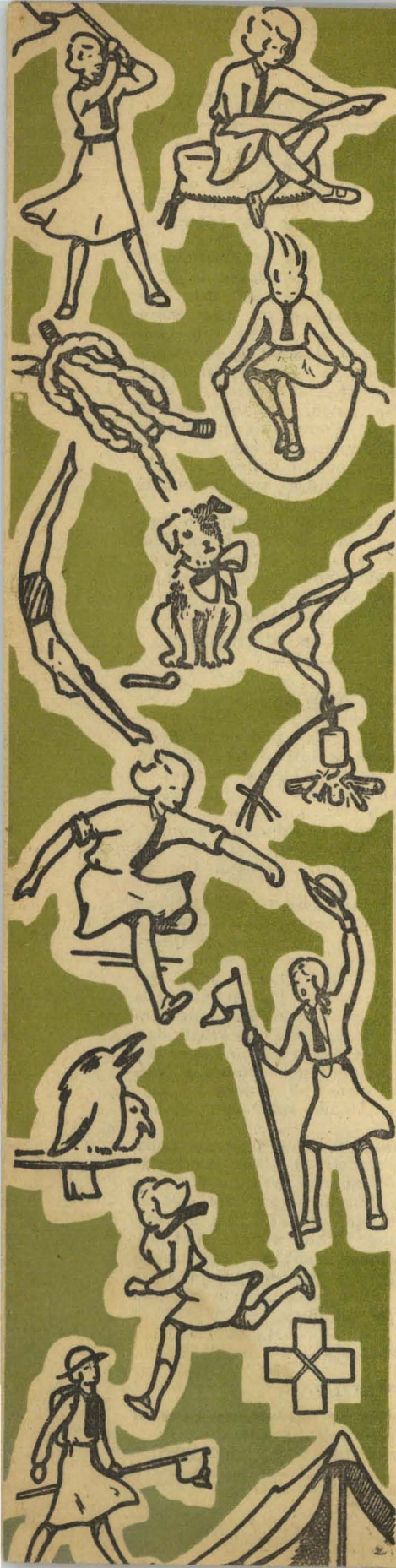


Bush

Matilda

DECEMBER, 1942.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Meetings of the Executive Committee, held at the Guide Office on 15th October and 5th November, 1942.

Present.—15th October: Miss Cameron (Chair), Mrs. Edmondson, Misses Holtz, Moran, Ritchie, Swinburne and the Secretary.

5th November: Mrs. Faulkner (Chair), Mrs. Bakewell, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Littlejohn, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Springthorpe, Misses Holtz, MacLeod, Moran, Swinburne and the Secretary.

Reported—That Lady Dalton had agreed to propose the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet at the Annual Meeting.

That the Chief Scout Memorial Sub-committee had plans for launching the Appeal in Matilda.

That the tenant of the Guide House was not renewing the lease, which expired on 16th November. It was agreed that the House should not be re-let for the present.

That further cases of War Appeal garments had been sent away, and that it might be possible to send a few more still.

That Miss MacLeod had been elected, and Miss Swinburne and Miss Ritchie re-elected, to the Executive Committee, at the annual meeting of the State Council.

That contact had been made with the heads of the W.A.A.A.F., A.W.A.S., St. John Association, and Women's Land Army, concerning the H.E.S. Training.

That Mrs. Tate had agreed to be a member of the State Council.

That the proposed Amendments to the Constitution had been passed by the annual meeting of the Council.

That Miss Bush should visit Stawell, Maroon and Donald at the end of November.

That the Guide Office be closed from 24th December to 25th January.

That the Secretary had attended a meeting of the Committee for Youth Problems of Today.

That Mrs. Orr had written regretting leaving the Executive, and hoping that she would be able to return.

That Miss Jessie Ferguson had been appointed by the Y.W.C.A. as their representative on the State Council.

That Meg Gray had passed the Gold Cord Test on a very high standard.

That a fruit-picking camp was being arranged for the summer for Guides over 15.

Agreed—That the five Guiders nominated by the Guiders' Conference be accepted, and their election agreed to.

That Tawny Owls and Lieutenants may be warranted at 17 years, and Captains and Brown Owls at 19 years, as a special war-time measure, and that no Guider under 18 should be in charge of a Pack or Company; and that a simplified wording of the English recommendation be sent to all Commissioners, the whole matter having been discussed at

the Commissioners' Conference.

That the Secretary attend meetings of the Committee for Youth Problems for the present, another representative to be appointed later.

That details and procedure of election of Guiders to the Council be considered later.

That the Executive Committee ask the five Guiders' representatives on the State Council to be the nucleus of any sub-committee of Guiders that might be required from time to time and to take the initiative to enlarge the Committee as necessary, and that these take the place, for the current year, of the Guiders' Committee previously formed by Division representatives.

That Guiders be urged to collect second-hand uniforms from Guides and Brownies who have left.

That a letter of sympathy be sent to Imperial Headquarters on the death of the Chief Commissioner, Mrs. St. John Atkinson.

Publicity in Matilda about Guide Week in February, 1943, was approved.

Routine business was transacted.

—F. V. BARFUS.

GOOD NEWS.

The October "Guider" has just come from England, and as usual is full of interest and inspiration. What we would do without a paper such as the "Guider", I just don't know. Each month it comes as a tonic, fresh and bracing, and maintaining throughout the years, in a very wonderful way, the high standard with which it began life as "The Girl Guide Gazette."

This month there are two items of news which are of very great interest to the whole Guide Movement, one being specially interesting to us in Victoria. On the cover is a picture of Lady Baden Powell, with the news, "She's home again." The article tells of the home-coming to Imperial Headquarters and one can well imagine what a great day that was, and as we look forward to the months ahead, we join in welcoming her, and we have sent, from the Guides in Victoria, a message telling her how glad we are at her safe return.

The second piece of news is that Lady Somers has been appointed Chief Commissioner. While Lady Somers was in Victoria, she was our State Commissioner, and we remember with gratitude and affection all she did for Guiding here. Thus we are specially interested in her appointment, and a message telling her how warmly we welcome her as Chief Commissioner has been sent to her too from the Guides of Victoria.

—M. E. BUSH.

MATILDA

There will probably be no January issue of Matilda owing to printing difficulties.

EDITOR.

“Matilda”

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

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

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

Contributions should reach the Editor not later than the 16th of each month.

VOL. XIX.

DECEMBER, 1942.

No. 6.

MISS F. V. BARFUS.

Miss Frieda Barfus, who has been on the staff of the Girl Guides Association for 18 years, has resigned from her position as Assistant State Secretary.

The Executive Committee has accepted her resignation as from 24th December, with the greatest regret, and the warmest appreciation of her services to the Movement.

Miss Barfus was one of the pioneer Guiders of Victoria, and has done invaluable work in developing many branches of the Movement, especially Training, Camping, and Rangers; she has been Secretary to the Training Department, was one of the first Guiders to become a Camp Adviser for the State, and has been Captain of the 1st Melbourne Ranger Company since 1924—a position which she still holds. In all directions her energy and high ideals have inspired all who have come under her influence. She will be very much missed at “The Office,” and her friends throughout the Guide Movement will all join in sending her affectionate good wishes for the future.

—SIBYL CHAUVEL.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Girl Guides Association of Victoria was held at the Guide Office on Friday, 23rd October, 1942.

Lady Dugan, the State President, attended the meeting, and Lady Chauvel, State Commissioner, was in the Chair, the meeting being attended by about 100 members and subscribers.

After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting, Lady Chauvel welcomed Lady Dugan, and expressed appreciation of the interest Lady Dugan took in Guiding, especially on her visits to country districts.

Lady Dugan, in thanking Lady Chauvel, congratulated her on the progress of the Guide Movement in Victoria, and on the War Appeal Work, and in commending the Movement to the community, asked for their increased co-operation.

Lady Chauvel reported that at the Council Meeting held prior to the Annual Meeting, the amendment made to the Constitution last year had been extended for another two years.

Lady Chauvel expressed regret at the resignation of Mrs. Faulkner as Deputy State Commissioner, and thanked her for all she had done. Mrs. Faulkner will remain a mem-

ber of the Executive Committee.

