



EDITORIAL NOTES

BY the end of 1947 nearly three hundred members of the Land Army and about three hundred Committee members, Local Representatives and members of the Headquarters and County Office staffs will have completed eight years' service. This is a magnificent record and one of which we must all feel very proud. It would provide an astonishing sight if all the food produced directly or indirectly by these people during their eight years' service could be piled on to plates and we wonder if any Land Army member has ever tried to reckon up what her individual contribution to the nation's rations has been.

While our first tribute must go to the serving members whose work is on the land and without whom there could be no Land Army, they would be the first to acknowledge that their work could not have been done as efficiently as it has without the voluntary helpers and office staffs. The visits and unfailing friendliness of Local Representatives and Committee members have solved many a personal difficulty and the feeling that she has her "Local Rep." behind her has enabled many a land girl to stick to a difficult or lonely job. And in the background, the staffs in the County Offices and at Headquarters have also contributed their quota of service—unspectacular perhaps but necessary none the less to the smooth running of the organisation.

The Land Army takes this opportunity of thanking all its eight year workers in every capacity for what they have done. Their work has not been without its own reward. During the war years the Land Army was fortunate in being engaged in construction and not destruction. In its ranks many have found new interests and new happiness. Now, with the sure knowledge that its help is needed, it can take its place in the scheme of general reconstruction.

On 18th September, 1947, the enrolled strength of the Land Army was 26,471. A lot of new recruits have joined during the last few weeks and we look to the old members to help them to settle down happily in their hostels and billets and to show them the easiest way of doing their new jobs.

PASTURES NEW

Vacancies

Hampshire. Experienced girl required to act as Forewoman over civilian female labour. Must have experience of market gardening and machine milking.

Worcestershire. Two girls wanted with experience in hand milking. Pedigree Guernsey herd, 16 in milk, 40 cows in all. Modernised farm buildings, 20 men employed. Billet in private house with bath and inside lavatory. Salary according to experience.

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The following job is one for which Land Army members can apply who qualify for a willing release by virtue of length of service:—

Northamptonshire. Girl bee-keeper wanted, January, 1948. Some previous knowledge of bees will be required.

Posts Wanted

Lancashire member wants post as assistant on large poultry farm, preferably in North of England. Holds National Certificate in Poultry and Vocational Training Certificate with Distinction. Prefers to live out.

Essex member would like post in Eastern counties with milking and dairy and secretarial work combined. Has had one year's Vocational Training.

Lancashire member wants dairy work and calf rearing in a Southern county. Also interested in pedigree horse breeding. One year's Vocational Training. Satisfactory report.

LANDGIRL'S LIBRARY

"Teach Yourself" by R. W. Jepson, M.A., is published by the English Universities Press Ltd. and costs 1½d. The writer outlines briefly the aims of the compilers of the "Teach Yourself" series and also gives a comprehensive list of books on how to study such widely differing subjects as book-keeping, sheep farming, dressmaking and the Polish language.

If you are employed on an isolated farm and are out of reach of lending libraries and evening classes, you should find a great deal to interest you in this series during the long winter months. Think how proud you will feel next spring when you are able to tell your friends how much you have been able to "Teach Yourself" in the winter evenings.

To the mechanically-minded volunteer, the publications of the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering should prove interesting and useful. Their illustrated booklet "N.I.A.E." is issued free of charge and the quarterly bulletin, "Agricultural Engineering Record", costs 1s. Further information about these and other publications may be had from the Institute at Wrest Park, Silsoe, Bedfordshire.

Two new leaflets have been published and are issued free by the Silcock Advisory Service, Stanley Hall, Edmund Street, Liverpool, 3. They are "Fodders and the Control of Bulk" and "Roots and Green Food"—Nos. 6 and 7 in the series "Making the Dairy Herd Pay".

BENEVOLENT FUND

We all know the Benevolent Fund helps in all kinds of ways. Here are two cases where the happy endings are almost entirely due to the assistance given by the Fund.

Some time ago Miss A. had to be released from the W.L.A. because of her mother's serious illness. She looked after the home and family for many months and when at last she was able to start civilian work, she had the bad luck to be knocked down by a lorry after being in her job for only a week. One leg was broken in two places and she had to spend ten months in hospital and has continued treatment as an out-patient since early this year. In the meantime, her mother's health had deteriorated so Miss A. had a very hard time looking after the house while only able to walk on sticks. At last she was able to go to Ashton Wold for convalescence and is now home again greatly improved. The Committee has been very glad to help Miss A. through this difficult period.

The Committee has just had news of an ex-land girl who has been helped by the Fund during a very long illness. Five years ago she developed severe heart trouble and shortly afterwards both parents died. Ever since, the Benevolent Fund has been helping this girl with the heavy expenses of her illness. After spending a year in a convalescent home, the doctors now say she will soon be able to return to normal life and earn her own living.

