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Price 3d.

ON GETTING PRESENTS

EXCEPT for a few very rich and contented people who never know an unsatisfied material want and a few hermits who never admit to having any, everyone enjoys getting a present.

The Land Army has lately received two presents from America; ten wedding dresses and £17,000. The wedding dresses will give great pleasure to our Land Army brides and it is especially gratifying that on this occasion, the W.L.A. was included in a gift made to the Women's Services and the nation's nurses. The money has provided three Rest Break Homes in England, Scotland and Wales, as well as the new London Club, and it is hard to see how it could have been more usefully and happily expended.

"Presents endear absence," said Charles Lamb, and the generosity of our friend and ally is a link of endearment between the people of the United States and every member of the Land Army. It is only when we are very young that our sole interest in a present is the gift itself, the giver merely being the person to whom it is unfortunately necessary to write a thank-you letter. And even at that age we gain an impression that someone likes us enough to give us a present. The older we grow the more we appreciate the significance of a gift and the warmer we feel towards those whose generosity is extended to us, not from kinship or obligation, but from pure friendship and goodwill.

It is therefore not only for the splendid gifts themselves but for the good will and recognition of hard work well done which they express, that the Women's Land Army sends its warmest gratitude to the American friends who have thus enheartened us.

M. A. P.

LANDMARKS in the HISTORY of AGRICULTURE

This brilliant survey was written for the LAND GIRL by Sir E. John Russell, formerly Director of Rothamsted Experimental Station, and author of many books known to volunteers.

AGRICULTURE—the culture of the land—is our oldest industry: it even preceded civilisation, because until it was developed there was no possibility of men living in settled communities. The oldest form was apparently grain growing: certainly that is the earliest of which any record or tradition exists. But grain growing could not in the old days be done continuously; before long it was necessary to leave the land uncropped or “fallow” for a time in order to “rest,” as it was generally called; so arose a system of grain—fallow—grain that persisted in this country till about 100 or 150 years ago, and remained in considerable parts of Europe right up to the war. In England and in much of Northern Europe the land was held partly in large estates of landowners, partly in blocks by the peasants, and the peasants' land was parcelled out among themselves in strips scattered over the whole area so that each man should have his share of good and bad land. The system had elements of social justice and the peasants liked it; they struggled perpetually against the landlords to get more of the land. But it was inefficient and not very productive: it required so much hand labour that the men themselves could not do it all, the women and children had to take part also, and this meant that the women wore out early and the children could get little or no education.

Live Stock Arrives

The first big change in Great Britain began in the 18th century when live stock husbandry was successfully linked up with crop production. This meant a considerable reduction in the proportion of land sown to grain because other crops were now needed for the live stock, especially turnips, grass and clover. But it soon appeared that the grass and clover enriched the soil so that the succeeding corn crop was higher than it would otherwise have been. Moreover these fodder crops enabled more cattle to be kept in the buildngs than formerly, and they made more farmyard manure which raised still further the productiveness of the land, and helped to increase the output of grain. The sheep districts benefited considerably also: more sheep food

was grown, it was eaten on the land, and as the soils were generally light they benefited both by the manuring and by the trading of the animals. Under the old system nearly 70 per cent. of the land had been in grain and under the new system only 50 per cent. or even less, yet the total output of grain was higher, and in addition, there was a considerable output of milk and meat, and as time went on of poultry and eggs also. Some of the farmers became interested in other crops, and fruit and vegetable production increased.

Science with Victoria

A further step forward became possible when science was applied to agriculture from about 1840 onwards. The sciences of plant and animal nutrition were developed, and the feeding of crops and stock was put on to proper lines, becoming more economical and far more efficient. New varieties of plants were also introduced, new implements, methods were devised for dealing with disease and for reducing other wastes and losses. All these improvements helped to swell the total output from the land, but they did much more than that; they considerably curtailed the amount of labour needed for food production, and it was no longer necessary to call on the women and children to work on the land except under very special circumstances, while large numbers of the men could be dispensed with and released for other work. In consequence children almost disappeared from the farm labour force and could go to school; women's labour also became unnecessary and they could stay at home to keep house or to work elsewhere; and men and women both were available for the development of the industrial system. The number of workers engaged in agriculture went down but the value of output per worker rose.

These changes had some far reaching consequences. The livestock systems of farming could not be carried out on the original strips of the old days and so the farms had to be consolidated; each had to be in one compact piece. But the system did not specially favour the big man: the small and moderate sized farmers could hold their own. While in-

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dustry and commerce were tending more and more to consolidation and amalgamation and to operation by joint stock companies agriculture remained mainly in the hands of individuals; company farming is exceptional.

The introduction of science and engineering had a further effect. Both are never-ending in their progress; for both there is always a better way if only it could be found, and sooner or later it is found. In consequence the value of output per man per year is not only higher than in the old days of grain farming but it continues to rise. So the workers remuneration has gone up and there is hope that it can continue to do so. Till recently the labour force on the farms, however, was almost entirely masculine: women and children rarely did much farm work in England.

Engines and Insects

Then came another change. The full implications of which were not at first seen. The internal combustion engine found its way on to the farm. The process began before the last war but it did not go far: there was considerable change during the war and particularly afterwards. Prior to the war the only engine with which farmers were familiar was the steam engine, usually owned by a contractor who went round the country ploughing, mole draining and threshing. It was very efficient and stood up well to its work. I have seen Fowler's engines in South Africa that had worked for many years still going on apparently as well as ever. But it was essentially an implement for the big man, not for the little one. The ordinary work about the farm buildings might be done with a small stationary steam engine, but more usually was done by horse or hand labour. The internal combustion engine, however, was a much more adaptable affair. I remember the old farmers watching with admiration the working of some of these new little engines at the agricultural shows: they burned oil and not coal, and they worked by explosions and not by steam. But they were extremely convenient and greatly reduced the laboriousness of some of the farm work. Then came the tractor. At first it was not very trustworthy: it would not easily start up on a cold morning and it would sometimes stop for no very clear reason. I remember how one of our old farm workers hated the thing. One day it was ploughing in one of our fields where also a horse team was at

work. The tractor came to a standstill but the horse team went on. Out of curiosity the ploughman walked over to the tractor and did some picturesque scoffing. The tractor driver got annoyed: he was dissecting and examining the carburettor and blew out from the jet a little insect that had somehow got in and blocked it up. "There! that's what's done it all!" he declared, proud to think that he had run down the cause of the trouble. But the ploughman was fully equal to the situation: quoting from St. Paul he said: "God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." Of course there could be no reply. We got a lot of that sort of thing before the tractor became the reliable and effective instrument it now is.

Tractors—and Women.

The big change has come during the war. The need for ploughing up has made the tractor indispensable. It has not only altered the operational basis of agriculture but it looks like altering the social basis also. For it has brought back women on to the farm again; this time not as unskilled ill-paid labourers but as skilled tractor drivers, and from that stage many of them have taken on other skilled work also. No longer is muscular strength the main consideration; deftness and intelligence have become more important. So the great army of land girls has supplied a new type of worker on the farm, and many of them with whom I have spoken would like to stay on the land. One of the managers of a large and very well run factory told me that some of the office staff had been released for work in Government offices but hoped to get back after the war, while many of the factory staff had been released for land work and wanted to stay. Personally I hope it will be possible for I am sure that agriculture would gain by having a good infusion of suitable women. Studley and Swanley Colleges have already shown what a variety of careers are open, and the success of Mrs. Taylor in becoming President of the Berkshire Branch of the National Farmers Union shows that recognition can be accorded where it is due.

Electricity on the Farm

Further changes are impending. Electricity is now coming on to the farm and let us hope into the farm cottages also. Inventors in the past have often confined their activities to the big man:

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now they are thinking a good deal more of the smaller man and the smaller article. The electric hammer mill, small, compact, and easy to manipulate, takes the place of a bigger and more awkward implement that required a man to manage it. Potato sorting by a hand driven machine was fatiguing and required a strong young man: with a small motor it becomes light work, chiefly requiring quick fingers and a sharp eye. The whole tendency of modern invention is to put a premium on intelligence and deftness, and in these qualities women will always

be able to hold their own.

