

No. 6, Volume 4

SEPTEMBER, 1943

Price 3d.

ON LANDLADIES

“MY landlady,” wrote a Land Girl, “is a marvellous cook, keeps her house like a palace, is discreet, impersonal, but a real friend.”

It can't have been an easy task for any countrywoman, faced with the difficulties of food rationing and without any restaurants and cooked-food shops, to take into her home a stranger probably new to all country conditions but rapidly acquiring a country appetite. But all over England, Scotland and Wales, tens of thousands have joined the ranks of the Land Army's landladies.

They have used their skill and their gardens and their store cupboards to meet the Land Army's well-known capacity to absorb large quantities of food. They have got up early and stayed up late. They have nursed their sick Land Girls and pushed them in bathchairs during convalescence. They have fought their Land Girls' battles and there was even one case where two neighbours had at least a temporary coldness because one said that her Land Girl was being led astray by her neighbour's Land Girl who encouraged the first to stay out after ten at night.

“I have had ten girls since June, 1941, and have three with me now,” wrote one landlady. “They were all different types and were doing different jobs. My experience of the Land Army is that they are a grand organisation and I'm pleased to have had the opportunity to have these girls in my home.”

To many a new and strange recruit, perhaps leaving home for the first time, her landlady's welcome has meant far more than she could probably express and it must often have greatly helped her to face all the difficulties of her first job. It has also brought its own reward. Many a Land Girl has become one of the family and minds the baby or watches the supper cooking, to give her landlady time to go out.

To its landladies, who form the Service Corps of two-thirds of the Force, the Land Army offers its appreciative homage and affectionate gratitude.

M. A. P

UNITED STATES MODEL



Dark blue overalls, with light blue blouse and striped cap, make the U.S.A. uniform.

The American Women's Land Army was created last April. In America, as in Britain, it has been realised that the "Food for Victory" programme cannot achieve desired goals without the active support of women; trained disciplined and mobile.

Girls enter the American Land Army voluntarily, as compulsory service for women has not yet been adopted. They are eligible for "enlistment" if they are between 18 and 45. They must sign up for at least three months.

They spend two to six weeks training at one of the State Agricultural Colleges where muscles are hardened and hands toughened. A typical daily schedule is: Get up at 4.30 a.m.; milking and other chores till 7; a hearty breakfast; then work out of doors, in the poultry houses, in the barns or in the fields, learning to drive and care for tractors. At 11 a.m. they get an hour to rest and clean up till 12.15 dinner, which includes, for instance, corn fritters with maple syrup,

milk, three vegetables, fruit desert. At 1 p.m. they report again for group programme in the fields. At 4 p.m. they are back at chores, and at 5 they are in their double rooms, changing clothes, showering, reading and writing. At 6 they are eating supper, which may include a roast, two vegetables, salad and pie. By 8.15 most of them are in bed. Those who cannot stand this routine are spotted and sent home.

Land Girls are from all of the larger cities, from all nationality groups and from all occupations. There are Bjurkbergs, Paternos, Damons, Larkins, Armstrongs, Snegrofs—to mention only a few. There are former dancers, teachers, office workers, manicurists, waitresses and many other occupations represented. But they all agree with Maria, who gave up a good job on Fifth Avenue: "I've only been here two weeks, but the things I've learned about the land and what it gives us! City people have vanished into a weird never-never land."

THE LAND GIRL

They are paid the "prevailing wage for the job"—which will vary from one part of the country to the other. In most cases they get from £20 to £28 a month—don't gasp! They pay for their own room and board which run from £10 up. You see it costs more to live in America. It takes an American Land Girl about half of what she earns to live just as it does here. Girls live usually on the farm, but the U.S. Employment Service inspects each billet first, to make sure it is a respectable and comfortable place to live.

Vacations are not being thought of just now. There are no fixed leave periods for Land Army Girls; this will be a matter for negotiations between farmer and "farm hand." Indeed, many city girls are taking their vacations on the farm this year. These girls who spend a few weeks during the summer helping out are members of the U.S. Crop Corps, but are not fully-fledged members of the Women's Land Army. It is expected that the Women's Land Army will include about 10,000 women. The U.S. Crop Corps will total 60,000.

D. Crook.

CALF REARING IN NORFOLK

I am in charge of calf rearing and with my two helpers (both W.L.A. volunteers) we are hoping to rear 100 calves within a year. So far, we have reared 60 in six months and all doing well. We are very fortunate in having ideal buildings (converted Dutch piggeries) in which to give these calves a good start. The calves come to us from a few weeks old, usually straight from their mothers, and for the first few weeks they live on milk. There are nine cows which we milk and look after, using the milk for the youngest calves. Great patience and perseverance is needed when teaching the young calves to drink out of pails, as their natural instinct is to punch their heads upwards, so a very firm hand is necessary to keep their heads down in the pail, otherwise they will probably toss the pail up with the result that both calf and feeder are covered with milk. Sometimes they will blow bubbles in the milk! But once they get the idea of swallowing they go ahead and cannot drink quickly enough. It is very rare that we have to resort to the old method of using fingers in pail, as a means of getting the calf to suck the milk up, as we much prefer to persevere and get them to drink straight away. A little sweet hay is placed in each pen ready to tempt the young calves to nib-

ble, which they do at a very early age.

Later they are given a few crushed oats and some Sillock's Starter Cudlets. After a few weeks we start to introduce Calf Starter General, mixing it very gradually in with the milk, so by degrees increasing the General till eventually they come off the milk altogether. By this time, instead of the Cudlets they have Sillock's N.C.F. No. 3 with the crushed oats and some finely-cut mangolds. At this stage they are given clean water to drink.

Cleanliness over feeding pails and bins is most essential, and making certain that each calf gets its right amount of food. These details go a long way towards success in rearing.

One must also keep a very watchful eye on the calves, checking scour at the very first sign. Bathing the eyes, too, if swollen or dirty, with boracic lotion is also beneficial when the calves are small. And, of course, one must always look out for such things as rickets and ringworm which calves are subject to.

If we have a backward calf we often put it by itself and give it a little extra individual attention to help it to catch up with the others. No one can guess the joy (and what a reward) when a calf that has been listless and off its feed, rallies and once again its tail wags when offered food or drink.

Then, of course, there is the frequent cleaning out of the pens, which is most necessary, disinfecting each pen well before relittering, not forgetting sides and doors as well as the floor. This keeps them sweet and clean and helps to kill germs.

Ours are all heifer calves which we are rearing with a view to aiding milk production. We all thoroughly enjoy our work, and when we have reached our target and reared 100 calves we hope to show the War Agricultural Committee what the Women's Land Army can do.

We wish all our fellow workers with stock the best of luck in their very worthwhile work.

Norfolk.

I. M. Self, 70973.

The subjects for discussion for B.B.C. Listening Groups this autumn will be "The World We Want," which will take the form of 12 weekly broadcasts on Reconstruction, at 7.35 p.m., beginning on Monday, October 4th, and "Science at your Service," being 12 broadcasts on Fridays, at 7.40, beginning on October 1st.