Lady Chauvel referred to various points in the report, which was then taken as read.

Mr. Treloar, the Honorary Treasurer, presented the Balance Sheet, which, in its elaborated form, proved very interesting.

The adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet was proposed by Lady Dalton, and seconded by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Edward Campbell.

Mrs. C. H. Edmondson moved a vote of thanks to the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Treloar, the Honorary Auditor, Mr. Hooke, and our Honorary Legal Adviser, Mr. Hamer, the motion being seconded by Miss Moran.

Mr. Gawler, National Fitness Council, then spoke on some of the problems concerning Youth to-day.

—M. E. BUSH.

THE GUIDE HOUSE.

The following are the dates endowed for November and December:—

November.—1, Terang; 2, 1st Seaford Pack; 3, Mt. Evelyn L.A.; 4, Camberwell North District; 5, 1st Daylesford Co. and L.A.; 7, 1st Elsternwick Pack; 9, The Boobooks; 11, 1st Benalla Co., Benalla District, and 1st Alexandra Co.; 14, Toorak and Armadale District; 15, Kerang; 16, Geelong Districts I. and 11.; 17, Richmond and East Melbourne District; 18, 1st Kyneton Pack and Co.; 19, Portland L.A.; 20, Stawell L.A.; 21, Ballarat L.A.; 23, Oakleigh and Murrumbena District; 24 and 25, Colas L.A.; 27 and 28, 3rd East Malvern Rangers; 30, Yarraville and Newport District.

December.—1, Mrs. Black; 2, Nyah District; 5, Dimboola District; 7, 1st Frankston Co. and Pack; 8, Footscray L.A.; 9, 1st Marnoo Co.; 11, Mrs. H. S. Officer; 13, S. R. S. Akuna; 14, Broadford L.A.; 15, Esperanto Day; 16, Essendon Pioneer Guides; 17, Yalourn L.A.; 18, 1st Glen Iris Co.; 19, 1st Nambrook Co.; 21, Mrs. J. K. Pearson; 22, Miss M. E. Mills; 24, Healesville L.A.; 25 and 26, St Kilda L.A.; 27, Combined Ranger Camp 1937-38; 30, In Memory of Muriel and Ellen Chipperfield; 31, St. Kilda District.

—F.V.B.

OFFICE HOLIDAYS.

The Girl Guides' Association will close from 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve until Monday, 25th January.

M. E. BUSH.

B.-P. MEMORIAL FUND.

WHO IS THIS B.-P. ?

(From "The Waratah")

Why, the man who founded our Movement! So we ought to know something about what kind of man he was, and why he started Scouts and Guides, and how he came to think of our particular scheme of training.

Robert Baden-Powell was born on the 22nd February, 1857, in London, the eighth of ten children. His father was a clergyman, but died when Robert was only three, so most of the boy's early training was imbibed from his mother. B.-P. himself always emphasised the great debt he owed to this remarkable woman. A pioneer herself in the realm of High School education for girls, she gave energy and directive ability, simplicity and thoroughness to her sons.

After early education at home, B.-P. went at eleven years to a preparatory school, and from there gained an entrance to Charter House as a gown boy Founder. The school was then in its fine old building in the City of London. In 1872, for expansion and health reasons, it was removed to the country, so most of B.-P.'s school days were colored by upheaval and transition. The boys' minds were confused with a feeling of divided loyalties—as happens to young people when going from one Scout or Guide Company to a new one. Speaking of B.-P., the Headmaster, Dr. Haig-Brown, said: "In the somewhat trying circumstances of this removal he proved most useful. He showed remarkable intelligence and liberality of feeling—most boys are so conservative by nature—helping to smooth over difficulties in the change to a new place. . . . He was by nature a born leader of boys, as he has since become of men."

Of medium size, curly red hair, freckled, and with twinkling eyes; ambidextrous and versatile; a born actor and a clever artist; a good all-round worker and player, he progressed steadily up the school. Of himself he writes: "I learned to snare rabbits in the copse of the new Charterhouse and to cook them for secrecy over the diminutive fire of a bushman. . . . I knew how to move silently through the bush, so that one became a comrade rather than an interloper among the birds and animals that lived there. I knew how to hide my tracks, how to climb a tree and 'freeze' up there while authorities passed below. . . . Cricket. Football. Athletics. Yes, I enjoyed them, too; but they died long ago; they are only a memory like much that I learned at school. It was in the copse that I gained most of what helped me on in after life to find the joy of living."

From Charterhouse, instead of going to Oxford, his first idea, he sat for an open examination for a direct commission to the Army, and largely "by the help of his mother wit," took a distinguished place in the cavalry, and soon was posted to India with the 13th Hussars. He quickly adapted himself to his new life and responsibilities.

From his letters we realise what a struggle it must have been to keep himself on his pay, as he had determined to do—not an easy job beside so many better-off comrades. He gave up smoking and drank very little wine to keep his mess bills down, and further reduced it by other economies which probably diminished his personal comfort but not his toughness!

The mere routine duties of his military work did not nearly cover the activities of this young officer. Surveying, mapping, tracking, gardening, hunting, drawing, and learning languages, producing plays, and organising occupations and amusements for his men filled his days to overflowing. At the end of 1884 his regiment was transferred to South Africa. Here many opportunities for the expansion of his gifts presented themselves, and he earned from the natives the name of M'hala Panzi, the man who lies down to shoot, or the man who makes his plans carefully before taking aim. It is from this habit that we in the Guide Movement are benefiting today.

Books to read:

"The Piper of Pax," by E. K. Wade.

"Lessons from the Varsity of Life" and

"Indian Memories," by Lord Baden Powell.

GUIDERS AND COMMISSIONERS.

A special note for you concerning the B.-P. Memorial Fund. Here is a copy of a "Thank You" letter that may be obtained from Headquarters, to be sent out to old Guides who are no longer connected with active Guiding. Will you look up your old Record Books and contact as many as possible? Please state the number required when applying to the Secretary for your copies.

TO THE GUIDES OF YESTERDAY.

When you were ten, were you simply bursting for the great day when you would be eleven and "go to Guides"? Then the great day came, and many after it—did you enjoy them?—the games, the work, the chops, the damper that wouldn't cook, camp—all the things that made up "going to Guides." Perhaps you have not thought of your Guide Promise for years—but it is still there; you are still a Guide. Of the many things you did, do they help you now—the self-discipline, working with a group, community knowledge that you learnt at Court of Honour, your awareness of the natural world around you.

All this was thought out for you by a great and selfless man—the Chief Scout, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. You didn't think about that at Guides, and he didn't mean you to, but maybe you saw him at one of the great rallies when we gathered in our hundreds at the M.C.G. or at Frankston. Now he is "Called to Higher Service," and it is left to us to formulate a scheme whereby his memory may be perpetuated. Our Royal President, the Princess Royal, launched the Fund in England. Would you

like to express your appreciation of the Chief's work for the children?

We do not know what form our gesture will take, but at present Guides all over the world are sending their money, to be lent to the Government in the form of National Savings. Then, when peace comes again, we will think of something worthy of the maker of our Fourth Law.

You may take your share in this by sending your contributions to your old Company or to Guide Headquarters, 60 Market Street. You may like to save up in regular payments, or have some grand effort to raise a noble sum. There is no hurry—just get on with the job—help your country and thank your Chief. England already had £27,000 in hand. Let's see what we can do.

COMPANIES AND PACKS.

Would you like to have a definite aim for your pennies? Here is a list of necessities your money will buy for the Royal Australian Navy. How many packets of pins will you send to the sailors, Brownies?—but don't send the actual pins! Next month there'll be a list for the Air Force.

THE NAVY . . . "Items in common use."

1 Packet of Pins, 2d.; 1 Clinical Thermometer, 1/9; 1 doz. 3 in. Bandages, 2/6; 1 doz. Triangular Bandages, 5/6; 1 Life Jacket (Boar dof Trade), 10/6; 1 Life Buoy, £2/14/-; 1 First Aid Haversack (filled), £3/5/-; 1 Destroyer's Emergency Kit of Medical Stores, £4/5/-; 1 Stretcher, £8; 1 Sextant (small boats), £10 to £30; 1 Life Belt, 9 men, £37; 22 men, £87; 1 complete set of Medical Stores for Destroyers, approx. £125; 1 X-ray Outfit, £300 to £1000.

