

Merle Bush.

Matilda



FEBRUARY, 1937.

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Volume XIII.

FEBRUARY, 1937.

Number Eight.

EDITORIAL.

As our Editor is away, it has fallen to the lot of two members of the Committee to edit "Matilda" for February.

We would like to remind you that February 22nd is the joint birthday of the Chief Guide and the Chief Scout, this year they will spend their birthday in India. On that special day Guides all over the world are thinking of the Chiefs and of each other. Does your Company ever consider writing to a Company in, say, Sweden, on that day? If not Sweden, any one of the 32 countries which are members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts? If you want the address of Guide Headquarters in any country just ask at Headquarters in Melbourne.

While thinking of Guides in other countries, perhaps your Company would like to give some few pence to the Thinking Day Fund. At the last World Conference it was agreed that "in future years half of the Thinking Day Fund be invested to form a reserve fund, and the remainder be used for any work definitely connected with the development of the World Movement, such as the payment of expenses for trainers at International Trainings, for qualified advisers visiting countries, and for Guiders, Rangers and Guides attending International Gatherings." Any contribution, however small, will help this fund.

R.D. and S.H.I.

The Women's League of Health and Beauty.

Probably most of you know of the existence of the League, if only through seeing a black and white clad figure leaping across the pages of your daily paper, but unless you are already a member, you will have only a very vague idea of the aims of the League.

The Australian League is a branch of a movement started in London by the late Mrs. Bagot Stack. In 1930, when the League was founded, Mrs. Bagot Stack's system of "stretch and swing" exercises was already well known, but she saw that if her system was to be of any benefit to the world, it must be brought within the means of everyone, so she conceived the idea of starting the League, and making it possible for every woman to benefit by this system, which she had already proved so effective, in the prevention and cure of those little mirror ailments from which so many people suffer, and the neglect of which is the direct cause of so many serious illnesses. Her "stretch and swing" system is one designed especially for women, and is scientifically graded, so that it is suitable for women of all ages. We do not aim at developing large muscles, but rather at suppleness, gracefulness and an alertness of mind and body

which is the direct outcome of perfect harmony within the body. Health is the most precious of all possessions, and yet the majority of women pay far less attention to their health than to their clothes, or their houses. Please don't imagine that because you play tennis or golf during the week-ends that you are doing all that is necessary to keep fit. Sport is a great aid to health, but in no branch of sport can you exercise all parts of the body. By devoting a few minutes each day to scientific exercise you can keep every part of the body in working order, and insure 100 per cent. efficiency of mind and body. This is no hardship, as you would know if you could peep into one of our classes, and see women and girls of all ages, shapes and sizes, "stretching and swinging" to the rhythm of the latest Foxtrot. This atmosphere of friendliness and happiness in the League classes is half the battle where health is concerned, for after all health means happiness, and happiness health.

From its small beginning, with sixteen members, the League has grown to number 100,000 in the British Isles alone, with branches in Australia, Canada and Hong Kong.

Our Australian branch was started 18 months ago by Miss Thea Hughes, a graduate of Sydney University. I met Thea Hughes at our headquarters in London, and was tremendously impressed by her personality. It is amazing how much vitality can ooze from one small slim body! As a result of her hard work, and enthusiasm, we already have branches in Sydney and suburbs, Melbourne and Newcastle; Adelaide is to be opened next month.

It was no mean task for a girl, still in her twenties, to start a movement in a country where it was still unknown, without any assistance. The fact that her efforts have met with such success, in such a short time, is proof of the efficiency and worth of the League's system.

Thea sails for England next month to represent Australia in the annual demonstration, given by 5000 members of the League in Wembley Stadium, London. This will be the biggest demonstration the League has ever given, in fact, the biggest of its kind ever given in the British Isles. Representatives from all over the world will be taking part this year, led by Prunella Stack, the 22-year-old daughter of the late Mrs Bagot Stack, who after her mother's death became the leader of the League. Prunella needs no introduction, her charming personality is famous the world over. She radiates beauty of mind and body, and is a shining example of the result of perfect health.

The Melbourne branch of the League was opened last March. Already we have nearly 300 members, and we are moving our head-

quarters to 165 Collins Street, where we reopen on February 2nd. Our new hall is simply ideal for our purpose, light and airy, opening out on to a roof, where we are looking forward to sun-bathing—if the sun is kind! If you would like to see the League in action, come and visit us in our new hall, where we shall be holding classes every evening. This will give you a better idea than pages of description, of the way in which we go about achieving our aim—"racial health."

MARY WIMBERLEY.

A Trip to Russia.

This trip might best be described as three weeks of intensive mental exercise. I have never experienced anything half as stimulating as the constant discussions with our fellow travellers who came from many countries, and the attempt to estimate the effects of the new social system.

We travelled between London and Leningrad third class on a Russian steamer; and I would certainly recommend the trip. One must be prepared to put up with inconveniences, but the interest far outweighed these. The whole trip was prepaid in London at the rate of £1 (English) per day, whether one went only to Leningrad and Moscow, or went south to Odessa, or by steamer along the Volga.

The sea trip was very happy indeed, although we found more than a little antagonism to our statements that we believed the majority of German people to be hopeful and very contented. We were called "pro-Fascists" and all sorts of disagreeable things. This attitude was exactly similar to that we had found in Germany towards our proposed trip to Russia. "But why go there? They are terrible people!"

