



Matilda

DECEMBER, 1940.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee of the Girl Guides' Association, Victoria, held at the Guide Office on 16th, 28th and 31st October, 1940:—

16th October.

Present.—Mesdames Faulkner, Blackwood, and Edmondson, and Misses Drury, Lscelles, Moran, Purnell, Swinburne and the Secretary. Agreed: That the name of the Country Extension Fund should be changed to Country Development Fund.

That a fund should be opened for the Caretaker's Cottage. A donation of £50 had been received from Miss M. Moore.

That Mrs. Faulkner should arrange for two Rangers to represent the Association at the annual service of the Girls' Friendly Society.

Reported: That Lady Dugan would be able to be present at the annual meeting on the 27th November.

That Guiders had assisted in the care and entertainment of overseas children recently; that a Guide Company had been formed on the ship by a London Guider (Miss E. Pearson), assisted by a Victorian Guider (Miss M. Jolly).

That a letter had been received from the Hon. Mrs. Sydney Marsham referring to Miss Martin's safe arrival in England, and thanking the Association for further cases of clothing.

28th October.

Present.—Lady Chauvel, Mesdames Faulkner, Edmondson, and Misses Lascelles, Moran, Purnell, Ritchie, Russell, Swinburn, and the Secretary.

Business.—The Constitution was discussed, and several proposals made to be submitted to a special meeting of the Council.

31st October.

Present.—Lady Chauvel, Mesdames Faulkner and Blackwood, and Misses Harrison, Lascelles, Moran, Purnell, Russell, Swinburne, and the Secretary.

Agreed: That a letter of good wishes should be sent to Mrs. Orr on the birth of her son.

That the annual reports be received.

Reported: That Mrs. Spry had agreed to be Convener for Publicity.

That overseas children had been entertained by Guides and Guiders of the Metropolitan Area at the Canterbury Guide Hall and at the Gardens and Zoo.

That a letter had been received from the Chief Secretary, Mr. Bailey, thanking the Association for help given in connection with the entertainment of overseas children.

That a cheque for £17, being the second instalment of the grant for 1940 from the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust, had been received.

That an American Tea and Children's Party, in aid of the Guide War Appeal, was

to be held through the kindness of Miss Poolman on 7th December, and was being organised by a sub-committee of the Central Local Association.

M. E. BUSH,
State Secretary.

WARRANTS AND REGISTRATIONS.**District Secretary.**

Daylesford—Mrs. McKinnon.

Brown Owl.

1st Gardenvale—Miss E. L. Lardner.

Tawny Owl.

1st Sunshine—Miss R. Wood.

Guide Captain.

1st Euroa—Miss E. M. Simpson; 1st Ringwood—Miss P. Lord; 1st Nagambie—Miss L. D. Moses; 7th Malvern—Miss V. Fowler; 7th Hawthorn—Miss C. Rogers.

Guide Lieutenant.

3rd Footscray—Miss D. Reed; 2nd Footscray—Miss N. Rosewarne; 1st Nagambie—Miss A. I. Winter-Irving; 6th Kew—Miss V. Harvey.

Packs.

2nd Merbein.

CANCELLATIONS.**Brown Owl.**

1st Swan Hill Pack—Miss I. Wilson.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Dec. 7.—Party for Guide War Appeal (see Notice).

Dec. 24.—Guide Office closes.

Dec. 26.—Camcraft Week starts.

Dec. 27.—Training Week starts.

Jan. 6.—Guide Office opens.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"Adventuring," South Australia.

"Baudeirantes."

"Canadian Guider."

"Te Rama," New Zealand.

"The Girl Guide Courier," Western Australia.

"Waratah," New South Wales.

The Carpenter of Galilee

Comes down the street again.

In every land, in every age,

He still is building men.

On Christmas Eve we hear him knock—

He goes from door to door;

"Are any workmen out of work?"

The Carpenter needs more."

—Hilda W. Smith.

“Matilda”

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VOL. XVII.

DECEMBER, 1940.

No. 5.

FROM THE OVERSEAS COMMISSIONER.

The following letter has been received by Lady Chauvel from Lady Clarendon, the new Commissioner for Overseas:—

The Girl Guides' Association,
London, S.W.1,
17th Sept., 1940.

Dear Lady Chauvel,—

May I introduce myself as the new Overseas Commissioner. Happy as I am to have that link with Empire Guiding, in writing to you I think of myself as the sister of a former Governor, Somers, and therefore particularly interested in Victoria!

I am really writing you this little note to tell you how tremendously helpful is that splendid last consignment of clothing you sent us. At this moment when so many here have been made homeless and lost all their possessions, you can realise what a boon it is to have such good garments to distribute. As the raids go on the cases are being opened, sorted into bundles, and these are distributed in the worst bombed areas, Shoreditch, Bermondsey, Hackney and Epping are all grateful and the better for them.

Thank you and all your Guides, both for your sympathy, good fellowship and practical help. We carry on, and shall carry on until we reach the sunshine again.

Most gratefully,
Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) Verena Clarendon.

Government House, Melbourne.

Dear Guides,—

I send to each of you a message of greeting—wishing you a Happy Christmas.

Many of you no doubt have your fathers and other relations serving with the Australian Forces overseas, and so your Christmas will not be so complete this year.

We will not forget them on that day, we will think of them and pray that they may come home safely to you.

In my message last year I asked you to remember, just for a few moments, on Christmas Day, all those children who because of this terrible war can only experience sadness this Christmas.

This year many hundreds have been killed—many hundreds more have lost one or other

of their parents, brothers and sisters, and also countless others have become orphans these last few months.

A large number of children, some Guides among them no doubt, are still in hospital wounded from the bombings in England. They know all the miseries and horrors of war, which mercifully you have been spared.

So, in your happiness on Christmas Day, will you, in true Guide spirit, think of these children who day by day are facing the horrors of war. Let us all pray that they may soon be blessed with happiness and peace.

Yours sincerely,

RUBY DUGAN,
State President.

BRITISH CHILDREN.

Lady Chauvel has received the following letter from the Chief Secretary:—

24th October, 1940.

Dear Lady Chauvel,—

I am desired by the Committee for the Reception of Overseas Children to express to you its sincere thanks for the very great assistance received from the Girl Guides in the entertainment of the girls from overseas whilst at the Children's Welfare Depot and also for their help in entertaining the children en route to other States during their stay in Victoria.

This voluntary help was of considerable value to the department and I am quite sure contributed substantially towards making the children feel at home in their new surroundings.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) H. V. BAILEY,
Chief Secretary.

The following cable has been received from the Hon. Mrs. Sydney Marsham, Chairman of the Executive Committee:—

“Girl Guides, Victoria.

TWENTY-FOUR FURTHER WONDERFUL CASES RECEIVED. DELIGHTED.”

(Sgd.) MARSHAM.

**EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM
MISS MARJORIE SWEETING.**

7th August, 1940.