After the war we may expect an increased demand for milk, poultry, eggs, fruit and vegetables. All these have in the past been very successfully produced by women: in the future with these fuller aids to production and the avoidance of drudgery, women should be able to do even better than in the past. The care of animals has always appealed to our people, and it is much to be hoped that agriculture will continue to find places for women in the time of peace as it has done in the ways of war.

DAIRYMAID'S FIRST DAY



Illustrations by the author.

In an enormous cowshed, the cows were making more noise than any menagerie.

The cowman grunted. "Thee 'ungry." The new dairymaid laughed and tried to look as if she quite understood.

She walked up to one of the cows and placed her hand on what she hoped was a confident way, on its back.

"Look out!!" shouted the cowman...

Her nice Land Army dungarees had been beautifully clean—a few seconds ago. "You mus' look out fer tha'," commented the cowman, and the new dairymaid blushed scarlet and laughed a little too heartily.

"They're dear old things, really, aren't they?" she remarked, dodging a well-aimed kick from a young heifer, which fortunately the cowman hadn't seen, and she took care thereafter to walk in the middle of the runway.

Suddenly her "mate" walked away, and re-appearing with a bucket and swab, grabbed the nearest cow by the tail. She watched him wash the animal in horror. Somehow she'd never even thought of this sort of thing. The next minute she found the cloth in her hand. She looked down the row of cows' behinds, as one

might look at an avenue of trees but without so much appreciation. Feeling very sick she dimly remembered once saying that she loved the smell of a farmyard, that it was grand, so healthy too.

She started to whistle, gently took hold of the first tail and gingerly washed the cows udder, wondering desparately why she had ever joined the Land Army.

The next was a very big cow, she thought, as she rinsed the swab. An enormous creature, she reflected, as she stood up.

But it was "chewing-the-cud" and with great bravado she seized its tail, and slapped the swab under its enormous udder.

"You're a good milker, old girl, I know" she said, in the friendliest animal voice she could muster, rather pleased that she was taking things so calmly.

But all at once something happened. Mind you, it happened very quickly, and the dairymaid herself hadn't the remotest idea how, but when the cowman came in ten minutes later she was still looking for her swab.

"Wot's this doin' yurr?" he asked. But there wasn't very much she could



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say, for there, perched on a cow's horn, was a headgear which was novel for any cow. After this incident, the dairymaid, armed with a bucket and a three legged stool, and adorned in a spotless white smock, was instructed to sit down on the right hand side of the cow.

"Git old o' the speens" said the cowman. Does he mean teats, she thought frantically? With quaking heart she tentatively touched one again feeling very sick.

"Pull, an' see wot 'appens" she was encouraged, but as she expected nothing happened. She went on pulling, and still nothing happened. She felt despair in her heart, and looking up (it was a long way up) at the cow, she thought it seemed mildly amused.

Suddenly, with an enormous thrill, she heard a "ping" in the bucket.

"I-Ive got some *out*," she cried, looking round at the cowman, who grinned and grunted.

But when nothing more happened, she wished that she hadn't got quite so excited about that first little drop, it looked very silly now, in that great big bucket. After struggling for another half-hour, she said in a small voice.

"I-I'm afraid I haven't got any more"

"Or'll roight missy, oi'll be there in a jiffy" replied the cowman.

"Shall I get up then?"

"Moight's well."

In her haste to get away from the cows' legs, she tripped up over the gutter. Picking herself up, unhurt but very near to tears, she mustered courage to ask.

"Shall I start on another one?"

"Let t'others out now" he replied, "oi done 'em all."

Oh dear! Would she ever learn to milk a cow?

W. Kent.

S. Goldup, 70343.



THE LONDON CLUB

The Women's Land Army Club at No. 2, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1. is now open and members are invited to make the fullest possible use of the amenities it offers.

Dormitory accommodation for up to 20 volunteers is provided at a charge of 3s. for bed and breakfast or 15s. per week, lunch and supper being obtainable as required in the Canteen. Bookings, which should be made at least a week in advance, should be addressed to the Club Warden and the name, address and W.L.A. number of the volunteer must be given on the application. No volunteer may spend more than nine nights at the club during one year and these nights may include only two week-ends.

Members not staying at the Club can obtain at the Canteen:—Lunch (served between 12.30 and 2.0 p.m.) and Supper (served at 7.0 p.m.) and may bring a friend or friends with them. The Club rooms are also available for their use.

A condition of admission to the Club and the Canteen is that members must be in uniform and/or wearing their Land Army Badge. Members of the public may only use the Club and Canteen if accompanied by a member. Chesham Street is only about 10 minutes walk from Victoria, rather less from Sloane Square and Hyde Park Corner.

SCOTTISH REST BREAK HOUSE

Through the generosity of the British War Relief Society of America it has now been possible to provide a Rest Break House for the Scottish W.L.A. which has a membership of over 9,000.

The House is at Saughton Mains on the western outskirts of Edinburgh and although it is actually within the city boundary in pleasant open surroundings with a clear view from the front windows to the Pentland Hills on the south.

It contains accommodation for about ten girls, has been tastefully decorated throughout and every possible care has been taken to provide for the well being of the residents.

The House was formally opened on 11th May by Mr. Allan Chapman, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, who expressed thanks to the generous donors overseas and paid tribute to the many willing helpers who had made the scheme possible. He had a special word of praise and encouragement for the Committee and the Chairman, Miss Baxter, who is also Chairman of the Scottish W.L.A. Welfare and Benevolent Fund.

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GOAT KEEPING

I have been interested in goats since 1932 when with great excitement I bought my first two goats. Somehow, these animals "get" you if you are a real animal lover; they can be most frightfully annoying and exacting at times and one must have patience to deal with them.

Contrary to the general belief, goats do *not* smell if they are properly looked after. It is only the male goat in the breeding season that has a peculiar penetrating odour which gives rise to this belief. Of course, if they are neglected and kept in a dirty state, they will (like any animal) begin to smell strong, but this is not their nature. They hate dirt and filth, in fact they are the cleanest animals especially where food is concerned. They will not eat anything that has become soiled, or been near anything dirty or on the ground. This is where the exasperation sometimes comes in, for I have owned goats that would not even drink out of the same bucket as their stable companion.

I was in complete charge of a herd of 12 milkers at first, some pedigree and some not. They were stabled in a converted stable, in stalls like cows, with moveable slatted floors and hay racks just like miniature cow stalls. There were three loose boxes for these goats which were heavy in kid, for these should not be tied up at night. The ideal goat house has all loose boxes, but we just had to manage as best we could and they were quite comfy in their stalls. The breeding season (September to March) began as we started the herd, so the first job was to get those goats mated which had been in milk the longest and to keep others back till later in the season. Goats carry their young for approximately 5 months so you can expect your kids any time from February to late July or August.

In the winter I did not tether the goats but used to take them all out for walks in the lanes to get ivy and tit bits from the hedges. They were fed in their stalls three times a day with whatever concentrates, roots, kale etc. I had, with a plentiful supply of hay—as much as they wanted. I started work for feeding all round, and milking, bottling or separating the milk. We sold a quantity of milk in the town to a nursing home and to private customers. After breakfast the goats were turned out into the paddock if the weather was suitable to stretch their legs while I cleaned out all the stalls and boxes. Warm water was offered two or

three times a day and their racks were filled up at night to last till morning.

The kids are absolutely fascinating. The billies were reared to a certain age and then killed by a butcher for meat, and grand eating they are too. The nannies were all reared on the bottle, which meant four times a day at first. I reared 10 kids that season. My digs were over a mile from my work and it meant I had to go back every evening about 9 p.m. to give the babies their last feed. These kids were all in one big house with wire run attached. For the first few days the youngest of them were kept separated from the others till they were strong enough to look after themselves. I fed them in the same order every time, and they got to know just when it was their turn. Of course, they all had names, and they knew when I spoke to them individually. Three were fed at once, one bottle being held in each hand, and one between my knees, the same kid always having the same position.

There was a bridge erected in the run for their exercise and many was the battle between them to try to turn each other off the bridge. This family would go out for walks too like the grown ups, and they all followed like dogs, scampering about and doing the most marvellous quick turns and "victory rolls" in the air.

