

Matilda.



AN OFFICIAL TREASURE BAG OF GUIDERS' INFORMATION FOR

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

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2nd VICTORIAN GUIDERS' CONFERENCE.
13th JULY, 1929.

The Conference, which was held in the Flat Room at the University of Melbourne, by the courtesy of the Melbourne University Council, was opened by Mrs. C. H. Edmondson (Acting Division Commissioner for the Eastern Suburbs), who, on behalf of the Deputy State Commissioner, who was unable to be present at the afternoon session, welcomed the Guiders, who attended from all parts of the State. She said that all must benefit from this meeting, as the country Guiders often brought a freshness and breadth of outlook, while the town Guiders, with more opportunities for inter-change of ideas, might help the country ones, too. Mrs. Edmondson compared Guiding, not to a statue—finished and beautiful, but lifeless—but rather to something living and growing—a young child or a young tree. The tree must sink its roots very deep before it can grow very high, and will, during the progress of its growth, need watching, training, pruning and lopping off. The same may be said of the growing Guide Movement. We might all be compared with gardeners whose aim is to help the young seeds to grow, and a tiny seed may grow into a giant tree.

Mrs. Edmondson then welcomed the Guiders, and suggested that, as it was a Guiders' Conference, they should elect their own chairman, so she called for nominations. Several were submitted, and Miss Vida Walter (9th Geelong) was elected to the Chair. The questions on the agenda paper were then dealt with in order:—

1.—BROWNIES.—Can Recruits be taken into a Brownie Pack before the age of eight?

Miss Paling (Head of Brownies) asked what Guiders had found by experience. Several Guiders said they thought one could do more with children of 7 and 8, as they were much keener at that age than later. One Guider takes the names beforehand, but does not take the children into the Pack till they are eight. Miss Paling drew attention to the fact that, as a Brownie is a little girl who is learning to be a Guide later, it is really a matter for the Captain's opinion on this. If Recruits are taken into the Pack before they are 8, these Brownies will be ready to go on to Guides before they are 11, so the Captain and Brown Owl need to agree on this point. A recent issue of "The Guider" had dealt with this question, and it was there recommended that Recruits should not be taken into a Pack if under 8. (See also R.P.&O., Rule 30).

It was agreed that in special cases an exception might have to be made, in consultation with the Commissioner.

The matter was finally put to the vote, and a majority voted that no change be made in the age (8) for Brownie Recruits.

GUIDES.

1.—Should a Patrol Leader be able to take her Patrol out on a Saturday afternoon, provided that the Captain is satisfied that she can be trusted to act as a true Guide, and that no travelling will be undertaken, and that a programme beforehand and report afterward should be handed in?

Miss Hayman (1st Sandringham) spoke on this subject, to open the discussion. She said it depended largely on local conditions. If these are suitable, and the Commissioner and the Guiders' parents are agreeable, and the Guiders are willing to give the time necessary for the supervision, it can be done successfully. In her Company such outings have been found quite satisfactory, but had taken place only in winter, as she considered the summer-time had extra difficulties beyond a Patrol Leader's scope. In each case, the Captain visited the Patrol at some period of the outing, as a pre-

caution, not in the sense of an inspection. These outings were a good preparation for the First Class Half-Day Hike, but details need to be worked out separately in each District.

Discussion arose as to whether the Patrol Leader or the Captain should obtain the written permission of the parents for their daughter to go in charge of the P.L.

After discussion, it was agreed that it finally depended on the discretion of the Captain as to whether she allowed one or more of her Patrol Leaders to take the responsibility of these individual hikes.

2.—How to arrange Corner Time for a Patrol that has Second Class Guides, Guides almost Second Class, and newly-enrolled Guides.

Discussion arose about the differences between "Group Time," "Patrol Time," "Patrol in Council," "Corner Time." It was agreed that it depended on the stage and type of Company, as to whether one used only Patrol Time for the teaching of test work, or whether it was better to have the test work done in groups. In any case, Patrol-in-Council, the Patrol "committee" meeting, must not be left out, as it was the preparation for the Court of Honour meeting.