HOW WILL YOU GET YOUR MONEY?

Are you having a Christmas Party, with games and sweet and dips, AND raspberry vinegar?

Are you saving halfpennies?

Have you or your Company or Pack a War Savings Certificate Tin?

Are you selling papers?—the butcher wants them badly.

Are you selling bottles?

Does your neighbor's lawn want cutting?

INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Make out cheques, postal notes or money orders to:—Girl Guides' Association.

2. Address letters to—
Secretary,

B.-P. Memorial Fund,
Girl Guides' Association,
60 Market Street,
Melbourne, C.1.

3. To save postage, receipts may be obtained at Headquarters on application, or will be sent of stamped and addressed envelope is forwarded.

4. Contributions and progress totals will be acknowledged in Matilda each month.

5. Please send money in round sums of pounds and shillings (not pence).

6. You will receive a Give-Lend Voucher when your final amount comes in.

M. HOFFMEYER,
Convenor of Sub-Committee.

SUGGESTIONS FOR GIRL GUIDE WEEK FEBRUARY 21st TO 27th, 1943.

The following ideas may help either districts or individual companies to plan for Guide Week. Remember that we, as a movement, want to forge ahead, to progress. Remember that, while we must "Be Prepared" for any sudden emergency, our everyday lives give us many opportunities for service. It is not only Brownies who must "Lend a Hand."

(1) A "Mother and Me" night. Each Guide to bring her mother, or some adult friend or relative. Could be partly display, and partly social. Competitions, including Guide work, with each visitor paired with a Guide. (This might provoke interest in the L.A., and find for you friends willing to teach or test badge work).

(2) A "Company Good Turn." Many Babies' and Children's Homes, and Kindergartens, are not as sure of help as in pre-war days, since so many social workers have turned to Red Cross and Comforts Fund efforts. Why not ask the Matron of some such institution whether you could help? You could knit a singlet; you could sew on buttons; you could scrub chairs and tables. You could take children to a near-by park for games and swings.

(3) Waste Collecting. This could be started now, with competitions between Patrols or Companies. Who can collect the most milk-bottle tops? Who can collect the most used envelopes? Who can collect the most stamps? Who can collect most magazines for Soldiers' Huts or for men on mine-sweepers?

(4) Lend a Hand. Nowadays, with many deliveries abolished or curtailed, many elderly women have to carry home the family joint or the week's supply of vegetables. Wouldn't they be pleased to have an offer of regular help, say, two days per week, at a certain fixed hour?

(5) Set aside a night during Guide Week to learn to make camouflage nets. Having learnt, keep on making them!

(6) Revision Test Night. Arrange in the form of competitions and games, but concentrate on work that should be thoroughly well known (not just learnt up and half-forgotten) by all enrolled and Second Class Guides.

(7) International Night. Read extracts from "The Story of a Million Girls," show copies of the Laws, form of the Promise, and badges of other countries (see World Painting Book, and Biennial Reports). Have copies of "The Council Fire," and pictures of The Chalet, Our Ark, etc.

(8) Include in your programme for the week either a Church Parade or a Guides' Own.

(9) Guides might present charades representing events in the lives of the Chief Scout and Chief Guide.

—E.B. |

LONES

Dear Lone Guiders,—Those of you who were present at the Conference we held at G.H.Q. recently will remember the games session when Miss Alston read an article prepared by Miss Foott with examples of the type of games suitable for Lones and Posts. This was presented to us for the Exchange Bureau, where it can be borrowed on application by the way.

The question then arose, "What is the difference between games and competitions for Lones?" The dictionary describes a game as a "contest played according to rules, and decided by skill, strength or luck," and a competition as "the art of competing by examination." By this I should say that games are played in patrols, and competitions are individual efforts, although the points gained by a Guide in a competition could count for her patrol.

Having been asked by one of my Guiders to send her some games suitable for Lones, I have made a thorough search through our precious store of old Budgets, and have found only three that I would really consider games. I will give them to you presently.

Because I think games should play an important part in the Budgets I think we should try to invent or convert more than we do. I think we are perhaps too apt to say, "A Lone can't play games with others whom she never even sees," and so we deny her the thrill of co-operative enjoyment.

Let it be understood that when I speak of patrol games I do not mean games played between Guides who are in personal contact, but between Guides who only meet on paper. If we can make these interesting and effective we have really achieved something. Naturally we cannot play all team games, but even some active ones like ball throwing can be converted. Ask each Guide to throw a ball high in the air, and count how many times she can clap her hands before catching it. Or to throw it away, fairly high, and see how far she can run before it lands again. If she measures the distance and send it to P.L., it might prove to be an effective active team game. I am sure if we all put on our thinking caps we would be delighted with the results we could accomplish to overcome the handicap of "lone"ness.

Do you possess any of those delightful books of E. M. R. Burgess, "The Girl Guide Books of Ideas"—1st, 2nd and 3rd? She has also written "The Girl Guide Book of Recreation." They are full of games which can easily be converted to suit Lone conditions.

By this I mean that each Guide in the patrol has her own particular part to play in them. To illustrate what I mean I will now give you the three I promised you above. You will see that none of these is completed until each member of the patrol has done

her share, which is the true essence of a team or patrol game.

(1) **Camp Menu.** P.L.'s are sent the same list of stores which Q.M. would be likely to take to camp. They are told to choose a menu for a mid-day meal. P.L.'s portion out a dish to each Guide in their patrols. Each Guide looks up the recipe for the dish given her, making sure the ingredients are on the list. She sends it to her P.L. who writes out the whole menu and returns it to Captain. Special points can be given to the Guides who have tried out the dish by cooking it!

(2) **Health Rules.** Send P.L. 12 phrases all of which refer to the Health Rules. P.L. cuts them out, keeping 3, and sending 3 to each member of her patrol. Each Guide finds illustrations from newspapers or advertisements which describe each phrase, and pastes the phrase that fits each picture below it. These are returned to Captain, through P.L. Sample: "Keep these open at night."

(3) **Morse Sentence.** Under this are a number of letters written in more and jumbled. Each set of letters represents one word, or two small ones, of a sentence. Sets are numbered and P.L. sends one to each Guide in her patrol, who returns her portion when she has arranged her word or words correctly. P.L.'s then put the whole sentence back again into Morse, and return it to Captain, with a note as to how many had their words correct.

Another good patrol game is **Pirates' Treasure.** A map is put into each patrol Budget, also a sealed envelope with instructions written in morse enclosed. Each member of the patrol opens the envelope with her number on it, and draws her route on the map. This is returned to Captain who—if the route be correct—sends the treasure to P.L.

—M.R.F.

The Sign Post

Editor: MARJORIE NICHOLSON.

In such a world, so thorny, and where none
Finds happiness unblighted, or, if found,
Without some thistly sorrow at his side,
It seems the law of wisdom, and no sin
Against the law of love, to measure lots
With less distinguish'd than ourselves; that
thus

We may with patience bear our moderate
ills,

And sympathise with others suffering more.

Christmas draws close upon us once again! Perhaps this year it will be a different Christmas for us all. So many in the Services, and Christmas during wartime is never so gay. But we must not forget the real significance of this particular time. Perhaps we have been overdoing it and this may be a lesson to us all. A simple Christmas may prove to lead us back to the path from which we have all strayed. Guide camps will soon

be in full swing again—perhaps on slightly different lines. But after all, the children have certain responsibilities these days and camp training is to their advantage.

Never before have the Signposts been in such prominence as to-day.

Girls required for the "Services" undergoing camp training find it so much easier having their Guide training and knowledge behind them and so our work hasn't gone in vain.

Wide Games once again will need to be well in the fore in our programmes—Stalking Games, Observation Competitions, Swimming.

A variation of Kim's game for a warmish day: Throw a piece of string on the ground to form a fairly large circle over some grasses, wild flowers, plants, etc., and give the Guides a few minutes to observe the contents of the rope circle. Then they try to name the various grasses, flowers, etc. The points could be arranged and the Patrol scoring the highest wins.

I believe the ambition of our "Guide" days has arrived—where the Guides camp and fruit pick at the same time. So, good luck to all the Guides who are carrying out this work and are doing such valuable service for their country.

