

THE LAND GIRL



No. 2, Volume 4

MAY, 1943

Price 3d.

STAFF WORK

MEMBERS of the W.L.A. have been justly and widely praised but the officials and voluntary workers, on whom the successful administration of the Land Army depends, have received far less recognition than is their due in this respect. In fact most people seem to have only a hazy idea of how the Land Army is run—including perhaps some Land Girls.

W.L.A. Headquarters is part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is housed at Balcombe, the home of the Honorary Director, Lady Denman. Mrs. Jenkins is Assistant Director and there are special departments for Hostels, Uniform, Employment, Publicity and Welfare, in addition to all the general administrative and clerical work of a big office. There are seven Travelling Regional Officers, each covering an area comprising several counties. Nearly every county (a few are linked together) has its own Chairman and Committee of eight members and an office in charge of an Organising Secretary who has a staff under her which may include one or more Assistant Secretaries and County Organisers, according to the size of the county. In addition, there are throughout England and Wales, over 3,000 District Representatives, voluntary workers who visit volunteers, inspect billets, supervise conditions of work, organise clubs and generally act as the Land Girl's friend.

Land Army county offices have a tough job. Think of the work even one volunteer entails—recruiting, interviewing and enrolling her, collecting papers and reports, measuring and supplying uniform, making training arrangements and sending travelling warrant and instructions—then a job and a billet—more correspondence, warrants and instructions. And that's only the beginning; visits, reports, replacements of uniform, collecting coupons, holidays, perhaps a change of job or even a crisis of illness or accident. All that for one Land Girl and there are 60,000. And that's only one side of the work. Matters of general policy, negotiations with War Agricultural Committees, Employment Exchanges and others, Committee meetings, Conferences, Rallies, organising hostels and running clubs—all these and many other activities make up as heavy a war job as anyone could wish to have.

Every Land Girl can help the work of the county office, perhaps most of all by keeping in close touch. Little troubles and difficulties can often be prevented from becoming big ones if they are tackled in time, prompt answers to letters save time and temper which are both apt to run short nowadays, and telling joys as well as sorrows lightens everybody's burden. "Yes, it's very hard work" wrote one County Secretary "but the girls make it all worth while."

M.A.P.

TWO'S COMPANY

Kathleen and I live together in a cottage in Yorkshire. Our day begins at 6.45; on alternate mornings one lights the fire and prepares breakfast whilst the other gets washed and dressed and then takes over whilst the first gets ready. Usually breakfast is over by 7.30, then we wash the dishes and lay the table for dinner, build up the fire so that it stays on for 3½ hours, and at 7.50 we leave the cottage for the farm, which is five minutes walk across the fields. Work begins at 8 o'clock though this to many land girls may seem rather late. Kath works on the farm and looks after all the beasts, she is very keen on her job as she is fond of all animals, and she really has made a great success of it, like many other fellow workers, who started out not knowing one end of a cow from the other. Her day is made up with the hundred and one tasks of the farmyard, feeding, bedding, swilling and cleaning byres, milking, grooming the cows. At 11.30 she goes across to the cottage to build the fire up and prepares dinner for 12 o'clock. We have one hour for dinner and then back to work until 5 o'clock. My work is gardening, which I like as much as Kath does farming; I do all the digging, forking, and cultivating of the soil, we grow every kind of vegetable, but most of our ground is used for potatoes. I find my work very interesting, there is always something to show for your labour, and I look forward eagerly after sowing seeds, to see them pushing their heads through the soil. At 5 o'clock our day at the farm is over, and we go back to our cottage and tea. After tea Kath washes the dishes and prepares dinner for next day, whilst I tidy the kitchen, bring in water, sticks and coals. Then we each make our beds, and usually, by 7 o'clock we have the place in good order and everything prepared for next day. After that we spend our leisure in letter writing, or cultivating our own garden, where we grow most of our vegetables and salads. There is an occasional dance or whist drive in the village, and we spend some very pleasant evenings at the home of some friends we have made nearby. It is nearly two years since Kath and I joined the W.L.A., and besides learning a lot about farming and gardening, we have learnt how to cook and manage a house, of which we had very little knowledge before, so we have a great deal to thank the W.L.A. for.

Our household expenses average 18s. per week; groceries, £1; butcher, 5s.;

bread and cakes, 5s.; coal and paraffin, 6s. In the summer we save on coal and paraffin, as we have a small stove and have salads for dinner, using the fire only at night to cook a hot meal. That is how Kathleen and I manage in our cottage, and we have enjoyed every minute of our experience, even when I made some tea-cakes, and was told they would do fine for reinforcing an air-raid shelter. I add a few recipes and hope they will be very helpful to some of our fellow workers. We wish every member of the W.L.A. the very best of luck.

Edna Hutchinson, 42106

Kathleen Ryan, 42113 (Yorks).

Tasty Omelette.—Two level table-spoons dried egg mixed with four table-spoons water. Grate into this 2oz. cheese, one small onion and 1oz. chopped parsley, mix well. Put small amount fat into frying pan, when hot, pour mixture into pan and cook for 15 mins.

Vegetable Pie.—Use as many different vegetables as available, and after cleaning dice them all and cook together. Then put into pie dish with a little vegetable juice, cover with pastry crust or layer of potatoes and cook in oven until crust is cooked.

Cheese Delight.—Use any mashed potatoes you have left, grate in as much cheese as you have potato and 1oz. parsley to taste. Mix well together and put into pie dish. Grate a layer of cheese on top and put into oven to brown. You could grate one onion in, too, which makes this dish very tasty.

A GOOD IDEA

Llangollen W.L.A. Club gave a splendidly successful "Landladies' Evening" recently. Competitions were provided by Miss Jagger and prizes given. Tea and cakes were provided for refreshments and the evening finished with amusing games which caused much laughter. Many landladies were heard discussing their L.G.'s!

Everyone enjoyed the evening and the volunteers were glad of the opportunity to make a small return for many kindnesses they have received from their landladies.

A Wiltshire Land Girl, when given a lift recently, remarked thoughtfully that Major Road must have a very fast car, as he always seemed to be ahead.

J. Evison, 66395, of Durham, finds that milk left on boots or Wellingtons rots them quicker than anything else.

CABBAGES IN CORNWALL

Last week-end my employer asked if I would like to go with her to her place on the north coast of Cornwall and cut the crop of spring cabbage there. Rosemergy (Cornish for the Valley by the Sea) is a beautiful, unspoilt, peaceful valley, with steep sides covered with gorse bushes and heather—at the bottom there are fields, two of which we have cultivated.

We started on Saturday evening and camped in a caravan. On Sunday morning we awoke to a lovely sunny day, and after a good breakfast set to work cutting the cabbage. When we had cut just over half I had developed a very fine specimen of a blister, though I had a very sharp knife. The sun was hot by then, so we packed what we had cut as quickly as possible to get them out of the sun. They went into net sacks, each of which had to weigh 40lbs. This was no easy matter, at first they filled quickly and when weighed were something like 10lbs! So we packed them scientifically, and very tightly and found the net weighed 60lbs.! By dinner-time we had packed what we had cut and left them

All Volunteers will be glad and proud to hear that His Majesty the King has honoured the Land Army by sending a donation to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.

under a hedge in the shade. Dinner made a lot of difference to my energies, and I set to work cutting again with fury; in less than an hour we had finished cutting and by 5 o'clock we had all packed (we had got quite expert at guessing the weight by then). After tea we hadn't got much food left, with great self-control I left a slice of bread for Monday morning breakfast!

Our final task was to tie up all the sacks and carry them up from the bottom of the valley to the drive which leads on to the road, where the lorry could pick them up. All told there were 52 sacks, so we each had 26 journeys to make, and although we had been working all day I still felt as fresh as a daisy, it was all so lovely there and not at all like a work day. We got all the sacks safely transported by the time it was beginning to get dark, then collected two sacks full of leaves we had trimmed off for our cows and pigs at home and hurried back the 8 miles home and to bed where I worked out in my head that we had worked 11½ hours and cut, packed, and carried between 18 and 19 cwt. of cabbage off ¼ acre of land.

B. Lang, 27046 (Cornwall.)

TELLING THE WORLD

On April 9th Mr. Donald McCullough broadcast to Australia an interesting account of the work and organisation of the W.L.A. He attributed much of its success to its Honorary Director, Lady Denman, enumerated the various jobs which volunteers do and recounted many instances of gallantry and devotion to duty.