THE LAND GIRL

FIRST NIGHT UNDER CANVAS

I wriggled well down into my sleeping-bag, and tucked the top edge well into my neck, less because of the cold than that I hated the thought of creepy-crawlies in my bed! I was very tired after a strenuous day's work, and very comfortable, so I almost dozed off before I became aware of the music of the night.

A damp west wind roared into the avenue of trees in great gusts, almost like the rush of waves on to rocks, but not so fierce nor so regular. I thought of the huge branch which had recently fallen, and experienced a feeling of tense expectancy. Then I comforted myself with the thought that I was to windward of the trees, and anyway the recent gale had stripped them of all unhealthy branches, and once more dozed off.....

But not for long! A long-drawn shriek woke me with a fright, and I lay there waiting until I recognised the repeated wail as a peewit. My heart was beating fast, and I tried to turn my thoughts to more practical matters to shut out the mysterious voices of the night. Amid the patter of rain on the canvas, huge drops now plunked down, in the most unexpected places. They were drips from the weeping ash tree nearby; I invented a game of guessing where the next one would land, much more original than counting sheep, and much more efficient in my case, as I was soon fast asleep.

The next interruption was a much more disturbing one, caused by a small visitor from the insect world—while still half-asleep, my hand unconsciously reached up to my head to scratch—then horror of horrors! I felt a soft juicy *body* curled up in my hair! I removed it gently, trying to keep calm and collected, then frantically squashed it against the tent-pole, and snuggled down still farther in bed drawing the eiderdown closer around me, and imagining hundreds of green juicy and brown woolly caterpillars undulating over the folds of my travelling rug. This episode really shook me, and it took several thousands of raindrops to lull me again into the land of dreams.

Strangely enough, I dreamt not of the peaceful (?) country-side, but spent the rest of the night trying to catch a beastly train! 5 minutes to go, and I hadn't finished packing! I could hear the train drawing out of the station, then as it went through the tunnel it whistled to me..... "Cuckoo, cuckoo!"

And I awoke to hear the Herald of Spring proclaiming the start of a new day. Shropshire. B. N. Gladden, 54295.

SALAD DAYS

The salad season was in progress when I first came to work here. There were four other girls working with me; they were on their knees most of the day cutting cress, and I used to throw punnets for the cutters. Then, with some other Land Girls from a nearby hostel, I helped pack it in boxes for Covent Garden Market, which left here for London at 4.30 a.m. the following morning.

The houses are prepared for the cress by the men who work here. Each house is dug, and three to four inches of sifted soil is spread on the surface, which is levelled and made firm, and is then ready for the seed, which is soaked, scattered, then watered well and a wet sack laid on the top. The seed germinates in about five days, the sacks are removed on the sixth day and the cress is cut on the seventh. This goes on from November until March.

I had been here about three weeks before I was shown how to cut. It was difficult at first, but after a few days one soon gets used to it. My friend, Miriam, who is still here, cut with me, and (with others to do the packing) one day we cut two sides of a house and loaded the lorry. Our hours are 7.30 a.m.—5.30 p.m. and three or four times a week we work two to three hours overtime.

Now we are on tomatoes. The men prepared the house for these while we were pricking out tomato seedlings; we had to be very careful not to bruise the stem of the plant. We also helped to plant up the houses; each house is a different variety, Market King, Plumton King, and Ailsa Craig. There are eight houses planted with half an acre of outside tomatoes, so there is quite a lot of work. We started to pick inside in June and we have also been stringing the outside tomatoes.

The plants are fed with superphosphate and Golden Guano fertiliser and we have been spraying them with Bouisol, against green and white fly, leaf mould and other diseases.

My landlady is very good to me and there is another Land Girl billeted next door. I like it in the Land Army very much and would like to wish all Land Girls the very best of luck.

Surrey.

K. Squirrel, 95522.

THE LAND THATCHING



THATCHING IN DEVON

The six of us, the two Joans, Joyce, Elsie, Eileen and myself, are rather proud of the fact that we were among the "first of the few," to volunteer for thatching instruction in Devon. Owing to the lack of trained thatchers many ricks were left unthatched and thus ruined during the bad weather, so the Land Army has once again been called to the rescue. Our thanks are due to Mr. G. Hingston, champion thatcher of Devon, our instructor, the most patient of men.

The first stage in our tuition was to learn rope-making, with reed or straw, using the rope-spinner. The reed is watered to make it soft and pliable, then a few pieces are tied to one of the bars on the spinner, and as the spinner is turned round and round quickly, the rope is made; more reed is added until the rope is of the required length. At first our fingers seemed all thumbs, and the joining on of the reed an almost impossible feat. Now, after perseverance, we can produce good, strong ropes.

Next came the actual thatching itself, working from the right to left of the rick-roof and from bottom to top. The layers of reed or straw are placed on in widths

If you are a tractor driver you should get much profit from reading **The Farm Tractor**, price 9d., from the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Askham Bryan, York. In its own words it has been written "to give beginners in particular and even in some cases 'old hands' an insight into the construction and use of tractors in general. Thus they may more easily understand the detailed instructions given by the makers of the tractor they have to operate."

ND GIRL

Milking and Dairy Work,
General Farm Work,
Poultry, Tractor Driving,
Field Work,
Outdoor Garden & Glasshouse Work,
Fruit Work, Pest Destruction.

Any volunteer who has been in employment as a Land Army member for a year or more and has a good record of service (which will include good time-keeping) will be entitled to enter for whichever test is most appropriate to her type of work. In addition to practical work, each test will include oral questions designed to show the extent of the candidate's general knowledge of the subject. Candidates who are successful in obtaining 75 marks or more out of a maximum of 100 will be entitled to a Proficiency Badge and Certificate, whilst those obtaining 90 or more marks will be regarded as passing with distinction.

Volunteers will hear from their County Office as soon as arrangements have been made for holding tests in their county.

Inez Jenkins,

On Bank Holiday, the Editor's cat, affected no doubt by all the slogans from all the Ministries urging both man and beast to greater and greater efforts of production, became the proud though rather surprised mother of eight kittens. So far, the Editor has found nobody whose cat can touch this record—a prize of one kitten is offered to anyone who can beat it.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Applications for the Agricultural and Horticultural Correspondence Courses mentioned in Headquarters' Notes last month are being received by every post. Entries will be accepted up to the end of October so there is still plenty of time to enrol. The student's fee for the course in the Elements of Agriculture, which consists of nine lessons, is 15s., and for the Horticultural courses, each of which consists of twelve lessons, £1 per course. Write to your County Secretary for particulars and a form of enrolment which, when completed, should be sent with your fee to Land Army Headquarters, Balcombe, Sussex.

BROADCAST NOTICE

It is regretted that at the time of going to press, arrangements for the next Land Army broadcast are not sufficiently definite for any announcement to be made.

Land Army members will be contributing as usefully to the relief of the liberated countries as in any other way.

Land Army Proficiency Tests

Members of the Land Army who are really good at their job will in future be able to wear a special Proficiency Badge. Tests based on a national syllabus will be held in each county at a convenient time in the farming year in the following branches of land work:—

THE LAND GIRL

RAIN AND RABBITS

We looked out of the open door, quickly, as the rain was sweeping in, and saw a bare green field, the further corners entirely hidden by a blankety mist. Such was our first view of our present job. Our feelings, which we kept to ourselves, but were eloquent enough when we looked at each other, were very far from being cheerful.

