

WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine

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W V S BULLETIN





WVS Bulletin

ALTHOUGH Christmas wishes change in their shape, they are always of the same texture in the fibre of their content—and my wish to you this year is warm in its magnitude. It is that you may have the quick perception to see, grasp and hold tight the wonderful thing that is happening to WVS, and to benefit through it. Of recent times a great influx of new members has come into WVS, and these are not merely the relations and friends of all of us—they are the much younger women—who are recognising what WVS is striving for—and who are clear in their realisation, that this is for the ultimate benefit of their children. They make the time to give their service—they bring a new approach to the way things are done - and to the problems themselves, and this is of paramount importance to the community.

If we can—with clear and imaginative perception - offer these younger women the privilege of service to enable them to make it their own, then we shall have embarked upon doing, not only a good service to the community and country, but to posterity as well.

My wish to you this Christmas is that your eyes may see clearly, and your mind grasp with vision that which is a gift of the greatest cumulative value for the future.

INTERRUPTED DUSTING

THE other day I dusted out my book shelves. This is, as everyone knows, a very slow business because it is so impossible to resist the temptation to pause and glance through pages one has loved and half forgotten. It was because I was so slow that I found something. A single sheet of notepaper inside the cover of one of my books. It must have got itself there many, many years ago and remained hidden ever since. On one corner of the sheet was a coloured transfer depicting a sprig of holly. It was placed rather crookedly. The edges of the sheet were yellow, and across it was written in a round childish hand, an invitation:

*Mary Platts and all her little
brothers and sisters invite the
little Lovells to a Party...*

It was the end of my dusting for quite a long time. I remembered and remembered.

In those long-ago days, a Christmas Party represented a dazzling peak in the hum-drum experiences of our small country town in Lincolnshire. It began of course with this invitation which had to be accepted in writing, although the distance between Mary Platts' house and ours was a matter of not more than a mile. This was followed by a period of waiting and speculation and general impatience. And then, the day.

For two hours after our mid-day dinner we were all made to lie on our beds. The nursery blinds were drawn against the daylight and we were forbidden to talk—although, we agreed between ourselves, not forbidden to whisper. By the time the two long hours of physical, if not mental inaction had come to an end, the afternoon was growing dusk and our nurse (Gar we called her) had to strike a match and hold it to the gas bracket in order to be able to see enough to commence the serious operation of 'getting ready'. We were not allowed to get ready in a body. Each of us was

taken from bed in turn and in turn was washed at a standard basin placed in the centre of the nursery and supplied with hot water in brass cans which shone. It was always a question in our minds as to who came off best—the child who was first washed, dressed and made to sit without moving on a chair, or the child who lay longer in comfortable blankety disorder waiting for the last turn. At the point of dressing battle was joined with Gar. My sister and I demanded that we should have our high-necked woollen combinations removed lest they should protrude from the necks of our party frocks. My brother, however, who was delicate, could not possibly dispense with woollens under his sailor suit and, lest there be ill-feeling we were all condemned to wool.

In those days our little town possessed no vehicle of public conveyance other than a yellow 'bus drawn by a single horse and with a driver who sat, whip in hand, on the roof. One entered the 'bus at the rear up several steps and then sat, backs pressed against the side windows, on two narrow parallel seats. There was straw on the floor of the 'bus. Into this conveyance we were lifted one after another. We could not have walked the distance from our front door to the country road beyond the garden because we were swathed in shawls from which only our heads protruded. Neither my mother nor Gar accompanied us. We were left to the care of the driver and we sat in complete darkness and almost complete silence as we swayed and rattled over the mile to Mary Platts' home. I don't think one can describe properly the sensations of that drive. For myself—and I think for my brother—the main thing of which we were conscious was a kind of sickening shyness. I remember my brother complaining that he had 'gone sort of wrong' in his inside. My sister was bolder. She blandly said that everything was lovely.

And once gathered from the 'bus and unwound from our shawls, she ran about everywhere. My brother and I, slow to blossom, took ourselves each to a window and disappeared behind the long curtains. He and I enjoyed the Party nevertheless. We took no part in it but that did not signify. My sister, dressed in a Kate Greenaway frock which reached to her ankles, danced with the very elegant uncle of Mary Platts, her brown curls bobbing. She was an unqualified success.

When it was time to depart and my brother and I emerged, nobody appeared to regard our conduct as having been odd in any way. They said good-bye to us with smiles and gave each of us an orange. They gave my sister an orange too.

It is strange that looking back on it now, I cannot remember one single thing about the drive home. I suppose it was rather late and we were sleepy.

Mary Lovell

WELFARE AT GAN

'DON'T fence me in,' said Gwen-dolene Caton when she quit a wage clerk job in London four years ago to join the Women's Voluntary Service. She never dreamed how far she'd actually get from the four walls of an office. For on Monday, October 3rd, Miss Caton flew from Singapore to the bare-bones island of Gan, which is practically all runway, almost treeless, only knee-high above sea level, and surrounded by millions of empty square miles of Indian Ocean. The Royal Air Force operates it as a staging post for their transport aircraft flying

between Britain and the Far East. Miss Caton will become Gan's first woman resident, the only girl among 506 men, and will take on the job of welfare. 'You'll never make a fortune out of it, but you will see the world and your work will always be appreciated', WVS assured Miss Caton when she volunteered.

Since joining WVS, Miss Caton has seen service in Germany, Kuala Lumpur and Penang; has toured most of Malaya and visited Hong Kong, and already knows many of the airmen who have been posted to Gan from

Germany and various bases in the Far East.

She intends to introduce at Gan much of the welfare programme she built up at Kuala Lumpur. This means running a library, a consulting service for the hundred-and-one little problems servicemen want settled which the forces can't always help with. It means

plenty of indoor games for the long tropical evenings—snooker, darts, tom-bola, table tennis. It means interesting self-help activities like variety shows and barbecue evenings.

Only one item will be missing from the usual WVS club programme.

There will be no dances.

THE FLOODS

LONG and detailed reports have been received from flood-devastated areas in which WVS have joined with other bodies, both public and private, in the

gigantic task of cleaning out homes, salvaging property, providing food for victims and workers, issuing clothing and finding temporary homes.

Crediton

Weary Civil Defence and WVS workers who re-housed 80 families were almost flooded out themselves when water swept into their temporary Headquarters.

