

# THE LAND GIRL

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Price 3d.

## HONOURABLE MENTION

**I**N the list of Civilian Awards published in *The Times* on February 1st the very first award reads as follows:

M.B.E.

MISS E. MARGARET SMYTH, Organising Secretary, W.L.A., East Kent.

The splendid record of the Land Girls working in the dangerous areas of East Kent is largely due to Miss Smyth's untiring efforts on their behalf. Throughout weeks of intensive bombing, when many houses have been damaged and destroyed close to her office, Miss Smyth has worked there daily. She has shown coolness and courage, devotion to duty and cheerfulness under all circumstances.

We congratulate very warmly both Miss Smyth and the East Kent volunteers, and we are proud that through them the whole Land Army has been honoured. They have been consistently in the front line of the Battle of Britain, and not one of them has asked for a transfer to a safer area. No other county has been tested quite so rigorously, but there has been plenty of evidence elsewhere that the spirit of Miss Smyth and the East Kent volunteers is the spirit which animates every official and every member of the W.L.A.

Altogether the New Year has presented the Land Army with several bouquets. Besides the Minister's appreciation, reported on page 2, Lady Denman, when broadcasting for recruits the other day, spoke very warmly not only of her own impressions at the Rallies she has recently attended, but also of the glowing accounts by farmers of the work of the W.L.A.

Probably most volunteers heard the Honorary Director's broadcast. The response has been good, but more and more recruits will be wanted soon. The best recruiting officers for the Land Army are its own members. You know the work, you've made a success of it yourself and you've earned the right to urge others to do likewise. Will you do your best, here and now, to persuade at least one friend or sister to follow your example and become a Land Girl?

M. A. P.





## THE MINISTER VISITS HEADQUARTERS

THE Headquarters of the Women's Land Army at Balcombe Place were honoured by a visit from the Minister of Agriculture and Mrs. Hudson on January 20th.

As many volunteers know, the Land Army branch of the Ministry of Agriculture was evacuated to Lady Denman's house at Balcombe just before war broke out, and has been there ever since. The house and outbuildings have to provide not only offices and billets but also storage and packing room for uniform, so every inch of space is needed. The Minister discussed Land Army problems with Lady Denman and her staff; he and Mrs. Hudson then went over the house and inspected the uniform store and Mrs. Hudson was photographed looking quite delightful in a Land Army hat!

Two days before his visit to Balcombe Mr. Hudson had spoken at Dorchester of the large part which the W.L.A. would have to play in England's food production campaign. He said that he thought many people under-estimated the ability of women to do nearly all kinds of farm work, and he spoke of the hundreds of tributes to



Photograph by

Keystone Press.

### IN THE LIBRARY AT BALCOMBE.

The Rt. Hon. R. S. Hudson (Minister of Agriculture), Lady Denman (Hon. Director, W.L.A.), Mrs. Jenkins (Personal Assistant to Lady Denman). Standing: Mr. J. A. Sutherland Harris (Chief Administrative Officer, W.L.A. Branch, Ministry of Agriculture).

the Land Girls' work which had been received from farmers.

In this connection, Dame Meriel Talbot (Director of the W.L.A. in the last war) wrote a very interesting letter to *The Times* on February 1st. She spoke of the criticism of the Land Army in its early days and how all that had vanished by the end of the war. In August, 1918, the W.L.A. included nearly 4,000 field workers, 635 carters, nearly 300 tractor drivers and 260 ploughmen, besides thatchers, shepherds, etc.

The milkers totalled 5,734. After the war, Lord Ernle, Minister of Agriculture, wrote that in all these branches of work "women have excelled," and "in driving motor tractors they have done at least as well as men. Here also light hands tell. As drivers they have shown themselves not only skilful and enduring but economical."

Even if we do sometimes have to bear patiently criticisms which our mothers proved to be false 25 years ago, it is very nice to know that our Minister thinks of us as his predecessor did in the last war. After all, who should know better than they do?

Many thanks to all those who have returned back copies of *THE LAND GIRL*. April and August copies are still badly wanted, and July would be welcome too. Copies of any of these months will be bought back gladly by the Editor.

Volunteers are reminded once again that any change of address should be notified to the County Magazine Representative, or to the Editor, *as soon as possible*—otherwise the magazine will certainly arrive late, and may be lost altogether.



## WARTS AND WITCHES

I HAVE been looking through my last year's diary—a very sketchy affair, actually—with the idea of getting a mental picture of my first year of work in the Land Army, and also of country life; and the impression that emerges most vividly is the oddness of having come face to face with people who still believe in the time-honoured properties of folklore, in witches and wart charms, for instance.

Town life, to which I had always been accustomed, leaves no room for these ancient beliefs that appear against its synthetic modern background as quaintly absurd survivals, and are thought by the average townsman to have been swept by the broom of State education from the minds of all but gipsies, oldest inhabitants, and village idiots.

As one who accepted this common fallacy, I have found it enormously interesting to discover that there are country people, by no means aged or imbecile, who somehow manage to reconcile an existence within reach of most of the refinements common to town life, with an honest faith in, say, the magical powers of a frog's thigh-bone.

### G. G. AND THE WITCH.

I don't know how he does it, but one of the most successful in this respect is G.G., who is our horseman, and comes from a remote Suffolk village.

We were thistling in a field of wheat when he told us about his meeting with a witch. It happened several years ago, when he was working in a field close to a road. Along came a woman, who stopped to ask whether he had seen her husband, known to him by sight; and the driver of a passing wagon, having overheard her question, remarked rudely—much to the woman's annoyance—that the said husband was probably in the Red Cow, as usual.

"He dussen't have said that if he'd known she were a witch," said G.G., chuckling. "You marn't cross one o' they."

The carter had halted his horses, and was picking up the reins ready to go on his way, when the woman cried, "I'll teach you to mind your own business! You shan't go on till I let you." "And no more he could: he couldn't make they horses go backarder nit forwarder, though he tried all ways," went on G.G. And so the carter had to wait till the witch told him he could go—which, of course, was not before he had displayed a suitably repentant frame of mind.

"How did she stop the horses from moving?" I asked.

The horseman considered. "Maybe she put

a frog's thigh-bone under the wheel; though I didn't see her do it."

### MOLES AND MAGIC.

He told me how to find a nest of moles. You must find a mole-hill as big round as a bushel skip, and dig into it on the left-hand side facing the sun. The baby moles are white but soon change colour after being brought into the light.

"Moles come from a lady," he said; and told how there was once a lady who was very proud, so that in punishment she was turned into a mole, which is the reason why moles have dainty hands and silken fur.

Another tale he told was of a supernatural "black thing" haunting a hill on the Newmarket Road. This creature—it was not a ghost, he said, because ghosts are white and this was black—would jump up beside the drivers of carts or leap on the shafts, terrifying the horses. He assured me that not only have many people seen it, but that it was responsible for the death of his grandfather. The old man, returning homeward after dark, was getting down from his wagon to lead the horses on the slippery hill; and the sinister creature, choosing that precise moment to vault on the shafts, the horses reared and caused their driver to fall beneath the wheel.

### NOTIFICATION OF DEATHS—TO BEES.

But G.G. is not the only retailer of country superstitions who figures in my diary. One evening we were talking of bee-keeping, and a neighbour who was present told us that wild bees used to nest in the attics of her uncle's farmhouse not far away.

