

Bush.

Matilda.



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

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News, articles, stories, etc., for inclusion in "Matilda" should be forwarded to the Editor, c/o. Girl Guide Headquarters, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.I, by twenty-third of the month.

EDITORIAL.

Guiders may now cease bemoaning the fact that they do not know how to tackle the problem of nature work! No! this section has not been cut out of the Second Class Test, but "Matilda's" Nature Page is now being conducted by Miss Harper, whose knowledge of this subject is well known to most Guiders. Miss Harper will be delighted to answer questions, and will welcome suggestions that will show the type of article which will be most appreciated by Guiders.

We would like to draw attention to the article on the League of Nations which appears in this number of "Matilda." After you have read it we hope you will be inspired to seek more detailed knowledge of this institution for world peace. A little study will be well worth while, as the subject provides excellent material for pow-wows and games, whilst the International Knowledge badge for Guides touches on it.

The Ranger World Citizen badge, details of which were given in the "Guider" for August, 1929, opens up fascinating avenues of thought and study. The badge is by no means difficult, and should appeal to many Rangers.

Full information and literature can be obtained from the Organiser, League of Nations Union, Temple Court, Melbourne.

RANGER EMBLEMS.

There are now about fifty Ranger Companies in Victoria, and a request has been made that Headquarters should stock ready worked emblems for Ranger Patrols.

Although there is no definite rule about it, most Ranger Patrols like to choose trees as their emblems. As we cannot order less than 6 dozen emblems at a time from the factory, we need to be assured of a sale for any that we stock. It would therefore be a great help,

and would also hasten the ordering, if Ranger Companies would let us know what emblems they are using, and whether they would like to have worked ones (at 6d. each) stocked at Headquarters.

We have already heard of the following Patrols which have trees for their emblems, but do not know whether these are isolated Patrols, or whether some of them are "favorites" among our Rangers:—

Oak, Tea-Tree, Banksia, Currajong, Blackwood, She-Oak, Pittosporum, Scarlet-Flowering Gum, Silky Oak, Moreton Bay Fig, Golden Wattle.

Mrs. Pearse (Head of Equipment) would be very interested to hear from Ranger Companies who would like to help with suggestions as to the most popular emblems to stock.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

It is comparatively easy to write in glowing terms of the League of Nations; it is easy to idealise it and paint in vivid pictures the wonderful things it is doing, and may do, for mankind. What we really need at the present moment is a good working knowledge of its constitution and its practice. Most people have heard of the League of Nations; some learnt a little about it at school, but did not find it particularly interesting. The average person has a vague idea that there is a League, that it exists to prevent wars from breaking out, but that if a really big war was threatening, the League certainly could not stop it. The average person "has very little time" for the League, to use a colloquialism.

Though I could write of deeds of bravery that would stir your hearts and your imaginations, I shall stick to hard facts, because I suspect that the readers of "Matilda," Guiders though they be, are probably just as ignorant about the League as the majority of the people of Australia.

To begin with, there are 65 nations in the world to-day, and 54 of these belong to the League. It is easier to enumerate those that do not belong than those that do. The most important of these are the United States of America, Russia, Brazil, Afghanistan, and Mexico. Far the greater part of the world belongs, and those nations that belong are not insignificant ones.

For three weeks each September these 54 nations meet at Geneva. The delegations from each country are exactly the same size. Great Britain's delegation has one vote—so has that of the Dominican Republic; if you do not know where that is, look it up.

The League is a splendid teacher of Geography. What do these nations do when they meet? They do what every other meeting does throughout the whole world. They talk. Yellow and Black and White, Great Powers and small peoples, French and Negro, Australian and Indian, Swede and Abyssinian, they talk—in French and English. So Geneva has been called a hundred per cent. talkie—and by Geneva is meant the League. Sometimes it is

called the sounding board of the world, or the world's broadcasting station.