**WHY NOT SPEND
YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY
AT THE
W.L.A. CLUB
IN LONDON ?**

**Bed and breakfast—4s. per night or 21s.
for seven nights.**

Lunch—1s. 9d. Supper—1s. 6d.

BE SURE TO BOOK IN ADVANCE

*Write to the Warden,
2, Chesham Street, London, S.W.1.*

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I am now back at work again after having completed the Homecraft Training Course at Bury St. Edmunds.

We found on arrival that we were a small family compared with the previous course. But we soon decided that it was far nicer this way; we had more individual attention and just as much fun. The girls had travelled from all parts of England—Scotland and Wales had their representatives too. In a very short time we had settled down together and felt as though we had known each other for years.

The staff were all most kind and helpful. They had endless patience and by the end of the course had made quite competent potential housewives out of some very raw material.

The Square House is ideally suited to its present purpose. The rooms are large and comfortably though simply furnished, the kitchen is modern and well equipped. I think the lovely electric cookers may have spoilt us for coping with the common or garden gas or oil stoves which we shall probably have in our own homes but they were a joy to use. There is a four-and-a-half acre garden which provides all the vegetables and fruit used in the house.

During working hours we divided into three teams, the cooks, the houseworkers and the "sundries" who did all the odd jobs such as washing, mending, interior decorating, etc. As each team of cooks reached their last day in the kitchen, they were left to cope with the day's meals. This resulted, in the case of my team, in a complete panic as we were faced with what seemed a horribly complicated menu. However we went into conference at once and soon had the work planned and after many anxious moments we produced a very creditable luncheon, though I say it myself!

Each afternoon we had an hour's lecture by the resident staff or an outside speaker on various household subjects—cooking, home nursing, budgeting, first aid, mothercraft, etc. Towards the end of the course we were shown over the local maternity hospital and were given a practical demonstration on how to hold, bath and change a baby.

Apart from attending the lectures and preparing tea and supper, we were off duty after lunch. We were allowed to spend our free time as we liked provided we were back by 10.

On our last night we invited the staff to dinner in the town. They were delighted with the idea "never having had this honour before."

We were all very sad at leaving the Square House after such a happy month. I, for one, returned home feeling beautifully domesticated and determined to take every opportunity of "keeping my hand in" in the kitchen. I hope my recently acquired confidence will not vanish when I find myself without the moral support of the Bury St. Edmunds staff!

W. Sussex.

M. W. Phillips, 4169.

Dear Editor,

Last December the Committee of the Land Army Benevolent Fund sent me a £100 grant towards the cost of an Emergency Course of Training run by the Institute of Almoners.

The course began on 20th January. From then until 10th April we went four days a week to Hamilton House, London, for lectures on Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Social Psychology and Social Structure, Social Economics, Physiology and Hygiene and the Social Services. Once a fortnight we attended tutorials to have our reading and essay writing set us and there were regular discussion groups and group tutorials. We also went on visits of observation to approved schools, Public Assistance Institutions, Mental Defective colonies, Clinics, etc.

Then followed an eight week course of practical case work and I went with a fellow case worker to Leeds Council of Social Service.

This was most enjoyable work though we saw a grim (and grimy!) side of life. We

reported to the office at 9.45 a.m. and were given our daily list of visits, with the case papers to read up before going on our rounds. We returned to the office for 4 p.m. tea with the staff, followed by the writing of reports. We had to make reports at weekly case committees.

My cases were mostly social calls on refugees, aged and lonely people, investigations with regard to rehousing applications, visiting cancer patients with weekly relief payments and so on.

The practical work ended early in June when we returned to London for lectures. After a six weeks' holiday, come two periods of practical work in London and provincial hospitals until 12th January, 1948, and the course ends on 6th February, after a short period of theory and many visits of observation, discussion groups, etc.

There are no examinations during the course so we have no idea whether we are "making the grade" or not but unsuitable students may be dismissed at any time. I sincerely hope that I shall not be one of those.

I miss the country a lot but I love London and am fortunate in being with a grand lot of students all anxious to help each other in every way. The tutors are sympathetic and most helpful so I am very happy.

I would not have missed a day of my happy six years on the land and I cannot say how truly grateful I am to the W.L.A. for past memories and a future promising a lifetime of variety and interest.

Hampshire.

Anne Hall, 33530.

Dear Editor,

The W.L.A. came well to the fore in the recent Milk Recorders' examinations for the whole of England and land girls took most of the top places.

During the last four of my eight years' service in the Land Army, I have been employed on milk recording and the knowledge I gained in my first four years on the land and in the cow byres, has stood me in good stead.

The object of milk recording is to improve the quality in breeding and the quantity and quality of the milk produced and this we are slowly but surely achieving.

The clerical side of our job is very important and calls for extreme accuracy as we have to record all weights of milk during the cow's lactation, results of butter fat sampling, and particulars of pedigree and offspring.

We certainly have the satisfaction of knowing that we are doing vitally important work and that in itself makes it interesting.

