

M. E. Bush

VOL. XVIII.—No. 12.

MATILDA

June, 1942.

Matilda



BIRTHDAY ISSUE

July, 1923—July, 1942

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Meetings of the Executive Committee, held at the Guide Office on 16th April and 7th May, 1942.

Present—April 16th: Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Littlejohn, Mrs. Robinson, Misses Cameron, Moran, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Present—May 7th: Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Bakewell, Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Littlejohn, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Robinson, Misses McKellar, Moran, Ritchie, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Agreed—That the Finance Sub-Committee should meet at 11.45 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, and that the vacancy caused by Miss Cameron's resignation be filled by Mrs. Pearson.

That we should undertake the responsibility for the clothing of the 11 children from Sumatra at present at Spray Farm.

To hold a meeting at Headquarters on 9th May of Commissioners, one Guider and one Local Association member from each District, to consider Guiding and war work.

To tell members of the Association about the Depot for remaking Defence Department clothing, in case any could volunteer to help.

That in the absence of a Commissioner for Rangers, Miss Moran should call a meeting of Ranger Guiders to discuss the special Home Emergency Service Test and the new Ranger syllabus.

That Mr. Margetts be accepted as tenant for the Guide House.

That the Committee was sorry to hear from the Chairman of the Guiders' Committee that a Guiders' Committee could not be formed this year, owing to the difficulties of the times, and that the matter would be discussed further at the Guiders' Conference.

To insert in Matilda the special appeal for tooth paste tubes being made by the Convenor of the Special Efforts Committee of the Free Kindergarten Union.

That we publish in Matilda and on the notice board Y.W.C.A. of Australia's call for applications from women to train as Welfare Officers for the A.W.A.S. and W.A.A.A.F.

Reported.—That the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust had made a grant of £34 to the Association for the current year.

That £25 had been received from the Thomas Baker, Alice Baker and Eleanor Shaw Benefactions.

That War Appeal Funds in hand were approximately £2000; that eleven cases were packed ready for shipment; that cases of clothing to be kept in Australia were being packed ready to be stored in suburbs.

That £182 had been received to date for the Guide House Appeal, out of which the debt of £115 had been paid.

That Major Deasey of the A.W.A.S. had invited a representative of the Association to visit the Training School at Glamorgan.

Routine and financial business was transacted.

M. E. BUSH, State Secretary.

CYCLE CORPS.

The District Commissioner writes:—

"The Portland Guides' messenger corps is proving most useful. Two Guides are attached to the District Warden whom they wait on four times a week, and two to each Area Warden and two to the First Aid Post.

They are kept quite busy, as they carry all messages to Section Wardens or notices re blood group tests or anything that crops up. They have delivered house to house messages and circulars in connection with A.R.P. on a number of occasions. Portland is rather a scattered town and this necessitates plenty of work for the bicycles. It has been arranged that one of each pair of messengers has a telephone at home, so their Wardens can get into touch at any time."

Will other Districts send in their Cycle Corps news too? A general report from the Leaders of all Squads is asked for by 12th June.

—E.E.M.

HEADQUARTERS ANNUAL LEVY

In 1939 it was agreed by Districts that, in order to supplement Headquarters funds, there should be an annual levy on all Packs, Companies and Local Associations. The amounts suggested were 2/6 per Pack, 5/- per Guide or Ranger Company, 10/6 per Local Association.

Last year, this levy brought in £76/15/6, but, owing to the change of date of the financial year, the period covered was only nine months.

The financial year ends on 30th June, and it would help us if donations were not all left until the last month, but were sent as soon as possible.

In explaining to the various groups the need for this levy, Guiders may find it helpful to refer to the printed balance sheet, showing items of receipts and expenditure, as printed in the Victorian Annual Report and Supplement (3d.).—M. E. Bush, State Secretary.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Le Trefle Rouge et Blanc, Switzerland.
The G.G. Magazine, South Africa.
The Victorian Scout.
The Trailmaker, U.S.A.
The Waratah, N.S.W.
Te Rama, New Zealand.
The Canadian Guider.
The Council Fire, World Bureau.

ARE YOU keeping in touch with your Guides who have gone away with their schools or who are staying with friends in the country?

See last MATILDA, page 4, "Company Problems," and read the Lone Page every month.

"Matilda"

An Official Treasure Bag of Guiders' Information for Guiders of Victoria, Australia.

Price, 3/- per year. 4/- Posted. Single Copies 6d. each.

Editor: Mrs. GUY BAKEWELL, 4 Stoke Ave., Kew, E.4.

Contributions should reach the Editor not later than the 18th of each month.

VOL. XVIII.

JUNE, 1942.

No. 12.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

MELBOURNE

May 25, 1942.

Guides,

The time has come for the girls of Australia to band themselves together in the great effort we are all making to finish this terrible war and to bring peace and happiness back to our land once more.

I want our Guides to show once again the spirit of self-sacrifice which will set a noble example to others.

The Guides of Victoria have never failed yet to answer any call made on them, and I know that they will not fail now.

The way to help our fighting men on sea, on land, and in the air, is to save up and buy War Savings Stamps and War Savings Certificates. If you will only do this you will be giving money to provide more guns and ammunition for the defeat of our enemies and for Victory.

I know only too well how unselfishly the Guides have worked and given of their best in the past two years of war, but it is the Spirit of Service which is the Guide spirit, and the only spirit which will help us to win this war.

State President.

GUIDE WAR WORK.

The Captain of 1st Echuca Guide Company writes that during their drive for cleaning rags they collected 371lb. The Guides were so pleased with this result that they have decided to repeat the collection at regular intervals, which seems a splendid idea.

1st Castlemaine Guides have sent in 233lb. of cleaning rags as well as a number of useful garments which they had given them at the same time.

A large carton of cleaning rags has also been sent in from Tallangatta.

Miss Ross says that the Preston Guides have made a great rag collection—many sacks full. Then they had a bright idea and rolled several dozen good, long, bandages out of some of the clean linen they received. These bandages have been sterilized and put away for the use of their Guide First Aid Post in an emergency.

Daylesford Guides are doing their share of plane-spotting. Captain takes two with her, and the lieutenants take two with them when they go out.

Donald Guides are knitting rugs for the Red Cross and are sending them through the local Red Cross to headquarters. They have collected 96lb. of waste gun cleaning rags and have sent them to the Australian Comforts Fund in Melbourne.

Clunes has just received a letter from the Red Shield people, saying how much the honey (140lb.) which was sent to them for the soldiers was appreciated. Some went to Port Moresby, and they still want more. It was sent in 2lb. golden syrup tins.

—N.M.

OUR GARDEN CLUB.

This we started in December, and invited all Guiders, Rangers, Guides and Brownies to join—the annual subscription being 2/6, inclusive of membership fee.

This Club was formed to keep our garden at the Guide House tidy, full of trees, flowers and vegetables, etc.

Do help us to keep up our garden, and join the club now!

IRENE FAIRBAIRN (Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn),
Garden Club.

C/o Girl Guides' Association.

Donations have already been received from—Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn, Mrs. M. R. Fairbairn, Miss M. L. Drury, Miss F. Sears, Miss M. Fowler, and the Brownie Cottage Committee.

