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LAMISWOMAN

FEBRUARY 1919 Price No. 14 * Vol. II



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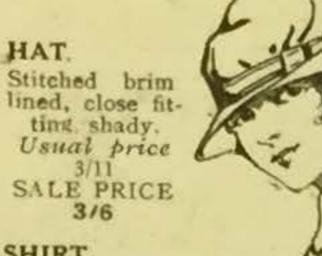
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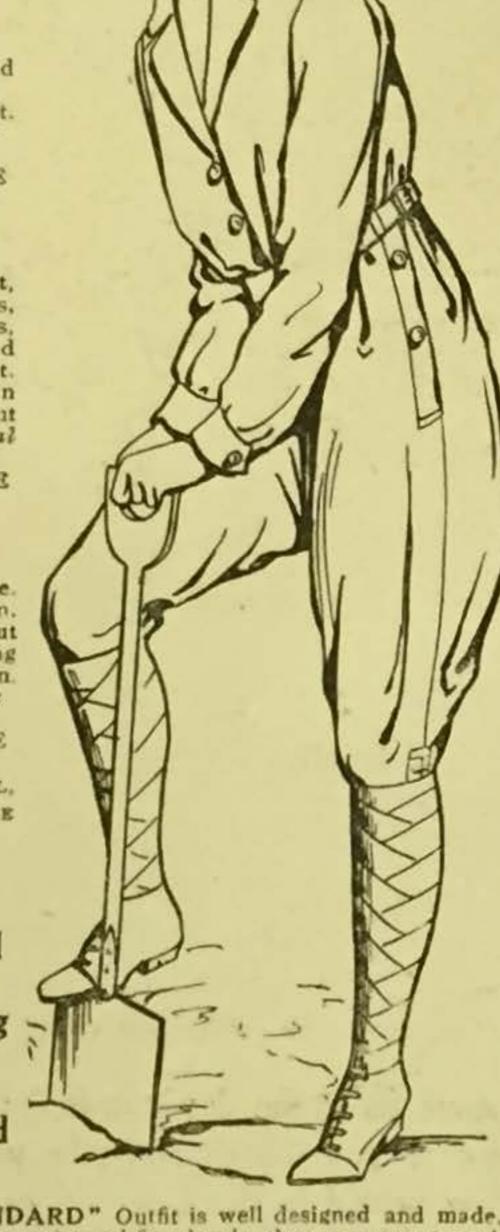
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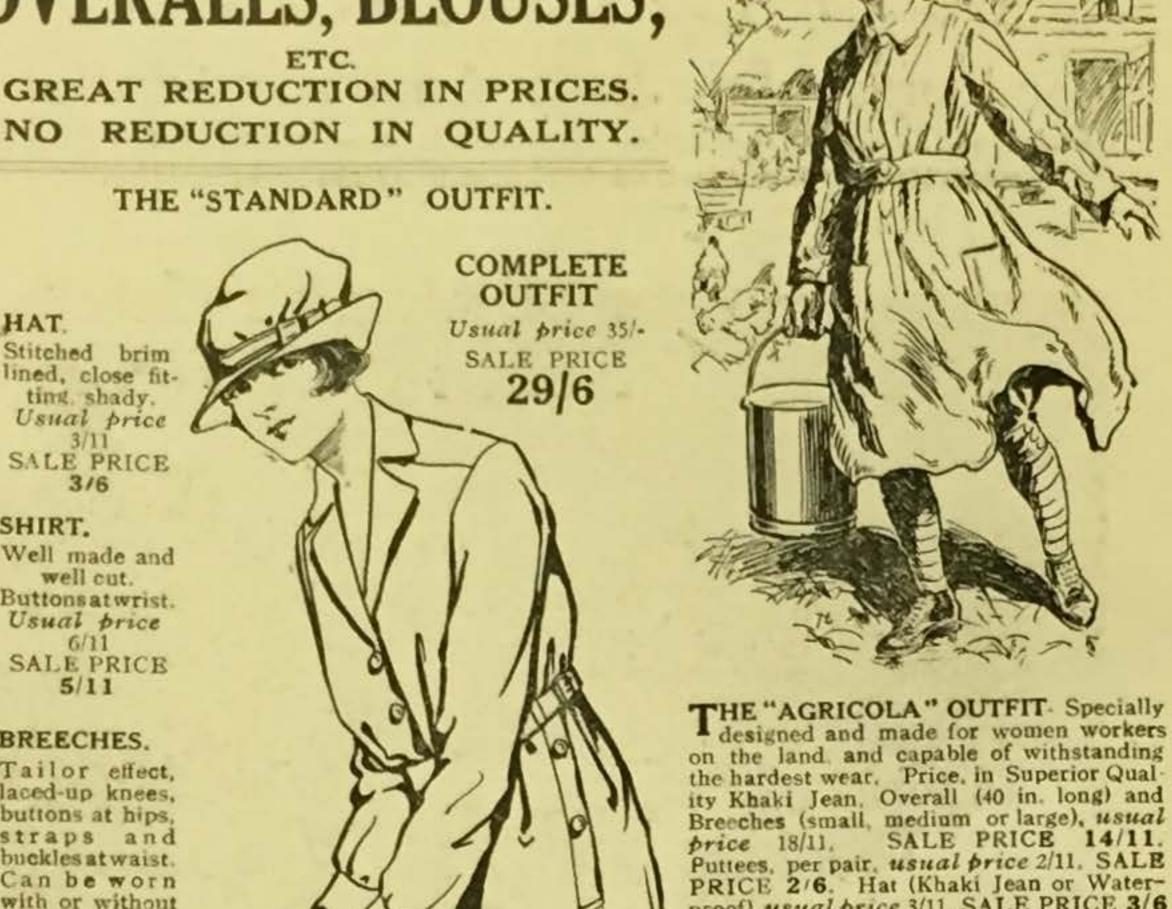
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Vol. II. No. 2. FEBRUARY, 1919

THE LANDSWOMAN

The Journal of the Land Army and the Women's Institutes

Editorial Office: Stone Field, Kidbrook Grove, Blackheath, S.E. Advertising Offices: W. H. Smith & Son, Stamford Street. S.E.1



Shepherdesses-WINTER.

Challenge

YOU fools behind the panes who peer
At the strong black anger of the sky,
Come out and feel the storm swing by,
Aye, take its blow on your lips, and hear
The wind in the branches cry.

No. Leave us to the day's device.

Draw to your blinds and take your ease,
Grow peak'd in the face and crook'd in the knees.

Your sinews could not pay the price
When the storm goes through the trees.

JOHN DRINKWATER

(Poems 1908-1914, Sidgwick @ Jackson.)

The Women's Land Army of America



The first contingent of the Women's Land Army of America to leave Los Angeles for farm duty.

our Land Army that I feel sure many of the readers of THE LANDSWOMAN will be pleased to see some photographs of the work of the Land Army in America. Some time ago they invited representatives of the English Land Army to visit that country. Unfortunately, the stress of work here made it impossible to accept the invitation. In regretting this, the General Secretary of the Women's Land Army of America wrote expressing their congratulations upon the achievements of the Land Army in Britain.

As early as 1917 the Standing Committee on Agriculture of the Mayor's Committee of Women on National Defence in New York City undertook to organise units of women farm workers, which corresponded somewhat to our seasonal workers. These units varied in number from six to seventythree, and the women lived together in a centre. from which they went out to work singly or in groups, upon farms in the neighbourhood.

These units were recruited, very much on the lines of our National Land Service Corps, from college students, from workers in various trades with a dull season in the summer, and others who wanted a change of occupation, as well as from women who had been staying at home; and they did excellent work.

There is an old song which voiced the feelings of patriotic American women in the Civil War days, which runs :

"Just take your gun and go, For Ruth can drive the oxen, John, And I can use the hoe."

MERICA has taken such a keen interest in - So, when America joined hands with the Allies in the Great War, the Women's Land Army of America was formed, which, basing its programme on the experience of England and Canada, aimed at stimulating recruiting for land service, training women workers, and co-ordinating all organisations interested in placing women on the land.

The success of this new Land Army may be judged from the following figures, quoted by a practical farmer in New Jersey:

PITCHING CORN STALKS (Indian Corn). - Two girls working together lifted from 8 to 10 tons of stalks per day.

HAY.—Two of his girls could load as well as a man.

OATS.—One girl pitched 310 sheaves in 19 minutes, each sheaf averaging 8 lb., and she could pitch 19 tons in a day.

The Women's National Farm and Garden Association, which has been largely responsible for the interest in land work among the women of America, is, now that the busy harvest time is over, arranging for students to take a course of training at agricultural colleges in various States during the winter, so that when the spring time comes round again. with its tremendous demand for seasonal labour, these students may find themselves well equipped to take charge of all kinds of farm operations.

The chairman of the National Farm and Garden Association in New York takes a great interest in THE LANDSWOMAN, and has promised to send me the names of Land Army girls in America who would like to join our Correspondence Club and exchange



Gathering Almonds

She has also suggested that we might even exchange Land Army girls, and offers to provide scholarships for two English women at American agricultural colleges, if we will do the same for two Americans in England. This would be a most interesting experiment, but although the matter is being considered I doubt whether it can be done.

In the meantime dozens and dozens of copies of THE LANDSWOMAN go out to American subscribers every month, and many are the charming letters of appreciation which come back.

Crops in America naturally differ from crops in this country, and I feel sure that we should like to be gathering almonds and apricots in huge quantities like the American girls in the photographs on this page. Beans are also evidently an important item, for a member of the Wellesley College farm must have been "full of beans" when she wrote the following little parody:—

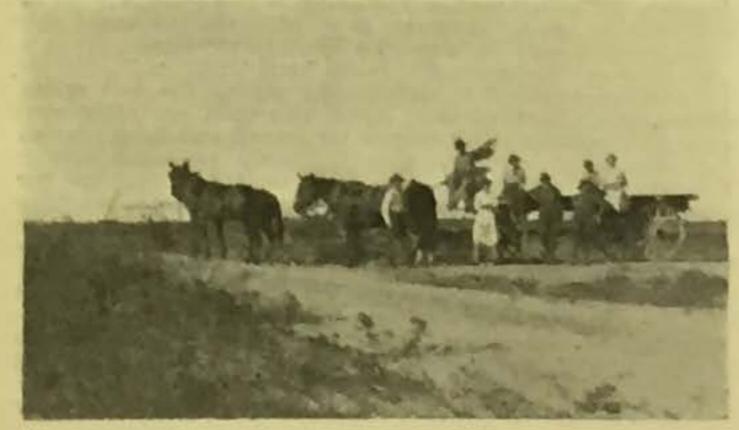
(With apologies to The Rosary.)

The hours I spent on thee, dear farm,
Are as a string of beans to me;
The war and everything that therein is
Means beans to me—plain beans to me.

Each bean an ache, each ache a joy.

For I am nearer to the prize!

I pluck each bean unto the end—and there
My sandwich lies! My sandwich lies!



Oh, memories of bruisèd knees!

And arms of brilliant lobster sheen!

I gaze at every bean and strive to learn

Which ones are green—which ones are green.

—Wellesley College News.



Drying Apricots.

"The Laugh-a-Lot" Club of North Charlotte, North Carolina, suggests a form of relaxation that would benefit everybody in these over-strenuous days. When economy in every form of heat and light is being urged as a patriotic duty, it is well to remember that one may still indulge in the warmth and illumination of the friendly smile without a thought of the Fuel Controller.

The Ideal Dairy

IF you want to run a dairy in a really modern way,
If you want the best inventions and you don't mind what you pay,

We can tell you very shortly what a dairy ought to be : The fixtures we must charge for, but advice is given free,

Take a cool and empty cellar—see there's dirt upon the floor: Always notice very carefully if there's dust behind the door. If the corners harbour spiders, you must see they live in ease. For the secret of a dairy lies in little things like these.

Once you've got a dirty ceilar, all the rest is merely play, Any rubbish you are tired of can be safely stored away; Any food the cat won't look at, any bone the dog won't eat. Can be stored to great advantage with your piece of Sunday meat.

Any empty dusty bottles must be welcomed in with joy, Any broken bits of china it's a pity to destroy: Any rusty bits of iron, anything that's thrown away. Must be treasured in the dairy if you want to make it pay.

When it's full to overflowing and the dirt is growing fast,
Put your cream in open basins—but he sure to do this last;
Invalids are known to flourish on this freshly scented cream,
Never mind if dust dilutes it, things are never what they seem.

If your dairy does not flourish you must write to us again: We take every thought for details, and will readily explain Any little thing that worries, anything that seems to show That your dairy is not going in the way it ought to go.

Always keep it nice and dirty—water is an evil thing: Soap is something still more dangerous, trouble it will always

Milk is not improved by water, never wash your milking pail; Keep these simple rules before you and your dairy cannot fail.

"TONY," L.A.A.S.

Crops.

