permit us to mention each gang individually, but we are proud to congratulate them. This effort reflects great credit on the Land Army in general as well as on the girls themselves.

ON LEAVING THE W.L.A.

What shall I take with me?
 One shirt, faded and well-worn.
 With its memories of long days, hard work,
 And the familiar feel of corn,
 This—and the memory of others
 Working and laughing with me. The easy swing
 of lithe bodies; the effortless grace
 of brown arms, rhythmically pitching,
 And the sun, burning hot on arms and face.
 One shirt, and an overcoat; I feel once more
 the rough warmth;
 And remember the winter days and dark nights
 gone by
 As, shivering, I wrapped it more closely
 When the wind swept the open fields and dull
 sky
 And those early mornings, when benumbed
 with cold
 We cycled hard; or stopped delighted by some
 roadman's fire
 And stretched our fingers to the blaze; and
 later, working
 Felt the blood surge warmly through our veins,
 And discarded coats, and sang, as the watery
 sun rose higher.
 What else? This pair of shoes, now strangely
 clean
 To which has clung the mud and dirt of many
 fields
 Scratched by corn stubble, dust covered have
 they been
 (How well I recall the ring of the iron in the
 heel
 Striking the hard road, and the feel,
 Heavy upon the feet—or the soft yield of grass
 beneath them, as I walked through
 strong, scented hay
 Or dragged them reluctantly at the end of a
 tiring day)
 Shoes, shirt, and an overcoat. What else is
 mine?
 Three things, and a badge; the only outward
 sign
 Of six years spent on learning how to live
 Yet inwardly I have so much no other life
 could give
 Whether from the groups gaily chattering,
 And the quick glance and understanding smile
 Tossed between friends—or apart, sitting quietly
 Listening to some soft-spoken confidence awhile.
 Or have I silently watched, and read each
 heart, and learned
 To love and trust, and found them both
 returned
 In double measure. And again, night after night
 Spent long hours discussing wrong and right
 Storing each new-found thought, or fresh idea
 into my brain
 Later to unfold, and think them o'er again
 One finger on the pulse of life I held, and was
 content
 To keep the superficial world remote.
 But what remains of those six years I spent?
 Memories, a pair of shoes, a shirt and overcoat.
 Ex-W.L.A. Margaret K. Starie.

HURLING

*"Town and Country do your best
 For in this parish I must rest."*

These are the words engraved on the silver ball which is used for the annual Hurling match at St. Columb, Cornwall. This year I was chosen to start the match by throwing the ball up in the centre of the town at 4.30 p.m. last Shrove Tuesday.

The game of hurling with the silver ball has been indulged in at St. Columb every year for many centuries, its origin being lost in antiquity. It was probably part of some religious ceremony when the ball was thrown out of one of the church windows. It is played on Shrove Tuesday and the following Saturday week and is a contest between those residing in the town area versus those living in the country.

The goals are each one mile distant, one to the north and the other to the south-west. The game is very hotly contested and may well be

described as "Aerial Rugby." All windows and places are barricaded as though for a state of siege and all business suspended. The horse-play at times is very rough with a number of minor casualties. About 2,000 people usually take part in the game, and if none of the contestants are able to place the ball in either goal but can outrun their opponents and carry the ball beyond the parish boundary, they become the winner and hold the trophy until the time of the next game.

According to the St. Columb Green Book, which contains the parish records since 1585, in 1595 we find the following entry:—

"John Menheere owith for a silver ball dd to Tobye at his instance and upon his word Xo. "Receaved of Tobye Bennet for the silver ball for Wch Jo Menheere within is charged and thus dyscharged Xs."

At present the balls are supplied by admirers of the game, to whom is given the well-worn relic. The ball, when new, weighs about 14oz. and is covered with very stout pieces of silver. The centre is of apple wood.

Cornwall.

L. Smith, 82934.

LANDGIRL'S LIBRARY

Five Acres and Independence. By M. G. Kains. (Cassell, 8s. 6d.)

Hens on the Land. By A. K. Speirs Alexander. (Farmer and Stockbreeder, 5s.)

The Student's Handbook to Foundations of Animal Feeding. By L. T. Lowe. (Littlebury, 8s. 5d.)

