

WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine

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EDITORIAL.THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE AT CAMBRIDGE.

The first W.V.S. Residential Regional Conference was held at Newnham College, Cambridge on March 28th and 29th for Region IV. The Regional Administrator and her staff are to be congratulated on the outcome of their venture. The choice of place was a happy one. The spirit of peace and serenity which always haunts a college in one of the older Universities, was welcomed by women who had come from the anxieties and difficulties of the first winter of the war. The setting of green lawns and gracious common-rooms; the sense of freedom and intimacy of college life; the excellence of college catering; all these played no small part in the success of the Conference. The thanks of W.V.S. must go out to the College Authorities, who made this setting and atmosphere possible.

The programme was an ambitious one. After dinner, the Conference was addressed by the Regional Commissioner and the Chairman. At the various sessions, food-rationing and provisioning in war-time were considered; and accounts were given of work in a Borough Centre (by a York representative) and in a village centre. There was discussion on welfare work for the Fighting Services, Canteen Services, Salvage and on the great problems of Evacuation - clothing, communal feeding and the new Evacuation scheme.

What were some of the general points that emerged? There was the enumeration by the Regional Commissioner of the important fields for W.V.S. activity in the future - particularly in the staffing of report and control centres at night and at week-ends; in recruiting for the Civil Nursing Reserve (a special problem of Region IV); above all in the influencing of public opinion, "our greatest invisible export" in Lady Reading's words. Rumours must be "sterilised" and, should disaster come, people must be encouraged to dwell, not on the inevitable horrors, but rather on the fortitude displayed.

We came away with a renewed conviction of the importance of training, whether it be for Civil Defence, for Canteen work, for Child Welfare, if W.V.S. is going to be able to take the strains and stresses which will be laid upon it in time of emergency. Mrs. Huxley's words "don't trespass" rang in our ears. "Service without overlapping" Lady Reading had called it. We must at all costs avoid attempting to do the work of existing organisations; we must be content to "stand by" if need be, and wait to be called upon - that most difficult of all occupations - and at the same time, be ready to undertake any task, however formidable, if the call should come.

The Cambridge Conference was an unqualified success. "I've heard the W.V.S. symphony at last from the stalls," said the Centre Organiser from a remote corner of the Region as we drove to the station. "I don't mind going back to my corner now in the depths of the orchestra. I know how it all sounds in front, which I didn't before".

1940 - EVACUATION SCHEME.

The Government 1940 evacuation scheme has been launched. It will apply to unaccompanied schoolchildren and it will only be carried out if air raids develop on a serious scale.

There is, however, much to be done at the moment, and many preparations to be made if it is to be possible to put the plan smoothly and successfully into operation at a time of great stress. This article attempts to describe not so much the many arrangements which will have to be made by the local authorities and by those responsible for transport, but rather the many gaps which can only be bridged by the service of voluntary workers.

When children have been registered under the new evacuation scheme every effort should be made to have them prepared for evacuation. They will be medically examined on registration and efforts made to cure them of any condition which will make them unsuitable for billeting. Everything depends on the co-operation of the parents and the best approach to them is described in the words of the Ministry of Health Memorandum "Every mother will wish her child to arrive at his new home in a state in which he will be gladly welcomed."

Parents will receive a list of clothing which should be sent with the child and they should be urged to send on afterwards any garment which he is not able to carry. Some parents may hesitate to send their children because they are unable to clothe them adequately, and those who are receiving either Unemployment Assistance or Public Assistance should be assured that they will be able to apply for extra help in providing the necessary clothes if evacuation becomes necessary. There are, however, a number of parents who are on the border-line of poverty: those on low wages and those with large families. There are sure to be some who will not be able to supply the clothing considered necessary, and surely it is only reasonable that if they have to be helped from voluntary sources this should be done by the Evacuation and not the Reception end, and above all not by the hostess. This should be the responsibility of voluntary organisations and work parties of all kinds in the Evacuation area, and they should start thinking of it now.