Besides my job I am "Goats" Service Commissioner for the district. This is a scheme organised by the Editor of "Goats" Magazine. People with experience volunteer to become Commissioners for their district. They have to pass an examination to show that they *do* know about goats and then they are ready to go to the rescue of anyone in need of help or advice on goat keeping matters. We keep a small stock of essential medicine in hand and are prepared to go to see goat keepers and their goats and to drench when necessary, trim hoves, disbud the young kids, advise about management and housing, help at kidding time etc. I had so many calls at the outbreak of the war from new goat keepers that I decided to start a club, when all these people could meet together at some central spot and discuss their problems and exchange ideas. That is how the West Somerset Goat Club came into being, and it has been going now for three years. We meet nearly every month at the same meeting place in the market town on the first Wednesday in the month. Sometimes we have a special speaker or we may have a competition

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on goat general knowledge. We have had competitions on butter fats, when the members bring samples of goats milk to be tested at the Farm Institute. The Brains Trust was very popular. We have had a kid show, and staged an exhibition for two successive years at the "Dig for Victory" Shows in the town and in the next few months we are sending a stall of literature, articles made from kid-skins, etc., round the county by invitation of the Rural Food Campaign. So we are busy, and the Club justifies its existence in every way. Our membership is between 25 and 40 and the annual subscription is only 2s. 6d.

The greatest day in the life of our Club so far was when I represented the Club on the B.B.C. in the "Backs to the Land" series in May, 1942—
Somerset.

N. Smales, 13359.

LAMENT OF A LAND GIRL

I want to go back to the town again
To the laughter, the noise and the fun.
I'm fed to the teeth with Mudsplash
And it's time this old war was won.

I'm weary of milk and muck and mire
And the clatter of calves at play
And hens that are always eating
But haven't the sense to lay.

The cows' tails swish in the shadows
And wallop me under the chin,
I slip and slide in the gutter,
And finally fall right in.

I'm tired of the cows' blank faces
And the trusses of straw and hay.
And knocking the muck off mangolds
Which I have to do each day.

Oh, how can I think of beauty
When all I can see is muck?
For even the soul of Wordsworth
In a cowshed would come unstuck.

But perhaps when I'm very ancient
And I've travelled many a mile,
I'll come back in a dream to Mudsplash
And know it was well worth while.
Northants. E. P. Stedman, 83782.

W.L.A. STATIONERY

3s. 6d. per box. Postage paid.

N.B.—When ordering, Name, W.L.A. number and address must be printed.

PENGUIN SUPPLY CO.,
Quality House, Wood St.,
Manchester, 3.

A NEW JOB

On a Monday morning, two cases packed, a last minute glance in the mirror, a hasty kiss for mother who, while giving good advice, was looking as tearful as though I was off overseas, a bus ride into Leicester, to meet Moira, my partner in this new venture, another bus ride to our destination. We were full of excitement and a certain amount of foreboding. Would we like our new job? Would the W.A.A.F. be catty to us? What would our billets be like, etc.? We were on our way to Castle Donington R.A.F. station, to work on food production on twenty acres for the camp mess. We had been very happy since joining the W.L.A. just over six months ago at Rearsby Hostel and I was feeling very proud of my brand new half diamond on my sleeve. When we arrived we were conducted to the Squadron Leader's office, he was awfully nice to us, told us all details, introduced us to our "Corporal" with whom we were to work, who showed us round and gave us a huge tea in the mess where we have all our meals. Next day up bright and early and after breakfast across the aerodrome to work, planting broad beans. Dinner at 12.30 and an after-dinner cup of tea in the N.A.A.F.I. Back to work and the Y.M.C.A. car came round at four o'clock with tea and cakes, more work, then knocking-off time and a cooked tea in the mess, a rough wash and back to our billets and a bath and change. Back to the mess for supper at 7.30 to 8.30. We had finished our first day.

We have a pass for all the station entertainments and R.A.F. buses. Everyone is most kind, including the W.A.A.F. The men, especially the older men, consider we of the W.L.A. are doing a fine job of work. Moira and I have vowed to do our very best to uphold this and hope to produce a record crop of food-stuffs this coming season. It's a great life, that of the W.L.A.
Leics. M. Butlin, 136577.

FOR SALE.—Lady's riding jacket, brown, 34in. bust, 30s. Walter, Berwyn, Bicton, Salop.

WANTED.—White or beige Ice-skating boots complete. Size 4. Hall, Hallsall Hostel, Ormskirk. Lancs.

WANTED.—Ladies heavy rubberised riding raincoat. Large patch pockets, shoulder straps, windstraps to cuffs etc; fawn or off white; good condition, broad fitting. Beaton, Kingston, Garmouth, Morayshire, Scotland.

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DIARY OF A RED ARMLET—4

Monday.—Pulling sugar beet all day, helped in the morning by three of the others, but all alone in the afternoon. Back to milk at four o'clock. Meant to put in an hour in the garden after tea but felt somehow off colour so only sat about. Wilhelmina has her litter, dead on time, bless her. Lop-eared will be along any day now. Went to sleep over the fire, and did not have any supper. Hope I'm not in for anything.

Tuesday.—Apparently I am, with most embarrassing symptoms. Felt good for nothing all day and would have stayed in bed and done with it, only the rabbits and cats had to be fed. Sent a message down to the Boss, and went to bed early.

Wednesday.—A bit better, but still very shaky, so went down and saw the doctor. (Rather fun to have the weekly surgery in the Bar Parlour!) She says "Gastro-enteritis," and there's a lot of it about, and gave me some medicine and says see her again next week. Managed to crawl down to the library after tea, and then went home, fed the rabbits and retired to bed.

Thursday.—Better, but still feeling washed-out. Wandered round the garden and simply had to do a bit of pottering, but gave it up after ten minutes and sat on a seat in the orchard in the sun, feeling very sorry for myself, but deciding to live, with a bit of luck!

Friday.—Went for a stroll up the Quarry and along the ridge to the site of the Roman Bath. Always meant to have a look at this, though they told me there was nothing to see. Apparently within living memory there was a sort of brick tank, with steps down, but men came and dug it all about, and now there is nothing. Confirmed all this. The place is a small hollow on the hill-side, and overgrown with elder and hazel. Very quiet up there, except for the squawking of a blackbird whom I disturbed from her nest. Two eggs. Cut myself a hazel stick (to be seen out with a stick is a sure sign that one is "on the Club." Not that I am, but still . . .)

Saturday.—Got up late but felt pretty well all right. Suppose I'd better obey the doctor's orders and wait till I've seen her again on Wednesday. The Boss says it's all right and I'm not to rush back. I've been lucky all the winter. Mrs. Cambridge gave me a lift to town. She picked me up at two. Spent most of the time round secondhand bookstalls, and managed to get hold of a useful book on "Practical Mathematics," and two

new Penguins, one the scheme for a new international language, "Interglossa," by Lancelot Hogben, the other on "Britain B.C." by Winbolt, the man I went digging with on that Roman villa site in Sussex. Also got some fish, horsemeat for the animals, and a card of hairgrips for V. Very popular with everyone when I got home!

Sunday.—Lovely day. W. and A. cycled out for lunch, W. bringing a couple of books I'd asked for for the library. Both went home laden with primroses. Feel quite normal again now, and ready for work again; think I'll walk over to the doctor's house tomorrow instead of waiting three days.

WEDDING DRESSES ON LOAN

The Land Army, in common with Women's Auxiliary Services and the Nursing Service, has received a gift of 10 Wedding Dresses presented by certain Women's Clubs in the United States. Members who are getting married and wish to apply for the loan of one of these Dresses should write to their County Secretary asking for a form of application. The form must be filled in by the volunteer and returned to the County Office well in advance of the date of the wedding. It will then be forwarded to Headquarters and the applicant will be notified by Headquarters whether a dress is available. A hiring charge of 15s. is made to cover the cost of cleaning and despatch.

Members of the Land Army will be proud to hear that His Majesty the King has repeated the donation which he made last year to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.

The action of an American Unit stationed in Hertfordshire which organised a concert for the Benevolent Fund, is very welcome, not only for its fine cash result (over £56) but for the evidence it gives of what this ally thinks of the work of the Land Army. Thank you, Brother Sam!

E. Edgar, 55044 (Northumberland), has never been absent from work for sickness or any other reason (except legitimate leave) during nearly 2½ years.