We passed the rest of the first day being shown round the large factory and warehouse to which we were now attached. Our employer told us he hoped to cultivate it and make the canteen self-supporting, and he wanted to start a rabbit club eventually. It was rather a nice feeling to think that we were going to grow food for workers who were definitely doing important and indispensable work in this war. One of their main tasks is the making of field dressings for the Services. It made us see more clearly the importance of our work. We grow food for the workers, they turn out medical supplies for our Forces, and they in turn fight so that we can live.

The second day was much better, the sun was shining, and I think when there is sunshine work takes on a much nicer aspect. We found we had to cultivate what was originally the firm's sports ground, and so we started digging.

We were given a shed, divided into two compartments, the outer to keep our tools in, and the inside to be our own room. We had a stove in the inner compartment and we soon made it habitable with help from various members of the firm. Somebody sent us down cloth which had been used for display work which we made into curtains and we managed to get a strip of old carpet, stools, a wicker couch and a cupboard. So when it was finished it looked grand.

All through the winter months we were digging continuously, but we didn't mind as both of us agree that it is definitely the warmest job on a freezing day. Then one month before Christmas 35 rabbits appeared.

This altered our routine slightly as we now fed them morning and evening. It was a slow cold job in the mornings, struggling with the door catches with frozen fingers, but it became worth while when the rabbits settled down and gradually grew to know us. We of course christened them all and called our prime favourites after ourselves—they were naturally the nicest rabbits! My friend's choice was a Blue Bevron, which had two pure white

babies in her first litter, mine was a Flemish Giant Cross Belgian Hare—a large ginger-coloured rabbit. She has a delightful temperament and is a very polite rabbit: never starts eating until you have stroked her, contrasting with the other rabbits very much. Have you ever stood by and listened while rabbits are feeding? It sounds just as though gentle rain was falling.

By the end of January we had practically finished our digging. The field was now divided up into seventeen neat plots, separated by grass paths, and we felt that that was a good job done.

We then started our sowing and setting our potatoes, etc., under supervision, of course, and now we are seeing the fruits of our labours and is very gratifying.

Herts.

N. Moores, 65994.

M. Ross, 66050.

HARVEST SHOWERS

Sheltering here 'neath golden stook,
Out upon the world I look:
On rolling fields of ripened grain,
Glimpsed through sudden shower of rain.
And down the head of every sheaf
Raindrops drip on me beneath.

But yet, though wetly here I lie,
I would not change this life—not I!

For yesterday as here I lay
To pass my leisure hour of day,
These lovely flowing curves of wheat
Were all ashimmer in the heat.
To-day is wet—well let it rain
Tomorrow may be fine again.

And so, though wetly here I lie,
I would not change this life—not I!
Lancs. J. M. Watson, 58613.

Many congratulations to J. Townshead, 34842 (Flints.), on passing the Advanced Teachers' Examination of the Royal Horticultural Society. This is a splendid achievement. J. Ryder, 62746, of Cheshire, also did well to obtain a 3rd class certificate in the R.H.S. general examination, and would like to know if any other Cheshire volunteer sat for the same examination.

WANTED, Brown or Black Leather Riding Boots, size 6½ or 7, in good condition, 3998 (Scotland), c/o. Editor, Balcombe Place, Sussex.

Overheard in Surrey: "She's only 2s. 10d. from her home, I'm 8s. and it's a blow."

THE LAND GIRL



Preparing for Spring in Lancashire

[By courtesy of "Bolton Journal"]

QUICK WORK

It is generally on the hottest day that the peas are ready for cutting. A last-minute decision is made as they must be fresh, but the pods full enough to break open freely. So, having cancelled our evening entertainment, we start work at one o'clock on a five-acre field. It is piece work, each of us taking a strip, a rod in width. As many as fifteen of us walk together, pausing only for a drink or a sharpen. It is very necessary to have a sharp brush-hook, pea-swop or long-handled hook, so the brisk noise of the rubber in use fills the air. The pea-haulms lie to one side or the other, so that working backwards, using a hooked stick to gather them into bundles, is easy enough. But meet a flock of thistles or haulms lying anyhow and the work becomes more tedious.

At five we have a break for tea, a needed rest for aching backs and maybe blistered hands; then on again until 8 or 9 p.m.—the field is not ready, we have to be up and out by five o'clock in the morning, whilst the moon is still up, but the dawn light is enough to see by. Then, whilst the dew is still fresh on the peas,

they are loaded on to lorries and taken to the factory. There, they are threshed out in a rubber drum, which is strong enough to beat the pods open and the peas out without bruising them. The peas are then weighed and sent through a pipe by force of water. This makes the maggoty and poor peas float away, and the best peas are again hand-picked before entering the final stages of cooking and canning. This is the most important part to all housewives. By mid-day all our peas, roughly $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons for the five acres, are canned and in packing cases ready for the shops.

E. Kent.

P. Walker, 11813.

POT SHOT

Cycling home the other day

I saw a rabbit in the hay.

Though I liked the little sinner

I had to shoot him for my dinner.

Oxon.

M. Strachwitz. 117184

FOR SALE, Brown Riding Boots, good condition, size 5. Apply: Lewis, Mill House, Gt. Barford, Beds.

"Green Hands," by Barbara Whitton.
(Faber, 7s. 6d.)

"Black Orchids," by Rex Stout. (Collins,
7s. 6d.)

There is something to be said for getting the worst over first. The Land Girls of **"Green Hands"** certainly had a grueling time in their first job and one of them fell by the wayside. But the other two carried on and had their reward. The story sees them through a year of land work including most of the year's activities—from loading beet and mangolds and spreading manure to the hay and corn harvests. It is a gay and amusing chronicle. No more than the British Tommy does the heroine pretend that her job is a garden of roses, but she has his knack of seeing difficulties and hardships chiefly as a source of humour, as well as a more feminine capacity for finding everyone she meets interesting. Her comrade, Pauline, has the appealing pathos of the predestined clown, who is always getting both knocks and sympathy. **"Green Hands"** will, of course, have a special interest for Land Girls, but its attraction will not be limited to them. Apart from a tendency to repeat certain phrases too often, the author knows how to write, and more should be heard of her.

The Land Girls in **"Green Hands"** had difficulty in finding any reading matter except Jeffrey Farnol and bound copies of **"John Bull."** Those who have wider opportunities, no doubt, like other people, often seek their "escape" (when they want one) in detective novels. It is sad, though not surprising, that many of our home-grown detective writers show symptoms nowadays of not having their minds altogether on the job and some, perhaps wisely, even appear to have abandoned it for the duration. But many American writers still maintain the humour and high spirits, which, for some obscure reason, have lately been more abundant in this kind of novel than in any other. The wise reader looks out, for instance, for anything by Alice Tilton, Leslie Ford, or Phoebe Atwood Taylor. Rex Stout is another reliable standby, and though his latest, **"Black Orchids,"** is not quite up to the high standard of **"Some Buried Caesar."** Nero Wolfe is still there as irascibly immobile as ever and his henchman, Archie Goodwin, who tells the stories in a style all his own. There are two stories in **"Black Orchids,"** with one murder apiece, but the best fun is in Archie's encounter with "Mister," the chimpanzee.