Northumberland.

G. Wright, 8647.

ON A HILL

High on a hill I am,
Young, with the wind in my face
Rushing.
And my shares cleave the ground,
Wet straw and wild peppermint
Crushing.

Below my hill, a field
Is lined with young jade corn
Growing.
In the lush old meadow
Sleek, red-brown cows stand gently
Lowing.

Crows swoop down, with harsh "Kark!"
The straw for their lofty nests
Stealing.
Crying gulls and sad pee-wits,
Plaintive, around my plough come
Wheeling.

Small clouds scud gaily by,
The half-clad treetops almost
Brushing.
High on a hill I am,
Young, with the wind in my face
Rushing.

Bucks.

C. M. D. Upton, 53729.

WHAT NEXT?

Some of you who are expecting to leave the Land Army shortly are perhaps wondering what your next occupation will be. Have you ever thought of taking up domestic work as a career?

The National Institute of Houseworkers has been set up by the Government to provide for the better organisation of private domestic work by raising the prestige of the workers. Local centres will be set up in various parts of the country and there will be at least one in a rural area. In the same way as the Agricultural Wages Board has fixed minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, so the National Institute of Houseworkers has established approved standards of wages and conditions of work to which employers of domestic workers holding the Institute's diploma will be expected to conform. Free training, lasting about six months, will be provided and will include household organisation, cooking, laundrywork, health education, first aid, home nursing and needlework. A certain amount of time will be devoted to literature, music and art, citizenship and social studies. The aim of the Institute is to stimulate the student's interest in her surroundings and to help her to enjoy her leisure hours. This comprehensive training should help to dispel the out-of-date idea that domestic work inevitably means drudgery.

Forms of application for training can be obtained from The National Institute of Houseworkers, 53, Mount Street, London, W.1 and from any Employment Exchange.

COUNTY NEWS

BEDS.—Best wishes of the county go to our candidates for Government Training Courses who leave us this month, especially to E. M. B. Day, 36558, Hostel Garden Supervisor, who goes to Swanley, and will be greatly missed, to B. J. Prole, 121964, who also goes to Swanley, D. Ream, 104413 and B. P. Telow, 59341, who go to Moulton, and J. Orman, 98050, who has already gone to Newton Hall, Cambridge. A Warden's Conference was held at the beginning of the month and plans for winter occupations were fully discussed. We have received £5 for our County Welfare Fund, being part proceeds of a Gymkhana at Stevington, where the W.L.A. helped on the ground. A grand Fancy Dress Dance will be held at the Corn Exchange on November 6th, and proceeds will go to our County Welfare Fund. We hope it will be as big a success as our last year's effort. A cricket match between the W.L.A. and B.A.E.C. in August ended in victory for the W.L.A. 65-44.

BERS.—Once again, about 80 Representatives, Wardens and W.L.A. Girls attended Harvest Home held at St. Andrew's School, Basildon, at the very kind invitation of Mrs. Robertson Glasgow, our Committee Member, and Lady Mount, our Chairman. The beautifully decorated chapel was nearly full and Mr. Robinson, the Vicar of St. Peter's, Earley, gave an inspiring address. After the buffet supper in the School Hall, the Basildon Ladies' Choir sang several part songs, including a little-known Berkshire Folk Song, "The Three Tailors". Mr. Robinson gave an amusing impersonation, and conducted community singing. All have been very busy with the Harvest which was gathered in in record time this year, and many privately employed and hostel girls are enjoying their annual leave. New volunteers have come to the county from Lancashire, Durham and London, Warwick and Staffordshire and, on the whole, are settling down in the unfamiliar surroundings.

We are very glad to see our energetic Committee Member, Mrs. Granville Ellis, about again after her operation. She has been very much missed by the W.L.A. We also look forward to seeing Mrs. Brown again, after her operation. Mrs. Brown has been Warden of Strathfield House, Mortimer, for over five years, and all who know her will want to wish her a speedy recovery.

BUCKS.—At the District Joint Show, held in High Wycombe on August 30th, the Bucks. W.L.A. had an Information Tent to which many visitors were welcomed. At the Bucks. County Show at Hartwell on September 4th, some of our girls sold programmes, and at both these shows (as well as a local one at Princes Risborough) we were glad to see W.L.A. members leading their employers' prize-winning stock in the ring. Chicheley Rectory and Gt. Linford Manor hostels have been closed, but a large new hutment, holding fifty, has been opened to take Among activities in the hostels this autumn and winter, it is proposed to have an inter-hostel table-tennis tournament, a handicraft competition and display of the best, and the popular cookery classes, film shows and three concerts in those hostels where they have been appreciated in past years.

CHESHIRE.—Recruiting is still going ahead in this County although, alas, our new recruits are mainly for us in the County, it is good to know that our volunteers are helping throughout the country at this critical time.

AGRICULTURE ACT, 1947

Land Army members will not have time or inclination to read the rather complicated text of the Agriculture Act. A representative of the Ministry has kindly extracted and explained the principal points.

