

THE LAND GIRL



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WEATHER WISE

PERHAPS it is the British climate which is responsible for the capacity of the British people to accept disappointment in a philosophic spirit. From childhood onwards, our plans both for work and play are so continually upset by the weather that we learn to make the best of whatever happens. That crying over spoilt picnics won't bring out the sun is a lesson that comes to most little Britishers at a very early age.

The end of lend-lease was a shock to this country. After six years of "going without", we were looking forward to better food, more clothes, more furniture and more things to buy in the shops. We had always vaguely known that we must pay for the war but so many millions were involved that they seemed to belong to a world of high finance in which such sums are bandied about without making a pennyworth of difference to any individual.

But the cessation of free supplies from the United States suddenly brought home the fact that each and all of us had got to pay—by going without many of the things we need and want and hoped to get after the war was over.

The British people have accepted this situation with philosophic calmness and determination. The ultimate solution of the national problem does not rest with us as individuals but we can all use our wits to make the best of what we can get, instead of repining over what we can't get.

"Home-grown Handicrafts" will be the first section in the LAND GIRL Winter Competition. All entries must be made (or mainly made) from materials found or produced in Britain. The second section will be an essay on "Which do you think Britain's best year—1600, 1700 or 1800?" For those who like history, this will provide an object for a little reading on winter evenings. For the third section, competitors may send either a short story or sketch (maximum length 1600 words) or two short "Cautionary Tales for Land Girls", or 800 words on "My most surprising experience in the W.L.A." Prizes of up to 3 guineas will be awarded in each section, according to the number and standard of entries.

Volunteers may enter for one or all of the sections and the Competition will close on March 1st. Directions for sending in entries will be given later.

M. A. P.

DIFFICULT PEOPLE

1.—THE SLOW-COACH

This is the first of a new series of articles by Mrs. Hicklin

He was the despair of everyone from the day he was born. He came into the world later than expected, he had his teeth late, he walked late, he refused to talk until he was three and when he began to go to school teacher said he would probably be late for his funeral. The other members of the family were not like this at all. Mother, in fact, was a most energetic and fiery person who quickly lost her temper with Arthur, whom everybody soon called "the slow-coach." Father was a little bit on the slow side; a quiet man who loved to work in silence on his farm and not to be hurried and chivvied. When Arthur could begin to join his father out on the fields he was blissfully happy. Father soon taught him the skills of his job and found the boy handy enough. Once he had grasped the way of a piece of work he would plod on steadily and thoroughly until it was done, and well done at that.

School was a different matter. Three others of the family went along with Arthur every morning, one older and two younger ones. They skipped ahead merrily and left poor Arthur far behind and he would dawdle along the lane, looking at crops, picking up a beetle that lay on its back to put it straight and watching a bird in flight. The teacher would look at Arthur when he entered the class-room after prayers were over and all had settled down to work. He blushed and took his seat at the back. After a while, teacher would ask him a question; no answer from Arthur, he was drawing a beautiful bird in his exercise book! Keeping him in after school was the worst punishment. He far preferred the cane for he could not join his father just when he was ploughing the field or lifting roots or even, in the quiet season, going out for an afternoon's shooting. Dinner or tea at home meant no attraction for Arthur; he was as slow to eat as he was to learn and he did not seem to care what Mother put before him. Mother often worried about him; she thought he must be a little bit wrong in the head, or perhaps not quite healthy, for all the other children were so bright and quick, very much like herself and her family. She spoke to her husband one night and said, "I have heard of boys being like Arthur and then they had to go and learn at special schools in the town.

Shall we call the school doctor to him?" Father shook his head. "From the way he works with me on the farm," he said, "I take it he is all right for what we want to make of him. He'll make a good enough farmer when he grows up. I was like him when I was a boy but you know I do my accounts and write my letters like everyone else. It only took me longer to learn. My people are all like that." However, Mother went to see the teacher and asked her to have the boy specially examined next time the school doctor came round. It was in the late summer and Arthur was longing to get back to his harvesting. The doctor kept him for an hour and made him answer questions, do sums, solve puzzles and draw pictures. He then sent a report to the county to recommend Arthur for a scholarship! The surprise of the family knew no bounds. From what the teacher told them, Arthur had shown superior intelligence in all he was doing and it was recommended that he should be educated as a draughtsman, since he also had a real gift for drawing machinery, a very skilled and precise job where speed does not matter.

Arthur left the fields with great regret and promised, when he was a draughtsman, so specialise in designing machinery for agriculture so as to make the farmer's life easier. All his holidays he spent at home with his family. They no longer treated him as a "slow-coach" but were full of admiration for him and Mother in particular did her best to make up to him for what she felt had been an injustice.

One day she met the school doctor who had examined Arthur and asked him how he could be sure that the boy was so clever though he had always been slow at learning. The doctor told her that speed of learning and of growth in children was not always a sign of great cleverness; often the boy who did not seem interested in his school work was ahead of the others instead of behind.

The opposite can, of course, be true as well but most people know that. In any case, where a child does not seem to benefit from his schooling, there may be many reasons. He may be backward or forward for his years; his health, his hearing, his eyesight may need to be examined. The doctor who specialises in such an examination takes great care not to make mistakes

and parents can trust him to advise what is best for their child. If he should find that a boy or girl is really unable to learn in the ordinary school, he may recommend a special school. Some larger places have schools of that kind where children go for the day only. In other cases, special boarding schools are recommended. The trouble is that all these schools have waiting lists and a child may be examined months before a vacancy is found, but the benefit of such special teaching is the greater the earlier the child is sent there. If, therefore, parents are in doubt about their child's ability to learn, they should ask the teacher about a special examination. Naturally one never wants the child to feel that he is less important or satisfactory than others. Even if his intelligence should turn out to be less than average he may be a most lovable and even useful person; yet there are difficulties that the less able child may get into. One of these may be bad leadership by other boys and with this problem we hope to deal in a future article.

SOIL SAMPLING IN LEICESTERSHIRE

We four have, in our opinion, one of the most interesting jobs in the W.L.A. To us has been allotted the Herculean task of sampling the soil of the whole of Leicestershire, parish by parish and field by field. The object of this survey is to determine the lime status of the soils of the county and it is certain that the results obtained have already done much to ensure the fertility of Leicestershire farm lands. Where there is a lime deficiency, few of the commonly grown crops can make full use of soil foods.

Before embarking on the survey we had each done at least six months general farm work and after a short preliminary training, in which we learnt to identify various soil types, weeds indicative of soil acidity, etc., we were ready to begin.

Our method of working is as follows. We set out singly, armed with linen bags, augers and 6 in. ordnance maps. We walk, in a transverse direction, across the field to be sampled, taking samples as we go, not less than ten in all. If more than one soil type or crop should occur in one field we must take separate samples of these. We have to make notes on soil, crops, weeds, state of turf, etc., and to make sure that each field ordnance survey number has its correct sample number entered beside it.

The soil is next sent to the laboratory

to be analysed, after which each farmer is notified of the lime deficiency, if any, of his fields. This is followed by a visit from the local W.A.E.C. Technical Officer.

On the whole the farmers have welcomed us, though there have been, of course, some sceptics who did not hold with what they called these new-fangled methods. However, they have been in the minority and most farmers have agreed that we have been of great use.