Further subscriptions and donations may be left at Headquarters, marked "Garden Club," and addressed to Miss M. Shaw, or posted direct to Miss Margaret Shaw, 30 Parslow Street, Malvern, S.E.4.

SALVAGE—TOOTHPASTE TUBES.

Mrs. Norman Harris, Convener of the Special Efforts Committee of the Free Kindergarten Union, has written telling how Guides can help to minimise the serious shortage of tin, owing to the loss of tin mines in Malaya.

Very soon toothpaste tubes, formerly made of pure tin (valued at 2/6 per lb.), will be made of tin-coated lead, containing 4 per cent. tin, instead of 100 per cent., and will bring in approximately only 5d. per lb.

The Free Kindergarten Union has, in two years, received £2137 from the sale of waste metals alone, and is anxious to salvage all the pure-tin tubes while they are still available.

Guides can help by collecting these, and making the mavailable to the F.K.U. To save postage and packing expense, country Guides in the following towns are asked to hand in their collection through the local representative of the Free Kindergarten Union Waste Depot, whose name and address can be obtained from the Guide Office if required:—Camperdown, Kerang, Dimboola, Cobden, Mildura, Warragul, Nyahwest, Donald, Terang, Casterton, Drouin, Birchip, Yallorn, Warrnambool, Wangaratta, Swan Hill, Benalla, Shepparton, Kyneton.

M. E. BUSH.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT CLOTHING

The Women's Advisory Committee of Welfare Services, under the leadership of Mrs. Weber, M.L.A., is organising the salvaging of clothing from discarded military garments. Mrs. A. C. Bennett, Division Commissioner of Western Wimmera Division, is a member of the Committee, which has asked the Guide Movement whether members would help in this work.

The discarded uniforms, after being thoroughly fumigated, sterilised and cleaned, are made up into children's clothes, to be used in the event of an evacuation.

A band of helpers does the work of unpicking, cutting, tacking and machining, at the Depot in the Old University High School, Lygon Street, Carlton. More voluntary helpers are needed, and will be very welcome if they are able to go to the Depot, or form their own groups locally.

M. E. Bush.

GUIDERS, PLEASE NOTE THIS

A generous offer has been made by Mrs. Rylah to give a series of lectures on simple Physiology underlying First Aid, and the reasons for doing what so many of us have learnt in First Aid Classes. There is not time for this in the ordinary First Aid class, and it is very important just now. Events in England have proved this. Mrs. Rylah is specially qualified to do this. What she has to tell us, will also help Guiders in the handling of our Guides in these difficult times.

The course will start on Wednesday, June 24th, at Guide Headquarters, at 7.30 p.m. This hour is necessary as we must be out of the building by 9 p.m. There will be a minimum of four classes, and a fifth can be arranged if needed and desired.

All Guiders and L.A. members are welcome, and members of the Guide Red Cross Company are asked to take notice of this opportunity.

—M.M.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY

Both the Women's Australian Air Force and the Australian Women's Army Service require hundreds of wireless operators.

The Women's Air Training Corps, 7th Floor, Capitol House, 107 Swanston Street, Melbourne, provides instruction in wireless telepathy.

Applicants must be British subjects or daughters of British subjects of pure European descent and preferably single. They must not be less than 17½ years nor more than 25 years of age, must be able to spell well and write legibly, and be prepared to attend classes on at least two night per week. A reasonable standard of physical fitness with a minimum height of 4 feet 9 inches is required and all applicants must give an honorable undertaking to enter the Auxiliaries upon completion of training.

HOW WILL EVACUATION AFFECT OUR COMPANY?

The Evacuation Area (1).

What will be your part if the Company is wrested away from you and the Guides scattered hither and thither around the countryside? Will you wave them goodbye with a sigh and say "now I really CAN give some time to the vegetable garden?"

No! Because you are still their Captain, and you are responsible for the Company until each Guide has joined another, and they will need Guiding more than ever.

The ideal state of affairs in the circumstances would be for all Guides to join Companies in the District to which they have been sent. If there are no Companies for them, then it will be necessary for you to carry on the Company by means of letters.

The first thing to do if evacuation takes place is to find out where each Guide has gone. This may sound easy, but if conditions are disturbed it may be harder than it sounds. However, certain things can be done now, that will help in the emergency.

(1) Have your Company Records absolutely up-to-date. Make sure you have the addresses and phone numbers of all the parents, and that none have changed since you entered them in the book. Have a page in your book for the details of any Guides who have arranged for private evacuation.

(2) Give each Guide a stamped addressed post card to send back to you after she has reached her destination. Some of these may be left behind, but if the Guides are asked to keep them in their evacuation haversacks you should receive a good proportion back, which will be well worth the initial trouble and expense.

(3) Make sure each Guide knows your name and address off by heart! Not like the Guide who when she saw Captain coming up the path ran into her mother and said, "It's Captain of the Guides, but I don't know her name!" Tell them several times that should

they be evacuated you will be waiting to hear from them.

(4) Headquarters is hoping to prepare a special transfer card. Some of these will be distributed to Guiders. Take these to all Company Meetings so that they can be filled in on the spot if any Guide says she is going away suddenly.

(5) Have the latest edition of Victorian Supplement to P.O.R. which contains details of all Companies and Packs in Victoria. Keep this up-to-date from MATILDA, where alterations are published each month. If in doubt about whether there is a Company or not in any place enquire at Headquarters.

(6) Train your Guides to be ready to make enquiries at the State School, about where the nearest Company meets.

(7) With the Court of Honour make arrangements to set aside some of the Company Funds, to build up a sum that will be ample for postage, stationery, etc., in an emergency. If your Company cannot afford this, speak to your Commissioner, as the Local Association will be interested and anxious to help.

After sending off the transfers to the new Companies do not sit back and wash your hands of the matter, make sure the transfers are acknowledged and that the Guides have actually joined. It is possible that they may be billeted too far from the town to attend meetings, and are still your responsibility!

As soon as you know where the Guides are, send them a friendly post-card, to cheer them up. Let the P.L.'s know where their Guides are too. Many of the children will be miserable leaving their homes and friends, and will be very encouraged to receive letters.

After all these details have been tidied up as well as they can be, you may find you have a few Guides left or you may have the whole Company to keep going by post! So, be prepared to run them like a Lone Company. Training Classes will be held soon to give preparatory training for these emergencies. Any interested Commissioner or Guider is invited to write to Miss Macartney, Hon. Training Secretary, at Headquarters, for details. Guiders will also find much help in the Lone Page of MATILDA each month. Guiders in country evacuation centres are invited to apply for the Lone Correspondence Training Papers, they should write to Mrs. Fairbairn, Commissioner for Lones at Headquarters, endorsing the envelope "Evacuation." Next month we will publish some hints on keeping a Guide Company together by post.

If you have any ideas that may be of use to others, will you please send them in?

—ELAINE MORAN.

HERITAGE OF FREEDOM.

Guarding The Future.

It has been said that if mothers could have their way about their children's careers, the world would be populated mainly by Prime Ministers.

Every mother has dreams for her child's future, but in wartime the horizon of those dreams is clouded. Such essentials as happiness and freedom, in a world ruled by peace, and not by the ruthless arm of force, alone remain clear.

