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## AVOIDABLE ACCIDENT

THE cyclist is undoubtedly the "little man" of the traffic world. In the welter of vast, roaring lorries, swift cars and flashing motor bicycles, he has much ado to prevent himself from being sent to the wall—both literally and figuratively.

His natural reaction is to fight vigorously for his rights and this is all to the good, although protests which have been made in the past by cyclists against a special cyclists' way on main roads seem curious to the detached observer. The speeds of mechanised vehicles, of cyclists and of pedestrians are differently determined and separate tracks are an obvious means of avoiding accidents. Observation of the large number of individualists who scorn the special way and pedal along in the main rush of traffic makes one sigh with exasperation at the obstinacy of the Englishman who prefers the risk of death to discipline.

A large proportion of fatal accidents happen to cyclists and there are a great many cyclists in the Women's Land Army. The other day a volunteer was killed when bicycling home from work—she was with two companions and they were riding three abreast in a narrow road. There have been other deaths due to going too fast downhill when there were dangerous bends or even a sharp turn at the bottom. Sometimes the victim, left alive to tell the tale, seems to think it an adequate excuse that her brakes were out of order. But whose fault was that? It is sheer stupidity to be carried away by a bicycle whose brakes you know are not working.

We all know the exhilaration of flying downhill on a bicycle and the pleasure of a nice gossip from saddle to saddle, but the occasions on which these innocent desires can be safely indulged in the English countryside are very, very rare.

It is often worth while to take a chance in life but never when the penalty of failure is death or injury to yourself or some other perfectly innocent fellow being.

M.A.P.

## WELCOME TO THE LAND ARMY—No. 5

The first day at work seemed like a year and, as I was alone and had no watch, I arrived at the farm for dinner an hour too soon. Next day I was an hour late but I soon found out that buses ran along the road so in future they were my clock.

How I longed for letters! If only parents and friends realised how much they cheer, they would write more. I took mine out in the field and rationed myself to one paragraph each hour. It made the time go quicker.

One thing I found difficult to understand was the way farmers are always in a terrific hurry. I used to imagine that they gazed over gateways, chewing straw, but that is definitely untrue. There is *always* work to do on a farm. Someone may need "starting off" in one field and the pig-man may be away ill—or some machine may go wrong, keeping the farmer out mending it until dark. Then when he decides he's tired and will have an early night, the cowman may arrive, needing help with a cow who is calving. Farming is a full-time job, needing non-stop energy and personal attention.

At first I found the men on the farm very strange. When they did speak I couldn't understand much and they seemed to stare a lot. But after talking

to them and working with them, I found them to be grand chaps. They were always willing to help me and show me the right way to do things. It's fatal to try and show superiority over them. It must be remembered that they are skilled men and have a great all-round knowledge of everything connected with the land.

The farmer was very considerate to me, giving me light work to start with and gradually getting me used to lifting things, etc. It is a great mistake to pretend to be terribly tough at first, as it only leads to illness. Of course it's no good to back out of hard work as it is inevitable on a farm.

I soon realised that we were all essential parts in the working of the farm. If one was late back from dinner, perhaps four or five others would be kept waiting and the work delayed. The weather rules much of the work and jobs have to be done when the conditions are favourable, so that any slackness wastes valuable time. It is only through absolute co-operation between the farmer and his employees that good results can be achieved and better farming obtained to help the world back to health and happiness.

Berks.

P. Urquhart, 108033.

**Congratulations to Margaret Willy**, ex-W.L.A. 64115, Surrey, on receiving one of the Atlantic Awards in literature from the Rockefeller Fund (U.S.A.) to help young writers whose careers were interrupted by the war. Miss Willy was in the W.L.A. from 1942 to 1946 and a book of her poems is to be published in the early autumn. One of her poems is printed on page 6.

**And to M. Baker**, 20572, Essex, who at Witham Court last month was presented with the Carnegie Certificate and a cheque for £15. Miss Baker's act of bravery in rescuing a cowman from a bull was recorded in the May "Land Girl".

**And to the team of land girls from Newton Hall, Cambs.** who beat a team of Young Farmers at a stock-judging competition at Chatteris. They scored 717 points to 688.

**And to the Bideford team of rat-catchers** who, for the second year running, have won Lady St. Aubyn's Cup for being the most efficient team in Devon. The winning of the Cup was celebrated by a luncheon party at Barnstaple,

attended by Lady St. Aubyn and officials of the D.W.A.E.C.

**And to B. Derbyshire**, 104179, the winner of the prize awarded by Lady Starmer to the Durham volunteer bringing in the most recruits.

**And to the girls of Shimpling Hostel**, W. Suffolk, on winning the Cup in the Inter-Hostel Garden Competition. They are also to be congratulated for their prowess at the Agricultural Show at Stanningfield when they beat the Polish W.A.A.Fs in the tug-of-war.

**And to D. Oldfield**, 155348, Derbs., who won a prize in a Singling Sugar Beet Competition in which she was the only Land Girl competing with over thirty men.

**And to D. Clark**, 83004, Herefordshire, on winning £2 as the best root hoer in competition with many "old hands".

**And to M. Johnson**, 73352, and E. E. Dowdeswell, 169406, of Holland, Lincs., who most successfully carried through a milking demonstration during their employer's absence in hospital.

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### BELGIAN HOLIDAY

"We (my mother, father and I) had a delightful journey by train from Victoria to Folkstone, and the sun promised to be good for the rest of the day. The distance to the ship was tedious, but I warded off all the porters' offers—the pride of the strong L.A.! The sea journey was beautiful though windy. It was a wonderful moment when our ship pulled into Ostende, because my uncle was there behind the barrier, waiting for us—eight years since we had seen him last.

It was wonderful, meeting all our relations and friends again. Nivelles has been badly knocked about by bombing and practically the whole of their beautiful church with its thirteenth and fourteenth century cloisters is destroyed and services are, and during the war were, held in the crypt. Food and clothes are rationed as over here with a few extras. Bread is rationed, and to buy cakes or biscuits (in a restaurant also) one has to give up flour and sweet coupons. Tobacco is rationed to the limit of eight cigarettes (or tobacco equivalent) per day, and only men are allowed a card for tobacco. Clothes are of very inferior quality—mostly ersatz. Shoes are of poor quality leather, and quite often of rough hessian and wooden soles. Practically everyone appears terribly shabby, although one sees a few smart hats here and there. People wear their slippers to the shops because they haven't

shoes. Clothes are very dear, £2 10s. 0d. for shoes, £8 for dresses, these being the lowest. In some shops, cycles were being sold at £24, and I saw none under £21. Men's suits cost about £15 to £20.

Their rations are about the same as ours, excepting the bread and meat. Sausages and meat pies (made of *meat*) are part of the meat ration. So no extra titbits are available for suppers and of course, they are infinitely worse off for cakes. For instance, one loaf of bread and two ounces of sweets have to be given up for a tart.

The Black Market flourishes. However, the authorities are making a very great effort to stamp it out. Every day, on the wireless and in the newspapers, the legal prices are announced to make people think twice before paying the exorbitant prices demanded by the *Marché Noir*, also detectives, or the Belgian equivalent are busy visiting shops. If a shopkeeper is found to have Black Market goods on the premises, he goes to prison and his shop is closed. Butter and eggs are sold at high prices by the Black Market and no wonder. The farmer receives no subsidies whatsoever from the Government, therefore he looks round for his best market, which happens to be the Black Market. He is not to be blamed, I think. Perhaps that will change when politics are more settled in Belgium.

