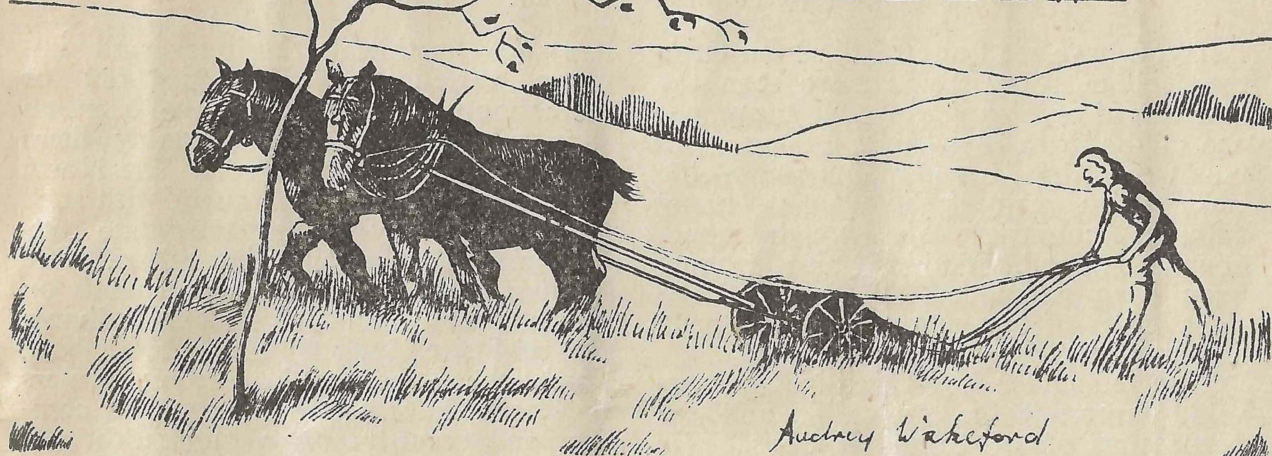


# THE LAND GIRL



No. 7, Volume 5

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## EYES AND NO EYES

FOR many volunteers who come from towns and cities, a first job in the Land Army is in many respects like a visit to another country. Most of these volunteers would gladly welcome a chance to take a job abroad and would then spend much of their spare time in getting to know the new country, its scenery, houses, roads and living conditions, its food, amusements and its language. How many of them put the same energy and interest into discovering the new country to which the Land Army has carried them?

The coming winter offers a chance for volunteers who have lost time to make up for it; the LAND GIRL Winter Competition is on **Local Specialities** which may be widely interpreted. The story of a great man born in the neighbourhood, or of a local family or craft, or of a famous house should appeal to Land Girls who like history, while some might like to study how a village has altered as a result of changing methods of agriculture and economic life.

If you are interested in birds or flowers you can send an account of those peculiar to your locality, perhaps with drawings or collections—local legends and ghost stories, or methods of cooking and recipes, or place names and dialect terms offer other possibilities.

You can use winter evenings to read and discuss your subjects and make your plans or collections or drawings. Three prizes of three guineas, two guineas and one guinea, will be given next Spring and a special prize of two guineas will be given to the hostel or club which sends in the best result of work by members combining together. The interest of the subject matter, the way it is arranged and the observation which it has meant, will count most for prizes so if you aren't used to writing, it doesn't matter at all. What matters is the use of eyes to see and wits to understand what you see. "Men's eyes" said Shakespeare "were made to look, and let them gaze."

M. A. P.

## FREEDOM FROM WANT

*This article by Professor Scott Watson, author of "The Farming Year" and recently Agricultural Attaché to the British Embassy at Washington, will be a valuable stimulus to every land worker who wants to contribute his or her share to the elimination of conditions which help to produce war.*

If you have read any of Sir John Orr's recent books, or if you have seen the film *World of Plenty*, you will know that one of the main root causes of misery in the world has been malnutrition—the lack by so many people in so many different countries of enough good, nourishing food. You will also, I hope, have been persuaded that one of the clear duties of our generation is to make a great effort to abolish want.

You remember how President Roosevelt expressed the war aims and the peace aims of the United Nations. He said that we must fight now and strive later for "The Four Freedoms." Now two of these—Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Speech—we in England already enjoy; in fact we have had them so long that we sometimes forget that they are precious things. Some other peoples enjoy them too. The rest, as it seems to me, could have them also if only they would be sensible; at least there are no really big practical difficulties in the way.

But Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear are another story. No country has ever enjoyed them to the full. Always, in all countries, there have been some poor and hungry, and there has never been a time when the nations were without fear or suspicion of each other. Moreover the two are related—we shall never get either if we do not get both. What I mean is that hunger and want have been among the chief causes of widespread crime, of revolutions and of wars; and that, in turn, crime and revolution and war have only made matters worse, often turning poverty and hunger into stark famine.

The English villager who, in the bad old days, went poaching at the risk of his life, or at the risk of transportation (which was often worse than death), did not usually do so for sport, or out of a love for adventure. More often he poached because his children were starving; and his children need not have been starving if English farmers had known how to grow better crops. The common people of France, in the days before the Revolution, had many just grievances, but of these the most urgent was that they were short of bread. If there

had been artificial fertilizers and improved varieties of wheat in 1780 or thereabouts, there would have been no shortage of bread, and probably there would have been no Terror. The North American Indians, who fought with such ferocious cruelty against the white settlers, and also among themselves, were fighting for the vast hunting grounds on which they depended for their living. But if these Indians could have been taught to be reasonably efficient farmers they could have lived, in far greater comfort and security, on a hundredth part of the land that they thought they needed. In that case they would have had nothing of vital importance to fight about.

Of course, even in a world of plenty, there would be some criminals, revolutionaries, war-mongers and other kinds of fanatics; and so, I suppose, we shall always need some police. But no number of police will be able to keep the peace in a world where people are poor and hungry to the point of desperation.

Must the poor, then, always be with us? The fact is that there are great difficulties to be overcome before we can have a World of Plenty, or even a world in which everybody who is willing to do a reasonable job of work can be assured of a moderate livelihood for himself and his family. But I do not believe that the difficulties are insuperable.

Easily the greatest difficulty was pointed out in a large book by the Rev. Thomas Malthus, published away back in 1798. After a lot of hard thinking Malthus came to the conclusion that there were "great and unconquerable difficulties in the way of human improvement." He pointed out that there was only so much land in the world from which men could produce food and other necessities. It was, of course, true that this land, through increased knowledge and skill, could be made to grow more food. But this increase would be slow and would be a matter of arithmetical progression—perhaps an extra bushel per acre, added to the average crop of wheat, every ten years. Moreover, as time went on, it would take more and more effort to maintain even this rate of increase. Meanwhile, the population of the world would tend to increase in geometrical

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progression—i.e. would tend to double and redouble at roughly equal intervals—perhaps every thirty years. Actual numbers might be kept down because people kept killing other people in wars; or they might be kept down by small-pox, plague, influenza, tuberculosis and other diseases. But if these checks were not enough the surplus people would simply die of starvation. Every poor harvest would cause a famine.

Malthus died in 1834; but even if he had lived many more years—on through the “hungry ’forties”—he might well have remained fully persuaded that he was right. If to-day he could see Eastern Europe, India, China or the West Indies, he might still stick to his ideas, because these countries are all poor, and are poor chiefly because they have more people than their farms can feed. But if he were to visit England, or travel in Western Europe or parts of North America, it would be different. He would find people worried, not because there are too many children, but because there are too few.

Obviously, however, there must be causes of poverty other than over-population. Very serious poverty exists in countries where there is, or easily could be, enough food, and enough of the other bare necessities, to go round. And it is not so very easy to find a remedy for this state of affairs. On the one hand we want people to be industrious and efficient, and it seems that we must always offer some reward for good work. On the other hand if we let the clever and the lucky people have too much, the others will have too little. We in England have made a lot of progress, in what I believe to be the right direction, in these last seventy or eighty years—since the time when the landlord collected fat rents and the farmer drove round in his carriage-and-pair, while the farm worker got ten shillings a week—when he could find a job. But some other countries have been able to go farther than ourselves. Before the war, for instance, countries such as Sweden and Holland, though poorer than Britain, had a much smaller proportion of very poor.

It is worth saying, too, that, in this country as in others, there has been some malnutrition in families who were not so very poor. This resulted from ignorance. Many people, and especially many children, consumed too little milk, eggs and fresh vegetables, too much sugar and white bread. One of the very few good results of the war is that we have learnt better ways of feeding ourselves.