Also on April 9th Mr. McCullough took the chair at a meeting between representatives of the Land Army and representatives of the Press. Lady Denman gave the latest facts and figures about the W.L.A., Dr. Saunders, Executive Officer of Herts W.A.E.C., described the Training Courses for forewomen and gangers which his committee have started and Mr. Clyde Higgs, of Warwickshire (who was described by Mr. McCullough as the Land Army's "dream boss"), gave a very interesting account of his many Land Girls. He said there was now one Land Girl to every six farmers, but he hopes to see one Land Girl to every farmer. Mrs. Stevenson (Chief Officer, Women's Timber Corps) spoke of the good work done by the W.T.C., and stressed the great success of some volun-

teers as "saw doctors." She said that we now imported 25 per cent. of our timber as opposed to 90 per cent. before the war. The last speaker was Mrs. Hannan, who billets two volunteers in W. Sussex—her account of the mutual help and pleasure she and her lodgers receive should be a great encouragement to all possible landladies.

Not long ago a Land Girl took part in the "Answering You" programme broadcast to the U.S.A.

Another useful Press Conference was held at Leeds at the end of March, when Lady Denman met many representatives of Northern papers. Also in March, Miss Brew addressed, at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, W.R.N.S. officers in training, who appeared exceedingly interested in the work being done by the W.L.A., and asked for a repeat visit.

On April 13th the B.B.C. broadcast a programme by volunteers from Lincs (Holland and Kesteven) and at the end of March Miss Epton, W.L.A., of Northamptonshire, gave a very interesting account of her work in the B.B.C. French Service, and finally, on May 2nd, Mr. McCullough appealed on behalf of the Benevolent Fund.

Rat Symposium



Got It!

We read with interest the article on the destruction of rats, and, whilst we realise this same article was very aptly described, we noticed it dealt only with poison. We have now for a considerable period been employed in pest destruction, and use not only poison (not very often) but gas, ferrets and traps. Digging rats out, ourselves armed with sticks and using the dogs, is, we consider, quite a sporting way, and the rat stands an even chance. We have dug out rats and seen them climb trees as nimbly as any cat and work their way along a seven-foot hedge, jumping from branch to branch.

Trapping is one of the most successful methods. In fact we two Land Girls trapped 475 rats on one farm in ten days. We have also killed 876 on one other farm, and these are only two of the many farms we visit. If any member of our W.L.A. can tell us of any other method we should be most interested and happy to learn.

M. O'Hara, 92345,
L. Oddy, 87245, (Lindsey).

I think it is because I am a country girl born and bred on a farm, growing up among birds and animals and all the wild life of the countryside, that I love pest destruction.

Rats are very cute. You must cover traps with the natural growth of the place where you are catching them so that even the oldest rat cannot tell it is a trap. Poison is laid in different forms and ways. The same bait is never used twice so that the rat thinks that it is just another fresh tit-bit he's found.

My funniest experience was when I crawled on top of an old dusty cupboard in a farm granary to inspect a bag of sheep's wool. I could see that a rat had made a hole in the bag, and I set a trap in the hole, but as I placed the trap in position out ran the rat, over my hand, up into a hole in the wall. I then laid a trap by that hole—and elsewhere. Later in the morning Mr. Rat was well and truly caught. I had had my revenge, but I hope my desire to kill never goes farther than rats.

E. C. Whistance, 70854 (Hereford).

A TRACTOR IN ULSTER

AS I cross the yard to the tractor-shed at eight o'clock on a November morning, McAllen, the head farm man, appears and says:

"Mornin', miss, ye can go on wi' th' ploughin' till dinner toime, an' after that if th' ground dries up at all we'll get the last o' th' winter whate into th' Ten Acre. Oi'll send th' seed down wi' Cleer, so's ye can go straight there an' roll, which will gie ye a chanst to get well away in front af th' sowin'."

He swings the starting-handle of my Fordson, and I drive down to the field, arriving there simultaneously with Cleer and the second tractor: we hitch onto our respective ploughs and start work. As the morning wears on it becomes increasingly obvious that I have chosen to plough the wrong end of the field. Rocks, rocks, and yet more rocks, make me continually reverse the tractor to pick up the plough, whose automatic coupling unhitches on every impact against them. When this has happened seven times down one furrow Cleer offers advice:

"If I were ye I'd tighten thon hitch, for ye're losin' yere plough too aisy."

Replying that someone has tipped loads of boulders down here and I don't want to break all my plough points, I never-the-less tighten the coupling, get going, and almost immediately break a point. Two passers-by watch with interest my fitting a new one. There is no W.L.A. as known in England here, and one almost never sees a woman land worker, so that even after three years of tractor driving I am frequently stared at as a curiosity. I loosen the coupling and struggle on again; crawl, crash, stop, reverse, until twelve, when I thankfully knock off for lunch.

One o'clock finds me in the Ten Acre, which is not so very dry, and most of the field gathers on the roller. McAllen comes down with the wheat and we decide to abandon it in favour of a disc harrow.

We work fast; McAllen broadcasts the seed in the wake of my disc, while Cleer commences to cover it in with the second harrow. There are some very soft spots about and I get bogged in one, with the wheels churning helplessly. Cleer takes my place in front of the sowing while I extricate my machine; by which time he, McAllen and the two men supplying his fiddle with wheat are far down the field. Unlike my early tractor days when there was a rush to help me at first signs of trouble, I am now only given assist-

ance if I ask for it. Strangely enough, a complimentary state of affairs, for it means that I am accepted as a worker, and no longer looked upon as just a woman playing at farming, which is the discouraging view taken of women land-workers by these dour Ulstermen. Having at last salvaged my "tools," I proceed to cover in the seed from where Cleer left off.

Rain begins to fall soon after McAllen finishes sowing, and shortly before knocking off time at six the soil is unworkable. However, by driving the tractors all out we have managed to cover the seed fairly thoroughly, and as Cleer says when we unhook the harrows: "We've done all we can, now ut's up to th' whate to do the rest an' start growin'."

J. K. Dobbs (Ulster).

LAMENT OF A HARE

Yesterday

Little Hare came out to play,
He sat and nibbled off the grass,
So the hours did swiftly pass.

Then

Came the night.

To-day

As the sun was dawning,
In the early hours of morning,
Little Hare was still there
He'd stayed
Out all night.

Little Hare

Had frozen toes and didn't know
That snows freeze toes,
Didn't know it wasn't right

To stay

Out all night.

Mrs. Hare

Out from her burrow came,
And there found to her shame
Her son—who'd thought that it was
right

To stay

Out all night.

Little Hare

Will run and leap no more,
For he now has gone below
To a land, where everyone knows
That snows freeze toes,
And it isn't right

To stay

Out all night.

P. Radcliffe, 56855 (Essex.)

J. Evison, 66395, Durham, has learned that if milk is left on boots or Wellingtons it rots them quicker than anything else.

MISS BAXTER AND I—No. 8

Upper Muckledocherty had the travelling mill last week and our farmer said would my friend Miss Baxter and I go and help because Upper Muckledocherty had lent him two forks and a horse-collar at the harvest. Miss Baxter said wasn't it a mercy he hadn't lent him a hen-coop as well because then he would have had to hire a squad from the Hostel to make up, and the farmer said he thought half a squad would have done unless he had thrown in a hen as well, and we had better set our alarum clock a little earlier for tomorrow.

Well, I said we hadn't decided yet if Double Summer Time made it earlier or later, and the alarum hand had stuck, but we would move the time hands forward—or would it be back?—so that when it was six the clock would say eight—or perhaps four—and the alarum would ring because it was stuck at seven—or would it? And the farmer said it might be better if he just knocked us.

The mill had started when we arrived at Upper Muckledocherty, and Miss Baxter said she believed in getting orders straight from the horse's mouth, so we had better find the farmer, and that was sure to be him at the shed door because he wasn't doing any work.

Well, we went to the shed and I explained about Miss Baxter being a horse-collar and me two forks, and asked what we should do, and the man said sit quietly in the shade for quite a long time, but he was the man from the British Kitchens with the dinners so perhaps we would like a second opinion.