An employer at the Essex Rally said that out of his 75 workers, 25 were members of the W.L.A. and four out of five of these had come as raw recruits; nevertheless production per head was higher than before the war.

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*At two Rest Break Houses—Above—On the terrace at Torquay—
Below— Relaxation at Llandudno.*



Warmest congratulations to Miss D. Kemp and N. Lewis two East Suffolk volunteers, who, with six other workers helped to rescue the crew of a U.S.A. bomber which had crashed in flames. "They took their lives in their hands" said a Rescue Officer. "The bomber was loaded with incendiaries and ammunition and was likely to go off at any minute."

At a Brains Trust Quiz at which the Land Army beat a Y.F.C. team, one young farmer was asked "What is a Ruminant?" Answer—"A cow with rheumatism."

K. M. Goldsworth, 73947 (Norfolk) suggests that if socks pull out on the edges turn them in about a quarter of an inch and neatly hem with W.L.A. darning wool.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I work on one of the largest market gardens in Somerset and in addition to all the routine work of tending and marketing tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuces and other vegetables I have many other occupations.

I meet the new girls at the station; one can always tell a trainee from an old hand—Land Army life soon gives them colour a sense of well-being, quickness and confidence. As I am the only girl here who has been to Italy I have to try and make our Italian prisoners understand what is required of them. Actually, Bill, our foreman, is far more successful with his last war French spoken with a broad Somerset accent.

I also cope with minor injuries, and though I have forgotten all my first aid I can at least see that there is plenty of iodine and Elastoplast for cuts and grazes and the heel and hand blisters of the trainees. All sorts of different people come here to work nowadays—Cockney evacuees with babies in arms or prams, soldiers, teachers on holiday, Air Force and many children from 8 to 14 years old. Recently I had charge of six boys aged 8 for three hours—a strenuous time was had by all, but we uprooted hundreds of weeds and stacked away hundreds of seed trays and plant pots.

Lately I had to instruct the British to sideshoot and twist tomato plants. Being gunners they were apt pupils. I think everyone must agree there is plenty of variety in the Land Army.
Somerset. A. Daubeney, 69735.

Dear Editor,

I have made myself some very simple hard-wearing shirts. I've spent the long winter evenings knitting them out of dish cloth yarn (of course unrationed) and find they wash very well indeed and in time come quite white. This saves on the W.L.A. issue. I thought you might pass it on.
Surrey. D. Hopperfield, 101744.

Dear Editor,

Recently we lost a horse at home which we had had for 18 years but which had to be destroyed owing to an injury although we did everything we could for a fortnight to save him.

His constant companion during his illness was Crystal my little bay mare. When Peter was taken away, Crystal kept on neighing for him and trying to get out to see if she could find him. During dinner

time the second day she came into the yard and on towards the stable. I followed her and she looked into each stall and, finding Peter absent, occupied his stall and began eating hay from his rack; she made no attempt to go into her stall which she had occupied continually for five years
Worcs.

E. Oakes, 34566.

STOP PRESS

The exhibition of entries in the Winter Competition opens at the New L.A. Club at 2, Chesham Street, London S.W.1., on June 14th.

Members of the W.L.A. were much in evidence at the very successful Rally of West Sussex Young Farmers' Clubs held at Arundel on May 20th. The Duke of Norfolk was Question Master of a Brains Trust which included such famous members as Sir Merrik Burrell, Chairman of W. Sussex W.A.E.C., and Mr. Haddon, Editor of "The Farmer and Stockbreeder." Stock judging, judging of Young Farmers' stock, interesting demonstrations of all sorts, speeches, raffles, side-shows, ponies and rabbits all combined to produce an occasion which no Young Farmer or his father, mother, elder brother or sister would like to miss. Congratulations to S. Whittle who won the prize for the most searching question one put to the Brains Trust.

BENEVOLENT FUND

On May 31st the Fund totalled £78,957 14s. 5d. The monthly total was £7,120 18s. 8d. KENT still has the highest total of £6,584 4s. 4d. and ESSEX the highest monthly total of £4,500.

The ESSEX total speaks for itself and is proof of the splendid success of their special effort. They achieved the target which they had set of £4,500 plus £500 for the County Welfare Fund.

Over £86 has already reached us from Church collections from various parts of the country on Rogation Day.

Dances and entertainments again provide most of the outstanding contributions from the counties. £150 of WORCS' total of £356 came from dances and socials and £145 from a competition. WARWICKS' total of £180 included £130 from the Alcester W.L.A. Club raised by a series of variety performances. £30 from the Banford Hostel Dance and £20 from a dance at the Leamington Club; E. SUSSEX' £111 contained £20 from the raffle of a piglet; £103 from STAFFS included £46 from a performance of "The Farmer's Wife" by the Lea Hall Hostel and £20 from the Rangemore Club Dance. Other good totals were LEICS £84, raised principally by two dances at Coalville (£30) and Oakham (£41); DEVON £107 of which £24 came from a dance at Honiton; HUNTS CAMBS and ELY £82; W. RIDING £76; E. SUFFOLK £73; DENBIGH £70 from two hostel dances at Ruthin and Denbigh; SALOP £68 including £25 from a dance at Ellesmere and £21 from the Uppington Club Dance; W. SUSSEX £65 of which the splendid sum of £53 was raised by a dance at Steyning; and NORFOLK and BEDS both £54. The Honiton Hostel KESTIVEN raised £35 by various entertainments and a dance at Alderton GLOS. brought in £27.

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SCOTTISH NOTES

ABERDEEN and ELLON.—Mrs. Simpson (W.L.A.) presented a "Victory Parcel" to Mr. A. R. Wannop, of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture, after he had presented armlets and badges to members of the L.A. at their concert in Old Meldrum. The girls worked hard to stage the concert which was for the dual purpose of aiding the Welfare and Benevolent Fund, and purchasing a piano.

ANGUS.—The latest contributions to the W.L.A. Welfare and Benevolent Fund are the proceeds of dances organised by the Inverkeilor Club and by the W.L.A. members employed at Forthill Dairy, Broughty Ferry. They are to be congratulated on their excellent effort. Volunteers employed at Craigeassie and Inshewan have just concluded a very successful and enjoyable Country Dancing Class. Those attending welcomed the opportunity of getting such excellent instruction in this pleasant pastime. The girls employed by Messrs. Bowie and Fraser, Trottick, raised £100 at a dance for the funds of the Dundee Royal Infirmary.

SOUTH AYR.—The W's.L.A. ran a "Country Market" in the L.G. Club Room at Ayr, on April 27th. It was opened by the Most Hon. Frances Marchioness of Ailsa, who spoke very highly of the good work being carried on by the L.G's. Miss Frood gave a vote of thanks to Lady Ailsa. The stalls were well stocked with farm produce, cut flowers, pot plants, baking and confectionery goods, and crafts and toys all of which found ready purchasers. Teas were also served. The crowd was large and the space small, but everyone was good natured about it. In the evening a display of Country Dancing was given by Mr. Findlay and a team of dancers from the Gaelic Society. £200 was raised for the Welfare and Benevolent Fund—a splendid result.

DUMFRIES-SHIRE.—Her Grace the Duchess of Buccleuch took the principal part in a pleasant little function in the County Hotel, Dumfries, when she presented armlets to four volunteers who have completed four years' service in the W's.L.A. A dance was held at Stroquhan Hostel, Dunscore, on April 29th, to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the hostel. Dancing was enjoyed by over 80 W.L.A. members and service friends. The birthday cake, kindly given by Mrs. MacDonald and Mrs. Thompson was cut by the oldest resident member, Susan Brown. Major Myrseth, Norwegian Army, was the lecturer at one of the series of weekly lectures at Milnhead W.L.A. Hostel. His address on Norway was much appreciated by all.