A HOT DAY

On waking, I found the sun breaking through a soft, white mist, and thought "it is going to be hot to-day," and I was right.

Cycling to the farm, the air was warm and still, while the faintest whisper of a breeze wavered among the grass. Arriving there, the chickens on being let out, chirruped and ran round delighting in the warm sunshine, and the ducklings darted here and there after flies.

But as the day grew hotter the chickens looked for a shady corner and the ducklings for water. The cows slashed their tails about in a vain attempt to send the flies away, and the hens either lay in the shade or panted for breath in the nest boxes, patiently waiting till their egg was laid. As I worked, the perspiration ran down my face and I had a continual thirst. In a neighbouring field of oats two men were cutting with a binder, one wearing a child's sun hat, both looking extremely hot. The whole scene was bathed in shimmering, unrelenting sunshine.

Later, in the early evening, cycling home again, I gazed round and thought what a lovely scene. The breeze was cooler, more refreshing, and the fields of corn shone golden in the softer light. The fowls, I knew, were feeling cooler, the cows more content, and I, after a bath and change, lay in the shade to enjoy, after having suffered, a real summer day.

Warwicks. D. J. Spurr, 75486.

The following telegram has been received by the Editor: **North Wales proudly accepts West Suffolk's challenge, having passed the target of £1 per head to Benevolent Fund in July.** Are the bigger counties going to sit down under this sort of thing?

The Christmas card to be sold for the benefit of the Benevolent Fund has on the outside a raised reproduction of the Land Army badge in red, gold and green, and inside is printed the verse "Be gentle when you touch bread," which was published in the "Land Girl" last February. It will fit into a quarto envelope and will cost 6d. These cards will be **obtainable from your County Office ONLY**—no orders should be sent before October 1st.

Many congratulations to Mrs. Jefferson, 78578, W. Sussex, on being elected vice-chairman of Arundel Young Farmers' Club. Has any other volunteer received similar recognition?

THE LAND GIRL

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

My sister and I are twins and volunteered for the W.L.A. when the National Service Books were issued in January, 1939. We began work on the land on the 18th and 25th of September, 1939, respectively, and we have been together on the same farm ever since, and by September 25th, 1943, shall together have completed 8 years' land work, and it's a grand life. Is this a record for sisters?

Staffs. E. & J. Hayhurst,
5622 & 5621.

Dear Editor,

In reply to the challenge of 49804, we are three sisters, aged now 24, 20, and 18, who have since September, 1939, completed over 10 land work years—9 of them on one farm in Norfolk.

Norfolk. 18303, 20752, 69561.

Dear Editor,

In reply to various letters you have had on the subject, I cannot let the record for the number of years service in one family, go unchallenged. There are only three of us, but between us we have had 9 years 8 months in the Land Army. My eldest sister and myself both joined at the outbreak of war and trained in the October, but at that time the farmers were not so keen on the idea of having a Land Girl! and we were not posted to jobs until February 1st 1940, both of us the same day. My second sister joined in the January 1942 which makes a total, for us, of 9 working years.

We are all three fairly healthy examples of what land work, and the sun and air will do for you. People invariably exclaim "Well if that is what the Land Army does for you I think I had better join."

Devon. R. M. Arnold, 13661.

Dear Editor,

I have been interested in your correspondence on early members—I myself joined at the Ministry of Agriculture from the first National Service booklet. I am at present Resident Dairy Instructress and head cowman in charge of a herd belonging to the Norfolk W.A.E.C. and I am training new recruits.

Norfolk. B. E. van Moppes, 576.

Dear Editor,

I have been reading with great interest of the various records set up by the members of the W.L.A. I think I have a pretty good one as I have worked for Mr. L. S. Oakley of Ridlington since September 5th 1939. I do general farm

work and find it very interesting. I would not change the Land Army for another job.

Rutland. M. Glenn, 21458.

Dear Editor,

I volunteered in June, 1939, did my training in September and started work in March, 1940. Since then I have worked on the same farm, tractoring and general work. It is my ambition to farm on my own—how many more Land Girls feel the same urge? Jolly good luck to them, anyway!

Herts. G. Wansbrough, 6320.

Dear Editor,

I enrolled through the National Service Book in February, 1939. I spent my two weeks' leave on a farm in July and was posted to my present job from my home in Beckenham on October 18th, 1939. I have had to take one period of sick leave for an unavoidable operation. Apart from that my sheet is clean!

Wilts. M. A. Hall, 2206.

Dear Editor,

I've been asked to tell you about our bee club. We have twelve members who are sharing initial expenses and hope to share the honey and profits (if any) later. At present we have only one stock, developed from five frames of brood very kindly given to us by Mrs. Godfrey; they have reared a queen and so far appear to be doing well. We hope soon to acquire a nucleus. We do not expect to get much honey the first year but are concentrating on building up a strong colony for next year. The bees are kept in the garden of one of our members and we look after them ourselves with advice and occasional assistance from an expert who lives near.

Warwicks. A. M. Coates, 2026.

P.S.—My hand is considerably swollen from my fifth sting acquired yesterday!

Dear Editor,

I am a very new Land Army Representative and in the first "Land Girl" that I saw was an account of mole catching in Lancashire. Well, I was interested because in the last war I was a mole catcher in Norfolk and I killed just over 1,000 moles in my first year and just under 1,000 in my second year.

Norfolk. I. G. Brayne.

N. Slack, 55646 (Yorks.), and M. Burden, 37946 (Lancs.), recommend oil of citronella to discourage flies.

THE LAND GIRL

THE PARTY SPIRIT

The Buckingham Palace Party has proved a great stimulus to the pens of the guests. It is not possible to quote all the letters and accounts received; probably M. Goodridge, 10553 (Hants.) sums it up best when she writes "Honestly I felt as though I was in a dream. I just couldn't realise that I was at Buckingham Palace. What a charming lady The Queen is; I think meeting her was a rich reward for our efforts, if reward was needed." J. Hocking, 26791 (Cheshire), sends a lively description of how she entered past a "Cockney policeman who swept us with a piercing eye and said 'No Press, no Press,' in forbidding tones" gave up her card to "the Usher, a jolly-looking Admiral," made "a wavering curtsy on farm-worker knees," and gratefully saw "a footman proffering a crystal goblet of orangeade." No wonder that when the time came to leave she hoped the footman wouldn't be able to find her hat for a long, long time.

There were some terrific feats of travel. K. Gunning, 2923, of Lancashire, bicycled from her farm in a remote part of the Lake District to catch the night train to London, where she arrived in the early hours of the morning. On arrival at Euston Station she was given a lift in a lorry and then travelled on to her destination in the Underground. After spending a day in London which included sightseeing, the Buckingham Palace party, and a visit to a theatre, she took the night train back to Ulverston and bicycled back to the farm ready to start work again. J. Richardson, 23742, travelled all Friday night with the Cornish contingent, spent Saturday morning going round London on buses, travelled back all Saturday night and led the Farm Sunday Parade at Launceston on Sunday morning. History doesn't relate whether she fell asleep during the sermon or not.