Actually we have been of greater service to them than they have sometimes realised. Many have been the sheep we have rescued from a "cast" position, on one occasion right in the centre of a 50-acre field. We have rescued foals and calves from ditches and informed farmers of stray cattle. Life has not been without its exciting moments. We have been chased by bulls and angry rams but so far have no casualties to report. Once we unwittingly participated in manoeuvres being carried out by American Forces. A mock battle was in progress in our vicinity. Troops were bobbing up in all directions and there were some most realistic battle noises. Bombers were diving low over the fields but though troops were taking cover in the traditional manner we decided to carry on. It must have made the mock battle look very "mock" indeed.

People often wonder what we are supposed to be doing. We have been taken for water diviners, rat catchers, hikers and, low be it whispered, scarecrows. One of our members, the possessor of a particularly disreputable coat, due to too much intimacy with barbed wire, was not only mistaken for a scarecrow, but a scarecrow has been known to have been mistaken for her!

Usually when we explain to people what we are doing they reply "Is that all—just walking over fields picking up little bits of dirt?" If they knew that we walked between ten and fifteen miles in the course of a day, often over sticky ploughed land, carrying heavy samples they would realise that it was no sinecure.

However, we enjoy our work immensely and are convinced that come what may, no one can persuade us to occupy an office stool again.

Leics. M. E. Ridgard, 114814

A small girl, a pupil in a village school, was asked to bring from home a written explanation of her absence from school the previous day. Next morning, the child handed in a half-sheet of notepaper bearing, in pencil, the simple message "Kepatomataterin."

NURSING AS A POST WAR CAREER

The vital job of food production will for a long time yet have first claim on the services of all L.A. members who can stay on to see their job through to the end. Even so, many volunteers are thinking and deciding now what they will do when they finally leave the land. During the coming months the LAND GIRL will publish an article in each issue dealing with different occupations open to women.



A ward at the South London Hospital for Women and Children, Clapham Common. This modern hospital, which is staffed by medical women only, has 224 beds and is the largest general hospital in the world run entirely by women for women.

“The care of cattle and of sick persons in hospital is better undertaken by the female sex.” This rather startling statement comes down to us in a record of the work done by various nursing orders at the time of the Crusades. I feel that my readers are best able to judge the truth of the first suggestion—but I have something to say about the second.

“Sick persons in hospital.” Although in this particular quotation these words were written hundreds of years ago, how often we hear them to-day. One can hardly pick up a paper without reading accounts of wards closing, of hospitals restricting their activities, of “sick persons” unable to obtain a bed in hospital—and why? Because of the shortage of staff, both nursing and domestic. Many people have quite a wrong idea of the reason for this shortage. They say “Why is it that girls will not take up nursing?” “Why cannot you do something to improve conditions for your nurses?—then you would

have no difficulty in getting recruits.” How wrong they are. Girls *do* take up nursing. Year by year larger numbers enter for training and the number taking the final State examination has been higher each year since State registration became the hall-mark of a British nurse. Conditions for nurses have never been better; shorter hours, well-planned off-duty time; and yet the shortage, especially in the sanatoria and special hospitals, remains acute. What, then, is the reason? In one word, the demand. The ever-increasing, insatiable demand for nurses in every type of hospital and in the public health services throughout the length and breadth of the country. Hospital matrons cannot reduce their nurses’ hours of duty to the “96 a fortnight” recommended by the Rushcliffe Committee, whilst ensuring that the patients shall never be left without adequate nursing care, without increasing the number of nurses in training and of trained staff. The nursing profes-

sion cannot supply a constant stream of fully qualified nurses to staff the civilian hospitals, to serve in the nursing services of the Army, the Navy and the Royal Air Force, to work in the public health field as district nurses, health visitors, sisters-in-charge of maternity and child welfare clinics and in industry, unless ever larger numbers of student nurses come into our hospitals each year to take their training. We have, in Britain, a reputation for good nursing which we must strive to keep. The patient, that "sick person in hospital", and the citizen whose health is all important must be our first consideration.

What of you land workers who, up till now, have known more of the care of cattle? Would you, perhaps, care to consider a job as vital, as absorbing and just as satisfying as anything any man or woman has tackled in war? Have your years of work so near the land perhaps given you a very real human sympathy for those "sick persons in hospital" whose activities must for a period be so limited? If so, there is room for you in the hospital world, both for those who feel able to tackle the full training leading to State registration, and for others who would prefer a shorter and theoretically much simpler course of training leading to enrolment as an "assistant nurse." The General Nursing Council, the body set up by Parliament to be responsible for nursing training in this country, maintains four registers: for nurses trained in general nursing, for sick children's nurses, for fever nurses and for nurses trained in the nursing of mental diseases. The course for general training is from three-four years, for sick children's and mental nursing three years, and for fever nursing two years. The General Nursing Council also maintains the roll of qualified assistant nurses. There is nothing to pay for a nursing training. The students receive full board, lodging and laundry and their uniform is provided. During training the students receive a small salary (which should really be looked upon as "pocket-money") at the rate of £40 the first year, rising to £70 in the fourth year.

During training the student lives in the nurses' home and you need have no misgivings about the standard of comfort and happiness in the majority of such homes to-day. She has lectures from the Doctors and Surgeons on the staff of the hospital and coaching classes from the resident sister tutors. These lectures serve a double purpose. Firstly, of course, they help to prepare the student for the State examinations which she will take during

her training and also they make her nursing work very much more interesting, as they teach her "the reason why." The student obtains her practical training by working in the wards and special departments of the hospital as a student nurse. At first her responsibilities are limited and her tasks simple, but before long she will find that she is no longer the most junior student in her ward and her interest and responsibilities increase rapidly. To those who may wonder whether, after years of useful war service, they could tolerate becoming a student for a period of years, it will help if they realise just how vital and satisfying a job is done by the nurse in training. You have all experienced the satisfaction of a job well done. Nursing provides an excellent combination of practical work and study and most women are happiest when they are able to put their practical skill to good use.

The student nurse gets a reasonable "trial period" in which to make up her mind that nursing is the right choice for her. As a rule, students start in the Preliminary Training School of the hospital, where they spend eight-twelve weeks. At the end of this time they pass on into the hospital and are allotted to their first ward but not until they have served for a further period of two to three months, are they expected to sign their contract to serve the hospital for the period of their training. By then they should know whether their choice has been a right one. The Preliminary Training School is a helpful introduction to a nursing life and each group of students, as they pass through their training, feels a particular sense of "belonging" to the others in the group. Friendships ripen fast in hospital and often endure well beyond training. Once training days are over and State registration an accomplished fact, the newly qualified nurse has a wide choice of work. In hospital and in district nursing, many trained nurses are working happily and the supply will never outgrow the demand. In the field of preventive medicine and public health there is a wide choice of post for the trained nurse who is anxious to make a home for herself outside hospital. There are many vacancies abroad, both in hospitals staffed by members of the Overseas Nursing Association and the Indian Medical Service, and also in mission hospitals.

A few instances of the Rushcliffe scale of salaries will show that the financial aspect is satisfactory.

In hospital posts, where full board, lodging, laundry and uniform are pro-

vided, a Ward Sister receives from £130-£200; a Sister Tutor £200-£350 and a Matron £215-£700 according to the size of the hospital and length of service. As regards non-resident posts, a Health Visitor receives from £270-£360 and a Superintendent School Nurse £330-£550.

If you are interested and would like advice about suitable hospitals to which you might apply, write—giving in your first letter your age, school-leaving age and educational standard and the part of the country in which you would prefer to train, to:—The Secretary, Nursing Recruitment Centre, 21, Cavendish Square, London, W.1. (Tel.: Langham 4362.)

A. C. Peile

LAND GIRLS IN EGYPT

The following was written by two ex-members of the W.L.A.

