

Matilda.



Price 9^d.
Post 1d. extra

AN OFFICIAL TREASURE BAG OF GUIDERS' INFORMATION FOR
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

HEADQUARTERS, VICTORIA . . . STATE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MALVERN
OFFICE AND SHOP 7th Floor, 60 Market St., MELBOURNE

Open Daily (Saturdays excepted) from 9.30 a.m.—5.30 p.m.

NOTICES.

The census for the 12th Annual Report shows the following figures for Victoria:—

51 Local Associations	45 Commissioners
139 Companies	44 Secretaries
33 Packs	303 Guiders
9 Ranger Companies	2952 Guides
1 Cadet Company	458 Brownies
7 Lone Companies	129 Rangers
	14 Cadets
	84 Lone Guides
	<hr/>
	4029 Total

Secretaries, please note!—It has been thought best that in future all orders for Badges be dealt with at Headquarters **only from 1st to 8th of each month.** Orders from the Equipment Depot have increased so this year, and we are so often sent "rush" orders that we feel this will ensure Secretaries having a supply of Badges available for their Districts. Will Secretaries therefore please arrange that orders for all Badges be sent to Headquarters during the first week in each month? Captains in Districts without local organisation are asked to do the same.

When Guiders are invited to visit Companies to do definite Guide work, such as testing, enrolling, addressing meetings, etc., it is, of course, understood that the visiting Guiders' expenses will be defrayed, and embarrassment might be avoided if those responsible for the invitation would hand over the amount of expenses as a matter of course. We feel that, as this is really a matter of principle, it should be done even in the case of a trifling tram-fare; though many Guiders might hesitate to accept reimbursement for small sums, unless they think the matter out apart from the personal standpoint.

Will Guiders please note that magazines ordered but not called for within a month will in future be sold, as the demand continues to exceed the supply, in spite of additional numbers arriving from England.

Exchange should be added to country cheques; receipts are not posted for amounts under 5/-.

Captains are reminded that, before deciding to hold any entertainments, Church Parades, or Field Days, the permission of the District (or Divisional) Commissioner must first be obtained.

If Guiders would write orders for equipment, etc., on separate sheets, instead of including them in the body of a letter, it would simplify, and thus hasten, the filling of the order.

Will Guiders please note that transfer forms are available, and should be filled in for any Guide leaving a Company and transferring to another District. These forms should be sent through the Guide's own Commissioner. Transfers to another State should be sent through the State Secretary.

Contributions for the March issue of "Matilda" should reach Headquarters not later than **8th February, 1927.**

The Guide Office will be closed from the evening of December 24, 1926, until Monday morning, January 10, 1927.

State Government House,
Melbourne.

Dear Guiders,

I want to wish you and your Companies a very happy Christmas and "Good Guiding" in 1927.

What a wonderful big family we are in Victoria—over 4,000 cheery people seems such a big number to be imbued with the same outlook, the same traditions and family feelings. The friendliness between us all, too, is so very real. I'm sure we all feel the same thrill of pleasure in the street or at a meeting, when we see that familiar little Trefoil shining before us, and, as we look up, we know we shall see a pair of happy frank eyes which seem to say, "Hullo—you a Guide, too? What fun life is—so much to do, to see, to enjoy! I'm so glad to meet you!" and one passes on, feeling a little happier, a little less lonely perhaps, as the little thrill passes, to become a warm little recollection. Sometimes the eyes are very solemn, and very tense, with a sort of "Life is earnest, life is sad, life is but an empty dream, and I'm trying so hard to be good" sort of expression; but I'm sure the other is the right and Baden-Powell outlook, and it has been such a pleasure that nearly all the Guides I've come across belong to the cheery Family!

Guiding seems such a wonderful opportunity to prove that it is not necessary to be naughty to be gay and cheerful; that you can be full of spirits and energy and enjoy life, the beauty of Nature, and the society of friends to the utmost, without making life ugly, noisy or cheap; that helping others can be rather fun and full of excitement, that self-control is not a bore, but an asset.

It is wonderful how sympathetic and friendly everyone is towards the Guide Movement. It has been a great pleasure to read the nice tributes that have been paid us by the various organisations and ladies and gentlemen who have accepted our invitation to join the proposed new Council. I think people are always especially kind to Scouts and Guides because they have an instinctive idea that we are nice, cheery, courteous people ready to lend a hand, and, like Kim, are "Little Friends to all the World."

It takes a bit of living up to Guide ideals, but they are worth the striving, and Victoria seems well on the right path, and to have made splendid progress in her short life.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year,
Yours sincerely,

FINOLA SOMERS,
State Commissioner.

FEDERAL COUNCIL.

Victorian Guiders will be interested to know that, on November 15, Her Excellency Lady Stonehaven held a meeting of State representatives at Federal Government House. All the States were represented, and it was decided to form a Federal Council of the Girl Guides' Association in Australia.

This Council is a proof of our growth, and should make Australia a yet stronger link in the chain of Guiding.

STATE COUNCIL.

Guiding has grown so in Victoria—we now number 4029—that it has been decided to form a Council for the Association in Victoria. Representative ladies and gentlemen, and organisations, have been asked to join this Council, and they are gladly consenting as a further proof of the wide interest felt in the Movement.

LETTER CABINET.

Princess Mary House,
Girl Guides' School of Guiding,
Foxlease, Lyndhurst, Hants.
September 13, 1926.

Dear Miss Irving,

I am writing in the name of Foxlease to thank the Guides of Victoria very much for the lovely letter cabinet which arrived last Friday. It is so beautiful, and is standing in the hall in the alcove outside "Scotland," and was used for the afternoon mail on the very day it arrived. We are all tremendously pleased with it, and it is so lovely to think that it is now looking after the whole of the Foxlease mail.

We are having a week of General Training here now, with Guiders from all parts of the world, and they are so pleased to see this very real link in the cable which the Guides of Victoria have given to us.

Will you please convey our very grateful thanks to all the Guides in Victoria for their wonderful present.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) JOYCE E. WOLTON,
Guider in Charge.

RANGERS.

Rangering is a point of view.

Rangering is fun; it is only six years old, and we are still discovering the track. We know where we want to go, and what we want to be, but how shall we do it? What will help us best? The Ranger work already prepared is a splendid beginning, but the test work is only a part of the things Rangers can do; the girls are always finding new things and helping one another.