Just then a man came out of the shed, and when we asked him if he was the farmer he said no he wasna, and fit the heck was he? (We are quite used to this question because since they took away all those coupons we do look rather like Stalingrad after the siege). The man from the British Kitchens said didn't he recognise one of the Horrors of War, and the man said no, nor the ither yin neither, and just then a man in khaki came in at the gate. Miss Baxter said we should leave no rolling stone unturned when looking for a needle in a camel's eye, so we asked him if he was the farmer, and he said no, the Home Guard out on a scheme, only he had lost the rest since Sunday.

Miss Baxter said the same thing happened to her when she had taken the Buttercup Patrol of the Girl Guides for a Nature ramble, but she had found

them again at Pansy Peck's uncle's where the pig was being killed. And the Home Guard said that was quite an idea, sister, and perhaps he'd find his Buttercups at the Swine and Swingle, and would she care to come and help him look?

Then a fourth man appeared and said what was goin' on here and who was we? Miss Baxter said Enoch and Ramsbottom, and not to look now, but that was Shirley Temple behind the water-barrel, and was he the man about the instalment on the grand piano? And the man said no, he was the farmer.

Well, Miss Baxter said "Good moring, Mr. Dochertmucklety," and I said "Good morning, Mr. Muckleuperty," and explained everything all over again, and the farmer said what was the use of the likes of us to him doon-by? And Miss Baxter said, well, we helped him doon-by to keep down his income tax in a small way, and the farmer said it was awfu' the lengths some would gang to spite the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the big yin could fork to Sam on the stack, and the wee yin could see to the chaff.

Miss Baxter said she just loved a bit of chaff, but I said I thought he meant the kind that was separated from the oats, and Miss Baxter said was that not the wheat from the tares, and the man from the British Kitchens said or the sheep from the goats, and the farmer didn't say anything, and went away.

Well, we went in search of Sam and the straw stack, and had just completed a rapid withdrawal from the threatening bulge in the bull's pen, when a man came through the door and said he would guide us to the mill, and his name was Sam. Miss Baxter said it should be Baedeker, and we all went into the stack-yard.

Sam gave Miss Baxter a big sheet to carry the chaff from the end of the mill to the barn. It was rather a long way, but when she asked them to move the mill closer they made all sorts of difficulties, so she just had to manage.

Then Sam climbed to the top of the stack and gave me a hand, and when I had pulled him down twice and apologised to the three men who had been pushing, they brought a ladder and I got up. The man at the end of the mill forked a bunch of straw to me, and when I had picked myself up and he had handed me up my fork from under the mill, I forked it back to Sam and began to tell him about my Aunt Hester's chilblains, but perhaps the mill was making too much noise for him to hear properly.

because when dinner time came he asked if we had to shoot the puir brute in the end.

The mill stopped at five o'clock. The farmer was talking to the man from the British Kitchens as we went out of the gate, and he said to tell our farmer that he wouldn't be able to lend him any forks this harvest or a horse-collar either. The man from the British Kitchens murmured, "And so we leave Upper Muckle-docherty, land of romance and fragrant memories."

As Miss Baxter said afterwards, that at least was a feather in our coffins.

Isobel Mount (Scotland.)

FARMER'S COUNTRY

The lovely countryside of England, with its fields surrounded by hedges, its country lanes, its cottages and manor houses, is actually man's work, and the man who has been mainly responsible for beautifying our island is the farmer.

Back in the New Stone Age, Neolithic people, descendants of the earliest nomads, had learnt a simple type of husbandry, and therefore were able to settle instead of wandering from place to place. Their settlements were always on the higher ground because the lower land consisted of huge tangled forests, vast tracts of grassland, swamps and heaths. On the higher ground the light soil was easily worked, and traces of 2000 B.C. villages still remain on Windmill Hill, near Avebury, and Whitehawk Hill, near Brighton. These villages of thatched mud huts were usually surrounded by a stockade on an earthen rampart. Between the huts were cultivated strips, not unlike our war-time allotments. Each man kept a few pigs, cattle and sheep.

Down through the ages better implements and methods were introduced, but for the most part people still remained "ridge-dwellers." Even when the Romans came to this island the lower land remained uncultivated. True, the Romans gave our land a system of military roads, but by Anglo-Saxon times these had almost disappeared. It is difficult to imagine the England of that period. The forests alone were quite unlike those we know to-day, one, named Silva Anderida, stretched from Sussex to the Kentish Weald. In the Fens, too, Nature held out supreme against all man's efforts to cultivate, but to-day there is only one small strip of the original to be seen, at Sedge Fen, near Cambridge. When drained, these Fens have proved to be

the most fertile agricultural land. On the heaths, perhaps nature has stuck out longest but since the war began, as W.L.A. members will know from personal experience, tractors and diggers have changed even the wild face of the heath.

The English farmer has seen many changes, some for the better, some for worse, but to-day he is the most important factor on the Home Front. He feeds the British workers, our troops, the soldiers from overseas, and the refugees from Europe. He has had to economise in many things, he has had to take orders from the Government, to employ women instead of men, to buy "new-fangled" machines, but he works harder than ever before. What would our countryside be like without the farmer? Just like it was in 2000 B.C. Look at any disused railway cutting or bridle-path, you will see what happens to land which is left to nature. If we wish to keep our trim, green countryside we must look after our agriculture.

J. Ryder, 62746 (Cheshire.)

HEADQUARTERS' NOTES

The National Health Insurance scheme safeguards a Land Army member against sickness. The Unemployment Insurance scheme safeguards her against being out of work. The Workmen's Compensation Act safeguards her against the dangers of accident while at work. It is pleasant to be protected but the danger of so much safety is that you may forget to guard against the risks that are your own responsibility.

One of these is risk to your personal possessions when you live away from home in a billet or in a hostel. If there should be a fire in a Land Army hostel, for example, and some of your clothes are burnt, you will receive sympathy in large quantity, you may even be able to wring extra coupons—in small quantity—out of the Board of Trade, but no one will give you the money to buy new clothes unless you yourself have taken out an Insurance policy against risk of fire.

It does not cost much to do this. A very small payment each year will cover possessions against "All Risks" to the value of £50 or £100 and any big Insurance Company will give you advice and a price. Anyhow, it is something to think about and something best thought about before, not afterwards.

Inez Jenkins.

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read L. Routledge's letter on post-war work in Europe, and she might be interested to know that the Girl Guides' Association have already formed a Guide International Service for work on the Continent after the war, and one of the branches is for land work. The standard of physical fitness required is very high, and a special training on Commando lines is being carried out by the various members as it is expected that the work will entail prolonged hours of exacting work under hard and trying conditions.

I am sure there must be many ex-Guides and Rangers in the Land Army who would like to volunteer for the G.I.S., and I will be only too pleased to give anyone any information it is in my power to do so. I myself have offered my services, but have still to pass the medical examination.

c/o Mrs. Whitson, M. I. Sands,
Middleton Kerse, 981.
Menstrie,
Clackmannanshire, Scotland.

Dear Editor,

I think Lilian Routledge's suggestion about helping in the recultivation of the land in Europe is a very good idea. I have thought about it myself and asked some of the girls at the farm what they thought, they thought it was quite a good idea. I am sure you will find other girls in Gloucestershire who would volunteer to help in so great a task.

Glos. B. Whitaker, 11271.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to congratulate one of your Land Army girls. A short while ago Miss Elva Wood, of Rose Lea, Muston, Eley, did a brave and fine piece of work. While in Scarborough she saw an accident, one of our men was terribly hurt. So this girl volunteered to give one pint of her blood, which I think is splendid. How thoughtful and kind, and the only girl out of about 100 people who stood there watching. Through this brave deed this man is abroad and fighting on one of the fronts.

Well, we are sailing for abroad any time now, so keep up the good work you are doing, Miss Wood; I and all the regiment are proud of you. Well, good luck to you. We are sure to win the war when there are such people as you.

R. Griffiths, Royal Artillery.

Dear Editor,

I became a Land Girl at the end of November, 1941, and I have never regretted the change. Up till that time I had been living in a city and, although working long and strenuous hours at a factory, I found time to enjoy myself in the town. I was keen on being a member of the W.L.A., but as I had never been in very good health, my family tried to persuade me against it. But being of a stubborn nature, I had my own way. That was nearly fifteen months ago, I'm still in the Land Army and I have never felt healthier in my life. I have tried my hand at practically everything one has to do on a farm. I have pulled and driven mangolds, set potatoes, cleaned out pig-stys, cowsheds, hen-houses and stables, besides feeding all the live-stock. I have also driven a tractor while ploughing, chain-harrowing and sowing and then there's heaps of odd jobs besides, which have to be done. But of all the interesting jobs I have done, I think the two I like most are those of looking after the calves and milking.

