

WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine

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W.V.S. Bulletin

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W.V.S. Bulletin



At The Royal Festival Hall

IT IS probable that, in the whole of London—in the whole of the country perhaps—no building lends itself better to a mood of festivity than does the Royal Festival Hall. To anyone who knows it well, there is always something inspiring about the place. Its walls, so largely made of glass, account in some measure perhaps for the sense of inspiration; its broad staircases, allowing those who ascend them to look down between each tread to see the heads of others ascending far below them; its panorama of the river swirling slowly round the wide bend between the two bridges of Westminster and Waterloo. Somehow or other, it is all sheer inspiration. And when on the afternoon of April 27th the women of WVS filled the great hall for the second of their Anniversary Meetings, this same sense of inspiration was very evident. It seemed that everyone felt it.

Under the Chairmanship of Lady Reading, H.R.H. Princess Margaret was the guest of honour. She had flown from Paris with the special object of being present at the Festival Hall, and the fact that she had returned from her holiday with a severe cold—that she had indeed lost her voice altogether—made her appearance on the platform doubly welcome. The WVS habit of fulfilling its engagements at all personal cost had been understood by the Princess. Never mind if she had no voice. Lady Reading would read her speech for her. The great gathering appreciated the gesture. Princess Margaret was present and that was enough.

The main speaker of the afternoon was the Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, C.H., M.P., Secretary of State for Home Affairs. Lady Reading introduced him as the "Ruler and Master" of WVS and possibly he appeared in a similar role to the body of Mayors and their ladies who, representing the London Boroughs, occupied seats in the centre of the Hall—twelve long rows of seats.

Mr. Butler spoke directly to the women of WVS. "Everyone knows" he said, "that you deserve well of the nation". And he reviewed the work that they had done, mentioning especially the tremendous adventure undertaken during the east coast floods, and the later adventure—more trying doubtless because less exciting—involved in the arrival in Britain of the thousands of refugees following the Hungarian revolution. Mr. Butler mentioned too the work of WVS for the very old and the very young of the country. He assured his audience of the sincere gratitude of the Government for such work and issued a warning that even greater demands might—probably would—be made in the future.

One of the reasons, Mr. Butler said, that the Government and WVS work so happily together lies in the fact that the attitude of WVS is: "Tell us what is needed, but don't tell us how to do it". So very mysterious, he said, but so very sensible, and so in tune with the three-fold character always displayed by WVS—the three-fold character of durability, of flexibility, of drive—which gives to the

(Associated Press)

Service its peculiar value.

Mr. Butler spoke of the future and of three tasks which lay ahead. The first of the three was concerned with those territories overseas in which emergencies requiring the ministrations of trained women might, and actually did arise—and often suddenly. The appearance of the green uniform in these territories has in itself, he said, a calming and restraining influence; and he warned the women to be ready to meet a demand for the uniform whenever it might come. The second of the three lay in maintaining the WVS resolve to make clear to the women of the whole country those things which must of necessity be known about conditions which might arise in the event of nuclear war. The effects of radiation, Mr. Butler said, are still imperfectly understood and are still deeply feared.

He commended the work being done through the One-in-Five scheme to dispel ignorance about this and said that the role to be played by WVS was a vital role and must be adhered to.

The third task was already developing in the growing awareness of a need for the setting of a high example of moral behaviour to the youth of the country. Parents, it was generally said, had the first responsibility for this example. And that was true enough. But the voluntary work of women in any and every sphere could also be of the greatest value in maintaining standards which must be maintained. Britain, Mr. Butler said, can teach many lessons to the nations of the world. When danger arises—as it does arise in many quarters in these days—it must be met face to face, and fearlessly.

Lady Reading, in a word which at the close of the meeting seemed to spring up spontaneously, spoke of the deeper meanings of WVS membership. Always remember, she said, that all this Service has accomplished, all it may ever accomplish, springs, and will always spring, not from any genius displayed by the few who lead it, but by the faithful purpose of the many who follow.

P. M. LOVELL

H.R.H. The Princess Margaret's Message

PRINCESS Margaret has asked me to say how pleased she is to be here this afternoon at this great gathering to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Women's Voluntary Service.

The letters 'WVS' are so well known and justly honoured throughout the land that one might well paraphrase the words of Ecclesiasticus and say, "Let us now

need to elaborate on them, for a picture immediately forms in one's mind of selflessness, devotion, and helping one's fellow men.

Princess Margaret was delighted to have been able to open two Old People's Clubs at Port Talbot and Dundee, and to have seen for herself the wonderful work which the WVS is doing in this important field.

Her Royal Highness knows also of the success which you are enjoying in an equally important aspect, in your care for the children, in the way of escort work, holidays, and foster homes, and many other instances.

It is right and fitting to celebrate the majority of this great Movement, and to honour the record of tradition and service that it has built up.

The Princess is certain that there is no danger that the WVS will rest on its laurels or be content with the past.

The needs for the future will never grow less, but they will be assuredly and fully matched by your enthusiasm and ability. There will be plenty to do, but your readiness to respond is already shown by the ever-increasing number of younger women who are joining your ranks.

You have earned the gratitude and respect of the nation over the last twenty-one years, and may you go forward in maturity with the best wishes of us all.

(Associated Press)

praise famous initials", but Her Royal Highness would like me to repeat the words 'voluntary' and 'service' because they epitomise the whole spirit and purpose of this great organisation. If one thinks what those two words mean, there is no

Front Cover:

H.R.H. The Princess Margaret with Lady Reading and a member of the Guard of Honour at the Royal Festival Hall. In background Miss Iris Peake, The Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, Lady Hillingdon, Mrs. Houghton

(By courtesy of the Sunday Times)

Our Contribution Toward Peace

IT might have been supposed that a gathering held almost under the shadow of the Houses of Parliament with, on the platform, not only the Mayor and Mayoress of Westminster but also two members of the House of Lords, would have been a formal occasion. The rows of uniformed women, the bevy of Press photographers lined up with cameras trained to catch every movement of interest, undoubtedly produced a sense of formality. But the great gathering had come to Church House to hear Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt; the sun had burst through heavy morning clouds and now shone splendidly down on wet and

glistening pavements; and WVS was celebrating an anniversary.

Nobody in the wide circular hall could have remained for very long unaware of a sense of birthday, of liveliness, of comradeship, of good humour. Even a row of very early comers who had found for themselves seats which turned out later to have been specially reserved for the Press, uttered no complaint when they were turned out of them.