Of all the root crops grown on the farm mangels require most care as to sowing. The seed should be sown in as fine a tilth as possible, and on heavy soils this can only be obtained by ploughing early in the winter, and certainly not later than Christmas. A second or cross ploughing, but a somewhat shallower one, or a good cultivating, will be required in spring. To produce a heavy yield of mangels of, say, 30 to 40 tons per acre, liberal manuring is essential, and 20 tons of good farmyard manure ploughed under during autumn or early winter, and supplemented by artificials in spring, should be given. Usually from 5 to 6 cwt, of a phosphatic manure like superphosphate is given, together with 11 to 2 cwt. of sulphate of ammonia per acre, and if 5 to 6 cwt, of a potash manure containing 8 per cent. of potash can be added, so much the better. Sow for preference about the middle of April, at the rate of 7 lb. of seed per acre, although if the season is backward May sowings usually succeed hest. In dry districts drill in the flat, and where the rainfall is excessive, on ridges. For a general utility mangel there is nothing better than a good strain of "Yellow Globe," or on alluvial soil, "Mammoth Red." Of the two, the latter are the

better keepers, but they are not so easily pulled.

Swedes are comparatively an easy crop to cultivate in districts of heavy rainfall, and where the climate is cool. In the south of England the crop is often a failure, owing to attacks of mildew due largely to spells of drought. In Scotland, and the north of England, sowings are made as early as May, but in the south of England swedes do better, and stand more chance when sown in June, or early July, and especially where on the upland farms they are largely relied upon as sheep food. Secure a fine tilth and sow the seed at the rate of 4 lb. per acre. As with mangels, swedes may be sown either on the flat or on the ridge. Swedes do not readily respond to the application of active nitrogenous fertilisers, and very often 5 cwt. of superphosphate, applied at the time of working down the ground, proves an ample dressing. Bone compounds give excellent results, and appear to contain just that amount of nitrogen that is beneficial to the crop. During dry weather the seedling swedes often become so seriously damaged by the ravages of the turnip flea-beetle, that the whole crop has to be ploughed up and fe-sown. As yet there is no effective remedy for this pest, and the best thing to do, when possible, is to sow during moist weather, so that the plant may soon develop its rough or true leaves, as it is the cotyledons, or seed leaves, containing concentrated food for the development of the young plant, which the beetles, active during warm, dry weather, destroy.

Turnips are comparatively easy of cultivation. In gardens they may be sown from April onwards; in order to secure sound firm roots, on farms, however, the main crop is not sown until after the swedes, say, in July. In gardens the quicker that turnips grow the better the quality, and to ensure this the soil should be warm and moist. Heavy soils should have well decomposed manure, preferably horse droppings, mixed with

them.

USEFUL CROPS.

Mr. Wibberley has been unsparing in his efforts to impress upon smallholders and others the importance of continuous cropping, and certainly much more could be accomplished in this direction. Let us take, for example, a wheat stubble part of this could be sown with trifolium, a portion shallow ploughed and broadcasted with winter turnips for feeding off with sheep, a part sown with vetches, or vetches and rape, and still another with rye, or rape and rye. All this is quite possible on an average soil, and, further, all these crops can be cleared so as not to interfere with the ordinary rotation of cropping. A point we must not lose sight of here is that not only do these crops serve to smother the autumn growth of weeds, but they prevent soluble plant foods from being washed into the drains.

Maize is a useful green fodder crop, especially on small farms where grass is scarce, and when in the south of England it is liable to be burnt up in the summer or autumn. It should not be sown before the middle or end of May. It is best drilled similar to beans, at the rate of 3 bushels per acre, and only one variety—namely, "Giant Caragna" or "White Horsetooth"—need be considered. See that the crop is consumed by carting it on to the pastures before there is any likelihood of its being

overtaken by frost.

Sainfoin and lucerne are crops which succeed only on soils containing a fair quantity of lime. The former makes good hay, especially well adapted for the feeding of horned stock and horses, whilst lucerne is of inestimable value for cutting green. No smallholder should be without a plot of lucerne. It may be sown along with a spring cereal crop like oats or barley. It requires a very clean seed-bed, so, should the ground be weedy, it is preferable to drill the seed, in order to admit of hand-hoeing between the rows until the plants are established.

WHEAT-GROWING.

More so than in the past, the smallholder must of necessity turn his attention to the cultivation of cereals, and more especially wheat. Whenever possible, wheat should be sown in the autumn, at any time from September to end of November, although it not infrequently happens that sowings made in December, or even as late as January, yield satisfactorily.

Wheat does best after roots, or following a clover ley, or even still better, after potatoes. Where heavy land has become foul with weeds, as where few roots or other cleaning crop is grown, it becomes necessary to summer fallow, than which there is no better preparation for wheat, the only regret being that the ground has to remain idle throughout the cleaning period. Where ploughing is performed late in the season on heavy and somewhat wet land, it is preferable to broadcast the seed on the newly ploughed ground, harrowing it in as the work proceeds. On lighter and easier working land, drilling is preferable, as it admits of a more even distribution of the seed, and of its being sown at a uniform depth.

If sown on rich friable soils, wheat is apt to get too gross, or what is termed "winter proud," and the plant is weakened and more liable to injury from frost than when sown in November or December. The sowing of spring wheat is resorted to when weather conditions have made it impossible to sow the whole area allotted to wheat in the autumn. Spring sowings are best made during open weather in February or March, although

April seedling often yields equally well.

How best to increase the yield of wheat per acre is a problem that progressive farmers are anxious to solve, and there can be little doubt but that the indiscriminate ploughing up of undrained land will prove a serious tax on farm labour, which is already very deficient. Where the cultivated plant does not cover the ground, weeds soon demand a share of the available plant food,

which is usually none too abundant.

Science combined with sound practice has shown how maximum yields may be obtained. First of all, the mechanical condition of the soil must receive attention, and in this connection climatic conditions are undoubtedly a very influential factor. Secondly, the selection of the seed is of considerable importance, and just as the potato-grower must rely upon improved varieties possessing a stronger constitution than those which have been weakened by intensive cultivation, so must the wheat-grower give attention to new or regenerated wheats.

The careful application of concentrated fertilisers has done much to raise the yield of all cereal crops, but the electrification of seed wheat is likely to create a new era in the growing of corn

crops.

The English farmer grows more wheat on an acre of ground than the farmer of any other country, though the fact is not generally known. The New Zealand farmer comes second, the German about eighth and the French and Austrian farmer ninth on the list.

WHEAT VARIETIES.

There are endless varieties of wheat from which to select, but it is always best to keep to those that may be suited to a particular soil or climate. "Red Standard" is a general favourite, although on some soils it is almost impossible to discern any difference between it and "Squarehead's Master." As a rule, however, the straw of the former is stouter and less liable to "lodge." "Benefactor" has come into prominence during the last year or two, and is undoubtedly one of the best white wheats and especially in view of the fact that the grain is less likely to sprout in a wet season than in the case of the average white varieties.

Growers are a little sceptical in regard to the yielding capacity of "Little Joss." We have secured heavy yields of this variety in the south of England, and it does even better in the eastern counties. but in the west of England it is undoubtedly more or less risky to grow. However if a full plant is secured this variety can usually be depended upon to yield well. It is a cross between "Squarehead's Master" and "Ghurka."

"Burgoyne's Fife" is undoubtedly one of the best spring wheats, and admits of being sown later than any other sort, while it invariably yields best in the second and third year on the same farm, after changing the seed. On some soils it succeeds quite well when sown in November. There are few prettier samples of milling wheat, when well grown; but being one of the first wheats to ripen when autumn-sown, and for other reasons, it often becomes severely damaged by the ravages of birds.

Smallholders whose crops are likely to suffer from the onslaught of sparrows would be well advised to give attention to Percival's Blue Cone wheat. This is a bearded wheat, and one which is practically immune from sparrow attacks when in full ear. It is by far the best bearded wheat for early sowing.

Although we are giving a trial to "Victor" this is a variety

that has been found subject to sprouting in the stook during a wet harvest season to a greater extent than any other variety. It is, however, one of the heaviest yielding white wheats, but it is particularly liable to sprout when cut a little over-ripe.

Much was made of French wheats a few years ago, but those who experimented with the growing of them experienced many failures. The best results we had were from "Red Marvel" or "Japnet," which in two successive years yielded 40 and 48 bushels per acre respectively.

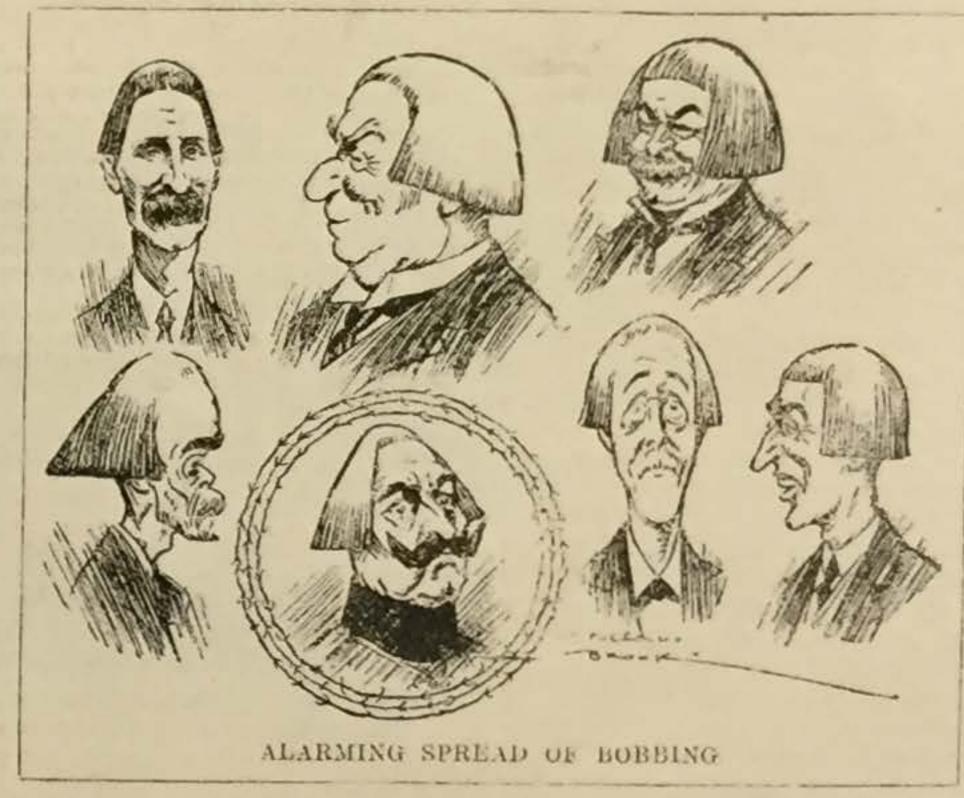
BARLEY AND OATS

Barley is a crop very well suited for growing on small-holdings, as it is not so subject as wheat to the ravages of small birds, and, when allowed to be ground for home consumption, provides one of the best meals for compounding rations for pigs. In order to secure a good yield of barley it must be sown in spring, on a good tilth. The seed bed is all the better if ploughed the second time, as a well-known barley grower once remarked to me, "Barley must

enjoy itself" - in other words, it must grow without receiving a check. The seed under favourable conditions germinates within forty - eight hours, and the more friable the soil, the healthier will the plants become. The soil had better be a bit rough on the surface. rather than below it. There are many reliable varieties of barley, but the smallholder would be well advised to grow a stiff strawed variety like "Archers" or "Hallets" stiff straw, or an improved variety like "Bevan's Plumage," rather than a softer strawed and more nodding variety like " Chevalier." Three bushels is an ample quantity of seed to sow per acre, as compared with 21 bushels of wheat, and 4 bushels in the case of oats. I may here men-

The First Bobbed Head





Reproduced by special permission of the Proprietors of "Punch"

tion that there are certain varieties of barley, also oats, which admit of being sown in the autumn to withstand the winter. The chief advantage of winter barley and oats is that they may be lightly grazed by sheep on the lighter soils, also that they ripen early, and may be cut before the general harvest is commenced. Oats are undoubtedly a very profitable crop to grow where full yields of, say, twenty or more sacks per acre can be secured. Where "frit-fly" is prevalent, oats should be sown early, and if a good season can be obtained they are better planted, in most districts, at the end of January or February, than in March or April, although usually March is the general month for sowing. " Black and White Tartar" are well adapted for early planting in woodland or heavy land districts. I have found "White Tartar" yield very heavily when sown in February, and followed by either "Abundance" or "Waverley" oats. Where sowing, owing to climatic or other conditions, has to be delayed until April, or even May, a variety like "Waterloo" often does best. If the ground

has been ridged up throughout the winter, a good cultivation and harrowing in spring is usually ample preparation for sowing.