"I am back with the Forces again. It is extremely busy, and I am looking after the Neville's Cross Hut while the woman there is on holiday, so after that I don't know. They usually send Australians to the North of England or to Wales. The North has got into my blood, I believe. . . . For a time I was staying at Newcastle and travelling to Durham every day; it took me two and a-half hours to get back—I stood in a bus queue at Durham on Sunday night for 1 hour 20 minutes, and on Monday for 1 hour, and when I had almost reached my destination, spent 2¼ hours in a shelter, and got back to the hostel at 1.15 a.m. . . . Last night I had a marvellous night at Durham, where I am now, and hope to have another good sleep to-night. The phrase, "Did you sleep well?" has a very real meaning now, and it is a most marvellous feeling to wake in the morning and realise that you have slept all night long. . . . I may be back in London in about ten days; I like to have a look at London every now and then, in spite of it being almost like a fortress. I wish I could describe things more"

I like Durham, and walk over the bridge every morning, and have a good look at the Castle. We stayed here exactly a year ago on our way to Scotland."

VICTORIAN GUIDERS' COMMITTEE.

As there were only five new members present at the November meeting, it was decided to postpone the election of office-bearers for the coming year until the next meeting, which will be held at Guide Headquarters at 8 p.m. on Friday, 7th February, 1941. The retiring Chairman, Mrs. O. G. M. Knight, was appointed to act as Convener.

Will all new representatives, both Country and Metropolitan, please attend the February meeting **WITHOUT FURTHER REMINDER.**

It is not possible to publish the names of the new Committee in this issue, as several Divisions have not yet sent in the names of their representatives—O.G.M.K.

GIRL GUIDE WAR APPEAL.

**BRING A GIFT AND BUY A GIFT AND
CHILDREN'S PARTY.**

A "Bring a Gift and Buy a Gift Party," combined with a Children's Party, will be held in aid of the Girl Guide War Appeal on Saturday afternoon, December 7th, at 43 Kensington Road, South Yarra, Miss Poolman having kindly consented to lend her house and grounds.

Miss Poolman is providing afternoon tea for which a charge of 1/- will be made. Side Shows, Soft Drinks, Ice Cream.

M. I. BLACKWOOD,
Hon. Secretary.

A REQUEST

Dear Editor,—

The library at the Victorian Society for Crippled Children is much in need of books for boys and girls of 18-20 years.

Books of adventure and travel, detective thrills or romance help to wile away many a dull hour, and would be warmly welcomed by many young people.

If readers of "Matilda" who know the joy of a good book have copies to spare, they would be very much appreciated for the library shelves at the Society's rooms at 47 Queen Street.

MARION URQUHART, Almoner.

(From the Department of Information)

**CLOTHES FOR CHILDREN IN
SOUTH AFRICA.**

The Transvaal Clothing Manufacturers' Association and the Garment Workers' Union have agreed jointly, as a gesture of hospitality and human feeling, to clothe at least 2,000 refugee children who came to South Africa from Great Britain.

The initiative for this offer came from the Garment Workers' Union, which issued an appeal to all its members to supply their labour free and to work overtime to provide all the necessary clothes. These will consist of 12 items in the case of girls, ranging from dressing gowns to sun-suits, and eight items in the case of boys, including suits. Hundreds of workers have already volunteered.

The Garment Workers' Union reminded its members "that a duty rests on us as human beings and as trade unionists to extend to the children—many of whom came from working class homes—our warmest hospitality in a concrete fashion, and not only in word."

The employers have agreed to provide the material for the garments free of cost, and to put their factories and organisations at the disposal of the workers for this purpose.

The Garment Workers' Union has also started a fund to provide for the maintenance of all garment workers' children who might be among those sent from Britain to this country.

THE ORIGIN OF THE RED CROSS.

(From The Guide Courier)

**Does Your Patrol Know How This Great
Service Began ?**

It was less than a hundred years ago that the first serious attempt was made to look after wounded soldiers.

The honour of having inaugurated the Red Cross movement goes to a young Swiss named Henri Dunant.

Henri Dunant happened to be travelling in Italy when Napoleon III was leading the al-

lied armies of France and Cardinia to free Northern Italy from the yoke of Austria.

It was at the end of a hot summer day that the young Swiss visited the battlefield, just after Napoleon's great victory of Solferino in 1859. There were thousands of wounded soldiers, and few doctors to minister to their needs. Many of the men died before they could receive attention.

The heart of Henri Dunant was in anguish. He persuaded a number of Italian women from a neighbouring town to come to the scene of suffering as volunteer nurses.

These good women did all they could to help the wounded soldiers. They brought water to fevered lips; they bathed and dressed wounds; they cheered and comforted all to the best of their ability, making no distinction between friends and enemies.

The young Swiss never forgot the dreadful scene, and he wrote appealing pamphlets which moved to pity the hearts of all who read them.

He suggested that an organisation should be formed to care for wounded soldiers, irrespective of nationality, in times of war, and at last, in 1864, an international conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The first "Red Cross Treaty" was arranged, and adopted by 14 nations.

This Treaty was revised in 1906 at The Hague.

The banner chosen as the symbol of help and comfort—of "neutrality and humanity"—was a red cross on a white ground.

This was a compliment to Henri Dunant and to Switzerland, because it was really the Swiss flag with its colours reversed.

Ever since that time this emblem of mercy has figured in every war. It is held in high esteem by all and it usually commands respect from all combatant nations.

Now, almost every country has its own Red Cross Society, and once every five years representatives are sent to an international conference in Geneva.

The British Red Cross Society was founded in 1870 and incorporated in 1908.

The Red Cross Societies send doctors, nurses, ambulances and hospital equipment into fighting areas, but they do more than render medical aid. They perform other useful duties, such as helping and caring for the needs of refugees, prisoners of war, and aliens in enemy countries.

To-day, thousands of men and women throughout the world are taking part in the noble work of the Red Cross.

WHY THE CHIMES RANG.

There was once in a far-away country, a wonderful church. It stood on a high hill in the midst of a great city, and every Sunday, as well as on sacred days like Christmas, thousands of people climbed the hill to its great archways. The church was so long that from the doorway one could scarcely see to the other end where

the choir stood by the marble altar.

At the corner of the church was a great grey tower with ivy growing over it, and the tower was in keeping with the great church. Up and up climbed the stones and the ivy and as the men who built the church had been dead for hundreds of years, everyone had forgotten how high the tower was supposed to be.

But all the people knew that at the top of the tower was a chime of Christmas bells. They had hung there ever since the church had been built and were the most beautiful bells in the world. Some thought it was because a great musician had cast them and arranged them in their place; others said it was because of the great height of the tower which reached up where the air was clearest and purest.

For years and years no one had heard the bells. There was an old man living not far from the church who said that his mother had spoken of hearing them when she was a little girl, and he was the only one who was as sure of as much as that.

They were Christmas chimes and were not meant to be played by men or on common days. It was the custom on Christmas Eve for all the people to bring to the church their offerings to the Christ-child, and when the greatest and best offering was laid on the altar, there used to come sounding through the music of the choir, the Christmas chimes far up in the tower. Some said that the wind rang them, and others that they were so high that the angels could set them swinging. But for many long years they had never been heard.

It was said that people had been growing less careful of their gifts for the Christ-child, and that no offering was brought that was great enough to deserve the music of the chimes. Every Christmas Eve the people still crowded to the altar, each one trying to bring some better gift than the other, without giving anything that he wanted for himself, and the church was crowded with those who thought that perhaps the bells might be heard again. But although the service was splendid and the offerings plenty, only the roar of the wind could be heard far up in the stone tower.