"But he died, and the bees left," she said, and explained, when I asked if she meant that his death was the reason for their going, "Someone should have knocked three times and told the bees; they will never stay in a house where there has been a death, unless they are told of it."

Another family now occupies the farmhouse, but never, since that day, have the wild bees returned.

### BURY YOUR WARTS.

A very different person from our horseman, but like him a Suffolk man born and bred, is our neighbour, Mr. B., a farmer who comes round frequently in the evenings and tells many tales, some of which are hard to believe. But one which he, at any rate, himself believed concerned the charming away of warts on his hand



by a mysterious old man whom he chanced to meet. After enquiring the exact number of warts that required treatment, the old man declared that they would not remain much longer. Nor did they; but the old man refused to tell Mr. B. the secret, and although he promised that he might do so some day, he died without having parted with this useful information.

Before meeting the old man, Mr. B. told us, he had tried many well-known methods of removing them, such as rubbing them with a piece of meat and then burying the meat—the place of interment was one of our fields, as it happens; the idea being that as the meat decays the warts will disappear. But all his efforts were unsuccessful. His mother, however, who was also troubled with the growths, managed to get rid of them by cutting a corresponding number of notches in the bark of an ash, the warts gradually disappearing as the scars formed over the cuts.

I wanted to know what would have happened if he or his mother had miscounted, and allowed for too few warts; would the odd ones have continued to flourish, and if so how would the charm solve the delicate problem of deciding which should be removed, and which left? But I got no satisfactory answer. Perhaps one cannot expect magic to concern itself with humdrum arithmetic.

These are a few fragments from the mosaic of a strange year, overshadowed by war, yet full of new and interesting experiences. So I have found it, and so, surely, have thousands of other Land Army girls.

FRANCES ROBINSON,  
W.L.A. No. 9,697 (W. Suffolk).

## Undowered

Mine is the moonlight-silvered winding river,  
Mine are the trees that grow, the birds that sing,  
Mine are the happy woods, the friendly wild-flowers—

For, having nothing, I have everything.

Mine is the splendid sun, my bridge the rainbow,  
Mine are the shining darts the rain-clouds fling,  
Mine are the winding lanes, the curving hill-sides—

For, having nothing, I have everything.

The boist'rous wind is my familiar playmate,  
The beauty that the dawns and sunsets bring,  
The chattering streams are mine, and I am happy—

For, having nothing, I have everything.

A. I. C. HANCOCK,  
W.L.A. No. 2558 (Warwicks.).

## Horticulture in Hants



Workers at the Hale Nurseries, near Fordingbridge. Their hostel organised a dance which raised nearly £20 for the Spitfire Fund.

WE lead a varied and frightfully interesting life. We start our day at 7.5 a.m.

The whistle blows—we tear out of our hostel and fly to the messroom, where there is an ingenious clocking-in and out system. Then we separate to our different allotted jobs. We stop at 9.40 a.m. for a cup of tea and sandwiches. We then work till five; and then there is overtime.

Everybody is terribly kind to us, and they all have great patience and are so helpful, which makes such a difference. We billet in a hostel on the premises, and all the girls are such a good team to work with and are the most delightful fun—in play-time—where we are lucky in having a messroom with wireless and table-tennis to spend our leisure hours—and so the days end.

We do hope you will find the enclosed snap good enough for the W.L.A. mag., as we are a bit sore that farm work sometimes dominates horticulture.

MARY BIRD,  
W.L.A. No. 4,835 (Hants).

## General Knowledge

1. When does a heifer become a cow?
2. What is a shearling?
3. What is the weight of soil on an acre of land to a depth of 9 or 10 inches?
4. What is probably the most useful grass for pasture land?
5. What amount of rain per year is best for most vegetable crops?

(Answers on page 16).



## REVOLT IN THE FARMYARD

**B**EFORE I joined the Land Army I had, like most town dwellers, a good many illusions about life on a farm. My ideas about farm animals, for instance, were picturesque but lacking in realism, and largely founded on the picture books and stories of my infancy. Dear little calves, I thought, would run to lick my hand, and friendly pigs in spotless sties would be grateful in a porkish manner for my graciousness in feeding and tending them. Cart-horses would whinny at my approach, lambs gambol about my feet, and docile cows, inevitably named Buttercup, Pansy or Crocus, would stroll with me into market.

But truth is stranger than fiction, and my experiences with the animals, though less lyrical, have been more interesting.

I was, to a certain extent, let down gently, and on the April morning when Jim the carter took me round, introducing me to my farmyard family, things looked rather promising. There were about eighteen pigs, a dozen or so of calves, a young bull, two orphan lambs and five cows. Of the cows, two were dry and had been banished from the main cowshed to await the birth of their calves; the remaining three to suckle the smaller calves with what little milk they had.

Jim and I had a dress rehearsal for my first performance of feeding and watering stock, which was to take place on the morrow. A good dress rehearsal is notoriously unlucky, and this one went smoothly from the first. The cows, released from their chains, filed demurely across the yard, drank their fill at the cattle-trough and ambled back, each to her own stall. I nervously asked whether it would matter if they returned to the wrong ones, but Jim assured me that this was quite out of the question. No cow had ever been known to walk into any stall but her own. The nursing calves came tumbling out of their pens and skipped merrily, each to its appointed cow. Everything was in order; as simple as could be.

Next morning I took up my duties full of confidence, and it was not until I was well away with the feeding of the pigs that I began to be aware—as an actress sensing something amiss with the spirit of her audience—that the atmosphere of the farmyard had subtly changed. The animals were suspicious, and had tumbled to it that I was inexperienced and probably a fool.

Having, however, accomplished the feeding of the pigs without any major disasters, I began to get busy with the cows. Nervously scanning the five back views, each of which seemed to be marked with an identical reddish-brown map on an off-white background, I wondered if I should

ever be able to tell them apart. But, of course, cows were so reliable, so well-versed in the geography of their stalls, it could not possibly matter. I approached the nearest one, and began to fumble with her chain. Annoyed by my clumsiness, she jerked her head up, catching my finger in the chain, and at the same time backing with the whole weight of her ponderous person on to my toe. I stifled a scream; miraculously the chain came undone, and I advanced to the next. This time things went better, and with a sigh of relief I saw the last cow disappearing into the yard. I followed her, expecting to see the others jostling one another at the cattle-trough. But they were standing about, seemingly in a state of coma, brooding and absent-minded. I threatened, cajoled, brandished my stick, called them names, but it was useless. They felt, apparently, disinclined to drink, and drink they would not. Changing my tactics, I encouraged them to return to the shed. They sauntered carelessly to the trough and began to drink. The drinking over, would they go back again? No, they would not. They gambolled and cavorted about the yard, unmatronly to a degree, kicking up their heels, and deaf to the famished cries of the calves within. And when at length the fun began to pall and they trooped through the door, pandemonium ensued. Deliberately out to annoy me, breaking the tradition of all right-minded cows since the beginning of time, those she-devils shuffled themselves and took their places in the wrong stalls. I opened the calf-pens, unconscious of the disaster, and an avalanche of calves, blind with a lust for breakfast, made a dash for their accustomed places, only to be savagely kicked by the outraged expectant-mothers.