There are any number of books, of varying degrees of usefulness, intended to help those already established in some form or another on the land: those who are still looking for a smallholding of their own are not so well catered for. Mr. Kains's "Five Acres and Independence" fills that gap admirably. Putting first things first, he starts with a fair enough comparison of town and country life, goes on with two chapters headed "Tried and True Ways to Fail" and "Who is Likely to Succeed" and then the reader having been warned—he launches into the main business of the book, that of giving admirable advice on points to look for in choosing a farm, on the alternatives of renting or buying, on farm finance, and other essential matters distinct from the productive side, such as irrigation and sewage disposal.

On the whole, on a holding of five acres, Mr. Kains does not recommend keeping livestock, with the possible exception of pigs. But no holding, he says, should be without poultry. The advantages of poultry-keeping on a general farm are also stressed in "Hens on the Land." The value of poultry manure is now generally recognised, and Mr. Speirs Alexander's aim is to offer some suggestions to farmers on the ways of increasing production without interfering with crops or stock. He believes that farmers need not fear losing part of their land to the poultry break as the added fertility will allow them to grow equally heavy crops on only 75 per cent.

The most recent of the "Student's Handbooks" series deals with animal feeding. It provides the agricultural student with the latest technical and scientific information in a concise and clear form.

FROM FIELD TO FOOTLIGHTS

It is a far cry from the cool solitude of the meadows to the pace and glitter of the theatre; but when I was invalided from the W.L.A. early in 1944, my only thought was to return to my first love—the stage.

Firth Shephard signed me up almost immediately and I spent a happy 10 months at London's Savoy Theatre in "My Sister Eileen," playing an amusing part and understudying the beautiful Sally Gray. A three-months tour followed in which I played the glamorous Rowena in Esther McCracken's "Quiet Week-end."

Shortly afterwards I signed a contract to tour the principal towns of Great Britain with

Robert Newton. The play chosen was "So Brief the Spring" by Walter Greenwood, the author of "Love on the Dole." The tour lasted for over four months and my part in this breathless tale of love and hate set in a Cornish village, earned, I am glad to say, some excellent notices.

The highspot of my career came when Sir Lawrence Olivier picked me out of scores of aspirants to play the Queen's Attendant in his immortal "Hamlet." I appear in the court scenes and in some of these the photography is quite unsurpassed in screen history. I have also appeared in a number of other films such as "Latin Quarter," "Temptation Harbour" and "An Ideal Husband."

Now I am playing in such diverse parts as Lady Catterling in "While Parents Sleep" and Miss Fairfax in Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith. But whenever time permits, I am always glad to escape from the atmosphere of grease-paint and excitement to the friendly intimacy of the country lanes I once knew and loved so well as a Land Girl.

Vivienne Burgess, ex-W.L.A.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

In Land Army News for August, I read the letter from Maisie Downs, who is working on a farm in Switzerland, and of her difficulties due to the language problem. I couldn't help thinking what a difference she would have found, if Esperanto—the international language—were universally taught. I had then just returned from an Esperanto Congress in Sweden. There were 1,662 Esperantists present from 33 lands. Poles, French, Czechs, Swedes, Italians, Swiss, Germans—we could all understand each other perfectly, and more often than not you didn't even know the nationality of the person you spoke to. In trams, on excursions, shopping—wherever you went—you came across, and were greeted by, persons wearing the green star badge. Always there was such a friendly atmosphere.

Next year's congress is at Bournemouth, so the people of Bournemouth will be able to mix with an international gathering of Esperantists, and I'm sure they can't fail to appreciate the value of a neutral international language.

Surrey.

P. Kirton, 177563.

WOULD-BE RECRUIT

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am only 13 years of age, and I am very interested in farm life. When I leave school I want to join the Women's Land Army. And in years to come I should like to be a farmer's wife. Please would you send me all the information necessary for the Women's Land Army. So sorry there is no time for any more. But I must say please excuse my writing as I am sitting up in bed, and find it rather difficult to write.

Thanking you,

Miss P. V. Ellens.

