



Together for older people

WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine

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W.V.S. BULLETIN

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY

It's a serious business, carrying kettles. But mugs is different. This delightful picture shows Mrs. M. Shaw, M.B.E., with two boys of the Sea Cadet Corps, preparing the evening "tea boat" in H.M.S. *Claverhouse*, Edinburgh. (Photograph by courtesy *The Bulletin*, Edinburgh.)

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W.V.S. BULLETIN

Incorporating The News Letter



Number 148

April, 1952

(Official Journal of Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defence)

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THE QUEEN MOTHER

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A New Honour for W.V.S.

Many of you will have read in *The Times* of March 8th that, "The Dowager Marchioness of Reading, Chairman of the W.V.S., was presented at a luncheon at the Netherlands Embassy yesterday with the insignia of a grand officer in the Order of Orange Nassau in recognition of important services rendered by the W.V.S. to the Netherlands during and immediately after the last war."

This high honour, which Lady Reading accepted on your behalf, is the symbol of a nation's gratitude for work done by W.V.S. for its people during the war-meeting and helping the refugees on their arrival in Great Britain, helping shipwrecked sailors and later co-operating with the National Committee for the Evacuation of Dutch Children, which arranged for approximately 10,000 Dutch children to stay in Great Britain, living first in camps in England, Scotland and Wales before going on to stay with private families.

W.V.S. played many parts in this general scheme—meeting the children, travelling as escorts on train journeys to the camps, helping Dutch personnel in the camps, providing clothing and blankets and giving a hand with general welfare. When the children were boarded out with families W.V.S. continued to keep a friendly eye on them and helped again when they returned to their own country. To those who did this work it was just part of the job, but the Dutch have not forgotten.

Denmark is also interested in the work of W.V.S. and on April 28th Lady Reading will speak to members of The Danish-British Society in Copenhagen. As the *Bulletin* went to press she was in the United States, speaking in New York, Washington and Boston on Voluntary Service and Civil Defence—a crowded three weeks' visit. She said she also hoped to fit in a short holiday, but we wonder...

We also wonder if our readers are as conscious of the need to save as the

National Savings Committee would like them to be! This is one of the most important jobs that W.V.S. has undertaken and we should like particularly to draw your attention to Colonel Baker's article on page 9.

Next comes news of a huge salvage drive in which we are co-operating. It provides a blessed opportunity for unloading our junk and disposing of old razor blades, broken gramophone records, metal cap badges, old keys, unwanted steel knitting needles, iron bedsteads, bicycle frames and cork of all descriptions ranging from bath mats to bottle stoppers.

Start your collection now—with your spring cleaning—and next month we shall tell you where to send them, and how.

The Editor

W.V.S. Uniform on Parade

The idea came from Region 10 and proved a great success

It's one thing to see a uniform strung lifelessly from a hanger, or draped on an inanimate dummy with a sylph-like figure, and another to see it actually worn by somebody with a shape approximating one's own.

Realising this, and being aware also that a great many members, particularly new ones, had only vague ideas about the types of W.V.S. uniform available, a Southport member suggested that a collection of uniforms, to be displayed on a living model, should be sent from Headquarters. Region 10 adopted the idea and Miss McClure, of Headquarters Uniform Department, with Mrs. Crossley of the Regional Office and Mrs. Halsall, C.B. Organiser for Southport, spent three days visiting Southport, Liverpool, Manchester, Chester, Lancaster and Preston, showing the uniforms and talking about them.

While Mrs. Crossley acted as mannequin, Miss McClure spoke to members about the uniforms available, prices, who is entitled to wear uniform, the importance of Uniform Permits and how to obtain them, how to obtain the uniform itself and the difficulties that occur in the supply of uniform. Lists of uniform sizes and price charts were distributed and members were able to examine the articles individually and to ask questions.

And surprising questions some of them asked. "Some had rather peculiar ideas about uniform," Miss McClure reported. But we suspect this could apply to any region and emphasises the value of a first-

(Photograph by courtesy *The Southport Visiter*.)

What the well dressed W.V.S. should wear in summer.
Mrs. Halsall, Miss McClure and Lady Hamilton, Regional Organiser, admire the linen dress and hat of the W.V.S. summer uniform, with a shoulder strap bag, modelled by Mrs. Crossley.

hand display of this kind. A lot of names listed beside a lot of prices may mean nothing at all and somebody unversed in the finer distinctions might ponder indefinitely the difference between a "Monty" beret" and a "plain beret" without reaching any satisfactory conclusion. But if one can see them and hold them in one's hand, the mystery vanishes.

Similarly, "linen hat," "felt hat" on a price list give enormous scope for speculation and imagination might run riot if one has not actually seen them. But once seen, they're hardly likely to be forgotten . . .

