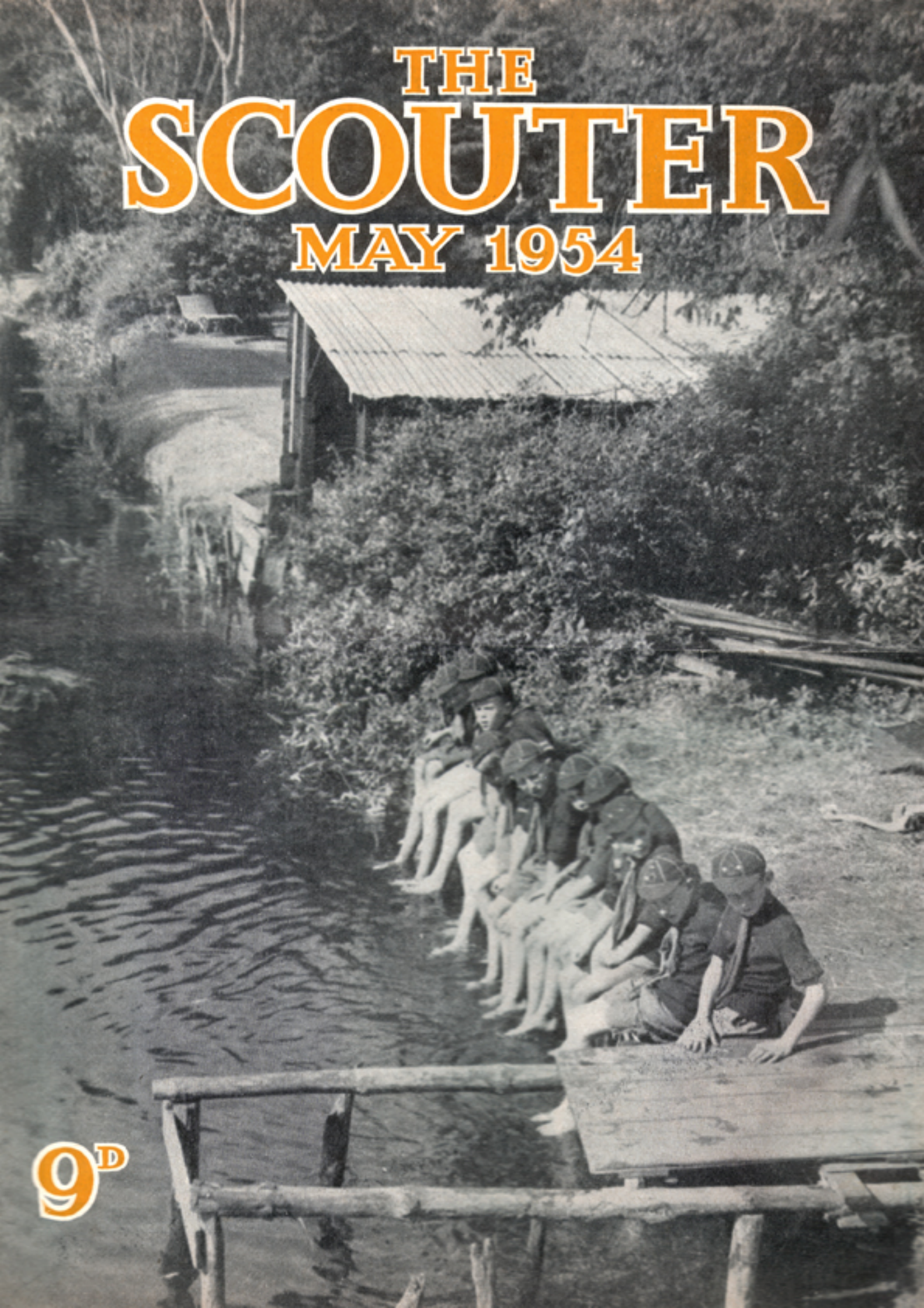


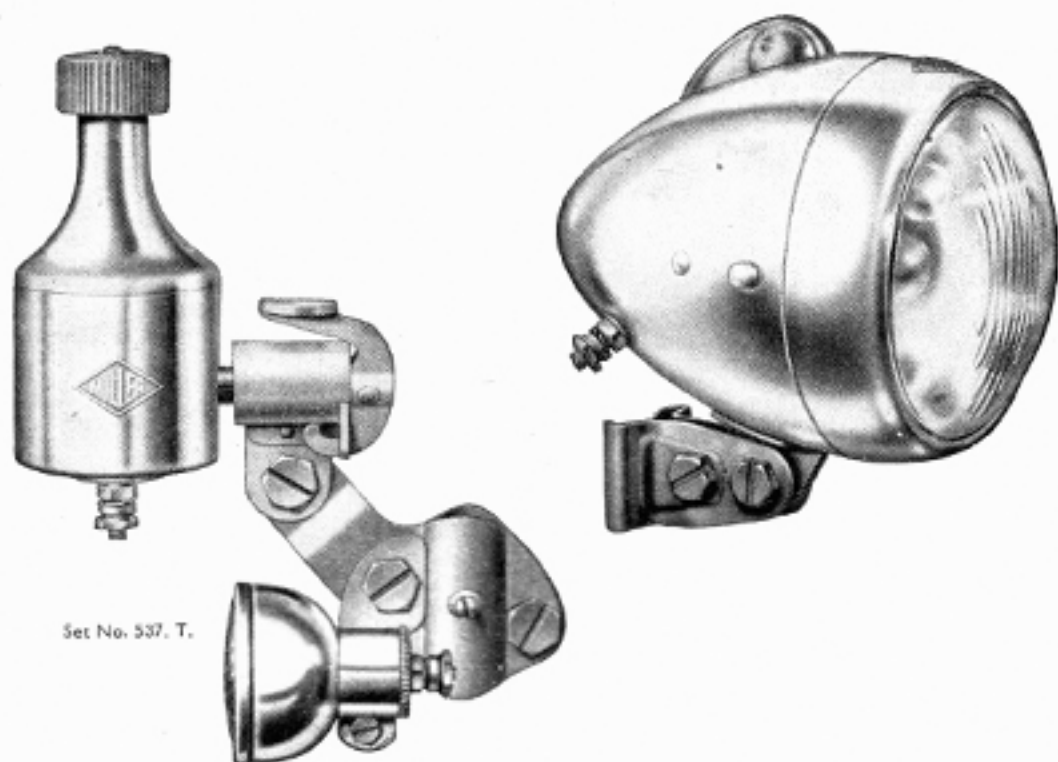
THE SCOUTER

MAY 1954



9^D

THE SCOUTS' SYMBOLS OF EFFICIENCY



Set No. 537, T.

★ The Despatch Rider or Messenger Badge is something to be mighty proud of. So are Miller Dynamo Lighting Sets, whose efficiency and reliability—like the famous Scout Motto “Be Prepared”—is second to none.



CYCLE DYNAMO LIGHTING



DESPATCH RIDER BADGE:—“The bicycle must be properly fitted out with front light and rear lamp.”

(Note to Scouts taking this Test: Examiners appreciate the smartness and efficiency of Miller Cycle Dynamo Sets.)

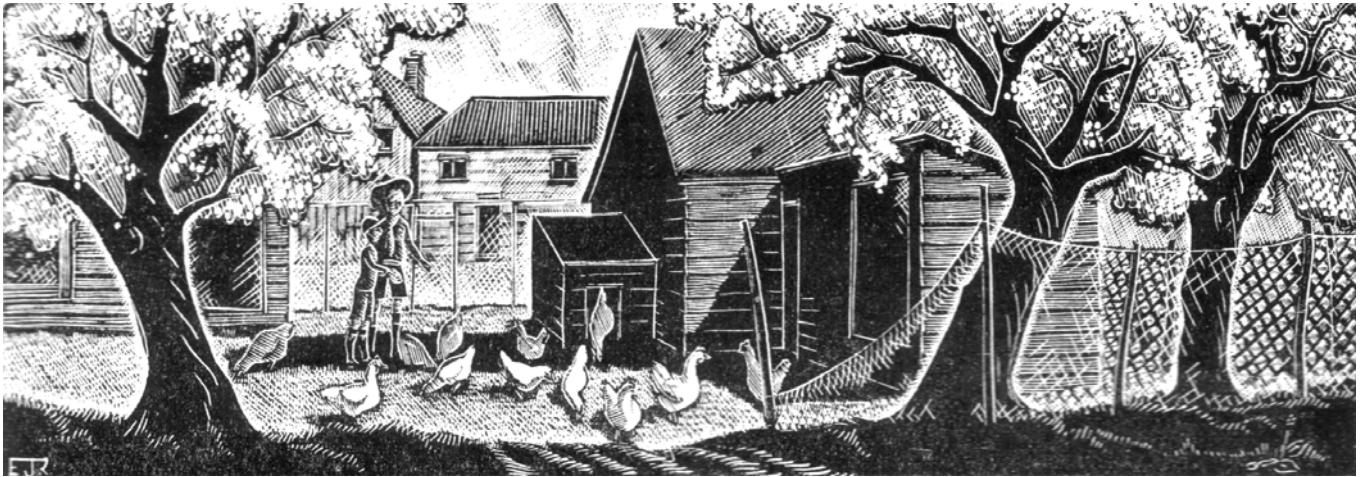


MESSENGER BADGE: “The Scout must keep on his bicycle a front light and tail lamp in good working order.”

(Note to successful messengers: — Miller Cycle Dynamo Lighting Sets give a strong white beam at all speeds.)

Write “Scout Badge Series No. 20.”