I found it difficult to adjust my ideas to the fact that of private enterprise there is little or none. Hotels, tourist bureaus, department stores, are all controlled by Government departments. Even the street corner sellers of ice cream are "employed by the Government." Incidentally, last summer was the first one during which ice cream was at all plentiful. And is it popular? In Moscow I saw a small boy buy and eat three small ones. He then bought three more which he began to eat as he strolled off along the street! The Russians believe that "the workers" are gradually receiving all the luxuries of Western countries, which are only enjoyed there by the rich, i.e., capitalists.

Standards of living are still far below ours, but improvement is constant. One has the heartening feeling that every energy is being strained to give "the workers" more and more comfort, leisure and opportunity.

In Moscow and Leningrad we saw the people very poorly and drably dressed, and many old buildings badly needed care, paint and window mending. We also saw big new buildings built for the comfort of "the workers." Although the planning may not always be of the best, progress is steady.

We saw little attempt to improve appearances with flowers and gardens, but the severe winter must present great difficulties.

The tourist can sight-see in museums, and former churches and palaces, or visit clinics, factories, State farms, children's parks and houses. We wandered as we wished in streets, gardens, shops, "Luna Park," the zoo, etc. But for factories, law courts and such one needs a guide and interpreter. Often it happens that travellers who go to kindergartens, restrooms for mother and child, etc., have not visited similar facilities in their own countries.

In Leningrad the Hermitage picture gallery at the Winter Palace has a wealth of treasures. Peterhof, the Versailles of Peter the Great, has a terrace of fountains spouting high between life-size gold figures in magnificent effect. And in St. Isaac's Cathedral, now an anti-religious museum, are wonderful mosaics and huge pillars of lapis lazuli and malachite.

As far as I could judge the anti-religious museum was a demonstration of physical and astronomical phenomena, and diagrams illustrating the evolution of man and animals. A model demonstrating that the earth is round did not appear to me to come under the heading "anti-God."

The Red (i.e., Beautiful) Square in Moscow! Lenin's Tomb in simple lines of red and black marble against the background of the high, turretted, red brick wall of the Kremlin, the Tzar's old fortress. The fascination of the very old and the very new. That is Russia to-day. D.H.I.

Library Notes.

Librarian, Miss Pearson.

Dear Matilda,

Our last letter to you, asking for suggestions from the Guiders as to "what they would like in the Library" for their benefit or for the benefit of the Guiders' blossoming evoked a slight response. We are indeed grateful for that little help.

Whether keenness to help, and perhaps be helped, may have brought the replies, or whether "kindness" prompted the motive, we thank them. The Library is but a very small "cog" in the whole machinery of the movement, but without the co-operation of the other little parts we cannot get very far. Are we preparing any extra "vim" to get further—to reach farther out in 1937—than we did in 1936? Help the little cogs who would like to.

Some of the suggestions made as to helpful books are:—

"Education through Recreation."

"Scouting Round the World," by Lord Baden Powell.

"I. One Scout Book."

"Travelogues," by Lady Baden Powell.

"More Spare Time Activities."

"Rover Scouts" and

"English Folk Song and Dance."

"Games for Extensions."

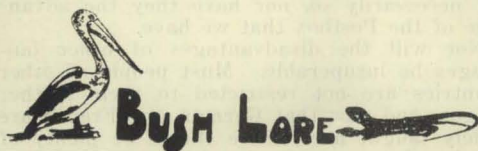
"Stories of the Girl Guide Law."

"Girl Scouts' Handbook."

(All of which we have recently secured.)

Another friend asked for books helpful for story-telling, or Camp-fire yarns, not necessarily Guidey—but with a helpful thought behind them. Will any other friends help us with suggestions? Gratefully yours.

"LIBRARY."



Editor, Miss Sydes.

THE BOOK THAT NEVER CLOSES!

Nature—always busy—no Christmas holidays for her, or 44-hour weeks! Just now she's as busy as ever, always got something to show you or interest you. Birds free from family cares are flitting about, sun-bathing, water-bathing, playing. Some young birds still need looking after, and some late-builders are still busy. On Christmas Day, while stalking a plain brown bird with a beautiful voice, which turned out to be a female triller—do you know it?—I flushed a pipit from the nest. Such a lovely nest in a nice spot—a hollow with a sort of projection to keep the sun and rain off—like a roof—but I don't know, but what the hollow wouldn't prove a bit wet, when it rained. However, there it was, with three lovely eggs—dirty colored, with various spots and splotches. About a week ago, too, I found a Willie Wagtail's neat home with three eggs—but then it's his fault he's still working, because he will have two families in one season! Wasps are busy now—especially building mud bungalows, where they're not wanted. And that reminds me—I have a wasp story and a beetle story for you for next month—both from ex-Guiders.

Cicadas are making themselves heard—katyids in the bush—brown butterflies dancing about—such clear skies for star-gazing—swallows, swifts, wood-swallows and martens about—silky oak flowering—bluebells—some wattles—bags of young spiders—ants with eggs very busy—all these and much more is there to see. And Swan Hill, I hope you are looking for the Rainbow-birds—a party of us saw and heard them near Bendigo last Thursday, January 7th.

WILLIE WAGTAIL OR RESTLESS FLYCATCHER.

Do you know how to tell one from the other? Willie Wagtail is plumper in build; the Restless Flycatcher being a more elegant, handsome looking fellow. Willie Wagtail has a black throat, and a distinct white eyebrow, although I have seen a young one without the white eyebrow. The Restless Flycatcher is entirely white underneath—throat, breast and all. He has that marvellous way of hanging in the air, most often a few feet from the ground, remaining in the same spot, and making his remarkable scissors-grinding noise. He also has a strong, melodious whistle, which takes some time to associate with him.