Every girl comes to an age at which she feels that her girlhood is passing, and it is then that she needs to have placed in her way the opportunities to discover her place in the world and to fit herself into it. The Ranger is a young woman; conscious of herself as an individual. She no longer loves to run with the crowd and merge herself in the life of the Company; she has become a personality in her own eyes, and in the eyes of the world; she is unconsciously trying to establish the difference between herself and every other person. The Ranger Company should provide for every young woman the means of self-knowledge, self-reverence and self-control, and the opportunity for responsible personal service in whatever way may be chosen, in distinction to the organised corporate service of the Guides. Since the Ranger realises herself as an individual, and claims that everyone else should realise it too, the responsibilities of a citizen should be shown to her. She can be a power with the people among whom she lives; what she thinks and does will really matter to her town and nation, and it is up to her to think out her ideas, to talk with people of experience, and to become a citizen in thought and act. There are 12,000 Rangers in England, and (to quote our Gazette) "if 12,000 young women make up their minds about anything there is no limit to what they may do."

Reading, singing, dancing, acting, organising games for children, magazines, handwork of every kind—surely each Ranger will find something to do really well, and, while she discovers her own talents and possibilities, the "test work" prepares her for her future home, and

reveals the wonders of nature, and the Ranger responsibility establishes her in sympathy with the wider world.

As the sense of personality develops, a young woman often feels lonely—a need for companionship and for strong guidance; for talks and discussions suitable to people of her own age only. At this time the great bond of the Guide Sisterhood will be her greatest help. Her Promise will give her a firm grip on the things that matter, even if she is doubtful and beginning to explore the "why's" of life; the healthy games, as strenuous as she can play, the free companionship of the Company, should save her from too much introspection and unhealthy sentiment.

So Rangering is not just a different list of tests, a higher standard of badges; it should express and satisfy the ideas and aspirations which come to every girl in her natural development. Every Captain should be well satisfied when her Guides of 17 become restless; they are the natural and normal girls. But when Guides of 17 or 18 are not restless, and are content to work and play, not as leaders with a sense of service, but just as one of the Guides, then the Captain must feel that something is lacking which it is her responsibility to supply. The Guides may be shy at the thought of new companions or a little lazy at the idea of fresh adjustments, but if Guiding has brought the real spirit of adventure these things may be quickly overcome. Everyone loves to play with the children, but girls of 18 and 19 should play with the Brownies to help and train them—not with Guides of 12 and 13 as one of themselves. If the girl of 18 is really satisfied as a Guide, she needs our help and strength; she must be urged to establish her own personality—never to linger on the edge of her childhood, but to be eager to look forward to her wider world as citizen, woman and mother—

"Alert for the adventure that awaiteth us
—unknown."

G. H. SWINBURNE.

GEELONG RALLY.

November 13 was a great day for our eleven Guide Companies and our four Brownie Packs, as it was the occasion of our first Rally. We were greatly honoured by the presence of our State Commissioner, who at once won all our hearts. With her came Miss Irving, and there were also there Miss Barfus and Miss Paling.

After the March Past and Inspection by Lady Somers, the Brownies appeared to give their dance and rhymes, also songs and folk dances, followed by Inspection in the Fairy Ring and by the Grand Howl to the State Commissioner.

In quick succession the various Companies next gave an exhibition of Flag Signalling, Country Dancing, Physical Exercises and Bandaging, and finally competed in an Inter-Company Flag Race, which roused great enthusiasm.

Then the Companies formed Horseshoe, and, after handing the Cup to the captain of the winning team in the Flag Race, the State Commissioner gave us a short but inspiring address.

With the National Anthem and the dismissal, our first Rally was at an end. It only remained for us to form a Guard of Honour for Lady Somers as she left the ground.



GEELONG RALLY

THE LONE LOOK-OUT.

Well, we have been to the Land of our Lones, wonderful, wonderful Gippsland. In fact, to Wonderland.

We met Mother Nature in her gorgeous spring garb. She was wearing the tenderest, reddest gum tips we'd ever seen, in her hair. Her dress was of shaded greens, most restful, patterned here and there with sprays of tiny gum blossoms and bunches of pale gold wattle, with intoxicating perfume; while along the hem of her gown was a beautiful floral border of heath, shaded to deepest heart-blood red, green fuchsias, orchids of every delicate tint, wild boronia pink-tinted and scented, iris deep blue and pure white, and a tall shrub with wee, deep mauve flowers like an orchid.

Her feet were encased in soft green sandals of ferny moss. She trod upon a carpet of green and brown, with a fern pattern of deep, deep salmon pink and green, with bunches of tiny wild violets.

Mother Nature was wonderfully kind to us; she introduced us to some of her guests, and we saw their homes, too. Mr. and Mrs. White-winged Chough were giving their young family tea up in their flat in a tall gum tree when we called. Their home looked very cosy in appearance, somewhat like an earthenware melon with the side taken off, and the interior lined softly for the babies. Then Mrs. Magpie was at home also in an airy gum tree flat on the top story, while our tent was on the ground floor. She was very busy with the breakfast and very proud of her family. The Wagtails were all out having flying lessons—very interesting to watch; much patience was displayed on the part of the parents. A whole flock of Gang Gang parrots took a morning "rest-hour" in some tall trees near our little white home one day.

Then one day we met the Kangaroo family—three—but we didn't have much talk with them; they were in a such a hurry to get off to see a sick relative. Later we met a Lone Kangaroo; he was off to catch the express, but we were thrilled to meet them all. There were many others we met, too—all so interesting and so fond of their neat, tidy homes, and proud of their families. Everywhere they were teaching the little ones to "Be Prepared," so that when their turn to keep house comes, they know just how to begin.

So we thanked Mother Nature for her magnificent hospitality, and reluctantly returned home; but we found that Mother Nature had shown us that we "Lucky Lones" are, too, being looked after by OUR mother, the Chief Guide and the Chief Scout, who wish to be even more proud of us, their huge, huge family, than even Mother Chough is of hers, so they want us to be prepared, and to learn what a gorgeous thing it is to be alive and to serve others in our turn.

Melbourne,
November 25, 1926.

Dear Matilda,

Two of our Lone Captains have recently returned from three whole weeks of Gippsland, where they went to visit Lone Guides. They travelled by car and camped by night just where they happened to be. Can you imagine it, Matilda? They say it was too perfect. They saw Lones everywhere they went, and covered about 1300 miles altogether. The car was loaded with a wonderful assortment of things, including a larder, and tents and blankets, and frying pans, and billies, and axes, and everything;

and kit bags were perched on either side of the engine, so you can imagine what they looked like. One of the trips was from Lakes Entrance to Omeo, where they visited the 1st Omeo Company. Miss Irving was in the party on this trip, and they all had a very jolly evening. The road to Omeo follows the Tambo River for miles and miles, sometimes on a level, but nearly always going up or down; the gums were covered in bright red tips, the birds were nesting, and Spring was everywhere.