No Land Army member needs to be told of the vitally important part agriculture plays in our daily life. As many as one and a quarter million people are employed on agriculture in this country and work on forty-eight million out of our sixty million acres of land. Nevertheless we are by no means a self-supporting nation and a great deal of our food has to be bought from other countries—not an easy matter during the present scarcity of shipping and foreign exchange. We must now see that everything possible is done to make our land fully productive.

Several months ago the Government announced the policy it was going to adopt for this purpose and the Agriculture Bill was introduced into Parliament. The Government's aim in this Bill was to help to make the agricultural industry capable of producing at minimum prices as much of the nation's food as it is desirable to produce here, at the same time providing adequate prices and wages and good living conditions for farmers and farm workers. Wages have already been dealt with in the recent Agricultural Wages (Regulation) Act and various methods are being tried to improve living conditions in rural areas.

The Agriculture Bill became an Act on 6th August, 1947, and although this measure does not come into full operation immediately, it is hoped that fixed prices and assured markets will have a steadying effect on the industry. In return, the Government hopes that the standard of efficiency in farm husbandry and estate management will be raised.

The arrangements for guaranteed prices and assured markets will apply to the principal agricultural products but, owing to the variations in the industry, the actual method will have to be adjusted according to the particular circumstances of the product concerned. Broadly speaking, however, it is proposed to continue the price fixing arrangements which were in force during the war. Prices for fat cattle, fat sheep and fat pigs, milk, eggs, wheat, barley, oats, rye, potatoes and sugar beet will be fixed after yearly or, in exceptional circumstances, special price reviews in consultation with the producers' representatives and this will be done in plenty of time to allow farmers to plan their future production. The actual prices will be fixed each year for the harvest in the following year and in the case of fat stock, milk and eggs, the minimum prices to be paid will be fixed two to four years ahead.

With this guarantee and the setting up of the National Agricultural Advisory Service, there is every reason to hope that there will be a relatively high standard in the cultivation and use of land as well as in the way it is managed by land owners. Those who neglect their land will be liable to be placed under supervision by the Minister of Agriculture on the recommendation of the County Agricultural Executive Committees (now to be permanent bodies) which will now be able to serve directions requiring a farmer or owner under supervision to improve the standard of cultivation or management of his land. If, after a reasonable time, there is no improvement or if he fails to act in accordance with a direction, the farmer or owner may be dispossessed and, in the case of bad estate management by a landlord, the land could be compulsorily acquired by the State under the Act. There will, however, be a right of appeal to an Agricultural Land Tribunal in each case and the findings of the Tribunal will be binding on all of the parties.

Members of the Land Army probably know that at the present time, apart from individual tenancy agreements, the relationship between the landlord and tenant of an agricultural holding is governed by the Agricultural

Holdings Act, 1923. Certain provisions of this Act are now, however, to be repealed or amended and under the improved conditions provided under the new Agriculture Act, the tenant farmer will enjoy a greater degree of security of tenure and the right, subject to various conditions, to compensation for certain kinds of improvements made to his holding with the Minister's or the landlord's consent. This should give the tenant farmer confidence to make plans for the future and to farm as efficiently as possible, knowing that his landlord will not be able to give him notice to quit without the Minister's consent, unless the notice is served for certain purposes set out in the Act.

When the position in regard to building labour and materials becomes easier it is hoped that County and County Borough Councils will be able to provide more smallholdings under new arrangements included in the Agriculture Act which covers also the granting of loans to the tenants of these holdings. The Act also deals with pest and weed control, the continuation of drainage, water supply and lime grants for a limited period and the Ministry's scheme for providing certain goods and services through County Agricultural Executive Committees on a short-term credit basis. In addition, it deals with the acquisition of land by the Minister of Agriculture and its management on his behalf by an Agricultural Land Commission.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Dorothy Wheeler, ex-W.L.A. 34250, Wilts., on being appointed by Dunn's Farm Seeds to assist Sir George Stapledon. During her four years in the W.L.A., Miss Wheeler studied for the London Intermediate B.Sc. Since then she has taken courses at Seale Hayne and Aberystwyth, specialising in agricultural botany for her degree.

And to Joan Pauncefort, 39500, Berks., on her appointment, at a minimum salary of £250 per annum, as stock attendant with the Veterinary Research Department of Messrs. Boots Ltd. at Thurgarton, Notts.

And to R. A. Dobreiner, 36315, Oxon., on having been awarded the N.D.H. Miss Dobreiner did exceptionally well in the examinations and she deserves special credit for her hard work and initiative in studying while employed in market gardening for the past six and a half years at Waterperry Horticulture School.

And to the eight ex-W.L.A. members who gained their N.D.D. from the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

And to K. M. Wilson, Notts., ex-W.L.A. and W.T.C. 66621, who is one of the very few people chosen to assist the Forestry Commission in taking a census of Britain's trees. Miss Wilson was chief measurer in the New Forest area for the Home Timber Production Department during the war.

