



90th

THE SCOUTER

MARCH 1952



The SCOUTER

March

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THE HEADQUARTERS GAZETTE OF THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION: FOUNDED BY B.-P. IN JULY, 1909

As those of you who are Commissioners will know, it is my custom to send out a new message along with the amendments to the Commissioners' Handbook, and this year I have chosen as my subject, "Progressive Scouting." Stop and think what this represents to you before you read on. Does it mean the Scout journey from Tenderpad to King's Scout? I suppose that is what we generally mean by the words, and I am afraid we have very often written as if that were the whole meaning. We have shown how from the time the little boy joins the Cub Pack he can start to work for his King's Scout. The First and Second Star and the Cub Proficiency Badges are all leading him in that direction. But is the King's Scout the real object of Scouting, with all its skills and its tests of the boy's courage and initiative? I have said that Scouting should be to the Glory of God and the making of men. The tests are only the means. King's Scout itself cannot take the place of that, and the progressive Scouting about which I am writing, and which I hope you will think of when you hear the words, is the progress from the small Cub's rather vague conception of God as a kind old gentleman with a beard who sits on a throne in a place called heaven beyond the skies - sometimes, perhaps, when he has done what he oughtn't to have done, not so kind either - to the King's Scout's vision of the Power and the Glory granted to him through the religious experience, which should already be his if we have done our duty. Must we not all go through the process outlined in the Bible, from the story of the Garden of Eden to the Gospel Story? Among primitive peoples, the conception of God is simply of a God of wrath and vengeance

It was only as civilisation developed that it was discovered that God Whom men feared could be, if they so willed it, a Friend to whom they could go in their troubles and difficulties to receive strength and fresh inspiration and courage. That is the progress we want our Scouts to make during the ten years they are travelling on their journey with us.

The conception of duty to the King must also develop with the passing years. I suppose the small Cub generally thinks of him, even in this cinematic age, like the kings of the history books or the Red Queen in Alice. To the small boy the lives of the members of the Royal Family seem so remote from his own life, but gradually as he learns of constitutional government he learns of the problems which face the Sovereign, problems more over-

THE OUTLOOK

By THE CHIEF SCOUT

whelming than any his subjects have to solve. There are many who still regard the Sovereign as a figure head, and the Royal Family as having a life of luxury, where

all they have to do is to express a wish and it is granted. The fact that, constitutionally, the Sovereign can only act through the ministers of the Crown does not diminish the influence that can be wielded, and who can estimate the value of the example set us by our Royal Family during the War, and since? When family life is breaking down elsewhere, we find it more firmly established than ever in the Royal Household. As they go about among their people how cheerful and fresh they always appear, although they must often feel far from it. I know something of the strain they must undergo, but they never show it. They are far more than a symbol to us of our Country and the Commonwealth and Empire. They are an inspiration to the whole of their people and have earned a thousandfold our humble duty.

And surely the Law is the same. How wise B.-P. was when he realised that for a little Cub of eight years old the idea of honour was too abstract for his comprehension. At the age of ten or eleven he reaches the stage where he can understand it as part of the ideal of chivalry. It is only when he passes sixteen, or even later, that he can see it as the barrier which separates civilisation from the dark ages. Loyalty, helpfulness and all the other Laws cannot be the same for the Tenderfoot as they must be for the King's Scout, if he is to be worthy of the name. At each stage of the journey new possibilities open up before him, as his skills develop and his mind grows and broadens.

THE SIXTH OF FEBRUARY

As The Scouter goes to press we learn the sad news of the death of our beloved King.

The memory of his life will remain deeply imprinted on our hearts, a life of self-sacrifice, a life devoted to the good of all who owed him allegiance.

To all the Royal family we offer our sympathy in a loss which is shared by every Scout.

To our new Queen we offer ourselves as loyal subjects. We wish her great happiness in the task to which God has now called her. We pledge ourselves in her service.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

ROWALLAN

If Senior Scouting has done nothing else, it has probably called to the attention of some Scoutmasters that when the fifteen-year-old reaffirms his Promise, although the words may be the same, they have a far wider and richer meaning than when he first made it as a Tenderfoot. When I was writing month by month about the Scout Laws, there was little time to develop a theme, but if what I wrote made you think for yourselves of what they meant, I hope that after reading this "Outlook" you will go over them again, and realise the tremendous implications that they have; that they are the foundations of civilized life, and that within each one there is room for "Progressive Scouting" in its highest meaning.

ROWALLAN.

S. S. S.
SENIOR SCOUT SCRAPBOOK
20. ONE MAN'S EXPERIENCE

I HAVE been reading in THE SCOUTER of the report concerning the future of Senior Scouting. I am glad that there is no suggestion that there ought to be a reversion to the old order of one Scout Troop for lads of eleven to seventeen. I am emboldened to try to put down on paper something of what Senior Scouting has come to mean to me.

I am a middle-aged vicar. As a younger man, I was a keen Troop Scouter. Parish duties in a big parish had made all that impossible for me when I came out of the Forces. I had become a mere G.S.M. of the worst possible kind, with the title but no duties. I presided over an occasional Group Council, but had little contact with the boys. The Senior Scouts I regarded with suspicion, as they did not seem to conform to what I remembered of Boy Scouting.

Then a curate left, and no S.M.(S.) could be found. The Seniors stuck well, but the strain of being leaderless began to tell. I was tempted, and finally I fell. I gave up being a nominal G.S.M., and became a more or less active S.M.(S.). The burden on an already over-burdened weekly programme was tremendous. But strange to say, with the Senior Troop I seemed to re-discover my own youth and a lightness of heart, a refusal to take things too seriously, which did me the world of good.

When I came to take the plunge I was nervous. I found myself as nervous on the eve of my first Senior Troop night as I had been on the eve of my first Troop night on my own nearly twenty years before. I found myself preparing the programme in my mind in odd moments when shaving and on the tram during the week before. I found myself drawing it all up in detail on the night before, only (alas!) at a much later hour than in the old days when I had less work to do. I got all my equipment ready. notes. and knots, and balls, prayer-book, and cocoa, biscuits and sugar, so that I should not be found unready, if the next day should prove a day of "crises" like the day before a Troop Meeting all too often seems to be. At last the great night came. The lads had been told to be there at 8 p.m., in uniform. I was there, but no one else. At last, late, they wandered in, mostly not in uniform, none of them prepared for work or any other activity. However, when they got it, they liked it, rather to my surprise, greatly to theirs. We played frantically energetic games. I discovered how strong these kids had grown, and how out of training I was. But I went home that night tingling all over with the joy of it, and I did not mind a bit being desperately stiff for the next few days.

We have never quite got over the uniform problem, nor do we still excel in punctuality (except when there is some sort of outing on). My opinion is that Senior Scouts cannot be bullied. The older ones are very conscious of being young men, and the younger ones soon pick up the same idea. I insist upon a strict discipline about parading smartly, and without talk. But the moment they are off parade, they become argumentative. They no longer, for example, take the Scout Law for granted. I give a little lecture on one of the laws, for example, and Geoff tells me that it can't be kept. I begin to realise that what I used to say to youngsters is not good enough for Seniors. These fellows are thinking for themselves. They are willing to be convinced but a reasonable case must be put forward to convince them. It is not enough just to lay the Law down. We go out to a week-end camp for some of them, and the others come with us.

When I order one of the latter lot to help to put up a tent, he refuses, saying that he has not come out to put up tents for others. I don't lose my temper or say anything at all to this, although I am really not used to being spoken to like that. I go and dig latrines and I notice with satisfaction that John goes and does exactly what he has just refused to do. "He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went." It seems to me that these older lads require firmness. on the one hand, but also great tolerance and patience. I ought to add that in my experience they also are prepared to be very tolerant.

They needed very little time to discover my own technical failings, how very poor I am at the practical side of Scouting, despite my swotting-up in Gilcraft books on Thursday nights ready for Friday night meetings.

But they are old enough now to make allowances, and they have been very good to me, and even seem to have some sort of faith in me despite my various obvious failings. Of course, if they are in real need of something difficult and heavy which needs doing they turn to one of themselves, X. To have X in camp is like having a pillar to lean on. Utter loyalty, utter dependability, one feels proud to have had a small share in the making of the likes of X. Every Sunday at 9.30. the lads will be in their places in church. No one tells them to go. Their church is part of their life. They are not pious, far from it. But the church is their headquarters, the Holy Eucharist is their service. They are just there naturally, and I thank God for them and for their Scouting.

We have a sort of understanding, they and I. If a dance falls on a Scout night, and they want to go, it is all right, but they must tell me, not just absent themselves. Sometimes we go together to a dance. Once we piled into cars, and went off to a Mayoral Ball in aid of Scouting in Buxton for the night. Buxton is more than sixty miles away. That was a great occasion. We arrived home at 4.30 a.m. We went together to see the Mystery Plays in York in the summer. It is generally understood that most winter Saturday afternoons they will watch the Rugby League matches, that most Saturday evenings they will go to the cinema, with or without their girls. Their Senior Scouting must not interfere with the development of their manhood. They are no longer mere boys. They have a right to other interests besides Scouting. In the summer, we went to camp in the French Alps. We were lent a marvellous chalet near Cluses. We had Communion and meals on the verandah facing three most glorious peaks. We rose early and went off to Geneva and to Chamonix, and we climbed and climbed and climbed. Our Swiss next-door neighbour came and yodelled to us till she was hoarse. We gave her brandy and she yodelled again. The French came and asked our boys to sing to them. Much to my surprise; the lads came out and sat with legs dangling over the balustrade of the verandah and sang song after song from their limited repertoire. We tried red wine and white wine and blonde beer, and decided that we liked lemonade best of all. We lived for ten days amongst sheer naked beauty, where the mountains seemed to dance for joy in their praise of God, and we were as happy as the day was long. We shall never forget the kindness of the French, nor our happiness together, nor all that natural loveliness. Next summer we are going to Glen Nevis.

I remember our first week-end in camp together. I was there for Saturday night, but I should have to be into the big city early the next morning to be about my parish duties. We sat around glowing embers, and smelt wood-smoke, and sang when we felt like it, and knew that life was good indeed. We were at peace. We have grown a little in the past year. We are not an efficient Troop, but at least we have lost no one.

The seventeen- and eighteen-year-old ones are quite prepared to carry on in the Troop, so long as they are not called up. I am very conscious of my own inadequacy, and that I am still only feeling my way. I am convinced that the approach to lads over fifteen has to be quite different from the approach to younger ones. But I am glad to be a learner in the way. I am proud that we keep our boys and that they are prepared to go on.

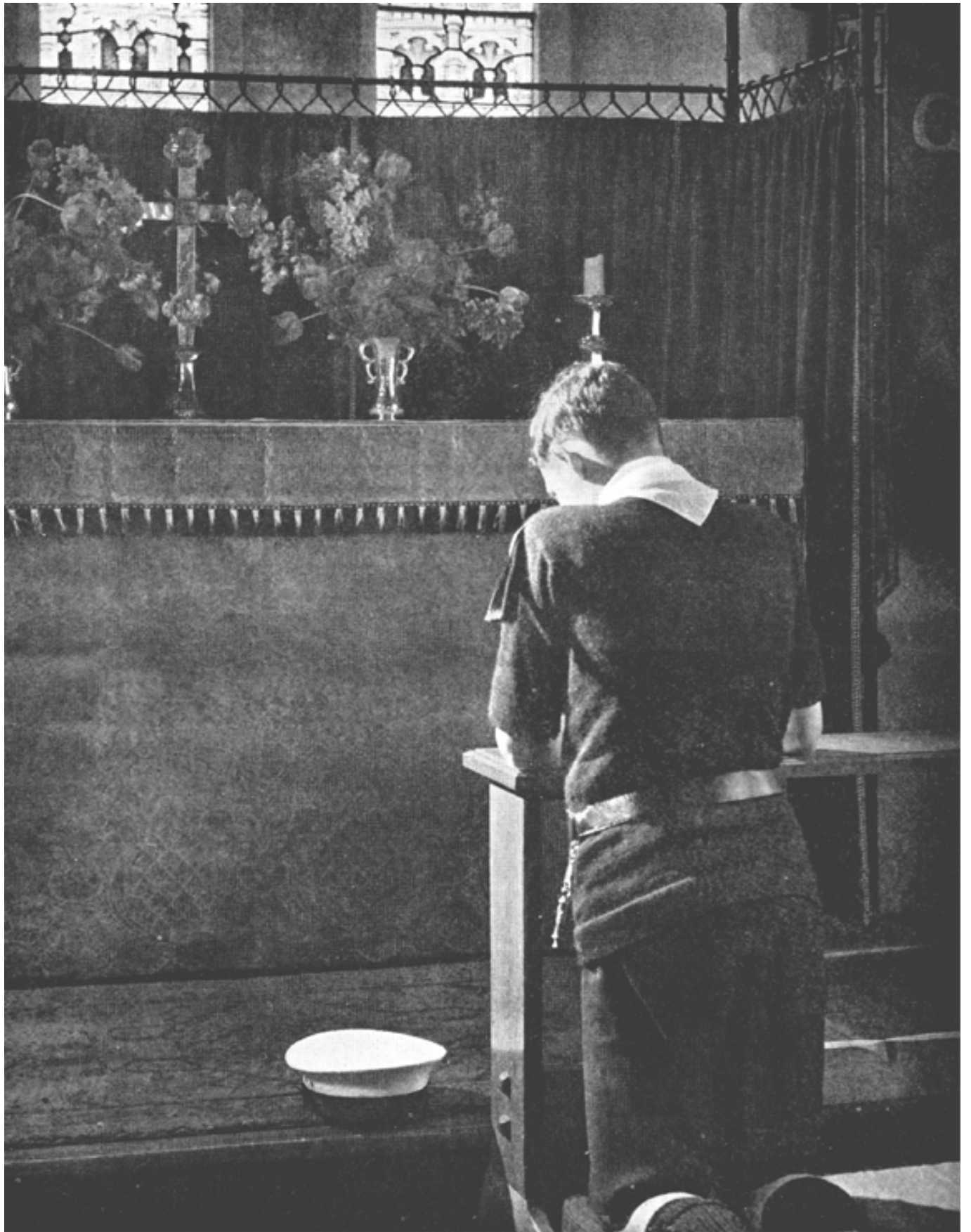
M.

To Keep you Thinking

There are three fundamental types of human relation – with those older, with those younger, and with contemporaries. *All three are necessary to the individual*, and to cut him off in any way from those above or below is to impoverish his life. Of course there are gang stages, when relations with contemporaries assume a special importance, and the urge for contemporary society must always be properly satisfied, but to encourage the notion that "Youth has no use for kids or old folk" is a bad mistake.

Growing Up in the Modern Society

(MARGORIE REEVES).



[Photo by C.G. Futcher]

**“Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless
our gracious Queen Elizabeth....”**

“THERE’S TWELVEPENCE FOR YOU, AND A GOOD LAD”

By E. G. NEATE, O.B.E., C.C. Surrey

(Mr. Neate became a member of the Committee of the Council last year)

AND what exactly,” said my godson Michael John, “do you find to do at I.H.Q.? After so long in *real* Scouting you must find it a bit of a Jekyll and Hyde life to be a Scouter *and* an I.H.Q. brass-hat.” What I said to him doesn’t matter here. It was, like Douglas in the poem, both tender and true. But after forty-odd years of Scouting (very odd in parts) it was certainly something new to walk into I.H.Q. a few months ago as the new boy of the Committee of the Council, and to feel that in some small measure one was now to share in the responsibility for all that I.H.Q. does (or should it be “do” - I see the Oxford says “pl. rarely sing.”) Well, it wasn’t so terrifying. There was a kindly welcome from Lord Burnham and the Chief and a friendly smile from a number of men long well known and admired, and some of them old friends with whom one shared memories of camps and Gilwell Reunions and Jamborees and all the rest of it.