Now, a number of miles from the city, in a little country village where nothing could be seen of the great church but glimpses of the tower when the weather was fine, lived a boy named Pedre and his little brother.

They knew very little about the Christmas Chimes but they had heard of the service in the church on Christmas Eve and had a secret plan to go to see the beautiful celebration.

"Nobody can guess, Little Brother," Pedre would say, "all the lovely things there are to see and hear, and I have even heard it said that the Christ-child sometimes comes down to bless the service. What if we should see Him?"

The day before Christmas was bitterly cold, with a few lonely snowflakes flying in the air and a hard white crust on the ground. Pedre and Little Brother were able to slip quietly away early in the afternoon and before nightfall they had trudged so far, hand in hand, that they saw the lights of the city just ahead of them. Indeed, they were just about to enter one of the great gates in the wall that surrounded it when they

saw something dark on the snow near their path, and stepped aside to look at it. It was a poor woman who had fallen, just outside the city, too sick and too tired to get in where she might have found shelter. The soft snow of a drift made a sort of pillow for her, and she would soon be so sound asleep that no one could ever waken her again. All this Pedre saw in a moment and he knelt down beside her and tried to rouse her. He turned her face towards him, so that he could rub some snow on it, and when he had looked at her silently for a moment he stood up and said, "It is no use, Little Brother. You will have to go on alone." "Alone!" cried Little Brother. "And you will not see the Christmas Festival?"

"No," said Pedre, and he could not keep back a bit of a choking sound in his throat. "This poor woman will freeze to death if no one cares for her. Everyone has gone to church now, but when you come back you can bring someone to help her. I will rub her and keep her from freezing and perhaps get her to eat the bun that is left." "But I cannot bear to leave you and go alone, said Little Brother.

"Both of us need not miss the service," said Pedre, "and you can easily find your way, and you must see and hear everything twice, once for yourself and once for me. I am sure the Christ-child must know how I should love to come with you and worship Him; and oh! if you could get a chance, Little Brother, to slip up to the altar without getting in anyone's way, take this little silver piece of mine and lay it down for my offering when no one is looking. Do not forget where you have left me."

In this way he hurried off Little Brother to the city and winked hard to keep back the tears as he heard the crunching footsteps sounding farther and farther away. It was pretty hard to lose the music and splendour of the Christmas celebration that he had been planning for so long, and spend the time instead in that lonely place in the snow.

The great church was a wonderful place that night. Everyone said that it had never looked so bright and beautiful before. When the organ played and the thousands of people sang, the walls shook with the sound and little Pedre, away outside the city wall, felt the earth tremble around him.

At the close of the service came the procession with the offerings to be laid on the altar. Rich men and great men marched proudly up to lay down their gifts to the Christ-child. Some brought wonderful jewels, some baskets of gold so heavy that they could scarcely carry them down the aisle. A great writer laid down a book that he had been writing for years and years. And, last of all, walked the King of the country, hoping with all the rest to win for himself the chime of the Christmas bells. There went a great murmur through the church as the people saw the King take from his head the royal crown, all set with precious stones, and lay it gleaming on the altar as his offering to the holy child. "Surely," everyone said, "we shall hear the bells now, for nothing like this has ever happened before."

But still only the cold wind was heard in the tower, and the people shook their heads, and some

of them said, as they had before, that they never really believed the story of the Chimes and doubted if they ever rang at all.

The procession was over and the choir began the closing hymn. Suddenly the organist stopped playing and everyone looked at the old Priest who was standing by the altar holding up his hand for silence. Not a sound could be heard by anyone in the church, but as all the people waited, there came softly, but distinctly, swinging through the air, the sound of the chimes in the tower. So far away, and yet so clear, the music seemed—much sweeter were the notes than anything that had been heard before, rising and falling away up there in the sky, that the people in the church sat for a moment. Then they all stood up together and looked at the altar to see what great gift had awakened the long, silent bells.

But all that the nearest of them saw, was the childish figure of Little Brother, who had crept softly down the aisle when no one was looking and had laid Pedre's little piece of silver on the altar.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA.

Some precautions to be observed in the storage of petrol supplies on domestic premises:—

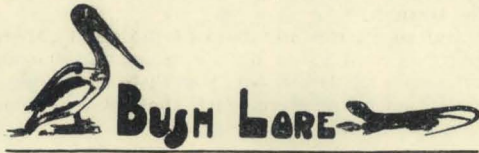
- 1—Don't store containers of petrol in or under the house.
- 2—Containers should be stored in a dry, cool well-ventilated place, and should not be stored where they are subject to the direct rays of the sun.
- 3—Containers should be stored on end, preferably not more than two high, and with an air space beneath.
- 4—If containers are to be stored for any length of time, they should be smeared all over with a film of grease.
- 5—Use no naked light. As far as practicable, filling should be carried out between the hours of sunrise and sunset, then there will be no need for lights.
- 6—Run the car out into the open before filling the tank with petrol.
- 7—If any petrol is spilt whilst filling the car tank, push the car well clear before starting the engine.
- 8—When petrol is being poured from one metal container to another, e.g., a car tank, keep the two containers in contact all the time. When a pump is affixed to a 44-gallon drum for withdrawal of petrol, both containers should be connected with a copper conductor clipped or otherwise firmly connected to bare metal on each container. If necessary, rub off a small patch of paint to permit this. This is particularly necessary when petrol is being pumped from a 44-gallon drum to a car tank by means of a hand pump and rubber hose. In all cases, the 44-gallon drum should be earthed by means of a copper conductor connected to (a) the metallic water systems; or (b) to a metal rod driven at least four

feet into the ground.

- 9—If a leaky container is discovered, the contents should be used immediately or transferred to a sound container.
- 10—Empty containers are, if anything, more dangerous than full ones, and should be treated with equal care. They should be returned to the supplier as soon as possible.
- 11—Never leave petrol about in open containers.
- 12—Remember that petrol kept in a glass container may be unsafe owing to the generation of pressure caused by heat. The stopper may be blown out or the glass container burst.

It is recommended that wherever practicable an oil tight enclosure of earth or other non-combustible material be constructed around the storage area, such enclosure to be of sufficient capacity to hold the maximum amount of petrol stored.

Persons who are storing petrol as allowed by the Commonwealth Regulations for the rationing of petrol should bear in mind that permission to store petrol under these regulations does not relieve them of the necessity of observing the limits imposed either by State Law or By-law; or by Municipal or Local Government Regulation, and non-compliance therewith may prejudice their covers under insurance policies.



Acting Editor: INA WATSON

Gum Trees:

Last month we learnt something of how trees catch and store the rain that means life to the country. A drop of rain, hitting foliage, breaks up into spray and is distributed softly over the soil to seep down and come out in the springs and creeks. Where the rain is hard enough to flow off the surface, the roots and stems hold the soil in position. But when trees or the natural covering of the soil is removed and it is left bare, the drop of water striking the dirt with the full force of its fall, breaks and shifts the surface, and the softer soil underneath is easily carried into the runnels and gutters that form. The bare surface is at the mercy of the wind—our Mallee areas are tragic examples of what happens then. The destruction of timber on our watersheds is the cause of the excessive silting up of our water storage dams and reservoirs that is causing so much concern at the present time.

