

WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine

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W.V.S. BULLETIN



Incorporating The News Letter

Number 169

LUN JAKY

January, 1954

vices for Civil Defence)
A. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Aother
men: Dowager Lady Hillingdon

OF READING, G.B.E.

Chairman for Scotland: LADY MACCOLL

D.B.E.

COUNTESS ALEXANDER OF TUNIS, G.B.E.

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Honours Awarded W.V.S.

 N^{EW} Year's Honours were awarded to the following W.V.S. Members, to whom we offer congratulations:—

Member of the Order of the British Empire

Muriel Phyllis, Mrs. CARROLL-MARX, County Organiser, London. Irene May, Mrs. DAGGER, County Borough Organiser, Birmingham. Edan Irene, Mrs. DAGLISH, Civil Defence Officer, Northamptonshire. The Hon. Violet Ethel Mary GERARD, County Organiser, Hertfordshire. Miss Georgina Jessie GRAHAM, Civil Defence Officer, Scottish Headquarters. Miss Eva Dorothy KENNY, County Borough Organiser, York.

Overseas
Miss Elisabeth Ferguson KILPATRICK, B.A.O.R.

British Empire Medal

Miss Doris BALDWIN, J.P., County Staff, North Riding, Yorkshire.
Anne, Mrs. CATOR, Area Organiser, Norfolk.
Dorothy Alice Clara, Mrs. COURTNEY, Deputy County Organiser, South Middlesex.
Catherine Clarkson, Mrs. CRAIG, Centre Staff, Glasgow.
Eunice, Mrs. HOLT, County Borough Staff, Bradford.
Rhoda, Mrs. MASSEY, Regional Staff, Region 10.

W.V.S. members awarded New Year Honours for other work:

Winifred Edith, Mrs. RISSIK, Deputy County Organiser, Rutland.

Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire

Margaret Diana, Countess ALEXANDER OF TUNIS, Vice-Chairman, For public services.

Officer of the Order of the British Empire

Christine Eugenie Fredericka, Mrs. CALLINGHAM, Ex-Sub-Centre Organiser, Clapham. For political and public services in Wandsworth.

Member of the Order of the British Empire

Eleanor, Mrs. EVANS, J.P., County Organiser, Flintshire. For political and public services in Flintshire.

Frances Gweneth, Mrs. PYMAN, County Borough Staff, West Hartlepool. For charitable and social work in West Hartlepool.



Brightly Burns

Some 800 W.V.S. members met at Church House, London, last month to hear the Rt. Hon. Iain Macleod, Minister of Health, address them on W.V.S. work in hospitals. The importance of this particular work cannot be over-estimated and continues to grow.

"THE voluntary spirit is burning more brightly than ever" said Mr. Iain Macleod, when he addressed hundreds of W.V.S. hospital workers from London and the Home Counties at a meeting in Church House, London, last month. In hospitals of all types, including mental homes, W.V.S. are carrying out a wide variety of work covering assistance in teaching handicrafts; visiting patients in wards; writing patients' letters; arranging dances, con-

An informal view of some of the principals at the mass meeting of W.V.S. hospital workers at Church House, London. They are Lady Reading, the Rt. Hon. Iain Macleod and Lady Gent.

(Photo by courtesy of the Topical Press Agency.)

certs, games; shopping expeditions and organised walks; running canteens, libraries and trolley shops; assisting at tea parties and organising social clubs for ex-patients.

Perhaps one of the greatest advances has been in the treatment of patients in mental homes and Mr. Macleod said he was glad to report that voluntary organisations, including W.V.S., were now helping regularly in some 70 mental hospitals, more than half the total in the country.

Another important activity is assisting with the follow-up visit of discharged patients, helping them with their meals and shopping, and escorting the patient where necessary to the hospital for outpatient treatment. Then there is the welfare service to the handicapped, such as deaf or blind people or those disabled in their own homes. So often these people have a sense of isolation and voluntary organisations can give them wider contacts and interests. "Work of this kind," said Mr. Macleod, "provides ample scope for that great quality which is an integral part of the British way of life—team work."