Birmingham Mail, 1st October 1960

Exmouth

Nearly 1,000 people were fed by the WVS, being provided with a cooked breakfast and a main meal. Electricity and gas services were not available in many houses though there was no shortage of food in the town.

The Independent, 9th October, 1960

Horncastle

'Everywhere I went, Civil Defence workers and Scouts helping to mop up muddy floors, or WVS personnel telling people to have their laundry ready

for it to be washed free, I was met with a smile and cheerful word.'

Lincolnshire Echo, 10th October, 1960

Exeter

Members of the WVS served the hot drinks from insulated containers on the lorries as marines collected plates and jugs handed out from bedroom windows.

Express & Echo, 27th October, 1960

Lewes

The water is still rising due to the bursting of the dam at Barcombe. A Rest Centre has been opened at a big house opposite Lewes Prison. WVS is staffing it day and night. Meals for 100 people are being brought in from the Hailsham Meals-on-Wheels Service.

4th November, 1960

A good fit?

*H.R.H The Duchess
of Gloucester watches
WVS help a victim
of the floods to
choose clothes at
Horncastle*

Grimby Evening Telegraph

A mop and brush brigade, Horncastle

Lincolshire Echo

Royal Visit to W.V.S. Headquarters

FOLLOWING the State Opening of Parliament on November 1st, Headquarters had the honour of receiving Her Majesty the Queen of Nepal, Princess Shanti Shah, The Nepalese Prime Minister's wife, Rani Rana: the wife of the Nepalese Ambassador, Smrimidi Manandhar; and Mrs Kamal Rana, who is the Deputy Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament in Katmandu and also the Honourable Secretary of WVS Nepal. With them was Mrs L. A. Scopes, the wife of the British Ambassador to Nepal.

After luncheon with Lady Reading in the House of Lords, the Royal visitors were driven to Horse Guards Parade, where the Queen reviewed the Slough Food Flying Squad.

At Tothill Street, the shop windows

were decorated with red and white chrysanthemums and signs written in Gurkhali saying 'Long Live your Majesty'. On her arrival, Her Majesty was presented with a small Victorian bouquet by a WVS member's four-year-old grand-daughter. Then followed a tour of Headquarters, where many activities of WVS were displayed. A member who has served abroad with the Gurkhas wore the pale green 'over-seas' uniform and chatted in Gurkhali with the visitors from Nepal.

Tea was served in the Chairman's Department.

The uniform of 'WVS Nepal' is particularly attractive. A dark green sari is worn and held just below the left shoulder with a silver badge on which is engraved 'WVS NEPAL'. The women of Nepal are intensely interested in all WVS work with children.

*Her Majesty The
Queen of Nepal
reviews Slough
Food Flying Squad*

For Goodness' Sake

CHRISTMAS in 'The Shop'! Will this year be just an 'ordinary' Christmas? Two years ago we were beginning to make plans ahead for the 21st Birthday celebrations. Last year we were engaged—like everyone else—on our efforts for World Refugee Year. We remember the generosity of the public: the office girls who brought in quite large sums of money—obviously their Christmas 'bonus' from their employers; the terribly ill-dressed and unkempt old man who continued for many weeks to bring us in pound notes and ten-shilling notes which he might well have spent on a meal for himself.

All the year the window displays at 41 Tothill Street have attracted enquiries, sometimes unexpected ones. A teenage 'Teddy boy' with rather a menacing air came in one day and, instead of coshing us, asked us for patterns of the babies' vests we were showing, and received our instructions for them with gratitude. Another young man, on seeing our sample layettes, gave us £16 'to be spent on babies' clothes'. One girl brought in a dress saying she was sad to have to part with it, but as it was now too small she considered it was better to let the WVS have it rather than the moths! Many people contributed what was left of their foreign holiday spending money, and one enquirer asked us if we would take her old francs and give her new ones in exchange! We had to explain that banking was not yet a WVS activity! Three lots of farthings have been handed to us since the announcement that after January they will no longer be currency. We cashed them at the Express Dairy who still use them and handed the money

to the Refugee Department. Nor have we yet started a Marriage Bureau, as the young man thought who telephoned and asked if we could find him a nice wife. We have been asked for advice on making arrangements for 'disposing' of one's dead body—not only the enquirer's but the bodies of all his family! We have had urgent appeals for the nearest dentist: 'I must have it extracted at once—I have to catch a plane in half an hour'; for a solicitor: 'My life is threatened!' a woman who dashed into The Shop exclaimed.

Every few weeks a group of office girls bring us in an enormous cellophane bag, tied up with pretty ribbon, full of the sugar they *haven't* had in their office tea—for old people!

So, we say, will this year be just an 'ordinary' Christmas? Of course it won't be; no Christmas should be ordinary. There will, it is true, be the usual WVS cards and calendars for sale—and, incidentally, what a good present 'The Story of WVS' can still make!—and we shall sense, as we always do in the Shop, a quickening of the atmosphere. 'Goodwill to men' will begin to flow into 41 Tothill Street. It may take the form of the 'Silver Paper Bucket' being filled up more often, of balls of wool being dropped with greater frequency into the 'Wool Box' (720 lbs were dropped since October 1959)! of signs of cupboards being emptied of old clothes, and husbands being nagged: 'For goodness' sake, dear, give that old suit to the WVS and buy yourself a new one for Christmas dinner at Mother's'. And, once again, this Christmas, 'for goodness' sake', many people will help WVS to help many people.

J.C.B.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

At 12 noon on Thursday, 10th November, a Service of Remembrance was held at Westminster Abbey; many WVS members were there. The Chair-

man and Vice-Chairman attended the Service and afterwards planted crosses in the WVS plot.

REPORTS FROM

'Prompt action'

The Secretary of a Miners' Rehabilitation Centre in Lanarkshire was worried when a disabled miner got a job in a factory before his invalid carriage had come to hand. He asked our County Organiser if WVS could help with daily transport to and from the factory. Our County Organiser remembered that the husband of a new WVS Member had recently taken up a post in an adjacent factory. Our County Organiser telephoned the member, the member telephoned her hus-

band, who said he would be delighted to help in this way; so within half an hour of receiving the request our County Organiser was able to report to the Miners' Rehabilitation Centre that all arrangements had been made.

