



THE LAND GIRL

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MRS. ROOSEVELT'S visit to this country was important not only immediately but because of its wider significance. Every country thinks it could get on perfectly well if only the others would not interfere. The difficult lesson we have got to learn is that of our mutual dependence on one another—if we can't sink our national pride and learn to get together we shall surely vanish from the face of the earth, fighting one another to the last gasp.

Co-operation depends upon tolerance and understanding. Understanding follows knowledge and our knowledge of other countries is woefully weak. We learn at school the dates of the Kings of England, however insignificant, but can we name six outstanding events in the history of even one other country? We've learnt a lot of English poems by heart but have we read even one translation of famous works by French, Russian, German, Italian and Chinese authors? What do we know of the constitution and how it was evolved of even six other countries? Can we describe the educational system, health services, housing schemes, wage rates or trade union developments of any one other country? Can we name the six ideas or inventions which have had an outstanding effect on the world and say from which country the inventor came?

Although it is not wise to count your chickens before they are hatched it is still less wise to neglect to provide a hen or an incubator for those that *are* hatched. We need not work any less hard at our main job of winning the war because we give some time and thought to the future. "The State — it is I" said a famous French king three hundred years ago and (in another sense) that is true for you and me to-day. It is you and I who have got to learn about other countries, read their books, listen to lectures (and arrange them if necessary) because it is you and I who have got to achieve the understanding and the tolerance and the co-operation which alone can save mankind, since it is becoming abundantly clear that a world divided against itself cannot stand.

M. A. P.

THE ROOT CROP

The following article will be both helpful and interesting to the many members of the W.L.A. who spend long hours among roots. It has been specially written for THE LAND GIRL by Mr. H. G. Robinson, M.A., Principal of the Midland Agricultural College.



To the farmer "roots" embrace the members of the turnip and swede family and mangolds, and as such their cultivation covers the entire country. The association of root crops with British agriculture is a very long-established one, for not only are turnips and mangolds valuable as sources of food, but their successful cultivation enables land to be brought to a higher state of fertility for other crops. Roots are recognised as cleaning crops in the rotation, whereby they present a farmer with the opportunity of getting rid of weeds. Weeds are of several kinds, but the root break, or fallow crop, provides several opportunities of cleaning land. The first occurs after a corn crop has been harvested when the surface of the ground is ripped up with cultivators or shallow ploughed to germinate dormant weed seeds or in some cases to get rid of couch which at that period of the year has its roots close to the surface. Other opportunities for cleaning land occur before the root crop is sown and also during the period of growth, through inter-row cultivation. No crop can give its best results when it has to grow in competition with weeds, so that the thorough and systematic cleaning of land is fundamental to successful crop

husbandry. There are many who imagine that some peculiar virtue belongs to the practise of hoeing for the provision of a mulch, but in reality the virtue lies in destroying weeds that compete with the sown crop for light, air, moisture and plant nutrients.

The second great purpose of the root crop is that of acting as a restorer of fertility. This is not a direct consequence of growing roots but rather because roots require a type of cultivation and manurial treatment that proves of great benefit to succeeding crops. Invariably the cultivation for roots requires deep ploughing and this may be the only occasion in the rotation that the plough goes deep. Again the root crop responds to applications of farmyard manure and so there is a building up of fertility in this way. Cultivation practices differ according to the part of the country the roots are grown in. Thus in the drier areas, the preparation for the crops proceeds over winter, the farmyard manure being applied and ploughed under to await the cultivations necessary for a flat seed-bed in spring. In the regions of higher rainfall, cultivations may proceed in autumn, but manuring is often left until spring when ridges are drawn and the farmyard manure is spread in

the bottom of the ridges and then covered in.

In so far as supplementary manuring is concerned the peace-time habits have to be changed, so that the needs are linked with the quantities of fertilizers available. Swedes in particular thrive on phosphates, but the maximum that can now be spared is about 3 cwt. superphosphate per acre. Mangolds, by contrast do not require so much phosphate, but respond markedly to heavier dressings of nitrogen and it is common with this crop to apply up to 3 cwt. of sulphate of ammonia per acre, but it should be balanced with a small allowance of superphosphate. It should also be remembered that many failures of root crops are due to a deficiency of lime in the soil, and no superabundance of other fertilizers can take the place of lime on a really acid soil.

Never in recent years has it been more necessary to recognise that it pays to do the right thing at the right time than now. Roots are not a cheap crop to grow viewed from a per acre standpoint. They are, however, a cheap source of food to-day if viewed from the aspect of maximum crop per acre. To secure a maximum crop necessitates careful and adequate preparation of the ground for a good seed-bed, balanced manuring that is available for the crop when it needs it most and good cultivation during the growth of the crop to keep down weeds. Many farmers go through many of the motions of good farming without realising that their neglect in one or two minor matters may often imperil the success of a crop. In these days when there are so many new employees who have to be trained some of these minor matters tend to get overlooked. To be able to single roots properly and well is a worth while art with far-reaching results at the end of the season, especially if the soil has an adequate reserve of fertility to allow the crop to develop satisfactorily. It is a matter of importance that an even plant should be left on the field and that they should not be left in bunches, but really "singled." It is equally important to maximum production that the crop should be singled early. It may seem tiresome to have to work long hours in the root field, but it makes one's work twice as bearable to know that self sacrifice of this description will usually provide the country with several extra tons of food more per acre. It was generally true of the older generations of agricultural workers that their duties were re-

lated to the needs of the farm as distinct from the hours of labour. It is becoming necessary to re-discover this truth in the education of many who are new to farm life.

And as at the end of the growing season the fields of swedes and turnips and mangolds are being fed or lifted and stored, an index is provided to the efficiency of one's efforts during the previous twelve months. Before the growing crop is lifted, preparations are instituted for the next year's crops and this is the same constant story of agricultural practice. Then the carts carry from the fields loads of roots, these on analysis consist of nearly nine-tenths of water, but the other one-tenth is dry matter of a very digestible kind which for long has had the reputation of being one of the best fattening foods for cattle and sheep that the farm produces. An acre cropped with roots in this way produces infinitely more food for livestock than if it had remained under grass, or been cropped with cereals. But farming is a balanced system when properly organised and the root crop is the pivot—it cleans, restores and makes possible successful cereal crops that follow, and though it involves hard work in the carting and spreading of muck, the singling, hoeing and lifting of roots, yet it casts its influence on every sack of wheat and every sack of barley that is produced on other sections of the farm. To the live stock themselves, deprived of many of the imported peace-time foods, the root crops make palatable the roughages that have to be fed in war-time and in this way safeguard the meat and milk supplies of the community.

There was a young lady of Gloucester
Who was driving a cow when she

loucester,

So she got a large bough
And followed that cough,
And didn't she put it acroucester.

Overheard in Wiltshire: "Marnin' Mary, got thee half-cwt. o' seed spuds come yet?" "Ah, and they were that big I 'ad to cut 'em all, so I made a cwt. out o' 'em."

On receiving her new canvas leggings, a volunteer went to her local Representative and said, almost in tears, "Just look what they have sent me, and I never wear corsets."

Miss Baxter and I—No. 7

My friend, Miss Baxter and I had been spreading muck in the thirty acre field for a week, so after dinner on Christmas Eve we asked the farmer if we could have a change and the farmer said Certainly, go and spread in the sixty acre field. (He has been like that ever since he discovered the Royal Kidneys were diseased and King Edward frosted all down one side.)

After an Expressive Pause, Miss Baxter said could she have the Communal Gum-boots for the afternoon because I only took $6\frac{1}{2}$ and she took $7\frac{1}{2}$ and the gum-boots were 9's. And the farmer said there was only a left one now because Andrew the orrraman, who took 10's, had burst the right one across the toe and the tractorman's grandmother, who took 18's round the calf, had burst it up the leg and Sandy the cattleman, who took 7's, had lost it in the cattle-court and anyhow he needed the left one himself because he was taking sheep into the market.

Well, we took our graips and set off for the sixty acre field. On the way we met Sandy the cattleman and Gladis the cow. They are great friends just like Fordson and Oliver, and after we had said Aye min, and Sandy had said Aye, Aye, min, we asked what the men were doing that afternoon and Sandy said they were dressin' the Squarehead Master.