3.—Is the acquisition and wearing of badges which are easy of attainment by certain Guides who have had special education (e.g., Cook or Toymaker badge by a girl in Technical School), and is probably of higher standard than that set for the test, considered as "pot-hunting," or should the Guide take the test and wear the badge as a sign that she has special knowledge, and can use it?

Miss Swinburne opened the discussion by saying that the gaining of badges in such cases was quite justifiable, and in accordance with the purpose of badge work generally. Guiders needed to be sure that Guides had really done all the work required by the syllabus, and not just taken notes on it. A Guide who won a Proficiency Badge should keep up her practice in the work; this could be done at Company Meetings, and Captains should provide this opportunity in the programmes. A Guide who holds a badge should be determined to apply the knowledge it implies.

4.—How are Companies coping with Ranger-Age Guides when there is no Ranger Company in the District?

Some Guiders had had to ask the older Guides to leave, as they were upsetting the Company for the younger Guides. One Guider had formed a Senior Patrol, which was working for the First Class Badge, and also helping the others with some of the Second Class work. Another Guider had made one older Guide into Company Leader, another into Company Secretary, and thus given them responsibility; later a Ranger Company was formed, which they could join. One Guider had had girls from 11 to 21 in her Guide Company, with the result that the younger ones began to leave. The subject was raised of Guides reaching "Ranger Age" and not wanting to go on from the Guide Company. One suggested that the Captains of the Guide Companies in a District might meet and discuss what was best to be done to keep the older girls in the movement without spoiling their Guide Companies. It was agreed that, as Guiding was meant for girls of 11 to 16, the Companies should not be spoiled for girls of these ages, and that if necessary it was better to put the older ones out of the Company. These girls often joined up again when a Ranger Company was formed, and in any case they had had some Guide training.

RANGERS.

1.—(a) The problem of girls who wish to join the Guide Movement between the ages of 14 and 16.

Miss Moore (1st Canterbury Rangers) said that, in industrial districts, a girl of 14 might be quite ready to be taken into a Ranger Company, and a girl of 14 or 15 in these districts would be too old already in development for a Guide Company; it

depended a great deal on the type of girl. Miss Campbell (Fitzroy Rangers) thought it would do no harm to let such girls join a Guide Company for 6 or 12 months. Miss Hamilton (1st Hampton) thought it a help to the Ranger Company if the recruits had been Guides first. It was suggested by Miss Bartus (1st Melbourne) that the time spent by the girl in a Guide Company might be wasted as far as the girl's own development was concerned; but that it was good for such girls to be given definite hard work, and to feel conscious of their seniority, as a stage, beyond being Guides; girls who were already earning their living needed this stimulus.

1.—(b) At what age should a girl join a Ranger Company?

Concerning girls already in Guide Companies, Miss Moore said that, although it was hard for the Captains to lose the older girls, who were reliable and helpful in the Guide Company, they should be allowed to pass on, for the sake of the younger ones coming along, ready to take responsibility as the vacancies occurred. It was a matter for the Ranger and Guide Captains concerned to discuss each girl individually; it was important to have this definite link between the Guide and Ranger Companies. The Commissioner should be consulted in all cases where it was thought a Guide under 16 should go on to Rangers.

2.—What is a "District Ranger Company?" What are its difficulties, its advantages and disadvantages?

Miss Morton (East Melbourne and Richmond District Rangers) opened the discussion by saying that a District Company was a good idea in a District where no one Company could supply a sufficient number to support a Ranger Company, but that such a Company should be looked upon merely as temporary, to provide for the older Guides from the other Companies until such time as they could start their own Companies of Rangers in connection with the separate Guide Companies, to make the sequence of "Brownies—Guides—Rangers" complete. Some of the difficulties of District Companies were the arranging of Church Parades (Rangers might meet centrally and then go off to join their former Guide Companies); sometimes the girls from one Guide Company would form a clique within the Ranger Company, instead of "mixing" with Guides from other Companies; it might involve some of the Guides having to come long distances to meetings.