The enrolment of helpers is another important work in the Evacuation area, a large number will be required as escorts for the journey; active sensible people must be found and those responsible for enrolling should make this mental test - "Would I like to trust my own child to this helper on a journey?" The helper will have to be responsible for not one, but 10-15 children. Other picked helpers - hard workers willing to put up with some discomfort - are also required who would act as escorts and remain for a few weeks to work in the "clean-up hostels".

In the Reception Areas everything possible should be done to persuade householders to share with their neighbours in looking after the children. But this in turn will best be achieved by giving the householders confidence that the worst troubles of the past will not occur again. Householders would be far more willing to offer billets if they were sure that the children would come clean and properly clothed; that they would not have to look after them during illness; that they would not be expected to offer hospitality to parents, and that their burden would be lightened by the provision of communal meals and leisure time occupations for the children. To achieve all this, much work and effort is needed both from the local authorities and the voluntary workers. It means arrangements for medical inspection on arrival in case it has not been possible at the other end, and it means the ear-marking and provisional preparation of an adequate number of hostels and sick bays. Where communal feeding has not been started, preparations will be required if the idea is popular to the prospective hostesses. A clothing depot may be needed and a system must be worked out for sending requests for clothing to the evacuating authority who should arrange for the parents to be visited. In the matter of parents' visits clubs should if possible be started and the householders should be given moral backing by assuring them that they are not being inhospitable in refusing to give the parents free meals, but that they should take a firm line on the matter from the start. *Is it possible to quote the content in the Bourneville findings document how to appeal to the extra volunteer helpers.*

The last evacuation was a test of transport and organisation, the next may well be a test of the courage and calmness of women and children moving under conditions of great difficulty and danger. The W.V.S. should be prepared to supply the necessary example and leadership, as well as to act as the very necessary link between the authorities and the individuals who are concerned as householders, parents and evacuated children.

MOBILE CANTEENS.

The Mobile Canteen Department at Headquarters is running a demonstration model canteen, which is attending Group A.R.P. Exercises and Regional Exercises whenever asked. Training is being arranged and a small corps of volunteers has been recruited to assist in the running of mobile canteen units anywhere. Anyone in London wishing to gain experience of this work is invited to come out on the Canteen.

A leaflet with descriptions and approximate prices of different vehicles will shortly be issued; information on how mobile canteen problems are being met throughout the country, how vans and buses are being adapted and converted, etc., will be welcomed by the Mobile Canteen Department so that enquirers may be put into touch with people who can assist them in solving similar difficulties.

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

If you've enjoyed this simple meal,
The steaming pie of ham and veal,
The coffee and the treacle tart,
Do, we beseech you, have a heart
And see that when you leave to-day
You do not take your PLATE away.
The wayfarer who gratefully sups
Should not, we feel, remove the CUPS,
Nor, as he idly sits and talks
Should fill his pockets full of FORKS.
It isn't YOU, of course, that's clear,
Who makes the CRUETS disappear,
Not one of you, we know, would take
The KNIFE with which you cut the cake.
But someone does, so please be kind
And leave the CUTLERY behind.

V.G.

"THE SHOP" SPEAKS.

A telephone rings - a voice says "Women's Voluntary Services - Headquarters - Information." A pause; then "If you will be good enough to give me full particulars we will do our best to help you." A hand seizes a pencil and a "job" slip. "Of course," the voice continues, "you will realise that it is not too easy to get a full time voluntary shorthand typist." The hand writes on, but now the shop door opens and a middle aged lady enters. She approaches the General Inquiries Desk and says bluntly, "Can you teach me to knit?" "I am sure our knitting expert will be glad to help you," says Mrs. A, and indicates the middle desk.

Again the door opens; now it is an elderly gentleman peering fearfully round. "My wife has asked me to call, otherwise I wouldn't dare to venture amongst so many ladies - but she works down with the W.V.S. in Sussex and knows you can help her." "Certainly," smiles Mrs. B. "Didn't I see you on the 'bus coming down Victoria Street?" Friendly relations thus established all goes well with his enquiry about conditions in the W.A.A.F.S.

