

Miss Bush.

SEPTEMBER, 1930.

Vol. 7, No. 4.

Matilda.



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

PRICE:
3/- per Year. 4/- Posted.
Single Copies .. 6d. Each.

HEADQUARTERS, VICTORIA
7th Floor, 60 Market St., MELBOURNE

Open Daily from 12.30 p.m.—5.30 p.m.

Saturday—from 10 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

McKellar Press (A. P. Cruthers, Prop.), Malvern.

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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.

GUIDE HIKES AT HEATHMONT.

We are sorry to hear that Guide Companies visiting Mrs. Walker's estate at Heathmont do not always remember to let her know beforehand that they would like permission to come. There have also been cases where parties of Guides have been there without a Guider in charge.

Guiders are asked to help to keep up the Guides' reputation for courtesy by making sure that previous permission is always obtained before using any private property for hiking, and also to remember that, even if special permission has been granted by Commissioners for a Patrol of Guides to hike without a Guider, the above permission should still be obtained from the owner of the land.

Hike Cooking.

With the warmer days many Companies will be thinking of Hikes, and it has been suggested that Guiders should send in, for publication in the next issue of MATILDA, menus for hike-meals easily cooked-out-of-doors.

E. H. PURNELL, Head of Camping.

PATROL LEADERS' CONFERENCE.

On Saturday, August 30th, the leaders of the Eastern Division Guide companies met at the Presbyterian Hall, Kew, for their annual Conference.

Dr. Florence Cooper, Mrs. Tate and Miss Urquhart, were present, and about forty Patrol Leaders. Questions concerning our patrols and companies were discussed, and we found it a great help to be able to find out each other's ideas and get suggestions. Before tea we were given some beneficial exercises by Miss Jervis, and tea was followed by some exciting games. Later on Miss Hooks came to teach us some songs which we hope to be able to pass on to our companies.

"Taps" concluded a very pleasant evening. N.B., 2nd Canterbury.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES.

Chiefs' Visit.

The Combined Rally of Guides and Scouts will be held on Saturday, 11th April, 1931.

ALL Guides attending the rally will take part in the Australian Pageant.

It has not been possible to arrange for all Districts to be represented in the League of Nations Pageant. We are co-operating with the Scouts for this, and it was found that in some districts the Scouts and Guides were not evenly balanced, so this explains why many Guide Districts are not taking part.

Brownies will be taking part in a special item.

Several Committees have been appointed to deal with Rally arrangements, and these include Billeting, Transport, Pageants, etc. Enquiries about the League of Nations Pageant should be sent to Miss Sheila Cameron, 65 Pakington Street, Kew, E.4; and enquiries about the Australian Pageant to Mrs. Evan Pearse, Hopetoun Road, Toorak, S.E.2.

The Guide.

Many subscribers to THE GUIDE have still not called for their copies. We should be very glad if they would do so as soon as possible.

Finance.

As our financial year ends on 30th September, our Honorary Treasurer would like all accounts to be paid by that date.

EDITH H. PURNELL,

Hon. State Secretary.

GOOD CARRIAGE.

(Notes of a Talk by Miss N. McArthur Campbell).

An outsider coming to test is not necessary. There are not very many Guides whose carriage needs special correction.

A Guider should look at the Recruit after her Enrolment, and get her to stand in front of her in her usual standing position, the Guider making notes meanwhile. When the Guide is doing her Second-Class Test, these first notes should be checked in the same way, to find out any improvement.

It is not advisable to be always telling the Guide "not to stoop"—nagging often makes them self-conscious, and, therefore, worse.

For attaining Good Carriage, it should be understood that the "good carriage" must be a permanent state—not just remembered at Roll Call Drill—head up, back straight—and all the time, not just at special times, when she thinks about it. Good Carriage means habitual position.

Shapes differ, but the Guider needs to know what the correct erect standing position is, so that she can try to correct her Guides at Roll Call every meeting. Each time a girl takes up a proper position, it helps her to acquire a habitual good position.