Probably the greatest menace to our forests is fire—as witness the millions of pounds worth of damage caused in 1939. And as the Judge pointed out in his report thereon—all traced back to the hand of man! When clearing is necessary for cultivation, let it be done with thought and care for the future—not just wholesale razing as is too often the case at present. It has been said that a fire puts back the land at least one thou-

sand years. With the destruction of timber, the way is left open for the bracken and weeds to spread unchecked, and it is then very difficult for the new timber and native shrubs to reclaim it. And with the destruction of the forests goes the animal and bird life.

Surely, as an out-of-doors movement, we in Guiding can help to make the coming generation of Victorians appreciate the seriousness of this situation. In small ways we can impress on our Guides the necessity of care with fire in all circumstances. Youth is the time to teach the sanctity of trees and forests so that our natural assets should pass on undefiled to future Australians. The League of Youth of Australia, on the council of which our Movement is represented, has been formed and is working for this purpose.

THE WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER.

Probably you know this bird better by his other name—"Greenie"—though the name given to it by Gould is also very apt—*meliphaga penicillata*, meaning the pencilled eater of honey. Pencilled of course referring to the tiny white plume just under the ear, looking like a thin white line in his green and grey coat.

It is found all over Australia, and is particularly well known in Melbourne gardens with its lively movements and noisy call of "chick-oo-wee." Like most honey-eaters, it has a brush tongue, and feet very strongly developed for hanging in all positions to enable it to feed among the flowers. It takes insects as well as nectar and pollen. The wings and tail are as long as the body.

The nest is open and cup-shaped, woven of grasses, bound with cobwebs, and lined with wool or hair. It is usually suspended from twigs or drooping branches and prefers eucalypts. The breeding season is a long one—from June to December, and there are usually three eggs, of a pale, pinkish-white, spotted with reddish brown.

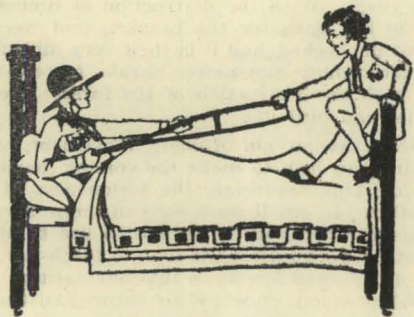
You might be interested to know that the honeyeater's is the largest family in the world, and that we have 63 species in Australia.

HOW FERNS GROW.

Most of us know the brown "spots" which form attractive patterns on the backs of fern fronds. These are the cases which contain the spores, tiny little cells containing the germs of the new plant. They are mostly carried by air, and this explains why we sometimes find fern plants growing high up in crevices of rocks and walls where it is difficult to understand how they got there. Of course, as ferns need to have their feet in damp, moist soil, they flourish in the gullies and near water. A number of the spores are also water born.

The interesting thing is that when a tiny spore lodges in a suitable spot, it develops into a small, flat, green body, under half-an-inch across, called a prothallus, and it is from this, in turn, that the proper fern develops.

Tree ferns are the largest of the species, and as they grow only a few inches a year, some of the big specimens found in our valleys must be very old indeed.



Editor: SYDNEY FOOTT.

CAMPS.

The Guides from 1st and 6th Post Guide Companies are the lucky people this year—they are holding a combined camp at the Craft Hostel at Frankston, with Miss Thewlis as Commandant. Anyone who has been to the Craft Hostel will realise what a glorious place it will be for an Extension camp, with its wide verandahs and glorious view of the bay. There will be swimming on the beach, and hikes and campfires and all the other excitements of camp.

Then, the next exciting piece of news is that we HOPE that there is to be a Ranger week-end—on Foundation Day week-end, later in January. This will be at the Guide House, and will be for members of Post Ranger Companies and for Extension members of open Ranger Companies. If there are too many applications, preference will be given to Rangers who have not had the opportunity of previous camps. Ranger Captains should send their applications to Miss Alston, with a note as to the Rangers' disabilities and capabilities.

If any Companies are clearing up old stocks of uniform at the end of the year, or have Guides who are leaving and have no further use for uniforms, would they please remember the Extension Branch? Normally, Post Guides do not wear uniform for their meeting (which are, after all, by post!), but at camp time naturally everyone wants to be in uniform and the same as other Guides. So if you HAVE any spare uniforms, could you leave them either at Headquarters, addressed "Extension Guides," or at 41 Spring Street, similarly labelled. And please put your name and address, so that we can thank you.

ENROLMENTS.

The Guides at the Austin Hospital had another enrolment recently, and the Patrol Trophy was presented to the Kookaburra Patrol. (The Patrol trophy takes the form of a large pale blue trefoil which is balanced above the bed of the P.L. of the winning Patrol.) The Guides had a nature competition, identifying leaves of trees and plants. Weeds proved very difficult, because although one sees quite a lot of different flowers when one is in hospital, no one brings weeds, and in

three years or so in bed one is apt to forget what capeweed and docks and dandelions look like! Then we played a Zoo competition—everyone having to draw a different animal, and then having to guess what the drawings were supposed to be. Actually, the guessing was far the harder, particularly the lion, which was alleged to resemble variously a rabbit and a pussy!

After the enrolment in Ward 13 the Guides in Ward 10 were visited, where we found them about to have a picture show. Great excitement while all the beds were moved round so that everyone could see! While we were over in that ward we found another recruit, so the members are still going up!

RANGERS.

It has been suggested that we form an Extension Old Guides' Circle, to which some of the older Rangers might be transferred, and it may be possible to link this up with the Old Guides attached to 3rd Melbourne Rangers. If any Extensions have ideas about this, would they let us share them.

The Extensions Branch has urgent need of another Ranger and Guide Captain at the moment—one of each. If any Guider on reading this is inspired to help, could she write to Miss Alston, 5 Struan Street, Toorak—it would be such a nice Christmas present for the Branch!

And to all the members of the Guide Movement, as well as to all Extension Guides and Rangers and Brownies, we wish as happy a Christmas as possible, with the hope of peace on earth in the coming year.

DISTRICT NEWS.

1st Elsternwick Guides recently spent a very happy week-end at the Guide House, and were inspired to describe it in verse, but owing to our limited space we have not printed it. We know all the Guides of the Company will enjoy hearing it read at their next Company meeting.—Editor.

RESIGNATION—MISS HESELTINE.

With great regret the Matilda Committee has accepted Miss Heseltine's resignation as Editor of the Brownie Page. She has been a most helpful member of the committee and has, through the Brownie Page, become widely known throughout the State.

Brown Owls who have been helped so often by her programmes and suggestions will feel a sense of loss when they read of Miss Heseltine's resignation.

We have heard, too, how the Brownies have enjoyed the "special occasion" programmes.

We are all grateful to Miss Heseltine for her willing help and for her sincere interpretation of the motto, "Lend a hand."

Editor.

BROWNIES.

(Editor: Margaret Heseltine.)

The happiness of life is made up of minute fractions—countless infinitesimals of pleasurable thought and genial feeling.

BREVITIES.

Did you know that brown bloomers for Brownies are now obtainable. See Guide Shop Notes.

Are your Brownies knitting any garments for the refugee children? Why not let them do some as a Christmas good turn? You will be surprised at the knitting they can do.