A thin figure, in a threadbare coat comes wistfully up to Miss C - one of the Interviewers on duty - and says "You remember me - is there anything to-day? I am so tired of going to the Labour Exchange and being told that I am too old. What does Mr. Churchill mean by saying one million women will be wanted - I can't get anything although I worked in a munition factory during the last war. But I must say its quite a pleasure to come in here - it's a great improvement on the old room."

"Do sit and let's see what can be done," says Miss C. "Excuse me the 'phone again - will you put this call through to Evacuation please?" A voice from across the room says in a stage whisper, "The Fleet Air-Arm Comforts are they to be knitted in Air Force or Navy Blue?"

At the other Interviewer's Desk an old lady of 70 odd is offering her services as an ambulance driver. "Of course, I can't drive, but I've used a bicycle for years - so it should be quite easy."

A boy waves a telegram, calling out "Mrs. Jones." "Now which Mrs. Jones is that - we'd better try the Registry."

"Good morning Sir, - you want full particulars about Queen Alexandra's Naval Nursing Service? For your daughter? Oh, I see for your new novel. Yes, I quite realise the importance of accuracy in these matters. I'll just get the address from our files."

"Canteen work in the evenings - somewhere near your office in Fleet Street? We shall almost certainly be able to fix you up. Would you mind taking this slip up to the Canteen Department. Thank you so much. No - please don't bother to shut the door. I'm just going up to our Canteen myself, to get a cup of coffee!"

I.P.S.

Sayings of the Month.

Miss Tatham: "W.V.S. meet leave trains at Victoria. They "thin-out" the Union Jack Club."

An Official: "The louse has displaced the gold-fish as a household pet."

Lady Reading: "Have a touch that never hurts and a heart that never hardens."

"BRITANNIA IS A WOMAN."

In the last Bulletin mention was made of the completion of the film, "Britannia is a Woman," made by British Movietone with the co-operation of Women's Voluntary Services and supervised by Mrs. Dunbar. The film was originally designed for private screening only in America, but has proved of such interest that a ten minute short for exhibition in the British Isles and other countries has been prepared. Members of the Women's Voluntary Services in Scotland, in the Midlands, in the Eastern Counties and in the Home Counties gave the fullest possible assistance.

Lady Sanderson organised the local fishermen and W.V.S. members at Cromer for a scene representing the arrival of shipwrecked sailors. On the morning that this was being filmed a blizzard arose and snow froze the works of the camera. The agonised expressions on the faces of the shipwrecked and rescuers were real!

At Leamington Mrs. Ryland and Miss Brotherton at a few minutes notice persuaded the local Electric Company to run cables from an adjoining house to enable shots to be taken in the Sick-Bay for children.

In Northamptonshire, Mrs. MacIlwaine arranged shots, covering every conceivable type of W.V.S. activity and including an operation at which Nursing Auxiliaries were in attendance.

In Chichester the Electric Light Company had to dig up a whole street before 10 o'clock in the morning in order to lay lighting cables in the Assembly Rooms where Her Majesty was to lunch with 250 evacuees. In Scotland shooting was held up so that the camera man could rush off to film a raid on the Firth of Forth.

A private screening of the American version of the film was held at the New Gallery Cinema, on 11th March. Among those present were:-

Sir John Anderson, Minister of Home Security.
 Sir John Reith, Minister of Information.
 Mr. John Colville, Secretary of State for Scotland.
 Mr. Ogilvie, Director General of the B.B.C.
 Sir Edward Villiers of the Film Department of the Ministry of Information.

and representatives of the Home Office, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Supply, Board of Education, Treasury, L.C.C., and Representatives of the W.V.S. Advisory Council and Sub-Committees.

The film will be generally released in Gaumont British Cinemas on Whit Monday.

YORK CASUALTY BUREAU.

(from the Yorkshire evening press).