THE OUTLOOK

By THE CHIEF SCOUT

As you know, we had to leave Somers House, which started off under such favourable auspices, South of the Thames, and there have been considerable delays in acquiring the new house, owing to negotiations with the Charity Commission and the Local Authorities reluctance to permit a new user for the premises. For those of you who may not remember, this house would, it was hoped, be not only a memorial to Lord Somers, who did so much for Scouting during his few short years of office, but also be a centre of Scouting South of the Thames, as Roland House is in the East. Many who used to subscribe are now holding back until a new centre is in being. I would like to ask them to continue with their subscriptions, which will not be wasted, for it will all be needed. Even if this scheme falls through, we hope to dedicate one of the main rooms or halls in B.-P. House, which now seems to be showing prospects of achievement, to his memory, and furnishings will be required for this. Had it not been for the courage and wisdom of Arthur Somers, under great suffering during the last few years of his life, Scouting would not have survived the terribly difficult years of the war in a condition to enable it to rise again with renewed strength. We owe him a debt of gratitude which can never be repaid, and his work among the poorer boys, in whom he took such a tremendous interest, must surely have a fitting memorial to a truly great man and "a very gallant gentleman."

I hope you have all taken a note of the conditions for the log of the Adventure Journey either by an individual or a pair of Scouts, which appeared in THE SCOUTER in March and has also been given publicity in *The Scouter*. The two Scouters who have so generously provided the prize money were naturally disappointed with the response last year, but I have told them that there was so much for Scouts to do at the Coronation time and after that it was perhaps natural, though unfortunate, that this competition was overlooked. Let's make sure that everybody knows about it this year and makes their plans in good time.

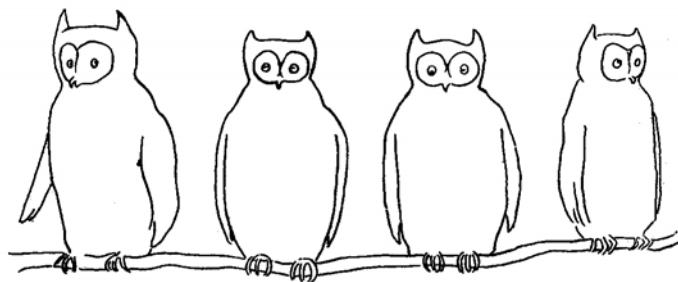
Surely there can be nothing that should appeal more to Scouts than an adventure journey of this kind, either at home or abroad, or are we really getting soft as some people say? This is a challenge to us that we ought to accept and which I am sure many will accept.

Otherwise, we had better pack up and say that Scouting is no longer an adventure but just a pleasant fireside occupation, and I wonder what B.-P. would have said to that. Let's have it properly discussed by the Court of Honour and at District Scouters' meetings, so that everybody will know about it this time.

Have you fixed up that Summer Camp yet? Or are you still waiting for something to turn up? Have you mapped out a progress plan for every Scout and Cub this Summer, or are they just going to dawdle on and remain Tenderfoots or Second Class or whatever stage they have reached up to now? I heard only the other day of a Troop who have just had a couple of Queen's Scouts, the first they have ever had under the new rules, and the last King's Scout they had was in 1928. Their Scouter told me that this progress has already had its effect and is stimulating the whole Group to further efforts. He hopes that from now on there will always be new candidates for this high honour every year, and that they will never go back into the doldrums as they have been for so long. It is wonderful what an example can do.

Have you got an A.C.C. Handicapped Scouts in your County! Ami how is this tremendously valuable branch getting on? I paid my first visit the other day to the Heritage Craft School at Chailey, in Sussex, to open their new Headquarters. These schools were founded many years ago by the late Dame Grace Kimmins, who died only a month or two ago. They are for boys and girls handicapped in one way or in another. They are all taught a trade, and pride of craftsmanship, and they turning out wonderful work. Of course Scouting and Guiding form an important part of the training. There was an old windmill close by, and the three storeys are used for Scouts, Cubs and a chapel. That little chapel on the third floor is a lovely place, beautifully decorated by the boys themselves, and it was most moving to see the enthusiasm displayed.

Two fellows had just completed their First Class journey in spite of their handicap and were as proud as could be of it. The Troop scribe is confined to his bed, but revels in the fact that he can do this job and so take his part in Troop activities.



"OWL ALERT"

The Patrol Logs are beautifully kept and the place was a joy to visit. There is imagination there and first-rate Scouting.

Another visit I have made recently was to the Depot of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at Inverness, where I was asked to appear in Scout uniform to take the Salute at the Passing Out Parade. The Commanding Officer, Major Baird, believes in Scouting, for Scouts do so well, and once again a Scout won the Cup for the best recruit and was followed by another Scout. The local Troops were asked to be present at the Parade and also to come into the hall, where I was talking to the National Service recruits. My father was for forty years an Honorary Member of the Cameron's Mess, and now I am following in his footsteps, for I was honoured in the same way a day or two later.

Then I paid another visit to a Training Centre. where Denis Salt, D.C.C. for Shropshire, and John Sweet, the Field Commissioner, gave a demonstrating with National Service men of sense-training games and activities, which deeply impressed those who were present with their purposefulness and the obvious enjoyment the young fellows got out of them.

The programme was an excellent one and well worth all the trouble that must have gone to its preparation.

I write this we are on the verge of Bob-a-Job Week, and the St. George's Day Service at Windsor - where Her Majesty the Queen Mother is taking the Salute - is in all our thoughts. I hope all records were broken once more by Bob-a-Job, and that everybody put his best foot foremost at all the St. George's Day Parades. This year we shall be more in the eye of the public than ever, and wherever we go we have got to make them the best ever - uniforms worn with pride, everybody clean and tidy, as if we were all marching past the Queen herself.

Stop Press!

Things are getting better. Our Scout Fund for Westminster Abbey has now reached £1,556 9s. 2d. This is nearer to a respectable total. The Fund is open till the end of June so there is still time to cut out "nearer to" from the last sentence,

ROWALLAN.

DEAR EDITOR

The Crux of the Problem

DEAR EDITOR,

"G.S.M." seems to have missed the point of both the aims and the methods of Scouting. He accepts those boys who would anyway be trained by their parents to be good Scouts, in fact if not in name; and he turns away those boys who need Scouting most, those who lack the right guidance from their parents. He scorns the popular appeal of Scouting. But it was the popular appeal of B.-P. and of Scouting for Boys that gave birth to the Scout Movement; it was not the desire of boys to subscribe to a moral code. B.-P., in his wisdom, knew that when he had captured boys by the fun of Scouting, he could lead them to higher ideals. Duty to God is the first thing in Scouting, but it is not the first thing to be rammed down a boy's throat.

Mr. Faithfull-Davies, in *The Observer* recently, said "the 'uniformed' organisations... hedge their admissions with conditions that have nothing to do with a child's need." If "G.S.M.'s" attitude becomes common, we shall indeed merit this accusation. It is not the aim of Scouting to produce a small elite, eliminating all doubtful elements (though that is appropriate to Scouters). It is not for us to accept only those boys who we are certain will be a credit to Scouting. It is our duty to bring the ideals of Scouting to as many boys as possible, and most of all to those who need it most. And we should not be too pessimistic about our apparent failures. Even the boy who does not seem to be a very good Scout will be getting some good out of it. I do not believe that any boy can take the Scout Promise in the proper solemnity and friendliness of an Investiture, without it having some influence on his life. Even if he does not always live up to them, he is at least being introduced to ideals which he may never have heard of at home, if he is one of those unfortunate boys whom "G.S.M." has turned out. And if we sometimes feel discouraged, we should remember the joy in the Kingdom of Heaven over the one sinner who repents.

In our attempts to do this good, we attract boys by the activities of Scouting. Scouting cannot expect to come before television unless it offers something that boys like, better. B.-P. gave us a game, not an organisation that boys should be sent to, as they are sent to school. There should be no must (especially in italics) about attending camp; the boys should be clamouring to go. And then there should be no need of a must about attending church.

JOHN W. S. HEARLE,
A.D.C., Wythenshawe, Manchester.

DEAR EDITOR,

Reading "G.S.M.'s" "purge" only reminds me how extremely simple it is to always reject and eject the bad boys in a Troop and only to retain the good and best. I wonder if G.S.M. asked himself one question, namely - "Who *really* is in desperate need of Scouting?"

- the good boys from good homes who make first-rate Scouts and who, even if they didn't join our Movement would probably never go off the rails anyway, or the boys from homes described by "G.S.M.," who certainly always give trouble, and at the end of two years you sometimes wonder if you have made much, if any, progress with them.

I do not like his remark "We could not combat this." Are we then to throw away a boy's chances of being ultimately a good Scout because his parents are not interested in him? This seems to be a queer creed. Again there is that saying "Half a loaf is better than none," which may bring horror to some Scouters and a quiet smile to others. I think it is which way we face it.

A Troop that is run on slovenly lines with the thought that anything is better than nothing must be classed as definitely wrong - the outlook of the Scouter in charge must be 100 per cent (even if his efforts do sometimes fall slightly shorter). But to retain boys who are not quite the Scouts you want them to be, who have a long long way to go - that is another matter.

Only half a Scout may prove to be three-quarters in a year or two and as some know, the most unlikely lad can really make the 100 per cent Scout sometimes. No, I cannot agree with "G.S.M." on the closed-door policy. I have seen it before, and where does the lad go from there? He certainly won't come back to Scouting, and I'm rather afraid that it is so often the beginning of a sharp downhill descent for a boy of this type.

I can tell you that you will feel far more inward satisfaction in struggling, tussling and battling with your wits against a potential "delinquent" and ultimately holding him and transforming him into a decent Scout than you will ever have in carefully selecting a batch of your best boys and telling yourself you have a "crack" Troop of Scouts.

("G.S.M." may say in self-defence, "We gave them an option" - then I say "What an option!")

Let us have discipline by all means, but we are here to guide a boy, to help him to try to "do his best" to keep the Promise, to set him a good example, and surely it is never our job (God forbid) to slam the door in his face.

GEORGE ARTHUR,
S.M., 64th Beds. (1st Edlesborough).

