

Matilda

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

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PLEASE DON'T SEND THEM TO THE EDITOR.

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No. 3.

TRAGIC BEAUTY

(Written by Miss Barfus, who is at
G.I.S. Team 136.)

It is thrilling to see "in the flesh," as it were, the places of which we used to read in our school text-books. I recognised from picture post-cards and illustrations a lovely building which used to be the palace of the Dukes of Hanover. All about it there are wonderful parks, and a former Botanic Garden. Nearby is the Herrenhausen Opera House. We were there one night to hear the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra play; they did "Till Eulenspiegel" and the "Fifth Symphony." The music was glorious, but it was saddening to see that the performers wore only street clothes and were probably very cold in the unheated hall.

The building itself is amazing—a bit shabby now, but has a most ornate ceiling, with golden stars and garlands of flowers in relief. The walls are painted in tapestry designs, with allegorical figures, and the coat of arms of the House of Hanover is conspicuous.

In front of the terribly bombed Bahnhof (railway station), in the centre of Hanover, is a glorious equestrian statue of Ernst August, Herzog von Hanover, and it has not been touched by any of the bombing.

The buildings, shattered as most of them are in the city itself, show a great beauty—wonderful relief work in stone, graceful iron-work from the balconies, designs of glittering tiles of various colours, some of them golden, ornamenting the facade. Most of the churches have—or had—spires covered with copper.

The Rathaus is a wonderful old building, with green-copper dome; the green of copper is a lovely shade one does not get in any paint.

I nearly wept when I went on business into the Rathaus—such a beautiful plan, with lovely detail.

The Army Post Office was formerly a Gasthaus (inn), with gardens opening from glassed balcony; it is in a beautiful position, almost surrounded by a small beech forest (there are several lovely forest areas in the city); and outside, in the centre of the Chaussee, is the loveliest statue, in bronze, of a stag sniffing the wind with raised head—such a joy to behold!

All this beauty and history one sees through the heart's tears. The atmosphere all around is not in keeping, and one feels so oppressed. I cannot bear the way people look at our car in the streets—because it bears a Union Jack (the British symbol) on the windscreen.

There have been several light falls of snow, and the people are terrified for fear there may be another hard winter like that of last year. One does not wonder at their fear when one sees the appalling accommodation in which many of the Displaced Persons are obliged to live. No doubt many Germans are also living in very bad conditions, but our Team is concerned with the welfare of 1. Displaced Persons only—20,000 of them in this particular area. We are concentrating on helping the babies and small children and the aged who have no relatives to cook and care for them. Post-war Germany is a place for

(Continued on page 2.)

AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCES

February was a busy month for Victoria, and also a most interesting one, as we had so many Interstate visitors with us. This was because of the Australian Training Conference, held at the Guide House from 10th to 17th February as the culminating item of Miss Cobham's Australian tour, and after that the G.I.S.(A) Conference and Federal Council meeting, both taking place in Melbourne. Delegates from all States were present, and everyone benefited considerably from the interchange of views and appreciated the opportunities of getting to know one another better, both at the conferences and at the numerous social activities which interspersed the more serious business. The main subjects dealt with at the conferences were the testing of Diplomas in Australia, future plans of the G.I.S., and alterations to the Federal constitution; but, as all recommendations have yet to receive the ratification of the State Executive Committees, they will not be printed here until they have been confirmed. "Matilda" thought though that you would like to know the various people attending these conferences, so we are printing a list of names for you to see. With the aid of this list and a knowledge of the different State Badges you will be able to work out who was the Interstate Guider you met in the Guide Shop last February and the name of the strange Commissioner you passed in a busy city street!

New South Wales.

- Miss Manning—Deputy State Commissioner, Commissioner for Camping, Guide and Camp Training Diplomas.
 Miss Attwater—Commissioner for Training, Guide and Camp Training Diplomas, Chairman G.I.S.(A).
 Miss Aspinall—Commissioner for Brownies, Brownie and Camp Training Diplomas.
 Miss Stevens—Commissioner for Guides, Guide Training Certificate.
 Miss Deer—Commissioner for Rangers, Ranger and Camp Training Diplomas, Secretary G.I.S.(A).
 Miss Mills—N.S.W. G.I.S. Committee.
 Miss Moir—N.S.W. G.I.S. Committee.

Queensland.

- Mrs. Gresham—State Commissioner.
 Miss Nicoll—Brownie Training Certificate.
 Mrs. Mills—Guide Training Certificate, Commissioner for Extensions.
 Mrs. Burcher—Division Commissioner.
 Mrs. Lalor—District Commissioner.

South Australia.

- Miss Morphet—Chairman of Training Council.
 Miss Richard—Commissioner for Guides.
 Mrs. Lyon—Commissioner for Rangers.
 Miss Harris—Brownie Training Certificate.
 Miss Beanland—Guide Training Certificate.
 Miss Cooper—Guide Training Certificate.
 Mrs. Kenihan—Division Commissioner.
 Mrs. McCarthy—Division Commissioner.

Tasmania.

- Mrs. McIntyre—State Commissioner.
 Miss Fisher—Deputy State Commissioner.
 Miss Andrews—Commissioner for Training, Guide Training Diploma.
 Miss Raftrey—Commissioner for Brownies, Brownie Training Certificate.
 Mrs. Harris—Tasmanian G.I.S. Committee.
Western Australia.
 Mrs. Ross—Deputy State Commissioner.
 Mrs. Carlton—Commissioner for Training, Guide Training Diploma.
 Mrs. Kirkwood—Commissioner for Camping.
 Miss Perry—Commissioner for Rangers.
 Mrs. Hodgkin—Guide Training Diploma, Commissioner for Schools and Colleges.

Victoria.

- Miss Cameron, Miss Broadhurst, Miss Bush, Miss Hayman, Miss Holtz, Miss Mitchell, Miss Moran, Miss MacLeod, Mrs. Orr, Miss Swinburne, Mrs. Wilson.

There was also Miss Robertson (Guide Training Diploma), who has just arrived in Australia to spend a year in S.A.; and last, but by no means least, Miss Cobham and our Federal Commissioner—Mrs. C. O. Fairbairn.

GUIDES' AWARD FOR ENDURANCE

The Guides' highest award for courage and fortitude—the Badge of Fortitude—has recently been awarded to a London Ranger and to a Welsh Guide.

Angela Tidmarsh is a seventeen-year-old member of the 7th North Lambeth Ranger Company, and for many months she has been very seriously ill with acute nephritis. During all this time her patience and cheerfulness have been quite outstanding; she has shown the liveliest interest in everything that the other Rangers were doing, although she could not join in their activities, and when her illness was at its most acute she was always content if she could wear her Guide badge.

Shirley James, age 13, is a Patrol Leader in the 1st East Glamorgan Post Company, all of whose members are suffering from some severe physical handicap, so that they cannot attend ordinary Guide meetings, but do their Guide training at home by correspondence. Even in such a Company Shirley has been signalled out for this award for the quite exceptional spirit she has shown. For years she has been in hospital with severe chest trouble, but, in spite of two operations and acute suffering, she has earned the admiration of all the other patients and of the nursing staff by her happy disposition and thoughtfulness for others.

TRAGIC BEAUTY (continued from page 1). only strong and brave people, and difficult even then if they are "Auslander"—i.e., D.P's.

One does not fully realise the implications of the Guide and Scout Law of Friendliness until one lives in these regions, where, for instance, the Poles and Ukrainians simply cannot get on with each other at all—EXCEPT in a Rover or Scout or Guide Group!

TRAINING

Training Certificates.

At the summer Training Week three Victorian Trainers were tested for Training Certificates. These Certificates have only recently been instituted, and it is the first time a test has been held in Victoria. All three Guiders passed, and the Executive Committee has now approved the award of the Certificates. The names of the Guiders and the Certificates gained are as follows:—

Guide Training Certificate: Miss Peg Barr.
Brownie Training Certificate: Miss Hazel Gross, Miss Greta Roach.

We congratulate all three Guiders, and wish them every success in their future work.

Book of Photos for Miss Cobham.