Another trip was to Buchan, where they went through the Caves; they made some new friends there in four Lone Guide Recruits, and four Lone Ranger Recruits; they are going out hiking together. The road to Buchan was in an AWFUL state, and it was quite a hard job not to get bogged; two ran along in the mud and adjusted a chain that persisted in slipping off, while the other drove, and they got through all right, but were bogged later on in another spot!

The best trip was through to Mallacoota Inlet. Unless one had been there one could have no idea of the grandeur and distance of it all. One night the Camp was pitched on the Prince's Highway, about 20 miles further on than Orbost; this was a beautiful place—the tall gums towered over everything; the ground sloped down from the road on one side and up on the other; the car was driven off the road along a track at the end of a great "hairpin" bend of the road. The next night was spent at Cann River, where there are several Lones belonging to the 2nd Company. At Cann there is only a mail twice a week, and all the Guides are very busy on their farms and in their homes. Here the Captains met Miss Reece, of the Church of England Bush Aid Society, and had tea and breakfast with her in her cottage; she was most kind, and was a Guider in England for several years, so she is helping the Lones now. The birds here are wonderful, and one could put in whole days doing nothing but stalking. The magpies, wrens, Willie wag-tails, whistlers, and many others would play round the tent at sunrise, and some even peeped in! The evening at Cann River took the form of an informal Guide discussion and plan-making out in the bush; everyone had so much to ask and so much to tell that they were all very cheerful. Suddenly the city Guiders were somewhat startled by a flying squirrel, much to the amusement of the Lones.

The next day the party went on to Genoa and Mallacoota; Genoa is 15 miles from Cann River, and there is only one house on the road. There is one Lone Guide at Genoa, and her Captain saw her on a pony outside the village and guessed who she was straight away. They met afterwards at the Post Office; they have only two mails there also. The tent was pitched that night at Mallacoota Inlet, a wonderful place and indescribable; but it had to be left all too soon.

Some days later the return journey from Bairnsdale was begun; a call was made at Glenaladale, where there are three families of Lones, who are awfully keen and know all about the bush. Here there were two enrolments—one in the afternoon and another by moonlight—it was all most thrilling. These Guides are all members of the 2nd Lone Company.

At Bundalaguah, near Sale, there was another Enrolment Ceremony, held after School, of two sisters who belong to the 4th Lone. These girls know all about the bush, too, and often go out tracking with their sister, who is a Guide also.

The next day a visit was made to a Lone at Kilmany. In the paddocks adjoining her home

there is a big lagoon usually alive with swans and other water fowl; unfortunately there were no swans to be seen on this particular afternoon, but there were some ducks.

All along the road the wild flowers were growing in profusion, and many bunches were picked of these, and of beautiful red gum tips; the Lones at Cann River had given their Captain a large bunch of wild boronia, to be left with the others at the Baby Health Centre at Bairnsdale. (The Sister was VERY grateful for these, and also for some that were left at her flat!)

They have so much to tell of it that I can't put any more in this letter, Matilda, but, if you get the grand Christmas number of the "Lone," you will be able to read all about the trip in detail.

With Guide Greetings from
LUCY, THE LONE.



HEALTH AND DIET.

The following are some notes of a talk which Dr. Florence Cooper very kindly gave to some members of the Headquarters Training Classes this month.

Much of the ill-health nowadays is caused by incorrect diet. A balanced diet is one which is planned to provide the various constituents which will help to produce growth, movement, heat in the body, without excess of any one type of food-stuff. In order that our food may do us the maximum amount of good, we need a varied diet, appetisingly cooked and served, and we should eat it slowly, whilst enjoying pleasant thoughts in congenial companionship.

Appetite is Nature's way of limiting the quantity of food taken.

A purely vegetable diet is not to be recommended on account of the quantity of food required to supply the necessary food substances.

Soup has no nutritive property if made on a basis of stock, and is bad for children. It whets the appetite and often encourages us to eat more than we need. (It is encouraging to hear, however, that tomato soup is very good for us.) Cheese, with wholemeal bread, butter, and salad forms practically a perfectly-balanced diet.

Porridge is generally spoilt by over-cooking; whole oatmeal porridge, cooked five to ten minutes, is very good, containing as it does lots of lime. Cane sugar has neither mineral salts nor protein, irritates the stomach, is only slowly absorbed, and causes intestinal fermentation; the moral is—eat more honey! On the contrary, fruit sugars are very good; orange juice, bananas, dried fruits, raisins, nuts, dates, figs are all strongly recommended. Instead of helping little children to acquire the unnatural taste of sweets (cane sugar!) let us give them nuts, raisins, etc.

Well-recommended vegetables are peas, beans, turnip-tops, spinach; but we need to realise that in boiling vegetables we throw the nourishing part down the sink in the water

they were boiled in! We should steam them, and this is thrifty in another way, too, for several kinds can be thus cooked in the same receptacle.

One of the almost perfect foodstuffs is Marmite—every day, in every way. It is very rich in iron, and therefore as good for the complexion as expensive yeast preparations!

Turnips, lettuce, tomatoes (these again every day in every way—as highly commended as oranges), potatoes, are all highly valuable as food.

A good balanced diet would include green foods, fresh or preserved fruit, and a good supply of dairy produce.

Cooking destroys the value of food; a half-hour's cooking destroys the vitamins, and the use of soda in cooking (e.g., green vegetables) ruins their food value.

There are three (really four) different kinds of vitamins, all of which are necessary to health; the total absence of any one of these is injurious, and the total absence of all results in death. Vitamin A controls the rate of growth in growing animals, and helps to build up bones and teeth; vitamin B is rarer than A, and its absence from a diet is the cause of beri beri fever; whereas scurvy is the result of a total absence of vitamin C.

The nervous system reacts very easily to diet, and the frequent headaches of the present generation could often be traced to an unwise dinner at which one had eaten much, but obtained little real nourishment. An inexpensive diet would consist of wholemeal bread, dried peas or beans, milk, butter, cheese, a little bacon and meat, fresh eggs and fresh fruit.

We all need several pints of water a day—which should be taken at the rate of several glasses **between** each meal. Constipation is caused by too little water or other liquid. Mastication is another essential for healthful food.

Early morning tea is a vice! It is not fair to make the digestive organs work so soon and unnecessarily! Mid-morning tea is not vicious, so long as it is not made the excuse for the taking of food as well; as a drink it is quite allowable, and one would then not need to take tea with one's lunch. However, fruit for the mid-morning break would be better for us. The same applies to afternoon tea, which becomes criminal if we eat "those awful sweet cakes with cream and icing." (How shall we break ourselves of the habits of a lifetime?)