"It's WVS luck", they said, and they laughed. The theme of the meeting was that of Peace. Lady Reading presided. Mrs. Roosevelt spoke of world peace and the part that women can play in obtain-

Lady Reading greeting Mrs. Roosevelt on her arrival in England

(Reuters)

ing it. The Rt. Hon. Earl Jellicoe D.S.O., M.C., explained something of the contribution to a peaceful world that Britain could make. The gathering picked up the sense of urgency produced by the speakers and especially the sense that, as Mrs Roosevelt explained, when peace comes to the world, as come it must some day, it will not come altogether through the work of the leaders of the nations. No leader, Mrs Roosevelt said, can go very far or achieve very much without the backing of followers. It was in their ability to follow and to support that WVS members found their greatest strength. Under their Chairman, the supporting work done by the women of WVS during the war years—work done in a spirit of exaltation when the demand was great—had impressed the people of many lands all over the world. Their work carried on since the war was calculated to make an even more lasting impression since, in conditions of peculiar difficulty, and at a period when it was very evident that wholly new concepts of voluntary service must be evolved, WVS was striving to establish new standards.

HELP FROM BRITISH HOMES

Mrs. Roosevelt spoke of conditions in British homes. It was in the homes of the country, she said, that the supporting work of women could be most effective. So long as there existed in the world no official agreement regarding disarmament, the countries of the West were forced to accept the policy of a balance of arms, but that did not mean that work should not be done in preparation for peace—that there should not be a belief in peace. It was in the homes of the country that these things could be taught.

Dangerous world problems arise, Mrs. Roosevelt said, because it has not yet been understood how largely they are influenced by the dangerous problems which arise in the private lives of men and women. No body of serious people should allow thoughtlessness to continue about such things.

Work was being done by the agencies of the United Nations. It was valuable work and support should be given to it. Mrs. Roosevelt told how, visiting Iran

recently, she had met teams of United Nations workers. They were teams which included representatives of many nations, all pulling manfully together to dispel ignorance and misunderstanding while at the same time doing all in their power to better the living conditions of the people and, above all, to show that "people care for each other".

Mrs. Roosevelt told too of the venture of an American magazine for young girls in publishing annually a 25 cent packet which contained directions for the making of dolls. So many dolls had been made in consequence of this venture; so many had been sent out to the children of distant countries; so many grateful letters had been received in return, that gradually a network of friendship was being woven to contribute at least something towards a better inter-racial understanding.

WORLD IN FERMENT

Mrs. Roosevelt reminded her audience that when living conditions sink very low for the people of any country, there is always a danger lest they should turn to a belief that in war they might find a remedy. Only a general enlightenment could break such a belief, she said, and the people of the free countries must be prepared to give this enlightenment. She told how, on a recent visit to Russia, she had been immensely impressed by the way young Soviet citizens were being trained not merely to imbibe Soviet doctrines but to express them in words—and in words, moreover, of languages other than their own.

The world, Mrs. Roosevelt said, is in ferment. The people of the West must come to a realization of it. "Every one of us", she said, "can, as a part of our voluntary service, so live as to share in showing that our democracy has value because it can mean something spiritual and great in forming the generations of the future".

Lord Jellicoe's Speech

Lord Jellicoe followed along this theme of a world in ferment. We of this generation, he said, are experiencing the impact of three revolutions—the 40-year

(By courtesy of Keystone Press Agency Ltd.)
Mrs. Roosevelt and Earl Jellicoe were speakers at the WVS Twenty-first Anniversary Meeting at Church House, Westminster, on April 8th. The Dowager Marchioness of Reading took the Chair

old revolution of Communism; the awakening of the masses in the under-developed countries; the expanding world birth rate. To handle these revolutions, he said, demanded a good deal more than "doing our bit" in the prevention of war. It demanded too the doing of our bit in the prevention of the sort of limited and local situations which, arising, can so easily lead to war—the kind of situation which may come along where the crust of civilization is thin and where the lava of new nationalisms and old resentments is only too ready to burst out in violent eruption.

Lord Jellicoe spoke of the Atlantic community which, despite its bickering, is getting somewhere near a conception of a world in which peace would have a universal positive content. In the long run, he said, the aim must be an interdependence between the Atlantic community and those underdeveloped countries which form the uncommitted third of the world. In the still longer run, the aim must be that of interdependence between the free nations as a whole and the Communist third of the world.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF COLOURED STUDENTS

He pleaded for a better understanding of those 300,000 coloured students who have come for education to Britain. "It is right that we should open our doors to these young people," he said, "if we do not do so, others will. But what we have not yet fully realized is how heavy an imprint of impressions is made upon them while they are here. If a coloured man or woman comes to a university in the provinces of England and is spurned or ignored, he will go back to his country with resentment in his heart."

"I am glad" Lord Jellicoe said, "that you in WVS realize this. . . There is no more vital a task of public relations."

Lord Jellicoe believed, he said, that we in these narrow islands must be outward-looking. But, he added, there is a sense too in which we must be inward-regarding. We have to show that we not only preach but practise toleration.

"It is" he said "only by being true to ourselves and our traditions that we shall be able to play our full part as a nation in meeting the challenge and the opportunities of our times."

P. M. LOVELL.

"The Chairman"

An appreciation by a member of WVS — V.G.

NOW that WVS is in the throes of celebrating its majority it will no doubt take time off from deservedly congratulating itself on its achievements to toast its founder member, Lady Reading, for without her it is unlikely that WVS would have held the place that it does to-day in our national life. Lady Reading would hotly deny this, for she has an obstinate, indeed mulish belief in women's ability to rise to any occasion if given the chance, and she would be the first to insist that she was in no way indispensable.

She would be the first, but also the last. Anybody who has had anything to do with female volunteers will appreciate that they are the most intransigent collection of human beings in the world. They cannot be ordered, they cannot be sacked, they will not conform; they keep on having brilliant ideas of their own, they argue every point, they tend to be enthusiastic to begin with and then drift away; they have nothing to hold them together, esprit de corps being an exclusively male attribute, and they all think they are born organisers. You cannot dragoon a voluntary worker, you can only rarely lead her; but you can inspire her. And this is Lady Reading's secret—she inspires. That it is a secret, one of those things, like charm which are intangible, inexplicable, goes without saying, though perhaps some of its potency is based on a firm conviction that all things are possible to all men.