At Chester and Preston the displays were held in the Town Hall, with honours for attendance going to Chester. Here, too, many useful questions were asked and suggestions made and it is to be hoped that Region 10 has started something that others will follow.

ROYAL Spinach and Beet

(Extracts from the
diary of a
Centre Organiser)

Monday.—Miss Collidge has joined W.V.S. to help with clerical work ("I am an experienced secretary, you know.") Gave her various bits of typing to do this morning (the pencilled notes of my Monthly Narrative Report, some names and addresses to be added to the Card Index, and so on) and discovered when we closed for the lunch hour that she had done none of it—but, instead, had rearranged the contents of some of my precious filing folders. Shall now never be able to find *anything*. When gently remonstrated with, she quoted with a lordly air someone she called "Lin Yutang." "Besides the noble art of getting things done," she told me, "'there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials.'" Feel convinced Miss Collidge is non-essential in this office and shall make rapid plans for eliminating her from it. She can practice her noble art in some other branch of W.V.S. work !

Tuesday.—Mrs. Cooke is a most practical member whose speciality is Emergency Feeding. On an outdoor cooker to-day she turned out a really excellent meal of stew and dumplings, followed by apple pie. Horrified, therefore, to overhear one member say to another: "It's nothing but *peel* and *a pip*," while her friend chuckled and said: "Apple pie! Of course!" My rising blood pressure and Mrs. Cooke's hectic flush subsided when the two members told us they were merely solving an anagram in a crossword puzzle !

Wednesday.—Furious with Miss Driver when she reported an accident to our treasured W.V.S. van to-day—and more especially for the reason. "I was backing the van," she explained, "and a lamp-post got in the way!"

Thursday.—Spring must definitely be in the air: two of our younger uniformed members, taking a short cut to a C.D. lecture through the children's playground this evening, could not resist the sight of the empty swings, and each seized one. They were rivalling each other in gaining height when a man approached. Somewhat abashed they brought the swings to a halt, and waited for him to speak. Was he a Park Official? No. "I live over there," he said, nodding in the direction of a nearby house, "and I'd be greatly obliged if you'd oil the swings if you're going on using them: the noise is nearly driving me mad!"

Friday.—Now that Mrs. Young's small boy attends kindergarten in the mornings, she is free to help us and to-day she signed an Enrolment Form. (On his first day home from school he said to her excitedly: "Oh Mummy, there are ever so many *foreign* children in my class: there's a French boy and a Norwegian, and a Hungarian and—a Vegetarian. What country does a Vegetarian come from, Mummy?")

The care of the homeless in wartime is one of the most important aspects of Civil Defence work. Rest Centres need trained staff—why not start now?

Bombed Out and Homeless

What picture does our title conjure up in your mind? If you are one of the people unlucky enough to have been bombed out during the war, or if you yourself helped to care for the homeless between 1940 and 1945, the picture will be very real. But there are many who have had no such experience or whose imagination is perhaps not very vivid and for them we want to sketch a picture of this service within the Welfare Section of the Civil Defence Corps.

Let us think what would happen to a family rendered suddenly homeless. This family consists of father, mother, granny with "bad legs" and "the nerves," a toddler and a baby in arms. During the night their house has been bombed, but none of them has been hurt and so they find themselves in a nearby Rest Centre. It may be a school or it may be a village hall, but whatever the building we know that the family will be welcomed and cared for.

They will be given hot drinks, with a bottle for the baby, followed by the longed-for wash and brush up. Then a record will be made of their names and addresses.

By this time granny has been taken off to the Sick Bay and there, not only can she be given something to soothe her nerves, but she can tell the story of her bad legs to a sympathetic listener. Such a listener will not only be found in the Sick Bay—no Rest Centre would be complete without her, for people suffering from shock must be allowed to talk and talk and talk.

When the toddler has settled down he will probably be attracted to the corner set aside for children, where he will find toys and picture books. In the meantime, father is at the Information Desk, anxious to learn how he can get repairs done to his house and to settle other vital problems

before he can get back to work.

Perhaps our family is lucky enough to have had time to gather up some extra clothes but if not, one of the Rest Centre staff will try to provide them from stocks held, with enough for their immediate needs, or to keep them warm.

This rather incomplete picture will serve to give some idea of what Rest Centre work entails and to show how the work which you do for W.V.S. may fit you to be a helper in a Rest Centre in time of emergency. Work with children and old people, work in clothing exchanges or depots, the day to day work in a Centre, answering questions and dealing with problems, all play their part.

During the coming months we shall publish articles on Evacuation, Reception and Billeting, Emergency Feeding and Information, and when you have read them we hope you will be convinced that *you are the person who is needed in the Welfare Section of the Civil Defence Corps—if you are not convinced already!*

Finally, will you say to yourself again that *you can't be certain but you can be READY.*

F.C.