All countries have their Land Girls but they are not all of the type we know so well. As soon as M. and I got to Egypt we looked around to see what the Egyptian girl was doing. We were lucky enough to get an introduction to visit a farm called Bahtim.

At first as we went through the buildings looking at donkeys and water buffaloes and then to see the fine stud of Arab horses we saw no girls about, but at last we passed into what looked like a stack yard. There were the usual implements lying around but far more primitive than ours. A plough lay on its side, a wooden plough that would have graced a museum in England and has hardly changed since the days of the Pharaohs. A little further on we spotted a threshing machine; at least we knew from pictures we had seen that it was a threshing machine; it looked like a sledge with round iron discs between the runners and it is drawn by an ox or a water buffalo over the corn that is laid on the threshing floor of beaten mud, it beats out the grain and cuts up the straw for chaff at the same time. Then we saw the land girls. They were slim and graceful in their long black clothes covering their heads and falling in perfect folds to their bare feet. They were sitting among great heaps of maize corn cobs, sorting the large cobs fit for market from the small, more irregular specimens that would be kept on the farm for human and animal food. For a few minutes their slim brown hands would work away rapidly and then they would sit back on their heels, their sarrees would slip from their heads showing a

brilliant coloured handkerchief underneath or a silver ornament, and gay chatter would break out. We looked at their merry brown eyes and sparkling white teeth and thought what a pleasant job it was sitting in the sunshine and sorting the shiny clean cobs. How many times had we sat in a howling wind with mud all round, wrapped in sacks, to pick over potatoes! But then we wondered, as the rosy well-fed English girls came to mind, for we knew that these Egyptian girls worked for two or three shillings a week—lived almost entirely on bread and were usually under-fed and probably diseased, as most of the poor folk in Egypt are. Later we saw their houses—model houses at that—one room for the animals and one for the family with a guest room thrown in. No furniture, only matting on the floor and perhaps a mattress or two, stuffed with cotton. A few metal dishes for food in which all the family dipped at meal times; cooking done on a large brick stove in the courtyard.

Later we saw girls in the fields cutting the barsim or clover which is the crop grown for animal fodder. Land is so precious here that animals must be fed in their stalls or tethered outside in the rich clover for a few hours at a time.

We came to the conclusion that, as far as arable crops went, with the wonderful system of irrigation the Egyptians are great agriculturalists but could learn a lot about the management of animals and their breeding. One thing we know that wherever we go our Land Army training has taught us to love the land and take an interest in different methods of farming.

M. McCarthy Jones (Dorset)
Catherine Gurney (Norfolk)

Matriculation for Candidates of Mature Age

It will interest many L.A. members to learn that they are now considered eligible to take the matriculation examination for "candidates of mature age" at the Universities of Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield and Birmingham and at the University of Wales. Particulars may be obtained from the Registrar of each University. L.A. members are not eligible for the comparable examination in connection with London University matriculation.

STAR TURN—No. 8



Before joining the W.L.A. in September, 1939, Miss Dorothy P. Hammond, 21974, used to help her mother at home but she always managed to spend much of her spare time amongst the poultry on a nearby farm.

Her first county of employment was West Suffolk where she did horse and poultry work until her transfer in 1941 to her present county of Bedford. She has worked ever since on the Luton Hoo Estate and for nearly three years she has been in full charge of the Estate poultry farm with one other Land Girl to help her. There are over 1,000 head of poultry, mostly Rhode Island and Light Sussex Cross, but Miss Hammond finds the sex-linked type the most popular. It was with Northumberland Blue, a newish breed, that she won the silver cup at a recent show at De Montford Hall, Leicester. Not content with this trophy she carried away first prize for the best pair of pullets in the same show.

Miss Hammond certainly appears to have "a way with poultry" and she has gained distinction in the Poultry Proficiency Test. She believes much of her success is due to giving the birds plenty of fresh water and ranks cleanliness as the most

important factor in the fight against disease.

Knitting and cooking are this volunteer's pet hobbies, and over a period of years she has collected recipes and compiled a useful cookery book.

Miss Hammond's organising ability extends beyond the poultry farm, and the Benevolent Fund and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital have been enriched as a result of whist drives and dances that she has helped to organise.

Her ambition after she leaves the W.L.A. is to manage a large poultry farm; her ultimate goal is to have one of her own.

GARLAND DAY IN CASTLETON

Royal Oak, May 29th, or "Garland Day" has been celebrated in Castleton for the last 300 years.

The ceremony begins in the evening with a procession headed by a King and Queen (both local people) who ride on horseback, followed by a band and dancing children in white dresses garlanded with flowers. They stop outside each inn—there are six in the village—and give a performance. On arriving at the Church, the King's crown, which is a massive one made of flowers, is hoisted up above the church clock, the tower of which is decorated with oak branches—both crown and oak remain there till they wither away.

This being over the procession goes to the Market square where the children dance round the Maypole. There is community singing accompanied by the band, then the King lays a wreath on the war memorial and the Last Post is sounded. Throughout, a collection is taken for hospitals and the W.T.C. assisted in this. We quite enjoyed ourselves collecting from passing cars and scrambling after pennies thrown from windows and by the crowd around the Maypole.

This lasts about two hours, after which it is a Gala Night for young and old in Castleton and farther afield too. This year the hospital collection amounted to over £100 which shows how popular this festival is and speaks well for its organisers. Finally there is a dance in the Peak Pavilion and this year, borrowing the VE-Day idea of open air dancing, there was also a dance in the Market square.

High Peak Unit, W.T.C. E. King, 39015

The Land Army song, price 1d. (2d. post free) or 1/- a dozen, post free, can be obtained from the Editor, LAND GIRL, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1. Profits of sales go to the Benevolent Fund.

MISS BAXTER AND I—No. 11

We welcome the reappearance of Miss Baxter—and we warmly congratulate her creator on the completion of six years' service in the W.L.A.

On VJ Day everybody on the farm got a holiday except my friend Miss Baxter and I, because our farmer said Gladys the cow was Valuable Plant and we could have another day to make up.

So on VJ + 1 Day Miss Baxter said was this it or was it to be like the one we were promised for VE Day, VE + 1 Day, Pitscrogy's funeral and five New Years? And our farmer said it would probably be like the one he was promised for his 21st birthday, the Coronation and his father's gimmers winning the Cup at Kelso and to go away and do whatever job the men were at, because his plan for Gladys' new stall had been turned down by the County Clerk, the Planning Officer, the County M.O.H., the Sanitary Inspector, the Planning Committee, the Road Board and the County Council, so he would have to do another. I said if he would like to use my influence with the W.R.I. and the Women's Guild and Miss Baxter to use hers with the village constable, to let us know, and we went away.

Well, we looked into the stable first, where Sandy the cattleman was talking to the shepherd and when we asked what they were doing Sandy said sortin' rope in the cairt-shed, aye mon, you was a right guid bonfire abune the Mains midden.

On the way to the shed we passed the tractor man having a cup of tea in the hay shed and when we asked him what he was doing he said sortin' rope in the cairt-shed and had we seen yon braw wee flaggy on the top o' Geordy's silo?

The rest of the men were playing pitch-and-toss in the granary and talking about the wee smashers at the Victory Ball, so we knew everybody was sortin' ropes in the cairt-shed.

When we got there a lot of ropes was lying about and we were just going to begin sortin' them with bowsbanks and sheepline which Miss Baxter had learned about when she was totem of the Bulldozer Patrol of the Brownies, when we remembered we were Ordinary Agricultural Workers so we went and sat in the barn instead.