A MILLION MEMBERS

By the time WVS had been in existence for five years it had a million members, and to most of these Lady Reading spoke, either at rallies, meetings, or individually. She spent one third of her time doing this, touring through the whole country, and even the most cynical found it virtually impossible to resist her appeal. For though her appeal was,

sometimes, to do the impossible, such was her certainty that women were "capable de tout", she infected her audiences with her own confidence. Unimaginative housewives, diffident spinsters, laconic Countesses suddenly became aware of their own potentialities; they felt the seeds of greatness stirring inside them, or if not greatness, at any rate responsibility, and challenged by Lady Reading to show initiative and courage, both of which she knew were waiting like dormant yeast to rise to the surface, they accepted her challenge, with remarkable results, as everyone knows.

At the beginning, when members who had not met Lady Reading were notified that she was on her way to visit them, they would feverishly wipe off their lipstick and nail varnish, and stand in a straight line looking as pious as they knew how. When their Chairman appeared, flashing scarlet nails and a lipstick, they were stunned, for unlike most feminists Lady Reading believes in being feminine. She has never advocated women doing men's jobs. She has merely urged women to do the things they do best even better—channelling, organising them in an efficient manner and for the good of the community. A great many WVS members can only give a small part of their time to WVS concerns, but everyone of them feels this time is important, that if they fail to go to the Clothing Depot on alternate Tuesdays, or fail to do that Meals-on-Wheels job on Friday, the country will go to the dogs. Though they may not know it, this devotion to duty, so rare in the volunteer, has been instilled in them by their Chairman, whose belief in the importance of the individual's contribution to society is so powerful it has seeped through the entire organization. She expects women to be marvellous, and is so appreciative when they are, they haven't the heart not to oblige.

During the years Lady Reading has had almost insuperable difficulties to contend with; she has led a full public life with all its attendant risks and demands; she has had to fight many battles on uncharted territories with untried troops behind her; she has had to contend with a million yards of red tape. Emerging victorious, she has been honoured as few women before her but she has never succumbed to the temptation to be grand. She is a V.I.P., but P is the operative initial. Anybody can approach her, and not only approach her but actually reach her, and once there they discover she has that beneficent gift of making them think that what they are telling her, however footling, is of palpitating interest.

INTERESTED IN EVERYONE

As a matter of fact, there are few people who do not interest Lady Reading. For no very obvious reason she loves them, loves the exchange of ideas, loves to listen and learn. She sees dozens every day, from every walk of life, and always seems to be stimulated by them, however boring they may be. Enough being as

good as a feast, however, she sees next to nobody when she is at her country house in Sussex. Here she relaxes, which means that she works dementedly all day long in her garden, and in the evening can be seen reading, with a concentration she would give to a directive from the Home Office, a thriller. She does nothing half-heartedly. To see her trying to win a football match on one of those wiggle-woggles on Brighton pier or help a child build a Meccano bridge is a revelation; she looks positively dedicated to the cause.

So for twenty-one years Lady Reading has been vitalizing WVS, and it is foolishness to suppose that without her unflagging example it would still be so lively. Or such fun. For she is a gay reformer, one of the rarest birds in the world, and WVS can congratulate itself on having such a one nesting at the top of its tree. Perhaps the greatest tribute that can be paid her by the field is that when WVS centres are warned of an impending visit from her they cry "Oh good!" instead of "Oh God!"

V. G.

A Year of Varied Activities in a WVS Club for the Disabled

At the monthly meetings of St. Laurence WVS Club for the Disabled, Sheppey, WVS provide all sorts of fun and games for the fifty odd members. They, in their turn often provide entertainment themselves, calling upon local talent. Concerts given by a local choir, a "Twenty Questions" panel, and "An Embarrassing Moment" were items included in the programmes presented. Arts and Crafts are extremely popular with the members. At the stall which the Club sponsored at the Sheerness Co-operative Arts and Crafts Exhibition, nearly all individual entries from members were sold and the money earned on this occasion and throughout the year went into the Club funds or to individual members for private work sold. The Christmas party was very gay, including a con-

juring act, a skiffle group, monologues etc., and after a break for refreshments, the festivities ended with the traditional carol-singing. The June outing to Hastings was plagued by appalling weather but the cavalcade continued with undampened spirits. A badge has been designed by one of the members and is worn with pride. Not all members can take part in all Club activities and special attention is given to those who are house-bound. Four hundred and fifty visits were made and over one hundred and fifty letters written in connection with their welfare. In closing her annual report, the Hon. Secretary borrowed Winston Churchill's words, "Let us go forward together"; if they go forward at the same rate as for the past year, they should certainly go far.

Courage To Ask

WHEN I heard that Lady Reading would regard it as a lovely 21st Birthday present if every WVS member would hold a One-in-Five Group I was filled with a burning desire to gratify her wishes, but alas, our members had not responded very well to previous requests made to them to have Groups in their homes, so I decided not to waste time on useless pondering over what *couldn't* be done, but try and see whether there was something we *could* do.

I decided it would be an equally acceptable present if by about June or July we could send a telegram to Lady Reading informing her that all our members had heard the talks themselves and this objective did seem to be within the bounds of possibility. But *how* to do it? The obvious answer seemed to be Home Groups.

First I applied the problem to myself. There was I, the County Borough Organiser, an authorised One-in-Five speaker, completely sold on the idea, but it had taken me a jolly long time to have a Group in my own home!

A little soul-searching revealed that I'd made all kinds of excuses for myself, such as "Well, my curtains are awfully shabby, I think I'll wait until I get some new ones". Then I decided I hadn't got sufficient cups! But worst of all, I secretly hated the idea of ASKING people. I imagined they would regard me as some sort of crank, and it really did take me a very long time to pluck up courage to go and ask my friends and neighbours to come and hear the talks. I shall never forget one woman's face. I said to her very tentatively "Would you like to have coffee with me on Tuesday next?" Her face lit up and she replied "Oh how sweet of you, I'd love to", but when I followed up with "To hear a One-in-Five Talk", her expression changed completely! However, by

then she had accepted, so all was well.

I had dismissed the question of shabby curtains as just foolish pride and got over the crockery question by borrowing some, but I felt I *must* smooth the path for members by trying to get over this question of ASKING people. And this is how my One-in-Five specialist and I are now attacking the problem. First of all, we told the members in our News letter about wanting to send the telegram to Lady Reading and asked for volunteers who would have Groups. Then we harangued them all at a Monthly Meeting and this resulted in a few tried and trusty members offering to do so after we told them we would give them printed invitations and a list of members who lived near to them. We duplicated a supply of invitations and set to and divided the members into their own districts, and now each prospective hostess is supplied with a list of people who live very near to her, together with sufficient invitations. She fixes the dates, sends out the invitations and then advises the One-in-Five specialist who fixes the speakers.