And to M. Kirk, 58441, Warwickshire, who, after completing her Vocational Training Course at Moulton, has been appointed instructor in charge of trainees at Lower Woodside Farm, Herts., the Training Centre of the H.A.E.C. Miss Kirk is also herdsman at the farm in charge of sixty cows.

And to Joan Mayhew, 5630, East Suffolk, who joined the W.L.A. in September, 1939, on having gained distinction in four Proficiency Tests—tractor work 90 per cent., general farm work 95 per cent., field work 94 per cent. and poultry work 90 per cent.

And to Risby Hostel, West Suffolk, who won the Inter-Hostel Gardening Competition in that county.

And to M. Fiske, 37710, Glos., on winning 1st prize in the class for all breeds at the Stroud Agriculture Show with a Friesian bull and also the cup for the best Friesian heifer.

HOLDING OUR OWN

In February, 1946, fifty land girls arrived at Plas Dinam, Montgomeryshire, to take a Vocational Training Course in agriculture under the Government scheme. We four were among them, two of us having had three years' Land Army experience and the others having joined the W.L.A. at the outbreak of war.

Two of us had done nursery work, market gardening and private gardening, while in the Land Army so we took horticulture; the other two, who had done dairy work and general farming, took agriculture. We received advanced training in these and other branches of land work, the lectures including among other subjects chemistry, biology, stock, crops, fruit and flower growing.

Much of our free time was spent discussing our futures and from these discussions there developed the notion of a smallholding of our own. From this we progressed by easy stages to the Land Settlement Association, the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and Newent Estate, Gloucestershire. We owe much to the Benevolent Fund for our capital and to the Land Settlement Association for accepting us as tenants.

Our four-acre holding is now running smoothly. We came here last January and had scarcely unpacked before the snow was upon us. We had ample time to practise house-keeping which we do in turn and eventually even mastered the art of turning out a suet pudding whole.

After two months of enforced idleness, we were glad to be able to sow our first crop—radishes. Since then we have been kept busy continuously sowing carrot, beetroot, turnip and lettuce seeds, planting tomatoes in the glasshouse, dibbling in cabbage plants, striking chrysanthemum cuttings erecting cloches and Dutch lights, staking, tying, hoeing, digging and all the thousand and one other jobs there are in a market garden. The service department of the Estate is available to do the major cultivations such as ploughing, harrowing, rolling, etc. and to pack and market all produce, and the Estate Manager and technical assistants are always ready with advice when needed.

On the stock side we have two milking goats, two breeding sows and a dozen hens to provide eggs for our own use. The sows have so far reared twenty-five piglets from which we have kept two gilts for breeding.

We have quite settled down in Newent and we thoroughly enjoy running our own holding. We hope next year to start a laying flock and we also hope that a better winter will allow us to produce the early remunerative crops.

Brecon, Mont.
and Rad.

E. Hodges, H. Thwaite,
G. Hobbs, S. Hazelgrove.

HOLIDAYS WITH PAY

In case you are in doubt about the paid holidays to which you are entitled, here is a reminder. During the agricultural holiday year which runs from 1st November to 31st October, every worker is entitled to one day's holiday with pay for each two consecutive months worked with the same employer. If you are leaving your employment it is up to you to see that you get what paid holiday is due to you or wages in lieu. This holiday is in addition to any State Paid Holiday to which you may be entitled.

SAFETY FIRST ON FARMS

Mr. A. P. Young, industrial management expert, said recently that a survey of seven Warwickshire farms showed the number of accidents among farm workers to be about seven times that in the better run factories. Mr. Young emphasised the fact that the prevention of accidents was an educational problem for no less than 85 per cent. of accidents was due to failure of the human element and only 15 per cent. attributable to the machine.

(From "The Farmers Weekly")

We have been well represented at several local shows, including the Cheshire County Show. Although on this occasion the weather was simply atrocious, it did not prevent a substantial number of recruits coming forward.

Miss Schlund, our new County Organiser, is now "well in harness" and we hope her stay will be a happy one. We are looking forward to Miss Keith's visit to the county this month, when she is attending a conference of the Cheshire and Shropshire Wardens.

CORNWALL.—Owing to the dry weather the corn harvest has been gathered much earlier than usual this year and potato picking is now in full swing. We offer congratulations to Sylvia Johns on the success of her dance at St. Mawes on 9th August, when she raised £11 5s. 3d. for the Benevolent Fund, and to the eleven girls from the St. Hilary Hostel on taking first prize at the Marazion Hospital Carnival with their splendid horse-drawn tableau of a cotton plantation in the "Deep South". The prize money was handed back to the Hospital.

We are sorry to have said goodbye to two of our County Organisers—Miss Burnell and Miss Prickman—and wish them luck in the future.

Mrs. Osenton is much better and hopes to be back in the County Office very soon.