Correct Standing Position.

1. Stretch up the crown of the head.
2. Body falls slightly forward at ankles, so

that line of weight comes over balls of the feet, not heels. Rest of body straight. Chest free, lungs should have plenty of room to move.

3. Chin should be drawn in.
4. Eyes straight forward.
5. Shoulders—a difficulty. Don't tell girls to pull shoulders back. Tell them to stretch up top of head and keep shoulders down and back. Arms straight by sides—neither forward nor back, palms slightly hollow against hip.

6. Legs should be straight, and knees a little back, if anything—both heels on the same line.

7. Feet turned out—about 45 degrees between feet; if a girl is knock-kneed, she cannot get her heels together, so do not insist.

For a great many children, this correct position is a great strain, as their carriage is bad (so don't make them do it for too long at a time), but every time the children take up a good and correct stand, you are helping the muscles to get used to it, and it becomes easier. If not corrected, they become set in the bad position.

Good position should become automatic—a habit—and should not need continual thought.

Look proud! Stretch up!

Faults that will need checking—

1. Cramped chest and round back.
2. Poking head, with chin forward.
3. Hollow back—common, but not so noticeable (often caused by high heels).
(To correct the above faults, stretch up with top of head, and keep abdomen flat, with body weight falling forward at ankles).
4. Bent knees.
5. Standing with weight on one leg.
6. Shoulders drawn up as well as back.

Sitting position.

Beauty is the guide.

A good corrective position for hollow back is sitting on floor with legs crossed. This also corrects flat-foot.

When sitting on chairs, keep feet together. No harm in crossing feet or knees if not always crossed the same way.

Walking.

Body should not lean back—rather a bit forward from hip-joints. Back straight—arms swinging freely from shoulders, not from elbows—straight forward and back. Feet pointing straight forward—not turned out. Walk should be light and elastic, and bring Guide well over the ground, the heel touching ground a fraction before toe. Shoulders must not swing.

Running.

Similar to walk, except that both feet are off the ground at the same time—feet may be turned out a bit in running.

Practise running on toes to get lightness and spring, but if running for help, or a long distance, use heels and toes—less fatiguing and quicker.

The main faults in walking and running are:

1. Too heavy;
2. Body too straight;
3. Round back and head forward;
4. Mouth open.

LET'S TALK ABOUT CUPBOARDS!

Cupboards are such thrilling things, because they offer so many possibilities as to what may be in them that, as soon as one hears the word "cupboard" or sees one—especially if it is a Guide cupboard—one feels all excited, and wonders what may be in this one!

A Company cupboard can be a positive treasure house. On the other hand, one sometimes finds games all mixed up with the Company record books, and uniforms and the basket-ball jostling the Library out of its corner; of course, it's only by mistake that the Company cupboard gets like that—perhaps the Poppy Patrol thought it was the Robin's turn to tidy it!

All Captains realise what a help their cupboard is to them, and how much more difficult it would be to keep tidy records of their twenty or thirty Guides, if they had no place to keep account books, forms, transfers, etc. How would you like to try to keep the records of about 7000 Guides, scattered all over Victoria, when there was simply no place where all the odd papers could be put away? Yet that is how things are at our own Headquarters. There are so many papers which should be kept and which have now accumulated to such an extent that, unless something is done, we will shortly see the staff peering at visitors over stacks of papers piled roof high.

An appeal has already been made for any spare cupboards that people have no further use for but, as one can seldom have too many cupboards, there has been no response. In view of the necessity for having some place in the office where papers and goods in stock can be protected from the dust, it has been thought that perhaps Companies might like to contribute the whole, or even half, of their subscriptions for one night. We are sure that every Company will be willing to do this, and there will then be enough money to have a splendid cupboard built.