Following Mr. Macleod various W.V.S. members from different parts of the country spoke, including Lady Bottomley, from Region 4, who talked about the work of W.V.S. in hospital canteens at Cambridge, selecting Addenbrooke's Hospital as an example, largely because of the vast area it serves. One of the greatest problems, Lady Bottomley said, was to find space in hospitals to set up a canteen and, as she explained, at this particular hospital the first canteen was established in a passage between the out-patients' department and the hospital itself. There was room for only two people behind the counter and a row of customers in front, with a constant stream of stretchers, chairs and nurses passing behind. Since then, happily, a second and larger canteen with excellent working space had been pro-This canteen, typical of so many, is open all the year round for five and a half days a week and serves some 80,000 people annually. Fifty-four canteen helpers are needed weekly to prepare food, defrost refrigerators, keep statistics and accounts, serve customers and wash Any profit from W.V.S. hospital canteens is spent, after consultation with the Matron, on amenities for the hospital.

Other W.V.S. speakers were Miss Ball and Mrs. Briscoe (Region 5), Mrs. Dyson (Region 6), Mrs. Stephens (Region 10), and Mrs. Newman (Region 12).

Letter from Germany

The following letter has been received from Miss Rosemary Amies at Head-quarters B.A.O.R. and gives a breezy account of the movements of members working in N.A.A.F.I. canteens in that zone. Although this is essentially a page for Overseas W.V.S., we feel there are many at home who will have a link with the people mentioned here.

"THANKS to W.V.S. at home, the members in Germany now total 157—the highest total we have had out here for over a year, and thus the number of Units waiting for a W.V.S. service is very much reduced. These 157 different varieties of "Spinach and Beet" working with N.A.A.F.I. now cover more ground than ever before as we are helping in 70 Units and 8 Clubs.

Members out here are a happy mixture of old and new, East and West. Veterans, well known to many, include Mary Taylor,

Peggie Power, Paddy Andrews, Gwen Bew, Betty Clerihew, Anne Fisher, Ada Gittings, Isabel Hasluck, Scottie Kilpatrick, Hilda Lord, Susan Maw, Catherine Miller, Margaret Smith, Freda Tasker and Peg Tilly. Scottie Kilpatrick, Peggy Power and Isabel Hasluck caused quite a stir recently in W.V.S. circles when they pulled up their roots and moved to new locations, Peggy and Isabel to break new ground in the Belgian Zone with the Canadians and Scottie to run the Rhine Centre in Dusseldorf. One third of the members out here are on extended contracts and several others show every sign of falling within this category very soon, whilst another third are fairly new to us and are busy settling down enthusiastically.

Here and there, mixed with the BAOR veterans and new members, are several ex-Eastern

W.V.S. who, having shaken the sand or mildew out of their shoes, find Western civilisation very pleasant and the work much the same. Doris Wilkins is adapting herself to the Welsh and is very attached to the regimental goat; Joan Mann has transferred from Austria and Emily Prebble, Betty Byng, Ena Henley, Anne Baxter and Daphne Sheldon are running busy centres whilst Kathleen Hutchings, Pat Pepper, Joan Dison, Barbara Caldwell, Benny Bentley, Joy Chetwood, Jean Chiplen, Lillian Marcus, and Mary Weaver all bring their experience in other Commands to the work they are now doing with their favourite Units. I am at Headquarters, BAOR and cosset new drafts on their arrival, whilst Audrey Drew is "Mum" in Area North. Gwyn Owen the Administrator tops up this happy mixture of members and still most greatly enjoys visiting Clubs and Units, where the new trend for keeping birds and fishes thrives,

Much missed are several well-known members who have left BAOR during the year, including the ex-Administrator Jane Marsden and the two ex-Organisers Amy

(Continued on page 15)

A group of overseas W.V.S. members photographed at their Headquarters at Bad Salzuslen, Germany, after a Conference attended by Miss Eirwen Owen from London H.Q. Seen in this picture are, Front Row: Miss Greyn Owen, Administrator for Europe (4th from right), Mrs. Audrey Drew, Area Organiser for the North (4th from left), Mrs. B. Grey, Area Organiser for the South (3rd from right), Miss Rosemary Amies (2nd from right), and Miss Eirwen Owen, H.Q., London (Centre front row).

Mrs. K. Searle is an expert in dressing dolls and she receives many requests to demonstrate her art to mothers in different Scottish centres. In this picture you can see her at a Young Mothers Club at Pilton, Edinburgh, showing to an interested audience on a new housing estate some of the dolls she has dressed from scraps of materials.

(Photo by courtesy of the Edinburgh Evening News.)