What do they talk about? They discuss the report of the year's work, a very full report, telling of activities beyond description, of men and women working for the good, not of one nation, but of the world. You may wonder how they collect this report when they only meet once a year, but the Council of the League, which consists of 14 members, and on which the Great Powers—(Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan) have permanent seats, meets far more often. In addition there is the Secretariat, which works all the year round. It is the Civil Service of Humanity, and is composed of hundreds of men and women, the picked brains of the world. So here again you will find yellow and black and white, British, Chinese and Latin, working side by side for mankind. Now you can see where the report comes from which the Assembly of the League discusses, and on which it builds up its recommendations and directions for the work of the coming year.

We are now in a position to see the work that the League is doing. In the words of the Covenant, words so simple, so stately, so pregnant with meaning that every child should learn them, and every adult should carry them in his heart, the work of the League is "to promote international co-operation, and to achieve international peace and security."

The League finds out where the paths of the Nations cross, and studies the problems that lie at those crossroads. I find it hard to think of one single department of human life that the League does not touch, except that of organised religion. The health, wealth and happiness of men are the concern of the League.

In order to do its work, the Secretariat, which is the permanent staff of the League, is divided into what we may call Committees. There is one to deal with the health of the world. How many people know that every week a report on the health of Melbourne as far as epidemic disease is concerned goes to Geneva? Presently you will not be able to have measles without Geneva knowing it. Another Committee looks after the welfare of women and children. Another looks after the backward peoples of the world, whom certain experienced Powers have been told to nurse until they are fit to stand alone. "Take this child and nurse it for me," said Pharaoh's daughter to the mother of the baby Moses. "Take this child and nurse it for Humanity," says the League of Nations to Australia, and entrusts New Guinea to her care, and sees that she does her job properly, too. Another Committee deals with international law, another with disarmament, and so on. It would take too long to tell you one half of the work that the League does.

Now you may say what has all this to do with peace? The League attacks the problem of world peace directly by preventing the actual outbreak of war. The indirect method, which is far more important, is to remove the causes of war.

Never before in the history of the world has there been such a vast organisation working

for peace. We know how to organise for war. To-day mankind is beginning to learn how to organise the world for peace. Could we have a more splendid ideal? Could there be a more Christlike ideal? You remember the angelic message to the shepherds: "Peace of earth to men of Goodwill"—which is the better translation. You cannot have peace without Goodwill, therefore let us learn Goodwill. Man must banish strife between the nations, just as he has learnt to banish it between individuals. Among the civilised people of the west private war has gone, civil war has gone. Now we must go further, and banish international war.

Disputes will still arise, but these disputes will be settled by the Permanent Court of International Justice, which is altogether too much to tackle now.

Round these hard facts weave the magic thread of imagination. Nothing in the world is so soul-stirring as the League of Nations, nothing is so calculated to make our minds alert, as thoughtful study of this great world organisation for Peace. Behind every dull fact I have given you lies a picture, beautiful beyond our dreaming, of what the world may become if we only can translate our hopes of the League into reality. An amazing amount has been done, but we are on the very outskirts of the new world. We are only just thinking how to lay the foundations of that city where all the nations walking in peace may bring their gifts, and pluck from the blessed Tree leaves of healing for all their ills.

The building of the city lies in the hands of the Youth of the world, and who should build better than the Guides? Who knows but that some one who reads "Matilda" this very month may not have the chance of working at Geneva in the Secretariat, or perhaps may be sent on the Australian delegation as the representative of your own land. Make no mistake, Geneva is the hope of the world, humanly speaking, and the sooner we realise it the better.

Therefore learn all you can about the League, and do your bit when the chance comes to strengthen it. To organise the world for peace is a great adventure, demanding high risks, a crusade worthy of youth.

NORA W. COLLISON,

Organiser League of Nations Union
(Victorian Branch).

WOODCRAFT.

We have always been brought up to know that one does not camp under elms because they shed their limbs. Perhaps some Guides do not know that this is an uncomfortable habit which is shared by the spotted box. We were surprised in camp to wake up one morning to find a large, solid limb had "dropped" in the night. I have since learned that this tree sheds its two lowest branches each year, so—Beware!

H.D.



(All correspondence should be addressed to Miss E. E. Moran, Winter Street, Malvern, S.E.4.)

LONE LIBRARY.