During Miss Cobham's visit to Victoria 350 Guiders attended the various trainings held. It had been decided to make a collection of photographs taken at these trainings and to present them to Miss Cobham before she left the country. This was done, and a most representative assortment was sent in. Miss Cobham was delighted with the gift, and we are only sorry that time did not allow the Trainees to see the completed collection. We would, however, like to take the opportunity of thanking those Guiders who donated photographs and sent them in, and to let them know that their gift was much appreciated.

WHY I AM A GUIDE

(Extract from "The Canadian Guider.")

Here is something in which you Guiders might be interested. I am sure you've all had contests in your own Companies, inter-Patrol competitions, and things like that; but how about an essay contest for the Company? We held one in our Company just about the time of Thinking Day, and the subject we chose was "Why Am I a Guide?"

The winning essay was written by Lois Magee, P.L., Heather Patrol.

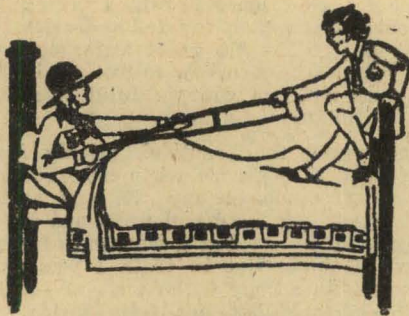
"Why am I a Guide? . . . I have thought and thought how I might express on paper what Guiding means to me, and I think the whole basis of this wonderful organisation is found in the fourth Guide Law: 'A Guide is a friend to all, and sister to every other Guide, no matter to what creed, country or class the other belongs.' It make me very proud to wear my uniform, knowing that in every corner of the earth I have a sister and a friend who would welcome me at any time and treat me kindly. No Guide need ever be lonely. To have a friend is to be one,

and Guides are friends to all. I myself have no truer friends than my fellow-Guides. We are all united in this great sisterhood, with one purpose—to learn how to live good, happy lives—and nowhere can we fulfil this better than in Guiding.

I can recall the beautiful, prickly feeling that surged through me when my Tenderfoot pin was fastened on my tie, and someone kindly shook my hand and welcomed me into the sisterhood. At last I was one of them—really a Guide! But in truth I was only a skeleton—like a body without a soul—a Guide on the surface, but not fully inside. The Promise I had taken, and the Laws I accepted, were only words, and I had yet to grasp the full meaning of Guiding. I began to work and study in earnest, but so often I would become careless and slow. However, little by little, as I progressed, the importance of that Promise came to me, and the Laws were no longer words. Every Test passed was another achievement towards the goal, and my interest and love of Guiding increased. It was not long before I felt myself to be a full-fledged Guide; but seeing all the tests I had before me made me feel how little I knew, and gave me ambition to learn.

In time I was made a Second, and then came the proud day when I sewed on my Patrol Leader's stripes and began to teach other new recruits how to be Guides. But it's not really a matter of teaching. They soon felt as I did—what a wonderful organisation Guiding is, and what a comfortable, glowing feeling it is to have lots of friends and millions of sisters all over the world.

There are so many things that we will remember when we are old and grey. Lustily singing as we march along a dusty road, splitting with laughter as we pull Margaret and Helen out of the muddy creek, shouting for joy as the tiny wavering spark finally bursts into flame, quiet and pensive as we listen to a campfire tale, with the firelight glowing on our faces, making them look pure and almost ethereal, and happy, yet somehow sad, as we sing the nostalgic old songs that may bring a tear to the old camper's eye, and send a prickly sensation over the new ones. These and many other countless funny and dear remembrances will warm our hearts, and then perhaps is the time when we'll really realise the full meaning of being a Guide. It's something that runs deeper than anything that I could put on paper . . . something that makes me almost burst with pride when we march down the street with the bagpipes playing, and something that makes my eyes sting a little when I see the World Flags and Jacks march slowly up the aisles in the Church, and also something that makes me feel very strongly attached to all the Guides in my Patrol and in the Company, and for that matter in all the world. This is why I am a Guide. . . ."



EXTENSIONS

CAN YOU HELP?

Baloos.

Have you ever heard of Baloo, the very helpful animal in Kipling's "Kim"? Well, the Extension Branch has Baloos, too, only they are not animals, but are equally helpful human beings.

Our Baloos are people who undertake to visit a Post Guide regularly to help her with her Guide work, bring outside ideas in to her, and be "helpful" to her in all sorts of ways.

These Baloos are not necessarily active Guide people. Sometimes they are Old Guides, ex-Rangers, ex-Guiders—in fact, anyone who is interested in Guiding and who can spare enough time to pay regular monthly visits and help to bring the joy of Guiding to someone who is not well enough to take part in Guiding in any way except by post.

If you, who are reading this, cannot help, do you know of anyone who can? Please pass on this information to all and sundry, because our need is urgent and the jobs are interesting and worthwhile.

Don't forget, BALOOS! We want you!

The Extension Branch, 5 Struan Street, Toorak, S.E.2, is the address to which to write.

"THANK YOU" FUND

Active Packs and Companies! Don't forget the "Thank You" Fund. This is what helps the Post Brownie Packs and Post Guide and Ranger Companies to keep going. Don't let it be said that the lack of your help curtailed the Posts' activities.

2/6 is your "thank you" on your Pack or Company Birthday for the ability to enjoy active Guiding.

Don't forget—"Thank You" Fund, c/o Girl Guide H.Q., 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.1.

EXTENSION FUND

What, another one? Yes, another one! The above fund helps to support the POST Packs and Companies only. The Extension Fund helps the Extension Companies (those in hospitals and institutions); helps with camp expenses; pays for equipment, Guiders' fares,

petrol, medical needs for those unable to afford them; anything and everything connected with the Extension Branch.

The Extension Fund has the same address as the "Thank You" Fund.

Thank YOU!

UNIFORMS

Yes, uniforms again. Our supply of second-hand uniforms, both Brownie and Guide, is practically non-existent, but our supply of new Brownies and Guides is very much in existence!

What can we do? Buy new ones? Well, it doesn't seem fair to ask parents of Extensions to buy a new overall when an Extension may not wear it more than once a month, if as often.

We can manage the "bits and pieces" (i.e., belts, badges, etc.), but overalls for Brownies, Guides and Rangers are a real problem, so are the hats. We are quite willing to buy them secondhand.

I know they are a problem for others besides the Extensions, but JUST ONE from each Company and Pack in Victoria would give us such a supply as we've never seen before!

Once again the address—The Extension Branch, 5 Struan Street, Toorak, S.E.2, or leave parcels at Headquarters.

FOOD PARCELS FOR BRITAIN ARRIVE

Many are the letters coming to the Extension Packs and Companies acknowledging the arrival of parcels sent to Britain, both from the Chief Guide's Rally last year and earlier. Here are a few extracts from some of the letters:—

"... It was such an unexpected pleasure to receive a present from someone unknown, and I felt so excited opening the parcel. . . . I can well imagine the thought which lay behind the making of this parcel. . . . I shall distribute the contents among my Guides. . . . You have given me quite a problem as to dividing, but I don't think any of them will be annoyed at the result. . . . I'd like to send my good wishes to all your Guides for their good cheer. Tell them I thank them most warmly for this gesture. . . ."

"... very kindly sent my daughter some of the things out of the gift parcel your Post Guides sent to England. . . . I am writing to say a very big thank you to yourself and your Guides. We certainly appreciated both the gift and the good wishes. We received them on Christmas Eve, so you can see it was a real Christmas surprise. . . ."

"... Greetings for Thinking Day, and our sincere thanks for your gift, which arrived this morning. I am posting two tins and sweets all round. . . . we greatly appreciate your thought for us and your kindness towards us. . . . I would like to do something to show our deep appreciation. . . ."

NOMAD NATIONS

From "Te Rama," New Zealand.

(Article by Miss Mildred Cable, of Gold Desert fame, written for the Rangers and Rovers of New Zealand, 20th November, 1947.)

"The nomad nations of the world have much in common with Scouts and Guides everywhere, because tents, campfires and living in the open air take a very large place in the life of them all.

"Nomads manage to avoid many of the complications of town life. Take, for example, the case of the Mongolian. Around him there stretches an unlimited ocean of sand, which the desert winds lift into rolling dunes, which look very much like the long, even swell of ocean waves, only that sand takes the place of water. They know it would not be good policy to set up their tents in open spaces, so the nomad chooses a thicket of tamarisk bushes that will afford him a little shelter from the wind, and he cuts down superfluous branches and weaves them into rough hurdles, bound together with tough desert grass. These hurdles form grand camouflage, and it would require a sharp eye indeed to detect the grimy tent in the whole greyish-yellow surroundings.