Our page this month has as its "highlight" the two-day visit of Lady Reading to Edinburgh and Glasgow. The visit began with a Service of rededication at Glasgow Cathedral, which was attended by over 600 members from all over Scotland. The Service was most impressive and the singing, led by a choir of members from Glasgow Centre, was really beautiful.

In the afternoon, a massed meeting was held in Glasgow addressed by Lady Reading. A similar meeting was held the following day in Edinburgh, again very well attended. At both meetings the City members served tea. This was perfectly timed and quickly served, giving an opportunity for members to talk to both Lady Reading and Lady MacColl. Lady Reading also visited Edinburgh Centre and spent an hour talking to members, afterwards paying a visit to Scottish Headquarters. The sun shone brilliantly and Lady Reading was impressed with the brightness of the various offices, all of which were gay with flowers and most "spick and span." It was a great time for us all, and we all felt renewed with energy and enthusiasm for our work.

We have had our usual quota of enquiries and escorts. One was to trace the only relative of a dying man in Liverpool Hospital. Our County Organiser on hearing the request "downed" domestic

Scottish Page

tools and went to a given address and contacted the niece, then saw her off to Liverpool. Another member from the North-East district escorted three children to Belfast by night boat. Two of our Centres in the Northern District have "adopted" a Children's Home in Edinburgh and are making new nightdresses, etc. The matron supplies all materials and our members do the work.

During Old People's Week in Scotland W.V.S. was extremely active everywhere and one country member had the happy thought of making up posies of flowers to give the old people when they received their meal. This service she hopes to extend and to get her fellow-members to co-operate, so forming a Flower League.

Our members in the Eastern District are now visiting old people and interesting them in knitting, sometimes taking them for car runs and entertaining them to tea. This is greatly appreciated by these old people.

Scottish Headquarters training team have had the canteen section of the Edinburgh Women's Special Constabulary "handed-over" for training in emergency feeding. It is most encouraging that the Commandant attends each evening with the girls, who are delightfully keen.

Twenty-two delegates have attended the two County and County Borough Organisers' conferences in Eastbourne, including our Chairman and Vice-Chairman. We were very proud that Scotland was chosen to propose the vote of thanks to Sir John Maud and Sir Harold Nicholson, the two guest speakers. There is always a great demand to attend these conferences, and our members returned with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

We were very proud to be asked to send a W.V.S. member of the Civil Defence Corps to represent Scotland at the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Cenotaph. Mrs. Sherriff, Centre Organiser of Kirriemuir, was the member chosen for this honour. In October, Miss Sanderson, Secretary of Scotland, and Mrs. Thomson, County Organiser, Fife, were summoned to Buckingham Palace to receive their Honours from H.M. The Queen.

We would like to wish "A Guid New Year to ane and a'."

> ROYAL VOLUN



From Moderators to B.V.D's.

Recently recruited to the H.Q. Civil Defence Department is Miss Mickey Hammond from America. In this refreshing article she gives us some of her impressions which, I think you will agree, have a "something different" look.

AS I sit here now, faced with masses of Civil Defence and Training work to be done, I think of that gay young thing blissfully heading for London months ago for a "short jaunt" and wonder could starting off by completely

she possibly have been me.

It was a bright but cold and windy New England spring day when I, an enthusiastic American tourist, squeezed myself on a plane headed for London with two suitcases crammed with frivolous dresses, Yankee blood full of deliciously exciting "Coronation fever" and not a care in the world other than how to get those extra 400 cigarettes past U.K. Customs unnoticed! I could hardly believe I was back in London again—more fascinating to me than a double edition of Paris.

I still can't quite figure out how or when the metamorphosis took place-but I do think W.V.S. should be pretty pleased with themselves at roping someone into Civil Defence so very cleverly as to be practically unnoticed by the victimserves them right when they find they've wasted their wiles on a dud! No use trying to pry me out now, though, because I'm too thoroughly convinced of the almost frighteningly vital role Civil Defence does and will continue to play throughout the free world for years to come. And besides, working in this Department is more fun than a 3-ring circus-but I like to pretend that's a minor point!

To go back a bit—I do remember taking my first Basic Civil Defence Training at W.V.S. Headquarters; and I might say here that it has taken some time for me to be able to laugh at my shocking gufuffles through that little item! I went with what must have been a disgustingly superior look on my face, mumbling under my breath that obviously anything to do with Civil Defence would be known to a

12-year-old child out of plain commonsense. Even now I turn bright scarlet at my first attempt to put out a fire—starting off by completely forgetting to call for water and just grumbling stupidly when it didn't appear, then squirting a bystander instead of the blaze because I'd gotten

confused with the hose nozzle and finally finishing up beautifully, only to discover that the flames had started up all over again due to my negligence in seeing that the thing was completely out in the first place.