After a dinner at night one needs only a simple breakfast, whereas after a light tea at night one can manage a more solid breakfast. A suggested breakfast would be lightly-cooked whole oatmeal or whole wheatmeal porridge, or wholemeal bread and butter, or wholemeal toast and honey; Marmite, fresh or dried fruits, or stewed fruit, tea or coffee.

For lunch we could have vegetable soup (preferably tomato), or an egg or vegetable dish (such as cauliflower and cheese), wholemeal bread, cheese, salads, dried or fresh fruit.

For dinner we would have four or five ounces of meat or fish, a savoury, pudding, fruit and nuts. The indiscriminate use of spices and condiments whets the appetite, with the consequence that one eats too much!

The principle to be observed for health is a balanced diet and the regular removal of waste; and the foods that we should encourage everyone, especially the children, to take in plenty are Marmite, tomatoes, oranges, wholemeal bread, green vegetables and fruit. And beware of cane sugar!

F.V.B.

OUR BROWNIE PAGE.

"Something old, something new,
Something magic, something true,
Singing in plenty, a story to tell,
And something to make you healthy and well."

That's a Brownie programme in a nutshell, and don't you think it fits in very well for the motto of our Brownie page? Something is bound to be "old" to some—something, we hope, will be "new;" the "something magic, something true," etc., will certainly depend on YOU!

Contributions are expected to pour in. Come on, Brown and Tawny Owls! Let us show our Captains what we can do. Only do it now—don't leave it till "Matilda" is out again.

A Little Talk That May Suggest Others Suitable at a Brownie Enrolment.

There was once a little girl, and her name was Daisy. She went to school all the week, and on Saturday mornings she helped Mother. In the afternoon she was allowed to do just what she liked. Daisy loved skipping, but it was often too hot; she loved her doll and all her playthings too, but, even so, she often wondered what she could do, and sometimes the Saturday afternoons seemed rather long.

One day Daisy grew extra tired of playing, so she walked down to the end of the garden where her father was gardening. This day he seemed particularly hard at work in the kitchen garden, and he looked very hot. Daisy watched him for some time, in silence, then she said, (rather aggravatingly, to be sure!), "Poor Daddy! You're **always** pulling out weeds!"

"And what do you think would happen if I didn't?" asked her father without looking up.

"What, Daddy?" asked Daisy.

"They would spread more and more, and grow stronger every day, and soon there would be no room at all left for all the lovely vegetables I want to grow for mother."

"I'll help you, Daddy," cried Daisy, suddenly, and she set to work straight away to pull up some of the nasty weeds. Daisy worked so well, and her Daddy was so pleased with her that he gave her a corner of the kitchen garden all to herself. He dug it up well and then left her to clear it, and every Saturday Daisy came to work with her father until her little patch was lovely and smooth, and clear of all weeds, bits of old roots, and little stones. Then her father showed her how to plant things, and you can imagine her joy when lots of green little plants at last appeared, and then flowers and then little beans and peas. And just imagine her excitement when these grew big enough for Mother to come and pick and for everyone to enjoy!

All this took months, of course, and all this time Daisy went on weeding, and only the best of everything was allowed to grow in her garden.

Now I always think of Daisy's garden when a Brownie is being enrolled. When a little girl comes to join our Pack she becomes a Recruit, and for some weeks is learning all sorts of things. Like Daisy, she is preparing her garden with Brown Owl's help. Then, when everything is quite, quite ready, the great day comes and our little Recruit stands by the totem and makes her promise. Now she is a real Brownie, and her little garden is quite ready to start and plant things in. But, just as weeds grew in Daisy's garden, so they will persist in growing in a Brownie's garden, too. Weeds that simply must be pulled out. Such

as spots on the uniform, tears, holes in socks, dirty hands, and other weeds such as "I don't want to," "I can't," "I'll tell on you," "Do it yourself," and many others beside! But we Brownies want a garden just as good as Daisy's, with no weeds in it at all, and every time a Brownie is enrolled it reminds us of our own little garden. So all the week let us work hard and pull out all the nasty little weeds that have come up since the last enrolment, and let us make a fresh start, and try not to let them grow again! It is the really truly Brownie who keeps on pulling out the weeds!

A General Test Game (on the Principle of "Oranges and Lemons") Played at the Last Brownie Training Class.

B.O. and T.O. make the Castle. To B.O.'s belt will attach themselves all those who cannot, say, tie their own tie; to T.O.'s belt, all those who can.

A long line is formed at the end of the room, and each Brownie takes off her tie (Recruits can be given a tie). Then one Brownie at a time walks up to the Castle, and is asked to tie her tie. If she is successful she goes behind T.O.; if she has not learnt it or has forgotten, she goes behind B.O.

This game works just as well and is over much quicker if, at the start, every Brownie takes off her tie and shakes it out; then at a given signal ties it again. At another given signal the whole line runs up to the Castle and each Brownie in turn presents her tie. The properly-tied ones run behind T.O. and those not tied behind B.O.

It is quite easy to see which side wins by counting the number on each side. But to my mind who wins is by no means the most important part of the game. What matters most is for B.O. to shoulder her responsibility and make it her business then and there to teach those who did not win! (The others could be occupied with T.O.) It is not enough to say "Dear me! Six Brownies who have forgotten to tie their tie! (or whatever it may be), "That won't do at all; we'll have to practise it more! No time to-day—next week, perhaps!" MAKE time to-day; allow for it in your programme when you are having a test game. For, after all, isn't that the most important point about a test game? Not so much to see how many can do the thing, but to make sure of those who cannot.

OWL IN WOOL.

Required:— $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. thick rug wool. A two-shade one can be made from 2 ozs. dark brown wool, 2 ozs. light brown wool mixed.

Cut two ovals the same size, and then slightly flatten one end of each. The measurements should be 7 inches from the apex of the oval to the middle of flat base, and 4 inches from side to side across. Then cut another oval inside the larger one, 1 inch from the edge, which leaves a hole in the centre.

Cut the skein of wool once through the middle, divide it into 3 or 4 parts, and wind them round the cardboard ovals until the hole in the middle is nearly filled up. An easier way is to make the skein into small balls and wind them on singly. When all the wool is on, cut round the outer edge of ovals, slip a piece of string between the two cards, and tie tightly. Then either tear the cardboard off, or slip the wool out very carefully.