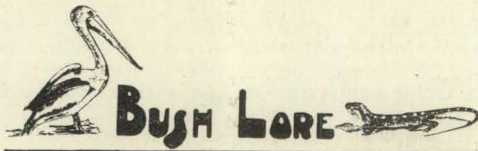
If contributions are sent to The Editor, c/o. Girl Guide Headquarters, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, if possible by 1st October, we will be able to make this a big surprise for the Headquarters staff because, of course, they are so busy trying to find somewhere to put their papers and saving their pet documents from falling into the waste paper basket, that they have no time to read "Matilda," so they won't know that they ARE getting the cupboard they have been longing for. May we conclude by saying (with apologies to the Brownie Page)—"Let each one of you SEE THAT THEY DO."

THE EDITOR.

BIRTHDAYS AT OAKLEIGH AND MURRUMBEENA.

On Saturday, 9th August, the 1st Oakleigh Brownie Pack and the 1st Murrumbeena Guide Company both celebrated their birthdays. In spite of the rain they appear to have made themselves very cosy in their halls, and their visitors—the District Commissioner, parents and members of the other Companies and packs in the district—seem to have had quite a jolly time.

We regret that space does not allow us to give fuller accounts of these parties.



SECOND-CLASS NATURE WORK.

It does seem a pity that the nature work is such a stumbling block in the second class test, for this part of the badge, if undertaken in the right spirit, should open the door to woodcraft for our Guides. More often, I fear, it has the reverse effect of closing that door for ever, and of turning the Guide right away from what should be to her a realm of wonderland.

How frequently the six life-histories are left until the last, and as this is the only thing which prevents the Guide from gaining her badge, she suddenly "does" them in one hasty rush. When a recruit has passed her tenderfoot test, and wishes to commence her second-class work, it should be explained to her that it is best to start with the nature studies because the observations can be made while the Guide is learning the other items required for the second-class badge. She may choose any six living creatures, animal or vegetable, and find out as much as she can about their life and habits. Also, she should understand that book-work is not required, but it is her own observations that are wanted.

Some Guiders may disagree on this point, but the child is going to learn far more from a bird she has identified herself, a nest she has seen, or a flower she has dissected, than anything she has read from a book. The romance of the naturalist lies not in accumulated knowledge, but in the thrill of each little discovery, which every Guide must make for herself; no one can do it for her.

If we read *Girl Guiding* (that rather neglected book) we find much excellent advice from Lord Baden Powell on the why and wherefore of woodcraft, which is here put in its proper place. But are we not almost inclined to omit this spice of Guiding, or at the best, cram it into some odd forgotten corner of our activities?

What is the objective of these nature studies? Is it to produce a concise naturalist or a joyful nature lover, for there is a vast difference between the two? Children are naturally fond of birds and flowers and animals, but too often get little encouragement in this most delightful and health-giving interest.

Guiders are often puzzled to know what standard should be expected from a Guide, with regard to the life-histories. The test lies, I think, not in the correctness or completeness of her written work, but in her keenness. Just recently I tested a Guide for this section of her badge work, and was rather disappointed at the standard of her life-histories. Almost immediately after this she went away to the beach for her holidays, and on her return nearly bewildered me with a host of questions concerning the names and other information of the sea birds she had seen there. Then I

knew she was on the woodcraft trail all right, and isn't that the test for nature work—whether it puts the Guides on the woodcraft trail, or frightens them off it for ever?

On the other hand, there is the studious type of Guide who hands in a bundle of encyclopaedia—the life-histories. They are quite all right, and absolutely correct to the smallest detail, but yet there seems to be something missing. What is it? Is it not the spirit of the whole thing, for it means nothing to her; she has never "felt" any of it. And by "feeling," I mean this. Have you ever watched a child as she tells you about some wonderful bird she has seen; with eyes shining, and face full of excitement. A passionate love of nature is one of the charming features of children, but how often this love is allowed to die or fade away through lack of sympathy and encouragement.

Guides do not need a clever Captain who knows everything there is to know in natural history. All they want is someone who can understand and feel with them, and also encourage them. We, as Guiders, cannot do better than learn with the Guides, who are the best teachers for this subject. For is it not true that we are trained to help our companies in every branch of Guide work except woodcraft, and in districts where it is hardest to encourage, there is the greatest need.