After finishing Basic C.D. Training with all too many moments of brilliant success, such as trying to empty the water out of a stirrup pump hose having forgotten to take the other end out of the water bucket, and putting on a respirator over a tin hat, the Civil Defence and Training Departments graciously allowed me to join them on a trial basis-after I'd solemnly promised to try and be a little more useful in the future, that is. So I began to work in earnest; and learn something of how these two departments struggle, scheme and often scream in their efforts to spoon-feed knowledge and experience which each of us should be only too glad to have; the one little difficulty being that few people realize this until after they've had the "treatment" to rope them into Civil Defence in the first place.

Naturally, I felt rather badly about having been one of these people myself, and so tried to work doubly hard to redeem myself by dreaming up masses of brilliant ideas to "further the cause." So I produced Rest Centre exercises with "moderators" as chairmen, letters with P.T.O.'s tacked on as personal decorations along with O.B.E.'s and always tried

Hey—not training for should be ly water jet pla while waiting



hat way! Miss Mickey Hammond undergoes fre-bomb fighting, but she's got it wrong. She by flat holding the nozzle of the hose, with the ying on the seat of the fire, taking available cover for the bomb to explode. (Photo courtesy Picture Post)

not to so much as bat an eyelash even when I was horrified at such things as someone wanting to sell an electric chair or the pathetic picture of endless W.V.S. shivering in their B.V.D.'s† when I took the expression "hit by the floods" literally! I saw then that there was nothing for it but to take time out to educate my esteemed colleagues as to the proper (American, that is!) use of the Queen's English—with the result, of course, that I now speak so correctly that people hardly know I'm American until I forget and say "you're welcome" in answer to "thank you."

welcome" in answer to "thank you." Seeing as how there may be a small chance that I've still got a few readers with me to this point, I can't resist talking quite seriously for a minute. Here in England, you have created, and are constantly improving upon a Civil Defence pattern which may well be the guide for the rest of the free world. That is a tremendous responsibility, and an opportunity as well; an opportunity, in this case, to do a very real and very great service not only to your own country but all free nations. No true service of this magnitude is accomplished easily; it needs the continuing help of every single one of us in W.V.S., whatever the difficulties and however futile our own small individual efforts may seem at times. I, for one, know that W.V.S. will not fail in this responsibility.

* People in charge. † Brief underwear.

Elstree Centre Wins

WE thought it would be interesting to hold a quite informal competition for the Best Centre Flash of 1953. Five members of the Headquarters staff (all from non-specialist departments!) were suplied with a complete list of all the Flashes for the past twe ve months compiled anonymously, so that no one knew the source, and were asked to decide, in their opinion, which were the ten best Flashes of the year. The Flashes chosen by more than one person were then put before Lady Reading, to decide which was the most interesting and informative.

Lady Reading's winning choice is the Centre Flash sent in by ELSTREE, which appeared in the Bulletin of last July

and reads as follows :-

"Patients attending a local doctor's surgery now knit squares for "afghans" while they are waiting. A box containing needles, wool and a pattern is kept supplied by us and completed squares collected once a week. Everyone seems delighted with the idea—the doctor, the patients and Elstree Centre."

This Flash was chosen because of the outstandingly original idea serving a useful purpose, easily carried out.

The runner-up Flash was sent in by MANCHESTER. It appeared in last year's February Bulletin and reads as follows:—

"Our regular window cleaner when asked to clean the windows in the Recruiting Centre, Piccadilly, and to let us know what it would cost said, 'Don't worry about money, I'll do them for nothing. Perhaps if the people see in better they will know more about what you do in your work and Civil Defence and we'll get more enrolments'."

This Flash reveals the spirit W.V.S. can evoke in the man-in-the-street, to stimulate the interest which is so essential to the success of our work.



NEWS LETTER No. 181-for Overseas Readers

The Newsletter this month was written by Miss E. Whitehorn, M.B.E., formerly Director, Student Welfare Department, British Council.

THERE is a group of people in these I islands, whom W.V.S. have helped in many ways and on many occasions-the coloured students from our colonies. It may perhaps be of some interest to those who have not vet come in touch with these young people to know a little about their lives and their problems in this country.