That was baling 1,000 tons—now for Layettes. Taken against an historic background, Edinburgh

SCOTLAND

Information Required

During the holiday season an American lady—a graduate of a Middle West University—visited WVS Scottish Headquarters to find out what Scotswomen did with their leisure time. She was preparing a thesis on the

The Scotsman

subject of 'Women and Leisure'. WVS will figure large on the pages of her thesis; for good measure we suggested also some of the other activities in which our individual members are engaged.

The generosity of the anonymous

Some WVS members banded together (not as WVS) to run a whist drive in aid of funds for their Refugee Adoptee. Just before the prize-giving, a gentleman asked the organisers how much they hoped to raise, and was told about £27; she was staggered and delighted when he said he would make up the total to £50.

LOOKING AT LIFE

WVS Film 'Women in Green'

Berry
SV Edmunds
Jan. 1962
WHEN Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh came to the Odeon Cinema in Leicester Square on October 31st for the Gala première of 'The Man in the Moon', held in aid of the King George V Jubilee Trust, the first film to appear on the screen was one about WVS in the 'Look at Life' series produced by the Rank Organisation Ltd.

It was a great occasion. Internal television allowed us all to see the arrival of the Royal party, which included the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

CUT YOUR TELEPHONE BILL!

Dundee is the first City in Scotland to have an Automatic Telephone System. As a result an egg-timer is used every time a local call is made from our official line. Directly the egg-timer runs out, the telephone conversation is brought to an abrupt end—if at all possible! The cost 22 seconds—2d. Result —Reduced Telephone Accounts.

Most WVS activities were covered in this excellent coloured film, and perhaps the most lasting impressions were those of the Chairman explaining the philosophy of WVS; the actress Dinah Sheridan who, in her WVS uniform, was collecting magazines for Service Units Overseas; and outdoor emergency cooking—highly topical on that night of pouring rain in London, with the floods almost at their height.

K. B. B.

(The release dates of the film in your Region will already have reached you.)

No more presents, please!

I really was an expensive gift—to receive, I mean.

I found it on my desk one morning: a small brown paper parcel containing, I suppose, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of runner beans.

My eyes glistened. What an excuse to ask someone to a meal in my new flat. An invitation was given and bravely accepted; visions of a joint roasting in my Baby Belling brightened the rest of the day.

The butcher was shut so I went to a delicatessen shop where I fell for a chicken. But chicken and beans alone?

Not to be thought of; Smith's Crisps and two fresh rolls were added. A sweet? No worthy sweet could be made without the best cream.

I made my way complacently home in the bus and then, horrors, realised that I had nothing in which to cook the beans.

Buying a new saucepan completely emptied my purse.

But I have the saucepan ready for next year—and the beans WERE good!

K.

WVS

Sponsored

Refugees

Settle

In

Donald Worral

Danuta and Ibingniew Kapusniak, Rochdale

AFTER the arrival at Tilbury of the seven refugee families, (reported in the November Bulletin) WVS gave them coffee and fruit drinks etc. whilst marking time before taking them to their respective departure stations. It was then that we really got to know them. They were charming and so glad to be here. The family of Szydlowski, who were going to Wimborne in Dorset, had been in 14 D.P. camps and the last, they said, was the worst. The family consists of father, mother and three children. Both father and mother have a T.B. background and the cherished little boy, who was sweet, has asthma and is rather backward. The children were sad that they had to leave their dog behind. Mrs Szydlowski nearly fainted when she heard that their new home had three bedrooms, two sitting rooms and a kitchen. She said she just couldn't believe it was all true. It was during this interval that we noticed the children's beautiful table manners.

They told us that they were all very

tired as they had had little sleep since they started on Monday 26th September and some of them had been seasick. The Kapusniak family then left for Euston and the Wimborne family for Waterloo.

It was at Waterloo that the only misfortune occurred. Mr Szydlowski found that he had left his brief case in the train to Tilbury. However, it has since been found and sent off to him, so he will now have a high opinion of the honesty of British Railways, for we are sure that he made up his mind that he would never see it again!

We were very much struck with the fact that the children in these families were very nicely dressed, as were the fathers, but the mothers, though neat and tidy, looked as if they had been the ones to do without. Similarly the children looked well fed but the parents not so much so.

The East Malling family, the Klajchners, arrived at 11 a.m. and were taken to the Centre Organiser's house where they had a lovely second break-

fast. The children were bathed and put to bed. The family were taken to their new home in time for lunch, which was all ready for them, and then left to settle in. Later in the day they were visited and plans discussed. Region 12, of course, are sure that they have the nicest family of all but we think all the Regions concerned will say the same!

One can imagine the feelings of Mr Kociuba when he saw the family's new home at Barnby Dun for he had thought that they were going to another camp. His first halting words of English were: 'Thank you very much'.

We only wish there was space to tell the whole story of the arrival of the Kapusniak family at Rochdale. When they arrived at the house Mrs. Kapusniak was given the key of the house but was too blinded with tears to open the door. The house sounds lovely and the girl of fifteen stood guard at the door of her very own room. She could not believe that she was to have the first privacy she had known in her fifteen years. Everything the family could need was there, even the yellow 'budgie' in a cage given by the Civil Defence Officer to replace the one they had to leave behind.

The family should be very happy because there is a Polish Church, Sunday School and Meeting House, and jobs are waiting in a mill for both father and mother. This mill makes excellent arrangements for children, so the family are fortunate indeed.

Mr Kwarciany, of Hemel Hempstead's family is already in work. When

the family arrived the WVS Centre Organiser gave him the key and says she was as much overcome as he was. He opened the door and stood back to let his wife enter first—one thing they have not lost in their life in camps is their innate courtesy.

The Filipiuk family who are now at home in Southery, near Downham Market, had a tremendous reception, almost too overwhelming. They were met by the Chairman of the R.D.C. and Councillors and the Press.

The Berny family are Czech and there are two children. On their arrival at their new home in Royston they said: 'We just could not believe there were people who would give something for nothing'. They love their garden and have already dug and cleared it. What surprised them most was that people kept on popping in to welcome them; 'we had always heard that the English were so reserved' they said.

All of us who were concerned with these families are feeling how worthwhile these WVS Sponsorships are. Seeing and talking to these people who will now be at home in Britain makes us wish that many many others could be given the same chances for happiness and a life of hope and opportunity for the children. We pray that their new country may indeed prove to be 'Arcadia' for them.