Nature Study is taught in most Victorian schools to-day, and the very idea of doing more of this in connection with Guiding completely bores some Guides, as it is just a dry and dead subject to them. So that what we want to encourage in Guiding is not the so-called "nature-study," but the romance of the open-air world.

When the Guides become older and approach Ranger age, I have found that they still retain this love for nature, but then it broadens and deepens until it comes to mean much more to them than in the days when they were so childishly excited about it. And in this busy age in which we live to-day, if we can send the Guides into the world with a real and deep appreciation of the beauty in nature, both in country and town alike, we are giving them something which will be invaluable throughout their lives.

Nature diaries are perhaps the best way of teaching the habit of observation, and are splendid for showing a Guide's attitude towards birds, trees and flowers. I always ask for a fortnight's diary in addition to the six life-histories, and only the other day read an excellent one from a Guide who saw the most interesting things on her journey to and from work each day.

Many Guiders may totally disagree with the thoughts and opinions expressed in this article. They are not hasty conclusions, but the result of several years' experience in trying to help Guides to love the woodcraft trail. There is much that could yet be said about the second-class nature work, but I am going to let the following lines speak for themselves. They express a Guide's own experience with regard to the second-class nature studies, being an extract from an essay on Guiding for the Writer's badge, which came under my notice during the last proficiency badge tests.

"I owe my interest in nature study to Guiding, because it was at Guides that I had to know something about birds and trees before I could get my second-class. I did not know the difference between a male and female sparrow, or even that there was a difference, and much against my will I set to work to find out as little as possible about these things; just so much as would allow me to get my second-class badge and no more, for I was very anxious to get this badge, but not anxious to improve my knowledge of nature study. But by the time I had finished six nature studies for this badge, I was becoming quite interested in birds. With help, and interesting talks on nature study in the company, I found myself watching birds, and noticing little things I had never seen before, thus gaining much more pleasure and interest in walking.

"After I had been at Guides over a year, I decided to go for my naturalist badge, and I will never forget the pleasure I had from working for this badge. It was not easy, but the joy of finding out something new—a bird I had not seen before; to discover after weeks of patient observation, the owner of a certain whistle or song, and recognise it from then on; or to see the little pink flowers come on to the elms, then the clusters of green seeds which afterwards fall, and lastly to observe the real leaves which come to stay all the summer months.

"I think I had three tries with the three months' nature diary before I was satisfied with it, and I never went out on a hike or to the Gardens without a Leach's bird book under my arm. I have also become very interested in trees, and have learnt to love and observe them with a different feeling since I found out more about them."

SECONDHAND UNIFORMS.

The following letter will be of interest to Guides whose Guides may have uniforms for which they have no further use.

"Dear Matilda,

"I was delighted to read in this month's issue that there may be a possibility of procuring cheap uniforms for Guides. I wonder if there are likely to be any hats also, for these are the heaviest outlay.

"We have thirty-four in our Company, and twelve recruits, and as Company funds invariably have to come to the rescue to get uniforms, it would be a great help if we could purchase them secondhand.

"With Guide greetings, Yours, etc.,

"PAULA SCHREIBER,

"Captain, 4th Carlton Company."

N.B.—Miss Schreiber's address is 1 Molesworth Street, Kew.

APPROPRIATE ENCOURAGEMENT.

The Legend of St. George was being acted in Camp, and just as the Dragon—a conglomeration of rugs, ground sheets, and guides—after much licking of lips was about to devour the princess, one of the stage hands, whose job it was to provide the stage noises, blew "Cookhouse"!

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION, VICTORIA, HELD ON AUG. 20, 1930.

Present: Lady Somers, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. Littlejohn, Misses Bush, Cameron and Purnell.

In answer to a letter relating to the formation of a Children's Cinema Council, it was agreed to send a representative to the meeting.

It was agreed to grant Miss Irving extended leave of absence until February.