COUNTY NEWS

BERKS.—A very pleasant party was held at the County Office on 10th August, the occasion of the presentations made to our Chairman, Lady Mount and to Miss Bayne Jardine, M.B.E., County Organiser, by Committee members, Representatives, Wardens and Land Girls. The present-Badges. Miss Margaret Roberts, ex-W.L.A., presented the badge to Lady Mount, and the Hon. Miss Catharine Gibbs the Land Army in Berkshire. Miss Bayne Jardine's badge was presented by Miss Thelma Gerrard, W.L.A., and Mrs. Beavis, ex-Representative for Ashbury, said how glad we all were that Miss Bayne Jardine would be continuing her long and valued work with the Land Army.

This has been a very busy two months on the land and hostel girls have been doing many hours overtime, often not coming in till 8.30 and 9 p.m. The potato crop promises to be a very heavy one, and reports of records in potato picking by Land Girls come in from all over the country. This is very encouraging after the rather gloomy corn harvest.

BUCKS.—We are very glad to report that the Prestwood Club has re-opened, and will be holding a weekly gathering each Monday in a small hall in the village. Miss Kimber, a member of the Welfare Committee, is kindly giving her help and support to this Club, and Miss Ryland, one of our Organisers, is giving the girls instruction in leathercraft. Already they have started to make handbags, gloves and moccasins, with a view to showing these in an exhibition which will be arranged later in the year. After Christmas the club members hope to have lectures on health and veterinary subjects and some film shows. We are very sorry to lose two of our Organisers during the last few weeks—Miss Barber, whose wide area was in the north of the county and Miss Fagg, who visited the mid-Bucks area. We are happy, however, to welcome Miss Blebta, who will take over Miss Barber's work. We must also express our regret at the closing of two hostels, Little Tingewick House and Fingest House. The County Show was held at Hartwell Park, near Aylesbury, on 2nd September, and about six W.L.A. members sold programmes there very successfully.

BRECON, MONT. AND RAD.—During the last two months, two of our hostels—Gungrog Hall and Maesllwch Castle—have been closed and the volunteers are now settled elsewhere. Parting with an old home can be very sad, but perhaps the last ten girls were not altogether sorry to leave the echoing marble halls of the castle. Caersws Hostel had a long and enjoyable day's outing to Barry Island, on the 30th August. Brecon Hostel is having classes in Home Nursing. Coedyddinas girls have formed their own branch of the Y.F.C. Whitton Hostel has been extended and now boasts a games hall, a quiet room and a brand new laundry, while the staff have a separate wing. When the equipment has arrived it will all be very grand!

CHES. AND FLINTS.—At the time of going to press we have just held our first County Welfare Meeting and as a result it is hoped to arrange Agricultural Brains Trusts in our hostels, as well as inter-hostel Bulb Growing Contests. It is hoped that privately employed volunteers living within reach of the hostels will go along and help to make the Brains Trusts a success. When final arrangements are made a note will be made in the County News Letter. Although some of our hostels are closing, we hope that as many volunteers as possible will be able to remain in the Land Army, either in their present employment or in new jobs within the county. Volunteers will, no doubt, be interested to know that Millicent Harding, whose accident was reported in our last Land Army News, is now well on the way to complete recovery after a stay in the convalescent home at Oundle.

CORNWALL.—Hostel activities have been numerous during the past month. Barn Lane, Bodmin, with friends from the D.C.L.I., and C.A.E.C. on 29th August enjoyed a day out at St. Ives. The Crag volunteers, staff and friends from the C.A.E.C. went to Falmouth on the 15th August. Pencubitt had a whole day's outing by bus on August Bank Holiday to Weymouth! We have had our second Hostels Welfare Committee meeting and are busy planning winter programmes. Felt and leatherwork classes at St. Columb and St. Germans have begun this month and arrangements are being made for ballroom dancing and dressmaking classes in the three hostels in the Penzance area. A number of volunteers have joined the local classes arranged by the Cornwall Further Education Committee. We are also joining the music and drama service and hope to have choral singing classes at Drytree next month, and concerts in other hostels. House Committees sent in requests for various additional amenities and we have supplied gramophone record racks; Cornish pottery jugs and vases for flowers; cushions; and through the Picture Circulating Scheme shall have pictures which will be changed twice yearly to adorn the hostel walls. There was a happy wedding day at Poltair Hostel when the Forewoman was married at Gulval Church. Two of her W.L.A. friends were bridesmaids and other volunteers in uniform formed a guard of honour and the bride and groom left the church under an archway of hay forks.