For sheer determination and ingenuity, J. Hayhurst, 5621, must be hard to beat. She bicycled 6 miles to Wolverhampton to catch a train which would enable her to join the rest of the Staffordshire contingent at Stafford, but holiday makers for Blackpool and Rhyl were so numerous that she couldn't get on the train. Instead of sitting down on the platform and bursting into tears as any lesser girl might have done, she tackled the R.T.O., a taxi driver and the local police station in an attempt to get to Stafford by taxi. What followed the failure of this effort must be told in Miss Hayhurst's own

words: "I telephoned to the station-master at Stafford and asked for a broadcast to be made on the platform for the County Secretary, Miss Chapman, telling her I couldn't meet them, but would try to follow on. I found there was a 10.22 train from the G.W.R. to Paddington, so I saw the L.M.S. Enquiries Clerk, who assured me my travel warrant would be accepted by the G.W.R. without question. I went to the G.W.R. station, only to be sent back by the booking clerk to L.M.S. to have the warrant altered! Finally, I dashed back to the G.W.R. and scrambled into the Paddington train just as it was about to go. . . . The train was due in Paddington about 2.40 p.m. and as we went along I wondered if, after all, I should get to the Palace in time, or even be allowed through the gates as the County Secretary had my admission card. At a country station an A.T.S. girl got in, and sitting together we made friends, and I related my experiences. Peggy laughed and said, 'Look here, Jane, I'm going on leave, my father has a taxi and is meeting me at Paddington, and as we shall go past Buckingham Palace, we could take you along.' I was more than grateful. On reaching London Peggy's father met her, and before I could look round we were at the Palace gates. The rest was easy, the Palace Guard had been told by Miss Chapman one of the Staffordshire girls had been left behind, and directed me into the Palace, and a few moments afterwards I was with the rest of my county party. I was just in time, for everyone was lined up ready to be presented to The Queen and Princesses."

Well, we always knew that nobody and nothing could defeat the Land Army.

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SCOTTISH NOTES



Wings for Victory Parade in Nairnshire

ABERDEEN.—Alford & Deeside: A hoeing match at Haugh Farm, Kincardine o' Neil, attracted a good entry. The first three L.G. winners were: Miss Duncan, Miss Bruce and Miss Stevenson. Special prizes were: Best-looking, Misses Bruce and Dunbar (equal); Longest distance, Miss Abernethy. **Deer & Turriff:** The grand sum of £48 18s. has been received for the W. & B. Fund, collected in various ways. Local W.L.A. members took part in New Pitsligo Gala Day, in aid of the Nursing Association. Headed by the H.G. Band, they marched to the park, where Col. Duff, Chairman of the A.E.C., took the salute. 33 L.G.s received G.S. badges. The L.A. took part in several events, including a tug of war against the W.A.A.F.

BERWICKSHIRE. — Bemersyde Hostel was opened by Lord Hume, Lord-Lieutenant of the County. Those of us fortunate enough to be present could not but envy the L.G.s stationed in this lovely place, home of Earl Haig. The magnificent tea provided was much enjoyed by all. **Warden** Hostel shared its birthday party with the twenty-firsters of two W.L.A. members (L. Aitken and M. Brown). A combined dance and concert was much enjoyed by all, and G.S. badges were presented in the course of the evening by Mrs. Paulin (D.O.A.S.). **Harryburn** Hostel also had a successful party, and 25s. was handed over for the W. & B. Fund. Other contributions from L.G.s amount to £2 15s. 2d.

G.S. badges were presented by Mrs. Paulin, who was also present at the gathering at L.A. and

Miss Fleming gained 98 points, Miss Thomson 90, and F. Brown and R. Hogg 86 each.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—A big rally of nearly 200 L.G.s, at which the Countess of Galloway presented G.S. badges, took place on the Market Hill at **Castle Douglas**. The girls then marched to Dunmuir House, which was formally opened as a W.L.A. hostel. The company then had tea on the lawns. The members of the L.A. club, which meets at St. Andrews' Hall, Castle Douglas, held a successful dance in the Town Hall and raised over £25 for the W. & B. Fund. The platform was decorated with corn and marguerites, with a large replica of the L.A. badge in the centre. **Whinnieliggate** L.G.s also raised £25 for the Fund at a most successful concert and dance. The programme, which was varied, was carried through by soldiers in the area. Mrs. Grierson explained the objects of the Fund, and congratulated the girls on their good work.

MIDLOTHIAN.—Another fine effort on the part of **Midcalder** girls, with the Misses McCulloch and Hughes at their head, has resulted in £30 for the W. & B. Fund as the outcome of a successful dance at Midcalder.

ROXBURGHSHIRE.—The subject of a series of talks given by Miss Charlotte McNee, of the M.O.I., in the **Roxburgh** hostels was "The Price of Democracy." At every meeting a lively discussion followed, and particularly good were the girls' comments about the problems of mothers and children, and many were their constructive suggestions. Afterwards, the girls of Lempitlaw hostel held a discussion on their own, and a report of their findings has been passed to the M.O.I. The attendances were excellent.

ROSS-SHIRE.—**Dingwall** L.G.s' annual rally was held in the Town Hall this year. Owing to inclement weather the march past and inspection by Provost Macdowall had to be cancelled, but the girls enjoyed some hearty community singing instead. Mrs. J. W. Ross, M.B.E., Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee, welcomed the girls and visitors, and Mrs. Murray, Lochcarron, gave them an address. Mrs. Macdowall presented G.S. badges, and after an exhibition of M.O.I. films, the girls were entertained to tea. A most successful hoeing match was held at **Davidston Farm** for L.G.s and others. The organisers, Dr. and Mrs. Middleton, kindly provided prizes, and a hearty tea was enjoyed after the match.

STIRLING & CLACKMANNAN.—The series of lectures in progress both at **Fairview** and at **Cambus** hostels given by Miss Aitkenhead, agricultural orga-

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niser for the district, are proving of great interest. It is to be hoped that instructional talks of this kind will be found practicable in other counties.

WEST LOTHIAN.—**Dechmont** Hostel is now in full swing, and the girls very happy in it. Two dances, proceeds of which have kindly been sent to the W. & B. Fund, have been got up in this area by Rena Crear.

WIGTOWNSHIRE.—A whist drive and dance organised at **Garlieston** by 8 hostel girls raised the splendid sum of £55 for the W. & B. Fund. Members of the W.V.S. and W.R.I. managed, by baking for many days, to feed the multitude.

To W.L.A. 560 (Scotland).—You should be getting overtime pay for your work on Saturday afternoon or Sunday. On this question and all others regarding rates of pay, hours worked, overtime, time off, etc., Scottish volunteers should get into touch with their local sub-committee member who knows the conditions in her area.

S. Molony, 106011, Bowcombe Farm, Carisbrooke, nr Newport, would like to correspond with one or more L.G.'s in Scotland, aged about 18.

OVERHEARD ON A BUS AT AYR AFTER "WINGS FOR VICTORY" PARADE

"Grraand dee."