I spent about two hours one evening at a farm. The largest are only forty-five acres or thereabouts, but in relation to the size of the country are quite large. This particular farm had nine cows in milk, four heifers in calf, and four horses, besides a dozen (at least) pigs and a couple of dozen sheep. These latter were kept in large airy stalls. The horses were beautiful specimens, one of these (all mares) being in foal in her twelfth year. One peculiar thing—there was a six-months-old calf who had the hind quarters of a horse—complete with race-horse type legs. It was a freak and will be fed heavily until twelve months if possible. Their lives rarely exceed twelve months, at which time they are duly killed and eaten as delicious veal. One thing I noted, the dairy was very clean (tiled floors and walls) and the cowsheds very well bedded. For the first time, I tasted sheep's milk at a swimming pool café. It was very strong and sickly in taste and would have made me sick had I had more than half a cupful. The only article of food, obtainable more easily in Belgium than over here, is an egg. These were being sold in the Bruxelles streets.



I must end my letter now, though I could write many more pages of how my relatives were glad to eat food that had been thrown on the ground, how my cousins played their part in the White

(underground) Army and how others cheated the slave-labour drives and many other incidents."

Dorset.

P. Storey, 150630

## ON THE WAY TO A CAREER



*Newton Hall, near Cambridge.*

The Ministry schemes for training ex-servicemen who want to go on the land are now getting well under way. The Cambridgeshire agricultural training centre has been established by the Ministry through the County W.A.E.C. at Newton Hall, the lovely house owned by Lady Walston, some seven miles from Cambridge. At the moment, a thirty weeks' course is being taken by some forty girls of the W.L.A., pending the development of the full ex-service scheme.

The Principal, Mr. F. W. Rhodes, D.S.O., has a long history of service in agricultural education; firstly on the staff of the Harper-Adams Agricultural College and secondly at the South-Eastern Agricultural College at Wye. I was lucky enough to have a long talk with him and he told me they got away to a bad start with almost incredible difficulties about staff, building alterations and the like, but things are now straightening out and going smoothly forward.

"The girls come from all parts of the country," he said. I myself spoke to one or two of the girls—from Devon and the west, from Staffordshire, from the north. There is no absolute time-on-the-land qualification but most of the girls have done at least two years in the Land Army.

The course is a general agricultural one, covering dairy husbandry, animal husbandry, crops, poultry (on general farm lines), gardening ("As you or I would do it if we had a cottage and a bit of land and some fruit trees and so on", explained Mr. Rhodes), bee-keeping, rural domestic economy and farm secretarial work, and the syllabus is well balanced between theory and practice.

Here is a typical day's programme: Get up 6.30. The girls detailed for dairy duties go to one or other of the nearby farms, all belonging to Mr. H. D. Walston, where hand and machine milking are both worked. Breakfast is at 8. From 9 to 11 there are lectures—two, with a short break. From 11 to 1

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the students are split up into small parties to attend demonstrations, usually following up the lectures of the day. Dinner is at 1.

From 2 to 4.30 in the afternoon, parties of the girls go on farm visits in the neighbourhood, accompanied by instructors. Once a week the whole lot go on an all-day visit, with haversack lunches, to farms further afield. The girls who are not on the afternoon farm visits do practical work under tuition of what the Ministry call a "Manual Processes Instructor." "In other words, a really sound general farm worker of the foreman type", Mr. Rhodes told me. "They do whatever seasonal work is going."

At 4.30 they have a cup of tea, and from 5 to 6 they spend in private study, writing up notes and so on. Supper is served at 6.30 and cocoa at 8 p.m.

On Saturdays there is an early lunch, and at 1 p.m. a Liberty Bus leaves for Cambridge, returning from the town at 10 p.m.

I asked Mr. Rhodes what plans were in the minds of the girls for their future and was told that the majority wanted to go into dairying. "But quite a lot are interested in farm secretarial work", he said, "and I am encouraging this. I feel that as time goes on, farmers will go back to men in preference to girls but if a farmer can get a girl who can do the job he hates most of all, namely keeping accounts, filling in forms and keeping records, and can also give a hand in the dairy, if only as a relief milker, there should be a very good opportunity for the right kind of girl to get something better than she has been able to find up to now".

Mr. K. P. Williams, the lecturer in dairy husbandry, thinks there are also good chances in milk sampling and similar work and emphasis is being laid on this. One of Mr. Williams' assistants, who is the County Milk Sampling Officer, takes two students at a time with her on her rounds. If anything is found amiss, the trouble is traced to its source, and the same two girls are taken again when the matter is put right, so that they get a complete picture of the follow-up.

Another popular section of the course is machinery, where the instructor is Mr. Knight, of the Cams. W.A.E.C. The instruction is practical and theoretical and girls are taught to diagnose trouble and effect running adjustments and repairs.

Once a fortnight there is a lecture on animal hygiene, by a veterinary surgeon.

Saturday mornings are spent in household and garden chores—turning out rooms, polishing floors, gardening, etc. From 11.30 to 12 the girls write up their farm diaries. Sundays are free except for dairy work.

The girls receive an allowance of 25s. a week if over twenty-one, slightly less for the younger ones. And board-lodging, of course. This is strictly an allowance, not pay; there is therefore no income tax and no overtime. Dependents' allowances are made where necessary.

Newton Hall is admirably designed for its present purpose. The lovely house forms the centre of activities and provides all the living accommodation, and I have been in hotels far less attractive. The Common Room, with its comfortable modern armchairs, is delightful. The grounds have been used by the military and there are numerous Nissen and other huts. When the ex-service-men's scheme is in full swing, many of these huts will be utilised as living quarters for married men, but there is also a theatre complete with stage, a recreation room, a room used as a bicycle store (each student has an official bike), another used as a laundry, and another as a drying room; this is fitted with racks and hangers and heated from a boiler.

When I look back on my own Land Army days, I can only say I would have given the earth for a course like the one at Newton Hall.

E. M. Barraud.

By courtesy of "The Dairy Farmer"

### Special Announcement

#### LONDON CLUBHOUSE

Courtauld House is a club for the members of the W.F.G.A.

Charges 10/- a night for dinner, bed and breakfast.

#### THE WOMEN'S FARM AND GARDEN ASSOCIATION,

Courtauld House, Byng Place,  
LONDON, W.C.1 Euston 3651.

Membership 12/6 a year including regular news sheets

**Pictorial County Maps**

About 30 counties have now been visited by Mr. Clegg, the Cartographer, and Mr. Donald McCollough to collect data for the maps. At the moment they are making an extended tour in the Midlands and N. Wales. A set of framed maps now published of Kent, Sussex, Norfolk, Wilts, the West Riding of Yorkshire and Northumberland are being lent to these counties for exhibition to stimulate sales. Unfortunately the schedule of publication is behind-hand owing to printing difficulties and it is to be regretted that only three more counties will be on sale this year, Somerset, Derby and the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Orders should be placed through W.L.A. County Secretaries so that the Benevolent Fund receives the benefit of the difference between the retail and wholesale prices. The maps are 10/6d. each.

**Wedding Dresses**

As has been announced in County Newsletters the loan of wedding dresses to members of the W.L.A. has had to cease, owing to the life of the dresses coming to an end! A few counties have made their own arrangements about supplying dresses but it is regretted that these are not available to ex-members of the Land Army.