DEAR EDITOR,

"G.S.M.'s" letter has moved me very much for I wonder just how much harm he has done to his twelve boys. A church is a place we go to, because we love doing so, and we go of our own free will, not because it is a condition of membership of a Troop, the membership of which is probably a parent's desire for the boy rather than the boy's. As for demanding that boys attend camp instead of having boys eating their hearts out to attend, boys frightened that their parents may not allow them to attend because of financial and other reasons, all I can suggest is that when the Troop was disbanded the thirty-five boys should have reformed under a new S.M. who would run a Troop according to B.-P.'s ideas.

Scouting is not so much for making the good boys better as to helping all, particularly those to whom we can be of the greatest assistance.

"And he spake this parable unto them saying, What man of you having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost until he find it? . . . And I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance."

R. G. CHALMERS.

DEAR EDITOR,

I would suggest that "G.S.M." in the March SCOUTER is seeking to establish as conditions of membership what should be, in my opinion, rather the ultimate aims of Scout training.

To take up his question of churchgoing. Surely it is our duty to accept into the Troop those lads who on joining have no religious convictions, and so would not then attend church services of their own free will. It is a test of the completeness of our training whether, in response, these boys will become, not just nominal churchgoers, but whole-hearted Christians. Similarly, the popularity of camps is a test of whether we are holding the undivided interest of the boys.

I notice that "G.S.M." despises the "popular appeal" of Scouting. It will be a sad day when the Movement loses this popular appeal, for it will inevitably lose its flow of recruits. If your correspondent is concerned with recruiting new members, how else is he to attract them, short of publishing abroad that he organises "Moral Discipline Nights for Righteous Youths"? I would far rather welcome any lad who is interested, and show him, as he progresses through Scouting, the high ideals which, through service to God, underline all our training and form the foundations of the Movement.

C. I. GROOM,

A.S.M.4th Harrow (Foresters).

DEAR EDITOR,

"G.S.M." tells the story of how he emptied thirty-five glasses of rather muddy water and was able to refill thirteen of them with clean water.

It is well known that when a glass is emptied of one thing it automatically refills with another, but "G.S.M." did not tell us what refills the twenty-two discarded glasses, especially in view of the fact that the people responsible for them have little interest.

As the thirteen glasses filled with clean water are so well looked after without "G.S.M.'s" aid, wouldn't his time be better spent in getting clean water into the discarded twenty-two?

This brings us to an important question. Did B-P. give us Scouting simply for all the good boys with Moral Discipline and good parents or did he give it to us for everybody and, more especially, all those innumerable boys who have not received that inestimable blessing of interested and loving parents?

There is also an offshoot. Presuming it is agreed that Scouting isn't exclusive, can we genuinely assert that the boys we receive in the Movement who are poor mentally, physically, spiritually and in background leave us richer in these facets of character? During the present spate of census and progress figures these intangible things which are all important are too often overlooked.

Bin. WEBBER,

*A.D.C. Burslem Division,
City of Stoke-on-Trent.*

DEAR EDITOR,

I am shocked by the letter of "G.S.M." in the March issue. Does he not understand the aims of the Scout Movement? He should read the preface to the 1940 and subsequent editions, of *Scouting for Boys*, and the sentence from page 13, 1937 edition, of the same book "our aim is solely to make the rising generation into good citizens."

Do we understand by this that we are to take a dozen carefully chosen paragons and make them still more cherubic? Or are we to take the ordinary cheerful, cheeky, likeable and entirely commonplace boy who fills the Movement and do our best to make him into a decent citizen?

I remember nowhere in B.-P.'s writing that he said that a Scout must go to church, or that he *must* do anything else, for that matter. He did say that the Scouter should *encourage* the boy to go to church or other places of worship (and I don't think that "encourage" means "pester the life of" - that's the most certain way of getting the opposite result).

Good heavens, if I sacked all the boys in my Troop who ever break a rule, I shouldn't have a Troop left. Any fool can run a Troop of boys who live absolutely to the rules (assuming that such boys exist); it is a better test of the man if he can successfully run a normal Troop and keep the boys happy, interested and improving themselves.

If "G.S.M.'s" Troop failed, then I suggest he should examine his own conscience to discover if he and his Scouters should not share the blame.

The basis of Scouting is, surely, to get youngsters from the streets into worthwhile activities. Has "G.S.M." returned his twenty-two boys to their street corners and gangs? Has he washed his hands of them?

The district is not mentioned in "G.S.M.'s" letter, but if these unfortunates are anywhere in my neighbourhood, I should be glad to welcome them to my own bunch of anything-but paragons.

W. L. HARTLEY,

S.M. 6th Malvern (St. Peter's).

DEAR EDITOR,

While I have considerable sympathy with "G.S.M. in his problem, over twenty years of Scouting have taught me that you cannot produce Scout Spirit by regulation. This sort of thing is built up slowly, oh so slowly, by the example of Scouters (close contact with the boys and their families here) and the tradition of the Troop (retention of your older Scouts is essential for this). By making ~mp attendance, etc., a rule of the Troop, "G.S.M." is throwing away a very valuable yardstick. Granted that if the Scouts are loyal they will come to camp, but "G.S.M.'s" camps may not be worth attending anyway and he will be none the wiser. We usually get 100 per cent attendance at camp, but if half the Troop began producing excuses I should want to know the reason why and I should suspect myself first. For years I tried to produce the wearing of the mufti bad~ by regulation - I failed, but now I realise what a valuable yardstick this can be. If I see a member of the Troop, especially a Senior, wearing his mufti badge with pride, it tells me more about that Scout than all the record sheets in the world.

J. B. KNAGGS.

G.S.M., 1st Angmering.

DEAR EDITOR,

We are to understand from the writer "G.S.M." that the answer to our leakage problem is based on the lack of moral fibre and parental support to the Group, and that the answer is to only admit into our Movement the type of lad who comes from the home where the Church is respected fully, the parents' moral standards are unquestionable and that on entry into the Group he will undertake to always attend Church EVERY Sunday and attend EVERY camp. Without very much deeper thought, one immediately sees how very stupid these "musts" are, but what I am concerned about is this question of Moral Fibre.

If a lad possesses, because of good fortune, moral discipline he is in little need of the Scout Movement and if all boys have this before entry into the Movement why have a Scout Movement? Perhaps just to train boys in Woodcraft?

Scouting is for boys, all boys, regardless of country, class or creed. B.-P. gave us a code of living and a method of training the boy. Scouting today must watch that it does not overlook the task that B.-P. set before each Scouter and that is to encourage, train and worry over the boy who has not the privilege of a Christian home background and who have parents who adopt the "couldn't care less" attitude towards the boy's interests.

By closing the door of Scouting to such boys it closes just another way of introducing the boy to teachings of the Christian Church. Has "G.S.M." not heard "Softly, softly, catchee monkey." Most boys, by example, encouragement and a word from Skipper, can be led to find a place in their lives for the Church and its Christian teachings.

Twenty-two boys "G.S.M." has excluded from the influence of the Movement. I can only say that the one boy I suspended found himself soon in very bad company: he too missed the Movement's influence.

Lost are the opportunities of leading these twenty-two Scouts to a way of life beyond Scouting, all because they did not have the right background, or alternatively their Scouters have failed to train them effectively in the Scout Promise.

LEONARD SPIKESLEY,
S.M., 2nd Cockfosters.

DEAR EDITOR,

May I on behalf of our Group Scouters' Council say that we couldn't agree less with the letter which you so wisely printed under the pseudonym "G.S.M." in the March Scouter.

Surely it is equally important, if not more so, to gather into Scouting the boys who lack parental control and do not attend church!

If we only succeed in instilling a little of the Scout Spirit and Duty to God in the form of Prayers, Yams and Scouts' Owns, we shall have helped the boys along the right path.

We wonder what has become of the other twenty-two lads turned loose in the streets?

I may add that the views of my fellow Scouters were expressed far more forcibly than the terms of this letter, but I feel that "G.S.M." is a sincere Christian who has got Scouting and Duty to God rather out of focus, unfortunately at the expense of twenty-two potentially good Christians.

L. J. VENESS,
*31st Royal Tunbridge Wells
(1st St. Andrew's)*

DEAR EDITOR,

What a shock it must have been to many to read "G.S.M.'s" letter, especially the last part - "The action we took was tough. We hope and pray that we are successful in our efforts." I think it should have read - "The action we took was tough on the boys who need Scouting through lack of parental guidance. We hope and pray that we can spare more effort."

Surely one good Scout produced from the twenty-two thrown out by that Group would be more credit to them and their efforts than twelve out of the remaining thirteen. What is the Scouters job but to make up for the lack of parental guidance and example and to instill into the lads the ideals of Scouting. Doesn't "G.S.M." want to help the lad to become a good Christian or does he want to receive them all ready-made from the Sunday School?

With the so many "musts" in the conditions of entry to this Troop its type of Scouting can never be the game that B.-P. meant it to be to the boys.

It was disheartening to me to read that there was a Sponsoring Authority and Group Council in existence that would allow such a thing to happen.

I think that if you hadn't requested "G.S.M." to remain anonymous I should have been tempted to write direct! and express my views on the matter more strongly.

N. L. WRIGHT,
*3rd Soke of Peterborough
(Sr. Paul's)*

DEAR EDITOR,

May I, although not a Scout, but nevertheless a very ardent admirer of your Association and all that it stands for add my appreciation of your correspondent who found it necessary to make a few remarks about the example some parents set.

I have found this attitude very prevalent in adults who teach their children that anyone who does anything for nothing is a fool. How often have I wished that I had the nerve to do as your correspondent did.

E. EBBELL.

Census Figures and Statistics

DEAR EDITOR,

"Koko" in March SCOUTER need not make any apology for his very interesting and disquieting statistics showing, amongst other things, where the leakages in the Scouts occur, and also the slow progress towards "Stars" in the Cubs, and past the Tenderfoot stage in Scouts. His figures should, I suggest, be studied by all Scouters from A.C.M. and A.S.M. upwards.