"'Tis thaat."

"Grraand parade the dee."

"Aye, it was thaat."

"Land Army smartest o' the bunch—never saw a healthier lot o' lasses for mony a lang day"

"Ye're richt there; nane o' your peely-wally faces there—grraand life for they girls."

"'Tis thaat."

COUNTY NEWS

LOND. & MIDDXX.—The Middlesex week for the Benevolent Fund, organised by Laleham and Stanwell Clubs, opened on Aug. 7th with a Gymkhana and Fête at Shepperton. Employers in the district produced the most lovely array of flowers, fruit and vegetables for a stall, which realised over £50. Lady Greig was good enough to present prizes and Good Service awards, and Squadron-Leader Rogers was a most successful auctioneer. Results achieved by the clubs during the week were: Harrow, £26 12s.; Laleham, £192 5s. 2d.; Stanwell, £66. We are most grateful to our District Representatives, Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Fryer, for their help in initiating the events which produced these results. Our first hostel at Potters Bar has been open since June; it is a lovely place and houses 40 girls working for the W.A.E.C. Hearty congratulations to Mrs. Ruth Adams (née Gwinnell) and Mrs. Marjorie Parry (née Burgin), who arranged to get married during their week's holiday and are carrying on their job at the Central Middlesex Hospital.

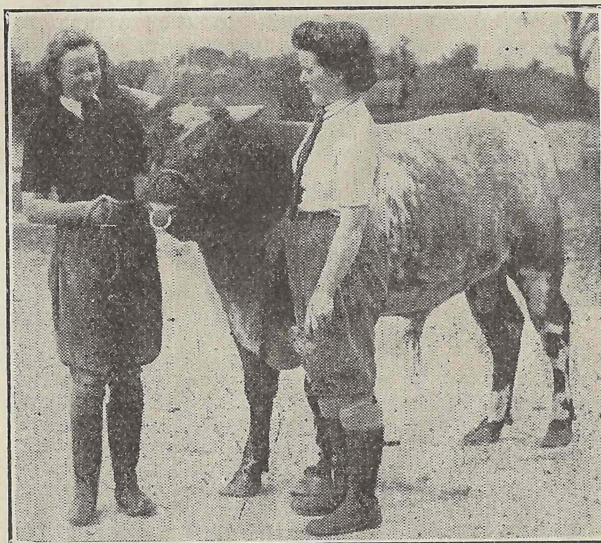
MONMOUTH.—News is scarce through pressure of harvest work. Nora Poole (3½ years' service) and Emily Jackson (2½ years' service) represented Monmouthshire at the Queen's W.L.A. birthday party at Buckingham Palace. Successful parades and demonstrations were held at Newport, Abergavenny and Usk on Farm Sunday, which included L.G.s in charge of mechanised vehicles, and decorated lorries representing all branches of the W.L.A. Mount Ballan hostel gardeners are to be congratulated on obtaining second prize for their vegetable display at the Llanvair Discoed Show. We send our best wishes to the following girls who have married:—Edith Neal, Irene Sellick, Nesta Barrett, Edna Stanbury and Margaret Edmunds.

NORFOLK.—There are very few outside activities to write about this month, as it is harvest first, last, and all the time for almost everyone. 30 volunteers

were able to take part in the Church Parade and Drumhead Service in Norwich on Aug. 2nd; many more would have come if Sunday transport had not been so scarce; the parade was the start of the Norfolk War Charities Week effort. A L.A. window was on show in the centre of the city throughout the week, making an appeal for the Benevolent Fund, which is affiliated to the Norfolk War Charities. We have welcomed the opening of a Y.W.C.A. Services Hostel at Nos. 8 and 10, The Close, Norwich, and a Y.W.C.A. Club in King's Lynn, at 4, St. John's Terrace. Members of the L.A. are welcomed at both, and we find they are serving a long-felt need. A club has just started at Sandringham; we wish it every success and know that it will be much appreciated. We also hear that the L.G.'s employed at the West Norfolk Experimental Station were filmed by Movietone whilst at work, but as we understand this film is being sent to Malta, we shall not have the pleasure of seeing it.

NORTH'LAND.—Mrs. J. E. Brown (Longhirst), Miss E. Wealleans (Longframlington), Miss E. Cullen (Seaton Delavel), Miss G. M. Bell (Thropton) represented North'land at the Buckingham Palace Party on July 3rd. The number of hostels open in this county is now 19, four new ones having been opened during August, the two latest being Willow Dene, near Forest Hall, and Senton House, near Wooler. A special effort will be made during the coming weeks to raise contributions for the Benevolent Fund. We aim at £2,000 for the county. Appeals will be made to the public during harvest time and later, individual efforts will be asked for on the part of W.L.A. members and representatives. A quarterly News Bulletin for the county has been introduced, the first number appearing in July. Reports of money-raising efforts in aid of the Benevolent Fund will be welcomed by the Editor, Mrs. Ord, so those responsible are asked to forward details, but of course, the actual funds raised must be sent to the county office as before.

NOTTS.—M. Beanland, 66546, sends an interesting account of a very successful dance at the Codrington Hostel, which raised £25 to buy a radio. Volunteers wish to thank the W.V.S. who helped at refreshment time, Mr. Taylor who was such a successful auctioneer, Mrs. Dennison the warden for giving 11b. of tea to be raffled, and all their friends and supporters from neighbouring Army and Air Force units.



B. Codling, 41324, and A. Tindall, 41338, with friend, in Yorkshire

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OXON.—We are arranging classes for making rush-baskets, and hope to receive applications from more girls in the county. Harvest time has cut down social activities, but the Benevolent Fund has received 18s. from the Heathfield Hostel; a charming thankoffering for "perfect health" of £2 2s., and small sums from L.G.'s were gratefully received. We hope to devote the profits from our Horticultural Show to the Benevolent Fund.

SALOP.—Two new hostels have been recently opened in the county so that we now have 10 hostels functioning in Shropshire. Farm Sunday was a busy day for the Shropshire L.A. as volunteers took part in ten separate parades, and in some districts tractors and other vehicles were driven by volunteers, and at Shifnal a W.L.A. tableau staged on a lorry was the object of enthusiastic comment from the onlookers. We are pleased to welcome Miss Cross who has joined the administrative staff as an Organiser. Before taking up her present appointment she was the popular and successful Warden at our Bridgnorth Hostel for two years.