A good hot drink at the Rest Centre works wonders after the shock of being bombed out of house and home.

ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Letters

A Word From Down Under

"The W.V.S. Bulletin reached me for the first time a week or two ago and I do want to tell you how much I enjoyed it. I have always been glad to receive the News Letter but this has so much extra material of interest that I have read it from cover to cover—even the advertisements!

"Our school resumes next week and I shall be very glad of the Bulletins as a stimulus to the children's Social Service work.

"I wish we had an organisation comparable to W.V.S. in Australia. There are multitudes of smaller organisations, most doing quite good work within their limited fields, but I don't know of any national group with the practical approach of the W.V.S. I was hoping that if Lady Reading had visited Australia she might have inspired some of our women leaders to start W.V.S. here."—*Sylvia Jackson, Melbourne, Australia.*

To Mrs. Morden (Services Welfare)

"We, the Chinese naval ratings on this British boat, wish to thank you and all the members of the W.V.S. very much.

"We received your comforts while we were stationed on the coast of Korea, during the very severe winter, and were very grateful for the gifts which you so kindly sent.

"In the midst of war they gave us great pleasure and we really do not know how to express our gratitude. We hold your thoughtfulness in high esteem and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

"We would like to wish you respectfully and all the members of your organisation, joy, health and happiness, and to say that we will remember your kindness forever."—*From the Chinese Naval Ratings.*

This letter was actually written in Chinese. A member of Headquarters staff translated it.—Ed.

The Pleasure is Ours

"Many thanks to you for your kindness in forwarding the *Bulletin* to me each month. In its present form I consider it a delightful little magazine and I read every word with much pleasure and appreciation."—*W. M. Straw, Norfolk.*

And Again . . .

"I should like to say how much I enjoy the *Bulletin* each month, with all its interesting news and pictures.

"Congratulations on the look of the 'new' *Bulletin*, it is most attractive. Also, I feel sure members must appreciate all the work and thought which is given to our magazine. Very good wishes for a most successful year."—*Q. B., Borehamwood, Herts.*

Thank you. We enjoy our part of it.—Ed.

The Personal Column

"A few months ago I asked you about some hand cream which was advertised in our W.V.S. *Bulletin* and you kindly let me have the address to write to.

"I think that you may like to know that it is excellent stuff and as it lasts well, the 2s. 6d. per jar is very worthwhile. It seems to be a private venture and so the supply is limited, but it really is *very good*."—*R.J.C., London, S.W.5.*

The manufacturers have now registered the company but keep a reasonable limit on supplies in order to avoid purchase tax.—Ed.

A Piece of Cake

"The *Bulletin* is working so well for me in holding our members together with interest. We love your little magazine. A W.V.S. living near me in the moorland hillside popped in with a piece of currant slice she had made from your recipe.

"Could we ever have a crossword?"—*G.M.S., Centre Organiser, Rothbury R.D.*

A crossword and lots of other things some day, we hope.—Ed.

In this article Colonel F. B. Baker, of the National Savings Committee, explains why we ourselves must save and must continue to help others to do the same.

Nobody would dispute that throughout Great Britain there is a general awareness of the need for economy in every direction. Economy in materials, economy in metal and economy in money are all urgent questions that need our attention.

Although, on the face of it, this might seem the wrong time to appeal for further saving, rising prices are in fact the very reason why there should be a cut in our personal spending. The national need for thrift among the people is greater now than it has been for many years—greater, even, than it was during the war. We are striving after peace and as a nation we feel that peace is only possible if we are strong. The money for the defence measures agreed upon can only be found by further taxation, or out of the savings of the people.

Recently, a "Lend Strength to Britain" National Savings campaign was conducted in towns and villages throughout the country and has brought home to people the urgency of the need to save. But a campaign of this kind cannot be allowed to stop on any given date; it must be looked upon as the initial effort and the gains which accrue from it must be followed up.

During the past year nearly 19,000 new savings groups have been started. Many employers now look upon the provision of savings facilities as a duty, and where savings groups exist in places of employment, between 30 and 40 per cent. of the employees are active group members.

In clubs and social organisations, savings groups have a special importance. In these places most of the members are young, so that savings groups have an educational value as well. In many parts of the country groups operate successfully by means of hand to hand collection for the benefit of the inhabitants of a street, and schools also, of all types and creeds, successfully run national savings groups.

From its earliest days W.V.S. has given

Britain Needs Your Money

willing help to Local Savings Committees and the Savings Movement as a whole is indebted to many members of W.V.S. for the work which they have done and are doing both in the country and in towns. Today, we are asking for further help for the nation's sake. The more difficult it is to save, the greater the need for a helping hand, and that helping hand is offered through savings groups.