After that all was confusion, kicks and scuffles, until, by the intervention of a merciful providence, the animals sorted themselves and the tumult died down. "I think," said the farmer, standing in the doorway, "that you had better come in to breakfast."

R. DE BUNSEN,  
W.L.A. No. 29,354 (Surrey).

Barbara West, of Dorset, writes that she has found that a dab of castor oil is an effective cure for a wart on the hand. Oxford recommends massage with castor oil to ward off chilblains.

*A tip for a split thumb, caused by wet or cold.*  
—Soak a piece of gauze in castor oil and keep thumb bandaged. Avoid washing it, as far as possible.



## The Garden in February

**W**E are now well into the New Year, and the occasional very bright days appearing this month always urge gardeners to action. It is not wise to be in too great a hurry to sow seeds, unless the soil is light and in a sheltered position. Winter cultivation should be completed, and seed beds may be prepared if the surface is dry enough.

An early sowing of broad beans will not be out of season in a warm border. Other seeds which may also be sown now are parsnips, parsley and, under very favourable conditions, onions.

The preparation of the seed-bed is not a difficult task if autumn digging has been carried out properly. The frosts will have broken up the large clods of soil into a fine, crumbly surface, and very little working beyond a light forking over will be necessary.

See that your tilth is dry on top and that the seed bed is really level. It is best to prepare everything a day or so before actually sowing the seed.

When sowing, do not walk all over the bed, and be sure to use a line to guide the hoe with which the drills are drawn out.

For small seeds, make a drill about an inch deep, using the corner of a hoe, and sprinkle the seed along it very thinly.

Each row should be carefully labelled with the name of the variety and the date of sowing. Cover the seeds evenly by raking over the drills with the back of the rake.

A quarter of an ounce of onion seed should be enough to sow a fifty-foot row, and half an ounce of parsnip seed should do the same. A half pint of broad beans will sow a fifty-foot row.

In the frames spinach can be sown, and also lettuce and turnips.

Now is the time to plant out shallots and Jerusalem artichokes and to split up rhubarb crowns.

If annual weeds, such as groundsel, are kept under control during this month the work of weeding later on will be eased considerably.

Do not open the frames too much just now, otherwise the soil inside will become dry and watering will be necessary—a dangerous operation at this time of the year, which often results in scorching and damping-off.

It is as well to stress the fact that the false sunny days of February do not mean that spring is here, and patience and judgment are far better than haste when it comes to sowing and planting at the beginning of the year.

A gardener is always learning, and many valuable hints may always be picked up by the simple method of discussion with other gardeners, who

may know their particular district as regards sowing and planting dates.

Coutts's "Everyday Gardening" is a useful book to possess for all times, and may well prove a good investment.

H. A. MULLER (Plumpton).

## "Beasts and Birds"

*The following is a composition, exactly as written by a boy of ten, from Aberdeen, reprinted from the October number of the "Froyle Parish Magazine," by kind permission of the Vicar.*

The bird I am going to write about is the owl. The owl cannot see at all in the daytime, and at night it is as blind as a bat. I do not know much about the owl, so I will go on to the beast, which I am going to choose. It is the cow. The cow is a mamal, and it is tame. It has six sides, right, left, fore, back, an upper and below. At the back it has a tail, on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away, so that they will not fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing horns, and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with. The mouth is to moo with. Under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk, the milk comes and there is never an end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not yet realised, but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell. One can smell it far away. This is the reason for the fresh air in the country. The man cow is called an ox, and it is not a mamal. The cow does not eat much, but what it eats it eats twice, so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos, and when it says nothing it is because all its inside is full up of grass.

Not many entries for the Mystery Letter Competition in the January issue have been received yet. Hurry up and send them in by February 25th.

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## SCOTTISH NOTES

FROM ALL THE AIRTS



Presentation of Badges at Aboyne.

## ABERDEENSHIRE.

THE Alford and Deeside Land Army had a lovely party arranged for them by Mrs. Cook at Birse Lodge Hotel, Aboyne, when Good Service Badges were presented by Colonel R. J. Nicol, Chairman of the Agricultural Executive Committee for the district. In his address of welcome he asked the volunteers to keep in mind always that they are performing valuable work of immense importance. He said that few complaints had been received about the quality of their work, and indeed many farmers had now changed their ideas on the Women's Land Army, and, because their neighbours were finding this source of labour so valuable, were themselves availing themselves of the benefits of the scheme.

Charlotte Robertson thanked Colonel Nicol for his kind remarks and for presenting the badges, and Mrs. Cook was accorded a vote of appreciation and thanks not only for having organised the party but also for her unceasing interest in the welfare of the girls under her charge.

## AYRSHIRE.

Congratulations to Frances Moodie, who has been on the one farm since November, 1939, and is now going to become a member of the family by marrying the son of the house.

From a volunteer in this county—Mary Tweedie—comes a foot comfort tip. She suggests that a layer of straw in the sole of her Wellington minimises dampness and keeps her feet warm and comfortable.

Edwina Mackness is running a work party for the benefit of the men who, before the war, were employed where she is now working.

## ROSS-SHIRE.

Romance is in the air up Ross-shire way, for no less than three volunteers are heading for matrimony—Betty Balfour, Helen Nelson and Catherine Fraser, the latter to settle on the land in the county.

## STIRLING.

Miss Bolton reports that THE LAND GIRL is very much enjoyed by the volunteers in her district. They look forward to getting it each month and share it because of the paper shortage.

## FOR SPITFIRE FUND:

£1 6s. Alford and Deeside, per Mrs. Cook; 5s.—Mackintosh (Port Patrick), Nelson (Murthly); under 5s.—Barclay (Abernethy), Fraser, Robertson, Benwell.



## "Spitfire" Fund

**T**HE total received during January was £62 9s. It seems probable that the time has now come to concentrate our efforts by setting a closing date for the fund. Unless, therefore, a majority of counties expresses a desire for it to be kept open the fund will close on March 31st.

In view of this, the list of county totals will not be published this month, but in April. This will give some counties an opportunity to make up for lost time before they appear in the list! There are still two or three from whom no one has yet subscribed.

This month's 5s. prize is divided between Miss Hirst (Glos.), who has spent her spare time ferreting for rabbits, which she then sold; and Miss Read (Worcs.), who cut her fellow workers' hair in return for a contribution to the fund.

Overtime pay, Christmas boxes, carol singing, sale of vegetables, and of Spitfire socks, have brought in good sums, while three Essex volunteers have raised money by selling the results of a weekly meeting to do raffia work, knitting, etc.

Hereford, Hunts and E. Sussex give interesting details of their members' efforts in the County News. Please note Hereford's offer with regard to Spitfire socks.