They come to this country to study because education is perhaps the thing they seek above all else. Also, with the general expansion of primary and secondary education in their own territories, their own universities and colleges are, as vet, not in a position to provide for all intending students. During the academic vear 1952-53 there were 6,338 colonial students in this country, and the demand for higher education here is likely to increase still further in the immediate future. Of this number, about one-third come from West Africa, and the next largest group comes from the West Indies. They are studying at nearly all the large university centres, colleges and training institutions throughout the British Isles, with about half the total number in London. The subjects they study cover a wide field. Women student nurses form the largest single group, followed by students of Law and Medicine.

A great number of these young people have been educated at mission schools and are sincerely religious. Although over a thousand hold Scholarships to this

country, the rest have been provided for by their families or community, often at great sacrifices. The student is deeply conscious of this, which adds considerably to the strain under which he is living Some are from territories which have had long connections with the British, and these already know something of our ways and the amenities we are used to. For others everything is new and strange. Before leaving their countries their own Student home Advisory Committees can give them much practical advice and help and wherever possible the local British Council officials arrange talks and demonstrations on life in these islands, but, as we know ourselves, such information rarely corresponds to what we think we know and what we imagine.

In any case, there are many conditions here to which the student must adapt himself, and which cannot necessarily be explained beforehand. They often find our food tasteless and it may upset them at first. They are unused to our ordered existence and the stress we lay on punctuality. Our mid-summer warmth may chill and depress them! The heat of the tropics slows up the tempo of life and here, the speed at which we move may surprise or amuse some. One student remarked, "When I first arrived I saw an English lady running — I looked again, and saw another lady running. I asked: 'Do all English ladies run?' and was told, 'They are not running, they are walking.". The African's enviable gift of laughter and lightheartedness may help him in his immediate problems, but for many there lurks somewhere the fear of the slammed lodging-house door, the cold inhuman stare, or the quite innocent

Enquiries about the News Letter should be sent to-



mockery of small children. Worst of all, there is loneliness. We can perhaps comprehend the loneliness of our own old or sick people, but for these young students, whose customs and climate are so different, and for whom the family means so much, we can only guess at the strain of separation on their health and spirits.

At the Colonial Office in this country, there is a Student's Department, under the Director of Colonial Scholars, which administers scholarships and is responsible for finance. It also supervises the studies and placing of scholarship holders. To assist the Department in this work, all the major Colonial territories have appointed liaison officers, who among other things keep in touch with their students, and help in personal matters connected with the families at home

In 1950, at the request of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the British Council undertook certain responsibilities for the reception, accommodation and welfare of Colonial students. centres throughout the United Kingdom and its Student Welfare Department in London, the British Council had had some experience of these matters already. when dealing with their own scholars and other students from overseas 1952-53 British Council Couriers met 99 per cent, of the Colonial students who arrived in this country, and helped them with their baggage. This is always a considerable task. In their own countries. when undertaking a long journey, the African would naturally take with him a certain number of household goods and quantities of food. Coming to this country and hearing of rationing, students

frequently arrive with beds, bicycles and packing cases of their normal fruits or food. This has caused a problem of storage for landladies, but with advice on baggage given to the students before their departure from home, this is gradually sorting itself out.

The British Council Couriers also find lodgings for students on their arrival and make arrangements for those who are studying outside London to be assisted by local British Council staff on arrival at their destination. The question of accommodation has its problems also. Although more and more students arriving here have heard of our ways of living, our rather specialised lodging house system is new to all. It is thought that for some of these young people hostel life during their first year is best, as they are then surrounded by students with similar problems and their material life may not be so complicated. On the other hand some students prefer the greater freedom which lodgings may perhaps afford. A number of Colonial Governments and religious bodies have set up hostels in Newcastle and Edinburgh and three in London (two for men and one for women). In all these hostels regular programmes are arranged for the students, which afford the opportunity of meeting British people, hearing talks and discussions on subjects dealing with life in this country, and the chance of recrea-Not all these students can be accommodated or may wish to live in The British Council centres hostels. throughout the United Kingdom keep addresses of lodgings, all of which have been inspected, to offer to colonial students. It often takes them some time to settle down and be adapted to such a dif-

EMPIRE AND FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

NEWS LETTER No. 181—Continued

ferent way of living, but numbers of cases exist of sincere and lasting friendship arising between landlady and student.

