

# THE LAND GIRL



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## GOOD NIGHT(S), LADIES

THE Land Army relies less on rules for the conduct of its members in their free time than on their fundamental good sense. Usually this confidence is justified, but there are exceptions, and lately there have been complaints from several counties that some volunteers indulge in so many and such very late nights that their work, their health and their landlords all suffer.

Many volunteers left home for the first time when they joined the Land Army and now that they have no parents handy to look after them they must be wise for themselves. It is obvious that if sustained physical work is to be done, there must be enough time for rest. An eight to nine hour sleeping night is the proper preparation for an eight to nine hour working day.

One of the reasons for the success of the Land Army is that volunteers have been eager and quick to learn from the farmers and their men. "Sleep," said Bunyan "is sweet to the labouring man," and that is as true now as it was three hundred years ago. Country people go to bed early—both common sense and courtesy decree that the Land Girls who live and work with them should do the same.

Parties are good fun and life without any would be dull to most people but in war-time at least we ought to earn our parties, and late nights should be limited to Saturdays and holidays. Nowadays work *must* come first. In ordinary times anyone who slacks on a job can be replaced but that isn't true now. We are hard put to it to find the people to do all the work that has to be done, and the work of the Land Army is such that we cannot afford to leave any of it undone—unless we want the war to go on until we are all too old to enjoy parties anyway.

M. A. P.

## CONTROL OF STOCK

*The following article appeared in the LAND GIRL over two years ago. It is reprinted now for the benefit of the 60,000 volunteers who were not then members of the W.L.A.*

**I**F an intelligent interest is to be taken in the control of a herd or flock, some knowledge of the general principles governing reproduction of the different species is essential. Familiarity with the correct names of the animals, according to age and sex, is also helpful, and a table of such names will be found at the end of this article.

The principles governing methods of reproduction on the farm vary according to the purpose for which the stock is required. It is therefore necessary to take each species separately.

**CATTLE. 1. BEEF BREEDS.**—In beef herds, that is in herds where the production of milk is of no consequence, except for the purpose of feeding the calf, heifers are not usually mated until they have reached full maturity, or about the age of 2 to 2½ years. In some districts the time of the year plays an important part, as the animals are required to calve in the early part of the summer. In such herds it is usual to allow the bull to run out in the fields with the herd of cows and/or heifers continually.

**2. MILK HERDS.**—In milk herds or mixed herds, where the supply of milk is of importance, it is necessary to have the cows calving at regular intervals in order that the quantity of milk shall be maintained at a steady level. Also, animals naturally give a greater quantity of milk in the summer months when they are on grass than in the winter, when they are on dry food, so that a greater number of the herd must calve in the winter months. This can only be done by not allowing the cows to be served until the required time. In milk herds it is usual not to allow the bull to run out in the field with the cows, but to leave it tied in the shed or in a proper bull yard. Heifers in these herds are usually served by the bull at about 1½ to 2½ years old, and these animals come into the herd as full grown heifers properly mature. It will be found that in some areas heifers are put to the bull at ages ranging from 12 months upwards, but at this early age the growth of the mother is inclined to be stunted and the calf is usually weak; further, the amount of milk given is much less than from a more mature animal. Symptoms that cows and heifers are in season or "looking for the bull" are greater wildness and restlessness

than usual, attempts to ride on the backs of other cows, and possibly to jump hedges; in the case of cows the milk yield may be somewhat upset. These symptoms last from a few hours to about two days, and are usually shortest in heifers. Consequently, these have to be watched very closely. If the animal is not mated with the bull, or if the mating is unsuccessful, the symptoms return at intervals of approximately three weeks. Although in theory these are regular intervals, there are other factors which also have an influence. Oestrus or coming into season is more constant in the spring or summer than in the autumn or winter, and in animals in fit condition than in poor animals or underfed stock.

After calving, the period when the cow may again come into oestrus varies, but may be as little as 21 days. It is not usual to mate an animal again for at least a month to six weeks.

The average period of gestation in cows is about 280 to 284 days, but variations up to ten to fourteen days are not unusual. It should be noted that heifers aged six months have been known to conceive, and care should therefore be taken to see that before that age these animals should be kept apart; likewise although a bull is not generally used for stud purposes before it is about 15 months old, it should not be allowed to run with adult female stock after about six months. It might be observed here that for various reasons, principally to improve the meat from a butcher's standpoint, and also to make the animal more docile and less dangerous and prone to wandering, male calves are operated upon and the essential male organs removed at an early age, thus becoming actually a neuter sex. This is known as castration. The same operation can be made on the female, but rarely is in this country, except in pigs, where it is commonly done in some parts, and is said to hasten fattening materially.

**SHEEP.**—As sheep are not required for any other purpose than the production of lamb or mutton, the reproductive arrangements in these animals are permitted to take a more natural course, except that the time of mating may be advanced or retarded somewhat to produce either early or late lambs. The period of mating varies in different parts,



from August to December, and the period of gestation is from 21 to 21½ weeks. It is usual to permit the ram to run with the ewes and the average number of ewes with one ram is about 40, although this figure is capable of marked expansion. If possible, the ram should be changed at the end of three weeks, as this is the approximate period when the ewes return to oestrus if not served.

It is unusual for ewes to have more than one lot of lambs during the course of the year, and it is possible for lambs born at the beginning of the year to be used for breeding at the end of the same year, although it is better to leave them over until the following season before breeding from them.

**GOATS.**—Although goats are not of are kept, and in general the figures given above for sheep are also applicable to great commercial importance, a number goats.

**HORSES.**—The symptoms given above for cattle coming into oestrus are also applicable to mares, and care should therefore be taken at these times in handling working mares to prevent any chances of accidents. Oestrus occurs during the late spring or early summer only and is more marked in some animals than others. The period of gestation is approximately 11 to 11½ months and it is not usual to breed from an animal until it is over two years old. A pregnant mare may be worked in the ordinary way until the later stages of pregnancy, after which only light work more in the nature of light exercise should be permitted. In the same way it is inadvisable to put a mare feeding a foal to really hard work. After foaling, the mare again comes into oestrus at about 7 to 10 days and (if not served) at intervals of about 2 to 3 weeks.

**PIGS.**—Sows usually commence breeding at about 8 to 12 months old, the period of gestation is approximately 16 weeks, and they return to oestrus at about 6 weeks after parturition, and then at intervals of about three weeks if not pregnant. In some cases the sow at the time of farrowing is inclined to be somewhat savage with strangers, and unless one is in the habit of feeding and generally caring for the animal, great care should be exercised in approaching the sow or it may damage the person, or alternatively the newly-born farrows. It is much better to leave them alone as far as possible, in any case for the first few days.

Cornwall.

## TABLE OF NAMES

**CATTLE.**—Up to 10 months old. Calf, bull calf or heifer calf, according to sex. Over 10 months old. Female—heifer. Male—bull. Castrated male—steer or bullock. Mature female—maiden heifer, or if in calf—in-calf heifer. A heifer which has calved is a cow, but in some districts the term heifer is used until the animal has calved twice—first calf heifer or second calf heifer.

**PIGS.**—The names here are subject to great local variation. Sow—a breeding female after the first litter. Gilt or yelt—a female intended for breeding and up to the time of the first litter. Boar—an uncastrated male. Hog—a fattening pig which is a castrated male. Sucker or weaner—a pig still sucking the sow. Store or slip—a weaned pig before commencing to fatten.

**HORSES.**—Mare—an adult female. Filly—a young female. Stallion—an adult male. Colt—a young male. Gelding—a castrated male. Foal—from birth up to one year—colt foal or filly foal, according to sex. Yearling, two-year-old, etc.—applied to both male and female to denote age.