When Florence Nightingale galvanised the hospitals, civil and military, in this country the ammunition she used to convince the authorities and the public was based on statistics which were more convincing than appeals. Let us hope that a study by all Scouters of Koko's illuminating statistics will have a similar success.

W. W. BIRRELL.

DEAR EDITOR,

Having accepted Mr. Coiquhoun's "challenge" and not being allergic to statistics (though regarding them as potentially as dangerous as red herrings) I have followed his remarks and noted his conclusions with interest. Indeed I have been almost depressed by them. What an appalling picture of inefficiency and failure we Scouters present when it comes to getting our Cubs and Scouts through their various tests! Mr. C. says that words fail him and no wonder. On the evidence he provides the situation is very serious and it would be ostrich-like to pretend otherwise.

And yet - one can remember so many Scouts who were first-class in all but the Badge on their arm. For if Scouting is judged only by this standard of proficiency, would the Movement in Britain continue to keep its good name and its reputation for coping with any event or emergency? Can the record as shown in *They Were Prepared* refer only to the cream of Scouting rather than the ordinary boy in the ordinary Group? Is the Chief talking only of a minority when he says the training in the Troop room and in the countryside has enabled Scouts to gain the confidence of people all over the world in their ability to do a job, not just for the sake of doing it but as best they can?"

In the dazzle of statistic data we should not overlook the intangibles which prefer the quiet places, the camps and the Scouts' Owns. It is surely a possibility that Scouters have grasped the fundamental idea behind the Old Chief's vision and have managed to pass it on to the very boys whom they so signally fail to train in technical proficiency. And if so the position is not quite so hopeless.

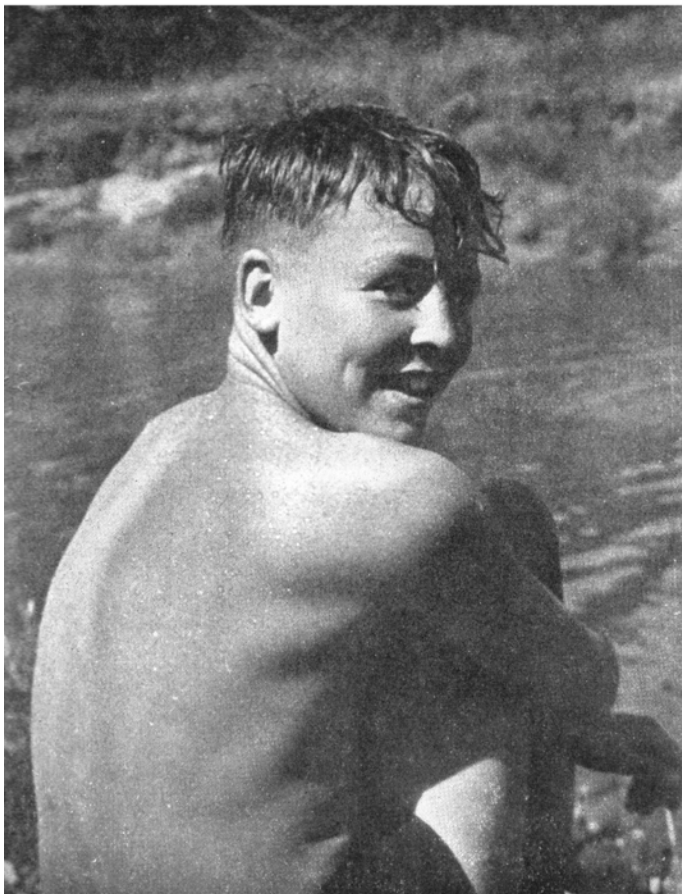
Mr. C. has pricked whatever vestige of complacency that you, Mr. Editor, may have left us and is' a boy fails in four years to reach Second Class or much beyond, it reflects no credit on any of us. But equally for a boy to gain his Queen's Scout Badge and fail to understand the meaning of his Promise may well prove disastrous.

We must all desire and strive for an improvement in proficiency standards, but let us also keep our objectives clearly in sight and realise that our main aim must be the inculcation of what for want of a more precise definition we call "the Scout spirit."

G. MCNELLY,
*G.S.M., 5th Batham
and Tooting*

[While agreeing with Mr. McNelly's thesis, I would like to emphasise once more that (a) we can help boys only if they stay with us to be helped, (b) the boys who stay are nearly always those who have made technical progress, and those who haven't leave. - R. H.]

THE CAREFREE DAYS OF CAMP





(Photo by Peter Pridham)

YOUTH

OUR DISTRICT

By A.D.C.

I had just sat down to write one of my genial and sympathetic articles about Modern Youth when I glanced out of the window and saw the ghastly little freckle-faced boy who lives round the corner tearing the WET PAINT notice off my front gate. I am one of the best-tempered men in the world, but there is a limit to human endurance, and in the last two days six notices have been torn down with the result that several important visitors have got their hands all over creosote. I rushed round to the front door and down the garden path and would have caught the boy if I had not tripped over a piece of rockery. He escaped, and I returned to my typewriter in a state of baffled fury. Then, before I could get started, the telephone rang.

"Is that Mr. Bugface?" asked the voice at the other end. "This is Potts of the 22nd. My Eagle Patrol is having a Patrol camp this coming week-end, and I'm going to take a most important and distinguished visitor to see them, and I wondered if you could put me on to a really beautiful camp site? Ted Jeffert is the P.L., a most reliable boy, and the Eagles won the District Camping Cup last year, so they can be trusted not to let you down...."

I hesitated, and then told him that I would ring him back in half an hour.

Picking up the phone again I got on to Sir George Cracknell, of Cracknell Park. Before the war my old Troop used to camp regularly at Cracknell Park, on one of the finest woodland sites I have ever seen, but in 1946 a new Troop camped there, one of those very bad Troops that were unfortunately rather common about that time, and they did so much damage that Sir George service he would never allow Scouts to camp again. All the apologies in the world had failed to move him, for those wretched so-called Scouts had mutilated rare and valuable trees in his pinery that it would take twenty years to replace.

"Can I come round for a chat?" I asked, and he agreed to see me, and after a long talk I persuaded him to let the Eagles camp in Brook Spinney the following week-end.

Then I got on to Potts, who is the vicar of St. Gabriel's, and one of our best Scouters, and told him what I had done.

"I'm extremely grateful," he said. "Because I want to show my V.I.P. a perfect camp in perfect surroundings. If I can make a real impression on him it may have repercussions of the utmost value. I'll be there with him at 3.30 to have a cup of tea with the Eagles, and if you'd care to join us."

Potts had a parish in the West End of London before he came here, and knows all sorts of important people, Cabinet Ministers and millionaires and distinguished foreigners, so I put on my best uniform and a brand-new plume, and looked every inch an A.D.C. when I arrived at Brook Spinney. The thing was like something out of a book on Perfect Scouting, an expertly laid-out camp in a lovely natural setting, and the Eagles under Ted Jeffert were worthy of the setting.

Potts arrived ten minutes later, but I nearly fell in the grease pit when I saw his distinguished visitor. It was the ghastly freckle-faced boy from round the corner.

Potts took me aside.

"The Probation Officer has almost given him up," he said, "he comes from a dreadful home and he's always in trouble, and next time it will mean an Approved School. He came to my Troop for the first time last week, and if I can hold him he'll be O.K., so I've put on this show so that he can see Scouting at its very best. You expected somebody more important? There, just *isn't* anybody more important than a boy with a life to be mended and a soul to be saved.."

CAMPING DAYS

3. PRESSURE COOKING AND THE CAMP FIRE

First of all, "Why?" Well, cooking in the older way is great fun (if you know how to do it), but it does take rather a long time, doesn't it?

You probably know that four "Commodore" pressure cookers were used by the Everest Expedition, and enabled them to prepare, quickly, hot meals at a height of 21,000 feet, which would have been well-nigh impossible without these pressure cookers. In addition, they are again being taken by the expedition setting out to the Himalayas next spring, and this time they are trying to make bread, etc., in the Prestige cooker, as well as vary their diet. I have been doing this pressure cooking since the last war ended.

It won't cook everything, but why should it? It makes very good stews, and delicious goulashes. What are the latter? Well, they are, I suppose, Austrian stews, but with lots of other amusing things in them. It makes wonderful soup.

Portability: the pressure cooker will take the place of at least three saucepans, and can be used as an ordinary saucepan if necessary, as well as a pressure cooker. It is light, easily carried, particularly the spring lid type which has no awkward handle, and is easily packed into a haversack or kit-bag. Because the lid is closed completely by the rubber gasket, it can even have food in it, ready for cooking when needed, thus saving weight in the way of other food containers. The Minor is only 4 lb. with separators; 3 lb. 14 oz. without; costs 67s. 6d.

As the steam is sealed in the pan under pressure, very little liquid is needed for cooking; for instance, 8 lb. potatoes require only a half-pint of water. This means, when camping, that much less water is required for cooking, and that means less water to carry from the nearest water supply. As the Prestige can also be used to cook several things together, without mixture of food and flavour, in a much shorter time, the one pressure cooker can take the place of several pans, so a smaller fire is needed, and need not be kept up so long. This means less work in gathering, sawing or cutting wood.

You do need to be careful not to burn the short lifting handles. It was found at Gilwell. Park that the best way was as in the drawing. The pieces of aluminium or tin can be pushed closer together after pressure is reached, thus reducing the heat under the cooker, whilst still protecting the handles.

