

Mr. Chambers, been laying a foundation on which new and vigorous activities, as well as an expansion in both numbers of clubs and members, could be developed. These plans have had to be put aside until such times as we can function once again on an inter-club and inter-district basis. At present, clubs can operate only as individual units.

In considering suitable programmes for the coming winter, the experiences of last winter are useful. During September and October of 1939 the general atmosphere of uncertainty made it difficult for club leaders and officials to arrange activities. Further, the departure of those members who had been Territorials, the difficulty of getting suitably "blacked-out" pre-

mises, the shortage of petrol, and so on, all made meetings far from easy to arrange. Some clubs actually decided to close down, but most of them subsequently reversed this decision, and, as the winter developed, gradually resumed activity, though on a definitely limited basis.

This year the situation is much clearer. Although many members are now occupied with the Home Guard, they have some time available for club work. Clubs can also plan ahead in the light of their experiences of last winter. Further, we have the decided advantage of a clarified war situation. Although this year has brought the war much nearer to us and the situation has become extremely grave, it has at the same time converted us into a determined and united nation, in-

initely more capable of decisive action on both the fighting and the domestic fronts. Certainly, clubs are in much better spirits for an active winter's work today than they were a year ago.

Changes Made Last Year

One of the interesting developments last winter was the change in the nature of many club meetings. All clubs were thrown back on their own resources and were compelled to be much more self-contained and original. In many ways this was a real advantage. Too many clubs had far too long run their winter meetings as a mere series of lectures by visiting lecturers. But the purpose of a club is not merely to give the members the views of outsiders and a series of hints on up-to-date farming; it is also to ascertain the views and ideas of its own members and to train and develop their ability to reason, to argue, and to express their own point of view.

It would appear that since the war began about two-thirds of the club meetings have been conducted by the members themselves, without any outside speaker, and once the members have become accustomed to doing this, and have acquired the confidence to do it, they find such meetings more interesting and more stimulating than a mere series of lectures. What is wanted is a judicious blending of lectures by outsiders with meetings in which the members themselves provide either the material for discussion or some other activity.

The difficulty of obtaining "blacked-out" premises for meetings is not now likely to arise, unless in very exceptional circumstances. Most districts have now some room suitably prepared, but where the regular meeting place of any club has not already been put right there is nothing to prevent a club, either alone, or in co-operation with another organisation using the same premises, from taking steps to "black-out" a room sufficiently large for the purpose. Any club, if it is healthy and virile, more especially if there are girl members, as there ought to be in every club, could easily make this its first activity for this winter.

Broader Activities

War experience provides us with the opportunity of developing club activities along broader and more beneficial lines. It has always been too narrow a conception of the movement's objects to look on a club merely as a means of arranging a few visits to judge livestock in summer, with a few lectures on farming and an odd dance in winter. We should strive not only to

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- B** Is a Mortgagee liable for Local Body Rates?
- C** What are the arguments for and against a standard valuation of live stock for the purposes of keeping accounts?

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