When we got down to business it was something like a combined Group Council and Group Committee, but instead of the Group it was the Movement in Wales and Scotland and Northern Ireland and England - yes, and with the Dominions and Colonies

to be thought of, and the International Brotherhood too. And you know how in Group affairs there are always two subjects which come up, whatever else does - the boys, for whom the whole thing exists, and money matters, so that the training of the boys shall not be cramped. So it is at I.H.Q., I find - and on the Committee are experts in both. And since a good many of the Committee, in their local Scout jobs, have got to put across whatever I.H.Q. decide, there’s not much risk that the viewpoint of the front-line Scouter will be forgotten!

We take an awful lot for granted in Scouting don’t we? Have you ever sat down quietly and made *real* to yourself the almost incredible development of Scouting? From nothing to well over 100,000 Scouts in the U.K. in the first two years from 1908 - and today getting on for half a million in the U.K. and five millions in the world, while millions have had Scout training since 1908?

It isn’t surprising that in the U.K. we need I.H.Q. to help the Chief develop Scouting, look after the training of Scouters, provide camping-grounds, watch our interests in public matters which affect us, promote training, see that the right equipment can be got as cheaply as possible, safeguard our rights, maintain our Dominion and Empire ties and international co-operation, produce the books we want, and so forth. And all that is done for less than a penny a head of U.K. strength a week, if my arithmetic is right.

That certainly does not sound extravagant, but of course good administration means that you must not go to sleep, and neither the voluntary and independent members nor the staff at I.H.Q. will.

We are all moved in our Scouting by personal devotion and loyalty to the Chief. It is my conviction, born of experience as Group Scouter and Commissioner and now confirmed, that we are right to have confidence in the work done for us by I.H.Q., which is part of the team the Chief leads, and has the duty of doing a big job for the Movement, a job which is part of the whole for which the Chief bears the supreme responsibility. I think we have all some notion of the greatness of that responsibility,

and that every Scouter and every Scout is glad of a chance to take even a tiny bit of the burden off the Chief’s shoulders. In our Groups we try to lift the financial burden as much as possible from the Scouters, and in the same spirit the Movement jumped to it as one man when, as the Filey Conference of 1948 overwhelmingly recommended, the Chief’s call came to us to get cracking on the first Bob-a-Job Week.

The results have been astounding, not only for central purposes at I.H.Q. but for Groups, Districts and Counties. In my own County, to give but one local example, the boys - it is *their* effort - have provided a permanent building for the County Camping and Training Ground, far better than anything we had before.

As I see it, Scouting is doing such a job for the boys and young men of the country that it is fitting that generous and public-spirited people should, if they are so moved, give it their monetary support.

To Keep You Thinking

Real teaching is the sharing of a man’s self, and that carries with it the need of having a self to share.

A. DE SELINCOURT
(The Schoolmaster).

But these are grim times for the country financially, and anyhow it has always been the Scout way to see what we can do to help ourselves - and do it, and stick at it. So it’s a dead certainty that *Scouts* will weigh in for the fourth of our ten annual Bob-a-Job Weeks

with every bit as much relish and zest as for the first. This year the Chief has asked for an *extra* bob so that there shall be two bob from each of us for the work done for the Movement from I.H.Q. You and I know that the boys will take it in their stride.

A lot of valuable tips have been given to us in THE SCOUTER and in the Bob-a-Job publicity matter from I.H.Q. on how to run our Job Weeks. The only things I would stress myself as lessons from the first three years, are suitable organisation by Districts and Groups to ensure that, if personal enquiry at houses for jobs is to be made, *one house gets only one such visit unless by request, and that jobs don’t go a-begging*: that we let the public know that the chaps really want to *do* something for their money and that anyone is at liberty to pay more than a bob if they think it’s worth it. On this last point some have feared the title Bob-a-Job to be misleading, but it is up to us to prevent that by our local publicity - the public and Press recognise the name now and L.H.Q. might be unwise to change it.

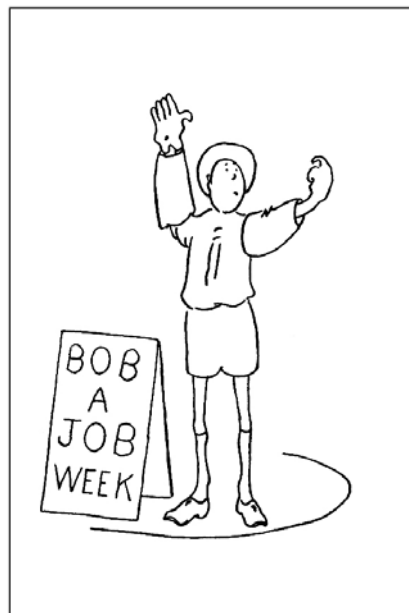
My *first* point - not more than *one* visit of enquiry to one house - is of real importance. One has heard, in one’s travels, of some householders who have been pestered - that is bad Scouting and bad organisation. One afterthought - imposters!

Publicise the job-card. If you come across imposters (I have) put the Police on their track.

When I was on the outside of I.H.Q. looking in I thought Bob-a-Job Week one of the most striking and worthwhile achievements of our astonishing, merry, and terrific Movement.

Now that for a small part of my time I’m on the inside looking out I haven’t changed my mind, and I have seen something of the care with which the Movement’s housekeeping is done.

Very soon now you and your chaps will be rolling up your sleeves to make a new Bob-a-Job record for the benefit of Scouting nationally and locally, and then all over the U.K. householders in their thousands will be echoing the words of Mr. Pepys in the play - “There’s twelve pence for you, and a good lad!”



3. MODERN SCHOOLS

(Each month in 1952 Mr Dodds Drummond, C.C, N W Lancs, will be contributing a talking Point His views will be his own and not necessarily those of I.H.Q., but they will aim to rouse discussion and give us all something to think about - and talk about - R. H.)

SINCE the appeal at Filey in 1948 for those responsible to make a drive towards the introduction of Scouting into Secondary Modern Schools, we have done our bit. It is of necessity slow work. Headmasters have their own plans for their schools, they have their own difficulties, and I don't blame them for being shy of people with bees in their bonnets. It is worth all our perseverance and all our sympathy. The seed must be dropped in, and constantly it must be given nurture and attention. Any plant that springs up will repay all the months of spade work and care. It is my opinion that as Troops, with little chance of a complete Group, they will be first class and a stimulus to the other Troops in the Association. It is my experience that the type of Headmaster who allows Scouting to be introduced into his school will guarantee that it is worthy of his school.

Our method of approach has been threefold:

(1) A sympathetic Director of Education or Divisional Education Officer may organise a meeting of the Heads of Modern Schools so that a suitable address may be given and questions asked. The difficulties relevant to all school Troops will be ventilated. It is not our experience that this approach is successful beyond the knowledge that the Director will be co-operative and sympathetic to any Head who starts a Troop.

(2) Public Speaking about Scouts to Rotarians and other bodies when a suggestion may be made to the Organising Secretary that a special invitation might be sent to Heads of Modern Schools as this subject deals with youth work. An outstanding example of this method was the occasion of the Chief Scout's Luncheon at Preston. Almost immediately one of the Headmasters invited to be present had a Troop going in his Modern School. Headmasters should be invited to Association Annual General Meetings, if you think your A.G.M. is worth seeing and hearing. A tactful initial move might be to ask him to address the meeting and give him some Scout literature to peruse.

(3) The last approach is a personal one. I think Headmasters of Modern Schools are in a stage when their schools are acquiring an individuality. The future of Modern Schools is so vast and exciting that Heads are not so keen on meeting together to devise a common scheme. If I may say so, I think a feeling of rivalry is nascent if not fully grown. Rightly so. It may be, therefore, that, to begin with, one Headmaster will judge Scouting on its merits and *vis-a-vis* his own ideals for his school. If he decides to start a Troop, he is likely to make it an outstanding success. It may be a means of enhancing the individuality of his school. By this method of personal approach we have had some outstanding successes and many disappointments. We have several Headmasters, keen to start, who are wanting the right member of staff.

It cannot be too much emphasised to non-academic folk that starting a school Troop is not like starting a Photographic Club or a Chess Circle. These may die at the end of the year and no one except a few boys are affected. But Scouting is a long-term process; it is a national and world-wide Movement. It is not a group activity that can easily be taken up and laid down. No Head wishes to start unless he sees clearly a chance of continuation. A Head also is aware that once he starts a Troop because he has the right member of staff, he puts himself in the difficult position, if that master leaves, of having to choose between a good subject teacher and an indifferent Scouter, or inferior teacher and a good Scouter in order to keep the Troop going, unless he has found the ideal honours graduate and Wood Badge Scouter or unless he has found assistance outside the school staff.

Once a Modern School Troop is started, the D.C. or Local Association should give it all the backing it needs. It should become the finest Troop in town. If there is also a Grammar School Troop, so much the better. For too long Grammar School Troops have had a leading position. A little rivalry from a similar organisation will do them good. If there are Modern Schools in the town, better still. Give all the publicity you can to the new Modern School Troop.



[Photo by Windsor, Slough & Eton Express]

A MEMORY OF WINDSOR

It may not be amiss at this point to call attention to the relationship of modern educational methods and Scouting methods. When Scouting started and spread like a fire through this country and overseas, it would be generally true to say that Scout training was very different from the stereotyped and formal class-teaching and methods that were the rule at the beginning of the century. It is true that there were already pioneers like Montessori and others. Now the picture is different. What was revolutionary forty years ago is to-day accepted as the normal. Education in schools has absorbed much that Scouting gave to the world in educational methods. Teaching by games, camping, hygiene and first aid, local exploration, competent gym. work with remedials, are already traditional in many schools. Not infrequently boys are bored when the Scouter starts to talk about leaves or lifesaving, "Please, sir, we had that at school this afternoon." It has not been unknown for a boy to have to choose between his Troop camp at the old place twenty miles away and the school holiday tour in Paris.

Does this point to a time when Scouting is superfluous? Are we flogging a moribund horse? Is the end in sight?

I expect you all would say no. What is there still in Scouting to supplement what is now given in the best schools? My answer would take up another column. But briefly I will mention two things. You can write to the Editor and tell him your views.

Firstly, I would mention Duty to God. Scouting is religious education. One hundred years ago schools put the emphasis on religious education and mental education, and neglected physical education. Today the emphasis is on the intellectual and physical growth and God is left out. An agreed syllabus and morning prayers do not make a religious education.

Secondly, I would mention the Patrol System. So long as schools have classes of thirty, forty and even fifty, and so long as Scouters make the Patrol System work, there will be need for Scouting.

What do you think?

J. DODDS DRUMMOND.

NATURE CALENDAR: MARCH

Assembled and commented on by L. HUGH NEWMAN



(Photograph: L. Hugh Newman, F.R.E.S.)

In sheltered parts of the woods, primroses are coming into bloom starring the banks with an early promise of spring.



(Photograph: L. Hugh Newman, F.R.E.S.)

In an early season the blackthorn will begin to flower in late March, smothering the hedgerows in blossom like a fall of snow.



(Photograph: L. Hugh Newman, F.R.E.S.)

The first clutch of Hedge Sparrows eggs may be found at the end of the month, rather conspicuous in hedge or thicket with no leaves yet to clothe the bushes.



(Photograph: L. Hugh Newman, F.R.E.S.)

Lappet moth caterpillars hibernate in blackthorn thickets clinging so close to the slim stem that they merely look like a bulge in the bark; these insects take their name from the little "lappets" of furry flesh which conceal their legs.



(Photograph: Walter J.C. Murry)

Snails retire into hibernation in the autumn, sealing up the entrances to their shells with a secretion that hardens into a thick film. When spring comes round again they leave their winter retreat under stones or deep in the hedge banks and begin to forage around for green food.



(Photograph: L. Hugh Newman F.R.E.S.)

The Engrailed Moth, resting by day in a silver birch, is not easy to find even by an expert entomologist who knows where to look for it, as its colour and markings provide a wonderful natural camouflage.



(Photograph: Walter J.C. Murry)

On the first mild spring day hedgehogs will awaken from their winter sleep, leave their hibernacula of dried leaves and grass, and set out at dusk in search of food – perhaps a tasty slug or snail, to whet the appetite after such a long fast.



(Photograph: Walter J.C. Murry)

When the willow bushes break into flower, the moths that have hibernated throughout the winter, and those freshly emerged from the pupa, seek the golden catkins for the sweet nectar so freely given to the hungry insects; those enjoying the feast here include the Common and the Twin-spot Quaker moths and the Clouded Drab.

NOTEBOOK FOR A YEAR

14. By A. C. HEATH

December

"Why do you want to be confirmed, Barry?" "Because I want to enjoy life and I don't think there is going to be much time for it with all these atomic bombs."

To St. Giles, Covent Garden, to see a St. Paul's Troop doing its good turn - tea and entertainment for the old folk: to see the Indian Scout side by side with his American brother serving the old folk with tea, all over smiles - B.-P.'s happyfying. I wish we could get all our Troops to do Christmas Good Turns. The Rector marvelled that each Scout had brought his 1/4 lb. of chocolate for the old dears - but that is the only way to make them see that giving should cost something: all the cakes and so on come from mother.

To St. John the Divine schools to see the local Troop do "Adventus." "No credit titles, no applause, please: make it an act of worship," says the G.S.M. How refreshing it was!

The children of Israel had some exciting adventures in the desert and found the Ten Commandments. - School exam. paper.

"In contemplation there are always two aspects, the positive one by which we are united to God in love and the negative one by which we are detached and separated from everything that is not God. Without both those elements there is no real contemplation."

- THOMAS MERTON.

January

Roland House Pantomime - still a joy and a treat to the small Scouts we are able to take. Many Troops and Packs obviously make up parties to go. Scouting "personalities" not so obviously present as at the Gang Show, and there were no obvious attempts to use it as an advertisement for Scouting by inviting this or that VIP. Yet I think it nearer to the heart of B.-P.

To the wilds of Surrey to stand godfather to the son of an old Scout (1929 vintage). If we believe in prayer this weekly praying for godchildren is part of Scouting for us old uns.

The first Camp Fire of our new L.A. Determined to have a high standard of behaviour from the first as I have found Camp Fire manners very much deteriorated from the old "Avington" days. A very happy evening, the lads responded well and we got 90 per cent behaviour - the only offenders being a couple of Scouters who would have their own conversation.

To District Senior Scout evening to read them Masefield's "Everlasting Mercy." Our young A.D.C. has planned the evening well. Something practical: learn a new tune "Crimond"; games; my reading which went down very well in spite of the cold. An A.S.M. coming in late and finding them all enthralled said he'd been betting it was bound to flop (he can't know Masefield). The A.D.C. runs prayers really well in an epilogue form, using the tune learned earlier for the hymn.

To Friern Barnet to preach at "a Scout and Guide family service held as near to B.-P.'s birthday as possible." Good to see so many parents there. A good idea which it is a pity more Groups don't use.