**JANUARY OAK**

Winter-stark in the winds, spreading  
tendrils of branch and twig  
Trace a glimmering ice-blue sky where  
the shrill gulls ride  
High over frost-dappled fields—every  
sinuous bough  
Flowing free of the sun-fretted green of  
high summer's pride.

Let my eyes strip the flickering leaves  
from each casual day  
Of light talk, passing moods without  
fruit, till unblurred they may see  
To the naked, unchanging shape of the  
heart of things  
Patterned flawless and grave as the oak's  
ancient symmetry.  
Surrey. M. Willy, 64115.

*With acknowledgments to "English".*

**Be Careful!**

Children playing with matches recently set fire to wheat stacked in a Dutch barn. A strong wind was blowing and the fire spread to adjoining ricks. The result was: *Destroyed*—60 tons of wheat, 40 tons of oats, 50 tons of hay, 100 tons of baled straw, 45 tons of beans, 4 field gates and 2 tons of wooden boards 8 feet long. *Damaged*—100 tons of mangolds, 20 tons of beet and one fireman who was burnt on both feet.



(By courtesy of the "Watford Observer.")  
Prize winners in the Victory Procession at Watford, Herts.

## RECRUITS' COLUMN

Hints

1. You may have heard stories of countless Land Girls developing rheumatism and all manner of complaints and while, of course, there are always exceptions to every rule, my opinion is that if you take all the ordinary possible precautions against chills and colds, the more serious complications will not have much chance of setting in. You are given an adequate supply of uniform and you should make good use of it. Always keep a set of working clothes—breeches, overall, dungarees, shirt, pullover, socks, boots and mac—in a dry condition, ready for any emergency. It is not always possible to avoid getting soaked, but you can avoid hanging about in wet clothes. If you change them quickly you should not suffer any ill effects. Do not shiver unnecessarily if the weather turns cold during the day. Put on an extra pull-over. When your gum-boots give evidence of leaking, have them repaired at once. Use your common sense, and you will find (as I did) that even in the winter your health will be better than it has ever been before.

Another point. Take no risks where injury to yourself or others might be concerned. Do not, in high spirits, hurl turnip hooks about, or play the fool with any other tools. This may perhaps sound like unnecessary advice, but I have seen and heard of a number of casualties caused through light hearted fooling, which need never have occurred. Don't take on "dares" which you know in your own heart to be senseless and dangerous. I mention this because it can be very tempting sometimes to prove one's skill in front of sceptical fellow workers. Believe me, it isn't worth it. Cheshire. J. D. Hampshire 102850

2. Land work of whatever type is vital, so you who are a conscientious worker in Civvy Street will be doubly so on the land. Carelessness on the land may mean damage to or loss of livestock or the spoiling of crops; not only a loss to your employer but the loss of potential food to the nation. Worcs. P. D. Smith, 141312.

I'm a Land Girl Now

I've always loved to lie abed,  
Now things have changed, and how!  
I rise each morn at six instead.  
Why? I'm a Land Girl now.  
Lindsey and Kesteven. V. Nixon, 169408.

General Knowledge Questions

1. What does a truss of old hay weigh?
2. How many head are there in a score of lettuce?
3. What is a hybrid?
4. Name three breeds of heavy farm horses.
5. Why are eggs turned twice a day while being hatched?

(Answers on page 12)

SUMMER SUNDAY

*The following story won a prize in our Winter Competition.*

It started on a fine Sunday in August. It was the sort of day that makes a cow-girl wish she were a tractor driver and could have the whole day off; a warm, hazy day on which even the church-bells sounded lazy, and the thought of the afternoon milking was hardly to be borne. It was my turn to fetch up the cows and Cathy's to put the milking machine together. Ben, the cowman, was "feeding in" and pottering about the yard with that careless, unhurried air that cowmen adopt when they have a couple of Land Girls to dance attendance on them.

If I were to try and describe to you half Cathy's goodness of heart and sweetness of disposition you would think I was exaggerating, so I will merely say that no-one has ever had a cross word out of her and that, although not pretty in the accepted way, she has the kind of face that people look at with interest and remember with pleasure.

I picked up the hazel-stick from behind the yard gate, where it is always to be found unless I have forgotten to replace it, and yawning once or twice, went down the lane calling the cows as loudly as I could in such heat. This was not in any hope that they would come for I knew they would not, but merely to give point to my actions. They would all be in the river, of course, standing up to the hocks in beautiful black mud, ears, noses and hides twitching under the smart of a hundred flies, tails lashing in and out of the water and over their backs. There would be an incessant darting of dragon-flies over the stream, and fussing of moorhens among the rushes, and on the big willow that hangs out over the water I could sit, and dabble my feet—

I had nothing on which to dry my feet, but the warm grass soon did that for me as I ran up and down trying, by threats,

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persuasion and small pebbles, to drive the reluctant cows out of the river. If I could get Columbine out and across the mead, the rest would follow. You may wonder, perhaps, that I had no dog with me, but "our master" has decided views against allowing cows to be driven by dogs.

By the time the last cow had, with many sighs and groans and reproachful looks, heaved herself out of the water I was feeling very hot and rather bad-tempered, but I had to exert myself sufficiently to run on ahead of Columbine, open the gate into the lane and stand by to see that they all went in the right direction. When I got to the gate I was pleased to see young Tony Collett from the Post Office and General Stores sitting on it, and suggested that he should stand in the lane while I went on ahead of the cows to prevent any of them from making a get-away at the next corner and running down into the village.

This was grand, I thought, as I stood in the shade of the tall hedge and counted the beasts wandering past—34—35—one missing. I waited; surely, oh surely, young Collett, you *can't* have let one pass you! A bent old man hobbled up the lane, awkward and unfamiliar at first in his Sunday suit but soon recognised as the gardener at The Croft. "Lost one, 'ave 'ee?" he chuckled, (*nasty* old man). "I seed 'un jump in over th'edge, into oat field, like". After the manner of one who receives an unpleasant shock I tried to argue the point with the old man, as if it had been his fault. "But I left young Collett down there; where's he?" I said. "Didn' see he" replied the old man. "Any road, young poll heifer's in oats, and a proper job 'twill be to get her out". He went on towards the village, shaking his head and chuckling.

I tore back down the lane; no sign of the boy, meadow-gate still open, and, opposite, a trail of dust up the grass bank and a gap in the brambles at the top showed where the heifer—Juno, of course, always as wild as a hawk—had torn through into the field. I followed, ignoring the scratches, and dropped down into the oats, which were five feet high and ready to cut. I couldn't see her. I kept still until a faint rustling showed me where she was, but by the time I had reached that spot she was somewhere else. When I was thoroughly tired of this game I climbed on to the bank again—yes, there she was, the little toad, right across the field near the

opposite hedge. Now, if I crept round the field, I might be able to drive her to the gate before she went into the oats again. Very quietly now—round the edge—she's very nervous—nearly up to her—she's found something to eat in the hedge. Suddenly, away she went, ears back, tail up, right into the middle of the field again! I just couldn't follow her; I couldn't run any more. My feet were burning and my tongue sticking to the roof of my mouth. Then I heard a shout—"Now then, what be about?" Ben's voice (oh Ben, I'm so glad you've come); "Hey, Ben, Juno's in the oats". "So I s'pose", replied Ben, "but how be us going to get her out?" (I will not attempt to quote Ben verbatim; anyone who has had anything to do with cowmen can supply the missing words).