I said What in and Miss Baxter said What for and Sandy said Agrasan for Blight. Miss Baxter said was that one of the new Utility fabrics and he certainly was blighted all right but we had never thought he was square-headed and Sandy said he was long-headed enech any way, Come on ye brute ye and went on down the road with Gladis.

So we went on too, chatting about the tie we were crocheting for the farmer's Christmas out of horse-hair and bits of sheeps' wool off the fences. We hadn't any money to buy him something because of his thinking we were under eighteen which after all is rather sweet of him after all the wear and tear of life in the Land Army.

When we got to the sixty acre field it was neatly marked off in lines with dollops of muck dotted about. None of it was spread and I said was this what they called Virgin Soil like Marconi discovering America and Miss Baxter said Yes and now we had to turn it into a Fruitful Field like Columbus discovering the B.B.C.

It looked rather a big field and I said would it seem smaller if we played at scoring marks for the things we found in the muck heaps. The one who won could have the gum-boot next time and the one who lost could carry the graips home.

Well, we fixed Coupon Values for everything we were likely to find and then changed them to coupon-vouchers and then to coupon equivalents by thinking of a number, multiplying by 17, dividing by the size of our hats and adding the number of sheep in the next field. Then we divided them into Schedules and things like the forms the farmer gets to fill in, and began.

Miss Baxter scored first with a sardine tin (4) and then I got a 2 with page 106 of 'Peggy's Playmates' and another 7 for the bottom of an umbrella-stand, though Miss Baxter tried to make out it was a cake-tin which would have come under Schedule II Section BXI Clause 57 (Objects of Obsolete Interest) and only counted 4. But in her next heap she drew ahead again with a chair leg and a broken cup with a cow painted on it. She claimed 3 extra for the horns (Weapons for Defensive or Offensive Use) so she let me count the umbrella-stand.

I threw up a lump of coal in my next heap which only counted 4 (See Cake-tin above) but it would do for a Christmas present for Cousin James who stood for Parliament for twenty years before he got in and Miss Baxter said her sister Kate had stood for tomatoes for four hours and never got in at all. And I said Cousin James had quite likely got tomatoes and eggs as well.

By four o'clock I was leading by 46 (the missing gum-boot, a sheep's jaw and two pear-drops) when it began to rain and Miss Baxter spread five heaps without scoring anything but a small fish-bone and in the sixth she stood on the end of a bit of rope while she was spreading the other end. And when I went to pick her up I tripped over a kitchen stove that she had missed and Miss Baxter said this wasn't her idea of Christmas wheer and chassail and I said did she mean cheel and wassair and I hadn't even a stocking to hang up for Santa Claus because anything smaller than a grand piano would fall right through mine and how long did people take to die of exposure? And Miss Baxter said it wouldn't take me long but she might hang on for a day or two because of learning about Self-Preservation when she was a Girl Guide and what was that lying beside my left boot?

I picked it up and it was a white tablet with "In Memoriam" written on it.

We sat and looked at it for a long time and neither of us claimed it though it would have counted 32 being Schedule CV1 Section T.R.4. Clause 82 (Objects of Prophetic Portent) which just shows how low we were feeling and it went on raining.

It was almost dark when a car stopped at the gate and our farmer put his head out of it and said to hop in even tho' it wasn't stopping time and to put our luggage in the trailer beside the holly and mistletoe.

Feeling slightly dazed, we picked up the broken cup with the cow on it, the umbrella stand, the gum-boot and Cousin James's present and climbed into the car.

As he started up the engine our farmer said King Edward wasn't frosted after all and he'd bought a turkey for supper to celebrate and afterwards we would all write messages to Santa Claus—in triplicate.

I. Mount (Scotland).

For a Christmas Party

1. Which language is spoken by the greatest number of people?
2. Which is the longest non-stop railway run in the world?
3. Arrange in order of weight one cubic foot of water, marble, glass, tin, oak, gold, granite, brick, coal.
4. What are (a) ambergris (b) doldrums (c) sago (d) equinoxes (e) latitude (f) stalactites (g) dog watches (h) monsoons?
5. Which weigh most: Three new pennies, 5 new half-pennies, 10 new farthings?
6. How many bones are there in the human skeleton?
7. The following often appear in British place names? What do they mean? (a) burgh (b) ax or ex (c) ley (d) wick (e) wich (f) dun or don.
8. How much of an iceberg shows above water?

Answers on page 16.

Miss D. Sidgwick (Devon) regrets that, owing to shortage of materials she cannot bind any more copies of THE LAND GIRL. Both the Spitfire Fund and the Benevolent Fund have benefited from Miss Sidgwick's work.

Devon Week-End

The morning of October 10th dawned decidedly damp in Devon, one of those days which seem unable to make up their minds whether to laugh or cry; but members of the Devon W.L.A. had no doubts on the subject, for this was a day of days. Lady Denman was in Devon, there was a special W.L.A. Harvest Festival arranged for that afternoon in Exeter Cathedral, and all those near enough to get to Exeter intended to do so.

Lady Denman's visit was a great event, and of her kindness in coming so far in these difficult days we cannot speak enough. She arrived on Friday afternoon and attended a Meeting of the District Representatives, and had tea with the Committee members in the office. That evening we went to the Tiverton Hostel, one of Devon's hutment hostels, where there was a special party. Members of the local Young Farmers' Club were present, and Mr. Shapland, the energetic Area Committee Member, was in the process of giving a most tricky Agricultural Bee. We were greeted by the Warden and Mrs. Butler, the District Representative, and after a short tour of the hostel joined the laughing throng in the sitting room. Lady Denman addressed the girls during the interval, and then came refreshments, made by the very able staff.

The first item on Saturday's programme was a luncheon party to the Devon W.A.C. Then came the Harvest Festival Service which will remain a marvellous memory. Scarred by battle, the Cathedral stands with its four towers rising above the battered city. The girls filled the nave, and the sun poured in through the glassless windows lighting up the red robes of the Bishop and the surplices of the choir as 300 voices were lifted in the time-honoured hymn "We plough the fields and scatter." A wonderful moment!

Lady Denman kindly took the salute at the march past afterwards, and said a few words to the members during tea, on the importance of their work. From Exeter we went to Okehampton, where yet another group of volunteers were waiting to receive their Director in the park. Here again Lady Denman talked to them all, and a most refreshing tea was provided by Miss Mountford and the girls at the Hostel.

So ended a memorable occasion, but the inspiration and help that such a visit has given to Committee, staff and members alike will have their effect for many months to come.

C. Molesworth St. Aubyn.

Mrs. Roosevelt in Warwickshire



On a brilliant November morning, a large American car, flying the Stars and Stripes, crossed the border into Warwickshire at Mickleton and was stopped by two members of the Land Army from Marston Hostel who welcomed to Warwickshire the First Lady of America. From there all the way to Oldberrow House Hostel, Henley-in-Arden, Land Girls stood at signposts at every cross road and every turning.

On arrival, Mrs. Roosevelt drove slowly up the drive, between a Guard of Honour of volunteers, all with at least one year's service, who broke into cheers as the car approached. Lady Denman, Mrs. Fielden, Lord Dudley (Regional Commissioner) and Mr. Hughes (Chairman of the W.A.C.) welcomed Mrs. Roosevelt as she stepped from her car and the company, with Mr. Clyde Higgs and Mr. Tickle (N.F.U.) added to their number, mounted a tractor-drawn trailer and settled themselves in state on trusses of hay, covered with horse rugs. Driven by Margaret Browett, the tractor negotiated some tricky turns and gateways and arrived at Oldberrow Court Farm where girls were busy threshing,

thatching, silage making and milking by hand and machine. Mrs. Roosevelt spoke to the volunteers and was obviously interested in all the demonstrations.

Followed by the Press on another tractor, the party then moved on to a nearby field where ploughing (with a caterpillar tractor from U.S.A.), kale cutting and mangle pulling were in progress, and then returned to the hostel, where Mrs. Roosevelt thanked Margaret Browett, spoke to more volunteers, signed autograph books and was extensively photographed before entering the hostel which she inspected with the Warden, Mrs. Concannon. Coffee and cakes followed and then Irene Birch, one of Warwickshire's first recruits, presented to Mrs. Roosevelt on behalf of the W.L.A. of England and Wales, an album of Land Army photographs, bound in red deer-skin, with the L.A. badge on the cover.