It was reported that a cable had been received from the Chief Scout, agreeing to the programme submitted to him by the Victorian Guides and Scouts Associations.

It was agreed to accept an invitation from the President of the Boys' and Girls' Work Committee of the Rotary Club, for a representative to speak on Guiding at a luncheon meeting.

The application for a Thanks Badge to be given to Mrs. Guyett was approved.

Routine and financial business were transacted, and the date of the next meeting was fixed for Wednesday, 24th September, 1930.

RANGER GUIDERS AT IVANHOE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

29th August—1st September, 1930.

The 2nd Ranger Guiders' Training Week-End was held at Ivanhoe Grammar School through the courtesy of Rev. Sidney Buckley, headmaster.

Twenty Guiders, of whom five were from the country, attended, and Miss Sheila Cameron, Head of Rangers, was Commandant.

Our first experience of "camping" in a boys' school was quite exciting; it was most interesting trying to find a quiet nook for dressing in! and in at least one bathroom one was waffled back to girlhood's days at boarding-school. We had the mostest fun at more or less suitable moments—and at meal-times it was a little difficult to masticate adequately when one was trying to control incipient hysterics at the same time.

However, it is not seemly to let the Rangers know too much of their elders' doings, so we hasten to mention that quite a large amount of solid work was done as well. There were practical sessions, including knotting, splicing, running team games, country dancing; as well as discussion sessions on test work and company conundrums (we refuse to mention the word "problem" again).

Perhaps the most helpful thing about such a week-end, apart from the pooling of ideas and the sharing of experiences, is the opportunity of meeting other Guiders, all interested in the same things, and keen to find out some ways in which they may be of use and help to the Rangers in their charge. We hope that all the Guiders present shared our happiness, and gained similar inspiration to "keep on keeping on".

OUR BROWNIE PAGE.

Anything may happen,
And let each one of us—SEE THAT IT DOES.

SOME BROWNIE CEREMONIES.

(1). Take the Pack outside the hall, and let them magic the yard into an Enchanted Forest, where the Brownies used to live. One day they were all flying about, having a lovely time, while their wise old Brown Owl sat and watched them. The Brownies pretend to flutter about, and B.O. tells them how a terrible wind started to blow from the north, or whichever direction they are from the hall. It blew off all the Brownies' wings, so that they had to chase them round and round the forest, and it blew away every one of the Brown Owl's feathers, so she shivered like anything. At last it got so bad that it picked up all the Brownies, and the Brown Owl herself, and blew them right over the forest, till they reached a queer looking wooden place, and got blown through the door. Of course, it is not like any other place that they have ever seen, but luckily the fierce wind uprooted their Magic toadstool too, and there it is, waiting for them. They find that just enough magic came with it to make a Fairy ring to dance round, so they had better see if their songs sound as nice in here as in the Forest. The songs are then sung, and seem to sound quite as nice, so now the Brownies will be able to do all their magical things that they generally do.

(2). Magic the room into a tree, one wall being the roots, and the opposite wall the top-most branches. If Brown Owl likes, details may be discussed as to what sort of tree it will be, whether it is tall and graceful, or low and bushy, and so on. Each Six, or each Brownie, decides what kind of bird to be, and has to find a nest somewhere amongst the branches of the tree. Brown Owl may again use her discretion as to whether they tell her what each bird looks like, and what kind of nest it will have. Brown Owl is the Wise Bird who lives in the very middle of the tree. Somehow the other birds are always pecking and quarrelsome, so they decide to ask the Brown Owl what to do about it. They come flying up to her, with a tremendous whirr of wings, and tell her of their troubles.

B.O. says "I really don't know what to do for you, but the other day I flew down into the wood, and found such a lot of little brown people, who seemed to be wonderfully happy. Perhaps if you go and watch them for a while you might find out their secret. The birds are pleased with this idea, and fly off to look for the Brownies. They find them just as they are going to sing their song, or whatever Brown Owl has planned next on the programme.