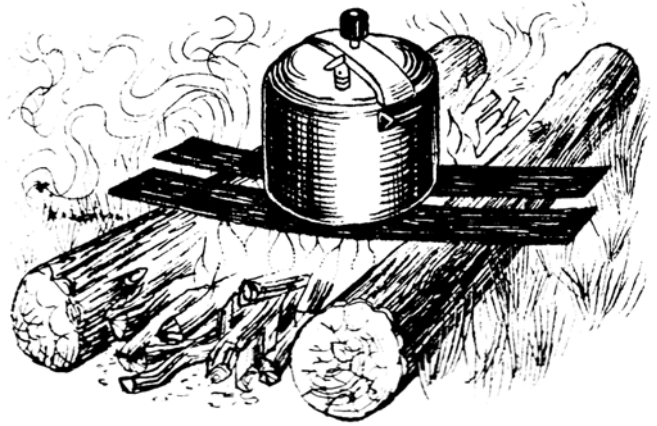
The Prestige means less washing up: and, as pressure is best reduced in cold water, if this water is put into a washing up bowl, the act of reducing the pressure will heat the water sufficiently to do the washing up (of cooking utensils, etc.), again saving time and work. Excellent for Sea Scouts, or others who have to use a Primus. The larger sizes are suitable where larger meals are needed quickly, and there are not many hands available.

Birds can quickly be done, but you must disjoint them and fry them all over (in some fat) on the bottom of the cooker first, without the lid. I did a pigeon and two veg. in 35 minutes from the time I started getting the food ready until it was all ready to eat.

Roots - potatoes, parsnips, carrots, salsify, turnips, beetroots, etc. - take only 15 minutes from start to finish, and do they taste good! It is just wonderful for vegetables. They take very little time. They need only about a cupful of water, and they taste better than you have ever tasted them before.

A vegetable cake is a good quick meal. Wash and clean a cabbage, remove the leaves, press down on the rack with one gill of water (5 oz.). Pack in flat, two inches of leaves, then a thin layer of sliced onions, chopped bacon (or ham, sardines, kippers, sausages, eggs), tomatoes, sliced potatoes and what-have-you. Then pack in flat, another two inches of cabbage. Sprinkle over a flat tablespoon of salt. Yes! a tablespoon - a woman who was watching a well-known chef cooking, commented that he always used a tablespoon of salt, where she used a teaspoonful. Pressure cook for 5 minutes. Cut it like a cake.

Here are some recipes. Try these things out.



RISOTTO

Pressure cooking time: 10 minutes.

1 oz. margarine.	Salt, pepper and a good dash
1 onion, chopped.	of Worcester sauce.
½ lb. tomatoes (peeled and quartered).	¾ pint boiling stock or water.
	¼ lb. rice.
Bouquet garni (a bunch of mixed herbs tied in a bit of muslin).	2 oz. grated cheese.

Heat margarine, add onion and fry gently in open cooker until soft. Add tomatoes. Cook for a few minutes, then add bouquet, salt, pepper, Worcester sauce and stock. Add rice, and stir well. Put on lid, and bring to pressure on LOW heat. Pressure cook 10 minutes. Reduce pressure, add grated cheese. Serve.

RABBIT WITH VEGETABLES

Cooking time: 25 minutes.

Seasoned flour.	Salt and pepper.
1 oz. dripping.	½ pint water or stock.
2 medium onions, sliced.	3 lb. potatoes.
1 rabbit, jointed.	2 lb. carrots or parsnips.

Melt fat in the bottom of the cooker and brown the joints of the rabbit well, together with the onion. Add the water, or stock, and stir well. Cover, bring to pressure and pressure cook for 20 minutes. Reduce pressure with cold water, put the trivet on top of the rabbit, and the vegetables cut to cook in 5 minutes. Cover, bring to pressure and pressure cook for 5 minutes. Reduce pressure with cold water.

IRISH STEW AND DUMPLINGS

Cooking time: 25 minutes.

1 lb. neck of mutton.	1 teaspoon salt.
1 large onion.	1 pint water.
4 peppercorns.	1 tablespoon chopped parsley.
1-2 lb. potatoes.	

Dumplings

4 oz. flour.	1 ½ oz. cooking fat, margarine, or suet.
1 level teaspoon baking powder.	Pinch of salt.
	Water to mix.

Put water into cooker, cut the meat into neat pieces, cut the potatoes into rough pieces, slice an onion. Add meat, potatoes and onion in the cooker in layers, seasoning between each layer with salt and pepper. Cover, bring to pressure and pressure cook for 20 minutes. Reduce pressure with cold water, sprinkle chopped parsley over the top and serve. For additional flavour, add 1 tablespoon oatmeal, 1 chopped carrot.

Dumplings.

Sift flour, salt and baking powder into a bowl, rub in the fat, or add suet, and mix to a stiff dough with water. Form into eight dumplings, add to the stew and pressure cook for 5 minutes.

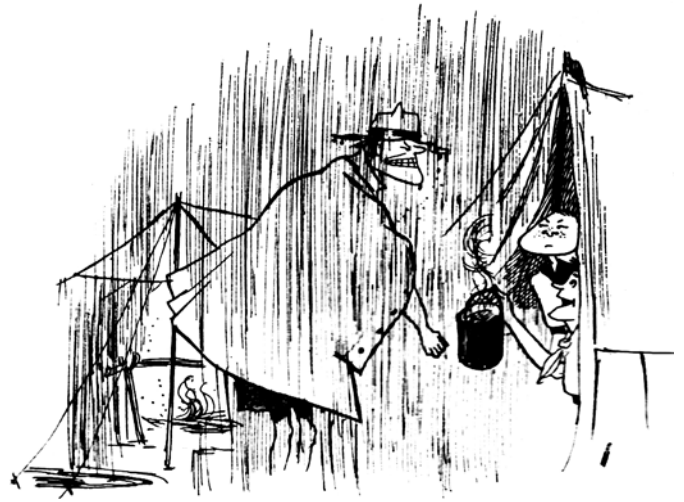
HUNGARIAN GOULASH

Cooking time: 15 minutes.

1 lb. beef, mutton or pork cut k inch thick.	1 clove of garlic (so small and easy to carry, and so
2 oz. fat. good).	
2 lb. onion (sliced).	¼ pint tomato juice or water.
4 teaspoons paprika.	¼ pint water.
Pinch of allspice (do take lots of herbs with you).	6 medium potatoes, quartered.
1 tablespoon salt.	1 oz. flour blended with 4
2 bayleaves.	tablespoons cold water.

Cut meat into 2-inch pieces. Melt fat in cooker, add meat and onions and brown slightly. Add seasonings, spice, tomato juice and water. Place potatoes on top of meat. Cover, bring to pressure and pressure cook for 15 minutes. Reduce pressure with cold water. Thicken liquid with 1 tablespoon of flour blended with 4 tablespoons of cold water. Cook until smooth and thickened, stirring all the time.

W. J. MARTIN-TOMSON



“Skip, ‘Ginger’ doesn’t like stew with onions in it AND he’s got his blankets wet.”

4. DOCTOR IN THE CAMP

(1.) Hygiene, or how to live longer

There is nothing that I can tell you that is new, but perhaps if it is put in a different way it will become easier to understand why it is so important to practise hygiene. It will also be easier to practise if we know what hygiene is, and on what principles it depends.

Briefly it implies taking steps to ensure maximum good health and the avoidance of *unnecessary* risks. I stress the word *unnecessary*, because I want to make it clear that at all times we are at risk from infection, and it is only by realising this that we know when, how and where to apply measures.

So let us start with the supposition that only the fittest survive. From the exciting times of the sabre-tooth tiger and the like it was pretty obvious that prehistoric man had either to look extremely unappetising or to be exceedingly fleet of foot in order to survive very long. In our own times the sabre-toothed tiger is replaced by bacteria and the viruses, whose livelihood, and hence survival, depends on their finding suitable places to live in and multiply, and this means you, gentle reader, and, as a result, your influenza.

Germs live everywhere, some are very dangerous and some we can’t do without, and all the rest lie between these two extremes. Many of them don’t live in man, and couldn’t if they tried, and some can’t live anywhere else, but by far the greatest number can exist in many places and some of these multiply in man to produce diseases.

Why is it that we are not overwhelmed by all these germs? The answer is to be found in considering these four factors which influence the chances of infection.

1. The germs must be at the right place at the right time.
2. They must be the right kind of germ and fully virulent.
3. The victim may have a high general resistance to diseases.
4. He may have a specific resistance.

A word under each heading will not come amiss.

1. It seems pretty obvious that the germs have to be there in the right place at the right time to infect us. They can be in the air, in dust, on food, water, milk, ice-cream, droplets, earth, and so on, but it won’t help the germs if we don’t eat ice-cream, or only paddle in the water. So before you resign yourself to an interesting disease make certain you have had a proper opportunity to become infected.

2. Germs are like small boys (in some respects) - they come in different sizes, some are worse than others, and they do different things to you. Another characteristic of the germ is that the more the germ manages to infect, the tougher it becomes. They multiply very quickly - every few minutes, in fact, and during epidemics, if the disease runs through the Troop, the last man will probably have a much worse attack than the first.

3. This sort of resistance is governed by your toughness and your fitness, and these again are influenced by your way of life, the exercise you take, your vices, and by what sort of people your ancestors were. Of course there are plenty of very fit people who get laid very low quite easily by certain diseases, but the chances are that the fitter you are the better show you will put up. Don’t forget, your defences may be so good that the disease is conquered before a bridgehead is forced. Indeed I am sure that many of us have managed in this way to ward off a cold, helped, no doubt, by certain secret and warming concoctions.

4. Immunity. This section covers previous infections, active immunisation (diphtheria, T.A.B.), vaccination (smallpox), and the like. Some diseases confer a very high immunity, like whooping cough, and some no lasting immunity, like the common cold.

Included in this section lives the red-faced old gentleman whose well-water is a sort of typhoid soup, and who has become immune to it by repeated doses over the years. Accept a drink from him, however, and you won’t be so lucky.

Now having absorbed diligently the last few paragraphs, it is quite clear to us that camping is a hopelessly contaminated procedure, and we are all bound to succumb sooner or later.