To all Guides and Guiders everywhere, "The Sign Post" wishes you all the best for Christmas and Complete Victory in the New Year.

WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS.

CAPTAIN: 1st Box Hill—Miss M. McKellar; 1st Yarragon—Miss S. Thurlow.

LIEUTENANT: 10th Ballarat—Miss I. M. Battye.

BROWN OWL: 1st Brighton Pack—Miss A. Neylon; 1st Portland—Mrs. Coupe.

REGISTRATIONS: 1st Birchip Ranger Company; 1st W.A.A.A.F. Old Guide Group (Pt. Cook).

CAMOUFLAGE NETTING.

The netting group working every Wednesday at Guide Headquarters has now disbanded, as there is no longer any demand for instruction.

Mrs. M. R. Fairbairn, who has been in charge of the camouflage netting, and has done so much to further this work by teaching it to others, who in turn have become instructresses to other centres, will continue her work as liaison officer with the C.W.A.

Mrs. Fairbairn and her helpers have been the means of providing many hundreds of nets for the Forces.

—Editor.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Adventuring (South Australia), The Canadian Guider (Canada), The Girl Guide Courier (Western Australia), The Girl Scout Leader (U.S.A.), Te Rama (New Zealand), The Trail Maker (U.S.A.), The Victorian Scout (Melbourne), The Waratah (N.S.W.).



Editor: Sydney Foott.

EXTENSION GUIDERS' MEETING.

This was held at 41 Spring Street on November 14th, and representatives from Post Guide companies, the Post Pack, and Extension Pack and Extension Companies helped to make it most interesting.

At the session entitled, "How Are You helping your Guides to be of use during the War," various ideas were put forward. It was suggested that, although handicapped, the children could still "Be Prepared" for all eventualities, with a pencil, pins, bandage, and so on, because someone might need these urgently. It was also suggested that competitions could be held as to what was to be put into an evacuation rucksack, and into how small a space these would fit—also to "be prepared" by knowing just where everything was. Other suggestions included: Acting as patients at A.R.P. and first aid centres; weeding round public vegetable plots; mending for service men; teaching handicrafts to physically handicapped service men (a specialised job); acting as salvage depot for a block or street; herb growing; caring for babies belonging to busy mothers; all branches of salvage and knitting. It was generally decided that the war wasn't upsetting or worrying the children unduly, and that they liked the extra jobs.

New alternative tests were discussed, and the syllabus given out. Guiders were asked to destroy the old tests and use only the new. It had previously been decided that "alternatives" should not be used for H.E.S. training, so Extension and Post Rangers who could not do the full H.E.S. would stick to the Pre-Enrolment Test until the new Extension Ranger tests now being prepared in England were published.

How to deal with the Promise, especially one's duty to God, both on paper and otherwise, was discussed. Stories, poems and pictures were suggested as ways of illustrating its meaning, and showing that if the Laws were kept as best the child could manage, then she was doing her duty to God and the King. Laws could be illustrated by Guides making collections of cuttings and pictures of

Laws kept and broken.

Whether to form an Extension Local Association was next discussed, and it was decided to try to form one in the New Year of people interested in the work.

The formation of an Extension Exchange Bureau was also discussed. This would enable Guiders who had no bright ideas to borrow from those who had! As Extension Guiders are already allowed to use the Lone Exchange Bureau, it was thought better to find out more about the conditions of using the Lone Exchange Bureau before deciding anything further.

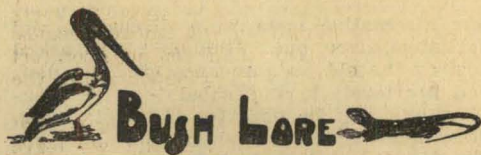
During the afternoon two Captains and a First Class badge were given to their "earners."

The B.P. Memorial Fund was discussed, and everyone decided that the Extension Branch would make Thinking Day their first objective. Individual companies would work out their own ideas.

The next two problems concerned hospital companies—Brownies who attended both Guide and Brownie meetings was the first, and it was decided that the Brownie should go up to the Guide Company.

The next problem was that of Guides who join while in hospital, and then leave. It was decided that the very fact of going home made a break, and often for the first few months at home there was a lot for the Guide to do. Nothing definite was decided, but it was suggested that it might be better for the Extension Branch to require three months' attendance before passing the tenderfoot test. This is to be discussed in the companies. After all, it is, in some ways, easier to be a Guide, and certainly easier to attend meetings, when one is "on the spot," and we do want to keep the standard of Guiding as high as possible.

Everyone was thrilled at the possibility of one-day camps. If any District or Division would include the local Post Guide in their one-day camps, the Post Guide would be so grateful. Please remember this if there is a chance in your district, and let Miss Alston, 5 Struan Street, Toorak, know.



(Editor: Elsie Sydes).

"O summer sun, O moving trees!
O cheerful human noise, O busy glittering street!

What hour shall Fate in all future find,
Or what delights, ever to equal these:
Only to taste the warmth, the light, the wind,
Only to be alive, and feel that life is sweet?"

—Laurence Binyon.

And so to begin our page today in a philosophical mood! Walking down to do some

shopping the other afternoon, with a hot sun shining brightly in a clear blue sky, I must have been in a receptive mood, for I saw the lovely green of the new leaves on oaks and poplars and planes; the unusual green of clumps of ixias; the blue ceanothus in flower; delightful little cedar cones standing so neatly upright on their branches alongside the full grown ones, only about an inch high, smooth and grey-green; and from the cedar branches flew some cheerful-sounding tomtits, ever busy. These simple delights, patches of beauty, set me thinking, and I thought "Well, yes, the patches of beauty are always there, but we are not always conscious of them." As the verse says, "the warmth, the light, the wind," these are always there. So let us make a special effort these days to be conscious of the LITTLE patches, as well as the big patches of beauty and delight in the outdoor world, for in many cases the little patches are all we have until the time of whole days spent in the opening camping and hiking, returns.

Peeps Into Spiderland After Dark

Recent rain, though much appreciated for the garden, brought forth large numbers of snails and slugs. There were small black slugs, large pale fawny ones, baby shellbacks, and grandfather shellbacks.

But that is another story! As I did my nightly round armed with torch and lime, I discovered many interesting creatures that more than compensated for cold and sleepiness. The most thrilling of these was one of those soft grey garden spiders, about an inch across, very like the smaller grey ones that run about in the garden and carry their egg-sacs with them. As far as I can make out these are the Wolf spiders, and my larger friend is the HARMLESS "trapdoor" species. The night I came on her she was digging a burrow, for there were small pieces of fresh clay lying about round the entrance to a deep looking hole. This hole was not wide, only about 3-8 inch across, and I could see mother spider down there, with legs folded very much against her, so that she could fit. I have just been out to measure the hole and lid, and I saw a movement in the darkness below, the spider retreating from sight. Another interesting thing besides the little bits of clay about, is the lid itself. It is not the usual round one of earth with silken lining, but a FLAT PEBBLE, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and it has a slight shape of earth on the lower side, where it fits down on the hole.

Trapdoor Hatches Her Young.

I have called her "mother" spider, for I have not seen her about day or night, and we think perhaps she is in the burrow for the purpose of rearing her family. May I quote from "Spider Wonders of Australia"?—"The late Mr. W. J. Rainbow provides some interesting information regarding some relatives of the Brown Trap-door Spider: 'The spiders allied to Arbanitis exhibit great diversity in the construction of their terres-

tial abodes. In some instances the nest is simple and cylindrical, sometimes branched, and not infrequently complicated. The lid is also variable, being, according to the species, either of the "cork" or "wafer" type, unequal in circumference, rigid or flaccid."

Then follows a lot about the egg-sacs, or cocoons, and the writer finished up: "It is well known that the maternal instinct is very strong with spiders. Many mount guard over their cocoons, and never leave them for food, until the young have hatched. Doubtless the one referred to above was so employed when her home was thus rudely broken."

All of which leaves me with a desire to get into the spider's nursery and see for myself, yet how can I disturb such a devoted mother? I think I shall leave it to cold-blooded scientists! Have your Guides ever seen the charming sight of the spider with her family on her back? If they see an extra knobby looking specimen, and investigate more closely, they will find the knobs are the young ones, and it is rather fun, if perhaps hardly the thing, to make them scatter. I don't think it does any harm.