THE FLIGHT OF BIRDS.

We have considered the songs of birds, their nests and various other aspects, and there is still the topic of their flight left. No two birds fly alike, or I should say no two species. This is a great help in identification. The goldfinch is a perky flier; the blackbird usually keeps low and close to cover; the hawk wheels

and circles at great heights, his planing being a wonderful thing to watch; the heron gives great slow flaps of his wings, so that you seem to be able to see him taking his strides; the magpie is strong on the wing, chasing other birds, flying high, then low, and doing almost anything he feels like—but enough of detail.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR.

- 1.—Do birds fly in pairs, singly or in flocks?
- 2.—Do they fly high or low?
- 3.—In a straight line, or in curves up and down?
- 4.—In short jerks or curves, or long curves?
- 5.—Do their wings move fast or slow?
- 6.—Are they strong fliers, clumsy, graceful?
- 7.—How do they land?
- 8.—Do they sing whilst in flight? Is this song different from one, when not in flight?
- 9.—Do they hover on the wing?

MORE WOG NOTES.

WEST AUSTRALIAN AND OTHERWISE.

Miss Mullin has been wog-hunting in Perth and West Australia, and writes:—

"They have the good old woolly bears, and a grass caterpillar, that's very common here—brown, not very long hair, white spots right round the sides. They curl up when touched. These may be Tiger-moth caterpillars—at present am waiting for the moths. Had some other big brown caterpillars, but they fed on banksia, so I was unable to keep them. Also have two nice butterflies."

A Lizard Episode.—Continuing she writes:—

"Brought home two big lizards and some small ones—one large stumpy tailed and a large frilled. Had a large yard built for them, but the frilled escaped. The other one has his hole in some tufts, and seems to be quite happy. He feeds on snails, milk, raw meat, an occasional egg. The garden is nearly free from snails, thanks to Gillie. As yet, he's far from tame. On warm days, he's out wandering about, but otherwise sleeps.

The little lizards were pets, but two died. One was a small black and white fellow, the other a brown speckled. They both seemed to try to change their skins, would get half way out, then die. I'm carefully watching the other one."

Other Wogs.—"Another thrill was finding a small scorpion. Then have another large thing between a grasshopper and a cricket, presented to me as the train was leaving Perth. I didn't see any casemoths over there, although I looked for them. I thought I had one one day, but it had a small *paragryllacris* in it. A moth I caught going over the desert laid some eggs, and now I'm watching for them to hatch. It was a small brown moth, something like a cup-moth, only smaller."

And the Flowers.—"The flowers over there are marvellous—dozens of varieties, all colors, and then so many of them everywhere—just paddocks absolutely covered. The kangaroo paw—a smallish plant really, then up shoots the stem with the paw on top, growing sometimes 3 to 4 feet long. They are of various colours, too—green stem, red flower; or green stem green flower; or green stem yellow flower; and yet again, brownish-red stem, yellow flower. I believe there are all-black ones too, but I didn't see any."

(To be continued.)



(Secretary, N. Thewlis).

"Our only greatness is that we aspire."

A Suggestion for Thinking Day.

It has frequently been levelled at us that we are too insular, and situated as we are, so far from the centre of the world, as regards Western civilisation at least, it is very difficult for us not to remain narrow in our outlook. But now as never before it is imperative that Australians and, indeed, all peoples, should have a better understanding of the many nations of the world.

This suggestion is at least a "One Year's Plan." First we must subdivide the State and allot to each division a continent or part of a continent, e.g., our largest districts might be given Southern and Central Europe, and a smaller division South America. The divisions could further subdivide so each district might have a country or part of a country. Then for a year each country is to find out what it can about the country and guiding, or the youth organisation of that country. The companies would correspond with companies in that country and find out about a programme, games, opening ceremony, folk tales and, perhaps, even folk dances, songs and music of the country, handwork, etc. I feel sure we could obtain the help of the League of Nations clubs—junior and senior. Then next Thinking Day we could have a series of displays—either a very large one of the world where the various countries at work and play could be staged; or we could have smaller district displays with, for example, a Czecho-Slovakian Guide day. In either case we could have a display of the information collected about the country—a map to show its position, an illustrated collection of a few tales from the country, an essay or two, some sketches, snaps, etc., a doll dressed as a Guide and another as a Brownie of the country, pictures of the badges, flags, etc. In other words, as the schools have Project work, so, too, the Guides could have it. In the school at which I teach, each year we centre our studies on a country or group of countries. This year we are to take Europe. Last year it was the Empire. History, English, Drawing, Geography and Divinity are all related to that country or group and therefore to each other. The work is practically restricted to girls between the ages of eight and fourteen, just the ages of Guides and Brownies, and the amount of information collected is astonishing. The girls made models, drew scenes and people in costume, collected poems and pictures, and made delightful anthologies, wrote splendid essays—in some cases, of course, rather the reverse! but generally speaking they found out vast quantities of information about these other countries of our Empire, and enjoyed doing it. In a school there are not the facilities for getting in touch with other countries as there are in Guiding—all Guides are sisters, but all school girls are

not necessarily so, nor have they the advantage of the Postbox that we have.

Nor will the disadvantages of other languages be insuperable. Most people of other countries are not restricted to their Mother tongue, and now that German and French are widely taught here, there should be plenty of people who can write in either of these languages or English. From Italy, Germany and Russia we could probably get most interesting information about their youth organisations for girls and the Guides or Rangers could perhaps make an interesting comparison between them and Guiding.