Miss Macneil, who has been in charge of the Lone Library, is on leave of absence abroad. The library is now in charge of Miss Emily Rosseau, 16 Balgonie Place, Northcote, N.16. Lone Guiders requiring books for their companies are responsible for the postage of the books round the patrols and back to the librarian.

LONE GUIDERS' CONFERENCE.

It is proposed to hold a Conference of Lone Guiders from 2nd to 5th May, 1930. If there are any Guiders who find it will be impossible for them to attend the Conference on these dates, they are asked to notify the Head of Lones at once, stating which week-ends about that time will be convenient for them. It is hoped that at least one Guider from each Lone Company will be present at the Conference.

ELAINE E. MORAN, Head of Lones.



THE NEEDLEWOMAN'S BADGE.

Needlework is a craft, and no craft can live without the gifts of love and patience, of time and thought. We are re-discovering to-day and using again the embroideries and designs created in castle and convent of old, and many beautiful things are growing from our fingers; but the foundation of all craft is the desire to make beautiful the things of every day.

Needlework of a certain rough and ready standard, seemingly sufficient for the purpose of the moment, is widely used, but those who are content with work of this kind will find that the way is blocked when they want to go beyond the temporary and the "good enough." Ever since Guides have won badges in Victoria there has been a difficulty over "needlewoman."

Guides have brought to the tests work that shows care and patience, but it has often been completed without any attempt to discover the best methods, or the reasons for the guiding principles of first-rate workmanship. Be-

cause of this, the examiners have been faced with a problem that has caused them concern—they must either fail a Guide who has made considerable effort, or pass work which cannot be a basis for further progress because there are no foundation principles.

Darning will illustrate this well. Darns should always be round or diamond shaped, or six-sided, so that the strain may be distributed among many cross-threads, and will not depend entirely on the strength of two. But "mother" mends all young Billy's school socks with rectangular darns, and the darns outlast the socks.

Guide Dorothy copies mother in the holidays, and brings a darn as a surprise for Captain. If Captain has beside her a sample darn correctly worked, and speaks about it in the right way, Dorothy will be keen to know what more there is to learn, and will soon adjust the shape of her darn—but if Captain is not ready, and the first darn is presented at the test, a difficult position arises. Rectangles may serve for young Bill's socks, but Dorothy must be passed as able to darn—and what will happen about the hole in the top of the silk stocking! The stocking that must be worn at the dance to-night? I foresee lengthy ladders, and lengthier remarks.

A Guide will not be expected to mend a silk stocking for her test, but if she can do the coarser one correctly, she will be able to adapt her knowledge to the more advanced work.

Let the Guides learn all they can, where they can, but be ready to show them the best way, and those who have found the difficulties of the "rough and ready" will be eager to know how obstacles may be overcome. Expert needlewomen, perhaps members of local Associations, or even older Guides, would gladly prepare samples to be mounted or framed in the Guide room.

For active work, show diagrams of patches, buttonholes, etc., and allow the company in two or three groups to make "living needlework." Let each group try until it finds a way of representing each special point, and then have a big sample of the whole complete. For a buttonhole Guides in two rows, straight arms for stitches, and hands clenched for knots. Fingers straight out for unknotted stitches at the round end—round end near edge of material, bar across pointed end, and so on.

This is fun, but to be of real use must be used in close touch with diagrams, samplers, and actual needlework.

For cutting out use first of all a well-labelled pattern, such as McCall's. Cut out in plain paper or material, and give the Guides practice in recognising parts and pieces. Patterns with complicated inserted pieces need not be used, but Guides should know backs from fronts of unlabelled patterns, how to cut a sleeve for either arm, place correctly any pattern, particularly to place them straight, and the right way of material. That the straight of the pattern be laid on the straight of the material is of the greatest importance. Encourage the use of pointed or flat chalk, or of the perforating wheel.

(Continued on Page 8.)

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.

NATURE GAMES FOR BROWNIES.

To Teach Brownies the Different Colours of a Bird, and the Quantity of One Color in Relation to the Other Colors.