By this time Cathy had also come up and I had worked round to the gate, so we met and considered the question. I suggested that, left to herself, Juno might find the gate and come home, knowing all the time that this was unlikely, but feeling still very hot. It was to our advantage to get her out as quickly as possible, before the master heard about it and came to investigate. Next time we saw Juno she was over against the far hedge that divides the oat-field from the next field, which is a huge rough pasture called Grovelea. Cathy and I had pared the hedge to such effect earlier in the summer that it was almost bare in places and all that prevented the inhabitants of Grovelea—three dry cows, two horses and the children's pony—from straying into the oat-field was that the idea had not occurred to them.

We were all struck with the same idea at the same moment, and we set off through the oats—sadly "down" by this time—to try and corner Juno and make her jump into Grovelea. Cathy got there first and by skilful manœuvring of Juno's tail had her halfway up the bank when we were all startled by a tremendous noise of hooves from over the hedge, and a man riding a pony pulled up at the gap, so frightening our heifer that she slipped back down the bank and subsided into the oat-field, almost on top of poor Cathy, who shrieked. Ben cursed and I yelled at Juno and we both walloped her until she got up again, and then, of course, she disappeared into the oats. As for the rider, he was over the hedge and down beside Cathy in a moment, but all she could say was that her foot hurt and indeed it must have done, for she



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was as white as a sheet. The rider was most concerned—as well he might be—and kept on saying "I'm most awfully sorry; it was all my fault", and when Cathy decided she really couldn't walk a step he left Ben and me to hold her up while he brought his pony round. I brushed the dust off her dungarees, because, dead or alive, Cathy is fussy about her appearance; then we heaved her up into the saddle and off they went, the stranger looking up at her in the nicest way. I have noticed that Cathy looks very nice even when she hasn't any colour.

Ben and I followed them, entirely forsaking Juno, and, of course, we were terribly late with the milking, although the master came out to help and was quite useful but never spoke a word the whole time. As we were finishing, Juno came into the yard, followed by Tony Collett who said "I got this one out of the cats for you. She was such a long way behind the others that I couldn't wait for her 'cause I wanted to be off after a squirrel, but you won't tell my Mum, will you, 'cause she's taken three cattles off me this week and there's no more elastic left in the shop". It was as well that I hadn't a bucket in my hand, or I would surely have banged it about young Collett's ears; instead I went about milking Juno, getting hotter every minute.

At last I could go in to my tea. I heard Cathy's laughter as I washed my hands in the sink, and when I entered the big, cool kitchen, hot, tired and far from happy, there she was, changed into her best print frock seated on the settle with her foot up on a cushion, chatting away to the stranger as if she had known him all her life. She didn't look pale then; she had a most becoming flush on her cheeks and her eyes were sparkling, as she introduced me to George Pass-

more, "from Stonehouse". It appeared that he was the son of a neighbouring farmer, a great friend of our master at one time. George was in the Navy, home on his first leave for three years. When I enquired after the foot Cathy said "Oh, it's nothing, only bruised" and George said "It's a wonder you weren't killed, that great brute falling on top of you" and looked as though it had been Juno's fault instead of his.

That is really the end of the story, for there was no more sense to be got out of either of them after that. George was stationed at Plymouth for a long time and used to come up for week-ends and, as one of these coincided with our Harvest Home in the apple-loft, he was invited to that. The apple-loft is really an upstairs barn, and it was decorated with miniature sheaves of wheat and oats and maize fastened to the walls and intertwined with sprays of wild flowers and on the tables were jars of chrysanthemums and dahlias. Our biggest marrow—and it was a size—was suspended over the doorway, to the peril of all who passed through. Several speeches were made, and our master got up last of all and thanked everyone for coming, and his own workers for getting in the harvest, and then he announced the engagement. I couldn't stay to hear George's reply, because what with the heat of the room, and the cider and the smoke, everything began to go misty before me, and anyone looking at me might have thought I was about to cry.

So that is how I lost my mate, and, all things considered, I shall not be sorry to leave myself when the time comes.

Herts.

E. Manton, 84630.

### Country Beat, by Louis Quinain. Methuen. 8s. 6d.

We all soon know the village bobby—by which I am not implying that Land Girls ever come up against the Law, but merely that the policeman is a well-known local character. But have you ever really thought about the sort of life he leads? Let alone read a book by an ordinary policeman? Mr. Quinain has written a delightful account of everyday life as the country constable meets it. His style is racy and forthright, and I defy you to read far without some good laughs. If you want to know all sides of village life, get "Country Beat".

E. M. Barraud.

### SPEND NO COUPONS

and save your best footwear from mud and wet. Boots, Shoes, WELLINGTONS with Beechwood soles, leather or rubber uppers. Soles have rubbers or irons added, metal toe-caps, pull-on loops. Felt lined, warm and comfortable even on concrete. A boon for all land workers. A pair will delight you.

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**Florence Farr, Bernard Shaw, W. B. Yeats Letters.** Edited by Clifford Bax. (Home and Van Thal, 7s. 6d.)

**Titus Groan.** Mervyn Peake. (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 15s.)

Treasure trove out of a black box are some letters, just published, from two great men of recent times to a Victorian actress. Florence Farr was obviously a woman of considerable talent, though, according to Bernard Shaw, she would not work hard enough at her art to become a great actress. She preferred finally a style of reciting called "cantillation", which appealed rather to the mystic Yeats. Nevertheless, Shaw put up a gallant struggle for her soul in letters full of charm, cajolery and hard hitting always softened by some towering compliment. Both inarticulate lovers and aspiring actors might learn much from these few short letters. Yet G.B.S. had to abandon the effort in the end. "I hereby warn mankind", he writes, "to beware of women with large eyes, and crescent eyebrows, and a smile, and a love of miracles and moonshees. I warn them against all who like intellectual pastimes; who prefer liberty, happiness and irresponsibility to care, suffering and life . . ."

With Yeats the lady's friendship was more harmonious and their correspondence is accordingly about affairs and people—the early struggles of the Abbey Theatre, the poet's own work and their common interest in astrology and occultism. It is a tribute to that pioneer of the drama, the terrifying Miss Horniman, that she appears more than once in both sets of letters, surely no one but G.B.S. could have had the universal charity to plead for her the universal excuse of "shyness"!

Gormenghast Castle and its inhabitants belong not to this world but to a region somewhere between the domains of Hans Andersen and Lewis Carroll. But they are more real than reality in that the author has observed far more about them than most of us ever observe about our own world. For "Titus Groan" is an artist's book, one who can paint in words as well as with a brush. The huge mass of the castle, the wild mountains and rocks, the sky-scapes, the storms and sunlight recall a series of pictures by Blake, or, sometimes, for this Gothic outpouring is not all on one level, by Gustave Doré. But there is movement, too, and creatures with an eccentric life of their own—the hero, the violet eyed baby, heir of the Groans, who is only eighteen months

when the book closes; the melancholic earl; his giant countess who loves only birds and cats (whom, however, she receives separately); the appalling elderly identical twins, Ladies Cora and Clarice; the cook, Swelter, monument of obscene corpulence and his enemy Flay, the valet with cracking joints, whose final duel with meat-axe and sword has a ghastly realism; and a rout of other monsters. There is even a story struggling through the masses of vivid detail, though it does no more than prepare for the fall of Gormenghast, spellbound tradition. Some readers will welcome the possibility of a sequel; others, if they attempt the book at all, will be horrified by it.