Oats do not require a deep tilth, the crop being very shallow rooting. Where the soil is poor, a dressing of 3 cwt, per acre of a mixture composed of 3 parts superphosphate, and 1 part sulphate of ammonia will prove useful. Wireworms often work considerable havoc among oats, especially where sown on newly broken up pastures, and to check their ravages heavy rolling must be resorted to as soon as the soil is dry enough to admit of this being done.

Herts County Sheet

HERTFORDSHIRE girls will be glad to hear that the Herts Committee propose to start a County Supplement to The Landswoman, to be issued quarterly at the price of 1d. The first number will be issued in March, and will contain all the county news, and should be particularly interesting to Herts girls. It is hoped that the L.A.A.S. will send contributions for publication in the Supplement, which should reach Miss Livingstone, Bayford Cottage, Hertford, before February 20th.

L.A.A.S. who wish to take in the Supplement should apply to the Office, or to their Registrar, enclosing 3d., which will be their subscription to the Supplement to the end of 1919.

Oats and Beans

Oats and beans and barley grow.
Do you, or I, or anyone know
How oats and beans and barley grow?
First the farmer sows his seed,
Then he stands and takes his ease.
Stamps his feet and slaps his hand,
And turns him round to view the land.

The Modern Shepherdess

IN the November issue of The Landswoman we reproduced J. R. Smith's charming "Shepherdess"—this month we publish a page of delightful photographs of the practical shepherdess of the present day. A shepherdess with a crook has always been a favourite subject with artists of all ages, but even with her crook, we doubt whether Watteau would have considered the Land Army girl a suitable figure for his dainty pictures, even though she might be as eminently successful in the care of her sheep as Mrs. Hallam, whose portrait

appears on the opposite page.

Mrs. Hallam went to Port Looe, in Cornwall, early in 1917 to take charge of 200 pedigree South Devon sheep, of which 150 were breeding ewes. Work in Cornwall she found fairly stiff, owing to it being so hilly, and her work here has been done under difficulty. She writes: "I had to 'camp' in an empty cottage, do most of my own housework, cooking with the aid of frying-pan and hay-box. To come in tired and wet through, and to find the fire out, as I have often done, both day (and lambing time) at night, takes a stiffer lip and firmer grip to carry on again. My first lambing season was quite satisfactory to my employer; the second, last year, I am pleased to tell you, I knew my flock, and they knew me and between us we broke all previous records for this farm. As the season again is drawing near, I will try and give you a brief account of what I do.

of the year for a shepherdess. For two months she lives like a hermit and turns night into day. The success which she achieves is the great justification for the exercise of self-denial. The routine of flock management presents no particular difficulties, for the sheep are drafted as the occasion demands, the sick are nursed and the difficult cases are dealt with according to your experience. There are the first-year ewes to be closely watched, the motherless lambs and the weakly ones to be cared for, and the lambs that die, which must be replaced by the common practice of clothing an

orphan in the dead lamb's skin.

times very elaborate, but here, very simple. The great object is to secure shelter, and straw and hurdles are much favoured for this purpose. In April the sheep are 'tailed'—that is, all dirty wool, etc., is cut off with shears round and above their tails. This is not usual in all counties, but is done here on account of the magget fly, which is a perfect pest from April until the end of October. At the end of May er June, according to the weather, they are shorn, lambs as well, in this county. I help at this performance, which is done with machines worked by the oil engine.

not mind it now, but it needs constant attention, and is not allowed amongst my flocks. It may interest you to know I decided to make special study of sheep, after being told it was the one branch of agricultural work which a woman could not possibly manage alone. I soon found out it

was not popular with the ordinary agricultural labourer; it means all weathers, very dirty and often unpleasant work; and, above all, requires any amount of patience. I have certainly found it by no means lazy, but my work has always been a pleasure to me. I know every sheep; they are not so stupid as some people who have never studied them think. They have not the intelligence of the horse or dog, but in no animal is the maternal instinct so highly developed."

The farmer for whom Mrs. Hallam works is unstinting in his praise of her skill, and says that she can throw one of his large sheep better than a good many men. Mrs. Hallam has been awarded the Distinguished Service Bar of the Land Army.

Another Land Army shepherdess says :-

"Sheep soon get to know their shepherd, and I am sure no other animals give their keeper such a hearty welcome in the morning. There are moments when, all the toil of the day over, a lovely feeling creeps into a shepherd's heart as she stands and sees her flock all safely sheltered for the night. It is a wonderful life: it has cast its spell over me. I can hear it now, though I am far removed from the fold, calling, calling, and I shall have to answer it, and that soon."

And it is not strange that this calling attracts the Land Girl, for is it not Maurice Hewlett who says: "Your shepherd is very near to earth. He grows up from her lap, he never quite leaves her bosom; he is her foster child. He may hear her beart-beats and drink of her tears. If she smiles he knoweth why. He has listened and he knoweth; she telleth him her secret thoughts; all the day long he may lie close in her arms. No man so proper for that sweet bed; no man may be so ready to die and mingle with her."—(Pan and the Young Shepherd.)

In City Streets

ADA SMITH.

YONDER in the heather there's a bed for sleeping,

Yonder in the sun the merry hares go leaping, And the pool is clear for travel-wearied feet.

Sorely throb my feet, a-tramping London highways (Ah! the springy moss upon a northern moor!), Through the endless streets, the gloomy squares and by-ways.

Homeless in the City, poor among the poor!

London streets are gold—ah, give me leaves a glint-

'Midst grey dykes and hedges in the autumn sun! London water's wine, poured out for all unstinting— God! For the little brooks that tumble as they run!

Oh, my heart is fain to hear the soft wind blowing, Soughing through the fir-tops upon northern fells! Oh, my eye's an ache to see the brown hurns flowing

Through the peaty soil and tinkling heather bells. (The Open Road.)



The Land Army Shepherdess-at Port Looe, Cornwall

Land Army Christmas Parties.

CHRISTMAS and New Year parties are in full swing, and in nearly every county some sort of gathering together of the Land Army has taken place during the last few weeks. Most of these parties have been made the occasion for the distribution of the new Good Service Ribbons, and the delight of the lucky recipients of this coveted decoration has been unbounded.

Middlesex

One of the first to be held took place at Harrow, on December 19th, when, at the invitation of Mrs. Freeborn, numbers of the Middlesex girls from the Harrow district, and a good many visitors had a most enjoyable evening at the Gayton Rooms. The outstanding feature of the evening was the exhibition of Morris and country dancing, given by a team of Land Army girls—who were joined in one dance by a team of boy scouts. The girls danced as though they revelled in every movement, and I am sure that the joyful spirit which was evident in their dancing would have rejoiced the heart of the members of the English Folk Dance Society, who long to see country dancing firmly established in every village in England.

G.S. Ribbons were distributed, and the general public, under the able tuition of Miss Barnett, joined in dancing "Butterfly" and enjoyed it, and the refreshments which came afterwards.

Hertford

The Land Army Fairisee -- Mrs. Lyttelton's play, which appeared In our Christmas number-was performed for the first time in London on December 20th, when over 300 members of the Herts Land Army met at the Drapers' Hall for their Christmas party. The beautiful building was lent by those friends of the Land Army, the Drapers' Company, who have been so extremely kind to us on several occasions and always give us a warm welcome whenever we accept their generous hospitality. The play, which was acted by genuine I.A.A.S., was received with loud applause by the audience, and was most successful, but the great event of the afternoon was undoubtedly the talented contribution which Dr. Collison made to the programme. The girls laughed till they could laugh no more, and the tears streamed down their faces. They could have listened to him all night, he was so refreshingly funny. Tea-a really fine tea, with ham sandwiches and pre-war cake-was heartily enjoyed by many who had had to go without lunch in order to reach London by two o'clock, and every visitor to the Drapers' Hall found a packet of chocolate on her plate, which was a present from our hosts-the Master and members of the Worshipful Company of Drapers. Afterwards Miss Talbot and Mrs. Lyttelton talked to us and distributed G.S. ribbons. Cheers for Mrs. Bentwich were mixed with groans of regret when her resignation was announced. So spontaneous was the expression of dismay when Herts heard that they were to lose her, that there was no manner of doubt as to the affection in which she is held in the country.

Guildford

The New Year party at Guildford will be treasured long n the memories of those who were there on the evening of January 3rd, 1919, when nearly 100 girls were welcomed at the High School by Miss Baker and Miss Sutherland, the Organising Secretary and Welfare Officer.

A cheery meal, chatter, and pulling of crackers were in full swing shortly after six o'clock, when the band of the 13th Reserve Canadians arrived. Its advent was heartly greeted by clapping from the girls, and the men soon joined in the fun of the party. After tea Good Service Badges were awarded by Mrs. Hughes,

Two dramatic sketches—The Crystal Gazer and Mechanical Jane—were included in the evening's programme, and were a source of much amusement both to the amateur artistes and the appreciative audience. The band valiantly did its bit in the interval between the plays, and afterwards when the floor was cleared for dancing.

The spirit of the Land Army is inexhaustible—its footwear enviable! Sir Roger de Coverley claimed double lines of dancers to the very end, when at ten o'clock the National Anthem and cheering for the hostesses brought to a close one of the merriest

parties ever given in Guildford.

Essex

Essex girls gathered in jolly crowds on January 9th, at the Trinity Hall, Stratford, and about 100 of them thoroughly enjoyed their New Year's party. Miss McDonald, Miss Tritton, Miss Exton, Miss Osborne, and, last but not least, Mr. Gerald Buxton were there, and many others to join in the fun. The party started with a conjurer, and went on through songs and tea to the G.S. Ribbons and then back to songs and musical chairs,

and Sir Roger, and ended up with "Auld Lang Syne." It was a most delightful afternoon, and the Essex girls really did enjoy themselves.

Lewes

Women who have been working on the land in East Sussex opened the New Year with a pleasant reunion at the Town Hall, Lewes, when, at the invitation of the East Sussex Women's War Agricultural Committee, they assembled on Wednesday and proved that they are as keen at play as they are at work. They came to the county town from rural districts in a wide area. About 200 "Land girls" attended the reunion, but obviously such a function would have been tame without males, and the organisers had not overlooked this fact. Consequently the guests included convalescent soldiers from St. Anne's Red Cross Hospital, while the admission of other soldiers and a few sailors were also secured. The combination of war workers and fighters was a happy one, and it ensured an evening during which women and men in uniform did their utmost to provide healthy amusement for each other.

London

Lady Margaret Boscawen's party in London for some of the Middlesex L.A.A.S., at 12 Grosvenor Place, was a delightful affair. Dancing on the beautiful drawing-room floor, in which everybody joined, was followed by a real party supper with crackers. The G.S. Ribbons were presented by the Countess of Strafford. At intervals during the dancing the L.A.A.S. Middlesex team of Morris dancers danced some jolly country dances, which they seemed to enjoy just as much as the onlookers.

Chelmsford

Our party at Chelmsford was the greatest fun. Every L.A.A.S. in that part of Essex had been given half a day's leave by her kind employer—though what happened to the milk supply of London the next morning I hesitate to think.

The conjurer, who entertained us for the first hour, had us all in fits of laughter before he had been talking for five minutes, and when I tell you that we went on laughing like that until the end, you will realise how much we enjoyed him.

Then came G.S Ribbons, with lots of clapping for the lucky recipients, and there were about 90 of them, and after that the most delightful tea. The Editor sat down to tea with us, and she declared she had not tasted such delicious mince pies since long before the war. After tea more conjurer and entertainment, and then, long before we wanted it, the end of the jolliest Christmas party Essex has ever had.

Harlow

The L.A.A.S. who were lucky enough to be anywhere near Mark Hall Harlow, on New Year's Day, had a glorious time, for Mr. and Mrs. Newman Gilbey very kindly invited them all, together with some wounded soldiers, to a real party. Tea and games and dancing, and after that more refreshments, all helped to make up the most enjoyable evening that the Harlow girls had spent for a very long time.

New Year Reminders

Do you know that you still need your ration books? If you leave them behind you, you will find yourself sugarless, butterless, meatless and jamless!

Do you know that you will also find yourself unpopular if you expect to take other people's share when you can't produce your own coupons?

Do you know that it is to your advantage to have your insurance card stamped weekly by your employer?

Do you know that if this is not done you will lose and not he?

Do you know that if you have been contributing for six months, and are ill, you are entitled to 5s. per week from the insurance company?

