

WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine

This copy of the WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine has been downloaded from the Royal Voluntary Service Archive & Heritage Collection online catalogue.

This copy is distributed under a [CC Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs \(CC BY-NC-ND\)](#) Creative Commons licence.

This work is copyright © Royal Voluntary Service 1939-2015 or third party contributors (where credited on individual articles).

You can find more information on the WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine and the digitisation project on our webpage www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/bulletin

Any enquiries regarding use of the material contained in this copy, not covered by the Creative Commons licence, or the principals of fair dealing should be directed in the first instance to: archive@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Public sector information in the WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine is licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Registered office:

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE, Beck Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff, CF23 8RP.

Registered charity no. 1015988 & SC038924, Registered in England 2520413



"... so long as there is a German Air Force stationed within reach of this country so shall we get bombing of one sort or another, and, therefore, even if it means a good deal of standing by, we must remain constantly on our toes and ready."—Wing-Commander HODSOLL, C.B., Inspector General, Ministry of Home Security, in a broadcast, 12th February 1943.

A TOUR WITH A TRAVELLING OFFICER

A REQUEST to speak about Rest Centre work in the devastated areas to outlying country districts which had never known the sound of bombs, made a tour so packed with meetings that impressions flashed past like a film run at double speed, leaving high lights on here a face, there a sentence, occasionally a quick vision of a complete scene.

The rows of intent faces at each place all had something in common. These women all *wanted to listen*. Beginning with Monday, and its hard day of washing, through meeting after meeting in small towns and tiny country districts, up to Friday night, they tramped miles on foot through thick snow, ice and fog, over lonely moorlands in the pitch dark, to hear how they could learn to help the people who might come under their care in their own Rest Centres.

From time to time a face would isolate itself from the packed rows, with eyes which never left the speaker's face. A round little old face tucked into a pixie hood, like a rosy apple peeping out of the top of a stocking; once a very young face, in a fuzz of brown hair, with a frown of puzzled worry at the stories of motherless babies. Sometimes a break came in the succession of schoolrooms and church halls, and the warm-hearted hospitality so deeply rooted in the north country, was pressed again and again. Specially clear was the recollection of the meeting held in the "snug" of a tiny pub high up on the snow-covered moors, and the tea, which had been carried in baskets many miles. "You *must* have one of these patties, they are so good." "I saved a bit of white flour to make these scones." "You can't refuse this cake, it was sent me all the way from Canada." Again, the sudden vision of an exquisite Regency house, with a staircase of breath-taking beauty, leaping upward like a swallow's flight, and a mirage, born of fatigue and wishful thinking, which proved to be a genuine new-laid egg, on a dainty tray by a roaring log fire.

One tiny village made a particular impression. The leader was giving a tea-party in her own home to a little band of workers, twelve of whom had walked many miles daily over the moors, to complete twenty-eight badly wanted camouflage nets in two weeks. The table was gay with flowers and good things to eat. With them was a very old lady who had celebrated her eightieth birthday some time previously; she was evacuated there from the very dangerous areas of the other side of England, but was to leave them in a few weeks to return to her own cottage home. She rose to thank the hostess, dignity and beauty at its best in her person and the few words she spoke—"And I pray that Hope and Love will follow you all throughout this year."

Steadily the knowledge grew that here was the true spirit of Voluntary Service. The utter disregard of personal exhaustion, anxiety, pressure of work and absence of leisure, but always the question, variously asked, "How can we best be of help?" And so to the last day, with a great lighting of the spirit at the privilege of such contacts, and a deep sense of humility, contrasting the littleness which is *speaking* about work, with the devoted and wordless *doing* given by these staunch, work-driven women in the service of their homes, their husbands, their children and their unknown neighbours.

OVERSEAS

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

WE have been asked by the W.V.S. in India to publish the following awards which have been made for public services in India:

Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal: LADY HARTLEY, Hon. Organising Secretary to W.V.S. in India.

Kaisar-i-Hind Silver Medal: Mrs. ASHERSON, W.V.S. member, Peshawar, N.W.F.P.; Miss J. COPLAND, M.A., W.V.S. member, New Delhi.