As soon as possible after arrival, if the student so wishes, he can be put in touch with British friends who are glad to welcome him to their houses. Also the British Council arrange Introduction Courses during September when most of the students arrive. These are residential and their object is to make the student feel as much at home as possible, by accustoming him to our ways, and giving him such practical help as where to shop, what clothes to buy, how to find his way about and how to use our post office services and public libraries, etc. Other courses of different types are arranged throughout the year, to offer the student an expanding introduction to this country. These take the form of day visits, and week-end courses, usually near the student's place of study and on one particular aspect of life here. Vacation courses which are run in all parts of the British Isles attempt to show the student as many aspects as possible of the life of our peoples in country, village and town.

For many years a number of voluntary societies and religious bodies here have befriended colonial students and made arrangements for them to meet British people in their homes. In the hope of making the maximum amount of goodwill available to these students and of studying their problems the British Council in London and in the Regions have invited these organisations to form committees. The W.V.S. are represented on these, and give valuable assistance. Not only this, but W.V.S. play an active part in numerous aspects of this welfare work as a whole, and continually respond to requests for help. Among other things they have met and escorted students on arrival, manned reception desks, helped to find suitable lodgings and arranged study visits and courses on W.V.S. work.

Numbers of W.V.S. know how rewarding it is to befriend these students and how often we receive far more than we can give. Our imaginations are kindled by talk of those far off countries, and our understanding of life, in general, is broadened by contact with these young people at once so like and so unlike ourselves. Not only may the lives of those immediately concerned be enriched, but in this way we can contribute to a greater understanding and respect between the Colonies and the Mother Country.

W.V.S. Flat at Exhibition

MEMBERS everywhere will be inter-ested to learn that W.V.S. has been asked by the Ministry of Housing to furnish one of their flats at the Ideal Home Exhibition, which will be held at Olympia from March 2nd to March 27th.

A working panel of five W.V.S. members has been appointed, the chairman of which is Mrs. D. Holland-Martin. The flat, which has one living-room, two bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom, is being planned for an electrical fitter, his wife and two daughters, aged sixteen and twelve years. The fact that the two children are girls, and their ages stated, is important,

for they will share a bedroom, and are expected to be able to help their mother to keep down the cost of furnishings by assisting in the preparing and making of curtains, covers, cushions, etc., for the emphasis will be on economy, without at any time sacrificing either comfort or appearance.

Next month we hope to give you some more advanced information on the progress of OUR FLAT which will, we feel sure, produce many practical and attractive ideas which many of us will be eager

to incorporate in our own homes.

From The Centres

BARROW-IN-FURNESS

At the end of the rose hip season, after ten very busy weeks, we received, bagged and forwarded 11,784 lbs. of hips to the Manufacturing Chemists—the largest total we had ever sent. We had queues of collectors, mainly children, waiting to have their rose hips weighed and paid for at 3d. per lb. There was keen competition among the 440 collectors for the Award of Merit Badge from the Manufacturing Chemists, which was eventually won by a man who had collected 917 lbs. during the season. Once a week the hips were taken from the office by lorry, and while we were storing them we found walls, furniture, etc., covered with pink crawling caterpillars. Just one of those things!

FOLKESTONE

Our newest activity is a weekly Old People's Social Afternoon held at the home of one of our District Leaders, the aim of which is to give an interest to elderly people of the professional classes who do not feel that they would fit in with the usual Over-60 Clubs. The scheme is very much in its infancy, but we have high hopes that it will meet a very real need.

GREAT YARMOUTH

Eighteen tons of gypsum have been brought to us for reconditioning the soil in gardens which were flooded. Chits are issued value 1 cwt. per 10-rod plot. One Allotment Association took 11 tons in this way, and 5 cwt. of rye grass seed have also been issued. The allotment and garden owners have been most grateful for this help, and another 6 tons of gypsum, which are on the way, are eagerly awaited by those who have not yet been supplied.

HUDDERSFIELD

A member of one of our Darby and Joan Clubs has died. She has left two bags of coal to keep the other members warm during the winter.

NEATH

Floods were caused in many parts of this Borough when a cloudburst coincided with a high tide and wind. In the worst hit area a W.V.S. Street Leader telephoned to the Centre Organiser at 10 p.m. on Saturday to tell her that conditions were very bad. The Centre Organiser with the Police visited the flooded houses and it was decided that W.V.S. help was needed. The next day was an intensely busy one. Arrangements were made for the delivery of tea and biscuits, hot soup and dry footwear, and a large room was opened where more than 60 soup and bread dinners were served and dry shoes and stockings were supplied for which everyone was most grateful.