"Peace on earth, good will towards men." The old, old Christmas message of hope is brought to us again, and we must do all we can to spread that message.

To all within our Brownie circle I send greeting.

V. TATE,
Commissioner for Brownies.

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UPS.

Packs all over Victoria will very soon be breaking up for Christmas, and each Pack no matter where they are—town, seaside, country or slums—will have a special celebration of their own. We publish below various ways in which Packs will celebrate theirs. Send in an account of yours to "Matilda." Everybody will be very interested, and no Pack will celebrate theirs in exactly the same way.

PARTY IN A PARK.

Usually our break up party is quite a "do," but this year the Brownies decided to spend the party money on goods for our bazaar for the Guide War Appeal; so this is the proposed programme for our party in a park—simple but exciting, we hope!

SINGING GAME, such as Magic Cobblers.

Brown Owl asks if the Brownies know where there is a Wy Wy Bird in the park. "Oh, don't you know about them? They have feathers like this, and they eat things like this (peanuts), and drop the shells about and some people say they lay golden eggs. Well, I saw one behind that tree; so do you think it would be a good idea if you picked up all the shells you can see, and tried to

find the Wy Wy Bird and tell her about how untidy they looked?"

Brownies follow (and pick up) easy trail of peanut shells to another tree, where Pack Leader is hiding, with a bunch of feathers in her hat. They tell her about dropping things, and she is so impressed that she comes back with them to see if they've missed any bits; then she gives them three peanuts and five matchsticks each, and with these and any cones or grasses they can find they make a zoo.

RUNNING GAME SUCH AS "WITCHES."

Wy Wy Bird takes the Brownie who picked up most shells to see her nest. It is just beside us, and in it is a golden orange for each of us. While these and the peanuts are being eaten, we have a story; and then turn Wy Wy back to Pack Leader.

Fairy Ring.—Then Brown Owl shows us her nest (of course, all birds have nests), and there's something for everyone there, too. Grand Salute, and good-bye till next year.

A BREAK-UP ON THE BEACH.

Packs whose meeting place is near the beach, or who can reach it easily, should try this form of a break-up. The children love it, and it really is a very simple way of entertaining them.

Do ask another Pack to join you. It is so much more fun and especially if you invite a Pack from the slums, the delight of the children will be really worth the extra effort.

If you feel able to cope with swimming, by all means let the children swim, but do remember that the same Bathing Rules for Guides apply to Brownies, and you must have a Life-saver. The Brownies do love it, and it is really worth the extra work and responsibility.

We took our Brownies down to the beach, but they were not allowed to swim, only paddle. The result was that the children got almost as wet as if they had been swimming, and in the end we had a row of brown bloomers hanging out to dry. The climax came when one child fell in with all her clothes on, and had to spend the rest of the afternoon clad in a towel and her jumper, which fortunately she hadn't been wearing when she fell.

We had all sorts of games ready, but all the children wanted to do was to be allowed to paddle about and explore among the rocks. This kept them happy and amused all the afternoon until tea time, and then more playing about until it was time to go home. Incidentally, these were children who were not used to the beach. Seaside children would probably need a prepared programme. A sand-castle competition is a good idea, and peanut hunts in the sand very popular. Have a ball ready for ball games.

Last, but not least, have tea. Food tastes totally different on the beach, and no outing

is complete without it. The children will readily bring the food and you can arrange for one Six to bring sandwiches, another cake and the third fruit. If you tell each child to bring enough for two that will provide for your guests.

One final remark—don't keep your Brownies out too late. Sea air makes children very sleepy and especially in the case of those not used to the beach they will be very tired, and think of the poor Guider taking them home!—M.H.

BIRTHDAY PARTY.

The 1st Elsternwick Brownie Pack held their twelfth birthday party in St. Clement's Parish Hall on Saturday, 9th November.

Saturday came! Oh, what fun, 12 years old to-day! At 4 p.m. our visitors began to arrive. We were very glad to welcome Mrs. Charlton, District Commissioner, and Miss Knight, who was the original Brown Owl 12 years ago, and who was able to bring her Brownie Pack from Camberwell. We all wish her the very best of luck with her new Pack. Our guests numbered 126 and included many parents and friends, Guiders and Brownies from other Districts. We were very sorry that Mrs. Tate could not be present.

Our party opened with the National Anthem and a prayer, then several games were played. Brown Owl thanked everybody for coming and making our party a success, and especially thanked our Parents' Committee for looking after tea for us. Our Commissioner and some of our visiting Guiders spoke to us, after which our Sixers and Seconds lit the candles on the cake, which was a brown one with little Owls on it; our smallest Brownie blew them out. Later we had Fairy Ring and our Commissioner presented Service Stars, three Second Class and four First Class Badges, and then we presented Guide First Class and All-round Cords to Tawny. After Fairy Ring we had games, then we formed a great big ring on the floor and had a sing song. Miss Knight taught us some new songs, then it was time to close, so we sang to our visitors "By the Blazing Cheery Firelight," followed by Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem, which finished a very pleasant and enjoyable party.

We would like to wish all Brownies a very Happy Christmas.

The 1st Elsternwick Brownie Pack.

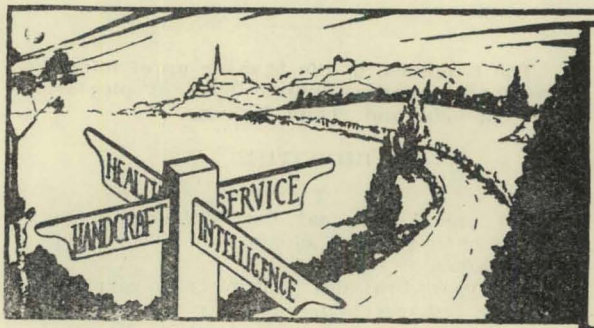
LOST!

At the Brownie Conference at Guide Headquarters on 20th September a propelling pencil of black and red belonging to Miss Holz, which was passed around for people to record their names and then was never seen again! It was not left lying about as Miss Holz looked for it.

It can be left at Guide Headquarters addressed to Miss Holz.

The Sign Post

Editor: Elizabeth Alfred.



OUTDOOR COMPANY MEETINGS.

I have been asked for ideas for outdoor Company Meetings. I am very glad that this request has come, because it shows that our Victorian Guiders are beginning to realise that Guiding is an outdoor movement!

There are several helpful books on this subject, not the least being our handbook, GIRL GUIDING! I do hope that our Guide Companies are using SCOUTING FOR BOYS too—this is the handbook which all companies used when Guiding first began, and the stories which we read in THE STORY OF THE GIRL GUIDES tell us of the fun and adventure our elder sisters had from the practical application of the advice given by the Chief Scout. Another helpful book is TRACKS TO ADVENTURE, with many ideas for outdoor games.

Many of the games which Miss Martin taught us during her visit were published in the Sign Post Page in several numbers of the 1939 volume of MATILDA, and most of these could be used out of doors, either in the daytime or at night.

Where it is not possible to hold the entire meeting out of doors, it is a good idea to meet at the hall for roll call drill and for any instructions regarding work and games, and then send the Guides out on their adventures. My company has often met in a park not far from the hall, and had the whole meeting there. This is awfully good fun, and quite practicable at this time of the year, when the evenings are so light.