At the close of the meeting, the birds go back to their nests, and B.O. calls them over to her. They flutter round her, and she asks: "Well, have you found out how those brown creatures manage to be so happy always?"

Brownies: "Yes, we have, and it's the only way."

B.O.—"How do they do it?"

Brownies (very slowly, and flapping their wings): — "By-making-other-people-happy!!" Then, with another tremendous whirr, they fly away.

(3). The Brownies are magicked into a town, and Brown Owl explains that she is an old fairy, whose job is looking after a whole lot of boggarts, that were captured and imprisoned on top of the highest mountain. But the other day a boggart called laziness got inside her head, and she didn't bother to watch the others, so that they all escaped!

She wonders if any of them have hidden in this town, and looks very carefully under all the doors, on the window-sills, door-knockers, etc., various parts of the Brownies representing parts of a house, the same as in the ceremony where B.O. is looking for a house to live in. If B.O. finds many boggarts in these houses she decides that they must be hiding here, and says that she has just one week to get them all back, so it's to be hoped by next week there won't be one left. If there are none, B.O. announces that she has just got a message to say that they've all gone back, as the cleanliness of this town frightened them away!

BESS McARTHUR.

NEW VICTORIAN PUBLICATIONS.

Company Records.

The article on this subject, which was printed in the July issue of "Matilda," has been reprinted, and may be had at Headquarters for 1d. per copy.

Badge Articles.

The hints for the Astronomer and Sportsman's badges, which have appeared in "Matilda," are also available. Price 1d.

Good Carriage.

The notes of Miss Campbell's talk on Good Carriage, given at the Guiders' Conference, which appear this month, will be available at Headquarters at 1d. per copy.

It is thought that these leaflets may be useful to Companies. Guides will probably be glad to purchase the badge hints for themselves, and Captains are asked to tell their Guides that these sheets are available.

TRAINING.

Training Classes.

The final Course of GENERAL GUIDE TRAINING for the year will begin on FRIDAY, 3rd OCTOBER. Miss D. Hayman will be in charge.

The next Course of Classes for BROWNIE GUIDERS will begin on Tuesday, 16th September, in charge of Miss N. Thewlis.

Training Weeks.

The Training Week to be held from 30th December, 1930, to 7th January, 1931, will be for GENERAL GUIDE AND BROWNIE TRAINING; Guide Trainer, Miss Bush; Brownie Trainer, Miss M. Brown.

Instead of the Week for First Class Training, it is proposed to hold another GENERAL WEEK; the date and place will be announced later.

MERLE BUSH, Head of Training.

CAMPING.**Campercraft Week.**

The 10th Victorian Campercraft Week will be held in January, 1931—probably beginning about 19th January.

Combined Ranger Camp.

One Combined Ranger Camp will be held from 26th December, 1930, to 2nd January, 1931, inclusive, at Oakwood, Lower Macedon, through the courtesy of Mrs. Ebeling. Miss Barfus will be in charge.

Applications will now be received from more than six representatives from each of several Companies, to a total of 36 Campers. The Fee for each Camper will be 22/6, and applications accompanied with a deposit of 5/ for each Camper, should reach Miss Barfus at Headquarters not later than 18th October.

A Camp for Lone Guides.

will be held from about 16th January for one week. Miss E. E. Moran, Head of Lones, will be in charge.

When applying to attend Camp, Guides are urged to keep in mind the possibility of also wanting to come to Melbourne for the Rally in April.

EDITH H. PURNELL,
Head of Camping.

REGISTRATIONS.**Local Associations:**

Maryborough.
Mortlake.

Guide Companies:

1st Carranballac.
1st Coburg.
1st Dartmoor.
1st Ebdon Weir.

Ranger Companies.

Brunswick and Carlton District.

Brownie Packs:

1st Colac.
10th Geelong.
5th Hawthorn.
2nd Ivanhoe.
3rd Northcote.
1st Skipton.
1st St. Arnaud.
1st Yarraville.