M. Jaeger.

#### A Film to See

An outstanding film on the Gaumont British programme for August is "Spellbound", starring Ingrid Bergman and Gregory Peck.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

It is just a year since I started riding my second hand autocycle, and I wouldn't be without it now. At the time, £30 made a terrific crater in my hard earned savings, but the economy in time, in bus and train fares and the pleasure of joyriding have well repaid me.

Not being mechanically minded, I will admit that I had several attempts before I completely mastered the technique of the machine, but it is simple enough really. The clutch and throttle controls are on the handlebars and when in difficulties these can be switched off immediately and the machine pedalled as an ordinary bicycle.

The average speed is 25 m.p.h., and it is a glorious feeling to soar effortlessly up the hills. It is a pleasant change to visit a place of entertainment in the evening without having to slog along on a push bike after a day's hard work, and on Sundays an autocycle is a great boon.

It averages 120 miles to the gallon and I have driven as much as a hundred and fifty miles a day without any trouble at all.

There are several good makes of autocycles on the market and they can be bought new from £40. In addition there is the insurance policy, tax and driving

licence to be paid for, but if you can possibly afford the initial outlay, let me advise you that it is a splendid investment and will make a big difference to your life in the country.

Devon. D. Abbott, 104076  
Dear Editor,

I would like to tell you what a very enjoyable evening we had at the "Old Stagers" Party at Puddletown on 19th July.

Everything went so smoothly and it was so nice to meet old friends especially members of the County Office Staff both past and present. Indeed I am sure that we in Dorset have the best office staff that any county could have. They must have worked hard to provide such a party for us, and they are always so keen and interested in our welfare and happiness.

Dorset. L. Newell, 38355.  
Dear Editor,  
I enclose a snap I took at the Torquay Rest Break House in April. It is of a group of girls taken with Mrs. Lake who gave us all such a happy time.



*From more letters on the Victory Parade*

J. Campkin, 38220, who represented her county in the Victory Parade, has worked for several years on Lady Denman's farm in East Sussex where she has done splendid work with the prize red poll herd. She writes: "The Land Army were cheered tremendously, especially by the mothers and wives. I am sure we all felt very proud and rewarded after five years or more hard work on the land".

B. Barton, 23967, Yorks. E. Riding, writes: "As I was near the outside I heard such remarks as 'Here come the girls in green, they're the ones that fill us' and 'Well done the Land Army' . . . I wished every member of the Land Army could have been with us. I think the loudest cheer came from the disabled soldiers and it was hard not to give voice to one's feelings and cheer them back in gratitude. Gratuities or not, we certainly felt that the efforts of the W.L.A. were not unappreciated."

G. Cornwall, 30748, W. Suffolk, writes, "We had a marvellous welcome from the vast crowds who called for the 'Good old Land Army' all during the march . . . and everyone gave the impression that they appreciated our smart appearance".

W. Dakin, 24273, Yorks., W.R., writes, "There were many special cheers for the W.L.A. 'Here's the Land Army' (thunderous applause). 'Don't forget to milk that cow in the morning', 'Good old Land Army'. Hooray! Hooray! . . . Outside Buckingham Palace there was a mighty crowd and we noticed many men in 'hospital blue' who were seated to watch the procession. What a reception they gave us!"

After an evening at a music hall recently, the girls of Rowney Hostel, Herts., organised an impromptu recruiting campaign for the W.L.A. on the steps of the theatre.

**BENEVOLENT FUND**

The total raised for the Benevolent Fund has now reached £318,000. At the time of going to press nearly £800 has been received this month, including two very good totals from HERTS. and NORTHUMBERLAND. The former raised over £313, mainly from their Gymkhana at Barnet, and Northumberland's £250 included £90 from the County Office Dance.

Over £92,000 has now been expended—grants and loans accounting for over £76,000, the total number of grants made now exceeding 10,000. Over 700 grants were made in July totalling over £6,000.

The Benevolent Fund takes a particular interest in the post service careers of its Land Army members. During July one ex-volunteer received a grant towards the cost of a sewing machine to enable her to take dressmaking orders at home. This woman is married, has two children and cannot use her left arm fully because

it was injured during her service in the Land Army. An ex-W.T.C. girl starting on her training for a career as an Orthopaedic Nurse received help towards the initial expenses of the three year training.

Another ex-Land Army member, who served five and a half years in the Land Army and who was an art student before she enrolled, has received a substantial grant to help her complete her two year training at an art school.

Present members have also figured in the July grants and help was given to a Cumberland volunteer, who already has four and a half years service to her credit, to enable her to take a summer course in physical training prior to becoming a Club Leader. Another volunteer had to leave her job temporarily when her mother was dangerously ill and the fund has helped this girl with her personal expenses during this time.

A Northants volunteer who has been unable to work for over a year because of an injury, has just received a third substantial grant from the Fund which has been helping her throughout her long period of incapacity. She is now very much better and hopes to start work soon.

#### SURREY COUNTY RALLY

The lovely Sutton Park estate formed a perfect background for our Rally this year, and we were lucky to have a sunny day for the event. The Agricultural Competitions and Demonstrations, combined with a Horse Show, attracted both entrants and a large number of spectators. The Duke of Sutherland took the salute at the March Past of W.L.A. members, followed by a stimulating speech by the Rt. Hon. Earl de la Warr, who spoke from his close connection with matters agricultural, of the vital importance of the work of the W.L.A.—even more needed now than during hostilities.

The parade of the Chiddingfold Farmers' Fox Hounds elicited almost as many "oohs" of admiration as the March Past of the W.L.A. and although we say it ourselves, our Volunteers marched well and did full justice to the Band of the Queen's Royal Regiment.

There were many side shows and attractions, both serious and flippant, and no lack of entrants for the various competitions. A committee of farmers had a grand time judging the beauty competition.

Miss Helen Talbot, our Chairman, presented the prizes, and after a good tea, the day ended with sports and a magnificent exhibition of tug-of-war. A very good day all round, and we feel sure the proverbial good time was had by all!

It is regretted that no Scottish Notes have been received this month.

#### Answers to questions on page 7

1. 56 lbs. 2. 22. 3. A cross breed. 4. Shire, Clydesdale, Suffolk, Percheron. 5. To prevent the developing chicken from sticking to one side of the shell.

#### COUNTY NEWS

**BEDS.**—At the Agricultural show at Wrest Park, Silsoe this month, the L.A. was well represented. A special recruiting display included model farm, showing the L.A. doing every type of work, and was a great attraction. Several volunteers had the honour of showing their employer's prize winning stock, among them P. Yrroll, 146902, working for Hall and Potter who took several prizes in the poultry section, and H. F. Wallis, 69422, who is employed by Mr. Godfrey of Cliphill. A number of Government trainees undergoing a milking and dairy training took part in an instructional tour round the show. Proficiency Tests in milking and dairy are being held this month, and tests in general farmwork will follow in Sept.

We welcome Miss N. G. Burke as our new County Organiser, replacing Miss Stringer in the south of the County. We are very sorry to lose Miss K. M. Chase, our Hostel Section Officer, who leaves this month to take up teaching.