It is quite possible to make a company meeting take the form of a "hike"—meeting in the park, playing stalking games, nature observation and adventure games, and finishing with a sing-song. On these summer nights, surely nothing should prevent us from holding all our meetings out of doors.

We would be very grateful if Guiders would send in copies of sample outdoor meetings for publication in this page. This would give Guides throughout Victoria the opportunity of using these programmes, and would bring the Guiders out into the open air, where the Chief Scout meant them to be.

M.E.A.

THE FIRST CLASS TEST.**First Aid (Concluded).**

FIRE ACCIDENT comes next and can be made quite exciting in practice. Knots are useful here, especially bowline and chair knot for rescue work.

See St. John's Ambulance First Aid Manual, page 177. Always remember the great danger is shock, and to cover the area of the body affected by fire immediately, using a solution of baking soda and water (1 teaspoon to 1 pint of water), or strong warm tea.

ICE ACCIDENT.—This would occur so rarely in Australia that this section could really be deleted from the test, but a suggestion by a Lifesaver to replace the word "ice" by "quicksand" might prove useful. There are five ways to assist a person who has fallen through ice, viz.:—

- 1.—Give advice to reach out patient's hands and arms over the ice to distribute the weight and so break the ice until stronger ice was reached (or the bank of the river or lake).
- 2.—Stretch a plank or ladder right over the hole to assist the person to climb out.
- 3.—Make a human ladder—one person grasping another around the legs, the first wriggling forward over the ice to reach the patient.
- 4.—Throw the patient a rope. It will reach the patient more easily if a skate or boot is tied to the rope and slid along the ice. The person can then be pulled out. Do not forget to fasten the rope to a tree or tie it about someone's waist before throwing.
- 5.—Tie the rope to a tree, then skate around the patient while holding the other end of the rope. The patient can then take hold of the rope and pull herself out by hauling on the tree end.

Should the person have disappeared under the ice it would be a case of life saving, followed by artificial respiration. In all cases treat for shock with rest and warmth and non-alcoholic stimulants.

Do not forget to add snake bite to your list here! It is one item we need to know well. From time to time we are given the newest ideas through "Matilda" and it must be practised thoroughly, especially remembering not to put on a ligature below the knee or elbow. Why? Because there are two bones there and your ligature would be of no use. Also, you have a very short time to act before the poison may reach the body from a limb, so get the ligature on at once. Use your tie, or the patient's stocking, or cord if it is well padded, and remember to wipe the wound before cutting. On page 132 of St. John's book you have further instructions.

FAINING AND UNCONSCIOUSNESS from accidents. See St. John's book, pages 154, and 164-167. For Fits, see pages 160 to 162.

Now we come to Part 2 of the test. I find the Guides thoroughly enjoy this.

PREPARATION OF BED FOR A PATIENT. See page 191, St. John's book. Don't forget the hot water bag, and a table somewhere handy, for glass of water, etc.

CHANGING OF SHEETS can be great fun, using a camp bed at the company meeting, or get someone close at hand to let you practise with a bed. Another opportunity for practising this part of the test is when you are camping at week-ends. You need three guides, one as patient, one as nurse to roll up the soiled sheet, and the third to be ready with the clean sheet.

PREVENTION OF BED SORES. See that the under sheet is smooth and well tucked in, with no creases. Never leave crumbs in bed, use plenty of pillows for heels and elbows, and an air cushion to sit upon. Rub the back, etc., well with methylated spirits after a sponge and apply plenty of talc powder.

USE A CLINICAL THERMOMETER. Be sure the Guides know what the normal temperature is—98.4—and know that anything above that must be noted. Never wash it in hot water—always use cold. Keep it in antiseptic and don't forget to shake it down to normal after use.

MAKE AND APPLY FOMENTATIONS is something you can make into a competitive patrol game, leaving out, of course, the actual boiling of the water. Provide a basin, hand towel, piece of flannel or absorbent material slightly larger than the area to be covered, also waterproof covering slightly larger again. Place the latter two in the centre of the towel and fold over. Put the towel in the basin, leaving the ends out. The basin should be three-quarters filled with water and brought to the boil. Then carry to bedside and expose wound. Lift out the towel and wring by the ends thoroughly. Open and take out foment. Shake well in the air and apply cover and bandage. Make the patient comfortable. Exclude the water and all else can be done by Guides and makes a good patrol game.

In the new proficiency badge "Home Defence" there is one item, No. 3 under the 2nd heading—"Make up a simple first aid box and understand its use." This would help the guides doing First Class first aid, and is handy to have for company outings. Also what about a water bottle in a navy covering to slip over the shoulder by a strap? We read about the Guides in England having them and now are getting them in our company. You must have a flat bottle, if possible, with a screw top or cap. Remember that first aid knowledge for Guides is more important than ever before, and be sure that they know it thoroughly. If I can help any Guiders with this test, please let me know.

FRANCES DAVIES.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

In view of the increase in expenses connected with publishing "Matilda," the Committee has decided not to post receipts for subscriptions received, unless requested to do so. The payment of subscriptions will be acknowledged every month in "Matilda," and in this way both stamps and envelopes will be saved.

Will any subscriber wishing to have a receipt please say so when sending her subscription and include postage.—Editor.

LONES.

Dear Lones,—

Another year is ending, and before we close our diaries of 1940 and relegate them to the Annuals of the Past, I think we should turn back their pages and review them. Not day by day, because in that way we cannot get a proper perspective, but as a whole.

And the question I think we should ask ourselves is, "What have we achieved?"

Have we been steadfast in our endeavours to serve, fulfilling to the best of our ability each task—great or small—that has come our way? Have we refused to be discouraged by our mistakes, and been determined to go on trying? Have we been kind about others' mistakes, and helpful in solving difficulties which arise around and within us? Have we been cheerful and calm, refusing to get the "jitters" in consequence of the sad times in which we live?

If we can answer "Yes" to all of these, then surely we have achieved that which is demanded of us as Guides.

If we have more to give, then let us give it—if not, then let us be content with that. For it is not only what we DO that matters so much in our community, but what we ARE. Our characters react on our deeds, so that if our characters are at fault, our deeds must lose their value. In the same as a tiny seed determines the shape and character of a tree, so our inner self influences our every action.

There are some who feel that they should be doing something more definite and practical to the Nation's cause in this time of its stress; there are even some who feel that their Guiding should take secondary place, or even be suspended for work directly and solely connected with the war. They have developed a complex which I have described in my Christmas letter to you all as "War fever."

To this I cannot too emphatically say, "Guiding IS your war work." To Guiders has been given the opportunity to serve youth, just as to our fighting men has been given the opportunity to preserve them. Our soldiers are giving themselves to build up a future for the coming generation; it is our duty to make that generation worthy of their sacrifice. Just as their strength will guard our young children from the monstrosities of war, so must our influence and training foster the normal outlook so vital to their future serenity. Into our hands has been placed a sacred obligation, surely if we fulfil that we are achieving something worth while. It may not be spectacular, sometimes it may not even be of much use. But as surely as our earnest endeavours will record a page in our diaries of the past, so surely will they help to mould the destinies of the future.

May I end by quoting the last verse of a simple poem made familiar to me by one

whose beloved character so typified its message?