CUM. AND WES.—We were sorry to lose Miss Chettle, who left us at the end of August in order to become a W.V.S. Regional Organiser. Her place has been taken by Miss Tindall, who was formerly in East Sussex. We are very pleased indeed to have such an experienced organiser to look after our Cumberland volunteers and we sincerely hope that she will settle happily here. We all send our congratulations to Eva Kirkup who has obtained a vacancy at Moulton Farm Institute for the course starting on 4th October. Mrs. Davies, who has so often acted as Relief Warden in these counties, is joining our permanent staff in October and will be at Bolton Hall Hostel. Miss Robinson and Miss Levey are returning from the south to run Scaleby Hall. The County Office is to move to other premises in Penrith and we are all very worried at the prospect of losing our club. Volunteers and office staff are making desperate efforts to find a suitable room in town and any suggestions will be most welcome. The W.L.A. Club is a great success and we could not bear to give it up. Very little of interest has happened this last month, as Agricultural Shows are now over and the weather has been too bad to plan trips and picnics. Volunteers have been working hard to get in the harvest but conditions have been disappointing and difficult. The Hostels Welfare Committee has been formed and all requests for assistance will be dealt with as they come in. Plans are afoot for dressmaking and leatherwork classes and we hope to arrange a lecture tour by a lecturer from the Central Council for Health Education.

DEVON.—In August Devon was honoured by a two-day visit from our Chief Administrative Officer, Miss Curtis. It was a real pleasure to take her to the well-known and loved St. Elmo, Torquay, the Honiton Cystic Rearing Centre and the hostel nearby. She also went to Tiverton

Hytments and saw a number of privately employed girls in these areas. We greatly enjoyed her visit and hope we may plan another before long. Many a Land Girl will be genuinely sorry to hear that after two-and-a-half years Miss Tutty, our Assistant Secretary, has resigned to take an Emergency Teachers Training. She has been so patient and such a friend to everybody, office staff included, that she will be very much missed. We hope that she will not find the rules of her hostel difficult to keep! Equally do we regret the resignation of Mrs. Reis, Warden at Cleve Hostel for nearly seven years. She has seen us through the catering and social side of every party and rally to date, and she deserves, for this alone, our best thanks. Activities and events of July and August include a concert—song sketches and a revue—by the Honiton Hostels given to soldiers stationed in a nearby camp. An outing to Cheddar by Tenby House, Okehampton and to Newquay by Trevelyan, Barnstaple. Cambourne, Newton Abbott, Lincam, Yealhampton, Torrington Hytments have closed and Heathfield has opened and a unit will soon be at Holsworthy. Welcome to Miss Machin, Organiser for South Devon, Miss Griffiths, Pioneer Warden, and to Miss Edwards, a well-known Warden from Oxfordshire. We hear that we have a lot to live up to, but Redworth House will do its very best!

DORSET.—There has been no dearth of work for our volunteers during recent months. Everyone has been fully employed, and the usual share of overtime has been put in by many! All those who have worked so hard will have felt a certain satisfaction in having done a worthwhile and satisfying job. We have unfortunately lost a considerable number of girls recently who have completed their one year's service or have married. We thank them all for the help which they have given and wish them the best of luck in the future. We welcome others who have joined our ranks recently and wish them happy times in their W.L.A. service. Our new Hostels Welfare Committee "got off to a good start" at its meeting in late August, and already some of our hostels have been able to enjoy additional amenities as a result of the Welfare Grant which has been made. Various activities are being planned for the winter months and we hope that the girls on private farms and those in hostels will get together and enjoy social evenings, talks on topical matters, classes in such subjects as handicrafts, first-aid, etc.