Scouters Council - oh dear!

March

The Scouts decide to be confirmed in uniform. The Bishop is grand and calls each one by his name. We get some of the older boys and girls to spend Saturday afternoon as a quiet half-day to pray for those being confirmed. A most worth-while sacrifice, but I wish more had the enthusiasm to make it. After confirmation a tea for parents and children and then a grand "welcome" evensong. This as always is a huge inspiration. If only some of those parents would stick to it, what a much better chance the boys would have!



(Photo by K. E. Foster)

SCENES AND PORTRAITS, 1952: (4) NIGHT SCOUTING

April

Bob-a-Job. John has "booked up" cleaning my bike. He finds my back wheel rusted through, so I am let in for buying new wheel and 3-speed. After it's all done and he has earned his ten bob, he suggests he'd better take it to the shop and have his adjustment of the 3-speed checked - a desire to be sure he'd made a good job of it that impressed me. Peter turns out very smart in his uniform for his job. Of course when taking on a dirty job like Bernard's house-painting the old clothes are to be expected, but I do think that for house-to-house calling the smart turn-out is the thing.

Met a Cub doing porters out of a job at Paddington; he, too, smartly turned out. Met three louts asking for a job in a shop: don't think they were Scouts at all.

May

The opening of our District H.Q. - we are lucky to have got one within six months of our formation. We have a fine lot of vice-presidents and a good team of lay-officials, but I want to get them to see the importance of lay members. My target is 600, which at 5s. each would keep us solvent without special efforts, and I'm sure they could be found if everyone shared my views as to their importance.

Gilwell at Whitsun and a fine Sunday morning. The biggest turn out for Holy Communion we've ever had, due to some good Scouters in camp. What a huge difference Skip's example makes in this matter! An inspiring crowd for Scout's Own. Serve drinks after in the Providore - where do they get all their money from? Am told week-end takings will be £250.

Alms at Holy Communion £1 odd - no collection at Scout's Own! We don't train this generation to give: perhaps we think "the State will provide"!

Behaviour at Gilwell Camp Fire much better than last year, except for some parents who drifted in and were just unable to keep quiet for a moment!

June

To Ashted to preach at the monthly youth service. Scouts, Guides, B.B. and various schools all attend and take it in turns to take parts of the service. But they ought to rehearse the readers in church beforehand - anything done in church should be the best we can offer.

One of our local Troops' annual birthday - always a great day. We start with a photo (they have them going back for forty years). then a wonderful feast, meeting of the B.-P. Guild, etc. Great things traditions - I remember the Troop I was a boy in always had a fancy dress party on Christmas Eve. No matter how far round the world you'd strayed you could count on that happening at H.Q. on that day.

July

The illness came with a cancelling of all plans and camps. Am sent off to Cornwall and book a room by phone in what turns out to be a dreadful hotel. Quite impossible for an invalid. On Saturday wondered how to get to church (I can't walk much yet) and remember being introduced to two ladies last year who went to church in a car. Of course the hotel have never heard of anyone going to church, but a girl in the cafe knows their names and address. I walk over and recall myself to their memory - two retired ladies who have been active Scouters - of course a lift is available and will I come back to lunch. In the afternoon a message - "bring your things to lunch and stay a month: please take this offer as from one Scout to another!" And we'd only met once! What a difference they made, bless them!

August

A Gloucestershire Troop is on our old camp site - the lads look smart in their clean uniforms when out of camp. I heard good reports everywhere - the farmer very pleased with tidiness of site and punctuality of milk-fetchers. A young farm girl most impressed with the way they offer seats in the country bus, "and it was only the little boys: there was no master about to see they did it." The shopkeeper pleased with businesslike orders and courtesy of shoppers. All round the place this Troop gave the Movement a good name. I found some people from their home town and mentioned what a good impression I'd got:

"Oh, they are Mr. C's boys; you can always depend on them." Give us the Scouters and we can beat the world.

They are followed by another Troop - oh dear! I call: camp empty, bread lying about, bedding all ready to be rained on, farmer disappointed - "it's not the boys' fault, nothing seems organised." Shopkeeper has to ask them to unblock the doorway and no one offers to help carry in some crates.

For the first time in my life see a seal (outside a zoo) diving in the breakers.

September

The doctor's verdict - convalescence not complete. No Scouts - no church - just that bare minimum of work permitted which is my job. God give me patience! How really kind everyone is - the A.S.M. will take on my little Scout meeting, an old Scout back from the forces will do the same with another little group: we learn once more that no one is indispensable. The Church sent a basket of fruit from the Harvest Festival! That definitely puts me in the aged and infirm class.

OUR DISTRICT By A.D.C.

Happening to be in Mulhampton on business after the lapse of a couple of years I called on the D.C. to ask how things were going in the Scouting world.

"Not too bad," he said, "but we've had a couple of serious losses. Vigger of the 8th has gone to Australia, and Temple of the 14th has had to give up for business reasons."

"Shocking luck," I said. "From what I remember, the 8th and the 14th were your two best Groups. The 8th a shade better than the 14th, I think."

"So I should have said myself" agreed the D.C., "but you never know how good or bad a Scoutmaster has been until he packs up, and I know now that Temple was worth twenty of Vigger, and the 14th an infinitely better Group than the 8th."

I shook my head.

"That doesn't square with my recollection," I said. "Vigger had a lot of personality, but I can hardly remember what Temple looked like . . . quiet little chap with glasses, wasn't he?"

"Yes," said the D.C. "And after he left his Group seemed hardly to misshim. Cubs, Scouts, Seniors and Rovers carried on as before. But the 8th, Vigger's Group, didn't re-register this year .

What had happened so pointedly and dramatically in Mulhampton merely illustrated what we all know, but what it is so easy to forget, the simple fact that a G.S.M. and S.M.'s job is not just to run a Group that looks good, but to train his personnel to run their own bits of it. -Vigger had a terrifically high standard of efficiency, and superabundant energy. Nobody could do things as well as he could, and it irked him to see things done badly. The Pack had a succession of young Cubmasters, and Vigger used to drop in every week at Pack Meetings and show them how he liked things done. The second half of each meeting he would find himself running on his own, with the Cubmaster sadly and admiringly looking on.

He ran the Scout section himself, and such was his personality that he did not really need an assistant, though from time to time a Rover would come along as an embryo assistant,- and Vigger would tell him how to do things and show him how to do things, but never really put him in charge so that he could make his own mistakes. Vigger just could not bear mistakes.

There were four lovely Patrols, the only trouble being that Vigger was the Patrol Leader of each of them, with the boy Patrol Leader given less authority than a Second usually gets. Patrol Meetings were held in Vigger's cosy flat, dominated by Vigger, and with Vigger making the cocoa and supplying the biscuits. It bothered him that he could never get anybody permanent to run the Seniors. They seemed to resent the fact that he always attended Senior Meetings to make sure things were going well.

Then Vigger went to Australia. and the puppet-master having let go the strings, all the puppets fell down and the Group, despite the D.C. 's efforts, just died.

Temple announced his resignation quite suddenly, and at the next Group Committee, though it was decided to write him a letter of thanks, everybody felt that they could get on nicely without him. On his rare visits to the Pack he had ventured no more than a few diffident suggestions to the capable Cubmaster (one of his own old Scouts), and when he went to Seniors or Rovers it was as a guest.

As for the Troop, the Troop Leader called the P.L.s together at his house (where Courts of Honour had always been held, with the G.S.M. in a dark corner behaving himself) and decided to call on the A.S.M. and beg him to carry on the Troop. And the A.S.M., who privately thought he had really been running the Troop for years. applied for a warrant as S.M. and G.S.M.

Not a dominating personality, Temple. But a Leader.

APOLOGY FROM A.D.C.

I deserve D.C. Dover's chiding for a bit of sloppy writing in my November article. "Slackness" on the part of the boys is of course only one of many causes of leakage. Indeed, in the Troops I know personally, only a small number of boys leave from slackness. What I meant to convey was simply that our Movement is meant for the keen active boy, and that less exacting Movements are available for the boy who wants "rest" or "escapism" in his spare time. I thoroughly agree with the positive part of my critic's letter.

THE GILWELL LETTER

I am writing this in mid-January high up in the mountains of South Africa. I hope I shall never become one of those stupidly bold people who after a few days in a country are prepared to make ponderous pronouncements about how it should conduct its affairs. In like wise I shall go on trying to avoid making snap judgments about people for they can be dangerously misleading and usually are. What I can say even after a few days in a strange, beautiful, friendly and at times bewildering country, is that Wood Badge Training has once again stood up to the pretty severe tests of climate and varied conditions.

I have seen three Courses in action, one for African Troop Scouters, one for European Cub Scouters and one for non-European Troop Scouters. How well the Gilwell parent-courses serve out here, just as I've seen them serve in so many other lands. It is no vain boast to claim that Wood Badge Training really does overcome those problems of "country, class and creed," and demonstrates in what to me, even after so many years of seeing it at first-hand, is the continuing miracle of Scouting and especially of our training - that World Brotherhood is a practical proposition if we are willing to make it so.

This month you will find a full list of dates for this year's courses. If you believe in Scouting, then sometime - unless your circumstances make it really impossible - you just have to go through the appropriate course - when better than this year? Or what about you who went through the course in that year of long ago? Wouldn't a refresher be worth taking before the limbs and sinews grow too stiff and feeble-ere that last age of Shakespeare's threatened fate for all of us descends?

Following still in the thought-prints of the bard - leave silken dalliance in the wardrobe and apply to-day.

But back to South Africa. If I see and hear no more in all the weeks I shall spend here, it has been worth coming to hear the African Native Scouters sing their own songs in their own language. I almost feel they should be prohibited by public acclamation from ever singing anything else! It is hard to describe the rhythm, the natural harmony, the immense enthusiasm and the letting-themselves-goishness; perhaps this last is what they have that most nations are afraid to have. What a great attribute it is to be able fully and without reserve to enter into the very heart of a song and still to retain a natural dignity! Have we become too self-conscious, too conceited, too reserved, too sophisticated to do as much? Perhaps we have, but we don't have to remain thus unless we wish it. The camping season is upon us with its Camp Fires and the kindly dimness of twilight. Can we away with the "prunes and prisms" brand of singing, fearful as we are that the one who sits next to us will hear, and instead resolve (at least now and then) to sing our traditional songs as though we meant them?

Lastly this, which I hope you'll enjoy. As we drove to-day over some glorious mountain scenery many miles from any habitation, suddenly we came upon a tin shack proudly bearing a sign board thus "Cash Store - Head Office." Here was proper pride and bubbling ambition. Do you feel "Head Office" about your small Pack or Troop? JOHN THURMAN *Camp chief*

NEWS FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

Although I realise that during these past months there has been quite a lot of "out" in our Scouting, it still remains that we are approaching that period of the year when our Scouts will be more in the public eye. Quite apart from camps, hikes, wide-games and all of our other outdoor activities there will be "Bob-a-Job" Week, St. George's Day Parades and the other public occasions. So now is the time for us to resolve that, by our personal example and by every other reasonable means in our power, our Scouts - and by Scouts I mean the Pack, the Troop, the Group, or whatever it is we are responsible for - are a credit to Scouting when they appear in public. I hasten to make clear that I am not suggesting that before any one of us appears in public during the next few months we should buy a brand-new rig-out from the Scout Shop. All I ask is that we should expect our Scouts to take a pride in their uniform which, briefly, means that it will be washed and pressed occasionally and will be worn properly. Let us ban forever the idiosyncracies - the tops of the stocking worn round the ankles, the turn up to the shorts, the scarf under the shirt-collar and other oddities. I cannot believe that Scouts enjoy untidiness and I am sure that if we Scouters have the courage to demand a decent standard, our Scouts will not let us down.

And, while we are considering this business of smartness, let us remind ourselves of what B.-P. himself wrote in one of his "Outlooks" nearly thirty-four years ago: "Smartness in uniform and correctness in detail seems a small matter to fuss about, but has its value in the development of self-respect, and means an immense deal to the reputation of the Movement among outsiders who judge by what they see." And B.-P. talking to the Scoutmasters goes on to say that it is largely a matter of example:

"You are a model to your boys and your smartness will reflect itself in them."

In spite of optimistic assertions at the beginning of each year, every year seems to get busier and busier and 25 B.P. Road, with the Indaba not very far ahead and beyond that the National Conference at Filey, is no hive of drones just at the moment. Not, I had better add hastily, that it ever was. And I don't think there is going to be much let-up after this year; however, that is how we like it.

These thoughts came to my mind when we received from the Director of the International Bureau, Colonel J. S. Wilson, a copy of a circular he had just sent out.

It is of interest, I think to every reader of THE SCOUTER. (It is, of course, of interest to every adult member of the Movement, and I wish that I could use that phrase here, but I am afraid there are still far too many of them who are not yet wise enough to take THE SCOUTER every month.

You wise ones who are reading it at the moment should see what you can do about it, because see what they miss!).

Well, after that diversion here is the letter:

"The year 1957 seems a long way ahead, but it is not too early to remind ourselves that it will be the centenary year of the birth of our Founder: not only his followers but the world at large will wish to pay a tribute to him. Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, first Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, was born in London on 22nd February, 1857.

"This fact alone will make the year unique for Scouts, but there is another reason for special celebrations. In May, 1907, Lieut.-General R. S. S. Baden-Powell issued a leaflet, 'Boy Scouts: A Suggestion,' in which he outlined his scheme of training for boys. He followed this up in August of that year with his experimental camp on Brownsea Island. The first Scout Patrols and Troops were formed that Autumn. So, 1957 will be a Jubilee as well as a Centenary year.

"The International Committee welcomes the suggestion made by the Boy Scouts Association of Great Britain that the Centenary and Jubilee year should be celebrated in a special way in the country where both B.-P. and Scouting were born, and from which this greatest of International Movements for boys has spread to all Continents,

"The following proposal will, therefore, be placed before the Fourteenth Meeting of the Boy Scouts International Conference in Liechtenstein next year:

"The Conference accepts with the greatest pleasure and enthusiasm the invitation of The Boy Scouts Association to celebrate in the summer of 1957 in Great Britain the Centenary of its Founder and the Jubilee of the beginning of the Boy Scout Movement. The celebration will take the form of a combined World Rover Moot and Scout Jamboree. The Moot will come in the regular quadrennial series but the Jamboree will be an extra one and will not replace either the Eighth World Jamboree of 1955 or the subsequent World Jamboree of 1959.

"It is felt that early information should be given to the Scout Movement of this proposal, and the anniversary of our Founder's birthday on the 22nd of this month is a most fitting date for the announcement."

Five years' time. It seems a long time, doesn't it? but it isn't you know, and the boy who is coming into your Troop now at eleven will be the King's Scout of Jubilee Year. We have a great time coming!

A. W. HURLL, *Chief Executive Commissioner.*

LUCK OF THE MONTH

By THE EDITOR

In the November SCOUTER A.D.C. wrote with perhaps less than his usual felicity of phrase that we have less seventeen year-olds than fourteen-year-olds because the slackers have been weeded out; in the January SCOUTER General Elliott, D.C. Dover, in his pleasant phrase, "crossed staves" with A.D.C. on this and quite rightly. On his part he says "I am sure that B.-P. never meant Scouting to be for the chosen few, purified by the fire, but rather as a shield and buckler in his daily walk of life for every boy who joins the Movement." And A.D.C. offers a little note of apology on page 49 of this issue.