In countries already trampled under the war machine, much needless suffering has been caused to children who are too small, and too weak to defend themselves. Some records now being released from Poland, Belgium and France, tell pitiful stories. There is little left for those young ones other than desolation, hunger, misery and hopelessness.

It is not easy for us to realise these facts in Australia; with its freedom, fresh air, sunshine and health; where Youth Movements, ingeniously planned to produce Little Fuhrers or Hitler Maidens, are absent and unknown.

This should remind us of some of the differences between a democratic and a totalitarian State. In Australia parents have the right to plan their child's future and guide its career. Under dictatorship that right belongs to the State. Little Fuhrers and Hitler Maidens are taught that if the helpless children of other countries fall under the heavy boot of brutal force it is what they deserve, because their country dared to try to defend itself against the invader.

Our way with children is worth fighting for. And if it is worth fighting for it is worth saving for also. What better investment could there be than in the future of our own flesh and blood?

By increasing savings and placing that money in National Savings Bonds, War Loans or War Savings Certificates, the way is paved for a road into the future, free from terror and lurking danger; a road on which young Australian feet may safely tread.

There is no need to wait until the end of the war to prepare for Young Australia's future. This can be started now, taking advantage of the grim lessons learned by other less fortunate countries.

By placing savings in National Bonds, War Loans or Savings Certificates, there is a two-sided satisfaction.

First—that money goes towards Australia's war effort, to help free the world from terror which can strike down defenceless children and second our own children's future is assured, and it is that saving which provides the assurance.—Department of Information.

WHAT EVERY AUSTRALIAN SHOULD KNOW.

Emphasising that in the event of air attacks dispersal is the keynote of protection, the Department of Home Security urges the public to avoid concentration in large numbers in the city.

It is suggested that this might best be achieved by shopping locally, by leaving children at home when the city area is visited and by avoiding visits to the city at night-time under brown-out conditions. Large congregations of people are considered a danger at any time when air raids are a possibility,

and the Department, in view of experiences in other countries, urges that masses of people should not congregate.

IF ATTACK IS SUDDEN.

It is important to learn now where public shelters are located so that these may quickly be reached in an air raid and in an orderly fashion. Remember that if unable to reach a building or to take cover, the best protection is to lie face downwards in the gutter with the hands over the ears, elbows on the ground supporting the weight of the body, and the mouth open.

LIVE WIRES.

Electric wires brought down during an air raid are a danger. They must always be treated as live wires. Keep away from any wires on the ground. You should report any fallen wires to your local Air Raid Warden at the earliest opportunity.

Summing up, the golden rule to follow in an emergency is not to panic, be calm, take cover and stay put.—Department of Information.

THE GUIDE HOUSE.

It is splendid to be able to report that, through the generous response of all sections of the Movement in Victoria to our appeal, we have to date (21st May) received donations amounting to £244/6/10 to help keep the Guide House out of debt. All outstanding debts have been paid, and we are much comforted by the knowledge of a bank balance with which we can meet any emergency calls.

The Guide House has been let to Mr. Margetts, who has already taken over. The Brownie Cottage is still available for our use, and we may also use the camping paddocks.

If your Company or Pack has subscribed to the Endowment Fund but not yet decided on a date, we should be glad to know your choice.

The Guide House is endowed in perpetuity for the following dates in June:—

1st—Victorian Rangers (per 1941 Ranger Committee); 2nd—1st Brighton Pack (half-day); 3rd—4th Malvern Pack; 6th—Brunswick and Coburg District; 7th—1st Aberfeldie Co.; 8th—Bendigo Local Association; 9th—Dandenong Local Association; 10th—Miss M. L. Drury, Miss D. Coles; 11th—Miss Joan Alston; 14th—Brighton District Rangers; 16th—Mr. S. A. Bush and Burwood District; 19th—(reserved); 20th—Extension Branch (part day); 21st—Kew Local Association; 23rd—Mr. F. W. Faulkner; 24th—Miss Joan Alston; 25th—Mt. Evelyn Local Association; 26th—Swan Hill District; 27th—3rd Bendigo Co.; 28th—For Miss M. L. Martin (Scotland), and Anonymous; 29th—Victorian Rangers (per 1941 Ranger Committee); 30th—Outer Southern Suburbs Division.

The following dates are not yet endowed: 4th, 5th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 18th, 22nd. —M.L.

GUIDE HOUSE GROUNDS AND GARDEN

As you know the Guide House has been leased; but the Grounds and Garden Committee has undertaken to continue the care and supervision of the grounds and garden. The trees and shrubs are growing so well, that it would be really tragic if they were neglected now; so we are hoping to have the services of a few hard-working, enthusiastic people each month, who will be prepared to help keep the place in order. We will live in the Cottage which, with its new improvements, is a most attractive and restful place—it is a home away from home! We hope to arrange transport, leaving town soon after Saturday midday, and coming home on the Sunday night. The cost for transport and food will be ten shillings. Does this appeal to you? We are all busy people these days, but could you spare one week-end occasionally to come and help us?

The following dates have been arranged—June 20th-21st; July 25th-26th; August 22nd-23rd. Please send a deposit of 2/6 with your application to Miss C. Broadhurst, 457 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, S.C.2, fully a week before each week-end.

SPECIAL THRILL AT THE GUIDE HOUSE!

During the Easter week-end a platypus was seen disporting itself in the Guide House swimming pool! Imagine the thrill of the Rangers who saw it!

We had heard, when we first visited the Guide House that there were platypus in the creek, but this seems the first time one has actually been seen by Guide inhabitants of the property.

Quiet approach to the pool may reward others.—F.V.B.

COME WIND: COME WEATHER.

"Free is the bird in the air,
And the fish where the river flows;
Free is the deer in the wood,
And the gipsy wherever he goes.
Hurrah!
And the gipsy wherever he goes."

"There is a dash of the gipsy in every one of us who is worth his salt."

—Kephart.

In April "Matilda" we discussed the possibility of "light-weight" camping; being "free as air in the wild wood"; and making ourselves "come wind, come weather"—in plain language: it was how to make a Hike Tent; and what materials would be suitable for the making of it! Miss V. Harrison, 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6, has had quite a number of requests to send a copy of the design and all directions for the making; and this is very encouraging. There are two extra points that need to be added to those direc-

tions for making—always shrink your material before making; and do not forget to shrink the tape, webbing or material that you use for re-inforcing the seams.

It is not practicable to proof the material before making-up, because all seams must be either waxed or water-proofed in order to make them water-tight. So, having made your tent, you are now ready for directions in "Proofing" it. There are several different methods, each good in their own way; so we will give them all, leaving you free to choose.

Recipe 1.—A cake or two of paraffin or cerasine, lay the tent on a table, rub outer side with the wax until it has a good coat evenly distributed, iron the cloth with a medium hot iron, which melts the wax and runs it into every pore of the cloth. The more closely woven the cloth, the less wax, and less total weight.