WARRANTS.**Guide Captains:**

1st Balwyn—Miss Amy Bennett.
1st Carranballac—Miss M. Edwards.
1st Daylesford—Miss Nea Shellard.
5th Geelong (P.G.C.)—Miss Helen Jones.

Guide Lieutenants:

1st Ararat—Miss M. Williamson.
6th Ballarat—Miss N. Clarke.
1st Kyabram—Miss Jean Gillespie.
1st Skipton—Miss R. E. Osborne.

Ranger Captains:

1st Colac—Mrs. Munro.
3rd Kew—Mrs. Brodribb.
1st Northcote—Miss M. Russell.

Ranger Lieutenant:

1st Colac—Miss E. Baillie.

Brown Owls:

1st Elsternwick—Miss P. Knight.
5th Geelong (P.G.C.)—Miss D. Booth.
7th Malvern—Miss E. L. Lardner.

NINEPINS.**A Dance Game.**

This is a dance game which has proved popular. Any air with a rhythm of eight beats will do. John Peel, and the kindergarden tune, Oats and Beans and Barley Grow, are both very satisfactory.

Dancers are in couples, and stand in a square, each couple facing another. There is one odd dancer, the NINEPIN. A skipping step is used throughout.

1st Figure: Top and bottom couples change places (8 beats), passing by the right, then back again (8 beats). Sides repeat.

2nd Figure: Top and bottom men dance to meet each other (4 beats), turn each other by the right hand (4 beats), dance on to opposite woman (4 beats), turn her by the right hand (4 beats), back to the centre (4 beats), turn opposite man (4 beats), back to their partner (4 beats), turn her (4 beats), sides repeat.

3rd Figure: The NINEPIN now comes into action, and dances round, turning each lady by the right hand. When she has completed the round, the men join hands with her, and all dance round in a ring till the music stops unexpectedly, when all the men race for a partner, and the one left out is the NINEPIN next time.

If your Company has not a musician, the music can be supplied quite well by the Guides singing the tune, and clapping occasionally to keep the time strict.

In case of clash when racing for partners, the "man" wins who comes to the correct side of the woman, i.e., the left. It is a good plan always to have the game twice, and for men and women to change places the second time.

D.M.A.

(Copied from "Matilda," Vol. III, No. 2, Sept., 1925.)

A RANGER COMPANY VISITS THE "AGE" OFFICE.

On Tuesday night, 22nd July, a party of Rangers from 1st Surrey Hills Company visited the "Age" office. Arriving at 8 p.m., we were taken in charge by an obliging guide and quickly conducted upstairs. Climbing several flights of stairs, we reached the printing rooms. The change in atmosphere was most noticeable, particularly when coming from the cold air of the streets. Here was a different world altogether; shut away from outside affairs. The air was hot, the noise of whirring machinery fell on our ears, and everywhere busy workmen in shirt-sleeves, were seen hurrying to and fro. Passing into the linotype room, we watched the interesting working of the machines. In front of a keyboard sat a man, busily and lightly tapping the keys bringing thoughts of typewriters to our minds. The working of these machines was a somewhat complicated process, requiring the intimate knowledge of a printer to set it forth clearly. Suffice it to say, this was the first step towards the publication of the "Age". After the type was set up in these rooms and arranged in order by other workmen, it was conveyed to the stereotype room.

Having taken our way to this room, we were engaged in watching several different processes. Everything was new to us, and excited our keenest interest. To see the tablets of type passed slowly under rollers, and pressed on to sheets of material. Thus was the form of the

paper—the “Leader,” it was—set out. Being damp, it was put in a form of oven and rapidly whirled round till dry. Coming out, it was placed in a cylindrical tube, which was closed up. Molten lead, or, rather, a mixture of lead and other materials—was then poured into it. When opened, the lead cooled, and retained the type on its surface. We were informed that perpetual fires were kept going to melt this lead. Day in and day out the fires never cease. When the sheets of lead appeared, they were extremely hot, and had to be carefully handled. Passing through rollers, the untidy edges were cut off. The sheets were then treated to ensure evenness of surface. Chisel as well as mechanism accomplished this.

