

# WVS/WRVS Bulletin/Magazine

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# *The* *Bulletin*

NUMBER 127

JULY, 1950

PRICE THREEPENCE

**S**OME of the gifts collected from all parts of England, Scotland and Wales for those who lost their homes and household goods in the disastrous floods at Winnipeg and fires at Quebec. Lady Reading inspecting some of the gifts with Mr. J. T. S. Lewis, of the Commonwealth Relations Office. (See also page 7).

# W.V.S. BULLETIN

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## Birthday Honours

**H**IS Majesty the King has graciously honoured the following W.V.S. members:—

### Member of the Order of the British Empire

- Miss Elizabeth Nancy Utlay COTTRILL, Regional Organiser, Region IX.
- Anne Barbara, Mrs. ELLIOT, County Organiser, Roxburghshire, Scotland.
- Frances Eleanora, Mrs. GOODBODY, formerly Regional Clothing Officer, Region IV.
- Miss Clemency Dorothea Anne GREATOREX, Regional Organiser, Region XII.
- May Isobel, Mrs LLOYD, Centre Organiser, Neath, Wales.
- Amy Halam, Mrs. MATTHEWS, Club Organiser, Overseas (Germany).
- Natalie, Mrs. TINGEY, Domestic Front Officer, London Region (now Headquarters).
- Ida, Mrs. Martin WILSON, County Organiser, Shropshire, Region IX.
- Miss May Ella WOLFE, Accounts Dept., W.V.S. Headquarters.

### British Empire Medal

- Winifred, Mrs. COOK, Deputy County Borough Organiser, Bradford, Region II.
- Miss Jessie May OWENS, W.V.S. Member, Newtown, Wales.
- Edith May, Mrs. PAYNE, W.V.S. Member, Worcester, Region IX.
- Hannah Elizabeth, Mrs. NEWTOWN PRATT, formerly Centre Organiser, Buxton, Region III.
- Catherine, Mrs. RORIE, Centre Organiser, Stevenston, Scotland.
- Ivy Marguerite, Mrs. PARK, Organiser and Collector, Street Savings Group, Grimsby, Region III.
- Miss Sarah Alice BAYES, Organiser and Collector, Savings Group, Flamborough, Region 11.

## Letters

### Troops Appreciate Magazines.

To Kingsbridge Rural District.

From Kuala Lumpur.

... I will be returning to the United Kingdom (shipping permitting) in June. I have enjoyed my time in Malaya and in particular the work in connection with the Magazine Scheme. I hope, if ever I find myself near any of the Centres or Individuals who have co-operated so splendidly in sending regular supplies of reading material, to thank them personally on behalf of the troops in Malaya, and to tell them how much the troops appreciate what is being done for them.

### Help with Ration Books.

To Region 10.

From the Food Executive Officer, Carlisle County Borough.

I feel I must write and thank you for the great assistance I have received from W.V.S. members. They have been responsible for transporting staff and new Ration Books to 39 villages in the Border Area, which is widely scattered, and in addition they have assisted in the actual distribution at the Centres. I do not know what I would have done without the co-operation of your members, and as I have written to thank each one

(Continued on page 6)

QUEEN MARY'S carpet has been bought by the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire of Canada for one hundred thousand dollars (£32,500).

This will be the minimum purchase price, as the I.O.D.E. propose to sponsor a national Canadian fund to which all Canadians can contribute, and any monies collected over and above the original one hundred thousand dollars will be added to the purchase price after expenses have been met.

## Women's Part in the Post-War World

DURING a five-day visit to London one of Mrs. Roosevelt's few public engagements was to speak to nearly 3,000 W.V.S. members in the Central Hall, Westminster. It was a memorable occasion, with the Lord Mayor of London presiding and 80 Mayors, Mayoresses and Chairmen of Urban Councils as honoured guests. The Begum Rahimtoola, wife of the High Commissioner for Pakistan, was a picturesque figure in her floral-patterned cream sari. Lady Mountbatten wore the uniform of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Lady Limerick that of the British Red Cross. Dame Frances Farrer represented the Women's Institutes. The Mayor of Westminster welcomed the official party. Sale of programmes resulted in £63 for the Lord Mayor's National Thanksgiving Fund.