Not a mere feather but a remarkably fine plume was put in the cap of the York Women's Voluntary Services when the Corporation decided to entrust them with the organisation of the city's official Casualty Information Bureau.

After much discussion and readjustment it is now in such good working order that members of the Council recently congratulated those responsible.

Since September, when the scheme was first developed, a kind of "brains trust" (or the skeleton staff) has been trying to perfect the plan. Details have been altered but the principle remains, and that is a great tribute to the success of the originator who admitted the difficulty of finding flaws in one's own "child". Anyhow, the "child" is over its teething troubles, is past the toddling stage, and is, in fact, running well.

The necessity of this most important offshoot of the W.V.S. is obvious. Think of the chaos that might follow a severe air raid. Without some special organisation, local hospitals would be inundated with personal and telephonic inquiries; to take that burden off their shoulders is the chief task of the new Bureau.

Particulars of name, address, age, injury and place to which the casualty has been taken will be written on forms and sent down from the first aid posts and hospitals to the Bureau, where the official records will be kept and all inquiries answered.

Personnel of about 40 for both of the 12 hour shifts has been allocated, and in a raid will report for duty an hour and a half after the all clear.

Numerous practices held under realistic conditions, with messages coming in by telephone and inquiries made from personal callers, have proved the Bureau's efficiency.

Most of the practices have been excellent, but the morale of the staff was rather upset on one occasion when a member, entrusted with the sacred preparation of the "fake" casualty sheets assumed that several celebrities were in York at the time of the supposed raid - and gave each a most incongruous complaint!

Sir Thomas Beecham's usually dignified demeanour was seriously impaired by shock and a burnt trunk; that non-angelic girl, Mae West, instead of inviting the boys to "come up and see her some time" was wildly hysterical with mustard gas poisoning. As for Marlene Dietrich, all such preoccupations as being ethereal, exotic and "mysterious" were entirely superseded by a practical speculation of the insurance payable on severely singed eyelashes.

W.V.S. members have been conscientious in attending practices and have learned the work quickly.

Perhaps of all jobs the telephonists have the most difficult time, as they have to take down long lists of casualties. Here a knowledge of medical phraseology is a great advantage, as one member felt, having made a glorious howler over the term "fractured base."

At practices many helpful suggestions have been put forward, but there have also been other voices asking (apparently with good intention), "Wouldn't it be better if.....?" or "Don't you think that if.....?"

Fortunately, pacification of the pessimists is fairly simple, but no answer has yet been forthcoming to the questioner who asked, quite innocently, the best corker of all: "What happens if the W.V.S. is blown up.....?"

ARSINE. (ARSENURETTED HYDROGEN). - THE "NEW" GAS.

A good deal of idle rumour has been prevalent with regard to a "new" gas, and in addition, statements have been heard that the respirator is of no protection against it.

Before the war, all A.R.P. Instructors taught classes that no credence should be placed on any rumours of this kind, and in consequence the amount of "chatter" about this so-called "new" gas has apparently been fairly negligible amongst members of the A.R.P. Services, but unfortunately the same cannot be said for the general public who, through lack of knowledge, almost invariably believe in any rumour which they hear.

In 1930 Arsinuretted Hydrogen was mentioned in a certain manual as one of the types of gas which was not likely to be used as an offensive weapon, but which might be met with in circumstances engendered by war. It was more particularly stated to be a gas which could, under some conditions, be produced in certain submarines by the use of impure materials in the batteries.

So it may be seen that this is not by any means a "new" gas, but one of which every competent chemist has been aware for a considerable time, knowing both its properties and its limitations.

Arsinuretted Hydrogen must not be confused with the gases DIPHENYL CHLOROARSINE (D.A.); DIPHENYL AMINE CHLOROARSINE (D.M.); and DIPHENYL CYANARSINE (D.C.), the "nose" gases. These latter are arsenical TOXIC smokes and not true gases. ARSINE is a true gas and might be liberated in its gas form or as a powder called CALCIUM ARSENIDE (resembling Calcium Carbide in appearance) which generates arsine gas when in contact with moisture.