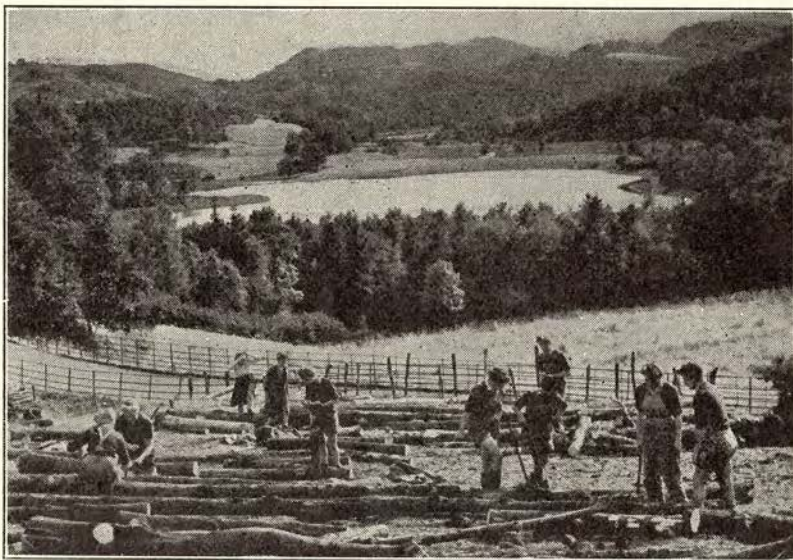
**SHEEP.**—Ram or tup—adult male. Hogg or shearing—young male. Ram lamb, tup lamb, heeder—male lamb from birth to weaning. Wether—castrated adult. Whether hogg, teg—young castrated sheep. Hogg lamb—castrated lamb up to time of weaning. Ewe—adult female. Ewe hogg, gimmer hogg, ewe teg, theave—a young female. Ewe lamb or gimmer lamb—from birth to weaning.

## MARY, MARY, QUITE CONTRARY,

Five Wiltshire Marys are contrary only because they preferred the rigour of an English winter in the open on a 23 acre market garden to their indoor occupations, and were eager to exchange the pen for the hoe. Since last November they have been working with two men and the proverbial boy on a large American camp hidden in the folds of the Wiltshire downs. American troops eat large quantities of vegetables and, as they prefer them on the hard side, many of these are shredded and eaten raw. For the first time an experiment has been made in growing these vegetables from seeds sent from the U.S.A. So in this garden you can see strangers to our soil growing placidly side by side with our own homely standbys.....squashes, a species of round custard marrow, pumpkins, golden sweet corn and hard-hearted cabbages have all been successfully raised, intercropped with stringless french beans and other novelties. Every inch of ground in the 23 acres has been utilised.

After a winter in the open air the girls radiate health and, with their fresh complexions and shining hair they would give beauty parlour frequenters a long start and then beat them! All are keen gardeners and talk enthusiastically of their work and, at a recent show given in Swindon by the District Allotment Association, they displayed vegetables hitherto unknown in this country and grown entirely by themselves which evoked great interest and envy among the visitors.





*The Timber Corps in the Lake District*

*Photo. by J. Hardman.*

Lady Cornwallis, Chairman of Kent W.L.A. Committee, died suddenly on October 10th. Her loss will be greatly felt and the sympathy of all those who knew her will be with her family and the Land Army in Kent. A correspondent writes:-

The sudden death of Cecily Cornwallis comes as a bad blow, not only to her family and her friends, but also to those who were associated with her in her public work. Few of those who watched her gaily taking the chair at committee meetings of the Kent Women's Land-Army suspected her of being in poor health, as was indeed the fact, for although she was always concerned about the troubles of others she rarely said anything about her own. Warm, friendly, cheerful, and rather motherly in an amused kind of way, in spite of her comparative youth, she combined those qualities with an efficiency which was hard-working and conscientious, though never solemn and pompous; she had the gift of taking her work seriously, but not her own position. Quite quietly, she would put herself to any amount of trouble, especially where any personal contact with the Land Girls in her own county was involved. The well being and happiness of these girls was truly enfolded in her good heart, in no official way.

**"One World,"**

**(Cassell 7s. 6d.).**

**Wendell Wilkie.**

Mr. Wilkie, who may be the next President of the United States, proved to himself that this was all one world by flying round it in forty-nine days. Of those days only seven were spent in actual flying from place to place; and much of the rest of the time he spent in talking to people, important and unimportant,—to Egyptians in Egypt, Iraqis in Iraq, Turks in Turkey, Russians in Russia, and Chinese in China. Some of these conversations are very interesting, for instance, the one in which he tried to discover from a young Russian engineer superintendent what made him work so hard in a country where he could never make a fortune by doing so. To some extent, Mr. Wilkie, like most travellers, has found what he expected to find; and he has come back with his prejudices against "Imperialism" and in favour of the American way of life confirmed. But he sees no reason why the United States and the Soviet Union should not work together while each keeps its own ideas, and he believes enthusiastically in a great future for China. Above all, he has quite decided that his own country must take its share of responsibility for the world's future.

**M. Jaeger.**



## HEADQUARTERS' NOTES

Every employed Women's Land Army volunteer must contribute each week under the National Health Insurance scheme. When she takes up her first job, she is advised by her Local Representative to insure under the scheme through an "Approved Society" rather than through the Post-Office as a deposit contributor. It is important to follow this advice as those who insure through an Approved Society obtain many advantages denied to the ordinary deposit contributor.

Approved Societies vary in the benefits they give; for example, some provide help with obtaining dental and optical treatment while others do not. A list of Approved Societies can be seen at any Employment Exchange and the benefits each Society gives should be carefully investigated before it is decided which Society to join. It does not cost anything to insure through an Approved Society but when once a Land Army volunteer has joined a particular Society she will not—in war time at least—be permitted to change to another.

No L.A. volunteer is placed in employment unless her county office is satisfied that the employer is insured under the Workmen's Compensation Act against liability for accident to his employees while they are at work. There are however many cases of accident which occur either at or away from work in connection with which it is difficult for the ordinary person to decide whether or not compensation is payable. In doubtful cases it is desirable to consult a lawyer.

Those members of the Land Army who join a Trades Union for agricultural workers obtain free legal help in connection with accidents or other personal difficulties as well as other benefits. The National Health Insurance sections of the agricultural Unions are registered as Approved Societies; the Finance sections give help to individual members over their Income Tax assessments. The Land Army county office will be able to supply the addresses of the Secretaries of the two Trades Unions which cater particularly for agricultural workers. These are the National Union of Agricultural Workers and the Transport and General Workers' Union and full information about the benefits obtainable through these Unions can be obtained from the Union Secretaries.

Hospital Savings Schemes are another way of insuring against misfortune and here again the opportunities offered differ

in various localities. As all members of the Women's Land Army have to be mobile it is desirable to join those Hospital Schemes which arrange for transfer of membership should the member move to another county.

Inez M. Jenkins.

## REFLECTIONS—By a Warden

It is a year since I came down into the Lincolnshire Fens and felt, like many a Land Girl, that I could never stick it. A year of wild bitter winds, shy Spring mornings, breaking into a lovely summer, of long days of hard but satisfying work. The harsh clamour of unfamiliar voices and the clumsy tread of farmyard boots, of my first bewildered week, have become the individual friendly voices and welcome tread of girls for whom I have grown to have a lasting affection.

You see, a Land Army Hostel isn't a place to return to after a day's work, it is a home for forty girls drawn from all sections of the community, a place where we shoulder responsibilities together, tackle labour disputes with confidence that comes of goodwill, arrange entertainments for ourselves and for others away from home, give parties to wounded service-men and darn the socks of the local searchlight boys.

It is comforting to know at 5.30 in the morning that all over England, in hundreds of other hostels from Kentish hill to Yorkshire dale, Wardens like myself are crawling out of bed in the half-light to supervise forty breakfasts, that forty land girls may be out in the fields by 7.30, frost, snow, or glowing summer morning.