Tea in their new home. Mrs Filipiuk and Barbara enjoy a cake served by WVS. Watching them is the chairman of Downham Rural Council who prompted the Council to allocate a house to refugees

The Kociuba Family Of Barnby Dun

The first report to reach Headquarters

The WVS Area Organiser with the Kociuba Family

Doncaster Gazette

ON Wednesday, 28th September our eagerly awaited refugee family arrived. The house was ready for occupation. Beds were aired, windows cleaned, fires made, flowers arranged, larder stocked with suitable foods (the gift of R.A.F., Lindholme) toys and books waiting for the children, coal place filled with coal and firewood, (the gift of the local coal merchant) dishes filled with fresh fruit, a meal of goulash (prepared by one of our members) with fruit, cream and cakes for afters, and above all, a very warm welcome was awaiting the family. The children were quickly at home, enjoying the delights of a bathroom with plenty of hot water. But the father was very bewildered with the reception he had

received in London, at Doncaster station and his home.

When Mrs Kociuba arrived at Doncaster station it was decided in her own interests and the fact that she had a long and tiring journey, that she should be taken straight to Tickhill Rd. Sanatorium. That evening the Clerk to the Council called at my home to take Mr Kociuba to see his wife whilst I stayed with the children. The Medical Officer of Health gave permission to bring Mrs Kociuba home for the week-end to see her new home, but we drove her round Doncaster first, showing her places of interest, the main shopping centre and the market, which pleased her very much.

After looking over her new home she was so overcome that she said she found it difficult to express her feelings (she speaks and understands English very well). The greatest joy to her was a sewing machine and she is looking forward to many happy hours of sewing when she is cured and able to return home. I explained to her the necessity of going back into hospital for further treatment but this would be the first of many visits until she finally returned home. As she felt lonely in hospital I arranged for knitting wools, needles and patterns to be delivered to her as she had previously expressed a wish to knit for the boys.

It was arranged for a home help to come to the house and clean whilst the father was at work, but he expressed the wish to do the housework himself and from what I have seen is very capable of doing so; he had kept the house very clean and tidy and also done the boys' washing. The home help is going into the house at 8 a.m.,

however, to see the boys off to school. Mr Kociuba has begun work in a Landscape Garden firm in Kirk Sandall and the three boys have started school at Barnby Dun, having free dinners there, and one of the masters is giving the boys tuition in English. A neighbour (herself a Pole) is going to see to the children when they come home from school until the father arrives home from work.

One of the neighbours gave a party and invited all the children in the Avenue to welcome the Kociuba children.

I visited the family a week later and am pleased to report that they have all settled down very well and are extremely happy. From now on I will pay periodical visits until they are properly rehabilitated. All the hard work that has been spent in the home has been well worthwhile and I am confident that we have good future citizens in the Kociuba family. *M.M. Hanson*
Area Organiser, Doncaster.

***The last
touches
to a home
for a
refugee
family***

SEEN AND HEARD AT BRIGHTON C.C.B. CONFERENCE

Lord Pakenham's Speech

IN the introduction to his address, Lord Pakenham said that he would like to point out directions in which the work of WVS might be extended, particularly in connection with mental health and the care of prisoners and ex-prisoners.

One of the new needs stemming from the Mental Health Act was to find friendly landladies who would provide lodgings and a certain amount of mothering for these mentally sub-normal people who live in the community but have no homes of their own; and for those who emerge from mental hospitals after being long-stay patients. When it came to finding work for such people WVS might know of sympathetic employers and this knowledge could be very useful to mental welfare officers.

In speaking of the social services in general, Lord Pakenham said that he believed in the application of the Beveridge idea—that the State provides the floor and that voluntary action should then be encouraged to build up to the ceiling. He knew of the work that WVS was doing for women prisoners, but believed that they could do as much for the far greater number of male prisoners. Properly understood,

the Welfare State and voluntary action do not contradict, but supplement one another: 'The voluntary spirit is the very life-blood of democracy.... Democracy without voluntary exertion and voluntary idealism loses its soul.' It was, he said, the duty of voluntary action.... to undertake today what the State may recognise as its responsibility tomorrow, since the public conscience is often slow. The dangers of forgetting that no two human beings are ever exactly alike would be familiar to WVS; also the fact that the advantage of a voluntary, as opposed to a statutory service lies in its flexibility, both in the material and in the human sense. It was obvious that the average citizen had something to offer apart from money, some kind of service he or she could usefully render, and if this could be organised and canalised, the community simply must benefit. 'We need the spirit of dedication to the community, the inspiration of the voluntary principle throughout our whole national life... Among the many voluntary bodies of which this country is so justly proud... none is better equipped than the WVS to set the kind of example which I have tried to indicate.'

Unusual WVS Activities

WVS give hospitality to wives visiting their husbands at an isolated Open Prison near Newton Stewart. The men are allowed out on 4 hourly parole. WVS may also have the prisoners out on Sundays on application to the Governor.

Members sit with handicapped children whilst mothers shop, and in the even-

ings so that parents can go out together.

Drivers now escort delinquent children of eleven to twelve years of age from a new remand home to a Clinic for treatment.

WVS has been asked to befriend sub-normal children living in hostels.

IN PRISON AND OUT

This article from a Special Correspondent, reprinted from 'The Times' of October 17th, 1960 has a close connection with Lord Pakenham's speech.

There are over 1,000 women in Britain's total prison population of 26,000, and in the past few years their numbers have been falling while the figures for male offenders continue to rise. For these reasons, the important work of voluntary prison aftercare for women often tends to be overshadowed in current public discussions on penal reform, with attention concentrated instead on ways of improving and extending what is done to help the much larger army of discharged men prisoners.

The services of women both as trained social workers and on a voluntary basis are likely to be needed more and more in future, not only to help in the rehabilitation of women prisoners but also to assist in similar work for men.

Two women have been appointed by the National Association of Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies as welfare officers in men's prisons. The appointments are among arrangements for voluntary prison after-care now going forward as a result of the Maxwell committee's report, published in 1953, on prisoner's aid societies.

The committee's proposals were aimed at swinging the emphasis of these societies' work away from material 'aid on discharge' to the more important duty of providing selected prisoners with 'advice, guidance and friendship' after their release.