S. Wales. L. Adams, 56438.

Dear Editor,

I was very pleased to read the article in March issue of the "Land Girl," regarding the Italian prisoners of war. If we are to have a proper peace after the war, we shall have to show consideration and kindness to every country, even if they are our enemies. As you so wisely pointed out, there is no need to be over friendly, but let us at least show the true British spirit of courtesy and goodwill.

I have been in the Land Army for a year and eight months. Am working in a nursery garden, which I find very interesting. I do quite a lot of greenhouse work, mostly pricking out of seedlings now, and looking after tomatoes in the summer. I do occasionally help in the field work at this farm, which also belongs to my boss. Must confess that I am scared of cows and terrified of horses, which immensely amuses the men. Can drive cows as long as they do not look at me. It has always been a pleasure to me to live in the country, although I lived in the town till I was 16 years old. I wish that I had joined the Land Army earlier; however, I have been the means of quite a few joining by telling them all about it. Wishing you all the best.

Monmouth. E. Jones, 48806.



In a Hostel at Doncaster

Dear Editor,

I should like to say a word of praise for the courage and presence of mind of two of my land girls, Miss K. G. Ashford and Miss J. M. Kidd, working for Mr. Cole, Brede Barn Farm, Sedlescombe.

One afternoon, last week, while milking, they smelt fire; rushing out with two buckets of water, they found a large timber and thatched shed on fire. Regardless of their own safety, they went into, the then blazing building to save the calves and pigs. With the help of another farm hand they saved three calves, a sow and two small pigs, but before they could get out the other six calves, a sow and twelve small pigs, the roof fell in. The girls had to be ordered out by the farmer before they would give up trying to save the other animals.

On hearing of the fire, I went to see if my girls were all right. I found them unharmed, but in tears over the loss of their charges.

E. Sussex.

M. Franklin.

E. Zierer (Oxon) recommends us to read *An Architect of Nature*, by Luther Burbank.

WANTED. — Second-hand racing bicycle. Aldam, Furnace Farm, Dale Abbey, Nr. Ilkeston, Derbyshire.

In spite of every effort it has unfortunately proved impossible to deliver the large majority of letters sent to the Ladies' Guild of the British Sailors' Society to be forwarded to members of the Merchant Navy. Writers of letters who have not received any reply will understand the reason—it is very much regretted that no further action has proved possible.

Very few entries have been received for the "Good Hints" Competition. The date is therefore extended to June 15th. Many volunteers must have thought of good ideas to help them in their work—please send them in so that others may benefit.

FOR SALE.—Brown Riding Boots, 7, unworn. First reasonable offer, Write, Dove, 39, Sherwood Park Road, Sutton, Surrey.

FOR SALE.—Black Leather Riding Boots, excellent condition, size 6. 15 inches round top. 22s. 6d. Apply W.L.A., 34854, c/o Editor.

FOR SALE.—Black Riding Boots, 6, or exchange for size 7. Apply Shaw, 49, Mersey Road, Heaton Mersey, Manchester.

BOOKS OF THE DAY

This is the first of a series of articles to be written for "THE LAND GIRL" by Miss M. Jaeger, author of "Experimental Lives" and several novels.

"The Desert of Gobi." By Mildred Cable with Francesca French. (Hodder & Stoughton, 21s.)

"The Pandervils." By Gerald Bullett. (Dent, 10s. 6d.)

Hard things have often been said about missionaries and all their works. But, whether Christian missionaries are ever out of place or not, Mildred Cable and Francesca French have shown that they are at home in the Gobi desert: for, in Central Asia, a man's religion is the most important thing about him, and it would be thought odd if he did not allude to it and practise it. Another writer once brought a Buddhist priest to England and was disappointed that he showed little interest or animation until they met troops of week-end hikers on the Winchester road. "At last," exclaimed the visitor, "I have seen English people on pilgrimage."

Among Buddhists constantly on pilgrimage and Moslems who must pray five times a day and fast until sunset for a month in every year, the earnest Christianity of these two gallant women was a bond and an attraction. One lama might have been converted, but could not accept the doctrine of the atonement, since it was inconceivable to him that a soul could be saved by any exertions but its own.

But "The Desert of Gobi" is about many other things beside religions. It is a vivid picture of a country and a way of life unfamiliar to us—a hard way of life, since existence depends on the rare water-springs. Here, the last dregs of usefulness have to be wrung from everything, fires built of dung, utensils made of woven grass. We, in war-time Britain, can sympathise when the author says that many former "necessities" dropped out of life unregretted and, indeed, the words "necessity, comfort and luxury" changed their meanings, privacy and cleanliness remaining the only luxuries that kept their attraction. "The Desert of Gobi" is that treasure, a book both "good" and easy to read.

The name of "Egg Pandervil," whose life-story is told in "The Pandervils," suggests something quaint and fantastic, hardly in keeping with the commonplace, often sordid career of a typical English-

man who begins on a farm, spends his working life as a small grocer, to return thankfully to the farm in his old age. Yet there is a fairy-tale quality in Egg's story in that it catches those illuminated moments which, though of no practical importance, make a human being's real experience. The contrast is emphasised when Nicky, Egg's beloved son, who seems to be working towards a more constant light, is killed in the first world-war, wondering if his own new-born son will fare any better. But, for all that, there is no bitterness in the book.

WINTER DIARY COMPETITION

By Mrs. Charles Williams, Chairman, Cornwall W.L.A., who kindly consented to act as Judge.

Twenty-one Winter Diaries were received. First prize goes to J. HUNTER, 20178 (Wilts). The arrangement of the diary is good and, besides being very interested in her work she has adapted herself well and is helpful and interested in outside affairs. B. PUZEY, 1453 (Dorset) comes second with another neatly-arranged diary showing interest in her horticultural work. We like her notes and observations of the things of nature around her. Next best were D. C. OATS, 34895 (Surrey), who loves her work, particularly the pigs! and N. JESTY, 71662, who wrote a full account of her life in Cornwall with particular interest shown in local customs, and O. BRENT (5206) shows appreciation of the Devon countryside and its people. G. WANSBOROUGH, 6320 (Herts) and K. CLEMENTSON, 50365 (Cumberland) both show enterprise and interest in their work. M. WEBB'S diary (32448 Bristol), though brief has a nice turn of phrase. M. WARD HUNT, 2755 (Northants), loves her work and her horses. Threshing especially pleases her. J. RYDER, 62746 (Cheshire) made an effective cover for her diary; she is determined to improve her horticultural skill. D. STUBBS, 76984 (Bucks)—a nice, happy paper. W. BISHOP, 1546 (Wilts) appreciates the country. J. TOLLEY, 76175 (Dorset) gives an interesting account of tomato culture, and J. THOMPSON, 64173 (Derbyshire), also a gardener, has well pressed flowers and some nice paintings. G. LADE, 70500 (Sussex) sends a good horticultural paper with two drawings.

Most of the diaries show an excellent outlook and general interest in the work.



Passing the Buck-et.

Drawn by P. Sparling, 34222, W.T.C.

RALLY AT MARCH

We, in Hunts, Cambs, and Ely, are thriving on rallies. On April 3rd we welcomed Lady Denman, our Honorary Director, who took the salute at the Hereward School, March. One hundred and eleven volunteers (exactly the same number as attended the Hunts rally!) marched from the Old Cross, behind a R.A.F. band, and followed by a farm cart and a tractor. The company, which included officials of the W.A.E.C., adjourned to the School Hall. Lady Shepperson (Chairman, Hunts W.L.A.) welcomed all present. Mr. W. S. Mansfield, the Minister's Liaison Officer, said soldier labour would not be available this year, and the farming community would have to depend largely on the W.L.A. Therefore, he advised all farmers to put in their applications for labour now. Lady Denman said how glad she was to be in our midst, and had both warning and thanks to give in her address. A point she stressed was the fact that nobody should be late for work; she also felt that the women who billeted the L.A. in their houses deserved a word of praise. In presenting the G.S. Half Diamonds, she had a word for every volunteer receiving an award. Alderman Payne, chairman of the Ely W.A.E.C., moved the vote of thanks, which was very ably

seconded by Mrs. P. Cranbrook, W.L.A. Tea was provided by the W.V.S., and during the interval the literature stall did a fair trade. At 5 p.m. ENSA put on a first-class show, presented by artists from the Café Monico, Piccadilly Circus. A dance in the evening was run by the W.A.E.C., to which all members of the Land Army were invited. As a result, £14 has been handed to the Benevolent Fund. Altogether, it was a great day, and one which everybody connected with the Ely W.L.A. will remember for a long time to come.