I should think a feasible plan for the obtaining of correct uniforms would be to exchange dolls' clothes. The Australian Guide could write giving measurements of their doll, and asking for the company to send them similar measurements of a doll so that they could send an Australian Guide uniform in return. A display of the foreign dolls would be interesting and instructive, and could be used for advertising.

This would take a fair bit of organising. First the countries would be allotted to divisions, and then the divisions would have to allot portions to the districts. Then directions would have to be given for getting in touch with the headquarters of the movements of the other countries so that companies could get in touch with other companies, and find out the numbers, etc, and some details of the organisation as well as getting the personal touch of Guide writing to Guide.

I do hope this suggestion will receive earnest consideration, and that others will give their opinions about this. It will make for a better Thinking Day when we know the people we are thinking about.

A CHRISTMAS GOOD TURN.

It was decided again this year that the Pack and Company would do a combined Good Turn, and after some consideration the Guides and Brownies thought that they would like to join the Smith Family of Joy-Spreaders, whose letters had been appearing in the "Herald." As we belong to an institution and the children have very few pennies, it was suggested that the Pack and Company respectively should make contributions from funds equal to the children's own donations. One of the children gave a doll's bed, which Guides and Brownies repainted, while Tawny took the bedding home and washed and ironed it. Another child gave a doll, and in all we had £1 in cash.

The "Smith's" gave us a family of five—mother, father and three children—and on Christmas eve Captain and B.O., Lieutenant and Tawny, and some of the Guides and Brownies, went shopping. We bought more toys for the children, cigarettes and socks for father, a small gift for mother, and then food, Christmas cake, plum pudding, fruit and vegetables, tea, cocoa, rice, sugar, eggs, butter, bacon, biscuits, tinned meats and tinned peaches, etc., and were all amazed at the amount that £1 would purchase. Then we visited our family. And their amazed joy and gratitude were so undoubtedly genuine, and so overwhelming, that the Guiders came away

very sobered by the thought that such a small effort on their part could bring such happiness to others, and I am sure that even the smallest Brownie present must have realised that its small share had been well worth while.

I would like to add my personal appreciation of the very efficient and courteous help given us by the Smith family, who gave us a family near at hand, and supplied us with the names and ages of the children, and a list of suitable foodstuffs to take. G.W.R.

A GOOD TURN IN VERSE.

Such a lot of busy hands,
 Busy tongues as well.
 Listen, and of our good turn
 They will surely tell.

"Joan has brought six cotton reels."

"Carmel has some too."

"Can we make some skittles now?"

"Mary paints them blue."

"Brown Owl, look what Moya made!

Will you show me how?

Skittles just like little men,

Can I make one now?"

"Look! I've got some cocoa tins,

Little ones, you know!

Will they do for engine fronts?

Got them at the Show."

"Nancy brought a doll, a top,

And a motor, too—

Mum says we can paint them up

Just as good as new."

"See the match-boxes I've brought,

And these tiny reels.

Thelma nearly spilt the paint—

Won't look where she kneels!"

"Brown Owl, did you fix my train

Like you thought you could?

Oh, yes! Look! It's finished now—

Is that any good!"

"Peggy's come to join the Pack,

Can she see our toys?

Some we'll give to little girls,

Some to little boys."

"There're four engines and a car

And some skittles blue.

One set just like little men,

Doll, top, stocking, too."

"Soon we're going to wrap them up

And on Christmas Day

When those children get their toys—

Wonder what they'll say!"

Busy little Brownie hands—

Time will bring you skill,

You'll help greatly bye-and-bye,

If you have the will.

Malvern District Brownie Revels.

The end of the year usually provides the opportunity for a Pack Good Turn, and you have been hearing lately of various ones done by different Packs, but here is one that was done by a District.

On Saturday, December 12th, the Malvern District held their Brownie Revels at Lauriston by courtesy of Miss Kirkhope. It was a very hot afternoon, but nearly every Brownie was present. When everybody had arrived and had been split into different groups, at a given signal everybody ran into the middle of the ground, a Sixer from each Pack carrying the Pack Totem. These were all placed together right in the middle and after the Welcome Ceremony we had a Grand Fairy Ring. This was followed by a general game, and then everybody dispersed to their respective Homes for a pow-wow.

At another signal from the Master of Ceremonies everybody met together, and each group in turn produced an item. It is marvellous what you can do in the way of dressing up with coloured paper, rope and Guiders' hats.

Then everybody gathered in a large ring on the grass and one Brown Owl held up an enormous Christmas Stocking, green, because, being Brownies, we must be different. Everybody in turn put a toy into the stocking with sweets from each Pack to fill the toe. When everybody had put something in there was a gorgeous bulging stocking ready to be taken to the Children's Home at Royal Park, where there are 40 little girls all of Brownie age, and we hope that they enjoyed the stocking as much as we enjoyed filling it.

Then, of course, tea, and as it was so black overhead we gave each other a Grand Howl and hurried off home as fast as we could.

Thinking Day.

The 22nd of February—Thinking Day—is the birthday of our Chief Guide and Scout, and I am sure that no one would want to wish them a "happy birthday" more than the Brownies, who are the smallest of people, and yet who have everything before them.

Brownies love receiving birthday presents, and they also love giving them to other people. Every child knows the Chiefs well; even if she hasn't actually seen them, she has seen many pictures of them, and you can just imagine the excitement of bringing an extra penny for the Chiefs' birthday presents. These pennies are sent to H.Q.

