



No. 12, Volume 3

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THE MEANING OF MOBILITY

VOLUNTEERS who join the Land Army undertake to be fully mobile—that is, they promise to go wherever they may be sent and if they are not able to make this promise they are not accepted for service in the Land Army. Naturally this cannot always work out fairly to the individual and, also naturally, she sometimes feels that if she has worked well far from home she has a claim to be transferred back if a vacancy arises. But this is just one of the many cases in which personal wishes and the common good do not coincide. Since a very large proportion of our population lives in urban areas and the work of the Land Army is needed in rural areas, it is obvious that the vast majority of the Land Army cannot be employed near home; indeed, its value lies in the fact that its members can be used wherever they are most needed to produce the nation's food and everything else must give way to this all important job. We should be very much surprised if a sailor asked the Admiralty to transfer him to the North Sea because he was tired of the Mediterranean and wanted to be near his home on the East coast. We ought not to be any less willing than the Navy to go where we are needed.

And what about the employer's point of view? He has accepted, perhaps against his will, a volunteer from another county, has trained her and learnt to rely upon her as a real help. If she goes back to her own county, he must start all over again with a new volunteer and that won't help him or the job or the credit of the Land Army.

Volunteers who work well and cheerfully, however far from home they may be, are doing a better job than many of them know. There is still a great deal of local prejudice in many parts of the country and strangers from other counties are regarded as "foreigners." When a "foreign" volunteer turns out a success, not only does she bring the Land Army credit but her farmer and his neighbours learn that perhaps after all other counties aren't quite so different from their own. In her own small way, that Land Girl has contributed to the understanding and appreciation of others which are our chief hope for a peaceful world in the years to come.

M. A. P.

DEHYDRATION

BY speeding the ploughs of Great Britain ships are released for troops, and no one knows this better than the members of the W.L.A. But not everyone knows that before the war 3,000,000 tons of water were shipped annually to Great Britain in imported foods, because most of the major food-stuffs consist so largely of water. For this reason the dehydration of essential food imports to-day is also freeing ships for military action.

An Ancient Practice

The process of drying food is not new. The Ancient Egyptians practised it 5,000 years ago when they threaded figs and dates on strings and dried them in the sun, much in the same way as they do to-day for sale in the markets of Cairo. They realised that food was thus preserved, as did the American Indians who dried vegetables in the sun, and meat like the "pemmican" mentioned in so many adventure stories. They also used the heat from fires for this purpose, even before the white man "discovered" their Continent. Meat is still sun dried by natives in Africa and the sun drying of fruit is a considerable industry in California, the Mediterranean countries and Australia. But this process relies on an ideal climate.

In England and Europe, where the climate is not so "ideal," experiments were made in the 18th century in artificially drying foods, that is "evaporating" or "dehydrating" them.

In 1772 Capt. Cook took with him on his voyage round the world some "portable soup", which was compressed by boiling until it turned to glue! Vegetables were dehydrated for use in armies and navies during the Crimean, American Civil and Boer wars, and in the last world war, but although they tasted better than glue they were not pleasant to eat and certainly did not keep their vitamin C which we know is essential to a healthy diet.

Vitamins—and Hot Air

Thanks to research conducted before this war, modern methods not only achieve preservation and concentration, but also maintain the vitamin value of dehydrated foods; they too, can be made into an attractive dish, looking and tasting like the cooked fresh product. This is largely because of the discovery that blanching, or scalding foods in boiling water or steam before they are dehy-

drated kills the destructive agents which are responsible for its deterioration in colour, flavour and food value. Earlier experimenters believed they were killed when the water was removed, which in fact merely laid low the spoilers until the water was added for cooking, when they again got busy with their destruction. The preservation of dehydrated food can now be maintained so long as it is appropriately packed and kept in dry and suitable conditions.

The principle of evaporation and dehydration is drying by hot air, the temperature and circulation of which are controlled. Various processes are used for which different plant is needed. Products such as vegetables can be placed on trays in cabinet-driers through which hot air is fanned, or in tunnel-driers through which the product is moved in a conveyor belt while being subjected to blasts of heated air. Powders such as egg and milk can be dried by being sprayed into heated rooms where the moisture is evaporated and the powder drops into a moving conveyor; or by being sprayed on to steam-heated rollers from which the rapidly dried thin layer is removed by a mechanical scraper.

And the Result

It is safe to say that if ships are laden with dehydrated foods instead of fresh, four in five can be saved. Dried vegetables reduce roughly to one-fifth of their bulk. Meat must be ground to small particles for dehydration, and therefore can only be served afterwards as mince, but it keeps its nourishment, weighs only a quarter as much as the raw product and takes only half the space. Dried eggs pack into one-sixth of the space needed for the same quantity of the fresh product; even more striking is the fact that when only 80,000 tons of shipping space have been allocated to the importation of dried eggs, 2,100,000 tons would have been needed to bring enough feeding stuffs for poultry farmers to produce the same quantity of shell eggs. A fresh egg weighs about 2 ozs., and its equivalent in dried egg $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.: think of the weight to be saved in 1943 when Canada alone can supply dried egg equalling nearly 800,000,000 eggs. Milk is another effectively dried product; 5 tablespoonsful of household powdered milk (about 2 ozs.) makes a pint of liquid milk which weighs over 1½ lb.

Dehydration enables a variety of foods

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to reach the fighting forces and the troops in desert battlefields to get the nourishment of fresh green vegetables. Considerable supplies of dried vegetables are already sent from pilot plants operating in Britain.

The Ministry of Food has announced its programme of constructing 15 new plants, which will come into operation for the summer crops of green vegetables.

In the Cotswolds

A typical January day of fog and snow did not help to lighten our usual early morning gloom as the lorry climbed higher and higher into the Cotswold Hills. Arrived at our destination, the three of us clambered out, and, muffled to the eyes in scarves, made our way across the field where we were to spread manure. The small heaps seemed to stretch out endlessly and already we were numbed with the cold, but knowing from experience that the quickest way to get warm is to start work, we quickly had a good show of manure darkly scattered over the snow. Sleet and rain were falling and very soon our gloves and hoods were soaked. The carter trudged down the field carefully leading his horse over the frozen ground. With sacks around his shoulders and waist, and his head bent to the storm, he reminded us of an Ancient Briton.

We worked on, each of us, I think, waiting for the others to voice the opinion that the conditions were becoming too bad. At last we could hardly see in the blinding sleet, and we made our way up to the farm where the farmer suggested we should sort potatoes under cover. In a tiny tumbledown cottage next the farm, were sacks of potatoes stored in what had been the living room. Last summer it had sheltered a saddler, an old man who went from farm to farm mending harness, and all over the

Ships freed from transporting the bulkier cargoes of fresh foods to Britain and the Allied Armies can carry instead more and more troops and more and more ammunition to the aid of our men fighting to bring the war to a close. To the Land Army and the other farm workers who are inspired by the same motive of saving ships, dehydration is a valuable ally.

place were evidences of his sojourn—a basket chair and an old bedstead with a straw paliasse—tins, pots and pans—a tiny fireplace with neatly stacked logs beside it.

We immediately saw great possibilities in our shelter for the day and soon had a bright fire blazing—into the tiny oven went some potatoes, and a cord strung across the fireplace was quickly decorated with wet gloves, scarves, etc. Into each sack of potatoes went wild ideas and discussions for having a cottage of our own, but we very conveniently forgot such disadvantages as frozen pumps in winter and the stifling heat of such a room if one had to cook in it in summer. Lunch-time came and we proudly raked out our potatoes, very white and floury.

The intense light which snow gives faded as the afternoon wore on and we fell quiet as we worked quickly to complete the job, then collected our now beautifully warmed clothing, and raked out the few remaining ashes.

We went out into a world of air like tiny daggers and the bare trees outlined with ice, shone like silver with the wintry sunset behind them. A belt of trees which we have watched change from green to the red and gold of Autumn, showed up starkly black against the sky, and a mass of rose-hips splashed redly on the snow. The January day hadn't been so bad after all!

Glos.

Helen Russell, 47263.