DERBS.—We are sorry to report that our County Secretary is still on the sick list, but it is hoped that she will soon be back with us again.

Our congratulations to Beatrice A. Cain, 34508, who was awarded the B.E.M. in the Birthday Honours. Beatrice joined the W.L.A. in 1940 and has been in her present employment for five years. Congratulations also to Betty Sellers, 50778, and I. Jackson, 49732, on qualifying for their six year armlets. The Misses Milligan of Caldwell Hall, Burton-on-Trent, gave a party on August 12th to land girls in the Repton area. As it was so hot the radiogram and iced drinks were more popular than running races. Joan May, 23864, was presented with a framed map of the county as a token of appreciation of her sterling work in the area for the last eight years. We are very pleased to report that Clarice Jenkinson, ex-W.L.A. 177493, who sustained a serious injury whilst threshing, is now making very good progress. On account of the good weather our land girls have been working extra hard gathering in the harvest, but events have been organised in all our hostels in connection with the Benevolent Fund Appeal. Our thanks are due to the Wardens and Staff of the hostels who helped to make these events so successful.

DEVON.—We take particular pleasure in offering our good wishes to our Area Organiser on the occasion of her marriage early last month. Mrs. Stubbs has been closely linked with Devon since the early days of the W.L.A. She was the first County Secretary and there is still much evidence of the sound foundations she laid. We wish her great happiness.

The harvest has been a satisfactory one in Devon and we congratulate all our members in private employment and in gangs for their excellent work in operation "Food". At present root crops are being lifted and we anticipate full employment during the autumn months. Land Girls have been in the public eye again this year as Carnival and Harvest Queens, and we are proud to think that on the whole they have the affection and respect of the Devon folk.

Most of the hostels are planning classes in dressmaking, cookery, toy-making, and we hope to see some pleasing results later in the year at the Handicraft Exhibition. Large scale proficiency tests in field work are being arranged throughout the County, and over 150 girls have entered their names. In this county we are anticipating the winter programme of work and pleasure with hopefulness and enthusiasm.

DORSET.—During the last two months everyone has been so busy with harvesting that there has been very little opportunity for organised recreation. Manston Hostel, however, arranged a Social on August 20th, when a most enjoyable entertainment was given by members of the Shaftesbury Hospital Staff, who are always so eager and willing to entertain at this hostel. On September 5th, a Farewell Party was given at the hostel for Miss Graham the Warden, and a presentation of an electric clock was made to her by the staff and girls in appreciation of the work she had done for them and the happy atmosphere she had created among them while at the hostel. Miss Graham has now been transferred to Wrackelford House Hostel, where we wish her every success.

We offer heartfelt congratulations to seven of our volunteers who have completed eight years' service in the W.L.A. This is a splendid record, and we hope they will continue with us to the end.

ESSEX.—The outstanding event this summer was the Essex Show which was held on two perfect days at Birch Hall, near Colchester. Very many volunteers managed to get to it and we were delighted to welcome a large number at the Land Army stand where a very good tea was provided by the Welfare Fund. During the last few months, recruiting has been heavy and we have filled all the vacancies in our own county and begun to send volunteers farther afield. Our hostels are very crowded and we shall be opening another shortly at Wormingford. The girls of Layer Breton Hostel and their guests enjoyed a wonderful Harvest Supper provided by the Warden and Cook and afterwards ran a dance in the village hall in aid of the Welfare Fund. Nazeing Hostel volunteers have made the whole trossau including the wedding dress for one of their number. Kingsmead had a very successful day at Southend. The Field Work Training for new recruits now running at Dunmow is proving a great success and is a real help to the volunteers who attend it.

We are glad to welcome Mrs. Easton who has become County Organiser for the South East area in the place of Miss Johnston who had to leave us to take up other work and to whom we were very sorry to say goodbye.

FLINTS.—The training scheme for W.L.A. recruits has been in full swing all through the summer and has in most cases been a great success both from the point of view of the trainees and the farmers. W.L.A. labour has been extensively used at the W.A.E.C. demonstration plots at

Pfrith-y-Garreg Wen, nr. Holywell, and W.L.A. members have been congratulated on their excellent work by Mr. Broad, the Executive Officer of the Flintshire W.A.E.C. Draenwen, the dairy hostel, was closed on 30th August and the girls have gone into billets. Queensbridge Hostel organised a highly successful dance on 12th September and raised £18 of which £10 was given to the Benevolent Fund and £8 to the British Sailors Society. Mold Hostel organised a charabanc trip to Blackpool on 24th August. The lovely weather contributed much to the success of this outing which was enjoyed by everyone. Two of our volunteers have been accepted for a Vocational Training. Miss Simpson, 163538, is going to the Kent Horticultural Institute, Swanley, and Miss M. Jones, 173391, to Newton Hall, Cambs.