A Warden isn't just an Agricultural Matron; she is, or becomes so, by experience, an expert plumber, and authority on drains, a wireless and electrical technician, a cook, a carpenter, a nurse and above everything, a diplomat of the first order. She's on duty from early morning till "lights out"—but it isn't all duty and plumbing. There are the evenings to remember when we have sung "Ilkley Moor bah't 'at" round the coke stove in the recreation-room, when we've danced till mid-night to a piano and a mouth organ and when we've stood at the hostel gates wishing good-luck to the posted truck-load of soldiers disappearing down the straight fen-road, with the same mouth organ playing faintly "Moonlight becomes you so," as the bombers overhead go out over Germany. It is certainly a happy life.



## THINK ABOUT MURDER

*E. M. Delafield's innumerable admirers will thoroughly enjoy the following article which she has kindly contributed to the LAND GIRL.*

People have committed murder for all kinds of reasons. Some of them have been hanged for doing it, and others haven't. It is a sobering thought to me that I don't really know whether I number any murderers amongst my acquaintances, or whether I don't, since a successful murderer seldom boasts of what he—or she—has accomplished.

Another thing I don't know is how many of my acquaintances, friends, and relations—particularly relations—have thought about murdering *me*.

But perhaps it will be more comfortable, and less invidious, if I look at it from a rather less acutely personal angle.

For what reasons do everyday people like ourselves, sometimes feel murderously inclined? We don't want to murder anybody for money.

The people whom we know, for the most part, are only possessed of overdrafts and mortgages, nowadays. And we don't have any impulse to kill just for the sake of somebody's gold watch, or diamond brooch, because for one thing these articles are probably imitation, and for another, pawn-shops are by no means what they were. It just wouldn't be worth while.

Nor are most of us involved in those exciting dramas of the emotions that the French call "crimes passionnels." What with running a house, or doing a job, or looking after a husband and children, there isn't much time or opportunity for those involved and exotic situations that novels so often and so inaccurately depict as being part of a woman's everyday life.

And we don't want to commit murder, really, from motives of revenge. Authors get away with this theme in many an excellent detective story—and no-one enjoys reading them more than I do myself—but actually, I haven't even met the gentle, white-haired old lady who for 37 years and three months has harboured a grudge against the man who jilted her when she was a girl, and gets even with him in the end by means of a cup of poisoned coffee. Nor even the harmless, pleasant-seeming commercial traveller—a fellow who waits half a lifetime in order to shoot his father, who deserted his mother, round about the time of the Crimean War.

Either we have better natures or shorter memories than these characters

from fiction. Or else—as I have often thought—fiction and real life aren't very much alike.

Personally I believe that such murderous impulses as you and I may experience are based on quite different grounds. Would it be out of the question to murder a relation—it nearly always is a relation—who has the why-Not Habit?

"I thought I'd have tea rather early, to-day, because I want to walk over and ask after old Mrs. X and her bad leg, between five and six o'clock."

"Why not go *before* tea? Wouldn't that be better?"

"Before tea, I have letters to write."

"Why not write after you get back—it wouldn't make any difference, you could still catch the post."

"Well, perhaps I could. But I don't know that I can spare the time before tea."

"Why not go to-morrow? It would be much more convenient."

"It'll be too late."

"Then why not go and see young Mrs. Z instead of old Mrs. X? It's nearer."

"But she hasn't got a bad leg and I don't want to know how she is."

"Dear, why not enquire just the same? Wouldn't it be *kind*?"

The heck! If that doesn't call for a meat-chopper, what does?

Murder has also crossed my imagination when I have been too long in the company of one of those fearfully sensitive people.

"I know you won't mind my telling you that I was the least little bit hurt at what you said the other day at our Committee Meeting. Of course, I knew quite well you meant *me*."

"I'm afraid I don't understand what you're talking about."

"Oh, it doesn't *matter*, of course. It's just that I'm sensitive, I suppose. I've always been like that. It's my nature. Don't let's think of it again."

And then we go on thinking about it, and talking about it, for hours and hours—never getting to the point, and never really getting away from it, either.

I often feel quite prepared to murder:

- (a) People who make their nails click.
- (b) People who have a grievance but would rather not say what it is.
- (c) Husbands who contradict their wives flatly.



(d) Wives who let them do it and just look pained, instead of flying out.

(e) Children who say "Look at me!" more than twelve times in one afternoon.

Indeed, I could make my list extend the length of the whole alphabet.

And now what about yours?

Better work it out and see.

That will be almost as releasing as committing the actual murders, and a great deal easier—besides leading to less unpleasantness with the authorities.

## IN LEICESTER

"Our Rally was held on October 9th at the Wyggeston Boys' School Hall. It was a lovely autumn day, and because of this, many of our girls who would have been present were working. But those who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Mr. Tom Williams, Under Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture was Guest of Honour and in his speech he praised the Land Girls for the good job of work they had done. The medal of the Dumb Friends' League was then presented to Miss Doris Adams by Mr. Keith Robinson; the story of Miss Adams' brave rescue of some lambs from a bull was recorded in *THE LAND GIRL* earlier in the year.

Mr. Williams then presented the Long Service Armlets. We congratulate the ten volunteers who were awarded scarlet armbands and the forty-two who received two-year armlets.

A very good tea had been provided and we thank Mrs. Crookes, the matron of the School, and her Staff, for their splendid help. After tea, there was a "Bring and Buy" Sale—proceeds for the Benevolent Fund. The two counties were divided into six areas and each area had a stall; the office staff arranged a seventh stall. The book stall was also a great success.

At five o'clock, E.N.S.A. presented an excellent concert, and we all thank the Artists who came and gave us such an enjoyable entertainment. Refreshments were provided after the concert, and the Land Girls went to catch their buses and trains after a very happy afternoon.

## TIP FOR THRESHERS

Buy a roll of medicated gauze at the chemist—price 1s. 6d. for six yards. Cut into lengths sufficient to go round the head, covering the nose and mouth, and tie at the back of the head. The gauze should be used in four thicknesses as sold in the roll, and washed every day after use.

## FACTORY HARVEST FESTIVAL

When I was told Kay and I were to visit the Sheffield Twist Drill Co. Ltd., for their Harvest Festival, I was rather shaken—especially when I surveyed my breeches. However, my colleagues rallied round and I sallied forth in borrowed breeches, socks and hat, and I believe the finished ensemble looked quite smart. Kay Stevenson, who accompanied me was luckier, as her plumes were not borrowed, but her shoes were new, and before the day was done she wished she had never seen them.

We arrived at the Sheffield Twist Drill Company at about 1.0. p.m. and after lunch in a marvellous canteen attached to the works, we had a conducted tour of the works, which proved very interesting.

During the afternoon we were called away from the hardening shop for the press photographer. There was great arranging of produce and Land Girls and in the end we were photographed with Kay holding an outsize marrow to one of the workers, whilst I stood beaming in the background, and the photographer telling us to talk so that the photo would not look strained. Kay, never at a loss, asked a worker how one grew marrows. She replied, "I don't know. You should, you are n the Land Army." The picture was published the next day, with the caption "Land Girls giving advice to War-Workers."

After this we continued our tour of the works, ending up in the canteen for tea. I ate mine with the feeling of a condemned man; our Welfare Officer had been coming to give the required speech but she did not arrive and I had to take her place.

Kay and I were led to the platform, decorated with vegetables, fruit and flowers, the centre piece being a case of lemons and a pomegranate; and there were two nurses ready to receive the fruit for their respective hospitals. I looked at the microphone, and at all the faces, and I thought I should just fade away. But no! The workpeople clapped so loud that I just had to say to myself "Come along. Just hope for the best."

Afterwards, Kay drew ten tickets for the raffle in aid of the Red Cross and presented the prizes and we returned home to tell the others all about our interesting day and to set into our work with renewed vigour.

J. Ibbotson, 78138, W.T.C.



## SUSSEX HARVEST HOME

We had the tickets presented to us a week or two before the event and we girls were not too keen about it at first. Old chaps on the place are always boasting about the Good Old Times and the marvellous "do's" they had before that other War. It always seems to us as though all they did was to clump around the Village Hall in hob-nailed boots and smocks, drink gallons of beer and put their arms round their fancy girl and call it Country Dancing. But when the day arrived, even the most sophisticated of us felt as though we were going to a Party. No-one except genuine Land Workers could be admitted, so we couldn't take our own boys.