**Reds:** 5s. 6d.—Cocking, 5s.—Lewis; under 5s.—Keene, Walker, Macmanus. Total—18s. 6d. **Berks:** 10s.—Barker, G and L. Walters; 5s.—Wright, Paton; under 5s.—Negus. Total—£1 12s. 6d. **Bucks:** 10s.—Hudson; under 5s.—Tyler. Total—12s. 6d. **Cheshire:** 5s.—Office box; under 5s.—Mitchell, Muir, Raddon. Total—10s. **Cumbd. and Westd.:** £1 1s.—Symonds; 16s.—New House Farm. Total—£1 17s. **Devon:** 10s.—Devonshire. **Dorset:** 5s.—Brumwell; under 5s.—Wigmore. Total—7s. 6d. **Essex:** £1—Elsner with Morris and Salter; 5s.—M. and M. Titterington. Total—£1 5s. **Glos:** £1 10s.—Walker; 10s.—Bristow; 5s.—Hirst (sale of rabbits). Total £2 5s. **Hants:** 10s.—Jackman; under 5s.—Green, Clark. Total—13s. 6d. **Hereford:** £2 2s. 6d.—Sale of Spitfire socks; 5s.—Cushen; under 5s.—Marshall, Mansbridge, Office box. Total—£2 13s. 6d. **Hunts, Cambs, I/Ely:** £2 2s. 6d.—Davis (including £1 8s. 6d., the proceeds of Eltisley Boys' Club Dance); 5s.—Arnold, West, Clay, Frowd; under 5s.—Hold, Chaplin, Clapton, Douet, Pearce. Total—£3 13s. 6d. **Kent:** 10s.—Everist, Soul; 5s.—Hatt. Total—£1 5s. **Lancs:** 5s.—Mouat. **Leics. and Rutland:** £10 10s.—Dance (per Hincks, Steel, and Dale); 15s.—D. and J. Smith; 7s.—Wright; 5s.—Rose, Cope; under 5s.—Pocock, Bott, Buckley. Total—£12 7s. 6d. **Norfolk:** £1—Anon; 10s.—Mr. Kemp per Mrs. Frost; 5s.—Long; under 5s.—Thrower, Callaby. Total—£1 18s. 6d. **Northants:** 10s.—Wray, Anon; 7s. 6d.—Berriman; 5s.—Kitchener; under 5s.—Ashwell, Webster, Davis, Alexander, Parker. Total—£2 1s. **Northd.:** 10s. 6d.—per Batters (carol singing). **Oxon:** £1—Phillips (overtime pay); 14s. 10d.—Mrs. Fry's collecting box; under 5s.—Corney. Total—£1 16s. 10d. **Somerset:** 5s.—Carter. **E. Suffolk:** £3 3s.—"Penny-a-liner"; 12s. 9d.—Xmas Box Fund (Royds, Rackham and Rainsford); under 5s.—Walters, Penn. Total—£4 0s. 3d. **Surrey:** Under 5s.—Newnham. **E. Sussex:** £7 7s.—Fancy Dress Dance and Social (per Hobden, Aslett, Dunning, Wolfe). **W. Sussex:** 6s.—Anstead; 5s.—Blue, Frost; under 5s.—Skyrme, Rowlatt, Lamb (sale of vegetables), Varley. Total—£1 6s. **Warwicks:** Total—£17 2s. 6d. List of subscribers unavoidably postponed until next month owing to postal delays. **Yorks, N.R.:** 10s.—Flint.

(For Scotland see page 7).

## B.B.C. Programmes

**B**ESIDES the weekly farming talks on Thursdays at 6.40 p.m., and the mid-day talks for smallholders and others on Saturdays, the following broadcasts have been arranged for February and March:—

*Mondays: 1.50 p.m. Food Production in Britain.*

Feb. 17.—Getting Ready to Sow and Plant. C. F. Lawrance.

„ 24.—From Gardens and Allotments: A practical talk between Mr. Lawrance and a representative of an allotment holders' association.

Mar. 3.—Market Garden Farming. Dr. Keen and a market gardener.

„ 10.—The Glasshouse Industry. Dr. W. F. Bewley discusses green-houses, cloches and frames with Dr. Keen.

*Tuesdays: 1.50 p.m. Our Changing Countryside.*

Feb. 25.—Lambing. S. P. B. Mais.

Mar. 4.—Wool. S. P. B. Mais.

„ 11.—The Woollen Factory. S. P. B. Mais.

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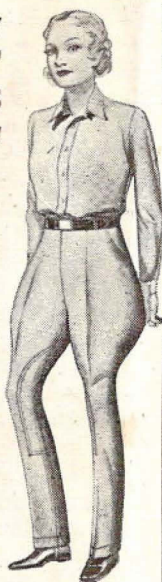
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## Correspondence

DEAR EDITOR,

With reference to the letter of E. M. Barraud, published in the October issue of THE LAND GIRL, is this considered good advice for every Land Girl to follow?

I am referring particularly to the last paragraph. It seems to me that, far from "breaking down any prejudice against women on the land," to "swop drink for drink with all the villagers" would do more than anything else to lower the tone of the whole Land Army.

As Mrs. Bathurst pointed out to some of us recently, "the farmer judges the whole Land Army by the one girl he happens to know." It is all he can do, and, judging from my own experience, he usually likes to think his Land Girls are "a bit different." After all, he is the one who matters most, and so long as our work pleases him, hang everyone else's prejudice.

There is no reason to suppose that our "local" is any different from any other village local, but the attitude of most of our neighbours can be summed up in the words of one old man who himself is a frequent visitor there. I jokingly asked him if he had seen me in the "Swan" last night, and his very prompt reply was: "No, my dear, and I hope I never shall. That's no place for nice young girls. I likes a drop myself, but I'd be very sorry to see any daughter of mine in there."

Yours very sincerely,

NORAH COPPIN, W.L.A.

Gloucestershire.

DEAR EDITOR,

I feel I must answer Jean Smart's letter in the January LAND GIRL. I am also a "milk lady," and that seems to be the usual name for us, as I am called that by my customers here in Cambridgeshire. I have been on my round for ten months now, and love it, in spite of the awful weather we have had this month, when the roads have been covered with ice and snow and it is no easy job to keep up on icy paths with a heavy can! I have become quite used to lifting the heavy churns and milk cans, and this is the first winter I have had no chilblains on my hands, I get so warm on the round. I hope some more "milk ladies" will write. Good luck to them all.

Yours, etc.,

(Signed) MURIEL H. BUSBRIDGE.

Cambridgeshire.

DEAR EDITOR,

If I am lucky enough to have this printed in the next LAND GIRL issue, I hope all the Scottish Land Girls sit up and take notice. In the December issue, being my first one, I was struck by the want of contributions from Scotland. Please Scotties do something about it. Goodness knows how many interesting things you can find to write about, and do it now and let us have a half in half LAND GIRL.

Yours faithfully,

MOLLY KEVAN, W.L.A. 2,855.

Dumfries.

[In defence of Scotland it should be remembered that their last employment figure was about 500. On a numerical basis, therefore, they have been well represented in contributions.—Ed.]



Any rivals to this carrot?

DEAR MADAM,

I enclose a photograph which I hope you may be able to reproduce in THE LAND GIRL. It is of D. Haines (No. 11,166) with a carrot weighing 4 lb. 4 oz., grown in the garden here. I think it may interest people to see that it is not only on farms that records are being broken! Our garden takes all our spare time!

In explanation, D. Haines and I share a cottage here, have our own furniture and a cat and a dog, and do all our own work and nearly an acre of garden.

With best wishes to THE LAND GIRL for 1941.

Yours sincerely,

E. M. BARRAUD (No. 9,600).

Little Eversden, Cambs.