As the families of those in their care often live a long way from the prison, these officers have to rely on the co-operation of a suitable organization in the prisoner's home area for liaison with his family.

Two years ago, therefore, an arrangement was made whereby prison welfare officers could call on members of the Women's Voluntary Service to undertake home visits on behalf of men prisoners anxious about family problems of a nature not requiring the

services of a trained social worker.

Absence of letters from home is a common cause of worry, for in prison no news is bad news. It may be that the prisoner's wife is ill, or incapable of writing a letter; in which case the visitor will help her and let the husband know what the trouble is. But whatever the difficulty, it is important for these worries to be resolved rapidly, otherwise it has been found that they can bite so deep into a man's mind that he will be incapable of responding while in prison to advice and education aimed at rebuilding his future after release.

In the few men's prisons where this WVS service was started the arrangement proved so successful that it has now been made available with the approval of the Prison Commissioners, to prison welfare officers throughout the country.

The work began in a small way at Holloway Prison with 'evening interviewing' of women sentenced in the courts that day. Designed to deal with urgent domestic problems arising out of a woman's sudden removal from her family—'husband at work, children with neighbours, dog somewhere else', the service now occupies 24 interviewers who see more than 2,500 women a year. They arrange, through the regional organization of the WVS, for any necessary action to be taken by another member in the prisoner's home area, often a long way from London.

The success of this work has led to the introduction of a more ambitious scheme of 'after-care' for women 'star' prisoners (first offenders). Nearly 70 per cent of women in prison are there for minor offences, serving sentences of three months or less, a period scarcely long enough for any sort of education in prison to make a lasting impression.

The Holloway Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society asked the WVS if they could devise some way of keeping in touch with these women for a year

Continued

after release. The result was the 'WVS Friends' scheme, introduced experimentally at Holloway in 1952 and since extended to Hill Hall open prison, and the women's wings of Manchester and Birmingham prisons.

The service is provided only when the prisoner agrees; and in Holloway just under half of the women told about the scheme say they would like to take part. Each one is put in touch, through the WVS regional office in her home area, with a suitable 'Friend' of roughly her own age, who undertakes to visit her once a week for a month after her release—usually the most difficult period of readjustment—and thereafter once a month for a year. A particularly thoughtful rule is that no member may befriend more than one ex-prisoner at a time.

Each Friend is provided in strict confidence with all available information about the woman and her family, to help in understanding her background. And regular written progress reports are sent to help prison authorities in their study of problems facing ex-prisoners.

A Friend becomes invaluable as a safety valve—a sympathetic, impartial outsider unconnected with the family

or neighbours, to whom a woman can unburden herself freely without fear of sneering references later to her past.

Many leaving prison face serious financial problems, and some return to homes denuded of furniture because hire-purchase payments have stopped. Excessive hire-purchase commitments are the prime cause of money worries likely to lead women into crimes that could land them in prison again.

Furniture or clothing is provided in some cases by the WVS; and for ex-prisoners in really desperate circumstances, grants are made by the D.P.A.S. But it is the Friend's job, whenever possible, to help a woman sort out debts independently, encouraging self-reliance and commonsense budgeting.

About 170 members of the WVS are engaged in this work, and so far have provided the aid societies with reports on 700 complete years of Friendship. When 1,000 have been completed, research will be carried out to determine the effect of the scheme on preventing relapse into crime. Meanwhile there is plenty of room for additional help, from women of integrity, sense and tenacity, in this and other sections of this expanding department of WVS.

Refugees Today

(From Mrs Vere Barker's Appeal)

MRS Vere Barker, one of the WVS members for Refugee work in Germany, reminded everyone that the only thing that truly mattered was the individual. Refugees are not numbers, nor are they names on official documents—they are real people. Since the adoption of a refugee was something that might last for years, reliability in the adopter was of the utmost importance. It should be remembered, if the response of the refugee was not as spontaneous as expected, that WVS was dealing with the hard core of refugees, people who for years had lived without hope; so that adopters must be patient and wait for their

response. One had only to think of the years of despair, of fear and of privation to realise how hard it was for the refugees to believe that there was anyone who cared what became of them. However, WVS, once unknown, are now very welcome; they bring hope because they are understanding and, above all, patient.

Mrs Vere Barker begged the delegates to adopt single refugees, since these are the loneliest of all. She stressed also, that if financial means are lacking, the writing of a letter to a refugee will bring perhaps the greatest happiness of all.

(Continued overleaf)

HINTS FOR ADOPTERS

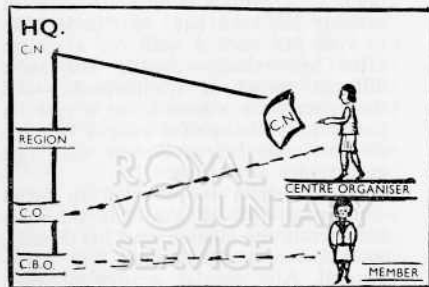
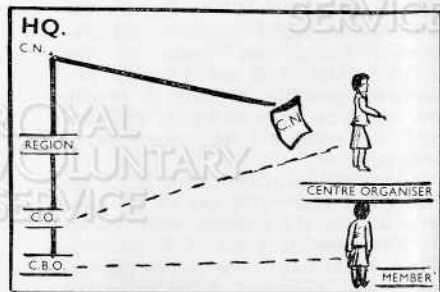
Always read the 'Notes for Guidance' before writing the first letter to a refugee.

Never write in English. Letters can be sent direct to Headquarters for translation if no local translator can be found.

Requests for monetary help in excess of say, £5, may be referred to Headquarters for advice.

When sending parcels always use the special customs labels. Supplies may be applied for through the usual channels.

THE TRAVELS OF A CIRCULAR NOTICE



WHEN giving her talk, the Training Specialist from Headquarters produced this original chart illustrating the journey of a C.N.—the reluctance of the Organiser to deal with it at once, and the consequent delay in

reaching the worker. After suggesting ways in which it might be hastened, she adroitly turned the figures to face the C.N. eagerly, as in the second diagram.

ON ITS WAY NOW !