Another W.V.S. Street Leader, finding that the road nearby was flooded to a depth of 8 feet, at a time when people were coming out of a cinema, called a neighbour and with torches they diverted all traffic until danger lights were placed.

NORWICH

Members spend one afternoon a week at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital making surgical dressings. They like the work so much and the Staff are so friendly and appreciative that when they received an invitation to attend what was considered a very interesting meeting the reply was "Any other day we would love it, but we are not giving up our Wednesday afternoon at the Hospital for anything."

PRESTON

We have been very happy to give a helping hand to Miss Tyson who is working very hard re-starting W.V.S. in Blackpool. She had a working party of about 30 keen members, all eager to make children's clothes, but they could not obtain any materials. The problem was solved by one of our shops in Preston very kindly supplying free a quantity of remnants and pieces, thereby making it possible for the working party to go ahead with the job.

NORTH WESTMORLAND R.D.

Nineteen of the 25 members in Howton, Pooley Bridge and Tirrel have completed their Basic Training Lectures in Howton. In this remote district the lecturer has to motor more than 30 miles over the Shap

(Continued on page 15)

Who Wants £1?

ALTHOUGH we are now in the heart of Winter, Spring will inevitably come along and with it every housewife's nightmare, SPRING CLEANING. We all of us have some little labour saving secret, or some hint which, if passed on, would be of help to others.

The Bulletin is offering £1 to the reader who sends us, in the opinion of our Judge, the best Spring Cleaning hint for Spring,

1954

Mrs. Margot Clark, Editress of "Housewife," the well-known monthly magazine,

has kindly agreed to act as Judge.

Write your HINT on a postcard, please, and address it to The Editor, "The Bulletin," W.V.S. Headquarters, 41 Tothill Street, London, S.W.1. ALL HINTS must be received by Wednesday, February 10th, 1954, and the results will be published in our March issue.

From the Centres—(Continued)

Fell, collecting the Pooley Bridge members en route. As nobody will drive over the mountain road from Martindale at night, the five stalwart members from Martindale have to walk over 4 miles, climbing the steep Martindale Hawse twice on the double journey. The instructor says it is the best effort made in Westmorland.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Barton, County Borough Organiser for Wallasey, died after a short illness on the 17th December.

Mrs. Barton will be missed by very many W.V.S. members who knew and loved her. She was County Borough Organiser from the start of W.V.S. and did invaluable work throughout the years since 1938. She received the award of the M.B.E. in 1942 in recognition of her services during the Merseyside blitzes. In addition to her work as County Borough Organiser Mrs. Barton had recently taken on a job at the Regional Office to help build up W.V.S. for Civil Defence in the Merseyside Area.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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

Special rates for Bulletin subscribers

Accommodation Private Hotel, London, Bed-sit., 4-course breakfast. Special rate W.V.S. and W.R.N.S. Members, 17s. 6d. per night. Others, 21s. Apply: G. Neel-Wall (2nd Officer W.R.N.S. Rtd.) 51, Courtfield Gdns., S.W.5. Frobisher 7392.

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Pedigree Border Terrier Puppies. Born 21st Nov. Bitches only 3 gns. Lyminge, Kent 87173, Box 182.

Letter from Germany-(Contd.) Robinson, who is now at London H.Q., and Josephine Gunning, who is en route for Canada. Lillian Graham has returned to the wilds of Yorkshire, while Blossom Womack, Eileen McAvoy, Muriel Foulkes and Anne Corder have taken postings in the East.

Whilst in many ways the W.V.S. scene in Germany remains the same and the majority of NAAFI Clubs and the Units are those in which we have worked for some time, the last few months have brought considerable changes due to movements within the Army. All of us were sad when the well-known Lakeside Club at Hanover, the home of countless W.V.S., closed its doors at the end of November. New ground has been broken on the Dutch border where we are now working for the R.A.F., also with the Canadians in the Belgian Zone where the "W.V.S./Canadian Demoiselles," at present numbering 10, are undertaking welfare on a large scale in four entirely new camps in which there are 11 canteens. When some fifty members met recently for two residential conferences at H.O., BAOR we were all delighted to have Miss Eirwen Owen from London H.Q. with us for several days."

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