GLOS.—We are very sorry to be closing our Training Farm for Milkers, Fieldgrove Farm, Bitton, at the end of this month. Particularly are we sad to say good-bye to the Warden, Mrs. Fox, who is sailing for Canada on the 28th September. Mrs. Fox and her son are settling in Canada for good and they carry with them our very best wishes for happiness and good luck in their new life together with our most grateful thanks to Mrs. Fox who has been six years with the Land Army—five of them at Fieldgrove, having opened it in 1943. Horsepools Hostel had a very happy outing to Weston-super-Mare which was blessed with lovely weather. On 20th September they were invited to the Churcham Agricultural Camp for an enjoyable evening which included dancing and supper. Oaklands Park Hostel had an outing to Barry Island, and Dumbleton Hall had a social evening on 28th August, which included games and dancing to a radiogram and a buffet supper.

Medford House Hostel volunteers had an enjoyable outing to Weston-super-Mare on the 29th August, and were invited to the Battle of Britain dance on 15th September at the R.A.F. station at Moreton-in-the-Marsh. The first meeting of our County Welfare Committee was held on 6th September. We were very glad to welcome back Mrs. W. S. Morrison (our late County Chairman) as Chairman of the new committee. Recommendations for welfare in all its aspects were received from the hostels and duly considered. We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival service in Gloucester Cathedral on Sunday, 26th September, which is to be followed by a Harvest Home Tea for the volunteers and guests. We shall soon be making our plans for Milking Proficiency tests to be held in March, 1949. A dance is being organised on 14th October, in Gloucester, by the Office Staff for the County Welfare Fund. Two of our members at Wicks Elm Hostel, Brenda Green, and Doreen Gregory, are to be confirmed by the Bishop of Gloucester at Berkeley, on Sunday, 26th September.

HANTS.—Stories of excellent work done by volunteers during harvest come in to the office every day. Here are some interesting ones: In one hostel eight girls picked up three-and-a-half acres of potatoes in eight hours, and were congratulated by the farmer. In another hostel the gang has worked so well that the employer is paying for them to have a Saturday morning off to join his employees in their annual outing. Girls at this same hostel have done an excellent job of rick thatching. Miss Bisset has given four years outstanding service as a relief milker at Sandown Hostel. Mr. Hunter writes a glowing account of the work done on his pedigree poultry farm by members of the W.L.A., particularly by Mrs. McLeod, Betty Saint and Gwenda Frogbrook. These are only a few instances, but every report of this kind sends a glow of pride through the office! The first meeting of the new Welfare Committee was held this month. Hostel House Committees are going ahead with their improvements for the winter. The County Welfare Fund still exists to help privately employed girls and donations will be gratefully received.

HEREFORD.—We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Hutchinson as our Assistant Secretary and we hope that she will be very happy working with us. We are very busy with arrangements in connection with the new Welfare Scheme and we are hoping to have a variety of classes and lectures in the hostels. We extend a special welcome to volunteers in private employment to visit the nearest hostel and to join any classes arranged. Plans are already in progress for the Christmas party which it is hoped to hold early in December. Perrystone Hostel sent £9 to the Benevolent Fund, and £5 to the Lord Mayor's Children's Fund as the result of their recent dance and draw. The weekly whist drives held at St. Peter's for the

Benevolent Fund continue to run successfully. The training course opened at Moraston, on 23rd August and we hope the new recruits are enjoying their work and life in the W.L.A. We congratulate the following volunteers on their Good Service Badge awards:—M. E. Goodwin, nine years, E. Dunlop and S. Price, seven-and-a-half years, G. V. Davies, seven years, M. M. Gill and D. A. Munns, six-and-a-half years, E. Armistead, J. Chapman, D. Clarke and B. M. Potts, six years.

HUNTS., CAMBS. AND ELY.—The first meeting of the new Welfare Committee took place on the 12th August. The Land Army Representatives are A. Lenton (Hunts. hostels), F. Skevington (Hunts. private), E. Halliday (Cambs. hostels), J. Kavanagh (Cambs. private), M. Jeffries (Ely hostels) and M. Russell (Ely private). A series of Arts Council concerts will be held in October. Miss Helga Mott (soprano), Mr. Felix Kok (cello) and Miss Elizabeth Harding (piano) will entertain at Glatton, Quy and Thorney on the 26th, 27th and 28th. Dances are well in the news at the hostels. Wilderness, Whittlesey, have had two recently, both of which were highly successful. Barnack also had an enjoyable dance when £5 4s. 2d. was raised for the Benevolent Fund. The Uniform Dept. are now in their new quarters at Hut 20, Castle Hill House, Huntingdon and the rest of the office will follow when the telephone has been moved. The offices look very spick and span in their new cream and green paint and it will be nice for the whole of the Land Army County Staff to be again under one roof.