These various aspects of the matter concern you and me only as closely as they concern people in general. But your job and mine is food production, and so we have a special responsibility. In so far as we are keen to learn and willing to teach, and in so far as we take pride in our job and do it as well as we know how, we are helping towards Freedom from Want; in so far as we are slack or careless we are refusing to help; for the biggest cause of hunger in the world is just that the world's farms are not producing enough food.

Personally, I don't agree with people who maintain that British farmers or farm workers, as a whole or on the average, are inefficient. I admit that the Danes, before the war, could teach us various things about milk production, pig-keeping, co-operation and possibly other parts of our job. The Dutch, I used to think, were even better cowmen than the Danes, and were probably the best and most skilful market-gardeners in the world. But it was a statistical fact that the average person working on the land in Britain was producing substantially more food than his or her opposite number in Denmark, Holland or any other European country. Again, I admit that America and Canada have taught us a good deal about machinery, and can teach us more still. Largely by the use of better machinery the farmers of these countries have considerably surpassed our food output per worker. But they have been less careful of their land, and many of the crops that they grow are very poor by comparison with our own. We have thus no particular reason to be ashamed of ourselves; yet it is true that we have not kept the lead in farming progress that we held eighty years ago. Up till that time we were showing everybody else the way.

How are we to win back our old position and again lead the march of progress? There are numbers of things that we must do. Unfortunately, we fell behind other countries in agricultural research just at the time when science was finding a great many applications in farming. During the last few years we have been doing better, but we must try to do better still. For many years we have been awarding some scholarships to enable our bright youngsters to go to Farm Institutes; but we must give many more. We have got a farm institute in each of about one third of our counties, but we need a farm institute in nearly every one. Almost all our counties, before the

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war, provided some kind of advisory service for their farmers, but the poorer counties could not do nearly enough. We should see to it that every farmer in the country can get good advice. Again we have a lot of good Young Farmers' Clubs and Farming Clubs, but we must have more and better.

But of course we can do little in the way of solving the world's food problem merely by farming our own little island better than we have done in the past. Britain's fields are too small, however well they are tilled, to make much difference to the world at large. Even to-day, with our utmost efforts, we are feeding only some thirty millions of the two thousand millions who have somehow to be fed. We must, it seems to me, join with others of the more fortunate or richer countries to help the less fortunate and the poorer—not indeed to give them food, but to help them to help themselves. Many of our Colonies are poor and backward, and to them we have an obvious responsibility. But we shall not play a worthy part in creating a World of Plenty unless we join wholeheartedly in a great and world-wide drive.

### AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE

One evening recently a fellow Land Girl and I went with about thirty Farmers and their workers from our 'Growmore Club' to Mr. Burge's farm at Itchen Abbas, Winchester. We were met on our arrival by Mr. Burge and his son, who took us for a tour of their farm.

Cows came first and specially interested Pat and me as they are our chief walk in life. Of course we both concluded our own cows were best, but really they were a fine herd and looked very well.

We passed on through various fields of corn etc., Mr. Burge describing their preparation very clearly. The farmers seemed more interested in poking about looking for wire worm or something. The potato fields seemed enormous and the soil was very fine. After emptying our shoes of their contents, we passed through more enormous, never-ending fields, Pat and I feeling very proud to be walking with the farmers and listening to their various questions.

We could not see the farm building in sight anywhere and we wondered if we ever would that night, but Mr. Burge assured us they weren't very much farther and he very kindly asked if we were tired, we gallantly said "No" although we were sure some of the farmers were.

After a lot more walking we saw the world's record cow; she wasn't particularly handsome but looked noble in a way—some would say she was very thin but she is still giving seven gallons daily so she could hardly be very fat.

We came at last to the yards where we saw all kinds of machinery and implements. Then we were shown the bulls which seemed massive creatures, one being 15 years old. Passing through the large cowsheds Pat and I decided we wouldn't like to swill them out.

Most of us, I believe were glad to sit down in the bus going home but we all thought it was well worth it.

Hants.

J. Pickering, 40387.

### HARVEST HOME

You are my harvest home, the last rich sheaf  
My tired arms shall gather to my heart.

Long are the days from snowy winter seed-time

When we ploughed, harrowed and drilled the dormant grain.

Long are the days through biting winds of March,

And April's laughing showers and May's sweet green,

And June's bright hours—the blazing days of summer

With the haze shimmering from the sun-parched land

And the silver hay piled high in scented loads.

Oh long the days of dull July, the sullen,

Of dusty August and her dragging toil,  
Till with a mighty shout came gay September

And the sheaves ranged in their four-square shocks.

And the carts creaking and the horses straining,

And our hearts spurring our arms to beat the sun...

The fields are quiet now, the corn is carted,

The harvest moon dreams on the empty land,

On the bulging sacks where the quick mice dart,

And I am free to cry "Te Deum!" with my hand in yours.

My tired arms may gather to my heart this last rich sheaf:

You are my harvest home.

E. M. B.

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### THE NEW GIRL AT MEADOWHALL

Bunty Barton, the Merry Madcap of Meadowhall Farm, rushed into the barn where her fellow Land Girls, Sally Shippon and Myra Midden were eating their elevenses and re-varnishing their finger nails. "Girls," she cried "the new Land Girl's come!" Sally sprang up, dropping part of her double cheese ration which was seized upon and carried off by a large rat, which had been waiting patiently for such an opportunity. "What fun" she said, "tell us what she's like," "Yes" added Myra "spill the beans old girl."

"Well, she looks a proper blue-stock-ing" answered Bunty with a grimace, "She has short dark hair and she wears goggles." The other two members of the Meadowhall trio were almost speechless with amazement at this description. "Short hair?" queried Sally, "Short dark hair? Golly, she must be a frump" All the girls at Meadowhall had long, fair hair in curls to their shoulders and could not imagine how any Land Girl could tolerate short, dark hair.

At that moment the farmer Mr. Mutton, who was ever such a jolly man and a real pal to all his Land Girls, entered the barn, closely followed by the new girl. "This is Sheila Sheepshanks" he said. "Now, don't be shy; I'm sure these girls will show you the ropes. Don't forget we're all good chums at Meadowhall—our motto is 'Each for all at Meadowhall.' No slacking, mind; we must put our shoulders to the grindstone and never look back until we have run the race. Now, Bunty, you take Sheila and show her round, and the rest, if they've nothing particular to do, might like to join me in a spot of hoeing."

"Well," whispered Myra "I don't know if you're game, but I vote we send the Sheepshanks to Coventry." "Jolly good wheeze," replied Sally as they followed Mr. Mutton to the field, singing as they went the Meadowhall Hoeing Song—"Docks and dashels, here we come."

Meanwhile Bunty Barton was showing the new girl round the farm. When they came to the pigsties Bunty held her breath, as she always did, but Sheila sniffed and said "Pretty thick, isn't it? How often do you clean them out?" "Ha—ha" said Bunty gaily, "I wouldn't know—I've only been here for six months."

It was then that the headstrong girl thought what a Jape it would be to make Sheila clean out the pigsties. How the others would laugh! So she fetched a

blunt pick and a wheelbarrow with only one handle and, telling the unfortunate girl to "get going" went off to resume her interrupted lunch.

Poor Sheila! It was a stiff job to tackle, but the girl had grit and she went to it with a will. Soon her pick touched the floor of the pigsty, and suddenly she caught sight of a bright object between the cobbles. She picked it up; it was a curious carving in metal of a cow's head. What could it be? Why was it in the pigsty? The return of the genial Mr. Mutton at that moment solved the mystery, for as soon as he caught sight of the charm he exclaimed "At last—my luck is restored to me!" He continued "That object, Sheila, is the Luck of Meadowhall which has been lost since a year last tattie-digging, and without which nothing succeeds on the farm. Since it has been lost our corn has been full of weeds, our milk has gone sour, our hens have all gone broody and our apple-trees have been blighted. Now you have found it, all will be well again." The merry trio, who had come along during this speech in search of dinner, chimed in "Oh, good show" "Well done, the new girl" "Let's shoulder her, you chaps" Shoulder her they did, round the yard and into the farmhouse, where they all gave three cheers for Sheila Sheepshanks, the girl who saved Meadowhall. Although the heroine herself thought Mr. Mutton's farming methods the queerest she had ever known, she accepted their congratulations and, on her suggestion, the farmer expressed his gratitude by a donation to the Benevolent Fund.

Devon. E. Manton, 84630.