The Hall was the first surprise—so beautifully decorated it seemed another place altogether, with leaves, just getting Autumn-tinted, and sheaves of barley and oats, ripe and golden. The table was marvellous, plates of ham and chicken salads and vegetables, cakes and buns, wonderful apple turn-overs, Cider, beer and lemonade. It was strange at first to be waited on by the Farmers' Wives, but they did it so beautifully that we soon asked for what we wanted just as though we were in a London restaurant.

We sang popular songs—and whether it was the food or the cider, or the warm jolly atmosphere, I am not sure, but some of us surprised ourselves with the volume and the range of our voices!

Then there were the speeches, the prize-giving for the ploughing match (one of our chaps came third) and various feats of skill, an exchange of views between the two neighbouring parishes—Trotton and Rogate—a comedian, and votes of thanks. Lord de la Warr and Mr. Davis made us feel as though we really are important to the country, and that even the dulllest and dirtiest jobs on the farm are worth while. We liked the references to Agriculture after the War, and hope all this talk about Agriculture being included in ordinary education will come to something. The land wants knowing, and the best time to learn is when we are young.

We really meant our hearty cheers after the vote of thanks, and we meant "God Save the King" too. We went home feeling that we mattered, that our work mattered, and that there is much more to be done before we take things easy as we used to do.

W. Sussex.

P. Gale, 101736.

## CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

Miss Baxter and I. No. 9.

## WHAT'S IN A WEED?

How many people take an interest in weeds? Not many. Weeds are a menace and a bore, not only that, they keep innocent people employed for long, tedious hours trying to eradicate them. But they have their uses. Before breaking your back in an attempt to clean up the rubbish of a neglected garden, just have a look round at your weeds. They can give you considerable information, long before you have decided to have the soil analysed. The presence of spurry, that nondescript little plant with leaves like tangled stems, ragwort, oxeye daisy, sheeps' sorrel, quaking grass and mayweed, all indicate a poor, acid soil, which will definitely be improved with an application of lime. During the next season after the ground has been in cultivation for a year, only odd specimens of these weeds will recur, but they will not enjoy life for very long. On the other hand if such weeds as burnet, chicory, thyme, bladder campion and clover are abundant, then in all probability there is an adequate reserve of lime in the soil.

Sometimes sorrel and clover grow side by side, then the soil must be fairly neutral without excessive acidity or alkalinity.

Such weeds as sedge, celery-leaved crowfoot, horse tail, silver weed and ragged robin all show that the land must be heavy and wet, and would do well to be drained either with land drains or by incorporating well-rotted compost or manure when being dug. Very probably a dressing of lime will also help. Some plants prefer a moist situation, but very few will thrive on badly drained soil. Rhubarb enjoys plenty of moisture, and such plants as primulas and trollius do also, but will not tolerate stagnant soil.

The saying that good weeds indicate good land is familiar enough, but it is also true that there cannot be much wrong with the soil if the weeds are growing vigorously and look as though they enjoyed life. That exasperating weed, creeping buttercup usually grows where the soil is good, also coltsfoot and vetches. Coltsfoot usually chooses heavy soil. If the general appearance of the weeds are puny, there is something wrong with the soil.

Weeds harbour pests and diseases which readily spread to other crops. Goosefoot, known to many as "fat hen," and docks harbour black fly which often ruins both broad and runner beans. Thistles harbour celery fly, charlock at-

*(Continued on opposite page)*





*Mrs. Fielden, with Warwickshire's 4 year veterans  
Photograph by Leamington Spa Courier.*

Once again Leamington Spa was thronged with Land Girls when Warwickshire held its third W.L.A. Rally in the Jephson Gardens on October 2nd.

About seven hundred volunteers assembled in the Mill Gardens where they were entertained by a band, and by the Punch and Judy show and side-shows arranged by Land Army clubs and hostels. A marvellous tea was served in marquees by the W.V.S. and then all went along to the Pavilion.

Here we were welcomed by our Chair-

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tracts the attention of turnip flea beetle which has wiped out thousands of brassicas and turnips this year. This weed is also susceptible to club root disease. If there is club root in your garden, you may be very conscientious in keeping all brassicas off that piece of ground, but if weeds of that family are allowed to remain the disease is being promoted instead of being starved.

New weeds may come with the load of autumn manure. Manure is precious and difficult to come by, but be warned and obtain it from a reliable source.

Weeds have a most remarkable power of reproduction and if allowed to seed will be a menace for years. One single groundsel is capable of producing several thousand seeds and this number is quite normal amongst many weeds. This is an era of slogans, so here is one which the gardener may frame and hang in the tool shed:—

"To hoe in time saves ninety-nine."  
Notts. D. V. Baron, 57981.

man, Mrs. Fielden, who presented four-year armlets to eight long-service volunteers. Mr. Hughes, chairman of the W.W.A.E.C., spoke a few words of encouragement to W.L.A. workers and then announced the winners of the W.L.A. Draw, which we were delighted to hear had raised 500 guineas for the Benevolent Fund.

An E.N.S.A. entertainment followed and after rushing for trains and buses, the Land Army's joyous invasion of Leamington was over.

## STUDLEY HORTICULTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, WARWICKSHIRE

A SCHOLARSHIP of 60 guineas per annum is offered by the Old Students of this College for a course commencing September, 1944, and extending two or three years.

The minimum age for admission to the College is 17 years. In view of the present Ministry of Labour regulations, a girl over 19 years of age on October 1st, 1944, cannot be accepted as a candidate, and if over 18 on that date cannot take more than two years.

Full particulars and forms of application can be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Studley Old Students' Scholarship, Creekmoor Farmhouse, Poole, Dorset.—Write at once as forms have to be returned before December 15th 1943.

Owing to great demand and shortage of staff, the Penguin Co. regrets inevitable delay in executing orders. These will all be fulfilled or money returned.



# CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I was interested to read that Mrs. Jefferson has been elected vice-chairman to the Arundel Young Farmers' Club I became a member of the Gloucester and District Y.F.C. soon after joining the Land Army, four years ago, and am now beginning a second year as secretary-treasurer. It is a fairly large club, and we hold meetings fortnightly.

Maybe you would like to hear about our Land Army club in the village of Sandhurst. We meet each week at the house of our area representative. We have held dances in aid of the Red Cross and the Benevolent Fund, and invited our employers and landladies to a party.

For myself, I shall hope to stick to farming, and am very grateful to the W.L.A. for showing me a job that I might have missed.

Glos. D. M. Oakley, 26417.

P.S.—Since training I've only had one job and my employer and landlady are both of the best.

Dear Editor,

You ask for names of members of the W.L.A. who are at present holding offices in the Y.F.C. movement. We, in Hawksworth, started a Y.F.C. in August this year, and although only a small community, have nearly 30 members to date. I am secretary, and would be very glad of any help other Land Girls might be able to give in making winter evenings interesting and enjoyable. Our meetings for the subjects of agriculture and horticulture are held on Wednesday evenings, fortnightly, but we have the use of the village school on three nights of every week, for social activities. Any suggestions would be gratefully received. I would also like to add that I, too, look forward to receiving my "Land Girl" magazine, and love to read of other people's doings.

Stouth House Farm, E. M. Hampshire,

Hawkesworth, Guiseley, 60407.  
Nr. Leeds, Yorks.

Dear Editor,

I am the only Land Girl at the farm, so when I heard that Proficiency Tests were being arranged I was delighted though I felt a bit jittery when the day arrived. How silly I was. The Land Army officials had arranged everything wonderfully and the farmer was both friendly and very helpful. There were nine of us to be examined and we set to work to milk our three cows. Then

questions, questions and more questions! How to look after cows and calves, nurse sick cows, and clean cowsheds and dairies.

It was a sweltering hot day and by the time we had finished we were feeling rather hot and tired and it was then that the farmer's wife took charge, bustling us all out into the lovely garden outside the farmhouse where tea was laid on tables under the trees.