W.V.S. IN TRINIDAD

THE W.V.S. in Trinidad came to life at a Public Meeting held in Port-of-Spain on 12th May 1942, as the result of the growing anxiety and eagerness of the women there to participate more fully in the Empire's War Effort.

The organisation was started by Mrs. John Huggins with an Executive Committee of six. Lady Clifford accepted the Presidency on her arrival in the Colony. There are now ten Regional Administrators, fourteen Regional Organisers and fifty Group Organisers, and these work among women of every community, class and creed, all associating amicably together in the giving of their time and energy for the common welfare and safety of Trinidad.

Two big evacuation camps have now been completed in the country, and an organised staff of women numbering five hundred and fifty recruited to run them. Canteen work goes on all the time, and a great deal has already been done and is being done for the many survivors who reach the shores of Trinidad. There are six hundred W.V.S. workers in all the various canteens. A "Silence is Safety" publicity campaign in conjunction with this work has been organised.

W.V.S. provides office workers for the Civil Defence Commissioner and various other Government Departments, and, although on a small scale, also helps with telephone operating at Civil Defence Headquarters. Squads of drivers, each squad composed of twenty women, are being thoroughly trained to service their own cars, and to drive lorries and ambulances, etc. There are two mobile canteens, one of which has already done service at night in connection with survivors.

The "Home Workers" Service has assumed large proportions. It has inaugurated clothing depots for survivors and refugees all over the Colony; it has done a great deal of work for the "Grow More Food" drive, and Farm Garden Clubs have been held in various places. An emergency "Flying Squad" section, trained in all branches of W.V.S. work, which can be sent to any part of the country at a moment's notice, is being formed.

There are seven Air-Raid Relief Centres in Port-of-Spain, entirely staffed by W.V.S., and it is hoped that Rest Centres will be opened in all country districts. W.V.S. also supply staff for the Emergency Evacuation Centres, arranged by the Civil Defence Commissioner, and for the Citizens Advice Bureaux.

STREET ORGANISATION IN THE LONDON REGION

THE London Invasion Defence Scheme was introduced to W.V.S. in Region 5 almost simultaneously with our own re-organisation on a street basis, and the pattern it followed clarified our own part in the invasion plan. Decentralisation of control is, we were told, the most effective answer to both intensive raiding and invasion conditions. The appointment of an Invasion Defence Officer at Borough level, with the chain of authority descending through District and Post Invasion Defence Wardens to the Street Party Leaders makes this decentralisation easy to apply, and correspondingly, inside the boundaries of each London authority, every unit of W.V.S. from Centre Organiser through District and Post Leaders to the Street or Block Leader must work at every level with the opposite number in the Wardens Service, and build itself up into an unshakable self-sufficiency against emergency, on a basis of personal knowledge of both area and inhabitants.

The efficiency of the Street Organisation is weakened at the root where initial contact with the Wardens Service is clumsily made; when this has once been established a great deal of care should be devoted to maintaining satisfactory co-operation.

At whatever level the W.V.S. representative is working, it should be made clear to all with whom she comes into contact that she is offering reliable, intelligent, disciplined service; that she is competent both to carry out instructions and initiate schemes where this is her province, and that the introduction of this trained reserve of women helping the Wardens Service is a simplification and not a multiplication of problems.

The District Leader is responsible for the cohesion of her District as a unit, but ideally her work should be largely supervisory; she must brood over the efficiency

of every Post and keep the picture of her whole area clear in her mind. In this way, in both normal and emergency conditions, she will have a sufficiently detached view of the general situation over the whole district to enable her to direct the operational activities of her Post and Street Leaders to the best advantage, for they have the more direct contact with the public, and this largely conditions their work. The Post Leader who has learnt to know her Wardens, her Street Leaders and her general workers, who is intimately familiar with every geographical and Civil Defence feature of her Post area's landscape, can sail into action armed with all the knowledge she needs, either for training or emergency. Similarly, the Street Leader who knows her neighbours, their conditions of life and employment, the facilities of their houses and the limitations of their resources, will be able to mobilise reserves of personnel or accommodation for National Savings to-day or the Incident at No. 5 to-morrow.