**BERKS.**—During the last month we have been very glad to welcome many new recruits and we hope they will settle down in their new type of work and be happy amongst us. M. Pasingham, who has been a member of the W.L.A. since 1939, represented Berks. in the Victory Parade. She gave us a most enthusiastic account of her experiences. Our Chairman, Lady Mount, very kindly gave a most enjoyable party at her home, Wasing Park, to the office staff and all girls who had completed six years service during 1946; the latter were presented by Lady Mount with their yellow armlets and she thanked them for all their most excellent work. Warfield Hostel gave a most enjoyable farewell party to their local Dutch friends. The Officer in charge presented the Warden and girls with an original plaque in the centre of which were painted the arms of the Dutch Stormtroopers, flanked by the Union Jack and Dutch flag and with the words "In grateful remembrance, May 1946." Wallingford Hostel organised a very successful dance in the Town Hall and raised £12 for the Welfare Fund. A Jumble Sale was held in the County Office on July 8th and the proceeds amounted to over £26. Proficiency Tests have been held in Horticulture and we congratulate J. Cowdery on her distinction.

**BUCKS.**—In connection with the recruiting campaign the Mayor of Slough, and his daughter, the Mayoress, were invited to a party given by the Warden and girls at Tower House Hostel, Slough, on June 27th, in order that they might come into informal contact with the L.A. in this County. Invitations were also issued to the Chairman and Comm. Members for Bucks., the Chairman of the W.A.E.C., the County Secretary, Organisers and D.R.'s in the area. Wardens of neighbouring hostels, employers of girls in Slough or a members of the office staff and friends of the hostel, Miss Elspeth Douglas-Reid, gave her popular character-sketches. Then after delicious refreshments had been served, six L.G.'s in the hostel presented a play called "The Lady Magistrate." This had been written and produced by the Warden, Mrs. Stirling, and met with much applause. The hostel choir, trained by Mr. Jacques, then sang four National Songs of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, which were followed by community singing. The arrangements for this most enjoyable party had been in the hands of Mrs. Stirling and her Assistant, Mrs. Greenwood.

#### A Postal Lending Library

Any book on farming, gardening, forestry, etc., for 6d. per week.

(payment in advance: £1)

**LANDSMANS LIBRARY,**  
F.2. 19, Pembroke Place, London, W.8.

## THE LAND GIRL



*Scottish Women's Timber Corps reunion near Edinburgh.*

**CORNWALL.**—June and July have been extremely busy months. Approximately 150 recruits have arrived since June 24th and from all accounts have settled down and are enjoying their work. We congratulate A. E. Rhodes, 92968, who was acknowledged by the Welcome Home Committee at Poundstock and received £5 5s. She has been with Mr. Furze of Trewint for four years. The winter programme for hostels is receiving careful consideration. Classes in leather craft, dressmaking and beauty culture are being arranged and a series of Health Lectures is being sponsored by the Central Council for Health Education. C.O.I. films and outside Concert Parties are also being planned. We are extending an invitation to W.L.A. members in private billets or at home to join in these hostel activities. In the Penzance district, Miss Williams, County Organiser, has a "Cosmetic Shop" on Saturday afternoons at the Y.W.C.A., Chapel Street. She does good business, averaging £3 15s. each week.

We welcome as County Organiser, Miss Mary Fox, who is joining the W.L.A. county staff for the first time. We cannot pay tribute enough to the tremendous amount of work done by the organisers. Their responsibility is very great and they rise to every occasion.

**DENBIGHS.**—During the last month we have had several new recruits sent to us from other Counties. We extend a very warm welcome to these girls and hope that they will soon settle down and make many friends amongst their new colleagues. E. Richards had the honour to represent us in the Victory Parade. She has been unfortunate in just missing other long service parties given in London and elsewhere and we were very glad that she was chosen on this occasion for her long service and in recognition of the splendid work she has done on the same farm throughout her six years in the W.L.A. A number of dances and concerts have been held in the various hostels. A particularly good concert was given at Coed Poeth Hostel on 14th July and a very excellent dance was organised by the Gresford girls in the Wrexham Barracks. All proceeds from these events have been given to the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund.

August, 1946

**DERBS.**—L.G's will be pleased that our Chairman, Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire, was awarded the C.B.E. in the Birthday Honours. The Duchess has been our Chairman for the past seven years and we offer her our congratulations.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Hartson, Sheffield, whose daughter Deris, W.L.A. 79597, met with a fatal accident in Lincs. in June. Prior to going to Lincs. in April, Miss Hartson had been employed for over four years in Derbs.

K. Gillatt, 41714, was very proud to represent Derbs. at the Victory Parade and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. W. Swaffield, 106626, has just completed a course at the Moulton Institute of Agriculture and is returning to work in Derbs. V. Wood, 116371, has just commenced a course at Swanley. We are pleased to report that the sum of £63,7.10 has been sent from this county to the Benevolent Fund.

**DEVON.**—During May and June we held 11 Field Work Proficiency Tests in which 93 girls entered, 15 gaining distinction and 68 gaining a pass. In the 3 Milking and Dairy Tests, 4 girls gained distinction and 9 girls passed out of 14 entries. We also held a two-day Rat-catching Test, where, as well as 8 Devon girls of whom 6 passed, we welcomed 2 girls from Wilts., 1 from Som. and 1 from Dorset. All gained passes. P. King who has worked for over 6 years on a lonely moorland farm was chosen to take part in the London Victory Parade. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Hellins, who was an Organiser in Herts. for two years and is now temporary Organiser for N. Devon. We have regretfully said goodbye to Mrs. Powell, Warden of Totnes Hostel ever since it opened, and welcome in her place Mrs. Houchen, one time Pioneer Warden. No doubt the girls who knew them will be sorry to hear that the following District Reps. have left us:—Mrs. Conran, Miss Ilbert, Mrs. Hartley-Watson and Miss Foster. Mrs. Dodds has taken over Miss Ilbert's area, and we welcome Mrs. Booth and Mrs. Livingstone-Learmonth, who have kindly taken over Lady Poltimore's old area and the Holsworthy area respectively.

## THE LAND GIRL

**DORSET.**—We are sorry to say farewell to our County Secretary, Mrs. Lindsay-Scott, who has now completed almost seven years with the W.L.A. We wish her every happiness in the future. We are fortunate in having Miss B. G. Brew as our new County Secretary and are pleased to welcome her to Dorset.

Volunteers in the Wimborne area read the lessons and took the collection at the Rogation Sunday Service on May 26th at St. John's Church. They were responsible for the decoration of the Church with flowers, vegetables, and other farm and garden produce, and also for the paintings used for decorating the windows. Among various activities at our Hostels recently have been Parties, Whist Drives and a novel Midsummer Dance. The latter took place at Manston Hostel, which was beautifully decorated with festoons of honeysuckle, dog-roses and ivy. Our "Old Stagers" Party on July 19th was a great success. It was held in the beautiful grounds of Ilington House, Puddletown, (kindly lent by Mr. Brymer). There was a bountiful supper, then the presentation of armlets and G.S. Badges by Lady Radnor and afterwards an entertainment at the Village Hall by Miss Mabel Lovering and Miss Victoria Kingsley of the Arts Council of Great Britain. Four past and present L.A. Secretaries were there. Is this a record?

**DURHAM.**—A highly successful "Bring and Buy" Sale in aid of the Benevolent Fund was held at Warden Law at the instigation of Mrs. Greenshields, Local Rep. Auctioneering was a feature of the day, being both entertaining and profitable until the pigeons were being sold and the sportsman responsible—husband of Mrs. Greenshields—was heard to remark wistfully "Surely they are worth more, they took an awful lot of shooting!" A delightful home-made tea was greatly appreciated by all. Proceeds make a welcome addition to the Benevolent Fund. Two of our girls were able to take advantage of the Homecraft Training Course this month. They report a happy and instructive time well spent. The L.A. was represented at the Y.F.C. Rally at Houghall. The weather was fortunately kind to us and there were several willing L.G.s helping in our decorative tent where a great interest was shown in the excellent L.A. photographs. Recruiting is still meeting with a steady response.