Joyce Harraway, 10058, of Berkshire, composed the following poem at the age of 12; it is perhaps not surprising that she is now in the Land Army.

THE COW

Consider now the placid cow
Who chews all day in stolid way
The meadow grass,
And, as we pass
Doth turn her eyes
With mild surprise,
To those who interrupt her meditation!

The N.F.Y.F.C. has published yet another very interesting and beautifully illustrated booklet "Soil Fertility," No. 12 in their series of Y.F.C. booklets. This is the story of a Derbyshire farm and will be valuable for anyone interested not only in the question of soil fertility but in general management of crops. It can be obtained from The N.F.Y.F.C., Oaklings, Canons Close, Radlett, Herts, price 9d., 1s. post free.

Have You Read These?

If Herbert Spencer was right when he said that "our lives were universally shortened by our ignorance" it seems surprising that so many of us manage to survive our youth, let alone middle age. There is nothing like trying to compile a list of books which will be interesting and profitable to read, to convince one of one's own lamentable ignorance of matters which it is really important for everyone to know something about. The following suggestions are offered to those who have a similar conviction of sin and perhaps readers will send names of other books and pamphlets which they have found satisfactory.

There is a very useful series of pamphlets published by the Association for Education in Citizenship. These include:—

The Democratic Idea, Is Britain a Democracy? Our Towns, Economic Reconstruction after the War, Health, Out of School Education, The Schools of To-day and To-morrow, Population, The Cinema, Private Enterprise or Public Control and more are promised..

They cost only 4d. each (5d. post free) or 12 copies for 4s. 3d. post free, and they can be obtained from the Association, at 19, Wellgarth Road, Golder's Green, London. Each pamphlet is written by an expert in the subject, most of them contain excellent suggestions for further reading and lists of questions to stimulate interest and help discussion groups. My own favourite is *Health* in which Major Morris (R.A.M.C.) outlines the present health services and other medical arrangements, and makes suggestions for future improvements. He gives some fascinating figures. Do you know how much heavier and taller London children were in 1938 than in 1912 and why? or how many weeks a year insured workers lose through sickness? or the comparative infant death rates in Welwyn and a Manchester slum? or how many fractured bones are treated annually? And how much do you know about the health services and conditions in your own district?

Another valuable, but rather more expensive series is "The World To-day," books published by the Oxford University Press, price 3s. 6d. All of them look interesting, probably the pick are *Britain and the British*, by Professor Ernest Barker; *France*, by P. Maillaud;

The United States of America, by D. W. Brogan and *India*, by T. A. Raman.

Books on Russia are numerous. Sidney and Beatrice Webb wrote *The Truth about Russia*, price 2s. 6d., published by Longmans Green. Then there are the pamphlets, 2s. 6d. each, *The U.S.S.R. Speaks for Itself*, published by Lawrence & Wishart, and that very interesting book *Mission to Moscow*, by J. Davies, U.S.A. Ambassador to Russia, shortly before the war, which is more expensive, but might be obtainable from a library. Any book by Sir Bernard Pares on Russia, is very well worth reading.

Other books on various subjects are:—

THE LAND—Labour and the Land, W. H. Pedley, 10s. 6d., published by King & Staples. A readable, intelligent study, with essential statistics, of rural conditions and reasons for the drift from the land.

Land and Life, M. Fordham, 4s., published by Routledge, Preface by Lord Bledisloe. Deals with decay of agriculture during the past century, suggests future policy, very provocative of discussion.

British Agriculture, in Penguin series, by Lord Astor and W. Seebohm Rowntree. A remarkably accurate picture of pre-war British farming. Some of its suggestions are very controversial, but it contains a vast amount of information.

Town and Countryside, T. Sharp, 6s., Oxford University Press, with lovely photographs.

EDUCATION. — *An Outline of the Structure of the Educational System in England and Wales*. Board of Education pamphlet No. 94, price 9d., published by H.M. Stationery Office. *Education for a New Society*, by Ernest Green (Gen. Sec., Workers' Educational Association), 5s., published by Routledge.

HOUSING.—*Houses, Town and Countryside*, E. Halton, 6d., Town and Country Planning Association.

Penguin HANSARDS. Summaries of important debates in Parliament since 1939.

Don't forget you can join your County Library. If there is not a branch in your village, write to The Librarian, County Library, at your County Town for full particulars.

The Women's Land Army, Balcombe Place, Hayward's Heath, Sussex, would be glad to know of any sewing machines available for loan or purchase.



A good idea from Essex—the Exhibit which has visited many places in that County.

We should like to offer our warmest congratulations to D. M. Ferrington, W.L.A. 43501, of Worcestershire, on her courage and presence of mind when a bomber aeroplane crashed near where she was working. Miss Ferrington ran to the plane which was badly wrecked, and although smoke was issuing from it, she went straight into the wreckage to find that two of the crew of five were already dead and the other three badly injured. Miss Ferrington carried one of the injured men out of the plane unaided before anyone else arrived and she then helped to rescue the others, taking off a gate in order that the men could be carried out of danger. We are sorry that as a result of her efforts Miss Ferrington strained her back and we hope before long she will have recovered completely.

J. Ryder (Cheshire) finds that fawn Bias binding sewn on the edges of the lapels, sleeves, pockets, and collars of overall coats saves fraying.

Many volunteers will have heard on the wireless the praise which Mrs. Roosevelt gave to the Women's Land Army of Britain when she returned to the U.S.A. It is an added compliment that Mr. Casaday of the American Embassy has recently visited Land Army Headquarters and the Leicestershire W.L.A. in order to study the working of the Land Army both in theory and practice. In Leicestershire he visited a hutment hostel and also saw volunteers at work threshing, potato and carrot sorting, hedge cutting, thatching, caterpillar ploughing and milking. We hope that his report will support Mrs. Roosevelt's suggestion that the U.S.A. might organise their Land Army along somewhat the same lines as ours.

M. Dennis (Leicestershire) has knitted both mittens and ankle socks, looking just like new ones, out of wool obtained by unravelling legs of old Land Army stockings.

The Destruction of Rats

I think I understand now the feelings of big game hunters before they set off on their dangerous expeditions into jungles, etc., although in my case, instead of jungles there are farms, instead of wild beasts, just rats. I am positive, however, that the thrill of adventure which I experience cannot be any the less intense than theirs.

We arrive at the farm equipped with a bag of food in one hand and a copper spoon with a long bamboo cane handle in the other. The method for destroying rats is one of deceit based on the knowledge that Mr. Rat is a creature of regular habits. After finding the rat holes, food is placed in them for three days, nothing on the fourth day but on the fifth food together with the poison. That of course is the end of Mr. Rat and he probably spends the rest of his days quite blissfully in a rat heaven.

We look for rat holes in the banks or walls of the field, in particular corn and potato fields must be inspected with care. In the fields we look for the well defined pathways, or perhaps I should say main roads and side streets, as rats generally live in a rat village or town. They have the herd instinct developed to the extent of complete evacuation of a village as soon as the food sources are exhausted. The main road being found, it is usually quite an easy matter to find the rat village, perhaps situated under a gorse bush or in the long grass of a bank, the doorstep being well padded by the track of many feet and occasionally decorated with the empty head of corn. If for some reason Mr. Rat had moved to another village or street his doorstep would be rather green with little blades of grass pushing their way through the brown earth.

In buildings, rat holes may be found quite high up on a wall, or maybe under a wall, the main characteristic of Mr. Rat's home in a wall is the slightly greasy look about the stones and the rounded edge.

To say that a cornered rat will turn on you is quite true. I have seen a poisoned rat swaying drunkenly on its feet and yet able to turn with tooth and claw on the stick that dealt its death blow. As a rule the rats die in their holes, but as the poison only leaves their skins behind there is no fear of an unpleasant smell wafting around the farms. Rats have a family every month, hardly

ever less than ten, so one can easily imagine the immense destruction to crops, etc., in one farm at the end of six months where only a couple of rats have taken residence at the beginning. The condition of farms where there are twenty rats can be left to the imagination.

Apart from farms we do Military Camps which I do not think are as interesting, for they lack variety, every hut is like its neighbour, the bright spots being the Cookhouses, which we have to wander through, finding a hole here and there and occasionally being presented with cakes or something in the eating line by the Sergeant Cook who is obviously under the impression that Land Girls are always starving.