The warmth of the welcome given to Mrs. Roosevelt, Lady Reading pointed out, emphasised the appreciation of the women of Great Britain for the wealth of kindness and warm friendship of the American people for this country.

Mrs. Roosevelt's subject was "Women's Part In the Post-war World."

"I do not know," she said, "whether you realise how

*(Continued overleaf)*

*Mrs. Roosevelt was welcomed by Lady Reading on arrival from Paris. Top picture shows them leaving London Airport.*

*Lower : Sir Frederick Rowland, Lord Mayor of London, greeting Mrs. Roosevelt at the Central Hall, Westminster.*

*Photographs by courtesy of (top) "Keystone" and (lower) the New York Times.*

# Women's Part in the Post-War World

(Continued from previous page)

much the women of the United States admire the way in which the women of Great Britain have carried on the work which was begun in the war and the way they are still giving voluntary service to meet the needs which have continued to be felt since the war. I think it is an astounding achievement to keep so many women giving so much in the way of regular hours of work.

## Same Qualities Needed

"I think perhaps you are better prepared than we in the United States to carry on your role in the post-war world because I believe that the qualities that were called forth during the war are the qualities needed today if we are going to win the peace. You may say it is an odd moment to talk about winning the peace when we all are thinking that peace is precarious, at least as far as Korea is concerned. But it is important to think of peace because every single thing that our Governments do must be done with the idea of strengthening the coming together of nations within the United Nations and with the idea of supporting the United Nations so that it can really carry weight and bring about the peace of the world. Sometimes conditions are difficult and we do not know what are the right decisions, but I feel sure that in this case it was a right decision to support the resolution of the Security Council of the United Nations."

## Individual Responsibility

Stressing the importance of the individual responsibility of every citizen of every democratic country in making democracy and freedom a reality, Mrs. Roosevelt said she had been impressed by the great and continued struggle between the U.S.S.R. and the point of view of the democracies.

"It is, of course, very easy to attack the democracies," she said, "because we have many shortcomings. So, as we in the United Nations sit and hear ourselves attacked I sometimes feel that this is valuable because it keeps us from being complacent and from patting ourselves on the back and saying: 'We are really doing a pretty good job.' When you hear your sins recited and then have to get up and say: 'Yes, that is so,' it keeps you humble. We know our shortcomings and those of us who care are working to improve our democracies, to check our shortcomings and to make our citizenship something we really can be proud of. But it is a curious thing; never, in all the years that I have served as a delegate (and I have not missed a meeting since 1946) have I heard any Soviet delegate say that there was anything that needed to be improved in the Soviets. That is very significant, because we are all human beings and we all make mistakes and we all

have shortcomings. Governments, who represent their peoples, also make mistakes and have shortcomings. At least we know that we have to continue to try and improve and that is one of the real things women have to do in the post-war world. They have to face the realities of the world in which they live. Women have great courage in facing reality and have proved that in many countries. No less courage is needed now than was needed during the war.

"We live in an uncertain world and uncertainty is often harder to face than certainty. When you do not know what is going to happen day by day it is hard to go forward with full energy to work on what you think is right. But we cannot afford to give way to hopelessness. Women are able to be objective and calm, to look into the future with open eyes, and realise that without vision and hope nations die.

## Live With Determination

"If we are going to win this great struggle for a peaceful world we are going to live with as much determination as we lived during the war. It is going to be harder in many ways because there is no limit. During the war we felt that there would come a day when victory would be won. We know now that after victory there is a long aftermath before you wipe out the results of the struggle. There is no date that can be set for winning the peace. We have to go on day after day, week after week, year after year; it is the way we live, in our own spheres of influence, that makes up what a nation really stands for.

"We are going to have periods of great anxiety and uncertainty and I hope we are going to come through successfully, and each time we do I think we will be that much stronger and nearer our goal. Every time we meet in the United Nations, and representatives from 59 nations come together, we have by the mere fact of meeting and discussion taken a step forward. It is a slow business, this learning to understand each other.

## Striving and Longing for Peace

"Peace is what the women of every country want more than anything else, and that is what our generation, young and old are striving and longing for—and I think we can achieve it.

*"It is going to ask of every woman full use of the qualities which you in this organisation have developed, which helped you to win not only a war, but to conquer all the difficulties which you have had to face since."*

"It is a little harder for us in the United States but I think we are going to join you in the understanding of the role that women can play in steadfastness, in courage, and in showing the kind of determination which will make the democracies hold out to the world as a whole hope of freedom and picture of achievement.