It is with regret that we learn of the departure from Durham of Mrs. Jones, Assistant Secretary, and we wish her every success in the future.

**ESSEX.**—The award of the M.B.E. to Miss Western and the B.E.M. to Eileen Beswick, 8198, has given great pleasure throughout the County. Miss Western was known to everyone. As a County Organiser for five years, she has at one time or another worked all over Essex. Eileen has spent all her L.A. life (nearly seven years) on the farm of Mr. Banks at Lt. Totham where she has done a grand job. We are very proud of them both. It is sad that at the same time we have had to say goodbye to Miss Western for she left at the end of June to take up once again her career on the stage. We wish her the very best of luck but we miss her deeply. Everyone who came in contact with her will always remember her gaiety, humour and enthusiasm. Our Assistant Secretary, Miss Cottle, has also left to take up work in London, and Miss Derbyshire, our Welfare Section Officer, has gone to Notts, as Assistant Secretary. We are very sorry to lose them both and hope they will be happy in their new jobs.

At the Essex County Show, demonstrations of hand milking, tomato picking and chick rearing were given by volunteers and at the Horticultural Shows at Leigh-on-Sea and Chingford there were exhibitions, on the L.A. Recruiting Stalls, of

vegetables grown in hostel gardens. L.G.'s near Chelmsford enjoyed themselves taking part in the Hospital Carnival, riding on a load of hay on a decorated trailer.

**GLOS.**—Gloucestershire W.L.A. have been greatly honoured by the award of the B.E.M. to Elsie Pearce, 8901, in the Birthday Honours. The Medal is well deserved and we have sent our wholehearted congratulations to the recipient. B. Hirst, 13671, S. M. Healey, 85248, and S. C. Price, 125296, are to be congratulated on passing their General Farm Proficiency Tests last month. Our W.L.A. stall at the Cheltenham Flower Show last month looked very nice and gay. We are grateful to the farmers who lent the produce and to the volunteers who not only helped to grow it but also came to help Miss Fletcher at the stall. The Bristol Farm Week, Aug. 14th to 24th, will be of great interest to all W.L.A. volunteers who can manage to visit Long Ashton then. Somerset and Glos. W.L.A. are helping in various ways and will have a corner to themselves in the Show-ground.

**HEREFORD.**—It is with great regret that we have said goodbye to our County Secretary, Miss Cuff. She was a friend to all and never once spared herself in her efforts to ensure the happiness of every landgirl in the County. She left Herefordshire on June 29th to take up her appointment as County Secretary for Oxfordshire. We extend a warm welcome to our new County Secretary, Miss F. M. Davies, who comes to us from Worcester. We feel that this is a case where Worcester's loss will be Hereford's gain, and we hope she will be very happy amongst us. We also welcome to our ranks Mrs. Baggs as County Organiser.

We have had a very interesting series of lectures and demonstrations on the "Art of Make-up." Volunteers in Weobley, Bircher Hall, Brockington Grange, Ledbury Park and Perrystone Court Hostels, have been able to improve their already excellent complexions. We hope to hold the Leominster Gymkhana and Horse Show again this year on August 10th. Proceeds will be divided between the Benevolent Fund and the local hospital. K. Baugh represented Hereford in the Victory Parade. She writes "Through the archway from Trafalgar Square right down to the Mall were masses of cheering, shouting people, and I'm sure the Land Army felt proud to know that they had done their share in raising that hearty tumult of thanks"

**HERTS.**—For the last two months we have been welcoming a steady flow of new recruits and our numbers are slowly creeping up again. Lower Woodside Hostel is once more training general farmworkers. 6 new recruits go there every fortnight, and at the end of this time are drafted to other hostels. Lower Woodside makes an ideal training hostel as the H.W.A.E.C., farm lies all round the house, and volunteers find the transition from civilian life to L.A. work much easier under these ideal conditions. We are most grateful to the W.A.C. for their co-operation in this scheme. Bury Green Hostel was vacated by us in June and the volunteers left the house and their Warden with feelings of great regret. Miss Wallace, the Warden, had been with us three and a half years and for all that time she had undertaken the duties of cook as well as warden, and the tributes to the excellence of her cooking are many. Hostels are busy organising parties and expeditions to the sea, and volunteers from Watton-at-Stone spent a very happy evening in London during Victory week. They chartered a char-a-banc and had a magnificent view of the illuminations. S. Henry, our representative at the Victory Parade, says she will never forget the reception given to the W.L.A. and she was very proud indeed to represent this County.

**HUNTS., CAMBS. AND ELY.**—We are very pleased to have Miss Rowley as our new County

"Poems of the Land Army", price 2s. 9d., including postage, from the Editor, 6, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.

## THE LAND GIRL



The team which won Lady Briscoe's cup at an Agricultural Quiz in West Suffolk. L. to R.—Mrs. Custerson (now County Chairman), E. Farrington, M. Rudland, H. Hands, J. Payne and Miss Davies (County Secretary).

Secretary and know she will always have the welfare of the girls at heart.

Our three volunteers had a wonderful time in London at the Victory Parade and have not words enough to describe the pride and excitement they felt in being chosen to represent the area. As J. F. Brown puts it: "It was a wonderful experience and one which I shall never forget as long as I live. I went back to work the next day with a renewed determination to make this victory complete". The Cambs. and Isle of Ely County Agricultural Show was held at Chatteris on 13th July. The Land Army staged a special exhibit in the Science and Agriculture Tent under the heading "What the Land Army has done for you", divided into four portions, Dairy, Fruit, Threshing and Field. In a recent performance of J. B. Priestley's "They Came to a City" by the St. Ives Dramatic Society, the principal female part was taken by D. Bowman, 125272. It was a difficult part to play and her performance was rated very high by the critics.

**I.O.W.**—We are delighted to welcome Mrs. Waring, Miss C. Hue and Miss Shaw on the Committee. Mrs. Waring's experience and ability will be invaluable, she having been connected with the W.L.A. since June 1939 both in W. Kent and in the London area. Miss Hue's activities are wide-spread and Miss Shaw, a land worker in the Great War, has for some time been an active D.R. Unfortunately Lady Walsh has had to resign both as Comm. Member and D.R. and all her girls in the Ryde area, whose welfare she has had so much at heart, will miss her sadly.

The careful and prolonged training given by the W.A.E.C. to their Emergency Milkers is resulting in an increased demand for their services, and as the farmers realise how invaluable their work is, it is expected that this section of the W.L.A. will continue to expand. On July 18th, the Royal I.O.W. Agricultural Society held its Golden Jubilee Show at Newport. Six L.A. members were on duty selling programmes and two members, S. Moloney, 106011, and B. Malyan, 96747, both members of the Y.F.C., exhibited in the class open to I.W.Y.F.C. for Heifers born during March and April, 1945 and shown at the W.A.E.C. Demonstration and Show in Oct. 1945. Miss

Moloney also entered her Shorthorn heifer calf "Colleen" and Miss Malyan a Shorthorn heifer. Miss Moloney won a 3rd. and a "Highly Commended" and Miss Malyan a 2nd. A weight guessing competition for a cake made by Miss Lewis, 11254, our popular Assistant Warden Cook at Sandown Hostel, was won by Miss Reason, 27900, a 6-year member of the W.L.A.