Eldra Roberts, 45040 (N. Wales).

A kind old lady, watching a Land Girl returning from work on a wet day, was heard to say, "Poor dear! what a shame they don't supply them with umbrellas."

Hands

I was very proud of my hands once, they were white and soft, the nails were well-groomed and their complexion blushed from Coral Pearl to Orchid and Burgundy, the latter being always the object of a few scathing comments from my boss, as to my bloodthirsty instincts. But they told the world what I was, a City Girl, with cushy hours and a well-ordered life, when the day's work was often remarkable for "clock-watching" and the evenings for "kicking the high spots!"

Now my hands are rather leathery, the fingers are remarkable for a red rawness caused by an overdose of Lavaloid in the Dairy washing water, and the nails are only cleaned with pain and are unblushingly anaemic, for I changed a telephone for a milking machine nearly a year ago. Now I no longer approach the Big Chief's room with fear and trembling: No, such emotions are reserved for the heifer that has lively legs and the bull that tosses his head at me.

But through the W.L.A. I have learnt the complete satisfaction of hard work, and just between ourselves—I have found someone I should never have found in London, despite my well-groomed hands.

Devon.

M. G. Cross, 48764.

Headquarters' Notes

Sense with Sensibility

In some parts of the country members of the Women's Land Army are now working with Italian prisoners of war. The position is not an easy one. Our country is at war with Italy, but on the farm land, girls and prisoners may find themselves fellow workers.

Clearly there is no sense in the attitude that it is an insult to a member of the Land Army to expect her to work on the same farm with a prisoner of war. Male labour is needed on the farms for the heavier jobs that women cannot do or do well. Our own men are fighting: prisoner labour is available and must be used to help us to victory.

To a fellow worker, we will wish to show courtesy and give consideration—that same courtesy and consideration which we hope Italian women are showing to British prisoners who may be working in Italy. But there is a world of difference between courteous behaviour and foolish overfriendliness.

It is not the wish of our Government that the citizens of this country should cultivate close friendships with prisoners of war. For members of the Land Army, such friendships will only lead to embarrassment and unhappiness. Those volunteers who are required to work with Italian prisoners of war must find for themselves a middle way and walk it with discretion. Their situation will only become undignified if they themselves rob it of dignity.

Paying our Way

This country has always tried to pay its way. The cost is shared between its citizens, and the income tax which we pay is our share of the cost.

Every worker who earns more than £110 in the year (that is just over 42s. 3d. a week) must now pay income tax. Many Land Army volunteers are affected. *You* are affected if, with your overtime pay, you are earning more than 42s. 3d.

Every employer of Land Army labour has to make a return to the income tax authorities at the end of each half year showing exactly what he has paid to his worker in wages and overtime pay. *The wage he must return is the gross wage, not the cash wage which he may pay after deduction has been made for board and lodging.* The position of the worker billeted on the farm or in a hostel is therefore just the same as that of the

worker who pays for her own board and lodging and is billeted out.

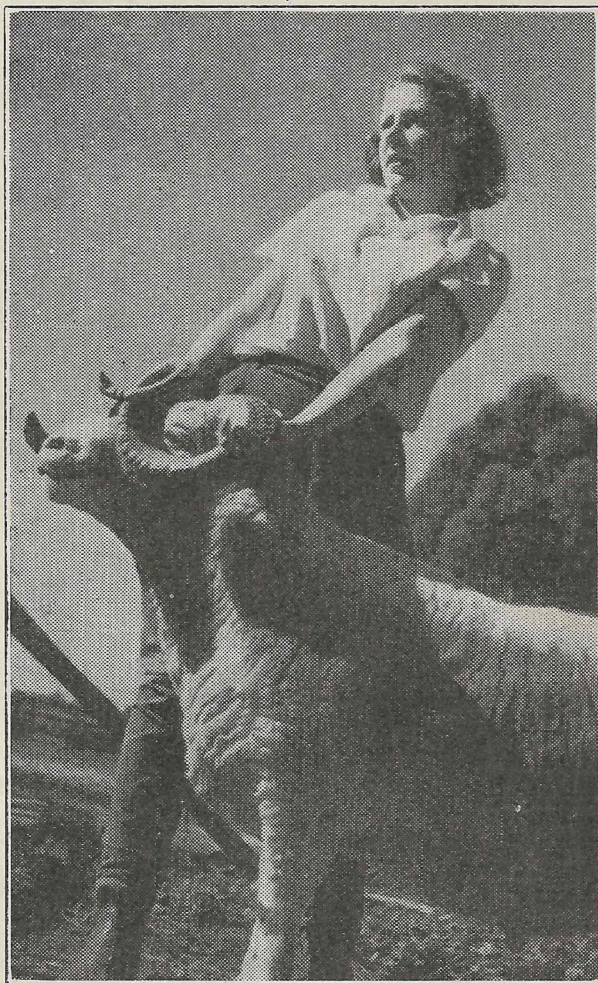
After the employer has made his return, a form of assessment is sent to the worker showing what she will have to pay in income tax. This she must check to see that she is not being overcharged or undercharged and then complete and return the form. Later, the employer will be instructed what sum he is to deduct each week from his workers' wages by way of income tax, and this sum he must pay over to the income tax authorities.

It is not pleasant when the time comes for the deduction to be made from wages, but that is the penalty of belonging to a nation which prides itself on trying to pay its way.

INEZ JENKINS.

Winter Diary Competition

Diaries should be sent to the Editor, THE LAND GIRL, Balcombe Place, Balcombe, Haywards Heath, Sussex, by April 10th. The results of the competition will be announced in the May issue.



A member of the W.L.A. in Australia

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

We have had a busy winter at this Hostel with lectures on international affairs by the W.E.A., and demonstrations on renovating old clothes, turning felt hats into slippers, old stockings into mitten linings and everything into something! In January, we had a Brains Trust, arranged by the W.A.C., attended by so many people that there was standing room only. The questions related to drainage, deep cultivation, control of the fruit fly, turnip flea, beetle and warble fly, treatment for mastitis and abortion in cows, cost of producing various crops. We were surprised to hear that it cost £40 to produce a crop of potatoes from one acre of ground. Mr. Philips gave us an interesting talk on fuel economy and tractors and brought several gadgets which interested our girls in the machinery department. It was nice to know that the farmers acknowledged that birds were more helpful in destroying pests than they were destructive to crops.

Our garden has been most productive and has provided us with vegetables for many months—it has also been a useful training ground for girls when not able to do farm work.

I would like to say a word of appreciation for the way in which volunteers have tackled all sorts of farm work. I have very often talked to farmers who say what a good job of work our Land Girls are doing.

S. Johnson Bird,
Somerby Hostel.

Leics.

Dear Editor,

I have been working in a nursery at Ormskirk for 6 weeks and can beat the record of P. Elliston and G. Coleman, of E. Suffolk. I can prick out a box of lettuces, containing 7 dozen plants in 10 minutes, which works out at 4,032 per day of 8 hours. That is the actual prickings out and of course doesn't include making boxes for them.

Lancs.

N. Ames, 99521.

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

Dear Editor,

We are constantly being told of the hard work which will be involved in the reconstruction of Europe. At first a great deal of the food will have to come from the Allies, but what about the re-cultivation of the land? In honour of our noble service during the war, will the land girls be allowed the privilege of helping in this great expedition? Quite a few of the girls at camp seemed interested whenever I have discussed the subject, and I am sure you will get numerous volunteers.

Trusting that this idea will help a little in the great task ahead of us.

Durham.

Lilian Routledge, 72729.