"May we all have the vision and the courage and the steadfastness to work together and to join as much as we can with the people of other nations in achieving our goal of peace for the future."

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PICTURES of W.V.S. working in London for the Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Fund were teleprinted to New York to show something of what W.V.S. are doing to help the Fund.

THE W.V.S. Golfing Society's autumn meeting will take place at Sandy Lodge Golf Club, Rickmansworth, on October 11th. Entrance forms will be sent out early in September.

## Metallic Salvage Collection

**D**UNDEE CENTRE is making a name for itself in the Salvage world. Twenty schools are now keeping their milk bottle tops for the W.V.S., and once a fortnight a collection is made which produces from three to four sacksful. This collection from the Schools is easy. The W.V.S. start at 10 o'clock, and the Headmasters have already left milk bottle tops ready in a quiet corner, so that there is no delay, and the prescribed route generally finishes up at the Cleansing Department about 12.45 p.m. There the W.V.S. have made great friends with a Pole who is in charge of a press. The sacks are emptied into this press and in a short time they are compressed into solid blocks. These are then sewn up in sacking and are ready for despatch. This process greatly facilitates the handling.

The payment for salvage has made it possible for the W.V.S. to provide Meals-on-Wheels people with a little gift on their birthdays. It also draws the citizens' attention for the need to save and, as a result, many hand in parcels of milk bottle tops to the W.V.S. Office.

On one collection recently the team were a little late on their round, and when they eventually arrived to despatch their tops in the furnace room, a woman was standing at the top of the stairs. She took one look at the W.V.S., then shouted to the Janitor, "Here's your cleaners, and I'm awa'!" Certainly, they were all feeling a little tired and grubby, but as they were all in uniform they wondered if they had been mistaken for some new uniformed branch of the Home Help Service!



## Atmosphere of Friendly Interest

"At the Darby and Joan Club bring and buy sale Lady Sherwill made a statement which should cause many people to think. So much is being done for the youth of the island, said the Bailiff's wife, that the old folk are apt to be thrust into the background.

"There is much to be said for Lady Sherwill's assertion that the old folk are apt to be forgotten in the great drive to look after the teen-agers. There must be scores who to-day live a lonely existence, friendless and poor, spending the autumn of their lives in conditions which they do not deserve.

"It is for these people that the W.V.S. Darby and Joan Club has been formed. It enables them to meet in an atmosphere of friendly interest, and imbues in them the feeling that, after all, they are not forgotten."

(Extract from a leader in the *Guernsey Press*).

## Junior W.V.S.

The 15-year-old daughter of a member suggested forming a work-party of teen-agers to make and renovate toys for the Queen Victoria Hospital. It was arranged that during the school holidays they should meet once a week to sew, and that they should also visit children in hospital. It was thought that many children came from such long distances, and for such long periods in plastic surgery cases, that they would probably not have visits from their families. The idea was received with great enthusiasm by the Almoner, and the Sister of Ward 4 said she would be very glad of help in feeding babies, making beds and the like.

The group of teen-agers were told that they could adopt Ward 4 and in no time baskets of primroses and other flowers were picked and work in the ward began. Soft toys were made and distributed to the children. Some of the teen-agers showed real enthusiasm.

(From *East Grinstead*.)

## Knitted Blanket Competition

IN a competition between some East Riding Darby and Joan Clubs prizes were given for the best knitted blanket and for the greatest number of squares made into blankets. An appeal was made through local newspapers for scraps of wool and 42 blankets were entered. Blankets were displayed in shop windows in various towns. Prize-winners were:—Most perfect blanket: Bridlington No. 1 Club, 1; Pocklington, 2; Filey, highly commended. Greatest number of squares: Bridlington No. 1 Club (993 squares, 20 blankets), 1; Filey (315 squares, 5 blankets), 2.

## Quiz Correction

The answer to Question 14 in the Old People's Quiz should have been: 646 Darby and Joan Clubs.

## LETTERS (Continued from page 2)

personally I felt I should also express my appreciation to the Regional Office.