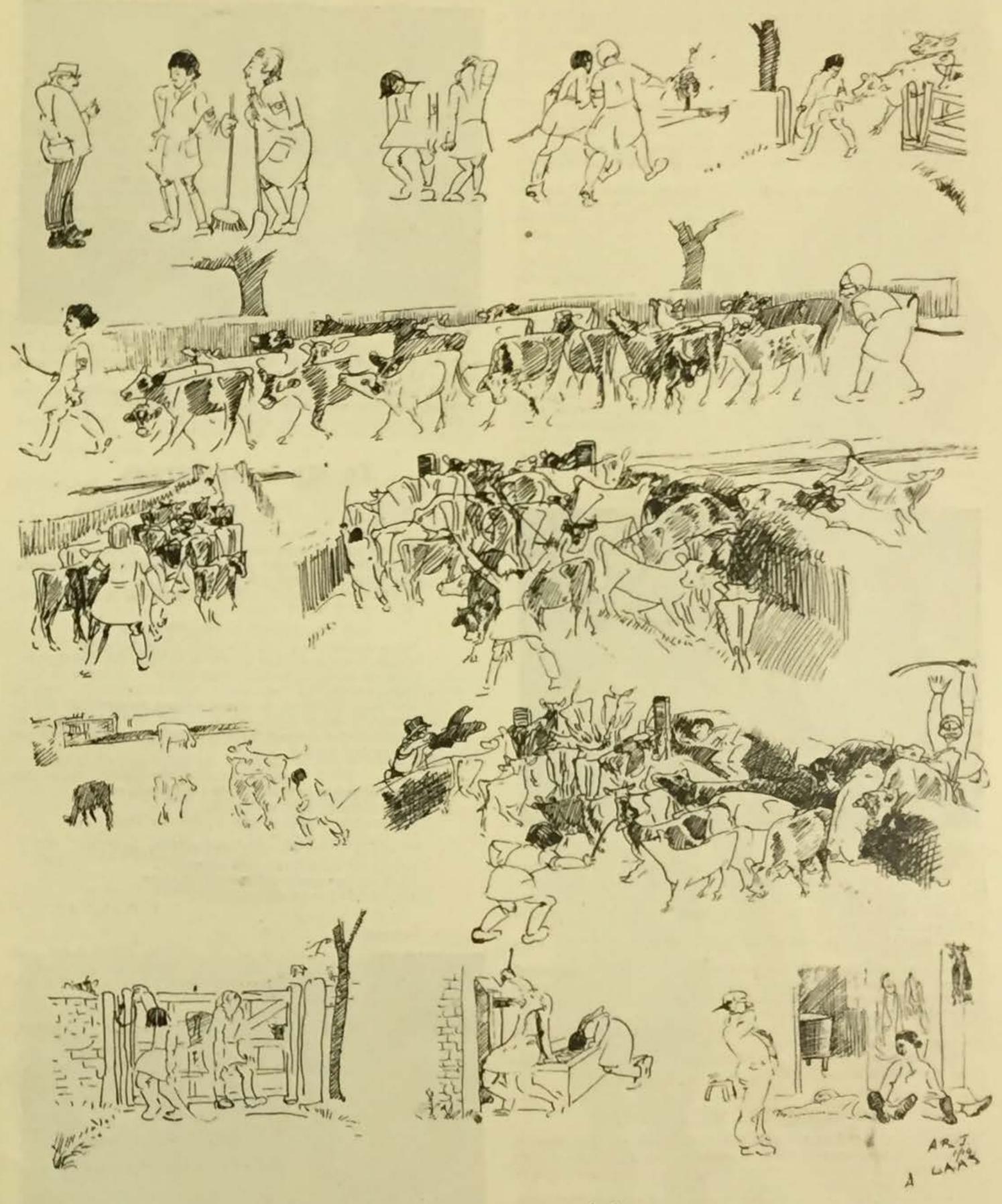
Do you know that to get this you must notify the Insurance as soon as you realise you are ill?

Do you know that on changing employment you must take your medical card with you and present it to be registered by the nearest panel doctor?

Do you know that unless you do this you will have to pay the doctor's bill yourself?

Do you know that for 1s. 6d. you can get THE LANDSWOMAN sent you monthly for six months. The Office would be glad to receive your subscriptions.—From The Anglesey and Carnarvon Christmas Sheet.

The Joys of the Land Army



No. 2. Cattle Driving

Christmas at the Malling Depot Hostel

THE Christmas leave return warrants came as a godsend to the Land Army in Kent, and emptied the hostel in a twinkling.

But with the few that remained, from choice or because they had no homes to fly to, the occupants of the hospital, and the resident staff, we held high festival at Malling on Christmas

The day began early with a visit from Father Christmas, sack on shoulder, who distributed gifts subscribed for by the ladies of Malling. Every girl received a pair of warm stockings, a calendar, and the Land Army Christmas Card.

This was followed by Church parade, and Church parade by dinner.

The officers and their guests dined with the girls, and excitement ran high over the contents of the Christmas pudding.

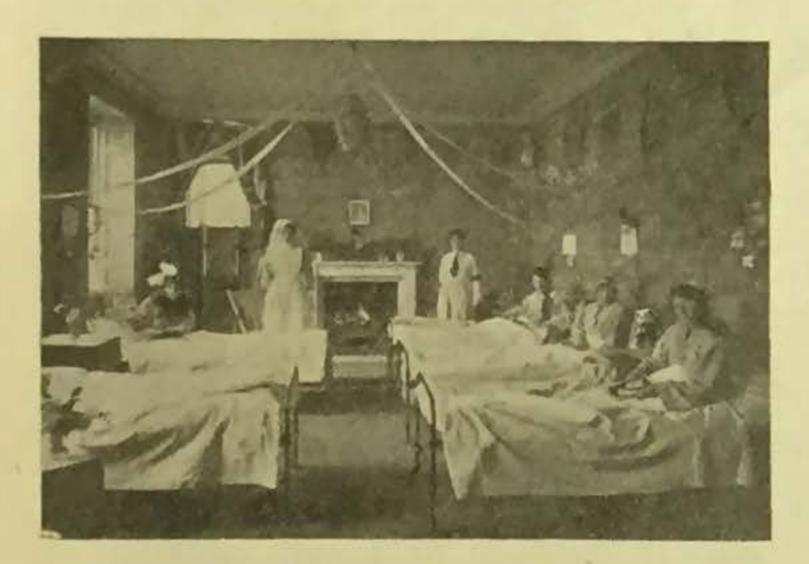
How the girls longed for one of the officers to get the thimble ! But their kind wishes were frustrated, for up to the time of going to press the thimble still reposes in an uneaten pudding.

The afternoon was spent preparing the Christmas Tree for some children visitors who had been invited to the hostel. For no Christmas could possibly be Christmas without them.

We were all dancing hand in hand round the Christmas Tree, which was blazing with candles, singing "Good King Wencelaus," when Father Christmas made his second dramatic appearance amid shrieks of delight from the onlookers.

For the second time he distributed gifts, this time from the kind Registrar of Ash, Miss Wright, who bicycled eight miles to be with us on Christmas Day.

After being mobbed, and kissed, and cheered by the girls, Father Christmas betook himself to the hospital, putting Sister to flight, and taking possession of the wards and the patients. We have not heard that anyone had a relapse as the result of his visit.



But all good things come to an end, and Father Christmas had vanished up the chimney and out into the star-decked night before we had well recovered from the surprise of his appearing.

A delightful day, a real old-fashioned Christmas Day, ended with games and dancing.

For once the rigid rule of the hostel was relaxed, and men were admitted.

The cotillion began the entertainment, followed by musical chairs, blindman's buff, and a perfectly delightful game where blindfolded Rachael and blindfolded Esau seek for each other up and down and between rows of convulsed onlookers.

We finished up with the good old songs, and three cheers for

everyone, all through the alphabet and the hostel. We only hope that our "absent friends" had as jolly a Christmas as we spent at Malling.

The Hospital at Malling

DURING the influenza epidemic it became obvious that it would be necessary to start a hospital for the reception of girls who were taken ill in billets where there were little or no facilities of any kind for nursing serious cases.

Accordingly, Went House was reorganised on hospital lines, a trained Sister placed in charge, and an ambulance procured for bringing in the patients. There are three large bright wards, called respectively, the George, the Mary, and the Douglas. The two former in honour of the King and Queen, who have



sent us generous presents for the hospital. There is also a surgery and a rest room for the convalescents.

West Kent may congratulate itself on the possession of this hospital, to which we are all going when we are ill. The photograph shows the Mary Ward decorated for Christmas.

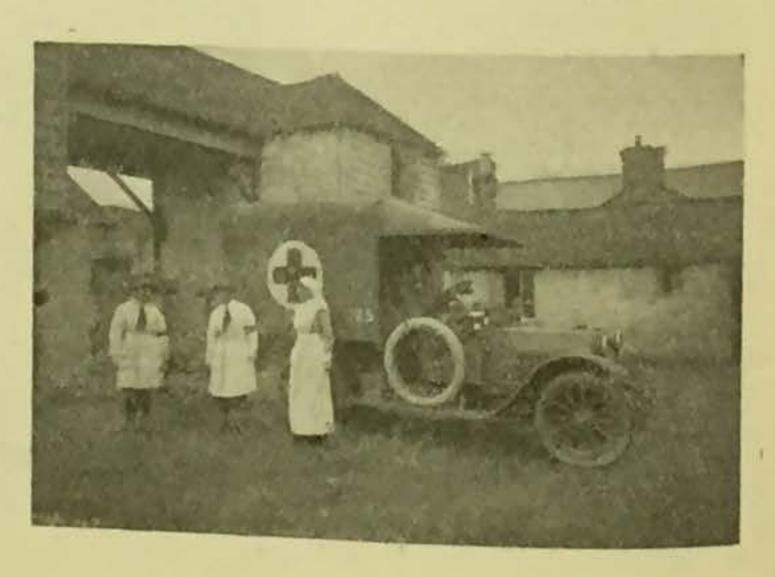
To My Instructress

COMETIMES within a rugged human frame Is hid a heart of gold, Like precious pearl within a rugged shell Whose glories none behold; But when God made the jewel of thy heart He gave it setting meet, A body straight and nobly big of form With every grace replete.

With gentle hand but firm you drew the milk From hard and easy cow: But yet another lesson we all learnt, Rememb'ring it e'en now. The milk of human kindness seemed to flow From all under your sway-And this was through the lesson set by you From day to day.

You taught us how to take the thick rich cream From pans of milk with care, E'en as you taught us how to find the best In every girl, and ne'er To think about the bad, but cast it out Like poor milk from rich cream, That so the good might cultivated be, The bad fade as a dream.

L. E. G., L.A.A.S.



OUR GREAT COMPETITION NUMBER

£10 10s. in Prizes

Needlework Prize of £3

Many of you have been unable to enter for The Landswoman competitions because you cannot write essays or poems, or draw pictures. For these a prize of £3 will be given for the best piece of needlework or crochet work or knitting—the materials for which must not cost more than 3s. All articles will be returned to the competitors after the result is announced, and marks will be given for neatness of work and ingenuity of design. These articles must reach this office not later than April 1st.

Essays-First Prize £1; Second Prize 10s.

A prize of £1 and a second prize of 10s, will be given for the best essay on any subject connected with land work or Nature, not more than 500 words in length Essays to reach this office before April 1st.

Poetry-First Prize £1; Second Frize 10s.

For a short poem on any subject, humorous or sentimental To be sent in before April 1st.

Drawing-First Prize £1; Second Prize 10s.

For a drawing on any subject-pen-and-ink or coloured. To be sent in before April 1st.

The entries for all the competitions will be judged by the Director of the Women's Branch, Board of Agriculture, assisted by the Editor and a select Committee of Headquarters Staff. The decision of the Committee to be final.

Everybody's Prize of £3

A special Editor's Prize of £3 will be given to any reader of THE LANDSWOMAN who succeeds in getting the greatest number of new subscribers before April 1st. The names and addresses of the subscribers, together with their six months' subscription of 2s. (members of the Land Army 1s. 6d.) to be sent direct to the Editorial Office, Stone Field, Kidbrook Grove, Blackheath.

Owing to lack of space the result of the competitions set in the Christmas Number are held over till next month.

THE following letter has been sent to every L.A.A.S. in England and Wales:

Food Production Department,
72, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1.
December, 1918.

Ref. No. C.L. 267 (a)/L3.

DEAR LANDWORKER,—Now that the lighting has come to an end you will be wanting to know what is the position of the Land Army.

Nothing certain can yet be said about the future, but one thing is certain, the whole world is very short of food, and everything must be done to produce as much as possible. Your country still needs your help.

Now I want you to answer a question which is set out on the form below, and where there is space left for your reply. Please let me have it as quickly as possible, for I want to know what your own idea is about the future.

The form should be filled in, torn off, folded up, and posted immediately; it need not then be stamped.

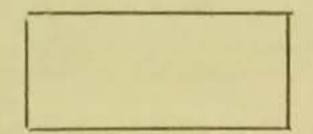
MURIEL L. TALBOT,

Director, Women's Branch.

Ref. No. C.L. 267 (b)/L3.

When the day comes that the Land Army is demobilised is it your intention to take up land work as your permanent employment?

Write Yes or No here.





THE GIRL WHO LIVED IN THE WOODS*

By MARJORIE BENTON COOKE, Author of "Bambi," etc.