Some of the advantages were:—the Guides are not being lost to Guiding when they grow too old for Guides; they gain a wider outlook by mixing with members of other Companies, they learn to pull together, and get the team spirit.

Miss Campbell (Fitzroy Rangers) thought it was a pity to consider a District Company a temporary measure. A bigger Company was more satisfactory than several small ones; it gave a wider outlook from the point of view of citizenship; was less likely to become cliquey than small Companies attached to a definite body (Church, etc.)

The Conference adjourned for tea in the Club House.

N.B.—The account of the Evening Session of the Conference will be published in next "Matilda."—Ed.

TRAINING.

Training Classes.

The 5th Course of Classes on **General Guide Work** began on Friday, 26th July, in charge of Miss Moore.

A Training Class for Ranger Guiders is to be held during the afternoon of Saturday, 17th August, at the Fitzroy Gardens (if wet, at the P.G.A. Room, Presbyterian Girls' Hostel, Gipps Street, East Melbourne). The programme will include Long Distance Signalling, Knotting, and Running a Team Game. Those who

come are asked to be prepared with a Game they could run.

A Brownie Guiders' Class (Elementary) is being held on Tuesday evenings, in charge of Miss D. Holtz. There will be only one other elementary class this year.

Training Week.

The 18th Victorian Training Week for Guiders and prospective Guiders is to be held at Government Cottage, Macedon Upper, from 4th to 12th September, inclusive; fee 30/-. This will be preceded by a Training Week-End for Brownie and Ranger Guiders, from 30th August to 3rd September inclusive. Although entries closed on 10th August, there are still vacancies, and further applications should be made immediately to the Secretary, Training Department, at Headquarters.

MERLE BUSH, Head of Training

CAMPING.

Seaford Holiday Home.

The Y.W.C.A. Holiday Home at Seaford is available for parties of Guides in charge of their Guider. Permission Forms and other information should be obtained from Headquarters before Guiders make any arrangements.

"Pegersham," Healesville.

Through the kindness of Miss White, "Pegersham" is available for parties (not more than eight) of Guides in charge of a Licensed Guider, or for Guiders and their friends. Permission Forms and other information must be obtained from Headquarters before any arrangements are made.

Camp Equipment.

The following Camp Equipment is available for hire by Licensed Guiders from Headquarters, at the stated charge for duration of camp. Application for equipment must be made to Headquarters, if possible, six weeks before required. **No order can be dealt with if received later than three weeks before the beginning of the camp.**

Applications for equipment will be dealt with in the order received. Carriage and freight from storage depot in Kew to the camp and return is to be paid by applicant, and any loss or damage is to be fully covered by her.

Tent Poles, set of 2 uprights, 1 ridge, 1/6 set (16 sets; ridge 12ft., uprights 6ft.; 3 sets, ridge 14ft., uprights 7ft.)

Cubicle Poles 1/6 dozen (12 poles 8ft.; 26 poles 7ft.)

Tent Pegs 3d. dozen (500 Tent Pegs, 300 Brailing Pegs).

Tents 7/6 each (1 Tent 8 x 10, with 2 doors, to be used as Store Tent only; 9 tents 8 x 10; 1 tent 10 x 12; all complete with flys.)

Kitchen Shelter (Fly, 14 x 14) 3/-

Puncher (for making eyelets) 1/-

MERLE BUSH, Head of Camping.

OUR BROWNIE PAGE.

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

Dear Brown Owl,

In answer to your letter in last month's "Matilda," I feel that this is a great opportunity for Brownies to do a combined pack good turn.

One Paek was told of the distress you spoke of, and it was arranged that each Brownie should ask mother for a "something" out of her grocery cupboard to make up a parcel for a poor family. The following week everyone arrived with an extra big smile and the "something" which ranged from salt and John Bull Oats and tea, showing that each mother had given according to her means. A week later the same system was adopted with left-off clothing and, although the result was not a very large parcel, as most people have already answered the many appeals of this order, still it was quite worth while.