It cannot be emphasised too strongly that the first task of every Leader in this Scheme is to get to know as many as possible of the people with whom she will be working, so that should it be necessary, she can issue instructions to the women without any repercussions of the "who does she think she is" order which waste so much time in a crisis. A solid groundwork of information is immensely important, and in order to make it readily available District and Post Leaders are encouraged to keep simple but accurate records of personnel, training and resources in their area, and also some kind of day-to-day picture of their own progress, so that the work can easily be taken over by someone else if necessary.

No W.V.S. Leader should be allowed to feel that the job she has taken on is too difficult. The duties of District, Post or Street Leader can confidently be undertaken by any woman of goodwill and decision, the sort of person who is capable of running her home efficiently. "Leaders", of course, only apply to London Region; elsewhere they are called Street Representatives.

L.A.R.P. INSTRUCTORS

IN every Region efforts have been made to carry out the Basic and Continuation Training for W.V.S. members, and Local Authorities, the British Red Cross Society and the St. John's Ambulance Brigade have rendered invaluable assistance in providing trained Instructors to give this training; but this provision of Instructors is not always easy especially where Local Authorities have an immense task on hand in the training of the Fire Guard Service. There is a feeling, too, on the part of W.V.S. Organisers that Local Authority Instructors should not be asked to take very small gatherings in scattered areas or small groups in streets; and yet the importance of these small groups and of bringing training to members instead of members to training is becoming increasingly evident. How can this difficulty be surmounted? The answer lies in the provision of more and yet more L.A.R.P.-W.V.S. Instructors, willing to talk to groups of members, no matter how small.

The initials L.A.R.P. stand for Local Air Raid Precautions Instructor and the course of training can only be arranged by Local Authorities, as they are in a position to obtain the requisite qualified lecturers and instructors to train candidates for the L.A.R.P. qualification. It has been found that Local Authority Training Officers are generally most co-operative in this respect, but hitherto such Instructors' Courses have usually been scheduled to take up a complete week or even more, and few members of W.V.S. are in a position to give up so much time consecutively. It has been found, however, that it is possible to arrange the syllabus for such a Course so that members can take it by attending for a fortnight on afternoons only (excluding Saturdays and Sundays), or by giving up a complete week-end (Saturday and Sunday).

Suggested syllabuses for such Courses are obtainable from the Civil Defence Training Department at Headquarters, but it must be understood that they are only suggested syllabuses and should be shown to the appropriate Officer of a Local Authority (who will probably have his own ideas) merely as a basis for discussion.

HOUSEWIVES' SECTION

"WHAT is the use of the Housewives' Section?" There are still some women who ask this question, and the following extracts from reports from W.V.S. Centres which have suffered from recent air attacks may be helpful in providing them with a concrete answer. So many women say they are unwilling to join an organisation or to take simple training, but they will help when the time comes. The work done in recent raids has shown the use of training and the need for organisation in close co-operation with the Wardens Service.

Report from a Western Town.—The hard work put in by the Housewives in keeping Wardens supplied with up-to-date lists of the residents of their streets was invaluable and proved the means of saving lives and finding bodies which could not



This Housewives' poster will shortly be available.

distressed area to render what assistance they could. Their help was readily accepted. They did such jobs as sweeping up debris in houses, helping to get bedding downstairs, helping to look for and pack articles which householders wished to take away. One of the Key Women took ice blocks to a First Aid Post.

Report from a small Town in the South-West.—Mrs. P.'s house is in the private drive where a bomb fell, and exactly opposite the nursing home it destroyed; all her windows were broken to bits and the drawing-room door was forced off its hinges; her husband, who is in bad health, lost the use of one leg temporarily from shock.

As soon as the Rescue Party could extricate the matron, maid and two elderly patients from the nursing home, they were carried straight across to Mrs. P.'s drawing-room. She told me she did not think it possible to see human beings so covered with broken glass, their hair was full of it, but she dusted them as well as she could, got all her blankets and covered them up and then rendered first aid, as it was nearly 3 o'clock before they could be got away; the maid's shoulder-blade was broken and she was absolutely covered with debris, so that she looked almost like a plaster cast.

