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Miss Bush

Matilda



MAY, 1937.

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Volume XIII.

MAY, 1937.

Number Eleven.

Guiding and the Empire.

Oh God, the Ruler over earth and sea,
Grant us Thy guidance in the reign to be.

Grant that our King may make this ancient
land
A realm of brothers, working mind and hand

To make the life of man a fairer thing:
God, grant this living glory to the King.

Grant to our Queen the strength that lifts
and shares
The daily burden that a monarch bears:

Grant to them both Thy holy help to give
The hopeless hope, the workless means to live.

The light to see, and skill to make us see,
Where ways are bad, what better ways may
be:

And grace, to give to working minds the zest
To reach excelling things beyond their best:

Grant to them peace, and Thy diviner peace,
The joy of making human wars to cease:

Make wise the councils of the men who sway
The Britain here, the Britains far away:

And grant us all, that every rightness willed
In this beginning reign may be fulfilled.

This poem, "A Prayer for the King's
Reign," is written by the Poet Laureate, John
Masefield; it is very beautiful, and expresses
very clearly our own thoughts in this month
of May, 1937.

On Wednesday, May 12th, Guides and
Scouts, Brownies and Cubs, will be meeting
together in a service of thanksgiving for the
Coronation of our new King and Queen, every
heart will be glad that we have two such splen-
did Ambassadors of Peace and Goodwill at
the head of the British Peoples.

How can we as Guides make this new reign
one of happiness and love? Let us read the
second verse of the Poet Laureate's prayer
again:—

"Grant that our King may make this ancient
land

A realm of brothers, working mind and hand
To make the life of man a fairer thing:"

Let us as Guides join in this prayer too. Let
us first make this realm one of happy sisters
working mind and hand. How can we do this?

Let us begin at the beginning—in the home.
Do we fit in there? If not, what is the reason?
Are we impatient with the younger ones, or
scornful with the older ones? Are our own
purposes and pursuits so important to our-
selves that we stride on with too much power
and determination to our objectives, and push
aside the weaker ones, who need some of our
strength?

To work for the good of the whole is
practised in our Patrols. Let us practise it
also in our homes. Life is so hurried now, es-
pecially in the cities; do not let us miss an
opportunity where a word of kindness and un-
derstanding may make all the difference to
sister, parent or friend.

Then let us carry this idea into our working
lives to those with whom we come in contact.
Open our eyes and look wide. Read and learn
about our sisters in other parts of Australia.
Look wider still to other lands and countries
that are part of the British Commonwealth of
Nations, whose King is about to begin his
reign in high hope and sincere endeavour by
upholding the ideals of service and love to his
people.

First let us make this a fair realm of sis-
ters, then let us reach out further from the
boundaries of our realm and embrace all
Nations as sisters, open our eyes to see their
troubles, open our hearts to understand them.
Then, and then only, are we truly helping our
"ancient land," the land of the British peoples.
Only by working "mind and hand" in God's
realm amongst all his children are we, a
mighty race, fulfilling the purpose of our being.

We in Australia are living far from the
homes of many nations, far away from the
fear and surge of humanity compressed into
narrow borders, therefore we must make re-
doubled efforts to learn to know and under-
stand their peoples. Mrs. Birley, writing in
the "Guider," says: "Patriotism, if it is to
forward Internationalism, involves not only
service to one's own country, but also an ap-
preciative understanding of the peoples of
other countries, and their thoughts and cus-
toms."

It is no excuse in these days, this one of
distance. There are libraries to be searched
for books of other nations, there is the
National Gallery to be visited to enjoy the
art of other lands, the pottery and glass of
other times, and much about our own country,
its inhabitants and history to be learned there.
There is the Junior "Argus" and Arthur Mee's
"Children's Newspaper" for the Guides to
read, there is the Post Box to be made use of.
Languages can be learned, and the literature
of other countries studied. Good pictures can
sometimes be seen, and lectures attended. It
can be done, and it must be done, if we are
to be worthy members of our great Sisterhood of
Guides.

With the understanding that comes from
knowledge, with the outstretched hand of
friendship, and with the tolerance that comes
from love, we may then "share in the joy of
making wars to cease."

We are at the beginning of a new reign.
What will it bring forth? Our new King and
Queen are entering upon their new life work
with sincerity of purpose, and breadth of
vision, and with the love and loyalty and re-
spect of all their subjects. Let our resolutions
in this new reign be equally sincere, let our

vision be equally broad, and let our hearts be ever open, that love and understanding of all men may enter in.

"And grant us all that every rightness willed
In this beginning reign may be fulfilled."

B. E. FAULKNER.

A Good Turn Party

A big Guide event which takes place in London each Christmas is the Good Turn Party which is held by members of a club in connection with "The Guide" paper. To be a member you have to get three new readers for the paper, and to be an extra special member you get ten new readers. All members are given a special triangular scarf in "The Guide" colors—navy blue with fine red and gold stripes.

This party is held in a big hall in South Kensington. It starts in the afternoon, and all Extension Guides who can come are specially invited, and Guiders and friends spend the day driving in their cars to outlying places and bringing them in. When they arrive at the party each one has two or three hostesses to look after her and take her around.

Each Guide who comes is asked to bring a present that would be suitable for a Christmas hamper for a family, and around the hall are large notices saying "Food" or "Clothing" or "Toys," etc., so that everybody knows exactly where to put her present. While people are enjoying themselves meeting old friends, and talking and playing games, Guiders and Rangers go round to the different tables where the presents are, and divide them into six piles. Everybody has tea and then the most exciting part of the programme takes place—the Campfire—and this is what everyone particularly enjoys; it is a big Campfire circle, of course, with perhaps 250 Guides gathered round, the Extensions sitting with their hostesses. Campfire ends with a ceremony in which the Patrol Leaders and Rangers end by forming a lane to the door through which the others leave the hall.