DEAR EDITOR,

I wish to express my appreciation to the writers of the article published in THE LAND GIRL ("A Tribute.") I have assisted in training several Land Girls, but it has always been the farmer who gets the praise for an efficient worker. I am not a born agricultural worker. I know the difficulties which they have to contend with. I consider it an honour to be able to help the Land Girls, also help guard my country at night.

A SON OF TOIL.

A Sussex village.



## A GREAT DAY IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



*By courtesy of the "Nottingham Journal."*

Lady Denman, Hon. Director, W.L.A., Lady Sibell Argles, County Chairman, and volunteers at Newark.

WE were all delighted to have Lady Denman with us at our Rally, which was held at Newark in December. We started proceedings by marching from the Midland Station to the Technical College. The weather might have been much kinder, though it did not actually rain very hard during the time that it took us to get to the College. We were received there by our Chairman, Lady Sibell Argles, and by Lady Denman, who shook hands with us all. The meeting then started by Lady Sibell welcoming us all to the first Rally to be held in this county. She told us that England was in the hottest corner of her history, and was calling for the help of everyone, and she knew that every Land Girl would respond to the utmost. Lady Denman's speech was a real thrill and encouragement. She told us that we were pioneers of the Land Army and that it was owing to our good work that its reputation stood so high today, and she did not think that there was any

job on the farm that a Land Girl had not tackled. We heard good reports from the Rev. G. W. Staunton, Mr. Massey and Mrs. Cramer, all of whom have employed Land Girls for many months. Lady Denman then presented half diamonds to fifty-six members. After all this we had a very good tea, and Lady Sibell very kindly gave us crackers, which added greatly to the fun. We had plenty of time for talk and comparing notes, and we were so glad to have this opportunity of meeting. The afternoon ended in a delightful entertainment by Miss Johnson, who kept us highly amused by the misfortunes of "Our Alfie" and various other monologues, and by Miss Brown, who sang to us. After we had shown our appreciation of a very good party, we took ourselves into the wet and dark night (the Committee had specially chosen the Saturday of the full moon, but alas! she hid her face) and so to our various jobs.



## COUNTY NEWS

**BERKS.**—Mrs. Robertson-Glasgow, who has so kindly run a club for Land Girls in the Pangbourne and Yattendon District, gave a Christmas Party at St. Andrew's School on Monday, December 30th.

The District Committee Member, Lady Mount, brought a car load of girls from farther afield, and fifteen girls met together at 7 o'clock.

There were games and competitions and a treasure hunt, and a good supper, with crackers. We parted at 10 o'clock, full of gratitude to our hostess for such a pleasant evening.

**BUCKS.**—Christmas parties were given in parts of the county, thus many of the Land Girls were able to meet together. Mrs. Barrowman gave a party for those working near her in the north. Mrs. Gold gave another for the Land Girls in her area, and included some girls working in Miss Kimber's area. A third party was given by Mrs. Burra and Miss Oxley for girls in the Aylesbury area. Tea was followed by games and a great deal of laughter. Lady Hermione Cobbold, our County Chairman, was present. The parties were much appreciated, and afforded a splendid opportunity of meeting and exchanging experiences.

The demand for Land Girls in Bucks is increasing daily.

A good percentage of our workers have now gained their whole diamond Good Service Badge, and many more their half-diamond.

**CHESHIRE.**—Remembering that "all work and no play makes Jill a bad Land Girl," we congratulate the organisers of the hockey match between Land Girls and agricultural students, recently held at Reaseheath. Weather conditions were good, and, after an exciting game, the Land Army emerged victorious, the score being 1-0. Miss Wright, captain of the losing team, called for three cheers for the Land Army team. The L.A. team was captained by Miss Kramrisch, herself a past student at the College.

We then gathered round a cheery fire in the College and Mrs. Marshall Brooks presented half-diamonds to volunteers in the Nantwich district. Mrs. Marshall Brooks compared present-day Land Army conditions with those prevailing during the last war, and everyone agreed that the present-day volunteer is much more fortunate than her predecessor. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Marshall Brooks was proposed by Volunteer Lawrence. Miss Black was also heartily thanked for having arranged such an enjoyable function.

The trials of a Land Girl are many and varied, and at the end of a year she can truly say that she "has had considerable experience." She is liable to be walked on by cows, strafed by Huns, and recently a Cheshire volunteer reported that while cleaning turnips she had been struck by lightning. After being unconscious for a time she was sent to bed, and slept so soundly that the sound of bombs and A.A. guns that night failed to rouse her. We do not suggest that this is a good way of securing an undisturbed night, and we are glad to know that the volunteer in question is none the worse for her unpleasant experience.

As a result of Lady Denman's broadcast appeal we have already welcomed three "resigned volunteers" back to the Land Army.

**CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND.**—We have now a County Organiser again for Westmorland in Mrs. J. B. Roy, who will have seen most of the Westmorland volunteers by the time this appears in print—if weather permits, for parts of this district are quite used to being snowed up at least once in the winter.

A number of members are helping the recruiting campaign by introducing their friends to the Land Army—one of the best ways of swelling our ranks. One enterprising pair have designed and painted small posters, which they are having put up in local post offices in their district.

Two extracts from our post-bag. The first is from a forestry worker, after four months:

"We find the work, although rather rough, quite easy, and the life is certainly healthy, and neither of us has had one regret at joining the Land Army; we understand that a lot depends upon ourselves whether or not we are prepared to enjoy this life."

A farm worker writes: "I think when the war is over I will start a pig farm. I do love pigs—honestly."

**DERBS.**—Three W.L.A. Christmas parties have been held in Derbyshire, one at Buxton, at which there were 60 guests, one at Chesterfield attended by 65, and one at Derby where 96 guests were present. So altogether 221 people were entertained by the Derbyshire W.L.A. It was not possible to hold one gigantic party, owing to the difficulty of transport in this large county. Farmers and their wives employing Land Girls were very welcome guests, and we all enjoyed the excellent tea provided and organised by area members. At each party Mr. Wakefield was present to give his excellent conjuring performance, and after tea the Duchess of Devonshire presented Good Service Badges. Altogether 35 Good Service Badges were presented, 9 of which were second half-diamonds. In a short speech the Duchess reminded us of the urgent and growing need for women workers on the land, and suggested that the girls themselves could help recruiting by telling their friends of their work and urging them to join the W.L.A. A special appeal was made to farmers to let the secretary of the Derbyshire W.L.A. know a month or six weeks in advance of their intention to employ a Land Girl, in order that girls could be called up and receive their preliminary training in good time.

Recruiting proceeds steadily, but we *could* deal with many more applications.

The Magazine Representative, whose job it is to collect and forward contributions to the W.L.A. Spitfire Fund, has not been overwhelmed with work in that respect. Is there anybody who can think of some scheme for collecting pennies for this cause?

**DORSET.**—We are happy to say that Mrs. Heenan, our admirable organising secretary, is now back in the office in Dorchester after her illness, hoping for a flood of new recruits in answer to Lady Denman's appeal on the radio. Christmas brought many festivities, some volunteers sharing the hospitality of their kind hostesses in their billets, while others, like the Forestry Gang, had a Christmas party of their own, when once again their County Committee member, Miss Sturdy, showed her interest and much-appreciated help by providing the turkey. Miss W. Willis, the new warden of the hostel, proves that life can be made both happy and comfortable for Land Girls under these conditions.