That Uniform Question

There have been so many letters on the uniform question that there is not enough room to print them—opinion is divided. E. Williams (Cornwall), M. Vercoe and B. Forrest (also Cornwall), and M. Ligat (Berks.) don't mind a mixture of uniform and civilian clothing; M. Pitman (Wiltshire), W.L.A., 30096 (Gloucestershire), L.M. Wilmott (Yorks.), A. Maxwell (Scotland) deplore it. Some of those who approve a mixture consider that they have not enough of some articles of uniform to allow them to keep one at least tidy for their free time—but with the use of dungarees for dirty work, and the purchase of second-hand garments occasionally, this difficulty should be overcome. In any case, why not "all civilian" when "all uniform" is impossible? It is the mixture which, as W.L.A., 30096, says, rouses both the amusement and scorn of members of the other Women's Services, especially in canteens. It may not matter if, like M. Ligat, volunteers wear uniform except for a brown skirt instead of breeches, but the vision seen in Cheltenham wearing "a flame-coloured dress, six-inch heels, a snappy line in hats and a W.L.A. overcoat" is a nightmare, not the dream of beauty she probably thought herself. Fortunately the majority of volunteers seem to realise that the absence of rules and regulations on the matter of clothes makes it all the more important that they should not bring ridicule upon the uniform of which they are rightly so proud.

M. Pitman, 102627, Hackpen Cottage, Road Hinton, Nr. Swindon, Wilts., would like the volunteer with the number next to her to write to her.

Farming Exhibition

Any volunteers lucky enough to be in London during the next few weeks should spare time to visit the farming exhibition at the Ford Motor Company's Show Rooms at 88 Regent Street. The purposes of the Exhibition are to bring home to the townsman what the farmer and farm worker are doing to keep him alive, to illustrate the enormous increase in home produced foods and feeding stuffs and to illustrate the beneficial effects of modern science and scientific methods as applied to agriculture. These objects are achieved in a most striking manner by means of photographs, diagrams and models and every inch of available space is packed with information set out so as to attract and interest everyone from the complete ignoramus to the agricultural expert. The Land Army has a section of its own and volunteers also feature in some of the other exhibits. Agricultural films are shown at intervals during the day.

GO NOW—or you may be too late.

Poster Competition

About forty entries were received for this Competition. The best of these are being sent for final judgment by a poster artist. Any competitors who want their entries returned are asked to forward stamps to the Editor before April 10th.

FOR SALE.—Brown imitation leather riding boots, size 5, price 15/-. Apply Smith, Garth, Down Road, Tavistock, Devon.

WANTED.—JODPHUR BOOTS, size 6, riding coat, preferably brown tweed. Write, Constable, The Grange, Betley, Crewe, Cheshire.

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MANCHESTER, 3

Happy Hostels

I think anyone connected with the Women's Land Army would hand Hostel Wardens the palm for one of the most difficult and interesting jobs of war-time. Not only must a warden be a good cook, a good nurse and a good housekeeper, but she must also have an unlimited store of wisdom and patience.

Naturally, all wardens are not cast in the same mould, therefore it seems rather unwise to assume that a standard set of hostel rules could be a universal panacea for all hostel ills. Where more than half a dozen or so people live together, rules (written or unwritten) there must be, but most important of all is the active co-operation of every hostel resident.

In our counties, the happiest hostels are those where the volunteers form—by general election—a committee, whose business it is, with the co-operation of the warden and hostel representative, to see that existing hostel rules are carried out and, if they think fit, to add new ones which seem necessary for the smooth running of the hostel.

In one hostel in particular, a "Punctuality Book" is kept in which the girls themselves keep a daily record of "time in" at night. Any defaulters come before the committee and the warning is: "One more lapse and the County Office will be asked to remove you!" So far, this has worked extremely well. A cheerful acceptance by the girls themselves of all regulations, many of which are self-imposed and self-administered, seems to be the secret of smooth running. Out-of-the-ordinary situations and extra difficult individuals or problems can best be judged from the angle as to how they affect: (a) The general war effort, (b) the smooth running of the hostel and (c) the happiness of other residents. To these, everything and everyone must give way, and those Land Girls who must have a reason for all rules and regulations (and why not?) will always find the reason in (a), (b) or (c).

Many counties I expect run their hostels on these partial self-government lines, but I think it would be very helpful to hear of any special methods they may have for promoting co-operation between the hostel staff, the resident Land Girls and their employers—the latter in most counties, the W.A.E.C.

J. L. RANKIN,

County Organiser (Leics. & Rutland).



Two years ago, May Davies and Joan Holloway, of London, did not know one end of a cow from the other. To-day, May has charge of a herd of 25 Friesian cows, one bull and several calves and heifers. Above, she is seen milking her favourite cow called "The Queen of the Herd." Joan is milking Tiny, who goes to sleep and snores while being milked; she is a jealous animal who once, when she thought Joan was making too much fuss of the cow next door, tossed her quietly on to the other cow's back.

H. Vickers,
District Representative (Essex).

Competiton

Land Army volunteers bring fresh minds to their work on farms, in gardens or in the Women's Timber Corps. When they have gained experience, some of them probably have ideas as to how new methods of work or different tools or implements might make their work easier or quicker without loss of efficiency. Prizes of 10s. 6d. each are offered for the four best ideas sent in by volunteers. No one may send more than ONE idea and entries must reach the Editor, LAND GIRL, Balcombe Place, Hayward's Heath, Sussex by April 20th.

STOP PRESS

A member of the Scottish W.L.A. will take part in the Broadcast on March 25th.

Threshing

Now stand the stacks in solid rows,
And farmers' boys put by their hoes.
The Autumn winds are blowing cold
Across the sky of black and gold.
When comes the cry from down the lane,
"The thresher men are here again."

Then springs the farm to active life,
—Farmer, boys and farmer's wife—
Off comes the cover of the stack,
The thresher men aloof and black
Get busy now with oily rags,
And Farmer's frantic counting bags.
Soon everyone is in a sweat,
The angry monster roars his threat,
The belt flies round, the chaff mounts
high,

The strawstacks climb towards the sky,
But still the giant with strident notes,
Shrieks for his barley, wheat or oats.
Up on the bench the women kneel;
They have no time to think, or feel
Their aching backs and pricking knees,
They've only time to cut and seize,
And seize and cut, and seize again,
Till the last sheaf is cut and slain.

When the full sacks are tied and weighed
And everyone is fed and paid,
The moon shines on the quiet farm
And sleep descends like healing balm,
Across the fields and down the lane.
"The Thresher men are off again."

J. Baker, 37832,
Northumberland.

The Leaven of Democracy

The following article has been written for THE LAND GIRL by Miss Marjorie Graves, formerly a Borough Councillor of Holborn and Member of Parliament for South Hackney. One of her "recreations" is historical research.

THE leaven of democracy at work shows plainly enough in the number of "Independent" candidates who are contesting Parliamentary bye-elections during the present truce between the political parties. Of late years, election figures may have suggested slackening interest in the business of governing by means of Parliamentary representation, but deprive the people of this country (necessarily at present) of the opportunity to have their say at election times, and the leaven foment, as for instance in the appearance of these Independent candidates at bye-elections.

This leaven is in the soil of England. The word Parliament meant originally the conferring between the King and the important men among his people. These conferrings date from Saxon times, and it is worth remembering that in the remote days before the Norman Conquest, no English King found it easy to make laws and raise money by taxation without the counsel and the consent of these advisers. The Norman Conquest gave a feudal character to the "King's Parliament" as it had come to be called in Norman-French, but the leaven of democracy was at work, and in 1295, Edward I summoned for counsel and consent to his laws and taxation what has come to be known as the "Model Parliament." This "Model Parliament" is so-called, because it consisted not only of the Prelates and the Nobles summoned in the usual way, but for the first time of two knights from each Shire and of two burgesses from each Borough, elected through the King's Sheriffs to represent the English people. The general shape of this "Model Parliament" has persisted ever since, growing freely to meet the needs of change through six-and-a-half centuries. Thus, the gradual development of the House of Commons of 1943 has been worked out through Tudor times, when Royalty tended to dominate by force of strong personality, through Stuart times when the assertion of the Divine Right of Kings threatened democratic freedom, and it survived a temporary disappear-

ance underground during the dictatorship of Oliver Cromwell, and thrived on the change-over from absolute to constitutional monarchy when William III landed at Torbay.