Hillcroft College, Residential College for Working Women, is again running Correspondence Courses in English Composition, Modern Art and Art Criticism, Child Psychology, and Biology (in preparation). The ordinary charge is £2 for a course of twelve assignments, £1 for six. A limited number of courses at half fees is available and early application for these is desirable. Many volunteers have enjoyed these courses, it is hoped that many more will enrol this winter. For all information write to the above college at Shennington, near Banbury, Oxon, enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope.

Farmer (to volunteer who had milked her first cow): Well, you've learned something to-day.

Volunteer: Yes, I learned the man who says a cow gives milk is a liar.

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*D. Ray, 61708 (Cambs.) tidying up her charge at the British Percheron's Stallion Show at Histon.*

### FELL FARM CALENDAR

I have been working for the last two years on a farm about a mile from Trough o' Bowland with River Wyre running close by. Being a Fell Farm naturally we have plenty of sheep, a few milk cows and young stock as we rear our own cows, also two pigs, a few hens and indispensable sheep dogs.

During the first three months of the year the biggest job is carting and spreading manure. I'm always thankful this is a winter's job as I can keep warm on the coldest day. Lime and slag, both dirty jobs, are sown to improve the meadows, fences, both wire and wooden, are repaired, hedge fences trimmed and laid before the sap begins to rise and mangolds and turnips are carted from clamps (store) into the barn where they are pulped and fed to cattle. Hen huts and calf holes require regular cleaning out, which means carting brackens, rush and straw from stacks and lofts. Potatoes in clamps are sorted, de-sprouted and moved to inside storage.

Towards the middle of March we start thinking about ploughing. It may seem late in the season, but no ploughing was done in this district before the war so very few farms have ploughs and these have to be shared, hence the lateness in starting. Harrowing and ploughing are repeated alternately until a suitable tilth is obtained

April is a very busy month as it is lambing time. Flocks are inspected from dawn to dusk and weak lambs, those that won't feed, or that sheep won't take to, are brought to a field near the house so that they are handy. A sheep may lose a lamb and then one of twins is mothered on. This means skinning the dead lamb and putting the skin on to the live lamb; the sheep will usually take to it. Sometimes it happens that a sheep dies, then the lamb has to be bottle-fed until a foster mother can be found.

When weather permits, corn is sown and harrowed, but rolled later when seed grass is sown. During April, hoggs (last year's lambs) which have been wintered in the lowlands are returned. Before they can be turned on the fell, they must be cleaned and dipped. One at a time they are caught, put into the prepared dip-tub and kept there a few minutes.

Sometime in May all the lambs are collected together as they have to be "injected" and "ear marked" with the farmer's own particular marking, ewe lambs' tails are docked. We start work again in the ploughed field, seed grass is sown, rolled in, the corn too; potatoe ridges are made, spread with manure, potatoes set (a back aching job) then covered and turnip ridges are also made, sown and rolled. At the end of the month all the cows are lying out and there is less inside work to be done.

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The three main jobs in June are clipping, dipping sheep and thinning turnips before haytime. When it is a clipping day the men go up the fell, gather the sheep and bring them down into the farm-yard, then sort them and gather a few in a small pen, convenient for catching. Each sheep is taken in turn and the wool clipped off with hand shears and smit with the farmer's own particular marking. Each fleece is collected, any dirty wool cut off, then wrapped and tied in a bundle. When all the sheep have been clipped, the wool is weighed and put into large sacks and sent off to a wool merchant. Usually about a week later the sheep are dipped.

This is followed by thinning turnips. In some districts they are thinned with a hoe, but up here it is done by hand. This means chopping along each row, and if the ground should be dry and lumpy it is sore work on the knees.

July up here is hay time, enjoyable even if it does mean working at all hours. What a relief when the last load is carted. August finds us mowing rush, which is done to improve the fields and to be dried and used for bedding. If the summer has been a good one September finds us busy in the corn. If we are lucky a binder will get up into the district, if not—we well we just have to reap it ourselves and tie up each sheaf by hand.

October starts the harvesting of green crops, including potatoes. These are cleaned, dried and stored in a clamp. During this month we are busy again among the sheep as they all have to be dipped. Also hogs which are to be sent lower down for the winter have to be injected and their horns marked with their owner's initials.

Late in November the thresher arrives, and what excitement, as it comes up here only once a year. When it has gone, turnips are calling for attention; in wet, mud or frost each turnip has to be pulled up, roots and top cut off. The tops are carted every two or three days and fed to milk cows. The turnips are left till there are several loads ready, to be put into a clamp. By now all the beasts will be inside for the winter, so December finds us in the usual winter routine of cleaning out shippens, foddering and carting and spreading manure. Sometime before the end of the year, we have a very busy week pig killing.

It doesn't matter what season of the year you take on a farm, there's always something fresh going on.

Lancs.

J. Coop, 74076.

## HOSTEL NEWS SHEET

Hostel life, even with the most varied social programme, lacks at times a certain "something." It's the feeling you get when you have organised a dance or social that has been a success, or finished a job in good time and been complimented on your workmanship. Something that *everyone* has had a hand in, and that leaves you feeling closer in spirit as well as in achievement.

It was out of this need that our Wall Newspaper was born. We had heard that in the Forces and in factories this idea of pooling news and views by a group of people had gone over in a big way and we thought this should suit us.

We started off modestly enough and in an experimental mood, with an editorial explaining what we thought could be done and asking for articles, poems, sketches. We wanted to know why our fellow Land Girls had chosen this Service, whether it was coming up (or down!) to expectations, what their friends and relatives thought of the W.L.A., their own plans for after the war, what they thought of a Wall Newspaper. Our supervisor turned up trumps with an apt poem on 'The Perfect Hostel'—we had a rhymed alphabet bringing in the names (and peculiarities) of every girl, some newspaper cuttings of Land Girls at work and play—and our First Edition was out, the experiment had started.

Everyone was enthusiastic, but no articles came in; everyone said she "was no good at writing." We knew that every day long letters went to the folks at home and overseas, telling of the new life, likes and dislikes, experiences both humorous and disastrous. We knew they were written in a simple and easily understandable language—and it was just this that we wanted! Once we got this idea across, the stuff began to come in. I found it took at least a month to collect sufficient material for each edition, type and set it up myself. This was not a particularly good arrangement, but in our hostel we had only twenty to twenty five girls. The ideal state for larger hostels would be to have an Editor, with two or more technical assistants for setting up, typing, etc.

Our hostel has now been closed, but I shall be delighted to give any assistance possible to fellow-Editors who may be launching out. Please write to me at:—The Limes, Takeley, Essex. Essex. K. Brenner, 135665.

This month's cover design is by A. Wakeford, 40839, (Berks.)

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### FITTING INTO VILLAGE LIFE

This short series is really meant for the new recruit, in her first job in the Land Army, so I make my apologies to the old hands, though if they've learned anything after a year or two in the country, they'll have learned, as I have, that there is always more to learn, and maybe they'll put up with a few tips from someone else's experience and observation.

Well, then, here's the first and last lesson, on which everything else depends if you're going to be happy in your new life: Do put it right out of your head that town life is the only life that matters, town people the only people who know anything worth knowing, and that your job is to convert the poor ignorant yokels to your more civilised standards. For one thing, you'll never do it in the year or so you may be in the village. For another, the countryman is a lot more civilised, intelligent and better-mannered than you're inclined to think at first glance. They are natural gentlefolk, with a depth of kindness and understanding you will go far to find amongst the rush and tear and everyman-for-himself life of the town. In the country mankind is up against something so much bigger than himself, he's up against nature in the raw; he simply has to be a good neighbour to survive at all, and although you'll come across gossip and even fueds, they're only on the surface. Deep down—and not so deep either—country folk hang together, and will see you through a tight corner better than anyone, anywhere. You'll always find someone to give you a hand, no matter if it's your bike that has gone wrong, your radio gone silent on you, the roof leaking, a dog with an injured foot, a missed train or bus, a lost ration book, or some illness or injury to yourself. They may not come rushing at you with first aid, they may seem slow when you're frantic for them to be quick, but their slowness isn't slow-wittedness, it's the slowness of people who realise one can't afford to lose one's head and make mistakes in an emergency, the slowness of people who look before they leap so that they may be a real help and not just give flimsy lip service, and facile advice.