There is on sale at H.Q. a most interesting painting book, which has pictures of Brownies and Guides from all parts of the world. I'm sure Brown Owl would enjoy telling her Pack about other Brownies, and showing them the pictures, and—what more suitable time than on "Thinking Day"?

After the Pack has seen the pictures, they could have a pow-wow about the Brownies of other lands, and then they will probably think of games that would suit the countries. It would be a great thrill to pretend they were the pictures, and play the games. For a story Brown Owl could tell the Pack their own "Brownie story," or perhaps one of the stories from another land, such as "The Little Flames of Satira."

This being a very special meeting, there is no reason why it should not end with a ceremony wishing the Chiefs a very, very happy birthday. R.L.S.

South Australian Centenary. Interstate and Overseas Camp.

Tuesday, 29th December, 1936, was a busy time at Spencer Street, when nearly eighty Guiders and Rangers entrained for Goolwa, South Australia, to attend the Centenary Guide Camp. The party comprised seventeen Queenslanders, five from New South Wales, some Tasmanians, and over 40 Victorian Guiders and Rangers.

Very early in the morning we had an unusual breakfast of sandwiches, cake and fruit at Murray Bridge, and later, but still very early, masses of Guiders and luggage issued from the train at the Mount Lofty station, a pretty spot, where we were welcomed by a Divisional Commissioner. After a welcome period for stretching stiff limbs, we all tipped back into another train which took us really to Goolwa, a very long journey, in great heat, but there were new friends, including the small party from Western Australia, and high hopes centred on our arrival.

You should have seen the Horseshoe of tents—nearly ninety of them, all new and white and empty!—and the three flagpoles—such a haven after the long, long train journey and the bumpiest bus-ride! And such welcoming smiles and kind helpfulness from the staff—Miss Livingstone, the Commissioner for Camping, and her eight Group Leaders—some that we had heard of before, some were quite new to us, but all so jolly and kind. We were all removed to our own Groups, and in some cases it was days before we met our fellow-Victorians again.

That was certainly a hot day, and we half expected it to be like that all the time, but the wind changed, and we had rather cooler weather than one would expect here in summer, so we were very fortunate!

Camping activities proceeded as they would in an ordinary camp, in Patrols, where one mixed with Guiders and Rangers from other States, and bustled to get the orderly jobs done before we left camp on our various outings. We had a very full programme, but there was always time to chat with someone, or to take snapshots, or exchange photographs, or practise a stunt for campfire.

Our first Camp Fire was on New Year's Eve, and to those of us who are used to camping in areas where there are stringent fire restrictions it was a pleasant surprise to have a real cobhouse fire crackling and blazing on a very bare and safe spot among the dunes near the site. Nearly two hundred campers gathered here to sing and laugh, to listen and to watch—and to rejoice in the spirit of friendliness and that indefinable something for which there seems no word except "Guidiness."

After Campfire the whole camp was invited to Group II (Flinders was its name—each group was called by the name of a South Australian pioneer) to witness a "Circus" in the marquee—and a very bright and versatile band of performers they were!

On New Year's Day we were up bright and fairly early, for this was the day for the trip

to Victor Harbour—another bus-ride to Goolwa station, then a long train journey. At Victor Harbour we were greeted by rain, which became torrential very soon, but it did not damp our spirits while we lunched in the Guide hall, or under old pine trees in the grounds. (The Guide fires lit that day were a tribute to real woodcraft, by the way.) When the rain cleared obligingly after lunch, we all had free time to wander round Victor Harbour and see what we wished or could; there was a tremendous crowd of sightseers on this historic day, and we had great fun in our various ways. The horsetram across the causeway to Granite Island attracted many of us, and you are sure to see snaps of parties enjoying this novel form of transport.

We were not in bed very early that night, but all the same, had to be up at five a.m. next morning, because it was the great day—the trip to Belair to the Scout Corroboree, where we had a marvellous time. The idea was that we would have two rest-hours of about three hours in the train! But you know what Guiders are when they get together, and there was not much rest in most of the carriages, at any rate on the outward journey.

On arrival at the Corroboree ground—a most attractive spot in the loveliest Park of native and introduced trees—we lunched, and then prepared for the March Past, for the whole March was to be led by our 200 from the Camp, with a Victorian in the Colour Party that led the way. The salute was taken by Lady Dugan, State Commissioner, and Sir Percy Everett—by the way, I forgot to tell you that Sir Percy came to breakfast at our Camp on the morning of the day we went to Victor Harbour!—and when we had wheeled into our positions, we were able to watch the local Guides pass, and then all the Scouts from the Corroboree. We were able to peep at the Corroboree itself for an hour or so afterwards, but the camp was so vast that one could not see more than a small section—all most interesting.

That night we finally reached camp at about 11 p.m.! I don't know what the rest of the Camp had for supper, but we (Angas Group) had tomato soup! Fortunately next day was Sunday, and Visitors' Day, and our first appointment was to welcome Lady Dugan at 11.30 a.m., with the breaking of the Colours. Breakfast was not very early that day, but we did have it, and we did get the orderly jobs done, and there were actually some gadgets by the time the visitors arrived. It was fun to see so many of our Victorian friends who were staying in Adelaide and elsewhere, and who came to see us; and every group seemed to have dozens of visitors for afternoon tea (we think all the cups in our group were washed up at least three times!)

That night, at Camp Fire, we had a Guides' Own Service, conducted by the Camp Chief, Miss Livingstone, the inspiring talk was given by Mrs. Bowman, an old and valued friend of the Movement, and one of its pioneers in S.A.