DUNBARTON and RENFREW.—The Kirkintilloch and District W.L.A. Club held a theatre night. 19 L.G's. had tea in Reid's and then went on to "Hit the Deck" at the Alhambra. Everybody seemed to enjoy the evening immensely.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—S.W.R.I. Federation invited volunteers to a very enjoyable party in Dumfries, when over 30 girls were presented with G.S. Badges by Lady Wallace, Terreglestown. There was a good attendance of the members of Castle Douglas Club at a lantern lecture on The Holy Land by the Rev. D. E. Auty which was very much appreciated. Members of the Beeswing district organised a dance in aid of Dumfries Infirmary, which realised £27. Congratulations to Jean Cleland, Terregles Street Hostel, Dumfries on her marriage to Sergt. Evan Wayse Burgess of the U.S. Army. The bride's fellow-members and the W.L.A. Committee attended the ceremony, and the Hostel Matron arranged a reception.

WEST LOTHIAN.—Miss Lai Po Kan, a charming and attractive Chinese lady, gave a most interesting talk on China at Foxhall Hostel, Kirkliston, on the 15th May. Miss Lai's vivid picture of agricultural work in that country left the L.G's. "counting their blessings." Most of them came away with a thirst for more knowledge of Chinese

life and Art, and a deep respect for the Chinese people in their long struggle against the Japanese. "Wee Jeannie"—a doll correctly dressed as a L.G. was won by J. MacDonald, Esq., of the D.O.A.S. The raffle, raised over £50 for the Welfare and Benevolent Fund.

PEEBLES.—Following the opening of the Salute the Soldier Campaign, members of the W's. L.A. made their way to the High School, where they awaited the arrival of Field Marshal Lord Birdwood, who presented the members with their G.S. Badges. Mrs. R. J. Thomson presided, and tea was served during the afternoon. While waiting the arrival of the visitors the girls gave an "impromptu concert," which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. About 40 girls received half diamonds and armlets and his Lordship had something to say to each one of them. Ruth and Joan Brooke have 4½ years' service to their credit.

WELFARE and BENEVOLENT FUND.—Every day brings donations from loyal supporters, the largest single contribution received to date is from South Ayrshire, with the handsome sum of £200, proceeds of their Country Market. North Ayrshire sent a cheque for £120, proceeds of various dances, etc., and Wigtownshire £104 2s. 1d. East Fife still hold first place and added to their already magnificent total by sending a cheque for £93 5s. 10d. making their average per member £1 15s. 5d. Other Counties with over £1 average are Banffshire—£1 10s. 8d., Kincardineshire—£1 9s., Alford and Deeside—£1 8s. 2d., Stirling and Clackmannan—£1 3s. 6d.

THE LAND AND LIFE, by Montague Fordham. (Rural Reconstruction Association, 4s.)

This is a book to read even if you don't intend to stay on the land or in the country after the war; if you do, it is a book to buy, study and keep.

I started off by marking things to quote, till I found I was marking half the book, a spontaneous tribute to the wealth of interesting informative and stimulating material packed into the 80 odd pages. Mr. Fordham deals with every problem that worries those who are concerned for the future of agriculture in this country—wages, prices, distribution, cultural facilities, the drift from country to town, maintenance of soil fertility, finance, education, and housing among them. Mr. Fordham is a countryman himself, son of a farmer and brought up to agriculture so that his views carry weight often lacking in those who devise pipe-dream schemes bearing little relation to facts. Not only has he been a farmer, but he has had practical experience of all sorts of experiments in rural life. In short, he knows what he is talking about, and even when one finds oneself unable to agree with him on every point (and I for one wonder whether he is right in ascribing the efficiency of Danish farming to the fixed price system rather than to co-operation), his views are worth attention and respect.

I must quote one bit as specimen of his attitude, particularly as it strikes the realist keynote of the whole book :

"In few occupations is a man's work more nearly his whole life than in agriculture. Work and leisure are not sharply divided or opposing elements. . . Country-mindedness—'objective vision' or 'direct prescience' as it is sometimes called leads to seeing things as they are. It is a form of intelligence that does not lead to intellectualism and thinking in terms of abstractions; it leads to realism and constructive thinking. In agriculture skill at work involves so much more than fulfilling adequately a specified working day."

Mr. Fordham's approach to the whole question of the land and life is in that atmosphere; if that's how you feel about it get hold of this book.

E.M.B.

THE LAND GIRL ESSEX RALLY



Lady Denman receiving the £5,000 cheque from Miss Tritton, County Chairman.

On May 6th Essex W.L.A. attained their great ambition when Miss Tritton County Chairman presented Lady Denman with a cheque for £5,000 for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and County Welfare Fund.

The target was "set" on Dec. 1st, 1943 and thanks to the united efforts of the County Committee, District representatives, employers, Hostel Supervisors and above all volunteers themselves, the target was reached on the evening of May 5th.

The Rally was held at Dunmow when 300 Volunteers marched to the "Downs" headed by the scarlet coated Drums and Pipes of the Chelmsford Grammar School Cadet Corps and led by Eva King (4 year Volunteer) carrying our new green and gold W.L.A. standard. Maud May (2 year volunteer) and Joan Jagger (new trainee) being the other members of the "Colour party." Here Lady Denman, Mrs. Pyke (editor of the "Land Girl") County Committee, Staff and guests awaited the volunteers who marched past and then formed up in front of the W.A.E.C. District Office from the balcony of which Lady Denman spoke. After the presentation of the cheque Lady Denman expressed her great appreciation of the splendid contribution made by Essex towards the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, praised the work that had been done by the W.L.A. and expressed the belief that they would continue to earn the great trust placed in them by the country. Short speeches followed by Mr. Hollis-Clayton (Chairman of the Essex Farmers Union) Mr. Soper of Harlow (employer of 25 Volunteers) Mr. Sadler (Executive Office of the W.A.E.C.) and Capt. Brunzell, U.S. Army. All paid tribute to the part played by the W.L.A. in our united war effort but warned us that there was still much hard work to be done before we dared to hope for final victory. After accepting a bouquet from Annie Spendlove (Leader, Mark Hall Hostel), Lady Denman presented 17 Volunteers with their four year Arm bands and 22 Volunteers with proficiency badges and certificates. This was followed by the presentation of the Inter Hostel First Aid silver Challenge Cup to E. V. Parker on behalf of Butlers Hostel Broomfield (10 Hostels competed). After the outdoor ceremony the Volunteers

marched to the Foakes Memorial Hall for tea. Miss Ursula Nettleship then conducted the singing of "Land of Hope and Glory" and "Jerusalem." The proceedings closed with K. Marshall thanking Lady Denman on behalf of the Volunteers and Eva King expressing the regret of the Essex W.L.A. at the resignation of Miss Tritton and Mrs. Solly-Flood.

COUNTY NEWS

BERKS.—A series of fortnightly Instructional Classes is being held in the County to enable volunteers who may wish to take the Proficiency Test in outdoor garden and glasshouse work to reach the test standard. Miss Chown, Assistant Horticultural Instructress of Reading University, has taken all the classes so far and her help has been invaluable. The first meeting of the Forewomen and Chargehands Guild was held at the County Office on May 6th and was well attended. Members of the Guild held a useful discussion and were entertained to tea afterwards by the County Chairman and the Administrative Staff. The second Annual Conference of Representatives was held at the Great Western Hotel, Reading, on May 22nd, and was a great success, most villages in the county being represented. Mrs. Howard Palmer presided and an interesting and helpful talk was given by Miss Walton (Regional Organiser). A farewell party was held in the County Office on May 26th, when Committee Members, Office Staff and some of the oldest Berkshire Volunteers met to show their appreciation of all Mrs. May has done during her five years' service as County Secretary. Miss Rogers, formerly Assistant Secretary for Warwickshire, who was appointed to succeed Mrs. May, took up her new duties on June 1st.

BUCKS.—Ten girls took part in a Ploughing Match on April 15th arranged jointly by the W.A.E.C. and W.L.A., when Messrs. J. Harvey, N. Jerrams and W. G. Sharp very kindly acted as judges and expressed great satisfaction with the work done. A silver cup, given by Miss I. Stevens, was awarded to D. Burchett, of the

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W.A.E.C.'s Buckingham Depot, Mrs. Mack, Wing Depot and B. Eggleshaw, Winslow Depot, being 2nd. and 3rd. respectively. Proficiency Tests in horticulture were held in the gardens at Waddesdon by kind permission of J. de Rothschild, Esq., Messrs. G. S. Johnson and C. S. Moore being the judges. Out of 7 successful candidates 2 gained distinction. Volunteers are taking part in "Salute the Soldier" celebrations throughout the County, and in Winslow the week's festivities concluded with a grand dance, organised by the girls and staff of the W.L.A. Hostel, at which the result of the Town's efforts was announced. This hostel also entertained to tea the Band of the Royal Horse Guards before a performance given in the Town. Congratulations to I. Wilby on her success in winning the silver cup in a Shorthorn Judging Contest at Hambleton, organised by Y.F.C.'s. in Berks., Bucks and Oxon. Coming straight to farm life from a Yorkshire woollen mill only 9 months ago, Miss Wilby's performance was quite outstanding and she lost only 2 points out of 160.