Sending out an invitation gets over the question of ASKING. Being provided with a list of members settles the question of whom to invite. Many members who wouldn't dream of attending talks in the office *will* go to a private house. After all, we are all only human and it is rather nice to have a peep at the inside of someone else's house.

We've only just got started but already the number of members who have heard the talks has gone up from 80 to 120 and we have high hopes of being able to send off that telegram. Naturally we are continuing to give the talks outside WVS too, but we shall feel very ashamed if we do not succeed in getting all our own members to be One-in-Fivers!

A. W. EUSTACE

"The Story of WVS"

(Copies may be ordered through any stationer or bookstall or through WVS Regional Offices or WVS Headquarters, price 3s. 6d., postage 6d. extra.)

ALL members of WVS know about some aspects of its work—very few know all of them.

It is not in the nature of WVS to dramatise itself or its work, and Miss Graham in "*The Story of WVS*" has exactly caught the WVS atmosphere of unregimented efficiency. It is this common touch in everything it does that makes it able to help all kinds of people in all kinds of ways. It is the tremendous variety of these ways that give this book its human interest, quite apart from its impressive achievement, and as a piece of history which must never be forgotten.

WVS was started for what was expected to be a temporary emergency, but now, in its 21st year of service, it is clear that—for WVS—there is *always* an emergency. It is the value of WVS to the community that it can cope equally well with East Anglian floods and the problem of a lonely old woman in a

Council flat. The story of this balance of effort, started by Lady Reading and five members in 1938, has been made by Miss Graham into a wonderfully readable account. No boring statistics, no heroics, no sentimentality, but the facts of WVS growth and development marshalled into an exciting and moving record. And, as the nicest people are able to laugh at themselves, so can the nicest organisations, and Miss Graham has a good-natured smile for many WVS foibles. David Langdon has translated these smiles into line drawings scattered among the many excellent photographs.

This book is, for WVS, the equivalent of the diary and the book of snapshots which many of us keep and treasure because, in turning to them we can relive our past and keep our memories fresh.

Here is a splendid 21st birthday present for every WVS member. Buy it, and give it to yourself. And then buy a second copy, and give it to someone else.

J. C. B.

(By courtesy of the Folkestone Herald and Gazette)

Folkestone WVS prepare the food for Meals-on-Wheels

Cut off from Meals-on-Wheels — WVS to the Rescue

The Meals-on-Wheels service at Thornaby-on-Tees continues to operate smoothly, the drivers are most willing and helpful, and really enjoy the work. WVS were given the name of an old man living alone by the Medical Officer of Health, and our Meals Specialist and Organiser called to see him. They found him living in two rooms upstairs; he had no cooking facilities at all, and was obviously very much in need of the dinners, but unfortunately he had a family living downstairs who were very difficult and refused to allow anyone through their room to get upstairs. The old man was

actually the owner of the house, and had given the tenants notice several times, but they flatly refused to move. He said that much as he would like to have the dinners, he had to refuse, because our helpers would never be able to get upstairs, and if they left the meal with the tenants, he would never get it. We reported this state of affairs to the Health Department, and the Medical Officer of Health called to see the old man, and arrangements have now been made for the tenants to go. As soon as they do so he can have the dinners. We were glad to be of some help in this case.

Springfield Jottings

IT is pleasant to be styled "Your Majesty" once a week, and my colleague and I were very disappointed when the patient who invariably met us with a bow and that royal address was moved to a ward in the hospital which was not on our visiting list.

In the course of distributing books to the mental patients we deliberately look for light relief. There is the man who reads up to six westerns each week and does not need to open the books to find whether he has read them, for he recognises the covers; another man who welcomes us as 'the girls' (we are both in our fifties), and there is a woman patient who always says "I won't be here next week" but takes a book nevertheless. One patient only wants books about horses, and another is interested only in dogs; it is difficult not to appear non-plussed on some occasions, as when asked by a young man for a book on "The Technique of Sex".

The extensive hospital library was at one time in charge of an ex-patient of Broadmoor—a softly-spoken, mild little man—with whom we often chatted in a friendly way, but one never knows quite what to expect, as on one occasion I was accused of wearing a patient's diamond ring. However, I soon realised it was just that particular lady's way of making a friendly approach.

Seasons apparently mean nothing to some of the patients. When wished a "Happy Christmas" on a hot day one is apt to be taken by surprise, and one comes to only just in time to reply "the same to you".

The staff are very friendly, especially now that we have keys to the wards and do not have to interrupt them in their work to let us in—or perhaps more important, to let us out.

It is not always possible to escape the depressingly sad aspects of a mental hospital, particularly when so many of the patients are young, but it is gratifying to know that a very large percentage of these youngsters are short-term patients, and many of them are discharged as completely cured.

My colleague and I have been doing this work for about two years and our faces have become familiar to many of the patients as the following will illustrate:—

I had taken a late autumn holiday, and on my return a dear old lady flung her arms around me saying, "Oh! I'm so glad you are better, we have missed you so." Apart from the staff, we are the only people with the slightest interest in her welfare, and our weekly visits to the hospital are worth while, if only for the sake of this one little old lady.

K. BRISCOE.

The WVS Lounge, Butzweilerhof

A room with a view of the stars shining bright, The Dom in the distance bathed in moonlight,

A soft easy chair in which to relax (the soft easy chair that the barrack room lacks!)

Low lights and sweet music to drive away cares, after toiling all day at those "Forward repairs",

Milk and cream buns, and polite con-

(Sent by the son of the Centre Secretary at Poole who is with the Forces in Germany. It was published in "Spotlight". Note: We do not really wholeheartedly approve of the last line!)

versation, Ping pong or Ludo with gentle persuasion,

The sweet scent of lilac—a "naice" atmosphere, that Mum would approve of and no longer fear,

Organised trips to the sea with lunch baskets, (if the P.S.I. Bus doesn't blow all its gaskets)

"SWEET HOME" is the aim; here nothing is lacking, and the whole thing is run by two nice bits of crackling.

Messages to The Bulletin

Home Office,
Whitehall,
S.W. 1.

For many years I have had a very close connection with the work of W.V.S., and today as Home Secretary it gives me the very greatest of pleasure to send my congratulations to this great organisation as it reaches its 21st Anniversary Year.

Both during the war and since, the members of W.V.S. have responded to every call upon their energy and enthusiasm whether in recruiting and training for Civil Defence or in any of the many welfare services which they undertake for the well-being of the nation every day and in any emergency.