Miss Baxter said what did I mean to do now the war was over and I said well, I had meant to live on my gratuity because six years even at 2/6 did mount up but now I would have to marry some Good Man in the Civil Defence and live on his instead provided I was still able to totter up the aisle by the time they let us out.

And Miss Baxter said the Land Army had given us rheumatism, lumbago, three flat feet, two sprained wrists, a broken rib and a ditto collar-bone so we couldn't expect a gratuity as well and first she was to take a Detective Course to find out why she had been given a number that didn't mean anything and a uniform that didn't fit anywhere in an Army that turned out to be something quite different. After that she would learn to play the gramophone and get a job with the B.B.C. but not till they were back in London because they were at Greenwich meantime.

Well, I was just telling her about Cousin Serge who was a Hassock and had covered one of the Russian Fronts for the B.B.C. and Miss Baxter was saying was it not the Hassock's front that Serge covered and I was saying if she was thinking of Cossack that was what covered the Vicar's front, when we heard footsteps so we stood up. But it was only our farmer so we sat down again.

Our farmer said wasn't it wonderful how things altered in six years and were we practising being Unoccupied Europe? And Miss Baxter said no, just Ordinary Agricultural Workers under Sympathetic Consideration and we had been since March but it didn't seem to make much difference because nobody could decide whether we were fish or flesh or a drowning camel and our farmer said that would be because a miss was as good as a red-herring to a blind horse and if we didn't go and cart some turnips soon, we had better start writing to the County Clerk, the Planning Officer, the Sanitary Inspector, the Planning Committee, the Road Board, the County Council, the M.O.H., the W.R.I. and E.N.S.A. for a nice R.I.P. for Gladys, so T.T.F.N.

Scotland. I. Mount

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

**BENEVOLENT FUND
CONFERENCE**

A W.L.A. Benevolent Fund Advisory Conference is to be held in London on November 20th to which each county will send a serving member of the Land Army and a member of the administrative staff. The Committee of the Fund is anxious that W.L.A. members should be fully informed about expenditure in general, and in particular on the grants already made in cases of hardship. The Conference will also provide the Committee of the Benevolent Fund with an opportunity for receiving the views of the Land Army on probable future needs, such as the possibility of a permanent club in London.

SENTIMENTAL SNAILS

The following article has been written for the LAND GIRL by Mr. L. Hugh Newman, F.R.E.S., who runs a unique "Butterfly Farm" at Bexley in Kent and also writes and broadcasts on natural history subjects.

Snails appear to delight in the ritual of courtship and it is a great occasion in their rather dull lives. This, however, is not generally necessary for the perpetuation of the species, because nearly all snails are hermaphrodites, that is to say, they combine both sexes in the one individual. The garden snail will live for three or four years unless it meets an untimely end on the thrush's anvil, or beneath the heel of a gardener's boot. During its first adult year the female organs in its body are not fully developed and the snail acts purely as a male and therefore always mates with an older snail who is capable of laying eggs. The following year this same snail will be able to produce a family without having first met with a young husband. This partly explains why snails are so numerous everywhere—there is no stopping them!

You can always tell when a snail is going courting. It creeps along in a slow fashion, peering from side to side, and frequently stops and raises its body from the ground so that it has a wider field of vision. When it meets another snail on the same errand, they approach and begin an extraordinary "dance"; this, however, is seldom witnessed by man as it generally takes place in some dark, damp hiding place, or amongst moist leaves of overhanging plants or ferns.

During the courtship both partners show intense excitement and are quite oblivious of all outside happenings. They can be handled and moved under a glaring light for photographic purposes and seem not to notice it at all. The "dance" starts with both snails rising up towards each other and swaying from side to side. They then sink down again in a curious sunken posture for half an hour's rest before resuming the rhythmical swaying movements which sometimes last for as long as two hours. Not until these preliminaries have been performed does the actual pairing take place.

The eggs look just like a heap of pearls, of the average necklace size, and are often laid in a moist hollow in a rubbish heap or under a piece of rotten board in the garden. The young snails are almost transparent when they hatch, but quite complete, with a small shell on their backs. This is the most "dangerous age" of their lives as they can be attacked and eaten by other creatures before their shells harden.

The body of a snail is extremely sensitive to light, scents, and atmospheric conditions. Their eyes are situated on the extreme points of the characteristic horns and are quite visible when the head is fully extended. It has been proved by experiments, however, that even if the eyes are removed the snail is not blinded, as the skin on the head is also sensitive to light and so they can tell more or less where they are going. Their sense of smell is very curious from the human point of view. They hardly react at all to strong smelling substances such as ammonia, camphor, petrol or chloroform but they can track down a cabbage leaf or a melon in a garden frame quite a long way away and unerringly make their way to beds of young juicy cuttings of garden plants. They create havoc among tender foliage and fruits with their rough and rasping tongues.

A snail never moves anywhere without first of all preparing a pathway for itself. It does this by secreting a quantity of slime from a gland at the front of its "foot," which is really just a part of the flattened underside of the body. Its method of locomotion looks very simple but is in reality highly complicated. Part of the sole of the foot moves in a continuous series of undulating waves, which are controlled in an obscure way by the pressure of blood in the body.

When snails retire into hibernation for the winter quite a lot of elaborate preparation has to be made. The "door" has to be shut across the opening of the shell and this is done by a secretion which forms into a thin film. Inside is a second layer of hardened slime, with a perforation in the middle to allow the snail to breathe. The heart, which normally beats at about the same rate as the human organ (when not emotionally stimulated) gradually slows down and in the depth of winter only beats about once a minute. The winter quarters are selected with some care and gardeners know only too well that snails are very fond of empty flower pots. They also like holes in walls, hollows under tree stumps, but the Roman snail prefers to dig a hole for itself by scooping out the soil with violent movements of its foot and retires into this "dug-out," shell first.

A few years before the war I received a commission from the curator of the Insect House at the London Zoo to collect a number of these Roman snails for him. I knew where these occurred quite commonly at the foot of some chalk downs near Eynsford in Kent, but in dry weather they were very difficult to find. I therefore decided to visit the place after a heavy

downpour during the night. I drove out early the next morning and, as I expected, the snails were actively crawling about over a wide area and looked very conspicuous with their large creamy-white shells showing up plainly against the green grass. This locality is specially interesting as it is within a mile or so of the ruins of an ancient flint-built castle, dating back to the time of the Roman invasion. It may well be that these edible snails are the descendants of ones introduced by Roman gourmets who could not live in this "barbarous and inhospitable land" without one of their favourite items of diet.

On June 16th a demonstration of row-crop tractor work, spraying and plant setting, jointly arranged by the Worcs. W.A.E.C. and the Evesham branch of the Tractor Users' Association, Ltd., was held at the farm of Capt. J. F. Bomford, Pershore, Worcs. Many different types of tractors, rowcrop toolbars and planting machines, specially produced and adapted for use with market garden crops, were operated by members of the W.L.A. Over fifty exhibits of rowcrop spraying and plant setting machinery were demonstrated, besides special displays such as the Ministry of Agriculture's bookstall, a welding demonstration, "Electricity on the Farm" and a display of brassica pests and diseases by the Long Ashton Research Station.

(See photograph below)

SPOON OR SPANNER ?

In old civvy street,
I could bake quite a treat
In a truly professional manner ;
But whilst there's a war
I can't bake any more,
'Cos I've now changed my spoon for a spanner.