The Young Farmers' Clubs of Dorset are offering hospitality to any Land Army member; their meetings are both cheerful and instructive, and it is hoped that full use will be made of this very kind offer. Information concerning these meetings can be got from the district County Committee member.

Four of our Land Girls did good work in going at short notice to help get in carrots which were in danger of rotting in the ground owing to floods. Two others are working hard in a saw mill, and greatly enjoying it.

Our chairman, Miss W. Marsden, O.B.E., J.P.,



awarded in December, with great pleasure, thirty full diamonds and 28 half-diamonds.

We feel that all members of the W.L.A. in Dorset will unite in sympathy for Mrs. E. Aston, of the County Committee, who has recently lost her gallant husband, Pilot Officer H. W. Aston, R.A.F., Lieut.-Col. Dorset Yeomanry.

**FLINT.**—One of Flint's Land Girls has resigned after a year's service, as she is being married. We offer her our good wishes for her future happiness.

We are very short of volunteers in this county, and urge our readers to find recruits. Only 22 out of our total membership have Flint home addresses. If each one of them could find one or more friends to join, it would be a great help. Wake up, Flint! We anticipate a heavy demand for labour in the near future and have training vacancies at Llysfasi.

**GLOS.**—The first of a series of Milking Competitions was held at Cirencester on December 10th. A short talk on clean milk production was given by Miss Colnett, the County Dairy Instructress, and Miss Morrice, a member of the Land Army trained and employed at the Home Farm, Cirencester, assisted at the milking demonstration. The competition was won by Miss H. M. Bristow, closely followed by Miss N. and S. Coppin and Miss Ellis. After tea at Cirencester Park a number of Good Service Diamonds were presented.

Further competitions have been arranged at Hardwicke on January 28th, at Leckhampton on February 11th, and at Westonbirt on February 18th, and others are being planned so that every Land Army worker in the county will have a chance of competing and meeting new friends.

Land Girls at Huntley in Lady Crawley Boevey's Area held a very successful concert on December 14th, in the Huntley School, at which over £9 was made for the Red Cross.

**HANTS** has had the honour of playing what we hope will be a large part in the Land Army recruiting campaign. A *Daily Express* reporter came to stay for five days at one of our hostels, and did every kind of work with the volunteers. She was particularly impressed by the bravery of the girls who went out into the pitch dark at 5 a.m. to get to their cows! I think that never before has a Land Girl had to answer so many questions. Fortunately everyone entered into the spirit of the thing and was determined to "put up a good show" for the *Daily Express*. In their turn they were much entertained and interested by the reporter, who was a much-travelled woman and kept everyone enthralled in the evenings by stories of her travels and experiences.

**HEREFORD.**—With a total of 88 volunteers employed, Herefordshire makes an unimpressive appearance in the monthly list of counties. However, a search through the card index, prompted by the substance of Lady Denman's Christmas message, is an encouraging occupation for a snowy day, for the proportion of diamonds among the cards is high: 64 volunteers with Good Service Badges, 31 whole diamonds among them, and of these the majority have done the whole of their service in Herefordshire.

We are asked for fuller details about the sale of Spitfire Socks, a regular entry among the Spitfire contributions. A fair number of birds is killed with each sock, as the wool is bought from a British Legion Disabled Soldiers' tweed factory in Wales, the Land Girls' feet are warmed, the regulation Women's Land Army stockings last a little longer than the average fortnight (though Land Girls who darn have proved they *can* last six months), and the Spitfire Fund increases.

These socks are made of natural oiled wool on a heel-less spiral pattern (when your heel goes through

one side you wear them the other way round). They come about half-way up the shin and are intended to be worn with gum boots.

If Land Girls in other counties would like to buy our socks, we should be delighted. The cost is 2s. 10d. a pair, post free, and the money should be sent, with the order, to: Spitfire Socks, Women's Land Army, 131 St. Owen Street, Hereford.

**HUNTS, CAMBS AND ISLE OF ELY.**—The Spitfire Fund is going great guns here. There is nothing like being optimistic, and, though we do not expect to hold our lead over other counties much longer (if we are indeed still ahead!), we are very proud to have led the way for so long. Our grateful thanks go out again this month to Miss Rosa Davis, W.L.A. 2032, for a further contribution of £2 2s. 6d. Of this, 14s. 6d. represented the proceeds of another ciné show of her own films of farm life, and £1 8s. was from the Eltisley Boys' Club, who sent us this profit from a dance to swell our own Spitfire Fund. Need we say that we accepted this gift with open arms!

Christmas has long since receded, but instances of its own especial goodwill reach us in letters from volunteers. Miss L. Salmons, W.L.A. 5854, writes to tell us how she and Mrs. Rhodes, W.L.A. 28927, with whom she shares a cottage at Abington, Cambs, bought and cooked a chicken for their Christmas dinner and then regaled themselves with home-made mincepies. They were also given rabbits as a Christmas present by their employer. A very nice gesture on the part of the farm foreman enabled them to listen to the King's speech on Christmas afternoon, after which they shared in the general festivities. Another typical example of the goodwill spirit was shown by the volunteer who set a row of hurdles for the shepherd—as she says, not quite as straight as he would have done them, but they kept the sheep in! By sharing jobs for two hours, everybody was able to have as long a holiday as possible.

A success story comes from St. Neots, Hunts, where a stalwart Land Girl has drilled between 300 and 400 acres of wheat unaided. Eight months ago she was in civilian employment, and if the Minister of Agriculture wants a better example of the national slogan, "Go to it," we think he will have to go a long way to find it.

**I/WIGHT.**—A luncheon party for members of the Women's Land Army was held at the Queen's Hall, Newport, on Sunday. Lady Baring, who was accompanied by Sir Godfrey Baring, presided. There was a large attendance, nearly every member of the Island detachment of the W.L.A. being present. The toast, "The Women's Land Army," was proposed by Sir Godfrey Baring, who referred to the local progress made (from 12 members in August, 1939, to 77 now), commended the courage and endurance of the members under difficult conditions, and wished them prosperity. The toast was replied to by Miss Hume, County Secretary of the W.L.A., who spoke warmly of the help and consideration received from farmers. A bouquet of choice vegetables to Sir Godfrey by Miss Joan Denham. Good Service Badges were presented to several members by Lady Baring, who appreciatively referred to the untiring help and sympathy given to all W.L.A. members by Miss Hume. A vote of thanks to Lady Baring was proposed by Miss Harrison and seconded by Miss Fisk, and a book token was presented to Miss Hume by Miss Madge Smith, on behalf of the detachment. An entertainment, produced by Mr. W. Solloway, including songs by Miss Munton, was greatly enjoyed.

**EAST KENT.**—Fifty whole diamonds and 110 half-diamonds have now been earned in East Kent. Many wearers of the latter, of course, are well on the way





By courtesy of the "Alnwick and County Gazette and Guardian."

#### Recruits at Pawston Hostel, Northumberland.

towards becoming whole diamonds. Congratulations to all the wearers of these diamonds. It is hoped that their experience of farm work has taught them how important it is to stick to the jobs where they have learnt the work and become useful to the farmers who have had the trouble of training them.

Snow and ice have made outside work a chilly business and our girls have stuck it well. We have had few "winter casualties."