(Note: *W.V.S. in many parts of the country once again responded to the Ministry of Food's appeal for help in the distribution of ration books. The above is a typical letter of thanks.*)

## High Standard.

From *B.O.A.R.*

The other day I took a messing and welfare meeting at which each Troop was represented. I asked for criticism on everything including W.V.S. There were no criticisms. I took my notes to be typed and opposite W.V.S. I left a blank. On collecting the typewritten copy to take to the Second-in-Command I found the following paragraph:

"The W.V.S. is to be congratulated on its high standard and excellent work in the past, and it is hoped it will continue it in the future."

As the clerk handed me back his typing he said: "You left a blank, sir, so I took the liberty of putting in this paragraph, because there is not only no criticism but there is a lot of praise."

So you see the trooper of 18 appreciated your good work, and wants it known that he appreciates it. W.V.S. "Bulletin" take note. W.V.S. out here are doing a very fine job for the men—a better job than you probably realise.

## Order Coal Now.

From the

*Chairman of the Domestic Coal Consumers' Council.*

... I would welcome any assistance your organisation may be able to give through its branches in the South of England by reminding housewives to take the fullest possible advantage of the lower summer coal prices scheme.

... The chief reason for the re-introduction of the scheme on the lines of pre-war arrangements is that the scarcity of coal, together with its relative uniform rate of production throughout the year, make it essential that both merchants and consumers—particularly in London and the South of England—should stock coal during the summer. Householders in the North traditionally buy coal all the year round but in the South demand in the last year or so has fallen away in the summer. The result has been that in the difficult months, January to March, merchants' resources for distributing the coal they receive have been strained nearly to breaking point. In addition, if merchants are not able to keep their employees fully occupied during the summer, the employees tend to drift to other employment and there is great difficulty in the winter in recruiting men fitted for the arduous work in distributing coal under wintry conditions.

It is important therefore that consumers who can do so should stock as much as they can of the 24 cwts. which is the maximum quantity allowed for consumers in the South. Coal ordered now will be cheaper than coal ordered in the winter.

## ACCOMMODATION

Small bed-sittingroom available (10/- per week) in busy W.V.S. rural district near south coast. Someone willing to help in Centre Office especially welcomed.—Box 341, *W.V.S. Bulletin*.

(Note:—Announcements will be accepted from W.V.S. members at the rate of 5/- a line; minimum two lines).

# W.V.S. Work for the Services

WHAT W.V.S. does for the Services at home and abroad was outlined at a recent meeting of the Advisory Council, which is composed of representatives of organisations associated with W.V.S.

Lady Reading, who had just returned from a week in Germany, told how the work had gone from strength to strength. She stressed the importance of setting the standard of personnel high because of the confidence which the W.V.S. uniform inspires not only among the troops, but also in senior and commanding officers.

During her tour in Germany, Lady Reading visited many units and talked to some 140 W.V.S. workers individually. She came home more than ever convinced of their growing influence for good.

Miss Saunders, who recently returned from the Far East, said that because other organisations had resumed their peacetime activities for civilians, W.V.S. working with N.A.A.F.I. had a greater responsibility for welfare work for the soldiers in Malaya.

"We have the great responsibility of representing their mothers and sisters," she said.

The intense loyalty of the women folk of the Gurkha troops, among whom she worked in Malaya and Hong Kong, was described by Miss Nunn. Pictures of the Royal family, and especially of Prince Charles, hung in every tent, she said. Work among the Gurkha women had been rewarded by increasing friendliness and improved understanding of health standards.

W.V.S. members are now working in Service Clubs in Germany, Italy, Trieste, Austria, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Middle East. They are also helping with welfare work in connection with the ground-nuts scheme in Tanganyika.

Recruits are needed for this branch of W.V.S. service. Duties include supervision of games rooms, lounges and libraries and general welfare work including arrangement of tours, competitions and other recreations for Servicemen.

Volunteers undergo probationary training before going overseas. Age limits are 25 to 45 years. An allowance is provided to cover out of pocket expenses and general living expenses.

*(Note:—We hope to publish an account of Lady Reading's visit to Germany in the August Bulletin.)*

## Token Gifts for Canada

WHEN news came of disastrous floods in Winnipeg and fires in Quebec. W.V.S. immediately asked what could be done to help. The reply came from Canada that all major rehousing requirements were amply supplied.

It was decided, therefore, to show our sympathy and some small measure of our gratitude for all the help we have had from the Dominion, that W.V.S. should send to flood and fire victims gifts of silver, copper and brass. These were collected from all parts of England, Scotland and Wales, and assembled at headquarters for repacking.