Christmas and New Year's Mail

Magazines, Books & Games for H.M. Forces (Extracts from C.N.S.W.5/60)

This Christmas we are very anxious to send out more bound books, jigsaw puzzles, playing cards and games, such as chess, draughts, monopoly etc., to Servicemen in the Middle East, Kenya, Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore, and particularly to send large quantities to four Units which have just arrived in the Cameroons, where the rainfall is 400 inches a year, and to the R.A.F. on Gan Island, a tiny coral atoll—the nearest place to it being Ceylon, 500 miles away.

Perhaps you could make a special

appeal locally to the Churches, the Public Library, Bridge Clubs, Organisations such as Young Farmers, Rotarians, Round Table; and to boys' Grammar and Secondary Schools for Thrillers, Westerns and Comics.

When you have collected a fair amount, ask your County Office if they are sending down books and games; if so perhaps yours could go with them to the Services Welfare Book Room, WVS Headquarters, 41 Tothill Street, London, S.W.1. for free transport all over the world which has been granted them.

ROYAL

ROYAL

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE

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HOME PAGE

Christmas Presents

don't need to cost pounds and pounds to be acceptable and welcome. Shops are crammed with gifts so attractive you will want to keep them yourself, and many useful enough for the lucky recipient to keep them for every day. Here is the pick: 45 encouraging suggestions, half of which cost 10s. or under, and nearly all the rest are under the £1 mark. If you want to know where to find anything, we will be glad to tell you. Just write to: Home Page, WVS Headquarters, 41 Tothill Street, London, S.W.1.

Presents with a specially personal thought:

Long-term gift for gardeners: a West Country nursery sends rosebushes anywhere in the British Isles, from 7s. 6d. For town cousins, a potted bay tree, from 12s. 6d.

Scores of uses: an initialled pigskin case holding 250 sticky labels printed with name and address, plus 250 refills, 12s. 6d. for first order, for each extra person 10s.

Reproduction Speed maps under heavy glass for an intriguing paper-weight; choose the county of the recipient, 21s. More plants, this time a rosemary bush for the culinary, 4s.

For those with time to spare, buy a pair of hand towels and embroider with an initial. Many delicious colours to choose from, especially coral, 3s. 11d. For a really lavish present, one Scotch whisky firm sends each bottle with the recipient's name inscribed on the label, per bottle 45s.

Transfer lettering—to be applied with restraint!—makes leather, glass or wooden gifts more personal. Or buy some plain jars and make an impressive set of spice pots. Special set of 200 gold letters, 3s. 6d.

As MEN are notoriously difficult to give presents to, what about:

A map-reading magnifying glass with

built-in torch for motorists, 12s. 6d.

For nephews' dinners à deux, a new ¾-sized bottle of wine, with 5 choices including Beaujolais, Macon Blanc,



*Tie on label
in red and
white*

Pouilly Fuisse, 7s. to 9s.

Shaggy rug for car or home, good-looking in nutmegs and black, 63s.

Manly towels—especially for Scots!—in 18 tartans. Hand towel 13s. 11d.

To be thoroughly practical and useful, give him a transparent plastic film to prevent steaming on bathroom mirror or car rear window. Christmas-packed, 7s. 11d.

Unlimited choice with books or records. Penguin's new range of 25 is splendid: what about Churchill's 'The Gathering Storm' at 7s. 6d. 'The Organisation Man' by William H. Whyte, 3s. 6d., or 'The Art of Living' by André Maurois, 3s. 6d.



Design in blue, red and white

AND FOR WOMEN, you only have to walk into a shop to be prompted by 1001 deliciously pretty things.

Good hunting ground is a Dover Street shop which gift-wraps delightfully free of charge. Specialises in lovely ornaments for her person and home at every price. Best value: blue opaline dressing table bottles with large bobbly tops, 12s.

For winter glow, a warm-toned necklace of vast 'pearls', 15s.

Adventurous sisters or nieces might try the joys of Turkish coffee. Give a sample packet of coffee with a long-handled copper pot, 15s. 2d.

Oven gloves pretty enough to come to the table, in crisp Nordic patterns and colours, 7s. 6d.

New-look glass cloths make a usefully decorative token: choose the subtly-coloured prizewinner with its misty outline design of glass forms, 4s. 11d. For the girl with everything: a huge water-filled glass tear or raindrop for a paperweight or to hang on an invisible thread, 6s.

FOR THE YOUNG

Toys for the spoilt: endearing hand made bears, each with its own personality, 10s. 6d. or one of a tribe of mice; among them a duchess, a buccaneer, a doctor, each 7s. 6d.

Be considerate towards the rest of the family and give interlocking rubber bricks to budding architects; they aren't noisy and don't scratch, 10s. 6d. a set. Precocious children who want to emulate their elders can try Bingo Roulette, 9s. 11d.

Paints that promise not to drip or spill seem a good idea, 13s. 6d. a box.

Launcher with rubber-nosed guided missile, 5s. 6d.

For amateur photographers, the Kodak Brownie 127 complete with case and 2 rolls of film is only 36s. 6d.

Those who like to see how their savings are progressing will appreciate a large, nobbly blue glass piggy bank from Denmark, 9s.

Stocking-filler: a make-it-yourself Hovercraft in 46 plastic parts, 3s.

AND FOR HOME AND FAMILY: more decorative, useful presents than ever.

Marvellous value is a huge, attractive English stoneware pot with lid, big enough to hold Irish stew for 10, only 5s. 3d.

In these days of round-the-year frozen corn-on-the-cob, give stubby skewers with a Georgian silver air 7s. 6d. a pair.

Give a new look to beds inexpensively with a boxed set of two pretty pillow-cases, in many patterns, 17s. 6d. (also sheets to match).

Gardening tools for window-box owners, bamboo-handled in matching holder, 15s.

Heavy carafe in dusky glass with thick seal, 12s. 9d.

More Penguins: this time 'The Penguin Dictionary of Quotations', 10s. 6d. Most marvellous present for marrieds who like different temperatures: a washable electric blanket with individual heat regulation for each side, £15 15s.

For great-aunts with a sweet tooth: honey from one of the most authoritative food stores in London, English honey 4s. 9d., pottery urns of Hymettus honey or of almost any blossom you can name, 11s. 6d.

Chichester's friendly maps and shopping guides of London are choc-à-bloc with essential information, leather bound 21s.