CHAPTER XIV

ENTER SAXTON GRAVES

CECILIA had been at work for a couple of weeks on the murals for the Carteret library. The big empty room at the top of the house, originally designed for a ballroom, had been made into a studio and turned over to her. She could be found there working like a demon at all sorts of odd hours. The windows looked out over the waters, and the sun streamed in hotly, through the big skylight, but Cecilia was totally unconscious of her surroundings, so absorbed was she in her work. The Judge protested against her long hours, so finally she promised him to work only in the cool of the morning and the late afternoon.

On this particular morning she had slipped up to the house top about five o'clock, before anyone was stirring. She had had a restless night, in which a new phase of her work had presented itself. She had not stopped for any food: she just rushed at work with her uusual abandon. For three hours and a half she painted rapidly, trilliantly, and then all at once Nature asserted herself, and the inspiration seemed to go. Cecilia sank down before the canvas despairingly.

Some one mounted the stairs, and the Judge's head appeared over the top of the banister.

"I thought I heard a mouse in my garret," he smiled.
"I was mad with joy over an idea that came in the night, and now I can't do it—the thing is all gone. I'm a failure, a miserable failure."

"Cecilia Carné, have you had any breakfast?" he demanded sternly.

"No, no, there was no time for it," impatiently. The Judge went over and drew her to her feet.

"You need a guardian," he said: "you aren't fit to be left to your own base devices. Don't you think this body of yours has any rights? A woman with your sense of fairness, too! I'm ashamed of you."

He led her downstairs to the breakfast-room and saw that she was served, and thoroughly enjoyed her ravenous appetite. She caught his smile and returned it.

"What a fool you must think me."

"Well, you are not what I would call a sensible person. I am of the opinion, however, that that very lack is half of your charm."

She leaned toward him impulsively. "Do you think I have charm?"

"I should say that you were endowed with a liberal amount."
"I never thought of such a thing, but I'm awfully glad you think I have it," she added naively.

"I am not alone in that opinion, it is shared by the Barretts, Bobby, Saxton Graves ——"

" Oh, him!" scornfully.
"You don't like him?"
"No be appoys me."

"No, he annoys me."
"How?"

"I don't know; his just being himself annoys me."

The Judge laughed. "Trifle intangible, isn't it? Couldn't call it a direct charge to come before the court."

"Arraign him as home, public nuisance to woman."

"Ah, ah | it is his sex you object to. Scarcely his fault. Do you remember what Locke puts into the mouth of Sir Marcus Ordeyne? 'Sex is the fundamental blunder of the Universe!' Your charge should be made against a higher power, young lady."

"No doubt: he buzzes so."
"Buzzes?" The Judge threw back his head and laughed heartily. "Poor Saxton, I am sorry he bothers you, for he is to

be my guest for a couple of weeks."
"Really? He is coming here?"

"He is here, came last night. You are sitting in his place."
"It's a shame!" she cried hotly. "Just as I was getting on

"But what difference can he make to you?"

"He will—you'll see—he'll make a difference in everything."
"You wouldn't have me turn him out of the house, would you?
He was pathetically grateful for my invitation."
Cecilia rose.

"He shall not come into the studio—he shall not put his foot across the threshold."

"You are ruler of that realm. Maybe I've been bold myself, rushing in without permission. I never thought ——"

"Oh, you !"
There was so much of reproach and tenderness in the exclamation that the Judge took her face between his hands, and smiled down into her eyes.

"Don't be too hard on poor Saxton, dear. You ought to see more of young people: we are all too old and staid for you. I fancied Saxton had a special reason for wanting to come to Hill-crest. He's a fine young fellow for all his chaff, and a staunch friend of mine."

"I'll try to be decent to him because you like him."
"Nonsense! Be nice to him because he's a fine, good-looking

"Nonsense! Be nice to him because he's a fine, good-looking young chap, and like him for his own sake. Here he comes now," he added, as Sexton started down the stairs singing.

Without any answer Cecilia ran into the kitchen and up the back stairs to her workshop, leaving the Judge to gaze after her in amazement.

"Young women of to-day require great subtlety of treatment," he mused, half aloud. "The old method of a blow on the head with a war club, and the barter system, so simple and so efficacious—alas! they are gone for age."

"God's in His heav'n:
All's right with the world!"

sang Saxton, as he came in.

"Addressing a jury, Judge?"
"No, indulging in a lamentable habit of audible contemplation."

"What is your theme?"

"The present-day methods of courtship, as practised by the civilised whites."

"Lord! at this hour? What suggested this frivolity?"

"Miss Cecilia Carné."

Saxton dropped his spoon, and then remarked with elaborate carelessness, "Miss Carné? Is she still about?"

"Quite so. I may say she has become the vital centre, and the rest of us are about."

"Indeed? You see her often?"

"Very. She has just had breakfast with me."

"What !-here ?-this morning? I say, you might have let me know."

"I'd no idea she was coming. She paints upstairs, and I found her up there—had been working for hours on an empty stomach—and I dragged her down to breakfast. I did not think you would be interested in her being here," he added slyly.

"I suppose she doesn't know I'm here?"

"I broke it to her this morning."
"Did she take it hard?"

"To be frank, she did not seem enraptured. She has an idea that your frivolous presence will interfere with serious work."

"She thinks I'm a clown," said Graves ruefully.

"She objects to young men in general, she informs me."

"Sign she's never known any nice ones."

The Judge shouted.

"Youth, youth! you blessed egotist!"
"I don't care what she thinks of young men in toto, if she can be induced to think well of one young man solo!"

Judge Carteret looked at him, serious at once.

"You are in earnest, Saxton?"

"Certainly. As far as I know her she is the most attractive woman I have ever met."

The Judge mused a moment before he spoke.

"Well, and why not? Why shouldn't she come to care for you, with your spirits and your youth? You have my best wishes, boy. But take a word from an ancient and observing sportsman. You'll never catch this silver shiner with net nor

sportsman. You'll never catch this silver shiner with net nor luminous bait. You will have to dive into the quiet pools, where she hides, follow swift through muddy waters, where she glides, and catch her with your own two hands. Watch out, or she'll slip between your fingers!"

"I'm off. I'm to pick Richard up at the Lodge. I had thought I might come out early to-day to see how—to play a round of golf," adding, mentally, "to see how Cecilia is getting on." Aloud he said, "If you care to play, we'll go over about

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He waved an adieu, took his hat and went out on to the sunny veranda; but for some reason he shivered.

"I'm getting old, I'm afraid," he sighed, as he stepped into the runabout. This time he did not look up at the studio windows as he drove away.

Saxton finished a very good breakfast, and wandered out on the veranda to smoke a cigarette. Presently Bobby, the erstwhile hero of a fall, came into view, laboriously moving on all fours. He climbed the steps, still impersonating a quadruped, sat down on the top step, and addressed Saxton, as if he were just the person he had expected to see.

"Where is she?"

"Good morning, Bobby ; I hope I see you well."

"Tan't you see me well? Where are your glasses, Mr. Man?" "I referred to your health, sir. May I ask why you go on all fours ? "

"I'm a turtle, an' I tame to see the 'fwaid lady."

"I don't know any such person, but then I am a newcomer and not up on the inhabitants of these parts. You remember me, don't you ?"

"Yes, your name is Gwavey."

"Not quite; Graves, to be exact, Saxton Graves, at your service."

"Don't you know de 'fwaid lady?"

"No. Is she a witch?"

"No, she's my lady. I play wif her. Do you want to do an' see her ? "

"By all means. Do you think she would want to see me?" "I don't know. You're pretty big. She likes lil ones, but I'll ask her."

"Little ones? Little turtles, you mean?"
"No, lil boys."

"If you think she'd like me better as a turtle, I can try that position, but it may take some practice before I can move about easily. My girth is slightly excessive, you see, for going on all fours.

> "Oh, to be a turtle, A slow, lethargic turtle !"

he chanted, leaning over and trying to touch the floor with his hands.

"I don't fink you'd look nice turtling," said the boy gravely. "You tan tome along an' I'll ask her if you tan tome in.

It dawned upon Saxton that Cecilia was the "she" in question, and he followed his leader only too willingly. Three or four stairs from the top Bobby halted him, finger on lip, and went on up alone.

" Morning, 'fwaid lady," he heard him say.

"Oh, Bobbits! How is the boy?" a fresh young voice answered.

"I'm dood. I would like to tome up an' tiss you."

Evidently she was out of reach.

Pleasant sounds floated down to the eavesdropper and he peeped. Cecilia was working on a scaffolding reached by a ladder, on the top step of which stood Bobby. She was leaning down to kiss and pat him.

"Would you like a man I've dot?"

"A man? What man?" "Dust a man. I tol' him 'bout you, an' he said he'd be a turtle, too, if you liked dat."

"Bobby, who is he, and where is he?"

"He's Gwavey. He was on de porch, but I bwinged him up. He's sitting on de steps-if you'd let him tome in?"

"Oh, Bobby!"

"He feels more like a worm than a boa constrictor, but if you'll let him come up and apologise, he may grow to the required length."

"You!" said Cecilia, glancing at him coldly.

"Yes, dat's him," Bobby explained, conscious that all was not well. "If you don't like him, Bobby take him away," he added obligingly. "Take him along, then, I'm busy."

"Gwavey, she don't like you. Tome on."

"It behoves us, Robert, as the only members of our sex present, not to run, but to stand her fire."

"It behoves you not to make yourself a nuisance," snapped

Cecilia. "We'll be very quiet if you'll let us hang around and watch you. We will worship quietly from below, and only speak in whispers."

Cecilia switched herself around and glared down at him. "I'd have you understand that I am extremely busy, and that I have no time to bandy words. This is my sanctum, and nobody-nobody-intrudes upon me here without my express permission. If you want to bar me from the place by marching up here all the time, be good enough to say so, and I'll paint

elsewhere while you are here." "Bobby, the fire has become a cannonade," Saxton remarked. " Even the bravest soldier is not expected to face that unarmed.

As turtles we came in, as turtles we'll back out ! "

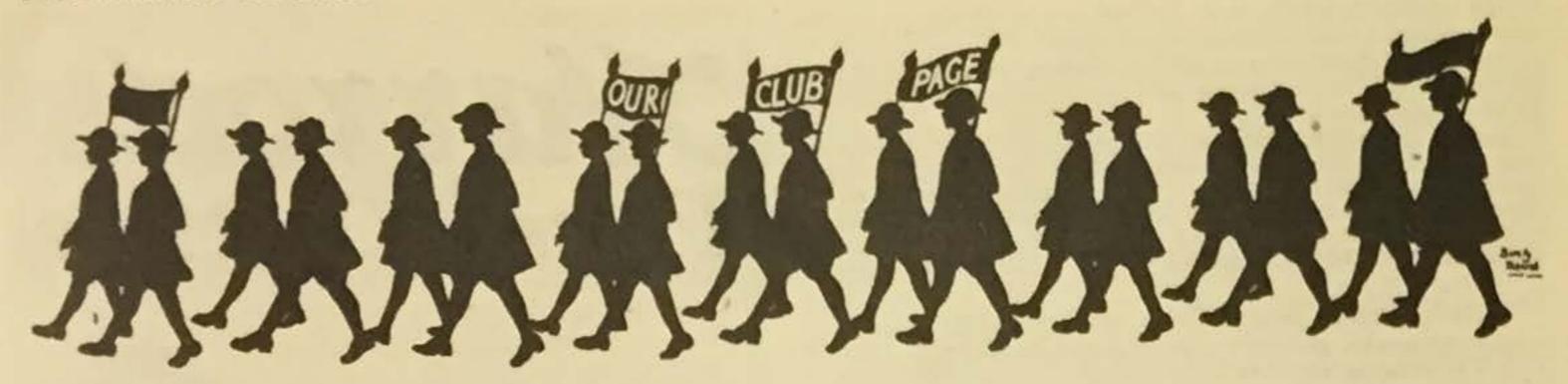
With which he transferred Bobby from the ladder to his shoulders, and with a low bow he stamped off downstairs, leaving Cecilia with the uncomfortable feeling that somehow or other he had gotten the better of her.

(To be continued)



HARRODS LTD LONDON SW1

Woodman Burbidge, Managing Director



DEAR GIELS,—I wish Christmas time and Christmas numbers came more often, for they have brought to me the most delightful of all the letters, full of delight, which you have sent me in such welcome numbers ever since January, 1918. So many of you took the trouble to wish "our Editor" a happy Christmas and all sorts of nice things in the New Year, and I felt prouder than ever that I was your Editor, and that I possessed so many charming friends. This is our great Competition Number, and I expect that the splendour of the prizes offered on another page will almost take your breath away. Anyway, I hope you will show your appreciation of the generous offer by sending in hundreds of entries. I have tried to think of a competition to suit everybody, and now that the evenings are long, and we all have plenty of spare time, I want every reader of The Landswoman to try for one or other of these prizes.