Among the oldest pieces were a tinder box in use 200 years ago, a 16th Century roasting spit, a warming-pan which saw service 100 years ago, and a pewter teapot.

There was a set of spoons made from President Paul Kruger's coins by a British prisoner-of-war

taken at Paardeburg during the Boer war, a horn-handled Georgian silver punch spoon, a Georgian silver inkstand with holes for quill pens and a little candlestick and snuffer for use in sealing letters, a Georgian silver meat skewer, a silver model of a ship's lantern, a Victorian silver-mounted moustache comb, and an old-fashioned Devon cream ladle of flat perforated brass.

A silver filagree trinket box came from Pauline Chase, the original Peter Pan in the J. M. Barrie play; a miniature was said to be the likeness of Lord Nelson.

Brass and silver candlesticks and trays; salt and pepper shakers of all sizes and shapes; horse brasses, bronze canisters, egg boilers, silver teaspoons and gravy spoons, bronze idols from Ceylon, pewter pots—these are just a few of the hundreds of gifts which have gone to Canada as tokens of the goodwill and warm sympathy which W.V.S. members see for the Canadians who lost their homes and household goods through flood or fire.

*(Picture on cover.)*



## Food News

THE Good Housewife has come into her own at last—without feeling too guilty she may use a little pure butter in her cooking, and what a difference it makes both in taste and satisfaction. The next time Cauliflower is the main dish try smothering it in 3 ozs. brown-breadcrumbs fried in 3 ozs. butter, seasoned well: and try thickening your fish sauce with just a piece of butter previously rolled in seasoned flour.

### Whitings in the Scots Way.

Choose small, perfectly fresh fish. Rub them in seasoned flour letting as much flour as possible adhere to the whittings. Place in a casserole with a good piece of butter and cook gently—but do not brown. Mince some parsley and chives or green onions, add these to a little stock and 2 tablespoonfuls of rich milk or cream. Pour this over the casserole of fish and continue cooking for a little. Equally delicious with haddock.

### "American" Potatoes to brighten a Sausage dish.

Boil in salted water as many potatoes as required but just until they can be pierced. Drain well. Place mayonnaise on waxed paper: roll the potatoes in this and then in cornflakes. Place in buttered baking pan. Toast under grill until a golden brown, turning to get all sides done.

### Ideas for the Mid-summer Party.

#### The Salad Clock.

Make a French Salad, using cold cooked potatoes cut into rings, cooked peas, carrots and parsnips cooked and diced. Add finely sliced apple and chopped gherkin and mix well with salad cream. Place on a large serving platter and have layer of dressing on top smoothed over to represent face of a clock. Cut two hard-boiled eggs into twelve slices and place them equally round the face of the clock. Cut Roman numerical figures out of strips of any vegetable but if beetroot is used do not place it in position until the last minute as the colour runs. Use 2 sticks of celery to represent the hands of the clock. Frame with slices of tomato alternating with cucumber—or chopped ham and sliced sausage.

#### Yoghourt Cream.

1 pint Yoghourt.  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Fresh Strawberries.  
Castor Sugar to taste.

Crush the fruit with a fork—raspberries may be used—and stir into the Yoghourt. Add sugar and leave in a cool place. Serve in individual glasses, decorated with whole fruits.

#### Strawberry Ice.

9 oz. Loaf Sugar.  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  pint Strawberry Juice.  
1 Lemon.  
1 pint Water.  
A little Cochineal.

Boil the sugar and  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of water for several minutes. When cool add the strawberry and lemon juice,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint cold water and a few drops of cochineal. Freeze.

And, if your sweet ration runs to Chocolate Creams, try freezing the chocolates and serve them as positively the last words.

Happy group at the South Harrow Darby and Joan Club No. 1 party.

Two of the oldest members (86 and 84) lighting the candles on the birthday cake at the second anniversary of the W.V.S. Darby and Joan Club at Newbridge (Mon.)

Members of the Newbridge Darby and Joan Club waiting to have their hair cut by W.V.S. workers.

**NUTRITION.**—Do remember that Welfare Foods are necessary all the year round—in the summer as well as in the winter.

# Spinach and Beet

(Extracts from the Diary of a Centre Organiser).