For a robin. A sheet of stiff colored or brown paper is taken, and on it are placed small pieces of paper, the first a small piece of white, then a slightly larger piece of buff colour for the underneath of the wings, next a large piece of red, and lastly a larger piece of black, as there is more black than any other color.

The head and body of the bird could be taken and put separately on one side of the paper, and the whole bird on the other side of the paper.

The Brownies would first have to observe the bird, and then discuss what colors they had seen on it, then they could each paste one of the little pieces of paper on the mount.

In looking for the colors, they would probably learn other things as well.

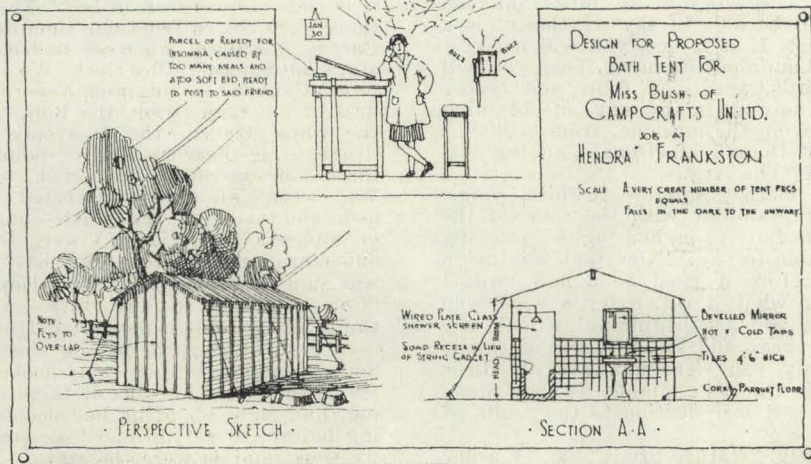
Send the sixes to their corners, and give each sixer a piece of paper and some colored chalks. Each six has to dress a fairy in flowers which are in bloom at the time. (Snowflake hat, daffodil dress, and forget-me-not shoes). Give the Brownies enough time, and then call them to the Pow Wow, and let each six show how it has dressed its fairy.

(Games sent to 1st Hamilton B.P. by the B.O., 1st Bridlington, England).

LOST—End of last year, an Exercise Book, with red cover, containing "Brownie" Stories. Will anyone who finds it please return to Miss A. PALING, at Girl Guides' Office.

Those Guiders who knew Miss Elsie Maxwell, B.O., 1st North Fitzroy, and 1st Toorak. in 1927, will regret to hear that she passed away on January 15th this year, after a long illness. I feel sure they will extend their sincere sympathy to her bereaved relatives. The gentle manner and sweet influence of "Little Maxwell" (as we always called her) will live in the memory of those who had the happiness of knowing her.
 BROWN OWL, 1st Toorak Pack.

PATHEPIC PICTURE OF A GUIDER (ATWORK?) WHO HAS JUST RECEIVED A LETTER FROM HER FRIEND IN CAMP AND THE EXTRAORDINARY DESIGN SHE AFTERWARDS PRODUCED!



THE NATURE DIARY.

The Art of Observation.

Many Guiders are probably asking themselves the question: "How can I help my Guides to keep a nature diary, when we are a town company, and only go to the country two or three times in the year?" The answer is this: There is far more wild nature in town than is generally supposed, but people on the whole are unaware of its existence, and so do not take advantage of it.

Think of our Botanical Gardens, with such variety of beautiful trees; the lawns, lakes and birds! An afternoon's ramble will give you twenty-four kinds of birds at least, for this sanctuary is a green oasis in a desert of grim buildings, and passing birds drop down for shelter. The lakes present another phase of wild life, with busy water-birds ever on the move. There are coots, moorhens, ducks, swans, grebes and others.

Nearly all districts possess parks or public gardens of some size, where there is sure to be bird life; and many interesting things to notice in the plants, trees and flowers. Most Guides have a garden, though it may be only a small one, and it is here that much good work can be done. There are bound to be many different kinds of insects living on the various plants, but of course the Guide has to look for them, and so train her eye to notice things quickly. The bird-lover begins her study in her own back yard, and not in the country, as is so often imagined. The late Dr. Leach always impressed upon his students the necessity of starting with the common birds they knew, and not attempting to be too ambitious at first.