As soon as you've realised this one big essential point—the sterling worthwhileness of country people—you'll begin to appreciate their way of life, their everyday work, their home difficulties and ingenious ways of meeting them. You'll want to share, to take your part

in the life of the village, and not only in its working life but in its amusements too. You'll begin to think it might be more fun to go to the local social than in to the flicks in the nearest town (where you'll probably only see the films that were on a year ago at home). And this is perhaps the most dangerous point in your career as a villager. You want to *do* things, and people seem slow to get on with things. Now DON'T rush in, and try to run everything yourself. There's nothing village people hate more. They ran the village for donkey's years before you were born, why the heck should you butt in now and try and take it out of their hands? Go slow, help in every way you can, but don't take charge, even though you are justified in thinking you could do it much better than old Mrs. Jenkins or even the Vicar. Got the idea? Right. Next month we'll have a look at some of the things you can take part in.

Cambs.

9600.

### A MISCELLANEOUS SELECTION

I rolled over onto my back and sat up. Then I saw the motley array of implements that I had been using; a file, two buckets, a jam jar, a push hoe, a shovel, an old pie dish, some string, a cane, a sack, a small coal shovel and the wheel barrow. Everything, including me was smothered in thick black mud. The mud may give you the clue to what I had been doing.

Some time before, large spots of rain and a peal of thunder made me hasten to put in the little turkeys. By the time that was done, the large spots were coming thick and furiously and I dashed for the greenhouse. For a while I listened, fascinated, to the rain hurtling down the roof. Suddenly I remembered the grate outside the potting shed, I had fully intended mentioning it to the boss but there the matter had rested. It would never take this rain I thought, and it did not—the potting shed was awash. Of course this would happen when there was no one but me to tackle the job. The life of the storm was short and in a few minutes the sun was shining. I seized a broom and dispersed the flood, but there was still the blocked drain to contend with.

That was how I came to use; a file, two buckets, a jam jar, a push hoe, a shovel, an old pie dish, some string, a cane, a sack, a small coal shovel and the wheel barrow.

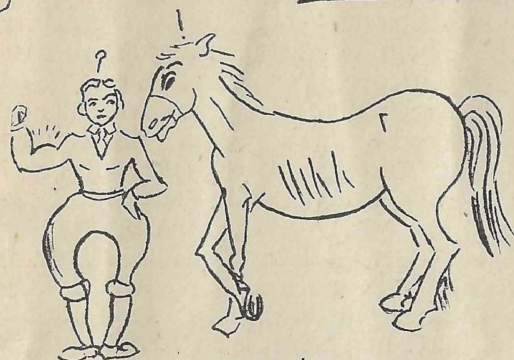
Yorks. W. Riding.

M. Taylor, 58225.

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### RIDING A HORSE

①



BRONCHO BILL

②

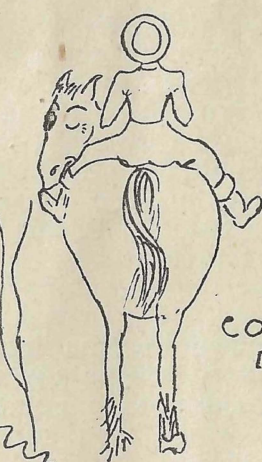


FIRST ATTEMPT!



ALL SET-?

④



SHE'LL BE  
COMING  
ROUND THE  
MOUNTAIN

Drawn by E. Harrison, Women's Timber Corps.

**Warmest congratulations** to yet three more volunteers who have battled successfully with bulls. They are M. Bracker, 3484 (Somerset), L. Thomas, 85626 (Lancs), and M. Wood, 108480 (Cheshire). Their courage and presence of mind saved (a) an employer, (b) a fellow worker, and (c) a child from, at least, serious injury.

**And to K. Gunning, 2923 (Lancs),** who saved her employer's most cherished horse from death by drowning.

**And to volunteers at Woodyates Hostel (Dorset),** whose work with sugar beet should produce sugar rations for at least 1,700 people next year.

**And to volunteers employed by E. Suffolk W.A.E.C.** who have chopped out over 1,000 acres of sugar beet and 400 acres of mangold, pulled 160 acres of carrots, made 7 miles of machine thatch, done 60 miles of hedging since last winter—and, of course, all the ordinary muck-spreading, harvesting, etc.

**And to the Devon volunteers** who beat two teams of W.R.N.S., and other competitors in a pair-oar race at a Regatta. Maybe sailors can't ride, but evidently Land Girls can row.

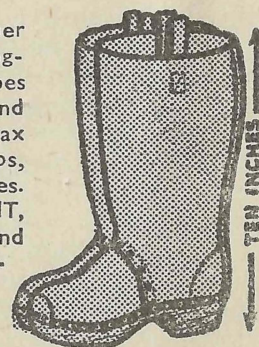
**FOR SALE.**—Coney seal fur coat, good condition. £3 10s.. Bust 36. 58547, c/o Editor, Balcombe Place, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

**FOR SALE.**—Pair of Riding Boot Trees to fit size 5. Price 30s., or offer. Edelsten, Bina Cottage, Dove Mews, S. Kensington, S.W.5.

**FOR SALE.**—Pair black leather farm leggings. New, no coupons, size 12½ in. calves. 10s. Bazeley, Flat 1, 26, Brunswick Square, Hove, Sussex.

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## THE LAND GIRL

### CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I want to ask some questions in the hopes that some of your readers will provide the answers.

1. Do we want some kind of Land Army after the war? If girls stay in land work do they want some kind of society, or union, or service (call it what you will), or would they rather work as individuals making their own agreements with the employer as to wages, hours and conditions?

2. Would there be enough farm jobs after the war for all Land Army members who want to continue?

3. Would girls be willing to take the kind of job which definitely will be open to them even when all the men have come back, viz, part indoor, part outdoor work? Many farmers have told me that they would keep a girl for milking, dairy and poultry work, if she could fill up her time with some indoor work. What does Miss 1945 say to this? Would the girl who at present mucks out the cow-house object to scrubbing the kitchen floor instead? Or, in bad weather would she mind doing the ironing or mending instead of sewing up sacks in the barn? Would peeling potatoes for dinner be any worse than sorting out bad ones?

Most of us think that the farm-maid of a generation ago had a dog's life. We aren't going back to that. Most of us also think that the farmer's wife of to-day has far too much to do. What does the Land Girl of to-day think about it? Given the same wages, house and conditions, would she do some of the farmer's wife's job along with some of the farm jobs?

Most people I meet say it would be fine to be a farmer, but nothing would induce any of them to be a farmer's wife! And yet from the Nation's point of view the farmer's wife is one of our most valuable assets. She is the person who ought to be enabled to bring up a flourishing family. But she is at least as overworked as the farmer. The men will return from the war to relieve him. Who is going to relieve her? What suggestions can Land Army members make about this problem?

"Inquirer."

Dear Editor,

One day when I was in Smith's (a favourite Saturday afternoon haunt of mine) a sturdy-looking, brown-eyed assistant approached me while my gaze was fastened on the rows of gaily-coloured books. "Excuse me," she said,

"but do you have to wear strings attached to your hat in the Land Army?" My conscience smote me. Had the W.L.A. begun sending out spies to round up the incorrectly attired Land Girls? My astonished reply was a brief "N-no." She heaved a sigh of relief and explained that she "awfully badly wanted to join the Land Army" but several points about the wearing of the uniform had worried her. I hastened to assure her that uniform worn correctly and neatly was the desired thing, and I expressed the hope that such worries as hers would not prevent her from joining so fine a service as the Women's Land Army.

W. Riding, Yorks. M. Bradbury, 59167.

Dear Editor,

We have a horse on the farm named Dick, who is fond of going to sleep anywhere, always on his feet, till he's "off" then falls and wakes. In the stable we have two iron bars which we put at the back of him so that he can sleep in comfort. One day while doing a bit of fencing, with Dick in the black cart, he fell down fast asleep, instead of trying to get up he lay there, quite content, notwithstanding the fact that we had to push him from side to side in an effort to get off his gears so that he could get up. This however was not enough to teach him a lesson, he even went to sleep while being loaded with hay. As he is getting on in years now I don't suppose he will improve, it is annoying at times, but amusing too.

Yorks.

L. Hebden, 69110.

Dear Editor,

I trust you will pardon this intrusion by a mere Home Guard but I feel that I must correspond with you sooner or later to show the appreciation I and my fellow members of the H.G. have for the work the W.L.A. is doing during the present emergency.

We think they're doing a great job and we pray that God will bless their efforts as they sincerely deserve to be blessed. Northumberland.

R. Cowan.

### MIDSUMMER MADNESS

Oh, for the glorious haytime,  
The season of joy and delight;  
When you can't breathe for dust in the daytime,

Nor sleep for your blisters at night.  
Oh, for the wonderful sunshine,  
Blazing down on your head,  
Turning your arms to dark copper,  
And your nose to a carrotty red.  
Monmouthshire.