After the younger Guides and Extensions have gone home the serious work of the evening is begun, that of making up the parcels. Beforehand, details are obtained from a Settlement of a certain number of poor families—the Guides are divided into six patrols, and each patrol is given the details of ten families, then a pile of presents from each of the tables is taken by each patrol with lots of paper and string, and they set to work to make up a parcel suitable for each family on their list. As each parcel is finished it is taken up to the door, and at the end is a big pile of 60 lovely hampers. The parcels are taken by car to the Settlement, and that is the end of the Good Turn Party. E.E.M.

MINIATURE TENDERFOOT BADGES

These nice wee badges which are available at Headquarters, price 1/-. should be obtained through the usual channels, that is, through the District Secretary or with a written order from the Captain. Until now any Guide has been at liberty to purchase her own without an order, but it is felt that the issue should be regulated in the usual way. S.H.I.

Library Notes.

Librarian: Miss I. Pearson.

We have to acknowledge with thanks a helping hand in Mrs. Littlejohn, who gave us quite a few useful books. Some we already had, but they are ones much in demand, so the second copy is indeed handy. Others we found new and interesting.

"Talks to girls" (Arthur Mee's).

"Basketmaking" (Mary White).

"Ourselves and the Community" (E. E. Reynolds).

Talks on Ambulance (Gilcraft).

"Training Girls as Guides."

"Ranger Games."

We are hoping to make a definite addition to our shelves in the near future, so if any "Matilda" reader has a book she has found helpful, do let us know so we may include it for the benefit of others, or if she knows a book that would be a help only it is too expensive to procure for herself do tell us, as we will finance a scheme that we all may share.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S THANKS.

53 Dover Street, Malvern, S.A.

March 30th, 1937.

Dear Miss Barfus,

On behalf of the Centenary Camp Council I wish to thank the Victorian Campers for their very kind gesture in sending South Australia a World Flag. It is a beautiful gift, and we will treasure it very much.

We are so pleased you enjoyed our camp. We loved having you, and will always have happy memories of your visit. Our salutations to you all. Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) MARY K. JENKINS.

Coronation Rally.

Calling All Guiders!

The success of the Coronation Rally depends on the intelligent co-operation of each Guider who takes part therein. Consequently, you are asked to read with care the enclosed circular, which gives a general idea of the arrangements. When you have read it, we suggest that you put it in your uniform pocket, for reference between now and May 12th, and for use on that day.

All Guiders, Rangers, Guides and Brownies taking part in the pageant or march will need individual ground sheets. These may be homemade, or are obtainable at Guide Headquarters, price 1/5, postage 3d.

At the service of loyalty and thanksgiving that ends the Rally, the Right Honourable R. G. Menzies, Attorney-General, has consented to give a short address, and prayers and readings will be taken by Scouters and Guiders.

The hymns will be "Now thank we all our God" (first two verses. Tune Nun Danket); "Land of our Birth" (Kipling's "Children's Hymn." Tune: Galilee).

Words of these hymns will be distributed to all Guides, Scouts and Brownies on the day, but Guiders are asked to see that their Companies and Packs have a working knowledge of the tunes beforehand. Please address any enquiries about the service to Miss Jean Macneil, 22 Adeney Avenue, Kew, E.4. 'Phone Haw. 6483.

JEAN MACNEIL,

SHEILA MACLEOD,

Conveners Rally Committee.



Editor, Miss Sydes.

"Longing for power and the sweetness to fashion
Lyrics with beats like the heart-beats of passion.

So I might keep in the city and alleys
The beauty and strength of the deep mountain valleys."
Henry C. Kendall.

9th WORLD CONFERENCE.

At the recent Conference in Sweden a Patrol discussion took place with regard to our promise to serve God. In one patrol this led to the subject of Nature, one conclusion being that "Feeling and sympathy with Nature should be encouraged, rather than study." I heartily endorse this statement, and feel that "Nature" would lose its terrors for the newcomers could we but achieve it; also that the achievement of the former would, in the majority of cases, lead to the latter, simply because of the interest aroused. M.H.

(What does anyone else think about this—which way did you begin, as a Nature enthusiast?—Ed.).

The Observant Eye and the Reward.

THE SPIDER'S FORESIGHT.

Spiders' webs spread in the gardens for weeks and weeks now, on such long guy-lines—is this an indication of dry weather? Sometimes leaves get caught in these webs—blown in the right direction by the wind. One day I put a slater into the web and watched proceedings. The spider sat quiet for a while, then put out two spindly legs and gave two sharp tugs on the lines laid on to the slater. Being sure the defenceless thing was safely caught, he ambled out to finish him. But not so! Instead he bound it up in thread, till it was like a mummy, then carried it back to his larder, thus saving it for a day of famine. F.L.W.

THE ANTS' WISDOM AND WORK.

You mentioned in "Matilda" the mummy-like ant eggs that the little blacks are seen moving with so much difficulty. I watched five carrying one of these up a brick wall, and they took ten minutes to climb five feet! The next day we had rain, and after that had gone they all began the descent.

Near the same spot I saw ants clustered round some object. Being curious I brushed them away and saw a large brownish-grey ant, winged and peculiarly marked. They clustered round so protectingly that I felt they were sheltering the queen ant. F.L.W.

AN INTERESTING CATERPILLAR.

Found a caterpillar on the Swan Plant—he was striped cream and black like zebra stripes. Not having seen this variety before I gathered some specimens. These have become chrysalises, which are encased in the loveliest pearly-green cases. They are hanging from the roof of an old meat-safe, so that I

can watch developments. The caterpillars were the ugliest things, but the chrysalises are really beautiful. F.L.W.