Now my tarts could delight
They were awfully light,
And my cakes—well I dare bet a tanner
If it wasn't for Huns
They could beat anyones,
But I've now changed my spoon for a spanner.

If the war could be won
On just making a bun,
I know I'd come home with a banner,
But instead I'll come back,
Looking awfully black,
With no spoon in my hand, but a spanner.

Yorks., N.R.

D. Marshall, 90223
(Tractor Driver)

An account of the E. Sussex Rally on September 28th will appear in the November issue.

ANAGRAM

"Chesty"—Cutting implement
(Solution on p. 13)



COUNTRY HUMOUR

Anyone could have been forgiven for laughing at me when I fell down in a very muddy yard just after a heavy shower of rain; it is not necessary to have a sense of humour to appreciate that sort of joke but I was amused as well as mortified when, taking what I imagined to be a well-earned rest on an up-turned bucket, I was told "I never did see a bucket fly away for want of settin' on, but pig-swill won't boil hisself so thee's best get on wi'thiccy."

Crossing the yard one day with an enormous load of straw, not realising that half of it had blown away in transit, I heard the remark "Well Tom, rookses be a-building, look so."

Most of us dislike incessant rain but only the greenhorns grumble about it and when I expressed my disapproval of yet another downpour I was told "Rain'll do more good than will ever thee, maid" a sentence which pleased me more by its construction than by its contents.

So many people, in town as well as in country, believe in the efficacy of "charm-ing" as a cure for various ailments that this story can be taken as an amusing piece of fiction or as solemn truth. A farmer's wife suffered with warts on her hands and after trying many remedies without success, was advised to count up the number of warts, put an equal number of pebbles into a bag and throw the bag out of the pony-trap next time she went to market. This she did, and in a short time the warts disappeared but later a neighbour complained that her little girl had several warts on her hands. When the farmer's wife asked how long the child had had the warts the neighbour said "Twas about last market day as I noticed the first; I well remembers that for her found a bag on the road as us was walking in—looked like someone had dropped it, see, but as it was only full of little old stones I let her keep un to play with."

Herts.

E. Manton, 84630

Two milk churns full of water were recently placed, one in the sun, the other in the shade. At 10 a.m. the temperature of the water in each churn was 55° F. By 1 p.m. the churn in the sun registered 62° F., while the one in the shade remained at 55° F. At 3 p.m. the "sun churn" showed 70.5° F. The "shade churn" had risen only to 57° F. This simple experiment illustrates the value of providing shade for all churns of milk awaiting roadside collection.

Congratulations to J. Herring, 79367, W. Suffolk, on the award of the British Empire Medal. The notification of this award, for the act of bravery which was recorded in the May issue of the LAND GIRL, was made to Miss Herring on her birthday.

And to F. Clough, 25868, Lancs., on her appointment by the Milk Marketing Board as Senior Recorder. We understand that Miss Clough was appointed some time ago and is the only woman Senior Recorder in the country.

And to V. L. Harwood, 108996, for being the first relief milker in Lindsey, Lincs.

And to J. Davey, 78479, Lancs., whose employer calls her a "jewel among Land Girls." She works in a market garden and her record for cutting cress is 86½ doz. punnets filled in four hours—which is 260 an hour. She collects her own punnets and stands them behind her ready for packing.

And to L.A. members employed by the Cumberland W.A.E.C. on being acclaimed the smartest in work and appearance among the practical demonstrators at the Newcastle Farm and Country Life Exhibition.

And to Penmare Hostel, Cornwall, on their National Savings effort. D. Adlam, one of their number, collected £102 from their Group during a recent 9-week period.

And to Mrs. Coombs, who was the original L.A. County Secretary in Worcs. and latterly a Regional Officer on the Headquarters' staff, on the birth of her son, Richard, on 4th Sept., 1945.

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The Antiseptic and Hygienic Skin Cleanser

Removes Oil, Grease, Paint, Tar and Dirt—like Lightning. Keeps skin soft and supple. Prevents Milking Dermatitis and infection caused by Pyogenic Germs—Abscesses, Boils, etc.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

What a grand show L.A. members from the four North Counties gave at the Agricultural Show in Newcastle. I don't know whether you heard anything concerning the demonstration but may I say how much we L.G's enjoyed it. I would very much like to read something in the LAND GIRL about this recent Agricultural Week at Newcastle (Aug. 25th to Sept. 1st).

E. Hadden, 77433

Dear Editor,

It is rarely that we hear of any volunteer's experiences of poultry work and it struck me a long while ago that of all the jobs undertaken by the W.L.A. poultry farming appears to be the least encouraged. The table of relative work outputs quoted in Miss Sackville-West's book "The Women's Land Army" shows that in poultry work woman's output is 101 to man's 100, the only job in fact apart from horticulture where a woman is equal to a man and in some jobs, such as chick rearing and incubation, is often superior. I believe that no branch of farm work offers a girl better prospects and I was very pleased to read the account of the work at the Durham hatchery. I hope other poultry workers will follow up with accounts of their experiences and so perhaps encourage more to think seriously of taking up poultry husbandry as a career.

There are now 37 accredited hatcheries. In five years time there may easily be five times this number. "M.W." advises those interested to consider taking proper training. What is "proper training" for hatchery work? Personally I do not think the College or Institute training would be of much value, unless you were aiming at a more general career than purely hatchery work. It seems to me that a period as a pupil, followed by experience in every department would provide a useful training and a good testimonial would be of more value than a certificate. I would like to know the views of hatchery-managers.

I must protest against the statement by "M.W." about the Japanese. The Chinese knew all about "sexing" thousands of years ago and have been secretly practising it in their own country. It was not until 1925 that the Japs first discovered the technique and in 1933 came to this country to exploit "sexing" commercially—i.e., the ability to distinguish the sexes of pure bred day old chicks.

The poultry target for 1946-47 aims at

an increase of over eight million stock and 27,000 tons of eggs. Even when this has been achieved we shall still be about 20 millions behind pre-war figures. I hope many W.L.A. volunteers will help to make up these figures so that there will be a better chance of the consumer's "fresh egg" being fresh.

Herts.

E. M. Roberts, 7789

The following letter of appreciation has been received by the Warden of the London Club.

We had the most wonderful time while in London and this letter is just to thank you for the welcome we had in the W.L.A. Club.

The Club is in a lovely house in an even lovelier atmosphere and we hope that it will be possible in the near future to spend another few days with you.

Thank you again, also your very able staff.

Mon.

N. G. Saffin, 23753

We feel sure you will be delighted to know that a cheque for over £1,000 has been sent to the Women's Land Army Benevolent Fund from the sales of Miss Sackville-West's book "The Women's Land Army," and that everyone associated with the Land Army would want to express their thanks to Miss Sackville-West and the publishers for their generous action in devoting their royalties and profits to the Fund. A proportion of the money will be sent to the Scottish Benevolent Fund.



K. M. Carter, 56499 (Glos.) hoeing onions with her sister.

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS

The cost of advertisements in this column is 2d. a word.

Advertisements quoting a price are accepted only on the understanding that if a would-be buyer sends cash with her order, she is at liberty to return the goods and will then receive her cash back, less cost of postage.

WANTED.—Riding jacket in very good condition, bust 36 ins. Write stating price: Side-bottom, Barcote Manor, Faringdon, Berks.

WANTED.—Tennis shoes, size 5. White shorts, waist 28 ins. Hips 40 ins. Gwyn, Hyver, Midford, Bath, Soms.

WANTED URGENTLY.—Ladies riding jacket (second-hand), bust 36 ins. Preferably brown. Write stating price to Breed, Hobbs Moor Farm, Combe St. Nicholas, near Chard, Somerset.