Amid cheers, Mrs. Roosevelt then drove off, leaving behind memories of her charm and warm interest in our work and a feeling that yet another link of friendship had been forged between our two countries. For the volunteers it had been a day of days, a great reward for

the many hours of hard work, weariness and disappointment which every Land Girl knows. Having Lady Denman with us was an added treat, especially when we discovered that it was her birthday. Warwickshire was glad to be the County to offer her "Many Happy Returns of the Day" in person.

Before Mrs. Roosevelt left this country she sent the following telegram to Lady Denman.

The Exhibition which the Land Army arranged for me of its work at Oldberrow, was one of the most interesting features of my visit to Great Britain and I should be grateful if you would thank all those concerned and convey my congratulations and good wishes to all the members of the Land Army.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT.

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank A. K. Wedlake of Glamorgan for her advice about using Welsh flannel for keeping one's hands in good condition; I have found it excellent.

Some friends and I have been using up odd scraps of wool to make garments for Russian children; I have already made two pairs of mittens and three caps entirely of odd bits, I am sure any readers of THE LAND GIRL who have time and wool would like to help the children of our gallant Ally in this way. The garments should be sent to Mrs. Churchill's Aid for Russia Fund.

I have been 18 months in the Land Army and have loved every moment of it. This is my third job, I am one of the Waggoners on this farm; I work from 6.0 a.m. till 5.30 p.m. in the winter, 6.0 a.m. till 8.30 or 9 p.m. in the summer, and of course feed my horses in the winter week-ends. I was a milk-girl and a general farm worker in my other two jobs. I have lived on a farm all my life but I never worked on it, so it did not come so difficult to me as to the "Townies." My admiration for them and the thresher-girls is unbounded. Last winter the Land Girls on my farm did not miss one day in all that snow.

E. Kent. Phoebe Thornton, 41357.

Dear Editor,

I agree heartily with A. Gatehouse about members of the W.L.A. either wearing all their uniform or none of it one seems some truly awful sights on railway stations and in market towns at

the week-ends and what about make-up? The two men who have taught me most have both remarked how glad they were to be sent a Land Girl with such a good complexion that she did not "have to put stuff on her face"—in point of fact, I use powder, lipstick and eyebrow pencil every morning, often put on by candle-light!

There have been articles and letters in the press lately decrying the equipment issued to members of the W.L.A., but I would like to put it on record that the following articles issued to me in September, 1939 are still in use, though I do not wear them "off the job" as they are pretty shabby and patched—dungarees and drill smock, rain coat (Dartoc), shoes, green jersey and 1 pr. stockings. My original gumboots lasted until February of this year.

Alice N. Cox, 1730.

Dear Editor,

I have been asked a good many times lately what I think of the Women's Land Army. Well, I have been in this Service since February, 1941, and claim to know quite a bit about it now. I do not know much about the other Women's Services, but I don't think any of them can beat ours. Ours is a healthy outdoor life, with a big variety of work, and always something fresh to learn.

Of course, things have not always been smooth. My first attempt to milk was doomed to failure. I had only just sat down on my stool, when I suddenly found myself travelling through space, followed by my pail. I was told to water horses, and rode one of them straight into the pit. Imagine my horror when she sat down in the water. I got off and waded out of the pit, with water up to my waist. I didn't mind this so much but what annoyed me was to see my master standing in the field with a broad grin on his face stretching from ear to ear.

I can now do anything with horses, and cattle, and also look after them when they are not well. I have even given injections to horses. I can plough, roll and harrow, etc. I can use a scythe, and have been mowing round the fields this harvest time.

Being able to do all this, I now like to think I am tough—but I am afraid of chickens, and I won't have anything to do with them. I love my work and would not change it for any other. Indeed, I am proud to be a member of the W.L.A.

P. Holmes, W.L.A. 38126.

Norfolk.

Dear Editor,

I am a member of the Women's Timber Corps and have been doing Forestry Work for two years. I started my career as a measurer and having been a ganger, then a supervisor have now obtained the exalted position of forewoman. I have 12 girls and am entirely in charge of a group of woods from which we are obtaining buckthorn for a Royal Ordnance Factory. I would very much like to hear from any other member who has a similar position. I only know of one. Yorks. B. K. Hallet, 36425

Dear Editor,

I feel I must answer Volunteer Pearce's (45226) letter in November LAND GIRL about potatoes. For weeks now we have been picking up potatoes and last week whilst at Higham, with my three fellow Land Girls, I picked up in my cant a potato weighing 1lb 13 oz. All the potatoes were well over the pound and not a chat amongst them, a remarkable crop. As this went on all day, we all felt as if we had done our bit by night-time.

We have only another day on potatoes, which are all clamped for the winter. I do not think any crop of potatoes for us this year has been bad. Best I have known in my three years' experience on the land. I have worked in the Land Army since September, 1939.

W. Kent. Joan Humphrey 6021.

(Continued from opposite column)

Long Service Armlets were presented to 51 girls, all of whom have done splendid work since the beginning of the war. Mr. Harris, the school organist, played for community singing as the girls arrived and during the tea interval. The proceedings were followed by tea and we are very grateful to the Matron and domestic staff of the School for making this possible. The book-stall did a good trade and had sold out before the end of the afternoon and a large number of orders were taken for THE LAND GIRL. We were all very sorry that Miss Elliot, our county secretary, was not able to be with us owing to illness, but messages of greeting and good wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to her from the meeting. I think everyone enjoyed the Rally and we should like to extend our thanks to the Committee who worked so hard to serve tea and to all those who helped in other ways to make the Rally a success.

Leicestershire & Rutland



Miss Vickers and Miss Clark.

We held our first Rally on Saturday, October 24th, at the Wyggeston Boys' School, Leicester. Over 600 Land Girls were present as well as district representatives, members of the W.A.Cs. of both counties and other friends of the Land Army. The principal speaker was Lady Denman, who gave us an inspiring and entertaining talk, and the chair was taken by Lady Martin. The Lord Mayor of Leicester welcomed the Land Girls to the City and Mr. Astill, chairman of the Leicestershire W.A.C., and Miss Brocklebank, chairman of the Rutland County Committee proposed and seconded the vote of thanks to Lady Denman. Miss Lucy Vickers, one of our earliest volunteers, thanked Lady Martin for taking the chair and Mrs. North, who was in the Land Army during the last war and still does full-time work, presented Lady Denman with a cheque for £35 which has been collected for the Benevolent Fund. An unusual event in the proceedings was the presentation by Miss Laura Clark of a painted jug which she had designed herself for the occasion to Lady Denman.

(Continued in opposite column)

Christmas Customs

In all Christian countries remnants of paganism are incorporated in the Christmas festival. In England you have the mistletoe and the holly from the Druids. In Roumania, to take the other end of Europe, perhaps because Christmas is a fortnight later due to the divergence in the calendar, it is associated with hopes of fertility in the coming year, with much happiness and only minor troubles.

Peasants with their families flock to the towns in decorated sledges drawn by a pair of oxen or sometimes three horses. The beasts are adorned with ribbons, brass ornaments and stars on their heads. The peasants wear motley costumes over their sheepskins and fantastic headgear over their fur caps. They strew grains over all and sundry and if opportunity offers they give them a spank or a cut with a birch. This means that they hope the receiver will have prosperity in full measure in the coming year and that the troubles he must meet will be as light as the blow he received. For these good wishes they are suitably rewarded and they spend their takings in drink. They would never get home safely but for the fact that their four-footed servants know the way home and are given water only. The amount of liquid the peasants put down on this occasion is so great that it remains a pleasant memory for the whole year.

In Austria, the approach of the festival is marked by its solemnity, especially in the mountain regions. In these parts the grown-ups keep Christmas Eve as a fast and vigil, but they let their children enjoy it as a festival. In the evening the candles on the Christmas tree are lit, a bell is rung and the children throng in to find their presents piled at the foot of the tree. The grown-ups' presents are usually put on a side table. The men and maid servants get a new outfit at that season.