Recipe 2.—Cut the paraffine into shavings so that it will dissolve easily. Put 2lb. of wax into 2 gallons of turpentine. Place vessel in a tub of hot water until the solution is completed. Meanwhile, set up the tent true and taut. Then paint it with the hot solution, working rapidly, and using a stiff brush. Do this on a sunny morning and let the tent stand until quite dry.

NOTE.—Both these recipes make a tent quite water-proof; pure paraffine is apt to crack and flake in cold weather, it makes the tent rather stiff and hard, it is heavier than other processes, and is inflammable. The introduction of turpentine in Recipe 2, makes the tent more elastic and less inclined to flake, but it is also inflammable.

Recipe 3.—Completely dissolve, by boiling, in a pint of soft water, an ounce of isinglass and strain through a piece of clean linen. Dissolve a quarter of an ounce of white castile soap in a pint of water, strain and add to the first solution. Then dissolve an ounce of alum in two pints of water and again strain and add. Stir and heat the combined solution over a slow fire until it simmers. The solution is then applied hot to the outside of the tent with a small flat brush and worked well into the seams. It is best, of course, to erect the tent for this to be done. The quantity given is enough for about eighty square feet. Be careful not to over-proof, it is worse than not proofing enough.

NOTE.—This recipe has been tried with success, it is very cheap, and only made the tent 3 ounces heavier than its original weight. It is not inflammable.

Recipe 4.—Shave up about a pound of laundry soap and dissolve it in two gallons of hot water. Soak the cloth in it, dry out thoroughly, and then soak in an alum solution as above, and dry again.

Recipe 5.—There is a good commercial preparation called "Duck's Back" or "Duxbak." This is cheap, it does two tents, and has been proved quite satisfactory.

More hints will appear next month; and then your tent will be complete.

—CLARA BROADHURST.

Patrol Leaders' Page

IS THE TENDERFOOT IMPORTANT?

"In America the Backwoodsmen did many things, and they nearly always lived out of doors in log cabins, working in the woods and mountains, and living a very simple life. If a new young fellow came among them to learn their ways, and to get a real knowledge of woodcraft, it was almost certain that he got sore feet. There was no disgrace in this, and the old hands looked on it as quite a natural thing. His feet were tender because he did not know how to look after them, because he was so soft that he had no great powers of endurance. To achieve these powers of endurance was the aim of the young Backwoodsman, and in order to do this the old hands used to put him through certain tests, but they always called him a "Tenderfoot" until he had, so to speak, won his spurs. Besides a few simple practical tests, he had to learn to be loyal to the gang with whom he worked and lived, and to stick to their very real code of honour. The Chief Scout took this idea of the young Backwoodsman who was called a Tenderfoot, and formed those simple tests, which are the foundation of Girl Guiding and Boy Scouting, upon it. . . . The origin of the Tenderfoot Test was to give young Guides and Scouts the best possible start in their Guide and Scout life."

—(From The Guide).

Leaders, do you make sure that your recruits get this best possible start in the best possible way? It is up to each one of you to see that they do. Think back to the first time that you came to a Guide meeting. It was a very important day for you, though when the great moment actually came perhaps you felt a little shy and strange, even though you were looking forward tremendously to all the fun, the thrill and the adventure that Guiding was going to mean for you. How did you go home from that meeting? More than ever thrilled and excited about Guiding, or feeling just a wee bit flat and disappointed? To such a large extent it does depend upon you, the Leaders, how your recruits go home. Do you make them feel really welcome, and see that they join in all your activities right from the start? They will be bursting with enthusiasm and ready to absorb anything you teach them. Make sure that they go home from each meeting having really learnt something, and having been thrilled and interested to learn it—how to tie a tie or rope off a bomb crater—something they can do that is really useful and practical. That is a big point, "useful and practical," for that is what the recruit wants. Who could ever see any point in sitting down in a corner and tying a reef and a clove-hitch with little pieces of string—IS there any point in it to see? But, to learn how to fasten your tie, or to rope off a danger area, that is different!

If you are having some ceremony with the

Colours at one of the recruit's early meetings that is a splendid opportunity to tell her about the flag, what it stands for, and how we got it, leading on to the stories of the saints whose crosses make up the flag. Anyway, it is always possible to borrow the Colours and take them to your corner to show and teach your recruit.

Read the first paragraph again and you will see that at the beginning the young Backwoodsman did a few simple practical tests. That is what you must do with your recruit. You would never hand her a book or a test card and say, "Learn this!" would you? You would really DO everything with her. Who, for instance, ever heard of tracking signs done on paper? Take your recruit outside and get her to lay and follow a trail right from the start.

The Backwoodsman also had to learn to be loyal to his gang, and to absorb their code of honour. Your recruit is learning all this during her "month's attendance." Don't worry if she takes longer than a month before she is enrolled, she usually does. She is going to make a very big Promise at that enrolment, and you don't want to hurry her over it. Let her take time to feel that she really wants to do so, and understands what it means. It is your job, and a very important one too, to go through the Promise and Law with her and make sure that she does realise what they mean, and understands what she is about to undertake. Some of the words may be a little difficult for a small ten-year-old to understand, have you thought out a simple explanation of them all?

Even though your recruit is not yet enrolled she can still join in first and second class activities with the rest of the patrol. Why shouldn't she play compass or first aid games with the others? I HAVE seen a recruit sitting in the corner with a book while the rest of the patrol enjoyed an exciting morse game. You wouldn't let that happen would you Leaders? It is usually possible to fit the recruit into the game somewhere with a little thought.

In the few cases where a game or activity is beyond the recruit, or when she arrives unexpectedly and you have not planned for her, have you got any simple games or occupations for her in your patrol box? We will be dealing with patrol equipment in more detail later, but here are a few ideas for you now. Coloured paper and scissors are always useful, and the recruit can cut out the crosses of the Union Jack, provided you have given her a small flag or one made of cardboard to copy. Or you can have a cardboard flag cut up into a jig saw puzzle for her to put together—once again remember to have a whole flag for her to copy—she is not familiar with its appearance as you are. Then you could have two copies of the Laws—one on a sheet of cardboard, and the other cut up into separate words, and the recruit can build up a second set of Laws with the odd words. These are just a few hints to help you, what others can you think of yourselves? Your patrols may

have some bright ideas too, and I am sure they would like to help you in making the equipment.

Help your recruits as much as possible, Leaders, but don't make things too easy for them. Expect a lot from them and you will get it. Make them realise from the beginning that "second best" is no use, as Guides only the very best will do. Remember too, that everyone's best is different, your slow recruit will need much patient help and encouragement from you. She may put very much more into it than the bright girl who gets a quicker and apparently better result, so do praise and encourage any real effort that your recruit has made, as well as anything really well done. As well as being the entrance to Guiding the Tenderfoot Test is also the foundation of everything else that will be learnt later. To a large extent the recruits will judge what is expected of them and what Guiding will mean to them by the Tenderfoot and how it is taught to them. Leaders, what are you going to do about it? 'TUL-KARA.'

A TEST FOR PATROL LEADERS.

A Patrol Leader, before she is invested as such, must be a Second Class Guide. We are also told, in P.O. & R., that "instruction should come as much as possible through her." That means that her Second Class knowledge must be really thorough and up-to-date. We sometimes find that a girl who has been elected as P.L. did her Second Class quite a long time before and may now be a little weak in some sections. In these cases it is a good idea to institute a "Leaders' Test" for such girls to pass before they receive their stripes.