The Owl is then ready to be shaped. Tie a piece of wool tightly round about a third of the way down to make the neck. For the

eyes, cut 2 rounds of white or yellow cardboard, and sew them on with round, shiny black buttons in the centres. Black lines drawn from the edge of the paper to the edge of the button are an improvement. The ears and beak are made of small three-cornered pieces of leather, which are sewn on and pinched into shape. Tuck them well into the wool, and they will hold quite firmly. Cut two larger pieces of leather for the feet, shaped something like a fleur-de-lys.

GUIDE CAMP AT BEXHILL-ON-SEA.

I badly wanted to go to at least one Guide Camp while in England, and was very lucky in being able to arrange it with Miss Kemm, C.A. for Berkshire. I said I needed all the experience I could get; Miss Kemm told me later she smiled at that, as she always provided much and varied experience.

I certainly was able to get my turn at most jobs—V.A.D.'ing (nothing serious—we were a healthy lot), Canteen, Q.M. and Cook, and some private side-shows too.

I started right in the beginning of things with an empty field with a wonderful sea view (only catch, as at Foxlease; soil was clay!). An early effort was the erection of the marquee—some effort with only three; one at ridge and two of us on the ropes in turn. The same marquee caused us many thrills; one stormy evening, when our numbers were down to 14, we were all feeding in one large bell tent. The youngsters near the door were laughing. When asked why, they said: "Oh, the marquee looks so funny!" It did, as it was executing a skirt dance with its legs in the air! Exit Guiders, without a word.

Our first Guides arrived early Wednesday afternoon, three of Dr. Barnardo's among them. They did enjoy themselves, and it was a pleasure to have them. Among other good qualities they sang delightfully; had evidently been well trained in school. The crowd arrived at 6 p.m., considerably late, despite all care and forethought. The lorries that were to convey Guides and baggage were missing. To rectify matters the authorities switched off a bus that did not have a busy route. History does not relate what the public thought. Somewhat later the baggage arrived, and, despite the delay, we were all fed, tents pitched and in bed in good time.

We were over 40 for a week—12 Guiders and bits from 5 Companies from Berkshire, Hampshire, Broughton-on-Water in Gloucestershire, and London. We could muster 5 Brown Owls out of the 12, Q.M. and Assistant both being Brown Owls. A namesake of mine was both B.O. and Commissioner, and some wag suggested we were Much More and Most B.O.

For practice most of the Guiders took it in turns to be Captain of the Day. That meant blowing the whistle and organising the programme and Prayers. It was found much simpler for each Patrol to do their own washing-up; for serving meals we lined up in a queue (not all the Guiders). It probably was quicker, and anyway never seemed so long when on the move.

The beach was a never-failing interest. We bathed most days, Guides going in in groups and each Guider being responsible for several at a time. Very few could swim, but, with longer time, several would soon have been able to do so. One of our pluckiest was our smallest Guider.

One day all except Broughton-on-Water visited Bexhill and bought presents to take

home. Broughton-on-Water toured Hastings instead.

In the evenings we had Camp Fire or Concert. Two little London Guides were being trained professionally, and they gave some wonderful turns. Broughton-on-Water came prepared with item costumes as well. One school Company favoured us with two plays written on the spot—intense melodrama, but quite clever.

Most of the Camp had just a week. It was some job getting off the big crowd. It meant an early start and a long day's journey for them. It seemed strange to be just 14 and 3 Guiders after their departure. The Broughton-on-Water Captain, Evelyn Moore, and I took on Q.M.'ing and cooking. It is marvellous what soups you can make out of oddments. Custard and blanc mange give a wonderful finish.

A Berkshire Divisional Commissioner and her Company were following us, Miss Kemm staying on for a few days with them. That meant very few tents had to come down, so we had a very easy fitting. I was the last to leave, after a lobster luncheon with the Commissioner and Miss Kemm! It seemed funny to see the Camp still standing as I passed in the train. It gave me quite a homesick feeling, especially as I was very hazy where I was spending the next night, and nearly did not have a roof tree at all—but that is another story.

M. MOORE.

DISTRICT NEWS.

The Local Association of the Hawthorn and Kew Girl Guides reports the formation of two new Companies and two Brownie Packs during the year.

The Annual Display and Exhibition of Work was most successful. In the Proficiency Badge Department, Examinations have been held in 18 subjects, and 269 Tests passed.

On Saturday, December 11, an exhibition of work done by the Guides competing for a handsome shield, presented by our enthusiastic District Commissioner, Mrs. C. H. Edmondson, will be held at the Hawthorn Town Hall. Companies will be awarded points:—

1. Best model of a Sick Room;
2. Best collection of recipes for plain dishes actually cooked by the Guides;
3. Best collection of wild flowers.

E. M. BRADSHAW,

Hon. Secretary.

HAMILTON, COLERAINE AND DISTRICT RALLY.

There was a good attendance at the Hamilton Botanical Gardens on November 6, 1926, when the Hamilton, Coleraine and District Girl Guides held their Rally and Competition for the District Shield, which was won by the 1st Hamilton Company.

The Gardens were in excellent condition, and it was an ideal spot for the purpose. About 75 Guides and about 40 Brownies were present, representing the following Companies and Packs:—1st Hamilton, 2nd Hamilton, 3rd Hamilton, 1st Wannan (Mounted), 1st Casterton, 1st Digby, and Hamilton and Coleraine Packs.

After the presentation of a Colour by the Hamilton Local Association, public proceedings opened with a Guard of Honour for the Divisional Commissioner (Mrs. Winter Cooke) and District Commissioner for Casterton (Mrs. McKay Shaw). Then the Brownies gave an

action song, concluding with their "howl." This was followed by a Guide Flag Race, then a bed-making competition by teams from each of the three Hamilton Companies. Next, the Competing teams lit fires on the path. The Guides were provided with wood and kindling, and each team had to send one of its number to get a billy of water, while the others prepared and lit the fire. When the billy boiled, tea was made and adjudicated. During the closing stages of this competition the Brownies were giving an exhibition of Scotch Ball.

Each Company in turn then had to do Company Drill on the lawn, and each put into it all the smartness they knew. After an interval the Guides gave an excellent exhibition of old English country dances—Gathering Peascods, Black Nag and Sweet Kate. Then, with the Guides formed up in horseshoe formation, Mrs. Winter Cooke presented the Shield to the 1st Hamilton Company. She said it had been fairly won, and she gave it into their keeping till they all met again. The points awarded in the Competition for the Shield were:—1st Hamilton, 60; 2nd Hamilton, 55; 3rd Hamilton, 50.