One corner of the living room is always lined with hard benches and a dining table close up to them. On the two outside edges of the table more benches are put. Statues of the Virgin and other Saints stand on a shelf of this corner, which is called our Lord's corner. They say grace under it. Vases of flowers or greenery decorate the shelf. At Christmas they give place to a crib. Very often the little figures have been carved by the peasant or his fathers. The cribs of Tyrol for instance are renowned for their artistic beauty.

Most families are very big and with men and maid servants and visitors and friends there is hardly enough room on

the benches. A load of hot doughnuts is put on the table and the first load is soon replaced, there is a constant fresh supply from the kitchen and of coffee and cider. In the towns they eat fish on Christmas Eve.

After their meal, the mountain people sing Christmas songs and play children's games. The little ones soon have to go to bed. The bigger ones get ready to go to Christmas mass with the grown ups. They have to wrap up well against the bitter frost; they take off their house shoes, put on several pairs of woollen socks and then don their heavy spike boots. The mixture of the scent of the fir tree, candles, hot doughnuts, overcoats dried on the top of an immense square tile stove, and boots, greased with whale oil, is a typical Christmas smell.

Sometimes it is a two hours' walk and more to church. The roads are icy and at times very steep. From all the crofts the people come and when they reach the main road it looks like a procession. A very solemn procession. Waterfall and brooks are ice bound and numb, the snow which covers the high mountains, the forests and the valleys seems to have extinguished noises and life, and human beings full of awe don't feel like disturbing the silence of the night.

It is very cold in the little mountain church, dimly lit by candles. The breath of the congregation steams up. After the service children in the vestry sing "Holy night, silent night," a carol composed by an Austrian mountain schoolmaster, J. Gruber.

Then they all walk quietly home. They don't get much rest because they go to church again in the morning. On this occasion they use sledges and horses if the roads are passable. The poorer ones have luges or toboggans. It is not quiet as on the previous night, everyone talks and laughs heartily. The rest of the day is given up to good food and drink.

In some parts of Austria, but foremost in Germany and northern Europe, there is a folk superstition that animals can speak with human tongues on Christmas Eve. Sometimes children would sit up in the stables to try to overhear the conversation of the cattle. Some go in the woods to listen to the deer and come home with fabulous stories of what they heard.

A peasant called Bartel once assured me that he heard his ox say his father would not outlive the year. As old Bartel was nearly 90 and laid up with cold it was not a difficult guess for the ox; but I think Bartel fell asleep in the warm stable and dreamed it all.

Francesca Enns, 52296 (Devon).

If

(With apologies to Rudyard Kipling)

If you can keep your feet when snow still lingers
 And paths are skating-rinks of solid rain,
 If you can pick wet sprouts with frozen fingers
 And fill two trugs, unheeded of the pain,
 If you can force each tired and aching sinew
 To lift you from your warm and downy bed
 And sally forth without a morsel in you
 To misty mangel-field or gloomy shed:
 If, with a cheerful face and lips unpouting
 You can dig artichokes from ice-cold mud,
 If you can call until you're hoarse with shouting
 For cows you thought were calmly chewing cud
 And track them down at last in someone's garden,
 Employed in crushing beetroots in the ground,
 Then humbly beg the hostile owner's pardon
 And drive them home without an angry sound:
 If, when you're scything grass, you find there lying
 Sickles and shears and other worn-out tools,
 Things that will chip your scythe, and send you flying,
 Left there by knaves to make a trap for fools,
 Yet never lose your patience for a minute,
 Although your sun-baked head is in a whirl,
 Yours is the earth (and all the insects in it)
 And—which is more—you'll be a saint, my girl!
 E. Sussex. A. Hewlett, 36110.

FOR SALE.—Trailer, almost new, size 6 ft. 6 ins. by 3 ft., deep riddled, fits car of tractor, can be seen at Heron's Farm, Wheathampstead, St. Albans. £20. Write, Patterson, c/o Editor.

The Penguin Co. states that stocks of Xmas cards are exhausted. Money for all orders not despatched will be refunded or, if desired, L.A. stationery can be sent instead.

Scotland

One of the most refreshing sights during my day's work is that which greets me on a sunny morning.

The farm is situated on top of a hill and as I turn towards the stables at seven o'clock, I see the sun over a heather moor to the East, shining on the rugged rocky hills round Loch Earn in the West. The hills, then dark rocks amongst the grass and bracken, here and there heather and a pale blue sky above—northwards, golden corn and wheat, clover and brown earth—here and there dark pine woods where the Forestry girls are cutting valuable timber.

In the evening when the sun is sinking behind the hills, silence falls. The horses have finished a hard day's work in the shafts of a creaking corn cart, the shouts of men at work have ceased; the sky is red just now, then green and gold, and soon all blue with silver stars to guard the silence of a lovely night.

I am lucky to be a Land Girl and able to do such pleasant healthy war work in such peaceful surroundings.

N. D. Berguis, 3837, Scotland.

An invaluable handbook for all members of the Women's Land Army

LAND GIRL

By

W. E. SHEWELL-COOPER

New and completely revised edition now available

Price 1/- net
 (Postage 2d extra)

"Here are the answers to all the questions you forget to ask your District Representative when she calls!"
The Land Girl

THE ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES PRESS LTD.

St. Hugh's School, Bickley, Kent

Scottish Notes

Thanks to all the girls from the Lothians who so kindly gave up their Saturday afternoon and Sunday to take part in the recent "Will to Win" Women's Rally in Edinburgh. The W.L.A. detachment looked grand and marched like Guardsmen.

Aberdeen and Ellon.—Mrs. Manson showed the W.L.A. film to an interested audience at Ellon.

Angus.—E. Wylie, J. Crosbie, M. Wilson and A. Ritchie have a Halloween party at which they raised £4 9s. 3d. for the Red Cross.

Banffshire.—Congratulations to Alison Stewart on being awarded her Bee Master's Certificate. She got 146 out of a possible 150 points at the examination and the examiner said that she was one of the most promising successful candidates he had. Now we shall expect to see lots of Banffshire honey in the shops! Mrs. Grant, accompanied by two land girls, who spoke about their work, showed the W.L.A. film to the Aberlour company of the G.T.C. after which one of the cadets promptly enrolled in the "Army."

Caitness.—A most enjoyable W.L.A. dance organised by Miss Cowieson was held at Thurso and despite transport difficulties, there was a good representation from the "army." A popular feature of the dance was the piping of a Royal Scots piper who played for Eightsome Reels and other Highland dances. During the evening Major Manson of the A.E.C. introduced Miss Henry (Department of Agriculture for Scotland) who presented G.S. Badges, being thanked for doing so by Mrs. Mill, Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee. Some of the girls from outlying districts were delighted to be able to stay overnight at the recently opened L.A. hostel.

Dumfriesshire.—Mrs. Fleming has organised a club at Langholm where her girls can meet every Saturday afternoon for tea and talk. Through the efforts of Mrs. Graham an interesting and useful competition is being arranged by the County Federation of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes, the subject being the darning of L.A. stockings and the patching of L.A. dungarees. Now then, girls, out with your needles!

E. Fife.—The girls at Pitcorthie Hostel, Colinsburgh, entertained their friends at a supper and dance in the Hostel, among the guests being members of the A.E.C. and neighbouring farmers who employ the girls. Miss Baxter, Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee, welcomed the guests and later in the evening accepted from Lieut. Mathers a beautiful wireless set presented by the local Home Guard to the Hostel. Pitcorthie accommodates 58 girls and Mrs. Craig the Warden has all sorts of plans for the entertainment and enlightenment of her charges. The girls employed by the A.E.C. at Easter Upper Urquhart ran a dance for the Perth Royal Infirmary. The farming community turned out in force and the sum of £30 was the result. During an interval Miss Deans presented G.S. Badges and two special armlets.

Kincardineshire.—G.S. badges were presented by Mr. G. H. Russell, Chairman of the A.E.C., at a Free Gift Sale for the Red Cross Agriculture Fund opened at Stonehaven by Lord Kinnaird. Mrs. Reid made arrangements for the presentation and no less than 51 badges were due, including 7 special armlets.