I sincerely hope that every one of the 30 Packs in Melbourne will do its bit in this way—just once, anyway—and at once.

Best wishes,

ADRIENNE PALING,

Head of Brownies.

N.B.—Parcels marked "Lady Forster Appeal, North Port Railway Station," may be sent carriage free from any station. Anyone who has any difficulty with this should communicate with Miss D. Stringer, 14 Grandview Grove, Upper Hawthorn, E.3. Tel. Haw. 3445.

EXTENSION GUIDES.

Some of the Guides of the 2nd Heidelberg (Austin Hospital) Company have now passed the Second Class test, and are working for their First Class, and for this are needing the following books:—

Black Beauty (Anna Sewell);
Pip (Ian Hay);
Treasure Island (R. L. Stevenson);
The Little Duke (Charlotte Yonge);
Pollyooly (Edgar Jepson).
We of the Never-Never (Mrs. A. Gunn);
The Little Black Princess (Mrs. A. Gunn).
The Call of the Wild (Jack London);

If any Companies could spare copies of any of these books, the Company would be most grateful. They could be sent to the Captain, Miss Embling, Windella, High-street, Malvern, S.E.4.

Subscriptions would be most acceptable for any or all of the following:—"The Guide," "The Guider," and "Matilda."

POST BROWNIES.

It is just at the Brownie age that a cripple or invalid child first begins to realise that she is different from other children. Her little friends, her little sisters and brothers, now go off to a wonderful place called school, and are away all day, but the wee cripple must stay at home alone. Of course, everyone is as kind as kind can be, but when mother is busy and everyone else away all day, the days do seem terribly long sometimes. All the Mondays are very much like the Tuesdays, and the Thursdays not very different from the Fridays. Nothing much ever happens! When you can't run about and go to school and play with other folks, how can it?

But to seven small people in Victoria something most exciting has been happening. One day someone came from Outside, and began to unfold a wonderful scheme called Brownies, and suddenly everything looked different. Somehow each one had found a whole new world, a world of gay companionship and adventure, of imagination and beauty, of usefulness and service. They no longer felt that they were useless little cripples; each one of them was now going to be "brave and helpful, like the Knights."

The Post Brown Owl lives on a hill away in the Western District. She is a very wise owl, and sends each child the most delightful Brownie-ish letters "for her very own self." The local Brown Owl is the person who has the joyous job of telling the little girl about Brownies, and of explaining everything to her and to her mother. The Post Brownie joins her own local Paek, and becomes a member of a Six. Although she cannot attend Paek meetings, it is always best that she should be made to feel, really and truly, one of the Paek.

O Reader, have you "Guided" so long that you have forgotten the first glory it gave to your days? The glory of striving, the glory of fellowship. Do you remember how you felt when you returned your first salute to a stranger? For the sake of your own first days of Guiding, go and search out a little cripple or invalid child, that she, too, may have this new full life. She needs it more than you did.

When you have found a child who fulfils the necessary conditions:—

- 1.—She must be over eight and under Guide age;
- 2.—She must be prevented by her physical defect from attending Paek meetings, but not be mentally deficient;

either send her name and address to the Post Brown Owl, Girl Guide Headquarters, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, or, better still, go to the local Brown Owl and tell her about the child, and take her with you to see the "would-be" Brownie, then she can write to the Post Brown Owl, giving her full particulars, such as name, age, address, name of District Commissioner,

Paek to which the child will be attached, the name of the illness, and any other details she thinks it would help the Post Brown Owl to know.

The Post Brownie family is still a very little one. Will you please help us to grow?

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE.

Through the Y.W.C.A. throughout the world an effort is being made to collect data with reference to living costs of employed women. This has both a national and an international significance, it concerns migration, actual value of wages received, nature of food in relation to climate, health of women and national standard of living.

The result of such an enquiry can be satisfactory only when based upon the actual accounts kept over a suitable period. It is only within groups such as the Guide movement and others, where a measure of goodwill can be obtained, and where the effort will be seen as true service, that we can hope for success.