CHESHIRE.—Beeston Castle Y.F.C. have welcomed W.L.A. members to their meetings. Chester and District Y.F.C. extended an invitation to W.L.A. members to attend their film show at Central Hall, Chester. Dances have been arranged successfully by Pulford, Bramhall, and Frodsham Clubs. The stall at Messrs. Browns in aid of the County Welfare Fund was a great success, and we are grateful to all the volunteers who made such attractive articles for sale. The Chester Club invited members of the United Nations Club to a C.E.M.A. entertainment, when a programme by Miss Constance Carrodus made the evening pass all too quickly. Next month, Chester Club are holding a Bring and Buy Sale in the Bishop's Garden, on 17th June. One Chester volunteer spent her 21st birthday at the Rest Break House at Llandudno—a birthday party was arranged for her by the Warden. We are having enthusiastic reports from volunteers who have been fortunate enough to spend a short time at Llandudno. Romily Club are holding monthly meetings during the summer. Three of their members have married during the month. Miss Bolton married a local farmer and the club members formed a guard of honour. Over £90 has been raised for charities by this club during the year.

CORNWALL.—Subscriptions and proceeds of dances, whist-drives, etc., are coming in well for the Benevolent Fund, but our ambitious target of £1,000 seems decidedly round the corner and out of sight at present. Keen interest is still being shown in the Proficiency Tests. Since our last notes, there have been 51 successful candidates in Milking and Dairy work (19 with Distinction), four in Outdoor Garden and Glasshouse work (one with Distinction), and three in Field Work; the opportunity of entering will come to all volunteers in time. We are glad the L.G.'s. working at our 'outpost' in the Scillies had their chance of entering last month when Tests were held on Tresco. A hostel has been opened recently at a small house in Helston, and the 10 girls who are accommodated there are already happily settled in and like their new home. Training in Milking and dairy work is now in full swing at the Duchy Farm, Stokeclimsland. It has been encouraging to see a number of volunteers turning up at recent meetings of the Women's Farm and Garden Association, which is a flourishing concern in Cornwall and well worth attention. Two new County Organisers have been welcomed to the staff recently, Mrs. Gifford, who lives at Menheniot and will work in the N. and E. of the County, and Miss N. Williams, who lives in Penzance and will deal with problems in that area.

CUM. & WES.—Our first four girls have returned from the Llandudno Rest Break House with glowing accounts of the lovely time they have spent there and are most appreciative of the kindness of the staff. Many congratulations to the Forewomen and Chargehands of the Westmorland hostels who passed the Proficiency Test in

Field Work recently with flying colours. Out of eight passes, five obtained distinction. A branch of the Women's Farm and Garden Association has been formed amongst L.A. members near Carlisle, with Miss L. Fenn as Secretary. For their June meeting they have planned an excursion into Scotland to visit the garden at Kinmount. We have been able to open an office at Kendal in a most convenient position in the Market Place. The County Organiser for South Westmorland is there on Mondays and Saturdays to meet volunteers and employers. Judging from the number of callers she has had, already, it is certainly justifying its existence. Two or three members in the Dalston area have joined the Home Guard. There are probably others, but we have not heard of them. Since March, we have received £28 16s. for the Benevolent Fund, £77 19s. for the Welfare Fund from hostels and various individuals.

DERBYS.—Dismay and concern were felt by all connected with the Derbyshire W.L.A. when it became known at the end of April that Miss Fryer, our Secretary for 3½ years, had been obliged to retire owing to ill-health. We wish her a speedy recovery and offer her our grateful thanks for her untiring efforts on our behalf during her term of office. We welcome Miss Clarke as our new Secretary and wish her a happy and successful term of office.

Two Proficiency Tests in Horticulture have taken place. In the first test 5 out of 5 passed; in the second 7 out of 8. Dances have been organised in aid of the Benevolent Fund at Sheffield and Bower Hill, and cheques received from the Ilkeston branch of the N.F.U. and the Chapel-en-le-Frith Hostel, the latter being the contents of their collecting tin. M. Porter, 136624, and K. Pickering, 136623, were chosen to go to London to see the presentation of second prize to the Clowne and District Y.F. Club, of which they are both Committee members. The prize was awarded for the best organised club in Britain.

DENBIGH.—Last month we held our first meeting of Club Leaders, Wardens and Committee Members at the Queens Hotel Chester, for the presentation of a silver cup given by Miss Jagger for the best Club programme. The Cup is to be competed for every six months and cannot be won outright. The Llangollen Club was voted the winner. Mrs. Wynne Finch our Chairman presented the Cup, and an interesting discussion followed; Miss Jagger and Mrs. Wynne Finch then gave the party a most enjoyable tea. We are looking forward to our next meeting. The Denbigh and Ruthin Hostels have both held most successful dances, and have divided the proceeds between the Benevolent Fund and local Charities. Ruthin sent £40 and Denbigh £30. We have joined in most "Salute the Soldier" Parades. The Home Guard and the Army have taken great trouble in drilling us. In one parade the turn out was so smart that we had the honour of leading the parade on the return march. The Ruthin Hostel and local girls again challenged the Munition Workers at football. After a very exciting game the Munition Workers won 2 to 1. Two afternoons of Proficiency Tests have been held and the results have been very gratifying, as the standard has been high.

DEVON.—Since these notes last appeared Proficiency Tests have been held in Horticulture at University College, Exeter (9 passes), Tractor Driving at Exeter and Honiton (6 passes) and Field Work at Tiverton and Crediton (3 Distinctions, 13 passes out of 24 entrants) Congratulations to D. Elliot, J. Hammond and E. Scott of Tiverton Hostel who did so well. The last of a series of Milking and Dairy tests were held at Tiverton (3 passes), Kingsbridge (7 passes) and Holsworthy (1 Distinction, 4 passes). Congratulations to T. Valentine. Most successful parties have been held at several hostels, including Fairfield House, Honiton, which celebrated its first birthday with a Games evening to which were invited members of the R.A.F., N.F.S. and U.S. Army. Another was held at

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Durham Volunteers at a Handicrafts Exhibition.

Tiverton when a presentation was made to Mrs. Hamilton on her retirement from the post of Supervisor. We were lucky to have the help of Mr. Colin Ross, Executive Officer of the Devon W.A.C. and several other well known men at two very successful Brains Trusts held at Honiton and Whimple. Congratulations to the six Woodbury L.G's. who won the Agricultural and General Knowledge Bee against two teams of Y.F.C. members. These were held at the Village Hall during Salute the Soldier Week, and as they had to compete before a large audience, it was a most creditable effort. We hope to open Club rooms at 18, Devon Square, Newton Abbot, on Sunday afternoons from 3.0 - 7.30 p.m. from the 4th June. Teas will be obtainable and girls may bring their men friends. We are also very glad to hear in the Office that in many districts now, L.G's are attending by invitation meetings of Young Farmers' Clubs. We hope many others make enquiries as to whether any meetings are being held within reach of them.

DORSET.—Congratulations to the 90 girls who have passed their Proficiency Tests, 24 with distinction, and special congratulations to Miss K. Purkiss on her 99 per cent. in the Tractor Driving Test. 41 Four-Year Armlets have been presented in the County. The W.A.E.C. have opened a Dairying Training Centre for W.L.A. at Horn Park. As a result of the Leap Year Day Dance in Dorchester, we were able to send £210 15s. 7d. to the Benevolent Fund. Another successful dance was held at Sherborne on April 20th, and a substantial sum was sent to the Benevolent Fund. A Pest Destruction Party was held in Dorchester, at which Mrs. Aston presented a silver cup to the best all-round rat-catcher for the year. This was won by Miss A. E. Hunt. The runner-up, Miss L. E. Chambers, was given a prize. We are proud to see a Dorset member—Miss B. Puzey—has done the "hat-trick" and won prizes in three winter competitions in the LAND GIRL. Rogation and Farm Sunday services were attended by large numbers; in one church the lesson was read by a W.L.A. member. We are in the throes of "Salute the Soldier" week throughout the County, and wherever the W.L.A. have appeared in processions, they have been congratulated on their smart appearance.