THE TARANTULA'S WASH.

I have a pet tarantula on the kitchen wall, and at night watch him cleaning his legs—his jaws move sideways and he pulls the leg slowly between the jaws while he works them about.—F.L.W.

NEXT THE BUTTERFLY.

Out in the garden one sunny morning, I watched a butterfly thrust its proboscis, which it keeps rolled up out of sight, down the centre of a big yellow African marigold. It settled on the flower, then thrust the proboscis up and down all over the flower, sometimes standing on its head—wings tipped right up—to reach an extra juicy patch.

It was the Common Brown female—it is a largish butterfly and a slow flier. I was able to see the colouring very well—the forewing being blackish with three plain yellow patches on this dark surface—also an "eye." The centre of forewing and the hind wing fawny orange, with a small "eye" in the latter. When the wings were folded together, as all butterflies fold them when at rest, the underside showed a greyish color in the hind wing like a dead leaf, and no plain "eye" showing either. The forewing appeared the same as the upper side.

BLACK SWANS AND SWIFTS.

Thirteen black swans flying over—a lovely picture. March 18th, 1937.

Swifts flying very low—noticed the white on them, and their extraordinarily long wings. March 27.

A REMARKABLE WASP'S NEST.

Thinking it was a lump of mud or a small sized potato stuck into the wire netting of a fence, my father pulled at it with his fingers. Some mud came away and exposed some fat, yellow, wasp-grubs. Their larders seemed to be empty, so they must have been almost ready to leave their prison-cells. The placing and building of the nest on the wire shows a marvellous piece of work.

A THANK-YOU!

"Matilda" would like to say "Thank You" for all the contributions she has received, and like the greedy boy, asks for more.

CENTIPEDES.

I have been able to examine a centipede in perfect peace—because it was dead!

It was hard, stiff and flat, perfectly preserved, being found under a box in our cellar.

It really is a thing of beauty! with its 21 black-edged, nut-brown segments supporting its 21 pairs of yellow legs. Being "fired" to look him up in "Australian Nature Studies," I find that he does not sting you, but bites with his poison-jaws, and his fierce-looking tail is nothing but camouflage!

A mother centipede has maternal feelings! She coils round her thirty golden eggs, not to warm them, she being cold-blooded—but to protect them.

I am reminded of the stanza:—

"A centipede was happy quite

Until the toad in fun

Said, 'Pray, which leg comes after which?'

This raised her doubts to such a pitch

She fell exhausted in a ditch,

Not knowing how to run."

Poor Centipede!

M.H.



Miss N. Thewlis, Editor.

"Nothing astonishes men so much as common-sense and plain dealing."—Emerson.

Brownie Guiders' Library.

At long last, after much work and thought on the part of the Library Committee, particularly the Secretary, the library is now open. A few of the lost books have been traced, but the Library has lost many that are irreplaceable, which is unfortunate.

At the last State Conference the Brownie Guiders passed a resolution that there should be a separate Library for Metropolitan Guiders, as so often the books wanted were on loan to country Guiders. To this end, those present subscribed 1/- each. As the Library was not very financial at the time, the Committee was unable to accede to this request. However, affairs have brightened, and the Committee is ready to consider this proposal, and will be glad if this money will be forwarded to them to enable them to duplicate some of the books.

To give Guiders some idea of what the Library contains, a list is here appended. All that is asked is that intending borrowers should read the notice attached to the door, and should enter their names in the book provided for that purpose. There is also a tin inside the cupboard, and if anyone should feel so inclined, a penny will help towards buying books to keep the library up to date. As will be noted, the Library is divided into sections, B., C., H., N., O. and S. There is no need to pull down a lot of books to see what is inside the covers—just look for the number of the book wanted under its sectional letter.

Of course, donations of money or helpful books are always welcome!

The country section of the Library will still remain in the hands of Dorothy Sedgfield, 150 Marshall Street, Ivanhoe, but enquiries re the metropolitan section should be made to either Margaret Heseltine, 87 Westbury Street, St. Kilda, or Nancy Thewlis, 401 Dandenong Road, Armadale? DOROTHY SEDGFIELD.

BOOK LIST.

Section B—For Brown Owls.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1—Brown Magic (Rhys Davids) Postage | 3d. |
| 2—The Wolf Cub Handbook (B.P.), | " 3d. |
| 3—Brownie Games (Rhys Davids) | " 2d. |
| 4—Brownie Games (Pelley) | " 2d. |
| 5—Scrap-Book of Interesting Articles | " 5d. |
| 6—For Brownies | " 4d. |
| 7—More for Brownies | " 4d. |
| 8—The Golden Age (Kenneth Graham) | " 4d. |
| 9—The Cradle Ship (Edith Howes) | " 5d. |
| 10—Brown Book for Brown Owls | " 2d. |
| 11—Cubbing (V. C. Barclay) | " 2d. |

Section C—For Concerts, etc.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1—Learning by Acting (Mary Debenham) | 1d. |
| 2—Plays for Wolf Cubs | Post. 2d. |
| 3—Brownikins (Ruth Arkwright) | " 5d. |
| 4—More Old Rhymes with New Tunes
(R. R. Terry) | " 4d. |
| 5—14 Songs from "When We Were
Very Young" | " 5d. |
| 6—Brownie Song Book | " 4d. |
| 7—For Children by Children Song Book | " 2d. |
| 8—Action Songs | " 3d. |

Section H—Handicrafts.