Grass mats in several colours, with

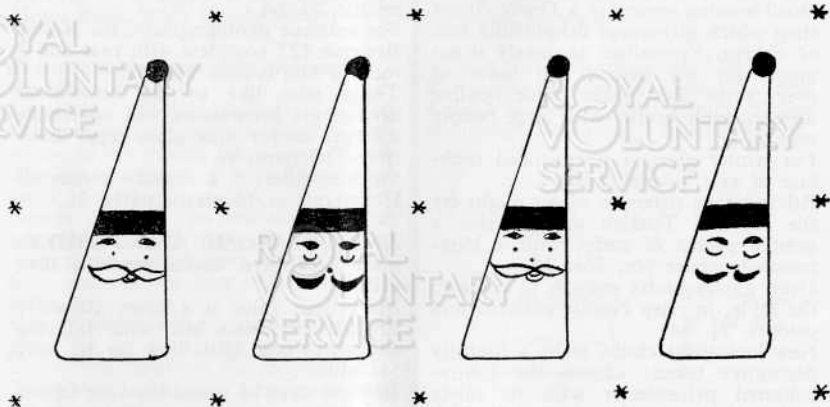
discreet gold thread, only 2s. each.

Not enough people realise the delicious necessity of having a pepper mill: enlighten them for 17s. 6d. with a pack that includes a trial bag of pepper corns.

To encourage the family to cherish their figures, bathroom scales from £2 18s. 6d.

Charmer is a porcelain lavatory handle with flowery pattern, 12s. 6d.

WRAPPING IT UP



Wrapping paper in red and white on midnight blue

Half the fun of presents is seeing them look tempting before they are opened and this promises to be the best looking Christmas ever for presents. After years of making do with tissue or fussy, indistinctively patterned papers, we are at last being offered better designs and ideas. The motifs on this page are taken from a series of papers designed by William de Majo, 4s. for a 15ft roll or 6d. a sheet, with ribbons and tags to match.

A greetings card firm is importing papers from their American relation for the first time this year, with many crisp, gay patterns in black, white and bright red. They also have a self-adhesive ribbon that makes the most professional-looking bows and spikes possible and a book of what to do with ribbon is offered for the experimental. But those without time or patience can buy the prettiest ready-made pompons, with matching hanks of ribbon, either in traditional Christmas colours or white-striped pastels. But you can still make a present look spectacular with crisp, white tissue and bright, bold ribbon. Or stick coloured foil stars in a random group in one corner, they are only 9d. for an uncountable number.

Sea Witch

Comes

Home

by Malcolm Saville

Recommended for
Children of 11 upwards

SOME members may remember reading 'Lone Pine' adventure stories in their early teens. This book is the latest to come from the pen of author Malcolm Saville, whose ability to write a tremendously exciting story is not to be questioned.

This adventure is set in East Anglia, where David Morton, aged 17 and his twin brother and sister, aged 10, once more become involved in an exciting mystery. Their friends Paul and Rose Channing have asked them to help to discover the whereabouts of their father who has disappeared in his yacht 'Sea Witch'.

The mystery deepens. Several paintings are reported stolen and somehow Mr Channing is mixed up in it. Later the children find that 'Sea Witch' has returned to harbour, but there is still no sign of her owner. The appearance of several strangers in the district, all inquiring for Mr Channing, further confuses the issue.

The story follows through to a thrilling climax, then the shingle banks and walls protecting the lowlands from the north sea slowly crumble and allow the angry waves to penetrate several miles inland—which actually happened in 1953. The author describes vividly the preparations to evacuate whole villages before the onslaught and how the WVS requisition church halls and barns on higher ground to deal with large numbers of refugees. Canteens are set up to make ready hot food and drinks—large bales of clothing are stocked in readiness and sleeping quarters are arranged. Much local help is forthcoming and WVS deals ably with the emergency.

It is good to realise that WVS (or 'our service') and its work is being brought to the attention of the younger generation, which otherwise may not have heard about it or know anything at all of its importance in the community.

MOOR HAVEN

MOOR Haven is a home operated by the Leeds City Council for the benefit of some forty aged people of both sexes who are blind, or partially sighted and deaf. The home is under the immediate control of a male warden and a female subwarden, both of whom are resident, together with other necessary staff who come from outside. The number of staff is usually below establishment. The warden and subwarden are virtually 'on tap' for 24 hours each day and, when residents are ill, (which is frequently the case) their duties become really arduous.

To help to relieve the pressure upon the staff, and to add variety to the lives of the residents, members of the WVS visit the home at regular times, undertaking light duties of a recreational nature. In my case I act as a correspondent on behalf of any who may wish to communicate by letter with relatives or friends, or who may have to conduct business of a personal nature with firms or other organisa-

tions. This type of work is always undertaken in the person's private room. In addition, some twenty minutes or so is spent in the lounge each visiting day when selections from the local newspapers are followed with great interest. I also make a point of chatting to as many of the old people as possible because they enjoy cheery conversation.

My work also extends outside Moor Haven. I post the letters written earlier in the day, make purchases and, if the day is fine, occasionally take a person for a walk. Once I was asked to effect a reconciliation between a daughter and her aged mother, but this was unsuccessful because the daughter refused to see me.

I find the work most enjoyable. It calls for tact, patience and cheerfulness, and in the case of the deaf, a very loud voice. This last quality I am said to possess to a marked degree!

C. M. Whitehead

An Unusual Darby and Joan Club, Wales

ACTUALLY the number of Portuguese members at the Abercrave Darby & Joan Club is small—until recently only four, and this has now been reduced to three because one has died. It was on behalf of the latter that I wrote to the Consul asking if he could let me know how to procure some records of Portuguese folk songs as our member Mr José was suffering from a long incurable illness and he longed to have some contact with his native country. The Consul wrote to Portugal and two records were flown to us from Madrid—a gift to the club. I borrowed a record player for Mr José and he had a lot of pleasure from these records while he lived. The following year the Consul sent us two long playing records on loan. In addition to the Portuguese members we have several

Spanish members. The Portuguese and Spaniards came over to this Country before the first World War to work in the Merthyr Steel Works. During a strike they came to Abercrave to work in the mines as they had no money. The local people built them huts in which to live and since then they have become part of the community.