"Let us then be up and doing
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait."

—M. R. Fairbairn.

GUIDE SHOP.

New Publication.

Encyclopaedia of First Aid. Price 2/6, plus 2d. postage. This is a new publication which fills a long-felt want in the form of an alphabetically arranged index of First Aid. It is possible to refresh one's memory rapidly in emergencies such as poisoning, snake-bite, etc., when seconds count. Injuries and sudden illnesses, such as electrocution and epilepsy, are ably and comprehensively dealt with. The notes on high explosives and incendiary bombs and war gases are most up to date and reliable. Altogether this book can be recommended to amateurs and professionals alike.

New Stock.

Brownie Bloomers.—We have been asked to stock Brownie bloomers of artificial silk as they are very hard to get, and in future these will be stocked at Headquarters, the price being 2/2, plus 2d. postage. These are also stocked at G. J. Coles' Main Store in Bourke Street, the price being 1/11, plus 2d. postage. It is purely for the benefit of our clients that these are being stocked at Guide Headquarters. There will be three sizes—14, 16 and 18.

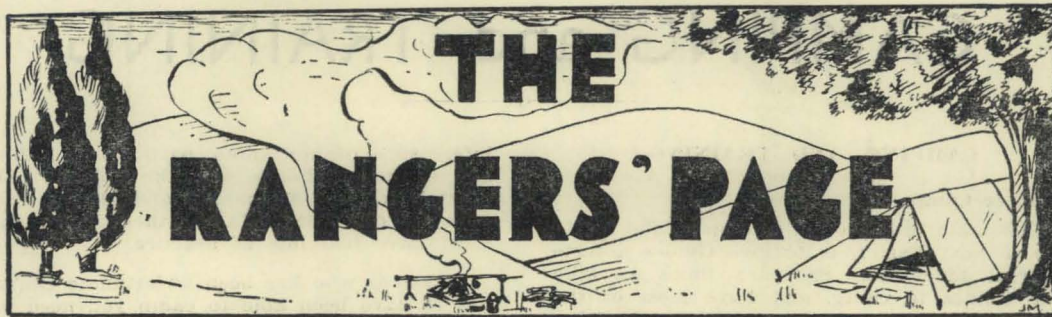
Alterations to Prices.

Unfortunately we have been forced to alter the price of Brownie overalls and Brownie hats, owing to manufacturing costs through war commitments. Brownie overalls will in future be 9/6, plus postage; and Brownie hats, 3/6. Ground sheets, 6ft. x 3ft. will be 7/6, plus postage.

Christmas Shopping.

We would remind all Guides, Rangers and Guiders again that the shop will have large supplies of Guide Diaries, Christmas Cards and Calendars (showing photos of the Guide House), Book Ends made from the Guide Badge, and Woggles with the Guide Badge. Information and prices were given about these last month, so we expect to receive orders from you soon.

There are also new Guide Story Books and the usual Peg Books. These will be about 3/- or 3/6, plus postage. There are Guide Propelling Pencils in the two shades of blue and stamped with the Guide Badge—price 3/, plus postage. Sheath knives in good steel at 6/6 and 7/6 and other useful things for camping. We have a few hessian palliasses—price 3/-, plus postage.—Clara Broadhurst.



Editor: E. FAULKNER.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

Meanwhile, if these hours be dark, as, indeed, in many ways they are, at least do not let us sit deedless, like fools and fine gentlemen, thinking the common toil not good enough for us, and beaten by the muddle; but rather let us work like good fellows trying by some dim candle-light to set our workshop ready against to-morrow's daylight. —William Morris, in "The Art of the People."

NOTICE BOARD.

Minutes of the Committee meeting held at H.Q. on 8th November, 1940.

Present.—Mrs. Faulkner and all members of the Committee.

Finance.—A sum of 11/6 was passed for payment for the new block for the Ranger Page.

Correspondence.—A letter was read from Miss Alston thanking the Committee for all the publicity they had given to the Thank You Fund.

Sports.—The Convener reported that 11 Companies had competed, the most points being gained by Essendon District Rangers, with 2nd Caulfield District second and Brighton District third.

Conference.—The Convener reported that this would be held in the Arts Building at the University. Nineteen Rangers had been nominated for the Committee, and 19 suggestions for fixtures sent in. The speakers in the evening would be Miss Thewlis and Miss Thompson.

The next meeting will be at H.Q. on the 6th December at 6.45 p.m.—Betty Horsley, Hon. Secretary.

RANGER CONFERENCE, 1940.

This was attended both in the afternoon and evening by over 60 Rangers, representing 17 Companies and Crews. In the afternoon the subjects set out in the November

"Matilda" were discussed, and the following decisions arrived at:—

That the training in Ranger Companies does attain its aim.

That combined fixtures are a good idea, and a Committee is necessary.

That at least three basketball teams could be entered in the Victorian Women's Association.

No definite decisions were come to on the Home Emergency Service, co-operation with Rovers, War Service, and encouraging Guides to go on to Ranger Companies, but we all got new ideas to think about.

In the evening the business meeting was held, and the office-bearers and fixtures for 1941 voted upon. The result was as follows:

Secretary: Peggy Edmondson, 2nd Caulfield District; Treasurer, Margaret Shaw, 1st Melbourne; Committee—Beatrice Wilson, 3rd East Malvern; Beryl McNee, 3rd Melbourne; Joyce Bryant, Toorak and Armadale District; Hazel Sampson, 1st Melbourne; Ethel Preston, 3rd Richmond; Greta Roach, 2nd Caulfield District; Myra Farley, 4th Preston; Pam Dyke, S.R.S. Akuna; Margaret Mellor, S.R.S. Akuna; Isobel Low, S.R.S. Invincible.

Fixtures.—Ranger Dinner, Sports and Camp Fire, Swimming Sports, Country Dance Party, June Week-end, and Fancy Dress Ball.

Interesting talks were then given by Miss Thewlis on the Australian Women's Legion, and Miss F. Thomson on the Women's Air Training Corps.

After a short report on the afternoon's discussion, Mrs. Faulkner gave a brief speech expressing her pleasure at the number of Rangers who had attended the Conference, and stressed what a great opportunity it was for all to express their individual opinions. She then thanked the retiring Committee for their work during the year.

After the presentation of the sports prize to Essendon District Rangers, the Conference closed with taps.—Betty Horsley, Convener.

I defy the wisest man in the world to turn a truly good action into ridicule.—Henry Fielding.

CAMPING and TRAINING

CAMPING AND TRAINING.

Pioneer Camp.

The main object of this camp at the Guide House next Easter, is to give Guides a taste of real adventure. So many times we take our Guides to camp, and have most of the fun of putting up the camp and organising things ourselves. How disappointing it must be to a Guide who has been longing to camp because she thought it would mean putting up her own tent, and really being adventurous, to arrive and find it all done for her. In the Pioneer Camp, Patrols or small groups of Guides will come along, erect their own little camps and, generally speaking, run their own show. There will be help and supervision, of course, but it will be on the outskirts and no unnecessary interference will be allowed!