We are printing below a test of this sort which was actually used by a Company. It took place in the Captain's garden one Saturday afternoon, and took each prospective Leader about two hours to complete. The P.L.'s enjoyed doing it, and realised at the end of the afternoon that a really thorough all round knowledge of test work was required of any Leader. On arrival each Leader was handed a piece of paper which said:—

"There are seven sets of things to do, you can do them in any order. Only one P.L. does the one set at the same time. Ask Captain to check each one as you finish it. Leave all equipment as you find it, but do not replace a set of instructions until you have been passed for it. When you have done them all signal to Captain—

"I have finished."

You will find instructions in the following places:—

- On east verandah.
- At foot of sycamore tree.
- In vegetable garden.
- On lawn between dahlia beds.
- On lawn near silver birch.
- On lawn under poplar tree.
- In dog's yard.

Ask Captain to initial each place on this list as she passes you for that section."

At each of those places was an envelope

containing instructions, and any equipment that was necessary.

These were the contents of the envelopes:—

1. "Captain has been bitten by a snake on the hand. Treat it. Think of four ways in which keeping the Health Rules is also keeping the Guide Law and tell Captain."

(Equipment: An apple and a penknife. This was to be used to demonstrate cutting the punctures. Guides had to find their own stick and use a tie, stocking, etc., for the ligature).

2. "Join the two ropes and tie the dog to the tree. Draw an Australian flag. How do you know when the Union Jack is a signal of distress?"

(Equipment: Two wet ropes, a toy dog, paper, red and blue pencil).

3. "Set a fire and when it is ready to light go and tell Captain. You can find wood and punk on the spare land opposite."

(Equipment: A billy for water).

4. "Here is a picture of a gadget. Tie one of the square lashings. Do not untie it when you have finished, as the next person can do another lashing."

(Equipment: Picture of a camp shoe rack, six sticks, thick string, a knife).

5. "Find a leaf and a seed and discover one thing about each which might be of interest to your Patrol. Choose any bird you know and describe it to Captain so that she is able to guess its name."

(No equipment needed).

6. "Lay a track from here to the letter box on front gate, using at least six different signs. Think of four things you would tell a Guide to do when stalking, then stalk Captain, making sure that you use those four things."

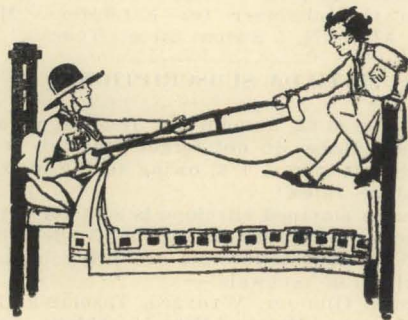
(No equipment needed).

7. "How would you explain to a recruit what the following words meant?—Honour, Thrift, Loyalty, Courtesy."

(The four words were written in morse). "Think out your answer and then go and tell Captain."

(No equipment needed).

A morse flag and a buzzer were left on the verandah in case the P.L. wanted either of them to signal her final message).—S.M.M



Editor: Sydney Foott.

Do you like Guides or Brownies best—or is it perhaps a mixture of both which you prefer? If it is, then you should try to get some experience with the "Janefield" Com-

pany—a company which consists of 30 sub-normal children.

At the present time they have no Captain, whic his a great misfortune for them, as they are so keen on their Guiding. However, they fill in their time making camouflage nets—so far they have finished 70—and in this way they feel they are being useful and helping others.

The company in a mental institution differs from an active company in various ways. First of all, the members may be of any age from fourteen to twenty-five, though their MENTAL age may be only seven to ten years of age. (In this respect it should be remembered that a grown-up person of normal intelligence tested in this way is unlikely to reach a higher mental age than fourteen years!) The second important factor is that the Guides will stay in the Company more or less indefinitely.

It is when you realise the implications of this last that you come to appreciate something of what Guiding means to the mentally-handicapped child. Just think for a moment what being "one of the great sisterhood of Girl Guides" would mean to a child who was conscious of being different. To know that one is a member of a whole family of friendly people, and that one is trusted to do one's best—this means so much.

After an enrolment a mentally defective child once said to me, "I'm YOUR sister now, aren't I?" And the reverence and solemnity with which a child approaches her enrolment is something which might well be followed by "normal" Guides. To a mentally defective child the enrolment is a great event in her life—not merely a milestone in Guiding, but part of the fabric of her whole life, just as Guiding is.

Guiding in an institute such as Janefield consists in "being and doing," and in some ways it is very like Brownie-ing. Everyone is keen to be doing something, and though there may be fights, there will be reconciliations, and there will be present that elusive something which we called "Guide spirit"—remember?

If anyone reading this has an urge to help with this company, would you please write to the Commissioner for Extensions, MISS JOAN ALSTON, 5 Struan Street, Toorak.

MATILDA SUBSCRIPTIONS.

When sending amount for renewal of subscription, please do not forget that the year's subscription is now 4/6, owing to the increase in postage rates.

Unless a stamped envelope is sent for return of receipt, we retain it at the Guide Office, to save postage. Receipts are being held for the following renewals:—

Miss R. Gilmour, Wynyard, Tasmania; Mrs. D. Robertson, Minyip; Miss M. Abbott, Launceston; Mrs. J. Foster, Eaglemont.

April: Miss J. Alston.

May: Miss D. Gillett, Miss M. Welch, Miss C. McKellar, Mrs. C. H. Edmondson.

—F. V. BARFUS.

The Sign Post

Editor: MARJORIE NICHOLSON.

"LET'S BE PRACTICAL"

(Taken from "Just an Ordinary Company," by Joan Herbert).

"Grace! Really!" Miss Graham, Lieutenant of the 2nd Shawleigh Company gazed in astonishment at the Primrose Patrol Leader.

"Jill told me you all studied weather-prophecy at the last meeting, but surely—surely—she didn't suggest you should bring this?" She pointed at the clumsy object which almost completely enveloped the Patrol Leader. Grace grinned cheerfully.

"My umbrella do you mean, Lieutenant?" she asked, holding it up so that she could be seen more clearly. "Well as a matter of fact I'm using it in Patrol time today—to study the stars." Miss Graham shook her head in mock bewilderment. "They never did things like that in my young days," she quoted in a quavery voice. "Oh, but excuse me, Lieutenant—that's just what they did do."

Grace contradicted. "At least it was probably before your 'young days.' You know how keen Jill is on the early days of guiding?" Miss Graham nodded. "Well then," Grace continued. "I thought we'd better have a look at the first Handbook for Girl Guides—'How Girls can Help the Empire'—and this is one of the things it says." She fumbled with her free hand in one of her pockets. "Here we are: 'Cut out a quantity of little stars from stamp edging, take an old umbrella, open, and stick the stars inside it, in the patterns of the chief constellations, then hold it overhead, and turn it round once for twenty-four hours, making the stars rise in the East.'" "And you've done that?" Lieuts voice held a note of admiration. "It must have taken ages."