However, there remain the steps, which we can take to prevent infection, and these are the steps of hygiene, which are so well known to you all, and are merely common sense rules of health. They almost all fall into Section 1, and aim to prevent the germ having access to its victim, either by killing the germ, or by putting up a barrier, or moving the germ, or moving the victim. This, of course, presupposes that we know where the germ is, which is not always easy, and so sometimes we have to employ blunderbuss methods.

I do not propose to elaborate them here, merely to remind you their object is to prevent food from being infected, to disinfect it if it is infected, to prevent diseases from spreading, and to increase resistance to disease. May I mention such steps as the proper storage of food, strict control of flies at latrines, etc., cleanliness of food handlers, and care of water and milk, and maintenance of physical fitness.

Now, if in spite of all these precautions an infection breaks out, then you must sit down and review at once all your defences to find out where the germ got in. All these precautions must be doubled, and by detective work, using the type of spread and the location of patients as clues, it is generally possible to trace the origin.

The final job is to stop the spread, and here isolation of the patient may be advisable until the invasion is under control.

Re-reading *Scouting for Boys* I find as usual that B.-P. says it all so much more clearly and with much better effect in Yarns 17, 18 and 19. So may I suggest that you read these three Yarns again; there is no time like the present.

PETER JOHNSON.

THE SCOUT MOVEMENT AND COMMUNISM

The House of Lords Debate

On Thursday, 11th March, 1954, Viscount Stansgate proposed the following motion in the House of Lords:- "That in the opinion of this House the imposition of political and religious tests by the Boy Scouts Movement is foreign to its Charter and purpose and repugnant to our national tradition and liberty of conscience."

The whole debate is well worth reading, and will be found in Hansard, House of Lords Debates, Vol. 186, No. 46 (price 9d.), but as it runs to some 27,000 words only the barest summary can be given here.

The Chief Scout was in his finest form, and completely convinced the House that Lord Stansgate's motion was misconceived. As Earl Winterton said: - "In fifty years experience of public life I have never heard a case so torn to shreds and tatters that it ceased to exist as was the speech of the mover of this Resolution by the speech of the noble Lord, Lord Rowallan." Not one of the speakers who followed the Chief supported Lord Stansgate, and the motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord Stansgate opened his speech by thanking the Chief Scout for being present to answer, and went on "and also, very much from the heart, I should like to thank the Chief Scout's office (i.e., I.H.Q.), because I have bothered them with many queries in the last few days and although they knew perfectly well that I was a critic they never failed to show the kindness and helpfulness that we associate with the Scout Movement."

He believed that a non-political worldwide Movement was being turned into a political propaganda Movement and being enrolled in the anti-communist front. He considered that the Scout Promise, accompanied by obedience to the Scout Law, which says that there should be no propaganda and no discussion of politics within the Movement, was the perfect pattern. His own family had entered into it with enthusiasm.

But in 1951 a pamphlet was issued *A Challenge to Scouting - the Menace of Communism*, which in his opinion took Scouting into the cold war, which was nothing whatever to do with the Scout Movement. As regards duty to God and the Queen, he claimed that duty to the Queen involved no more than a declaration of fealty, such as their Lordships made at the beginning of every Parliament. As regards duty to God, it was asked how could a Scout who was a Communist promise to do his duty to God, but many Communists considered themselves Christians, and how could God be defined? What about Buddhist Scouts, Shinto Scouts and Animists? He was not attacking religion in the Scout Movement, but his conception of the Movement was a broad human brotherhood in which those of common faith got together.

Lord Stansgate said it was their job to fight Communism, but the job should be given to people qualified to fight.

He then dealt with the cases of Etheridge and Garland, and said that he had written to the Chief Scout as follows:- "Finally and most important would it not be possible for you to say simply that if a boy abstains from political propaganda and keeps the rest of the Scout rules and declares himself conscientiously able to make the promise, the mere fact that he is, or is said to be, a Communist would not exclude him from the Scout Movement? "The Chief Scout had written to him that morning and said, "The answer to the question is 'Yes'." If he could leave it there, he would be very satisfied, but he was not satisfied as to the case of Paul Garland.

The Chief Scout said that he was most grateful to the noble Viscount for giving him the opportunity of defending the Movement which he was privileged to lead from a lot of muddleheaded thinking and misunderstanding which had been going on for far too long. This was not a new problem; it had been going on since 1922, when in accordance with instructions from the Soviet Government attempts were made to destroy youth movements from within by infiltration from outside. In that year, the Founder had, without protest from their Lordships' House or anywhere else, dismissed three young Rover Scouts for failing to keep the Promise which they had solemnly made.

They had seen the disastrous effects on the Continent of Europe of tolerance to a compromise with the fundamentals of Scouting, which from the beginning had been the Promise and the Law.

He mentioned letters he had received, since this controversy had started, from exiled leaders of Scouting in Estonia and Czechoslovakia. The Scout Movement was determined not to compromise on these points. It had the privilege of being No. 1 on the list of public enemies of totalitarianism of all kinds, not only of Communism but of Fascism and Nazism, too.

They adhered to the Founder's principle, that no boy should be excluded from Scouting because he came from a Communist home or because, in his adolescent development, he felt the idealism of Communism.

He pointed out that Etheridge was the son of a Communist father who was an ardent and militant atheist, while his mother was an equally ardent anti-Communist and a regular Church worker. He joined the Young Communist League for weekdays and went to Church with his mother on Sundays. That was an example of muddle-headedness. They hoped that by keeping him in the Movement they could help him to resolve the conflict of loyalties.

Garland, on the other hand, after winning the Queen's Scout badge, was picked upon by the Communist Party and taken to the World Federation of Democratic Youth Peace Rally in Berlin in 1952. On his return, he was appointed a member of the National Committee of the Young Communist League, a fact which he did not mention to anyone in the Scout Movement, from which he had by that time started to drift away, as he had drifted away also from his Church attendance. After fifteen months' probationary period, he was appointed Secretary of the South-West of England Branch of the Young Communist League, and was then in the news. After absenting himself for over a year from all Scout activities he suddenly appeared again in uniform at a Group pantomime which, by a curious coincidence, was *Little Red Aiding Hood*, to which he was followed by a number of journalists and a press photographer - an honour not usually accorded to Group pantomimes. Could they believe that it was a pure coincidence that the Press arrived at that moment?

The Chief Scout quoted from a statement issued in 1940 by the Communist Party of Great Britain on *The Role and Character of the Young Communist League*, showing that the 'young Communist League was an affiliated section of the Young Communist International, and worked for the establishment of a single youth international organisation of all Socialist youth bodies, and 'he quoted from a letter sent by Garland to his fellow apprentices in the Bristol Aircraft Factory in 1952.

Lord Stansgate had spoken about the Scout Movement dividing the world in two. It was not they, said the Chief, who had divided the world in two; they had been the chief sufferers. As regards duty to God, Scouting had representatives among all the great Creeds in the world, and their leaders approved Scout principles. Scouting believed that it provided the only common ground on which the youth of the world could meet without compromise to their own conscience and their own way of life. Nothing that afternoon had convinced him that they had taken the wrong action. They had a duty to help the boy if they could, but there might come a time when the greater duty lay in protecting the rest of the boys in the Group, the whole Movement in this country and the world-wide Movement.

Surely they were not to keep one boy, whom they had lost all hope of helping, and at the same time risk the danger of harming those others, whom they were leading to a belief in God.

The Chief Scout was supported by the **Lord Bishop of Southwell, Earl Winterton, Lord Aminon, Lord Somers, Lord Balfour of Indirye, Lord Baden-Powell, Lord Elton, Viscount Buckmaster, Viscount Samuel** (Leader of the Liberal Party in the House of Lords), the **Marquess of Salisbury** (the Lord President of the Council) and **Viscount Alexander of Hillsborough** (Leader of the Labour Party). 'It was of the greatest value that this support came from such distinguished representatives of the three political parties.

If space permitted, it would be pleasing to quote at length, but two short extracts must suffice. **Lord Ammon**, with his considerable knowledge of boys' clubs, was aware of the mischief the Communist Youth Movement had done in gaining admission to many similar organisations.

He said that the nation owed a debt of gratitude to the Scout Movement, and he hoped it would continue on the line it was following at the present time. **Lord Samuel** asked what the families of other lads in the town would think if they knew that an avowed Communist had been placed in a position of leadership?

In his reply, **Viscount Stansgate** felt that a certain amount of common ground had been established. The fact that a boy was a Communist did not exclude him from the Scout Movement, but if a boy was using the Scout Movement for Communist propaganda, that was to be stopped. That they were agreed upon.

J.F.C.

OUR TROOP

Darkie is a good Patrol Leader It was not until the second day that I connected him or 1St Footswick ordinary Troop practice with Tom Boyle's reluctance to come to camp with us.

Tom is our newest recruit, just turned eleven and fresh from the Pack. Darkie had managed to get him through his Tenderfoot in good time, imagining that he wanted to camp with the Troop at Christmas. But no, Tom seemed to be shy of camping, and it was not until Long John had called on his mother that we discovered it was not she who was behind his shyness. Long John had thought that like some other mothers she was nervous about her youngster - to her, always a little boy sleeping under canvas and possibly catching cold.

"Yes, Mr. Silver," she said, "I filled in the camp form and all, and father was quite willing to give him the money, but Tom just didn't want to go. I can't make it out, he was so keen on going up into the Scouts because he wanted to go to camp."

In the end it was father who said he had to come. He came with Tom to our meeting a fortnight before Christmas - you remember, we're an Australian Troop - to give me the form and the camp fee, saying that Tom really wanted to go to camp, but was hanging back for some reason he couldn't find out.

The Troop had gone out that morning to fell two big trees, which had been given to us as bearers for a bridge over the creek at our camp site - a permanent one. I had stayed behind, as well as one Scout per Patrol to keep the fires going and put on the dinner. Strolling by the Eagles' tent I saw a small form in Cub jersey and Scout hat drooping over the log they washed up on, apparently holding a grubby handkerchief to his eyes. As I came closer his sniffs became audible.