The general plan so far, is that each Patrol will be allotted its own camp site, and given its equipment. The Guides will then go off with the kit, plan the site and erect the camp. This will mean erecting perhaps two tents, fixing up a private place for washing and a tiny latrine (with help if necessary), making a fireplace and all the necessary gadgets, gathering wood and making a tidy wood pile. Each Patrol will be entirely responsible for the tidiness and cleanliness of its own corner until the end of camp.

The programme of the camp will include some activities when all the Patrols join together. These will be Guides' Own, Prayers, Colours and some Campfires; on some nights the Patrols might decide to have their own campfires and invite other Patrols. The whole camp will observe the same rest and silence hours and lights out. Patrols will each cook for themselves, and will collect the food from the main store every day, they will be given recipes and hints if necessary. The Court of Honour will meet every day after Patrols have had their Councils, and decide on daily activities, hikes, swimming, etc.

Any Guide coming must know how to look after herself in camp, so she must be able to help put up a tent and know how to look after it when it is up; she must be able to make up her bed camp fashion so that she will sleep well; she must be able to look after her own personal belongings so that they will not blow away or get wet, and will always be tidily stowed away—she will find a ruc-sack far more convenient than any other form of suitcase or kit-bag. She must have some ideas on erecting hessian screening, not in the conventional way with poles and rope, but around trees and bushes making use of natural cover. She must be abso-

lutely sure of her knots, particularly lashing and hitches, and able to make gadgets. She must be a good fire-maker and able to cook over an open fire. In all these things she must have had lots of practice.

A Guider who has been unfortunate enough not to have been able to camp yet, need not be dismayed, because she can learn herself while she is helping her Guides. "Camcraft for Girl Guides" is one book that she will need. "Hiking and Lightweight Camping" and "The Scout's Book of Gadgets and Dodges" are others. And if you write to us, we will give you all the help we can.

Guides who are recommended by their Guiders may be tested for the Pioneer Badge during the camp. Rangers who wish to be tested for the Badge may apply in small groups if they wish, but they must fully understand that it is a Guide Camp and they will be expected to fall in with the general arrangements such as rest hours, lights out, etc.

Syllabus of the Pioneer Badge (P.O.R., 1939, Rule 38, page 68).

- 1.—Have camped out at least one week under canvas; know how to pitch, air, trench, strike and do small repairs to a tent and take a proper share in the various camp duties of a Patrol.
- 2.—Construct a camp fire, and collect, chop and stack suitable firing. Hold the Cook's Badge and cook the following on a camp fire: Porridge, stew, dumplings and fried bacon.
- 3.—Erect screening.
- 4.—Improvise some useful camp gadget without string or nails. Be able to do diagonal and square lashings and make two of the following: Camp larder, flagstaff, kit-bag or ruc-sac, washstand, shelter, bridge.
- 4.—Organise a Scouting game.

The camp fee will be not more than £1, plus fares (from Melbourne, rail 5/9, 16 years and over; 3/10, under 16. Bus, 1/3). Applications will close on 15th February, 1941.

GUIDERS' TRAINING WEEK—GUIDERS' CAMPCRAFT WEEK.

Late applications for these two fixtures will be considered if sent at once to Miss Macartney (Training Week) or Miss Harrison (Camcraft) at the Guide Office, with 5/- deposit.

SUPPLEMENT TO DECEMBER "MATILDA"

Guide War Work:-

Would anyone requiring wool or material to make up during January, please order it before December 20th, as we are closing down then till February 3rd. 1941.

We regret to announce that the Port Brisbane was carrying 2,500 garments from us and we would be most grateful if you could work during the holidays in order to make good this loss.

P.M.Russell.

Banking for Girls!

EVERY GIRL should aim to have her own Bank Account. The money you have to handle may not be much; but if you can establish early in life the habit of keeping yourself always in credit with a balance in the Bank, it will prove invaluable when greater responsibility comes to you later.

Money in the Bank saves worry.

One shilling will open an account; banking regularly will fill it!

STATE

**SAVINGS BANK
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THE BEST PLACE FOR YOUR SAVINGS

In the meantime while waiting for the money to pour in, as as it were, working bees have been in full swing at the House.

The Brownie Cottage is looking most attractive. Have you seen it lately? New linoleum has been laid, new curtains put up, new bedspreads, and the stools are lovely. The garden has been done up, too.

Now for the House and Grounds. The tennis court fence has been taken down (it fell down easily, but took a lot of carting away), the brick steps we spoke about in October have been finished, the lawns cut, borders weeded and sundry native plants put in the drive, along the Brownie Fence and in the Fern Gully.

For the week-end, 16th-17th, 20 people went up and attacked the garage. Everything in it was hauled out and the interior kalsomined, then all the gear had to be put back again. While this was in progress, other workers painted the outside—colour scheme cream and green. In addition to this camp kit stored at the House and in the garage was overhauled in preparation for the Xmas Camps.

If you cannot go to a camp find some excuse to visit one or at least visit the property over the Xmas holidays; you will be thrilled. And be sure to inspect the site for the Caretaker's Cottage and remember that donation!—M.B.F.

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CHURCH OF ENGLAND GIRLS' CAMP HOUSE, BERWICK.

Twenty rooms; electric light; sewerage; water laid on.

The above Camp House is now open for hire.

Special Charges for Guide Camps.

Long week-ends: Minimum of 12 people, 1/- per head per day. Complete use of the house cannot be had with less than 20 people. Rent per week on application. Charge made for use of lighting, piano, use of crockery, etc., etc. Campers supply their own bedding, towels, table linen, fire-wood. Apply in writing to MISS D. V. BRITTEN, 9 Hume Road, Caulfield, S.E.7. (Enclose stamped addressed envelope for reply).

GIPTON HAS A HAYBOX!

There is now a haybox at Gipton—our camp-site at Frankston! This welcome addition will enable future campers to experience the thrill of fireless cookery—which will also be a help in knowledge and practice for the Cook's Badge.

The haybox has been constructed out of an old fruit case—newspaper and straw packed—and holds one small billy and one large squat billy.

This simply constructed haybox is, nevertheless, most effective. In it we cooked porridge for breakfast and then Irish stew for Sunday dinner.

A few hints on haybox cookery may here be useful. Most dishes require about three times as long to cook by haybox than if cooked in the ordinary way.

Porridge.—Cook on the fire for 15 minutes and then press lid on billy and put immediately in the haybox. Cover and leave all night. The porridge will need to be put on the fire for about five minutes, stir up evenly before serving.

Stews.—Prepare stew in usual way, and simmer on fire for 20 minutes. (It is a good idea to ask the butcher to cut chops in halves to facilitate cooking and serving, and to have the vegetables peeled—but not cut up—over-night). After simmering for 20 minutes, place immediately in the haybox and leave for 3-4 hours. Thicken either before or after placing in haybox.

Stewed Mutton or Lamb.—Cook on fire for one hour. Cook in haybox 4-5 hours.

Stewed Fruit, Vegetables, Rice, Macaroni, Etc.—Cook on fire 10 minutes. Cook in haybox for 2 hours.

THE GUIDE HOUSE.

Another £27 has come in for the Care-taker's Cottage Fund—one donation of £25 and two of £1 each—we will have to hurry up to achieve that £300 by Christmas—we now have £127. Can we do it? Don't forget to send your contribution to Miss Drury at the Guide Office towards the Christmas present for our House.



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