Today W.V.S. is tackling one of the most important and difficult jobs it has ever faced in time of peace - the One-in-Five Scheme - but knowing that once it has set its hand to a task, it never stops until that task is completed, I am confident that W.V.S. will, once again, be successful.

To all members of W.V.S. I would wish to express my appreciation of the work they have done during the past twenty-one years, and I look forward to their continuing help whenever and wherever it is needed.

R Butler



On behalf of the Board of Admiralty and the Royal Navy I warmly congratulate the Women's Voluntary Service on their twenty-first anniversary. The Royal Navy has been greatly helped by the Women's Voluntary Service and we all much appreciate what they have done.

I send you my best wishes for the future.

Left Ruth



26th February, 1956.

This year is the 21st Anniversary of your Service, and I should like to express, through the medium of your Bulletin, the sincere thanks of the Army to all those members of the W.V.S. who are doing so much for our welfare in so many different ways.

All over the world where soldiers are stationed, one hears nothing but praise for the work which your members are carrying out. As I have travelled around I have seen something of it, and there is no doubt that this work is one of the big factors in the maintenance of morale. We are truly grateful.

*Yours sincerely
Christopher Soames*



I should like warmly to congratulate the Women's Voluntary Service on reaching its 21st Anniversary. We all recall its magnificent service during the war for which the Royal Air Force is deeply grateful. I am glad to say the Royal Air Force's happy association with the W.V.S. still continues and I know that airmen and airwomen, both at home and overseas, greatly appreciate the valuable services which the W.V.S. so generously provides.

Raymond

*From The Rt. Hon. John S. Maclay,
C.M.G., M.P.*

Secretary of State for Scotland.

"I have much pleasure in offering Women's Voluntary Services my warm congratulations on attaining their 21st Birthday.

The vigour and zest which the organisation have always brought to their work and the inspired leadership which they have enjoyed has enabled them to render most valuable service to the Government and the country in war and peace.

Scotland has benefited greatly from the operations of Women's Voluntary Services and, as Scotland's Minister, I am glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging the valuable help which the Scottish Departments have received from the organisation during the past 21 years in Civil Defence operations and the administration of the social and welfare services. I am sure that many Scottish local authorities would wish to be associated in recognising the good work which Women's Voluntary Services have also done for them in these fields.

I hope that Women's Voluntary Services will go on from strength to strength in the future and that their efforts will be rewarded with still greater success."

*From The Rt. Hon. Henry Brooke, M.P.
Minister of Housing and Local Government and Minister for Welsh Affairs.*

"I am delighted to take this opportunity of sending my good wishes to the Women's Voluntary Service on the occasion of their 21st birthday.

The Women's Voluntary Service have an enviable record of public service in many fields, amongst which your housing work ranks high. Your enterprise and initiative in experimenting with the conversion of houses for old people since the war have been an example to us all. Women's Voluntary Service members have shown that they can provide not only the security of an independent home but also friendship for those who are fortunate enough to live in their houses. I am very glad to know, too, that further schemes for conversions to meet the needs

of younger women are already being undertaken.

I congratulate you on the contribution you are making to the happiness and well-being of old people all over the country; and I look forward to the expansion and development of this work in the years ahead."

*From The Rt. Hon. John Hare,
O.B.E., M.P.*

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

"One of the great characteristics of the British way of life and one of which we can be very proud is the extent to which voluntary work is undertaken for the general good of the community.

In few spheres of activity is this characteristic more marked than in the splendid work done by the Women's Voluntary Service. This work came rapidly and prominently into notice during the war, when supplies of food and clothing, organized by the Service, were readily and promptly available wherever needed—often despite appalling conditions.

In those war years the Service, then only a youngster, grew rapidly to maturity; but although it is now celebrating its coming-of-age, there is no doubt that it has discovered the secret of perennial youth.

As Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, I am much heartened by the knowledge that the Women's Voluntary Service plays such a prominent part in the arrangements for the distribution of welfare foods and for emergency feeding. The enthusiasm and energy displayed by the members of the Service in recruiting and training volunteers for the Welfare Section of the Civil Defence Corps and in staffing and operating the Food Flying Squads is an inspiration to us all.

I know that, whatever the occasion, whatever the circumstances, the members of the Women's Voluntary Services will be on the spot, ready to give help and comfort in a very practical way, wherever they are needed. It gives me very great pleasure to congratulate the Service on its 21st Birthday and to express every good wish for its future."

*From the Rt. Hon. Derek Walker-Smith,
Q.C., M.P.
Minister of Health.*

"It gives me great pleasure to send congratulations to the WVS on their twenty-first birthday, and to have this opportunity of saluting their distinguished record of public service.

In the field of health and welfare for which I am specially responsible, I am constantly seeing or hearing of the splendid work done by WVS members for children, old people, and the handicapped, for patients in hospital and for the hospital service, for the blood transfusion and mass X-ray services, and for local authorities in support of their health and welfare responsibilities.

All this work is a fine manifestation of the voluntary spirit to which the country owes so much. We have all learnt to know that where the need is shown, there will WVS be found, ready to give competent, cheerful, generous and invaluable service. I am proud to pay tribute to them on this important anniversary."

*From Wing Commander Sir John Hodson
C.B., Chairman of the North Atlantic
Treaty Organisation.*

"I must send you my very warmest congratulations on the 21st Anniversary and I hope that your great organisation will, as I have no doubt it will, continue to go on from strength to strength."

*From Mrs. Z S. Shearer, M.B.E.
National President, Women's Voluntary
Services of Central Africa.*

"We feel we would like to express our sentiments to your Organisation in regard to its 21st Anniversary. It goes without saying that in our opinion you reached your majority from the moment your Organisation experienced baptism with fire during the last war, and further we could pay you no greater compliment than to admit that in this country where in a small way we participate in the making of its history, we have endeavoured to emulate your principles in every direction.

May we wish you a future of peace unclouded by any of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse."

*From the Managing Director of NAAFI
Major-General Sir Randle G. Feilden,
K.C.V.O., C.B., C.B.E.*

On behalf of all officials and staff of NAAFI, I send warmest birthday greetings and good wishes to the WVS on the occasion of its coming-of-age.

The WVS and NAAFI are old friends. For the past sixteen years they have been partners in service to the Services. In good times and bad, sometimes in pleasant conditions and sometimes in acute discomfort and danger, WVS members have worked alongside NAAFI staff sharing a common objective—the greater benefit and welfare of the Forces.

It has been a happy and beneficent partnership and I gratefully acknowledge the immense contribution which the WVS has made towards creating a homely atmosphere in NAAFI Clubs at home and abroad.