Mrs. B. was called in by her next-door neighbour whose roof had caught fire from machine-gunning. Mrs. B. got the children out, then fetched a Warden and a neighbouring Housewife, and the three of them succeeded in getting the fire under control.

Report from a London Borough.—Bombs fell without warning in C and E Districts. District Leaders reported immediately to sites. District Leader for C remained at site of bombed school until dusk, and rendered assistance in dealing with relatives of children killed, injured and missing. She was on the site again all day of the 21st. A car was put at her disposal in case relatives needed transport to the mortuary. A neighbouring District Leader and a group of Housewives helped the school teachers to staff the church hall next door to the site, where relatives came to register their children who had been saved, also to claim salvaged possessions, and a further team helped relatives at the mortuary.

Report from an East Anglian Village.—A daylight tip-and-run raid on a small market town tests the preparedness of women in their homes, for the menfolk are away at their work on the land, and those who are left in the town have to tend for themselves. It was noticeable after this particular raid that the Housewives were quick to realise what help was needed and that it was up to them to put their training in efficient good neighbourliness into practice. By the time the mobile canteen arrived, for instance, it was found that the most urgent needs of both victims and Civil Defence workers had been met by ready offers of hot drinks by the Housewives. The First Aid Post and Parties, too, were relieved of unnecessary tasks because slightly injured casualties had been looked after by their neighbours. The homeless were cared for in the same spirit. And in due course it was the Housewives who went from one damaged home to another, helping in any and every way they could by salvaging possessions, moving furniture, preparing food and tackling the discouraging job of cleaning up. There was nothing spectacular or highly technical in what they could do, but the important thing seems to be that someone should realise that this help needs to be given and that it cannot nowadays be left to the overtaxed Civil Defence services proper.

VILLAGE HOSPITALITY

HOSPITALITY Sunday dawned. Punctually at 2 p.m. the American lorry rolled into the village, drew up at the meeting place and out tumbled the expected guests. . . .

You know, we suddenly woke up to the fact that we wanted to take part in the Hospitality Scheme for U.S. Troops, so the Elder Lady of the village asked Centre

Organiser for some more of those questionnaire papers, and someone known as the "Dasher" offered to take them round because it was felt that "If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly." So Elder Lady handed over the questionnaire papers (a little thankfully!) and the Dasher went to see someone known as the "Brick"—someone who is grand at anything she undertakes. Said the Dasher—"You will help with this, won't you?" and the Brick, who had had Americans for Christmas Day, said "Sure thing—let's get going."

When the papers had been filled in and returned, the hostesses all met and decided the time the guests should be asked to arrive, and the time our evenings should come to an end. We want to have the times of arrival and departure the same for each household as that will simplify the transport question for the Americans. Brick has offered her gateway as the point of arrival, and we are asking Home Guard Cadets and a few children in the village (who are messengers for Civil Defence activities) to come along at 2 p.m. to act as guides to take the visitors to their hosts.

The twelve hostesses have been so sensible in the way they have filled in their papers. They have put in all sorts of remarks which will be of great value to the American Red Cross when they are doing their job of linking up hostesses and guests. Remarks such as—"We are fond of music", "We are interested in farming", "I would like someone interested in medicine", "My husband is away, so if two friends come together they will feel more at home", "We are Non-Conformists and it will be very nice if our guests will come to the chapel with us at 6 o'clock, if they care to", "My husband and I live alone with two little grandchildren. We shall be happy to welcome American soldiers", "We try to make the boys happy with all kinds of light entertainment." All those simple and warm-hearted remarks bring the human touch.

So when the guests arrived, a cheerful greeting took place, and very quickly guests and hosts linked up, or guests went off in charge of the Cadets, who had turned up to act as guides. A breeze with the tang of the Atlantic swept through the atmosphere of our quiet village, and soft deep voices cast a spell upon us; we of the village knew we had contacted another world and a feeling of expectancy held us.

The dignified quiet of the Sunday afternoon came upon the village again. But not for long. Look! A group of children playing ball, and in the midst two long lanky fellows—just "belonging" right away. Down by the river, a strolling group, an old man with the gentle gnarled face of the countryman, a boy and girl, and a tall lad with a long slouch and a slow smile and a "different" look—yet obviously at ease. And listen!—through that open window, what laughing, what mingling of different voice tones—right through the afternoon, little episodes occurred that made us hope our Hospitality Sunday was going well.