Local Savings Committees stand in need of men and women of goodwill who would be prepared to act as honorary secretaries in places where savings groups languish for the lack of one. If any W.V.S. Centre feels that it could help by providing an honorary secretary to run a savings group, particularly in a small place of employment or in a social organisation, their help would be most thankfully accepted.

The address of the National Savings District Office will be in the local telephone directory. If you happen to be one of those Centres which is not at present in touch, will you give the District Office a ring?

We regret that owing to the increased Air Mail Rates the charge for the Bulletin sent by air mail will in future be as follows:

Australia	-	21s. per annum
New Zealand	21s.	" "
Africa	-	18s. "
U.S.A.	-	18s. "
Canada	-	18s. "
India	-	18s. "
Pakistan	-	18s. "
Malaya	-	18s. "
Brit. W. Indies	18s.	" "

Down Among

Among the work most dear to the hearts of W.V.S. members is that of bringing cheer to old people in need.

Mrs. Jones is eighty-four, blind and living alone. Few of her friends are left now and she has no children. Only her cat is there to keep her company ; not even a radio to fill the empty hours. It doesn't occur to her to complain of her lot and she is accustomed to "doing for herself," but a really good hot meal is beyond her own powers to prepare, or her purse to buy. How can she get a square meal ? Who is there to help her ? W.V.S. provides the answer to both questions.

There are others—hundreds of others—like Mrs. Jones—alone, poor, many of them bedridden, and to these people, through the length and breadth of Great Britain, W.V.S. brings hot meals two or three times a week, visits the sick and lonely and performs a thousand acts of kindness that bring cheerfulness and the warmth of human friendliness to the lives of those who most need it.

Their Meals on Wheels workers, taking cheap, hot meals to those unable to fend for themselves, perform prodigies of service ; their Darby and Joan Clubs provide a rich oasis of human companionship in the empty desert of lonely old age ; their residential clubs provide homes at minimum rates for those who have no sanctuary ; their old people's luncheon clubs provide a meeting place and a good, cheap meal for those who, these days, may not be able otherwise to afford them.

These are some of the ways in which W.V.S. helps "the old folk," and every day reports come into Headquarters of hundreds of other services rendered. These few are typical of the many :

From East Suffolk : " Reports have come in of W.V.S. looking after an old lady in her own cottage who refuses to leave. This entails arduous work because the cottage is without any main services ; of another W.V.S. who shops for an elderly couple and regularly replaces their wireless battery requiring renewal ; and another W.V.S. took an old lady to Ipswich who had not shopped for thirty years."

From Essex : " Contacted Sanitary Inspector of Rural Council re shocking, dilapidated state of two cottages inhabited by two old widows

Jim Mercer, of The Streatham Ne
at the Streatham Evergreen Club.

The Old Folk

and was successful in that he contacted the landlord and orders were given for work to be done."

From Middlesex : "A donation of 10s. to be given to 'another old person in need' was sent to us by an old lady in appreciation of the loan of the W.V.S. bath chair. This has been spent on two pillow cases for an old lady on our Meals on Wheels list. A friend also gave us a dressing chest which we were able to take to the same old lady. Her joy at possessing such a piece of furniture was very great. Up to now her few possessions have been lying about the room."

From Essex : "We have been agitating for cheap seats at the local cinemas for our Darby and Joan Club members. The matter was taken up by the Old People's Welfare Committee and now all the old people in the town, whether Darby and Joan Club members or otherwise, can take advantage of a special concession."

From London : "A doctor told one of our members she was constantly finding out how much good Darby and Joan Clubs were doing for old people and mentioned the case of an elderly woman with rheumatic and other troubles who, until ten months ago, had come regularly to her surgery over a long period. She had recently called and in reply to the doctor's remark that it was a long while since her last visit she said, 'Well, you see Doctor, it's them Darby and Joan Clubs what's done it. They help me forget some of me troubles!'"

The old people are quick to show their appreciation of "them lovely dinners" and all that W.V.S. does for them and we can take the following letter from a Lancashire man as the yardstick of their gratitude : "*I am writing to express to you my deep sense of appreciation for all that you and your Association are doing for the people of this town and, in fact, the people of this country. I appreciate mostly the great kindness you put into the work you do.*

"*When my dinner is brought on Fridays I do not look upon it merely as a dinner, but rather as a visit from two real friends and that in itself is a real tonic. I feel we ought to write and tell you how much we owe to your great sacrificial work.*"—W.T.H.

Who could ask for more than gratitude straight from the heart ?

(Reproduced by courtesy *The Streatham News*.)
ws records his impressions of a party

NEWS LETTER No. 160—for Overseas Readers

(Kindly written for the W.V.S. Bulletin
by an American, Miss Ann Foster.)