E. Lothian.—A very successful concert organised by Mrs. Russell was held at Innerwick, the W.L.A. playing no little part in the programme. Mrs. Mitchell Innes presented G.S. badges. Members of the Wheatseaf Club are grateful to Mrs. Mitchell Innes, the W.V.S. and Jean Maxwell for books and magazines. Thanks are also due to the local War-time Entertainments Committee for presenting a wireless set and to Mrs. Maxwell and Mrs. Porter for gifts of furniture for the Dunbar Hostel.

Rena Hill and Jean Maxwell raised £22 at a most successful dance which they ran at Saltoun for the East Lothian W.L.A. Comforts Fund. Con-

gratulations and thanks to Agnes Anderson and Margaret on getting married and for staying in their jobs; congratulations only to Jean Mitchell.

Midlothian.—Midfield, Lasswade, one of the most attractive hostels in the country and one of the biggest—it has accommodation for 60 girls—was officially opened by Sir Patrick Laird. At the moment the hostel serves 14 farms, the girls being taken to and from their work in buses. Food for three meals is carried, including a pint of soup, which can be heated up at the farm. The hostel is run on the "group-leader" system, each leader being responsible for the discipline and welfare of her group. The leaders meet, with Mrs. Fleming the Warden, every week as a "Constructive Committee" and formulate plans for furthering the usefulness of the hostel and its inhabitants. The health of the girls is supervised by the district nurse who pays a weekly visit. Everything possible is being done to avoid the "institution" atmosphere—and as long as the dormitories continue to be called after Scottish islands, as is done now, the atmosphere will be right!

Peebles.—Well-deserved tributes were paid to the L.A. at the official opening of the Peebles hostel. Capt. Thomson of the A.E.C. presided and the opening ceremony was performed by Viscountess Elibank who was accompanied by Viscount Elibank, the Hon. Mrs. Watson of the Y.W.C.A. also spoke. Mrs. Elliot was in charge of the arrangements for the function which was much enjoyed by all.

Perthshire (East).—From Margaret Gilbert, Dunblane, comes the following interesting account of her work on a Black-Faced sheep farm.

"I came as a recruit in the month of June to a sheep farm in West Perthshire. Since then I have had many new experiences including that of helping to prepare ram lambs for sale. It has been an eye opener to me how much work is required in this preparation and what a difference and improvement it all makes.

As the sale day approached we all became quite excited. After the lorry took away the lambs my master and I followed by car into the market. On the day before the sale a show of the lambs was held and one of my master's lambs got first prize in the single class. He also had second class from a pen of five. All the lambs are numbered and they go into the ring to be sold individually by auction. The farmer who owns the lambs stands in the ring also while his lambs are being sold. I was assisting the shepherds to dress the lambs before they went into the ring. Their fleeces are combed and cut. Oil is rubbed over their faces and horns to give them a more polished appearance. All the farmers and shepherds for miles around were there and it was a jolly atmosphere. I met another Land Girl there and she and I had a nice long chat.

Scottish Welfare and Benevolent Fund.

The Fund has now been registered under the War Charities Act, 1940, and donations have been received as follows:—Mrs. Russell (East Lothian) £1, Jean Middleton (East Perth) £1, Miss Deans (Pitcorthie Hostel) £2 18s.

The next Land Army Broadcast will be on Thursday, 31st December, in the Home Service Programme during the "Farming To-day" period which begins at 6.45 p.m.

All Volunteers are asked to make a point of listening to a special surprise item which will be announced in the Press

Benevolent Fund

Many of our readers will have learnt from the papers of the great honour which has been bestowed on us by our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, who has now become Patron of the Benevolent Fund. Her Majesty has promised an annual contribution, the first of which has been received. A generous donation from Mrs. Winston Churchill has been a great encouragement.

The existence of the Fund has now been announced in the Press and donations and promises are beginning to come in, many of them accompanied by appreciative remarks about the Land Army and its work. One contribution was from the Chairman of the Labour Sub-Committee of a County W.A.C. Berks made the largest contribution this month. Lindsey volunteers, encouraged by their indefatigable Committee member Lady Beryl Groves have done wonders. Very successful dances were held in 16 counties. Devon had a sports day at Mortonhamstead and the West Sussex L.G. Club at Worthing has brought up their total to £42 11s. 6d. "Diffident Daisy" (Warwickshire) sent £50. M. Maries (Staffs) sold pears which she found at the foot of an old tree and B. Bowen (N. Wales) collected a nice sum by the sale of tomato plants. The N. Wales special appeal has already brought in over £10. B. Ellis and her employer (Herts) sent a joint contribution and M. Solly (Kent) is putting aside 1d. a week for the Fund. Mrs. Russell, Warden of Sparsholt hostel (Berks) has promised an annual contribution and her "Young Ladies" have sent the first of their monthly donations.

Unfortunately, pressure on space in the Magazine is so great that the acknowledgement of all individual donations cannot be continued. In future, gifts under £5 will be included in the county totals under "other Donations." Each county's total for the Fund will appear in the "County Returns" every month and every volunteer whose name does not appear in "The Land Girl" will receive an individual receipt. The total of the Fund now stands at £1,332 19s. 10d.; this month brought in £606 11s. 2d. The following list includes donations received up to 25th Nov.

Berks: £50—Palmer; £14—Harwell L.G.s. per Skate (Dance); £3 0s. 6d.—Donations. **Cheshire:** £4—Large (Dance); £1—Pulford W.I. **Cornwall:** £5 10s.—Boyton Forestry Camp per Bright (Dance). **Cum & West:** £2 2s.—Donations. **Devon:** £28 4s. 7d.—Moretonhamstead Sports; £11 7s.—Exeter Cathedral collection; £2 7s.—Donations. **Dorset:** £10—County Welfare Fund; 10s.—Donation. **Glos:** £1 6s. 6d.—Donations. **Hants:** £4 3s.—Oakley L.G.s., per McDonald (Dance); £3 5s.—Donations. **Herts:** £5—Crossman; £3—Bury Green Hostel (Dance); £2 7s. 3d.—Raffle; 10s.—Donations. **Hunts:** £7 16s.—Thorney Hostel (Whist Drive & Dance); £1 11s.—Donations. **Kent:** £20—County Welfare Fund; £9 10s.—Donations. **Lindsey:** £19 11s. 10d.—Wood Enderby Hostel (Dance) per Groves; £15 11s. 9d.—Comforts Sale; £14 7s. 3d.—Horncastle per Groves (Dance); £6 5s. 6d.—Kirkby-on-Bain per Groves (Dance); £6 2s. 8d.—Donations per Groves; 7s. 6d.—Other Donations. **Lon. & Middx:** £5—Finney; £2—Laleham Club Brains Trust; £1—Donation. **Mon:** 17s. 6d.—Donations. **Norfolk:** £5—Suffeld; 10s. 6d.—Other Donations. **Northants:** £10 10s.—Spencer; £9 1s. 8d.—Barnack Hostel (Dance); £5 5s.—Brigstock Hostel; 7s. 6d.—Donations. **North's:** £16—Morpeth L.G.s. (Dance); £6 9s. 6d.—Donations. **Oxon:** £20—Aldridge (Dance). **Somerset:** £10 10s.—Yeovil Club per Woodburn; £6 11s.—N. Woolton L.G.s. per Chambers (Dance); £5—Anon; £2 14s. 6d.—Other Donations. **Staffs:** £8 12s.—Chartley Hall

(Dance); £1 5s.—Donation. **E. Suffolk:** £3 15s.—Whist Drive per Goshawk; £1 15s.—Donations. **W. Suffolk:** £7—Depden per Mair (Whist Drive & Dance); £2 14s. 2d.—Donations. **Surrey:** £7 9s. 9d.—Dorking L.G.s. per Worsfold (Dance); 10s.—Donations. **W. Sussex:** £25—Burrell; £5 3s.—Worthing Club (Dance). **Warwicks:** £50—"Diffident Daisy." **Wilts:** £7 12s.—Highworth L.G.s. per House (Dance); £3—Hughes (Dance). **Wores:** £12—County Welfare Fund. **Yorks:** 5s.—Donation. **N. Wales:** £9 16s.—Donations. **Timber Corps:** £1 7s. 6d.—Collection at Culford. **Headquarters:** £5—Walton. **Misc:** £50—Sir Harold Wernher; £10—Mrs. Winston Churchill, Mr. Morris; £5—Anon; £33 9s.—Other Donations.