If there is anyone who does not feel able to tackle any of these competitions, will she suggest a competition, and we will set it

in the March number?

OUR POST BAG.—The correspondence which we invited on that interesting subject, "Does an intimate knowledge of Nature tend to make her more attractive or otherwise?" will have to be held over till next month, owing to lack of space. But we propose to make such discussions a regular feature of THE LANDSWOMAN, and to have a column every month entitled "Our Post Bag." Any good suggestions for topics of discussion will be welcome.

CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.—You will all enjoy extract

from a few of my letters this month -

"Isn't Devon glorious? I love every bit of it, although I am really a Cornish woman. I can't exactly say how I teel, but sometimes, when I am out in the fields alone, I just have to hold my arms out to it all, it seems so big somehow, and everything is alive. Even the grass and the bare trees seem to tell

you that they are living: and it is all mine, or so I think at times. I think that the field in which you are working alone is all your

own-don't you ?"

' I am in the Surrey L.A.A.S., and was at the Guildford party last evening, when you were present. . . . That was eighteen happy months ago, and only myself knows how much I have learnt to love the beauties I have found in the country. The glories of the sunsets, the moonrises, the dawns, the mists sweeping away from the hills, the snow on the trees, transforming everything into a fairyland. The glorious spring, wherein everything tells of fresh life-the animals with their young, the birds-the lark -oh! the lark, with its song of uplifting confidence, telling always of hope. If I could only bring my thoughts of all these things on to paper, but I can't. They are so jumbled and crowded, that it is only left for me to weave dreams for myself: dreams to carry back to that dismal town where I have promised to return when the war is finished-I hate to think of going back-ah, well, they can only have my mindmy heart and soul will be always, always with these fields and the happiest days of my life, my Land Army days." " Have you ever just stood

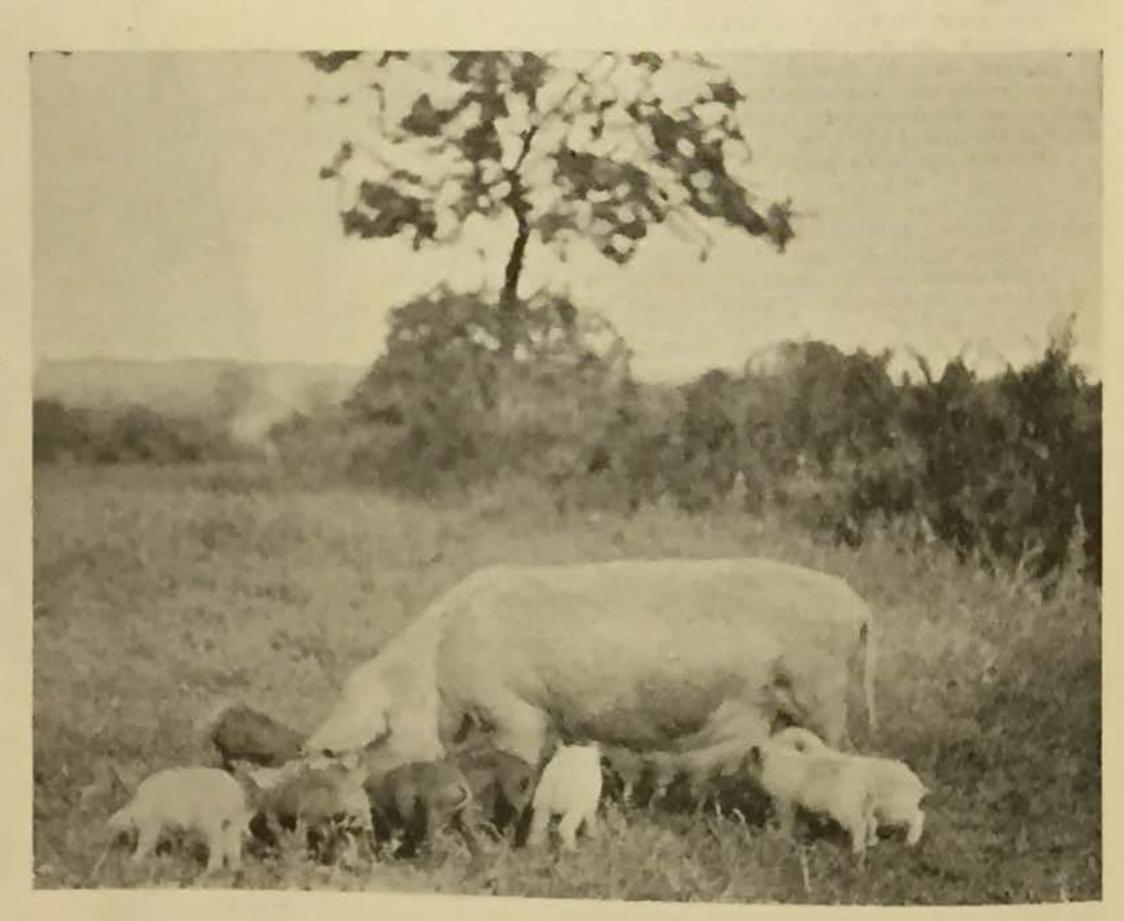
and feasted your eyes on the countryside in spring, when the blossoms are all out and the birds, and every little insect seem to be almost bursting their hearts with joy? Your troubles seem to roll away from you, they seem so small, and you say to yourself, 'Who could be unhappy where everything around seems so lovely?' I once read of an Indian poet who said that the flowers were God's love letters to us—isn't that a lovely thought?"

It is a lovely thought, and it reminds me that in a long-lookedfor letter which came to me last week from Palestine—also from a reader of THE LANDSWOMAN, I found a tiny little grey olive leaf threaded through the paper, and underneath, "a leaf from the Mount of Olives." And that, of course, reminded me of

those lines of Sidney Lanier's .

"Into the woods my Master went,
Clean forspent, forspent.
Into the woods my Master came
Forspent with love and shame.
But the olives were not blind to Him,
The little gray leaves were kind to Him;
The thorn tree had a mind to Him
When into the woods He came."

THE SHOPPING CLUB.—I am so glad to know that you are all following my advice and getting up plays and concerts, for every post has brought incessant demands for plays and songs and recitations. In one village in Oxfordshire the L.A.A.S. got up a concert with a barn for a concert hall. The barn was artistically decorated, and a gallery was made of trusses of straw—£16 was raised on this occasion for the Comforts Fund, and the same concert party made nearly £5 two days after at a neighbouring village. In Herts the Land Army pantomime was a howling success, and so popular that £30



was the financial result. Here, also, a handful of L.A.A.S. acted Mrs. Lyttelton's play to a village audience, and raised £12. With all this evidence of the success of Land Army talent, there should be no difficulty anywhere in raising money for Comforts Funds, or any other purpose. Other shopping demands for alarm clocks and chin straps and wool have all been despatched.

We are often asked to insert small advertisements and "wants," which up to the present we have refrained from doing : but in order to oblige our readers, we propose to include in the March issue a page of small advertisements. Anyone, therefore, wishing to advertise-sittings of eggs, day-old chicks, plants, animals, patent foods, fertilizers, knitted stockings, or domestic servants can now do so -confident that their advertisements will be read by the very people they want to reach. They should apply to the Advertising Offices, Stamford Street, London, S.E., for terms. This will NOT take the place of THE LANDSWOMAN Exchange Column, which is for the use of the Landworkers only.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES .- Some of the most enjoyable evenings I have ever had have been spent lately at Land Army parties. How we do enjoy ourselves in the Land Army when we all come together for that purpose and no other! At Harrow and Guildford and Chelmsford, and many, many other places, we danced and played games, and eat teas and suppers, just as though nothing else mattered in all the world. We were entirely forgetful of the fact that some of us had walked at least seven miles and had the same distance to go home; and the thought that we had to be milking at 5 a.m. the next morning did not reconcile us in the least to the dismal decision of our County Secretaries that all well-regulated Land Army parties stop at 10 o'clock. We just came to enjoy ourselves and we did. And that brings me to our Good Service Ribbons and Distinguished Service Bars, for the former were presented at all the parties which I attended.

This ribbon, as you know, is awarded to all of you who have given six months' completely satisfactory service in the Land Army, and hundreds of names of those who have already received it, will be found on another page. There also you will find the portrait of Volunteer Nicholas, who, while she was working in Sussex, performed the very plucky action for which she has been awarded the first Distinguished Service Bar. Portraits of all recipients of the D.S.B. will appear in The Lands-WOMAN, and I hope there will be many of them. Of one thing I am quite certain. Every one of you who is filled with the true Land Army spirit would earn the D.S.B. if you had the chance. If the awards of this decoration are rare in the Land Army, it will be from lack of opportunity-certainly not from lack of Your sincere friend, THE EDITOR. courage.

Gardening Hints for February

WORK must be pushed forward this month if weather permits. Real digging, manuring, and cleaning are of

great importance, for the sun is gaining in power.

Don't let weeds come into flower, especially groundsel, but dig them in; they will nourish the next crop. Beans may be sown, both early and late crops, but guard from frosts. Broccoli-Sow on a warm border, also in frames, if possible. Broad beans do well if put into boxes in a frame and planted out. Brussels sprouts should be sown early, both in the seed patch and in frames, for they require a long time to grow if large buttons are required. Cabbage plants, if too crowded-draw every other one to allow them space to heart. Seed-Sow in boxes in a frame to plant out when large enough. Garlie to be planted in rows 9 inches apart and 2 inches deep in rich soil. Lettuce-Make a small sowing now, and again later on. Sow mustard and cress n boxes, and place in a sunny window if there is no frame.

Parsnips require to be sown early in deeply dug ground. The digging is more important than manure. Peas-Sowearly sorts, but not if the weather is very wet, they will only rot; but the trenches can be got ready and manured, so as to be ready to sow the seed on the first fine day. Plant in rows, about 6 feet between each two rows, and plant early potatoes between; they do much better, because they get more air and light, and help to

protect the potatoes from late frosts.

Radishes .- To be sown with slight protection : an old box with a sheet of glass on top will help them a lot. This is if you can't spare a garden frame. Rhubarb should be taken up and divided, and planted in good, rich, moist soil, one eye to each crown. Savoys-Sow as soon as possible on a warm rich bed. Seakale-Watch the plants carefully, and when they push out of the ground, cover the crowns with seakale pots, and cover the pots either with manure, straw, or leaves, to keep them warm. Shallots -Plant on rich ground in rows 1 foot apart, and the bulbs 6 to 9 inches asunder. Press them into the earth firmly, but don't bury them. Sow a little of the round-seeded spinach. Turnips-Sow on a warm border, just two short rows. Tomatoes-Sow in a temperature of 60° or 65°, and put the plants into thumb pots as soon as they can be handled. Tomatoes can be had from June to November with the help of a greenhouse or heated frame. They can be bottled whole, by pricking them near the stem six or seven times with a darning needle, leaving on the short green stalk. The unripe ones make excellent chutney, with the help of apples and sultanas. Mind the seed is good, for their fruiting will depend on that, and place the seed with the finger in the pots, don't scatter them; press the earth very firmly in the pots or boxes with a flat piece of slate or wood; cover the seed } an FRANCES WALKLEY. inch with very fine soil.



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The Land Army in the Village

THE Land Army has helped the nation in more ways than one. We all know how splendidly these women have worked in all weathers and under all conditions to provide us and our Allies with food, but if the following incident is typical of what is happening in other places then, indeed, we may thank the Land Army for bringing back into our villages that spirit of joyful youth which would seem to have deserted them.

Three Land girls—V. and S. Lloyd and Clara Mattock—have been working in the village of Bishop's Caundle, in Dorset, for the last two years, and from time to time they have got up entertainments and fêtes for the amusement of the villagers. Their Land days are nearly over, and at a concert which they organised recently they were presented with two silver cream jugs and a silver cup from the villagers.

On this occasion the following letter, from General Sir Richard Westmacott, was read:

"I have been asked, on the part of the parish of Bishop's Caundle, to try and express to you our gratitude for all you have done for us since you came amongst us, and how sorry we are that the time has now come to say good-bye. It would have given me so much pleasure to have been present to-night to tell you personally how deeply we all feel your efforts for our amusement. From your first appearance amongst us you have always been to the fore, and in our darkest days of anxiety your cheeriness and vitality were an example to us all. We, of Bishop's Caundle, under a deep sense of gratitude to you for all you have done for us, ask you to accept these mementoes, which will, I hope, always remind you of the good work you have done here, and of our great gratitude for it.

"Good-bye and the best of luck to you all—luck from myself personally, and I am sure I may say from the whole of the parish."

EDITOR'S NOTE.—It has so long been my dream that the Land Army should be the means of bringing joy into our rural life, and that the village should be glad to have the L.A.A.S. in its midst, that I literally danced with delight as I read V. Lloyd's letter, for in one little village in Dorset, at least, my dream has come true.