J. Coates, 58616.

## THE LAND GIRL

### An open letter to Miss Sackville-West

Dear Miss Sackville-West,

As one of the first working members of the W.L.A., I want to say "Thank you" for your book giving the official story of our war effort. Not only does it deal comprehensively with all the different jobs we have tackled all over the country, but you've managed to show us as the very human beings we are—neither too grim, nor (thank heaven, and you!) too glamorous, and above all not figures of fun. You have told us some of our faults but you have been generous with your appreciation, and appreciation from a real countrywoman like yourself is something worth having, because we feel you *know*, even if you had not made your appreciation tangible in giving the Benevolent Fund the proceeds from the book. This is a volume we shall be glad and proud to keep upon our shelves and to show to our children and our grandchildren when they ask us what we did in Britain's darkest, finest hour.

Cambs.

E. M. Barraud, 9600.

**WANTED.**—Leather or suede jerkin. Good condition. Bust 38. Lees, Pitney Hill, Nr. Taunton, Soms.

**WANTED.**—Brown Riding Boots. Size 4 or 4½. Good condition. Carford, The Laurels, Church St. Martock, Soms.

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*With regard to the above advertisement, the Penguin Co. states that orders will be dealt with in rotation, but warns volunteers that if orders are anything like as large as last year, some delay will be inevitable. This delay is considerably increased when volunteers' names and addresses are indecipherable or when they have changed their addresses since sending the order. Much time was wasted last year in trying to trace such volunteers.*

**"Yeoman's Hospital,"** by Helen Ashton.  
(Collins, 8s. 6d.)

**"Black Lamb and Grey Falcon,"** by  
Rebecca West. (Macmillan, 2 vols.,  
42s.)

They are very lucky people who have no experience of hospitals, but even they may be interested to know how these strange institutions are run and how the people who work in them and the people who suffer in them live and have their being. And, in another way, the patients in Yeoman's Hospital were lucky, too, for, somehow or other, with all the human frailty of the staff, in spite even of its love-affairs, its gossip, its feuds and intrigues, a good job was done on them. After reading this novel one feels almost as if one had read a Mass Observation report on the place and yet Miss Ashton is so much master of her art that one has also fully realised the personalities of some twenty people and is in no danger of confusing one with another, a remarkable achievement in a book of this kind. There are black sheep among both doctors and nurses, but so many more who are devoted to their calling that no avoidable misfortune occurs, unless the projected marriage between the brilliant, bad-tempered pathologist, Neil Marriner, and the capable young woman doctor, Sophia Dean, is a misfortune, as one greatly fears. But Miss Ashton wisely leaves this problem in its early stages. If this book should turn out to be a swan-song of the voluntary hospital system, it is at least a creditable one.

There has been published recently a new edition of "Black Lamb and Grey Falcon" by Rebecca West. This is so magnificent a book that, in spite of its two volumes and high price, it must be recommended to those fortunate enough to be able to get hold of it. The subject is a journey through Yugoslavia in 1937; but the real theme is human nature and human destiny as revealed in a people who can and do express themselves with a freedom and vitality of which we know nothing in this country. This abundance of life makes the tragic story of the Yugoslavs more exhilarating than the success and prosperity of a more stolid or stupid race ever could be. And Miss West almost persuades one to believe again in the legend of woman's intuition. No man, however gifted, could have written this book, or seen all that she saw in places and people, and yet it has the ring of certain truth.

M. Jaeger.

## Scottish Notes

**ABERDEEN AND ELLON.**—Pitrichie Hostel is in the news! Nancy Kirk's 21st birthday was celebrated in Gala style with a cake, a presentation by her fellow residents, and dancing in which many guests took part. A basket of scarce wartime commodities was raffled in aid of local funds. A hostel team competed in the tug-of-war at Oldmeldrum sports and acquitted themselves well for a first effort.

Major and Mrs. Keith, Pitmedden House, honoured the hostel with a handsome gift of fruit, vegetables and flowers. A large basket of ripe gooseberries was gifted by another kind neighbour.

**ALFORD AND DEESIDE.**—After attending a meeting of the Agricultural Executive Committee at Aboyne, Mr. Allan Chapman, Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland, presented a number of L.G.s with long-service armlets, and congratulated them on the service they had rendered to their country. The girls were introduced by Mrs. G. H. Cook, the lady member of the Committee.

Mr. Chapman was also interested in meeting Dorothy Spink who is believed to be the only L.A. shepherdess in the East of Scotland.

**ANGUS.**—Miss E. Watson, College County Instructress who was also a member of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee, has left the county and at the August meeting of the Sub-Committee Miss Ireland, the Chairman, presented her with a gift. Her presence in the county will be missed by the girls in whom she took a great interest.

**DEER AND TURRIFF.**—A presentation of G.S. Badges, for girls in the Peterhead area, was held in the War Services Canteen, Peterhead, on 19th Aug. The meeting was small and informal and after an excellent tea prepared by ladies of the canteen, Miss Henry, W.L.A., Assistant Liaison Officer to the Department of Agriculture, gave the girls a short address and afterwards presented the badges. Miss Pearl Cumming, Nether Den-end, Strichen, was the proud recipient of the special four years' armlet. Miss Marjorie Taylor, Toux, Mintlaw, lady member for the Peterhead area, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Miss Henry. A dance in aid of the W. and B. Fund was held by W.L.A. 17980 Mary S. Reid, Lower Grange, Peterhead, in the St. Fergus Hall. The sum of £6 was realised.

**DUNBARTON AND RENFREW.**—Congratulations to Margaret Breakey, W.L.A. C/53, who took eight prizes for vegetables at the Helensburgh Flower Show. She got first prizes for cauliflowers, peas and broad-beans, second for lettuce and beetroot, and third for cabbages, onions and a collection of six vegetables. Miss Breakey is entirely responsible for the growing of these vegetables.

**KIRKCUDBRIGHT.**—Arranged by members in the Clarebrand district, a successful dance was held in the Town Hall, Castle Douglas, as a result of which over £40 was handed to the Stewartry branch of the Red Cross Society. Mrs. Gillespie, Walbutt, on behalf of the Red Cross, thanked those responsible for the function and stressed the urgent need for funds at the present crucial juncture of the war. She handed over the prizes won in various competitions, and was thanked for her services by Miss Anderson, W.L.A. secretary for the Stewartry.

**SKYE.**—On the 24th Aug. the L.G.s in Skye enjoyed an outing on the occasion of the Horticultural Show held at Portree. G.S. badges were presented to eight members of the W.L.A. by Mrs. Inglis, Greenock. Thereafter the girls viewed an excellent show of vegetables and fruit, dairy produce and baking in the Drill Hall. Lunch and tea were provided for the girls by the local A.E.C.

**STIRLING AND CLACKMANNAN.**—The girls at Carbeth Hostel, Killearn, held a very successful dance in Balfon on Friday 8th Sept. The proceeds, amounting to £67 14s., were handed over to the Red Cross in Stirling. The girls at Cambus

Hostel held a Whist Drive, also on the 8th, in aid of the County Accident Hospital, Alloa.

The following won the reply-verse to the Doodle Bug query in the August number, by A. Hewlett, 3600 (E. Sussex).

Do doodles bug, or do bugs doodle?  
To me the question's all caboodle.  
I only know that in the night  
My thoughts of them are not polite.



*W. Lyons, 3697, and C. Lovegrove, 6919, have sole charge of excavators in the Isle of Ely and live in a caravan, bought out of their earnings. They started work in the Land Army on September 5th 1939.*

## WEST SUSSEX RALLY

The Rally and Fete held at Horsham on September 9th was a magnificent success. Bad weather beforehand, culminating in a cloudburst the day before, had caused alarm (though not confusion) but the day was lovely and thousands of people flowed steadily along the roads to the grounds of the High School, kindly lent for the occasion.

Led by a military band, volunteers marched through the town and arranged themselves in rows efficiently with a minimum of fuss, before the terrace, where after brief speeches by the Hon. Mrs. Burrell (County Chairman) and Lady Denman, the latter presented five-year G.S. Badges to several volunteers. Miss Joyce Grenfell, with her usual grace and wit, then declared the fete open and everyone scattered to enjoy the many entertainments provided, which included a merry-go-round, bowling for a pig, shots at Hitler, pony rides, fancy dress parades, competitions for the best microphone voice, the best ankles, and the best turned-out Land Girl, sports, a Land Army exhibit, a dog show, an agricultural bee, an "un-obtainable articles," produce and other stalls and a grand auction. Horsham Townswomen's Guild served tea and the A.T.C. and Red Cross gave displays of physical training and dancing. A grand variety concert, which included delightful turns by Miss Grenfell and by Mr. Harold Warrender, who also acted as compère, was packed out.