DURHAM.—The new County offices in the Cathedral Close were opened by the Hon. Mrs. Alington, on Saturday, May 13th; and Lady Starmer, County Chairman, gave a most delightful party. Among the guests were the ten winners in the Essay Competition, and other Volunteers who kindly helped with the tea, etc. Sir Frank Nicholson, Chairman of D.W.A.E.C., presented the prizes. Eva Twitchett, 65617, Wolsingham

Hostel, and Ruth Ronaldson, 64132, Wolviston Hostel, took first place, dividing the first and second prizes; the third went to Joyce Clark, Darlington Hostel, and these three Hostels also received a prize. Volunteers are taking part in the "Salute the Soldier" Parades throughout the County, and Darlington were particularly happy in staging a tableau which was much approved.

The Benevolent Fund received a generous donation of £20 from Mr. and Mrs. Trevor Green-shields, Warden Law, who kindly arranged the sale of a Guernsey heifer, dividing the proceeds between the Benevolent Fund and Agricultural Red Cross.

It is hoped to arrange special efforts in aid of the Benevolent Fund from June 15th to July 15th.

ESSEX.—We know that all Volunteers will learn with deep regret of the retirement of Miss Tritton from the County Chairmanship of the Essex W.L.A. For five years she has given devoted service to the W.L.A. and has been the promoter of all our Welfare schemes and a very real friend to every Volunteer in Essex. Owing to family reasons both she and Mrs. Solly Flood, County Secretary have been obliged to resign,—their successors have not yet been appointed.

Since our last "News" we have opened two new Hostels. Great Codham Hall accommodating 34 Vols. and Park House Bradwell with 26 Vols. These Hostels are within four miles of Braintree and have been opened to accommodate the Vols. who were previously in Braintree billets. We now have 35 Hostels. We have now completed three series of Proficiency Tests including milking and dairy work, field work, glasshouse and market gardening, tractor work, fruit growing, Poultry and in May nine Volunteers passed in Pest Destruction at a test held by Mr. Ashton from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A forewoman's course was held from May 8th - 13th when ten selected leaders attended the Institute at Writtle and much enjoyed their brief tuition.

FLINTS.—Early in the year the sixteen members of the W's.L.A. from Carmel Hostel raised £16 for the Benevolent Fund, proceeds from dance given in local Assembly Rooms at Holywell. A very good effort from this district where the difficulties of raising money are great. Since Queensbridge Hostel opened in June 1943, £300 has been raised for various charities, £60 of this amount was given to the Benevolent Fund and Welfare Fund. Miss E. McLaughlin, 109321 working on a farm in the isolated Maelor area has raised the sum of £10 12s. 9d. by a dance got up by her sole efforts. Since Rhuddlan Hostel opened in May 1942 the girls have raised £155 towards W.L.A. funds. Six members of the L.A. billeted at the Manor, Sandycroft are members of the local

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R.A.F. choir. A few weeks ago they rendered Steiner's Crucifixion in Harwarden Parish Church.

HEREFORD.—Most of the Clubs are now either closing down or meeting less frequently for the summer months. The winter season has been rounded off by a series of Socials, organised and run by the girls themselves. It is hoped during the summer to hold open-air meetings, and have picnics and cricket matches. A friendly rivalry between the Young Farmers' and the W.L.A. Clubs has arisen, and in some areas, challenges to Agricultural Bees and Brains Trusts are being issued. Hostels and Clubs have lately enjoyed tours given by C.E.M.A., the Adelphi Players and E.N.S.A. Bromyard, Ledbury and Leominster Clubs have run successful Whist Drives, and further entertainments of varying kinds are being arranged for the near future. The first series of Proficiency Tests have now been completed. There were 45 entrants, of these 28 passed, 7 with honours. A further series is to be held in the autumn.

HERTS.—Various changes have taken place in the County Office in the last two months and our good wishes go with Miss Clarke, our Assistant Secretary, who took up the post of County Secretary in Derbyshire on May 8th. Mrs. Maund has joined us as Assistant Secretary in her place, and Miss Gribble, who has been working in Essex, has come to us as a County Organiser.

We have closed Holmes Hill and Hawkwell and The Croft hostels and volunteers are busy settling down in their new homes. Our second Milking and Dairy Proficiency Tests were held at Oaklands on May 23rd, and the finals of the County Milking Competition at Mr. Hedley Morgan's farm on May 30th. Mr. Hedley Morgan is one of our staunchest supporters and helpers and he and Miss Peacock, the Dairy Instructress at Oaklands, take a personal pride in the W.L.A. milkers in the county. Social activities continue in all the hostels. The Lord Mayor of St. Albans accepted an invitation to dinner from the Warden of Bleak House and spent a happy evening with the volunteers. Clubs are proving of real value to the volunteers who are interested in them. Walnut Tree House volunteers undertake mending for the soldiers on the Searchlight Station near the hostel and in return for this kindness share in the admirable film shows organised for this isolated unit by the Y.M.C.A. Finally, our congratulations to Betty Ladler, 44054, who has had her pen and wash drawing "Saloon Bar" accepted by the Royal Academy.

HOLLAND LINCS.—Congratulations to all who have passed their Proficiency Tests in Field Work, Milking and Dairy and Fruit Work. The Field Work results were particularly good as ten out of 27 entrants gained distinctions, the top marks being: M. Booth, 99 per cent., M. Dobson 98 per cent., and E. Madeley 97 per cent. The Proficiency Test in Outdoor Garden and Glass-house Work is being held on the 31st May. Excellent arrangements were made for these Tests, the Field Work being held at Mr. Jack Proctor's farm in Gosberton and the Fruit Work at Mr. Robin Proctor's Orchard, Long Sutton.

Miss Lloyd, housekeeper at Major's Farm, Holbeach Marsh, made a delicious Easter cake weighing 8lbs., which was raffled in aid of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, and brought in £25 thanks to the selling powers of the girls at Major's Farm.

On Farm Sunday, May 14th, members of the L.A. attended their nearest Parish Church or Chapel in this County. The W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and Red Cross Agriculture Fund benefited from the collections at several of the churches—over £15 has so far been sent in. At Wrangle Wesleyan Chapel, the L.G's. billeted at Wrangle Hall, took the service, including reading the prayers and lessons, composing the choir and singing the anthem. D. Waite sang the solo and the collection was shared between the Red Cross and our Benevolent Fund.

HUNTS. CAMBS. and ELY.—14 girls gained Distinction and 23 passed at the G.F. and Field

Work Tests held at Whittlesey on April 13th. Of those taking the Milking and Dairy Tests, 2 gained Distinction and 6 passed. The percentage of girls gaining Distinction in all the Tests in the three counties has been extraordinarily high and we are very proud of our volunteers. In all, 100 girls entered for the various tests and 99 passed. Can any county beat 99 per cent. passes? We are now busy arranging the second series of Tests, in co-operation with the W.A.E.C's who have been very helpful and allowed us to use their farms. Further "Christmas" Dinners were held at Ely, Whittlesey and Wisbech and the Benevolent Fund benefited from Dances held after the dinners. The County Office has also run a very successful dance at Cambridge in aid of the Fund and raised the sum of £71. Mrs. Haughton, D.R. for Haddenham (Ely) worked exceedingly hard and sent us £46 which she had raised by means of a dance. There has also been a giant parade at Cambridge in which the girls took part; also other parades at Wisbech and Ely. Major and Mrs. Lee Warner of Wimpole Lodge have very kindly placed their tennis court and swimming pool at the disposal of the L.A. in that area. Their offer is very greatly appreciated.