"I have been a visitor in many such tents, and though I might be viewed at first with suspicion it has never been difficult to get on friendly terms with the nomads. All round the tents are milch camels and the ewes, and these provide most of the food consumed by the family. Everyone likes milk, but unless there are large flocks of sheep they do not eat meat very often. Milk and solid cream is the main diet. Grain is a luxury, for the nomad cannot sow any crops.

"It is impossible to walk into a nomad encampment uninvited. You cannot do it. The fierce dogs to see to it that you do not come closer to the dwelling-place than you should, but when once the master of the tent calls them off, and his wife lifts the felt curtain which covers the tent door, saying, "Come inside, traveller and rest by our fire!" then you may know that you are an accepted guest, and that every kind of hospitality will be offered to you. You are supposed to know how to behave, where to sit, and how to put one knee flat on the ground while the other is raised. Of course, you never stand in the tent door, nor make any movement towards the cooking pots, for that would rouse suspicion. You just learn to know your place and to keep it.

Your hostess loses no time in catching up her goat-skin milking-pail, and she comes back with it half-full of foaming camel-milk. She pours it into a big iron pot, and as soon as

it is near boiling she brings out her bowls and prepares to ladle out a generous portion of hot, creamy milk. Being an experienced visitor among such people, I produce my own bowl from an inner breast-pocket, and hold it out for my portion. Luckily, it is good manners to do so, because the washing-up methods of some nomads are not exactly in accordance with everyone's taste. Where water is very scarce, the tongue is often used to wash and polish a bowl, and when this is necessary I would rather have my own tongue than other people's.

"The atmosphere of the tent is conducive to friendliness. The raging wind does not penetrate the thick felt of which it is made. There is satisfying hot milk, the air is warmed by the fire of sun-dried dung, and the acrid smoke is carried away through the tunuk opening overhead. No one is hurried, no one is busy, and no one is pre-occupied by thoughts of household duties which must be attended to, for such things have no place in the life of the carefree Mongol. Now is the time for talk, and they have plenty of questions to ask regarding home, family, respective ages of visitors, etc.

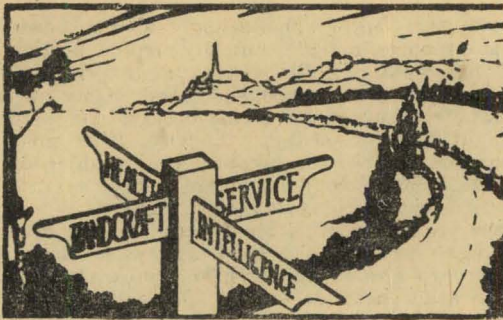
"Talk is not a thing to be forced, but the camp-fire is everywhere a matchless place for honest exchange of ideas. Things are said there which town life makes it more difficult to express. Under the shadow of the family Buddhist shrine there is talk about the one and only God Who made heaven and earth and created man that He might be a Father to him. Then a book is produced, which is written in the curious Mongolian script, and this is that volume which is valued by every Christian. It is a New Testament, and it begins at what you would call the last page and is read backwards to the first. There is one small trade-mark on it—"British and Foreign Bible Society," and by this you may know that this is one of the books in seven hundred and seventy-nine languages published by that Society.

"What a preparation for the life of a nomad missionary is the life of a Christian Scout. He has himself that priceless gift of God, the gift of life through Christ—he learns to live with other Scouts, he learns to rough it, to care little if what men call hardships comes his way. He learns, in fact, to use the difficulties and to overcome them.

"Christ calls for disciples who are of this type—men who can dare anything for Him, endure for Him and bring the Good News of the Gospel to remote people.

"Christ is the Pioneer of faith and the Leader of men or women who have followed Him, and have been able to cut a way through

(Continued on page 9.)



THE SIGN POST

REALLY FIRST CLASS

In recent years the syllabus for the First Class Test has been considerably altered, and the test slightly shortened. As a result, it is hoped that a larger proportion of Guides will gain this badge, and it does seem already that this object will be achieved. In our anxiety that this shall be so, let us not, however, lose sight of the aim and object of First Class. It is worth while stopping from time to time to consider this.

Tenderfoot and Second Class are tests which all Guides should pass. The syllabus is set, but the standard is varied to suit the individual child. The tests must be passed on the best standard possible for each child, but one person's best varies from another's, and it is only the Guide herself and her Captain who can judge that what is done really is the "best." First Class is an absolute standard. The wearer of the badge must have reached that standard. If her "best" does not attain it, then she cannot win the badge. No adjustment is made, and not every Guide is capable of being First Class. Some people feel that it is hard for a Guide not to be tested by her own Captain. "The child is shy and self-conscious with a stranger," say those people. "She does not produce her best effort." Isn't the ability to conquer this shyness and to adapt oneself to different circumstances and methods of testing one of the things we expect of a First Class Guide? I think it is.

A Second Class Test is passed in bits and pieces as the candidate is ready for it, and, after passing the final clause, she is awarded her badge. There is a difference here between Second and First Class that I think we have been rather inclined to miss, but which Miss Cobham has stressed in all her trainings. That is, that at the moment when the Guide gains her First Class she must be absolutely sure and up-to-date in every section of the test. We, in Victoria, have always put in a revision test at the end if any of the sections had been passed more than two years previously, but I don't think that in other instances many people have included such a

final check. Miss Cobham pointed out that it was quite possible for a Guide to pass each individual section and then fail at the end in the final check, in which case she was not really First Class. This test should touch on each section, but not go into it as thoroughly as when those different parts were passed originally. Let us make sure in future that our First Class Guides really are First Class, and so remember always to include this revision test before applying for the badge. Remembering, too, at the same time, that a First Class Guide must "be a Second Class Guide," and a Second Class one "have passed the Tenderfoot Test"—it is possible for a First Class candidate to fail through not being able to light a fire, tie and use a knot, etc.

First Class may or may not be easier, but, even if it is, there is still quite a lot to it, and a definite effort and a definite standard is required. Good luck to all the would-be First Class Guides, and may many of them achieve their goal, but not at the expense of lowering the standard of the test or the quality and character we expect of the candidates.

—Sheila MacLeod.

TWO IMPORTANT NOTICES

The Church of England Diocesan Scout and Guide Advisory Council is holding a CONFERENCE FOR SCOUTERS AND GUIDERS in the Chapter House, Cathedral Buildings, on Saturday, 10th April, at 2.30 p.m. The Conference will discuss how to make the Promise, "To do my duty to God," more real. After a series of short talks on the religious policy of the Movement, and the ways and difficulties of applying that policy, there will be an open forum. It is hoped that many will take this opportunity of discussing this often overlooked problem.

The annual ST. GEORGE'S DAY SERVICE for Scouts, Guides, Rangers, Rovers, Brownies and Cubs will be held on Saturday, 24th April, in the Cathedral, Melbourne, at 3.15 p.m. The Bishop of Geelong (the Right Rev. J. D. McKie) will give the address.

ACCOMMODATION PROBLEMS

In the interests of the Guide Movement, there are more or less continuously at some time or another visiting Guiders and Commissioners from out of town and other States.

It is always very difficult, and frequently impossible to obtain suitable boarding-house or hotel accommodation for these visitors.

Moreover, these visitors would often prefer to stay with someone interested in the Guide Movement.

Therefore, if you feel willing and able to assist the Movement by offering hospitality occasionally, would you be so good as to communicate with Mrs. R. C. Wallace, 657 Toorak Road, Toorak, S.E.2 (phone, U 7019), from whom further details may be obtained.

There are at present only six hostesses on our list, so our need is pressing.



PATROL LEADERS' PAGE

THE RECRUIT

Do you remember the first day you went to Guides, the sense of anticipation as you set out, coupled perhaps with a slight feeling of shyness? And what was your reaction after the meeting? A sense of belonging, being a part of a small Patrol, and yet a member of something bigger and wider—a feeling that you had spent the evening doing worth-while things, and yet had had fun and enjoyment—or a slight sense of disillusionment? The former surely, as you have gone on and are now a P.L. in the Company! But have you ever realised since that a great many of the impressions you gained that night were due to the thoughtfulness and consideration of your first P.L.?