WANTED.—Skating boots sizes 2½-3 and 4½, good condition. Wilding, Fernyhalgh, Meadoway, Chigwell.

WANTED.—Second-hand corduroy slacks. Navy, fawn or brown. Waist 26-28 ins. Clayton, Sykes, Naddle, Keswick.

WANTED.—Lady's tweed riding jacket, bust 36 ins. Good condition essential. Tudor-Jones, Headley Rectory, Bordon, Hants.

WANTED.—Ladies brown riding jacket. Good condition. Bust 36-38. Phillips, Trethem, St. Just Lane, Truro, Cornwall.

WANTED.—Riding jacket. Bust 38. Lees, 10, Mitchelmore Road, Yeovil, Som.

WANTED.—Ladies riding coat, bust 34 ins., to suit fawn jodhpurs. Boynton, Old Sulchay Lodge, Wansford, Peterborough.

WANTED.—Jodhpurs or Breeches, waist 28. Tweed riding jacket, bust 34. Martin, Treglyn, Vicarage Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge, Worcs.

FOR SALE.—Ladies riding breeches, made by Moss Bros. Waist 24 ins. £4; also child's felt riding saddle £2 15s. Willis, Kensworth House, Nr. Dunstable, Beds.

FOR SALE.—Pale blue satin dance shoes, 5, 12/6d. Brown leather handbag (as new), £2 5s. Green check 'Viyella' blouse, bust 38, 18/6. 58547, Vine Farm, S. Luffenham, Rutland.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

ABERDEENSHIRE (HUNTLY & GARIOCH).—The Castle Park made a glorious setting for the fete and free-gift sale held by Huntly and Garioch W.L.A. on Saturday, 9th June. Brigadier-General Hamilton, D.S.O., of Skene, who declared the proceedings open, was introduced by Major H. R. Spence. The splendid result of the day's effort was that the sum of £422 was netted for the Scottish W.L.A. Welfare and Benevolent Fund. Miss E. M. Chisholm and Miss M. Morrison, the local representatives, who were largely responsible for the skilful organisation of the fete, earned hearty thanks and warm congratulations.

DUNBARTON & RENFREW.—The old adage "every mickle makes a muckle" has once more been emphasised by the girls employed at Woodilee Institution, Lenzie. A collecting box which they maintained there has yielded £4 6s. 1d. for the W. & B. Fund. Well done!

The Milngavie Club members have been busy with their knitting needles. They gave just handed over to the Navy League Comforts Fund 10 pairs of gloves, 3 pairs of sea-boot stockings, 6 pullovers, 7 scarves and 1 helmet.

WEST LOTHIAN.—The West Lothian W.L.A. Sub-Committee are making plans for a big Victory Party to be given to W.L.A. members when the harvest and potatoes are in.

M.O.I. talks on foreign countries were popular throughout the winter and the spring with the girls at Foxhall Hostel.

Mrs. Berry visited the hostel recently to "tell fortunes" and found herself in such demand that a second visit has had to be arranged.

BENEVOLENT FUND

On September 30th the Fund totalled £148,009 7s. 5d. The Monthly Total was £7,797 18s. 3d. HANTS' now has the highest total of £8,377 10s. 8d., as well as the highest monthly total of £6,150.

Hampshire's magnificently successful drive has given them not only the leading county and monthly totals but also an average of £5 per head for every employed volunteer. This wonderful result has surpassed Hants' own drive target of £5,000. Over £1,200 was raised centrally by entertainments, sales, etc., £3,478 by areas and hostels from flag days, cinema collections, bazaars, etc., and £1,683 by the Agricultural Show organised by Mr. Percy Yates. We know all other counties will realise from personal experience what hard work this has meant to all concerned and join us in saying, "Well done, Hampshire!"

The usual steady flow of donations has been well kept up this month with £105 from GLOS.; £71 from DURHAM; £54 from NORTHUMBERLAND; £44 from CHESHIRE; £41 from HEREFORD, etc. All these, together with the £1,039 received from the sales of Miss Sackville-West's book, about which you have read elsewhere in this issue, have combined to give the Fund a memorable month.

INVEST ONE COUPON AND KEEP WARM

in a pair of Leather Wellingtons ten or twelve inches high from welt. Toe-cap protectors. Pull-on loops. Foot-shaped Beechwood soles. Fitted with rubbers or irons. Wax-dressed uppers. **WARM AND COMFORTABLE.** Also special shoes, boots, and gloves. Wintery weather will soon be here. Stamped addressed envelope brings list.



L. TWEENWAY, Ltd., Horley, Surrey

Have you remembered to renew your subscription?

Solution to anagram on page 10:—
SCYTHE.

COUNTY NEWS

BERKS.—Three meetings to help volunteers in planning their return to civilian life have been held in Reading, Newbury and Wantage. We were fortunate in having as speakers Mr. Mitchell of the Resettlement Advice Department from the Regional Office of the M.O.L., Professor Sanders and Professor Neville from Reading University and Miss G. Scott, W.L.A. representative from the Women's Employment Federation. Much helpful information was given and it is hoped that volunteers will find this beneficial when the time comes for them to decide on their future careers. A Wardens' Conference was held in the County Office on Sept. 12th when interesting talks were given on hostel management, rationing and war-time recipes. With the advent of the longer evenings, Clubs are again starting their many activities. A series of lectures on Health and Beauty is proving a most popular feature! The third Harvest Home is to be held at St. Andrews School for the girls around the Buckhold area and we should like to thank Mrs. Robertson-Glasgow for so kindly arranging this.

We are very sorry that Lady Mount, one of our County organisers, has had to resign, but we would like to take this opportunity of welcoming Miss Cornelius who is taking her place.

BRECS & RAD.—A large number of girls have recently enjoyed interesting and helpful talks on Post-War Careers by Miss Scott, of the Women's Employment Federation. Prof. tests in tractor, G.F. work and milking and dairy work have been successful again this year, all 10 girls competing having passed satisfactorily—one with distinction. An open clean milk competition, organised by the Brecon W.A.E.C., was won by G. D. White, 96489, I. Ashton, of Crossgates Hostel, successfully took part in the public speaking competition at a large Y.F.C. rally.

We are glad to welcome a number of recruits who have recently started work in these counties and we hope that they will be very happy. It is hoped that two Victory Parties will take place in November, one

at Llandrindod Wells for Radnorshire section and one at Brecon for the Breconshire section. The dates of which the parties, will include ENSA shows, dancing and running buffet, have been provisionally fixed for Nov. 3rd and 10th

CHESHIRE.—It is with very great regret that we have said our good-byes to Mrs. Boddington as our Hostels' Organiser, owing to her ill-health. At the time of these notes going to press we are, however, delighted to know that her operation has been successful and we all look forward to seeing her and to future associations, mainly in connection with the Welfare Fund Committee.

Great efforts on the part of Miss Giles, President of Chester Club, backed by the hard work of club members, resulted in a bring-and-buy sale being held in the Bishop's Garden, Chester, in aid of the Red Cross. The sale, which took place on a delightful summer evening, was opened by our chairman, Mrs. Ernest Johnson, M.B.E., J.P., and the sum of £41 8s. 6d. was raised. We are grateful to all volunteers who have assisted at Agricultural shows and gymkhanas in this county throughout the year. This help has, on each occasion, been highly appreciated by the respective Committees. We all look forward to a rally in Chester on 13th Oct., and are hoping for a fine day.