Mrs. Winter Cooke said it was exactly a year since they had held their first Rally, and she had two messages to give them from two of those who were present last year—one from their State Secretary (Miss Irving), who had telegraphed her best wishes, and the other from Lady Helena Rous, who sent her best wishes in a letter of thanks for a photograph of their Rally last year. Lady Somers, their State Commissioner, would be coming to Hamilton in December, and had expressed a wish to see the Guides of the District. It was nice to think that they would see their State Commissioner so soon in her period in Australia.

Guides had a splendid motto—"Be Prepared." The Guides prepared themselves to help others, and to help bring peace and happiness in their own environment. Lord Salisbury, speaking to the Boy Scouts at Canberra, said the highest thing in life was service. She wanted people to realise that, although the Guides got joy from their games, they were there first and foremost to serve, and to make themselves more efficient to help others. She was very sorry that 1st Monivae Company, who won the Shield last year, were prevented by an outbreak of whooping cough from competing this year. She hoped that within a year or two they would be able to have a big Divisional Rally of Guides from Branhholme, Portland and other centres in the neighbourhood.

Following the presentation, the Brownies grouped themselves in a circle, with Mrs. Winter Cooke in the centre, while Edna Woolf was presented with a First-class Badge. She was the only Brownie in the District to have gained this Badge.

After the singing of the National Anthem, the Guides cleaned up the ground, and the gardens were left (if it were possible) even more tidy than they were before the Rally commenced.

During the afternoon the music for marches and country dances was provided by the Hamilton Brass Band; afternoon tea was served by Mrs. C. P. Marshall and mothers of the Brownies, and a Jumble Stall was run by Mrs. Albert White and Mrs. Tregonning.

CASTERTON GUIDES—PRESENTATION OF COLOUR.

At the Island Park, Casterton, on Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 3 p.m., Miss Behrens (member of the Executive Committee, Imperial Headquarters,

and former Head of Training for the North of England) presented a Colour to the 1st Casterton Company of Guides, recently formed in the town. Miss Behrens reached Australia in March last in order to assist the Movement in Australia, and, after touring practically all the States, was enjoying a holiday as the guest of Major-General Sir Nevill Smyth, V.C., and Lady Smyth, at the Homestead, Kongbool, Balmoral, both of whom were present at the ceremony. Mrs. Winter Cooke, Divisional Commissioner, was also present, as well as the District Commissioner for Casterton (Mrs. McKay Shaw).

In horseshoe formation, the Guides sang the Guide Law Chant. Mrs. Winter Cooke then gave an address, in which she said that the people of Casterton had directly given the Colour, which represented all that the Guide Laws stood for, by subscribing and by patronising the stall at the recent Casterton Show, and Councillor Little, President of the Glenelg Shire Council, was going to hand the Colour over to them. Addressing the Guides, she said: "You are very fortunate so early in your Guide life to have with you Miss Behrens, who was one of the leaders of the Girl Guide Movement in Great Britain, and, since her arrival in Australia, has spared no efforts to help us all. She has spoken here, there and everywhere, and truly been an inspiration to all the Movement." Miss Behrens had shown a wonderful example by her public service in the Motherland. As the Marquis of Salisbury had said in a recent address in Australia, the greatest thing in any life was Service—Service to God, Service to our Country, and Service to our neighbours. She would like the Girl Guides to prove that it was the true spirit of Service that gave them the most pleasure, and she also wanted the public to realise that the girls rendered that service.

Councillor Little said he felt the Girl Guide Movement would be an influence for good, and he was pleased to thank the Casterton public for providing the Colour for the Casterton Company. He fully appreciated the words spoken by Mrs. Winter Cooke, and hoped the girls would live up to them. If they did, they would be a credit to themselves and the district. He had much pleasure in asking Miss Behrens to accept the Colour on behalf of the Company, and thanked them for the invitation to take part in such an interesting ceremony.

Miss Behrens, addressing the girls of the Company, said: "It is no common flag that comes to you to-day. The Colours are an emblem of duty, signifying faithfulness to God, your King and Country, and all mankind. I have pleasure in handing the flag over to you and hope you will maintain it untarnished as you receive it."

Miss Behrens went on to say that she had met Companies in Africa, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania, since leaving England, and they were linked up with Guides all over the world. Guides should never forget what a huge happy family they belong to. Each of them had 612,999 sisters—all one big family. In fact, there were even more, as the Movement was spreading all over the world, not only over the British Empire. Princess Mary had given them £10,000 to get the Movement going, and, if ever any of them got to England, they would find their own Guide home waiting to receive them. They had held a convention in England some time ago where 32 foreign countries had been represented, and every one of the delegates was bursting with happiness. They held a camp for 1200 Guides

from all parts of the world. Representatives were there from Holland, Hungary and even Iceland, and with such a gathering they realised that the League of Nations was not a dream. They had them there from South America and Chili—all members of one big family, whom they were pleased to meet as Guide sisters. She received a hearty welcome at Fremantle, where she saw the well-known uniform before the vessel reached the pier. It was not only the same uniform, but the same warm hearts under the uniform. They could think of themselves as links in a chain of love, but the chain would be no good unless they were all good links. Calling themselves Guides was no good; it was BEING Guides that meant something—living their promises that really mattered. They promised to help others; it might mean to nurse the sick, cook the meals, do anything that was needed. Guides should do the right thing at the right time, and do it right well. Find out the right thing to do, and rush in and do the right thing at the right time. They should keep their eyes on their ten Laws, be true to God and their promises, then go forward—and they could do more with Him to help. Miss Behrens concluded a bright, happy, inspirational address by saying: "You are jolly lucky girls to have this Colour, and I wish you all good luck and lots of happiness. You'll get it, I know, because you are going to give happiness."

BARNARDO GIRL GUIDES.

A party of Barnardo Girl Guides in charge of Miss Picton Turberville, Division Commissioner, a governor of the Homes, and Miss Luckhurst, District Commissioner, passed through Melbourne in October, on their way to Sydney to take up domestic work. During their stay they were entertained by the Local Association of the Hawthorn and Kew Guides, of which Mrs. C. H. Edmondson is District Commissioner.

On the first day the girls were given a picnic at the Botanical Gardens, which they enjoyed thoroughly; and on the following day Miss Daniell kindly placed the grounds of Ruyton College at the disposal of the Committee. The Ruyton Guides played basket-ball and other games with the Barnardo girls, and later served afternoon tea with fruit and sweets. It was a very happy party, and the time to return to the "Themistocles" came round all too quickly.

SIGNALLING.

On October 1, 1926, the monthly Guiders' Class was taken by Lieutenant D. Nicol, the subject being signalling.