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|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1—The Jolly Book of Boxcraft | Post. 7d. |
| 2—Home-Made Toys | " 4d. |
| 3—Toy-Making from Odds and Ends | " 2d. |
| 4—Handwork (Cardboard Modelling) | " 3d. |

Section 7—Nature.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1—Australian Nature—No. 1, Birds
and Blossoms | Post. 3d. |
| 2—Australian Nature—No. 2, Animals | " 3d. |
| 3—Stories for the Nature Hours (Skinner) | 4d. |
| 4—Winks, Aust. Nature Stories (Hall) | " 3d. |
| 5—Nature Stories to Tell (American)
(Waddingham Seers) | " 4d. |

Section O—Odds and Ends.

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|---|-----------|
| 1—Fairies and Chimneys (Rhymes)
(Rose Fyleman) | Post. 2d. |
| 2—Frolic Fair (Rhymes) | " 2d. |
| 3—Twenty-Five Years a King | " 4d. |

Section S—Stories.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1—Buzziwig (Mrs. Swinburne) | post. 3d. |
| 2—Dr Dolittle (abridged) (Hugh Lofting) | 2d. |
| 3—The Water Babies (abr.) (Kingsley) | " 2d. |
| 4—The Little Black Princess (abridged)
(Mrs. Aeneas Gunn) | " 2d. |
| 5—The Wind in the Willows
(Kenneth Graham) | " 3d. |
| 6—The King of the Golden River
(John Ruskin) | " 2d. |
| 7—Milly Molly Mandy | " 2d. |
| 8—More of Milly Molly Mandy | " 2d. |
| 9—Further Doings of Milly Molly Mandy | 2d. |
| 10—Winnie the Pooh (A. A. Milne) | " 4d. |
| 11—The House at Pooh Corner
(A. A. Milne) | " 4d. |
| 12—The Happy Prince (O. Wilde) | " 7d. |
| 13—Book of Stories for the Story-
teller (F. Coe) | " 4d. |
| 14—How to Tell Stories to Children
(S. C. Bryant) | " 4d. |
| 15—Tales for Brownies | " 4d. |
| 16—The Brownies (Mrs. Ewing) | " 3d. |
| 17—Listen Children (S. Southwold) | " 4d. |
| 18—Sandman's Good-Night Stories
(Abbie P. Walker) | " 4d. |
| 19—The Other Side of Nowhere
(T. Quin Daskein) | " 5d. |
| 20—Whimsical Stories (H. Williams) | " 4d. |
| 21—The Enid Blyton Book of Fairies | " 6d. |
| 22—Five-Minute Tales (Enid Blyton) | " 3d. |
| 23—Ten-Minute Tales (Enid Blyton) | " 3d. |
| 24—Forty Good-Morning Tales
(Rose Fyleman) | " 2d. |
| 25—Forty Good-Night Tales
(Rose Fyleman) | " 2d. |
| 26—Twenty Tea-Time Tales
(Rose Fyleman) | " 2d. |
| 27—The Rainbow Cat
(Rose Fyleman) | " 2d. |
| 28—The Book of Other Babies | " 2d. |
| 29—More Stories to Tell (Maud Lindsay) | 4d. |
| 30—Myths and Legends of Many Lands | 3d. |
| 31—50 Stories from Uncle Remur | " 4d. |

A number of stories suitable for telling are available to country Guiders only, Postage 1d. each Group.

No. 1—The Peasants who sent for the King, Joan and the Squirrel.

2—The Christmas Pudding that Wouldn't Stop, The Pixie and the Twins, The Wishing Glove.

3—The Brownie and the Grocer.

4—Twinkle-Toes and the Brownies, Waste Paper.

5—Peter, Atinja, the Moon, A Story about a Rainbow.

6—King Midas, The Boastful Spinner, The Boy who Tried to drive the Sun-Horses.

7—Alolphus, the Germ, The Wee House, The Discontented Rosebud.

New books added to this list will be published in "Matilda."

Please keep this list, state clearly, number and name of book you wish to borrow, and enclose postage.

All correspondence including books should be sent to this address, not to H.Q. Books should be returned one month from date of borrowing. D. SEDGFIELD.

Guide House.

Several new properties which have been submitted as suitable sites for the Guide House are being inspected by members of the Committee. In view of the large majority of votes cast in favour of the country, these are all in the hill districts.

There has been a splendid response to the proposal that companies should endow the House for one day by donating five pounds to the fund.

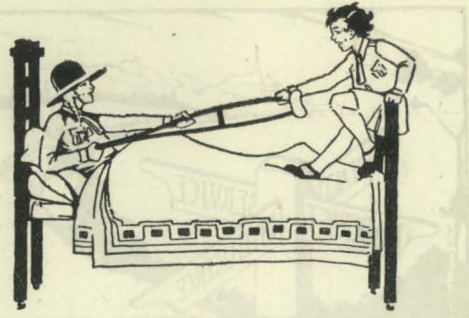
Here is the list of those who have already responded to the Endowment Appeal. Is your Company here? Perhaps it will be next month!