It was altogether a wonderful afternoon, the chief success of which was due to the energy, enthusiasm and resourcefulness of the whole Land Army in the county from the Chairman, Committee, District Representatives and absolutely indefatigable Office Staff to the volunteers who managed the stalls and ran the side-shows with such unselfish ability. Over £1,000 was raised for the Benevolent Fund.

## BENEVOLENT FUND

On September 30th the Fund totalled £93,256 13s 7d. The monthly total was £2,897 17s. 10d. KENT still has the highest total of £6,625 14s. 4d., and the WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS has the highest monthly total of £1,000.

In addition to the splendid £1,000 contributed by the TIMBER CORPS which brings their total

## THE LAND GIRL

to over £3,000, BUCKS have sent another £405 from their special drive. Good totals this month come from BEDS, where £180 was raised by a gymkhana, W. RIDING £128 and WORCS £111. In DEVON over £84 was raised by Mrs. Keane's sports at Moretonhampstead—an excellent effort. SHROPSHIRE sent £77, of which £50 came from the W.L.A. Newport Club garden fete, and HERTS £74 from the Mayor's dance at Watford. Other totals include NORFOLK £45, HANTS £44, N. WALES £38 and OXFORD £30. A dance in LEICS organised by two volunteers realised £28 and another in CUMBS & WEST £18. Too late for mention last month we received £92 from E. SUFFOLK, including over £60 raised by a fete in the tiny village of Blythburgh, and £64 from the N. RIDING.

Well-wishers outside the Land Army have also been helping the Fund and £32 has been received from an N.F.S. dance at Hodnet, Salop, £25 from Fords Sports Club from the sale of tickets for a cricket match (unfortunately owing to the weather the match was cancelled or the sum would have been higher) and £20 from the Standard Telephones and Cables sports day in Somerset.

A four-year volunteer in Montgomery has sent a donation to the Fund in appreciation of the excellent uniform issued to volunteers.

### COUNTY NEWS

**BEDS.**—Congratulations to those who have worked so hard and put in so many hours of overtime during harvest. Leighton Buzzard Hostel reached the top of the work chart this month. The Harpur Street Club arranged a successful musical afternoon last month, and we hope to hold more of these, if they are well patronised. Our thanks go to Mrs. Rogers, our Warden at Ravensden, for her accomplished playing. Arrangements for winter evenings in hostels are being planned, and we welcome suggestions from private volunteers. Write in the first instance to the County Office. A very successful four-year armlet party was held at the club last month. Mrs. Dallas, who enrolled the first Bedfordshire volunteer, was the hostess. Mr. Lawrence, of the Beds. W.A.E.C., gave a very interesting talk on Y.F.C.s. American comfort parcels were distributed to each volunteer, and these were much appreciated. We were sorry that only 13 out of 37 were able to attend owing to pressure of harvest.

In the office Mrs. Place, who is already known to many volunteers in the Hostel and Welfare Section, has taken over the post of Assistant Secretary in succession to Miss Ronn. Miss Cornelius, our new Organiser in the south of the county, has replaced Miss Ellison, who now takes over the north. We wish them both success.

**BERKS.**—Arrangements are in hand for Proficiency tests to take place in G.F. work, Field-work, Poultry Keeping, Tractor Driving and in Machine Milking and Dairy-work. Any volunteer wishing to enter for one of these tests should write to the County Office for particulars if she has not already completed her entry form. Clubs are reopening in many parts of the county. Will volunteers who live in a district where no clubs are available and feel that one should be formed, write to the County Office. Berkshire Y.F. Clubs held their first annual rally at Maybridge Farm, Theale, Reading, on Sept. 16th. Members of the W.L.A. were invited to attend, and a very happy and instructive afternoon was spent.

Hall Place Hostel, Sparsholt, celebrated its third birthday in August. This took the form of a dance and supper to which the volunteers invited their friends. The health of the hostel was drunk during the evening.

**BUCKS.**—An Agricultural Show, organised by the Bucks Constabulary, was held at Woad Farm, Newport Pagnell, on Sept. 9th. Part of the proceeds were also given to the W.L.A. County Welfare Fund. Members of the W.L.A., together with Organisers and District Representatives, were given a marquee in which to display produce and publicity stalls and competitions were also ar-

anged. The Show was extremely successful and aroused a good deal of interest in the neighbourhood. The hostel at Brill gave three dances in aid of the Red Cross during July, all of which were well attended, over five hundred tickets being sold. The amount raised for the fund was the satisfactory sum of £26 9s. 2d. Since April this year, Little Hampden W.L.A. Hostel has raised £10 by weekly draws in the hostel, for the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund.

**CARDS and CARMS.**—Since our counties last appeared in the news we have said a regretful farewell to Mrs. Purves, Organising Secretary, who has left us for Montgomeryshire, and welcomed Miss Somerville as County Secretary and Mrs. Tillyard as County Organiser. We have lost a long-standing friend in Miss Hodgson, our Regional Organiser and extend a welcome to her successor, Mrs. Coombs.

Both counties are busy with Proficiency Tests. In Pest Destruction, 10 candidates passed in Carms (two Distinctions) and seven in Cards. Five passed in Tractor Driving in Cards. Dairy Work tests are being held next week in Carms, and later in Cards. Preparations are on hand for Field Work tests in both counties. Llwyndewi Hostel has been used as a camp for holiday harvest workers. The six L.G.s remaining are acting as gang leaders, and the Warden is catering. The Area Organiser of the Y.F.C.s has been visiting the hostels with Mrs. Tillyard, and it is hoped to form hostel groups of the Y.F.C. during the coming winter.

**CHESHIRE.**—A very jolly dance was organised by volunteers at Malpas to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the hostel. One of our volunteers, Miss P. W. Smith, recently had the honour of being presented to the Princess Royal when H.R.H. visited Wilmslow. In brilliant sunshine the park at Booth Hall presented a very gay appearance on the occasion of the Gymkhana arranged by the Pony Club in aid of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. Miss Greenwood and her Committee are to be congratulated on the splendid organisation of a very successful event. With the approach of the autumn, clubs are settling down to their usual regular meetings. In addition to weekly meetings all through the summer the Middlewich Club has held seven "special events." One of these, a dance for the Benevolent Fund, raised £84. Chester Club's Bring-and-Buy Sale for the County Welfare Fund realised £46. Many volunteers are busy with Correspondence Courses and preparation for Proficiency Tests.

We were very glad to welcome Miss Brew and gave her a very busy time seeing hostels and clubs as well as discussing L.A. problems with the County Committee and D.R.s.

**CORNWALL.**—We have received several substantial donations to the Benevolent Fund recently, mostly the proceeds of dances as follows:—Truro, £40; Wadebridge area (per Mrs. St. Aubyn, Committee member), £30; St. Columb Hostel, £20; Falmouth, £14—in addition to many smaller contributions which help so much. Mrs. Giberne (Dist. Representative) organised a very successful garden fete in aid of the Fund on August bank-holiday at Roscarrack, Falmouth. The proceeds were £84, a very welcome contribution to our County total. There were 21 successful entrants (six distinctions) at the Proficiency Test in Milking and Dairy Work at Bosfranken, St. Buryan, in August, and seven in the same branch at Killiowe, Truro, held during the same week. We are hoping that many L.G.s will come forward to take part in the various agricultural demonstrations to be held this autumn under the auspices of the Cornwall C.C., and match their skill against the Y.F.C. and other regular agricultural workers. An interesting week-end Conference of the Women's Farm and Garden Association was held in September, many L.G.s attended the various lectures and demonstrations, some staying for the whole week-end.

We very much regret we shall no longer have the pleasure of seeing Miss Walton as H.Q. Regional Organiser for this area. We thank her

## THE LAND GIRL

for all her help in the past and her patient understanding of our difficulties, and at the same time welcome to her successor, Miss Hodgson.