We were very pleased to hear later on that we had all passed and that the farmer thought the standard of work that afternoon was very high. I think the farmers, the Land Army representatives, and the Land Army officials at Headquarters who arrange all these activities for us are to be congratulated on a magnificent job of work. Not forgetting the farmer's wife!

Surrey. B. Klein, 85139.

Dear Editor,

I have read of the various records set up by sisters in the W.L.A. I am one of six sisters. Five of us are members of the W.L.A. and our youngest sister helps on our father's farm in Ireland. Two of us started work in the Land Army in Feb., 1940, and two the following April. Our other sister, not 18 yet, joined in July this year. So between us we have worked 14½ years on the land. Is this a record?

Hants. C. Caldbeck, 25023.

## AMERICAN GIFT

Members of the Land Army will have been thrilled to read in the Daily Press of the magnificent gift of \$70,000 made to their organisation by the British War Relief Society of the United States. It has been decided to spend this money on equipping a hostel in London exclusively for the use of the Land Army and on the establishment of three Rest-break Houses, one of which will be for members of the Scottish Land Army and the other two for England and Wales.

A pleasant little ceremony took place at the London offices of the British War Relief Society when the money was formally presented last month by Mr. Cruger, London Chairman of the Society. Volunteers representing England, Wales and Scotland were present.

WOOD CUT CHRISTMAS CARDS. 4d. each, from Miss Phillips, W.L.A. 35931, Belchers Farm, Ascott, Stadhampton, Oxon.

WANTED—Riding boots, 4½. Riding coats, bust 32 and 36, preferably brown tweed. Weller, Broxholme Rd., Histon, Cambridge.





*Hoers in Hertfordshire*

*Fox Photo.*

October 9th was a great day for the W.L.A. volunteers in Hertfordshire; for on that day Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Gloucester, honoured us by attending our Rally at Oaklands Institute of Agriculture.

From 1.30 p.m. onwards W.L.A. volunteers poured into the grounds from all angles. Wherever one looked there were green jerseys. Girls who were demonstrating went to their allotted places, and the Ploughing Competition was in full swing. At 2 p.m. all volunteers assembled near the house and quickly formed themselves into a guard of honour, which lined the drive for a considerable distance. After the presentations which took place near the house, the Duchess, accompanied by our Chairman, left in her car to see the demonstrations. As she walked round the fields where volunteers were engaged on tractor ploughing, thatching, threshing, beet-topping, singling, sorting potatoes, drilling, horse ploughing and hedging, she stopped to speak to many of the girls, and must have been impressed by their industry and skill.

Leaving the demonstrations the Duchess came to the Dutch Barn, which had been turned into an Assembly Hall, with baled straw for seats. Here she presented 4th year armlets to 32 girls, the Milking Competition Cup to Ruth Brannett, the Ploughing Competition Cup to Gwen Wansborough, and certificates to the Runners Up in the Ploughing Match.

A basket of tomatoes was presented on behalf of the girls engaged in the glass houses at Oaklands. As the Duchess rose to thank them for their gift, she was greeted by three rousing cheers led by Pat Coventry. Her statement that her small son would appre-

ciate the tomatoes which he called "baas" delighted everyone.

Unfortunately another engagement made it impossible for the Duchess to stay till the end of the party, but a speech by Mr. Anthony Hurd congratulating the volunteers on their splendid work left us all feeling very satisfied with ourselves.

The verdict on the Rally from all quarters was that it was a great success, and our special thanks are due to Mr. Hunter Smith and his staff at Oaklands, and to the War Agricultural Committee for their splendid co-operation.

K. M. S.

## LINES

*Suggested by the Achievement of the Editor's Cat who became the Mother of Eight Kittens On August Bank Holiday.*

Felina is graceful and charming

Her coat has an ebony sheen  
Her figure is lissom and eel-like

And her eyes are of emerald green  
Her various children inherit

Her beauties of figure and fur,  
As well as her sportswoman's temper,  
But Heavens! how oft they recur!

We give them to friends and to neighbours

Until they can welcome no more,

So now, drowning the rest, we are thankful

That six is Felina's top score.

At the news of the Editor's pussy

Her competitive spirit awakes,

And she forthwith demands to be entered

For the Great Kitten Handicap Stakes.

But we feel we must curb her ambition  
So prolific a prize must decline

For fear lest the kit and Felina

Between them should land us with nine!  
Denbighshire. J. Sutcliffe, 14461.





*The Duke of Norfolk, with Mrs. Johnson, presents 4 year armlets in Cheshire.*

From an early hour on 7th October, Land Girls from all parts of Cheshire began to arrive at Stockport to attend the biggest W.L.A. Rally, yet held in the County. As such a great number of Stockport girls are serving in the W.L.A., the Mayor and Corporation had placed their very fine Town Hall at our disposal for the day; by the time the Duke arrived, the Hall, which holds a thousand people, was filled to capacity with volunteers and employers, while the gallery was packed with Stockport parents and relations. Immediately after lunch, 640 volunteers paraded outside the Town Hall, and were inspected by the Mayor and Mayoress. Then, led by a W.A.A.F. Band, they marched through the streets and returned to the Town Hall.

After a welcome by the Mayor, our Chairman, Mrs. E. Johnson, M.B.E., asked the Duke to present the attractive new armlets to the forty-one girls who had completed four years service in the W.L.A. Everyone was impressed at the smart and healthy appearance of these pioneers who were loudly cheered as they returned to their seats. The Duke gave a thoughtful survey of the part played by Agriculture during the past four years, complimented the W.L.A. on their

achievements and encouraged them to continue in their efforts. Other speakers were Mr. Carswell, Chairman of the W.A.E.C., Mr. W. B. Mercer, Principal, Cheshire School of Agriculture, and Mr. D. Smith, Y.F.C. A vote of thanks to the Duke was proposed by Mrs. D. Midwood, seconded by volunteer M. Forster, who mentioned that as His Grace was known as the cycling Duke, he would no doubt have sympathy with volunteers who cycled to their jobs in the early hours of the morning.

Volunteer Price then asked Mrs. Johnson to accept, on behalf of the volunteers and Committee, a gold Land Army badge as a token of appreciation of her work since the formation of the W.L.A. The Duke later received purses for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund, and also inspected the publicity stall arranged by Miss Black. Tea and a short entertainment brought a very enjoyable gathering to an end.

**W**ANTED. Brown Riding Boots. good condition. 5. Johns, Church Cottage, Biddlestone, Chippenham, Wilts.

**W**ANTED. Lady's riding jacket. 30in. bust, 26in. waist. Good condition. Cross, Tarrant Abbey, Blandford, Dorset.



## SCOTTISH NOTES

**TO START YOU TALKING.**—With the idea of encouraging the formation of discussion groups at W.L.A. hostels, a one-day school for the instruction of potential leaders was held at St. Andrew's House. Interesting and helpful talks on the purpose and organisation of groups were given by officers of the Ministry of Information, and everybody privileged to attend went away full of enthusiasm. Already several groups have been started, and we hope the scheme will spread.

**ABERDEENSHIRE.**—St. Katherine's Club, 5, W. North St., Aberdeen, recently opened for the Women's Services, provides all sorts of entertainment. Members of the W.L.A. are welcome. **Alford & Deeside.**—Marjorie Hutton, Aboyne, raised £6 10s. 4d. for the W. & B. Fund at a dance, and a similar function organised at **Kildrummy** resulted in £20 3s. Donations from Mrs. Gordon and C. Duncan, A. Coutts and C. Buchan bring the total from this district to £29 8s. 4d. **Huntly & Garloch.**—A dance at Kemnay House brought in £7 0s. 6d. for the W. & B. Fund.