Lieutenant Nicol explained the importance of the signals service in the army, and told of its amazing development of recent years. In the army the three methods of intercommunication are:—Regimental Signallers, for communication between units; the Corps of Signals, for all communication between G.H.Q. and Battalion H.Q.; and the Postal Corps, for all correspondence too bulky to be sent in any other manner. The work of the Corps of Signals was then discussed in more detail. This service, before the war and until about the end of 1915, was an offshoot of the Engineers, but was then created a service of its own, and from 1,600 in 1914 the numbers increased to 70,000 in 1918. The Signals Service is called "the Nerves of the Army."

In wartime, aircraft is used for "spotting" for artillery and for reconnaissance work. Message-carrying agencies used are Motor Cyclist Despatch Riders; Orderlies (either mounted or on bicycles); Runners (foot orderlies) functioning within the units; Dogs, Pigeons, Message-carrying Rockets (useful only for short distances).

Lieutenant Nicol explained the advantages and disadvantages of wireless telegraphy for military purposes, and told of some wonderful inventions to counteract disadvantages of various methods of sending.

On the subject of visual signalling, Lieutenant Nicol told how messages are conveyed to aeroplanes hovering over the "Popham Panel." He explained the Lucas Daylight Signalling Lamp, the Heliograph, which utilises the sun's rays instead of artificial light.

Flag signalling, the method Guides know, is done with two types of flags: large, which is 3 feet square, on a pole 5 feet 6 inches long, tapering from 1 inch at the butt to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at the tip, white with blue stripe; and small, which is 2 feet square, on a pole 3 feet 6 inches long, tapering from $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, same colour as large. These flags are used for sending Morse, but two of them may be used for sending semaphore. The range of visibility depends on background, atmosphere, type of telescope used; with a service telescope the large flag can be read from four to five miles, small flag two to three miles, semaphore three-quarters to one and a half miles; about half distance without telescope.

SNAKES!

Summer-time is Snake Time. Autumn, also, and rather more so. Guides, beware!

NEVER run through long grass, jump over a log, put your hand into a hollow log, pick ferns—particularly, beware of maiden-hair.

BE CAREFUL when playing hiding and stalking games.

BEWARE particularly of undergrowth near water.

ALWAYS carry a light lithe stick in snaky country.

HIT behind the head.

Can YOU find the WHY for all these things? Try!

MORE ABOUT PATROL EMBLEMS.

An excellent suggestion regarding Patrol Emblems has been made by Mr. A. D. Hardy, our Examiner for the Naturalist Badge, that a Robin Patrol should know which Robin their emblem represents.

The transfer sold at Headquarters is the Red-capped Robin, but if Guides are drawing and working their own emblems they should decide between the various members of the species.

This opens the whole question of the inaccurate naming of Australian birds and plants by the early comers to Australia. The Australian Robin does not belong to the same family as the English Robin; our Blue Crane is a Heron, and one of our true Cranes is called a Native Companion. Also with flowers—our Bluebell is quite different from the English flower of the same name.

Guides would find a good deal of interest in discovering these inaccuracies, and the reason for the mistake.

G.H.S.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Red Cord Diploma:—Miss M. E. Bush.

Division Commissioner:—Beaufort and Ballarat: Mrs. J. Fairbairn, Banongil, Skipton; Melbourne South-western Suburbs: Miss E. Simson, Trawalla, Toorak.

District Commissioner:—Mansfield: Mrs. T. F. Rutledge, Mansfield; Mentone, Mordialloc, Cheltenham: Mrs. Pigdon, Mentone Parade, Mentone; St. Kilda: Miss D. Halbert, Hadleigh Hall, Kensington Road, Sth. Yarra.

Captains—

Ainsworth, M., 1st Moonee Ponds.
Busby, Mrs., 1st Pakenham (resigned).
Britten, D. V., 1st Elsternwick.
Gillett, D., 1st Broadford.
Jones, V., 4th Camberwell.
Murray, H., 1st Ararat.
Moran, E., 4th Victorian Lones.
Neilson, M. A., 1st Casterton.
Russeil, M., 2nd Northcote.
Sedgfield, M. A., 2nd Ivanhoe.
Townsend, V., 1st Ivanhoe.
Tribe, E. M., 1st Preston.
Vance, L., 1st Surrey Hills.

Lieutenants—

Anderson, E., 1st Monbulk.
Heinrichs, E., 2nd Hamilton.
Jenkins, T., 4th Hawthorn.
Reidy, K., 1st Pakenham.
Siddle, M., 1st Monbulk.

Brown Owls—

MacDonald, J., 1st Coleraine.
Carnegie, W., 2nd Richmond.

District Secretary—

Ararat: Mrs. Bryant, Queen St., Ararat.

EXAMINATION DEPARTMENT.

The first meeting of the Sub-committee for Examinations was held at Headquarters on November 29. Suggested alterations for Tests were considered, and the Committee will be very glad to receive any ideas or suggestions, particularly from Districts in the country.

A notice which appeared in a recent G.G. Gazette is reprinted below:—

"We should be very glad to receive suggestions from those who have had experience in either instructing or examining Guides for the Handywoman's Badge, as to any improvement which could be made in the Syllabus.

"It has been suggested that in some items of this Syllabus such as Nos. 6 and 20, the knowledge required before any parent or examiner would be willing to have his house experimented on is that of a professional plumber or electrician respectively; and that no Guide can reasonably be expected to acquire this. On the other hand, it has also been suggested that in No. 10 the alternative offered of 'replacing an electric light bulb' makes a remarkably easy option, and that No. 11 is an unnecessary accomplishment.

"Will those who have had experience, both of instruction and examination, describe their methods and send in any suggestions for improvement, at the same time bearing in mind the value of real practical work."

Commissioners and Secretaries for Tests may obtain leaflets of "Hints to Instructors and Examiners" in the following subjects:—

Ambulance, Child Nurse, Sick Nurse, Hostess, Naturalist. Price: 1d. each.



CORRESPONDENCE.

Gunyah, Bendigo,
October 20, 1926.

To the Editor of "Matilda,"

Dear Miss Irving,

I am very interested in the letters of Miss Spicer and "Constant Reader" in the last "Matilda," and, just to be sure that I do not succumb to the subtle influence of procrastination, as is so often the case, I am writing at once while I have a spare minute.