Warrnambool and Koroit (April 22, 23, 24), Caulfield; Hawthorn; Kew District; Kew Companies and Packs; Miss G. H. Swinburne; South and Port Melbourne (Feb. 22); 1st Hampton; 1st Mooroopna; 4th Berwick; Fitzroy and Collingwood; Malvern (1 week); Alexandra; Miss D. R. Myer (March 26); 1st Glen Iris Brownies (March 30); 3rd Caulfield; Warragul; 3rd Richmond (Feb. 10th); Hamilton District; Kyabram (Aug.); St. Kilda District (Dec. 31); 1st Culwaa (Feb. 13); Glen-garry Brownies and Guides (Sept. 28); Marnoo District (Dec. 9); Toorak and Armadale; 2nd Prahran Rangers; Carisbrook; Drouin District; 4th Camberwell; Skipton (May 24th); 1st Girgarre Brownies (Sept. 15th); Camperdown District (July 1); 1st Avenel (Oct. 23); Williamstown and Altona (Sept. 19th); 2nd Brighton Beach (July 27); 8th Hawthorn (April 3rd); Tatura District (May 12); Waubra and Miners' Rest; 1st Swan Hill (June 26); Kerang; 1st Benalla (11th Nov.); 1st Port Campbell (Oct. 27); Boolarra District; 1st Wangaratta; Yarraville and Newport (Nov. 30); Warragul Rangers (Oct. 11); Rochester Company.

POST BOX.

From various letters I have received, it would appear that the Post Box is not nearly as well known as it should be. Ours is a World Sisterhood, and if this is to mean anything to us individually, it will not be enough to depend entirely on others, for knowledge of our Guide Sisters. Few of us are able to make direct contact with these sisters in their own countries, so we have the Post Box, through which pen-friendships may be formed with them.

In order to do this, all that is necessary is to send me the name, age and address of each Guide and the country with which she wishes to correspond. When in due course an answer is received, I would be very pleased to hear of it. At present I have requests from several Belgian (in French), Scotch and New Zealand Guides for pen friends here. LYELL KELLY, Commissioner for Post Box.



AN URGENT APPEAL!!

All the Extensions are hoping to be able to be present at the Coronation Rally. Think what it will mean to them to be there with all the other Guides, Scouts, Brownies, etc. Probably many of them have never seen more than two or three Guides together before.

CAN YOU HELP THEM TO GET TO THE RALLY?

If you have a car or know anyone with a car, could you undertake to transport some of them on May 12th?

If so will you please let Miss Joan Alston, 5 Struan Street, Toorak, S.E.2. know as soon as possible, and she will then be able to send you further particulars. Her telephone number is Windsor 2194, and a message can always be left there for her. J.A.

AMBULANCE AND SICK NURSE BADGE RENEWALS.

It has been realised for some time that difficulties were arising in regard to the renewal of Ranger First Aid, and Sick Nurse Badges. It is two years since St. John's Association has been responsible for these tests, and the reason for the difficulty is that the Ranger Badges are at present biennial, and the St. John's tests are not.

It is difficult and often impossible for many people to take a St. John's course every two years, and yet we must keep our knowledge up to date, and renew the badges. Rangers and Guiders are strongly advised to try and work for the St. John's Medallion, which means two courses in First Aid, and one in Nursing.

BUT, if they are not doing this and their Badge needs renewal, they can revise the work by themselves, or ask for help, and then be re-tested by Examiners found by their Badge Secretaries in their own districts. In fairness to examiners, as numbers are not likely to be large, the test might be held once a year, on a date which had been arranged with ample notice.

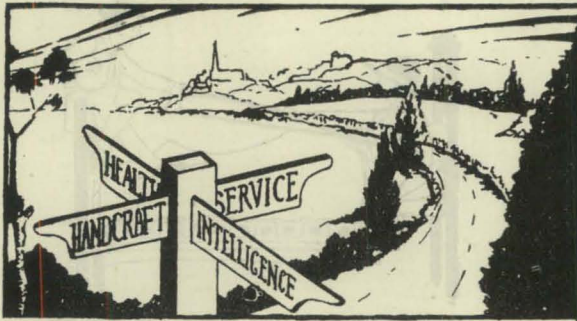
If for any reason it is impossible to be tested in one's own division or district, application can be made to me at Guide H.Q.

I would like to take this opportunity of reminding Badge Secretaries that a Conference for Badge Secretaries and Examiners is due to be held again this year.

It would be of interest to know how the changes in the arranging of the First Aid and Sick Nurse Badges has been working out.

M. MOORE,

Commissioner for Tests and Badges.



The Sign Post

(Editor, Miss R. Denny)

THE MONTH OF MAY.

- May 2nd—Rogation Day.
 „ 6th—Ascension Day. Accession to the Throne, King George V., 1910.
 „ 12th—Coronation Day Rally on the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Florence Nightingale born.
 „ 16th—Whitsunday.
 „ 23rd—Trinity Sunday.
 „ 24th—Empire Day.
 „ 26th—Queen Mary's birthday.
 „ 31st—Union Day, South Africa.

And in May, 1937, the Guide Movement is twenty-six years old.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THE KING AND EMPIRE.

O Lord God, Who beholdest all the kingdoms of the world, bless our King and Empire. Inspire us all with the ideals of Thy Son, and so enable us to do our duty that we may grow strong as a nation built upon the foundations of truth. Give us the spirit of true service and a hearty desire to make our country a Kingdom for Thee and Thy Son, in Whose name we ask these things.—Amen.

For other prayers, suitable for using at Coronation time and on Empire Day, see page 9, "Girl Guide Services and Prayers," and pages 41, 42, 43, "Prayers for Use in the Brotherhood of Scouts." There are also the prayers for the King and Royal Family in the Book of Common Prayer, from which the following is taken:

"Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech Thee to bless our gracious Queen Elizabeth, Mary the Queen Mother, Princess Elizabeth, and all the Royal Family; Endue them with Thy holy spirit; enrich them with Thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to Thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The Guide Law.

"A Guide's honour is to be trusted." But is it always to be trusted?

This is the first part of the Guide Law, the whole of which we have promised to do our best to keep. If we can only help the Guides to understand the full and inner meaning of the word "Honour," it might make them know and feel the importance of this law, and in aiming to live up to it, this law will have much to do in the moulding of their character. The Chief Scout realised this when he made it the first law, knowing that honour and truth matters most of all, and the habit of trying to keep the Guide Law, especially this one, will

stand the girl in good stead throughout her whole life.