May the partnership of NAAFI and WVS continue to gain strength over the years.

*From Mr. A. Hague
The National Association of Discharged
Prisoners' Aid Societies*

17th April, 1959

"I have great pleasure in advising you that at its meeting yesterday afternoon my General Committee passed with acclamation the following resolution:

'That hearty congratulations be offered to the Women's Voluntary Services on the occasion of that Society's twenty-first birthday together with an expression of deep appreciation for the friendly help which the Women's Voluntary Services have constantly given for the benefit of prisoners and their families throughout the country'."

*From The Town Clerk of
West Bromwich.*

"As Town Clerk and one who has spent so much time in Civil Defence matters, I cannot allow this outstanding occasion to pass without writing to you officially. . . .

It has been my privilege to work with three County Borough Organisers, and each in turn has shown a devotion to duty

which has not been excelled in my experience in any other form of voluntary service which it has been my lot to encounter. . . . West Bromwich WVS have a record of service of which they can be justly proud, and in extending to you my very sincerest greetings on reaching your maj-

ority, may I express the hope that your organisation will continue to flourish and will gradually play an ever increasing role in the well-being of West Bromwich."

(Since going to press many more messages have been received which we hope to publish next month.)

A Good Turn

The telephone rang and a man's voice was heard offering a new T.V. set with licence to a WVS Centre. He wished to remain anonymous but thought that WVS could give him the address of someone who would appreciate such a gift as he "just wanted to do a good turn to someone". His telephone number was given in confidence to enable WVS to make arrangements. Various old people's names were in their minds, but they decided to leave it for a day or so and not make a hurried choice. During the same afternoon, the local N.S.P.C.C. Inspector came in to ask if they could help with a

few odd curtains etc. for a rather pathetic case of a widow with several children who had been rehoused from a dilapidated place to a more pleasant bungalow with electricity. Her eldest daughter, a teenager, had been a cripple from birth and would never walk. Here, of course, was the answer to the T.V. set. WVS felt that such a gift to a family as this one would do a great deal of good and we hope that the crippled girl will have many happy hours of 'looking', and that it will also afford the widowed mother some pleasure.

What Are We Doing?

Again and again
They write and complain
We've had no report
This month as we ought.
I know I am wrong
Not to write up my song
Of what we are doing
And jobs that are brewing.
I cannot remember
Was it September
I wrote to you last
And told of what passed?
Now what shall I say
Of our doings to-day?
Shall I tell of the talks
At which everyone balks,
Of the miles that we drive
To give One-in-Five.
Of Barnardo's request
To place a young guest,
They wanted advice
If the set-up was nice.
Of two clothing appeals,
Or the meals (not on wheels)

Cooked in a bin
Constructed of tin.
Of expenses incurred
To speed the good word,
Or speak with regret
Of replies we don't get,
Of uniform permits
Which hide up like hermits.
That Savings do well
And continue to swell.
It's not true to relate
That jobs are in spate
In a place that's so rural
They're not in the plural.
Oh! what shall I say
Of our doings to-day.
If nothing is said
They'll think we are dead.
Shall I report
As a final resort
We've done nothing whatever
Because of the weather?

From NORTH COTSWOLDS.

From the Centres

ACTON. We felt that an 'At Home' should be arranged, at which members of the public could see all the various activities undertaken by WVS in Acton. It was arranged, therefore, to hold a Service to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of formation of WVS, this to be followed by the 'At Home', opened if possible, by the Mayor.

BATH. We were instrumental in bringing about the marriage of two young Hungarians who had been living together as man and wife and were expecting a baby. When the man's divorce papers came through they were told at the Registry Office that they must have the consent of the girl's father as she was only seventeen years old, and also a translation of the divorce papers. The matter was taken up by a WVS member and arrangements were made for them to appear before the Magistrates, who gave consent to the marriage as it was proved to their satisfaction that the girl's father could not be traced as she had never known him, and her mother was dead. The translation was done by the Roman Catholic Chaplain to the Hungarian Refugees, who was fortunately in Bath at the time. Through the cooperation of all concerned including the doctor, the marriage took place before the baby was born.

CASTLEFORD. The Probation Officer came into the office one day to ask if we could help him with a real problem case. The person in question had been helped many times before and had the excuse that he could not go to work any longer because he did not have any clothing decent enough. However, we soon overcame that problem and what we did not have in stock we got through an appeal to friends. Since then the Probation Officer reported that we had saved the situation and said he did not know what ever he did before WVS had an Office, which to us makes the job well worth doing.

CONSETT. The Centre for Consett was re-started in March, 1958, after a

break of some years. The County Organizer spoke to a group of interested women in a former member's house. Her enthusiasm and knowledge of the work to be done by the WVS led to the Centre staff volunteering on the spot. It has been a very busy year getting the various branches of the work started but we now have 60 members, all of whom take their turns in the different rotas. We have a very pleasant room near the centre of Consett. There is a large bay window for which a member's husband has created an upright fitting in wood and green and red webbing on which we attach posters and notices which attract many passers-by.

CRANBROOK R.D. The members of our Darby & Joan Club had a special treat; one of our members who had attended the Buckingham Palace Party came to tell them about it. All the members and the helpers were enthralled by her description of every moment and every detail; they described it as the most perfectly told "fairy story" and felt they had shared in her happiness and privilege.

DONCASTER. Trolley Shop. We get the occasional remark: "How much an hour do you get for doing this job, and how much profit are you making?" The answer of course is: "We don't get paid, it is voluntary, and the profit goes back to the hospital."

DURHAM. We feel that one of our members deserves special mention. She is seventy years old, an indefatigable worker, and climbs the two steep flights of stairs to our office nearly every day. She assists the secretary with salvage, posting of parcels overseas, visits old people, and spares an hour or two each week to help with clothing at the County Clothing Store.

EAST GRINSTEAD. The Matron of the Queen Victoria Hospital rang up after the Turkish air disaster near Gatwick Airport to know if we could help her. Two of the crew had been very badly burned and were in hospital and their

Alton House Darby and Joan Club Party

(By courtesy of Wm. Cull, Birkenhead)

Club Queen, Mrs. Powell aged 92, Mrs. Tillotson aged 90, The Mayoress of Birkenhead, Mrs. Bell, C.B.E., Mrs. Williams (Club Leader)

relatives had come over from Turkey to be with them. Only one of them, a doctor—husband of the stewardess—spoke any English, and the hospital staff were finding it very difficult as the relatives stayed by the beds all day, which was very distressing for them and for the patients as the burns were very bad. Three of our members arranged to take them for drives. The first time they were taken to Brighton with the doctor acting as interpreter; they wanted to shop, but since the doctor's English was somewhat limited it was rather difficult. However, they seemed to enjoy the drive. The next day our member took out the two Turks,

neither of whom spoke a word of English. The relatives have now returned to Turkey. Matron was very grateful for our help and said that she had never called on WVS without response.