GLOS.—The following volunteers are to be congratulated on passing their milking and dairy Proficiency Tests at Brockworth Court in August:—P. E. Gaston, 151186, M. Wilton, 160701, E. G. King, 161527, H. M. Cryer, 161745, W. A. Rickman, 152032, passed the Test with distinction. Four of our volunteers have been to Ashton Wold Convalescent Home during the last two months and have benefited enormously by the care and attention they received. Thanks are due to Barbara Tilley, 137913, who has been collecting for the Benevolent Fund during the time she has been employed by the G.A.E.C. in driving volunteers from the V.A. Camps to and from their work this summer. Miss Tilley is still collecting and we shall publish the total sum when the V.A. Camps close.

By the time this news is in print the County Office will have moved to Elmbridge Court, Cheltenham Road, Gloucester. (Telephone: Gloucester 5091 and 5092).

Mrs. Jenkins, C.B.E., Chief Administrative Officer of the Women's Land Army, visited the county last month and met the Area Representatives at a meeting in Cheltenham.

HAMPSHIRE volunteers, in common with volunteers all over the country have just finished the quickest harvest on record. It was hard work and there were many long hours of overtime in very hot weather, but all acquitted themselves well and are now digging in for the winter. The Welfare Committee have been discussing plans for the dark evenings. Our volunteers are now so scattered that it is not possible to continue our club activities, but all privately employed girls are very welcome to attend any of the special activities arranged in the hostels. Talks on handicrafts and dramatics will be held in all hostels before Christmas and other subjects will be arranged as desired. There has been a big demand for the repetition of the Christmas parties. It will not be possible to run all six this year but the committee hope to have one central one in Winchester. The date and place will be announced as soon as possible. A milking proficiency test was held in August in the New Milton area. Seven girls entered and all passed. It was a most interesting afternoon and gave an opportunity for those interested in the same kind of work to get together and discuss their problems. It is hoped that a field work and market gardening test will be held in the near future.

HEREFORDS.—We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Tamplin, from the National Council of Health Education, who will visit all the W.L.A. Hostels in the County. We are very lucky to have been able to arrange for two representatives from Pears to visit the hostels during the first two weeks of October. These demonstrations are always most popular. Arrangements are going ahead for the Christmas Party. In conjunction with this we are holding a Handicraft Competition. The prizes for the competition will be distributed at the Party, and we hope there will be many entries. Mrs. Knott, Committee member for the Bromyard area, has very kindly sent us £1 14s. the proceeds of a Jumble Sale, for the County Welfare Fund. Two members of the W.L.A. in Hereford are to be congratulated on the completion of 8 years' service. Both G. L. Aldridge, 16888, and M. E. Goodwin, 19008, have done excellent work and are splendid examples to other members. Congratulations also to E. M. Watkins, 74873, who has been bushelling hops during the last three hop-picking seasons. Her employer has told us how pleased he is with her work and he thinks few landgirls would be able to undertake this work so successfully. We have good news from two ex-members of the W.L.A. from this County. Miss Needs, ex-W.L.A. 26573 has successfully passed the training course at Newton Hall, and Miss Digory, ex-W.L.A. 111650, has obtained her N.D.D. at Aberystwyth University.

HERTS.—During the past months we have welcomed many new recruits from our own county and from far distant ones. They are, we hope, settling down in their new surroundings and have certainly had the kindest of welcomes from the weather. Once more we have to thank generous friends in the Lea Valley who have given us 84 lbs. tomatoes per week during the season. These were sold to our hostels at market price and the proceeds made a welcome addition to our Welfare Fund. We congratulate D. Longman 95564, who has left us to take up training at Newton Abbot and wish her all good luck. We were also delighted that the following were chosen for a year's institute training:—J. Shand, 81055, C. W. Munton, 3945, and ex-W.L.A. N. P. Coventry all went to the Northants Institute; M. Grant, 140961, has started at Newton Hall, Cambridge, and F. Ward, 56436, has realised her ambition and gone to Swanley. Film photographers visited the county in August and some of our glasshouse volunteers, general farm workers, and dairy girls may see themselves on the screen one day. We were particularly glad that photographs were taken of a girl driving a combine.

Mrs. Myles, one of our organisers, left at the end of September to embark on a farming venture of her own, and we wish her all success. Her place has been taken by Mrs. Gibson whom we welcome to the county.

We regret to report the death of Irene Winn, 182460, which took place in Hertford Hospital on September 5th after a short illness.

