THE LANDFRAU has two problems uppermost in her mind. Her primary concern, as is the case with all Germans no matter where they live, is the securing of food. She tells of the endless hours of toil she spends in helping her husband cultivate their widely separated strips of land to produce food and feed, of her household duties performed with the most primitive of equipment, and of the never-ending routine of caring for the farm animals. She thinks that if more efficient home and farm equipment were available, this problem would be greatly minimized. Metal must be allocated for the farmers, if food for the families of Germany is to be produced, she believes.

The second cause of worry which the rural women always mention is that of the refugees. Almost every farm house is filled to over-flowing with this unfortunate group of people. I have been into homes where the size of the family has been doubled or tripled by additions of people from the Soviet- and Polish-administered areas of former Germany and other eastern countries. The housewives' attitude toward these "new citizens" is surprisingly sympathetic. Sometimes she admiringly says that the people are energetic, and again she merely makes the statement that they will not work. The factor which troubles her most in regard to the refugees is the overcrowded condition of her home.

THE GERMAN farm woman surprised me in being interested in certain phases of government. She wants representation on local committees with which she is concerned. For example, she says that she does all the work connected with the production of milk in her home. She, therefore, considers that she has a right to be represented on the committees which make the policies regarding milk deliveries. She also wishes a voice in making decisions concerning housing and education.

I am convinced that the farm woman in Germany is thinking for herself and not always as "her man" thinks. For example, a group of women from very small farms told me that they were all in favor of land consolidation. I asked if their husbands agreed that this was a good plan. With one accord they shook their heads, and said that the men clung to tradition and refused to see the advantage in labor-saving which the consolidation would bring.

Another Landfrau told me that German women are tougher and not so easily discouraged as men. As an example of this she said that a refugee dentist had offered to examine the teeth of all school children in the village and do the necessary dental work at a very low cost. The men held a meeting to discuss this, and finally said, "Why repair the children's teeth—we have so little to eat." In spite of this decision, I might add, the dentist is now at work!

I HAVE SEEN farm girls and women in their homes, in their fields, in community meetings and in one large bizonal meeting. It is hard for them to think beyond the insurmountable difficulties of the present day. These are so close and pressing! Occasionally they catch a glimpse of possibilities for the future. The basis of most of these, involve increased educational opportunities for their sons and daughters.

These people need trained leadership. They are not Imaginative nor ingenious, and have had no contact with modern ideas from the outside world. If the right kind of leadership can be furnished, I have an idea that the farm women of Germany will be a potent force in rebuilding Germany into a democracy.