County News

Beds.—Bolnhurst, Kensworth House and Toddington Park Hostels have all opened since Bedfordshire was last in the News and everyone seems to have settled down happily. Mrs. Godber's Welfare Fund is providing a party at the Dujon Restaurant, Bedford, on the 19th December, to which all Land Girls in the county have been invited. Mrs. Graham will give the December G.S. Badges away and there will be a concert, M. of I. films have already been shown at two Hostels and all are to have them in turn. A Brains Trust Session has been held at the Leighton Buzzard and Milton Ernest Hostels with Officers of the W.A.C. as Question Master and Answerers. Both sessions were a great success and Bolnhurst Hostel is the next on the list.

We should like to extend deep sympathy to Phyllis Lord, W.L.A. 30698, on the death of her sister through such a sad road accident.

Berks.—On the 26th Sept. the Berkshire W.L.A. was invited to attend a Demonstration at the N.I.R.D., at Shinfield, and had the honour of being asked to form a Guard of Honour to the Duke of Norfolk—between two and three hundred volunteers lined up in order of length of service, made a most impressive Guard. The Duke spoke a few words specially to the girls, and said what good reports he had been getting everywhere of the L.A.'s work. Afterwards Mrs. Howard Palmer entertained all the volunteers to a canteen tea. There was a most successful L.A. dance at Harwell in November, all arrangements being in the hands of a Local Committee of L.G.s., under the direction of the Local Representative, Mrs. Hazell. The dance was our first effort for the Benevolent Fund, and realised £14. The County has borne in mind the educational needs of members, and the C.C. Dairy Instructress, Miss Matthews, has arranged six lectures at eight centres on Clean Milk Production. In Reading, the Local Representative was successful in obtaining the services of the County Nursing Association, and a course of Red Cross lectures on Home Nursing is taking place at the Y.W.C.A. A lecture has also been given by one of the University lecturers on "Seasonal Operations." Dramatic entertainments are being arranged in several districts in N. Berks.

Brees. & Radnor.—Money raising efforts by hostels for various good causes have been very successful. Crossgates Hostel raised £20 for the Llandrindod War Memorial Hospital by a very successful dance. The National Savings Group is very active with an average of £2 each week. Bulth Wells Hostel is a very near runner up with £17 raised by a dance for the Prisoners of War Fund. At this Hostel the Group for the month amounted to £12. Maestllwch Hostel runs a Red Cross 1d. a week fund and has raised £2 10s. during the month. They also are very busy on the Group. A most successful Brains Trust evening was held at this Hostel, and handicraft and drama classes are in full swing. Clubs are brought into the weekly social evenings. One of our volunteers, Miss Betty Hope, W.L.A. 81484.

THE LAND GIRL



At a Party in Derbyshire

has offered to give a pocket book containing 10s. to be raffled for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.

Bucks.—We record with much regret that Miss Parry, Secretary since the inception of the W.L.A. in Bucks, has left us and taken up work with the American Red Cross. She is succeeded by Mrs. Clifford Smith, previously W.L.A. Secretary for Cornwall. Miss Parry wishes to thank most sincerely all those who subscribed to the splendid parting gift of £25 10s. which she is delighted to hand to the County Welfare Fund; in addition she received a Book Token and fountain pen which are treasured memories of her happy time with the W.L.A. Will Bucks readers of "The Land Girl" please pass on these thanks to non-readers who subscribed. 35 volunteers from the Slough District attended a United Nations' Evening at the Community Centre, where over 2,000 members of the Services and other war workers were welcomed by the Lord Mayor of London. The W.L.A. contingent took part in the tableau presenting the United Nations' Forces. Other public appearances include Civil Defence Parades in High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Buckingham, where in each case an unusually large W.L.A. contingent marched to church on 15th Nov. We extend a welcome to the 50 new volunteers beginning work in Bucks this month and a message of congratulation and encouragement to the very many who are facing their first winter, with excellent results.

Cheshire.—Under the leadership of Mrs. Brooke, the Cheshire W.L.A. Club have had some interesting gatherings, including film shows, brains trusts, etc. Some of the members are also attending Red Cross lectures and hope to obtain their certificates. Other Clubs in the county are most energetic and we do congratulate the organisers on their interesting programmes. Land Girl weddings have been numerous in Cheshire this month and we send best wishes for the future to all the brides. Several members were able to give assistance at the Agricultural Society's Ploughing and Hedging Competition on 18th November. Congratulations to Joan Hunter, who finds time to act as leader of a Girls' Training Corps in her spare moments, and is doing a good deal to encourage the members to take an active interest in agriculture. Members in the Macclesfield area will be glad to learn that Mrs. Boddington has been appointed a County Organiser and that although no longer their Committee member she will still be in touch with them.

Cum. & West.—The jobs our members do become more and more varied. A dozen are destroying rats and moles; some are driving tractors, despite the up-and-down character of the country; over 100 will be employed on threshing gangs in Cumberland during the winter, and six girls are to be trained to drive "Cub" excavators. Two forestry workers in an isolated district had an unlooked for excitement a few weeks ago when a British plane crashed into a hillside, and they were first on the scene to help. Many dances and whist drives are taking place, mainly for the Benevolent Fund, and we hear of volunteers who intend to put the winter evenings to good use. One or two are studying for the R.H.S. Examinations; a group of volunteers who want to run a farm after the war wish to read all they can about agriculture; one hostel is taking first-aid classes while at another a group is learning Esperanto. The W.L.A. is now represented by Mrs. Cartmell on the committee of the Girls Training Corps in Carlisle—a welcome sign that our service is not always left out in the cold.

Derbs.—"Saturday, 21st November, is a very proud day for the Derbyshire W.L.A." With these words the Duchess of Devonshire started her speech at the opening of our first Hostel at Alveston Fields, Boulton Lane, Alveston. Then followed speeches by Captain G. M. Buckston, Chairman of the W.A.C., Mrs. Sydney Pick representing the Y.W.C.A., Mr. Bond, the Executive Officer of the W.A.C., and finally Miss Wilks, a member of the Derbyshire W.L.A., who spoke on behalf of all the girls now resident in the Hostel, thanking all those who had helped to inaugurate and put into running order the first Hostel for this county. Flowers were presented to the Duchess and Mrs. Pick. Then followed a most excellent tea, for which we have to thank Miss Enever, the Warden. The Y.W.C.A. has undertaken the entire running of the Hostel, and the Derbyshire W.L.A. is most grateful to them for their co-operation. There are 25 girls already in residence, all working for the W.A.C. We are confident that the new Hostel will prove itself a great success and we wish it the best of luck. Reading in other counties' news of brief references to the opening of their tenth fifteenth, and even twentieth Hostels detracts not at all from our pride and pleasure in our humble beginning with Hostel No. 1, and it must always be remembered that Derbyshire is a county consisting largely of small holdings which do not per-

mit of the employment of large numbers of Land Girls. But every month we are sending out volunteers to help in other counties, so we feel that we do not do so badly after all.

Devon.—We are very thrilled to see ourselves at last in the ranks of the over 1,000 in employment. In addition to the existing seven Hostels, others will be opening in the New Year at Exeter, Barnstaple, Yealmpton, Kingsbridge, a second at Tiverton and a third in the Moretonhampstead area, while we are hoping to find suitable houses in at least another half dozen places. In addition to joining in activities provided by outside bodies, the Exeter girls are hoping to have a Drama Class of their own, and have also asked for a Keep Fit class. Evidently, after working hard on lifting potatoes all day they have energy to spare. Plymouth, Plympton and Tavistock girls are to have a Tea Club on one Saturday each month, and a successful start was made in November thanks to the initiative of Mrs. Howard and Miss Martin. Okehampton and Moretonhampstead hold a regular weekly social evening while Torrington seems to have a very full programme. Miss Mountford, the energetic warden at Okehampton is also starting a Yorkshire circle—"The Yorkshire Tykes" will meet one Saturday afternoon and evening each month and girls working within an easy radius of Okehampton are invited to join. The spotlight this month should certainly be focussed on the W.L.A. members both farm and hostel at Moretonhampstead for their more than praiseworthy effort on behalf of the local Cottage Hospital and our Benevolent Fund. With Colonel and Mrs. Keane's and Mrs. Reis's help they organised Sports one October afternoon with the result that £57 was raised, £27 of which was sent to Headquarters. The whole occasion was reminiscent of the good old days before the War.