I do think "Matilda" would be more welcome and more helpful as a more frequent publication, and I feel sure that a determined effort by Guides and Guiders generally would make this possible. I have noticed that in the last few issues no closing date for contributions has been given, and this, in itself, tends to procrastination, followed by a lackadaisical feeling of "too late now." Surely, if you let us know how we can help, every Guider will rise to the occasion and back you up. Then there is the question of how many Guiders know of "Matilda." Only this afternoon I was talking to a Guider who hadn't heard of "Matilda." Of course I endeavoured to persuade her to become a subscriber. Following the example of "Constant Reader," I am enclosing herewith a subscription for an introductory copy to be forwarded to someone.

Perhaps we could help "Constant Reader" in regard to one of her "Wanted to Know's," as we have just emerged triumphant from a very hectic and rather strenuous struggle to produce two little plays. But the trials and the tribulations, the heartaches and the despairs were not to be compared with our satisfaction when we found we had so successfully entertained 300 people, to say nothing of the considerable addition to Company funds, and also (from Captain's own point of view) the revelation of the characters of the Guides during the process. I feel that this, in itself, will be a tremendous help in the future running of the Company, and that perhaps no other process would have resulted in quite such a revelation.

The first little play, "To the Rescue," which was published in the Guide on January, 1925, offered considerable scope for dramatic talent, as well as instruction in health rules. Prince Boy and Princess Girl were rescued from the evil clutches of Giant Ignorance and Dame Prejudice, and restored to health by Sir Red Cross and his gallant army of Vegetables, under Captains Milk, Bread, Water and Fresh Air. Sir Red Cross and Sapiens, his guide, were suitably dressed in white, and the Prince and Princess in old-time styles carried out in blue and gold. For the Soldiers we borrowed khaki cadet trousers, made tunics and caps of crepe, dyed khaki and painted very open hessian with silver paint to resemble steel jackets, and the most wonderful Wellington boots were made out of brown packing paper, a friendly boot-maker having given us a pattern. The soldiers

were equipped with cardboard swords and shields, painted silver, and our Lieutenant and a friend of hers painted realistic looking vegetables as emblems. The Giant wore five woollen goifers, two cushions, two "Arguses" in size eight boots, a considerable amount of hayband fashioned into a wig, a false nose and a bag tunic, while his wife was draped in somebody's borrowed hall curtains and a dress which the owner (Captain's mother) had searched for to wear to the performance!

The other was a musical play called the "Playlovers," which was published in the "Ladies' Home Journal" of August, 1922, in which two lazy children learn that "all play and no work" is quite as dull as "all work and no play," as the fairies well know. The words are set to old-time populars airs, which we unearthed at Cole's, and in one instance, where we couldn't obtain the music, a musical friend composed it for us. We worked in a country dance, and an interested friend taught eight fairies a pretty little dance, which was very striking under the spotlight, and also did a most effective solo dance for us. The only dressing in this play was for the fairies and their Queen, and their dresses were all made very cheaply of butter muslin dyed. We scraped together quite an orchestra, and the pianiste earned a wonderful reputation as a conductor.

One of our Brownie-Guide Recruits' mothers produced the plays, and her husband, with the assistance of several other kindly disposed gentlemen, and the loan of some theatre scenery, succeeded in transforming a very ugly stage into a charming forest with a very imposing castle on one side, the walls of which our Lieutenant painted on brown paper.

We have been overwhelmed with compliments ever since, the only adverse criticism being that they weren't long enough, and we have been asked to repeat them. So we feel we can heartily recommend these two little plays as being very suitable for children (most of 2nd Bendigo are very young Guides) as well as entertaining and instructive, and we would be only too pleased to help with further details if anyone desired to produce them.

With very best wishes for "Matilda,"

Sincerely yours,
(Sgd.) NELL OLDFIELD,
Captain, 2nd Bendigo.

STATE BADGE.

"A Girl Guide State or Country Badge consists of either (a) a badge, i.e., a small emblem cut out in enamel or metal and representing the County or State, or (b) a small lozenge bearing upon it arms representing the County or State.

"All ranks may wear the authorised badge of their County, but sanction must first be obtained from headquarters, to whom designs for these badges should be submitted." R.P.O. 58.

Several of the Australian States have already chosen their designs, and it was decided that the badge for Victoria should be a sprig of wattle. The Executive has decided, however, to ask for further designs, which should be approximately the size of a Tenderfoot Badge and be representative of the State. Designs should be sent to the State Secretary by March 1, 1927.

TRAINING DEPARTMENT.

The Headquarters Training Classes will be in recess from December 4, 1926, till the second week in February, 1927.

A Course of Ranger Training has been planned to begin in February, 1927. Details will be announced later.

Brownie Training Classes will resume in February, 1927. It is hoped that these Classes will be held twice a month during 1927.

Monthly Lectures.—During 1926 an experiment was made of holding monthly lectures for Guiders. We shall be very glad to be given any suggestions in regard to these lectures, as their continuance, and the subjects dealt with, will depend on the suggestions received.

Training Week.—The 12th Victorian Training Week will be held from December 30, 1926, to January 6, 1927, at Alton, Macedon, through the kindness of Mrs. R. S. Whiting. Miss G. H. Swinbourne will be Commandant and Trainer, and Miss M. Sinclair Assistant Trainer.

The Week is intended to provide training in general Guide work for those who have not yet had any opportunities for attending such a Course, and preference is being given to country Guiders.

M. E. BUSH,
Acting Head of Training.

Camping Department.

A Campercraft Week will be held from January 20 to 27, 1927, at Warrandyte. This Camp will be open to any Guiders who wish to attend for Campercraft Training.

A limited number of Guiders with previous camping experience will be tested for the Camper's Licence, on the recommendation of their District Commissioner.

Lieutenants and Owls are not eligible to hold Camper's Licences, but, if recommended by their Commissioners, may enter for the Camper's Certificate. Although this Certificate does not entitle them to run Camps, except under special circumstances, holders of the Certificate can be of great assistance to Licensed Guiders.

Guiders interested in Camping are advised to read Rule 68 (R.P. & O., 1926), and to note that a Victorian Camping Rule states that only the holders of a Camper's Licence may take her Guides to a holiday Home or Indoor Camp.

M. E. BUSH,
Acting Head of Camping.

"MATILDA'S" FUTURE.

Several letters written by Guiders have expressed the need for the more frequent appearance of "Matilda," and it is very much hoped that in 1927 this will be possible. To make it so, it will really be incumbent on all of our Guiders that they become subscribers to our State Magazine. It will be seen from the report figures published in this issue that the number of Guiders in the State is now 392, and the number of subscribers to "Matilda" (and this includes some members of Local Associations, etc.) is 255, so let us hasten to make good the discrepancy, and so ensure that "Matilda" will appear each month.

EDITOR.