Now it seems to me that there is a great deal of truth in what A.D.C. wrote and in what General Elliott wrote, but what I think wants stating (even if it's obvious), and what I hope they will both agree with, is this: that we *can* in fact only deal with the boys *who stay in the Movement*. It is only these boys who *can* benefit, and we cannot in the end concern ourselves with the boys who leave us whether they are slackers or whether they are not.

In fact, of course, the reasons for boys leaving us are, as I have said before, infinitely complex.

Some, of course, leave simply because they have lost interest. because as they grow older their growing sense of the idealism of the Movement doesn't appeal to them. Often the boys lack of interest is due to the indifference of the parents. Some leave because their Scouting enthusiasm was an enthusiasm merely for some fun and games when they were younger and they never realised Scouting's deeper implications. They come to consider Scouting as a kid's game since, in General Elliott's phrase, "The lights of the city burn brightly" and they much prefer wearing flashy ties and running after girls. Sometimes it is the cost, but I think not often. Sometimes a boy merely hates camping or is bored with the technicalities of Scouting, or simply doesn't get on with the other boys or men in the Group. Sometimes it is just that other interests overwhelm his Scouting interests: "the thorns grow up and choke it." Sometimes it is possessiveness on the part of the parents: they want their little boy with them all the time to go out in the car or to visit relations and never want to let him go out on his own away from their care and stand on his own feet.

There are a hundred reasons why boys go, but the fact is they *do* go. We hope that we have done something for them and that they will have gained something from their Scouting to "act as a shield and buckler." We hope that their memories of their Scouting will at least be happy ones, but the fact is they have left us and *our concern is with the boys who stay*, and calling them the elite doesn't alter this fact. In a sense they *are* the elite because they are the boys who hear most clearly, and understand most consciously, the call of B.-P.

Of course we must do all we can to hold as many boys as possible. As the Camp Chief said in February "Holding the Boy" might be an item on our Agenda. It should always be at the back of our minds, but let us not worry *too* much about the boys whom in the end we fail to hold.

We can easily get the whole question out of proportion.

Let us do all we can for the boys who *stick* it - through thick and thin. There are three things I think that we can do to help any boy stay. We can give him a full programme of technical, efficient, imaginative, adventurous Scouting, not some half-hearted diluted substitute. We can be interested in him as an individual. We can do all we can to interest and inform his parents. Generally speaking where parents take a real interest boys are seldom lost because all are pulling the same way and there is not that continued tension and conflict of loyalties.

But in the end our job is with the boy who stays. So let us think about giving him the best Scouting we possibly can and let us not weep too many tears for the others. We are a voluntary Movement and we will do all we can for the youngsters who come to us and who stay with us, but if they want to go, go they will.

WHY SCOUTMASTERS GROW OLD QUICKLY.....!



I would like to record the following from the London *Evening News* of February 1st (the correspondent mentioned was Sir John Murray, the publisher).

The following story is told by a correspondent to The Times:

"My wife's sister, who is not young, was returning recently from shopping, laden with shopping bags and ration books, and was attacked and roughly handled in' two boys who made off with the books.

"They were pursued and well slapped by a third boy who recovered the books and returned them, and carried the bags home for my sister-in-law. He refused all reward, explaining that he was a Boy Scout."

Our Victorian ancestors rejoiced in this sort of anecdote which - very rightly - they called "an improving tale." This is a very improving tale, and its climax, if not in its beginning, a very welcome one.

The time is not yet near, we may take it bleakly for granted, in which there are no young ruffians cowardly and vicious enough to attack a defenceless and helpless woman. Our society has its share - some would hold more than its share - of savages and savagery.

What is heartening is that evil of this sort does not go unchecked, not merely by police and "the authorities" but by the sense of citizenship, decency and order implanted in ordinary individuals.

The Boy Scout movement over the years has done for successive young generations in this country (and wherever across the world it is allowed to flourish) incalculable good. It and similar organisations are breeding-grounds and training-grounds of citizenship and manliness. With them lies the hope of diminishing the number of young ruffians, in turning potential young ruffians into decent lads, and of maintaining and enhancing the values of civilisation.

The young anonymous rescuer lived up to the best traditions of the movement to which he belongs. What he did was brave and praiseworthy, and - a good deed in a naughty world - it shines as such.

REX HAZLEWOOD

FUN WITH KNOTS - III *By* ERIC FRANKLIN

The next of our Tenderfoot knots is the Round Turn and two Half-Hitches, and I only know one trick in connection with this knot, and it is, incidentally, also applicable to the Fisherman's Bend which, of course, isn't a bend but a hitch. Make the round turn round the post or other object to which you intend to hitch the rope and tie the end and the standing part in a Granny Knot - yes, a Granny; do not draw up completely tight, however, but leave the knot slightly open (Fig. 12). Now, a sharp pull on the standing part will convert the knot into your Round Turn and two Half-Hitches (Fig. 13). This is, possibly, the one instance in which a Granny Knot must be tied in preference to a Reef Knot. If you tie a Reef instead, the final knot will have two Half-Hitches reversed which is not correct, nor nearly as effective a knot.

Now we come to the Clove Hitch, and this knot has the distinction that it can probably be tied in more ways than any other knot. It can be tied with two hands or with one; it can be plucked from the air or picked up from the ground ready-made, and it can be tied in hand" or made round an object. Any tricks with the Clove Hitch lie mainly in one or other of the methods of tying or in the application of the method, so here are some of them to let you have some fun with this knot.

Many of the youngsters will have learnt to tie the Clove Hitch in the usual way by making two Half-Hitches and then superimposing one on top of the other. As a change, make two Half-Hitches as shown in Fig. 14. This is not a Clove Hitch as anyone can see, but it can be made into one by folding the two Hitches outwards, over and then together again, like turning the pages of a book (Figs. 15 and 16). Of course, it would be easier simply to slip the uppermost loop behind the rearmost to form the Clove Hitch, but we are not looking for the easiest ways but for different ways. I wonder how many know the quickest and easiest way of making a Clove Hitch, particularly in heavy materials? Simply cross the right hand over the left and pick up the rope from wherever it is lying (Fig. 17). Now uncross the hands and you will find that you have two bights (Fig. 18), the size depending upon the length of rope that you had between your hands. Now put the right hand behind the left hand (i.e. towards you) and you have your Clove Hitch ready to slip over a post.

This method is so rapid that the effect is that you pick up a rope and put it over the post in a single motion so that the knot appears to have been produced miraculously. In fact you can use it as a trick at camp; simply pick up the rope and place it over a post, saying "Clove Hitch" - you can do it in about the same time that it takes you to say the name. Another, and very effective, stunt with the Clove Hitch is the following:

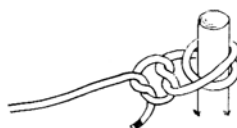


Fig. 12

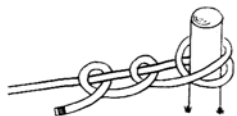


Fig. 13

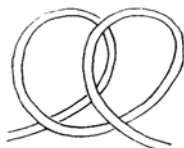


Fig. 14



Fig. 15

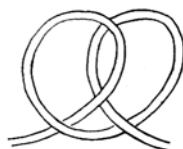


Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

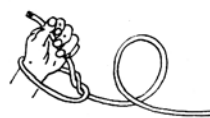


Fig. 19

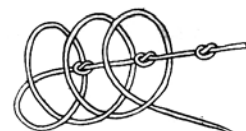


Fig. 20

Hold one end of the rope in the left hand (reverse the instructions if you are left-handed) and hold the standing part three or four feet from that end. Now throw a loop towards the left hand by making an overhand throwing movement, at the same time turning the hand inwards. The loop you are making will travel along the rope towards the left hand which you thrust forward into the loop. Repeat this, and you have made a Clove Hitch round your left hand or wrist. Fig. 19 shows one hitch already on the wrist and the other just coming up ready for the hand to trap. This is, of course, basically the way in which a cowboy hog-ties a steer which he has lassoed, except that the steer is not accommodating enough to thrust his legs into the loops and the cowboy has, therefore, to make the Half-Hitch more complete and ensure that it drops where he wants it.

The illustration (Fig. 19) shows the original end still held by the left hand. Instead of throwing just two Half-Hitches, throw about half a dozen, but without drawing them too tight round the wrist. Then lift them all off carefully and place in the left hand. Take hold of the original end with the right hand *through the loops* and draw it out slowly. As you do so, each of the Half-Hitches will form an Overhand Knot and you will finish with a rope containing half a dozen evenly spaced knots (Fig. 20), probably much to the astonishment of any who may be looking. This, in itself, is a good trick, but, by opening up the knots into loops again and reversing the process, i.e. by pulling the end back through the loops, all the knots will come undone and you will finish with a plain, unknotted length of rope.

There is a story attached to this. A sailor and a weaver were rivals for a lady's hand and, as happened in the case of Pedro the Fisherman, the girl's father favoured the man who stayed ashore. So after some consultation with the weaver, he announced that he would bestow his daughter's hand on the one who could tie the most knots in a given time, say sixty seconds starting from a signal. You see, it is not generally known that a weaver is tying knots with great rapidity all day long, every time a thread breaks in fact, and the two of them thought that this would settle the matter. The girl, confident in her sailor lover, agreed. In due course the match commenced and while the weaver furiously tied knot

after knot in his piece of string, the sailor was apparently just idly winding the string round his fingers in a series of loops. Just as the signal to stop was being given and the weaver was already counting his chickens and planning a honeymoon, the sailor casually pulled the string off his fingers and there was knot after knot in a beautiful row, far outnumbering those of the weaver. Sailors and weavers being what they are, I'll leave you to decide whether this is a happy ending to the story.

To Keep You Thinking

He was the only man of my acquaintance who deliberately and perseveringly modelled his life on what he conceived to be the principles of the Gospel. He never said so, nor did he ever in my hearing allude to any matter of religion. It was by what he said about other things and by what he did not say: and by what he did and by what he did not: and by the way in which he spoke and acted and refrained that you could guess the mainspring of his life.

SIR CLAUD SCHUSTER (*Men, Women and Mountains*)

INDABA INTERLUDE

"My dear Scoutmaster, why don't you put your name down for the Indaba?" asked Bert, one of my A.S.M.s, one Troop night.

"It'll be like trying to get Gang Show tickets," I said. "Hope less."

"The man's a marvel. I don't know how he does it," remarked Fred, the other A.S.M., engaged in higher mathematics with the sub, book. "What did you say the title was?"

"My dear Clot," sighed Bert in his usual role of straight man in the cross-talk act, Fred and Bert. "May I ask what you're drivelling about now? What title? What man does what?"

"Ralph Reader. Didn't you say he'd written a new play - something about a harbour?"

"You're not far out," replied Bert. "Except that no one mentioned Ralph Reader, nothing was said about a new play, and the word is Indaba. That'll teach you to try to listen to other people's conversation and add up the subs, at the same time." The last part of the sentence was accompanied by a well-aimed rope quoit which found its mark just behind Fred's left ear.

"Look, Fred," I said patiently, "I merely mentioned Gang Show to illustrate the point that trying to secure a place in the British contingent to the Indaba is likely to prove as difficult as procuring a ticket for the Gang Show."

"Oh," grunted Fred, starting to add up a column of pence for the sixth time. Half-way down the column he looked up with a blank look and asked: "What is an Indaba?"

"Help!" cried Bert. "He's been in this trance ever since that blonde A.C.M. told him he had nice knees. Don't you read THE SCOUTER?"

"Only the cartoons. How do you spell this Indaba?"

"Oh, I get it. Like UNESCO or SHAPE. What's it stand for? Let me see, how about - International Nattering of Dark and Beautiful Akelas?"

"Not quite," replied Bert. "International's right, there'll certainly be some nattering and you may be right about the dark and beautiful Akelas - at least some of them."

"Indaba is a Zulu word meaning a meeting for discussion of Counsellors or Elders of the tribe. It has therefore been adopted to describe a camp where Scouters of the Group can gather from all over the world to make friends and exchange ideas and information," I recited.

A gleam of light came to Fred. "Oh, like a Jamboree for Scouters."

"Brilliant. Give him air, it's beginning to penetrate," said Bert. "The gathering is being held at Gilwell Park from July 15th to 24th and I think you ought to go." "Who? Me?" asked Fred.

"No, you like your Akelas blonde. I was addressing our worthy Scoutmaster. I think he should apply to go to Gilwell for the Indaba." "So do I," added Fred.

"Now, wait a minute," I said. "Why all this eagerness to get rid of me. And what about summer camp?"

"Well, I sort of had summer camp in mind. I think Fred and I could run it between us," replied Bert.

"A plot, eh," I murmured. "But supposing I can get into the contingent - and it's probably about a hundred to one chance - and supposing I can get my holidays at that time, why should I go to the Indaba? Will it be worth while? Go on, convince me."

"There are the dark and beautiful Akelas," suggested Fred.

"Shut up, Fred. He prefers redheads. Look here, my beloved, fatheaded S.M., I should have thought all this was obvious. It's the chance of a lifetime! Taking part in the very first world gathering of Scouters."

"You'll be able to tell your red-headed grandchildren," interrupted Fred.

"You'll be a pioneer, laying the foundations for future Indabas. Think of the inspiration! Camping with two or three thousand Scouters of every country, class and creed for ten days. Getting to know them, learning about Scouting in their countries, discussing problems, seeing their way of doing things. Instead of just hearing about it, you'll actually be able to see the World Brotherhood of Scouting in action." Bert took a deep breath.

"You sound just like an I.H.Q. speaker," said Fred.

"Who writes your scripts?"

"I'll take questions afterwards. But seriously, you've never been to a World Jamboree or Rover Moot have you?"

"No," I replied, "never had the chance."

"Well, I have and. . ."

"This is where I came in," said Fred. "Here we go with 'I was at Moisson' or 'Moisson et Moi,' starring Bert Raymond and supported by Lord Rowallan. Lights! Camera!" He managed to dodge the bean-bag aimed by Bert, who continued:

"I can't explain it, but it sort of does something to you. However much you read about World Brotherhood and all that I don't think you can really appreciate it until you've been to one of these gatherings. Inspiration is a hackneyed word but it's the only one to describe what I mean."

"That's all very well," I said. "I agree about the inspiration, but I'm a practical Scoutmaster. Will it help me in running this Troop?"

"Of course it will," replied Bert. "You'll come back brimming over with new ideas. There are going to be displays, demonstrations and exhibitions and you might get some tips on new games and stunts from the foreign Scouters you get nattering with."

"We could do with some new ideas," Fred broke in.

"And another thing," Bert went on, "you ought to get plenty of material for yarns to the Troop - you know, about Scouting in other countries and all that. You can show them your photos and souvenirs and talk about your experiences. It's a perfect way of making the World-wide Brotherhood come alive to them."

"Can you bring me back one of those Indian whatsits" asked Fred. Ignoring this remark, Bert continued, "And don't forget the Camp Fires. We need some new Camp Fire songs, yells and items. There's going to be a camp theatre, too, for dances and displays."

"I'd like to see you demonstrating an Eastern dance before the Troop," remarked Fred.

"You'd better take a large notebook with you. You know what a lousy memory you've got," added Bert.

"You're talking as if I was almost there," I said. "I think I'll let you two take summer camp and I'll go off to a holiday camp. I could do with a change."

"But this Indaba will put any holiday camp in the shade. There's going to be a cinema, theatre, market-place, snackbar.."