**MONDAY.** Gave the new members who have been attending the Training Talks a few type-written questions to take away and answer. Mostly very simple: "What is the address of W.V.S. Headquarters in London"—and so on. Quite unprepared for this reply to the question: "How is the correct way of sending letters and messages in W.V.S. (from Centre to County, from County to Region, from Region to Headquarters—and back again) usually described?" Answer: *The Prop or Channels*. Am extremely conscious of, and grateful for, all the "propping" I receive from the County Office, and think this term well describes the upward path of communications!

**TUESDAY.** Am always sorry for nervous speakers, and suffer agonies on their behalf, especially during their opening sentences. At a Public Meeting this afternoon the Speaker hesitated an unusual number of moments before beginning. "I came here to-day," he said at last, "hoping to hear a brilliant speech." He paused. "I was hoping to hear it from my own lips . . . but I am afraid I am going to be disappointed." The ripple of amusement which greeted his words showed that he had "got" his audience—and from then on, all went well.

**WEDNESDAY.** "Bright Young Thing" called at the office this morning to make enquiries about W.V.S. at the very moment when I had to leave for an appointment at the further end of the town. Remembering my County Organiser's words: ". . . Encourage younger women to join. We are all of us ten years older . . ."—and so on, I beamed welcomingly, thrust a copy of "How W.V.S. can serve the community" and a pencil into her hands

and told her to mark the forms of service in which she was most interested. She had left by the time I returned and Miss MacFee handed me the marked leaflet. "K.K.L." was pencilled against a great many paragraphs and my hopes rose. She had initialled, perhaps, the jobs with which she would be prepared to lend a hand? "No," Miss MacFee told me dourly, "her name's Brown—and she says she'll help with the A.C.F. Canteen." "And 'K.K.L.'?" I enquired, mystified. Miss MacFee looked down her nose. "She told me it stood for 'Kouldn't Kare Less'," she said.

**THURSDAY.** Mrs. Grouse was holding forth in her usual delightful(?) way at to-day's "Make Do and Mend" party. All the vegetables in her garden had failed; her silk sunshade, purchased only last year, had split; a frock, guaranteed "fast" colours, had faded: on and on went the tales of woe. "You're a pessimist, that's what you are," Mrs. Bright said at last. "You're like the farmer who had some chickens. 'They're a fine lot,' somebody told him, but he shook his head. 'The trouble is the old hen hatched out nine, and all of them have died on me but eight,' he said." (The rest of us laughed, but Mrs. Grouse thought the farmer's attitude quite natural. "Poor man, I expect the ninth was a pullet and all the others were cockerels," she commented.)

**FRIDAY.** Matron inculcates politeness to each new orphan very soon after his or her arrival at the Home. It is impossible, therefore, to suspect an ulterior meaning behind the words spoken by a small newcomer after her first visit to her W.V.S. Godmother's home. "Thank you so very much for having me," she said fervently to her hostess. "I've been had beautifully."

## News Flashes

### Region 1 COUNTY DURHAM

**CHESTER-LE-STREET.**—A troupe of children provided the entertainment at a recent meeting of the Darby and Joan Club. Among the children were grandchildren of members of the Club and the pride and joy on the faces of the Old People was very touching.

### Region 2 WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

**HOLMFIRTH.**—Members of the Old Folks' Club are knitting garments for the W.V.S. Clothing Exchange. These garments are beautifully knitted and are an expression of gratitude. As one member said: "It is little enough to do for for all the happiness the club gives us."

### COUNTY BOROUGH

**HUDDERSFIELD.**—W.V.S. served refreshments to the local Territorials between 11 p.m. and mid-night, before they entrained for their annual camp at Whitsun.

### Region 3

### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

**NEWARK.**—A notice was inserted in the local Press stating that the Darby and Joan Club would not be able to have an outing this year as funds did not permit. The Coach firm which had done the transport in recent years immediately placed their coaches at the disposal of the club free of charge. As already 285 names are down for this outing it will be realised that this is a very generous gesture.

**SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.**—Members ask "Is this a W.V.S. family record?" Mrs. W. of Skegby, who is an old age pensioner, her four daughters, a daughter-in-law and a daughter's sister-in-law have all been working for W.V.S. for the last ten years, undertaking everything that comes along whether pleasant or otherwise.