**ANGUS.**—Two very successful parties have been held recently in Dundee and in Forfar, under the auspices of the members of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee; at both Mrs. Paulin, D.O.A.S., presented G.S. badges to a large number of very fit and happy looking girls. There are nine pairs of sisters, one trio of sisters, and one mother and daughter working together in Angus. This county can also boast a 4-year armlet (E. C. Wyllie), and on the farm of Castleton, Eassie, which belongs to Mr. Wedderspoon, the chairman of the A.E.C., there are eight girls who took their training together and are still, after a considerable period, working together. Much talent was displayed at the parties, and the performers hope to raise money in divers ways for the W. & B. Fund.

**AYRSHIRE.**—(North). Daisy Herron made a pretty pockette out of odd pieces of felt, and sold it at 10s. for the W. & B. Fund. The Kilmarnock Club sends another donation. Christina McRiner, resplendent in her 4-year armlet, was one of the two Scottish L.G.s at the ceremony in London, when a cheque for the establishment of a Rest-Break House was handed over by the British War Relief Society of America.

**BANFFSHIRE.**—Miss Austin ran a little dance in Keith, and thereby raised £8 17s. 6d. for the W. & B. Fund.

**DUMBARTON & RENFREW.**—Dr. Malcolm, of the W. of S. College of Agriculture gave an interesting talk on clean milk production to the members of the Paisley Club, and on another evening Nancy Smith spoke about her visit to Buckingham Palace.

**E. LOTHIAN.**—Jean Maxwell was the second of the two girls representing Scotland at the handing over of the cheque from the British War Relief Society of America. A musical entertainment was given to the Pencaitland Women's Guild by the girls at Saltoun Hall. Mrs. Knowlson is leaving the W.L.A. for her home in London, and her departure, is very much regretted, especially by the County Comforts Fund Committee, of which she was a very active member.

**INVERNESS-SHIRE.**—Mrs. Cameron Head has been busy raising enthusiasm—and money—for the W. & B. Fund. £42 12s. 6d. has just been received through her efforts.

**KINCARDINESHIRE.**—Mrs. Cunningham and her fellow L.G.s at The Bent are to be congratulated on the success of the whist drive and dance they arranged in Laurencekirk, which raised £53 for the W. & B. Fund. How they managed to conjure up all the wonderful prizes, including eggs, honey, chocolates, and even hot-water bottles, is a matter for wonder and envy!

**KIRKCUDBRIGHT.**—The girls in the Lauriston district of the Stewartry organised a successful dance for Mrs. Churchill's Aid to Russia Fund,

and Catherine Lang, the secretary, was delighted to have a letter of acknowledgment from Mrs. Churchill.

**MIDLOTHIAN.**—Midlothian can also boast a 4-year armlet—A. Dunleavie. Mrs. Borthwick sends £8 for the W. & B. Fund, raised at a dance run by the W.L.A. and the schoolboy harvesters in the Heriot district. It was a very exclusive affair, no outsiders being admitted, and the tea provided by the local farmers' wives was scrumptious! Mrs. Pettigrew raised £5 18s. 6d. for the W. & B. Fund by selling flowers from her garden.

**ROSS-SHIRE.**—Several dances have been held in the Portmahomack area—we hope for the W. & B. Fund! The organisers were Jean Mackay and Mary Michael.

**STIRLINGSHIRE.**—The W.L.A. was represented in a parade in commemoration of the Battle of Britain. A very successful dance was held at West Plean for the W. & B. Fund, at which G.S. badges were presented by Miss Bolton; over £20 was raised at this event.

**W. LOTHIAN.**—Sympathy goes out to Mrs. Wisdom, whose husband in the R.A.F. has been killed in action. Out of varied subjects suggested as leisure activities for W.L.A. members, handicrafts, under the direction of Miss Easton, are proving first favourite, with discussion groups as a close second.

**W. FIFE & KINROSS.**—Another Scottish 4-year armlet is in the possession of G. M. Harley.

**Scottish Readers Please Note** that it is English County Offices only which are selling the Benevolent Fund Xmas Card.

## SUCCESS IN OXFORDSHIRE

High tribute to the work of the Women's Land Army was paid by the Duke of Norfolk, Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture at the Oxfordshire W.L.A. Show and Demonstrations of Farming and Gardening held on Saturday 25th September in Blenheim Park, Woodstock, by kind permission of the Duke of Marlborough.

During the day Volunteers took part in competitions in milking, tractor ploughing, field work, thatching and hurdle setting. Gardeners competed in digging, seed sowing, transplanting, seed naming and roping onions. Demonstrations were given of threshing and potato lifting and the Vegetable Show of produce grown by Volunteers aroused great interest. A popular feature was the tractor trailers driven by Land Army Volunteers taking spectators a tour of the Show. Straw bales were used as seats.

The Duchess of Marlborough presented awards, Good Service Armlets and Good Service Badges. The winner of the Ashhurst Cup for milking was Miss Stella Tipper; of the Feilden Cup for tractor ploughing Miss M. Hansen; of the Parker Cup for field work Miss M. Berriman. The special prize for thatching went to Miss J. Coomber and Miss B. Haylor.



## County News

**MON.**—This month we have regretfully to announce the retirement of our Chairman, Lady Mather Jackson C.B.E. has been a great help and encouragement to the W.L.A. in Monmouthshire during her four years of office and we offer her our sincere thanks for the very excellent work she has done. Our new Chairman, Lady Raglan, is the wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Monmouthshire and has much interest in Agriculture and its problems. We offer her a wholehearted welcome. L.G.s. were very much to the fore at a "Dig for Victory" exhibition held at Newport early in September. Display boards showing them at work were much admired. Battle of Britain parades found our girls busy harvesting and quality not quantity was the keynote of W.L.A. contingents.

**MONTGOMERY.**—It has been decided that clubs shall be opened in Welshpool and Newtown and that lectures and concerts shall be booked for this winter. It is hoped that tests in Milking and Dairywork will be held in November and the first tests in Tractor Driving at the end of October. At the recent dance held in the Town Hall, Welshpool, £35 17s. 5d. was raised for the Benevolent Fund. Most of the winners of the competitions gave back their prizes to be auctioned, and £8 5s. of the total was contributed by one W.L.A. member, Mrs. Norman Roberts, who made and sold various articles.

**NORTHANTS.**—More than 120 of us accompanied Lady Spencer our Chairman, and a group of our Representatives to the Harvest Festival at All Saints' Church, Northampton, on Oct. 3rd, and heard our lovely Land Army Prayer written for us by Canon Trevor Lewis at Lady Spencer's wish. During the summer and early autumn almost every hostel has had a G.S. Badge Presentation Party for the Hostel and neighbouring girls and in every case our Chairman has presented the Half Diamonds. There is an eager demand for Correspondence Courses and it looks as though we may have a very good entry for the Proficiency Tests. 43 of us are eligible for the new four-year armlets and we are planning a very special day on Nov. 20th, for the presentation of these. Thatchers trained at Wilby Castle are doing splendid and much needed work and our little gang of pruners are soon starting their winter tour of the County orchards. Thornhaugh hostel was honoured on Oct. 23rd, by a visit from the Minister, Mr. R. L. Hudson, who, spoke to volunteers most encouragingly. Brampton House has raised the largest sum in the County for the Y.W.C.A. Overseas fund and one volunteer from there together with one each from Newnham and Thornhaugh hostels will have the great honour of presenting their Hostel's "Purses" for this fund to H. M. The Queen.

**NORTH'D.**—Mrs. Ord has arranged a varied programme for the winter. Among the most interesting items is a course of lectures on Post-War Reconstruction given by the W.E.A. at Cornhill, Thropton, and Haydon Bridge Hostels. Northam are to have a W.E.A. Course on Drama and Mr. Gordon Lea of C.A.M.D.I.N. is also booked to give various talks on the same subject. Other lectures, some with films, will be given by the M.O.I. and the W.A.C., and concert tours by "Ensa" and C.E.M.A. Northumberland now has to share an Ensa van with Durham and Yorkshire but with the addition of County Council Classes on such subjects as Keep-fit, Dancing, Renovations, Make-do and Mend, there should be plenty of occupation for the winter. All L.G.s. in private employment are warmly invited to join their nearest Hostel for such activities. It is hoped to hold a Drama Competition again in March, and the County Committee who will issue details later, would very much like to see some teams composed of W.L.A. members in private employment. It is also hoped to arrange another Competition this

winter but not necessarily an essay this time and suggestions will be welcomed at the County Office.