Orbweavers. — "Spider Wonders of Australia" has a most interesting description of the orbweaver spinning her web, and a whole chapter about this spider. We have four "cartwheels" in our garden that we visit after dark. Sometimes the owner is sitting in the middle apparently making last night's web do duty again in spite of a few rents and tears. Sometimes, as the other night, the scene is one of tremendous activity, as the owner rebuilds her "larder." DO go round the garden at dusk or later until you find one of these spiders. To watch the spinning of the web is one of those patches of beauty we were talking about, and something not easily forgotten—the quick drop as the "spoke" is attached, the rapid return up this ladder, and later on the spinning of the cross pieces that make the "cart-each cross piece is joined to the spoke is to wonder and to admire.

A LETTER FROM MISS HAYMAN.

Dear Matilda,—I thought that your readers might like to read an account of a Training Week which has just been held in South India. The place was Trichinopoly, which is only 10 degrees from the Equator, and so it is always very hot indeed. We were most fortunate in having the buildings of the S.P.G. Training School lent us; this was ideal, as it had an enormous compound full of great shady trees under which we did all our work; and in fact lived. The only time we were indoors was between noon and four p.m., when the heat was really too ferocious to venture out. Owing to us having War Time this was really 11 o'clock until 3 p.m. by the sun, so that the afternoons did not encourage us to do anything very strenuous.

The Guider in Charge was one of Madras' Diplomaed Guiders, a South Indian, who was used to South Indians and their ways, which are most disconcertingly different from the ways of the more robust North. One of the more difficult things about South Indians is that they do not answer letters, so that until the morning of the Training Week the unfortunate Guider in Charge had no idea of the numbers coming, nor that she was going to have another Trainer to help her. It was a shock to her when I arrived at her door at 5 a.m. on the morning of the camp; but she was up, dressed in uniform, and ready for anything. Before evening 53 Guiders, and would-be Guiders had arrived.

The catering and general arrangements of such a gathering are easier in India than in Australia. Indians generally have only two meals a day—and the menu is the same each time, or so it seems to our eyes. Incredible quantities of rice are placed upon a clean banana leaf; each grain most beautifully snow white with the separate grains standing apart from its neighbours, and on top of this goes a variety of sauces each hotter than the last. Vegetables fried in oil, and liberally dusted with red hot chillies finish off a repast guaranteed to burn off the skin of any but a true Madrassi. Careful as they were to see that I got nothing hot, and my rice helping was but a quarter of theirs, I could feel the heat burning my mouth for hours afterwards, and it seemed at the end of each meal as if another meal would never be needed. Some Europeans are lucky and can eat the Indian food without ill effects, some achieve this position after much trial, some with the best of intentions can never eat it. I am so glad that I belong to the second category, as it is very good occasionally, although it is not as nourishing as ours.

Banana leaf plates are an idea for Victorian camps; although I can think of no Australian leaf that is big enough even if two are fastened together. We had no tiresome washing up, no setting of the table, as Indians eat with their hands. No, not both hands, only one, and that always the right. Really nice eaters do not get sticky above the second joint; my hands were a nasty sight, and I felt that it was more because I offended their sight than for my comfort that I was provided with a spoon after the first meal.

No washing up to do, and no pig bucket either. Not one grain of rice did we leave on our fresh green plates after we had heard the story of Taruvalluver, the Tamil poet who reminds us of the Ninth Law because he kept a golden needle beside his plate to retrieve the smallest grain of rice that might fall from his table.

Hiking so near the Equator is terribly difficult, so we just did not attempt to go far. One day we set off at 6 a.m. (really 5 a.m.) before it was sunrise to the compound of the District Commissioner. She had 18 acres of what we would call in Australia just bush. It was ideal for us, and we lit fires and

cooked breakfast all before it got hot. The Guiders had a lovely time finding all the different trees, and doing Compass directions. Indian Guides are naturally much better at finding the North than we are. This is because it comes into the religious training of most of them. But if you think it is hard having to learn the time by the sun in Australia just stop and imagine what it would be like if half the year the sun went round by the North, and the other half round by the South. It is just starting now to incline slightly to the South, but until this month it has gone straight over head from East to West. And Indians also must learn both the Northern stars as well as the southern ones, as from here the Great Bear and the Southern Cross are both visible; though not the Southern Cross at this time of the year.

Trichinopoly is a place of historical interest as well as a holy place of pilgrimage to the Hindus. One morning very early we all went on an expedition to Srirangam to visit the exquisite temples which line the sacred river bank. These temples are most intricately carved and coloured in blues and greens. One has a golden dome which is reputed to be beaten gold; it looked incongruous surrounded by baffle walls and sand bags; and I think that the temple priests have probably removed the pure gold to a safer place. We could not go close enough to see all the beauties, as naturally the Hindus do not like all and sundry wandering through their sacred places. One notice said **MOHAMMEDANS, DOGS, EUROPEANS AND CHRISTIANS ARE NOT ALLOWED BEYOND THIS GATE.**

So very sadly we took it in turns to peep through a little peephole which the kind guardian showed us. Some of the Guiders were of course of a caste which would have been welcomed inside; it was a temple to the God Vishu, and he prefers only the highest three castes inside his temples; but we did not want the party to be separated.

One temple allowed us inside without our shoes. South Indians wear shoes only on rare occasions, and the Guiders in camp wore them hardly at all, so that this was easy for them. It was extremely hard for me, as the them. It was extremely hard for me, as the ground was either covered in sharp pebbles, or it was concrete which had baked in the Equatorial sun for hours. We climbed and climbed up a staircase which was no decorated that it made one's eyes ache to look at it. We had to keep a sharp look out at the same time so that we should not jostle into the water carriers who were coming down from the temple with holy water. These were old Brahmin widows; they looked so tired and underfed as they carried the heavy brass jars full of holy water to their homes. If one of us even touched her the old woman would throw away the water, and go back again up all those weary steps to fetch more. So we gave strict orders to the Guiders, and made them go up in single file, when they would have liked to do as

any Guides would go in a happy party together.

The view at the top was worth the effort of climbing what in Australia would be almost nothing; but in a climate like this, and on an inadequate diet was a severe test to the Guiders. The brilliant green of the rice fields, than which nothing is greener, the paddy fields all under brown water; the darker green of the cocoanut palms, the flashing gold of the temples all under the intense blue of the Indian sky, made a picture that none of us could forget.

This sounds as if most of our time was spent in expeditions; but indeed this was not so. It was training for elementary Guiding, and we covered all the Second Class test; while the Bluebird Guiders did their Bluebird training under huge tamarind trees which seemed made for Bluebird activities. Camp fires were fun. Only little fires, because we couldn't have borne with much heat, and also there was the black-out to consider, and we were much closer to the nearest Japanese possession than any part of Australia is. But what a lot of songs we sang. The Indian Guides always love "Kookaburra"; I do wish that somebody would invent another song which would give us a rest from that bird. Some of our Guiders came from the Indian State of Cochin, whose ancient language is Malayalam, and they taught us the songs which the fishermen learned from Saint Thomas when he came to India after the Apostles separated and went to the four corners of the earth. Some of the sacred songs, or as we call them hymns, seem rather odd to us now. We were lucky that our Guider-in-charge was a Tamilian, and she taught us many Tamil songs, while our Telegu Guiders sang to us their songs in the lovely liquid tongue that is known as the Italian of the East. Beside the ancient languages of a people that were in the South before any history was recorded; and before the people who we call Indians came through the passes in the North to India—the Northern songs of Hindi and Persian Urdu seemed harsh to ears that were being attuned to the gentle tongues. But because India is so vast, and because the only hope for the future is unity, we sang each other's songs, and listened to tales of other parts of the continent that seemed incredible, because we knew that it was a step in understanding all these different races and nations that Britain has tried to weld together under the name of Hindustan—or as we know it—India.

GIPTON

Please make a note in your new Diary that we want you for a Working Bee at Gipton over the week-end of 20th-21st March, 1943.