JACK FROST.

Old Jack Frost is a pal of mine,
And a real good time we spend
When I cycle out for an hour or two
And the road's frost hard and the bike runs
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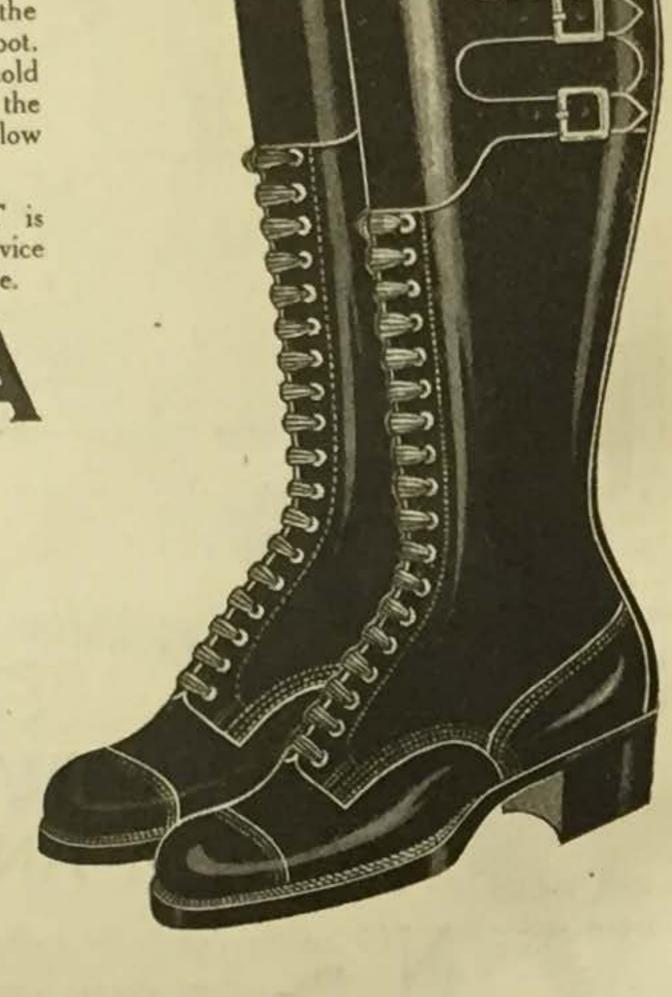
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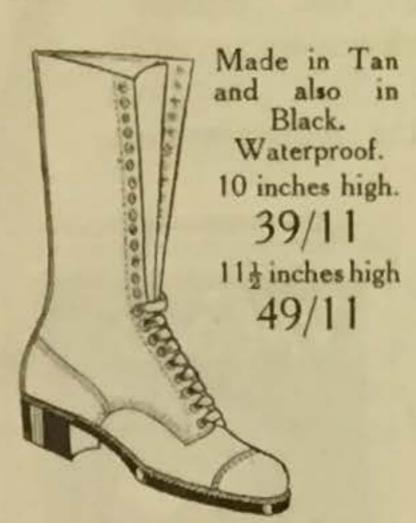
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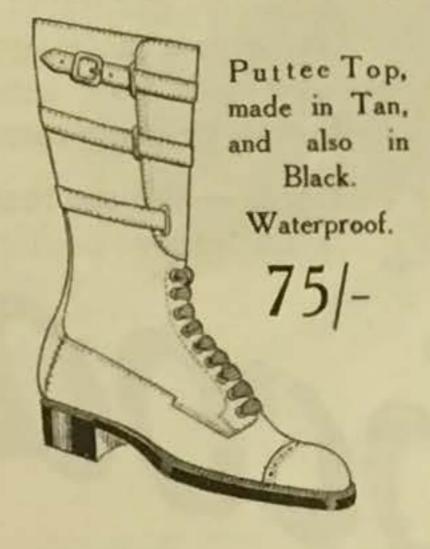
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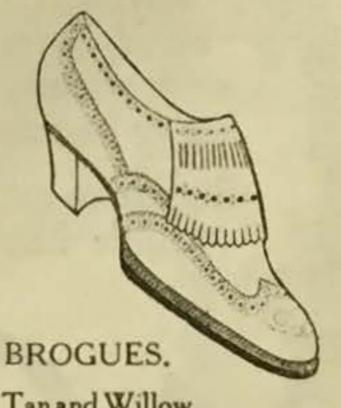
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The Landswoman Portrait Gallery

Volunteer Nicholas. Our first D.S.B.



Miss Ethel Nicholas, L.A.A.S., aged eighteen, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Bar. When in charge of a cutting machine drawn by two horses the leg of her employer was caught in the knife. Miss Nicholas bound up the wound, and when the doctor arrived helped him to operate. The doctor asserts that but for Miss Nicholas's prompt action the farmer would have lost his leg, and perhaps his life.

The D.S.B. has now been awarded to five other L.A.A.S., whose portraits will appear in the March issue.

Good Service Ribbon Awards

Further lists will appear in the March issue

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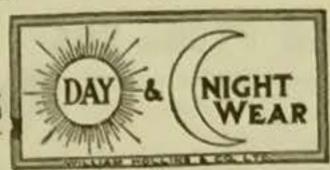
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Castell, Rosa Fuller, Mabel Gardiner, Phyllis Wms. Herridge, Florence Mallalieu, Jessie Mallalieu, Margorie Gordon, Clara Pullen, Barbara Jones, Kate Evans, Blodwen Pugh, Edith Williams, Margaret E. Bullock, Kitty Roberts, Jennie Jones, Sarah E. Watkins, Mia Owen, Nancy Rowlands, Maggie Davies, Dolly Lort, Eurgain Thomas, Martha Thomas, Jessie Ogle, Ada Free, Ada

Huntingdon

Herbert, Florence Baldock, Alice Giles, Grace Sams, Florence Dunkley, Rose Little, Eispeth Farrington, Dorothy Hall, Mrs. Skelhon, Edith Goodwin, Alice Few, Gladys Palmer, Annie Feary, Florence Wade, Mrs. Tonstein, Ruth Oram, Doris Gibson, Daisy Peat, Louisa Turner, M. J. Anger, Ada

Downing, Gladys Joyce Carrie Crowe, Alice Elmore, Ellen Clarke, Phyllis Stamford, Ethel Farrington, Wintired Davis, Hilda Croyden, Ethel Fyson, Norah Young, Nellie Griffin, Ida Ashby, Alice Taylor, Hilda Rendall, Florence King, Rose Brace, Mrs. Butler, Margaret Guntrip, Blanche White, Mrs.

Further lists of G. S. Ribbons awarded in E. and W. Suffolk, Oxfordshire, Essex, etc., will be published in the March number. Look out for your name.

House or Home?

IT is 7 o'clock on a drizzly night in October, 1917. Do you see three weary Land Girls pushing their bicycles down the muddy lane to that barn-like building which is to be their billet? The door and windows stand hospitably open, but no welcoming light shines forth into the gloom.

Let us follow them into the kitchen, a bare, sparsely-furnished room, in which an exhaustive search reveals neither candle nor matches. A parcel of groceries, straight from the shop, stands in one corner, but, horror of horrors, the bread has been

forgotten! A walk to the farm, a few hundred yards away, procures a light and half a loaf of bread, and the girls make their supper from it and the remains of their sandwiches. Thoughts of to-morrow's early breakfast turn their attention to the grate, but, alas, it is choked with einders and the remains of half-burnt letters.

We slip away with a sigh, but a hearty laugh from within reminds us that it takes a lot to knock the fun out of the " Lasses."

It is just a year later; suppose we repeat our visit to the barn-like cottage down the muddy lane and see if any of our old friends are there.

" At least the mud is!" you murmur, picking your way

" Yes, and there is the cottage, a darker blot against the wintry

But there is a change : a light shines cheerfully through warm red curtains, one bright shaft piercing the gloom without. That uncurtained crack is our one chance, for to-night the doors

Can it be the same room? A hanging lamp lights the table, laid for the evening meal. Armchairs with plenty of cushions, a rug or two, some flowers and a piano, books, and numberless photographs show that this room is a home. A bright little fire burns in the grate, and a fat black kettle sings busily on the shining hob. But stop, the cottage has a new inmate-a white-haired woman with a kindly face, stirring the saucepan from which that delicious smell comes.

A confused noise of quick footsteps and laughter dawns on our ears, and into the room rush (" I knew they'd win through," you whisper breathlessly) our three old friends, clean and dry, and ready for their supper and an evening's fun.

Let us intrude no further; we know all we came to learn, and are satisfied. To-morrow we must be elsewhere.

Cloth Covers

THE yellow cloth covers for binding the first twelve numbers I of THE LANDSWOMAN are now ready, and can be obtained from the Editorial Office, price 1s. tid. Some of you may, through no fault of your own, have got one or two of your copies dirty, and this would spoil the look of your bound volume. The Editor will send a clean copy of any month, excepting January, 1918, in exchange for a dirty one, to any L.A.A.S. who has paid her subscription for the first six months of 1919. This offer is open to L.A.A.S. only. Back numbers of every issue, except January, 1918, can be obtained from the Editor at the usual price.

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Federation of Women's Institutes

(ESTABLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WOMEN'S BRANCH, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.)

Beekeeping for Women

By the Rev. J. G. Digges, M.A., Editor "Beekeepers' Gazette," Author "The Practical Bee Guide."

DUT is it "for women"? Is beekeeping an Dindustry in which women and girls can engage

with pleasure and profit ?

Before the war, the cult of the honey bee was recommended for girls and women. We all knew that their touch was gentle, that they had a fine sense of the fitness of things, an instinct for details, and, withal, a love of the picturesque and the beautiful. We believed that such qualities should

contribute to good beekeeping and that among neat and well-kept hives, in a garden of flowers. woman would look her best. Moreover, the bees would tempt her to keep in the fresh and open air; which would be excellent for her and the race.

Many persons think that beekeeping involves too much stinging to be entertaining, and is, therefore, unsuited to the gentler sex. But all who have experience of it know that stinging is generally the result of impatience and roughness on the part of the operator, and that woman, being in these, as in so many other respects, man's superior,

does not provoke the bees to sting, and so escapes.

"When greater perils man environ, Then women show a front of iron; And, gentle in their manner, they Do bold things in a quiet way."

This quiet way of doing bold things is the real secret of success in the management of bees. They, resenting roughness and timidity, are amenable to gentle treatment, and harmless to such as approach them tenderly, without fear. Woman's delicate touch, her "infinite variety," give her the mastery here, as in so many other adventures.

It is, however, to the credit of beekeeping as an industry for women that it makes no excessive claims upon their physical endurance, strong and capable as we now know them to be. There are no heavy weights to lift, nor burdensome loads to carry. What are the most required are gentleness -as already stated-judgment, and foresight. With these it were possible for "the delicate woman, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness," to engage

in the industry with success, and to find, in its fascinating interest, real rest and happiness.

"Her reason firm, her temperate will,

Endurance, foresight, strength, and skill," mark her out as specially gifted to handle bees with impunity, and to turn their wonderful industry to profitable account.

But is it profitable?

In 1916 our imports of honey amounted to £187,000. Since then the figures have not been published, but it is evident that there is abundant scope for the production of more honey in Great Britain to

meet the want now supplied by foreign countries. Moreover, honey is being used in increasing quantities, and the shortage of sugar has raised the price of honey to a figure which makes of beekeeping an exceedingly profitable occupation. Sections of 1 lb., which a couple of years ago were saleable at 6d. each, are now selling freely at 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. Extracted honey, then worth 5d. per lb., is now worth 2s. 6d. to 3s.

Is this prospect of money-getting one that will appeal to women and girls?

Quite recently, a girl communicated from her school with the writer, asking: "Why don't you try



From "The Beekeepers' Gazette."] Lady Beckeepers.

[Copyright.

to encourage beekeeping as an industry more for girls, especially when their allowances are small? Probably it is because you men don't know how often we girls are hard up." Let us. "own the soft impeachment," and admit at once the intellectual deficiencies of a mere man for the study of a subject so delicate. Let the heedless world of men learn the piteous truth that girls may, like boys and men, often be "hard up."

Well, here, in honey production, is an occupation with profit for girls whose allowances are small. If £10 would come in handy as an increment: if £20 would help to balance receipts and expenses; if £30 would pay for a needed holiday; if £50 or £100 or £200 would meet many claims and add pleasure to life, here is an opportunity-open-air work, healthy, invigorating, fascinating; recreation as well as work; a nature-study elevating the mind, and, for the labour and capital required, by far the most profitable of all agricultural pursuits.