Hostels under the management of the Y.W.C.A. have been raising money for the Y.W.C.A. War Purposes Fund. The target has been £25 per Hostel but Cornhill have raised £205 and Wooler £102. (Is this by any chance a record for England?) Representatives of each of these hostels will shortly have the honour of presenting purses to H. M. The Queen. These splendid achievements encourage us to think that our County Target for the Benevolent Fund will surely be reached before Christmas. Mrs. Clement's letter in the Quarterly News Bulletin for October should be given careful consideration.

**SOMERSET.**—In addition to clubs at Winscombe, Churchill, East Brent, Taunton, Bath and Wells, and Yeovil Club (which has had meetings throughout the summer through the kindness of Mrs. Higson, who has had delightful parties in her garden and her house and also opens her house to the W.L.A. on Sunday mornings), others are opening at Congresbury (which has a room five nights a week and Saturday and Sunday afternoons), at Axbridge (where local employers arranged a Dance to provide funds), at Witham Friary and at Ilminster which started with a concert party at Castle Cary. In several districts advantage is being taken of facilities offered by other organisations, such as the Y.W.C.A. Bristol (Charlotte St.) and Weston-Super-Mare and the speedwell Club at Crewkerne. On Oct. 16th, Mrs. Lutterell gave a party to 30 girls in the Bridgwater area. L.A. Dances in aid of the Benevolent Fund have raised £21 at Cheddar, £7 6s. at Merriott and £47 at Taunton.

Mrs. Godfrey Phillips of the Central Council for Health Education has toured all the hostels, and her talks have been immensely appreciated. Congratulations to Miss D. Hawksworth for demonstrating with the champion ploughman in Somerset before 60 farmers at East Brent in September—and also on her forthcoming marriage. Two and a half years in the W.L.A. has brought Miss Hawksworth wonderful recovery from serious injuries in the London Blitz in 1940. We should like to welcome Miss A. Shirley, who has been appointed by the W.A.E.C. as Tractor Forewoman for the County.

**STAFFS.**—We welcome our County Organiser, Mrs. Rhoden, who looks forward to meeting you all in due course. Our new hostel at Wombourne Wodehouse, which is part of the charming old house of our Vice-Chairman, Miss Shaw-Hellier, is now open, and we welcome Mrs. Shannon as Warden, also Mrs. Airey, the new Warden at Wall Heath Hostel. Recently, Hilcote Hall, Loggerheads, Lea Hall and Wall Heath Hostels each had an interesting talk by a M.O.I. speaker, Mr. Earp, of the Merchant Navy. Lea Hall held a most successful first birthday party on Sept. 29th. About 80 employers and friends enjoyed dancing, games, community singing, and excellent refreshments owing to the help of kind friends and Mrs. Lewis (Warden). Miss Chapman and Mrs. Rhoden were present. This hostel has a dramatic club and also held a "Farmers' Bee" on 19th Oct., with mixed teams of L.G.s and farm hands. Mr. Tom Hollins was question-master. Brewood Hostel gave an invitation dance on Oct. 8th; Col. and Mrs. Hutton were present. The room was beautifully decorated with flowers and sheaves of corn, which were afterwards auctioned. £8 13s. was sent to the Benevolent Fund. Lichfield Club held their first birthday party on October 14th, about 50 friends spent a very jolly evening, refreshments by kindness of friends, complete with birthday cake decorated with replica of a L.G., dancing and competitions. New club opened at Milford Hall by kindness of Mrs. Haszard on Oct. 20th with 10 L.G.s present at a social evening. There were 14 entrants for first Proficiency Tests in Milking and Dairy Work, and further tests are



being arranged. "Make and Mend" classes are being held at clubs in the Eccleshall district. Will volunteers send suggestions for further classes to the Welfare Officer, County Office.

**E. SUFFOLK.**—We hope soon to have a club within bicycling distance of every L.G. their success will depend on the members themselves. A farmer in the north of the County is so pleased with his L.G.'s that he has called on neighbouring farmers, asking them to contribute towards the local Club. We would like to suggest that Club members should practice special musical items and learn short plays or duologues with a view to producing something which could be incorporated in a "Grand Concert" in aid of the Benevolent Fund next Spring. We are very grateful to the "E. Anglian Daily Times" for £25. for this fund, and congratulate members of Kelsale District Club on £20 from two dances for the same good cause. 22 Volunteers have entered for the special Correspondence Courses and there are already 45 entries for the proposed Proficiency Tests. Congratulations to 14 volunteers who are now the proud possessors of the striking scarlet Four Year Armlets.

**W. SUFFOLK.**—We are very proud of our first six volunteers to win crimson armlets. They have all worked in this county since the beginning of the war, and two of them, Miss Garland and Miss Vowler, have remained in the same employment all the time. The Suffolk War Agricultural Association have donated a sum of money for prizes to L.G.s in this county, and Miss Garland has been awarded first prize. The Mayor of Sudbury has kindly consented to present these prizes at a presentation which has been arranged in conjunction with an E.N.S.A. concert in November. A new hostel has been opened at Little Bradley, and the four O'Brien sisters, now known as "The Four Musketeers," have gone with the first batch of volunteers. Can any other county equal this record? The town of Bury St. Edmund's has just given us the profits from a week's dances at the Corn Exchange, for the Benevolent Fund. We are very grateful indeed for the Council's kindly interest in our welfare, which brought in the magnificent sum of £104.

**SURREY** now has a number of clubs in the county which seem to be well established and flourishing and we frequently hear of more being started. It is hoped in time to have a club within reach of every Surrey volunteer, and it would be a help if those volunteers who would like to join a club and do not know of one would consult their local representative or write to the County Office. We have pleasure in announcing that the Y.W.C.A. opened a club at 119, High Street, Guildford, on November 1st. The use of the premises is free to members of the W.L.A., and the club is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 9.30 p.m., and on Sundays from 3 to 9.30 p.m. Refreshments will be available, and guest evenings will be held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It is hoped that the club will prove a meeting place not only for volunteers living and working in Guildford, but also for the even greater number who pass through the town on their way home or come into Guildford on their day off.

J. Anscombe, 107345, sent an interesting account of the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Mitcham Methodist Church at which Miss D. Selwood, W.L.A., sang the solo—Miss Anscombe's employer was responsible for decorating the church.

**E. SUSSEX.**—On Oct. 15th Brighton Agricultural Committee entertained to a Harvest Supper (served by the W.V.S.) in the Royal Pavilion, 50 Land Girls who have helped to produce 330 tons of wheat and 200 tons of oats on land farmed by the Corporation. Members of the newly formed L.A. club at Sedlescombe raised £13 13s. for the Benevolent Fund at a very successful whist drive on Oct. 21st. W.I. members very kindly provided refreshments for the 86 people present who all admired

the fresh and well groomed appearance of their hostesses.

**W. SUSSEX.**—Harvest-home celebrations have been held in many parts of the county and particularly successful ones at Compton, Henfield, Storrington and Tillington. Clubs are a great part of the news this month. New ones have been formed at Bury, Coolham, Midhurst, Petworth, Pulborough, Rogate and Shoreham whose second meeting took place in the cellar because of an air raid. Talks by Miss Swaitland and Mrs. Podger of the Central Council of Health Education have been much enjoyed at the hostels and many of the Clubs.