The week before this News Letter was written saw two very definite changes in the general spirit of the British people, and to a foreign observer these changes were most interesting to watch. The Conservative Budget was the focus point of these changes.

First of all, the date of the Budget presentation had been put three weeks ahead of its normal schedule and this rather ominous fact, coupled with the shocking picture of Britain's economic difficulties, which had been pounded home by speakers for the Government and the press in general, gave the British people a feeling of frustration about what further restrictions might be placed upon their day-to-day living. And so it was with an attitude of, "Well, let's hear the worst," that these people tuned in their radio sets on Budget Evening to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Butler, explain the meaning of the Budget to the nation.

The Chancellor spoke with remarkable simplicity and clarity and the terms of his Budget as he presented them suddenly began to add up to the most unexpected equation of hope for the country. True, the Chancellor was telling them of a reduction in food subsidies with a resultant rise in the cost of living (which he estimated at about 1s. 6d. per person per week), but this was to be compensated by increased income tax reliefs and by higher family allowances, and these reliefs were especially aimed at workers who put in over-time to give them a tangible incentive to increase Britain's production. And these were Mr. Butler's

own words: "Solvency, security, duty and incentive are our themes. Restriction and austerity are not enough. We must set forth braced and resolute to show the world that we shall regain our solvency, and with it our national greatness."

The cost of this solvency was not going to be at the expense of further cuts in the standard of living. It was going to be met by expanded exports and increased production. Here at long last seemed a Positive Budget instead of an austere Negative one, and so the nation which got out of bed on Budget Morning with a rather tired and nagged feeling, went to bed quite unexpectedly refreshed.

But in the clear light of more than a week of mornings later, let us examine this new Conservative Budget quite carefully. The British people have had a chance to examine it in black and white now and they have done their adding of the new higher costs and subtracted the total of their new benefits from these. They have also had the chance to read the Opposition's arguments against the Budget (and to believe some of these arguments when their own arithmetic goes somewhat against them), so let us now see what the Budget sets out to do and how it proposes going about doing it.

Mr. Butler's Budget sets out to do three main things:

- (1) To increase armaments
- (2) To increase exports in order to balance overseas payments
- (3) To maintain the standard of living despite (1) and (2),

and he has told the British nation of the three main ways he will endeavour to

Enquiries about the News Letter should be sent to—

achieve these goals:

- (1) By cutting domestic and industrial investment by way of a high profits levy and by increasing the Bank Rate (which is perhaps better understood overseas as the rate on bank loans)
- (2) By taxation reform which will have the effect of making overtime earnings more valuable and so stimulate harder work
- (3) By cutting food subsidies to pay for the above "incentive scheme."

Let's take the subject of the cuts in food subsidies first of all, since it probably will affect more people directly than any of the other items taken into account. To make overseas readers quite clear on this subject, it should perhaps be explained that during and since the war years the British Government has controlled all of this country's food stocks, whether imported or home grown. The reason for this measure in wartime was that there was an inadequate supply of food for everyone and the Government, by controlling the price and distribution of food by subsidy and rationing, could manage to have it equally shared out.

The Government, then as now, had to pay the going world price for this food, but under the conditions of its subsidy the British people—rich and poor alike—were getting food inexpensively, even though, of course, this was at the cost of higher taxation generally. This measure was continued and extended under the Labour Government.

But now this new Conservative Budget argues that instead of giving blanket subsidies to all classes the Government will instead cut the subsidies by almost

40 per cent., lower the taxes which were financing the subsidies and distribute half the proceeds in other ways among those who really need them—that is, among children, pensioners and those in need of national assistance.

But there is a minus note on this particular phase of the Budget. Even though it reaches out to protect the very poor there is a lack of provision in it for the workers who earn low wages and do not pay income tax. The rise in the cost of living will be felt very sharply by these people since there is no way to relieve them of income tax; however, it is thought that in some of these harder cases, this may have to be corrected by wage increases.

Mr. Butler has made one other big change as far as consumer goods are concerned. He has brought to an end the Utility scheme whereby a certain percentage of basic goods produced have been sold at a minimum price without purchase tax, but to help counterbalance the loss of this scheme, goods, which have been heavily taxed in the past and which as a result have been completely out of the picture for people of moderate incomes to buy, are now to be tax-free up to a certain limit and then subject to a graduated purchase tax above that level.

In visiting a large department store after this measure was put into force, the observer could not help but exclaim at the great reduction in some goods. A suit or coat, for example, which was £20 before the Butler Budget was £2 14s. cheaper.

But the Chancellor's pattern of rearranging the tax system is perhaps

Continued on page 14

EMPIRE AND FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

NEWS LETTER No. 160—Continued

most outstandingly felt in his revisions in the Income Tax.