Dorset.—Members will be sorry to note that Mrs. Heenan has resigned as County Organiser. She has built up the L.A. in Dorset and we are very glad indeed to know that after a short rest she will continue her work as Committee Member, Area Representative and very good friend of Dorset Land Girls. Miss Debenham arranged a film show and tea party at Sherborne on the 7th November which Mr. Anthony Hurd attended and his talk was very much enjoyed. A most interesting event for L.Gs. this month was the visit to Dorchester of the Question-Master of the Brains Trust. A "clean milk" campaign was arranged and a "Brains Trust" was held on Saturday afternoon, 31st Oct. Even Commander Campbell was at a loss when asked "what points does one look for in a Land Girl?" A Welfare and Education Sub-Committee has been formed and we were fortunate to have a visit from the C.E.M.A. Regional Organiser at our first Committee. We are grateful to Mrs. Comben for a standing invitation to Land Girls to call on Saturday afternoon for tea, baths and talks. Manston Hostel concert party has been busy helping to raise money for H.M.S. "Dorsetshire" and also gave an entertainment to the W.I. (who have been very kind to the hostel girls) at its birthday party at Sturminster Newton. At Beaminster Hostel, the girls have all been made Honorary Members of the canteen for the Regiment stationed there! It has been decided that canteen, reading room, entertainments, etc., shall be open to W.L.A. members. We are glad, too, that the Y.W.C.A. Centre at Dorchester is open to L.A. members and the sleeping accommodation will be a great boon. We have heard that two N.A.A.F.I. canteens in particularly desolate parts of the county have welcomed L.A. members and "Cinderella" is duly grateful.

Flints.—"Here comes the Land Army," was heard as members of the Prestatyn Area marched in the Civil Defence Parade on 15th November, and the members well deserved the praise given.

We would like to thank all members in the County for the splendid way in which they worked during harvest—and are still working in their many jobs.

Dances, etc., are being arranged, first a small whist drive held at Fortes Milk Bar, Prestatyn, on 1st December, then a whist drive and dance at Rhuddian Hostel on 10th December, whilst Prestatyn's big night is on December 31st, a New Year's Eve Carnival Dance to be held at the Beach Pavilion in aid of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. By the way, Flintshire's target for the Benevolent Fund is £360 to be reached within the year. So go to it girls! and see if we cannot double that target. I am sure we can, if every one of Flints, 309 members will do her share. Will members please note that all donations towards the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund should be sent to Mrs. Caswell, "Dingley," The Dell, Prestatyn.

All good wishes to Mrs. Simms (M. Gatenby)—we are glad to know that she will continue with her land work.

Glos.—Volunteers in Cirencester district now have a Club Room at their disposal on Saturday afternoon and evenings at the Y.M.C.A. premises in Dollar Street. Here we had an opening party on October 3rd. Mrs. Bathurst was present and answered all sorts of queries and made a great many helpful suggestions for us. The Y.M.C.A. provided us with a magnificent tea and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. We were particularly interested in the newly formed L.A. Benevolent Fund. We hope to raise some money on its behalf by means of a dance in the near future, and will get in touch with local members as soon as we have some definite arrangements made and can get a complete list of their names and addresses.

Hants.—Great interest has been manifested in the L.A. by the Girls Training Corps. Speakers (area representatives or members of the office staff) have attended several meetings, often taking a L.G. to answer questions; once a M. of I. film was shown as well. Answers to our recent question to employers, "Has your L.G. proved herself worthy of the good service badge now due to her?" are being received every day and it is immensely gratifying to read the glowing testimonials most farmers write. We even have several farmers claiming to have the BEST Land Girl! Our main social activity this month has been the opening of the W.L.A. Club at the Y.W.C.A., Winchester. There was a grand party attended by Miss Woolmer White, including tea, a concert by E.N.S.A., dancing and games. The club has been opened for all L.Gs. in Winchester on a Saturday afternoon and from 3.30 to 4.30 a L.A. Representative will always be there to answer questions. The Droxford Club has formed a first class tug-of-war team. This team has been well organised and trained and finished a highly successful season by pulling a team of W.R.N.S., at H.M.S. Excellent, Portsmouth.

Herts.—These last two months have been months of great activity; on 4th Oct. 150 W.L.A. volunteers assembled in St. Albans to take part in the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and Parade. Amongst the khaki and blue of the other services, the green jerseys showed up well and lent a cheerful note of colour. We were disappointed not to have Mrs. Jenkins with us, and also Mrs. Hudson, but we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Walter Elliott, the chairman of the N.A.G.C., who spoke for a few minutes before the concert arranged by Mrs. Dawn and Mr. Carter. We all enjoyed and congratulate our volunteers who took part in this concert. On 9th Nov. Mrs. Hudson came to open the W.L.A. Club at Turnford, which has been made possible by the generosity of Mr. Rochford, and the other growers in the district. Mrs. Hudson stressed the importance of the W.L.A. and gave the girls a message of encouragement from her husband. The club has been furnished and equipped most completely; a catering licence has been secured and the kitchen can be used daily for heating mid-day meals. Our thanks go out to Mrs. Dawn for all her work in this area.

In addition to these excitements hostels have been opened in all parts of the County: West Herts Golf Club (40), Shenley Lodge (50), Pendley Manor (30), Queenbury House (20), Letchworth Golf Club (20), Meesden Hall (15). We welcome Mrs. Rome as our new County Organiser, new in

THE LAND GIRL

the capacity of Organiser but an old friend to us in the County as she has been Warden of one of our hostels.

Holl. & Kest.—With the approach of winter, our numbers are not increasing, but we welcome to this County any new girls who have arrived since the last issue of "The Land Girl." The number of girls taking the magazine is small, and it is hoped that those of you who do, share it with your neighbours and that you will bring it to the attention of others. So far, 15 of our Hostels have had M. of I. Film shows, and the others will be having them during the next few weeks. Winter classes are in progress, and include a variety of subjects from First Aid and "Make and Mend" to Physical Training, French and German! The girls in private billets at Sutterton are given weekly socials by their Local Representative, and others are doing the same now that the long evenings make overtime work impossible.

Swineshead Hostel had a most successful dance to which members of the R.A.F. and neighbours were invited to raise money for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. The proceeds were £5, and it is hoped that other hostels will follow this good example.

Hunts. Cambs. & Ely.—Mr. Buck, who supervises their work under Dr. Hunter, states that the girls at the Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge are better at their particular job than the men who were there before them, being much more careful and conscientious. At Trumpington, the W.I. has made all the Land Army girls honorary members and other W.I.'s are considering the same action, a very kind move on their part. Dances and concerts are taking place every week. At Swynford House the first hostel dance was held on 11th September. A neighbouring unit lent a piano, some drums and a saxophone. The soldiers were invited and a grand time was had by all. At Thorney the girls collected amongst themselves and gave a dinner service to Vera Greenwood now Mrs. Dobby. On the 16th Oct. a whist drive brought in the excellent sum of £12 12s., of which £6 6s. was given to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and £6 6s. to the aid to Russia Fund. The girls at Higham's Farm gave a Harvest Home to which farmers and members of the Forces were asked. Nellie Earnshaw was at the piano. One farmer guest who declared he had taken out his "party rags" to do honour to the occasion, appeared in drain-pipe trousers and an old-fashioned morning coat and insisted on rendering "The little shirt my mother made for me." St. Neots had a party on 3rd Oct. to which five old girls came and at which there were 38 present. Singing, games and competitions occupied the evening. Mrs. Jacobs, the District Representative for Whittlesey, arranged a Dance so that the hostel girls could meet the girls in private employment. Books from the County Libraries are now available in the hostels. A choir of L.A. girls will take part in the Carol Singing at the Guildhall, Cambridge, on 13th Dec., and on the 10th Dec. two of the Cambridge members are taking part in the Bach Christmas Oratorio.