Now you, in your turn, are a P.L., and it is your responsibility, to a very large extent, to give your recruits the sort of impression of Guiding you would like them to have after their first day at the Company. Captain will hand a recruit over to you. It is up to you to see that your Patrol is ready to receive her and to welcome her to their midst. Let us think how this can be done.

First of all, is your Patrol a narrow little clique, with no wish to add to its numbers and to make the newcomer feel at home? Or are they keen to make her feel one of them and to let her share in their doings right from the start? The latter surely if the Guide Law and Promise is something real to them. You do need to be on the lookout, though, to see all is well. Perhaps your recruit goes to a different school, and no one knows her. In this case she may quite unintentionally be left out of the general gossip. A word of warning to the Patrol beforehand should avoid this. A good P.L. will chat things over with her Patrol beforehand, and will also watch to see how the recruit fits in, and to make sure she is not neglected. Such neglect will probably be due to thoughtlessness on the part of the others, but a true Guide is not thoughtless, and the P.L. should see that they are not.

Have you ever seen a recruit looking rather lost at roll call drill? A brief demonstration from the Patrol beforehand would have avoided this, and could be combined with an explanation of the salute and why a recruit does not use it. This will enable her to take part with confidence and also lead up to a chat about the Promise. A recruit likes to feel that she has really learnt something at her first meeting, and the salute will be a beginning.

Then there is Patrol in Council. The recruit may be brand new, but she is now part of the Patrol, and, if you want her to really be so, you must make sure that she really joins in everything. Do you explain the subjects you are discussing and the projects you have in mind? Or do the others all talk hard, ignore the recruit, and leave her to pick things up as best she can? Thoughtlessness again!

When you come to teaching her her Tenderfoot, how do you set about it? Is it something really practical? Do you go out and set a track, hoist a flag, or bandage a leg? Or do you sit in a row on a form with little pieces of string? No recruit will be really interested in her Tenderfoot Test unless you make it something worth while and practical. The impression she gets as a recruit will probably be the impression she carries throughout her Guiding days. In the same way the method you use when teaching the Tenderfoot will colour all the other tests for her. Captain will, if you ask her, give you ideas at Leaders' Trainings on how to teach the Tenderfoot and make it really interesting—but the responsibility is yours. Make the most of it!

These are just a few ideas to think over. I would suggest that, when you are expecting a newcomer to the Patrol, that you talk things over with the other members and see what suggestions they can add. Get them to think back to their own days as recruits, and see what things appealed to them most, and what disappointments they suffered. Then make sure that your recruits do not suffer similar disappointments. Think back, too, over recent months, and see how many recruits you have had. Do those recruits just come to a few meetings and then drift away, or do they stay on and become happy, useful members of the Patrol? The responsibility for them is largely yours—yours and your Patrol's. Are you living up to it?

—“Tul-Kara.”

CONGRATULATIONS

Guide First Class Badge

Naomi Ward—2nd Dandenong.
Barbara James—2nd Caulfield.
Doreen Salt—1st Chilwell.
Dorothy Dingley—1st Lockington.

BROWNIES

TURNING THE ROPE BACKWARDS

Brown Owl and Tawny were planning programmes. "Could I take some of the Brownies for skipping?" said Tawny. "We had great fun with skipping at Training Classes."

"Yes," that's a good idea. Where would you do it?"

"Oh, out on the asphalt. We tried skipping in different places. It was awfully hard work on grass. Bare ground wasn't bad if you found a flat place. How many ropes have we got, Brown Owl?"

"Four, I think, with another longer one really meant for Guiders and Pack Leaders, though sometimes very big Brownies have used it."

"They will be long enough, won't they? We had to have ours long enough to stand with one foot forward, holding the middle of the rope on the ground, and the ends in our hands held straight out at shoulder level."

"Yes, that's how we test for length, too. Some of our ropes are longer than others to allow for big and little Brownies, and some are a bit heavier than others. I let each Brownie try with different ropes, then practise with the one she likes best—provided it is long enough, of course. Get out the ropes and have a look at them now; they're in the right-hand corner of the second shelf."

Tawny liked the ropes; they weren't too thin to turn in a slight wind. She tried out the long one, and Brown Owl saw that she skipped really well.

"Suppose you take a group of six Brownies," said Brown Owl, "Mary, Joyce, Pat and Betty—they should all have done some skipping, though Betty may have missed it (she's been away a lot with colds), and Beverley and Helen haven't done any skipping with the Pack yet."

Before the meeting, Tawny re-read the notes on skipping that she'd made at Training Class: "Brownies should aim at light, easy skipping on the toes. The body and legs should be stretched when in the air, and the knees be supple and relaxed when landing. The head should be held erect and the arms extended, but relaxed all the time, the rope being turned with a flick of the wrists."

"Yes," thought Tawny, "I'll remember all that, and I'll see they know why they turn the rope backwards; and I'll teach them to skip a few times well and work up gradually to twenty; not skip to twenty, then try and improve the style."

When skipping time arrived, Tawny, the Brownies and the ropes headed for the asphalt yard, Helen announcing that she could skip—she'd skipped to two hundred and fourteen yesterday.

"That's only ordinary skipping; you can't do Brownie skipping yet," said Mary. "Watch me, Tawny," and she and four others began

skipping in various ways, with many "Watch me's," "Is this right, Tawny?" and "I got to twenty. Can I pass my test?"

Tawny gave the Pack "sign," and when they were all still and quiet she said: "Suppose you watch me skip; then I watch each of you in turn. Just up to seven to begin with."

"Who knows why we turn the rope backwards?"

"Because it is the Brownie way."

"To keep your shoulders back."

"To make our chests big."

"Yes, you are all right, and expanding out chests makes us breathe in plenty of fresh air."

"You try now, Joyce—just up to seven. The others can either watch or practice."

Concentrating on each in turn, Tawny noticed, and tried to correct, very stiff bodies, open mouths, flailing arms and heavy jumps. She showed them it was easier to turn the rope with the wind instead of against it, and taught the newer ones to give a little bounce between skips. The better ones were allowed to practise skipping to 14, and one very good one practised the whole 20.

"How did they go?" asked Brown Owl after the meeting.

"Well, Pat is very good; she has a long rope at home, and has been practising. She looks as if it's awfully easy, and isn't the least bit tired at 20. She says Mary can come and use her rope. Mary seems to try too hard. She gets all tense and sticks out her chest so far her head goes back. I got her to keep herself a bit straighter, but she didn't relax at all."

"Joyce is pretty good, needs lots of practice. She says she'll come early and use a Pack rope before meetings. Betty and Helen both had their mouths open. Helen was keeping hers shut fairly well when we finished. She is very good for a first attempt; but Betty didn't seem to be able to keep hers shut for any time."

"Now you mention it," said Brown Owl, "I think she does have her mouth open most of the time. We'll watch her for a couple of meetings, and, if she doesn't seem to be able to breathe through her nose, I'll go and see her mother in case they haven't noticed it—there may be an obstruction that should be seen by a doctor. How did she skip?"

"She seemed heavy and tired, and bent her elbows; but little Beverley was priceless. She swung her arms like windmills first; then she got the rope twisting round her hands, and she tripped every few skips. She said the rope was **too long**, but she kept on trying. Skipping does seem to need a lot of practice."

"Well, that's all to the good," said Brown Owl, "provided they practise the right way and enjoy it. Practising really does them more good than the actual passing of the test."

"Yes," said Tawny, "I suppose it does."

—H.G.

CIRCULAR

SUPPLEMENT TO "MATILDA"

June, 1948.

TRAINING CAMP.

South Australia is planning an Interstate Training Camp from 3rd September to 11th September, 1948 inclusive.

The programme will be taken by Miss E. Manning, a Diploma'd Guider from New South Wales.

An invitation to attend the Camp is offered to any Victorian Guiders who might care to combine a holiday with some good training. The approximate cost of the Camp will be 30/-d. excluding fares and any Guiders interested are asked to contact Miss V. Harrison, 126 High Street, Glen Iris, S.E.6, not later than 26th June, 1948.

