

No. 11, Volume 3

FEBRUARY, 1943

Price 3d.

## PEACEFUL THINKING

"SURELY," writes Miss E. Seabright, W.L.A., 72944, of Gloucestershire, "as the W.L.A. is playing so vital a part in winning the war it has a right to play its part in winning the peace. The time to equip ourselves for that task is NOW, not after the war."

This task will be a heavy one, and it is no good to shrug our shoulders and say it won't be our responsibility, because it certainly will. After the war we shall all be tired and anxious to have the good time we feel we have earned, but if we give way to this natural impulse, a good time will certainly not be had by all—and that, in its widest sense, is what we are fighting for. We are using all our energy now to fight a hard war—to make a good peace and a good world after it will need just as much toil and sweat—but mercifully without the blood and tears.

Effort is only effective when it is applied with knowledge. No one would try to milk a cow, plough a field or prune a fruit tree without first learning something about the matter in hand, and we can't hope to help with post-war problems unless we know something about the job of national and international organisation. Also, minds, like muscles, must be got into training, and we have got to train our minds to form a judgment based on facts and free from prejudice. This is the only way of keeping our very susceptible emotions under control. The "khaki election" after the last war was an example of the appalling ease with which popular emotion can sweep aside all reason and every vestige of common sense. "I want" is so much more vital to all of us than "I think." We are born wanting, but we have to learn to think. It is too late to start thinking when action has to be taken, and that is why we should be using our brains and our reason *now* about the matters with which we shall all have to concern ourselves after the war.

Elsewhere in this issue particulars are given of educational facilities, and of some Reports issued by those people whose business it has been to study post-war planning. Next month there will be a list of books and details of a competition open to all members of the W.L.A.

M. A. P.



## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TIMBER CORPS

*By B. Irene Stevenson, J.P., Chief Officer, Women's Timber Corps.*



This time last year,

"When the hounds of Spring are  
on Winter's traces,

The Mother of Months in  
meadow and plain,"

our Women's Timber Corps was but a dream, albeit a very live dream, for the project of the creation of such a Corps was very much in the mind of the Ministry of Supply, and we owe our existence largely to the work and persistence of the Director of Home Grown Timber Production Department of the Ministry, Mr. Gerald Lenanton, who has consistently encouraged us, and whose help and advice are ever at our service.

As you all know, our parent body is the Women's Land Army. All our recruiting is done through and by the W.L.A. and I am proud to tell you that within ten months of our creation—

April, 1942—this youngster, sprung from the Women's Land Army, is walking firmly on its own feet. Our numbers now top the 4,000 mark, and we are rapidly increasing.

In my Home Service broadcast as well as in my talk to America on our women's work in the war, I stressed the importance of our part in the fight against Nazism. The more trees we cut down in our woods, the more ships are freed to carry men and munitions of war. You will have an idea what this means, when I tell you that before the war, we imported more than 90 per cent. of the timber we use, and now we have cut this down to less than 30 per cent. and we are going to reduce it still further.

You all know how the Government is trying to step up our coal production.



## THE LAND GIRL

Coal getting is a hazardous job under the best of conditions; the coal mines must be made safe by the necessary supply of pitprops, and the supplying of pitprops is now largely the work in which you members of the Women's Timber Corps are engaged. This is but one branch of the work you are doing, and I will return to it later on.

I am sure you would like to know a little of the make up of the large family to which you belong, so let me introduce the various sections to you. In Scotland, there are five Divisions under a Deputy-Chief Officer, Miss E. McConnel, who has five Welfare Officers responsible for the welfare of the Scottish members of the Women's Timber Corps. The majority of the girls working in the Scottish Department are housed in small camps in the woods. We have one Training Camp not far from Balmoral, and another which will be ready in the early Spring near Aberdeen. They wear the uniform of the W.L.A. with our distinctive beret and badge, and are governed by the same conditions and rules.

Coming South to England and Wales, the country is divided into 11 Divisions, and our personnel consists of the Headquarters staff at Bristol, where the Deputy Chief Officer, Miss M. Hoskyn, and I are stationed. We also have our uniform store here in charge of a very able band of women, whose head is a former noted Ballet Mistress! I think it will not be out of place for me to mention here that we are trying our best to cope with uniform requirements, and it will be our earnest endeavour to provide every member with a great coat before the end of this month.

There are 13 Welfare Officers in the Divisions and their work is never ending because the distances they have to cover are very great, and the problems they have to tackle so varied. I have no intention of stating that ours is a perfect organisation, but each month we find that we are improving the machine, and that it is running more smoothly and efficiently with experience.

So far, we have two Training Centres, one, long established near Culford, Suffolk, and the other at Wetherby, Yorks; very soon we shall have another small one going in South Wales. We have been unable to cope with any larger numbers of trainees, and I want to say a few words to you girls who are sent into direct employment. You are just

as integral a part of the Women's Timber Corps as those who spend a month at the Training Centres, and the Welfare Officer in your Division is just as responsible for your well being and comfort.

The reports from the sawmill authorities are, on the whole, good, I am glad to say, and I am sure you will be interested in this testimony to your usefulness. A New Zealander soldier in charge of a mill told me that he had been surprised to find our supposedly frail British girls doing timber work with the skill of veterans. He added: "Folks back home won't believe me when I tell them what I see these girls doing in those forests. I take off my hat to them for their pluck, for it's tough in those woods, Ma'am, when the mud is ankle deep and there's a sharp wind a'blowing." I was proud to hear that, you may be sure.

I am just as proud of those of you who are doing such an important and essential work as measurers (upon whose accuracy depends the economic end of the job), those of you who run the small mills, the girls who have been trained as saw sharpeners (and some of whom do so well at the job that they earn the approval of those seasoned and expert craftsmen the saw doctors), the telephone and telegraph pole selectors, the girls who are proficient enough to go out for weeks at a time in the woods on acquisition jobs, those who have taken up the heavy work of haulage, tractor and lorry driving, and lastly, a word to those of you who by keenness and application, have been promoted to posts as Gangers and Forewomen, doing the job with efficiency and accuracy.

In one of the operations I visited recently, I found one of our members as Forewoman of a mill in charge of both men and women workers. Roaming in Mexico when the war broke out, she hurriedly returned to offer her services in any capacity. Fortunately for us she came into the Women's Timber Corps, and so well does she perform her work, that there is no question of challenging her authority because of her sex.

During the coming year, the Welfare Officers in conjunction with Foremen, in all Divisions, will keep a sharp look-out for members who have the makings of Forewomen, and more and more, will they be given a chance to assume positions of authority according to ability.

Members of the Women's Timber Corps—one last word. When you feel



despondent and depressed, and things are going awry, try and remember that you, no less than your menfolk and girl friends in the Services, are serving your Country. Whatever the task you are set to do, however trivial it may seem, it has a bearing upon the successful prosecution of the war. We are part of a solid phalanx against the common enemy of civilisation and we dare not falter. Together with the fifty-two thousand other members of the Women's Land Army we belong to an honourable company. Bear yourselves with dignity. Wear your uniform proudly. I repeat, I am proud of you—and I wish you all the best of luck in 1943.



## Benevolent Fund

As has been announced in the press, H.M. Treasury has promised a gift of £10,000 to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. This special mark of the Government's appreciation of what the Land Army is doing will be a great encouragement to all volunteers, and is a great help towards our goal of £100,000.

Mrs. A. D. Thomas, who is a member of the South Wales W.L.A. Committee has been appointed to represent Wales on the Committee of Management of the Benevolent Fund.

Propaganda leaflets giving particulars of the Benevolent Fund are now available for distribution to potential subscribers. A subscription form is printed in the leaflet and any volunteer who thinks she could make use of the leaflet should apply to her County office.

Arrangements have been made for subscribers to the Benevolent Fund who wish to contribute regularly to pay their subscriptions under Deed of Covenant. The Trustees of the Fund can reclaim Income Tax on these subscriptions in consequence of which the Fund benefits by double the amount of the subscription. It is hoped that many people will help the fund by paying subscriptions under this scheme which terminates with the signing of the Armistice. Full particulars and the necessary forms can be obtained from the Secretary of the Fund at Balcombe.

*A list of donations will be found on page 11.*

## The Land Army Rescue Squad

The last box of apples was stacked on the lorry, and gratefully we sat down to our al fresco meal of bread and cheese.

The lorry driver started up his engine and climbed into the driving seat. It was a big lorry, and loaded to capacity; the ground was very soft and muddy, and it soon became obvious that the lorry did not intend to move. The wheels spun round and round and sank deeper and deeper into the mire. The driver said, "Bother"—or something—and shouted to his mate to put some bags under the wheels. But the wheels did not grip, and the lorry sank even deeper. The lorry driver's mate said "Bother"—or something.