LANCS.—Congratulations to Miss L. M. Hollis, 105375, whose employer when asked to sign the new Standard Contract of Service, sent to the County Office a very glowing appreciation of her services. We are very sorry indeed that it has been found necessary to close our Birkdale Hostel and would like to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of Miss Todd who, during her three years as Warden, has done such excellent work in making this hostel a real home. We are glad that Miss Todd is not leaving the organisation and we wish her every success in her new job.

LEICS. AND RUT.—Hard work has been the order of the day during the recent fine spell. In the hostels the House Committees are trying to look ahead and find out what social and other activities are desired for the coming winter. Congratulations are due to the following who have organised dances for the Benevolent Fund: Whissendine Hostel (£6); Rearsby Hostel (£10); Mantion Hostel (£8). We are proud to congratulate the following volunteers who have just completed eight years' service in the Land Army: A. C. Cardell, P. Peckham and M. Vann. Successful outings have been arranged to the sea from hostels and two are arranging a visit to Belle Vue, Manchester, to see the illuminations.

LINCS.—We are delighted at the appointment of Miss Margaret Panther, M.B.E., as County Secretary. She has been Assistant Secretary for over six years, and her deep knowledge of the workings of the W.L.A. gives us all a complete feeling of confidence. She has always given the individual a sympathetic hearing, and never spares herself if she feels there is a wrong to be righted—we wish her every success, and look forward to her visits in the county.

We heartily congratulate Edith Ellis, 60310, who at the Langworth Show gained first prizes for garden turnips, dwarf beans, runner beans, plums and blackcurrants. Second prizes for dwarf beans, tomatoes, carnations and dessert apples. Third prizes for gooseberries, dessert apples, kidney potatoes, carnations and sweet peas, a record of which she has every right to be very proud. Miss Ellis has been a member of the W.L.A. since December, 1941, and has been with the same employer all the time. Allington and Billingsborough Hostels have recently held successful dances and £5 from each hostel has been sent to the Benevolent Fund. Miss Swaby, the Warden at Holland House, recently retired, and the volunteers subscribed and presented her with a silver-plated cake basket, which she appreciated very much. Several of the hostels have had outings to the seaside. Allington, Corby and Leverton have been to Skegness, Folkingham to Cleethorpes, and the volunteers from Corby have also been to Hunstanton; a very good time has been had by all.

NORFOLK.—Miss Tillet who has been the Norfolk County Secretary since the formation of the Land Army in 1939 has resigned from the position and left us on 31st August. Miss Tillet had the affection of the County Office Staff and Land Girls and it was with many regrets that we said "good-bye." A tea-party was held at the office at which Mrs. Hirst, our Regional Officer, was present, and who, on behalf of all concerned thanked Miss Tillet for her work, and presented her with a Parker pen from the staff and a beautifully fitted leather case from the volunteers in the county. The good wishes of all are with her in the new work she is undertaking. Miss Macleod, her duties on 6th September, and we take this opportunity to welcome her, and wish her happiness in Norfolk. There have been changes too in our hostels. Thurning, Kipton, employment or our new hostel at Bexwell. Bexwell Camp will be the largest hostel in the county and can accommodate 100 volunteers. Many activities are planned for the raised money to take the children from the Orthopaedic Hospital, nearby, for two outings, one took place in July, been visited by the "Daily Graphic" and photographs were published in that paper. Four Norfolk Land Girls are visiting the rest-break house in Torquay during September. We congratulate H. Spratt, 6475, on completing eight years' service and the following who have completed six M. Brighty, 98771, D. Bussey, 95182, M. Clarke, 96027, B. Holdgate, 98830, R. Kerrison, 98036, M. Sadler, 64704, D. Spinks, 99815.