V. HARRISON

BROWNIE GUIDERS' EVENING

The Handcraft Evening for Brownie Guiders will be on Thursday, 6th May, at 7.45 p.m., at Guide Headquarters, 60 Market Street.

Would Guiders please be punctual, so as not to disturb the Training Class, which will be using the Meeting Pool.

Each Guider should bring one Brownie Handcraft, an apron, soap and towel.

The usual 3d. to cover expenses will be collected during supper.

—D. Holtz.

HELP WANTED!

At last the Brownie Cottage is to be painted, outside.

The Painting Bee has been fixed for the week-end, Friday, 30th April, to Sunday, 2nd May.

Guiders or Rangers who would like to help in this joy should apply immediately to Miss J. Belot, 52 Bendigo Street, Burnley.

Bring your own overalls, and, if possible, a 3-inch paint brush.

"BE PREPARED"

This message has been addressed to the Guides of Australia by the Chief Guide through the National Safety Council of Australia.

During the grim siege of Mafeking, boys played an important part in the defence of the town against the Boer army, and in its eventual relief after 217 days of great privation. Colonel Baden-Powell commanded about 1500 whites against 9000 advancing Boers, with Lord Edward Cecil as his Chief Staff Officer.

As Baden-Powell lengthened his lines of defence and the toll of casualties mounted, there was an even greater shortage of manpower for the defenders, so the boys of the town, from nine years upwards, were formed into a force to act as messengers and orderlies. They had a uniform, with a cowboy hat turned up on one side, like the "Diggers' " hat. At first they rode donkeys, until the donkeys were required for the stew-pot; then they rode bicycles. They did magnificent service.

No doubt the founder of the Boy Scouts learned then that the potential service of boys—and girls—must never be underestimated. Just as those boys in Mafeking "did their bit"—and a very important "bit"—to save the town, so the Junior Safety Councils, of girls and boys, under the banner of the National Safety Council of Australia, are doing their great work in protecting others from injury and death here in Australia.

When, as Lord Baden-Powell, he visited Australia in 1931, the Chief Scout left a message

for Scouts on the importance of safety principles in all they did. His widow, Lady Baden-Powell, G.B.E., World Chief Guide, now in Australia, has been gracious enough to give the following message for Guides. Her thoughts are an admirable lesson, not only for Guides, Scouts and all young people, but for adults, too. Here is the message:—

"Be Prepared."

We Guides—like the Scouts—have a motto, and it seems to fit in aptly over and over again, in ordinary daily life, as well as at special exciting or dangerous moments.

"Dangerous," did I say? Yes, I did. There are dangers of all sorts about us, wherever we are and whatever we do.

Every day the newspapers are full of stories of terribly tragic happenings, showing that dangers abound and that people often just don't seem to worry about taking proper care to avoid them. You hear that somebody has been killed in a car accident, or perhaps a man has cut off his toe chopping down a tree; a woman has burned her hands on a gas stove, or a child has been drowned by falling into a river. People just have these accidents ALL the time, causing pain and sorrow.

And, as often as not, these accidents that you read of are quite preventable, if only those people had just learned to be more careful, and to look out, and look ahead, and know how to watch out for dangers and avoid them.

So think of our Guide motto—the same as the Scouts—and "BE PREPARED" for anything and everything! You youngsters can learn through Scouting and Guiding to BE PREPARED to live fine, splendid lives, with strong, healthy bodies and alert, sensible minds—thinking ahead and looking ahead, and seeing that you are on the safe road—literally and metaphorically—and helping others to go safely, too, along life's highway.

(Signed) OLAVE BADEN-POWELL.

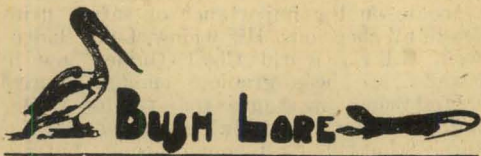
NOMAD NATIONS (continued from page 5).

the jungle of superstition and prejudice and make a path for others to follow. But the undergrowth soon comes up again and the road closes.

"So forward, young pioneers—follow our Leader!"

(This article was written on the day of Princess Elizabeth's wedding, and was sent down to the ship, and I found it waiting for me in my cabin there. In the accompanying note of farewell Miss Cable writes:—"I could wish that I were going back with you to your lovely country. . . ."

—A. Campbell Clarke.



NATURE'S STREAMERS

Surely every Australian has a love for the eucalypts—or, as they are commonly known, "gum trees." So many private gardens contain one or two gum trees, sometimes flowering gums, which are at this time at the height of their flowering season, and are now beacons of vivid colour—pink, orange, cream, or one of the many shades of red—and whenever a gum tree is in flower there you will find the bees.

Perhaps, as some folk think, the gum tree is an untidy tree, because of the way in which the bark peels off. The Mountain Ash, Messmate, Blue Gum, and many other varieties shed their bark in long strips, but I think these streamers of bark add attraction to the trees.

Have you ever walked through a forest when there was a strong wind blowing? The wind bellows out the bark, and in many cases streamers yards in length are flung out from the trunk or branches of the trees, and when one sees hundreds of these streamers all through the forest, one remembers the scene of streamers being held fast as an outgoing liner leaves the pier. Yes, Nature's streamers even have colour, though they are not the vivid hues of those one can buy.

Even on a quiet day in the forest the eucalypt streamers sometimes draw attention to themselves. When the slightest breeze passes some piece of bark will gently tap, tap the limb or trunk on which it hangs. A stripped tree is a happy hunting ground for that nimble little bird, the energetic Tree Creeper. Each hanging piece of bark may shelter some insect, and, if the Tree Creeper catches sight of it, the insect is very suddenly a tasty morsel for lunch or dinner.

After a heavy shower of rain the bark streamers and the stripped tree are at their best. Then the colours that were dull before glow with warmth—lovely shades of pinks, browns, greys, yellows and clear black and white.

Streamers of bark on the pathway—what fun for the children!—toys to be picked up without charge—skipping ropes, whips, harness, dog leads, or just streamers to run with. Sometimes a length of bark is handy for tying up a parcel, and no doubt, while out camping, you have found many other uses for Nature's streamers.

—M.D.

"HANDS OF THE EARTH"

"O trees! ye hands of the earth!" cried Pallieter.

"The hands with which she does her work, with which she prays and rejoices and raises up to heaven every year all her mighty forces in rich profusion. . . . Long live the trees!"

—Felix Timmermans.

Australians are becoming increasingly conscious of their trees, and realising that they must be loved, protected and planted. At the recent Annual Congress of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, held in Queensland, the following motion was carried: "That this Congress urges upon all municipal councils, particularly in cities and suburbs, the wisdom of planting as many native trees as possible, partly to strengthen the national character of the landscape and partly to encourage native birds to frequent towns and cities."

Now comes news of a move in Bayside County, Boy Scouts' Association of Victoria, where Scouts are finding and recognising Australian trees in local parks, streets and home gardens. Later in the year Scouts of the more open areas will lead groups of others from "built-up" areas and introduce them to trees in the bush.

In Bayside County the Scouts have a Bushlore Sub-Committee to stimulate nature observation, and which has a threefold approach to the subject:

- (1) Casual and incidental interest, fostered by the Scouter, to be the principal treatment.
- (2) Sheets of suggested simple observational activities to be issued as asked for, each issue to be dependent on receiving a brief report on the reaction to the former.
- (3) A sustained, county-wide project in which Scouts and Troops might feel that they were working in a community.

Guide Divisions might like to have Bushlore committees, such as the Bayside Scouts have been good enough to tell us about. Ranger Companies would enjoy a Tree Quest as one of their activities for the year.

Might we have a Headquarters Bushlore Sub-Committee, members of which might include Guiders who are convinced of the need for studying natural history, and informed outsiders, such as members of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, etc.? This group could study needs and methods, and then train nature leaders. Would anyone interested in this write to me?

RUTH DENNY.

The Guide International Service

Here is a very condensed version of Miss Barfus's account of her day as a G.I.S. Welfare Worker:—

After 7.30 breakfast, collect items needed for the day—shoes for a boy just arrived from the Russian zone after two months en route; a tin of milk for a convalescent child; a very small quantity of the precious and hard-to-obtain chalk for one of the camp schools, etc.