CHARACTERISTICS:

AS A GAS. This is a non-persistent gas, invisible, and with no smell except in extremely high concentrations when there might be a faint smell of garlic, something similar to mustard gas. It diffuses rapidly.

AS A POWDER. The powder called Calcium Arsenide will be visible as a greyish white powder on the ground, giving off NO SMELL.

In contact with moisture, it will give off Arsine for a period up to one hour, while chemical reaction is taking place.

It does not corrode metals, nor does it produce blisters upon affected persons.

Water into which the powder has fallen will be contaminated, and MUST NOT BE USED UNTIL IT HAS BEEN TREATED BY THE MEDICAL AUTHORITIES.

LIMITATIONS.

The rapid diffusion of the gas when liberated, is a severe limitation to its use. It can be used in the following ways:-

1. As a gas in large aircraft bombs.
2. From projectors or cylinders.
3. As powder spray from aircraft.
4. In powder form from projectiles or bombs.

Used as a gas from the air, concentrations would be effective in a strictly local sense.

In powder form, the gas would have to be used at frequent intervals, e.g., every day over a period if low concentrations having cumulative effect were to be obtained.

These limitations make it improbable that Arsine could be used as an effective weapon from the air upon civilian populations.

PROTECTION:

The Government respirators give protection against the concentrations which are likely to be met with as a result of air attack.

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICETHE VOLUNTEERS.by
P.Y. Botts.

They came into the square in ones and twos from the side streets, on foot, some toting bundles in their hands and some with rucksacks. It was beginning to be dusk, without moon or stars. A few cars drove up laden with men and kit and girls to see them off but mostly the men arrived alone, inconspicuous in the fading light, to gather quietly before the doorway of a house on the west side of the square. They were all in mufti; most of them were hatless and in raincoats, as if out for an evening stroll, but when one man, who arrived by himself by taxi, paused under the pinprick of light from a lamp-standard to fish money out of an inner pocket to pay the driver, a fur jerkin showed underneath the raincoat.

A mobile canteen was already jacked up beside the pavement with women moving about inside handing out mugs of tea and paper packets of ham sandwiches and cake for the men to take away. It was lit inside by a blue bulb and there were blue curtains at the windows. A shaft of light from the serving-hatch defined sharply without brilliance the faces of the men within its pitch but beyond it the men were featureless in the nightfall, a hundred and fifty of them or more, gathered around the steps in front of the house. A man came out of the house on to the steps, stood outlined against the faintly lighted hall behind him and began to call the roll in a ringing officer's voice.

"Bryant!"

"Yessir!"

"Cormack!"

"Yessir!"

"Cox-Fisher...Cozens...Deane..." The voice rang on. "Vanderwelt...
Wakeling! Wishart! Wylde!"

"Yes SIR!"

"The officer commanding you on the journey will be Mr. Trevelyan. Some of you will know him already but for those of you who do not I will ask Mr. Trevelyan to come up and stand beside me here so that you can all see him by the light of my torch." And the beam flashed over the dark face of a man of thirty in a rough tweed overcoat with the collar turned up; flashed over and off, while the strong ringing voice went on, to speak of the difficulties and delays that might lie before them on their way to Finland and of the need for fortitude, good humour and good faith. "I shall not have an opportunity to speak to you at the station so I will say this to you now: good luck and a happy return, and may it be as true of you as it was of the men under the command of a very great soldier who said, 'We trusted them and they never failed us.'"

The men clapped and cheered, but softly, with the subdued air of men who

are of the same mind but not yet known to one another, strangers who will be comrades before the night is out. In the deepening night, solitary in the middle of the square, the columned church waited, a ship at anchor, with the roadway channeling past on either side, rippling and murmuring with voices.

"Will you march to the station, or what?" I asked a stocky man who was drinking tea by the canteen.

"Don't know. Don't even know which station. Hope there'll be transport anyhow. Like to come with us?"

"Too cold where you're going."

"We'd find a way of keeping warm."