This was one of those situations in which one must be sympathetic without getting sentimental. Tom had shown as a Cub that he could keep a stiff upper lip with the best: he was not one who quickly gave in to himself. Now his grief was obviously real.

In between sobs, which became less frequent, as he got his grievance off his chest, the story came out.

"H-h-he told me I wouldn't have any fun."

"Who?"

"P-percy d-d-did He told me that the big boys would do all the interesting things... and I'd do all the rotten things..."

"What rotten things?"

"K-k-keeping the fire going and p-peeling the Percy's gone out chopping down trees and he's slushy today."

"Well why didn't Darkie leave him to look after dinner?"

"Because . . . because he said I was too little to be any good with an axe, and I could stay here while Percy went and helped them It's.... It's... just what Percy said would happen."

"Yes, I wondered why you had sent Tom out with a file, when you knew the cross-cut was sharpened before we left camp," said Long John that night as we crawled into our beds in the Scouters' tent.

"We've got to put this across to the Court of Honour," I replied. "We're all to blame. I once heard a boy, who had been a Scout, remark when Scouts were mentioned, 'O yeah, they spend Saturday afternoon cleaning up the Church grounds'. In this thing we're as bad as the Troop that kid belonged to. A boy becomes a Scout for romance and adventure - and he expects it from the start."

STRAIGHT EDGE.

NEWS FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

There are few more enthusiastic and useful workers for Scouting than the really interested layman and Scouters have told me how gratified they are as increasing numbers of Group Committee members want to know more about the Movement - its aims, methods and history.

Many Districts nowadays are making arrangements to meet this need by. invitations to Annual Meetings of the L.A., other District events, making up, perhaps, a party for the County Rally or a performance of *Boy Scout*, and that sort of thing. Recently, I have heard from one District of an experiment to this end, which has met with a great deal of success. It may not be original but it is new to me and may be to one or two others. The experiment concerns district gatherings of members of Group Committees. It all began with a suggestion by the L.A. Secretary who is also a member of a Group Committee. The suggestion found favour with the L.A. and, true to form, the man who. made the proposal was asked to get on with it. He began by enthusing his own Group Committee and they agreed to act as hosts. Invitations were sent to all other Group Committees in the District inviting them to meet the host committee in their own hail. Acceptances were received from about thirty Group Committee members representing half a dozen Groups and at this first meeting the hosts told the gathering how their show worked; about their meetings, parents' gatherings, social activities and so on. The guests asked questions as well as explaining what their Committees did. The evening went so well that those present felt it would be useful to meet again and another Group Committee was prevailed on to act as hosts.

On the second occasion fifty people representing ten Group Committees turned up. The programme at this meeting took the form of an "Any Questions" session with the C.C., the District Commissioner and his Assistants and the Field Commissioner forming the panel. Questions had to be sent in before the meeting, but the panel did not receive a list of the questions until the morning of the day of the meeting - obviously the team use not to be allowed too much time for prep! These two gatherings have resulted in the Group Committee members deciding to meet regularly twice each year in the spring and again in the autumn.

During March, I had the pleasure of meeting the newly appointed Assistant Commissioner for Rover Scouts for British Scouts in Western Europe and, naturally, our conversation tamed to Scouting in the Services. He was most enthusiastic about the quality of *Scouts* joining Service Rover Crews and told me of the splendid help so many are giving in helping to run Troops and Packs in Germany and other countries. His one concern was about the very few occasions on which he or anyone else receives notification from G.S.M.s or other Group Scouters, or from the *Scouts* themselves, of the posting of Scouts to Western Europe. He realises that many of these Scouts do not keep their home Groups informed of their postings, with the result that many Scouters who are anxious to do so are not able to effect the link-up. But the Commissioner suggested that it might help if, before a Scout leaves for his National Service and when he is given his copy of the Briefing pamphlet, he is urged to let the Group know when he is moving and where to, so that they can help him to keep touch with Scouting.

The point of all this is that British Scouts in Western Europe - and I know this can also be said of the other places overseas an which Servicemen are posted - want to and can link up the mu arrival with a Crew quickly.

No doubt you will be thinking that this is all very well but to whom do you write when you know that one of your Scouts is being posted overseas. The Briefing pamphlet, or to give it its proper title *This is Addressed to You*, contains the names and addresses of Commissioners in the areas concerned and copies of the pamphlet can be obtained from I.H.Q. price three pence. if, however, you have not a copy by you, a letter addressed to Commissioner for British Scouts in (place) sent care of I.H.Q. will be forwarded at once.

A. W. HURLL,

Chief Executive Commissioner.



Of all our wild four-footed animals few are more fascinating than the fox. Unfortunately his habits as a flesh-eater make him unpopular with the farmer at times, especially when he steals a fowl or newly born lamb. He is even accused of raiding poultry-houses and slaughtering all the occupants for the sheer love of the game, but in my experience such wholesale destruction is exceptional.

The gamekeeper frequently has good cause to complain because foxes probably do more damage on his preserves than elsewhere. They are bound to be a nuisance in such places for the simple reason that whenever man upsets the balance of nature by artificially rearing a far greater number of pheasants and partridges than his land would normally support they provide an easily available source of food for predatory creatures.

No animal works harder than necessary in order to satisfy its appetite.

If a particular kind of prey happens to be plentiful its enemies soon take advantage of the fact.

Although the fox's character is by no means stainless some of his misdeeds are certainly exaggerated. If we want to reach a fair conclusion about his behaviour as a whole we must also look at the credit side of the balance sheet. Now I am not trying to plead a special case for the fox but it must be said in his favour that he kills enormous numbers of rabbits, rats, voles and field-mice, all of which are pests. He seems to do little or no damage to human interests in some districts, and in many others he gives trouble only in springtime when there are cubs to be fed.

Foxes often seek their prey well outside their home territory. I came across a notable example of this a few years ago when I was shown a litter of five cubs in a cavity underneath a shed where fowls were kept. A local naturalist told me that he had watched the vixen (or female fox) carrying a dead chicken to her den on two occasions during the previous week. The poultry-keeper had tried to trap her, but without success, and he admitted that he had suffered no losses himself. Investigation showed that the fowls had been killed on a farm nearly a mile away. This particular vixen evidently believed in keeping her own doorstep clean!

During a ramble in the countryside or when you have been at camp you may have been lucky enough to see a fully-grown fox at close quarters. If so you cannot have failed to admire his alert and intelligent face. When he stares at the sun the pupils of his yellow eyes contract into mere slits which help to give their owner a cold cunning look. Of course the fox has a proverbial and well-deserved reputation for craftiness; as a beast of prey who is hunted himself he needs to be quick-witted in order to capture his quarry and survive the perils that beset him.

Foxes vary a good deal in colour. In the mountainous regions of Scotland, Wales and northern England, for example, some specimens are greyish or dark brown. Personally I think that the red fox is more handsome than the dark variety, but in spite of his rich russet coat the former is by no means conspicuous when you see him standing still in his natural surroundings in a woodland glade or on a bracken-covered hillside.

I have watched quite a lot of foxes in my time but I shall never forget the one I saw on a summer evening during a visit to Dartmoor. He crossed a narrow sheep-track in front of me just as the sun was setting in a blaze of golden light and as he turned to look at me for a few moments the beams of the dying sun made his fur glow bright red against a background of purple heather. With his thick white-tipped tail or brush held proudly behind him he was a truly magnificent sight - a perfect picture in an ideal setting.

The fox's brush does not always have a white tip. It is sometimes brown throughout its entire length or it may have a mixture of white and yellow hairs at the end. I have also seen a specimen with a black-tipped brush; it is just a matter of individual variation.

However attractive it may look the brush is no mere ornament. You have only to watch a fox running across a field or stalking cautiously along the edge of a wood to realise how skilfully he uses it to control each movement of his lithe body. By way of contrast I once flushed a bob-tailed specimen whose brush had probably been destroyed in a steel trap. He trotted away quite briskly for about a hundred yards; then as he turned to change direction he lost his balance and lurched sideways in an ungainly manner. I must confess that I felt rather sorry for him. A fox without a brush is rather a pitiful object.

About nine years ago I rented part of an old house in a quiet valley where foxes were numerous and during the mating season in January I often used to hear the yapping of dog-foxes at night. At other times of the year they are rather silent creatures but for about three weeks after Christmas they make good use of their voices to attract their mates and warn possible rivals. The sound is not unlike that made by a small domestic dog but it has a characteristic yelping tone and the bark is seldom repeated more than two - or three times.

After a pause you may hear it again and perhaps the vixen will answer. Instead of barking she makes a long wailing screech. It almost sent a shiver down my spine when I heard it for the first time in the middle of the night while I lay in bed!

The cubs are born in March or April and when they are old enough to come out of their nursery they love romping at the entrance to the burrow. If you know of a fox's earth in your neighbourhood you stand a good chance of being able to watch them in broad daylight during May and early June if you are prepared to wait patiently without making any noise. They are such innocent-looking little balls of brown fluff that it is difficult to realise that they will soon grow up to be as cunning as their parents.

PATROL ANIMALS AND BIRDS

(Photos by Eric Hosking)



(photos were by Eric)

HOW CAN WE RUN A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION? - V

By **J. J. PYTCILES** and **K. R. R. WILSON**,
G.S.M. and S.M.(S.) 11th Taunton (King's College) Group

The Mountain Ration

Here is the ration used by Gino Watkins and his party in Labrador in 1928:

Penunican	8 oz
Wholemeal ship's biscuit	12oz
Chocolate	2 oz.
Sugar	4 oz.
Margarine or butter	3 oz.
Oatmeal	3 oz.
Plasmon powder	1 oz.

33 oz.

This ration was designed for a sledging party that was to be on the move most of the time, doing heavy work in icy surroundings. Quite obviously, therefore, it needs modifying for use on the type of expedition we are planning, but it will serve as a basis for the discussion of one or two points concerning food in general.