Then off in a rattling truck (11 miles) to Hanover, past the badly-bombed railway station, thence to a large Polish camp housed in the bombed former German barracks, which is still in need of repairs.

On arrival at camp there is an interview in more or less fluent German with camp authorities and D.P. staff. Then I enquire urgently if the electric light bulbs for the children's homes have come—the lack of lights is serious, not only because the children have to find wash places, stairs and lavs in the dark, but for emergency first-aid treatment in the sick bay.

No, the globes haven't come—no idea when there'll be any. Oh, dear! Has the little lame boy been taken to the specialist? No, there is no petrol in the hospital ambulance.

Now I go, with either the Block Leader (man) or the Block Mother to a family of six (father, mother, grandmother and three children) in a small room. Father and mother sleep in what seems a particularly narrow bed, grandma possibly alone, two children together, perhaps a pram for the third.

Drying over the stove are some sliced apples strung on cotton, a string bag for the baby's solitary napkin, and a flimsy teatowel-like family towel.

The mother asks if we can give her soap to wash the baby. I shake, and say how difficult it is to get soap, even in England. The grandmother does not complain, but she needs a doctor's certificate so that she may get white bread—she cannot digest or even chew the black bread.

There is a crucifix on the wall, and perhaps a "holy picture."

And so to other rooms and other problems. We part from the inmates with courteous salutations. Some of the older men may kiss my hand, which always overwhelms me!

As we pass to the "toilets" we shake our heads—only two lavatories are in order (out of about 12) to serve 300 persons. I must speak to the Major, but he will tell me there are no materials.

Progress has been recorded in ONE direction—the boiler for hot baths has been installed, and the shower sprays fixed. Now they must somehow get the pipes, and then there will be hot baths for 1057 people on a roster system!

After lunch I may go back for a meeting of Block Mothers, at which we may discuss anything from shoes for the kindergarten children to how we can wangle a St. Nikolaus' Day party.

Home through the fog. There is a Team meeting to-night, and more problems to solve. A hot bath, and to bed, and to sleep, with jumbled dreams based on the day of a Welfare Worker. Was it worth while? I believe so.

G.I.S. CONFERENCE

The Interstate G.I.S. Conference was held in Melbourne on 20th and 21st February, under the chairmanship of Miss M. Attwater, of New South Wales.

All State representatives reported that food and handcraft parcels were being sent regularly to their Volunteers in Europe, and that the necessity for these is still urgent, and they are received with tremendous appreciation. As requested by Miss Ward, each State had sent away parcels of warm underclothing for the use of any G.I.S. Team members, as this type of clothing is so difficult to obtain in England. The Western Australian representatives were able to report that Miss K. Baird had returned, after spending two years as a Team member, after which she was invited to assist with Youth Camps in Germany for four months. Miss Baird's message to G.I.S. Committees in Australia was that all Team members in Europe will end only when the Displaced Persons for whom they have been caring can make a fresh start in life in new countries, and that G.I.S. Committees might give a lead in Australia in welcoming European Guides and Scouts coming to Australia. This need was also stressed by Miss Hayman, who was asked to report on what she had seen of the work of the Teams in Europe. Miss Hayman reported that there was still much work to be done among D.P.'s., but more and more responsibility for the running of the camps was being put on the D.P.'s. themselves or the German people in order to strengthen the general morale. The camps will continue for a very long time, because there are about 2,000,000 who desire to emigrate, and this will be a very slow process. Team members would be assisted if they could supply definite information on Australian Immigration regulations, and it was decided that the Secretary endeavour to obtain copies of these laws to be sent abroad. Miss Hayman stressed the amount of routine work which fell on the leaders of the Teams, many forms and documents being required for all phases of the work, and only the Leader's signature can be expected.

(Continued on page 15.)



RANGER EMPIRE WEEK.

This is a message from the Bournemouth Division (Eng.) Ranger Company specially for the Victorian Rangers:—

“We are all eagerly looking forward to Empire Ranger Week in July. It will make you all seem so much nearer to know that you will be thinking of us and celebrating the week, too.”

And now the latest news from your Empire Week Sub-Committee. Celebrations will begin on Sunday, 18th July, probably with local Church Parades. Monday, 19th, will be the official opening in a hall yet to be decided. We hope to have all sorts of important people present, and this evening will be your opportunity to see the pageants and displays each Company is arranging and to hear a talk on Empire Week. Wednesday, 21st, has been set aside for folk dancing, with, perhaps, special exhibition dances by some Companies. Recorded music of other countries will be played. Thursday, 22nd, is the last of our evening meetings, and will consist of a talk, film screening and campfire.

The week-end Camp and Conference will be the grand climax to what should prove to be a milestone along the path of Rangering.

Incidentally, the January “Ranger” contains the song written specially for our Empire Week. Every Company should have a copy and set about learning the song.

Here’s a plea from the harassed members of your Ranger Committee:—Please answer all circulars **correctly** and **promptly**. You can only imagine the inconvenience caused by any delay on your part. Help us to make all your fixtures a success!

THE RANGER SWIMMING SPORTS.

Ready! Face the water! Go!!

They were off in the first race of the 1948 Ranger Swimming Sports, held at the Brunswick Baths on Friday, 27th February. This year all the Companies had caps of their Company colour, and this was a great help in identifying the swimmers. Credit for the smooth running of the sports goes to the organisers and to Wilks, who did a splendid job as announcer and starter.

Unfortunately, the weather was not as warm as we would have liked, and the pool was soon

surrounded by shivering Rangers clutching towels around themselves. I don’t know which was the wetter—the pool or the towels.

The first races were the heats of the free-style; these were followed by the duck-diving, in which the competitor would descend to the bottom of the pool with many a splash and gurgle and then reappear triumphantly holding a brick. Next came the waders’ race, which this year replaced the beginners’ race. The spectacle of a dozen or so females staggering across the pool with their hands on their heads (a fitting gesture of surrender) was enjoyed by all. However, believe me, it’s not as easy as it looks.

The rescue and release race, which followed, had its lighter side, too, for one couple looked, not as if they were carrying out a rescue, but rather as if they required rescue themselves. Next came the diving events, which produced some remarkably good action.

The following race was the cork scramble. After seeing the number of corks that some competitors managed to gather, I am firmly convinced that they must deliberately buy their bathers a size larger than required so as to accommodate more corks. The programme continued with some breaststroke events, and then the obstacle and off-to-camp couple races, which provided as much fun as ever. The second last event was the under-water swim. By now some of the swimmers were getting a little weary, and were attempting to strengthen themselves by various means. Some consumed glucose, while others preferred chocolate peanuts as a source of nourishment.

The towel and peg relay, which was the last item on the programme, was followed by the finals of some of the previous events. Excitement ran high as the final races were being swum, for the scores were very close. Congratulations to Caulfield and Sandringham, who came equal first.

Malvern, last year’s holders of the cup, then presented it to the two winning teams, and thus brought the 1948 Ranger Swimming Sports to a close.

—M. Benfrey.

Yes, even Rangers can lose things! After the swimming sports, all lost property was handed in to the proprietor of the Brunswick Baths, and can be claimed there.

MINUTES OF VICTORIA RANGER COMMITTEE MEETING.

Held at Headquarters, 18th February, 1948.

Present: Miss Moran, Margaret Wallace (in the chair), Wilma Cregan, Norma Carroll, Marjorie Knight, Gwen Corrie, Nanette Neville, Evelyn King, and Valma Pitman.

The minutes for 17th November and 3rd February were read and confirmed.

Ranger Festival.—The Department of Information has supplied booklets on Australia. These will be sent to almost every country in the British Empire, and, in return, we hope to receive similar information to incorporate in our Ranger Festival activities. Marjorie and Evelyn will compose and Wilma type the air-letters, which will precede the booklets.

Next Meeting to be held Tuesday, 16th March, at 5.45 p.m.

Well, this is your page, and what are you doing about it? Where are all those contributions needed to make the page bright and interesting? Do you remember that Lady Baden-Powell said we were a very, very important branch of the Movement? How about letting everyone know? Let's build up this page until it is the best in "Matilda"! Send your contributions to Gwen Corrie, 85 Strathalbyn Street, East Kew, E.5.

COLOUR AND LINE IN THE HOME.

(Reprinted from "The Ranger.")