"Chasing Russian bears?"

"Maybe. They'll run when they see me - I was in the Black Watch till last summer. Laddies from hell. I'll see them run, all right."

"What about your friend? He wasn't in the Black Watch, was he?" He was smooth-faced, gangling, tow-headed.

"My mate's the baby of the party. Seventeen, he is."

"What part are you from?" I asked Baby. Baby grinned and shuffled.

"Norwich. I was butchering there."

"And you had to come to London to volunteer?"

"Yes."

"Some of these chaps have walked from Wales" put in the laddie from hell. Four buses, dimly lit, trundled into the square and drew up in a line between the house and the church, in front of the canteen. The two volunteers said goodbye to me and made off, lop-sided with the weight of their bundles. There was a general movement away from the house, the dark stream of men drifted towards the buses without haste. Their boots clumped as they climbed aboard. I leant my bicycle against the railings of the church and watched the buses filling up. Reflected against the white ceiling of a top deck a match flared warmly and died down as a cigarette was lighted. Someone plonked on a banjo and a voice chanted 'My Heart Belongs To Daddy' but there were no shouts or cat calls, few onlookers, no visible excitement. There was only a certain strangeness in the air, the sense of mystery and of departure, as of waves lapping against a wharf at night.

It all went off very quietly. No bark of command set the buses going on their way to the unknown destination. They pulled out soberly, one after the other, with a short interval between. They turned north alongside the river, round Parliament Square and up Whitehall. I followed them on my bicycle as far as Trafalgar Square and the last I saw of them they were going towards the east, part of the stream of traffic glimmering through the black-out. There was nothing to tell them from the other buses, except that they never halted on their way.

A Month of Meetings.

At Headquarters this has been a month of Meetings. There have been the Meetings of Administrators and Organisers, who bring with them the breath of a new life from the Regions. The great Canteen Meeting of Canteen Workers in Region 5 in the Central Hall, was addressed by the Chairman, and has been an inspiring preliminary to the establishing of a Canteen Section of W.V.S. Region 5 Centre Leaders have also met, when Sir Ernest Gowers, the Regional Commissioner, gave an interesting account of the Civil Defence of London. These Meetings have seen the birth of many new ideas, and the consolidation of old. The pattern of W.V.S. is being woven more closely, the gaps are being filled in. The Meetings have shown now, as the war develops, new calls will come to the voluntary worker, and fresh problems will have to be solved. Flexibility and Imagination will be more important than ever before.

Voluntary registration of Canadian women.

Readers of the Bulletin will be interested to learn of the voluntary registration of Canadian women for service in National emergencies. A card and questionnaire have been prepared, and the system makes it possible to determine in the matter of a few hours, exactly how many women are available in any section of the country, who have had training along any particular line. No Government financial assistance is given, and the whole work is being done for a remarkably small sum of money, because no salaries are paid, and all offices, equipment, office supplies, stationery and clerical services, have been given voluntarily. A novel way of getting a very large amount of voluntary clerical work has been employed. The co-operation of girls working in offices and in large business institutions, has been enlisted. No girl is asked to work for more than three hours a week, although many of them have given considerably more time than this, as they are interested in the job. The form of registration is headed thus:-

"To every nation there comes from time to time periods of national distress, caused by various untoward circumstances such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, crop failure, forest fires, grave economic depressions, epidemics, war, etc. That the Canadian women may be in a position to serve their nation at short notice in any of the above calamities, it has been thought well that they should band themselves together in a voluntary scheme of registration, so that, already prepared, they would be able to render intelligent and efficient service, with this in mind, and in an endeavour to find how many Canadian women would be willing and able to take British refugee children into their homes, you are asked kindly to consider the following questionnaire and to assist by answering the same."

W.V.S. in the Orkneys.

(Extract from a letter sent to Lady Reading from the Orkneys).

"The experience of that evening is unforgettable but I was so busy attending to a casualty and to people who came into the house for shelter, that I did not have time to realise the extent of the danger and damage till later.