Those who are in charge of the enquiry are working hard to prepare account books that will be simple and clear. Three Guiders have volunteered already to keep these account books. If any Guiders or Rangers are interested they may obtain full details from Miss Swinburne without committing themselves in any way.

All other countries are making the enquiry, and it is our sincere wish that Australia should show her earnestness and sincerity by responding to the desire for real knowledge expressed by the World Conference of the Y.W.C.A., and the International Labour Office at Geneva.

ST. ARNAUD NEWS.

Dear Matilda,

It is such ages since any news has been sent to you from our district that you will have almost forgotten us. Do you know, Tilly dear (you don't mind me calling you "Tilly," do you? I'm sure it sounds more confidential.) Well, do you know, we have been so ill that I was afraid we would not recover, and that you would be receiving our obituary notice at any time.

The illness was due to loss of leaders—that prevalent complaint in the Guiding world, but just when we felt at our worst we heard that a new star was about to appear in our Guiding firmament. It seemed too good to be true that a Guider was actually coming to us, because for a long time past our Guiders had either been leaving the district, or they were too busy or too ill to carry on. But here was a "really truly" Guider coming to us, and thrill of thrills, with Foxlease and Waddow experiences as well.

Since the reconstruction of the Guide Company it has been presented with a Union Jack,

the dedication ceremony was performed by Archdeacon Morgan Taylor.

We have a prospective Brown Owl, and when she is ready we hope to have Brownies in the District once more. The Rangers have been carrying on, but they feel the lack of intercourse with other companies.

At present we are all busy preparing for a novelty show, to raise funds for our Guide Hall. You will hear more about this later. Yours, etc.,

D. McLEAN,

District Commissioner, St. Arnaud.

THE CHILD NURSE BADGE.

Commissioners and Captains will have noted with interest that in future the Child Nurse Badge for Guides is to be awarded in accordance with the syllabus published in Rules, Policy and Organisation; see Victorian Supplement, 1929.

The home training and the care of children from two to five years old has received far less attention in the past than has the care of infants. Knowledge of the care of infants is rightly regarded as essential and paramount in importance; but the scarcity of literature, propaganda and organisation on behalf of the "toddlers" is due entirely to lack of time and funds, not in any degree to an idea that it is unnecessary. Indeed, it is very necessary and important to continue and develop beyond the age of two, the teaching of the Health Centre sisters, and to bring into our homes the ideals of kindergarten training. Through the Guide badge we have an opportunity for work of great value. We can spread knowledge, and we can form sound public opinion upon the importance of knowledge. We must look for what we need, but the training of the kindergartens and the advice of Health Centre Sisters are readily available for us. A supply of useful books is already on order from England (see below).

The Child Nurse badge should rank with Ambulance and Sick Nurse in respect to the time and attention given to it. In some ways it is even more important, because it concerns a matter in which Guides often exercise full responsibility. The care of sick people may depend largely upon carrying out directions and keeping to a time-table, but girls often take full charge of children between two and five without any direction, rule or warning to guide them. Telling lies, empty threats and frightening, sips and tastes, making children show off, disregard of the effects of cold and fatigue, are faults in the management of children that are absolutely rampant. We need a first-rate tradition—let us make it.

Training for Guides.—Special classes should be arranged for Child Nurse Badge, or special evenings set apart for study. One

instructor might be asked to take the whole syllabus, or two or three might be asked to take a few classes each:—A Kindergarten Teacher for "kept happy and good through self-control and occupation"; including the best kind of plaything; a Health Centre Sister for clothing, cleanliness, rest, exercise and general routine and hygiene; a Doctor for diet, particularly for children of four and five; and, perhaps, an experienced cook. I am not suggesting that all these are necessary for every course, but I wish to help each District to find what the guides will need by inviting the generous aid of those who already have suitable training.

In country companies, a guider and her second-class guides could meet to study books and prepare a perfect volley of questions to be sent to me by post—indeed, if any groups wish to study by correspondence I will gladly send questions and advice on each section of the syllabus.

While special classes are in progress, many jolly and interesting things can happen at Company meetings.