Honour is a term signifying the highest respect and esteem, either felt or given to another person, therefore one's actions must be such as will warrant this respect—her word is always truthful, actions honourable, and she can be trusted to be faithful in all things. She will be true in her thoughts, and naturally will follow loyalty, courtesy, love and purity in her heart.

It implies a sense of what is due to right and worth and fidelity to one's obligations. It is a way of giving our thanks to those who have given us their best in acts of bravery, and in deeds requiring steadfastness, fearlessness and uprightness. Some have even given their lives, fearing nothing but dishonour. Some may not achieve their object, but we honour them for the effort they have made and their tenacity of purpose.

"When the one Great Scorer comes
 To write against your name,
 He writes not that you won or lost,
 But how you played the game."

As quoted by Abraham Lincoln—

"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true.

I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to the light I have."

Honour also means graciousness. In Prov. xi:16, it says: "A gracious woman retaineth honour, for the graciousness of manner always commands respect, and the courtesy of spirit is a lovely thing."

A life of honour is one at which we all aim, but how often we fail! It may be a harder matter to keep your "honour bright" when you go out in the world. The modern stress of competition has a tendency to dull and blunt sense of honour. It takes courage to dare to do the right in many cases, to face ridicule, the fear of being unpopular and other difficulties. Perhaps these are the opportunities given us to prove if we can be trusted.

Shakespeare's inspired words could well be instilled in all our minds.

"To thine own self be true,

And it shall follow, as the night the day,

Thou canst not then be false to any man."

M.E.

Correspondence.

Dear Matilda,

Quite a number of new Guiders ask for suitable verses or quotations for closing a company meeting as a change from singing; I wonder would Guiders send us their favourite verses? I would help with some contributions

too, of course. [Please do—Ed. Signpost Page].

Also, can you tell me why Guiders end their tracks set for Second Class tests with the sign "I have gone home"? Is it necessary or is there a reason for it?

When I did my tracking test I carefully covered all traces before going on to the next sign in case an enemy should find it. Each hidden message thrilled me and then suddenly in my pathway appeared the sign, "I have gone home!" What a crash, back to the present time I came! I never give it to any Guides when testing because of my own feelings. Last month we had a track of 19 signs, and the 18th was a message to tell them to gather small sticks, tie them with some reeds and continue to next arrow. This pointed to some low bushes where we put in sand and twigs, "Go to — and build a miniature camp fire." Is there anything wrong with that ending, which is much more interesting and exciting.

FRANCES DAVIES.

The above letter from Miss Davies is interesting. Why indeed do so many tracks have dead ends? Should they not lead on to the next activity? I do hope Guiders will send me their ideas on this point. I am grateful to Miss Davies for writing on the subject. And please, will YOU send me your "favourite verses"? Here is one of mine:

"BE PREPARED and don't be scared

By difficult work or play;

To fry an egg or mend a leg

Is all in the work of the day." R.D.

THE WELL UNIFORMED GUIDE.

As Coronation Day, the Rally and special Church Services draw near, let us look to the uniform of the Guides. Are their name-tapes and the stripes and lanyards of the Leaders really clean? Are they wearing the Coronation emblems in the correct place; that is, above the right-hand pocket?

If your Company seem to have forgotten how to wear uniform, try a "mannequin parade." Two Guides retire from sight and alter their uniforms to show one or two things wrongly placed, leave a button undone and make themselves generally untidy. Then they parade before all the Guides, who write down all the wrong things they can see.

Another time, take Careless Carrie to the meeting; she is a drawing of a Guide with her uniform all wrong, mud on her shoes and a mouth turned down at the corners. The Guides draw Susie Sunshine, correcting all the mistakes on Carrie—and, of course, she has a bright smile.

The following extract of an article which appeared in "The South African Guide Magazine" and previously in "The Guider" will help to clear some uncertain points.

"What is the correct breadth and length of a Guide's tie? The length of the tie varies in accordance with the length of the Guide—but there should be a space of three inches between the end of the tie and the belt buckle . . . the width should be two and one-half inches. The lanyard, in the case of Patrol Leaders and Seconds, is worn under the collar and above the tie, and attached to the whistle, which is fastened to the right-hand swivel of the belt. The compass is also worn on this swivel and the knife on the left one. Swivels when not in use should be clipped up neatly on to the belt ring . . . A quarter of an inch above the centre of the left pocket is a patrol emblem, and on

the flap of this pocket are the service stars. The Patrol Leaders' stripes, half an inch wide and one inch apart, are also on this pocket, the Second's stripe being in the centre of the pocket. The Patrol Leader's Tenderfoot Badge should be pinned to the hat ribbon in the centre of the front of the hat."

Let us all be specially "well-uniformed" for the special occasions in May. R.D.

THREE FLAG GAMES.

1.—Cut Out Jacks.

Draw and colour some Union Jacks, about ten inches long, one for each Patrol. Now cut these each into twelve pieces, cutting always on a line, and cutting each flag a different way. Give one complete flag to each Patrol, and the first one to fit the pieces together wins. Change round until each Patrol has had each flag, as some will be more difficult than others.

2.—Lightning Artists.

Patrols in files, and a distance away place a sheet of white paper and a red and blue pencil. The first Guide runs out and begins drawing a Union Jack, and she does as much as she can in thirty seconds. She runs to the rear of her file, and the second Guide now draws for thirty seconds, adding to the drawing of the first. The first Patrol to finish a flag is given points, and points are also given for correctness.

3.—Exhibitions.