A great deal of our happiness comes from Colour and Line. By "line" I mean the shape and pattern of things. Most of us long to make our rooms beautiful with colour and fine shapes, but we do not always know how to do this. Suppose we are doing up a room and begin by choosing the colours.

We usually want a room to look warm and light, and for this reason it is generally best to have all the large surfaces of pale, warm colours, and to have them about the same value as each other. The "value" of a colour is its position in the scale between light and dark. White is the lightest value we can use, and black is the darkest. Values are a most important factor when we come to consider shape and pattern.

The easiest way to get life into our colours is to put together those that come from the same part as the spectrum. For instance, if we want a piece of apricot stuff to glow we should surround it with golden colours, with pinks and with pinkish mauve, while if we want a luminous sea green we should put with it blues and greens, greenish yellows and bluish mauves. All these colours should be of about the same value. Colours of different values and coming from opposite ends of the spectrum are much more difficult to manage, because they tend to dim each other. We can have contrast when we want it by introducing a different value, or a warm colour among cold, or cold among warm—but it is nearly always best to avoid a double contrast—for

instance, dark blues and greens (dark and cold) among light pinks and yellows (light and warm). We want our room to be full of light and colour, and we also want it to give us a feeling of space and peace, at least I don't suppose anyone aims to have a room that is dark and dingy, crowded and restless. A sense of space and peace depends mainly on shape and pattern.

Pattern and Shape.

Pattern begins as soon as two colours of different values are seen against each other—for example, black print on white paper. By careful choice of value we can accentuate or subdue any feature in our room. I have already said that it is nearly always best to have the large surfaces of a room pale and warm, and they should not be covered with strong patterns; if they are, the room will look confused and smaller than it is.

With good colours and good shapes (and any shapes that aren't very good can have their outlines blurred by being set against colours of the same value as themselves) we need have no fear of monotony, and we can avoid the kind of plainness that looks harsh by using materials of the same colour but of different textures—coarse, fine, dull, glossy, rough, smooth—and, if some of these can be hand-woven, so much the better. Or a pattern of the same colour as the background can be carved into wood or plaster, or woven into tapestry, or embroidered on to the right kind of material if it is not too big. A fabric can be enriched with a pattern in varied and skilfully worked stitches, and this is far better than a picture of a lady in a crinoline and poke bonnet, or flowers in "lazy daisy" stitch.

When we come to the smaller things in the room, such as pictures, ornaments, cushions and flowers, we can experiment, because when we have done (very easily if it is flowers). We ought not to use many ornaments or pictures at a time. If we have a lot, then we should change them about and store away those not in use; this makes them much more interesting. And we should use only those pictures and ornaments we consider really good. Our tastes will change as our interest and knowledge grow, and then we should get rid of what we no longer like.

A picture looks best with the light coming from the side. There will be only a few places in a room where a picture can hang with the light coming in this way. When you have decided where you want to hang a picture, you must get a frame to fit that place. You may have one, and, if it is not plain wood, it should be painted a pale colour or silvered. Or you may order one to be made; in that case ask for 'painter-etcher moulding.' Several pictures varying quite a bit in size can be mounted to fit that one frame, and those not in use can be packed (in their mounts) into a drawer or portfolio. Button-backs

(Continued on page 16.)

EQUIPMENT DEPARTMENT

Orders are still required for HATS and MATERIAL.

New Hike Tents, light weight green	s. d.
Japara, 8 ft. x 4 ft. x 4 ft. 2 in.	7 6
Whistles	1 9
Lanyards	0 8
Service Stars, 1 year	0 6
Numbered Service Stars	0 10
Brownie Belts	2 3
Guide Belts	2 6
Guide Pencils, embossed with trefoil	5 6
Kent County Hymn Book	2 0
Semaphore Cards	0 2
Camp Fire Songs, complete set	2 0
Fire-side Songs, in two parts, by Mary Chater	2 6
Adventure of Guiding (attractive illustrations of Guide activities)	0 6
"The Guide Promise," Bible Reading and Prayers, compiled by Tirzah Barnes	1 0
9th Biennial Report	4 6
Jemima and Jane Posture Cards each	0 2
Back Numbers "The Ranger" .. each	0 6

Guide Overalls.

These are made according to the Guide Pattern Measurements only. No special orders can be taken.

Bust 29 in., length 32 in.	26 0
Bust 31 in., length 34 in.	26 0
Bust 32 in., length 38 in.	26 0
Bust 34 in., length 40 in.	26 0
Bust 36 in., length 42 in.	30 0
Bust 38 in., length 45 in.	30 0
Guides' Overalls	30 0
Overall Material .. per yard	3 6
Guide Pattern	1 6
Guider Pattern	1 8
Brownie Material .. per yard	3 6
Brownie Patterns	1 3

No ready-made Brownie Overalls.

STAMPS !!!

This month I want to thank all those who have taken heed of the notices in the February and March issues of this magazine. The clean stamps are so much easier to handle.

Acknowledgments for stamps sent in are extended to 1st Ascot Vale Coy., Miss D. Jordan, Mrs. Sallabank, 1st South Melbourne (Square Centre).

—L. E. Couzens, Hon. Organiser.

GUIDERS !

Most of you will have seen or read a great deal about the wedding cake of Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. You will know about our contribution to it in the form of ingredients, but do you realise that, as a gift from the Guides of Australia, we should all contribute to its cost?

Has your Company any outstanding funds for the Wedding Cake Collection that have not yet been sent into Headquarters?

Please think about it.

JUMBLE-O ! ANY OLD CLO' !

Fitzroy and Collingwood District hopes to hold a Jumble Sale on 16th May at St. Mark's Church, George Street, Fitzroy, through the kindness of the Vicar and Vestry. Here is a wonderful opportunity to "autumn" clean your wardrobes and cupboards! We would receive any "jumble" most gratefully, and, if you would like to know where to leave parcels, please get in touch with Guiders of the District or with Miss Ruth Denny, 46 Kooyong Koot Road, E.2 (Haw. 1859).

ALTERATIONS TO P.O.R.

Rule 52.—The Guide Sign. Page 33.

The heading and first two paragraphs to be altered to read:—

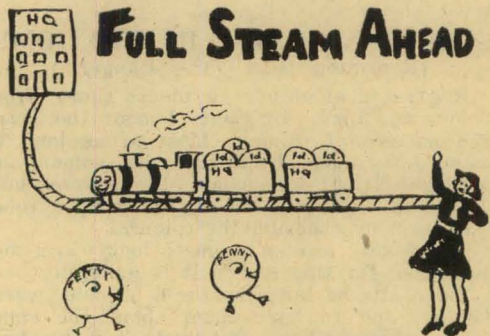
The Guide Sign and Salute:

"Salute, with right hand to hat. Three fingers, upright, thumb and little finger bent and touching, elbow in."

"The Sign, same as the salute, with the hand raised only as high as the shoulder; used when out of uniform or without hat."

Rule 54.—Second Class. Page 34. Clause 12 should read—

"Be able to use a public telephone, and know the local bus routes."



HEADQUARTERS CONTRIBUTIONS

February, 1948.

From Packs.—6a Camberwell, £1; 1st Carisbrook, 5/-; 1st Elsternwick, 12/-; 1st Gardiner, £1/14/9; Heidelberg and Ivanhoe, £1/10/-; 5th Preston, £1; 2nd Williamstown, 11/10. Total, £6/13/7.

From Companies.—4th Camberwell, £2/10/-; 6th Camberwell, £2/10/-; 1st Coburg, 15/9; 1st Drouin, 13/4; 1st East Malvern, £1/12/-; 2nd East Malvern, £1/5/-; 4th East Malvern, £1/7/-; 1st Footscray, 15/8; 2nd Footscray, 10/-; 4th Kew, £1/12/-; 1st Preston, 6/8; 4th Preston, 13/10; 5th Preston, £2/3/4; 6th Preston, 11/2; Preston Rangers, £1/3/2; 1st Rochester, £4; 3rd Williamstown, 13/10. Total, £23/2/9.

DONATIONS AND EFFORTS.

From Local Associations.—Carisbrook, 10/-; Yallourn, £5. Total, £5/10/-.

Other Donations.—Mrs. F. Ewbank, Mrs. Farren Webb. Total, £5/10/-.