Congratulations are due to the members of the Women's Land Army who have been married lately, especially to those who have stuck to their jobs in the Land Army, realising that their services can now ill be spared. We also want to welcome back recruits who returned to civilian life when jobs were scarce and have returned to the Land Army now that their help is badly needed.

WEST KENT.—In these days everybody is urged to "Stick to it," whatever their job may be. A West Kent farmer writes to our County News Sheet asking: "Are you a sticker?" and then gives an account of the Land Girls working on his farm. The eight girls who were "stickers," and in 218 weeks earned £338, and the "non-stickers" who threw up their jobs because it was "too hot, too cold, too wet, too lonely, or they were too lazy, too independent, lovesick, homesick, townsick or just sick!"

But there are many "stickers" in West Kent, and here is another. She was a girl on a milk round with a motor-bike and sidecar. She was new to the job, and not having balanced the 15-gallon churn of milk properly, came to grief on a sharp bend in the road, with the bike and churn on top of her. However, she picked herself up, though badly bruised and shaken,

and the next morning turned up for work as usual at 5.15, and was extremely annoyed because for a couple of days she was put on to other jobs about the farm, being too stiff to get her legs across the motor-bike.

As a result of the recent campaign, new recruits are coming in fast and there are constant demands from the farmers as their men get called up for military service.

This is all to the good for the individual Land Girl; she need no longer fear being lonely, for even if there is not another recruit employed on her particular farm, there is every possibility that others are employed on farms in the neighbourhood.

LANCS.—Congratulations to the many W.L.A. members in this county who have recently been married. One in particular will certainly remember the Land Army, as she wrote to Mrs. Robertson to thank her for placing her on the farm where she found her husband.

Since November eighteen people have qualified for their Good Service Badges for one year, and fifty-six for their six months' badge. As the badges are given to the Committee members at the meetings, it is not always possible to deliver them personally to the Land Girls as soon as they qualify for them, but they must not think they have been forgotten if they do not receive their badges immediately they fall due. We read with envy of counties who have had parties and rallies. So far it has proved impossible to hold a party in Lancashire, but we hope that in the summer we shall be able to arrange one.

The W.L.A. is in great demand in Lancashire, and we know that even more girls will be wanted in the



spring. As billeting is very difficult in this county, we are hoping to open a hostel in the Fylde district in a few months' time.

There is a great deal of clean second-hand uniform for sale at the office. This can be obtained at reasonable prices by applying to Mrs. Aubertin, W.L.A. County Offices, Preston. A price list is available, and articles can only be sent on the receipt of cash.

Mrs. Robertson would like to thank all the Land Girls who kindly sent her Christmas cards. She regrets very much that she cannot acknowledge them all, but she sends all the members her best wishes for 1941. We are always very pleased to see any Land Girls in the office, and we wish they would write to us more often and send us news of what they are doing in the county.

**LEICS.**—Thirty-nine six months' Service Badges and 50 one-year Badges have been distributed this month. Three of our volunteers, Misses Hincks, Steel and Dale, organised a very successful dance and raised ten guineas for the Spitfire Fund.

This is an extract from a letter from one of our oldest members, Dorothy Vale: "Thank you for the lovely new uniform. We are all snowed in. We have four feet of snow outside our gate and all the way to Billesdon (two miles). I am out all day feeding sheep and cattle, and in the evenings we take sacks and go with the other scattered farmers and men to the village to fetch bread. It looks so funny to see everybody with sacks on their backs, one cannot help laughing, although it is serious for those who cannot get out."

**LINDSEY (Lincs).**—Ten volunteers took part in the Women's Services Procession in Scunthorpe during the War Weapons Week. A temperamental tractor caused much diversion, but each time it stopped the volunteer in charge dealt with the trouble most capably and won admiration from the watching crowd.

Our sympathy goes to Miss P. M. Robinson, W.L.A. No. 8949, who, owing to an accident on the farm, has lost her left arm. Not once has she grumbled at the loss, and is cheerfully making the best of things.

Our congratulations to Miss E. Morrison, W.L.A. 28106, who, tired of billets, took over a vacant cottage in very bad condition, and, with another volunteer, Miss Calvert, set to work to make it habitable. Half days and evenings were spent scraping, cementing, carpentering and decorating. The place is now beautifully repaired and redecorated, and shining with cleanliness. Miss Morrison is now living alone with two parrots as companions. She gives visitors a grand welcome, and we especially recommend her cakes.

Eighty-eight volunteers have qualified for Good Service Badges, 30 of these for the second half-diamond, and the awards are to be made shortly.

Applications from farmers for volunteers are coming in daily and workers are urgently needed. The immediate results of Mr. Hudson's announcement that more women must work on the land were requests for 59 volunteers; far more are now required.

**OXON.**—The work goes steadily on, in spite of the terrible weather recently experienced. Land Army volunteers are now in great demand, and many farmers are training new recruits in their own methods for subsequent employment.

One Land Girl has made a scale map of the farm for her employer, showing all the fields, etc., which is proving extremely useful. She also keeps a log-book showing everything that is done each day, so that at any moment she knows exactly what is going on in any part of the farm. This she writes up every evening after her own day's work is done. The idea was her own, and she takes a real pleasure in keeping

the book up to date. Another of our members is learning as much as she possibly can during the war, with a view to taking up farming herself when peace comes.

A number of girls are employed in the woods of the county, both in timber measuring and other forms of forestry work, and are doing excellent work.

Since Lady Denman spoke on the wireless on January 15th we have had a number of enquiries and applications for enrolment, and all accepted recruits can be certain that their services will be of the greatest possible help to their country in the present emergency.

**Spitfire Fund.**—The county total to date is £31 11s. 7d. It has been suggested that each L.A.M. should give 2s. 6d. on her birthday to help swell the fund. One usually has a little money to burn on one's birthday, so the idea is worth considering.

**Knitting for the Services.**—The prizewinners in the recent competition are: 1, Miss G. M. Chapman; 2, Miss V. M. Jefferies, who both sent beautifully knitted gifts for the R.A.F. Every girl who entered for the competition has knitted for the Air Force, and the work was so good that it was hard to judge. We had the help of an R.A.F. officer in the final decision, who gave us useful hints for future use. The next competition begins now and ends on March 1st.

**Welfare Fund.**—There is £17 12s. 7d. in hand. We have a beautifully made Polynesian tribal dance skirt to sell for this fund. Does anyone know of a museum where it could be offered? It is of modern design and came from Cook Island.

**SOMERSET.**—New boots and mackintoshes have been the demand of the moment during the past month, owing to the very wintry weather, and it has been something like a never-ending Christmas at the office with the parcels to be dispatched. For many these replacements have been well-earned, as 75 full diamonds have already been awarded in Somerset, showing 12 months' service. Other members who are not yet entitled to free replacements are advised to write to the County Office for "bargains" in the second-hand department.

After holding five Rallies and tea-parties in the County, it is interesting to calculate that more than 150 girls attended, out of a total membership of 280. We should like to have seen everyone, of course, but this seems a fair proportion in a county which is nearly 100 miles across from Bath to Exmoor. We shall hope to see the remainder at some other time when they can be spared from their farms, or transport can be made easier.

Some of our volunteers complain when Somerset does not appear in the news. May we say that we should very much appreciate news items from recruits themselves? It is particularly pleasant to see a heading in the local paper, "Naval Man's Land Army Bride," and we wish Miss M. E. Davies, who worked for 12 months at Wedmore, the best of luck in her transfer from the Army to the Navy.