In the centre of the room place brown paper, writing paper, chalks, plasticine, dead matches, pins and books dealing with the stories of the Saints of the Flag. Patrols in their corners; call the Leaders and give each the name of a saint. Each Patrol then gathers any materials they wish and illustrate the story of the Saint whose name they were given. Let each Patrol view the exhibitions of the others. R.D.

LONE BRANCH.

Several Lone Ranger Companies are held up in their work for the new Ranger Test through lack of the necessary books. If any Guide, Ranger or Guider who has a copy of "Scouting for Boys," "Girl Guiding," or "The Story of the Girl Guides" that she feels like lending us for a few months (or even giving us!!) we should be very grateful. Please send books to Miss Broadhurst, c/o. Girl Guides Association, 60 Market Street, Melbourne, C.1, putting inside each book your own name and address, and the length of time for which you are willing to lend the book. We guarantee that all books will be carefully used.

J. MACNEIL.

The Traffic Code for Country Rangers.

Some Lone Ranger Captains recently discussed the question of the Traffic Code section of the new test for Lones or other Rangers in country areas.

It seems rather feeble to expect Rangers to learn off the Safety Councils book of words, about leaving trams in the correct manner, stopping at major roads, when and when not to make right or left hand turns into city streets, which they may use once a year—but which if Lones are anything to go by, they see once in a lifetime.

We wondered if Rangers themselves could be asked to formulate a COUNTRY CODE—

just a code of things which would make them helpful citizens in their own areas.

Ideas which might be worked on are—

- (1) Suitable extracts from the Road Code—such as keeping to the left, not passing vehicles on curves, looking both ways before crossing the railway line even IF there is only one train a day, and other odd sections which would apply to any road anywhere.
- (2) Things which would help their neighbours, i.e., Shutting gates after walking through paddocks, so that the sheep won't get boxed or the cows stray out to the road. There must be lots of things like this which Rangers themselves could put into a Country Code, which people do not always helpfully do and thus cause bother.
- (3) A short list from the National Safety Council on what NOT to do with loaded shot guns or pea rifles, especially considering the number of accidents to older and experienced people.
- (4) The local gaming laws, which birds should never be shot because they are helpful to the farmer—or when you can fish in the local streams and when you may not—which animals or birds are protected because they are slowly dying out—or other items like this which would be of interest.

We have no idea at the moment whether this accumulation of safety hints—which we are calling the "Country Code" for want of a better name would be as much to learn in the long run as the present Traffic Code learnt by metropolitan rangers—or whether some could be cut out because it would be too much, or just quite what should be put in it. **AND WE WANT YOUR HELP.** Country Ranger Captains and Country Rangers—will you please write to "Matilda" and say what you are doing about the present Traffic Code? Can you work it in your areas—for we can't work it with our Lones? If you find the Traffic Code unsuitable, do you think it would be possible to work up a Country Code on the above lines? **AND** will you send in ideas from your companies? **THANK YOU!**

MARGARET FOWLER, Captain,
7th Vic. Lone Rangers.

MELBOURNE ESPERANTO CLUB.

The honorary secretary of the Melbourne Esperanto Club has written to Miss Boyce, Commissioner for Rangers, offering to arrange Talks on Esperanto to Ranger Companies. As the letter will probably be of interest to Ranger Guiders, it is quoted here:

"Owing to the international character of the Guide Movement, my committee wondered whether it would be possible to arrange for Talks to be given to some of the Ranger divisions in the metropolitan area on the subject of Esperanto, the international language.

"...A knowledge of Esperanto can be acquired in a comparatively short time, and, once learned, the student is able to correspond with people in all parts of the world. If one is fortunate enough to travel one receives a friendly welcome everywhere.

"Towards the end of last year I spoke to a Melbourne division of Rangers and, as a result, four have already made considerable headway with the study.

"If you approve of our request may I ask that you insert an announcement in any bulle-

tin that you may be sending out, announcing that we are willing to give the lectures, and that further particulars may be had on application to me at 169 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, C.I." (sgd.) ROY R. RAWSON,

Hon. Secretary.

Equipment Depot Notes.

You will see on the inside back cover of this issue the details of the range of Coronation souvenirs we are stocking. Unfortunately we were not able to have pennants, stationery, cards or pencils, though we shall be stocking the latter in a few months' time as a regular line.

Notice also the "bargain lines" mentioned on the same page; this is an opportunity to get really helpful lines at a very much reduced price, which has been possible only because we are over-stocked and must make room for newer lines. Order while this stock lasts!

How many Guiders know the interest and value to them of the Annual Reports published by Imperial Headquarters? The **TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT (1935)** is here, now, and available for 11d., plus 2d. postage. If you have never yet handled one of these books, do get hold of this issue. Here are just a few of the helpful and interesting bits you will find in it:

Under the heading "Awards" are the descriptions of three brave actions of Brownies and of Guides, which gained them the Silver Cross, and two stories of Guides who were awarded the Medal of Merit for bravery and good service. These would make good subjects for pow-wows on the Guide Law and Motto. The summary of the address given at the National Service at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, would also be helpful for an enrolment talk—several, in fact!

If you want to tell the Guides about Guiding in other countries, it is here you will find lots of tit-bits to whet their appetite for more—notes of visits to camps in other countries, pictures of Brownies "having fun," and whole chapters on "Overseas," "British Guides in Foreign Countries," and "The World Bureau," with such delightful illustrations!

As in previous issues, there are lists and addresses of Headquarters and reports of numbers and progress for all parts of the world, and pictures of the various badges (the badge for Antigua is a pineapple!).

And remember this is the only book where you can find out how many thousand more Guides there are now than there were in the previous one—for the whole world! Look it up!