Monday was a mixed day—half the camp went for a trip in launches to view the Barrage being built at the Murray mouth; the

(Continued on Page 12)



The Sign Post

(Editor, Miss R. Denny)

The Guide Law.

This month R.E.F. writes on the Fifth Law, the second in our series of articles on the Guide Law. "Courtesy" will be enjoyed as much as the beautiful thoughts on "Loyalty" which were given in January.

COURTESY.

A Guide is courteous. This Law of ours is sometimes considered to be of lesser importance than some of the other ones. When I have asked Guides or Guiders which Law they think might be left out—if such a thing is possible, which I very much doubt—I have found in nearly every case Law No. 5 is the one suggested. I am anxious here to produce some good arguments in favour of the absolute necessity of its inclusion.

What does the word mean? In the Dictionary—courtliness; elegance of manner; an act of civility or respect. In Rogers Thesaurus—behaviour; to be all things to all men; to speak one fair; to take in good part. Here we have some very good reasons for its inclusion in our everyday dealings with our fellow-men. We see at a glance that it must surely smooth the path of life; it does much more, of course, but we will think about that a little later on. Apropos of "smoothing the path of life," there is a very good story told of General Joffre during the war: "I have no patience with French politeness," said an allied officer, "it means nothing. It is only hot air." The Marshal smiled: "There is only hot air in the tyres of my car," he said, "but it saves me many a jolt"—"Tourjours la politesse."

But first let us see the effects of Courtesy on our immediate surroundings. We find that acts of Chivalry and Courtesy have run like a bright, gay, happy and, I think, comforting thread through the lights and shades of the ages. The name originally meant the manners of the court, those courts of brave princes and great nobles, where minstrels and pages practised the refinements of the age in which they lived. Just imagine those rough times without the softening and uplifting cult of Courtesy. These traditions, together with the high ideals and aims of Chivalry, as practised by the knights of the Round Table, live until to-day, and serve as stimulating examples in firing the imagination of our young people and spurring them on to "do noble deeds not dream them all day long."

Have we, any of us, forgotten the story of the gay and gallant Sir Walter Raleigh? We

may have forgotten a lot of dates and battles in history, but we always remember this elegant Courtier and his famous cloak.

Many everyday customs have arisen from these "acts of civility and respect," this attempt "to speak one fair." We stretch forward the right hand to greet a person or to seal a bargain, arising from the custom of olden days in showing a man that no weapon was held in the hand, and there are many more that it would be very interesting to find out the inner meaning of, but it is holiday time, and I haven't had time to do much research about them. Does anyone know why a man raises his hat on meeting an acquaintance? I don't, and am very curious to find out the reason.

I don't want you to think I am treating the subject of Courtesy lightly, we have been looking at it from the angle of its smoothing and enriching the path of Life. Let us examine its deeper and more important meaning. Courtesy—in relation to the consideration of the feelings of other people. We don't like the person who always speaks her mind. We prefer the one who always minds her speech. But there is, I think, a deeper meaning still; that is, to treat others as we would wish to be treated by them. Here we come to strict discipline of self, and so read into the ideals of Courtesy the greater ideal of unselfishness—a respect for the feelings of others, and a love and understanding of all mankind.

I think we are all naturally courteous. It may be our inheritance from the Knights and kind ones of the ages. It may be the love of our fellowmen that is instilled into us as followers of the great tenets of Christianity. The instinct is there—dormant, maybe—but definitely there, in young and old, rich and poor. In one of the novels of Charles Dickens, where he writes of a wedding in the village church, he says: "the Bridegroom signed his name by a cross. Bridget did likewise: a friend knowing her able to write, asked why? The Bride answered: "he's a good fellow, but he can't write yet, he's going to learn of me—and I wouldn't shame him for all the world."

The greatest at present is that in the rush and flurry of modern civilisation there is no time for these ennobling acts of Courtesy, no time, that is the excuse—no time to study the feelings of others, no time to think, no time to live fully.

No time—that, I am convinced, is the Danger Signal ahead of the 5th Law. No time to

think—to put oneself in the other person's place. No time to do—the little acts of Courtesy and kindness that means so much to the passer by, and that enrichen your own life and make it one of happiness and high endeavour.

R.E.F.

February 22nd.

Thinking Day! It is indeed time to begin making our plans for celebrating this day, for February 22nd is not far away. Let us begin by making sure all our Guides know what it is and when it is; at a division activity last year it was amazing to see the number of hands which shot up to show the Guides who had never heard of Thinking Day. The birthday of our beloved Chief Guide and of the Chief Scout, the day when we think of Guides all over the world, the day when we do special good turns and send our pennies to the World Bureau—what opportunities for special activities in our companies.

Could we not make this a time for each Patrol to make special displays of things from other countries in their Patrol Homes? Each Patrol might represent one special country—and surely this is the time for each Guide to pass on news of her correspondents in far countries.

Then we might have a dressing-up competition, giving each Guide a picture of either a national costume or a Guide of a foreign country, and having five minutes in which to convert uniform, using odds and ends besides, into something resembling the foreign one.

We could send the Guides out to look in shop windows and make a list of goods from foreign countries; and when they get back, let them look in the Annual Report and see how many Guides there are in each of the countries the goods come from.

These are very simple activities, and the company may like to arrange a ceremony of some kind. A very fine, though rather lengthy, one was given in "The Guider" for February, 1931.