**DENBIGHS.**—There is very little to report this month as everybody has been busy in the harvest. Congratulations to the following girls who have completed five years' service:—Miss Evers Swindell, Miss B. Evans and Miss B. Audley. We were very honoured to have Miss Mair Parry chosen by vote as The Red Cross Queen for the Llangollen Parade. She was attended by three members of the L.A. Eleven candidates have passed their Horticultural Out-door Garden Test, two with distinction. We are very sorry to announce that Mrs. Blackwall (the Committee Member for the Denbigh area) has resigned. We should like to thank her for all the work she has done. Mrs. Spoor, the Warden of the Denbigh Hostel has also had to resign through ill-health. She has been the Warden since the hostel opened and many are grateful to her for the way that she has looked after them always putting the girls' welfare before herself. We wish to extend a hearty welcome to Miss Saunders, who is taking her place.

**DERBYS.**—The harvest is very late, and even now L.G.s are still busy gathering it in. Some of our hostel girls have been working on a new grain drying plant. When the grain is bagged and stacked the result is very satisfactory, but it is a tiring, dusty job. Two very enjoyable parties were held last month. Miss Blanche Milligan and her sister gave their annual garden party on Aug. 2nd, at Caldwell Hall, and the volunteers were joined by members of the Women's Institute. £2 15s. was raised for the Benevolent Fund during the afternoon, being the proceeds of a raffle for a white rabbit and one dozen eggs. Mrs. Wilson also gave an afternoon tea party and ramble at Holmsfield. We were taken, after tea, to see the hounds, and four delightful brown puppies were nursed in turn by all! Many willing volunteers came forward to collect for the Benevolent Fund at the Gaumont Cinema, Derby, and we were permitted to have a table show and display in the vestibule. I hope those volunteers who stood so patiently waiting for donations without shaking their boxes (this was not permitted!) will be pleased with the results when they are known. Everyone agreed the film "A Canterbury Tale" was quite charming and most restful.

**DORSET.**—Our best wishes go with Miss Bonar, our late County Secretary, in her new career as Mrs. Gifford, the wife of the Chairman of the W.A.E.C. We miss her very much, but extend a hearty welcome to her successor, Mrs. Lindsay Scott, who has been County Secretary for Lindsey.

Several of our hostels have celebrated their birthdays. Marston and Beaminster were two years old in July, and Pamphill and Woodyates one year old. Congratulations to Miss M. White, W.L.A., 73385, who has been awarded a Ministry of Agriculture Scholarship in Horticulture for one year at the Usk Agriculture College. A Proficiency Test in Field work was held on 24th Aug., at

Handley Common, when seven volunteers gained their badges. A summary of the results of Tests shows that 114 volunteers have entered, and 97 have gained their badges; Tractor, 12; Dairy, 33; Horticulture, 14; Fieldwork 7; Poultry, 5; General, 21; and Pest Destruction, 5. We feel that these pioneers will persuade many others to pluck up their courage and enter for the Tests this autumn. E.N.S.A. has been going the rounds of the hostels; various talks on dairy and other farm work have also been well attended. It is interesting to note that several volunteers have entered for the Correspondence Courses on Farm Book-keeping. This subject seems to suggest a career for "after the war."

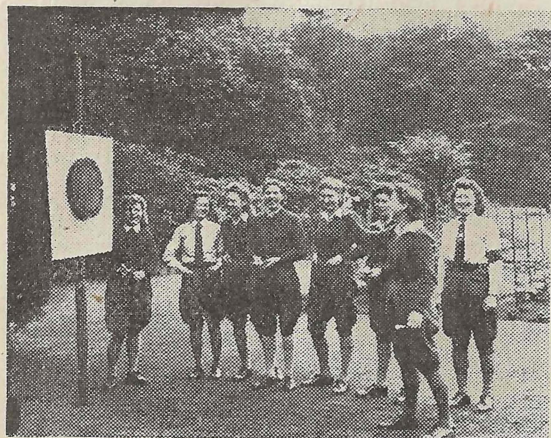
**ESSEX.**—We welcome Mrs. Strickland as our new County Secretary; she has just come from Pembroke; and we also welcome a new Assistant Secretary, Miss E. M. Ames, from Nottingham.

Mrs. Byrne, our County Chairman, presented Four-year Armlets to 22 volunteers at her own home, and they all enjoyed the occasion very much indeed. Three Harvest Suppers were held at Creeksea Hall, Mangapps Hostel and "The Limes," followed by enjoyable dances. The hostels were delightfully decorated, and excellent suppers were provided by the Wardens and the Volunteers. Creeksea Hall has a wonderful crooner. A Wardens' Conference was held at the end of August at Chelmsford. Miss Williams, our Regional Officer, and the County Chairman spoke. Testimony from the Wardens afterwards showed the Conference to be a great success. Congratulations to Miss J. M. Davis, who has brought up a pedigree bull, which won the Maldon Challenge Cup, and to Miss D. Danaker, who was awarded second prize for her bull and first prize for taking the bull round the show ring. Two very enterprising volunteers Miss Mann and Miss Stevens arranged a raffle, which raised £2 10s., for our Benevolent Fund; and four volunteers in private billets ran a very successful dance, raising £5 10s. 4d., whilst a dance arranged by Mrs. Adcock at the Queen's Hotel, Westcliff, brought in £7 5s. 6d. Owing to the necessity for structural alterations, we were sorry to have to close Moor End Hostel on 1st July, and sympathise with the volunteers who had to separate and accustom themselves to new homes.

**GLAMS.**—Glamorgan was very pleased to welcome Mrs. Coombs as Regional Officer when she visited the county this week accompanied by Miss Hodgson. We are truly sorry to lose Miss Hodgson and hope she will be very happy in her new district.

Clubs in this county are springing up like mushrooms. We now have five where this time last year we had none. The second series of Proficiency Tests are well on the way, and although the entries started badly, this last week they have soared.

**HEREFORDS** organised a Horse Show and Gymkhana in aid of the Benevolent and Welfare Funds at Ross on Wye on 12th Aug. It was a gloriously hot day and there was an attendance of over 2,000 people; and 270 entries for ring events. The whole afternoon was a huge success and requests for further gymkhanas were received. In connection with this show a prize scheme was organised, and from the two efforts there is every likelihood of having £300 to distribute to the Funds. On Sept. 30th, a Demonstration in Market Gardening was held at nurseries at Tillington by L.G.s for L.G.s, with a view to helping those girls anxious to take up commercial market gardening as a career. The programme included demonstrations of crops and machinery; talks on the marketing of crops and on starting as a market gardener, and a Brains Trust when the owner of the nurseries, Mr. Malleson, and the County Horticultural Advisors, Mr. Savidge and Mr. Crawley answered questions. There are now ten clubs in the county; arrangements have been made for lectures and travel talks, make-do and mend, housing problems, rural crafts and agriculture. Several clubs are already practising carols, while dramatic groups are busy.



*At Miss Milligan's party in Derbyshire.*

## THE LAND GIRL



*Risby Hostel winners of the Inter-Hostel Gardens Competition in W. Suffolk*

This month we welcome our new Organiser, Miss England, and hope that she will be happy with us.

**HERTS.**—Turnford W.L.A. Club is to be congratulated on their Red Cross Fete and Garden Produce Show which was held on Sept. 9th; the magnificent sum of £180 was raised. Turnford Club has now been open for nearly two years and has become a happy and useful centre for volunteers and their friends in the district. The Club Room was given to the volunteers by Mr. Rochford, and both he and his wife, who opened the fete on Sept. 9th, must have felt amply repaid for their generosity. Mrs. Adams, our Local Representative for this area works untiringly for the club and is very proud of its latest achievement.

Pendley Manor, Tring, gave a most marvellous party to celebrate the opening of the new wing of their hostel. Volunteers have for the past two years lived in the servants' quarters of this large house; now there is more and sufficient room for dances and concerts, and certainly the first party under new conditions was an enormous success.

We regret to report the death of Kitty Blamires as the result of an accident. Kitty came to Ben Hay Hostel in its very early days and worked there happily and well until her death.

**HUNTS, CAMBS, ELY.**—Everybody is working hard to make the Special Benevolent Fund Week, 30th Sept.—7th Oct., a gigantic success. Up to 20th Sept. £500 has been raised. Our target is £3,000. The Milk Marketing Board arranged a Milking Demonstration at March on 12th July, when members of the L.A. took part. A visit to Moulton Agricultural College, arranged by the Ely W.A.E.C., was very much enjoyed on Sunday, 30th July. Mr. Stewart and Miss Strang showed volunteers round the farm, and judging Ayrshire cows and Aberdeen Angus heifers was one of the high spots. A joint Agricultural Show run by the Cambs and Ely W.A.E.C.s was held at Histon on 15th July when the L.A. was again in evidence. Proficiency Tests in Pest Destruction Work were held at Northampton by kind permission of the Northants W.L.A. on 10th Aug., and E. Standing, F. Middleton, D. Evans, and P. Irvine all passed. M. Johnson and J. Coulson were successful in the Tractor Test at Hardwick on 28th July. Other Tests arranged are:—Hunts; Milking and Dairy 18th Oct., at Gt. Gidding; Isle of Ely (all tests), 12th and 13th Oct., place to be arranged. Mrs. Godfrey Phillips of the Central Council of Health Education made a full tour of the area in June.