HUNTS, CAMBS, AND ELY.—The long delayed visit to the Ice Revue at the Stoll Theatre, London, took place on 20th September. The Whippet bus picked up parties at Huntingdon, Fenstanton, Cambridge and Royston and,

after a stop for tea en route, arrived in London at 5.15 p.m. All the thirty-four W.L.A. members and Office Staff thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Other arrangements for the winter months include a series of very good concerts by Arts Council artists at various hostels, a tour by the inimitable Mrs. Godfrey Phillips, Christmas Parties and the annual visit to the Pantomime. The County Welfare Fund Committee is running a Whist Drive at the Town Hall, Huntingdon, on 29th October, while the Dance at the Guildhall, Cambridge, on 13th November will be in aid of the Benevolent Fund. Six volunteers qualify for their Eight-Year-Armlets. We send them our special congratulations. H. Gostelow has worked for Messrs. Chivers and Sons, Haslingfield, since March 1940; E. A. Harradence has worked on the same farm at Knapwell since she joined; L. Stokes has been fruit farming since September 1939; M. Russell has with the same employer for seven and a half years and has just moved to another; F. Skevington has been with Mr. R. E. Dalton, Broughton, since November 1941; and G. Tanner worked in Shropshire before she came to Cambs. Thirty-four members of the Land Army took up residence at Newton Hall on 23rd September for an eight-months' course in Agriculture. We welcome them to this area and hope they will be happy during their stay.

We also welcome Mrs. Freer as part time Organiser for Hunts. She commenced her duties in August.

I.O.W.—The last two months have been so full of work and play that no special activities have been organised. Island members are lucky in that no matter where they are placed the sea is within reach and all through this lovely summer they have been able to bathe and revel in all the joys of the seaside. Our usual Harvest Home Dance will be held on October 11th as a result of which we hope to replenish our dwindling Welfare Fund which has reached a dangerously low level. Evening Classes began at the end of September. Two members at Sandown hostel are attending the cookery class, and ten are taking a course in horticulture, specially arranged at the request of some of our Sandown girls. Congratulations and best wishes go to Margaret Fairley, 179132, who is going to Canada to take a four-year course at McGill University. Miss Fairley tried unavailingly to obtain a vacancy at a British or Irish University. She refused to be put off by failure, and, quite determined to study for her B.Sc. in Agriculture, has now met with well-deserved success. We also congratulate Sally Smith, 26387, who this month completes eight years W.L.A. service,—in having obtained a Government training at Swanley in horticulture. Phyllis Legg, 47395, has just resigned to take up a post in the machine section of a local printer's. For over six years Phyllis has held the same job and is a magnificent advertisement for the W.L.A. having started as a rather frail looking girl and ending as a young Amazon. We much regret losing her as does also her employer.

KENT.—A Relief Milking Scheme has been started in West Kent and J. Harrie, who has been working in Wiltshire since 1942, is our first Relief Milker. She is making a great success of the job which she finds very interesting. She works for five farms, spending two days at one farm and one day at each of the others. She gets about on a bicycle and her great ambition is to buy a motor cycle. From Oford Hostel we hear that the girls gave splendid help with the Local Fete in aid of the War Memorial Fund. Most of them sold programmes beforehand and on the day six girls gave up their Bank Holiday to help with side shows, etc. The Elstone Hostel girls scored a great success in the Westgate Carnival on August 20th by winning third prize with their decorated lorry. This was a particularly good effort as they only had two days' notice and there were 20 entries for the Competition. Our congratulations to L. M. A. Hill who has been accepted for a Vocational Training at Newton Hall Training College, Cambridge, and to Miss Joyce Quinell who is taking a Horticultural Course at the Kent Horticultural Institute, Swanley.

LANCS.—"The Country Comes to Town" Exhibition which was held at Blackpool from August 20th to September 6th was a huge success and the W.L.A. stand was greatly admired. Two Land Girls took part in the daily threshing demonstrations, and on the Sunday morning there was a procession through Blackpool in which girls from Birkdale Hostel took part. Irene Proud, 51598, has been accepted for a Vocational Training Course in Horticulture at Swanley. The Recruiting Campaign is still going well and applications are being received in large numbers. It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Miss S. Campbell one of our County Organisers.

The following paragraph should have appeared in last month's LAND ARMY NEWS but it unfortunately was delayed in the post.

SALOP.—We welcome back to the county two volunteers who have completed their Vocational Training Course at Newton Hall. D. V. Armstrong returns as part-time secretary on a dairy farm and O. Jones to help to establish a pedigree herd of Red Polls. Many congratulations to Cora Scott, ex-W.L.A. 122679, who after four years' service in the county has been awarded a grant from the Shropshire County Council which will cover all her expenses for three years at Nottingham University where she goes this month to take an agricultural degree. An additional grant towards an honours course will be considered if and when she obtains her B.Sc. We understand that her award is the highest that has so far been made from this County Council. Congratulations also to M. Tyrer, J. Turner and J. Heatley who recently passed their Proficiency Test in milking and dairy work. The County Committee recently voted a contribution of 10s. per girl from our Welfare Fund towards a series of outings. The first of these was on August 30th when volunteers from Montford Bridge Hostel and district went to Llandudno. We should like to express our appreciation to the Benevolent Fund Committee and the Matron for the kindness and care extended to volunteers at Ashton Wold. Dora Coe writes from the Convalescent Home "We are made so welcome, everyone is on the verge of tears when her turn comes to leave."