HEADQUARTERS NOTES

Minutes of Meetings of the Executive Committee held at the Guide Office on 5th and 20th February, 1948.

Present: Miss Cameron (2), Mesdames Buckley (2), Eddy (1), McKay (2), Orr (1), Searby (2), Misses Campbell (2), Gross (2), Holtz (1), Howgate (2), Mitchell (1), Macleod (2), Moran (2), Swinburne (1) and the Secretary.

Lady Baden-Powell was present at the meeting on 5th February.

Reported:

That Lady Duggan would be present at the meeting of the State Council on 5th February, 1948.

That the following had been recommended as Diploma'd Assessors—Misses C. Broadhurst, M. Bush, D. Hayman, S. MacLeod, E. Moran, and that Mrs. R. G. Orr had been recommended as a non-Diploma'd Assessor.

That 350 Guiders had been trained during Miss Cobham's visit to Victoria, and that six people put up for Tests had all passed, and three Certificates gained.

That Miss Mitchell and Mrs. Wilson would be Victorian Delegates for the G.I.S. Conference.

That the Chief Guide had visited Sale, Yallourn, Warragul and Traralgon during her tour of Gippsland.

That Miss Hayman had accepted the appointment of part-time travelling trainer as from 1st March, 1948.

Agreed:

That a luncheon would be held on 16th February for the Chief Guide to enable members of the State Council to say good-bye to her before her departure for New Zealand.

That a letter of thanks be sent to Miss Cobham for her fine work in Victoria, and that we write to I.H.Q. telling them of the successful trainings in Victoria.

That the Federal Council would meet in the drawing room of the Independent Hall on 23rd and 24th February, and at Guide Headquarters on 25th February. Miss Howgate agreed to undertake the catering arrangements.

Routine and financial business was transacted.

—M. McL. Burns.

SNAPSHOTS OF CAMP ACTIVITIES.

Headquarters is frequently asked for good photographs of camp life and camping activities, etc. We would be glad, therefore, if any Guider possessing such snapshots would be kind enough to let us have them.

PART-TIME COUNTRY TRAINERS.

We are glad to report that we now have two part-time country trainers. Miss Dell Hayman has recently been appointed to this important work, in addition to Miss Clare Broadhurst. Miss Hayman began her country work in March with visits to Ararat, Balmoral and Edenhope.

COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE, 1947.

The Executive Committee has approved the recommendations from the Commissioners' Conference, 1947.

WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS.

Captain:

1st Woodend Company—Miss P. M. Russell.

1st Rochester Company—Miss M. C. Nicoll.

3rd Lone Guide Company—Mrs. G. M. Weste

Registration:

Portland Trefoil Guild.

Cancellations:

1st East Malvern Company—Miss Norma Wright.

1st Carlton Company—Miss M. Frigo.

GUIDERS' CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Change of Secretary:

Correspondence should now be addressed to:

Mrs. O. G. M. KNIGHT,

Flat 1,

2 Garden Avenue,

East Melbourne, C.2.

G.I.S. (continued from page 11).

It was reported that a book on the work of G.I.S. is being compiled in Britain. Miss Hayman is compiling the chapters on the Malayan Teams. States were asked to forward letters of interest from Team members in Europe to the G.I.S. Secretary before the end of March, to be sent to England.

The question of Guide and Scout migrants was discussed fully by the Conference, and it was resolved that D.P. Guide and Scout migrants in transit in Australia be met and cared for by G.I.S. Committees, and that, where necessary, a grant be made from G.I.S. funds to cover this work. The G.I.S. Committee in Western Australia have already entertained some of these migrants, and a grant of £10 was made to this State. It was reported that Mrs. Faulkner, Victorian Commissioner for Lones, had visited Bonegilla to welcome a batch of Guides from Europe, and Guide books and a library had been established by Victoria and New South Wales. It was agreed that the follow-up of work with D.P. migrants would be helped by the appointment of an International Commissioner in Australia.

As a result of consultation with the Medical Officer in Kelantan, a donation received by New South Wales had been spent on drugs for the relief of anaemia and sent by air to Malaya.

It was agreed that, while the work of G.I.S. continued, Interstate Conferences were necessary from time to time. Every effort is being made to keep administrative expenses as low as possible.

In the next issue of "Matilda" it is planned to publish a financial statement of G.I.S. funds, and the Treasurer for Victoria will explain just how these funds have been spent and what our future commitments are likely to be.

A WORLD BADGE.

Last summer hundreds of Guides visited one another's countries for international gatherings, company camps and so on, and wherever one travelled, whether at home or abroad, one frequently saw girls in uniform. It was not always possible to tell if these girls were Guides or whether they belonged to some other youth organisation, because all countries do not wear the same uniform or badge.

Many people think that this is a pity, and that it would be a good idea if Guides everywhere wore exactly the same badge. This World Badge, instead of the country's own badge, would be given at the time of taking the Promise. Then, when Guides from any country met, whether from New Zealand or Norway, Brazil or Poland, or wherever their homes happened to be, they would recognise each other at once because they would all be wearing the one badge. The World Badge would show the general public, too, that a very large number of people of all races are members of our sisterhood.

All the teams doing relief work in Europe wear khaki uniform, but our G.I.S. members are recognised at once because they also wear world flag flashes, as did our teams of Guide trainers who were helping the Guides, Latvians, Lithuanians, Estonians and Poles at the Displaced Persons' Camps. These are the Guides who cannot now live in their own countries, who have no homes, and hardly any possessions. We have now heard how very thrilled they were when they saw the World Flag again after the long dark years when there could be no exchange of news. It is suggested that wearing exactly the same World Badge would help those Guides to feel that they really do belong to our world-wide sisterhood.

We are thinking particularly at present of all we hope to do in helping towards better understanding between the nations—because the Guides in every country try to keep the fourth law, we feel we ought to be able to promote friendliness and goodwill. Would it not help on Thinking Day to know that, as Guides, we were all pinning on the same World Badge?

—From "The Canadian Guider."

COLOUR AND LINE IN THE HOME

(Continued from page 13.)

make changing pictures a matter of a few minutes (I am talking of water colours, drawings, prints and reproductions). Oil paintings need a different kind of frame, and they must fit the frames, because they don't have mounts. But the same frame can be used for several pictures of equal size in turn, and those not in use can be kept in a cupboard.

A good picture makes an excellent guide for a colour scheme, and the result is usually very pleasing if we have everything in a room to match some part of a picture hung in it.

The colours we use in our rooms must be satisfactory by artificial as well as by day light—this is particularly true of curtains, which are only seen fully extended after the lights are lit. Another point about curtains is that they should be made of stuff wide enough and heavy enough to hang in graceful folds when they are drawn. Unbleached calico that is ample looks better than silk that is skimped. I have seen very good-looking calico curtains, either natural, edged with matching or coloured braid, or dyed.

The next thing to consider is the position of the lighting arrangements. Overhead lighting is very unbecoming, and should only be used in kitchens, bathrooms and perhaps on stairs and landings. Our rooms and we ourselves look much prettier lit from the sides. Table and standard lamps are good; they can be moved about when and where light is most needed, and they are not so expensive as wall or ceiling fittings. We can, in fact, easily make our own table lamps. I have got several made from sixpenny goldfish bowls. We can also make our own lampshades, and these should always be as simple as possible. As we are sure to want a warm, cheerful light, and as much of it as possible, our lampshades, too, should be of pale, warm colours.

When we are choosing a new thing, we should ask the following questions:—Will it give me good service? Is it well made for its purpose? Will it be comfortable to use? Is it the right size for my room? Will it wear well and be easy to keep clean? If it satisfies these requirements, it is probably well designed and made of good materials.

Beds and chairs should be comfortable to sleep or sit on, and should not take up too much space. Divan beds and small armchairs are just as comfortable as their more massive counterparts, and are far more convenient in most rooms. We want tables that don't wobble, and are of the right height, cupboards with doors that fit and don't let in dust, and chests with drawers that slide easily in and out; and we want kitchen utensils that are pleasant to handle. So far as possible, we should have things that improve with use—for instance, wax-polished (not fresh-polished) furniture; floors stained and polished (not varnished). Then if we clean, polish and care for them, age will add charm to our possessions.

—Cecil Leslie.