Two million people who have paid income tax in past years are now exempt from taxation under the new Budget and the starting rate for taxing incomes has been raised considerably to help cover the new costs and encourage people to work harder and longer by enabling them to keep more of what they earn. It is a very mistaken thought, if anyone has it from this, that Income Tax in Britain has been abolished. Under the Butler Budget the majority of working people are still directly taxed on their incomes—and heavily taxed in proportion to what they earn.

It may not be appreciated by overseas readers that about half of the salary and wage earners in England earn only £500 or less per year, and on this income a single person still pays £63 a year. And on twice this income the tax jumps to £235.

Along with the new reliefs in the Income Tax has come a welcome increase in Family Allowances. These have been increased from 5s. to 8s. per week for the second and for each additional child in the family. This is really a very small increase, but taken together with the income tax reliefs, it has not merely made the dread of the Budget disappear, but has left most people better off—unless or until the cost of living catches up with these benefits. However, the mood of the moment is one of relief and such pessimistic thoughts have been pushed into the back of their minds.

Now, it has been shown here how Mr. Butler does not intend to lower the standard of living—but a priority even ahead of this is the programme to arm Britain to defend itself. As the cost of this will not be met by lower standards

so it can only come from a cut—a very large cut—in domestic and industrial investment. The Conservative Budget has therefore taken two steps to gain this new revenue. One is through a 30% levy on excess profits. This levy will prevent industry to a large extent from putting profits back into the business, but even on a more positive side it will be a crushing end to armament profiteering.

The second step is through raising the price of loans or credit. This will sting the average man a bit as the increase in price of loans will restrict investment in the domestic field. Also, for example, mortgages will be more expensive and so fewer people will be able to buy their own homes, and local authorities may reduce their new building schemes.

However, this increase of the Bank Rate has had the immediate effect of strengthening the £ on the foreign exchange markets. The world takes it as a sign that Britain is determined to work itself into a state of solvency, and even though this restoration of confidence in the £ is slight it may very well have the happy consequence of stopping and even reversing the flight from sterling.

There are courageous revisions in this new Conservative Budget, some of which seem to be taking a gamble. Problems of inflation and the overseas deficit still exist, but Mr. Butler has given courage to the country to take positive steps against them.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who seems a modest man, might be a little surprised to find himself compared with St. George, with Inflation and Deficit dressed up as a two-headed Dragon, but so he seems to the people of Britain, who have taken real heart at his non-austere, but determined Budget.

Since writing the last Page, all sorts of Training Courses have been taking place in Scotland.

The biggest event was a one-week Course organised by Scottish Headquarters and held in Edinburgh to train potential Trainers for the Welfare Section. The Training was most ably conducted by a team from London Headquarters, who were tireless in their energies.

To listen to lectures from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day for a week, to finish each afternoon, after hours of feverish note-taking, with a problem which demanded all the knowledge thus hastily accumulated, as well as all one's native wit—this was the privilege, and not the punishment, for the members who attended from different parts of Scotland.

Before the Course started many were apprehensive as to their powers of concentration and learning, but soon it became clear that the Course was not taking the shape they had thought, and instead of being merely "back at school," each day was packed with interest. Evacuation, Billeting, Care of the Homeless, were the main subjects. The talks were illustrated by practical demonstrations where the Trainees played the leading role, and soon we were amazed to find how many excellent actresses we possessed.

Group Discussions were filled with energetic arguments and the spirit of enthusiasm was felt throughout the entire week, at the end of which many Trainees had been converted into Trainers, and everyone appeared to have enjoyed their Course.

Emergency Feeding Training Days, too, have taken place in Glasgow and Edinburgh with the same realistic demonstrations and members were found struggling with Bluff cookers, Soyer boilers and outside fireplaces. Their eccentricities were soon mastered and now a number of trained members are ready to carry out more of their Training.

Scottish Headquarters ran a two-day W.V.S. Training Course for

newly appointed County and Large Burgh Organisers. This took the form of a Round Table Conference and everyone appeared to enjoy their initial Training, at the end of which we received this poem from a husband of one of the Trainees :

"Ladies, gaze upon this stone
Perhaps in time you will alone
My wife went on a two-day Course
To trace my end—there is the
source!"
* * *

Scottish Page

Following the Orkney hurricane the County Organiser has had a busy time.

Scottish Headquarters immediately contacted her and despatched clothing and bedding for twenty-five homeless families, who had been squatting in Nissen huts. The County Organiser described how most of their clothing and bedding was decorating the telegraph poles and wires in the surrounding area. Many gifts of clothing were received and despatched from Scottish Headquarters.

(Photograph by courtesy the *Evening Dispatch*, Edinburgh.