If you cannot come for the week-end come for the day. There will be lots to do, and hard work, good food, and lots of fun are guaranteed.

Enquire further in February, but be sure not to book the date for anything else!

F. V. BARFUS, Hon. Sec.,
Gipton Sub-Committee.

HOW WILL EVACUATION AFFECT OUR COMPANY?

The Reception Area (3).

We may find that if Evacuation takes place our Companies in Reception Areas will be so enlarged that it will be impossible to meet at one time. They may have to be divided and if the Guiders are people who have plenty of spare time on their hands, they will be able to run more than the one Company Meeting in the week. But how few Guiders there are at present who have any spare time at all, and in most cases it will be found necessary to make good use of the Patrol Leaders. A Court of Honour, which would be attended by the Guiders and all P.L.'s could be held regularly and at it the programmes for the meetings would be arranged. It may be that the Companies would be able to meet only once a fortnight, or if they met weekly, the Guiders could attend each Company alternatively, leaving the P.L.'s in charge the other week. That would throw more responsibility on the Patrol Leaders, which will help to train them and make them self-reliant. It is very necessary in these times that we learn to "stand on our own feet" and the Leaders could help their Patrols to devise new ways of helping and entertaining evacuated children. Whilst they are at school, the evacuees will be occupied, but after school hours it would be grand if each Patrol could take charge of a certain afternoon, and arrange to entertain some of the children.

There might be a vacant block of land which could be used as a playground, and here the Guides could play with the children and so keep them happy in the fresh air and sunshine. Of course, when it gets too hot to be outside, some cooler spot will have to be found. Then would be the time to pass on the knowledge of any handicrafts which the Guides might have. There are all kinds—needlework, woolwork, making scrap-books, and lots of others. Children as a rule are happier when they are doing something, and in most cases the "Foster Mothers" would be very grateful to have a little assistance in looking after them—thus, there is the chance of helping in both ways at once.

Everyone who has had anything to do with children knows that misfortunes are apt to happen to clothing, and here lies an opportunity for Guiders to put into practise their promise to help others. They could prepare for this by mending their own clothes and stockings, and I am sure that their mothers will not be averse to it.

What a high example of service we have before us—the marvellous work of the Guides of Great Britain. Let us see to it that we play our part for our country, whenever we are called upon to do so.

—Z.A.F.

CARRY ON!

The watchword "Carry On" comes with inspiration as the news flashes round the world that "The Chief Guide is at Home again, the Chief Guide is in England." As we plan our big "Thank You" to our Founder, our Memorial Fund that will spread Guiding over the world again when war has passed, we know that the Chief Guide is once more at the centre, while we think with thankful gladness of her safety, and all she has endured that she may labour more strenuously for the welfare of her loved and far spread family of Guides.

What Shall We Do for Guide Week?—The season is not suitable for meetings of general public and "grown-ups," so the commemoration of our Founder, the spur of our great Thank You Fund, will mostly concern the Guides themselves.

Guides should know what they need and what they want for the events of Guide Week; if time allows, patrols in Council should be held and Patrol Leaders should meet and decide what should be done.

The Local Association should be considered and included, if the members wish, but it will probably be more suitable for them to organise another effort for the Memorial Fund later.

One suggestion had been to dramatise incidents from "Scouting for Boys." This cannot be arranged through the Leaders unless they have had the opportunity to read the book through the year—if they have not done so Guide Week might be a time for reading a scene and arranging for the Guides to become familiar with the book for next time. Copies must be begged or borrowed just now, but we hope that more will come soon.

One District has already held a meeting of Patrol Leaders; they were emphatic and definite in their ideas.

"We must tell other girls how fine it is to be a Guide, we must arrange something to show them all about it, and we must have a big Recruiting place."

So an afternoon is planned to which the Guides are to bring all their friends; there will be demonstrations, and jolly games and practises, some by the Guides themselves, some with friends joining in, and a Recruiting Depot will be set up in a prominent spot. There will be a special meeting for Brownies, and a meeting for Guides only at which companies which have already begun to collect for the Founder's Fund will bring what they have, and others will be spurred to begin; a meeting of rededication to Guiding as the Founder would have it be. But this is their insistence—"the Girls do not know; Guiding is fine, we must tell them and bring them in." So the two ideas will work in unison.

"Guiding is wonderful, come and join us, you who do not know!"

"Thank you Chief, we bring our gifts to spread the gladness you have made for us, that you may be remembered through the world."

—G.H.S.

BROWNIES

Have you ever stopped to think where you are going? And why? Owls at the Brownie Conference did:—We each made a list of the things our Brownies do, and the lists differed surprisingly; so we discussed them till we got a list to which everyone agreed. Nature had to be a special item, because neither Test Work or outings completely covered it.

Then we wrote our ideas of the purpose of each activity, discussed those, and then grouped the activities under the four Headings.

"What have you got for 'Intelligence'?" asked the Chairman. "Everything," said an Owl very firmly—and can you prove her wrong?

Inspection was another surprise. We had decided that it was a ceremony encouraging cleanliness and tidiness, and a sense of law and order; now, it took its place under every heading. "Intelligence" is needed to care for the uniform and put it on properly. Cleaning shoes, belt and badge, tying tie and reef knot is certainly "Handcraft." "Health" is obvious; and no one could deny that self help was the beginning of "Service."

It was all very interesting.

We played some games, too. One to develop memory. One, observation and powers of description, and another for alertness and control. Then we had the business meeting.

The minutes of the last Annual Conference was read and confirmed. Reports were received from the Brownie Library for country Owls, who borrow books by post; and from the Brownie Library at Headquarters. The Librarian said she wondered if all Owls knew about the Brownie Library, as not many used it. (If you don't, ask next time you are in at Headquarters.)

The Brownie Cottage Committee reported that a special appeal had provided the Cottage with new crockery and cutlery. Other improvements included new lino., loose covers, curtains and cushions in the Lounge, hanging lamps in Lounge and kitchen. And lastly, a remodelled bathroom, with new bath, basin, heater, shower, shower screen and towel rails. All pre-austerity! Do you remember the old bath?!

Then the Cottage Committee for the forthcoming year was elected. "What do you want in the Brownie Page of Matilda?" was the next question. Games and Handcrafts seemed to be in most demand. It was suggested that some bits from old Brownie Pages were worth reprinting, and that Owls should send contributions, and that each Division being asked in turn, and everyone send something. We even talked of a Victorian Brownie Games Book to be printed after the war.

Then we sang Taps, and flew away home.

Knotty Points.

- A "knot" is made on the rope itself.
- A "hitch" secures rope to a pole.
- A "bend" secures rope to rope.

—V.A.T.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

We have received the following additional names:—A.W.A.S.: Elma Reeve (Malvern).

V.A.D.: B. Kurrle (Glen Iris E. Malvern).

W.A.A.F.: Jo King (Glen Iris, E. Malvern), Dorothy Williamson, Sadie McCombe (Portland).

Women's Land Army: Margaret Mellor, Eileen Franklin, Barbara Bursill (Glen Iris, E. Malvern).

TRAINING and CAMPING

Elaine Moran.

SECOND CLASS "NATURE."

In THE GUIDER for July, 1942, there is published an article "I Wonder," written about a walk taken by the writer and what she saw and what she wondered. This is well worth reading, and gives, perhaps, a picture of what we are aiming at in our "Nature" section of Second Class.

So many Guiders recently have asked me about this test. "How much do you expect the Guides to know?" they ask, or "Do you expect the Guides to write an essay about each thing?" Write! Never, never, never should Guides be tested "by writing." ALL tests of all descriptions should be practical, and if additional questions are needed they should be oral, and more like a conversation between two people interested in the same subject, than a series of questions and answers.

So, the "Nature observations" is a practical test, and actually, the test is exactly as set out in P.O.R.

A Guider need not know a great deal about "nature" herself, but she should be prepared to keep her eyes open, learn with the Guides, and have interest and enthusiasm. You may think that you don't like "nature," and that it bores you; if so, I think I am safe in saying that you do not know anything about it, and that you have been "put off it" when you were young! I have never met anybody who, once her interest was aroused, has thought "nature" boring.

We have got to beware that we do not, put the Guides "off it"!