Sewing and washing have too often been neglected in preparing for this badge. Life-long habits of cleanliness and neatness, development of self-respect, and the attitude of strangers towards a child depend largely on the "nurse's" knowledge of elementary sewing and washing. These can very well be undertaken at Company meetings. Begin with competitions for "remembering thimbles" and "threading needles." Discuss best kind of thimble, needle and thread. Give out fastenings of different kinds, and allow a certain time to attach them to pieces of cloth. Have ready perfect samples of each. Arrange competitions and discussions, and then let all try again. A hem with elastic inserted (including ideas on "thrifty" elastic and its proper looseness for children) should be part of this section. The general idea should be "running repairs," including darns.

Washing should be actually practised. Most companies can arrange to have hot water, even if it means a fire out of doors. Use of apron, rolling sleeves, neatness and method are all important.

Cooking should be practised, too—some may be done at the Company meeting; some practised at home and brought to classes.

All these subjects may be used to employ a group of advanced guides, training them to work alone, to overcome difficulties, to explore, and find out. If the work is written down and given to Patrol Leaders, and if Guiders have prepared carefully what will be required, satisfactory work can be done in a short time (20-25 minutes).

Let Guides try first, to find out how much

they know. Then check by a correct sample to find out how much more they need to know. "Learn by Doing" is our watchword.

Guides should know a number of nursery rhymes, and know each one right through. "Mother Goose" is a good addition to the library.

Diet:—When diet has been taught at the special classes, guides can cut from magazines and mount pictures of the food required, or draw the things on cardboard for themselves, colour them and cut them out.

Routine: Daily routine should be one of the subjects taken at the class. Make a cardboard clock-face. Divide the company into pairs—a nurse and a child. Announce the age of the child for the evening. Place the hands of the clock. Show a card for "a.m." or "p.m." blow a whistle. The "nurses" immediately begin to set the children to the proper occupation for the time of day.

The Test:—A leaflet on the Child Nurse Test will be prepared in accordance with the syllabus.

Books:—**Leaflet on Diet:** Procurable on application from Prahran Health Centre, Malvern Road and Clarence Street.

Healthy Childhood. Dr. Mary Weston. Priced (about) 4/6. On order from England to H.Q.

Children from Two to Five, by Edith L. Maynard. Price (about) 9d. On order from England to H.Q.

G. H. SWINBURNE,
Head of Tests and Badges.

ARTIST BADGE.

Useful suggestions for Artist Badge are now available at headquarters. They include:—A list of certificates that may qualify for certain sections.

Suggestions for time and type of test.

Interpretation of Section 3.

G. H. SWINBURNE,
Head of Tests and Badges.

SOUTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

Mrs. Faulkner, the Divisional Commissioner for the South-Eastern suburbs, entertained the members of the local associations of the Division at her home on July 18th. Mrs. Faulkner reported on the satisfactory progress of Guiding in the Division, much of which was due to the help given during the year by the local associations. Miss Bush gave an interesting address on the origin and development of the movement.

Lady Allen, President of the Toorak and Armadale L.A., and Mrs. Plowman, Vice-President of the Oakleigh and Murrumbidgee L.A., both thanked Mrs. Faulkner for the opportunity she had given their fellow members to meet Miss Bush, and to learn more about the activities of the other districts.

BIRDS OF THE OPEN AVIARY.

2.—THE SUPERB WARBLER.

Not, as it may be thought, because they warble superbly, is this name given to the family of little birds commonly known as Blue Tits, Blue Bonnets, or Blue Wrens, but because they belong to the class of "Warblers" and are, by virtue of their plumage, indeed superb. It is true they can warble very daintily—who has not heard with delight their joyous little trill?—but it is not equal to that of some of their relatives, the Reed Warblers, for instance, who, though lacking gorgeous feathers, can excel in song.