Ten o'clock p.m. and they're off! But not before many happy things were said. "I've had a good time. Yes, ma'am" (emphasis!). "I'm coming right back, ma'am." "I've been places a lot, but we've not been met like that before. It sure makes a difference." Away they went, and as we watched them go, hanging out of the back of their lorry, we knew deep in our hearts, there is meaning in all this, beyond our comprehension.

By the way, the American guest who went to the family that is "fond of music" says he will bring his ukulele—NEXT TIME!

SALVAGE NEWS

THE housewives of Britain are wasting far too many bones—about 50,000 tons a year, Mr. Hutchings, Director of Salvage and Recovery, Ministry of Supply, told members of the W.V.S. Advisory Council at their last meeting at the Home Office. Old bones are a most valuable class of salvage. Every scrap of them fulfills a useful purpose. Those 50,000 tons of bones which have been destroyed or thrown away represent a loss to the country of 5,000 tons of grease for making lubricating oil, glycerine or soap. This quantity of grease is sufficient to make 3,750 tons of cordite (explosive for firing shells and cartridges) as well as 7,500 tons of glue—used in the construction of certain types of aircraft, for shipbuilding, paper-making, camouflage paint and hundreds of other important jobs, also 2,500 tons of feeding concentrates—enough for nearly 100,000 pigs from birth to bacon-time, and 22,500 tons of bone meal fertiliser—enough for nearly 100 square miles of land.

That is why every bone from meat, game or poultry—but not fish-bones—should be saved. One chop bone, even after it has visited the stock-pot, provides sufficient cordite to fire 2 cartridges from a Hurricane's guns, to feed 1 hen with meat for half a day, to stick 1 shell container, and to fertilise 1 square yard of your allotment, supplying phosphates for 4 lb. of potatoes.

As it is, thousands of tons of bones have to be imported every year from India and South America. There would be no need to import any at all if housewives saved every bone for salvage, instead of destroying more and more—there was a 12 per cent decrease in the returns for December as against those of November.

FOOD NEWS

IDEAS FOR SHROVE TUESDAY

VARIATIONS WITH A BATTER. Thanks to "Lease-lend" we can still make a pre-war batter with real eggs. The dried eggs, whether in tins or sold loose, as most housewives will now realise, are excellent in all types of cooking. For batter particularly, they not only increase the food value, but also help the colour and texture of the mixture.

During the making of the batter, it is essential that all ingredients are smoothly mixed and well beaten, and success depends on lightness which is obtained by the introduction of cold air in the beating, and a high temperature in cooking.

The following are some ideas which the housewife may find useful in varying the simple foundation batter:

Foundation Batter.—4 oz. flour, 1 tablespoon dried egg, 1 oz. dried milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ pint water. Pinch of salt.

Sieve the flour, salt, egg and milk together, and mix with sufficient water to make a stiff mixture. Beat well, add rest of water and put aside for one hour.

1. BAKED AS FOR YORKSHIRE PUDDING. With chopped cooked meat, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sausages, grated cheese and Worcester sauce, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. mixed cooked vegetables, scraps of cooked or tinned fish, plain sweet batter dredged with sugar before serving, 3 oz. of dried fruit or $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. fresh fruit (dates, prunes, apples, raisins, sultanas), or plain batter served with syrup, jam or chocolate sauce.

2. FRIED. (a) *Pancakes.*—Stuffed with any of fillings mentioned above, or with fried potato and pickle or chutney. Served with a sweet or savoury sauce. Rolled or on top of each with the filling between. Cooked "dry" as for dropped scones which can be eaten hot stuffed with a filling, or cold spread with butter, or 1 teaspoonful baking powder added to mixture and tablespoonfuls dropped into hot fat and served with bacon.

(b) *Coating.*—The liquid reduced to half in the basic recipe and used for coating, dried fruits (prunes and apples), fresh fruit, slices of cooked vegetable, croquette mixtures, or small strips of stale cake or bread moistened with flavoured milk.

Steaming.—Increase the amount of flour by 1 oz. and use any of the variations mentioned above.