"Beautiful Akelas."

"Not interested," I said.

"Fred and I can come and visit you on 'open days' if you feel homesick."

"That will be a treat," I laughed. "Anyway, you know what these big 'dos' are like. All long shorts and purple plumes."

"That, my dear chap, is where you are somewhat wide of the mark," countered Bert. "As a matter of fact I.H.Q. has laid down that not more than six per cent are to be Commissioners. They want Group Scouters from all the various branches. And they want them young. If this thing is going to be of benefit to future Scouting it's no use having the old 'uns.'"

"That let's you out," said Fred.

"Shut up, Junior! And another thing," Bert went on, "the allocation of British Scouters is being made in strict proportion to the census figures. Which means that some Districts will only be entitled to half a Scouter."

"So there is a chance for Fred," I said.

"How can I persuade you? Wouldn't you like to spend ten days in the wonderful Scouting atmosphere of Gilwell Park. power-house and inspirational centre of world Scouting. It's worth the six pounds for that alone," pleaded Bert.

"He's off again," said Fred.

"By the way, Bert, where did you get all this sales talk about the Indaba," I asked.

"From the D.C. I went round to see him last night," replied Bert.

"That's funny, he didn't say he'd seen you," I said.

"When did you see him then," Bert asked.

"Last night. When I was putting my name down for the Indaba," I replied.

"Cor, stone the crows!" said Bert.

S.N.

FORUM: (9) THE BANDARLOG IN OUR MIDST

When I passed through the jungle the habits of the monkey tribe were firmly implanted in my mind as those most definitely not to be emulated, and the other evening, coming away from a District Scouters' meeting, my recollection of them was stirred by some of our discussions there.

We do not have a formal meeting in the District, but we have found it expedient to keep minutes of the matters discussed and the decisions reached. In the item arising from the minutes were various topics that had been decided upon or discussed previously, and when we took these it was clear that a lot of us had forgotten over the month to do the things we had promised by this meeting, or to tell our Scouts of certain forthcoming events at either a District or County or National level in which they might have been interested. We had talked over the Pioneering Models Competition and thought it a splendid thing to enter, but not one of us had taken the matter further; several Groups had been interested in entering the Soap Box Derby this year, but no one had sent for a form; we promised inter-group wide games and friendly competitions to foster friendship between scattered Groups, but nothing had been arranged. Like the Banderlog we had been too easily diverted by other things. We had had the best of intentions, but somehow - well, you know how it is.

What we must remember, though, is that we are no longer in the jungle - we are adults, helping our boys to play the game of Scouting to the best of their ability. It is much more serious that we should be so easily diverted by laziness or anything else.

Our District is not unique - this state of affairs probably applies in many places. We meant to do something quite seriously, but somehow we never got round to it. I feel that it is in this way that we let our Scouts down most - by never getting round to it.

I know our time is limited. I know things happen to drive these other matters from our minds. We have the best excuses in the world to offer to ourselves, but do we really believe them? I wonder how much time and energy is wasted in the Movement by others in our District, in our County and in our Country because we didn't get round to it? How many times have reminders had to be sent out about events coming off for which numbers are required: about forms we have had to complete; about letters we have failed to answer?

In my own mind I am quite clear about this - and I know that most of you will agree with me. We cannot afford to keep letting our Scouts, ourselves and the Movement down by this sort of attitude. We must show that we can conduct our Association in a businesslike manner. This attitude of never getting round to things is an allegation that has often been levelled at us by outsiders and I have had to agree with them that it exists.

Can we not all make an effort in this direction so that we shall not feel guilty when someone quotes: "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions" - it is, and I would hate to think it was the road we had chosen to travel.

WINK.

A NEW WOLF'S DIARY - AGAIN

3. "0 MOST INFAMOUS BANDARLOG."

Friday, February 29th. - Only twelve present at Second Pack - but very rowdy twelve. Waiting quietly, watch in hand, has no effect at all on this mob. Greatly doubt if I shall survive until permanent C.M. is found. Reach home hoarse and exhausted. It is borne upon me that I am rapidly turning into a seven-day-a week Scouter - a race I deplore.

Monday, March 3rd. - First Pack still improving - and with Baloo's help it is like reaching civilisation after a cannibal island. But we could do with a couple of C.I.'s. Attempt a little Camp Fire singing - evidently the first the Pack have ever had, so confine it to easily learnt action songs and noisy yells. G.S.M. looks in unexpectedly, just as Cubs are demanding raucously, "Want a fight?" He is startled. Has come to suggest that I take out a warrant. Tell him I have too many commitments at moment, and he wisely does not press point - but there is a glint in his eye. Retaliate by asking when Group Committee is to meet as I have my eye on couple of likely Cub parents. Also say we should like some C.I.s and ask whether pile of tiny screens stacked in corner of Den are Pack property? They are - and Baloo says she will get her father to repair them so that we can use them in Six corners.

Friday, March 7th. - Second Pack. Am met at door by irate dancing mistress who has studio next door to Den. She complains that, after meeting, Cubs hang around and throw stones in her porch. Drags me off to inspect damage. Soothe her as best I can and return to quell rioting Pack. Talk to them seriously about stone-throwing, but can see it is having no effect and learn that dancing mistress makes habit of rushing out and chasing them off - to their great delight. Ask why they don't go straight home and they tell me that a "Boys' Club" has been started by Church and meets at 7.30 so they hang around until then. Also gather that Club contains many older boys and has delightfully rowdy time. Question arises, does Church need Cub Pack if they have Club on same night with same boys? Call on Vicar and put this point to him without result. He says he has been unsuccessful in finding C.M. Would like to point out that he has apparently found someone to run Boys' Club - but hold my peace.

Monday, March 10th. - First Pack begins to appear almost tame in comparison with Second. Am surprised to find two rather youthful Scouts waiting - sent by G.S.M. to be Cub Instructors. Both have their Second Class, however, and are very keen. After some thought we name them Chil and Rann. D.C.

arrives in middle of Camp Fire song. Never quite know the etiquette for this. Should we stop singing, leap to our feet and salute - or pretend we don't see him until song ends? He asks about progress of Pack but, from conversation, have strong suspicion that he has come to lend his voice to G.S.M. s - conversation veers to warrants again. Say I will let him know.

Friday, March 14th. - Second Pack. As last resort, send particularly noisy Cub home - and instead he climbs on roof and looks through skylight. He is still there when we dismiss and caretaker has arrived, breathing fire and slaughter. Billy refuses to budge and caretaker stalks off for ladder. I have inspiration and draw attention of surrounding Cubs to stars, already showing in very clear sky. Name those I know, with as many interesting facts as I can muster. Billy gets interested too, while we are tracing Pole Star, and climbs down to hear more clearly. Triumph of guile over force. Caretaker stalks away with ladder and many threats.

Monday, March 17th. - First Pack. Boloo's father has, most kindly, mended screen and made one new one. Six work is conducted behind them for first time and, although they are only tiny, there is a remarkable improvement. Cubs show less interest in what other Sixes are doing and refrain from dancing around the room quite so much. Sixers make plans for decorating them with pictures. Programme gets behind (not unusual) and there is no time for game before yarn, but there is time for own favourite breath-user - "Touch Chil and Rann and come back to circle!" This fills in few moments energetically - and C.I.'s dodge about valiantly. Remember to warn them not to run outside though, as have known good half-hour wasted pursuing C.I.'s around town - and remember one on a Training Course who hid in a dustbin and was given up for lost! Exciting version of story of St. Patrick, discovered in children's section of library, goes down very well.

Friday, March 21st. - Second Pack a little better - though have to wait ten minutes for sufficient silence for Grand Howl Effect of slight improvement lost on me, however, when I find policeman waiting for me outside. Dancing mistress has "lodged a complaint." Explain situation to him and suggest that, if she ignored them for a while instead of chasing them, matters might improve. He is very understanding and says he will try to hang round next week at crucial time. Reach home completely exhausted and realise that this cannot continue - cannot give best to either Pack.

Ring A.D.C. and explain situation and suggest that I carry on to end of April, to give Vicar time to find substitute but must definitely finish then - if I survive at all. Write Vicar firm letter to this effect.

Monday, March 24th. - First Pack. Try a simple round - not entirely successfully. C.I.s already proving useful - shall hand over collection of subs to them, as can never make them balance myself.

Tuesday, March 25th. - G.S.M. has at last arranged a Group Committee. Baloo and I are introduced and much time is spent in conversation, but we eventually get down to business - and, once started, there is no holding them. Before we know where we are a jumble sale has been arranged, and a whist drive. S.M. puts in a plea for a new tent, but Committee says firmly that this must be adjourned until after whist drive, when financial position should be clearer. Astonished to find that Baloo and I are not required to do anything towards either function except tell Cubs to collect for former and make sausage rolls ourselves for latter (this entirely voluntary on our part).

Wednesday, March 26th. - With other personal commitments husband and I have barely had an evening home together for two months. Decide this must cease and we draw up complicated charter allotting so much time to Scouting, so much to "social activity" and so much to entertainment or educational activity. Both vow to avoid meetings which exceed our quota. It is an awesome document by the time it is finished.

Friday, March 28th. - Second Pack completely out of control. Lose own temper and send them all home - but, of course, they don't go. They hang round outside waiting for Club to start. Go home myself and weep on husband's shoulder.

Monday, March 31st. - First Pack. Question whether I am competent to take out warrant for this Pack when I can't manage the other. Baloo tells me that, when asking why fingernails should be cut rounded, Michael informed her, "My mummy says that ladies have theirs cut sharp because it's their only means of protection!"

RAKSHA.

LETTERS FROM CHIL - 3



MY DEAR RAKSHA,

I haven't felt a bit like writing for weeks. You see, when we'd got all the sundial finished it did nothing but rain! Not just once, mind you, but week after week, till it was more than we could bear!

However, we feel better now. We've made a rain gauge, and that ought to stop it!

You know what they look like, don't you? All very "properly" made. usually of copper. There is a funnel thing on top. and a big container below, where they stand the measure for the water. Perfectly simple, only the measure and the funnel have got to be sort of related or it doesn't tell you very much! Of course any "mug" can stick out a saucepan or something with nice straight sides, and measure the rain it collects by dipping in a ruler. That's all right if the bottom's flat! You can say "There's been about half an inch of rain this week" (only it's plus what's evaporated and the bit the dog drank!) But if it was only a shower, you seem to want to magnify it a bit, so that's where the gauge comes in.

Well, we got a funnel and a *big* jar and a *little* jar. The little jar was to be the measure; it was really *very* tall and narrow and had been made for "Alka Seltzer" tablets or something.

Of course there is hardly any "making" about all this, except to collect the necessar'. bits and do a little arithmetic. It's just a device, but it's rather interesting. The sum you have to do is this.

"How much water in the measuring jar is equal to one inch of rain on a circle the size of the top of the funnel?"

We did it like this: Take a shallow tin the size of the top of the funnel and fill it *exactly* one inch deep with water. Measure this amount in a kitchen measure. Now sax, for instance, that there are ten ounces of water (this would be a tin rather over four inches in diameter), then even' ounce - one-tenth of an inch of rain; so the small jar must be marked at every ounce for as many as it will hold. You can make a line on the glass with a file or a hacksaw blade!

We got ours fixed up nicely and that night it just poured! So satisfactory. The measure filled and overflowed but it was all there in the jar - just two measuresful which is six ounces or 0.6 inches of rain (it only holds three ounces). By the next meeting it was full again and the boys "read" it themselves. Now they want to have a record book so I must look up bookbinding!

In the meantime, talking of water, we have had a bit of fun with "Mock Aquariums."

Yes, I know we ought to make real ones, and so we do, now and then.

This is just a toy that is rather fun for a little while.

For the "works" you need some small bottles which will float well when put empty into the water. Some don't float at all. The very best thing to use is one of those little glass containers, ampoules they call them, in which they put the stuff for inoculations. If you make a friend of the doctor or the district nurse you could get them to save some for you! But nowadays they are always sticking needles into everybody so it ought not to be difficult to find a victim amongst one's friends. Better just pop the thing into boiling water when you've got it. Actually a Fairey dye container will do though it is rather large.

Having got the bottle, you also need a large jar and a piece of rubber big enough to make a cover over the top. A garage could possibly give you a piece of "inner tube." You must also have some "no good" films. Most of us have plenty of those!

From the films you make silhouettes of fishes, double and fastened together a bit so that the bottle will stay in the middle, to float them up and down. The best sort of fish is an "angel fish." You fill the bottle about half full of water and put it in the jar *upside down* and *without a cork*, and it must just float and no more. You must get this exactly right so that when you tap it gently it goes a long way down and comes slowly back. If you are using an "ampoule" you can force water into it from the tap and suck it out by dipping in a bit of string like a wick! A bit tricky this!

To complete the job - cover the jar, which must be nearly full, with a sheet of rubber and fasten it firmly so that you can press the top without forcing out any air (strong rubber bands, several of them, are good).

When you press the top the fishes should sink, and rise again when you let go. If they don't sink, fill them with another drop of water. Best to try it out before making the "fish," and when you have got it "taped" add some interesting shells, beads, wrecks and what not at the bottom of the jar and dress up the bottles as fish (or divers if you prefer).

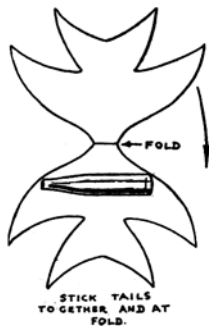
We had one at our Parents' Evening and they were all most mystified. The boys worked it like a conjuring trick till the room got too hot and the fishes went on strike! They did truly! G.S.M. was able to explain to the boys quite a bit about barometers and so forth but I think I'll stick to my bit of seaweed!

Ever yours

CHIL.



"KILNER" JAR
RUBBER TOP FROM
CAR INNER TUBE.
HELD WITH RUBBER
BANDS.



STICK TAILS
TOGETHER AND AT
FOLD.

BARNEYS 2 OZ TOBACCO
TIN IS 1 INCH DEEP.
3 1/2 INCHES DIAM -



RUBBER BAND
ROUND FUNNEL WHERE
IT RESTS ON JAR. SO
RAIN WON'T RUN DOWN
OUTSIDE OF FUNNEL

BOOKS

AN ESSENTIAL BOOK

First Aid and Ambulance Work, by Watkin W. Williams (Boy Scouts Association, 8s. 6d.).

Here is a book, written by one who is an active Scouter - a Deputy Camp Chief - and a Divisional Superintendent of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

It is a book which Scouters have been waiting for. Easy to read, it is crammed full of information which any competent Scouter ought to have at hand when in camp. It is divided into 18 chapters and 263 pages. The whole field of First Aid is covered in a thorough and straightforward way, in language which any layman can understand.

An excellent feature of the book, which will be much appreciated, is the refusal of the author to use long technical terms when simple words will do. He talks of "Shoulder blade" - not "Scapula": of "Thigh" - not "Femur": of "Knee cap" not "Patella." Robbed of the fearsome names beloved of many instructors, how much more simple, and interesting, the study of fractures becomes!

In Chapter XLV, "Miscellaneous Injuries and Emergencies," he deals with such common camp troubles as stings - bites - objects in the eye, ear, or nose - objects swallowed by mistake - needle or fish hook in the skin - fire - drowning - ice breaking - electric shock - in fact, any of the hundred and one emergencies which may arise in camp. And he suggests homely remedies which are always at hand.