Lyn, Pam, and I looked at each other. "Should we go and offer to push?" We shrank from the scornful laughter that would surely greet our effort, and sat munching our breakfast while the farm tractor-driver got out the Fordson and hitched it to the stranded lorry. We watched the two powerful engines quiver and roar—and saw the tractor wheels spin as helplessly as the lorry's. The three men tried digging the wheels out, and putting straw under the tractor, but still the lorry would not budge an inch. Then someone fetched the farmer. He took in the situation at a glance. "Hey, you girls!" he said, "Come and push."

Lyn, Pam, and I took up our positions behind the lorry and heaved. It shuddered once and glided forward with the ease of a ship on the slipway. In fact, the driver swears that he had to put on the brake to stop himself from running into the back of the tractor; but of course he may be exaggerating.

We went back to our breakfast in silence, over-awed by our own strength. After a while, Pam said "You know, we're wasted in this job. We ought to form a sort of rescue gang, and travel round the country getting lorries out of difficulty and pulling tanks out of the mud." Lyn and I thought it a very good idea. We have even designed special badges to wear as soon as the squad gets going. So if you hear of any lorry, tank Bren-gun carrier, etc., that is stuck in the mud, you will know where to apply. (N.B. We have decided it will not be worth our while to bother with cars, wagons and other small craft, as these can generally be moved by ordinary people if there are enough of them).



## Adaptability

The Dictionary says "Adapt = to make fit" and looking back over my two years membership of the W.L.A. I realise the many things — I in common with other Land Girls — have had "to make fit".

I suppose the majority of us were quite unfamiliar with the good earth and the things that creep thereon and considering the great change in our lives I think we have fitted in very well, for mannequins have become milkmaids, typists—timber measurers and shop girls who formerly sold hose are now well acquainted with the Dutch and drag varieties—I myself had experience of antiques, music teaching and govern-essing before the war and I little thought in those days that instead of dealing with wood worm in old oak that I would become familiar with wire worm, mealy bug and green fly and that instead of getting reluctant children to drink milk I'd be persuading reluctant cows to give it! Anyway I'm sure the change will do us all good for if you want a job "to make fit" your body and mind join the Land Army. I'm always hearing the remark "you do look well" applied to myself and my comrades in the Green Army.

This war has changed so many things and we are learning to find substitutes for articles that at one time seemed essential, for instance if you can't get oil of lavender to keep gnats and midges away, try and get some elder leaves to rub over yourself (a woodman recommended this) Carbolic soap helps to keep insects off too, and try the toilet variety for washing your hair if you find shampoos difficult to get—Shred a little off the tablet and dissolve in hot water—rinse your hair well afterwards. I find shoe repairs expensive and difficult to get done so I set up the heels of my house shoes quite successfully with plastic wood. Two of our girls have made nice sandals with clothes line soles and carpet braid uppers.

I had a Land Army Jersey that was past wearing so I unpicked enough wool to make a pair of ankle socks, the cuffs I cut off with about three inches of the sleeves attached, cut down at one side to make thumb socket, then bound the raw edges and so had a good pair of mittens (slipped on cuff end first) — they are fine for weeding etc in the winter, what is left of jersey will make a turban.

Life seems to have become very full for me since I joined the L.A. I never have enough time to fit in all the things I want to do. I play the organ every Sunday afternoon (before milking) for the children's service at the Village Church—I also deputised at the other Services whilst the Organist was on holiday.

I've learnt to ride a horse, also to do the sign language on my hands as one of the men employed here is deaf and dumb. Soon I hope to be able to handle a gun. Amongst other sporting activities I've been eel fishing. I wonder if we shall find it difficult to adapt ourselves to our old jobs after the war. Many of us want to stay on the land I know. Our Head Gardener said the other day "By the end of the war you'll be the handiest Land Girls in the Country" and I guess that might be said of us all—anyway I'm sure this life has toughened us and if it is hard work it has made us appreciate simple pleasures and above all we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are doing our bit to preserve the land which is our heritage.

D. Pembridge. 34573. (Worcs.)

Be gentle when you touch bread,  
Let it not lie uncared for, unwanted,  
Too often bread is taken for granted.  
There is such beauty in bread,  
Beauty of sun and soil,  
Beauty of patient toil.  
Wind and rain have caressed it,  
Christ often blessed it.  
Be gentle when you touch bread.

Seeds of some plants will sprout and grow after long periods of storage. In Virginia 107 species of seeds were buried in 1902, to be tested at intervals to see if they would grow. Last Autumn there were 37 different kinds of seeds in which some at least would germinate. Tobacco, bluegrass and celery were among the cultivated crop seeds that survived.

Warmest congratulations to the four Monmouthshire Land Girls who have been responsible for collecting £2,500 for the War Savings Group at the Welsh Land Settlement, Llanvair Discoed. Their object was to provide in a year sufficient money to buy a Naval launch and this they achieved.

Have you renewed your magazine subscription? Do you share your copy with at least one other volunteer?



## Headquarters' Notes

### *Tell Your Friends*

Farmers are beginning to think of the spring and summer. So is the Land Army! Its reserve of enrolled volunteers are all at work or booked for jobs. Recruiting has begun again. Except in the big industrial areas — where every available woman is needed for munition work—women and girls, even if they are of conscription or registration age, may now volunteer for the Land Army. They must do this through their Employment Exchanges, explaining that the Land Army is the Service they have chosen and asking that their applications to enrol may be sent on to the Land Army County Office.

Tell your friends. The Land Army now has big forward demands for labour and as the year goes on, it will need every keen, strong volunteer it can get. Remember, those of you who have done six months or a year on the land, or two years, or three and are all set for another busy spring, another bumper harvest—what we need now is more like you. The harvest the Land Army reaps this year may be the harvest of victory.

### *The Land Army's "Charter"*

Every Land Girl knows that when she is placed in employment by the Land Army, she is placed on the understanding that each week, wet or fine, if she is on the job and ready to work, she will be paid her weekly wage. She knows too, that whatever the county wage rate may be for women in agriculture, she is at least sure of her Land Army minimum.

Now the Land Army has added two new points to its "Charter." It is being explained to every employer, old and new, that if his Land Army worker is away from work sick, he is expected to continue to pay her wage *in full* until he has given her a week's notice from pay day and that notice has run out. After then, if he wishes to keep a call on her services when she is fit again, he must pay her a retaining fee each week at least sufficient to cover her board and lodging costs.

He is being told too, that whatever the holiday regulations of the county may be as regards holidays, every member of the Land Army must have at least one week's holiday with pay in the year, apart from the weekly half-day and an occasional long week-end when working time missed may have to be made up.

Not a very long holiday to count on perhaps, but you who work in the Land Army know how hard it is for a worker to be spared from a farm for long or at fixed times.

INEZ JENKINS.

## Memories

"Very old are the woods,  
And the buds that break  
Out of the briar's boughs  
When March winds wake  
So old with their beauty are."

Forestry is an enchanting, and at the same time, an absorbing job. Wood-smoke, the scent of new cut wood, and the smell of damp leaves will always bring back memories of my first job and the happiness derived from it. To climb from bed at an early hour is indeed an effort, but the glory of those Autumn sunrises—clear and pink with the promise of a beautiful day ahead, was compensation enough. Breakfast seemed a meal of grabbing and gobbling, with the marmalade course eaten while biking along the road. Up at the "Hut" we, 24 of us, left our bikes and set off into the woods. Our jobs were varied, at first we "cleared" trees, cutting away grass and brambles with scoop hooks from baby oaks and ashes. Skies were never bluer and the wind shivered through the withering grasses.

Later in the year we cut back bushes so that the young saplings should grow straight and strong. Bigger timber was felled. Robins perched on frosted boughs to give us cheer, our appetites passed all bounds, our spirits were high. I used to stand still a moment to hear voices shouting the call of "Timber Ho" followed by a crash and all the while the ring of steel on wood echoed around. Snow fell; nothing daunted, we worked knee-deep in it. The sun shone palely, throwing shadows on to the open rides, and we saw the footprints of poor hungry rabbits everywhere we went.