CORN WALL.—The coming of victory was celebrated by L.G.'s in Cornwall in various ways. St. Germans Hostel had a good party in conjunction with the nurses and staff of the Camp Reception Station at St. Germans. 28 L.G.'s took part in the Victory Parade at Penzance on Sunday, 19th Aug. They were drilled by Miss Bennett, Warden of Kenegie, and put up a good show and, as one (prejudiced?) spectator said, made the one bright spot in a long procession. Helston Hostel won 4th prize in their tableaux at the annual Harvest Fair and Carnival on Sept. 10th. They decorated a lorry, with the help of the Warden and Assistant, and staged in it a farming scene, complete with "farmer and wife," which drew tremendous applause from the public. With the coming of Autumn we are getting down to some Proficiency Tests and hope there will be a good entry.

CUM. & WES.—There are two good things to report this month—wonderful weather for the corn harvest and the success of the Farm and Country Life Exhibition in Newcastle. In the midst of the busy harvesting days, employers spared nearly 50 of their L.G.'s to work on the demonstration farm or in the W.L.A. tent at the Exhibition. We were besieged with interested townfolk and hope that they were duly impressed with our very vital work.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Miss Burnett, organiser for West Cumberland, who has gone to Gloucestershire. We wish her luck and happiness in her new surroundings. In her place we welcome Miss Harwood and hope she will be happy with us. Miss Barrett kindly stayed an extra month but we have now regretfully said our final goodbyes.

DEVON.—We apologise profoundly for being too late with Aug. news. Members in the Tavistock area and their exceptionally hard-working Com. member Mrs. Howard were entertained on Sept. 19th by the "Roborough Commoners"—i.e., 42 local farmers who set themselves out to show appreciation to W.L.A. and land workers for good work put in over the war years. An afternoon of sports and competitions, followed by heartening speeches of thanks and a wonderful tea, was wound up by a dance lasting till 12.15 a.m. Exewick Hostel held an afternoon party and entertained some Royal Marines. Sidmouth Club arranged an Agricultural Bee, presided over by Lady St. Aubyn. At Wimple we entertained Dominion soldiers, chiefly P.O.W.'s, who showed real interest in the Dairy Training Scheme. Recruiting windows have been arranged in Exeter, Paignton, Torquay and Barnstaple. Prof. Tests for rat-catchers have been held at Honiton and Newton Abbot.

We are very sorry to say good-bye to Miss Morrison—Organiser, N. Devon—who resigns after three years. She will be much missed by Reps. and girls. So, too, will Miss Mountford—Warden for



P. McDowall, W.L.A.14981, with "Little Jim."

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four years. Many girls will remember her with affection and will be sorry to hear her resignation is due to ill-health.

DERBS.—The harvest has been occupying everyone's time lately but we have had several interesting parties. Miss Blanche Milligan gave a delightful one at Caldwell Hall on August 1st for about 30 L.G.'s, including some W.T.C. girls. There were games and dancing on the lawns to the music of a small band. Other parties were given in Sheffield and Chesterfield. We have opened a new hostel, Sterndale House, Litton, but Repton Hostel is closing down early in November. A special recruiting drive was made in the town of Derby in September, when two prominent shop windows had attractive L.A. displays. We hope to run a club for L.G.'s in the Melbourne area and look for support from those working there. A week-end Conference, to which three volunteers from each hostel will be invited, is to be held at Trusley Manor Hostel, Sutton-on-the-Hill, on November 10th-11th. We look forward to a visit during this week-end from Miss Scott of the Women's Employment Federation.

DORSET.—We are very glad to welcome Mrs. Swinton-Vaughan as our new County Organiser and hope she will be very happy with us.

Matrimonial business in Dorset is brisk and to the many volunteers who have been in the L.A. for some time and are now marrying and setting up homes of their own, we send our very best wishes. We hope to have Miss Scott of the Women's Employment Federation to speak to volunteers on post-war employment at the meeting after our Harvest Thanksgiving Service in Dorchester on October 20th. ENSA films are still being enjoyed at some of the hostels in the county. A party given at Blackdown House, Briantspuddle—kindly lent by Mrs. Piers Debenham—was organised by P. Skinner, 67334, and L. Belben, 94588. Games, dancing and an entertainment were followed by charades and Sir Kenneth Barnes, President of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, praised the company for the high standard of their acting.

GLOS.—The Victory Rally is being held on Oct. 4th at Cheltenham Town Hall. The Hon. W. S. Morrison, M.C., K.C., M.P., has very kindly consented to present Good Service Armlets. Mrs. A. E. Price is the winner of Mrs. Bathurst's Special Prize for this quarter, and we all congratulate her. The house-to-house collection for the Benevolent and County Welfare Funds in Bristol amounted to over £120. We are arranging for collections in other towns, Bristol having set such a good example.

We welcome Mrs. Rydon, our new Assistant Secretary, and Miss Burnett, who has replaced Mrs. Birchall as County Organiser. We miss the latter very much.

HEREFORD.—On Aug. 11th a most successful Horse Show and Gymkhana was held at Leominster in aid of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. The profit is approximately £245. Included in the events were some for L.G.'s only—a cart horse race, cycle races and a tug-of-war. There was also a parade of the North Hereford Fox Hounds. We have received news this month of many individual efforts for the Fund, including £18 12 10 from Brook Farm Hostel, the proceeds of a well planned dance. Clubs will soon be embarking on their winter programmes. Leominster are having cooking demonstrations this autumn and other plans are being made for talks and demonstrations.

HERTS.—At one time much of our news was concerned with the opening of hostels, but lately we have been busy closing them. During the past few months The Oaks, Pendley Manor, Pimlico House, Little Hadham Place and Walnut Tree House have been closed. We have, however, added the hutment at Maltings Lane, Much Hadham, to our rather depleted hostel list. All these changes are disturbing to volunteers and we congratulate them on the philosophical way they have accepted this uprooting, as many of them had been in the hostels for three years and had made many

friends in the district. The farewell party given by Commander and Mrs. Langton for the volunteers at Little Hadham Place was a very cheerful and happy one and it is a great tribute to the Warden and the volunteers that, although Commander and Mrs. Langton will be glad to have all their home again, they are really sorry to see the volunteers go.

Early this month we shall be saying good-bye with very real regret to Miss Hellins, one of our County Organisers. We all realise how fortunate we have been to have her services. Her excellent brain solves the most intricate problems, and P.A.Y.E., Workmen's Compensation Acts and wages become simple matters when dealt with by her. Losing Mrs. Rome and Miss Hellins within three months makes us feel that peace is not altogether an unmixed blessing.

HUNTS, CAMBS. & ELY.—We very much regret that Miss M. Taylor was killed in a motor accident on VJ night. She had been in the L.A. since March, 1942 and was very popular with her fellow volunteers. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her parents in their bereavement.

Picture Post contained pictures of the Woolley Hostel girls in its issue of the 8th Sept, in connection with a Pest Destruction experiment which took place on the W.A.E.C.'s farm. A party for Four-Year-Armed volunteers took place at Ely on 22nd Sept. Although a great many volunteers were not able to be present, a good time was had by all. The Senior Verger conducted the girls round the Cathedral, after which Lady Shepperson distributed Armlets and C.E.M.A. presented a first rate show. The last date of entry for the Handicraft Exhibition is 31st Oct., and we hope to stage a really good show.

We welcome Miss Carter as our new organiser for the Isle of Ely and hope she will be very happy with us.