"It was fun, and I learned an awful lot while I was doing it." Graces eyes twinkled. "I'm sure Jill will be expecting us to find our way at night by the stars soon, and its best to "Be Prepared." The rest of the Company who had been listening to the last part of the conversation groaned. Lillian Somers, leader of the Blackbirds gave a chuckle. "I suppose, really one could find one's way in the day-time by the stars," she suggested. "Oh, here comes Jill. She can tell us." It was some time before Jill, greeted by a confused babble of voices, understand what was required of her. "You see," Lillian explained elaborately I read somewhere that if you are down in a well in the daytime you can see the stars. So if you know the constellations and get lost—"

You've only to get into a bathing suit, or falling that, dig a hole sufficiently deep to be able to see one tiny patch of sky which may, or may not, display a constellation that is known to you!" Jill finished laughingly. "Have you any idea how deep the well has to be, by the way?"

Lillian shook her head. "Nor have I," Jill admitted. And I may be wrong, but I don't

honestly think we need trouble to experiment to find out! "You see," she spoke hesitatingly, "it's best for us to keep to practical things at the moment, I think. And it would be more practical to know our own self measurements than the depth of that rather problematical well." The company nodded grave approval. "What measurements?" Dulcie Hill, leader of the daffodils, inquired. "Do you mean the ones in the Girl Guide diary?" Jill touched each of her pockets in turn half guiltily. I haven't got my diary with me, she confessed, "but these are the measurements you'll probably find most useful to know. Take down a list will you? The Company rustled into activity and settled themselves on the ground with their pencils poised over their open notebooks.

"Ready?" Jill looked round at them. "Here goes, then"—"Nail joint of forefinger." "Span of thumbs and forefinger." "Span of thumbs and little finger."

"Wrist to elbow." (You'll find this gives you the length of your foot).

"Elbow to tip of forefinger (called 'cubit')." "

"Middle of kneecap to ground."

The Company scribbled violently for a few minutes and then raised expectant faces.

"Finished?" Jill asked them. "Well, then, tell me a way of finding out whether that table over there is as long as your height. By lying on it!" Judy, the blackbird second suggested instantly. The Company laughed. "A most practical suggestion, but there's an easier way than that," Jill told her. "Your extended arms, from finger-tip to finger-tip is called a fathom, and very nearly equals your height. I don't want you to take my word for it, though; measure it and see."

Grace Woolton shook her head.

"Sometimes you have to take other people's word for things," she pointed out. As I was telling Lieut. just now. I've been reading the first Girl-Guide Handbook—written by the Chief Scout and Miss Agnes Baden-Powell, and it says:

Any egg can be thrown out of a first-floor window on the lawn without the shell breaking; it falls like a cat, right end upwards, and this is not a boiled egg, either! Do you believe it? The Company was divided in its opinion. Merit patrol funds run to buying an egg to experiment with. Lieut. asked the Primroses:

"It isn't that," Mary Ellen, their second, answered quickly. Grace did suggest that, but we—we thought, supposing it broke—well, that wouldn't be thrifty, would it? Jill gave a quick little sigh of despair. "Must you all be so serious about it?" she demanded. "Fancy holding a patrol meeting about an egg! Do remember that Guiding's a game, all of you—and don't look so solemn."

How any of you could bear to leave the fate of that poor egg undecided mystifies me. Lieut. said wonderingly. "Have you no curiosity, any of you?" The shops are shut now, so I'll probably have a sleepless night waiting till I can buy one and experiment! There was a chorus of demands for permission to watch the proceedings.

Let's form a First Aid Corps to rescue the egg—"And scramble it if it does break—" "Or make it into an omelette—aux fine herbs. There are sure to be some bits of grass sticking to it." One ridiculous suggestion followed another until Jill decided it was time to call a halt.

"Talking of cooking," she said, "How many of you know the tip of smearing your billy-can with vaseline before you use it over an outdoor fire?"

You'll find it much easier to clean afterwards if you do—and on a hike it's not much fun carrying grimy cooking utensils, is it? Dulcie Hill looked doubtful. Is it—is it terrible "Guiding" to make things easier? she asked. Jill bit her lip thoughtfully. I think we ought to know how to rough it, she said, but I don't see there's any real reason why we should do unnecessary work, do you Lieut?

Miss Graham denied the suggestion vigorously. I'll tell you all something, she contributed. "And that is, I always take a few pieces of "meta" fuel with me to start a fire when I go on a hike and sometimes a few pieces of punk too. I like to be prepared for accidents in which hot water will be needed. Jill's congratulations quelled the murmur of mixed horror and surprise which greeted Miss Graham's confession. Very sensible, Jill went on quietly. And if you take the water in a thermos for making tea, do you take hot water? If you do, it means your kettle will boil more quickly, Jill! The whole Company joined in a howl of protest. Jill's chin rose. "Well, why not?" It's not as though I can't lay and light a fire in the open. Besides, as Lieut. says, being prepared for accidents, sometimes on a hike I want to study other things, and there wouldn't be time if I spent too long over my tea. Now are you beginning to see what I mean? The Company nodded their doubtful understanding, but it was obvious that the idea was new to them. Jill grinned and glanced at her watch. "Do you realise we've done nothing but talk this meeting?" she pointed out. "You'd never think my motto was, 'An ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory,' would you?" Judy the Blackbird second, put her head on one side. "Yes," I think I would." "You said practical things about digging that well, for instance, and—" "Of course, I could give you heaps of other instances," Jill went on, "but I think we've talked enough. The patrols had better go to their corners for instruction time now. Next time I come, she watched the expectant faces on the guides, "next time it's going to be all practice and very little talking. Just you wait and see." Grace Woolton picked up her bulky umbrella a trifle doubtfully. "Are you going to ask us to find our way by the stars?" she asked. "Otherwise I'm afraid you'll say this—this piece of work is impractical." Jill, however, was full of admiration for the neatness and skill—,ou never go wrong if you follow the Chief's tips," she reminded the leader. All the same, and she shook her head, I don't think stars will come into our next meeting—but of course you never know."

BROWNIES.

Nature Observation.—Observation is the beginning of interest in Nature. We try to teach our Brownies to observe everyday happenings, making use of our immediate surroundings, and not waiting for special outings.

We all have our meetings out of doors, or the greater part of them, and thus can help to develop the Brownies' powers of observation and description by simple games. A chart for the Pack, or one for each Six, will help. Let it be about one particular thing, i.e., weather, or a bird. Collections are to be encouraged, as Brownies learn so much from searching for their specimens of leaves, shells, stones, seeds or feathers, etc.

A Simple Nature Game.—The three Sixes take their mats and sit in little circles nearby. When called upon, the Sixers come to Brown Owl and each is given a specimen, i.e., a berry, or leaf, etc. Each runs back to her Six and sends one Brownie to find a similar article and rush it back to Brown Owl, and then return to her mat. This procedure is repeated till all the Brownies have had a turn. If desired, it is easy to give points for first back each time.

This game very soon makes the Pack familiar with every growing thing within the boundary set. An easy variation of the game is to give each Six its specimens in a bag, and see who can present a duplicate set first. In this case the Sixers will need to make sure that the Tweenies and quieter Brownies get their share of the hunting.