F. M. T.

CANDLE CORNER—By Frances Turk

Published by Wright & Brown, 7s. 6d.

Christopher Kendall, invalided out of the R.A.F., finds himself unwillingly running his grandfather's farm and, when one of his farm-hands joins the Navy, is "forced" to apply for—yes, you've guessed it!—a member of the Land Army. How Diana overcomes Christopher's prejudice against her and gradually brings him to accept his new life is a story which should have a special appeal to the Land Army.

Miss Turk herself is on the administrative staff of the Land Army so you may be sure she knows her stuff!

J.M.

Scottish Notes

Headquarters.—Big crowds have been attracted to our show window at the Ministry of Labour Display and Information Centre, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, where, for the first fortnight, we had a hen with chickens; now we have two Suffolk-cross lambs. The livestock have proved a delight to city children who come twice daily to see them fed, or walked in the Park, by their W.L.A. nursemaid. Life-size models of L.G.'s and their tools against a pastoral background complete the picture. Inside there is a recruiting centre, which includes a model of a small holding and pictures of Land Girls and forestry girls at work. An amusing and informative broadcast was given by Miss Sylvia Rabagliati (the poultrymaid-shepherdess of the Display Centre) in which she described her varied career with the W.L.A. A concert was organised at the Walpole Hall, Edinburgh, by the Labour Division of the D.O.A.S. in aid of the Scottish W.L.A. Welfare and Benevolent Fund, and a most enjoyable programme was presented. The proceeds amounted to nearly £40.

Aberdeen.—At the opening of a new hostel at Torryburn, Kintore, in the Huntly & Garrioch district, recently, G.S. Badges were presented by Lord Provost Mitchell, who made an amusing speech. In the evening a concert for the W. & B. Fund held in Kintore Public Hall added a welcome £14 15s. to the growing total of this Fund.

Angus.—A very enjoyable concert organised by L.G.'s at Craichie, Forfar, realised the very handsome sum of £67 for the Prisoners of War Fund. G.S. Badges were presented by Miss E. Watson.

Ayrshire—South.—Messrs Stevenson's Milk Bar, Cumnock, which was kindly lent by the owners for a W.L.A. Club, but was temporarily closed, has been re-opened and is again flourishing. A meeting was held in the end of March.

North.—Sales of daffodils by the W.L.A. Club, Kilmarnock, have realised £2 18s. for the W. & B. Fund, and this Club has sent a further donation of £1 13s. The Beith Club is now in full swing and is co-operating with the Dunlop Club and organised a dance in April, in aid of the W. & B. Fund. They had a raffle, with prizes ranging from a pedigree bull calf to a pot of honey. A dance organised by the Fenwick girls raised the goodly sum of £10 for the same object.

Dumbarton & Renfrew.—B. Grace gave a very interesting talk on her work in the Land Army to Clarkson G.T.C. A Women's Service Canteen is now open to L.G.'s in Labour Exchange Buildings, Dumbarton, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 4.30-9.30 p.m. Reading and writing facilities are provided. The Paisley L.G.'s Club is going strong both socially and educationally. A meeting held on 9-3-43 enjoyed an instructive talk on "Farm Animals" by Mr. Donald Campbell, M.R.C.V.S.

East Fife.—A splendid concert given by L.G.'s in aid of L.G.'s, at Newport has added a most welcome £19 19s. to the W. & B. Fund. The proceeds of a barn-dance in the granary of a Fifeshire farm (4 4s.) is also gratefully acknowledged.

Kirkcudbright.—A further donation of £17 has been gratefully received from girls in the Balmaclellan area towards the W. & B. Fund. Castle Douglas W.L.A. Club gave a party with games and community singing to the Kirkcudbright Club. The president, J. McNeillie, presented a beautiful supper-cloth to Mrs. Hogg in appreciation of what she has done for the girls. A hostel has been opened at the National Services Girls' Club in Castle Douglas. The L.G.'s in this county are "going gay" and organising dances in every area to augment the W. & B. Fund.

Nairn.—Twenty members of the W.L.A. were guests of the Nairn Townswomen's Guild and spent an enjoyable and successful evening in Nairn High Church Hall.

Sutherland.—The W.L.A. Film was shown to members of the G.T.C. in Dornoch and Brora. At a previous meeting of Brora G.T.C., M. Burd gave an interesting talk on her experiences in the L.A.

Wigtownshire.—A dance given by L.G.'s at Castle Kennedy gave £19 4s. for the W. & B. Fund. Girls in this county hope to organise other entertainments for the same object in the near future.

Scottish L.A. should note that the D.O.A.S. has bought a consignment of oilskins, leggings and aprons, which are now available for purchase by L.G.'s at the rate of: Aprons, 6s. and 2 coupons. Leggings, 8s. and 3 coupons.

It is with much regret that we have to report this month, two deaths by misadventure within the ranks of the L.A. Christina Young, a Dunfermline girl, who was working at Drumrod, Cupar-Fife, was driving a dog-cart, when it overturned. She was thrown to the ground and sustained injuries from which she died on the way to hospital. Mary MacNeill, a Land Girl from Achroich, Isle of Mull, has also met her death. She was found lying at the foot of a ravine near the farm of Barguilean, Tainlith, Argyllshire, where she was employed, and it is thought that while gathering sticks for firewood, she must have slipped and fallen into the ravine.

Benevolent Fund

On April 25th, the Fund totalled £20,037 11s. The monthly total was £13,630 16s. 7d. Norfolk has the highest total, £579 3s. 4d. Berks has the highest April total £297 8s. 10d.

Beds: £6 7s. 6d.—Cribb (dance) 12s. 8d.—Misc. **Berks:** £52 10s.—Sutton. £50 8s.—Jealotts Hill and I.C.I. L.G.'s. (dance) £23 4s. 10d.—Pangbourne W.L.A. Drama League. £10 10s.—Basildon Hall Entertainments. £10—Lloyd. £10—Mosenthal £8 7s.—Hazel and Harwell L.G.'s. per Skeats (dance). £5 10s.—Ogle. £5 5s.—Iliffe. £5 3s. 6d.—Ainsworth dance. £116 10s. 6d.—Misc. **Bucks:** £40—Tarver, Wing (dance). £20—Brickhill dance. £5 4s. 7d.—Clark. £8 10s.—Misc. **Chesh:** £27—Altrincham L.G.'s. (dance) £5 5s.—Mercer. £1 10s.—Misc. **Cumb. and West:** £21 14s.—Appleby L.G.'s. per Josephs (dance) £14—Bath, McKissack. £8—Berg (dance). **Derby:** £5. Sudbury dance per Wright. £4 7s.—Misc. **Devon:** £10—Sidmouth L.G.'s per Sheeres (dance). £6 4s. 9d.—Keene, Amery (whist drive). 2s.—Misc. **Dorset:** £25—L.G.'s. £25—C.C. Sunday Entertainments. £10—Bere Regis Social (part proceeds). **Durham:** £26 4s. 3d. Shinccliffe Hostel (dance). £11—Misc. **Essex:** £30 0s. 2d.—Misc. **Glos:** £35 5s.—Dumbleton L.G.'s. per Hulbert (dance). £24 6s.—Berkeley Hostel (dance). £15—Norton (dance). £11 10s.—Hall. Horne, Reed (dance). £5 5s.—Neale. £5 15s.—Misc. **Hants:** £40—Col. House's Volunteers per Turner (dance). £9 5s.—Havant Social per Woolmer, White. £5—Bruce. £1 7s. 6d.—Misc. Hereford: £153 6s. 7d.—per Heppell (dance and draw). £16 10s.—Peacock. **Herts:** £8 3s.—Misc. **Hants:** £15 15s.—Whitlesses Hostel (dance). £14—W.A.E.C. Ely (dance). £7 7s. 6d.—Cohen (dance). £7—Swaffham Prior Hostel (dance). £5—St. Neot's (dance). £8 8s. 6d.—Misc. **Kent:** 2s. 6d.—Misc. **Lancs:** £11 10s. 8d.—Cullen (dance). £9—Gray (dance). £7 10s.—Houghton W.I.D. Committee. £6 15s.—Webb (affle). £5 10s. 3d.—Stubbs, Molyneux (affle). £12 17s. 1d.—Misc. **Leics:** £15—Edwards, Peaker (dance). £21 2s.—Enderby dance per Mullee. £10—Taylor, Hayto, Perberdy (dance). £1 5s.—Misc. **Lincs. H. and K:** £18—Meakin, Stone, Evans, Whitehead, Parry (dance). £5 5s.—Daniels. £8 19 6d.—Misc. **Lincs. (Lindsey):** £32—Wellington Hostel per Smith (dance). £16 2s.—Sibsey L.G.'s. per Saunders (dance). £11—Mason (whist drive). £9—Mahon, Donald, Gray, Milnes, (whist drive). £8 1s. 7d.—Carrington Hostel (dance). £9—Misc. **London and Middx:** £10—Stinell. £10—Relling. £10—Heath (Deed of Covenant). £5—Mathews £5—E.N.V. Engineering Co. £5—Davey. £5—Hall & Sons. £21 18s. 6d.—Misc. **Mon:** £6 12 9d.—Misc. **Norfolk:** £138 6s. 8d.—War Charities Fund per Burgess. **Northants:** £15—Titmarsh Hostel (entertainment). £11 10s.—Strange and friends (dance). £8 5s. 6d.—Hemington dance.