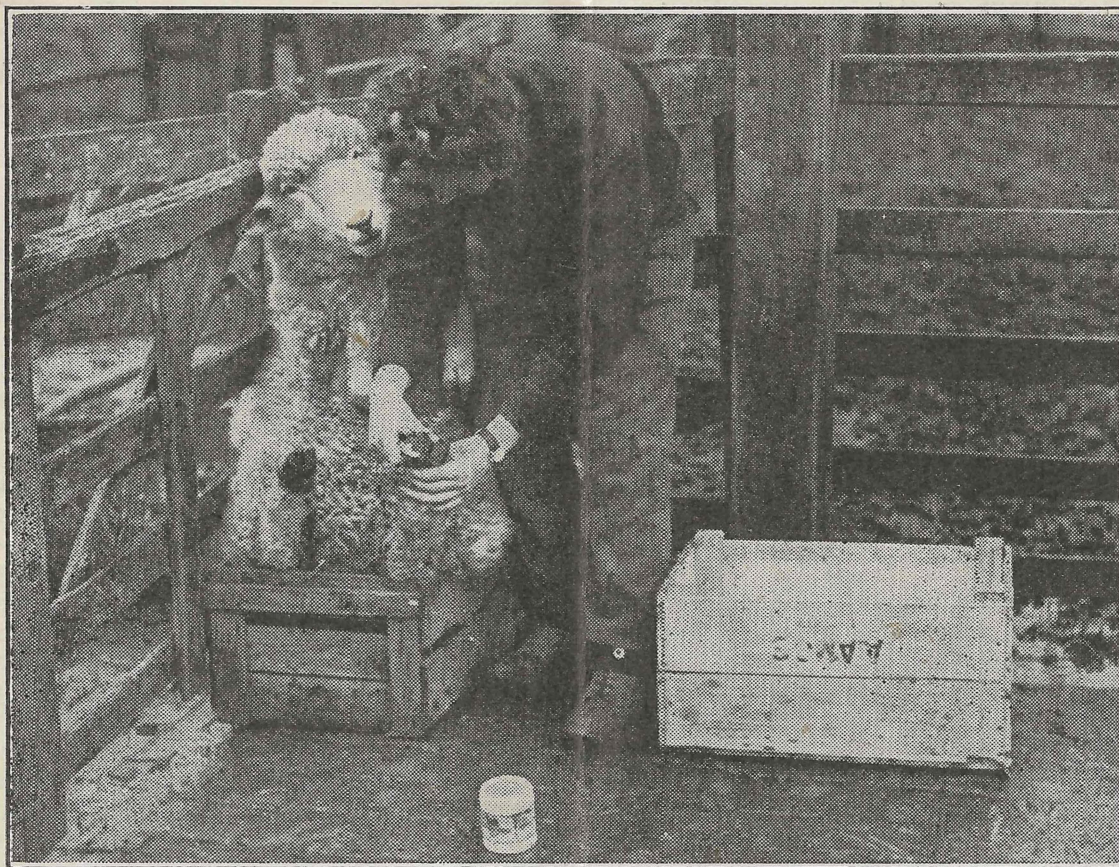
At sundown every evening, we could be found plodding one behind the other, like a school crocodile, all tired, and yet glad in our hearts at a day's work well done. The thought of fireside and feet in the fender, of hot food and perhaps letters from home cheered us on. Twilight came down as we scattered to our billets; a pale strip of light hung above the woods, dark trees against the radiance. Another day over—Land Girls draw closer round the fire.

Surrey.

W.L.A. 34895.



## The Sheep Box-Chair



A sheep-chair constructed of iron has been illustrated in the agricultural Press and advocated by the Moulton Farm Institute; but it is made of iron and is unobtainable. The photograph illustrates a simple adaptation which has proved completely successful.

It consists of an apple orchard-box well known to all fruit growers. It measures internally 20 ins. by 13½ ins. by 9½ ins. The floor of the box is shaped and padded by putting a brick at each end of the box to fill up the angles and, then padding the floor with wheat or bean straw (or I prefer cut hop-bines) to form a comfortable seat for the sheep. The box is then placed in one corner of the sheep-pound. The shepherdess rears the sheep over backwards so that she sits gently into the

box. Finally the sheep is secured by a chain or cord, fastened to one of the rails of the pound, which is passed under the fore-arms of the sheep and hooked again to the rail.

The sheep sits comfortably and easily in this position with its hind legs securely held so that it is quite unable to kick. The shepherdess can then trim the hooves accurately so that foot-rot can be easily cured—since the cure of foot-rot depends very largely upon the accuracy of trimming.

Incidentally, having employed and trained a shepherdess over a period of 12 months, I would express the opinion that any sensible girl can do all the work of a shepherd and is capable of doing the lambing better than most men.

Arthur Amos.

Armlets are a distinctive part of W.L.A. uniform, they should not be cut up or mutilated in any way, for example, no volunteer has the right to cut out the crown and stitch it on to the sleeve of her overcoat. All volunteers are asked to take care of their armlets and wear them in the correct way on the left arm.

The Britannia Services Club, Crown Hill, Croydon, hopes that members of the W.L.A. will use its canteen, library, lounges and dormitory bedrooms. Bed, breakfast and bath cost 2s. 3d. This club was recently opened by H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester and has been started for the benefit of the W.R.N.S., A.T.S., W.A.A.F. and W.L.A.



## Educational Facilities

*Classes under the Local Authority.*—The Local Education Authority organises classes at a very small charge per head on a wide variety of subjects ranging from handicrafts, such as dressmaking or carpentry, to modern languages, economics or even higher mathematics. Where an attendance of at least 12 can be guaranteed a series of special classes can often be arranged to suit individual requirements. Particulars of classes in existence or planned can be obtained from the Director of Education at the County or Municipal Offices.

*Women's Institutes.*—Apart from the monthly meeting, W.I.'s arrange classes in subjects likely to interest their members such as cookery, glove making, toy making, and household jobbery. The Women's Institute panel of local speakers includes speakers on village histories, local government, health, nutrition, housing and water supply as well as on matters of wider interest covering national and international affairs.

*The Workers' Educational Association.*—This Association, whose head offices are at 38a, St. George's Drive, London, S.W.1, is prepared, through its local organisers to arrange classes in any social or cultural subject such as economic history, economics, international problems, reconstruction, literature, psychology, wherever 12 to 24 people are interested. By special arrangement with the National Union of Agricultural Workers, the W.E.A. arranges Ruskin College Correspondence Courses in similar subjects to those taken in classes by members of the Union, for whom, during the summer, scholarships will be available to W.E.A. summer and week-end Schools. The W.E.A. co-operates with the universities, and in almost every rural county there are resident full-time tutors working with W.E.A. branch secretaries. Where branches of the Union can arrange meetings of their members, W.E.A. districts and branches would endeavour to arrange for a speaker or lecturer with a view to stimulating interest and forming a class.

*The B.B.C.*—Those who like discussion and can get together in small groups will find the programmes specially planned by the B.B.C. for listening groups worth following. The choice of study is designed to appeal to different tastes and ages. Details can be obtained from the B.B.C. Education Officer at Bedford

College, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

*The Ministry of Information.*—Through their Regional Offices the Ministry of Information provide speakers free of charge to audiences large and small. Your County Secretary will know how to put you in touch if you are able to organise a meeting or want to know where one is to be held.

*Agricultural and Horticultural Instruction.*—Here the approach should be to either the Agricultural or Horticultural organiser of the County Council, as the case may be. The Technical Development Sub-Committees of certain County War Agricultural Executive Committees are also interested in furthering agricultural education and can sometimes supply speakers with specialised knowledge. Agricultural Brains Trusts organised locally are a pleasant way of "learning as you go," as is also membership of a Young Farmers Club. And don't forget the Farming To-day series of weekly talks on the wireless on Thursday evenings; these are always given by one or more farming experts.

*Reports of Current Interest.*—Sir William Beveridge's Report, price 2s. Report of the Scott Committee on Land Utilisation, 2s. Report of the Uthwatt Committee on Compensation and Betterment, 2s. 6d. All these can be obtained from the Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2., or through any bookseller. The Stationery Office also issues an abridged edition of the Beveridge Report, price 3d. (post free 4d.).

## Thermos Flasks

Members of the Land Army who want to buy thermos flasks for their own use should apply for a certificate to the local Branch Secretary of the National Union of Agricultural Workers, the Transport and General Workers' Union or the National Farmers' Union. This certificate, which must be signed by the employer, can then be handed to a chemist or ironmonger who will obtain the flask from his wholesaler. The price of flasks has been fixed at 4s. 4½d. each.

It has been agreed that in future a member of the Land Army who proves in the course of her training or employment to be unsuitable for land work may, if she herself so wishes, be retained in the Land Army and transferred to full-time domestic work in a Land Army hostel.



## The Way People Talk

Where is a pillow called a cod or a shelf called a chess? Where are you tamping when you're angry or rad if you're afraid?

The Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction wants to know these things. They are making a collection of all sorts of information about local customs. If you would like to know more about it just write to them at 32 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1. They will send you free of charge four little illustrated leaflets, each with a different list of these old words, and a reply paid envelope for your answers. Batches of the leaflets can be supplied to county officials.

In the old days when all transport was very expensive and very slow, people living in two nearby valleys would scarcely ever meet and each would use certain words to mean slightly different things, just as to-day there are so often special slang words that are used by all the girls in one school or in one factory but that are quite incomprehensible or misunderstood by everyone else. These modern slang words generally have only a short life—they are fashionable just for a year or so but some gradually pass into ordinary spoken English. In the same way some old words are still quite common in a number of nearby villages but are not understood by strangers from outside. For this to have happened it must have meant that throughout history there has been a good deal of intercourse between the people from these villages but not very much with the strangers from outside.

The Association for Planning wants to make a large map marking out groups of villages that use special words. They believe that if the Government has this information it will help it to arrange any new administrative boundaries that may be made after the war so that they do not cut in half areas that have grown together through history. They have therefore made a list of some of these special words and are asking all sorts of people to mark those that are used in their own town or village. The trouble of course is that people who have all their lives called a stream a beck or a cheek a wang just do not realise that these are unusual words. This is where the Land Army comes in! Girls in the Land Army are often working away

from their own homes and they notice the differences. One girl in the Land Army in Hampshire lived with a cowman and his wife. At first she could not make out what he meant when, as he sat down to breakfast after milking, he used to say "I feel that lear and cold". In this part of Hampshire the old word lear is still used to mean hungry or empty. That's the information the Association want. Can you help them?

## My Day

(With apologies to Mrs. Roosevelt and the Orderly).

At seven o'clock on an inky morn, I  
flounder up the lane,  
To call the cows—my beautiful cows!—  
—in out of the pouring rain;  
I count them, one by deliberate one, as  
they slowly pass the gate,  
And know I shall get depressingly wet  
by the time I reach thirty-eight!

*Chorus*

Oh, oh, the farmer's girl! Oh, the  
farming day!

Poor tired farmer's girl! Tra la la la  
la la la—

Seven o'clock on a winter's morn I  
start my little day,

And all day long I am tending cows  
in a conscientious way,

And it's Buttercup hey! Violet hoy!  
Julia, step this way!

It's fun to be a farmer's girl and work  
in the yard all day.

I gaily laugh as I pack the chaff in bags  
of five foot three

To make the pulp which they greedily  
gulp for breakfast and for tea,

Then to and fro I steadily go, and the  
breeze is blowing free—

Though most of it goes in the tank I  
suppose, a lot of it stocks to me!

*Chorus.*

I sit in the sun and consume a bun when  
the morning's half-way through,

Then go with a rush and madly brush—  
—I've got so much to do!

I clear the mud, and mop up the blood  
when the turnip knife misses its way,

And walk for miles over hedges and stiles  
for cows that have gone astray.

*Chorus.*

Ola Trist, 37577 (Cornwall).

**FOR SALE.**—Brown riding boots, 5;  
worn only twice. **WANTED** pair size  
6 or would exchange. Write, Holder,  
Goleigh Farm, Newton Valence, Alton,  
Hants.



## Correspondence

Dear Editor,

We thoroughly agree with A. Gatehouse and B. Good on this uniform topic. Our uniform is the most smart and becoming of all, and we should be truly proud of it. The unfortunate part is that those who are, have to suffer for those who aren't, because people seeing these girls improperly dressed look down on the Land Army as a whole. Do you girls think you're being fair to the Land Army's good name? P. Andrews, 36056. Hants. L. Appleton, 61580.

Dear Editor,

I agree with C. Read about members of the W.L.A. wearing what they choose. Part of the uniform may be worn with skirts, slacks or over a costume—I myself have worn them. I think make-up is really awful, khaki and make-up clash worse than mixed uniform. It's the work we want done, and those who bother about dress and make-up can't have their hearts in their work. N.C. Scotland.

Dear Editor,

Possibly there are many who would like to stay on farming after the war; my advice to them is—study hard. "How can I find time?" Well, I have. Without being boastful, I graduated from a small pig-farm to assistant at a large pig-farm owned by the Local Town Council. In June of this year I accepted an offer to start a herd of pedigree pigs on a large estate. I have sole responsibility and I am allowed to put all my theoretical views into practice. What I would like you to stress to my fellow-members is this—What I can do, so can they. For, when hostilities cease, I would like to farm on my own. Why shouldn't the Government own land farmed by us, or an alternative would be a settlement scheme whereby one could run a small farmstead oneself, either with a loan or a grant from the Government. I'd like to gamble not many girls would let the Government down. L. Croft, 2365. Northants.

Dear Editor,

We work in the nursery gardens at Woolverstone, and would very much like to know the maximum number of lettuces pricked out per day by fellow Land Girls in the same type of employment. Our individual amount is 2.850, and it would be very interesting to know if this is a record. P. Elliston, 87852. E. Suffolk. G. Coleman, 91114.

Dear Editor,

I am one of five land girls who work on the land ultimately to be used by Urmston Cemetery, but which in the meantime is being cultivated to produce food for our four British Restaurants. After harvesting oats, we got up about 200 tons of potatoes. Besides this, we have the weekly job of getting cabbage, sprouts, carrots, etc., and sending them to the restaurants. When the weather gets really bad we have a large quantity of tree trunks to be sawn into firewood, a new greenhouse to prepare, and the tractor to paint. In spite of our daily walk through the tombstones we are very happy members of the W.L.A. D. Catchpool, 89517. Lancs.

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all the volunteers who replied to my letter in the January issue. I have sent the two American addresses I had to two volunteers, and I am enclosing a list of the others when I next write to America, asking if correspondents can be found. I'm sorry I hadn't time to write to everyone personally. D. Smith, 47416, Timber Corps. Herts.

Dear Editor,

I have been in the L.A. for a year and it has been a very happy time; the great change from sitting at a factory bench has worked wonders to my health and also to my figure . . . I was over-weight by about two stone and am nearer normal weight now than I can ever remember and as fit as a fiddle.

I have been doing a lot of winter digging; it is heavy work but I enjoy every minute. I have also joined the A.R.P. as telephonist and the W.V.S. as knitter, so you see I am very busy. Wishing the Land Army good luck in 1943.

Notts.

S. Neale, 54963.

M. Gladstone (Holland Kesteven) finds that a good way to prevent barley horns scratching one's legs is to put a sheet of newspaper inside her stocking.

The next Land Army broadcast will be on Thursday, February 25th, in the Home Service Programme during the "Farming To-day" period which begins at 6.45 p.m



## Scottish Notes

**Angus.**—The 3rd Dundee Company of the Girls' Training Corps had an interesting talk on the W.L.A. from Miss Watson who was ably supported by H. Findlay and J. Hutcheon who spoke about the work on a tomato farm, and M. V. Simmonds who read a paper by Isobel Mount of "Miss Baxter and I" fame. Mrs. Nimmo organised a successful entertainment at Kellas, producing a play for the occasion; she raised £40 for comforts for the men of the district in the Services.

**Ayrshire (North).**—Lots of things have been happening in the district. First there was a grand concert at Kilmarnock for the Welfare and Benevolent Fund at which a play called "The Pie in the Oven" was produced by the girls from Fenwick. Chrissie McRiner, as the old farmer, and Jenny Robb as the village constable courting his daughter, kept the audience rocking. In addition to the play there were two bright contributions from Hillhouse Hostel and a sketch by Moira Woodburn in which Edith Charleston gave an excellent study of a farm housekeeper. Then there were the songs by Annie Smith, Muriel White and Angela Maxwell. The programme was repeated at Auchincruive for the benefit of the trainees who contributed to a silver collection for the Fund. There was a dance at Craigie which raised £13 for developing W.L.A. clubs. The Kilmarnock Club by the way is the centre for a popular weekly social. At a rally in Kilmarnock presided over by Mrs. Kennedy over 100 Good Service Badges were presented by Lady Cochran Patrick who had a lot of nice things to say of the W.L.A.

**Ayrshire (South).**—The main item in the area was the opening of the Knockdolian Hostel at which Mr. Forbes, Vice-Chairman of the A.E.C. presented G.S. badges and thanked the W.L.A. for its splendid efforts.

**Bute and Cumbrae.**—At a party in the George Hotel, Rothesay, arranged by Miss McFarlane, the chairman of the A.E.C. presented G.S. badges and gave an address.

**Dumfriesshire.**—The girls in the Rigg district of Greta arranged a dance and presented Mrs. Graham with two silver spoons on the occasion of her silver wedding, the gift being handed over by Jessie Ewing.