E. Kent.—Our group centres have continued their meetings and been well attended. Programmes have included talks by W. E. A. speakers and M. of I. films. Social evenings have predominated latterly; a party was given by Mr. and Mrs. Hart to the Sittingbourne group, by Mrs. Harrowing and Miss Leake to the Lydney group and by Mrs. Crookes to the Deal group, all of which were much enjoyed. There was a very good turn-out of girls at the Armistice Parade Service at Smarden on Armistice Sunday. The girls under Mrs. Walker, paraded with some 300 members of the other Forces and civil organisations and looked very nice. A new Hostel has just been opened at Hothfield, nr. Ashford, to take 26, and we wish both girls and staff the best of luck and a happy home. We all wish to express our sincere sympathy with the

girls who lost relatives and homes in the recent air attack on East Kent.

W. Kent.—Now that the W.L.A. Welfare Fund for Kent is an established fact we are hoping to start more Clubs; part of the fund will be used for running these much needed places where girls can meet and enjoy each other's company. We have now 7 hostels in W. Kent, accommodating about 200 girls. A number of entertainments have been arranged for the winter months. The girls in one Hostel are very much enjoying a course of "Make and Mend" classes at which they are busy converting "Plus Fours" into skirts and performing other marvellous transformations. We are indebted to the Kent Education Committee for making it possible to hold these classes and to our Headquarters for providing the garments.

A very gay evening was held at Hutton Hostel in October on the occasion of a 21st birthday fancy dress dance. There were four prizes of National Savings Stamps, the first being won by a girl dressed as "Harvest Festival." A most ingenious costume though the skirt of corn made sitting down an impossibility, however that only added to the general amusement. Christmas will soon be here and it is possible that girls who live at a distance may not be able to get home. We are therefore hoping to make arrangements to give these girls a happy week end at the Hostels and give them a really good time, while for others who are too far off to join these festivities we hope to get offers of hospitality.

Lancs.—Good news comes in of Clubs being formed in Parbold, Preston and Wigan. Parbold Club meets fortnightly in the W.I. Hall and started off with a very successful meeting. Preston Club is meeting weekly and for the time being is using a room in the W.L.A. office, but hopes soon to have its own Club rooms. Wigan Club meets in the Y.W.C.A. building, where they are blessed with the use of a canteen, radio, and a library, etc. There is even a keep-fit class (if any volunteers feel the need of it). The first meeting was held on Nov. 16th. A most enjoyable evening was spent at Hutton I.O.A.,—forty volunteers from Preston and district were present and a M.O.I. film was shown. We should like to thank Miss Stubbs and Miss Molyneux for a delicious supper.

We are all sorry to hear that Mrs. Blunt, our Local Representative for Formby, Rainhill and Crosby has been ordered to rest for some time. We shall miss her greatly but look forward to the time when she will be back with us again and wish her a speedy recovery. Four of our volunteers had the honour of taking part in a parade on the occasion of Mrs. Roosevelt's visit to Manchester. Thirty soldiers from a local depot were entertained at a social and dance held at the W.A.C. Hostel, Halsall. The tea arrangements were made by the girls themselves and the evening was a great success.

Lancashire is taking part in the Benevolent Fund. The County Committee has decided that a quarter

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of any sum of money received shall be retained to form the Lancashire County Welfare Fund. It will be used for the welfare of volunteers.

Leics & Rut.—On 11th October the girls at Hambleton Hostel organised a most enjoyable evening to celebrate the opening of the new Recreation Room which had been miraculously transformed from a disused hay loft. In spite of thick fog the fifty guests arrived, including the W.L.A. Chairman and Secretary, the Labour Officer and various members of the W.A.E.C. staff, farmers and their wives, Home Guard and Airmen, and last but not least, the girls, all in festive mood. A small Whist Drive took place downstairs, but dancing and games in the new room, which had been beautifully decorated, was the chief attraction. Some of the forfeit penalties in "Spinning the Trencher" were very cruel but highly amusing to the audience. Father Christmas came and distributed gifts to all present. The success of this most enjoyable evening was very largely due to the ceaseless efforts of Miss Cowdell the Warden. The cheque for £35 7s. 6d. presented at our Rally to Lady Denman for the Benevolent Fund was raised as follows: Prize Draw £22 1s. 6d., £5—Miss Brocklebank, £1—Mrs. Crosby, 10s. each—Misses Felstead, Murch, Shepherd, and Vann, and £5 6s. from 29 other donors.

Lindsey.—Our figures for the Benevolent Fund are mounting up gradually. So far Lindsey has sent over £77 mostly raised by the efforts of volunteers through dances and socials although there have also been many individual donations. Our hostels have invited members of the Forces to take part in various programmes arranged, Wainfleet having a ventriloquist and conjurer amongst its guests. Brigg Hostel arranged a most excellent programme entirely performed by the L.A. This was such a success that they were asked to do it for the benefit of the old people in the Institution, who were grateful to the girls for giving up their spare time to entertain them. In other ways the L.A. has not let its charity end at home, as a volunteer at Worlaby raised £2 for the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund. Brigg Hostel has had a talk on "Russia" by our Chairman, Mrs. Wintringham, and Owston Ferry is learning basket making and had the satisfaction of seeing a potato basket completely finished in one evening. 173 volunteers have received G.S. Badges in the last two months and one more Two Year armlet has been earned.

Our rat catchers are doing noble work against vermin and we have four volunteers being trained to drive Cub-Excavators and help in the drainage work which is so essential if the land is to be kept free from flooding in the winter months.

The Royal Horticultural Society

The Royal Horticultural Society announces the following:—General Senior and Junior Examinations, 18th March, 1943. CLOSING DATE for Entries, 11th January.

Teachers' Examination in School and Cottage Gardening 27th March, 1943. CLOSING DATE for Entries, 16th December, 1942.

Answers to Questions on Page 5

1—Chinese; 2—Flying Scotsman; (3)—gold, tin, marble, granite, glass, brick, water, oak, coal; 4—(a) solid which floats on sea, found in intestines of spermaceti whale; (b) belt of calms between N.E. & S.E. Trade winds (c) pith of palm (d) two periods of year when day and night are equal (e) distance N. or S. of Equator measured in degrees (f) limestone formations resembling hanging icicles (g) the two short watches into which the 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. watch is divided in a ship (h) seasonal winds in Indian Ocean; 5—All weigh the same; 6—About 200; 7—(a) Stronghold; (b) Water; (c) Meadow; (d) Town; (e) Creek (f) Fortified hill; 8—One-ninth.

County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total			Employed
	£	s.	d.	
Yorks	22	4	0	3776
Kent	34	10	0	3126
Essex	2	2	0	2509
Hants	9	0	3	1801
Leics. 1446	35	7	6	1704
Rut. 258				
E. Sussex	20	0	0	1676
Herts	11	9	3	1623
Surrey	29	12	9	1506
Northants	25	5	2	1481
Worce	32	0	0	1392
Warwicks	65	12	6	1351
Bucks	10	10	0	1346
Holl & Kes	18	6	...	1308
Somerset	35	3	0	1298
W. Sussex	71	1	6	1229
Cheshire	5	0	0	1205
Lancs	7	10	0	1174
Glos	28	2	0	1125
Wilts	17	7	0	1113
Norfolk	11	2	6	1087
Berks	68	3	0	1047
Devon	44	16	7	1047
Notts	8	15	0	1023
North'nd	29	9	6	976
Salop	5	5	6	861
Cornwall	5	10	0	831
Hunts 252	14	18	0	828
Cams 405				
Ely 171	20	0	0	816
Oxon				
Cum. & West.	2	9	0	775
E. Suffolk	27	6	0	758
Dorset	10	10	0	712
Staffs	9	19	0	676
S. Wales	...	1	0	628
(Lindsey)	77	11	6	596
N. Wales	11	15	0	...
Durham	...	...	...	...
W. Suffolk	25	14	11	...
Herefords	35	15	5	...
Monmouth	6	17	6	...
Beds	...	5	0	...
Lon. & Middx.	11	3	6	...
Flints	...	2	0	359
Derbys	2	6	0	331
I. of W.	...	...	...	290
Brecs. & Rad.	...	...	...	283
Denbigh	10	0	0	Not rec'd.
Glamorgan	...	...	...	Not rec'd.

On November 30th There were over 52,000 volunteers in employment.

"THE LAND GIRL"

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