County News

£7 12s. 9d.—Barnford, Barrett (whist drive).
 £7 10s.—Northampton Violin School Concert.
 £6 10s. 8d.—Misc. **Northumberland**: £8 10s.—
 Neillan (dance). £2 5s. 6d.—Misc. **Notts**: £7—
 Bunny Hostel per Purves. **Oxford**: £43 10s.—
 Eynsham L.G.'s, per Gibbons (dance). £9—Fletcher
 (part dance proceeds). £4 18s.—Misc. **Salop**:
 £35—Archam L.G.'s (dance). £12—Much Wenlock
 L.G.'s (dance). £5—Bishop's Castle (half dance
 proceeds). £1 11s. 10d.—Misc. **Somerset**: £20—
 Langford L.G.'s (dance). £17—Whittaker, Morris
 (dance). £6—Hermans, Holbrook (dance) **Staffs**:
 £20—Lichfield L.G.'s (dance). £10 10s.—Irving,
 Welsh (dance). £9 10s.—Bridgford L.G.'s, per
 Jones (whist drive). £4 9s. 6d.—Misc. **E. Suffolk**:
 £31 2s. 6d.—L.G.'s, per Cardew (dance). £30 0s. 6d.—
 Nacton L.G.'s, per Packard. £20—L.G.'s, per
 Croydton (dance). £15—Hatchett (dance). £13 10s.—
 Tressingfield L.G.'s (dance). £7 16s. 6d.—Hale-
 worth Hostel per Walters (dance and whist drive).
 £6—L.G.'s, per Richmond (dance). £7 0s. 3d.—
 Misc. **W. Suffolk**: £17—Herringswell social per
 de Blair. £2 10s.—Misc. **Surrey**: £25—Chobham
 L.G.'s, per Hedgis (dance). £21—Churt dance per
 Woods. £7—Wentworth L.L.A. Club. £5 5s.—
 Hamilton. £5—Farnham Club dance. £12 14s. 6d.—
 Misc. **Warwicks**: £26 10s. Welfare Fund per
 Hunter. £8—Allen (whist and dance). £8—
 Berkwell & Balsall Common L.G.'s, per Milburn.
 £5 5s.—Leigh. £2—Misc. **Wilts**: £10—Scargy and
 Sutton Benger L.G.'s. £1 13s.—Misc. **Wores**:
 £62 11s. 2d.—L.G.'s, per Combs. **Yorks**: £5 5s.—
 Howard-Vyse. **North Wales**: £35 10s.—Beaumaris
 Entertainment per Edwards. **South Wales**: £22—
 per Morgan (concert). £8 5s. 3d.—Newcastle
 Emllyn per Morgan (dance). £7 19s. 6d.—Misc.
Pembroke: £36 9s. 6d.—Tenby L.G.'s (dance). 2s.—
 Misc. **Glam.**: £45—per Vatchell (dance).
 £42 8s. 10d.—per Day. £40—Bevan. £13 1s.—
 Vaughan Harrett. £12 14s.—Ackland, Allen.
 £7 7s. 8d.—Llewellyn. £5—Pierce (bridge drive).
 £2 15s.—Misc. **Montgomery**: £20—Forden L.G.'s
 (dance). £11 4s.—Llandinam L.G.'s, per Wiseman.
 3s.—Misc. **I.O.W.**: £5 5s.—Brown (Deed of
 Covenant). £5—Smith (raffle). £4 2s.—Misc.
W.T.C.: £13 11s. 6d.—per Bogie Northumberland
 (dance). £8 15s. 6d.—Carpenter per Sturmsar.
 £5—Bishop's Castle (half dance proceeds). £6 1s.
 Misc. **Individual Donations**: £10,000—Ministry of
 Agriculture & Fisheries Grant. £105—National
 Farmers' Union. £105—Royal Agricultural Society.
 £6 15s. 4d.—Ford Motor Co. (collection at Exhibi-
 tion). £4 4s.—Misc. **Headquarters**: £1 12s.—Misc.

THE BARNSTORMERS HOLLAND & KESTEVEN

The idea for a broadcast started last summer, when three Kesteven L.G.'s, won an Open Talent Competition at the State Cinema, Grantham. The real search for "hidden talent" started in December, and Mr. Victor Smythe came for four auditions.

Early in April, Mr. Smythe planned the programme and he visited all the performers to discuss their scripts. The broadcast took place on April 13th, the rehearsal before the microphone proved a great ordeal, but with the aid of Mr. Fox, from the B.B.C. (Northern area), we improved. Mrs. Teesdale kindly lent her sitting-room for the broadcast; we had to walk about in stockings feet, as any noise made a sound through the microphone. It was all over very quickly, but we felt very pleased with ourselves, and after a supper given by Mrs. Teesdale, we all went away very happily.

PLEASE NOTE

Next month's broadcast will be on
SUNDAY, MAY 30th
 at 1.15 p.m., in the Home Service.
**EMPIRE VOLUNTEERS WILL
 TAKE PART**

Mon.—Another club has been opened at the Institute, New Inn, near Pontypool; for further details apply to Mrs. Apelin, Beechmeadow Farm, Pontypool. Other clubs have "damped down" their activities for the present busy season by meeting only weekly or fortnightly, and it is hoped members will continue their interests. All hostels are very grateful to the M. of I. and ENSA for film shows, and look forward to a regular calendar for the future. Mount Ballan Hostel Dramatic Society were awarded Class "A" by Mr. Gordon Bennett, Adjudicator, for their production of "Michael," at the Rural Community Council Drama Festival, at Newport, in March, after less than two months rehearsing under their producer, Mary Nethercot, W.L.A. gardener, who also broadcast on May 10th, "An Artist on the Land." The 26 girls at Llanishen Hostel, near Chepstow, reached their target by subscribing £100 in three months to the War Savings Campaign. Congratulations to Betty Critchley, Usk Institute, for her attempted rescue of a 2-year-old girl from drowning in a Liverpool Park; unfortunately, the child did not respond to artificial respiration.

Norfolk.—We have been getting some splendid results from efforts for the Benevolent Fund, and are enormously proud of seeing ourselves at the head of the list of subscriptions; we are filled with determination to keep this up. Rosemary Pearce, of Ovington, got up a concert with the assistance of other L.G.'s and a local farmer's daughter; they were also helped by their local representative. Over 100 tickets were sold and many people gave subscriptions as well, resulting in £13 5s. 8d. being sent in. Plays were given by the L.G.'s, and the local people took part with songs and recitations; no rest was allowed during the interval, as home-made toys were sold then. We are being asked to send contingents to parades in aid of Wings for Victory weeks all over the county; East Dereham has already held theirs, and a number of girls managed to overcome transport difficulties and appear. We are constantly receiving requests from farmers for their L.G.'s to receive their half-diamonds; one farmer has written saying, "The volunteer which you ask me to recommend is a worthy worker; she is a very good milker, fond of stock and a keen worker, and of a very happy temperament. I heartily recommend her for the diamond star, and trust this will not be too dazzling for the cows."