In a tangle of prickly acacia, so close to the ground that the bracken and heath hid it from view, was the grass-woven nest from which Jimmy, a little Superb Warbler, first looked out through the round opening in its side, at the wonderful world around him. And let no one be so superior as to say that even a little Blue Tit with nothing to show but a cavernous mouth, and few stubbly feathers on his paunchy little body, has not the sense to appreciate the beauty which surrounds him; or to deny aesthetic taste to birds which keep their song in tune or, like Jimmy's parents, who chose the loveliest spot in the Open Aviary in which to build their nest, and then crowned it with several bits of greenest moss in which to stick a single small crimson feather, dropped by a passing red-browed finch, thus giving a tiny splash of colour to delight their eyes, even as it did mine.

Young Jimmy, I must confess, did not at first match the beauty of his home, and between him and his two sisters there was little to choose. During their infancy, in ugliness and in a voracious capacity for food. By some early mischance in the nest, however, or perhaps through an earlier imperfection in the egg, it soon became apparent that the sad distinction was Jimmy's of possessing only one foot, and instead of a second set of four clever toes, he had nothing but a straight stick of a leg with which to help balance his plump little body. Despite this deformity, he thrived rapidly with the others, and when they made their first appearance at the Birds' Bath he already showed great skill in hopping about and, with assistance from one wing, in coming to a balance on twig or bough. In their first plumage there is very little difference between the two sexes, but while the little hen birds remain in the same modest grey garb all their lives, Jimmy, as we shall see, becomes later on very much "a bird of a different colour!"

Lloyd, the yellow robin, and several white-browed wrens, were at the Bath when Jimmy and his relatives arrived, and they were soon accepted into the friendly community without any advantage being taken of his unhappy lameness.

The summer slipped by, as all summers do, too quickly for man or bird, and Jimmy's father, with most of the other grown males, put off their showy jackets and caps of blue and black, and for a season mixed unostentatiously with the clan in a common uniform. During the winter Jimmy became very tame, and was, perhaps, our most regular visitor, taking food from our hands without the least fear. He seemed to make a point of showing off how little he cared for the loss of a foot, and would come prop, prop, propping along till he reached the bath, when with a spring he landed on the edge, balanced himself on one foot and the stump, and leaned down to sip the water which he loved. But his great show-piece was a Blondin feat, in which he took especial pride. Near the bath is a thin rope, hanging slack between two tea-tree posts—part of the fixing for a hammock—and when Jimmy was called near this spot he would invariably fly to the rope, and though it swung and shook, and his poor stump slipped off one side and then off the other, he would stick to it till at last he got a firm poise, and then give a long warble of triumph and satisfaction.

As a rule the young male Superb Warblers do not change plumage during their first year, but remain bachelors, and unadorned, until the second Spring, but perhaps because he was hatched very early in his year, and was thus nearly twelve months old when Spring came round, young Jimmy proved an exception, and one day in early August he arrived with a blotched and ragged appearance about the head and shoulders. In two days more a sprinkling of black and blue feathers appeared, and was soon followed by a complete cap and jacket of bright blue, transforming him into a resplendent little beau in full nuptial attire. During the busy, happy days which followed, our hero's dazzling coat caught the sun, and his high-pitched warble caught the ear, as bravely as any of the others, and before very long he had captivated a little admiring bride. A proud and attentive spouse was he, guarding her jealously, indefatigable in finding her food, and always ready to parade for her admiration his gifts of beauty and song.

Through the bright days of early summer, when the sun sparkled on green and bronze and red tipped shoots of boughs, when wildflowers still lingered in the sheltering scrub, and there seemed no need for more delight, many a further debt of happiness did we incur from the momentary flash of colour which Jimmy, or one of his similarly bonnetted cousins, lent to the surroundings with sight-arresting contrast or satisfying harmony.

One morning, towards the end of summer, Jimmy, with several of his kin, in whose company also were a couple of wrens and the pertest of little thornbills, were prospecting about near the bath for remnants of crumbs, when all were

started into alarm by the loud notes, beautiful in themselves, but charged with dread for all small birds, of a Butcher-Bird near at hand.