She is exceedingly popular with both wardens and volunteers.

**E. KENT.**—Our volunteers have been too busy during August and September harvesting, and dodging shells and "doodle-bugs" for there to be much general news. Many congratulations to Mrs. V. Kennedy (now farm manager), Miss. I. Sayer and Miss A. A. Milne on a fine record of five years' good service in the W.L.A.; also to the volunteers who gained certificates in the Correspondence Course. Threshing is in full swing again. The usual Forewoman's day of instruction was held at Maidstone on Aug. 26th. Lord Cornwallis, who took the chair gave a most inspiring talk, emphasising the importance of the work done by the Kent threshing gangs. Four of the forewomen present—V. Collett, P. Coupland, E. Durbin, and B. Willey—came from the north of England in 1941, and are now undertaking their fourth threshing season. All volunteers in the Canterbury and Barham area will be glad to hear that Mrs. Tufton is safely through her operation; and all welcome a new local representative, Mrs. W. Stainton, who has kindly undertaken Mrs. Tufton's work while she is ill and who will assist her in the Canterbury area on her return.

We regret very much to have to record the death, through enemy action, of Mrs. Mercer, our local representative for Littlebourne since the outbreak of war.

**W. KENT.**—We always used to regard August as a holiday month, but for the L.A. it is particularly busy. However in spite of harvest work our girls managed to enjoy two parties and a Gymkhana. The latter was at Tunbridge Wells on Bank Holiday with a Horse and Pony Show. All the local girls who were available lent a hand and it was a great success, incidentally bringing in well over £100 for the County Welfare Fund. A delightful Saturday afternoon party on Bearsted Green with sports and games went with a swing from start to finish. Over 200 girls enjoyed all sorts of comic races and sideshows plus a magnificent tea in the village hall. After tea Lord Cornwallis gave a charming and inspiring little talk to the assembled girls. Another party was held at Friningham Lodge, to which all the Forewomen trained during this year and last were invited. Lady Violet Astor spoke to the outgoing Forewomen and the short meeting was followed by a most amusing mime entertainment. On Aug. 25th the K.W.A.E.C. held an all-day con-

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ference at Maidstone for Forewomen of the Threshing Gangs. Over 130 Forewomen attended.

(See E. Kent News for further details)

**LANCS.**—Our congratulations go to L. R. Thomas, W.L.A., 85626, who recently with great bravery saved a fellow employee from being gored by a bull; to K. M. Gunning, W.L.A. 2923, whose resource and quick action saved a valuable horse from drowning, to B. Holmes, W.L.A. 29913, on her success in a calf judging competition at Hoole Agriculture Show, Miss Holmes tied for first prize with a boy competitor and they each hold the silver cup for six months, she also won second prize for her home-made scones; to P. O. Toole, W.L.A., 51097, whose drawing is the present cover design of the magazine; and to P. Coverley, W.L.A., 35729, on gaining a scholarship to the Somerset Farm Institute, for a year's training, and although she has now to leave the L.A. in order to take the course, we send her our best wishes for her future career. Money has been raised for the Benevolent Fund by three Bolton volunteers who made a collection at their local Dig for Victory Show, and by A. Formby who sent 7s. 6d. collected in fines on her farm from those who used bad language, we are glad to know that the men were the heaviest subscribers. The second series of Proficiency Tests started at the beginning of October.

Mrs. Blunt the very popular Local Representative for the Formby and Crosby district has recently accepted appointment to the County Committee.

**LEICS & RUT.**—Congratulations to R. Popejoy and I. Stanfield who organised a very successful dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund at the Donisthorpe Church Hall on July 19th. They were assisted by Mrs. Varnam, the District Representative, and L.G.s. in the area and the splendid sum of £28 10s. was handed in. This month the Proficiency Tests have started again, the first one in Tractor Driving being held at Kibworth. The Hostel at Three Gates, Billesdon, has been taken over again by the W.L.A.

We are very sorry indeed to lose Mrs. Cunliffe, organiser for Rutland and the Market Harborough district, who is obliged to leave for health reasons.

**HOLLAND, Lincs.**—Getting in the harvest in spite of weather difficulties has been the main item of news during the past two months. Congratulations to the girls working at Major's Farm—13 L.G.s—who, with the help of one elderly man, stooked, carted and stacked 75 acres of wheat. Letters of appreciation from farmers employing L.G.s have come in—in fact the majority of L.G.s in Holland are doing so well that the farmers are asking for more girls. There was a smart turn out at the fete held at Holbeach on August Bank Holiday in aid of the Red Cross Agriculture Fund. Pearl Taylor, 14130, complete with red armband and Proficiency Badge, led the parade round Holbeach on her tractor. Doreen Nicklin, W.L.A., 114460, also took part in the parade on a lorry representing the Civil Defence, led by four shire horses sent in by Messrs. H. C. C. Tinsley, of Major's Farm, Holbeach Marsh.

**LINDSEY, Lincs.**—A wonderful harvest in Lindsey has been damaged owing to very unseasonable weather. As we write a week's fine weather has helped but the skies are very overcast and threatening. We are very pleased to know that Miss Barbara Robinson, W.L.A., 111069, has been appointed secretary of the Spilsby Y.F. Club. It is very encouraging to find volunteers taking an active and administrative part in farming matters, and we trust this will be an example to others to follow her lead.

Our Vice-Chairman, Lady Beryl Groves, has unfortunately sustained severe injuries through a motor accident, but we are glad to report that she and her chauffeur, who was badly cut, are well on the way to recovery. We hope it will not be long before she is able to help us with her valuable work again.

Miss Margaret Snell has come as our second County Organiser for the northern half of the county. She is very welcome and we hope she will be happy with us.

## County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em- ployed
	£.	s.	d.	
Kent .. ..	6625	14	4	4121
Essex .. ..	5177	16	7	3432
Surrey .. ..	1627	0	4	2276
West Riding ..	1209	0	10	2098
Hampshire ..	2138	4	1	2078
Leicester 1766 } Rutland 264 }	1632	15	8	2030
Hertford ..	3835	6	1	1997
East Sussex ..	2420	18	11	1956
Northants ..	2138	19	8	1813
Somerset ..	1386	3	1	1798
Devon ..	14	9	7	1755
Buckingham ..	4509	10	4	1733
Warwick ..	2497	4	3	1637
West Sussex ..	2097	2	4	1624
Norfolk ..	2289	3	3	1593
Cheshire ..	1538	4	7	1520
Wiltshire ..	543	15	8	1426
Cornwall ..	782	0	9	1406
Northum'l'd ..	4	3		1381
Lancashire ..	3	11		1367
North Riding ..	5	19	2	1257
Nottingham ..	1	0		1236
Gloucester ..		6		1212
Hunts 297 } Cams 523 } Ely 325 }		4		1145
Berks ..	1302	5	11	1106
East Suffolk ..	1602	9	8	1096
Oxford ..	3495	5	0	1093
Bedford ..	896	12	11	1057
Salop ..	1253	2	4	1010
East Riding ..	253	7	7	977
Durham ..	1351	19	0	922
Cumbs & West'l'd	476	7	5	881
Lincs—Kesteven	731	0	0	835
Dorset ..	944	6	1	819
Stafford ..	757	10	3	790
Lincs—Lindsey	591	3	8	721
Glamorgan ..	679	13	11	679
Hereford ..	1176	11	3	653
Monmouth ..	625	9	1	649
Lincs—Holland	802	0	0	627
West Suffolk ..	1334	0	7	605
Denbigh ..	484	7	11	603
Derby ..	877	16	11	594
London & Mid dx.	767	11	8	575
Flints ..	438	1	10	567
N. Wales ..	1173	1	11	534
Pembroke ..	655	19	8	388
Cards & Carm's ..	533	10	11	336
Isle of Wight ..	125	9	5	324
Bre's & Radnor	274	0	6	274
Montgomery ..	290	18	11	226
Timber Corps ..	3151	14	7	3221

On 29th September 1944 the total number of volunteers in employment was 67,835

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