(Continued on page 11)

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SERVICE

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**Region 4  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**BEDFORD.**—W.V.S. received a letter from a woman in London asking if a certain clergyman was preaching on Whit Sunday. The writer had heard him preach years ago, before she went abroad, and wanted to hear him again. W.V.S. ascertained that he would be preaching, and made arrangements for her to stay for the weekend in the home of a member.

**HERTFORDSHIRE**

**HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.**—A very inebriated Irishman who, seeing the Clothing Exchange display in the window, mistook the W.V.S. Office for a Pawn Shop, was most annoyed when told that he could not pawn his overcoat.

**Region 5  
COUNTY OF LONDON**

**HACKNEY.**—The Centre Organiser, on behalf of the Council, presented the outgoing Mayor with a Standard on which the Hackney Coat of Arms had been embroidered by a W.V.S. member.

**METROPOLITAN KENT**

**BEXLEYHEATH.**—An old man, finding several people already waiting their turn in the ration book queue, addressed the W.V.S. member helping:

"How long do I wait?"

"About a quarter of an hour."

"What! With all these women? And all my washing to do?"

"If you like to leave your book, I will collect and deliver it to you later."

Voice from the back: "I thought you were a woman-hater George, fancy talking to a W.V.S. lady."

"So I am, but she's no lady"—(consternation)—"She's an angel."

The W.V.S. member delivered the new book, George was taken aback with amazement muttering: "It is the first time anyone has ever done anything for me."

**CHISELHURST AND SIDCUP.**—Within five minutes of W.V.S. receiving an appeal, an escort was found to take a child to hospital the following day. On arrival at the house the member found the child unable to speak, an epileptic mother in bed with bronchitis and two boys aged ten and twelve in the hands of the police for stealing. At the hospital there was difficulty about the child's admission because the mother had not signed the necessary form. The member waited for two hours to see the doctor and finally got the child admitted.

**METROPOLITAN SURREY**

**WALLINGTON.**—The W.V.S. Centre, which has a small shop in the main street, held a Jumble Sale and Bring-and-Buy Sale for about 10 days. As a result they sent a cheque for £105 to the Lord Mayor's National Thanksgiving Fund. They are now undertaking a house-to-house canvas for the Fund.

**MIDDLESEX**

**TWICKENHAM.**—A member of the Darby and Joan Club—an old man—thinks nothing of bicycling to Guildford and back in the same day.

A daughter has joined the Darby and Joan club where her mother is already a member.

**Region 7  
CORNWALL**

**LISKEARD.**—The Darby and Joan Club were entertained to tea by their W.V.S. Secretary and Club leader at her first Civic Reception on becoming Mayor of the town.

**SOMERSET**

**BRIDGEWATER.**—Twenty pairs of men's socks have been given to the Centre by an elderly man who was visited by W.V.S. in Hospital.

**WALES  
GLAMORGAN**

**NEATH.**—At the W.V.S. Sunshine Club for the Blind, the thrill of the month was watching the expression on the face of a 60 year old woman who is deaf, dumb and blind, as a member read a funny love story to her, using finger language on her hands.

**PENARTH.**—At the request of the local Authorities, W.V.S. helped with an exhibition in aid of the National Institute for the Blind. W.V.S. contribution was £85 7s. 8d. from the refreshment and white elephant stalls.

**MONMOUTHSHIRE**

**NEWBRIDGE.**—136 Darby and Joan club members sat down to a "Knife and Fork" tea to celebrate a double occasion. It was the second anniversary of the Club and the Diamond Wedding anniversary of a member, who was presented with a bouquet.

**Region 9  
STAFFORDSHIRE**

**KIDSGROVE.**—Members of the Darby and Joan Clubs attended a performance of "Little Women" at the invitation of the the Mayor, in his cinema.

**COUNTY BOROUGH**

**BIRMINGHAM.**—A war-time W.V.S. member, who is now very old and lives in an Alms House, has collected from the people there 10/- for the Lord Mayor's National Thanksgiving Fund. All the people in the Alms Houses who contributed have had parcels from overseas. The donation was made through the W.V.S. Office.

**SCOTLAND**

**EDINBURGH.**—Meals on wheels have celebrated their third birthday. Gifts were taken out with the meals on wheels to all the old people in the service so that they should participate in the celebrations. A birthday tea-party was also held for the drivers and helpers.

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