SOMERSET.—The Summer Programme of Field Work Centres has been completed with the opening of centres in billets at West Monkton, Charlton Mackerell, Catcott, Bruton, Shepton Mallet, East Brent, Keynsham and Chew Magna. Hostel Centres have also been opened at Bishops Lydeard, Stogumber, Stolford, Baltonsborough, Flax Bourton and Combe St. Nicholas. In spite of the harvest season, a number of entertainments have taken place during July and August. On July 2nd the Taunton Club arranged a Grand Dance in the Empire Hall, which realised £37. On July 24th, the new hostel at Bishops Lydeard held a dance in the Village Hall making £28, and enabling them to buy a piano for the winter evenings. On the same day the Stogumber Hostel held a garden party to return all the hospitality given to them locally by the W.L. and other friends, and the Yeovil Club held a social evening at Brympton House, by the kindness of Mrs. Clive, when the members had the privilege of seeing the historic house with its beautiful tapestries. The Limes Hostel also held a dance on July 24th, at Williton. On Aug. 6th 50 members in the Bath area came to a delightful party given by Mrs. Bevir at Richmond Lodge, at which badges were presented. On Aug. 8th Mrs. Huntly Spencer had an afternoon party in her garden at Cranmore, where the Land Girls showed their agility in potato and flower-pot races. ENSA have been generous in arranging shows at hostels at Baltonsborough, Steambow Farmhouse, Stogumber and Whitehall, starting late in the evening to enable even the harvest gatherers to see the programme. Hostel anniversary parties have been held at Stoke under Ham, and at Whitehall, Old Cleve. We were pleased to see in the "Daily Mirror" a picture of members of the W.L.A. hostel at Loxton engaged in eel-clothing. The eels are baited with a bunch of fat earthworms and have to be skillfully caught in a basket. It is good to think that the W.L.A. produce food even at sunset, which is the best time for this type of fishing.

STAFFS.—The volunteers who were fortunate enough to go to Buckingham Palace were B. Wones and J. Hayhurst; both have been in the W.L.A. nearly four years and have excellent records. A most memorable and happy day was spent. The County Office has moved to 4a, St. Martin's Place, Stafford, and now that we have adequate room for extra staff we hope to develop our social activities in the county. Volunteers near Seisdon have formed a club, and a most successful dance was held at Trysull; the Benevolent Fund benefited by £12 10s., and a small sum was retained for club activities. Mrs. Haszard, one of our committee members, kindly opened her gardens at Milford Hall on Aug. 14th in aid of the Benevolent Fund, and the excellent sum of £18 10s. was re-

lised. Volunteers in the Gratwich area are arranging a dance at Uttoxeter on Oct. 4th, and we wish them every success. Volunteers attended the parades on Farm Sunday, but numbers were very disappointing. We are opening a new hostel at the Wombourne Wodehouse, Wolverhampton, very shortly, and the Smestow Farm Cottage has been enlarged. Most of our new recruits have been exported to other counties; we wish them every success in their new work.

E. SUFFOLK.—After careful consideration of all the many volunteers whose long and good service made them eligible for the honour of attending the birthday party at Buckingham Palace on July 3rd, Miss D. Broadley (Eye), 23417, was chosen from the list of girls enrolled in this county, and Miss F. Alcock (Henham), 37701, from those imported from other counties.

We much regret that owing to the present ban on recruitment we shall not now be able to fill all the hostels which have been in the process of preparation. A hostel has recently been opened at Sutton Rectory, and three more will shortly be launched, making a total of 19. There have been several most successful courses of one week's training for prospective forewomen and gangers at Sutton Hoo. We much appreciate the keenness and public spirit shown by the girls who have volunteered to undertake this responsible work. Harvest work has caused a temporary lull in our club and other social activities, but contributions are still coming in quite well for the Benevolent Fund, and we hope to have many more dances and bright ideas for raising money during the autumn and winter. The girls of the Kirton district have organised a netball team and have had several exciting and successful matches. The office staff is hoping to raise a team and challenge them later on!

W. SUFFOLK.—Miss J. Cambridge and Miss P. Flatt were the two fortunate volunteers who went to the party given by H.M. the Queen, with our County Secretary. Miss J. Cambridge has had two brothers decorated lately, and is the third member of her family to be received at Buckingham Palace during this war. She enrolled in 1939, and is now in charge of a milking herd. Miss P. Flatt was also a 1939 enrolment, and is now tractor instructress at Shimpling Hostel.

Milking competitions have been held all over the county, and L.G.'s have achieved many successes. We are very proud of Miss E. Mullen, 57458, who won a local competition at Thorpe Morieux, and thus became eligible for the W. Suffolk Ladies' Milking Competition, at which she gained 3rd prize. Prizes have also been won in furrow drawing matches, and singling competitions. Four volunteers at Shimpling are being trained as a team specially for drag line drainage. Pest destruction is also becoming quite popular in this county, and our rats now have 14 stalwart rat-catchers to contend with.

Social activities have not been forgotten. Volunteers took part in the Farm Sunday celebrations at Bury St. Edmunds, and organised a mile of pennies at a Prisoners of War fête, which brought in £40. Great interest has been shown in the Benevolent Fund, and cheques have been rolling in from kind benefactors and from successful whist drives, dances, etc.

E. SUSSEX.—E. Broughton, E. Sampson, J. Whitfield and L. Woollan were the Land Girls chosen to represent us at Buckingham Palace. Their combined years of service amount to nearly 15. We only wish we could have taken all our "old hands" to the party with us.

Romney Marsh has been transformed this year under the hands of the W.L.A. The W.A.E.C. tractor training school has done much of the work, with a sprinkling of experienced hands to set out the work and set a high standard of cultivations. A huge combine harvester is now dealing with these waving fields of corn, looking like a monstrous moving fortress. We have collected a very use-

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At the Surrey Rally

[Photograph by "The Times"]

ful library for the use of L.G.'s in clubs and hostels. The County Library has been the chief contributor, but many good friends have also helped. East Sussex L.G.'s are ready for all emergencies. For example: Joan Baines, working for Mr. Combes, at Church Farm, Chalvington, was bringing back to the homestead a cow and her day-old bull calf from another part of the farm. The calf careered off madly across several fields and hedges, finally arriving on the banks of a large pool. Into this he promptly fell, and nature coming to his assistance, he managed to swim out to an island in the middle of the pool. Joan dashed to her billet, donned her bathing dress, returned to the pool and swam out to the island with a length of rope which she fastened round the calf's neck. She then swam back to land, towing the calf behind her, and eventually brought him safe and sound to the farm.

W. SUSSEX.—Two new clubs have been formed within the last month, one at Rustington, which is to have two rooms of its own in a W.V.S. canteen, and the other at Coolham, which is to meet in the village hall. The Loxwood Club has again had a most successful dance and has raised over £16 for the Benevolent Fund, while L.G.'s working in the Worthing district gave a proportion of their first week's rise in wages to the Fund. Four new hostels have recently been opened in the county, at the Red House, Bosham, at Little Thakeham near Pulborough, Sparr Farm, Wisborough Green, and at Madgelands Farm at Barns Green, and we have been glad to welcome to them girls from Derbyshire and from London, as well as girls enrolled in this county. We have also been very glad to welcome girls from Nottinghamshire who have come here for the threshing. The harvest is practically over, and the weather has been wonderful and so have the workers: we do congratulate all members who have been working such long hours and so hard to get the job done.