Parents' Consent Forms. What do you do about this matter? Do you make out your own because you did not know you could get 24 ready printed in a book, with counterfoil, all for 4d. (postage 2d.)? The form has space for the age, birthday, address and signature of the Recruit, and for the parent to sign in token of her approval of the recruit joining up; followed by the words: "and I will do my best to help her to keep the Guide Law and the Rules of the Movement." Each Company needs one of these books—buy it NOW!

CLARA BROADHURST,
Commissioner for Equipment.

Coronation Souvenirs :

FINAL LIST.

CORONATION EMBLEMS.

Purple cloth, worked in gold, with a crown, and "Coronation 1937 G.G.". To be worn above right-hand pocket of uniform by all members of the G.G.A., from May to December, 1937.

Price 3d. (postage 1d. any number up to 2 dozen)

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Attractive Coronation cover — 50 sheets blue paper and envelopes, Guide badge on corner of paper and on flap of envelope. Price 2/6 (plus postage).

CORONATION MUGS.

Charming hand-made pottery mug in grey and blue, with Tenderfoot Badge on one side and royal monogram and "1937" on other. Price 2/ (plus post.)

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(Vera Barclay) 1/-
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(Nora Hewett) 1/

Old Issues of :

The Guider 2d.; Council Fire 3d.;
Matilda, 6 for 1d.; The Guide, 1d. and
3d. (according to date)

COMPANY RECORD BOOKS, loose-leaf, a separate page for each Guide or Ranger, with extra sheets for recording tests passed, Service Stars, etc. 3/- reduced to 2/6

BRITISH SONGS FOR BRITISH BOYS—contains 108 songs, under headings English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, American and Plantation, Sea, Soldier, Country Life, Christmas Carols A good selection for 1/-

DIARIES—Valuable to every Guide for the hints on test work (with sketches), recipes, emergencies, first aid, World Flag, State badges, State H.Q. addresses, etc. With pencil, 1/3 reduced to 9d.; without pencil, 1/- reduced to 6d.

Executive Committee.

Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides Association were held at the Guide Office on 4th and 17th March and 1st April, 1937.

Present 4th March: Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Eadie, Mrs. Edmondson, Mrs. Tate, Misses Cameron, Ritchie and Swinburne.

Present 17th March: Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Eadie, Mrs. Tate, Misses Boyes, Broadhurst, Cameron, Ritchie, Russell, Swinburne.

Present 1st April: Mrs. Faulkner, Mrs. Eadie, Mrs. Tate, Misses Boyes, Broadhurst, Bush, Cameron, Ritchie, Swinburne, Miss Moore (by invitation) for part of the meeting.

That details of the arrangements for the N.S.W. Coronation Display be published in "Matilda" and the Press; that Guiders might take parties if they wished, but that no leader of the party would be arranged for by Headquarters.

That State Headquarters be written to suggesting Federal co-operation in buying for the Equipment Depots.

That for renewals of First Aid and Sick Nurse badges the usual District tests should be used and that Headquarters should afford facilities once a year for re-tests in case some Districts found it difficult to arrange locally.

That the Guiders' Committee should nominate three members to the Shop Sub-Committee, representing Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

That miniature Tenderfoot badges be available only through the same channels as ordinary badges.

That Miss Swinburne be the second delegate, during Mrs. Fairbairn's absence abroad, to the Council of the National Theatre Movement.

That Thanks Badges be granted to Mrs. Arthur Nankervis, of Corryong, Mrs. Hambley and Mrs. Forbes, of Yarram.

S. H. IRVING, State Secretary.

TRAINING.

Brownie Training.—The first Course began on Wednesday, 7th April, in charge of Miss N. Thewlis.

Guide Training.—The first course began on Friday, 2nd April, in charge of Miss D. Hayman.

Ranger Training.—The first Course of eight Classes will begin on Thursday, 22nd April, in charge of Miss F. V. Barfus.

Refresher Course.—Plans for this Course are proceeding, and dates will be announced shortly. Guiders wishing to attend and who have not yet sent in their names with suggested subjects for the Course, are requested to do so at once.

Guiders attending Classes at any Course must produce a Nomination Form signed by their Commissioner, unless they have previously attended a similar Course at Headquarters.

Unless otherwise stated, all training classes are held at the Guide Office at 8 p.m.

Woodcraft Course. Plans are being made for the holding of a Woodcraft and First Class Training Week in August. Further details will be published when available.

MERLE BUSH, Commissioner for Training.

SEMAPHORE SIGNALLING FOR GUIDES.

During a discussion at the recent Week-End Conference of Trainers, a Brownie Trainer brought up the difficulty there is in connection with semaphore signalling, which is an important section of the Brownie test, but does not seem to come into Guide programmes at all.

Brownies who have done some solid work in semaphore in the Pack, and who then fly up to the Company are, it appears, disappointed and surprised to find that none of the Guides know semaphore, nor does Captain! This means, then, that the Brownie drops semaphore altogether, and has to start learning Morse code, without ever using her semaphore knowledge again.

It was suggested that Guiders might help to minimise this contrast which confronts First Class Brownies in the Company, by encouraging the better signallers among the Guides to practise for the Signaller Badge. It is rather surprising to discover that extraordinarily few Signaller Badges have been gained in Victoria, and the number does not increase with the years.

Guides wishing to enter for the Signaller Badge could conveniently be trained in the Semaphore section of the syllabus by the Brown Owl, and this would be a valuable link between Company and Pack.

The Training Committee would be interested to know what Captains think about this suggestion, and how Guides in their Companies would respond to it.

M. E. BUSH, Commissioner for Training.
F. V. BARFUS, Training Secretary.

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