**E. SUFFOLK.**—A greater demand for the services of Land Girls is beginning to show itself in East Suffolk. Now that the flow of applications from willing workers has dried up, a stream of urgent requests from harassed farmers is beginning to pour in. We believe that most other counties are sharing the same difficulty of matching supply and demand. We are wondering whether they are also suffering from an epidemic of "prospective bridegrooms" and "lonely mothers" who lure volunteers away from work of national importance on the land. While appreciating the difficulty of resisting their claims, we feel that girls who have promised to replace men in the production of food should consider very carefully before deciding which is the more vital service to their



nation—to remain at their work or to return to their more traditional domestic duties.

The W.L.A. has had several compliments paid to it by East Suffolk Land Girls. Here are three examples: "I love my work so much that I hope the war will go on for ever." "I can't help being glad that there was a war, otherwise I should never have been able to work on a farm"; and "I have the most lovely job and lodgings, the only trouble is that I feel I ought not to be so happy in war-time." The first sounds heartless, but was said on the spur of the moment; and certainly enthusiasm for land work could go no further than this!

**SURREY.**—Eighteen new recruits have been registered in the Land Army since January 1st, and there have been 96 enquiries since the Broadcast Appeal. Congratulations to Sheila and Enid Wade on their engagements, and also to Mary Chalmers and Dorothy Herrick, who are staying on in the Land Army after their marriages. Dorothy Herrick's people think her uniform so attractive that she will be married in it. A really delightful idea.

**E. SUSSEX.**—Recruiting in East Sussex is starting again, though slowly. Volunteers are coming forward from the coast towns, but many more are needed to fill the farmers' demands.

A club-room for members of the Land Army has been opened in Battle. This room has been kindly lent by the Misses Foot, proprietors of the Gateway Tea Rooms. This will be very much appreciated by our members working in the country round Battle. It will be a place where they can meet their fellow workers, ask their friends in to tea, write their letters, etc. Members will be asked to contribute 1d. each time they use the room, to cover the cost of cleaning and heating.

We now have a County News Letter, which appears quarterly and which we believe is appreciated by our members. We should very much like to receive copies of News Letters from other counties and to send ours to them.

We wonder if we have created a Land Army record in East Sussex by having a family of four sisters among our members! Bessie and Constance Caldbeck have worked on the County Council Farm at Plumpton since February, 1940, and their sisters Ruby and Pearl Caldbeck have worked at Early Farm, Frant, since April, 1940. The photographs of the last two appear on the cover of *Illustrated* this week.

Our Land Army Knitting Club is going strong, and the quality of the work received shows that hands roughened by hard outdoor work can still wield a pair of knitting needles to good effect.

Four of our members, Kathleen Hobden, Gladys Dunning, Phyllis Aslett and Iris Wolfe, have raised the splendid sum of £7 7s. for the Land Girl Spitfire Fund, by organising a fancy dress social and dance at Ripe on January 16th. A lucky number competition and guessing the weight of the chicken, etc., helped to increase the sum of money raised by the sale of tickets. The evening was a great success from every point of view and was very much enjoyed by everyone present. This is the first effort of its kind to be organised in East Sussex, and we are delighted to see that our girls have such enterprise and energy.

**W. SUSSEX.**—On New Year's Day the Horsham area Land Girls gathered at a joint party for all Women's Services, held at the Horsham Y.W.C.A. Centre. The proceedings opened at 6 p.m., and at 6.30 a magnificent Christmas dinner was served, and this was followed by a Christmas tree, games and entertainment, including a talented recitation by a member of the Office staff, which was much applauded. The Chanctonbury area had a party on

December 28th. It was organised by Lady Davidson, the Area Representative, with the co-operation of Mrs. Harry Davies, who kindly lent her house, Woodmancote Place, Henfield, as the scene of the festivities, and provided the excellent tea. Progressive games were played with great enthusiasm by all. The County Secretary carried off the booby prize!

**WARWICKS.**—On a cold Sunday morning in January, after hot soup at the County Office, about 120 Land Girls attended a Church Parade at St. Mary's Church, Warwick. In his sermon the Provost of Coventry reminded us that "the war is being fought on the arable fields of England as much as elsewhere."

After the service we marched to the Shire Hall for a lunch, at which we were addressed by Sir Patrick Hannon, M.P., who stressed the importance of the Land Army's task in making good the deficiency in food imports. He afterwards presented 20 whole and 58 half-diamonds. Colonel C. J. H. Wheatley proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Patrick and gave details of the immense amount of ploughing up and ditching to be done this year and next. L. Player, on behalf of the Land Girls, thanked Mrs. Fielden, our Chairman, and the County Committee, for making this meeting possible and for their ever-present sympathy and advice.

After lunch, A. Hancock, M. Catton, O. Willets, M. Ryley, accompanied by D. Daniels, gave us a short entertainment, finishing up with community singing. "One man went to mow" proved a great success.

**WORCS.**—Agriculturally, Worcestershire is as varied a county as one could find anywhere in England or Wales. We have fruit and vegetable-growing districts, dairy farms within reach of towns, and general farms scattered about on the slopes, so there is scope for every kind of Land Girl! Some of our girls are tractor driving, others are ploughing with horses, hedging and ditching. Two are working for a woman farmer at this last job, and she says they are taking the place of men in every respect. Many more are working on dairy farms. One farmer said to us recently: "Although my Land Girl has only been with me a short time, I am able to leave her in sole charge of my dairy cows and calves." While another farmer wrote to say that he had left his Land Girl in charge of his small farm for a week at a time, and that she had managed it splendidly. Already farmers are clamouring for recruits of all kinds, and we shall need many for market-gardening, especially as the season advances. Spartan Land Girls doing this work are now picking sprouts with snow and ice on them, but they look forward to picking strawberries as their reward later on!

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## County Employment Returns

COUNTY.	Number of volunteers now working, placed in employment since the outbreak of war.
Kent ... ..	506
Hants ... ..	411
Wilts ... ..	320
Glos ... ..	305
Surrey ... ..	295
Cheshire ... ..	267
Worcs ... ..	238
Somerset ... ..	233
W. Sussex ... ..	232
Berks ... ..	208
W. Suffolk ... ..	208
E. Sussex ... ..	207
Oxon ... ..	205
Lancs ... ..	199
Warwicks ... ..	193
Northants ... ..	180
Leics & Rutland ... ..	165
Devon ... ..	163
Norfolk ... ..	161
Essex ... ..	160
Herts ... ..	140
Salop ... ..	139
S. Wales ... ..	135
Cumberland and Westmorland ... ..	134
Bucks ... ..	125
Hunts, Cambs, I/Ely ... ..	123
Lincs (Lindsey) ... ..	122
Yorks (W. Riding) ... ..	118
Lincs (Holland and Kesteven) ... ..	115
Northumberland ... ..	109
Cornwall ... ..	107
Notts ... ..	106
Yorks (N. Riding) ... ..	100
Hereford ... ..	81
Derby ... ..	77
Monmouth ... ..	73
E. Suffolk ... ..	67
Denbigh ... ..	62
Flint ... ..	62
Isle of Wight ... ..	60

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