Miss D. I. Weir, Scottish Headquarters Food Officer, and other Western District members, watch a Bluff cooker being assembled during a recent Civil Defence exercise.

Virginia Graham

Court Circular

Sewell Stokes.

Michael Joseph, cheap edition 7s. 6d.

There is, I suppose, no more dedicated profession, save nursing, than that of a Probation Officer. The work demands endurance, patience, sympathy, strong feet and the ability to be disappointed again and again without yielding to despair.

Sewell Stokes was a Probation Officer at Bow Street for four years and his book concerning some of the cases with which he had to deal is a lively and interesting record of man's innate frailty. Bringing to his task a sense of humour, Mr. Stokes grew to understand and pity his probationers, however comical their problems, and instead of tidying them up to suit his own ideas of right behaviour learned, and learned the hard way, to help them help themselves.

He made many mistakes at the start—and these I may say, make for hilarious reading—such as when he appealed for co-operation to the father of a youth who had hit a policeman and discovered that

W.V.S. Book of the Month

the father was the policeman he'd hit. But finally he emerged, as do most Probation Officers, with a profound understanding of human nature and a happy knack of inspiring its confidence.

It's always fascinating to read of the workings of justice, and though the probationary system stems from its more compassionate side, Mr. Stokes does not fail at times to be angry at the law's inconsistencies. Though in all human affairs there is permitted a margin of error he feels that the personal idiosyncrasies of magistrates, not to mention the condition of their livers, makes for unfair convictions, and he does not hesitate to boil with indignation on several occasions.

Written in a cheerful, anecdotal style this book inspires a variety of emotions ranging from pity to amusement. It is a fitting tribute to a selfless body of men and women which, with mouse-like modesty, serves a community almost unaware of its existence.

MEDALS OF THE MONTH

FOOD.—*Meals on Wheels remain steady.*—Twickenham.

A bit wobbly sometimes?—Ed.

GENERAL.—*A request was received from St. Helier Hospital for someone to sit with an ole lady . . .*—Merton and Morden.

The Hospital Trolley Shop

An amusing tribute to an important part of W.V.S. work, written by an elderly bed-ridden patient of St. Gabriel's Ward, Holy Rood, Findon, West Sussex.

ON Thursday mornings we awake, all feeling extra jolly,
We wonder why a moment, then recollect—the trolley.
The shop on wheels comes round today stacked full of things we're needing,
With things to eat and things to wear—for writing and for reading.
There's jam and sauce, biscuits, meat and fish pastes—oh, and pickle,
With malted milk or chocolate to tempt the palate fickle.
Then soaps and powders, hair grips too, with dental creams unending,
And writing pads and birthday cards which to our friends we're sending.

OR if we wish to sew and knit with needles, thread and binding,
Our wool and sets of knitting pins on the trolley we'll be finding.
But best of all the willing help and smiling, happy faces,
With jokes and fun and cheery words and many kindly graces
Of the W.V.S. ladies who attend the Thursday trolley,
Are the reasons why we waken with a feeling bright and jolly.
It's something we look forward to ; we wouldn't be without it.
We enjoy our Thursday shopping days and that is all about it.

E. M. BUSHBY

Oh, Granny !

*A member of W.V.S., who shall be nameless, tells us the following story about her grandson, aged five. Passing *41 Cadogan Square one day he explained to his adult escort, "That's Granny's pub and it's spelt W-V-S."*

*41, Cadogan Square is the W.V.S. Club.

From the Centres

CROYDON C.B.

National Savings. One of our Centre Staff has taken the office group in hand and has increased the amount saved each week from 12s. to £9 and more. We think this is a grand effort.

DONCASTER C.B.

Mobile Library. This work continues with great success and our stocks of books increases in leaps and bounds. With the exception of meals, this library is appreciated more than any other work we do for old people.

DROITWICH

One of our members had the brilliant idea of getting townspeople to subscribe towards fifty-six trees to be planted in memory of H.M. King George VI. We are hoping our Centre is the first to have this idea.

DURHAM CITY AND RURAL

The C.O. had an idea she would like to arrange a Civil Defence class for school mistresses so she called the various head-mistresses, who were not very enthusiastic, but when the suggestion was put to staff meetings, they were surprised at the favourable response. Some of the teachers had felt the need for such a course and we are waiting to hear from the C.D. Officer about an instructor.

HEADQUARTERS SHOP

The Electricity Board recently staged a display in our windows asking for the co-operation of the general public in saving electricity during the peak hours. Just after the windows had been dressed all the lights in the shop went out. A figure groped its way in through the gloom. "I see you are taking the advice in your window very seriously," it said.