If you think you are "not much good at nature," go through the list mentioned in the test in P.O.R., and see how many animals, birds, fish, insects, reptiles, trees, plants or constellations you can think of that you can recognise in their natural surroundings. Then go and find these things at the first opportunity, and discover by your own observation, one thing about each that you did not know before.

The point to remember with the Guides is that we want to arouse their curiosity and thus their interest. We have to go about this by indirect means. "Softly, softly, catchee monkey," the Chief Scout used to say!

When I hear of a Company, where the "Nature" section holds up the Guides' Second Class and goes dragging on and on, I feel that it may be the fault of the Guider, either she herself is not interested, or she is not "putting it across" in the right way.

This test should never be a burden. I think that it has more far-reaching possibilities than any other except the Law. A Guide must recognise 12 living things in their natural surroundings . . . and discover by observation something of interest about each. She may commence with something she knows well, such as a poppy; she will take you along to see the plant, and explain that she has discovered that a poppy has a hairy stem. That it all that is needed, but you can carry it a bit further by saying "I wonder why it has; let's watch and see if we can find out why"! Leave it at that, do not despise her rather obvious observation, it may be a great thing to a small Guide, and open a lot of interest. She might begin by watching the stems of other plants, then wonder why they should be different, and so on. We do not go all the way with her or force her on the way, but give her a start, and later on enthusiastic sympathy should it be needed.

If a Guide has spent some time observing a bird or animal that it is impossible for her to take you to see, she would be able to take you to see, she would be able to describe it to you so that you know without any doubt that she really can recognise it in its natural surroundings. This is not nearly as satisfactory as seeing the object with the Guide. Beware of her mixing in what she has learnt at school or from books; make sure that she really knows it from observation.

When the Guide has shown you one of her observations satisfactorily she will soon bring along another, and you will find that they become more interesting and less obvious each time, so that by the time she has done twelve, which might take several months, she will have got used to going about with her eyes and ears open, and her sense of smell in good working order! It is for this reason that I prefer the test in P.O.R. to that contained in the war-time alternative. Discovering two facts about three things is not nearly as far-reaching as finding out one about twelve.

There are various quite simple games that can be played which will help the Guides to be observant, with no thought of "doing me nature" simply to get through a test.

This one was taught by Miss Martin when she was here in 1939: Guides are paired off into two sides, sides in files and pairs side by

side. One side goes off and each looks for a leaf to describe to her partner; this requires accuracy of observation and description. They come back and describe them to their partners, who go off and find the leaves from description. Those bringing correct leaf get 2 points and describer 1 point. Then change over.

Another game is to give the sides or patrols certain things to bring back simply from your description; you can give each written orders if you like. Or, to vary it, have them collect things of a certain colour. A further variation is the scavenger hunt. Each patrol is given a list of things to bring back, e.g., a grey feather, a seed that is carried by the wind, two grasses in flower, etc.

These games can be played by Patrol or Company, with four players or forty, and can be varied in all sorts of ways.

Be careful not to give lists containing the actual names of living things, e.g., do not say "Bring one capeweed flower," but "bring a flower with several yellow petals, and see whether he walks or hops," rather than "find out if the common mynah walks or hops."

When planning other activities with first and second class, include some of these things without making a special feature of it.

You do not need to go into the country to find interesting things growing in natural surroundings. Every city has its sparrows and doves, every lane has tiny things growing in the crevices of the gutters and walls. Not to mention silver-fish, carpet moths and the common house-fly!

—E.E.M.

ALTERATIONS TO THE BOOK OF RULES.

Rule 34, page 42, Tenderfoot.—The footnote to the Tenderfoot Test to be altered to read:—

"Before completing the test, the Guide should have been told or have read the Legends of the Union Jack."

Rule 35, page 42, 2nd Class Guide.—1, The following clause to be added after "2nd Class Guide":—

"Before being awarded the 2nd Class Badge, the Guide must show that she is trying hard to keep the Threefold Promise."

2. Paragraph 2 under "Intelligence" to be deleted.

Paragraph 3 under "Intelligence" to be numbered Paragraph 2, and altered to read:—

"Signal and read the alphabet in Morse," and the words in brackets to be deleted.

Section II., para. 2, should read:—"Lay and light a fire in the open, using not more than two matches, and cook on it."

These alterations are taken from THE GUIDER of September and October, 1942.

—M.M.

RANGERS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE VICTORIAN RANGER COMMITTEE

Held at Headquarters on Friday, 13th
November, 1942, at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Miss Broadhurst, in the chair. Rangers, Margaret Shaw, Greta Richardson, Elsie Kemp, Joan Drowley, Lillian Elliott, Greta Roach and Grace Harris.

Apologies were received from Daisy Rackham, Ethel Preston and Beryl McNee.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Business Arising Therefrom:

A Report on the Drill Night was read by the convenor, Greta Richardson, and showed that 47 Rangers attended, representing 8 Companies. It was regretted that more Rangers did not attend this very helpful Fixture, and it was felt that an effort should be made to urge Companies to attend Fixtures. The Financial Statement was read, and received by the Committee. This Fixture resulted in a loss of 5/6.

Victorian Ranger Committee By-Laws.—

The Secretary reported that three Companies had approved of the following alterations to the By-Laws: That By-Law No. 2 be altered to read—"The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, who shall be the Commissioner for Rangers; Secretary, Treasurer, and six ordinary members. Four shall constitute a quorum," and that By-Laws 8 and 10 be deleted. The new By-Laws to come into operation in June, 1943.

The question was raised as to whether a Ranger on becoming a Ranger Guider should stay on the Committee, and it was proposed by Greta Richardson, and seconded by Lillian Elliott, that a Ranger, on becoming a Ranger Guider during her term of office should be allowed to finish her term, because she was a Ranger when she was elected, and it was felt that her views would not alter during that time.

Owing to the pending resignations of certain members of the Committee it was decided to ask the following three Companies to appoint representatives—Essendon District, Kew District and Yarraville. These members to hold office until June, 1943.

Gipton Committee.—Joyce Boxall, 2nd Caulfield, and Joan Drowley, S.R.S. Invinible, were elected members of the Gipton Committee for 1943.

Prisoner War Fund.—A letter was received from Miss Foott informing the Committee that to date £34/2/11 has been subscribed by Rangers to this Fund. A letter of appreciation to be sent to Miss Foott, thanking her for all her efforts in the past in connection with this Fund. The 3rd Melbourne representative on the Committee to be asked to supply a detailed account of this Fund.

H.E.S. Training Day.—A general discus-

sion was held on the type of work to be done at this Fixture, and many helpful suggestions received. Final arrangements to be made at the next meeting. It was decided that Saturday, March 27, 1943, would be a suitable day on which to hold this Fixture.

Correspondence.—A letter of resignation was received from Esme Welstead. The Committee accepted this resignation with regret.

Finance.—The Treasurer, Margaret Shaw, reported a Bank Balance of £6/15/6, and 7d. in hand. The following amounts were passed for payment:—5/6 to the Convenor of the Drill Night, 5/- to Beryl McNee for Petty Cash in connection with the Prisoner of War Fund, and 5/- to the Secretary for Secretarial expenses.

As a result of suggestions sent in by Companies with regard to the balance over £2/10/- held by the Committee, it was decided to give this to the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund. £3/10/- to be sent to this Fund.

It was reported that two members of the Committee, Greta Richardson and Lillian Elliott, had represented the Ranger Branch at the Girls' Friendly Society Annual Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, on Sunday, 25th October.

Date of Next Meeting.—Friday, 5th February, 1943, at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting then closed.

GRETA ROACH, Secretary.

G.F.S. ANNUAL SERVICE.

On Sunday, 25th October, two members of the Committee represented the Ranger Branch at the annual G.F.S. Service at St. Paul's Cathedral. The service was very interesting. The text for the sermon was taken from the middle word of G.F.S.—"Friendly," and could apply equally well to the G.F.S. people or to Rangers. They chose some very nice hymns, and we especially enjoyed the singing of the choir of girls, and the procession of banners at the conclusion of the service.

RANGER FIRST AID CASE.