N. WALES.—Miss Mary Barron and Mrs. P. Robins were the two L.G.s honoured to represent the North Wales Area at Buckingham Palace. Enrolling in September, 1939, both have been in continuous employment since the following October. During their stay in London they were given accommodation at the Welsh Services Club. The Marchioness of Anglesey opened Menai Bridge's "Bring and Buy Sale" in aid of the Benevolent Fund. Volunteers will be interested to know that Mrs. Rigby, our Uniform Storekeeper, made all the gifts for one stall. Corwen and district girls, by arranging a dance and a whist drive, also sent a splendid contribution to the Benevolent Fund. Having achieved our target of £1 per head for every volunteer in employment (actually it was £1 0s. 3d.) we are now aiming for £1,000 before the end of 1943. It is a high figure for us and will call for much ingenuity. Our best wishes to the Glynllifon Hostel, and a warm welcome to the girls who have come from Staffordshire. We also extend a real Welsh welcome to Miss Pulleine, who has been appointed organiser for the area.

WARWICKS.—Over 20 parades and demonstrations in this county were attended by L.A. members on Farm Sunday. The main ones were in Leamington Spa, Birmingham and Stratford-on-Avon, and we congratulate L. Player on the excellent speech she made in seconding the "resolution" at the Coventry gathering. Our list of W.L.A. hostels has grown with the opening of seven new ones at Ashow, Barford, Hampton-in-Arden, Shuckburgh, Studley, Sutton-under-Brailes and Polesworth. The 10 girls at the Studley hostel all receive one month's training in milking and dairy work on the farm of our committee member, Mrs. Quinney, and we are most grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Quinney for all their help to the Land Army. We have welcomed three new members of the county staff: Miss Kay, assistant secretary, dealing with the hostels, and Miss Canning and Miss

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Roberts, County Organisers. Collecting tins for the Benevolent Fund have now been distributed to hostels, clubs and individual L.G.'s in all parts of the county—each tin proudly bearing a label designed by one of our volunteers, Betty Rose. Our congratulations go to A. B. Miller on winning the milking contest at the Newton Regis gymkhana and to the Birmingham club on being the first W.L.A. club to start a bee club.

Saturday, October 2nd, is now the date to which we all look forward—the date of our County Rally at Leamington Spa.

WILTS.—The third of a series of parties took place at Corsham Court, on July 24, by kind permission of the headmistress of Westonbirt School. About 100 girls assembled in the garden, coming often from considerable distances. Many of them brought their landladies, to whom the girls and the L.A. owe so much. Mrs. Methuen, the County Chairman, gave a cordial welcome and told the girls, the landladies and the district representatives what fine work they were all doing and how much the country depended on them all. Colonel Allen, commanding the R.A.O.C. at Corsham, then addressed the gathering, telling the girls they were all "in it" with the Army, the Navy and the Air Force to bring us to victory. The W.V.S. served tea from their mobile tea car, and everyone sat down to a good spread! After that, a sing-song, some games and competitions, and at 5.30 the public were admitted. The R.A.O.C. concert party, under Corporal Mackenzie entertained the throng, and at 7 p.m. there was dancing on the lawn to the band of the R.A.O.C., by kind permission of Colonel Allen. As a result, £31 12s. 10d. was taken for the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds, and truly a "good time was had by all."

YORKS.—C. D. Sumner, 84588, writes that the Huddersfield Rally at the end of July was a great success. Lady Bingley presented G.S. badges. Mrs. Rogers (County Secretary) was present and Miss Crook, from the U.S.A. office of War Information, gave a very interesting account of what Americans are doing to help win the war. The magnificent sum of £90 was handed to Lady Bingley as the result of a dance organised by the Huddersfield Club. Three cheers were given for Miss Lumb, Area Representative, who had organised the rally (which included a marvellous tea) and who does so much to make L.G.'s happy both at work and play.

BENEVOLENT FUND

On August 31st the Fund totalled £33,758 7s. 5d. The monthly total was £1,893 6s. Northants has the highest total, £1,171 6s. 1d., London and Middx. the highest monthly total, £305 13s. 8d.

Subscriptions have not come in so well this month. Harvest and overtime probably account for this, and we look forward to a spate of dances, whist drives, etc., bringing us up to £50,000 by December 31st. **Lond. & Middx.** sent the largest single contribution this month, £168 11s. 5d., from Mrs. Rogers' Gymkhana. The **Timber Corps** has raised £100 among volunteers and employers; **Worcs.** over £120 by socials, donations and Mrs. Lea's appeal and jumble sale. **W. Suffolk's** dance at Lavenham produced £70 5s.; the **N. Wales** area £42 16s. 5d., and **Norfolk** £40 17s. 8d. **Brec. & Rad.**'s rally raised £30 10s. 6d. The **British Sugar Corporation** subscribed £25 under Deed of Covenant as an expression of gratitude to volunteers who have harvested the sugar beet crop during the last four years. Mr. McCullough arranged a collection at his London Back Yard Brains Trust, which produced £38 13s. 3d.

The County List shewing the amount raised per volunteer will appear as soon as the accounts are approved by the auditors.

Christmas cards will be on sale on behalf of the Fund; further particulars will be found on page 11.

County Returns

County		Ben.	F.	Total	Em-
		£	s.	d.	ployed
Yorks	..	387	17	1	4831
Kent	..	459	14	10	4403
Essex	..	542	3	5	4195
Surrey	..	743	6	6	2397
Herts	..	373	6	11	2390
Leics.	2034	432	4	10	2384
Rut.	350				
E. Sussex	..	91	3	6	2295
Hants	..	643	18	7	2139
Worcs.	..	688	11	4	2105
Bucks	..	899	15	7	1936
Northants	..	1171	6	1	1935
Warwickshire	..	1012	0	5	1934
Somerset	..	223	0	0	1923
Devon	..	422	13	9	1748
W. Sussex	..	700	7	9	1642
Wilts	..	316	12	3	1607
Cheshire	..	579	15	4	1600
Norfolk	..	775	9	7	1575
Lancs	..	280	14	5	1527
Cornwall	..	149	2	10	1460
Glos.	..	846	18	5	1450
Notts	..	228	4	2	1405
Oxon	..	281	16	0	1372
North'l'd	..	157	7	8	1371
Berks	..	798	5	9	1357
Hunts	342	445	5	8	1330
Cambs	582				
Ely	406				
Yorks, E.	..	49	17	0	1212
E. Suffolk	..	758	5	7	1174
Durham	..	146	11	4	1159
Salop	..	303	6	9	1100
Cumbs. & West.	..	263	10	1	1093
Kesteven	..	228	12	10	1032
Dorset	..	254	4	0	922
Beds.	..	268	8	5	904
Lindsey	..	424	15	1	850
Staffs	..	168	11	7	848
Glam.	..	418	16	6	836
Holland	..	178	7	3	655
W. Suffolk	..	777	0	8	652
Monmouth	..	161	9	2	643
Hereford	..	396	2	11	618
London & Middx.	..	542	10	4	605
Derbyshire	..	216	15	11	571
N. Wales	..	589	10	10	557
Denbigh	..	250	3	0	534
Pembs.	..	106	4	0	461
I.O.W.	..	29	8	0	436
Brec. and Rad.	..	115	12	5	345
Timber Corps	..	251	14	7	4154
Flint	..	179	12	0	Not rec'd.
Cards & Carms.	..	345	10	4	"
Mont.	..	160	11	0	"

On August 31st there were 76,961 volunteers in employment.

"THE LAND GIRL"

Published Mid-monthly.

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