If we do not know the answers to some of the Brownies' questions, we can do our best to find out from someone who does, or from books. The Nature part of the Golden Bar Test must be prepared well ahead, and not left till the last minute.

Cottage.—Just before Christmas the Cottage Committee appealed for donations to equip the Cottage with knives, forks and spoons. The response to the appeal was most satisfactory because there is now half a dozen of everything all ready for use. At the same time, news is filtering through that the Cottage bathroom is looking too, too attractive, with new linoleum, new basin, new heater, and in fact all that it takes to furnish complete bathroom.

Here is the kind of letter that gladdens the hearts of members of the Cottage Committee, who have given me permission to print it in this column.

Colbinabbin East.
6/4/42.

Dear Miss Gross,—The Brownies held a "Penny Concert" last Saturday and sold drinks and surprise packets to raise funds for the Brownie Cottage Appeal. They raised 10/-,

which I consider very good for such a small Pack (10 Brownies). I am sorry we could not have sent it before, but both Tawny and myself were away and did not get Brownies started till the last week in March. Please find 10/- Postal Note enclosed.

Hoping we are not too late,

I remain,

Yours truly,

(Miss) R. PEARCE, Brown Owl.

Pack Pennies.—It is quite surprising how the weekly pennies collected at the Pack Meeting mount up. Somewhere around the sum of £2/10/- is quite an average income from the weekly subscriptions without any extra efforts. Two suburban Brown Owls who were comparing notes on expenditure were very interested to find that the money was distributed by each Pack in much the same ratio. The special appeals were contributed to by each Pack with funds raised by special functions.

	s.	d.
Donation to Church for use of grounds	10	6
Thank You Fund for Posts	2	6
Annual Contribution to Guide H'qtrs.	3	0
Registrations of recruits	3	0
Equipment from Guide Shop	5	0
Handcraft materials throughout year	10	0
Christmas gift materials	10	0
Christmas treat	5	0
Total	49	0

Old And New Owls.—As the Packs increase in number, it is necessary to have more Brownie Guiders; and as each existing Pack is a vitally important unit of the Branch it is necessary for every Brown Owl to have assistance. A course of elementary classes for Brownie Guiders is planned for August. This is a chance for those Brown Owls who are without a Tawny to consult with their Commissioners and begin the training of one. The Training Notice tells us that this year the classes may be held at a time and place to suit the majority of Guiders who wish to attend. It's up to us!

BROWNIE GAMES AFTERNOON.

A Games Afternoon for Brownies will be held on Saturday, 27th June. As the place has not yet been decided upon, please watch the Notice Board at Headquarters and the Post for further details!

During the Afternoon Sweets and Drinks will be sold, and proceeds will be for the Brownie Cottage.

BROWNIE COTTAGE CUTLERY APPEAL.

The Brownie Cottage Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking all Packs and Friends who have sent donations to the above Appeal. Your help is very much appreciated.

—G.R.

THE RANGER PAGE

"Service . . . is the rent we pay for our room on earth."

(From the Toc H. Initiation Service).

A Ranger can give very definite service to the community—

- (a) By doing her own job well;
- (b) By showing a spirit of cheerfulness and happiness;
- (c) By cultivating her mind by learning to appreciate beauty in the sights and sounds of the countryside, in art, and in literature.

(From "From One Ranger to Another").

"Have you breathed the morning freshness?
Have you seen the day begun?
Have you wandered in the forest?
Have you felt the early sun?
Have you felt God all around you in the wonder scented dew?"

(From "The Guide Law in short Prayers and Readings").

The Thank You Fund:

Does YOUR Company, on its birthday, give 2/6 (or more) to the Thank You Fund as a "thanks" for health and strength, to help those who have neither?

This fund enables the Post Guide captains to be supplied with stamps, paper, fares, etc., etc.

The demands on the "Thank You" Fund are numerous; so numerous, in fact, that sometimes it is almost not there to be demanded of!

Will you help the Thank You Fund, and in so doing, render service to your fellow-Guides and Rangers?

Minutes of the Victorian Ranger Committee Meeting Held at Headquarters on Thursday, 23rd April, 1942, at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Rangers, Elsie Kemp, Margaret Shaw, Grace Harris, Lillian Elliott, Ethel Preston, Greta Richardson, Lesley Green, Daisy Gregory, Greta Roach.

Elsie Kemp was elected to the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Business arising therefrom:—

Swimming Sports.—As the Convenor was absent a report on this fixture will be presented at the next meeting.

Fixtures for 1942.—The secretary reported that seven Companies had sent in suggestions regarding Fixtures. It was decided to hold the following fixtures during 1942:—

Country Dance Party, 23rd May.

Rangers' Own: 12th July.

Conference: August.

Ranger Dinner: October.

Profits on Fixtures.—It was decided to ask Companies to let the Committee know if they desire the profits on this year's fixtures to be used for some definite purpose.

Gipton Committee.—The following have been elected as the Ranger representatives on the Gipton Committee for 1942:—Joyce Boxall, 2nd Caulfield; Margaret Shaw, 1st Melbourne.

Finance.—The Treasurer, Margaret Shaw, reported a bank balance of £7/0/10; 15/- of which belong to the Thank You Fund, and an amount of 10/- in hand. A amount of £1/13/8 is still to be received as a part refund of the advance on the Swimming Sports.

Guide House Appeal.—A suggestion was made that the Ranger Committee make a small donation to the Guide House Appeal, and it was resolved to circularise Companies asking if they desired a donation to be given in the name of the Ranger Branch.

Date of Next Meeting.—Thursday, 28th May, 1942, at 6.30 p.m.

The Meeting then Closed.

Greta Roach, Secretary.

RANGER NEWS

Most Ranger companies are this year experimenting with new programmes, new meeting times, new meeting places—and each company is gaining experience which would be of help to other Companies.

Details of new programmes and experiments (with their results!), published in Matilda, would be of interest to other Rangers.

Would you send news of what experiments you are making—and what experience you are gaining from them, to Margaret Shaw, 30 Parslow Street, Malvern, S.E.4.

"Let me but do my work from day to day
In field or forest, at the desk or loom,
In roaring market-place or tranquil room—
Let me but find it in my heart to say
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,
This is my work; my blessing not my doom,
Of all who live, I am the one by whom
This work can best be done in the right
way."

—(Henery Van Dyke).

RANGERS' PRISONER OF WAR FUND

At the last Rangers' Conference it was decided that the Rangers would endeavour to support a prisoner of war through the Red Cross (£52 a year). Since then, unfortunately, evening meetings have become more difficult, and some companies may not be able to contribute. So far, sixteen companies have contributed, with a total of £9/6/-.

Three of these companies are country ones, two are Post Companies, and one a Lone Company—that leaves only TEN metropolitan companies—is your one of them?

S.R.F. and B.Mc.N., 3rd Melb. Rangers.

LONES

The 2nd annual meeting of the Lones Association will be held at my home, 236 Kooyong Road, Toorak, on Saturday, July 11th, at 3 p.m. This was arranged in the hope that more members would be free to come, and so that Lone Guiders might meet those who have been working on their behalf. Will our metropolitan members please note this date and do their best to attend?