GOOCHS VOGUE and VALUE

Outdoor life demands hard-wearing clothing above all. To fit out at GOOCHS is to be prepared for all the weather and wear and tear that may come your way—to benefit by smart, sound tailoring as well as good materials—and to save money into the bargain

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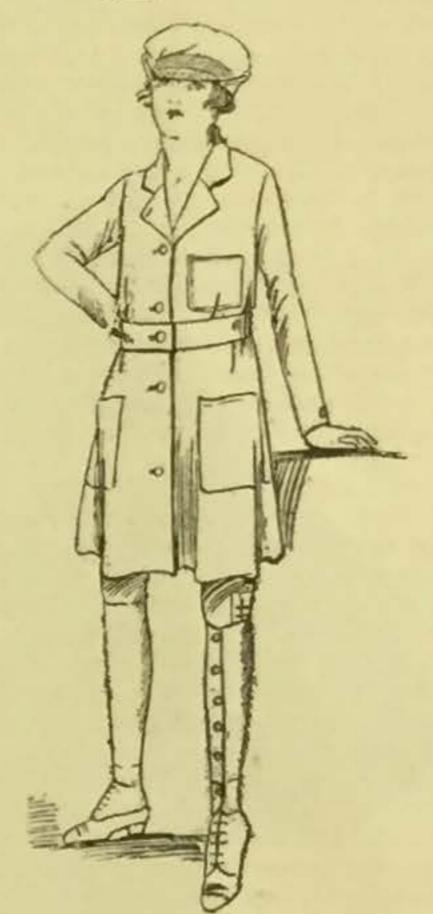


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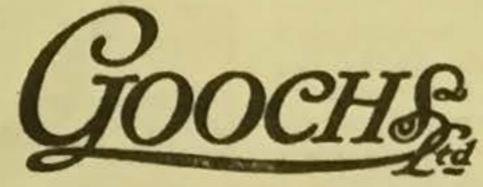
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Coat & Breeches ... 35/Cap to match ... 4/11
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New Telephone No.: KENS. 5100.

A Few Hints on Spring Cleaning, and the Storing of Winter Clothes.

THE following address was given at the Criccieth Women's Institute by one of the members, Miss Marian Powell Williams.

Every year, as soon as the brighter weather comes and the days begin to lengthen, the thoughts of a good housewife turn to the cleaning and putting in order of her house. However clean a house is kept and however regularly the various rooms go through their daily and weekly cleanings, it is always necessary to have a special cleaning at least twice a year. There is no hard and fast rule as to the time of the year the cleaning should be done, but I think that the usual and quite the best times are the spring and the autumn.

Both cleanings are practically the same, and what applies to one time nearly always applies

to the other.

These periodical cleanings are unfortunately looked upon, especially by the men folk of the family, as great nuisances and humbugs. In some houses the cleaning certainly does mean untidy rooms, scrappy meals, and very little comfort. Now this really depends on the way the work is performed. Some system should be decided on beforehand, and a happy-go-lucky upheaval of the whole house avoided. Before the work is started in real earnest the housewife should make sure that she has everything in the house necessary for the cleaning. Plenty of soda, soap. soft soap, and furniture polish, brushes and dusters. There is nothing so unsettling as to find when polishing the furniture that you have used up all the polish and must either leave the work until another day or run out to buy more polish; and is there anything on earth more exasperating than to find that you have not got enough nails to put down the drawing-room carpet, and that the old ones are all bent?

Soap especially should be bought some time beforehand, as the older and harder soap is the

longer it will last and the better it is.

The correct way or order of cleaning a house is to begin at the very top, in the lumber-room if you have one, then the bedrooms, sitting-rooms, lavatories, and landings, staircase and hall, etc., until the kitchen and scullery are reached. Everything that needs repairing should now be seen to, especially locks. Cracked and broken crockery should be thrown away, and sets made up again.

If the following rules are kept, the cleaning of a

house becomes a very simple thing:

(1) Only clean one room at a time.

(2) Plan each day's work carefully beforehand, and don't waste precious time wondering whether you will do the drawing-room or the pantry to-day!

(3) Do not undertake too much work at a time.
(4) As far as possible serve comfortable meals.
or at the end of a "perfect day" you will find yourself too worn out and tired to think of starting

again on the morrow.

A great deal of time is saved if the cupboards and drawers are cleaned beforehand. To do this, you first of alleempty the contents, throwing away the rubbish. Scrub well with water and earbolic soap. Leave open for some time to dry, and then

line with clean paper. Put back the contents, having first washed or dusted them. Books should also be cleaned beforehand, and sorted out, and anything that is of no further use to you should be destroyed or sent to a local hospital for the patients.

I am not going through the process of cleaning out a room, but I thought that a few hints on the cleaning of different articles in a room might come

in useful.

Venetian Blinds should be washed with a soft sponge, wrung out of warm water, in which a little soap and borax have been dissolved. Wash each lath separately, then dip the sponge in clean water

and wash off the soap.

Paint.—I should like to emphasise the importance of washing paint in the spring. Flies and other insects lay their eggs in the crevices of doors and windows, and if these are not destroyed these pests will be found very troublesome the following summer. Do not use soda for washing paint, as this brings off the paint. Only soap and warm water is necessary.

White Enamelled Paint.—A good preparation is made of one gill of vinegar, one gill of paraffin, half a gill of linseed oil. Apply this to the paint with a soft rag and gently rub. It will take off

all the stains, and leave a nice gloss.

Gilt Picture Frames in time become very shabby, but if washed with a little onion water (made by boiling two or three onions in two breakfastcupfuls of water, and then strained and used warm) they will look quite fresh again. Methylated spirits and water in equal parts are also good.

Mirrors should be wiped over with a chamois leather dipped in warm water, to which a few drops of ammonia have been added, and then dried and

polished with a soft cloth.

Steel should be cleaned with a paste made of bathbrick powder and paraffin. This should be well rubbed in with an old flannel, and the final polish given with a little dry powder sprinkled on a dry duster. If there is any rust on the steel, it can be taken off by rubbing it with a cork dipped in olive oil.

Faded Carpets and Tapestry-Covered Furniture.—
The colours in these can be revived by washing them over with a cloth wrung out of ammonia and

warm water.

Water Bottles and Vases, if stained should be half-filled with warm soapy water, and then a little raw potato, some tea-leaves, or a few pieces of brown paper put in. Leave to soak, giving an occasional shake, and then rinse out in clean water.

Wallpaper can be very easily cleaned in the following way: Take a clean sponge and a bucketful of nice clean bran. Hold the sponge face upwards and sprinkle with bran. Quickly turn this on the wall and rub gently up and down. Repeat this process several times if necessary. There is nothing so unpleasant in a room as dirty wallpaper, and in these days of expensive wallpapers and the scarcity of labour it is well to know a way in which old papers can be made to look fresh and clean.

The arrangement of the linen cupboard and the storing and renovating of clothes will be dealt with in the March number of THE LANDSWOMAN.



mers and Farmers' Wives as the most reliable and PRACTICAL garment obtainable for land wear. Tailored from a heavy double stout twill, it wears "like iron," and will defy even torrential downpours, and keep you dry and snug under all conditions. It is waterproofed by a secret process which we do not divulge. This Coat really represents PRE-WAR VALUE at PRE-WAR PRICE.

READ THIS SPECIFICATION. The texture of the "All British" Sportsman's Coat is a heavy double stout twill. The proofing is thorough throughout and of super-quality, and we warrant it not only torrential rainproof, but capable of withstanding all climatic effects. It is full cut, skirt and cuffs are lined with insulated leatherette, and all seams

PRICE are sewn and taped throughout. We guarantee its wearing qualities and 40 = durability under the severest conditions. LADIES

Sizes 38 Bust ... Length

If you prefer a lighter weight Coat there is our special Landswoman's Lightweight Model of the "All British" Sportsman's Coat designed by us to meet the express needs of Landworkers who desire a fashionable coat which is thoroughly useful and dependable. READ THE SPECIFICATION.

Made from specially prepared strong cotton in Khaki shade and efficiently proofed. Cut by expert craftsmen. Fitted with Syddo interlined fronts, stiff self belts, strapped cuffs. and lined throughout with plaid lining. Equal in value to the original heavier Sportsman's Coat, which was designed for winter wear. For PRICE style, wear, protection and convenience

these Lightweight models are ideal. See illustration. LADIES. STOCK SIZES-34 36 36 38 38 Breast ...

Length SEND FOR ONE ON FOUR DAYS' APPROVAL. Either of these Coats sent Carriage Paid to your door on the following terms: Remit the price of Coat with your application, and, if the Coat fails to completely satisfy you. return it within four days in the same condition as received and we will return your money in full. YOU risk nothing.

We GUARANTEE to satisfy you Special Illustrated Leastet Post Free upon application.

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We have received a special permit from the Director of Raw Materials to continue the manufacture of our wellknown ladies' "Field" Boot with its high uppers-made originally for farmers' wives and daughters-and to sell them to women who are engaged in national work on the land.

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SEND NO MONEY until you have seen the boot for yourself, then, and only then, if you are satisfied remit the 22/6 and the fellow boot will be sent at once. On the other hand, return the boot to us carefully packed and be free from obligation.

This popular model for country wear has withstood the most severe test in the hardest weather, and is universally recognised as the finest "bad weather" hard wearing boot obtainable. At our "All British" FACTORY price you will make a distinct gain in both money and quality.



holes, leather lined quarter, carefully machine-stitched and well reinforced-enabling it to resist heavy strain. "Field out" pattern, with adjustable straps as illustrated. The soles and heels are of extra stout solid leather of the very best quality, nailed flush with steel slugs, which enormously increases the "life" of the sole.

Stocked in all usual Ladies' sizes, full fitting only 22/6 Carriage Paid.

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(Dept. L-W) "All-British" Works, Northampton.

Catfield Women's Institute

PROGRAMME.

Meetings will be held in the Infant School (unless otherwise stated) on the second Wednesday in

each month, at seven o'clock.

Fruit Stones and Nut Shells .- Members are asked to bring to each meeting the fruit stones and nut shells they have collected. A prize will be given at the end of six months (in April) to the member who has collected most.

NOVEMBER.

" Men may judge us by the success of our efforts; God looks at the efforts themselves." - CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH.

Address: Egg Production in Winter. Display of articles made by the Red Cross Working Party.

Sale of Home Cookery and Needlework. Rummage Stall.

Proceeds for the Red Cross Society. Competition: Best Child's Garment made out of old stockings. Prize. Gramophone Selections.

Refreshments. DECEMBER.

"Then come the cold weather, come sleet or come snow, We will stand by each other however it blow."

-LONGFELLOW.

Address: Hay-Box Cookery. Exhibition of Bottled and Dried Fruit and Vegetables, Jam, and Home-made Pickles.

Suggestions for Motto for Catfield Women's Institute.

Competition: Best Home-made Christmas Gift; price of materials not to exceed 1s.

Games .. Refreshments. JANUARY.

" For what are all our contrivings, And the wisdom of our books When compared with your caresses And the gladness of your looks?"

-" Children," LONGFELLOW.

Tea Party for Members and their Husbands and Children. Entertainment by Children.

> Treasure Hunt. Games.

> > FEBRUARY.

"In such a world as this with such ugly possibilities hanging over us all there is but one anchor which will hold, and that is utter trust in God."-KINGSLEY.

Address: Vegetable Growing for Pleasure and Profit.

Competition: The best Button-hole; to be made in a quarter of an hour. Prize.

Exhibition: War Trophies. Recitations and Dialogue or Little Play.

Refreshments. MARCH.

"What is worth doing is worth doing well." - OLD PROVERB.

Address: Beekeeping. Demonstration: Cheese Making, Mrs. Barber. Talk: What shall we plant in the garden this

spring? Exhibition: Home-made bread and cakes.

Exchange of recipes. Best Menu for one week's dinners. Menus to be

brought to the meeting. Gramophone Selections. Refreshments.

APRIL.

"Whatsoever thing thou doest To the least of Mine and lowest That thou doest unto Me." -" The Legend Beautiful," LONGFELLOW.

Address: Home Nursing. Display of knitting and crocheting. Pet Economies.

Talk: What is our Duty to our Neighbour? Guessing Competition. Refreshments.

> "Life is mostly froth and bubble, Two things stand like stone, Kindness in another's trouble. Courage in your own."

East Bridgford W.I.

The method of curing skins used by our members is as follows: "Stretch the skin tightly on a board, scrape well to remove all bits of fat or flesh adhering, rub in a mixture of powdered alum and common salt (half of alum to two of salt), and leave for three weeks, rubbing in a little more now and then if necessary. Then wipe dry, and rub in whitening, after which rub daily with pumice stone until the skin is quite dry and soft. The whitening is to dry it, and must be well rubbed into the edges." We do not consider this method perfect, and shall be glad of the expert's advice.

Sittings of eggs may now be booked for an excellent strain of Brown Leghorns, price 10s. per sitting. Eggs from the same strain won the first prize at the Women's Institute Exhibition, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Send in bookings as early as possible to Miss Scott, Bellevue, Hamworthy,

Poole, Dorset.



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IT WONT
SHRINK, IF
YOU USE
"LUX"

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