E. KENT.—Proficiency Tests continue to take pride of place in our news. The hand-milking, machine milking, poultry and tractor tests have been held and we congratulate the 25 successful candidates, all of whom we hope will be able to attend when Lady Violet Astor presents the badges on June 17th in Canterbury. Special congratulations to B. Missing and K. Allighan on passing with distinction in the milking tests, and to B. Mitchell on being the only candidate in Kent to pass the very stiff tractor test. Our club meetings close down now for the three summer months. Most successful entertainments marked the last meetings at the Sittingbourne and Ash centres, when much hitherto hidden W.L.A. talent was revealed. Dr. Roberts' excellent lectures on "Sex and Marriage" have been well attended and much appreciated. The courses for forewomen re-opened at Friningham on April 24th, E. Beaumont, M. Jeal and L. Tumber attending from East Kent. A further six-weeks course will start in June. Eleven volunteers have enjoyed visits to the Rest Break Houses in May and have returned refreshed and enthusiastic. Everyone will be sorry to hear that Miss Cochran, the popular head of our uniform department, is leaving us this month. All our good wishes go with her.

W. KENT.—May 14th being "Farm Sunday" over 200 volunteers attended a Church Parade at Holy Trinity, Tunbridge Wells. A charming friendly address was given by the Vicar, the Rev. H. W. Thomas, and the lessons were read by a well known farmer, Mr. R. Wickham. Each girl was presented by the Vicar with a little copy of the Gospel of St. John bearing the W.L.A. symbol on the cover. The collection was given to the Welfare Fund. Over 50 L.G's. attended a very interesting lecture on Social Hygiene by Mrs. Podger in Maidstone on April 20th. Proficiency Tests in Hand and Machine Milking, Poultry, General Farm work and Pest Destruction, have been held during the last two months, a good proportion of the entrants passed, several gaining Distinctions. W. Kent has been honoured by a visit from Mrs. Jenkins, Assistant Director of the W.L.A., who spent an afternoon in the office visiting the different departments and giving great pleasure to all the staff by her interest and encouragement. Next day she attended the County Committee at Maidstone when her presence and help over various knotty points was greatly appreciated. On Empire Day some of our best known Farmers arranged a "Brains Trust" for the L.A. The meeting was a great success under a very able Question Master, Mr. Harling. Mr. F. Scott, Chairman of the Kent branch of the N.F.U. made a charming little speech saying how much he had been struck by the intelligence of many girls when properly instructed, and thanking them for all their good work.

THE LAND GIRL

LANCS.—We heartily welcome Mrs. Walkden to the County Staff on her appointment as County Organiser for South East Lancashire. Mrs. Walkden has been a member of the County Committee since September 1939, and is already well known to many of the volunteers employed in the area in which she is working. Proficiency Tests have been held in all parts of the County. 69 volunteers have taken their tests, 55 have passed, and 14 have gained distinction. We are very grateful to Colonel Bell, Lord Richard Cavendish, Dr. Henderson, Mr. A. Pickles, and the Principal of the Lancashire Institute of Agriculture for allowing the tests in milking, dairy and general farm work to be held on their farms, and to the Superintendents of the Parks in Bolton, Blackburn, Great Crosby and Preston for arranging Horticultural Tests. We also wish to thank the judges who have given up so much of their valuable time on our behalf. With a view to brightening the interior of the three hostels, Mr. Paviere, the Director of the Preston Art Gallery, was asked whether he could lend any pictures, and the Committee most kindly gave their consent for all three hostels to be supplied with framed coloured prints and engravings. During the winter the Benevolent Fund benefited considerably from dances, social evenings, concerts, etc. The best dances were: Mellor and Salesbury £57 12s.; Salesbury £36; Brindle £20; Sparkbridge £24 and Ulverston £20.

LEICS. and RUT.—It was our privilege to have a visit from Headquarters on April 26th when Mrs. Jenkins and Area Organisers were in Leicester; after a meeting in the City we were pleased to welcome them to the local offices of the W.L.A. when they were conducted around the house which has been requisitioned for us. The new offices, we hope, will be ready for us towards the end of June.

Proficiency Tests in Tractor Driving, Machine and Hand Milking, Field Work, General Farm, and gardening have taken place in this County during March and April in the Leicester, Melton Mowbray, Ashby, Loughborough, Market Harborough, Market Bosworth and Lutterworth districts. 118 girls have been passed by the Judges, 41 of these having gained distinction. Three Leicestershire L.Gs also entered for the Pest Test held in Suffolk and gained two distinctions and one pass. The Rutland Tests are now in progress. On Farm Sunday, May 14th, the girls attended Church Services held in both Counties and Parades were organised the following week-end in several districts to give impetus to the "Salute the Soldier Week."

LINDSEY-LINCS.—Several of our Hostels have been celebrating their second birthday. Waltham and Carrington had most enjoyable parties. Wainfleet had a dinner, a M.O.I. Film and a dance, and 13 volunteers who have been at Wainfleet Hostel since the beginning were presented with their Two-Year Armlets.

New Leake Hostel volunteers have been very busy turning untidy quarry land at the back of the hostel into a garden.

The Proficiency Tests in milking and general farm work were held on Mr. C. Dickinson's farm at Brampton on March 23rd. This afternoon whilst of a businesslike nature had a most delightful side, as Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson gave all the candidates, judges, Committee Members and County Officers, a most sumptuous tea. We congratulate J. O. Yeates, and W. O. Sanders on gaining their Proficiency Badges for milking, and Mrs. A. Trafford for G.F. Work. Tests in Tractor Driving and Field Work are taking place in the very near future. Our Clubs have been meeting regularly, and having useful lessons in Patching and Make and Mend and also a Tailoring Demonstration. The Scattered Club has also raised £4 15s. and the Walesby Club £6 by socials for the Benevolent Fund. The Lindsey total is £573. Congratulations to E. Mardell who has received a £5 bonus from her employer as a recognition of her excellent shepherding work. She has been most successful with the lambing.

Congratulations to Bingley and Shipley Area (Yorks W.R.) which has raised over £1 a head by dances for the Benevolent Fund.

County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Kent ..	6584	4	4	4005
Essex ..	5171	15	7	3552
West Riding ..	942	9	10	2741
Surrey ..	1508	16	5	2287
Hampshire ..	1985	0	7	2110
Leics. 1792 } Rut. 272 }	1451	17	11	2064
Hertford ..	3703	8	11	2051
East Sussex ..	1335	19	6	2004
Worcester ..	1564	18	2	1951
Northants ..	1972	7	0	1815
Buckingham ..	4102	18	10	1783
Somerset ..	1256	1	2	1730
Warwick ..	2408	16	3	1682
Devon ..	2572	5	4	1654
West Sussex ..	1984	1	5	1620
Norfolk ..	2066	6	8	1596
Cheshire ..	1477	12	11	1529
Lancashire ..	814	10	2	1466
Wiltshire ..	538	10	8	1466
Cornwall ..	279	17	9	1312
Northumberland	1237	4	3	1350
North Riding ..	401	12	8	1312
Nottingham ..	411	17	0	1244
Gloucester ..	1641	3	0	1236
Berkshire ..	1248	1	5	1177
Hunts. 308 } Cambs. 529 } Ely 321 }	824	10	0	1158
Durham ..	302	9	7	1123
Oxford ..	665	5	0	1106
East Suffolk ..	1330	7	5	1089
East Riding ..	152	14	0	1003
Bedfordshire ..	658	10	11	999
Salop ..	973	1	10	994
Cumbs. & Westd.	421	11	1	912
Lincs—Kesteven	649	10	6	884
Dorset ..	836	1	10	829
Stafford ..	512	8	5	775
Lincs—Lindsey	572	11	11	717
Glamorgan ..	614	8	10	687
Monmouth ..	572	19	1	628
Hereford ..	934	13	1	625
West Suffolk ..	1270	13	7	621
Lincs—Holland	674	0	0	597
Denbigh ..	420	7	11	590
London & Middx.	677	1	8	583
Flintshire ..	385	15	4	581
Derby ..	693	10	10	579
North Wales ..	1122	0	9	541
Pembroke ..	639	15	8	407
Cards. & Carms.	532	9	11	359
Isle of Wight ..	101	0	6	343
Brecon & Radnor	274	0	6	297
Montgomery ..	289	3	4	235
Timber Corps ..	1151	14	7	3565

On May 31st there were 69,482 volunteers in employment.

"THE LAND GIRL"

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