But Chapter XVII "Some Camp Medical Problems," is perhaps the chapter which will appeal most to the average Scouter, because it is full of those little scraps of information required at some time or other in every camp, and which - for some unknown reason - the ordinary book fails to supply.

How many of us have not, in camp, been worried unnecessarily over such points as: "Camp and the National Health Service" - "When to Call a Doctor" - "Minor Ailments"?

Well, here they are, all set forth in a most handy form. Temperatures - sore throats - diarrhoea - vomiting - constipation - earache - toothache - chills - is there any Scouter who has not had an occasional sleepless night over the question "What should I do now"?

It is quite impossible to set out here the many excellencies of this book - a book which will be of use in the camp and in the home.

But the writer cannot close without some reference to the value of the very clear photographs which enhance the understanding of the letterpress in a remarkable way.

The only way to appreciate to the full the real value of this book, is to possess a copy of it, and take it to camp. It can be said with truth that no prudent Scouter can afford to go to camp without it.

F. R. LUCAS.

As is to be expected, the novelist concentrates on his man - and what a man Raleigh was! - gentleman, sailor, courtier, philosopher, historian and statesman and outstanding in each. All the people are clear cut and the relations between Elizabeth and her three young

men, Robert Cecil, the Earl of Essex and Sir Walter Raleigh are made wonderfully clear, and make a marvellous introduction for older boys to real history and real politics.

I should add that though I am all for Raleigh, I wonder whether the author does full justice to Robert Cecil, later Earl of Salisbury.

The historian gives us a clear view of his hero Drake of the times in which he lived and also of the ideas of the people of that time. In this book will be found the explanation of the growth and success of English sea power in the sixteenth century. The real significance of the Armada on the naval side is explained here, and what a story it is! Senior Scouts are just at the stage when they need to know why, and this book will show that great battles are not won by accident, but by keener brains in planning and by superior personal qualities in carrying them out.

Then, too, Drake had his honour just like Raleigh, and it is good to read of men with a sense of honour, especially when, as in the case of Raleigh, it led him to return knowingly to his death.

I am grateful to authors and publishers for a good job of work and recommend both books. Each is a book that should be in the Troop library.

H. A. T. S.

What Can I Play, by M. N. Scott, pictures by Francis Marshall (Quality Press, 8s. 6d.).

A book which was so well received on its first appearance in 1944 by *The Times* and *The Lancet* and which has such warm expert commendation from an authority like Dr. Hubert Clifford, together with the approval of *The Music Teacher*, must have been a good one.

It is not surprising that it has been reprinted and we have received the revised edition, 1951, with great interest and pleasure.

Essentially it is practical and comprehensive. Any who are already interested will find valuable brief information. It is to be hoped too that it will stimulate many who are not yet interested to begin to realise the value of taking part in concerted music. Music is essentially a social art which can give great pleasure to those who make it, and if they persevere, to others as well, so let us hope that many will read this book and then put into practice its useful advice.

It is sad to have to endorse the author's note that the prices of instruments mentioned are pre-war. They have been left in order to give a rough idea of relative values. The relative values may be accurate, but also the actual values are very rough. However, we must just hope that eventually the authorities will take off purchase-tax, and that conditions will ease so that the buying of instruments will be a less difficult matter.

A *proficient* performance on a musical instrument (particularly a portable one) is an asset to many communities: when these individualists combine they increase their own pleasure, as well as the service they can give to others. This book will help them to work in the right direction from the beginning and put them on the path that leads to a hobby (if not a profession) that can give lifelong happiness.

LESLIE REGAN.

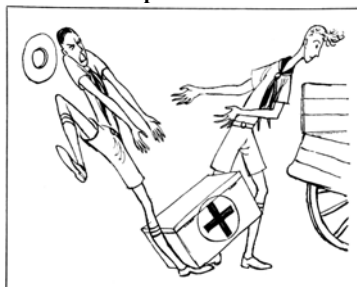
FOR SENIOR SCOUTS

Sir Walter Raleigh, by Hugh Ross Williamson (Faber, 10s. 6d.); *Sir Francis Drake*, by James A. Williamson (Collins, 7s. 6d.).

Two really absorbing books that I have read with great pleasure and that I can recommend unreservedly to Scouters and Scouts, and especially Senior Scouts. Any Senior Scout would be proud to serve in a Drake or a Raleigh Patrol after reading the appropriate book of this pair. Each obviously admires his man and yet each is honest enough not to try to hide the faults.

In fact both books are the more helpful for the way that the faults are fairly set out and the real man brought clearly before us. I can recommend both too as being thoroughly up-to-date and indeed very adequate summaries of the latest research work on both Drake and Raleigh and their times. The authors are both well known and competent historians; James A. Williamson is a well-known colonial and naval historian of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; Hugh Ross Williamson is an historian and novelist of the same two centuries.

Damper and Twist



PHOTOGRAPHY

Would you like a camera for five shillings, or a vertical enlarger for pound? If so, two Focal Press Handbooks by George L. Wakefield, at the modest price of 1s. 6d. each, will exactly match your pocket. How to Make a Box Camera and How to Make a Vertical Enlarger are excellent little books giving exact working details and filling a longstanding gap.

A further pound or so might have to be spent on the enlarger lens; but everything else, in both instruments, can be made by a practical pair of hands without special tools.

The winter ahead is just the time for tackling these two jobs, and the fortunate ones possessing cameras already may turn to *How to Take Flash Pictures with Box and Other Simple Cameras*, by Rodier Heath, at 1s. 9d.

JOHN VICKERS, A.I.B.P.

FOR YOUR LEISURE

The Cruise of the Schooner Argus, by Allen Villiers (Hodder and Stoughton, 15s.).

As every schoolboy knows, Portugal has produced some of the finest navigators in history. It is good to learn, therefore, in the pages of this book, that the tradition of daring seamanship has been handed down through the ages and still lives on in the Portuguese Grand Banks fishermen. Allen Villiers tells his story simply, but dramatically, in this account of a voyage which he was privileged to undertake in one of a fleet of fine ships.

It is a story of good seamanship, fine comradeship and superb daring, which makes one glad to think that this small nation has been for so long a close friend and ally of our own.

I commend the book not only to Sea Scouts but to mere landlubbers as well.

HAMPTON.

Venture to the Interior, by Laurens van der Post (Hogarth Press, 12s. 6d.).

This is a traveller's tale, of a journey to a hardly-known plateau in Nyasaland, but its enchantment lies as much in the way it is told as in the tale itself. It is difficult to interpret to you its intelligence, its beauty, its unusualness because all these lie in the book as a whole. I will attempt a quotation or two, although rather unwillingly:

"This is the age of displaced people. The world is full of people who do not belong anywhere in particular. I am displaced. You, I'm sure, are displaced. Africa is full of displaced negroes. They give it a long name here as if it were peculiar to this continent, they call it detribalisation. But plainly it is just displacement. Who could be more detribalised than us British out here in Africa?..."

"There is no power on earth like imagination, and the worst, most obstinate grievances are imagined ones. Let us recognise that there are people and nations who create, with a submerged deliberation, a sense of suffering and of grievance, which enable them to evade those aspects of reality that do not minister to their self-importance, personal pride or convenience. These imagined ills enable them to avoid the proper burden that life lays on all of us ..."

"The unflecked sky curved towards the dark earth with unimpeded rhythm like a long, Pacific comber speeding towards some lagooned land ..."

But no, it is impossible. This is a fine, thoughtful, exciting, tragic, distinguished book which, if you have any leisure at all for reading, you should read.

REX HAZLEWOOD.



"But Skip told me to hurry up and put some Vim into it . . ."

THE NATURAL WORLD

Nature Parliament, by L. Hugh Newman, Peter Scott and James Fisher (Dent, 9s. 6d.); Animals as Friends and How to Keep Them, by Margaret Shaw and James Fisher (Dent, 1 5s.); Exploring Caves, by Cecil Cullingford (OUP., 7s. 6d.); Bird Recognition 2, by James Fisher (Pelican, 3s. 6d.).

These three books are all of interest to Scout people. The first, all Souters - especially Pack and Troop Scouters - should buy if they can. Nature Parliament is one of the most entertaining of Children's Hour's many entertaining features - and most adults learn much from it. Here are a selection of questions and answers which at once suggest an informative game for the Pack, or the Troop, or a series of "two-minute yarns." The book is illustrated with good photographs and would make a lovely present for a Cub or Scout.

A new edition of Animals as Friends is very welcome.

There are sections on keeping eighteen different mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and insects as pets with authentic information about them all and again, good photographs. The excellent "Don'ts" at the end of every chapter and the further suggestions for reading are particularly valuable. Really this is a very good book and ought to be available in Scout Libraries. It should certainly be brought to the notice of your Scouts. Tell them to put it on their Library lists if they can't get it otherwise.

Exploring Caves is an introduction to speleology suitable for Scouts and Senior Scouts with chapters on the caves of Wales, Somerset and Devon, Derbyshire and Yorkshire. The last very practical chapter should be read by all Senior Scouts who propose to try this unusual but fascinating sport. The book has excellent book lists and a most informative appendix with addresses. Again, a splendid book which all Scouters should note.

Mr. James Fisher appears a third time as the author of the Pelican *Bird Recognition 2*. This is a new (and very welcome) edition of a book which merits nothing but praise. We hope the first volume will soon be in print again.

R. H.

IN BRIEF

A Book of British Moths, by George E. Hide (A & C. Black, 8s. 6d.), is an addition to a well-known series which although called Pocket Books are in fact a little large for a coat pocket though they fit into a rucksack pocket. This is excellent and alive with many photographs and some less successful colour plates. It is just the sort of book that is invaluable in a Group Library. Norman and Henry Bones, by Anthony C. Wilson (Methuen, 9s. 6d.) is another story of the popular schoolboys of the Children's Hour. They are excellent for older Cubs or younger

Scouts: Mr. Wilson is himself a member of the Movement. R. H.

ROVER SCOUTS

Bamboo Thumbsticks (C. Weston, 88b High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent.) Even the best of us "Out East" in World War II knew the comments,

"Browned-off" and "Forgotten Army." There was the immense distance from home, and the strangeness of it all. For some the daily challenge of the jungle gave life tang enough, but for others there was more often - frustration.

Thus it was that men remembered their Scouting background and training, or looked to a continuation of their Rovering as an antidote to all this. A few bright spirits, a sympathetic commanding officer - and, priceless, a padre in the Movement - and a crew was formed.

How these Services Crews in the Far East grew and flourished is told with distinctive modesty in Bamboo Thumbsticks. There is the spirit of adventure in every page. Those dealing with long hikes into Tibet and Kashmir have it in every line. Here is an enlightening record of no less than 60 Services Crews, stretching from the Passes of Northern India to the Cocos Islands - and they were 500 miles from any other land.

But in all this stimulating story there is none more lasting than that told in such simple and yet moving style of the prisoners-of-war in Japanese hands who banded together and continued active Rovering. In the depths of grim, utter misery, the Scout spirit gave men glimpses of the peaks.

Padre Westcott has edited this very readable book which includes, incidentally, some apt little illustrations. And the adventurous note, given in the manner of its production by a hardworking little committee, is in keeping with the tale it has to tell.

K. JOHNSTONE.

ONE MONTH FROM NOW

Over the years in past issues of THE SCOUTER mention has been made of the difficulty of the signalling tests; all that has stood between Albert and his Second Class for the last eighteen months is Semaphore, and still the cry goes up "How long, O Lord, how long?" that is my excuse for this rehash of other men's methods. Hereafter S = Semaphore, M = Morse.

It may be that you find difficulty, as I do, in receiving at anything faster than rate 1 without dizziness and severe nervous prostration; take heart and in the early stages practise in little bits and practise often. What follows is a basic theme with variations - just as when making a steamed pudding I mutter darkly "Two, two, five" and then add the flavouring or colour.

Get your P.L.s to make sure their Scouts all know the first six or so letters, depending on the maximum number present in any one Patrol. Then with Patrols in files, smallest at the front, each Scout is given a letter; if some Patrols are undermanned, the more expert in them are given two letters. The sender, on a chair so as to be clearly visible, sends a letter and the appropriate Scouts dash round the front of their Patrols to a mark some distance behind and back again to their places: an assistant to act as judge is a help. Try it with the Troop in Patrols forming one ring, a Scout to run round the ring and back to his place

when his letter is sent, or to stand up, turn round-and sit down. The sender is in the centre and turns round from time to time. Mix it with "Dog and Bone," sending letters instead of calling numbers, or with a simple knot-tying contest: state the knot and then send the letter. In all variations change the letters round every now and again so that each gets to know all the letters. Try it again with twelve letters, eighteen, the whole alphabet. Try it sending a message by the separate letters, with extra points for getting the complete message so that the experts will not get bored.

Practise little, practise often and send slowly. And do have some clear means of instructing your sender to repeat a message when things are going astray.

It's the slightly unusual that interests just as on a Wood Badge Course you and I, Gamma (and possibly others?) were flattened by the command "Make a gadget for sending S. to be worked by an operator not less than ten feet away." Try it on your Scouts - but give them time to think about it first: the distance can be horizontal or vertical. Get them to think out and make a gadget to be suspended on the wall above a spinal

case so that he can talk silently (S. or M.) to his pal at the other end of the ward. Get them to make up a sign alphabet other than S. or M.

If M. is your preference (why not both?), fix a buzzer or electric bell in one of the dimmer parts of the ceiling with wires, hidden as much as possible, leading to a place of concealment in or (through a window) outside the room. Then just as you are about to send a message to Patrols from a buzzer on the table there is a mysterious repeated V E from on high. No message follows until someone (you?) has the sense to answer K. The operator, if you wish, can be one who has previously sent his apologies for not being able to attend the parade.

Try signalling in the dark, and not by sound only. Try it in M. with a torch, try it in S. with an orange light on the chest and white lights in the hands. Use binoculars or a telescope to signal over long distances - from the church tower if you can get permission. It doesn't matter if there's no open country near you—you can signal across a busy street or from one wall to another: if the operator falls off it is to be taken as equivalent to A R. Get one of your Scouts to switch the light on and off in a building some distance away, with a spare bulb just in case; spotlight your signaller outside against a contrasting background, or inside an otherwise darkened room.

Run part of your meeting in M. or S. entirely, write the occasional notice or the clues for a treasure hunt in either. Try a simple signalling relay in daylight with flags or in the dark with lamps - but don't try it until both reading and sending, however slow, are dependable.

By way of contrast, when things are a bit flat, you can raise the general level by giving Patrols five or ten minutes in which to reach as high as possible. No furniture and no parts of your H.Q. may be climbed on - a human ladder is wanted. A corner or under a beam are the best places indoors.

And finally for a period of several months from now: if you have any Scouts who are interested in the Forester, Naturalist or Woodcraftsman badges, now is a good time to get going. To me an arbutus is what my love is; if the standard of your fellows is no better than that they'll have to do something about it. Get them to recognise as many trees as they can while there are still no leaves: those that they are puzzled about they can note now and see if they can recognise them later when the leaves come. Borrow an expert for them when required.

G. SHEEN.



NOTES AND NEWS

FIELD COMMISSIONER

The Scottish Committee invite applications for the appointment of a Field Commissioner.