**N. WALES** has, like many other parts of the North, had a very prolonged harvest, and it has been a wearisome and trying time for farmers and farm workers alike. "G.S. Award" parties arranged for Merionethshire and Caernarvonshire had to be indefinitely postponed, while we know that many volunteers readily agreed to defer their holidays until after the corn was safely harvested. One new hostel has been opened at Glynswyddw, and we welcome, and wish well to Mrs. Gabriel, her Staff and the volunteers now living there, and also the new contingent of volunteers who came to Llanerchmedd from Yorkshire. The Glynswyddw Hostel has speedily shown a lively interest in the Benevolent Fund and forwarded £20, the proceeds of its first dance. Winter programmes for Hostels and Clubs covering a wide field of activities have been arranged, and E.N.S.A., C.E.M.A., M.O.I., Y.F.C., and other organisations have freely offered us their assistance. Audrey Cooper, Nellie Williams, and Phyllis Davies, have received a special letter from Messrs. Priestmans for their successful manipulation of the firm's Excavators on Malla-trath Marsh.

**WARWICKS.**—We are very proud of M. M. Davis, H. Hamilton, B. Joseph, F. Joseph, A. Ker, N. Nicholas, G. E. Fenton, and Mrs. Dean, who received 4-year armlets at our rally on Oct. 2nd. Volunteers in the Birmingham district performed a most enjoyable variety concert in Birmingham recently and raised over £30 for the Benevolent Fund. The Alcester Club have been taking part in a revue in Redditch and are now busy rehearsing for their own revue which is being produced this winter. Successful dances have been held in Rugby, Fenny Compton, Solihull and Barford, and the new club just started in Leamington Spa is arranging another dance early in December. The L.A. club in Stratford-on-Avon has been celebrating its second birthday, and we should like to thank Miss Barnett for starting and carrying it on. The Uniform Department has now left the County Offices in Regent Grove and is installed in its new premises at 20, The Parade, Leamington.

**WILTS.**—Rallies held in Salisbury, Corsham and Marlborough, to which W.L.A. members invited their hostesses were an unqualified success. Mrs. Hudson, Mr. Hurd, Lady Katherine McNeile and committee members all thanked the landladies and impressed on them the essential nature of the work they were doing and the amazing difference it made to the girls having a "home from home." The girls then took their landladies to tea and entertainment. Jessie Matthews came down from London to sing to them in the Palace Gardens at Salisbury, and the picture of happy girls with their smiling, unofficial mothers set against the background of the grey cathedral walls and green lawns made an unforgettable picture. A comic dog show, a concert at which L.G.'s entertained their fellow members and a dance, finished up an evenings' entertainment. At Marlborough there was a concert followed by competitions with a large number of entries for stock-judging, tractor driving and various sports, the evening ended with community singing and a mass photograph of all present.

These and the Corsham Rally collected over £120 for the Benevolent Fund. There have also



been several parties, the latest of which was given by Mrs. Fuller. The Clubs have started on their winter programmes which include Make and Mend classes, Health and Beauty, Physical Training, Dancing and Dressmaking, also lectures, Brainstrusts, competitions and discussions. One club has produced a variety concert aptly called "The Khaki and the Green" in conjunction with the 71st Infantry Brigade. Another has cast the characters for a play to be produced later. The Hostels have had a stroke of luck in receiving gay patch-work quilts on loan from the W.V.S. and in having sick-bay comforts provided by the Red Cross and large parcels of library books. They have been doing their share in helping others by collecting harvest offerings for the local churches and by inviting the villagers to their entertainments.

**YORKS.**—Hostels have now been opened at Selby, Stavely, Dishforth, Weeton, and Masham. We hope all the girls in these hostels will be very happy. Ripon, Knaresborough and Easingwold are making preparations to celebrate their second birthdays within the next month. In August, Easingwold Hostel not only won the Inter-Hostel Competition for the best working hours record, which is organised by the North Riding W.A.E.C., but also set up a new record for the number of points won in the competition. It was the fourth time this Hostel has been at the top of the list since the competition was started in Jan., 1943. The previous time this hostel won it, the girls sent the money to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as a gift to the nation. On Sept. 5th Mrs. Teuley, of Kirby Misperton very kindly entertained 75 W.L.A. members in Mrs. Fife's Area. Many of the girls had bicycled long distances; among those present were four sisters from Middlesbrough, Pattie, Nora and Peggy Hand, and their married sister Kathleen Allinson. Peggy has just joined the W.L.A., but the others have already worked 8½ years between them. Kathleen and Nora have been on one farm only, and Pattie has been on two.

There are now twenty W.L.A. clubs in the North and West Ridings—the most newly formed are at Harrogate, Claxton, Masham, Otterington and Barton.

#### BENEVOLENT FUND

On Oct. 31st the Fund totalled £39,905 14s. 10d. The monthly total was £3,815 14s. 4d. Warwickshire has the highest total, £1,595 10s. 6d., and the highest monthly total, £536 10s. 3d.

Some splendid contributions have come in this month. Space only permits us to mention a few, but we shall give more details in the next number of the Bulletin. **Warwicks** heads the list with £525 raised by a county draw, and **Hereford** is not far behind with £363 15s. from the draw arranged by Mrs. Smith. The **Norfolk** total got a big lift with £333 18s., of which £300 comes as a grant from the N. and N. War Charities Committee, Mrs. Graham raised £150 for **Beds** by her gymkhana and dance, and **Cheshire** volunteers in Barnston and district helped by Mrs. Hill have sent £100 18s. 8d. What wonderful things Land Girls can do when they get together! Mrs. Colchester Wemyss organised a Country Fair at Chesterfield, which sent the **Derbyshire** total up by £100, and the N.F.U. in that county sent £70 as part proceeds of a sale held on behalf of our Fund and the Red Cross. The N.F.U. in **Leics** and **Rutland** sent a donation of £50. The press is responding most generously to our appeals; details will be given in the next Bulletin. We still hope for our £50,000 by December 31st, so hurry up and arrange those Christmas auctions.

Christmas cards are now on sale from County Offices and cost 6d. each.

**Stop Press.**—Pembrokeshire's Flag Day brought in the splendid sum of £441 13s. 2d.

### County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em-
	£	s.	d.	ployed
Kent .. ..	493	14	10	4202
Essex .. ..	591	2	0	3965
Hants .. ..	901	1	9	2328
Leics. } ..	482	15	4	2306
Rut. }				
Herts. .. ..	557	15	8	2267
E. Sussex ..	390	12	8	2228
Worcs. .. ..	726	5	0	2020
Northants. ..	1314	3	8	1896
Somerset .. ..	371	12	7	1859
Warwicks. ..	1595	10	6	1825
Devon .. ..	473	18	1	1769
W. Sussex ..	1047	7	9	1626
Wilts. .. ..	345	4	9	1557
Lancs. .. ..	358	14	2	1540
Cheshire .. ..	879	1	5	1514
North'ld. ..	221	2	2	1461
Glos. .. ..	932	10	11	1386
Notts. .. ..	260	14	8	1362
Berks. .. ..	849	19	9	1268
Hunts. 323 }				
Camb. 557 }	477	3	0	1258
Ely 378 }				
E. Suffolk ..	812	1	1	1187
Yorks, E.R. ..	71	1	9	1147
Oxon .. ..	408	13	6	1127
Durham .. ..	154	17	6	1063
Beds. .. ..	418	8	5	997
Dorset .. ..	316	13	8	920
Staffs. .. ..	193	3	9	819
Lindsey .. ..	444	2	1	780
Monmouth ..	262	1	1	672
Glam. .. ..	454	2	8	649
London & Middx.	584	18	4	640
W. Suffolk ..	881	2	2	629
Holland .. ..	208	15	3	607
Hereford .. ..	850	11	6	605
N. Wales .. ..	614	18	7	571
Derbyshire ..	416	18	5	554
I.O.W. .. ..	42	17	0	407
Brec. & Rad. ..	119	13	5	318
Mont. .. ..	196	8	5	241
Timber Corps ..	251	14	7	429
Yorks, N. & W.R.	528	5	6	Not rec'd.
Bucks .. ..	913	17	0	"
Norfolk .. ..	1164	12	10	"
Cornwall .. ..	170	3	10	"
Cumbs. & West.	266	5	4	"
Flints. .. ..	179	12	0	"
Denbighs. ..	250	17	6	"
Pembs. .. ..	552	3	2	"

#### "THE LAND GIRL"

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