

## W.V.S. Pie Scheme, Northamptonshire

The W.V.S. Rural Pie Scheme operated in Northamptonshire from 1942 to 1945 throughout 250 villages, resulting in a magnificent profit of over £30,000. The Scheme was fortunate in having the able administration of Mrs. Glover and the co-operation of two excellent Pie Manufacturers in the County.

On the advice of Lady Reading, an independent Committee was set up in 1944 to administer the profits, the Chairman of the County Council, the Marquess of Northampton, kindly agreeing to be Chairman of the Committee.

Many proposals were considered: a Post Natal Home, a Maternity Home, an Old People's Home. It was much hoped that the latter would prove feasible but no house could be found entirely suitable or possible to make suitable. The County Council were themselves dealing with schemes of the kind and homes for the sick were being provided through the Health Services.

After much weighing of practicable alternatives it was decided to adopt an idea of Mrs. Glover, to establish a W.V.S. Holiday Home, where past and present members of W.V.S. could spend a fortnight's rest. "Elmleigh" Dallington, on the outskirts of Northampton, has been bought for this purpose. It is a pleasant house of the local ironstone for which the County is famed, with a very attractive garden. Although near to the town, with a regular bus service within sight of the gate, it has quite a rural aspect. There are fifteen bedrooms, ten single, five double, the latter for friends or sisters. The dining room is panelled, the main hall roomy, lofty and pleasant, and a sitting room with a large bow window with window seat overlooks the garden.

It is envisaged that this House should principally serve the 9,000 past and present W.V.S. members in Northamptonshire, and that places should be used also as available by other Counties in Region 3, by Headquarters and by other Regions. The charge for the fortnight's stay will be very reasonable and could in particular cases be subsidised.

Rest and relaxation in a happy atmosphere is the objective.