Duties: The Field Commissioner will probably work mainly in the northern counties of Scotland, under the direction of the Committee:

1. Co-operating with County Commissioners in -
 - (a) Promoting the well-being and development of all branches of Scouting in the county.
 - (b) Starting new Groups and finding new Scouters.
 - (c) Attending and addressing meetings of Scouters, parents or public.
 - (d) Meeting local clergy and local authorities.
 - (e) Training Scouters.
2. Assisting the Scottish Commissioner for Training in running Wood Badge or other Courses.

Qualifications:

- (a) Must have a genuine interest in boys and "Scouting for Boys."
- (b) Must preferably have been a Scouter.
- (c) Must hold the Wood Badge or be prepared to qualify for it as

soon as possible.

Conditions of Service: Commencing salary according to qualifications, from £500 to £600 per annum.

Applications marked "Field Commissioner" to be sent to the Secretary, Boy Scouts Association, Scottish Headquarters, 44 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh 2, by March 31, 1952.

CAMPS ABROAD

Invitations have been received for British Scouts to attend two National Camps:

(a) *Norway:* at Stikelstad, near Trondheim, from July 31st to August 6th. Camp fee, 45 kroner (about £2 5s. 0d.). Complete Troops or Patrols, particularly of "linked" Groups.

(b) *Portugal:* 9th National Camp at Coimbra, Central Portugal, from August 16th to 25th. Camp fee 200 Escudos (about £2 10s.0d.). Individual Scouts or Scouters to form British Contingent.

In both cases provision can be made for a longer stay in the country. Those interested should write to the International Department, I.H.Q.

WOOD BADGE COURSES

Gilwell Park

Scout and Rover/Senior Scout Courses are open to all Warrant Holders of twenty-one years of age and over.

No. 209 Saturday, 19th April - Sunday, 27th April

No. 210 Saturday, 3rd May - Sunday, 11th May

No. 211 Saturday, 7th June - Sunday, 15th June

No. 212 Saturday, 21st June - Sunday, 29th June

No. 213 Saturday, 26th July - Sunday, 3rd August

No. 214 Saturday, 16th August - Sunday, 24th August

No. 215 Tuesday, 26th August - Wednesday, 3rd September

No. 216 Saturday, 13th September - Sunday, 21st September

No. 217 Saturday, 4th October - Sunday, 12th October

(Away from Gilwell - Sea Scouts specially invited.)

Rover/Senior Courses:

No. 7 Saturday, 17th May - Saturday, 24th May

No. 8 Saturday, 9th August - Saturday, 16th August

Cub Courses are open to all appropriate Warrant Holders of eighteen years of age and over.

No. 114 Monday, 12th May - Saturday, 17th May

No. 115 Monday, 2nd June - Saturday, 7th June

No. 116 Monday, 30th June - Saturday, 5th July

No. 117 Monday, 4th August - Saturday, 9th August (Male)

No. 118 Monday, 4th August - Saturday, 9th August (Female)

Applications to: The Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, Chingford, E.4.

Scotland (Fordell).

Scout, 5 W.E. April 19th (omitting May 3rd and 4th).

Scout, Cont. July 26th. Cub Cont. August 4th.

Cub, 4 W.E. August 30th (omitting Sept. 6th and 7th).

(Rowallan).

Scout, 5 W.E. May 3rd. (Tannadice).

Cub, 4 W.E. May 10th. (Auchengillan).

Cub, 4 W.E. August 23rd (omitting Sept. 6th and 7th).

Apply: The Secretary, 44 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2.

Bedfordshire (Milton Ernest).

Scout, Cont. July 26th. *Apply:* Capt. S. H. Starey, Home Farm,

Milton Ernest, Beds. Berkshire (Youlbury).

Cub, 4 W.E. June 7th. *Apply:* Mrs. M. Preston, "Linden," Bath

Road, Maidenhead.

Scout, Cont. August 16th. *Apply:* W. J. Genese, Warden's Close,

Bears Hill, Oxford. **Birmingham (Yorks Wood).**

Cub, 4 W.E. April 19th. *Apply:* J. W. Hawtin, 31 Gillott Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 16.

Scout, 5 W.E. May 17th (omitting Whitsun). *Apply:* C. Raeburn, 36 Innage Road, Northfield, Birmingham. **Buckinghamshire (Chesham Bois).**

Scout, 3 W.E. May 2nd. *Apply:* F. W. E. King, Rexylew, Bois Lane, Chesham Bois. (Halton).

Cub, Cont. May 30th. *Apply:* R. Saunders, 18 Marina Drive,

Wolverton, Bucks. **Cheshire West (Overchurch).**

Scout, 4 W.E. May 17th. *Apply:* J. H. V. Milton, 178 Liverpool

Road, Great Crosby, Derbyshire (Ogston Hall, Nr. Alfreton).

Liverpool, 23.

Scout, 3 W.E. May 24th. *Apply:* P. H. Speed, 17 Thornhill Road, Rowditch, Derby.

Cub, 4 W.E. June 14th. *Apply:* J. Hale, 186 Upper Dale Road, Derby. **Devon (North Devon).**

Scout, Cont. April 19th. *Apply:* C. H. Chapman, 8 Caprera

Terrace, North Road, Plymouth. (Shobrook Park).

Cub, 3 W.E. May 24th. *Apply:* Mrs. P. Roberts, Wyoming, Barton

Hill Road, Torquay. (Tavistock).

Scout, 5 W.E. June 7th.

(Crownhill, Nr. Plymouth).

Cub, 4 W.E. June 21st. *Apply:* Mrs. D. A. Tyler, 41 Connaught

Ave., Mutley, Plymouth. **Durham (Stockley).**

Scout, 5 W.E. May 3rd (omitting Whitsun and previous week-end).

Cub, 4 W.E. June 2 1st. *Apply:* C. Rogers, Woodcroft, Sea View

Park, Whitburn. **Essex (Stock).**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 24th. *Apply:* Miss E. Chessum, 14 Seymour

Court, Whitehall Road, Gloucestershire (Cranham). **Chingford, E.4.**

Scout, 5 W.E. June 7th. *Apply:* Major P. Buckle, Bourton-on-Water, Cheltenham.

Hertfordshire (Well End).

Scout, 3 W.E. April 12th.

Cub, 4 W.E. May 17th (omitting Whitsun). *Apply:* H. J. Spriggs, 32 Coneydale, Welwyn Garden City. **Kent (Hopehill, Gravesend).**

Scout, 4 W.E. May 3rd (omitting May 17th and 18th).

Apply: F. J. Peters, 22 Warren Road, Rochester.

Cub, 4 W.E. June 7th (omitting June 21st and 22nd).

Apply: O. C. Simmons, 127 Upton Road, Bexleyheath. **Lancashire S.W. and Liverpool (Bispham Hail).**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 17th.

Apply: Mrs. D. N. Crank, 4 Lays Road, Timperley, Altrincham.

Scout, 5 W.E. June 7th.

Apply: C. E. Booth, 21 Fulwood Park, Liverpool, 17.

Lancashire N.E. (Huntroyd).

Scout, 3 W.E. May 24th.

Apply: H. Burrows, Penarth, West Park Road, Blackburn.

Lancashire N.W. (Broughton, Nr. Preston).

Cub, 4 W.E. April 19th. *Apply:* Miss M. Lloyd, 8 Sunny Bank

Ave., Bispham, Blackpool. (Great Tower).

Scout, 3 W.E. May 24th.

Apply: T. G. Gregson, 44 Broadgate, Preston.

London (Gilwell Park).

Scout, 4 W.E. April 5th. Cub, 4 W.E. May 3rd.

Scout, 4 W.E. May 31st. Cub, Cont. July 28th.

Scout, Cont. August 2nd. Cub, Cont. August 30th.

Scout, 5 W.E. Sept. 20th.

Apply: London Scout Office, 3 Cromweil Place, S.W.7.

Manchester, S.E. Lancs. and E. Cheshire (Ryecroft).

Scout, 5 W.E. May 10th (omitting Whitsun and following week-end)

Cub, 2 W.E. May 3 1st. *Apply:* W. H. Banning, Gaddum House,

Queen Street, Manchester, 2.

Middlesex (Elstree).

Scout, 5 W.E. April 26th. Cub, 4 W.E. June 7th.

Scout, 3 W.E. Sept. 5th. *Apply:* J. A. Walter, Selwood, Cornwall

Road, Hatch End. **Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire (Old**

Lakenham Hall).

Cub, Cont. May 30th. *Apply:* Miss K. O. Moon, 7 Patricia Road,

Norwich. **Northamptonshire (Plevins Corner, Nr. Woodford).**

Cub, 4 alt. W.E. May 24th. *Apply:* D. L. Venning, The School,

Oundle, Northants.

Northumberland (Gosforth Park).

Scout, 5 W.E. April 26th. *Apply:* D. M. Paulin, Boy Scout Camp, Gosforth Park, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 3.

Cub, 4 W.E. Sept. 6th. *Apply:* Miss G. Peel, 9 Eaglescliffe Drive,

Newcastle-on-Tyne, 7. **Nottinghamshire (Walesby).**

Scout, 5 W.E. April 26th. Cub, Cont. May 30th. *Apply:* J. Davey,

Scout Headquarters, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

Somerset (Crowcombe Youth Hostel).

Cub, 3 W.E. March 22nd. *Apply:* G. C. Crowley, Bourn,

Staplechay, Trail, Taunton. (Ammerdown, Nr. Radstock).

Scout, Cont. Aug. 16th. *Apply:* H. D. Sleigh, 13 Charmouth Road,

Bath, Somerset. **Staffordshire North (Kibblestone).**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 10th. Scout, 5 W.E. Aug. 30th. *Apply:* J. A.

Hudson, Springfield House, Oulton Road, Stone. **Suffolk**

(Shrublands Park, Ipswich).

Scout, 5 W.E. June 7th (omitting June 14th and 15th).

Apply: C. Whitehead, 92 Westerfield Road, Ipswich. **Surrey**

(Bentley Copse).

Cub, Cont. May 30th. *Apply:* A. F. Syer, Clareville Road,

Caterham, Surrey.

Scout, 3 W.E. June 13th. *Apply:* P. A. Neville, 12 Grove Road,

S.W.19.

Scout, Cont. July 12th. *Apply:* Rev. L. E. Whitlock, Christchurch Parsonage, Salfords, Wiltshire (Monkton Combe).

Cub, Cont. Aug. 2nd. *Apply:* Miss P. D. Baily, "Boyers," Monkton

Combe, Bath. **Yorkshire North (Kirkdale).**

Scout, 4 W.E. May 17th. *Apply:* E. Franks, 2 Tollesby Road,

Middlesborough.

Cub, Cont. Aug. 2nd. *Apply:* Lt.-Col. F. N. E. Thompson, 21

Muncastergate, York. **Yorkshire East (Ryehill Manor,**

Holderness).

Cub, 3 W.E. May 24th. *Apply:* Miss M. Foord, Innisfree, Kirk

Ella, Hull.

Yorkshire South (Hesley Wood).

Cub, 4 W.E. May 17th (omitting Whitsun). *Apply: L. Godber, Thorncliffe, Sheffield.*

Scout, 4 W.E. Aug. 30th. *Apply: J. Dorgan, 1 White Lane, Chapeltown, Sheffield. Yorkshire West and Central (Bradley Wood).*

Scout, 4 W.E. May 17th. Scout, Cont. May 3 1st.

Apply: J. E. Wilson, 12 Airedale Grove, Horsforth, Leeds.

Cub, 2 W.E. Aug. 2nd. *Apply: Miss G. Barker, 17 Victoria Mount, Horsforth, Leeds.*

Wales S.E. (Miskin).

Scout, Cont. April 26th. Cub, 3 W.E. May 17th.

Apply: C. W. Berry, Winton, Plasdraw Road, Aberdare. Wales S.W. (Penllergaer, Nr. Swansea).

Cub, 3 W.E. May 31st. Scout, Cont. Aug. 30th.

Apply: F. Thomas, 57 Glamor Road, Uplands, Swansea. Wales N. (Brynbach).

Cub, 2 W.E. May 23rd. *Apply: H. S. Thomas, Oerley Road, Oswestry, Shropshire.*

Scout, Cont. Sept. 6th. *Apply: J. Sweet, Beechcroft, Grosvenor Road, Prestatyn, Flint shire. Northern Ireland (Old Fort, Hillsborough).*

Scout, 5 W.E. May 24th. Cub, 4 W.E. Aug. 16th.

Apply: E. Moore, M.B.E., N.I. Scout Council, 50 Dublin Road, Belfast.

I.H.Q. SPEAKERS' VISITS FOR MARCH

1st Cornwall County Conference and A.G.M. St. Austell C. C. Goodhind

1st Kent Scouters' Conference Rex Hazlewood

8th London Scouters' Rally - Central Hall A. W. Hurli

8th Poole L. A. Dinner F. V. Cowie

11th Bristol Royal Empire Society F. H. J. Dahi

15th Central Yorks Cub Conference Mrs. Melville Smith

15th Hackney Camp Fire F. H. Dimmock

15th Surrey Scouters' Conference, Croydon Col. J. S. Wilson

16th Wiltshire Scouters' Conference A. Wingrove

17th Birmingham University J. M. Andrew

22nd Cambridgeshire P.L.s' Gathering F. H. Dimmock

22nd North of England Handicapped Conference, Harrogate Mrs. Richardson

25th Dorset Liaison Chaplains' Conference, Avon Tyrell C. G. Wood

29th West Riding Training Teams, Wakefield A. M. Chamberlain

29th Sussex Scouters' Conference, Lewes F. V. Cowie

29th Middlesex Scouters' Conference, Southall Col. J. S. Wilson *B. - P. Guild*

6th Wood Green and District A.G.M. C. N. Potter

8th Devon Kingsbridge C. N. Potter

14th 8th Marylebone C. N. Potter

15th Wandsworth, Putney and Roehampton Lord Baden-Powell

GATHERING OF METHODIST SCOUTERS

The Annual National Gathering of the Association of Methodist Scouters is to take place this year at Gilwell Park on Saturday - Sunday, March 22nd - 23rd. In view of the general progress of the Association in recent months a good representation is expected from the provinces as well as from London. Guest speakers will include Mr. Colquhoun from I.H.Q. and the Rev. Len Barnett from M.Y.D. All Methodist Scouters are invited and full particulars can be obtained from Mr. Philip A. Mann, 27 Hazelmere Gardens, Romford, Essex. Telephone CITY 3126 (morning only).

PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

A Public Speaking Contest will be held in 1952 in co-operation with the Girl Guides Association, between teams of three composed of a Chairman, main speaker and a mover of a vote of thanks to the speaker. Those in the team must be between the ages of 15 and 21 years on January 1, 1952. Regional contests will be held where necessary and the finals will take place on June 7th, in conjunction with other Youth Organisations associated with the Standing Conference of National Voluntary Youth Organisations.

Those interested are invited to write to the Training Secretary for further particulars.

COURSES IN HILLCRAFT

Two Courses, June 21st - 27th and July 19th - 25th, in Hillcraft training at Capel Curig are planned by the Merseyside Youth Hostels, 93A, Scotland Road, Liverpool, 3, from whom full particulars are available. The Courses will be run in conjunction with the Mountaineering Association who will supply the tutors.

CAMP SITE

Will any Scouters wishing to camp in Glanusk Park, near Crickhowell, during the coming summer please write to the Glanusk Estate Agent, Crickhowell, Breconshire, and not to the District Commissioner as in previous years.