**East Lothian.**—The highlight of recent activities was the rally in Edinburgh when over 90 G.S. badges were handed over by Mr. Alan Chapman, M.P. Joint Under Secretary for Scotland. Mr. Chapman, after giving an address which will long be remembered, was accorded an enthusiastic vote of thanks on the motion of Mrs. Gibson who presided. With Mrs. Wright's help the girls in the Tranent area ran a dance for the County Comforts Fund and for the same worthy object the Innerwick girls sang carols at Innerwick and Oldhamstocks.

**Midlothian.**—A very enjoyable dance organised by Mrs. Pettigrew was held at Midcalder for the Scottish Welfare and Benevolent Fund; there was a grand turn out of officers and men from neighbouring units as well as of the W.L.A. and during the evening Lady Torphichen presented Good Service badges. Damhead W.R.I. invited the local L.A. to their Birthday Party when full justice was done to an excellent "home made" supper, complete with birthday cake. Mrs. Brown presented G.S. badges, after which there was dancing. Mrs. Paterson had a tea party for her "squad" in Edinburgh and afterwards they all went to "Rose Marie" and were much amused and a little flattered that the W.L.A. was the subject of one of the "gags".

**Ross-shire.**—A "Rest Room" for service women in Tain is available for the use of Land Girls.

**Peebles.**—Twelve members employed in the West Linton district and led by Agnes Denham, Lillias Newton and Isobel Kesling, have to be con-

gratulated on the success of a dance they arranged in aid of the Red Cross Agriculture Fund for the splendid sum of £161 9s. was raised.

### Scottish Welfare and Benevolent Fund.

Recent donations include North Ayr (from Mrs. Kennedy) £16 16s 1d.; Midlothian (from Mrs. Pettigrew) £20 16s 3d.; Caithness (from Miss Cowieson) £10; Scottish Place Names Competition (Miss McCaig & friends) £10 10s.; Scottish Women's Bowling Association £4 10s.; Kilmarnock W.L.A. Club £1 10s.

## Benevolent Fund

On January 25th the Fund totalled £4,042 19s. 5d. The monthly total was £1,544 9s. 2d. Kent has the highest gross total £175 3s. 9d. and Glamorgan had the highest January total £169 8s.

**Beds:** £6 17s. 9d.—Misc. **Berks:** £25—per Clifton-Brown (sale). £10—Uffington W.I. & H.G. per Russell (dance). £1—Misc. **Bucks:** £5 5s.—Taplow W.I. £4 8s. 2d.—Misc. **Cumb. & West:** £12—Cockermouth per Thornwaite (dance). 3s. 6d.—Misc. **Derby:** £3 10s.—Misc. **Devon:** £29 10s.—Holsworthy L.G. (dance). 7s.—Misc. **Durham:** £5—Lloyd Pease. **Essex:** £14 14s. 3d.—Various Entertainments. £3 3s.—Misc. **Glos:** £21 8s. 10d.—per Hall (whist drive and dance). £2 10s.—Misc. **Hants:** £9 15s.—Braishfield L.A. Club (dance). £6 11s.—Romsey L.A. Club (dance). £5—Whitchurch L.A. Club. £5 8s. 4d.—Misc. **Hereford:** £1 1s.—Misc. **Herts:** £8—North Myms (dance and social). £5—Party. £4—Misc. **Hunts:** £7—Doddington Hostel (dance). £2 2s. 6d.—Misc. **Kent:** £11 5s.—Lyminge per Thornton (dance). £7—(whist drive). £6 5s.—per Bailey (dance). £17 4s. 3d.—Misc. **Lancs:** 10s.—Misc. **Leics:** £18—Bartel and Latimer (whist drive and raffle). £16—Lubenham Hostel (dance). £10 10s.—Tilton-on-the-Hill (dance). £4 12s. 6.—Misc. **Lincs:** H. and K. £7—Dormer House. £5—per Buckberry (dance). £6 18s.—Misc. **Lincs:** **Lindsey** £5 18s. 6d.—Dawson and Waltham Hostel (affle of doll) £4 12s. 6d.—Misc. **Mon:** £6 10s.—per Prosser (affle of Fort). £1 13s. 6d.—Misc. **Norfolk:** £3 15s.—Misc. **Northants:** £3 7s. 2d.—Misc. **Notts:** £1 1s. 6d.—Misc. **Oxon:** £1 14s. 6d.—Misc. **Salop:** £40—per Dickin (dance). £36—Market Drayton per Beck (dance). £16—Shifnal Hostel (dance). £11—Bridgnorth Hostel (dance). £5—per Harper (dance). £5 13s. 6d.—Misc. **Somerset:** £1—Misc. **Staffs:** £1 3s. 6d.—Misc. **E. Suffolk:** £5—400 threepenny bits per office staff. £8 4s.—Misc. **W. Suffolk:** £1 2s.—Misc. **Surrey:** £100—Secrett. 10s.—Misc. **E. Sussex:** £4 4s.—Misc. **W. Sussex:** £7 15s. 7d.—Harvest Festival Collection £6 13s. 4d.—per Bryan. Village Social. 5s.—Misc. **Warwicks:** £54—per Godfrey, Sutton Coldfield Club. £8 13s.—per Godfrey, Marston Green Club. **Wilts:** £23 19s.—Social and donation per Ella Jones. £13 5s.—affle for gramophone. £10—per Wilmot Fletcher £5—Jerram. £1—Misc. **Worcs:** £32 16s. 10d. £5 — per Lea (dance). £1 7s.—Misc. **Yorks:** £5 9s.—Misc. **N. Wales:** £18 12s. 9d.—per Jones (Dance). £3 14s.—Misc. **S. Wales:** £9—Felinfach Hostel (whist drive). £5—Llandilo Hostel (dance). £3 10s. 9d.—Misc. **Brecon & Radnor:** £26 9s. 8d.—Rally. £6 15s.—Marllwch Hostel (dance). £5 5s.—Whitton Hostel (dance). £5—per Hope (affle). £2 12s. 6d.—Misc. **Denbigh:** £4 17s.—Misc. **Glam:** £75—Rees. £66 16s.—Evans-Bevan (dance). £12 6s. 9d.—Bloomer. £5 Gardner. £10 5s. 3d.—Misc. **Montgomery:** £5—per Grosvenor-Launder (dance). 1s.—Misc. **Timber Corps** £1—Misc. **Individual Dons:** £5—Tudor Owen. £52 10s. each—Yorkshire Gazette—Lincoln. Rutland & Stamford Mercury—Darlington & Stockton Times—Bedfordshire Times & Standard—Westmorland Gazette—Wiltshire Gazette—North Wilts Herald & Advertiser—Oxford Times—Lincolnshire Chronicle—Alnwick & County Gazette & Guardian. 10s.—Misc.



## County News

**Beds.**—At the Bolnhurst New Year dance, which was a grand party, £3 12s. 9d. was raised for the Benevolent Fund by the raffle and auction of a Mystery parcel which turned out to be onions, carrots, beetroots and one potato, grown in the Hostel garden. Kensworth House Hostel gave a tea party to 40 children, some of whom were from an evacuated orphanage in the village. The girls had collected money to be able to give each child presents from the Xmas tree and the party was a great success. The Hollies, King Street, Potton, is our latest Hostel to open. Mrs. Stone is the Warden and we extend a warm welcome to her as well as to the nine volunteers from Lincolnshire who are among the 20 girls who are resident there. M. Green, 102825, who sustained such severe injury whilst at work a short time ago, is progressing favourably; we are very glad to say. Joan Hollis, 30884, was married on January 27th, 1943. We all wish her and her husband the very best of good luck. Mr. A. W. Hill, Ministry of Agriculture Press Liaison Officer, accompanied by a number of Press representatives, toured the County with W.A.C. members and Executive officers on the 15th Jan. They visited various farms where our volunteers were at work beginning by calling at Kensworth House where they were met by our Chairman, the County Secretary and Miss Seymour, the Warden, who dispensed hot coffee and refreshments which were much appreciated.