Democracy in Parliament has fought many a fight with the government of the day, reaching by trial and error and by eventual good sense, not revolution but construction for the public benefit. It has given birth to innumerable expressions of the leaven within it, for instance, in the Reform Bill of 1832 which took voting at elections out of the hands of the few and gave it into the power of many, in the measures releasing Catholics and Non-Conformists from the old laws which forbade them to share in the education and the franchise liberty of Protestant England, in the laws permitting the formation of Trades Unions, in great agricultural legislation, in all the Social Acts of the past hundred years, leading up to the present discussion in the House of Commons of Sir William Beveridge's Report on Social Insurances. The experience King Edward I gathered up, that the counsel and consent of the governed are best procured through Parliamentary representation of the people, is common experience among the English and the English speaking peoples to-day.

In France, the Parliamentary system came into being about the time when King Edward summoned the "Model Parliament," but, its development was far otherwise. Through the centuries that followed their inception, the French Parliaments gradually declined in importance into mere machinery for the legal registration of the King of France's decrees; and the "Estates General," or summoned assembly, was only called together by the Kings of France, at long intervals of time, in one case 196 years elapsed between their meetings. And French Parliamentary history since the overthrow of Napoleon at Waterloo is yet another proof, if this were needed, that this particular democratic growth has had no deep root in French political consciousness. The public interest in England in Parliamentary representation is no matter of old-fashioned ways, no stick-in-the-mud policy of the older generation unable to accept new ideas, least of all is it the dead hand from the past holding down new political life—it is the expression of democratic belief that is instinct in English people.

Scottish Notes

Aberdeen.—A Y.W.C.A. hostel for Servicewomen and Land Girls was opened at 4, Castle Terrace, Aberdeen, by Lady Helen Graham, National President of the Y.W.C.A. Mrs. J. D. Paton, Lady Aberdeen, Lady Jaffrey, Mrs. Fletcher, and Jun. Comdr. M. G. Esslemont, A.T.S., will form the Committee. Thanks to generous donations, some from American friends, the house, which dates from 1750, has been converted into comfortable and home-like quarters.

Ayr.—The Secretary of State for Scotland visited W.L.A. trainees at Auchincruive and, in the course of an amusing speech, complimented the girls on their efficiency and eagerness to serve. He expressed a keen interest in welfare problems and appreciation of the work accomplished, together with encouragement and high hopes for 1943. Small W.L.A. Clubs have recently been formed at Mauchline and Dunlop, rooms in the local schools being used for meeting places. Mauchline is already producing a play. A small concert at Symington raised £4 10s. for the British Sailors' Society. Arran and Wigtownshire have decided to co-operate in the County Newsletter and have appointed Sub-Editors accordingly.

Clackmannan.—The Earl of Mar and Kellie, K.T., Lord Lieutenant of the County, presented G.S. Badges at a gathering of L.G.'s at Townhead Tearooms, Alloa. In an inspiring speech he congratulated the W.L.A. on its splendid work and stressed the importance of ever-increasing effort.

East Lothian.—The girls of Roselea Hostel held a most successful dance in aid of the County Comforts Fund and £17 was raised. A joint meeting of Dunbar and Pencaitland girls was held at Dunbar, when Major Blackburn of the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, gave a splendid illustrated lecture on the Scottish National War Memorial. The Dunbar War-time Entertainments Committee kindly supplied tea.

Kirkcudbright.—Kirkcudbright S.W.R.I. entertained W.L.A. members from the North and East of the County to tea in Dumfries. G.S. Badges were presented by the W.R.I. president, Mrs. Jaffé, and under the leadership of Mr. David Yacamini, the girls joined heartily in community singing. A talk on "Prisoner of War" parcels proved interesting. Jean Kirkpatrick organised a concert in aid of British Sailors, which realised over £16. Majorie Hood arranged a competition and was able to hand over £5 to the W.L.A. Welfare and Benevolent Fund. Our congratulations go to three L.A. Brides—M. Paterson (5027), J. Carr (4593), E. Patrick (7262) all of whom, we are glad to note, are carrying on with their L.A. work.

Stirling.—Two interesting and enjoyable parties were held, one at the Toc H Women's Club at Falkirk and one at Balfour, though transport difficulties made the attendances smaller than was hoped for. At the first, G.S. Badges were presented by Mr. Jones of Dunmore, Larbert, and a collection after tea resulted in £2 5s. being handed over for the Welfare and Benevolent Fund. Miss Kemp Smith of Stirling was present at both functions and gave the girls country dancing, which they enjoyed very much. At the second meeting also, G.S. Badges were presented by Miss Tod, Chairman of the local Sub-Committee.

West Fife.—At Linburn Hostel, Dunfermline, the Countess of Elgin presented G.S. Badges. Lady Elgin, who is herself an employer of L.G.'s, gave an interesting and informative speech. It was intimated that all volunteers within reach of the hostel would be welcomed at the social gatherings which it was proposed to arrange for the first Thursday and Friday of each month.

West Lothian.—Sir Patrick Laird, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, formally opened the new hostel at Foxhall, Kirkliston, and presented G.S. Badges. In an encouraging speech he said that whereas the L.A.

had at first been accepted with suspicion and obloquy, it was now received with enthusiasm and gratitude. £5 8s. 6d. was handed over by the Sub-Committee for the Welfare and Benevolent Fund—the proceeds of a competition, a raffle, and the sale of snowdrops. This is the 83rd W.L.A. hostel to be opened in Scotland.

JENNY

Jenny was a Land Girl bold
Her hair was flaming red,
Each morning on the stroke or five
She'd jump up out of bed,
And when the farmer heard her step
Upon the creaky stair
Beneath the blankets he would shrink
In trembling woe and fear,
For on the farm she set the pace
And saw that it was kept,
She had the farmer out of bed
Before he'd scarcely slept.
She'd plough like any man, she would
Cut turnips with the best,
And then she'd start to milk the cows
Without a moment's rest.
Her flaming top she carried high,
A pleasant sight to see
When she set out to pitch the hay
With unabated glee.
Poor Farmer Watchet could not sleep,
Because he had no cause
To say that he was ruined, and
Was farming at a loss
'Twas pitiful to see his woe
And all his chagrin when
The profits kept on soaring up,
And all because of Jen.
So take a lesson, farmers all,
And to this song take heed,
If on the debit side you fall—
A Land Girl's what you need.

M. McL.

Benevolent Fund

We have received some splendid contributions this month, both from inside and outside the Land Army. Lady Spencer sent £159 18s. 3d. from a dance she organised and Mr. Thomas, a W. Suffolk employer, £64 10s., also from a dance which he held for his own and other Land Girls. Wales has sent some splendid sums and Norfolk has taken a long step forward by sending over £100. The Ford Motor Co. receives our gratitude for making the first subscription to the Fund under Deed of Covenant which will bring £500 in each year for the duration, and this firm is also collecting for the Fund at its Exhibition. Newspapers of the Westminster Press sent 300 guineas and the "Farmers' Weekly" has sent one hundred guineas.

Now we want to extend our activities and appeal to employers, makers of agricultural implements and artificial manures, seedsmen, auctioneers and anyone else connected with the agricultural industry.