FARNHAM. In February a family living in a caravan returned from a morning's shopping to find their home in flames and all their possessions destroyed. They came to the Office next morning and we were able to fit them out with two of everything, thanks to the efforts of our Sewing Party. We also supplied curtains and a certain amount of bedding for the new caravan. The Sewing Party meets regularly once a week and does a wonder-

ful job of remaking and repairing anything repairable.

FRIMLEY and CAMBERLEY. We were asked to give One-in-Five talks at a hairdresser's who was carrying on business in her own home. Result: a varied audience of victims being 'dried' or 'set' or waiting their turn. A possible contact for other Centres struggling to attain their target?

FROME. We wonder whether the hours of service given by one of our members is a record. After a normal day's work, this member has never missed going to 'tuck up' and make comfortable two of our all alone, sick and aged cases, one being over eighty years old and the other ninety-four. She visits them between the hours of seven and nine at night and has done so every day for three years, including Saturday and Sunday. The two old people tell us about their hair being put into curlers and their faces creamed, and they appreciate the hot drink given last thing, and the hot water bottle.

GRANTHAM. We send magazines abroad regularly, and last week received this letter of appreciation from Malay: "Dear WVS, I am very sorry for not writing sooner to say Thank you for all the wonderful parcels. Our Gurkha Children love looking at the pictures in the books, they love comic books. They would rather have a book than a sweet or biscuit. We have our own Medical Centre where all the children are born, so when a mother is in hospital we give her a book like the children. They love looking at pictures, later I will send a photograph of the children."

HAMMERSMITH. We were very pleased the other day when the Inspector of the N.S.P.C.C., who is a great friend and has a great deal of confidence in us, asked a woman to call at our Office to meet him in order to air a complaint about a child who was being ill-treated. He was going to take her somewhere else to talk but he thought that he would rather speak to her at our Office. Of course we did not interfere, and that pleased them both even more. They both said very nice things about WVS.

HOLDERNESS R.D. SOUTH. The Withernsea WVS have kindly given us many library books and these have been distributed to the Darby & Joan Clubs with the idea of forming small libraries for the old people. These books will be changed periodically with the Darby & Joan Clubs in this area, thus keeping a fairly fresh supply of books.

HUDDERSFIELD. We received the following most appreciative letter from the Secretary of our local Hospital: "May I acknowledge receipt with many thanks of the Dry Shaver which you sent to me today. As you know, this is going to prove most useful as an addition to the one which you gave us some time ago. I would like to take this opportunity of asking you to convey to the members of your staff and the many willing helpers our very sincere appreciation of all their efforts in the running of the Trolley Shop here. It has been a boon, not only to the patients but you have now become an accepted feature of our weekly hospital life."

KESWICK. On the afternoon of the Buckingham Palace Party the Organiser made "Women In Green" an actuality by getting in touch with all members and asking them to wear uniform that day when shopping and meeting friends in Keswick. The response was excellent and brought good publicity to WVS and also more clothing in the afternoon from those who had not seen our posters or the article published by our local Editor with the Chairman's letter of appeal. We had a rota of members at the Moot Hall to collect the clothing and all worked happily together. Finally we had twenty-two sacks of clothing, all sorted and tied, and over seventy pairs of shoes. We felt we never wanted to see a knotted piece of string again, but although we were all dead tired, we felt very satisfied with the result.

LETHWORTH. Our Good Neighbour Scheme continues to give useful service in cases of need—some members are even disappointed that they have not been called upon more. The comfort that some of the elderly find in the knowledge that they have their S.O.S. card does justify the scheme. One Good Neighbour keeps

open house for tea every Monday to old people in her road who know they can drop in, help to get the tea and have a chat.

LIVERPOOL. We have had a number of requests from the Welfare Officer of Walton Prison asking if we could visit the families of men who are in prison there. They are often worried about their folk at home, and very often a visit and report helps to allay their anxiety. This is a new departure for Liverpool and it looks as though we are in for a busy time.

MIDDLESBROUGH. A young man from the Merchant Navy walked in and offered to drive for Meals-on-Wheels while he was on leave. We welcomed him with open arms but now he has gone to sea again and we shan't be seeing him for at least another twelve-month. One of our drivers brought his uncle with him several times—he was here on holiday—but until he came to say goodbye to the old people with whom he made friends on the round we did not know he was returning to Australia; so, in spite of the influenza epidemic, we have been able to man the van each day.

NEWTON AYLCLIFFE. There is tremendous scope for Children's Welfare work in a new town and we have started off by tackling the Children's Holiday Scheme, and have set a target to receive twenty children this year. So far we have six definite offers from prospective hostesses. The creche has coped with 80 children during the past three months, an average of 26 a month which we hope to increase during the better weather to about 40. Efforts are being made to find some small furniture and a few more 'resident' toys. We are also trying hard to make lists of mothers willing to help less fortunate working mothers to look after school-age children during holidays.

NORWICH. This Easter we had a pleasant surprise. The staff in our building collected fresh eggs to be distributed to all the old people on the Meals-on-Wheels round.

OXFORD. We have been taking an old man of 97 from one of the Old People's Homes who is very keen on gardening to

the Botanical Gardens once a week so that he can help there, but unfortunately he is ill at the moment and cannot go.

PADDINGTON. Handicraft classes are held each week for the Darby & Joan Clubs, and attractive articles are made which find their way to a stall at the annual flower show. Two members who organise this class attended the Olympia Exhibition of Handicraft for the Housebound.

PLYMOUTH. From the various requests we get one would imagine that the WVS is able (almost) to move mountains! An old lady called at the office and asked if we could get in touch with the Ministry of Health, as her drains were choked and beginning to smell. Needless to say, we got in touch with the appropriate authorities who promised to send someone immediately.

SALFORD. Some of the Homes for Women which had inadequate facilities for drying clothes have been given clothes racks for the kitchen, and posts on which to attach clothes lines for drying out in the gardens. One house has had some painting and decorating done.