**Berks.**—There has been a very enthusiastic response to the appeal for the Benevolent Fund. Lady Mount held a whist drive at Wasing Place (by kind permission of the G.W.R.), and a sale of produce and Christmas presents took place in the stables at Wasing on December 8th, and the total raised was £35 15s. Two lemons were auctioned for 22s. Mrs. Clifton Brown made £25 at a sale of gifts, etc., made by girls in her own area, and Mrs. Stuart Russell (Warden) in collaboration with the Faringdon W.I., gave a dance at the Hostel at Sparsholt, which cleared £10. This Hostel has its own weekly subscription list for the Fund. Girls in the Wantage area went out carol singing and made £2. We have had a very generous offer from Mrs. Symons, Chairman of the Services Entertainment Committee, of 20 free tickets for tea every week at Wellsteeds. These may be asked for at the W.L.A. County Office by girls who are in Reading for the afternoon. Mrs. Symons also very kindly provided the W.L.A. with 65 tickets for a concert at the Palace Theatre just before Christmas, and she tells us that any Land Girls in uniform will be very welcome at Wellsteeds any Sunday afternoon, where music is provided and refreshments can be had at a very reasonable cost. There have been a series of three lectures on Clean Milk Production, by the county instructress in dairying, Miss Matthews, and her assistants, in seven districts. These have been well attended by L.G.s and others, and have been very much appreciated.

**Bucks.**—We are preparing for a considerable influx of new volunteers which begins on February 1st. The W.A.C. has an ambitious plan by which each W.L.A. volunteer entering their employment shall have a four weeks preliminary training or a "hardening" period, thus avoiding some of the shocks which both farmers and girls experienced last year when W.A.E.C. gangs of completely raw girls were of necessity plunged into agricultural operations "with the typewriter ink hardly dry on their fingers" as one farmer expressed it! An extension of the group leader system among W.A.C. employees will also mean that the newcomers will have advice and help from old hands. We should like to extend a hearty welcome to these girls, many of whom, we hope, will see the February issue of THE LAND GIRL. "Question Night" at Hostels to which girls from the surrounding districts are invited, are proving popular

as are also the Machinery Demonstrations which a number of girls have attended recently. There is a growing desire to know what makes the wheels go round in the widest sense which argues well for the future of women in agriculture. Each hostel now has its Savings Group which are showing surprisingly good results. We should like advice from another County which has succeeded in forming Savings Groups amongst girls on private farms—how far has this been attempted?

**Cheshire.**—Land Army activities have been many and varied during the Christmas season. In many districts girls have organised and taken part in their own concert parties; others have enjoyed entertainments given for them. The Hostels had a very festive air, and at one party in Bowden Hostel volunteers and guests, numbering about 80, spent a very enjoyable evening. At Stoke Hostel a dance proved a great attraction. Farndon Hostel held a very successful dance, and after paying for their piano, sent a generous donation to the Merchant Navy Comfort Fund. The party arranged by the Middlewich Club resembled a pre-war feast. We are sorry to learn that one volunteer broke her leg the morning after attending this party and hope the jellies and iced cakes were not responsible! Miss Greenwood was asked to accept a present from the Club members in appreciation of her work as their representative. Congratulations to Sheila L. Smith, W.L.A., 41057, on winning a prize in the "Dairy Farmer" competition, and to B. Reeves and E. Pirie on obtaining their St. John's Ambulance badge and certificate after attending lectures at Chester.

Volunteer J. Ryder writes: "Rommiley and District Club, formed last April, is playing a big part in making this district of Cheshire a better place for Land Girls to live in. Members eagerly look forward to the fortnightly meetings and discuss their problems by a warm fireside with their District Representative, Mrs. Spiegelberg. Through its social activities the club has raised £20 for the Red Cross and we had a Christmas ball which brought in £19 for the penny-a-week Fund. The W.V.S. included us in the 'Gifts for the Forces' Fund and each girl received a very generous parcel."

**Cornwall.**—Through the good efforts of Mrs. Ward, one of our district representatives, the Benevolent Fund is to benefit to the extent of £7, being some of the proceeds of a very successful dance organised recently by the Community Club at Camborne, to which L.G.s in that district belong. Jan. 19th, the Lanreath and Lostwithiel Y.F.C. held an agricultural demonstration at Polvethian Manor (by kind invitation of Mr. J. O. Hawkey), including various competitive events—ploughing, hedge-trimming, thatching, clean milking, etc., in which several members of the L.A. took part. The Land Army scored well in milking tests, getting first prize in the over 18 group, and second in the under 18's. The prizes were distributed by Sir John Molesworth St. Aubyn, Chairman of the Y.F.C. We look forward to welcoming some 100 recruits from London and the North, who are coming to work for the Cornwall W.A.C., this month, and who will be accommodated in hostels in the Penzance district.

**Cumb. and West.**—We are very glad to welcome Miss H. M. Rogers as Assistant Secretary. Her help is badly needed—especially if the seven proposed new hostels all materialise. About 60 girls are now employed on threshing; they find it a hard and dirty job, but are sticking to it manfully. So far, our members have raised over £90 for the Benevolent Fund; dances and whist drives account for the large amounts, but very useful sums have been raised by making and selling calendars and by raffles. Local W.L.A. members have benefited by payment of cost of an ambulance to hospital, grants during sickness, loan while waiting for compensation payments, and we are now considering the rather unusual case of grants to two unfortunate hostel members whose civilian coats have had large holes eaten in conspicuous places by mice!



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*At a Cheshire Ploughing Competition*

**Denbigh.**—Another Hostel has been recently opened, bringing the total up to five. As at all the other Hostels, a welcome is given to all Land Girls within reach and notices are sent by the secretary of the Hostel club informing them of any educational or social event. We try to make the Hostels in each case a centre for the girls to meet and bring their friends. In December Miss Jagger very kindly gave another party for the girls in her area due for their half diamonds. We were very glad to have the members of The Timber Corps with us, many were old friends and any member of the Corps is always welcome at the Hostels. Although we have not yet adopted the Kent threshing scheme, it is interesting to note that all threshing sets in the East of the county arrive at the farm with four girls. These girls are all doing excellent work and are proving the confidence the District Officer has had in them. Each Hostel has its plans for the Benevolent Fund. Gresford hopes for great things from a dance they are getting up at Allington Hall early in February. We are glad to note that the county is realising the importance of the fund and we wish the girls success in their various enterprises. New Year parties were given at all the Hostels and thanks are due to the wardens and the staff for giving us such a good start to 1943.

**Dorset.**—C.E.M.A. concerts at Piddletrenthide and Dorchester were greatly enjoyed by many of our girls, and two informal parties at the Y.W.C.A., Dorchester, arranged by Miss Findlay (Committee Member) were most jolly, carol and round-singing to the accompaniment of "pipes,"

being particularly effective. Jolly Christmas parties were given at our three hostels, and although Manston and Beaminster closed for the actual holiadys, Mrs. Hatley, Warden, gave a very happy time to the girls who were left at Piddletrenthide. Miss Evans (Committee Member) and her mother arranged a very delightful Rally in Wareham, on the 13th Jan. M.O.I. films were thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Gifford, of the W.A.C., addressed the girls who came from far and wide and were most interested. A really good tea played no small part in making the evening a success!

The 16th Jan. was chosen by Mrs. Heenan and Mrs. Lesser for their joint Rally at Bridport Town Hall. M.O.I. films were appreciated, and Mrs. Aston (our Chairman) reminded us of the uphill job of getting the L.A. on its feet in Dorset in the very early days. As Bridport is Mrs. Heenan's nearest "home town" it was thought appropriate to make her a presentation at this Rally. On behalf of the Dorset W.L.A., a cheque was handed to her by Miss Joan Bartlett (one of our earliest members) in affection and appreciation of the many kindnesses she has shewn to so many in the county. A very enjoyable tea was served by members of the local W.V.S. On the 19th Jan., Mrs. Aston extended a very warm welcome to the girls present at her Rally in Blandford and thanked the District Representatives who had brought girls from many outlying farms. Good films were shown and the W.I. served a most excellent supper and gave a very delightful variety entertainment which was much appreciated by everyone. On 20th Jan., the Dorchester Y.F.C. (Secretary, Miss B. S.



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Yeates, W.L.A.) arranged a most successful Dance at the Corn Exchange, Dorchester, in aid of the Red Cross Agriculture Fund. The first W.L.A. Dance in Dorchester on 23rd Jan, arranged by Miss Findlay, in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund, was very well supported—so much so that people had to be turned away from the door as early as 9 p.m.!

**Durham.**—There are now 13 W.A.C. Hostels run by the Y.W.C.A., and it is hoped to start two more in the very near future. Volunteers are proving keen and willing in their various forms of work. A prize is to be given at the end of February to the gang who kill the greatest number of rats! Entertainments and dances have been held at all the Hostels during the long evenings, to which volunteers were able to invite their friends. Privately employed volunteers are always welcome at the Hostels. The best of luck to all the 55 volunteers who left this county in January to work in different parts of England and Wales. Miss Lily Leighton, 50728, has shown what an excellent training driving a milk round can prove in an emergency. Her partner was suddenly taken ill with acute appendicitis at the Hostel during severe frosty weather when roads were icebound. During the afternoon, Miss Leighton not only drove the doctor's car a mile up the drive to the Hostel, but later, when in bed, she heard that the ambulance driver was unable to negotiate the drive in the dark and under such severe road conditions, put on her dungarees on top of her pyjamas, walked to the bottom of the same drive, drove the ambulance up, then drove the patient to hospital, walking 3½ miles back to the Hostel afterwards at midnight. Miss Leighton was not late for duty next morning at 5.30 a.m.