Will volunteers please send to their County office the names and addresses of anyone to whom they think an appeal might be sent? On February 25th, the Fund totalled £5,677 15s. 4d. The monthly total was £1,634 15s. 11d. Northants has the highest gross total, £261 13s. 11d., and also the highest February total £228 19s. 1d. List of February donations follows:—

Beds: £40 per Graham (dance). £1 9s. 8d.—Misc. Berks: £20 2s. 11d. L.G. Stanford Place. £9 6s. 3d.—Yattendon & Fritsham Men's Club. £3 6s. 6d.—Misc. Bucks: £7 5s. 6d.—Clark. £7 8s. 1d.—Misc. Cheshire: £12—per Rutter (social) £5 16s. (raffle) £2 13s. 6d.—Misc. Cornwall: £11 6s.—per Jones (whist drive and dance) £7 7s.—L.A. Club. Camborne (dance) £4 10s.—Misc. Cumb: & West: £6 13s. 6d.—per Dow (raffle) £4 5s.—Misc. Derby: £20—County Welfare Fund. 10s.—Misc. Devon: 14s.—Misc. Dorset: £15—County Dons. £5 6s.—Dowling & Mowlem (whist

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drive and dance). £5 4s.—per Curtis (2 whist drives). 2s. 6d.—Misc. Essex: £1 1s.—Misc. Glos: £7 7s.—Wick and Doynton L.G.'s (dance) £2 12s. 6d.—Misc. Hants: £28 10s.—St. Mary Bourne L.A. Club £24 6s. 8d. Alton Area L.G. (dance). £14 10s.—per Ralph (whist drive). £5—Chute. £6 18s. 3d.—Misc. Hereford: £4 10s.—Misc. Herts: £8 17s.—Misc. Hunts: Cambs: Ely: £8—per Burrill (dance) £1 2s. 6d.—Misc. Kent: £15 3s.—Gordon Horton (dance and social) £10 10s.—per Sigsworth (dance). £2 10s.—Misc. Lancs: £20—W.L.A. Graithwaite Hall L.G. (dance and whist drive). £3 3s. 3d.—Misc. Leics: and Rut: £21 1s. Moon and Berrington (dance) £6 10s.—Jones (whist drive and dance). £3 12s.—Misc. Lincs: H. & K. £24 10s.—Little Ponton & Stubton Hostels, £4 2s. 6d.—Misc. Lincs: Lindsey £5. Wainfleet L.A. Hostel (raffle). Lond: & Middx: £24 5s.—Laleham L.A. Club (dance, raffles, etc.). £2 4s. 6d.—Misc. Norfolk: £109 6s. 2d.—(per Norfolk and Norwich War Charities. Northants: £159 18s. 3d.—Spencer (tea-dance). £25—Northants War Charities. £20—Harrison, Cook, Smith (dance) £6 10s.—per Rowlatt & Webster (whist drive). £6—Whittlebury Hostel per Mills (dance). £5—Bland & Cooper (dance). £6 10s. 10d.—Misc. Northumb: £5—Nedderton Hostel. £2 14s.—Misc. Oxon: £7—per Fry. Little Bournon Hostel (dance) £4 16s.—Misc. Salop 10s.—Misc. Somerset: £6—Huntly Spencer (whist drive and dance). £4 — Misc. Staffs: £4 2s. 6d.—Misc. E. Suff: £14 7s. 6d.—Kirton & Dist. L.G. (whist drive) £6 6s.—Grundisburgh dance. £10 12s.—Misc. W. Suffolk: £64 10s.—Thomas (dance). £10—Lakenheath Hostel (dance). W. Sussex: £8—Chichester W.L.A. Club. £3 3s.—Misc. Warwicks: £20—Coventry L.G. (dance). £12—Berkswell & Balsall Common L.G. (dance). 15s.—Misc. Wilts: 10s.—Misc. Worcs: £55 11s. 6d.—W.L.A. dons. Yorks: £5—Whitehead (dance) £4 10s.—Misc. N. Wales: £20 10s. 3d. Aber L.G. £14 3s. 6d.—per McClymont, W.L.A. and H.G. (dance) £12 10s.—Menai Bridge Hostel (beetle and whist drives) £3 3s.—Misc. S. Wales: £30—per Craig (whist drive). £26 6s. 3d. Bow Street Hostel (dance). £21 12s. 6d.—Tregaron (whist drive. £20 0s. 10d., per Owen (dance). £11 11s. per Pateman (whist drive). Brecon & Radnor: £10—Builth Wells Hostel (dance) 9s. 9d.—Misc. Glam: £12 12s.—Margam Y.F.C. £1 5s.—Misc. Timber Corps: £20—Graithwaite Hall L.G. (dance and whist drive) £4 10s. 6d.—Misc. Individual donations: £250—Ford Motor Co. £105—"Farmers' Weekly" £25 10s.—Farming Goes to War Exhibition per Kenmare. £5—Trafford 1s.—Misc. Headquarters: £6—Jenkins. £1 5s.—Misc.

County News

London & Middx.—G. Friend, 58638, writes: "On Monday evening, 18th January, 12 stalwart members of the W.L.A. employed in Harrow and District, added the final touch to Mr. Frederick Allen's "Dig for Victory" talk in the Odeon, Rayner's Lane, by holding up cards making up the phrase. On Wednesday evening we were guard of honour at Kodak Hall, where the Exhibition was opened by Commander Campbell, of the B.B.C. Brains Trust. We were represented on the platform by Miss Helen Roughley, of Grimsdyke. One of the attractions of the Exhibition was the W.L.A. Stand on which were displayed vegetables and fruit grown by the local L.G.'s, an Angora Rabbit and two hens—the latter refused to lay! Saturday evening, Freddie Grisewood, of the B.B.C. Fuel-flash fame, was question-master at a Brains Trust, comprised of prominent Horticulturists, Rabbit, Poultry and Pig experts, and this proved a mine of information. At the end of the evening, we auctioned the produce from our stand and realised 35s. 6d. (one pumpkin and one apple going for 2s. 9d.) which together with 10s. 6d. given to us from the proceeds of another vegetable stall, we have handed over to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund."

Mon.—Two new Hostels have been established at Abergavenny and Mount Ballan, and are proving very successful. The former has a good club with regular twice weekly meetings. A course of horticulture lectures has just been completed, ending with a test. Film shows are to take place at 7.15 p.m. at Hostels at Michaelstone-y-Vedw, March 15th; Raglan, March 16th; Cross Ash, March 17th; Llanishen, March 18th and Mount Ballan, March 19th, to which all girls in the neighbourhood are invited. An interesting Agricultural Bee was held between the Monmouth W.L.A. Club and the local Y.F. Clubs when the farmers won by 60½ to 50½. The Question-master complimented the girls on their excellent answers. Other Clubs and hostels would be well advised to follow their lead. A collection brought in £1 10s. for the Benevolent Fund. Thanks to Miss Margaret Park, W.L.A. No. 43864, for organising another dance at St. Brides, producing £4 for the Fund. L.G.'s have been very active in recent Agriculture Red Cross Sales and have been seen leading their employers' gift animals to "Market" collecting at the same time. W.A.C. tractor drivers have commenced reclamation of land on the steep slopes of the Skirrid Mountain, a spectacular piece of work, to be followed by gang workers planting potatoes, etc. Several girls have now qualified for their 3 years' Diamonds, and it is hoped to distribute them when new stocks are received from Headquarters. Monmouthshire has two sets of three sisters in two hostels.

Norfolk.—The following tribute came from an employer, recommending his L.G. for her half-diamond: "During the 8 months which she has been in my employment, she has proved a very capable worker and I am gratified to learn that her services will receive some recognition. Her duties have been principally connected with poultry routine work and she has always carried them out in an entirely satisfactory, willing and conscientious manner. She is undoubtedly hard-working and anxious to contribute her best to the National Effort. She has given valuable service and I have no hesitation in recommending her for this award." We should also like to record that another employer said he would like his L.G. to have three diamonds, if it were possible!

Accounts of dances and whist drives in aid of the Benevolent Fund come in with gratifying regularity; the most pleasing feature is that the volunteers enjoy themselves so much that having arranged one dance, they proceed to arrange a whole series! The L.G.'s of Dunham Newton and Castleacre had a party at Hill Farm, Dunham. Supper, including turkey, was served by Mr. and Mrs. Everington, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Laing, who are among the employers in this neighbourhood. Most of the evening was spent in parlour games and the party was enormously enjoyed by everybody.

Northants.—On February 19th, the Hostel at Titchmarsh was honoured by a visit from H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester, accompanied by Lady Spencer and Miss Eva Sandford. The Royal party arrived at 6 p.m. and were received by the County Secretary and a Guard of Honour at the gateway. The Warden—Mrs. Gray, greeted the guests at the door of the Hostel and escorted them to the recreation room where Lady Spencer presented the visitors and W.L.A. Staff to Her Royal Highness. Forty-two members of the W.L.A. were drawn up in double lines each side of the room, looking very neat and smart. After a few words of thanks and welcome from Lady Spencer, the Duchess of Gloucester presented the G.S. Badges. As each girl came up Her Royal Highness talked to her asking her questions about her work or her home, and there was no girl present with whom she did not have a few moments' personal conversation. At the close of the badge giving, the senior L.G.—Mary Ward-Hunt, with 3½ years' excellent service to her credit, presented a bouquet of lilies-of-the-valley

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Volunteers at Collingham, the first hutment hostel opened in Nottinghamshire.

with a few words of thanks. After an inspection of the Hostel, tea was served and the evening ended. As Her Royal Highness left the forewoman of the hostel called for three cheers, and they were very real cheers. The charm and kindness of our Royal visitor, and her very real and understanding interest in us all enchanted us, and each of us will value our own happy memories of February 19th.