Here is an outline of a simple one, which might be enlarged on. Guides are sitting in Campfire circle—in the centre a large cardboard Guide badge. The Leader of each Patrol in turn rises and places her patrol's pennies for the World Bureau on the badge, at the same time making a little speech such as "the Pansy Patrol send thoughts and our pennies to the World Bureau." Then one Guide makes a circle with a colored streamer right round the Guides and says "This is our Company circle—the circle of Friendship."

A second Guide makes a second circle, saying: "And this represents all the Guides of our country, Australia, the land we love."

A third Guide also makes a circle and says: "And this circle is that of Empire, showing the Loyalty of all its Guides."

Lastly, another Guider circles the Company, saying "And the widest circle of all makes us think of all Guides in foreign countries, of Peace and Understanding among Nations."

The hymn "These Things Shall Be" (Gir. Guide Hymns and Tunes) might be sung to finish the ceremony.

Lord Snowden has said: "Only the international conception of the principles of brotherhood can rescue the world from chaos." Let us

do even a very little bit towards a feeling of world-wide brotherhood by making the most of Thinking Day and helping our Guides to realise the world witness of the Movement. Let us think of all Guides and, indeed, of all young people everywhere, with friendliness and peace in our hearts.

"O Lord our God, this is the day which we have set apart in which to think of our sister Guides, beyond the narrow confines of race and creed. We are many and we are strong. Grant us to grow in numbers and in strength, and give us faith and courage to work for Thee in this world which is Thine." R.D.

Help Your Guides to Hear.

Last month we gave some games to "help our seeing Guides to see," and now we suggest some for training in hearing.

Stalking Sounds.—Company walks round in circle as though stalking. On whistle all freeze and listen intently. On second whistle patrols gather and the Leader of each makes a list of all sounds heard by her patrol. Longest list wins. If you must play inside, make sure all the windows are open, so that the Guides hear outside sounds.

Find the Time.—Hide a clock or watch with a good tick in a darkened room. Guides find it by sound. Nothing must be touched.

Hear the Leader.—The room is in darkness, each leader settles in some spot and makes a noise, such as hissing, gently tapping on floor, which has been already decided on, and which she has told her Guides about. All move round very quietly, and patrols gather round their Leader, guided by the noise. The patrol which is complete when the lights go on, has won.

Brainwave Basket.

A Second-Class Hike.—Patrols start at five-minute intervals on a three-mile hike. The first mile is done by compass directions to a Guider or Ranger who has certain "injuries" to be attended to. In the meantime this Guider has set a track for the second mile, which patrols follow. Near the end of the second mile is another Guider, who signals directions for the third and last mile, at the end of which is the camping place. Here fires are lit and a meal cooked.

A Tie Wrinkle.—A tie, Guide or otherwise, seems to be a difficult thing to keep in its shape and much pressing only makes peculiar wrinkles. The solution seems to be to have a piece of celluloid or thin wood the exact shape of the wide end half of the tie, and slip the tie on to this immediately one takes it off. It will be found in good shape and ready for the next Guide meeting.

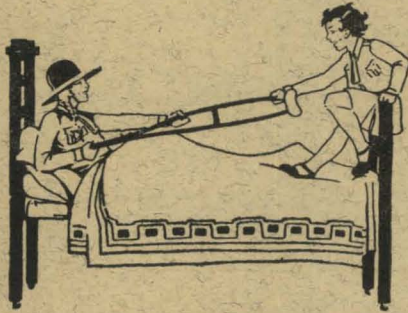
Teachings of Confucius.

"Better do a kindness near at home than walk a thousand miles to burn incense."

"A man of noble mind seeks to perfect the good in others, and not the evil."

"Why should God speak in words? The four seasons follow in their course and all things come to life."

And a Chinese proverb: "An inch of time on the sundial is of greater worth than twelve inches of jade."



AN APPEAL TO ALL BROWN OWLS.

No doubt all the Brownie Packs will be starting their new year this month, so I thought it would be a good time to make my plea.

I have Post Brownies in the following districts who get no visits or help from active Brown Owls. They have to get all their "Brownie-ing" from letters, and that is difficult for children under 11 years. If they could be visited by an Owl regularly, even if not frequently, it would be a great help to them.

These are the districts: Carlton, Fitzroy, Brunswick, East Brunswick, Port Melbourne, Pascoe Vale, Collingwood, North Richmond and Thornbury; and in the country: Stratford, East Geelong and Eaglehawk.

Would any Brown Owl who would like to attach a Post Brownie to her Pack and visit her, please let me know? My address is 5 Struan Street, Toorak, S.E.2.

—JOAN ALSTON, Post Brown Owl.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

The Extension Branch was represented at the S.A. Centenary Camp by Edith Pulz, Lieutenant of 2nd Prahran Rangers (Blind).

The 2nd Prahran Ranger Company also was able to go to South Australia, where they stayed at the Blind Institute. They visited the Guiders' Camp and went to a number of Centenary "doings." J.A.

LONE BRANCH.

Owing to resignations the Lone Branch will have vacancies for several Guiders—Guide and Ranger—in this happy new year.

A Lone Company takes up just as much time as any other Guiding, but as it is run mainly by correspondence, the work can be done in one's own time, and does not involve regular attendance at meetings. The main qualifications are a love of letter-writing, enthusiasm and interest in those to whom one writes. One learns or makes up the rest as one goes along.

Here is an opportunity for service in a Branch that is keen and growing, and which has great possibilities.

Though I will be on holiday for the next few weeks, any letters addressed to me at 22 Adeney Avenue, Kew, E.4, will receive prompt attention when I return at the end of February. Thank you.