Note.—For a lighter and richer batter add an extra egg and reduce the amount of liquid equivalent to this. Sugar tends to make a batter heavy, therefore dredge sweet batters with sugar after cooking.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

The following is an account received by the Food Department from the Assistant Regional Administrator at Cambridge:

"Many of us at the outbreak of war would have been more than astonished if we could have been told what activities we should be undertaking in 1943 in the fourth year of war. Among these, doubtless, are two of the W.V.S. Village Representatives in East Anglia who, though well over seventy, run thriving Cash-and-Carry British Restaurants. Both these ventures illustrate the adaptability and resourcefulness of village life in wartime, for almost the only thing they have in common is the fact that they function under the Local Authority with the approval of the Ministry of Food.

"If you were to visit the little village of Molesworth you would be shown a minute kitchen in the outhouse of the Village Representative's home, equipped with very adequate cooking utensils, oil-stove and oven by the Ministry of Food for the hardly exorbitant sum of under £50. Twice a week registered customers call here for hot meals of meat and vegetables and pudding which they can take home and heat up for the family dinner. When these clients have been served, you might be puzzled to hear the Village Representative or her helpers say, "Now let's do the baskets;" these are the baskets which some of the customers leave on their way to work in the fields, calling back for them on the way home for the evening meal. The food is served from the back door, which has a porch that is useful for wet days. The Village Representative is accountant as well as caterer and buyer, and keeps accounts which communal feeding in wartime involves. This cooking centre has been running for nearly a year with unqualified success.

"If, on the other hand, you visited the Cash-and-Carry British Restaurant in Bergh Apton, another small village in the Eastern Region, you would be taken to the converted stables at the Rectory, where there is a solid fuel range installed by the Ministry of Food. Here a wonderful variety of home-made dishes are cooked one day and sold the next, twice a week. The customers place their orders for the next

time when they call for the food, and have a choice of delicious meat patties, large or small, sausage rolls, rock buns, bread puddings, ginger puddings, little cakes and jam tarts or fruit tarts in season. The food is sold when cold, but the patties are particularly suitable for re-heating and make, with home-grown vegetables, a perfectly satisfying dinner for the family. A W.V.S. member keeps the accounts, whilst the Village Representative plans the menus, orders the stores and wrestles with forms and juggles with points. At both these Cash-and-Carry kitchens the cook is paid, and in one case also the washer-up, but the serving is done voluntarily by the W.V.S. and the instigators and moving spirits throughout have been the Village Representatives. Everyone benefits; the women appreciate a meal they have not had to plan and cook themselves, and their husbands and children are all the better for these nourishing hot suppers as they have to take cold, packed dinners to work or to school. The farmers have even said that as a result the men are able to put in longer hours on the land—growing more food."

HERBS

The following letter has been received from the Ministry of Supply :

" I write to thank your organisation for the excellent work they have done through County Herb Committees in the field of herb-collecting during the past year. Your co-operation and help has been greatly appreciated, the efforts made assured that many vital drugs have been available and valuable shipping space saved.

" This has been a most difficult season, bad weather and the fact that many County Committees did not get properly organised until quite late in the season meant that the Vegetable Drugs Committee's target was not reached; difficulties encountered, however, were overcome and results are most gratifying.

" During 1943, it will be even more necessary to conserve every possible ton of shipping space. I am sure that your organisation will do its utmost to ensure that the largest possible quantity of our native medicinal plants is harvested."

The Herb Garden in March.—March is still a month of preparation in the herb garden. This year the winter has, so far, been so mild that the digging and preparing of new beds has not been held up, and towards the middle of March it should be safe to re-plant divisions of herb clumps, and to make a start with cuttings. The beds should have been well sprinkled with chalk or hydrated lime, and if the soil is at all poor some sort of organic material, such as compost or hop manure, dug in.

Thyme, Sage, Marjoram, Savory and Tarragon are easy to propagate, as rooted pieces may be pulled off and planted, which, of course, is quicker than taking cuttings.

Lavender and Rosemary are usually propagated from cuttings, and for this purpose small side branches, about 3-5 inches long, should be pulled off with short "heals," and inserted *very firmly* in the soil to about half their length. If the soil is heavy, it should be opened up by digging in sand, peat, etc., or the cuttings may be inserted in pots.