Brampton House Hostel had a most successful party on Feb. 17th, arranged by the Warden—Mrs. Ames, when Lady Spencer was the guest of honour and presented G.S. Badges in the interval of an E.N.S.A. concert followed in its turn by dancing and a most remarkable buffet supper enjoyed enormously by the guests, among whom were many good friends of the hostel, and many welcome members of a nearby regiment. There have been many other activities all over the county including four most successful Brains Trusts, some excellent dances and parties for the Benevolent Fund. Several new hostels are in prospect and Wilby, our new training hostel so long looked forward to, should open on March 18th.

Northumberland.—10 of our L.G.s took part in the Red Army Day Parade in Newcastle. They were chosen on account of their long and satisfactory service and represented different branches of L.A. work. Seventy volunteers have lately been sent to Buckinghamshire and other Southern Counties to meet a demand for labour, and others have gone to Durham and Cumberland. Activities in the Hostels and throughout the County, have included classes in Handicrafts, German (by special request) and Keep-Fit. There have been nine Agricultural Brains Trusts with the help of the W.A.C. Warendorf is to have an informal talk on Agriculture and Matfen has had a talk on the appreciation of music. The "Ensa" van visits the Hostels once a fortnight. The Drama Competition will be held on May 1st (not April 10th as previously announced), in the Connaught Hall, Blackett Street, Newcastle, and as it is a Saturday afternoon, it is hoped that many W.L.A. members will be among the audience. (Admission 1/6). There are two classes in the Competition, one for W.L.A. members only, the other for mixed teams, men and women. The choice of play, or scene from a play, is left to the teams, so there should be a variety of entertainment.

Oxon.—Clubs in Oxfordshire have been very active during the past weeks. Burford Club raised £80 to buy two dinghys for the R.A.F. and £30 for Mrs. Churchill's Aid to Russia Fund. Chipping Norton Volunteers helped to raise £51 for the

Agriculture Red Cross Fund, and Banbury volunteers over £100 for the same Fund. There have been many other splendid efforts for this and the L.A. Benevolent Fund. A new club has been formed at Warborough and it is hoped soon to link up all L.A. members in the county by clubs. For the more isolated members a mobile club is used! The Y.M.C.A. have very kindly agreed to provide a travelling van equipped with refreshments, games, magazines, writing facilities, etc. As soon as the County Office has settled in its new premises it is hoped to let all isolated girls know the route of this van.

E. Suffolk.—Our ninth hostel is opening at Peasenhall on Feb. 23rd, and will be followed as swiftly as possible by several more. The W.A.C. is requiring the services of 1,000 L.G.'s by early summer and private farmers too, are clamouring for girls for all sorts of work, but especially for the cowsheds. Now that recruiting for the W.L.A. has re-opened, we are hoping to be able to meet all these demands. Clubs are going strong; there are eight so far scattered over different parts of the county. We are hoping to make arrangements in Ipswich so that a large room can be made available for Land Girls to meet on Saturday afternoons. There are encouraging reports from hostels and clubs of forthcoming money-making efforts for the Benevolent Fund. Both Columbyne Hall and Helmingham district volunteers are arranging a concert and social for March 2nd, the latter calling themselves "The Farmyard Follies." Kirton district deserves special congratulations for having raised £14 7s. 6d. this month, as the result of a Whist Drive. There have been two visits from Press photographers to this County recently, and we hope that some of our girls have had the fun of seeing themselves in the "Daily Mirror" and other picture papers.

W. Suffolk.—We have been very busy collecting money for the Benevolent Fund. A most successful dance in Bury St. Edmunds, raised £71 10s. Nearly 500 tickets were sold, and the L.A. distinguished itself by winning the waltz competition. Alice Nolan should be congratulated for so skilfully combining dancing with sugar beet lifting! Great initiative was shown by the Mildenhall L.G.'s when they organised a dance at the Town Hall. It was well supported by the Army and the Royal Air Force, who took a keen interest in the evening. The R.A.F. sent £2, raised at a whist drive to help our Benevolent Fund. The Band of a Black Watch Battalion provided the music and started several eightsome reels, which were enjoyed

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by everyone. Over £20 was collected by this magnificent effort. Lakenheath has also sent in £10, the result of a very successful dance held in the hostel.

Shimpling Hostel has started the first club in our county for past and present residents at Bury St. Edmunds. Members meet on the last Saturday of the month, and we hope more groups of volunteers will organise clubs in other parts of the county.

Surrey.—There has been an increase in the number of Clubs in Surrey this winter, and it is hoped that more will be started before next autumn. Mr. Secrett, of Milford, one of our employers, is kindly arranging for some buildings adjoining his Hostel to be converted into a Club Room for the use of all W.L.A. members in the neighbourhood. It is hoped to help isolated volunteers as well as those who are within reach of Club and Hostel activities. Suggestions or requests from volunteers will be gladly welcomed at the Office. During the winter it has been possible to arrange, through the kind services of the W.V.S., for hot drinks to be served to W.L.A. members working on farms in various districts. The mobile canteen has been greeted with great delight not only by the L.G.'s but by all the farm workers. The demand for L.G.'s is very much increasing and there is still great scope for the volunteer who will tackle milking even though it does entail Sunday work. The W.A.C. have opened a training centre for milkers, at Witley Park and have also arranged for training to be given in thatching and stacking.

Surrey.—A W.L.A. Club has been formed in Lingfield and meets once a month for games and competitions. Any volunteers within reach of Lingfield who would like to join, please telephone Lingfield 299 for particulars. There may be one or two girls in the East Grinstead area who might be interested.

E. Sussex.—We are having a wave of enthusiasm over our Clubs and are now wondering how we got on without them. Folk Dance Classes, Mothercraft lectures, and E.N.S.A. Concerts are all Club "fixtures," and each Club has its Committee of L.G.'s. Eleven of our Amazons took part in the Allies Pageant at the Albert Hall on New Year's Day. They were so well chosen that they were in no way diminished by either the size of the building or the close proximity of "The Guards!" Our W.A.C. have established a thatching school, and a milking school is starting in the near future. Our tractor drivers have carried out a tremendous task in the ploughing up of the Romney Marshes, and we hope to reap bumper crops there this year. Sixty girls went on parade in Brighton in a Red Army Day procession. Miss Trost (our assistant Secretary) initiated them into the correct procedure and they did her credit. The County Horticultural Advisor, Mr. Johnson, is giving us a series of ten lectures in Haywards Heath, and these are well attended and much appreciated. The bravest are hoping to sit for an exam. at the end of the course. Another course of lectures of agricultural interest are also being given by Mr. Jesse (County Director of Agriculture).

W. Sussex was very proud to have one of its members, Mrs. B. Francis, in the L.A. broadcast at the end of November. Mrs. Francis was a L.A. member in the last war as well as this one and was the first woman in Sussex to drive a tractor. She revealed the interesting fact that there were never any gum boots in the last war. Many successful Christmas Parties were held both in the larger centres such as Chichester, Horsham and Worthing, where a visit to the local pantomime was organised, and the hostels and villages. At Loxwood, a L.A. Club has been formed and the weekly meetings at the house of the Local Representative, have been well attended. A talk on Farming, by our County Chairman, the Hon. Mrs. Burrell, and one on Pioneering in East Africa by the Rev. E. Ross, have been very much enjoyed, and a dance is now being organised. Another

successful new Club is at the small village of Bepton; a table tennis outfit has been bought, and is much used. At Bognor Regis, a Service Women's Club has been opened by the W.V.S. and special L.A. meetings are held there. The attendance at some clubs has been affected by the taking off of the late buses, but new comers in particular are urged to make an effort to visit their local clubs. Your future best friend may be working at the next farm but one, and you may not get to know her until you meet her at a Club. Several dances have been organised in aid of the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds and we are particularly grateful to the many village organisations which have so kindly given the profits on individual dances to these funds. Young Farmers' Clubs continue to be well supported by L.A. members and we should like to congratulate Miss Lovett Cameron, a Cowfold volunteer who won the first prize (a setting of pedigree hen's eggs) for the best answers to a series of questions on the management of horses at the local Y.F. Club.