Let us take the sparrow, for instance. How many Guides can tell the difference between a male and female, or know the courting antics of these rather despised city birds. It is only because they are so common to us that we never bother to look at them, yet to the scientist the sparrow is of great interest. When you know the sparrow well, and have acquired the habit of observing every bird that you meet, you will be able to say whether it is a sparrow or not. If it is not, you will not rest till you have found out its name. Then you will know two birds, and soon four, and before long, forty. There are many ways of obtaining information, from the museum, from books, or by writing to Donald MacDonald, in the Nature Notes of "The Argus."

The same method applies to bird songs. When you are familiar with the song of the sparrow, immediately on hearing a bird sing you will be able to say: "Now that was not a sparrow, therefore it must be a new bird; I must discover what it is." After a while you will find that you are beginning to look and listen, and to hear and see all sorts of things that previously you were unaware of. Birds have been taken as an example, as they prove perhaps, the best introduction to the realm of wild nature.

Unfortunately, "Nature Study" can be a dry subject if taken in the wrong way, and maybe it is because the Guider herself is not very interested, and so does not encourage her

Guides. Sometimes it is a good plan to have a five-minutes' Nature-Talk at each Company meeting, when the Guides may tell of the interesting things they have seen during the week. After a while it is surprising how much the children discover, because they are starting to use their eyes and ears in the proper way.

Now, perhaps you are wondering why more has not been said about the actual diary, but it must be remembered that the diary will not be worth much unless the interest and enthusiasm of the children is aroused, so that they are able to take their turn in recording discoveries. The book can be illustrated with drawings, pressed flowers and leaves, or mounted feathers, and so made most attractive.

The country company has unlimited scope, and the company in seaside areas can chronicle the discoveries of shore-life. The town company must be just as ambitious. Has it not the large parks and suburban gardens, where so many birds find sanctuary, where squirrels are at home, and a variety of beautiful trees may be seen. Insects abound there, and in their season butterflies are on the wing.

March is a good time to start the diary, for Autumn brings the birds from the hills to visit town gardens; the butcher-bird, with flute-like carol, the slim grey thrush, spinebill, honeyeater, cheery robin, and many others. Trees will be turning color, and losing their leaves, showing the different patterns of their branches. Autumn flowers will make a gay show, while the stars are easier to pick out than at other times of the year. J.H.

"STARS" ALL NIGHT.

An experiment tried by the second combined Ranger Camp at "Sunnyside," Mornington, January, 1930.

"Hurry, hurry, hurry, come along, children, it is time we were all in bed." These exclamations were issued from our Commandant, Miss Barfus, one night when we had been studying stars until nearly 10 o'clock. We had seen Jupiter, Canopus, Sirius and Achernar peep out first of all, then Orion, the Bull, Canis Major, the Ship, Hydra, the Heavenly Twins, the Crane, the Peacock, were pointed out to those of us who did not know them. We were all too interested to go to bed, and even at the wash cubicles groups of Rangers (in pyjamas) were seen pointing out stars and constellations. At last "Taps" was sung, and soon all were asleep (we hope). "Come out and see the stars," was the next thing I heard when awakened from my slumbers. Out we popped, put on shoes and coats, and carried torches and star books to the centre of the site. This was at three in the morning, and eighteen of us had decided the evening before, to get up and "see stars," so here we were, and so were the stars.

Jupiter and the Bull were just setting over the sea. Carvus and Leo were well up, and Spica, in the Virgin, was very bright. With

the help of "An Easy Guide to Southern Stars" we found the Centaur and the Wolf. The greatest excitement of all was Scorpio. While we were watching the other stars Miss Barfus kept saying "I'm sure 'Scorp.' should be up soon," and then "Oh, what is that lovely star just coming up?" Very soon we found it was Antares, because the rest of the Scorpion appeared very quickly.

Further North, just as Scorpio came up, the beautiful Arcturus could be seen; then, looking over the sea, and almost opposite Scorpio, Orion was just dipping, head first, into the water.