Rangers! Do you ever require a fully equipped First Aid Case for Week-ends, Camps, etc.? If you do, the Ranger Branch has one which it would be pleased to hire to you for the cost of 6d. per day. The case is kept at Headquarters, but the Ranger in charge of it is Hazel Sampson, 26 Pole Street, Seddon, W.11, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

DRILL NIGHT

This was held at St. Stephen's Church hall, Richmond, and was thoroughly enjoyed by the 47 Rangers who attended it.

Sgt. Davidson, A.W.A.S., took efficient charge of the drill squads, and Miss Swires spoke interestingly on general fitness and "preparedness"—both mental and physical.

It was felt that many more Rangers could possibly have been there, particularly in view of the help received.

Patrol Leaders' Page

I promised this month to give you ideas for some more holiday activities, but since you read the last P.L.'s Page, you will have heard about the B.P. Memorial Fund, so perhaps you feel that this will keep you fully occupied. The holidays really would be a splendid time in which to work and raise money for it, wouldn't they? Your Captain will have told you all about it; in fact, by this time you are all probably wracking your brain and deciding how you can help, and so show what Guiding means to you. Do you realise that if Baden Powell had not started Boy Scouts, then the girls would not have had Guides, either. They demanded to be Scouts, too, but if the Chief Scout had not welcomed them and organised a separate movement for them, none of us would be Guides today. So you see the Memorial Fund is something that concerns us all, even the smallest and newest Guide who has hardly heard of, and certainly never seen, Baden Powell.

I expect that by now you have talked the subject over very thoroughly at Court of Honour and Patrols in Council, and that each Patrol has thought of various ways and means of raising money. Of course, besides earning or raising money, you can save pocket money by going without sweets, staying away from the pictures, etc., but it IS possible to really earn money, too. But just a word of warning! If the money is earned the job must be worth the pay. If you are making and selling any articles they must all be well made and really useful or decorative; and if you are weeding the lawn or trimming the edges, then the job must be really well and thoroughly done before you take your pay.

The following is copied from an English paper, and is a page from a P.L.'s diary, giving her activities for a week. Talk it over with your patrol, and decide which jobs were ones she was being paid for in order to raise money for the B.P. Fund, and which were simply "good turns." Then go ahead and plan on similar lines. Here is the Diary:—

Sunday.—Take papers round after church. Feed Mr. Higgins' chicks all the week.

5 p.m.—Wash up at hospital.

Monday.—6.15: Meet Patrol at allotment, tell them Super Wheeze. We'll knock spots off the Robins total now!

Tuesday.—Grannie's shopping.

Ask Nos. 1-20 about cleaning shoes Saturday.

Wednesday.—6 p.m.: Weeding Mrs. Wigg's garden with Peggy. Slug hunt. Top score so far 1065!!!

Thursday.—Keep free for Wheeze. No flicks this week, B.P. box instead.

Friday.—1.20: Clean our Vicar's rabbit hutches.

5.30: Help Old Whiskers at farm.

Saturday.—B.P. Dog Show. Bet Wags wins for long tail!

And now for the other activities I promised you. Here are two more games. "The winter was coming and the Chief was afraid that his people would be short of food before it was half over, so he divided his people in half, and gave the first half six bundles of corn to hide in secret places all over the land, and to the second half he gave six barrels of frozen meat. He warned each band that if they forget the spots where the food was hidden they would be severely punished. They were also to hide the food without the other band seeing, so that it could not be stolen. Before the winter was over food was short, and the Chief called his people together, and commanded them to go and find the hidden food. Unfortunately, the Chief's memory was bad, and he sent the first half to find the meat, and the second half to look for corn, and as he prided himself on his perfect memory, and also had a very fierce temper, no one dared to tell him he was wrong!" Divide your Patrol in half, one team hides pieces of pink paper for meat, and the other brown paper for corn. The paper must not be completely hidden; do not let the other side see you, and remember where you put it. In five minutes' time you start looking for the other team's papers. You score 1 point for each piece found. If all the papers are not found, you can challenge the team that hid them to show you where they are. If the hiders cannot produce the papers, the other side scores 3 points for each missing piece.

The other game is a compass one, so will be a help to your Second Class Guides. It is a good thing, too, for Recruits and Tenderfoots to play compass games and not to wait until they are working at their First Class to do so. Divide your Patrol in half; you will take charge of one team, and your Second will lead the other one. Each team has a treasure, and three-quarters of an hour to go where they like and hide it. They make a note of the compass directions they follow, and also of the final hiding place. At the end of three-quarters of an hour both teams return to the starting point, change over their list of directions, and set out to find the other team's treasure. The first Patrol back to the starting point with the other people's treasure wins.

These are two active games to play round the streets or on a vacant piece of land, but you will also have to cater for a hot day when the Patrol will prefer sitting quietly under a shady tree to doing anything rather active. When the temperature soars to over 100 deg. on the day arranged for the Patrol meeting it is a good opportunity for making Patrol equipment to use during the coming year. Read again the P.L.'s Page for last July if you want ideas on the subject, and

start now collecting tins, paints, cardboard and scraps of material.

Don't forget to write and let me know how you get on with your holiday activities, and also say what you would like in this Page during the coming year. Remember, it is YOUR Page, so its up to all of you to say what you would like included in it.

"TUL-KARA."

EQUIPMENT DEPOT.

Hats, Caps and Uniform Material are coupon-free for Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Guiders, provided they produce a **written order** from the Guider concerned, giving the name of the child, name of Pack or Company, and reason for ordering (recruit ready for enrolment, grown out of original overall, etc.).

Brownie Hats are no longer obtainable. Brownie Caps 2/3.

Uniform Material.—We have at the moment a supply of Brownie material, but only a very small quantity of Guide material is available, most of which will be reserved for new Companies and Guiders in districts where there has not been Guiding before.

It is urgent that Guiders take real responsibility and do not send us an order unless it is impossible to get a second-hand uniform elsewhere. Each application will be considered separately.

Equipment.—Guiders are urged to keep a strict check on all uniforms, hats, ties, emblems and shoulderknots, belts, etc., and follow up Guides and Brownies who leave or have left, and buy back their equipment. This could be done from Company or Pack funds, and new recruits could buy from the company or Pack. It may be advisable to have emblems and ties and shoulderknots as Company property, to be hired to the Guides and returned on leaving.

Money Orders.—It helps us so much if money orders are made payable at Market Street or Collins Street (instead of Melbourne).

Rail Parcels.—Unless there is a big difference between the cost of postage and rail-freight, we send parcels by post, as, with our small staff, it is often very difficult to fit in a special trip to the railway station. Please tell us if it is important that the parcel should go by rail.

CLARA BROADHURST,
Commissioner for Equipment.

DISTRICT NEWS.

First Lockington Company has only been in existence for 18 months, but is progressing well. On 6th October the Governor, Sir Winston Dugan, and Lady Dugan, visited Lockington, and an account has been sent in by one of the Guides.

"We all met at Bamawm Hall, as it was the most central for the surrounding districts. We went in the morning, arriving about half-past ten. Sir Winston and Lady Dugan arrived a short time after. We Girl

Guides formed a guard of honour for them to walk through. As they walked through the guard of honour, Shirley Mustey, Margaret Golden and Jean Fiedler, who were the colour party, dipped the flag. The ladies and the Guides then went into the hall, where we were addressed by Lady Dugan, who spoke of the Red Cross. She was presented with a bouquet, and highly spoken of by the different ladies. Meanwhile, the Governor addressed the Cubs and men-folk. As their Excellencies were driven off in a car we Guides again formed a guard of honour and dipped the flag, while everybody cheered loudly. We feel very honoured to have seen our King's representatives."

GUIDE WAR WORK.

2nd Deniliquin Company collected four large bags of cleaning rags and forwarded them to local R.A.A.F. Training School. A very nice letter of thanks was received.

With support from a few members of the R.A.A.F. and W.A.A.F. a very successful concert for "Prisoners of War Fund" was held, raising £43. The concert was such a success that by special request it was repeated at the Air School, as entertainment for the personnel.

Some of the girls have been doing splendid work as helpers at the local hospital, which has been very full, and understaffed. The girls help serve meals, make beds, wash dishes and dishes, in fact, do just anything needed.

SHELTER

It is easy enough to take cover when it rains—if you happen to be near cover.

The best "cover" from life's rainy days is a bank account.
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