North Wales sincerely appreciates the appointment of Mrs. A. D. Thomas to the committee of management of the Benevolent Fund and congratulates Glamorganshire on keeping Wales to the fore with its January total. We offer congratulations to Mrs. E. M. Mathews, W.L.A., 91407, on her appointment as Pest Officer for Anglesey, and wish "good hunting" to her and her gangs. Everyone enjoyed the lectures on pest destruction given by Mr. Hornby and Major Phillips. Llanerchymedd Hostel has a concert party of which great things are expected, while Menai Bridge has a dramatic company supervised by the W.E.A., who are rehearsing for a county competition. Miss Griffith, together with Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Elias Jones, gave a much-enjoyed party to L.G.'s in the Caernarvon district, and they have now established a club that enjoys the patronage of the Mayor. Aberland girls must have done some hard work to achieve their contribution to the Benevolent Fund, as must also the L.G.'s employed in the Corwen area. The Y.W.C.A. Canteen and Rest Rooms at Bangor are very popular, and it is proving a splendid place for L.G.'s to meet their friends. It is situated almost opposite this office.

Warwick.—There is an increasing demand for W.L.A. workers. Volunteers from Middlesex arrived last month to swell the number of W.A.C. employees and are billeted near Coventry in two large new hostels. The W.A.C. training scheme has started at Oldberrow House Hostel where new volunteers receive training on the neighbouring farm before being transferred to farms or other hostels. New Clubs have been started at Sambourne, Wootton Waven and Kineton, so that there are now sixteen groups of L.G.'s mostly employed on private farms, who have regular fortnightly or monthly meetings. Club activities range from games, pantomime parties, "bring and buy" sales, dances (. . . and such a lot of them!) dramatic societies, and even lessons in French. In the hostels a series of fortnightly talks on agricultural subjects has been arranged by the Agricultural Organiser to the County Council and the talks have met with enthusiastic response from both hostel and private farm girls. A number of new District Representatives' have recently promised their help to the L.A. and successful District Representatives' meetings have been held in five areas. One of our Warwickshire volunteers, Nancy Noch, has recently lost her foot, as the result of an accident, while threshing. We send her all our sympathy and our admiration for her pluck and cheerfulness.

Wilts.—W.L.A. Clubs, large and small, all over the county are proving a power for good, not only for the L.A. but for other people too.

The Benevolent Fund is winning many supporters and the Chalke Valley girls raised £11 6s. 6d. for the Prisoners of War Fund. Trowbridge girls enjoyed themselves at a dance and sent Aid to

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Russia to the tune of £13. Highworth and District raised £13 11s. 10d. for the Red Cross Agriculture Fund by carol singing—other clubs have helped this and the Penny a Week Funds and the Merchant Service. Peggy Boyce is running a very successful Physical Training Class, and here a dance raised £7 15s. to spend on yet further enterprise. M. Blakey, Secretary, wants to thank Lady Napier and Mrs. Luce for the formation of the Semley and District Club. Meetings are now held in the Sedgemoor Parish Hall on the 1st and 3rd Thursday every month. Two successful dances have helped both the clubs' funds and the Benevolent Fund—at the first of these, four members went down to the hall the night before and scrubbed the floor which had not been scrubbed for years—it was a sad reward for their labour that the night of the dance turned out wet. Dauntsey's School Y.F. Club, which includes L.G.'s working there, has taken second prize in the All English Silage Contest. Mrs. Koe, our new County Organiser, went to the demonstration and was also taken round the research station where cultures are being grown to improve the seeding-barley and other cereals used by the farmers. Members have been asked to give their views on holding a Rally this year, but so far only a handful of girls have answered. Perhaps more will tell the County Office what they think of the project. A small office has opened in Salisbury, at 45, Blue Boar Row, where one of the Committee members, Miss Pease, will be available to answer questions and help solve knotty problems on Tuesday, from 11 till 4, and on the first and third Saturday in every month from 2 till 5. The room is not a Club Room, but is an inquiry office, but no correspondents should be sent there nor should uniform be taken there.

Wores.—The hostels have generally made good use of the blackout evenings; many classes in drama, German, folk-songs, handicraft, and ball-room dancing have been arranged and enjoyed. We have had visits from film units of the Ministry of Information, and a Polish lecturer, whose restrained but vivid talk on conditions in Poland to-day greatly impressed all who were fortunate enough to hear him. More clubs are opening in various parts of the county, and we are looking forward to a series of concerts arranged by C.E.M.A.

There is an increased interest in the Young Farmers Clubs, and many of our L.G.'s take an active and prominent part in them.

We are glad to welcome Mrs. Kendall as our new County Organiser, who will be working in co-operation with Miss Jordan, already known to so many of us.

Yorks.—On Jan. 23rd, the Chairman and Lady Mountgarret gave a tea party to 60 volunteers in Ripon. G.S.B.'s were distributed, 5 volunteers receiving two year armlets. All those present worked on farms in the district, many of them in isolated areas where amusements are few and work is hard. Lady Graham expressed the thanks of the W.A.C. and said that the Minister of Agriculture fully realised that the volunteers on farms were performing arduous work of the utmost national importance. After an excellent tea everyone enjoyed the short concert which followed. On Feb. 11th, 12 L.G.'s from Ripon had the honour of forming a Guard of Honour for the Princess Royal when H.R.H. opened the Ripon Farmers Red Cross Gift Sale. Their turn out did the Land Army credit and the Princess spoke to every girl and asked about her work.

Kirbymoorside W.L.A. Club organised a most successful dance in December and raised £12 for the Benevolent Fund as well as helping their own funds. Members of the Forces and other friends in the area helped to make the evening a great success. Howden Hostel wishes to thank Mrs. Saltmarshe, Mr. Branton and the many other Howden residents who helped to make the dance held in the Shire Hall such a success. The profits amounted to £20 18s.

County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Yorkshire	39	6	0	4181
Kent	203	6	9	3194
Essex	33	3	0	2743
Hants	132	2	0	1830
Herts	43	5	3	1812
Leics 1467	119	7	0	1734
Rut 267				
E. Sussex	29	4	0	1701
Surrey	137	13	9	1561
Northants	261	13	11	1485
Warwicks	198	14	6	1420
Bucks	77	4	3	1417
Wores	126	15	4	1382
Somerset	46	13	0	1380
W. Sussex	106	18	5	1307
Lancs	52	10	3	1236
Wilts	77	16	6	1226
Holl & Kes	73	4	0	1218
Cheshire	32	4	3	1216
Norfolk	124	3	8	1180
Glos	179	17	4	1147
Berks	184	5	8	1117
Devon	78	12	1	1076
Notts	9	16	6	1021
Cornwall	29	3	0	996
North'd	78	6	5	940
Salop	119	9	0	864
Hunts 240	68	2	5	846
Camb 431				
Ely 175	93	18	9	804
Cumb. & West...				
Oxon	40	10	6	783
E. Suffolk	92	19	6	779
Dorset	36	17	6	748
Staffs	30	5	0	673
Durham	5	0	0	641
S. Wales	131	4	10	620
Lindsey	116	6	0	592
Glam	188	5	6	582
W. Suffolk	119	6	1	552
Beds	73	7	9	541
Monmouth	23	13	10	504
Herefords	58	12	5	495
N. Wales	199	2	9	408
Flints	3	12	0	387
Denbigh	15	2	0	368
Lon. & Mx.	44	3	0	368
Derby	26	6	0	356
I. of W.	—	—	—	318
Brec. & Rad	56	11	11	291
Mont.	5	1	0	Not rec'd.

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