ERNEST SCOTT MEMORIAL

The late (Prebendary) Ernest Scott, Bedfordshire is raising a Memorial Fund, annual income to assist Senior Scouts and Patrol Leaders to attend Training Courses. Donations welcomed by Hon. County Treasurer, Mr. R. H. Greenwood, 168 Hurst Grove, Bedford (or Barclays Bank, Luton).

CONCORDIA

Concordia (Youth Service Volunteers) are planning work camps in Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium and Scandinavia, during this summer. These camps are open to those between the ages of 15 1/2 and 22, and involve 35 hours work per week which covers food costs and allowance of 5s. per week pocket money. Volunteers pay their own fares and there is a registration fee of £1.

Full details can be obtained from Concordia, 3334, Welbeck Street, London, W. 1.

AWARDS FROM 29th NOVEMBER, 1951. TO 2nd JANUARY, 1952

CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT.

R. J. Ruff, A.S.M., 25th Shrewsbury.

"In recognition of his courage, fortitude. and the manner in which he has carried out his duties despite a severe

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (MERITORIOUS CONDUCT).

P. R. W. May, Sixer, 43rd Bournemouth (Winford Methodist).

"In recognition of his unfailing cheerfulness and courage during several painful operations upon his eyes."

GILT CROSS.

W. Bale, D.S.M., Suva; Tikka Ram, S.M., 1st Civic-Suva, Fiji.

"In recognition of their gallantry in saving a boy from drowning in the flooded Lami River, Fiji, 21st October, 1951."

R. S. Crockford, King's Scout, 26th Bournemouth (Church of the Epiphany).

"In recognition of his gallantry and determination in pursuing and assisting to capture an armed poacher, Brockenhurst, 13th May, 1951."

T. J. Davies, T. L., 14th Shrewsbury (St. Peter's. Monkmoor).

"In recognition of his gallantry in assisting to save a child from drowning in the River Severn, Shrewsbury, 19th September, 1951."

SILVER WOLF.

The Lord Freyberg of Wellington and Munstead in the County of Surrey, V.C., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Patron and Chief Scout, New Zealand.

"In recognition of his most excellent services to Scouting as Patron and Chief Scout of New Zealand."

BAR TO THE MEDAL OF MERIT

London. - H. T. Dewdney, R.S.L., 1st Gordons.

"In recognition of his continued good services to the Scout Movement."

MEDAL OF MERIT.

Berkshire. - N. H. G. Sharp, A.D.C., Newbury, G.S.M., 1st Little Abbey.

Buckinghamshire. - L. G. Anderson, formerly D.C., Aylesbury; Mrs. C. F. Badger, A.D.C. (Wolf Cubs), Aylesbury.

Cheshire East. - A. J. Darbyshire, G.S.M., 1st Heaton Chapel, Asst. D.C.C.; J. H. Green, G.S.M., 1st Cheadle Hulme; H. P. Widdows, D.R.S.L., Cheadle and District.

Cumberland West. - C. Whitaker, A.D.C., Workington.

Dorset. - H. C. W. Reid, D.C., Weymouth and Portland District.

CAMP WARDENS

Wanted for July, August and first half of September, a full-time salaried Camp Warden, and also Assistant Camp Wardens (for all or part of this period) for Scout Transit Camp, London. Subsistence allowance granted for the latter. Full information from the International Department, I.H.Q.

C.E.Y.C. NEWS-LETTER

The March issue of the C.E.Y.C. New-Letter, which is published every two months, will contain Professor Coulson's address to the Conference of Christian Youth at Bangor dealing with the modern relationship between religion and science. It is just the thing for the more thoughtful of our Senior Scouts as well as for others. It can be obtained from the Church of England Youth Council, 69 Great Peter Street, London, S.W. 1, price 6d. post free.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI

As His late Majesty King George VI was Patron of the Boy Scouts Association, Scout mourning will last until further notice.

The only sign of mourning in Scout uniform for all members of the Association is a two-inch black band worn round the left arm above the elbow. Black hat bands and other signs of mourning should not be worn.

Flags carried in public should be draped.

Camping Standards Certificate

Further increases in the cost of production of the Camping Standards Certificate have made it impossible to continue the free issue of these.

With effect from 1st March, 1952, Camping Standard Certificates will be available to Local Association Secretaries, on application to the Scout Shop, I.H.Q., at a cost of 9d. each, inclusive of full-sized envelope with cardboard backing for each Certificate to enable them to be kept clean and unfolded.

It is suggested that Local Association Secretaries maintain a small of these Certificates for issue to Troops as directed by the District Commissioner.

Scouts de France Reunion for Scouters

The Scouts de France (the French Roman Catholic Association) invites British Scouters of both sexes to take part in a Scouters' Reunion during the Whitsun week-end, 31st May to 2nd June, 1952. Those attending will have to meet their own travelling expenses but will be the guests of the Scouts de France for the week-end. Personal camp equipment will need to be taken; tents will be provided.

Scouters interested should write to International Commissioner, I.H.Q., for further particulars.

Swedish Y.M.C.A. Sea Scout Camp

An invitation has been received from the Swedish Scout Council for a Contingent of fifteen Sea Scouts to attend the Y.M.C.A. National Sea Scout Camp at Gothenburg, July 4th - 14th, 1952. The cost will be about £18, exclusive of pocket money.

Interested Sea Scouts who hold the First Class Badge are invited to write the Training Secretary at I.H.Q. for details.

Princess Elizabeth Birthday Fund

As in 1950 two selected members of Youth Organisations will leave this country during mid-July for a tour of Rhodesia, lasting approximately six weeks. No expense for travel or accommodation will fall upon the representatives between leaving this country and return to it. If necessary, application will be made to the Ministry of Labour for deferment of call up.

The Boy Scouts Association has been asked to nominate one representative who shall be over 18 and under 23 on May 30th, 1952, to participate in the final selection by the Committee of the Fund.

In order that the Scout nominee can be selected full details of any Senior Scout, Rover Scout or Scouter able to take advantage of this trip should be sent to the Training Secretary at I.H.Q. before May 1st, 1952. Such details should include full name and address of the candidate, date of birth, Scout rank, badges gained and brief Scout and general history.

A medical certificate of fitness, parents' permission to travel by air and parents' undertaking to accept the advice of the controlling body regarding medical treatment whilst away from England, should be attached to these particulars.

When the Scout nominee has been selected he will have to appear before a Selection Committee of the Birthday Fund in London during the last week in May or the first week in June.

Free Milk in Camp

The "Milk in Schools Scheme" under which one-third of a pint per day is allowed free to those under 18, applies to *Scouts* in camp subject to the following conditions:

1. The camp must be for three days or more and the number of *Scouts* taking milk must be at least five.
2. All *Scouts* between the ages of 8 and 18 are eligible and one-third pint per head per day is allowed free.
3. Applications should be made to the home Food Office on Form S.M.A.4 and this form should be completed and returned to the Food Office 14 days before the milk is required.
4. This scheme does not apply to Scouts from Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Isles or from foreign countries, but each application on behalf of these Scouts would be decided according to the circumstances of the case.
5. This scheme does not apply to handicapped children normally obtaining 7 pints of milk a week at a reduced price under the Welfare Food Service.

Cancelled Warrants

The undermentioned has failed to return his warrant despite application having been made by Imperial Headquarters: George Norman England, formerly G.S.M. 2nd St. Georges Group, Wrekin.

C. C. GOODHIND,
Administrative Secretary.

CLASSIFIED

ACCOMMODATION

Book your holidays now at either Warden (90/- weekly) or Norman-hurst (average 6 guineas weekly). Both conducted by Toc H members. *Warden Manor*, Eastchurch, Kent, amid unspoilt country at sea edge. Price includes full board, games, dances in season. Optional motor excursions extra. *Normanhurst* Private Hotel (35 beds) is on best part sea-front at Eversfield Parade, St. Leonards-on-Sea. Double or twin rooms, use beach tent. More than 200 Scouters or Toc H booked last year, thus ensuring congeniality. Illustrated Brochure free.

Poole Harbour. Small Guest House, near Bournemouth, New Forest, Dorset Coast. Home comforts. Walled garden. Rosamond Douglas and Doris Marshall, Tower House, Ashley Cross, Parkstone, Dorset.

Somers House Scout Settlement will have a few vacancies in the near future for Scouters or Rovers prepared to work with neighbouring Groups. Apply Warden, Somers House, 46 Brandon Street, S.E.17.

PERSONAL

Cord Shorts made by O. Dover are now being worn by hundreds of Scouters in Great Britain and abroad. Made to your own specification and measurements. Send S.A.E. for patterns and prices to Ossie Dover, The Cycling Tailor, 160 Kensington, Liverpool, 7. (Phone: Anfield 1683.) Now in stock, heavy blue Bedford Cord for Sea Scouts' shorts, limited supply so send early. Closed all day Saturday.

Wigs, Perruquiers, Any Production, lowest rates. Make-up materials. S.A.E. with inquiries. "Bert," 46 Portnall Road, London, W.9. Ladbroke 1717.

Theatrical costumes and accessories. Special rates of hire to Troops for all productions. West End Costumers (Peter Dunlop) Ltd., 18 Tower Street, London, W.C.2. Temple Bar 6806 and 3375.

The Scouts' Friendly Society offers excellent terms for endowment, whole life, sickness and annuity insurances. Descriptive leaflet will be forwarded on application. S.F.S., Roland House, 29 Stepney Green. E. 1. **Wanted for Rover Crew ceremony**, a statuette of kneeling Knight or Squire. Please send details and price to R. S. L. Martin, 4th Purley Crew, I Redford Avenue, Coulsdon, Surrey.

Lady C.M.'s Uniform, made to measure. Dress or battle blouse and skirt, shirt, wool or spun. Send S.A.E. for patterns and self-measurement form to Miss Puttock, Upcotts, Everton, Nr. Lymington, Hants.

"Just William." Just the Play for your next Show. Write for copy, 4/3, to Messrs. Macdonald & Young, Emanwyc House, Bernard St., W.C.1. **Holidays abroad** the sailing wherry *Albion* among the Rivers and Broads of Norfolk - there are still some vacant dates in June, July and September. Last year she carried more than 200 Scouts in parties of up to 20. Write for further particulars to the Hon. Sec., The Norfolk Wherry Trust, Augustine Steward's House, Tombland, Norwich.

Translations effected from French and Spanish at reasonable rates. Standing, 24 Sutherland Road, N.17.

Wanted. Tent 12 ft. x 7 ft. or 12 ft. x 10 ft size. Reasonable price. Burgess Hill School, Oak Hill Park, N.W.3.

Oh **Army Club**, what luck you've got,
To touch those lips when I may not.

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Master required April, boarding preparatory school. Experience appreciated but not essential. Man of right type with high standards, sympathetic to evangelical Christian background. Keen Scouter welcomed. Particulars to Headmaster, Brocksford Hall, Doveridge, Derbyshire.

Christian Scouters wanted! Keen Christians, Communicants of the Church of England, are given a free course of training with small allowance, to become Lay Evangelists. After training, a salaried post is found (Mission Vans, News Teams, Parish Workers, in Youth Centres, etc.). Write for details to Capt. J. Benson, Church Army Headquarters, 55 Bryanston Street, London, W. 1.

Resident Supervision Officer (single) required for Ashbourne Lodge Remand Home, Winchester (30 boys). The duties are to assist the Superintendent in training the boys. Candidates should be interested in games and hobbies and must be able to instruct junior boys in Handicrafts and/or Gardening. Salary will be £280 x £12 - £340 p.a. plus £52 pa. for extraneous duties over 48 hours a week. A deduction of £8 p.a. will be made for board and lodging. Application forms from The County Children's Officer, The Castle, Winchester.

FOR SALE

8 B Flat Bugles in good condition. £12 or nearest offer. T. Carter, 32 Snow Hill, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

Compasses. A limited number of unused Mark III A, in new wooden cases, adjustable and ideal for training purposes £1 10s. 0d. each., C.P. Cannon, Marlen, Bedford Rd., Wilstead, Bedford.

Cabin Cruiser, 2-berth Austin 7 Engine. Refit 1951. Professional conversion. Teddington. £280 or offer. Box No. 130, *The Scouter*.

Poles of all sizes for pioneering work, etc. T. A. J. Dickens, Padbury Mill, Padbury, Bucks.

Two Officers' Valises, leather straps. £4 each. Bayswater 2620.

DUPLICATING AND TYPEWRITING

All classes of duplicating and typewriting neatly and accurately executed by Guider. Prompt delivery, special terms to Scouters. Alert Typewriting Bureau, 1 Peasemars, Gillingham, Dorset.

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Guider undertakes all classes of Typewriting and Duplicating at reasonable prices. Mrs. Cox, 121 London Road, Ramsgate.

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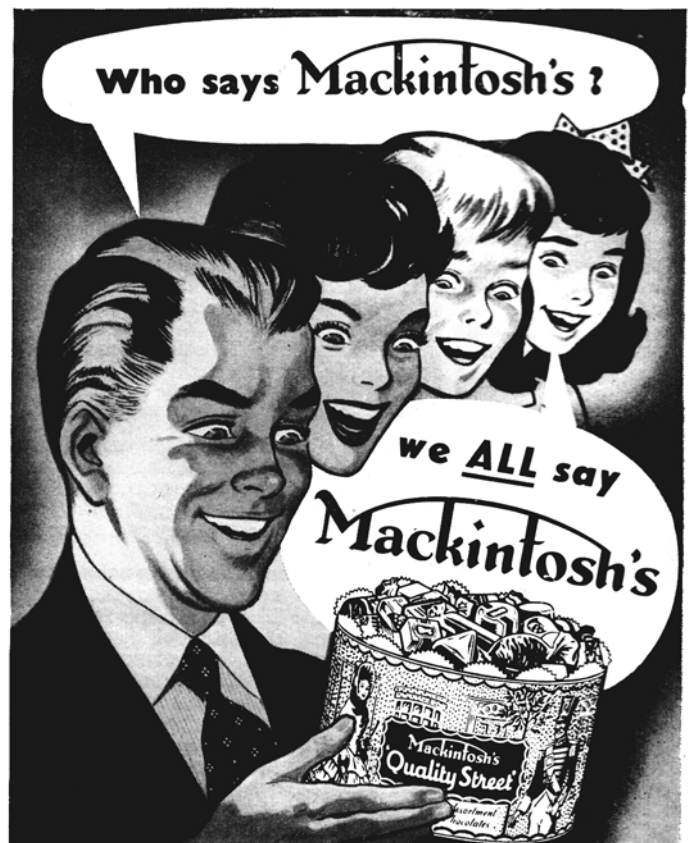


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Buy your jar from I.H.Q., Scout shops everywhere, sports shops, Halfords the cycle experts or from Boots the Chemists who will obtain a jar for you on request. The 1½-gallon size is 6/- and the ½-gallon size is 3/-.

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With the rapidly increasing costs of printed matter you may find it impracticable to place orders locally for comparatively short runs of items like posters, throwaways, etc. By ordering in large quantities, however, we are able to offer you stocks of attractively produced publicity material at the lowest possible prices.

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It is not an easy matter for a householder to think up a job on the spur of the moment. When making their calls your Cubs and Scouts will find it useful to be in possession of one of these lists containing over eighty suggested jobs. 2/6 per 100, 21/- per 1,000.



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Diamond shape in two colours, 6 in. x 6 in. Ideal for house windows as well as for car window screens and van sides. 1/- per doz., 3/9 per 50.

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