The original immigrants still speak Portuguese or Spanish and their English is frequently poor. Their children and grand-children, however, speak three languages—Portuguese or Spanish, Welsh and English—and many have done well in life. The older people have found the club a very happy place and have made more friends during the last four years than during their previous forty years' residence in Abercrave.

REPORTS FROM EVERYWHERE

Naval Occasions at Lisbon

WVS Lisbon has found a new way of lending a helping hand. When British Naval ships visit the port an Information Bureau on the quay is manned by members who give help and advice on everything a sailor could want under the Portuguese sun, as well as acting as interpreters. Apart from giving the usual shopping and transport directions, helpers are never sur-

prised at what they are asked to do, from sending flowers to lady friends to hurrying up the delivery of cabbages from the ship chandlers. Such is now the fame of the Bureau that on a recent visit of combined N.A.T.A. ships WVS found they were helping sailors of five or six nations, which called for considerable mental acrobatics from the helpers.

*WVS West Kent load a first consignment of layettes at Maidstone
for Middle East Refugees*

Overcome

Everything looks so lovely at Patcham Grange WVS Nursing Home near Brighton, that an exchange patient from a chronic sick elderly ward in another hospital burst into tears at the beauty of it when she arrived saying: 'I can't believe that I am going to come here.'

John Lewis Partnership

*The Chairman after opening
the John Lewis Building. She
was presented with 3,000
nappies for Layettes for
Middle East Refugees*

Dingy yard transformed

Special thanks were given by the Matron of the East End Maternity Hospital to the Stepney WVS who 'worked so willingly for the comfort of the patients, and who had so generously presented the hospital with a lovely little fountain in the garden... Behind the wards there was once a dingy yard, filled with lines of napkins flapping in the breeze. But a miracle was worked and now you step out into a courtyard where masses of flowers are displayed in gay boxes, tubs etc. Trellis covers unsightly blemishes, and in the centre is a lovely pièce de résistance—the new fountain complete with cupid, the water splashing happily round him.'

Flood scene—Exmouth

Coming back after a Meal delivery in pouring rain, very wet and rather tired, sitting on the tail of a dustcart. The police traffic control silently counted us, grinned, and with a fine flourish of arms waved: 'Garbage this way'.

*A patchwork
quilt from East
Riding Darby &
Joan Handicraft
Exhibition held
at Cottingham*

Members please copy

An escort member from Bedfordshire travelling in uniform in the same compartment as two old ladies, was asked by them how their great niece could join the WVS and rose to the occasion magnificently by presenting them with the current issue of the WVS Bulletin and the necessary information.

Books on Wheels

Those confined to their homes by age or ill-health will have a library service on the lines of the Meals-on-Wheels service provided by Plymouth WVS who already provide one at hospitals and at Wolsey Home. The van given by the city is used to provide the service and it is hoped that volunteers will cover the whole city every week.

Another Target

Owing to an oversight, Abergavenny was not included in the list previously published of towns and villages which had reached their 1-in-5 target. Apologies from the 1-in-5 Department.

Owing to the Christmas holiday, the January issue of the Bulletin will reach you a few days late.

When is a woman not a woman?

The overseas member in Perak, Malaya writes: 'On the first of this month our new NAAFI Canteen was officially opened. I was asked to be present with the Officers. The band played and the evening proved to be an enormous success. One trooper who hadn't previously seen me was heard to remark: 'Good Heavens, there's a woman in here.'—and the reply came: 'Don't be a fool, that's the WVS!'

WVS AUTUMN MEETING

Moor Park Golf Club, 30th September, 1960

CAPTAIN'S PRIZE

Senior:	Mrs Everard	151
Junior:	Miss Tebbs	157
SENIOR SCRATCH:	Mrs Everard	84
SENIOR 1st Handicap:	Mrs Benn	88-8-80
SENIOR 2nd Handicap:	Mrs Williams	94-10-84
LAST 9 HOLES:	Mrs Cork	38½
PUTTS:	Mrs Everard	28 putts

JUNIOR SCRATCH:	Miss Tebbs	96
JUNIOR 1st Handicap:	Mrs Loake	101-16-85
JUNIOR 2nd Handicap:	Mrs Gradwell-Walker	106-19-85
LAST 9 HOLES:	Mrs Mackay	39
PUTTS:	Mrs Larratt	31
FOURSOMES		
Mrs Larratt & Mrs Wootten		18 points
Miss Lane & Mrs Baucher		16 points

LONDON CLUB

Owing to recent reconstruction an inexpensive but charming Ladies' Club in Mayfair can accept new members—young or middle-aged. Specially suited to country couples for London visits. Men associate members.

*Apply for particulars to the
Secretary*

40 SOUTH STREET, LONDON, W.1

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Rates. £1.1.0. for minimum of 3 lines, thereafter 7/6 per line.

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.

LEARN FLOWER ARRANGING at home with a specially-prepared Course by Constance Spry. Full details from: Institute of Domestic Arts, Dept. 632, Parkgate Road, S.W.11.

Work Parties! Fur Fabric or attractive useful scrap materials, new from factories. 141b parcel 17/6d. (p/p inclusive). Cash with order. I. Goldman Ltd., Cromwell Street, Leeds, 9.

Correction

It was erroneously stated in the November Bulletin that Meals were cooked by two elderly Darby & Joan Club members during the school holidays at Filey. This should have read Hornsea. Our sincere apologies to Hornsea.

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W.V.S. BULLETIN

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BUY
NOW
FOR
CHRISTMAS

WVS Christmas Card "A"

with Official Badge



4/- per dozen
including envelopes

WVS Christmas Card "B"

Informal design with WVS Badges
on a background of silver holly leaves.

4/- per dozen including envelopes



WVS Calendar
with
thirteen photographs

2/6 each
including envelope

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by Virginia Graham

Decorations by
David Langdon

3/6 each
Postage 6d. extra



WOMEN IN GREEN

by Charles Graves

A detailed history of WVS 1938—1945

5/- each Postage 6d. extra

Order the above from :

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WVS Headquarters,
41 Tothill Street, London, S.W.1**

Send CHEQUE or POSTAL ORDER
but not stamps

MONOGRAM BROOCH

In Silver 9/3

In Chromium 3/-
Monogram Clip 5/9



BRIEF CASE in green leather



24/6



17/6

HANDBAG in green plastic



3/3
KEY RING

Order the above from :

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