North-Lancs.—Mrs. Ord, who has done such good as Hon. Secretary of the Welfare Sub-Committee, has now been appointed Organiser for Welfare Work in North-Lancs. The Essay Competition ("My Job in the L.A.") was won by B. Whitfield, and other prizewinners were E. J. Moodie, S. E. Dixon, S. Hope, D. Wood, D. Parker, F. Taylor, and F. Robson. Six members of the Timber Corps raised £13 11s. 6d. for the Benevolent Fund by a dance at Belsay, and Mafren raised £6. All collecting boxes for the Fund will be opened during May by District Representatives who will collect the contents. It is hoped to hold a County Rally at Cockle Park—probably on June 24th; this will take the place of the District Rallies last year. The programme will include a tour of the farm, with its experimental plots, followed, perhaps, by Sports in the afternoon, but full details will be sent out later to all W.L.A. members with the invitations.

Pemb.—A new W.L.A. Office has been opened at Haverfordwest. A large number of girls are employed by the W.A.C., and live in hostels, of which there are four, run by the Y.W.C.A., and soon there will be three more. These are requisitioned houses. Quite a number of girls are working in market gardens; we hope some day to see their names in the results of the R.H.S.'s examinations. Any information can be obtained from the R.H.S., Vicent Square, London, S.W.1. Some girls are particularly good at catching rats, and one has had her photograph taken for a farm

magazine with dozens of rats hanging around her. Some volunteers help to cultivate flax. Mr. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, toured the south part of the county recently, and visited a hostel. He also inspected the Castle Martin Corse, where some L.G.'s were at work, on the bog land, which is being drained and cultivated. The County Secretary and staff of the W.L.A. office will be very pleased to see L.G.'s when they come to Haverfordwest. They hope that volunteers will not wait until they have a grievance, but come and talk about their work and how they are enjoying the life. Office hours, 9.5-3.30 weekdays, 9-12 Saturdays.

M. Thomas and B. Ladd write: "We in Pembrokehire right heartily welcome Miss Johnson Bird as our County Secretary, and wish her every success in her new post. We are delighted to think we have grown sufficiently to have our own office."

Salop.—On Saturday, April 10th, we had our 5th Rally. The main part of the programme took place at the Technical College, Shrewsbury, where the Walker Hall Library and other rooms were lent to us by the courtesy of the Principal, Mr. Moore. 400 volunteers due for their second and up to their seventh G.S. Badges marched to the college headed by the band of the L.T.C. We were greatly honoured by the presence of H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who graciously consented to attend our rally and to present badges. We had a W.L.A. guard of honour at the college entrance, and the Princess was received by our Chairman, Lady Boyne, the Earl of Powis, and the Mayor, Miss Hollings, Principal of the Central Evening School of Domestic Economy, Manchester, gave a stirring address to the volunteers, the only fly in the ointment being when she said that she was sure all the girls had individuality, as she could see it in their hats! 14 volunteers received their seventh G.S. Badge, and these girls were presented to Her Royal Highness. We were pleased to have with us Miss McGarry, who recently lost her right arm in a threshing accident. She was sent to a Shropshire hospital, and her courage and cheerfulness have been an inspiration to us all. She too was presented. In congratulating all the volunteers, the Princess said that the service the L.G.'s are giving to the country is indeed a front-line one. Miss Maxwell-Lyte, by arrangement with C.E.M.A., gave a charming folk-song recital, accompanied by Frank Mullinar. This was the eighth time that C.E.M.A. has made music for the Shropshire W.L.A. since February, and we are indeed very grateful. The afternoon ended with magnificent teas provided for the girls by the W.V.S., and for our visitors by the Shropshire College of Domestic Science and Dairywork.

Somerset.—The W.A.C. now employs 130 tractor drivers: it is also training a special team of nine girls to manage a threshing set with the help of one driver only. If the experiment is a success,

there will be other all-women's threshing sets. The committee is also opening 32 field work centres, from which gang labour will be available for neighbouring farms. W.L.A. members have arrived at Sparkford, Roadwater, and Wiveliscombe, living in billets and working under the direction of a forewoman. Where billeting is difficult, hostels are being planned. L.G.'s have taken an active part in Wings for Victory processions at Bridge-water, Weston-super-Mare, Wincanton, Bath, Bruton, Wells, Minehead, Yeovil, Williton, and Castle Cary. At Castle Cary, the girls were so anxious to march well, that a drill sergeant was called in beforehand to put them through their paces! At Weston-super-Mare, the girls were ably assisted by "Daisy," the cow!

County and H.Q. Benevolent Funds have benefited by dances arranged at Norton St. Philip, Bruton, Langford, Newton St. Loe, and Cranmore Hostels at Williton and Washford both held successful dances, and the organisers of all these events are to be congratulated upon the results of their efforts. The Red Cross Agriculture Fund has also been very widely supported by volunteers. We have had our first ENSA concerts at Asham House and North Petherton hostels, and the girls taking part in drama classes at Yeovil and North Petherton have, in their turn, entertained members of the British Army at Convalescent Homes and camps nearby. New clubs have been started at Langford, at Winscombe and at Taunton. They meet weekly and are run by L.G. committees. One of the principal difficulties is the shortage of ping-pong balls! The Taunton Club was inaugurated by a tea-party given by Miss Hinks to the whole of the Taunton area. The W.L.A. hostel at Priddy has had the most splendid piece of luck in the gift of a piano from a very kind friend in Bristol. And this followed the gift of some music, so he was indeed a fairy god-father!

E. Suffolk.—Congratulations and all good wishes to THE LAND GIRL on its recent third birthday. Volunteers in this County are being increasingly employed on various specially skilled jobs, including, of course, the most vital one of all milking. These include thatching by hand and machine, hurdle making, pest destruction and laying drains behind a Rota machine. On May 2nd, a Rest Room and Club is being opened in Ipswich. This will be for the use of all L.G.'s, every Saturday afternoon from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Volunteers will be able to meet friends, and make new ones, in a comfortable room or delightful garden, play games, talk, and have tea. We are hoping that this will fill a real need, especially among L.G.'s from other Counties, and that there will be a large gathering on the opening day, when every member of the W.L.A. in E. Suffolk has been invited to tea by our Chairman, Lady Cranworth. Great keenness is being shown in raising money for the Benevolent Fund, especially by groups of L.G.'s. Two especially good recent efforts have been a Whist Drive and Raffle run by 3 L.G.'s, at Nacton, and a dance and Raffle by 7 L.G.'s, at Foxhall, which raised the record sums for this County of £30 0s. 6d. and £31 2s. 6d. respectively.

W. Suffolk.—We are very busy preparing hostels, which we hope will be opened soon. Clubs are foremost among our news. The County L.G.'s Club in Bury St. Edmund's is proving very popular on Saturday afternoons. Hadeleigh volunteers have just opened another club, which will meet once a week, and they are organising a dance very shortly. L.G.'s at Lackford have raised £12 6s. 6d. for the Benevolent Fund, as the result of a very successful dance held in the village hall. We have news of various entertainments due to take place in the near future, which we hope will augment our contributions considerably.

Shimpling volunteers were honoured by a visit from Fox's Film company the other day. Shots were taken of the interior of the hostel, also of girls working outside.

CRESTED SERVICE STATIONERY

FOR THE

WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

3s. 6d. per box or 38s. 6d. per dozen boxes post free.

30 Embossed Sheets and 10 plain Sheets W.L.A. Crest in Green.

25 plain envelopes to match.

Distamped postcards, 7½d. per dozen.

Special Note.—Please print name and address and W.L.A. No. in block letters, as we cannot be responsible for orders not delivered or lost in post.

PENQUIN SUPPLY CO.

Quality House, Wood Street,

Tel: Blackfriars 3358

MANCHESTER, 3



Mrs. Lea, Chairman, Worcestershire W.L.A., and Volunteers holding a calf auctioned for Benevolent Fund

W. Sussex.—The threshing season is drawing to a close and we are very proud of the girls who have done such admirable work on this vital, dirty job. The Clubs continue to do excellently: Chichester had a most interesting talk and film by a speaker from the National Council of Health Education, in March, and Horsham very much enjoyed a talk on farming by Mr. Bartlett, Assistant Director of Agriculture for the County, in April. Horsham also held a dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund and the Local Y.W.C.A. Services Club, where its meetings are held, and as a result was able to send over £15 to each. The newly formed Loxwood Club had a highly successful dance in its own small village which raised £25 for the W. Sussex Welfare Fund. L.G.'s. formed a guard of honour at the recent weddings of Miss Battell and Miss James, both of whom we are glad to say are remaining in the Service. Miss James who has been working on one job since May 1940, married the manager on an adjoining farm and became Mrs. Irwin, and Miss Battell, who has been in one job since January 1942 is now Mrs. Clark.