The fires caused by incendiary bombs were soon put out, and now the windows are repaired and the debris cleared up, so we feel all right.

I shall miss my greenhouse which was a joy in this Northern climate, but let us hope that the war will soon be over and that we shall be able to cultivate in peace once more."

The shop.

Headquarters at Tothill Street can now boast a shop and 2 shop windows. The shop has been painted in W.V.S. colours and is gay with posters and scarlet chairs. Preliminary interviewing is carried out here, and information dispensed. Patterns for comforts are also obtainable. The window is used for weekly displays - W.V.S. photographs, Comforts for the Services, equipment for the "Under 5's" and Mobile Canteens have so far provided interesting fare.

Our Contemporaries.

We would extend a very warm welcome to the "Scottish News Review" issued by the W.V.S. in Scotland. The two first numbers are full of interest and give a splendid picture of W.V.S. north of the Border. We acknowledge too, with thanks, the copies of "Noteworthy", (the News sheet of the Ministry of Information), and the summary of work issued by the Red Cross and St. George on war organisations.

TYPING POOL.

Apart from the secretaries working for Departmental Heads, work for the Headquarters staff - numbering about 250 - is undertaken by the typing pool of 12. A summary for last month is given below:-

Documents copied.....879
Stencils cut.....349
Rolled off copies.....108,498

and requests for shorthand-typists numbered over 500.

A.R.P. TRAINING. The new long-awaited A.R.P. Manual No.2 called "MANUAL FOR OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR A.R.P. TRAINING" has now been issued. Officers have been waiting for this before drawing up their three-monthly training programmes.

Suggestions with regard to the physical fitness of A.R.P. personnel have also been made.

Arrangements have been made with the Central Council of Recreative Physical Training, who have offered to train selected members of the A.R.P. Services, both men and women, who will thus qualify to conduct classes in physical training for other members of the A.R.P. personnel.

Persons to undergo this training in order to be able to instruct, should be selected by the scheme making Authority on a basis of not more than one man for every 250 men, and one woman for every 250 women of the whole-time personnel. If an Authority has less than this number, they may appoint one man and one woman if physical training classes are to be held for the Services.

If possible, the people selected for this work should have had previous physical training experience.

In physical training for A.R.P. Services, ages and physical fitness will be considered, and no compulsion or pressure to take part will be brought to bear upon members of the A.R.P. personnel.

It is thought, however, that by witnessing such training being carried out on proper lines, members of the Services not willing to take part in the first place, will soon express a desire to join in such exercises themselves.

TRANSPORT. At Huddersfield a Motor Ambulance Auxiliary Reserve has been formed for the purpose of providing further practical training and closer co-operation between drivers and attendants.

The Reserve will meet fortnightly at the Ambulance Headquarters for extended and revisionary instruction in Anti-Gas and First Aid.

There are approximately 100 drivers and attendants who work in Reserve Teams under Emergency conditions.

A Circular on car insurance has just been issued to all W.V.S. Representatives. It is full of interest for all car-owner volunteers.

CITIZENS ADVICE NOTES. Citizens Advice Notes are published by the National Council of Social Service on behalf of the Standing Conference of Voluntary Organisations. They are prepared on information supplied by Government Departments, and provide an up-to-date summary of the more important enactments and regulations affecting the life of the citizen. They are issued fortnightly, and the first twelve issues of the Notes can be had in one volume, price 2s. 6d. post free. Twelve future issues 4s. 0d. inclusive. Apply:- National Council of Social Service, 26, Bedford Square, W.C.1.

PRESERVATION OF WOOLLEN COMFORTS AGAINST MOTH.

The following are recommended by Mr. Tams, Staff, Natural History Museum (British Museum).

- (a) Paradichlorbenzin; because it kills the eggs as well as the live moth.
1/3d. a lb., or 140/-d. a cwt.
- (b) FLAKE Naphthaline (not Naphthaline Balls) - which is considerably cheaper.
6d. a lb., or 56/-d. a cwt.