E. KENT.—The L.A. Rally held in Canterbury on July 28th, at which the Duchess of Kent was present, was a huge success and a large number of girls attended from both E. and W. Kent. We feel that the greatest praise is due to all those who helped with the organisation of this rally, and especially the Committee members and Reps. of E. Kent who did so much to make it such a wonderful day. Congratulations to the following L.G.'s in E. Kent who will qualify for their 6-year arm-bands by the end of the year: F. J. Sayer; P. T. Quirke; C. Skilton; E. Thomas; M. Wanstall; M. Broadley; C. M. Marsh; M. Gibson; P. E. Gowers; E. W. Henniker; J. B. Paulton; D. M. Walsh.

I.O.W.—After the promise of a magnificent and early harvest we have suffered the worst weather for years—practically two months of rain, mist and wind, the occasional fine spells being much too brief. Farmers and their workers have been in despair, but the bulk of the corn harvest has now been gathered. During August a special effort to obtain recruits for the W.L.A. was made with limited success and the need is still being kept before the public by means of cinema slides and posters, etc. On the first Saturday in September an agricultural quiz was held at our social in Newport. The questions, which covered a wide range of subjects, were selected by Miss Fisk, a former Committee member. The winner was M. Smith, ex-W.L.A. 10265, who resigned in July. Several members of the office staff took part in the quiz and were quite often hopelessly at sea. Seven volunteers from Sandown Hostel were confirmed last July by the Bishop of Portsmouth. They were later entertained at St. John's Vicarage.

LANCS.—We much regret to report the resignation of two members of the County Committee. Miss Stubbs, who has been a member of the Committee since 1939 has retired from her position as dairy instructor at the County Institute of Agriculture and is making her home in another county. Mrs. Blunt, who has not been a member of the Committee for so long, but who is well known to all members and farmers in the Formby and Freshfield area where she worked as Local Rep. for a long

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time, has unfortunately had to give up owing to continued ill-health. Our very best thanks go to Miss Stubbs and Mrs. Blunt for all their advice and help in the past. We also regret to say that the following Local Reps. have resigned—Mrs. Bennett, Aintree; Mrs. Hull, Kirkham; Miss Greensill, Accrington; Mrs. Willis, Barrow-in-Furness; Mrs. Kershaw, Whalley. They will all be very much missed.

Welcome contributions to the Benevolent and Welfare Funds have come from dances organised by M. Greenwood, W.L.A. 109308 at Cockerham, near Lancaster and by the volunteers at Pilling Hostel.

LEICS. & RUT.—At an agricultural show held in Oakham on August 6th, the W.L.A. was represented by Miss A. S. Brocklebank, Chairman of the Rut. Committee, who organised a recruiting campaign and set up a very attractive stall. It is hoped that as a result some of those who are now changing their jobs will decide to join the W.L.A. and help to produce the food which is so urgently needed. We should like to thank Miss Rankin, County Organiser, and the Reps. and volunteers in Melton and Belvoir districts for the splendid result of the Prize Draw. £98 was raised for the Benevolent Fund. We should also like to thank those who helped to raise £43 12s. 11d. for the Fund during the past two months. We hope volunteers will make special efforts this winter to organise dances, whist drives, etc., in aid of the Fund as many of our volunteers have received generous grants.

Special mention should be made of Janet Hogg, a W.L.A. member of over four years' standing, who has made a most remarkable recovery from a serious accident. She was driving a tractor which reversed unexpectedly and she was trapped underneath. She was very seriously injured and was not expected to be able to walk for four months, nor was it likely that she could go back to land work. After just over three months she has now fully recovered and is back on the land again—a marvellous example of sheer pluck and determination.

HOLLAND (LINCS).—Congratulations to Mrs. M. Winkley and Miss M. J. Taylor, who completed six years' service in the L.A. in September. To mark the occasion the Chairman, Mrs. R. T. Proctor, entertained the two volunteers, the County Secretary and the County Organisers to dinner at the "White Hart" and afterwards at the Embassy Theatre, Peterborough. A total of £35 19s. 10d. was raised for the Benevolent Fund at a flag day in Boston on September 15th. Thanks are due to the office staff and W.L.A. volunteers who sacrificed their free time to act as sellers. We hope to arrange for Mrs. Wakefield of the International Wool Secretariat to tour the Holland hostels from October 15th to 19th, talking on "Wool and the British Empire." A series of C.E.M.A. concerts has been arranged for early November and it is hoped that as many girls as possible will be able to attend. Full details will be sent to each volunteer at a later date.

LINDSEY (LINCS).—Although Chrismas seems a long way ahead, the volunteers in Sibley have already started to rehearse for a pantomime that they hope to perform in the neighbourhood. There have been several changes in the hostels lately and we welcome Miss Jackson to New Leake, Miss Orman to Ingleby and Miss Goodacre to Revesby. Our congratulations go to Miss Violet Lucy Harwood, W.L.A. 108996, for being the first relief milker in Lindsey. We need more volunteers for this interesting and vital work. On Sunday, October 7th, the Land Girls have been asked by the Bishop to attend a thanksgiving service in Lincoln Cathedral. After this we hope to have tea and a talk from Miss G. F. C. Scott of the Women's Employment Federation.

"THE LAND GIRL"

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County Returns

County	Ben.	F.	Total	Em-
	£.	s.	d.	ployed
Kent	7770	19	3	3285
Essex	5565	4	6	2482
Surrey	4708	13	5	1944
Hants.	8377	10	8	1570
Yorks, W.R.	2671	1	5	1567
Leics. 1341				
Rut. 184	2083	5	4	1525
Herts.	4124	17	2	1515
E. Sussex ..	3440	5	10	1418
Somerset ..	2216	1	1	1386
Northants. ..	2676	16	7	1379
Worcs.	2657	6	2	1351
Bucks.	4744	1	8	1281
Cheshire ..	3000	2	1	1274
W. Sussex ..	5005	2	6	1268
Warks.	7344	17	3	1252
Devon	3745	4	3	1201
Norfolk	4108	11	7	1159
Wilts.	1494	1	10	1118
Lancs.	2637	10	4	1109
Cornwall ..	1245	5	11	1063
Notts.	1667	3	0	1054
Glos.	2395	14	2	1011
Northumb'ld.	2052	5	3	988
Yorks, N.R.	1987	19	10	954
Hunts. 215				
Cambs. 385	3629	17	6	915
Ely 315				
Berks.	3521	8	11	899
Beds.	991	16	5	845
Oxford	3728	8	1	824
Durham	1777	15	5	807
Salop	1828	9	11	758
Yorks, E.R.	524	7	11	728
E. Suffolk ..	2272	6	3	668
Glam.	1006	8	9	635
Dorset	1296	3	2	634
Kesteven, Lincs.	1447	19	8	630
Staffs.	1572	7	6	624
Cumb. & West.	733	19	11	619
Lindsey, Lincs.	1447	1	0	594
Hereford ..	1483	19	0	570
Holland, Lincs.	1948	14	7	524
Mon.	787	5	9	507
W. Suffolk ..	1611	5	9	489
Flint	609	0	1	478
London & Middx.	1245	16	4	473
N. Wales ..	1726	6	7	470
Derby	1337	17	8	466
Denbigh ..	641	7	11	458
Pembs.	1086	1	2	316
Cards. & Carms.	665	3	4	281
I.O.W.	173	15	5	259
Brecs. & Radnor	354	6	0	244
Mont.	389	7	11	187
W.T.C.	6174	4	1	2010
Total	£148,009	7	5	

On September 28th, 1945, the number of volunteers in employment was 52,006.