Mint beds may be re-made by the end of March and first sowings of parsley seed made. Chervil may also be sown out of doors.

Thought should be given to summer drying arrangements, and if possible a few simple drying trays made, in such a way that they may be piled up when filled in a warm place.

COD-LIVER OIL AND ORANGE JUICE

The Ministry of Food and Ministry of Health are most anxious that a greater quantity of these essential vitamin foods should be taken up.

Since last month all children holding the green ration book R.B.2, and also expectant mothers, have been made eligible for these extras.

Up to December only about a third of those eligible had taken advantage of the scheme, which is very disappointing. As these foods are a safeguard for the health of the future generation, everything possible should be done to encourage mothers to realise the importance of this scheme.

NOTES OF THE MONTH

W.V.S. CIRCULAR NOTICES

The following notices have been issued to Centres since the middle of January :

- A.1/43 W.V.S. Uniform : Collection of coupons for second year under the Coupon Surrender Scheme.
- A.2/43 Note on procedure regarding communications with Government departments, etc.
- A.3/43 Categories of W.V.S. members eligible for the Joint War Organisation Rest and Convalescent Homes.
- F.2/43 Distribution of orange juice and cod-liver oil.

THE CALL-UP POSITION AT A GLANCE

SINGLE WOMEN

18 Years Girls of this age come under the Registration for Employment Order. They can be directed to a war job by their local exchange. They can also volunteer for the Services or nursing.

19 to 25 (inc.) Single women of these age groups all come under the National Service Acts and cannot volunteer for the women's Services. They must wait for instructions, and will be given a choice of the women's Services, nursing, or certain selected industries.

25 to 30 (inc.) This group of seven ages is still being dealt with under the Registration for Employment Order. But, since the proclamation affects all single women between 19 and 30, they can be called up under the National Service Acts when the Minister of Labour decides to call them. Most girls of these ages have now been placed in essential war work.

31 to 45 (inc.) All in these age groups come under the Registration for Employment Order. They can all be directed to war work.

It is to be remembered that all women who have registered with their age groups and have gone into full-time work that is scheduled under the Essential Work Order cannot leave their employment without the consent of the National Service Officer. They are tied to their jobs unless release is granted for special reasons. This applies to all women whether married or single, and even when they have young children in their care, other than part-time workers doing less than thirty hours a week.

In the case of married women with children in their care they were not directed to work scheduled under the Essential Work Order, but voluntarily took such jobs, and once they took this employment they came under the Order.

MARRIED WOMEN, NO CHILDREN

18 to 45 (inc.) They can be sent to full-time work in a factory, shop, hospital or office within daily travelling distance of their homes. If they have domestic responsibilities they may be allowed to take a part-time job.

Up to the present the Ministry has not used its power to direct married women to part-time work; exchanges have only suggested to those not directed to full-time employment because of their home duties that they might consider taking a part-time job. They can also volunteer for the women's Services.

As was recently announced the employment exchanges will shortly begin to direct married women without children into part-time work in the same way as they have directed them to full-time work.

Wives of serving men who have no children and childless wives of men in war work of the ages above are all affected. They can be sent to work within daily travelling distance of home.

MARRIED, WITH CHILDREN UNDER 14

All of them between the ages of 18 and 45 had to register with their age groups, but when they filled in particulars of themselves showing they were the mothers of children under 14 who were with them at home and in need of their care they were filed in what is called the Dormant Register.

This means they should not be called for interview and would not be directed to war work. Periodically their record cards are consulted to make sure there has been no change in their circumstances. So long as this is so they are not liable for direction.

N.B.—CONTROL OF ENGAGEMENT

18-41 Apart from certain exceptions and women with children of their own under 14 living with them, all women between the ages of 18 and 41 must obtain employment only through an employment exchange, and employers will only be able to engage such women through an employment exchange.

NOTIFICATION OF LEAVING OF WORKERS

18-60 The Ministry of Labour are making an Order under which employers must notify their local exchange when an employee leaves employment or is discharged. This will apply to part-time as well as to full-time workers.