The stars began to fade then, as it was four o'clock, so someone suggested raiding the Store Tent for biscuits before going back to bed. This we did, and soon all was quiet again.

We all decided that our Star Night was one of the most exciting times at our Camp, and hope that others will try it. We are doing it again some night.

—1st Bendigo Rangers.

CADETS.

There is a section of the Ranger branch that very few seem to know about—the Cadets. Cadet Ranger Companies may be formed in school, college or district where there are a number of Guides over 16 who desire to learn to help in the Guide movement. This help may be as Secretary, Instruction Examiner, President, or Member of a Local Organisation, or as a Guider.

Cadets qualify in the various guide activities, and aim at a standard which will enable them to train others.

Care is taken that as most of the Cadets are busy with studies then, "Guiding" does not interfere with their work. Most of their practical work and experience is got at Camps and Rallies.

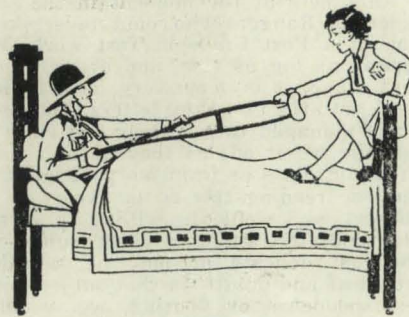
One of the greatest advantage to the movement of Cadet Companies in schools, colleges and universities is that the girls come from all parts of Victoria, and when returning home are able to render great help in starting companies, and in helping to train Guiders.

There are Cadet Companies at Toorak College, and at the University. The Company at the University is one of the oldest Victorian companies, and its members are students at the University and Training College. Captains who have Guiders who are commencing at the University should tell them to be sure to join up with the Cadets. They will find the meetings a pleasant relaxation.

S. CAMERON,
Head of Rangers.

BROADCASTING PROGRAMME.

March 18th, at 6.40 p.m.: Miss Swinburne on "Accidents and Imagination," April 1st, at 6.40 p.m.: "Lone Guiders."



EXTENSION ECHOES.

POST GUIDES.

At the end of 1929 the Post Guide Company suffered a great loss when their Captain, Miss Peters, was forced to resign on account of ill-health, and Miss Mary Salmon, the lieutenant, found that she would not be able to carry on. We can never be grateful enough for the splendid work these Guiders did in forming the company, and steering it through the first two critical years of its existence.

Miss Embling, Captain of the Austin Hospital Company, came to the rescue, and wrote the December letters, and by the end of January we were fortunate, for we had found a new Captain in Miss Macdonald, formerly Captain of 1st Wannan (mounted), and 1st Coleraine, who is now living near Melbourne.

The Company is 23 strong. There are three patrols—Thistle, Poppy and Wattle. Of these about twelve are in Melbourne, and the rest are scattered over the State, from Orbost to Harrow.

The first excitement this year was an enrolment at the Caulfield Hospital on Saturday, February 13th. Margaret Keogh, who really comes from Mortlake, was enrolled. In the next bed is Mollie Salmston, who was in the 1st Auburn Coy, before she went in to hospital, and next to her Nellie Keogh, who was enrolled last year as a Post Brownie.

Miss Broadhurst brought out Margaret's Patrol Leader, Nettie Leuter, Miss Macdonald and Miss Campbell. So we were quite a party. Nellie and Mollie had on their uniforms, and looked very smart sitting up in bed.

After various games and competitions, which were great fun (Matilda, do you know the name of a plant, the first part of which means "a dashing young man," and the last part is the name of a wild animal?) We formed as much of a horseshoe as one can form with 3 beds in a straight line and four people on their feet. Nettie (who is blind) presented her recruit for enrolment.

The ceremony over, there was much hand-shaking as we welcomed Margaret into the Guide family.

That week-end Miss Macdonald was able to visit and meet nearly all the Melbourne Post Guides and their families, and so the Company is once again in full swing.