HESTON & ISLEWORTH

Meals on Wheels. Getting the meals out hot has always been a problem and our very grateful thanks are due to the

members of the Round Table (Hounslow No. 177) who have generously provided us with specially made insulated boxes, painted green and inscribed in red, "Property of the W.V.S."

LAMBETH

Old People's Welfare. The Chairman of the West Norwood Rotarians asked us to contact Brighton W.V.S. to see if they would help by welcoming and inviting to their clubs, old people to whom the Rotarians were giving a week's free holiday. Contacts were made through the proper channels and we hope the scheme will prove a success.

LEICESTER C.B.

Clothing. An old client—a pensioner of 80—was so overjoyed and overcome at receiving some good warm garments of which we felt she was greatly in need, that she was most anxious to do something for them and suggested that she would always be willing to run our errands !

LOWESTOFT

One morning our secretary received an S.O.S. for an air bed for a man in Kessingland who was desperately ill. By the evening the bed had arrived at the house and the sufferer was comfortably installed. "This," one of their neighbours told us, "is service."

METROPOLITAN KENT

We were able to find three mothers to go to Elmleigh for a fortnight's holiday. They benefited considerably by the rest, and have been most grateful for the holiday. One of their chief joys at this type of holiday is meeting other mothers of their own age with similar problems.

OXFORD C.B.

Services Welfare. Quite a lot of knitting has been done and sent to London for shipment abroad. An interesting point is that a member of one of the women's colleges came into the office and

asked if she could arrange for her fellow students to knit for the Forces through W.V.S. Since then she has come in at quite frequent intervals with various knitted garments, which we have included in our parcels to London. In addition, those students who have not time to knit have given us money with which we buy wool and get our members to knit socks for them, a very satisfactory arrangement.

PAIGNTON

Garden Gift Scheme. As we have now council estates in our own district we have decided that any surplus plants collected shall be sent to them. Many of the mothers who are members of the clothing exchange are now living on these estates and through them we shall be able to contact people who would like the plants.

SCARBOROUGH

Welfare Foods. There has been illness among the children of Eastfield but on the whole they appear to be very healthy and happy and are friendly. The young ones did a lot of the shopping from the W.V.S. van during the holiday season and one young lady of under five, when warned to be careful with the orange juice, said, "If I drop this lot I've had it!"

SOUTH WESTMORLAND AND KENDAL BOROUGH

A young man called to ask our advice about emigrating to South Africa. One of our members contacted friends there about the possibilities of employment and after considering their reply, he decided to go. Three days after arriving in Victoria he obtained work at a gold mine and a week later found a house. His delighted family are now preparing to join him, instead of having had to wait for perhaps twelve months, and have told us how grateful they are for our help.

WANSTEAD

Clothing. A few months ago we were anxious to close our Clothing Exchange because it was not utilised and our workers were tired of doing nothing, so we put a notice in the local paper announcing the decision to close. The result was that people began to use it again and it has taken on a new lease of life!

PERSONAL COLUMN

Rates: 10s. for a minimum of three lines, 2s. 6d. per line thereafter

Special rates for Bulletin subscribers.

W.V.S. Club. Pleasant surroundings, excellent food, cocktail bar, comfortable bedrooms. Subscriptions £3 3s. per annum, entrance fee £3 3s. Reduced subscriptions for overseas visitors. Full particulars from The Secretary, 41, Cadogan Square, S.W.1.

The Rex Restaurant, Esplanade, Bognor Regis, 'phone 1989, specialises in catering for Darby and Joan Clubs etc. Write to Catering Manager for menus and brochure.

Accommodation Private Hotel, London. Bed-sit, private bath, 4-course breakfast, Special rate W.V.S. and Service members, 15s. 6d. per night. Others, 21s. Apply G. Neel-Wall (2nd Offcr. WRNS Rtd.) 51, Courtfield Gdns., S.W.5. FRObisher 7392.

For Sale, Croquet Set, complete in box good condition, £5; **Wrought Iron Bird Cage** on telescopic pedestal approx. 5ft. high, £2. Purchasers paying freight. Box 149

For sale 1949 Standard Vanguard 13,000 miles, heater, parking light, first rate condition, seen N.W.8. £895 Box 150

To let in private house large bed sitting room overlooking garden N.W.8 3½ gns. Also Elec. Refrig. 6 cu. ft. perfect £70. Box 151

Share Furnished Office, phone, 2 mins. Baker St. Stn. Occasional overnight accom. Woman only. Refs. reqd. Phone: Amb. 6061 or Box 152.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Cecily Harriet Allen, Centre Organiser for Dunstable since 1945. Mrs. Allen joined W.V.S. during the Munich Crisis and Mrs. Joyce Harvey, Acting Centre Organiser, writes: "The loss of Mrs. Allen as our Centre Organiser and the friend of us all in the office has been a great blow to us after working together for so many years."

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