It was decided to have an "Opportunity Shop," so as to raise money to augment our funds, so will everyone come armed with some gift, and be prepared to buy another before leaving? A pot of jam, some lemons—they will be in season by then—or anything useful will be very acceptable. After the meeting tea will be served, for which each member present will pay 6d. She is also asked to invite someone from her own L.A. to accompany her, so as to spread the interest in the Lone Branch.

We make still another appeal for the co-operation of the rest of the Guiding world. If each district in Victoria paid 2/6 a year for one member to represent it on the Lones Association, we would never be in the difficult position of having to try to raise funds. Even if every member paid her subscription regularly we would be quite financial. But alas! from our list of 66 members, there are only 37 who paid last year, and 12 haven't paid since we started two years ago!

To have collected only 66 members from the whole of Victoria, 29 of whom are merely names on our books, without even financial support, is a very disheartening result from all our efforts to gain the interest and co-operation of the rest of the Movement.

Of the 13 metropolitan members, only six attend regularly! My thanks are due to them for their loyal support, without which the Lones Association could not have survived at all. For the benefit of their Commissioners these are their names and districts:—

Mrs. Jardine, CAMBERWELL NORTH.
Mrs. Hughes, EAST MALVERN.
Mrs. Keble, MALVERN.
Mrs. Higgs, PRESTON.
Mrs. Harley, NORTHCOTE.
Mrs. Hull, YARRAVILLE.

But I am now going to take the skeleton out of the cupboard, and hope the rattling of his bones does not alarm you! Out of 33 metropolitan districts only 13 have found us a member, and of those 13 only six come regularly!

The following is the list of districts not yet represented:—

Aspendale, Box Hill, Brighton, Brunswick, Camberwell South, Carlton, Croyden, Elwood, Essendon, Hawthorn, Kew, Mordialloc, Prah-ran, Richmond, Sandringham, St. Kilda, South and Port Melbourne, Sunshine, Werribee, Wil-
Hamstown.

Will Commissioners please note and see if they can do something about it?

Because we realise how extra busy everyone is at present, and also because of a curtailment of our activities due to the national situation, we have decided to meet only once every three months this year instead of every two as formerly. Surely to alter one's arrangements once every three months, so as to keep in touch with this Branch is not too much to ask of our metropolitan members!

I therefore do ask most earnestly that every district makes an effort to support us in future.

To Commissioners.—See that a member is appointed, and that her subscription is paid. This is the responsibility of her own Local Association, and is due at each Annual meeting.

To Members.—Make a determined effort to attend the meetings, and see that interest in the Lones is kept up in your own L.A. Many districts have already been affected by evacuation and unless someone keeps track of the children who have moved away, and connects them with Guides in their new addresses, or attaches them to Lones, a great number of girls will be lost to the Movement.

Space does not permit my giving details of the membership of country districts, but I shall go into that next month, hoping that in the meantime those country Commissioners who have not as yet appointed anyone from their districts will do so, and thus bring up the average which as I look through my lists at this moment, is distinctly depressing.

I shall be delighted to receive names of intending members, and subscriptions may be sent to either Mrs. Jardine, 780 Canterbury Road, Surrey Hills, or to me.

Remember, we need your help, so that we can help your girls.

—M. R. FAIRBAIRN.

GIPTON'S NEW DRESS.

You read in the last issue of the valiant work done at the March Working Bee at Gipton.

The job was continued at Easter, when from nearly 50 applicants 25 were chosen to carry on the jobs that had been partly done the previous month. Workers included South and Port Melbourne Guides and Guiders, and some experienced painters from Twigs and Rangers, in charge of John Knight, who supervised the painting of the Guide House Working Bees.

The clipping of the perpendicular parts of the hedge (a very considerable job) was completed, and this leaves only the top to be clipped—a heavier job, and one which is going to be difficult to accomplish in the absence of ladders and planks. However, something may turn up.

Much burning off of clippings and dolicos and blackberries took place; the corner near

the silky oaks, which used to be a jungle. is now, after the noble efforts of some 2nd Caulfield Guides, devoid of even one black-berry leaf, and at a recent visit was actually growing a lawn. Everything is looking very satisfactory in the grounds now.

The Easter weather at Gipton seems to have been considerably better than in most other places, for the rain, though rather bad on Saturday morning (breakfast in bed!), did not seriously interfere with the work, or even the painting.

Since Easter, some of the Ranger painters have been down again to finish, and with one more day spent there, hope to finish the whole job. The house and shed are looking really elegant in their coats of "stone," with velvet-brown finishing. The shelter and summerhouse will look equally smart next time you go down, and we are thinking of the tanks being re-painted; but paint costs so much that we are wondering whether we can afford this extra.

Black-out conditions, which are very strict in that area, making camping at Gipton a bit complicated, but at Easter the moon was very helpful.

If any District has one or two dixies in the camp kit which they are not likely to use this year, Gipton would be very grateful for them; tin-ware gets so quickly rusty in the sea-air, and at present there are only two dixies suitable for cooking, and no small billies at all. If yours are just beginning to show signs of rust, we will finish them off for you at Gipton!—F.V.B.

TRAINING and CAMPING

(Elaine Moran)

Topical Training

A request has been received for some Refresher Training that will help Guiders bring into their Company Meetings in an exciting and adventurous manner the training that is necessary to prepare the Guides to be alert and ready to help in all emergencies as they have done in Europe, in England and in the East Indies. It was also suggested that Guiders might be helped with ideas for daytime meetings as so many have changed over lately.

Two afternoon classes will be held on **11th and 25th July** at the **Canterbury Guide Hall** from 2.30 to 5 p.m. through the courtesy of Miss Moore. If you are meeting with your Guides on Saturdays try and arrange for the P.L.'s to carry on on these days.

Please note the dates in your Guide Diary and tell your friends. Guiders hoping to attend are asked to notify Miss B. Macartney at Headquarters not later than 1st July.

First-Class Tests

First Class Testing Days for Guiders will be held in August and September. Subjects covered will be: Estimations, Compass, Life-line, Walk, Knowledge of Neighbourhood, Map Reading, Sketch Map, Hike. Other tests will be arranged if required. Guiders requiring to be tested should write to Miss B. Macartney

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at Headquarters, stating which tests they will be read to do, not later than 14th July, 1942, after which details will be sent to candidates. Candidates for the Knowledge of Neighbourhood section should send boundaries of their areas.

Evacuation Training

Classes will be arranged as necessary for Guiders who would like help in preparing to run their Companies under evacuation conditions. See article in the number "HOW WILL EVACUATION AFFECT YOUR COMPANY." Please write to Miss B. Macartney at Headquarters.

General Training

Please refer to page 15 in May "Matilda." We are anxious to have Training Classes for new Guiders or anyone requiring help, but cannot fix time, date or place until we know who will be attending.

Commissioners are asked to take particular notice of this. It is more important than ever that all Guiders should undergo a thorough training course before working with a Company. This applies equally to Brown and Tawny Owls and Brownie classes will be arranged as required. All requests and enquiries should be sent to Miss B. Macartney without delay and every effort will be made to arrange classes. No nominations for Guiders under 17 years will be accepted.

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