**Essex.**—Two new hostels have been opened and at least six more will be equipped in the near future. The W.A.C. are now employing 970 volunteers and have "ordered" another 500!

Christmas parties have been the order of the day in clubs, in private houses and anywhere where space could be found and buses could be utilised! Our grateful thanks to all our wonderful hostesses.

Although there are 1,287 farmers employing volunteers on their private farms we felt there must be many who were still sceptical of what a "mere girl" could do and so with the help of Mr. Harvey, Technical Officer of the W.A.C. we staged L.A. exhibits at the Corn Exchanges at Saffron Walden, Braintree, Chelmsford, and Colchester, with 30 photographs of volunteers actually at their jobs and a model farm in which 13 volunteers were doing the job. Miss Western, our County Organiser, ran these demonstrations on our behalf



*Volunteers from Kibworth Hostel, Leicestershire, pulling flax*

and has given most heartening accounts of the interest they evoked. Miss Clarke, who joined us as Assistant Secretary in August, has now left to take up a similar position in Hertfordshire, her Home County and we all join in wishing her the best of luck. Miss Sprent is taking up her appointment as Assistant Secretary in addition to Mrs. Melville, who has been with us for a year. Our Uniform Department has moved to Purcell Cole, Ongar Road, Writtle, and here we have many staff changes. Mrs. Hawkes who has voluntarily run that huge and most important branch has been obliged to resign owing to petrol and other private difficulties and we should like to extend to her our most grateful thanks for the stupendous work she has done in the Uniform Department. Mrs. Hyslop has now been appointed and we take this opportunity of welcoming her to Essex. Our November news letter crossword competition was won by—1st Miss J. E. Mallett, £1; 2nd Miss E. N. Main, 10s.; 3rd Miss D. Lucas. The December-January competition is for the best Savings Group in the County.

**Flints.**—A dance at Rhuddlan Hostel on Dec. 10th brought in over £41 for the County Welfare Fund. Major Birch gave a generous donation of £10 and spoke of the good work the W.L.A. was doing in Flintshire. A New Year's Eve dance was organised in Prestatyn by Mrs. Caswell and Volunteers in aid of the L.A. National Benevolent Fund and proved an outstanding social and financial success. The hall was beautifully decorated and numerous gifts from a huge Xmas tree were all given as spot prizes which were presented to the winners by Miss Bibby, our Chairman. £56 was raised. The L.A. has done well in tractor ploughing. Four volunteers with only 68 hours experience of tractor ploughing gave a demonstration of ploughing, driving and maintenance at ploughing competitions at Northop, on Jan. 16th and Mrs. Rhosesmor won two prizes, one of which was a special one for the best work done by a member of the L.A. She has driven a tractor for 8 months but had never ploughed until last week. Mrs. Rhosesmor also won 1st prize at a Rhyl ploughing Demonstration on Jan. 21st, the next three competitors being Mrs. Gronant, Miss Boddelywyddan and Miss Gronselves.

**Hants.**—1943 has brought an agonised appeal from large numbers of farmers in Hampshire for Land Girls to help in the all important task of producing the nation's food supply this year. Girls for dairy work are particularly needed. Though a very arduous job, it is one for which girls are well suited, and they can often reach such a degree of proficiency as to be able to excel men in this particular type of work. Many girls from other Counties have come to help us, we are very pleased to welcome them and hope that they will find Hampshire a friendly County to settle down in. We now have a special sub-committee to help plan and arrange clubs for Land Girls all over the County, and we are hoping that soon there will be a club of some sort within easy reach of every girl in the County. In one very isolated area the representative has arranged lending libraries in each of the tiny hamlets in her district. These consist of large boxes full of books left in one house in each village. Periodically the boxes are moved round, sorted and replenished. Our special effort this month has been to raise money for the Benevolent Fund and we are hoping to be able to send a substantial contribution before very long. Miss Huskisson has joined the office staff this month as our second County organiser. We have much pleasure in welcoming her to this County and feel ourselves lucky in having been able to secure her services.

**Hereford.**—December was a "red letter" month for the majority of volunteers who were able to spend their Christmas at home, while those who remained at their posts enjoyed other festivities, together with the knowledge of "work well done." At the Ross Hostel, the dance so successfully organised by Miss Kane and Miss



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Rothwell, added £14 to the Benevolent Fund; while at Bromyard, a Whist Drive added still further to the Funds. Mrs. Whistance hopes to raise £50 for the Merchant Navy Funds by a series of dances at Kilpeck Village Hall, and is already half-way towards her goal. Another hostel has been opened at Blakemere and will accommodate twenty-eight energetic workers under the W.A.C. We hope to open another two or more hostels in the near future. Ninety-three Good Service Badges—5 of which are for three years service—were awarded in January—a good beginning for the new 1943.

**Hunts, Cambs, Ely.**—Dec. 22nd was a high light in the life of THORNEY Hostel when the W.A.E.C. and employing farmers gave a Poultry Dinner to the Land Girls. Members of the County Staff were invited and a grand time was had by all. A Social and Dance was run by the girls and several of them entertained with Pianoforte Solos, Tap Dances, Songs, Recitations, etc. As a result of the dance, £14 was handed to the Benevolent Fund. BURGOYNES, Histon, has been honoured by a visit from Mrs. Roosevelt's representative who showed keen interest in all aspects of the L.A.'s work and asked countless questions. These girls have joined the Impington Young Farmers' Club and are now keeping rabbits. Forty-two members of the W.L.A. took part in the Carol Concert arranged by C.E.M.A. at Trinity College, Cambridge and after the concert the choirs had an excellent tea provided by the W.V.S. So interested were the girls at SWAFFHAM PRIOR in what Mrs. Minorski had to tell them about "Russia under the Soviet Regime" that they asked this Russian lady to visit them again. M.O.I. films are well to the fore and those on "America" have a special appeal. Dances also continue to provide much of the social side of the L.A.'s life and WATERBEACH had their first dance, the profits of which are going to purchase a piano. A very kindly thought on the part of these girls resulted in a Children's Party on 16th Jan. The young visitors were given tea and there were prizes for the games. At 7 p.m. there was a queue of prams outside the hostel; the mothers had come to collect their charges! Ten more Rat-catchers have arrived in the County. The Ely W.A.E.C. are arranging dairy trainings for their girls, and milkers are in great demand. Two more Hostels in Cambs. are almost ready to be opened and Elton Stables should be ready very shortly to accommodate 50 girls.

**Isle of Wight.**—We have now just over 300 members in work and think that quite good for our small size; though we are still low on the list in the magazine. Our ambition is to climb higher. In the main we are a dairy county, but also do a lot of market gardening, also have a Forestry group. We are proud of three trained tractor drivers who have just joined us from the mainland. We have one small hostel and hope soon to open a larger one. We are desperately in need of rat-catchers; please send us a Pied-Piper. We will provide the motley, a warm welcome, AND the rats!

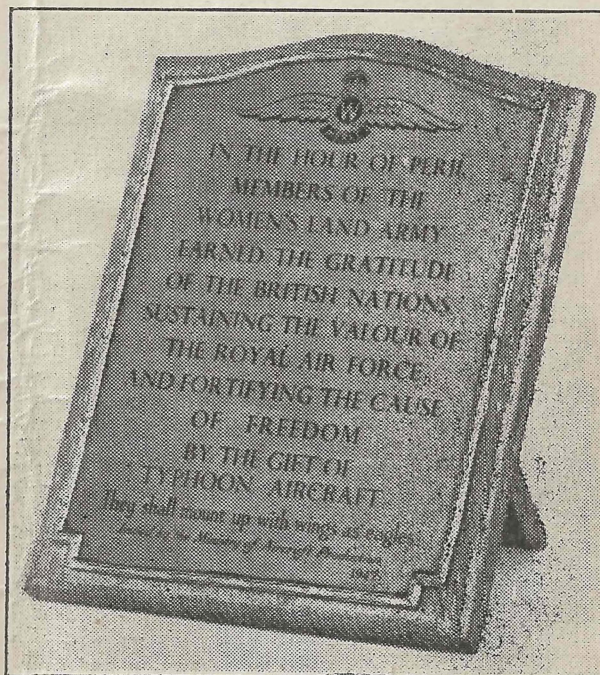
**East Kent.**—We have had a number of very well attended and cheerful parties during the last two months. A group of Land Girls working for G. Mount & Sons had the delightful idea of organising a Christmas party of their own for poor and blitzed children in Canterbury, and their efforts were enormously appreciated. Congratulations to all those who won certificates at the Demonstration, and particularly to Miss J. Chantler, who won the Cup for the General Farmwork section, and Mrs. J. Harris, who won the cup for the fruit section. Both Miss Chantler and Mrs. Harris have been in the W.L.A. well over two years.