**W. KENT.**—Five Kent girls took part in the Empire Day Festival at the Albert Hall, and M. E. Tyrrell says in a letter "I would not have missed it for worlds. It was certainly an experience I shall not forget in a hurry". K. Sawyer, also from W. Kent, was chosen to lead the W.L.A. Contingent in the London Victory Parade. This was a great honour and we all felt very proud and pleased. She writes of her experiences, "By the time we got back to the Hostel we were tired out. But what a day! No one would have missed it for anything. Those of us in the Parade did feel that the people appreciated the work of the W.L.A. judging by the terrific cheering we received en route." Westerham had a great Victory Day procession in which the W.L.A. figured very prominently and won First Prize for a decorated Horse Drawn Vehicle. Congratulations to M. Fauchon who was chosen Victory Queen of the Weald. We understand there was great reluctance on the part of the villagers to take on a "Tug of War" team with three hefty Land Girls in it. The Land Army won!

**LEICS. & RUT.**—At Leicester Agricultural Show on 1st June, one of our volunteers, Katharine Wykes, was awarded second prize in the "Turnout Class" driving a team of cart horses and a wagon. On 22nd July the Organisers accompanied many private farm girls of three years' service or more on a bus excursion to Skegness, at the expense of the County Welfare Fund. The amusements were the greatest attraction and the weather was kind. They were met at the bus stops at night by friends of the L.A. and conducted safely home.

**HOLLAND (LINCS.).**—We were sorry to lose Miss Watson, our Finance Officer, who has accepted a similar post in Wilts. and our best wishes accompany her. We are hoping that Miss

Griffin, our County Organiser, will make a speedy recovery from her recent illness, and we extend a warm welcome to Miss Marshall who joins us as a second Organiser.

Pearl Taylor, 14130, our representative in the London Victory Parade reports her trip as "marvellous" which is also the verdict of a recent visitor to the Homecraft Course. A Garden Party at Bank House Hostel raised a substantial sum for local charity. Many outings to theatres and local seaside resorts have been thoroughly enjoyed.

A cycling accident resulted in the tragic death of Doris Harston, who had only recently joined her sister at Holland House Hostel.

**LINDSEY & KESTEVEN (Lines).**—We offer our sincere congratulations to Miss Margaret Panther on receiving the M.B.E. in the King's Birthday Honours. We are proud to think that our Assistant County Secretary should be rewarded for all the hard work she has done in this County since the outbreak of War.

A number of our girls have been successful in various shows recently and we congratulate I. Hewson, 122668, of Billingsborough Hostel for being awarded 2nd prize for hand milking at the Blankney Show; M. Perkins, 147822, also of Billingsborough for getting 2nd prize for both carrots and lettuce at the Billingsborough Flower and Vegetable Show; and M. Rudland, 24708, who is privately employed at Grange-de-Lings, near Lincoln for having many successes in the jumping Section at the various Gymkhanas in the district. Outings have been arranged for members of most Hostels during the past month and the girls have spent a day at the sea or have visited their nearest Theatre. These outings have been financed by the County Welfare Fund. D. Hill, 32969, and G. Cresswell, 34340, represented Lindsey and Kesteven at the Victory Parade. They thoroughly enjoyed it and say it was an occasion they will long remember.

**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. Anyone sending cash should enclose stamps for its return if the goods

**FOR SALE.**—Deep clover, pure wool, modern cardigan suit, "Chilprufe", stock size, new condition, £5 10s.; Beaded evening bag 10/-; new leather handkerchief case 8/6; pair of riding boot trees (6), 15/. Stanger, Vine Farm, S. Luffenham, Rutland.

**FOR SALE.**—Pair roller skates, hardly used, 12/6. Braidwood, 30, Danesbury Road, Feltham, Middlesex.

**FOR SALE.**—Gold moire taffeta bridesmaid's dress. Length 55 ins. Bust 36 ins. New. No coupons. £5. Kent, 33, Crabb Street, Rushden, Northants.

**FOR SALE.**—Ladies clover costume coat, 15/-. Navy blue wool two piece, skirt length 24 ins., bust 34 ins, 30/-. Freebury, Woodrising Post Office, Norwich.

**FOR SALE.**—Grey Gor-ray Skirt. Waist 27. Length 25. As new. 15/-. Pickersgill, Sharow, Nr. Ripon.

**FOR SALE.**—Sparva dirndl dress, 12/6. Blue woollen dress 10/- Both W. size. E. R. Morgan Merevale Vicarage, Nr. Atherstone, Warwickshire.

**FOR SALE.**—Ladies bicycle. Good running order. Complete with accessories, £4 10s.

**WANTED.**—Rudyard Kipling's "Stalky and Co.", Bretherton, 5, Smith's Row, Montacute, Somerset.

**WANTED.**—Ladies riding jacket. Bust 38 ins. Good condition. Reddaway, Quenchwell Farm, Perranwell Station, Near Truro.

**County Returns**

County	Ben. F. Total			Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Kent .. ..	9762	4	6	1847
Surrey .. ..	5510	12	1	1372
Essex .. ..	5645	3	6	1248
Hants. ....	8662	4	2	1050
Herts. ....	4701	14	2	1037
Yorks, W.R. ..	3336	14	4	1014
Leics. and Rut.	2634	8	11	947
Bucks. ....	4903	0	3	923
Northants. ..	2869	9	5	913
Warwicks. ....	7546	9	9	912
Worcs. ....	3100	0	0	883
Yorks, E. & N.R.	2821	8	6	843
Devon .. ..	4111	2	9	818
Somerset .. ..	2416	5	1	809
Norfolk .. ..	6267	5	7	772
Cornwall .. ..	1675	5	11	768
W. Sussex .. ..	5171	14	9	754
E. Sussex .. ..	4135	9	3	742
Cheshire .. ..	3218	2	4	713
Northumberland	2358	10	3	699
Lincs., L. and K.	3263	13	0	680
Glos. ....	2691	9	4	656
Oxon. ....	3850	14	3	642
Notts. ....	1835	6	0	629
Beds. ....	1064	16	6	628
Hunts., Cambs. and Ely .. ..	3746	16	7	619
Wilts. ....	2061	17	3	563
Berks. ....	3655	18	2	562
W. Suffolk .. ..	2157	0	5	499
Lancs. ....	2807	18	6	467
Salop .. ..	1953	18	11	459
Durham .. ..	1996	0	9	458
Staffs. ....	1791	8	9	454
Cumbs. & West'd	709	0	6	431
Dorset .. ..	1436	3	5	427
Mon. ....	994	8	0	427
Glam. ....	1170	13	9	380
Hereford .. ..	1866	10	4	374
E. Suffolk .. ..	3557	15	0	359
Denbighs. ....	1209	16	11	338
Lincs.—Holland	2036	8	9	326
N. Wales .. ..	1928	14	2	316
London & Middx.	1279	12	7	278
De. bys. ....	1517	3	0	276
Pembs. ....	1122	2	8	202
I.O.W. ....	288	5	8	196
Cards. & Carms.	742	18	5	181
Brecon, Radnor and Mont. ....	863	19	0	158
W.T.C. ....	7074	4	1	473

The total number of volunteers in employment on 18th July was 32,001.

**"THE LAND GIRL"**

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