SELLY OAK. It was very gratifying to read the public acknowledgment in the Birmingham Press of the excellent work being done by WVS at Selly Oak Hospital. In a letter published in the Birmingham Post and Birmingham Mail, the Chairman of the Birmingham Hospital Management Committee expressed the thanks of the House Committee and their appreciation of the service given by the Trolley Shop helpers. "They bring to the patients," he said, "not only some of the minor requisites often needed, such as soap, toothpaste and brushes, writing paper, pencils, but, just as important, their cheerful greetings and warm hearted personalities."

STOCKPORT. The distribution of Clothing leaflets is going well. One member's grocer sent out about 700 with his weekly deliveries. Many of the garments sent to us need washing and we have no facilities in the office for doing this kind of work. We have therefore decided to have a week devoted to "Operation Washerwoman". For this we are asking

for the co-operation of all members, particularly those who are lucky enough to own washing machines, and also that each member should wash and iron one bundle of garments; it is hoped to find drivers to deliver and collect these bundles.

STOKE NEWINGTON. We have again sent several parcels of books to our adopted Forces Clubs and received grateful letters from the Organisers. One which arrived from Cyprus was a card showing us the position of the Club in Kyrenia, and describing the beauty of the island with the cyclamen and bluebells out in great profusion. The Club Organiser says she is hoping that now there is peace in the island, the boys will be able to have excursions round it.

UXBRIDGE. The Old People's Home at Harefield has now become filled to its capacity of seventy. As almost all the old people make purchases from the trolley shop, the weekly turnover has now begun to assume sizeable proportions. Two of the Harefield shops deliver for us and offer discount, and the first profits have been ploughed back into a proper cash box. Last week alone, eighteen hair nets were sold, all in dark brown; the appropriate grey or silver nets were firmly thrust aside and had to be returned to the shop.

WALTHAM ABBEY. Our first little spastic visitor to a member's home received her invitation by letter, and spent a whole day cooking, sitting by the fire with a "doggy", and being read to by our member. It was felt that she would get far more help in a member's home which she is allowed to visit in school time. This same member is having two spastics to tea once a month. We are gradually making contacts.

WIDNES. We have had another successful year in connection with a caravan given and maintained by the members of the Round Table for holidays for the poor and needy. WVS agreed to find the site and to be responsible for administration. Last year we supplied the crockery and linen, and seventy-one recommended people enjoyed a lovely holiday, paying for their own food only; transport and laundry were provided free.

YEOVIL. During Easter week there was only one delivery of Meals-on-Wheels served on Thursday. The Easter meal was made free to the recipients and was accompanied by a small box of chocolates and some sweets. We have received many charming letters of thanks.

YORKSHIRE—EAST RIDING. After meetings at Broadgates Mental Hospital and also with Organisers and members of nearby Centres, plans have been made for the opening of a Darby & Joan Club in this Hospital. As this is the first venture of this kind in the County, it will be watched with very great interest. The opening day fixed for the Club was April 15th and the rota of teams are to be provided from Beverley Borough, Beverley Rural South and Holderness North.

News from Scotland

CUPAR. The WVS Organiser had a 7 a.m. call asking for help for the survivors from a fire in which a man lost his life and which burnt out a house in the neighbourhood. WVS members made tea and provided clothing.

EDINBURGH. A lady—quite young—lost her sight and became a registered blind person. This misfortune came upon her while she was in the midst of a course of study. She had no time to learn Braille in order to go on with the course in which she was engaged, so a rota of helpers was arranged by members of Scottish Headquarters and Edinburgh Centre to read the necessary books to her and enable her to continue with her educational work.

KILMARNOCK. Four years ago the Centre Organiser started a scheme to provide toys for children whose parents could not afford to give such gifts to their little ones. During that time the recipients have increased from fifty to over five hundred. Local appeals for toys have met with generous response, not only of toys but of sweets. The people of Kilmarnock generally are most appreciative of this service which the WVS give to the poorer families in the town.

LANARK. On 12th January, 1959, Mrs. Hamish Paterson, the Centre Organiser of the ancient Royal Burgh of Lanark,

received the signal honour of being "admitted and received a Burgess of the Royal Burgh of Lanark with all the privileges and immunities belonging at present by law to a Burgess of the said Royal Burgh". This honour was also conferred on Bailie Mrs. Thom, who is also a member of WVS Lanark Centre. Not for very many years have women been admitted as Burgesses of Lanark, a Royal Burgh which received its Charter in 1143. These honours were given in recognition of the voluntary work done in the Burgh by these members and we do heartily congratulate them.

News from Wales

PORHCRAWL. Following a fire here, a Councillor appealed to WVS for clothing for a couple who lost everything. She said that the clothing, which was promptly delivered from Cardiff the same afternoon, was in very good condition and reflected great credit on this branch of WVS work.

SWANSEA. One or two new names for Meals-on-Wheels have come in during the month. Our Old People's specialist reports that it is quite amazing how different in appearance are two old people who are now receiving two meals a week. When she called first they could hardly wait to eat their meal however early it was delivered, but now they are settling down to normality. This is most gratifying to the workers and makes them feel that their efforts are well worthwhile.

Free Freight.

As a result of a letter sent by a WVS member to a friend in the Isles of Scilly asking whether she ever had clothing which she could give to WVS, permission has been given by the Scilly Steamship Company for free freight for any clothing sent to the Penzance WVS Centre. A first consignment of clothing is nearly ready.

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh's Visit to Christmas Island.

The Duke of Edinburgh met Christmas Island's only European women, our WVS members who organise leisure activities at the Club there.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Rates. 10s. for a minimum of three lines, 2s. 6d. per line thereafter for W.V.S. members. Special rates only for W.V.S. members who are *Bulletin subscribers*. Commercial Rates on application.

FLOWER DYES. (Esther Reads etc.) 4 colours, instructs. 16/-. Wreath and Bouquet materials, Artificial Flowers, etc. Stamp all lists. Station Nurseries, (W.S.), Oakengates, (Salop).

FOR SOCIAL OCCASIONS HAVE your own personal serviettes. 5 dozen printed with any name 8/-. Sample 5d. V. S. DEVEREUX-LONGMAN PRESS LTD. P.O. Box 3, 1 Liverpool Ter., Worthing.

FOR SALE, CLACTON-ON-SEA, well built freehold semi-detached house in nice road. 6 rms., bathroom, 2 W.C.'s, large garage with e.l. Convenient sized garden, cultivated with fruit trees. Near centre of town, shops, schools, sea. Price £2,250 including lino throughout and fitted kitchen with frig. Mrs. G. Barham, 5, Upper Park Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, or 'phone Uplands 6187.

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