N. Wales.—At the Anglesey Drama Festival, the Menai Bridge W.L.A. Dramatic Society won the first prize in the women's section. The play was presented under the auspices of the W.E.A. and produced by Miss Ronce Evans. The adjudicator was Cynan. Activities on behalf of the Benevolent Fund continue to receive enthusiastic support. Port Dinorwic held another very successful whist drive which was organised by Miss Williams, Representative for the Area. D. Miller and the Llangeini L.G.'s. made an outstanding success of the dance they arranged at the Town Hall. J. B. Rae and the Beaumaris L.G.'s. were equally successful with the concert held at the Beaumaris Town Hall, the stage decorations were truly lovely

and a fitting background for Lady Mainwaring who presided and afterwards auctioned articles on behalf of the Fund. Llanerchymedd L.G.'s. showed a variety of talent when they gave a concert at the Village Hall, a particularly lively item was the chorus of L.G.'s. astride their bicycles singing their own hostel songs, the accompanist was the warden, Mrs. Owen, while in the audience were many employers delighted with the singing and dancing given by girls who a few hours earlier were busily threshing, etc., on their farms. The Mayor of Caernarvon is taking a special interest in the volunteers employed in the district and we all thank him for the dance he so kindly gave us; a photo of the Caernarvon W.L.A. Club together with the Mayor and Mayoress and Miss Griffith our Chairman was taken, it has for its background the historic walls of Caernarvon Castle. Llanstymdwy Club are having a series of talks on the problems that young people have to face to-day and at their last meeting gave a party to employers and their wives, which was reported as a very "cheery" affair indeed. We should like to welcome everyone at the Tydwiliog hostel which is the first the W.L.A. have opened in Caernarvonshire. We would also like to make it known to all T.C. volunteers working in our area that they would be very welcome at all our activities if they care to attend and that further details will be supplied by the county office if required.

Warwick.—Atherstone hostel celebrated the first anniversary of its opening on April 10th. This was no ordinary birthday, for Atherstone is the eldest of the large and growing family of Warwickshire hostels. Fifteen of the original 26 "starters" were still at the hostel and sick-bays and neighbours' houses were all filled with others who had come back for the party. Mrs. Fielden, our chairman,

...ormous birthday cake, decorated as a pasture, ploughland and poultry yard, which burned the one green birthday candle. Each volunteer was presented with a spray of flowers and a hostel birthday card and Mrs. Fielden spoke of that day, a year ago, when Warwickshire welcomed these 26 Yorkshire recruits who have proved themselves so successful in their adopted county. Mr. Hughes, chairman of the W.A.E.C., presented half-diamonds, the second won by most of the girls. More games and refreshments, and then the birthday surprise. For well over an hour, Mr. Granby kept the whole company entranced with a display of magic, wit and nonsense, such as few of us have ever witnessed.

The evening ended with dancing and singing, with many thanks to Miss Hazzard, our warden, and Miss McCann, for the marvellous birthday they had planned for us, and excitement about the present our chairman promised the hostel.

Wilt.—W.L.A. Clubs now number 28 and in addition, the Ministry of Labour Recreational Club in Swindon, the United Dairies Club in Melksham and Malmesbury and Salisbury social centres have all kindly offered hospitality to local L.G's. Mrs. Hudson, the Minister's wife, has equipped a small hostel for girls working on the Fyfield estate, which was opened by the County Chairman this month. The furnishings and decorations are not only artistic, but extremely clever—curtains painted on walls with actual framed pictures used as black-out were much admired. Enterprising club secretaries at Swindon and Warminster have started choral and recreational singing and a dramatic section, while "a Bundle for Britain" has provided Marlborough club with material for well attended make and mend classes. Calne Club has induced a sergeant in the Army to hold P.T. classes and raise their standard of marching to enable them to compete favourably with the forces in the procession during "Wings for Victory" week. There has been a leap forward in co-operation with the Armed Forces and combined entertainments have been planned with the A.T.S. Dorset gave an entertainment in Shaftesbury to which Wiltshire girls near the border were invited; one of the first inter-county parties which, it is hoped, will be the forerunner of many more next autumn. Wiltshire W.L.A. are giving the proceeds of their Easter parties and dances to the Benevolent Fund. The monthly competition in March produced numerous useful tips for making uniform last longer—panties out of old shirts or vests by cutting across under the armholes, threading with elastic, turning side seams to centre and stitching squares of material in the slits, and hoods and sou'westers made from the good parts of old macs lined with old socks cut open or scraps of silk; 6d. bundles of oddments for patching made up in the Uniform Department have proved very popular.

The W.L.A. is poorer by the loss of Miss Crisp, District representative, and Kathleen Hanby. The former helped run the L.A. in the last war. She was an indefatigable worker and her death is a great loss to us all. Kathleen Hanby had been in the W.L.A. for 18 months, during which time she proved herself an excellent milker, an invaluable worker. Our warmest sympathy goes to their relatives and friends.

Yorks.—H. Driver 66390 writes "There are 40 of us here at Skipton. We are a mechanised section and can all drive tractors; we go out each day to our depots and from there are sent to farms round about. At present I am ploughing by the side of a deep ravine with a Yorkshire stream bubbling along the bottom. It was great fun watching the expression on the faces of the local farmers when first the Land Girls started to plough. 'Nay, nay, lasses' was torn from their usually silent lips—but now they even admit that we make 'a middlin' fairish job on't' I consider, like other hostelites, that our hostel is the cosiest, nicest and friendliest of its kind. I enjoy ploughing and my life here very much indeed."

County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total			Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Yorks ...	50	6	0	4928
Kent ...	218	12	8	3553
Essex ...	91	7	6	3264
Herts ...	51	8	3	1983
E. Sussex ...	29	4	0	1954
Leics. 1636 } Rut. 286 }	221	6	4	1922
Hants ...	421	0	4	1911
Surrey ...	213	13	3	1840
Northants ...	329	11	10	1611
Worcs. ...	295	7	4	1542
Warwicks ...	285	11	6	1535
Bucks ...	189	2	8	1527
Somerset ...	89	18	0	1511
W. Sussex ...	137	5	11	1446
Lancs. ...	141	15	5	1411
Cheshire ...	228	8	9	1382
Holl. & Kes. ...	156	10	0	1351
Wilts ...	115	9	6	1330
Glos ...	278	18	4	1256
Devon ...	95	18	10	1247
Norfolk ...	579	3	4	1244
Berks ...	503	15	0	1190
Notts ...	51	19	6	1106
Cornwall ...	44	3	0	1064
North'd ...	89	1	11	1051
E. Suffolk ...	294	19	3	916
Hunts 265 } Cams 466 } Ely 184 }	141	13	5	915
Salop ...	226	0	10	898
Cumbs & West ...	168	0	3	865
Oxon ...	109	18	6	861
Durham ...	59	14	9	823
Dorset ...	96	17	6	748
Staffs ...	74	14	6	746
Lindsey ...	268	11	1	701
Glam ...	361	12	0	693
Beds ...	104	3	2	614
W. Suffolk ...	164	16	1	607
Hereford ...	218	9	0	553
Mon. ...	36	13	1	531
Lon. & Middx ...	131	1	6	459
Derbys ...	46	1	6	449
Denbighs ...	15	2	0	438
N. Wales ...	242	7	9	437
Flints ...	3	12	0	394
Carm & Cards ...	172	9	7	327
I. O. W. ...	19	2	0	327
Pembs ...	36	11	6	321
Brec & Rad ...	56	11	11	303
Mont. ...	36	11	0	218
Surrey ...	213	13	3	Not rec'd.
Timber Corps...	63	6	7	3477

On April 30th there were 61,782 volunteers in employment.

"THE LAND GIRL"

Published Mid-monthly.

3d. per copy, 3s. per year, 1s. 6d. per six months, post free. Cash with order.