Passing from this room, where it seemed the “Age” was truly personified, for the surroundings showed the result of wear and tear, even the busy workmen appeared to be old and trusted employees, we were led to other rooms, where different stages of printing were going on. The method of reproducing photos was explained to us, illustrated by the picture of a large ram. We saw a machine ready for printing with all the illustrated pages of the “Leader” set out.

Leaving these rooms, we descended several flights of stairs, having a look in at the Sub-Editor’s sanctum on our way. We went down below the ground floor until we were in the basement. Here we were led to the storage room for paper. Huge reels of paper occupied the floor space. These reels represented forests of trees to us, and our imaginations were brought to bear on the continued destruction that is being carried on, to enable the papers to be printed. Each reel of paper, when unrolled, would stretch $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles. There were about 36 rolls in the room, and that is the usual consumption for one night. So just think of the timber that it takes! No wonder the re-planting of forests is essential.

Our next sight was one of the prides of the firm. Up till last year the “Age” was the possessor of the largest printing press in Australia. This huge machine was built in England, sent out here in pieces, and then re-built by Australian engineers. We did not see this machine working, but tried to imagine its speed and power. Five great rollers revolve at once, sending out thousands of copies of this daily paper. Situated just below the street pavement, the papers coming from the machine are ready, immediately, for despatch to agents and buyers. Two engines of 22 and 120 horse-power drive this machine. By the simple act of pressing a button the whole structure is put in motion. Starting with the less powerful motor and then the 120 horse-power commences revolving until, going on its own speed, the other is switched off, and the printing continues with rapidity. An immense switchboard is required to manipulate the electricity for the whole building, and the sight of this instrument overwhelmed us with some realisation of the power behind the printing organisation. Australia is being supported in this office, for ink rollers were shown us, and they were saturated with Australian-made ink.

After viewing this machine we saw a smaller one in operation. The noise of the machinery

was deafening, but the act of watching the “Leaders” pouring out by hundreds was—I think—the most fascinating sight of any we witnessed. We stood enthralled while the rollers whirled round, the pages passed over and under, were printed on both sides, folded, and came out, edges clipped and ready for placing with the illustrated parts, and then to be sold. The latter operation is done by hand, and then the covers are clipped on by machine. We saw complete “Leaders” being folded up for postage and piles of others, ready for despatch.

Before our departure, each member of the party was presented with a type of their own names and a portion of the “Age” in lithotype. Once more passing their famous printing press, we said “Good-night,” and reached the street. The effort of climbing half-a-dozen stairs precipitated us from this world of the romance of printing into the frosty air of Collins Street, all of us unanimously agreed to the wonder of the processes we had seen.

E.W., 1st Surrey Hills Rangers.

WHAT DO BROWN OWLS THINK?

The Brownie Guider who so kindly contributed the article on Planning Pack Programmes, which appeared in the July issue of “Matilda,” is very worried. At the end of this article she expressed a desire to know what other B.O.’s thought. As we have received no replies she is in doubt whether Brownie Guiders didn’t read the article or whether—they don’t think! We feel quite certain that they do think, but could we have some concrete proof.

ACCIDENT OR DESIGN.

The “knitting needle method” for removing grit in the eye is being illustrated by a candidate for 2nd class. The Captain has been placed in a chair, facing the light, but is doubtful whether by accident or design.

Captain: Why did you place me in this chair, Mary?

Guide—Well, er, when you sit in that chair you could look out the window with the other eye.
—M.H.

EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE.

The following equipment is available, and may be hired by Companies, at the rates mentioned, at any time except between December 24th and January 4th:—

4 Tents, 8 x 10, with uprights and ridges,
7/6 per week.
2 tents, 6 x 8, with uprights and ridges,
7/6 per week.

Buckets, basins and tent pegs may also be hired.

Companies must arrange their own cartage, and pay for all repairs.

Enquiries should be made from Mrs. Potter, St. James’s, E. St. Kilda.