JEAN MACNEIL,

Commissioner for Lones.

Invitations.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, PARIS, 1937.

From the Comité de Liaison des Guides et Eclaireuses Francaises.

The International Exhibition of 1937 is being organised and will be opened early next summer. The Guides and Eclaireuses of our country are preparing to receive, on this occasion, those of our sisters from abroad who are proposing to come to France. These will be welcomed with joy, and we are already looking forward to the pleasure of seeing them.

So as to facilitate their stay in Paris and in France, we have foreseen several possibilities.

Guide centres, with dormitories and rooms (from July 1st onwards).

Residential Girls' Clubs.

Families willing to take in paying guests.

Camps in different parts of France.

We hope that in this way the expenses of our Guide and Girl Scout friends may be much reduced, and that they may feel that they form part of the French Guide family.

If any Guides or Girl Scouts want to come to France, singly or in groups, we should be obliged if you would tell us as soon as possible,

(a) the approximate date of their arrival;

(b) the approximate length of their stay;

(c) their wishes as regards accommodation;

(d) If among your groups there are any whom we could call on to take part in a Guide or Girl Scout celebration or to demonstrate folk song or dance.

R. BOYER, Secrétaire, du Bureau de Liaison des Guides et Eclaireuses Francaises.

If any Victorian Guiders, Guides or Rangers wish to accept this invitation will they please apply to Guide Headquarters, Victoria, by 1st March. The application should be sent through the Guides' Commissioner. S.H.I.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL CAMP.

The Scottish Girl Guides' Association is arranging a National Camp from July 10th to 19th at Blair Castle, which has been kindly lent by the Duke of Atholl. Four Guides are invited from Australia. The Camp fee will be £1 per Guide, and this will cover expeditions made from the Camp.

Applications should be lodged by 1st March at Guide Headquarters, Victoria, and should be sent through the Guides' own Commissioner.

The Hon. Federal Secretary has written to Scottish Headquarters asking if Guiders may fill vacancies should the number of Guides not be available.

GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION, NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Girl Guides' Association, New South Wales, sends a cordial invitation to members of the Guide Association in Victoria to attend their Coronation Display from 11th to 16th May inclusive.

There will be an International Exhibition during the week, a rally on the Saturday, and a Guides' Own in the Town Hall on Sunday, 16th May, and it is hoped also to arrange for a Conference of diploma'd Guiders.

CHIEF SCOUT'S COMMISSIONER.

In January we had a visit at Headquarters from Sir Percy Everett, who represented the Chief Scout at the South Australian Corrobooree. Sir Percy has been Hon. Treasurer of the Girl Guides Association in England for the last twenty years, and members of the Executive Committee were very glad to have had an opportunity of meeting him, and only wished that there had been a chance of his seeing something of the Movement in Victoria.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office on 16th December, 1936.

Present: Lady Chauvel, Mrs. Eadie, Misses Boyes, Cameron, Ritchie, Russell and the Secretary.

It was agreed—

That leave of absence for a year be granted to Mrs. Euan Littlejohn and Mrs. Peter Manifold.

That a Shop Sub-Committee be formed with as ex-officio members the Commissioner for Equipment, a member of the Executive Committee, a Guider to be appointed by the Guiders' Committee.

That the price list should be revised.

That the design of the Guide overall be altered.

That all Commissioners for Departments be re-appointed.

That Mrs. Ebeling and Secretary be responsible for arrangements for the welcome to Lady Somers.

It was reported—

That Miss Boyes had been appointed Convener of the Guide House Sub-Committee in succession to Mrs. Littlejohn.

That 50 Rangers and Guiders were to attend the South Australian Centenary Camp at Goolwa.

That an invitation had been received for 10 Australians to take part in a national camp in Norway from 8th-16th July, 1937.

Routine and financial business was discussed.
S. H. IRVING.

TRAINING.

The dates of training courses in Brownie, Guide and Ranger Training will be arranged as soon as sufficient applications have been received to warrant the holding of the courses.

Guiders wishing to attend a course are asked to send their name and address, with a nomination form signed by their Commissioner, to the Training Secretary as soon as possible, stating the type of training desired, and the nights that would suit, in order of preference.

M. E. BUSH, Commissioner for Training.

MESSAGE OF LOYALTY FROM THE GIRL GUIDES OF AUSTRALIA.

The Hon. Federal Secretary writes to say that the following message was sent to Their Majesties the King and Queen on the occasion of their accession to the throne:—

"Girl Guides of Australia express loyalty and devotion to Their Majesties."

The following reply was received and forwarded by Her Excellency Lady Gowrie:—

"The Governor-General has received a telegram from Buckingham Palace asking me to convey the sincere thanks of Her Majesty for the loyal message from the Girl Guides."

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CENTENARY.

(Continued from Page 8)

Camp site overlooked part of the mouth, by the way. Those who went this trip will have interesting things to tell you and to show you. The rest of the camp went the next day. Water sports were changed on account of chilly weather into land sports, and would you believe it! Angas Group pulled up its stockings or socklets, and won!

On Tuesday night at the final campfire each group and each State produced stunts and songs of their own composition set to well known tunes, and after Miss Livingstone had given a most inspiring talk, each State in turn thanked South Australia for providing the means for such a happy week spent in good fellowship.

Early Wednesday morning saw the commencement of breaking camp, and the first group of interstate visitors left Goolwa at 7 a.m. for Adelaide to see as much of that city as possible before entraining for home.

F.V.B. and M.R.

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