**W. Kent.**—The most outstanding event during the last two months was our Farm Demonstration on Dec. 3rd, of which an account was given in the January LAND GIRL. As a result of the tests,

131 1st Class, 255 2nd Class, and 87 3rd Class Certificates have been awarded to the Competitors. Cups were presented by the Kent Branch of the N.F.U., Lord and Lady Cornwallis, the Hon. Mrs. Harold Nicolson and the E. & W. Kent W.L.A. Committees. Miss E. M. Lewes, of W. Kent, gained two cups, that presented by Mrs. Nicolson for Tractor work and the N.F.U. Cup for the competitor gaining the highest total of marks during the day. Copies of the Judges' criticisms were sent to all Competitors and to the Minister, who expressed great interest in them. The money raised on the day from a guessing competition, and sale of programmes and baked potatoes, enabled us to send £70 to the Benevolent Fund and £50 each to the E. and W. Kent Welfare Funds.

The E.N.S.A. concerts given at the W. Kent Hostels every fortnight have been greatly enjoyed, not only by the girls living in them, but also by L.A. members billeted in the neighbourhood and their friends. One Hostel was able to entertain some convalescent soldiers from a nearby home. During January a L.A. Club had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Donald McCullough of the "Brains Trust." This Club is fortunate enough to be sponsored by the Green-Street-Green Branch of Toc H who have been most kind and generous to the W.L.A. in that district, and it was Toc H who invited Mr. McCullough down with a view to publicity. Though it was a very wet night there was an excellent attendance and everybody enjoyed themselves very much. We hope that Mr. McCullough approved of the "Brains Trust" scene in a most excellent Charade. The opening meeting of a W.L.A. Club at Meopham took place this month and we hope to welcome many of the local volunteers and their friends there.

**Lancs.**—A successful New Year's party, organised by Helena Gibbon and Ethel Wilkinson was held at Forton, over 60 guests being present. The tea-table was decorated in Land Army colours, and guests ate in the soft glow of candle light. Following tea, games and guessing competitions followed in swift succession for which there were many prizes. Midnight came all too soon and the party closed in the traditional New Year's Eve manner. The party was not arranged primarily as a money-making effort, but £3 was sent to the



A photograph of the plaque presented to the W.L.A. by the Ministry of Aircraft Production



## THE LAND GIRL

**Benevolent Fund.** The Preston and district L.G. Club held their first dance on Dec. 1st. It was a great success and the members were pleased to welcome Miss Arnison and Miss Robertson. The Club enjoyed a talk given on Jan. 4th by an American officer, Lieut. Heaton, on his travels in America. Bolton L.G. Club held a Christmas party to which they invited members of H.M. Forces. They had a lighted Christmas tree, round which they sang carols. Girls from the Freshfield area were entertained at a party on Christmas Day at the Victoria Hall Canteen. The Canteen Organiser has said how much she enjoyed having the Land Girls, whom she considers to be the hardest working of the Women's Services. We would like to thank all volunteers who have so generously helped to give the Benevolent Fund such a good start in the county. Dances, raffles and parties have been organised with great success, and personal donations received.

**Leics. & R.**—We have had several substantial contributions towards the Benevolent Fund this month, all the proceeds of dances and whist drives (with raffles thrown in.) They are: From Lubenham Hostel, £16; from Miss Barthel and Miss Latimer, £18; from the Tilton on the Hill girls, the Misses Jones, Sturman, Ford, Salmon, and Morey, £10 10s.; from the Somerby Hostel, £1; from Mrs. Beadell, 10s.; from the sale of glove patterns per Miss Barthel, 15s. On Jan. 18, 11 volunteers from Yorkshire came to fill up our Hostel at Stathern Rectory. This Hostel has been running with 20 girls since August. They arrived looking slightly travel worn but smiling, at Melton Mowbray, and were transported by W.A.C. lorry to Stathern just in time for the evening meal. The new Warden, Mrs. Roberts, with "Sam," her Dalmation, came up from London to start duties on the same day, so there were many introductions to make. However, a happy party, including the ex-Warden, District Representative, County Organiser, County Secretary, and W.A.E.C. District Officer, gathered there and a most interesting cooking demonstration was given afterwards by a Ministry of Health Instructress who showed us how to make the proverbial sandwich appetising and many tasty dishes were handed round and sampled. By this time a thoroughly friendly atmosphere prevailed, and "Sam" had made the acquaintance of the two Hostel kittens without disastrous results. "And so to bed."

**Holl. & Kest.**—Christmas brought a round of dances, parties and plays. At Swineshead Hostel, the Warden, Mrs. Allan, arranged an old-fashioned Christmas dinner and party and decorated the hostel beautifully for a dance in January. At Little Ponton Hostel, children from the village were entertained, each volunteer looking after one child. The girls dressed a large Christmas tree, each having given up her chocolate ration for the month, and adding a threepenny piece as a gift to the children. One girl dressed up as Father Christmas and distributed gifts which had been supplied by the American Red Cross. Carol singing was much in evidence throughout the county, many Hostels held carol services or parties. Audrey Tunnard, with other Uffington girls collected £2 10s. by carol singing, for the Benevolent Fund. This Fund also benefits by dances at North Kyme, £3 3s. (the same amount going to the Village Comforts Fund), and Denton, £5. Dormer House Hostel collected £7. Corby Hostel presented Nativity plays with the villagers, and Edna Taylor and other girls from Great Hale have formed a dance band. The girls in Surfleet Hostel held a dance there and raised £44 for the Merchant Navy. Moorlands Hostel, Branston, is particularly interested in the Missions to Seamen, they chartered a bus and, with their Warden, the whole complement of 22 visited Grimsby for a weekend in January. They served in the canteen on the Saturday afternoon and evening and all day Sunday. They were very kindly entertained by the Padre and canteen helpers, also Toc H, and all managed to procure beds from these kind friends during their visit.

## County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Employed
Kent	175	3	9	3109
Essex	32	2	0	2530
Hants	52	17	1	1819
Herts	34	8	3	1806
Leics 1446	88	4	0	1703
Rut 257				
E. Sussex	29	4	0	1663
Surrey	137	13	9	1522
Northants	32	14	10	1470
Warwicks	165	19	6	1393
Somerset	36	13	0	1359
Worcs	71	3	10	1348
Bucks	62	10	8	1295
W. Sussex	95	15	5	1272
Cheshire	11	14	9	1212
Wilts	77	6	6	1208
Lancs	29	7	0	1199
Holl. & K.	44	11	6	1165
Glos	169	17	10	1157
Norfolk	14	17	6	1153
Devon	77	18	1	1060
Berks	151	10	0	1058
Notts	9	16	6	1006
North'd	70	12	5	958
Cornwall	6	0	0	884
Salop	118	19	0	867
Hunts 249	58	19	11	820
Cambs 414				
Ely 157				
Oxon	28	14	6	798
Dorset	11	5	0	739
Staffs	26	2	6	660
Durham	5	0	0	625
S. Wales	21	14	3	607
Lindsey	111	6	0	574
W. Suffolk	44	16	1	534
Beds	31	18	1	520
Herefords	54	2	5	508
N. Wales	148	16	0	398
Denbigh	15	2	0	393
Lon. & Middx.	17	13	6	362
Flints	3	12	0	353
I. of W.	—	—	—	301
Brec & Rad	46	2	2	280
Mont	5	1	0	163
Yorks	29	16	0	Not rec'd.
Cum & West	83	0	3	"
E. Suffolk	61	14	0	"
Glam	174	8	6	"
Mon	23	13	10	"
Derby	5	16	0	"

On Jan. 31st, there were about 53,500 Volunteers in employment.

### "THE LAND GIRL"

*Published Mid-monthly.*

3d. per copy, 3s. per year, 1s. 6d. per six months, post free. Cash with order.  
Order from your County Office or from  
THE LAND GIRL, Balcombe Place,  
Hayward's Heath, Sussex.