"Fly! Fly!" piped Jimmy to his companions, who lost no time in darting for the protection of the tea-tree. Another second, and Jimmy, too, would have been safe in that kind shelter, but owing to his lame leg and to the fraction of time expended in giving his shrill warning, his doom was sealed. With arrow-like flash of wings the Butcher-Bird swooped upon him, and Jimmy was borne aloft to quick and horrible destruction.

Poor, brave, beautiful little fellow. what a sad, untimely ending to your short but happy life! The bath will never again reflect your brilliant blue, the rope on which you did your Blon-din act sways useless in the breeze. and though other Warblers come and go, we never see one without a sad and affectionate thought for lame but gallant Jim.

ABOUT BOOKS.

Do Guiders, generally, realise that there is an abridged form of the Girl Guide Handbook which can be bought by the Guides for 9d.? It is called "**Steps to Guiding**," and contains all of Girl Guiding that the girl of Guide age needs; the sections which are not included being those dealing with the Brownie and Ranger branches, and Guiders.

A good text book on First Aid is a welcome addition to the Company or Patrol Library. The St. John Ambulance Association's handbook is excellent, but so abbreviated that it is not satisfactory for the use of the Guides themselves. We recommend, therefore, the "**Gil-craft Talks on Ambulance**" (price 2/-), by Dr. W. L. Stephen. The book is very clearly and brightly written, and makes the subject as attractive and thrilling as it should be when taught to the Guides. Every Guider would do well to handle this book. It is in the H.Q. Library, and is also for sale at the Guide Equipment Depot.
—F.V.B.

PLEASE NOTE!

Equipment.

There seems to be some misunderstanding regarding the price of haversacks. These are on sale at the Equipment Depot at 4/- each—not 2/6, as some purchasers seem to think. For Guides who wish to make their own haversacks, paper patterns are on sale at 3d. each.

The Second Class Test pamphlet will be on sale at the Equipment Depot in the second week in August.

Accounts.

It does not appear to be generally understood that Headquarters cannot run credit accounts

for town Companies or Guiders. The keeping of the 350 odd accounts of Country Companies, Packs, prospective Guiders, etc., now takes practically all Miss Sweeting's time. Also, from a financial aspect, we need more and more cash customers and less credit accounts, as we have to pay monthly accounts for the goods we buy.

For Sale.

A country Guider who has given up Guiding wishes to sell her uniform. Any Guider who is interested may see it if she will apply to Miss Barfus at Headquarters.

Found.

A Ranger Tenderfoot badge, with initials on back, was found by Mr. J. Kollosh, of U.S. Cars, in one of his Belgrave cars recently. The owner may have the badge on identifying it at Headquarters.

Cookery Books.

Some time ago Mrs. Mountain, District Commissioner for Fern-tree Gully, very kindly offered a number of copies of her **Cookery Recipe Books** to any Local Association which would like to dispose of them for the benefit of their funds. A number of these books is still available, and District Secretaries may have any number on payment of postage. The books are usually sold at one shilling each.

Annual Sports.

The Richmond and East Melbourne District will hold its second Annual Sports Day early in October. They announce that the Country Dances for competition will be "Hey, Boys, up we go," and "Oranges and Lemons." "Hey, Boys, up we go" is a square set for four, and "Oranges and Lemons" is a dance for eight Guides.

APPOINTMENTS.

District Commissioner:—

Croydon—Mrs. Ian Cameron, Calmora, Croydon.
Mornington—Mrs. W. W. Leggatt, Aulua, Mornington.

WARRANTS.

Captains:—

1st Heidelberg—Miss B. Bedggood.
2nd Prahran—Miss C. Broadhurst.
2nd Preston—Mrs. Frost.
1st Skipton—Miss E. Elder.
4th South Yarra—Miss J. Inglis.
5th Victorian Lones—Miss R. Mackie.
1st Terang—Miss M. Williams.

Lieutenants—

1st Alphington—Miss M. Sharwood.
1st Mordialloc—Miss M. Whitaker.
1st South Yarra—Miss F. Thompson.

Brown Owls:—

1st Clunes—Miss M. McDonald.
1st South Yarra—Miss E. Rushworth.