We want help at the moment in the shape of Guiders or Rangers who could undertake the training of a Post Guide in Test work. With a company as big as this, and everyone at a different stage, it is very, very hard to work test work into the Company letters. The people who have managed to get their 2nd class are perhaps the worst off, as they never seem to get on to 1st class or proficiency badge work.

If anyone reading this is an expert in any one subject, and would be willing to give up a little time to training a Post Guide—who may be just delicate or may be bedridden, blind, or deaf and dumb—in that subject either by correspondence or visiting, we would be most grateful. All you have to do is to leave a note at headquarters, stating name, rank and subject (Morse, knots, 2nd Class, Knitting, Musician, Booklover, etc.).

Posts can learn almost anything. The nature work of Bird observation done by the Guides and the Brownie at Caulfield from their verandah would put many a 2nd-Class Guide—we might even dare to say Guider—to shame. Although they did not know a thrush by name (there being no one to tell them), they gave us such graphic descriptions of the day he flew and walked and killed and ate snails, and of his speckled waistcoat, that there was no doubt as to his identity, and the same with many other birds and the few plants they could see.

ALISON McA. CAMPBELL,
Head of Extensions.

INTERESTING COMPETITION.

Did you know that "Matilda" is having an absolutely novel competition? As we announced last month, we are commencing a nature page, and this page requires an attractive title and a small leading sketch. If you cannot draw, simply suggest a title. If you can do both, all the better.

Now, you are wondering why we call it a novel competition! Well, isn't it original to have a competition without a prize? We are offering nothing but the honour and glory of seeing your idea in print every month.

Suggestions should be sent to the Editor at H.Q. not later than March 28th. Should we receive no response to this attractive offer, we will be forced to the conclusion that all Guiders are canny folk—almost as canny as the Editorial Committee.

TRAINING.

Training Classes.

Guiders should communicate with their Commissioner before attending classes, and everyone who has not previously been nominated must bring a Nomination Paper signed by her Commissioner. A charge of 3d. per night is made, to cover cost of lighting, etc.

Notices of Training Classes, etc., are published in Tuesday's "Argus" and "Sun," and in Wednesday's "Age," and are posted on the Headquarters Notice-Board.

Training Classes are held, unless otherwise notified, at Girl Guide Headquarters, 60 Market Street, at 7.45 p.m.

Brownie Training.

The first Course for Brownie Guiders began on Tuesday, 25th February. The Classes are held at 7.45 p.m. at Headquarters, and will continue for about six weeks.

Guide Training.

The first course of General Guide Training began on Friday, 28th February. The Course, which will consist of about eight classes, is held on Fridays at 7.45 p.m. at Headquarters.

Ranger Training.

The first Course for Ranger Guiders will be held on Thursdays for six weeks, beginning on 13th March, at 7.45 p.m. at Headquarters.

Training Days.

It is hoped that several training days will be held during the year. The first one, which will be soon after Easter, will probably deal with Colours and Colour Parties, Drill and Outdoor Games, and will be held on a Saturday afternoon.

Training Week.

The 20th Victorian Training Week will be held in May; further details about place and actual dates will be announced later.

MERLE BUSH,
Head of Training.

The Needlewoman's Badge (Continued).

If it is not advisable to spend time at Company meetings, Guides can be set to work at home, and given a few minutes' help each week.

It reminds me of the boy with his first box of tools:—

I thought I could saw, I thought I could plane,

And I thought I was clever with nails,
And I mended a chair (though it's broken again),

And I once made a couple of bails.

But directly the carpenter came to our house

To put up some shelves in the hall,
And I sat by his side just as still as a mouse,
I knew I knew nothing at all.

He measured each part with the greatest of care

(A footrule's a thing I don't use),
He labored to make the joints perfectly square,

And he always bored holes for the screws.

Now it's all very well to go hammering round,

And to look on a tool chest as fun;
But in future my carpenter-work shall be sound,

And done once for all when it's done.

(E. V. Lucas).

Books.—A.B.C. of Needlework, by Betsy Blackmore (3/6); Manual of Dressmaking, Tailoring and Educational Needlework, by Olive Storer (This is expensive, but is often used in schools, and might be borrowed).

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