The essential body and muscle building element of the ration - *protein* - is supplied in the main by the pemmican. *Fats*, yielding slowly absorbed warmth and energy, are supplied by the chocolate and margarine or butter. Rapidly absorbed energy - *carbohydrates* - come mainly from the sugar, the oatmeal, and the biscuit, while these last two also supply bulk and some fats and protein. The plasmon powder - Bemax or Farex are near equivalents - gives a general toning up to the value of the whole ration.

On their return to the fieshspots, after living on this ration for some months, members of the expedition naturally took a great interest in fresh foods - meat, vegetables and fruit. I think they had attempted to make up for any vitamin deficiency by taking various pills and cod liver oil capsules, but cravings for certain foods do develop. The present writer, after living for some time on what was, on paper, a well-balanced diet, had to send a frantic S.O.S. for, and ate with relish at one sitting, a bottle of salad cream. Watkins' ration is a very business-like one; too business-like when one considers the needs of boys between 16 and 19, who are attempting both to work and to enjoy themselves. Food will be the biggest single factor affecting their morale.

Variety must be one of the four main considerations. The other three, and it is difficult to decide any order of priority, are: *Bulk* - where it is going to be contained, i.e. both in the stomach and in the rucsac; its calorific *Value* as a food, and lastly *Weight*, for it has to be carried on the back. *Balance* might be mentioned as a fifth consideration, and the term must be applied not only to the ingredients of the ration, but also to their cost. The first item alone of Watkins' ration - 8 oz. pemmican - would cost 6s. a day at present day prices.

We aimed at a weight of roughly 2 lb. a day, a calorific value of about 3,200, and an overall daily cost of 4s. 6d. Below is the ration We evolved:

One man/one day.
Basic: 2 oz Porn.
4 oz. Swel or 4 oz. dried cabbage.
2 oz. MacVita.
2 oz. Ryvita.
2 oz. oatmeal.
½ oz. butter.
1 oz. margarine.
½ oz. cooking fat.
3 oz. jam/marmalade (ratio 2:1).
2 oz. sugar.
1 oz. golden syrup.
1 ½ oz. milk powder.
½ oz. tea.
Salt.
Vitamin C tablets.

Plus A or B or C.

A	B	C
5 oz. fresh meat	14 oz. pemmican	4 oz. tinned meat
14 oz. dried	1 oz. Bemax	⅔ oz. semolina
bilberries	4 oz. tinned fruit	2 oz. bacon
2 oz. bacon	4 oz. sausage	3 oz. shortcake
3 oz. gingersnaps	3 oz. sweet biscuit	2 oz. chocolate
4 oz. dates	3 oz. rich cake	1 oz. cheese
4 tin sardines	1 oz. fish/meat paste	

Variety was achieved by using the different elements, A, B or C in a three-day rotation, with the addition of the basic. By varying the way of cooking A, B or C, the cook could further allay the monotony of a set ration. More variation within the framework is possible, but it makes the weighing out and ordering more complicated than is worthwhile. An imaginative Q.M., however, will introduce variation and occasional luxuries from his own head.

Bulk. - The ration, say, for 4 people for 3 days, as put out by the Q.M., looked encouragingly large, but on the other hand it did not present any difficulty when it had to be packed in already bulging rucsacs. When bread is taken, both bulk and weight are roughly doubled. The weight is gladly dispensed with, but alternative bulk has to be provided. In this the dried foods help greatly. Both Pom and Swel, when properly cooked, are very palatable, and the Swel water can be easily made into a good soup. One has, however, to face the fact that bulk will be a little less than normal. But it is interesting to note that some parts of the ration - and not the unattractive ones - tend not to be eaten to schedule. The rich cake and the shortcake were in some cases stock-piled," and they came in very useful as morale raisers when really foul weather prevented any fieldwork. This impression was confirmed this April on Dartmoor, when younger (and hungrier) boys left part of their ration till later. It may be a case of "rainy day" saving; everything had gone by the end of camp. There is no doubt that sometimes it is an effort to eat, especially if one has to leave a warm sleeping bag and walk through the rain to collect the food.

Two things were rather left to chance. In the midst of so many other preparations it proved too much of an effort to price the ration exactly. Enough costing was done, however, to show that we were near our limit. Later armchair calculations, by simple division of numbers into actual cost, showed that we had been surprisingly accurate. Also, no exact ratio-balance between proteins, fats and carbohydrates was ever calculated. But the ration was developed from balanced diets and, in the event, all came out fighting fit. The writer developed ridges on his finger and toenails, but since he was at base most of the time, other causes than calcium deficiency must be sought.

The ration was tried out at a "guinea-pig" camp held in January, when, to supply extra resistance to cold, more fats were necessary. (Thickly buttered gingersnaps eaten at supper help to keep one warm during the night.) All the guinea pigs filled in a detailed questionnaire, to which their answers were very helpful. As a result some slight changes were made. On the whole there had been little supplementing of the ration from private stocks of sweets and chocolates. Nearly everyone has some fad, which ought to be humoured, about, something or other which he declares is "absolutely indispensable."

A general theoretical talk was given to all members so as to ensure a certain amount of sympathetic understanding of the difficulties; and on the practical side an experimental group learnt and taught orthodox and less conventional ways of cooking unfamiliar foods. More instruction on these lines would have been useful, and we could have done with some compulsory talks and practice in the use and maintenance of primuses. Two tips for the carriage of food and fuel may be useful. Light aluminium pill tins may be begged from chemists.

They come in different sizes and serve admirably as containers and measures.

Fourteen-pound syrup tins, with screw tops, are very good for carrying and keeping paraffin.

Those who may have felt that the form printed in the February issue was unnecessarily complicated may perhaps revise their opinions if they glance back to the ration scale, and then imagine themselves into the position of the Q.M. There may be four varied parties, going off for different periods to different places. To help get food ready for them, some stereotyped paper work is more than justifiable, it is essential. The Q.M. must, incidentally, be an extraordinary person. Choose him with great care.

The printed ration is a cross between the camping ration scale used at the Outward Bound Mountain School - which includes bread, - and various rations of the 1928 Labrador type - whose disadvantages have already been pointed out. The Royal Geographical Society's *Hints to Travellers - the volume on food and equipment* - contains invaluable information and detail, and makes fascinating reading.

Talking Points

3. HERESIES

I consider I am as loyal a Scouter as most and I certainly always strive to lead according to the rulings of the current P.O.R. and generally accepted standards. At the same time I am a bit of a heretic at heart. I feel some things badly need altering. I entered the Movement through a pretty crack Troop in a Public School which was honoured by a visit from B.-P. himself and later took my Wood Badge and have served for some ten years or so in different parts of the country as S.M. both before and since the late war and have always had the highest opinion of the Movement and its Founder. All the same there are some features of this system that demand change.

First and foremost is the route to First Class which is too heavily weighted with brainwork and altogether too formidable for many boys and Troops.

As a Headmaster I feel the Movement does not take sufficient account of the human material with which it hopes to deal and so the number of First Class and even Second Class Badges obtained is lamentably small and many would-be Scouts are too discouraged to continue in the Movement.

Out of a welter of psychological study and experiment one really very obvious starting point has come to the fore in educational theory in our century. It is that all educational effort must take into account the child with whom we have to deal. While in some respects, such as reckoning on a boy's love of adventure, Scouting has been a pioneer from which schools have learnt; in other respects Scouting seems to have missed the trends of the times in offering a single syllabus for all before the coveted badges may be awarded. In the school world it is recognised that secondary schooling must be of varying types to suit varying degrees of brain power and manual dexterity, yet the Scout system remains rigid.

Of course it may be argued that Scouting offers a certain valuable training and anyone who wishes to take the training must accept it and get on with it. This kind of argument may have validity when one is reviewing a professional training - be it that of a doctor or a shipwright - and only those who feel an urge to become one of these and think they have the capacity to do so will attempt it. But I always imagined Scouting as a Movement that wished to attract as many as possible to a particular code of living of which the test work and so on is only a practical outcome.

I have known many grammar school boys who have been keen Scouts over a period of years and who from their assimilation of the Movement's ideals and their practical efficiency as campers would deserve the title of First Class Scouts in what after all is an adolescents' Movement. Yet they have never held the First Class Badge either because their school work or other spare time pursuits have prevented them giving enough time to the many different tests, or because they have failed after repeated effort to pass some test which is a complete stumbling-block to them personally.



WINDSOR, 1954

Her Majesty the Queen Mother and H.R.H. Princess Margaret, share a joke with the Chief Scout, the Lord Rowallan, and the Deputy Chief Scout, General Sir Rob Lockhart

I have known many Secondary Modern School boys, likewise keen Scouts, able campers, willing in many practical ways to carry out the Scout Law, quite discouraged at the formidable barrier (as it seems to them) of Second Class which prevents them even working out their own bents by obtaining Camping and Public Service badges. These boys put the S.M. in the dilemma in which he must either more or less forget the test system and all the attraction badge-getting holds and try to give them essential Scouting without it, or else by persistently bludgeoning the Troop risk driving quite eager spirits away.

I have known many would-be Scouts particularly from the poorer section of the community, whom I always understood Scouting particularly desired to help, who found the test system it exists to-day too much of a belly-full altogether. Boys who learn a more Scouty spirit through team games, who can be more useful citizens through doing camping and Scoutcraft generally but who, because they cannot hope to complete a Class test in reasonable time, will soon become this is too constantly put before them as an essential objective that they either fail to become enrolled at all, or else peter out far too soon after enrolment.

It always seems to me that twenty years ago both Scouts and Scouters had more time to arrange study-groups for tests without which half the tests can never be properly mastered. To-day everything is more speeded up and stronger pressures are at work making it exceedingly difficult for many Troops to carry out a programme of both Troop activities and also of individual badge work, and where this is the case it does seem an injustice that boys who carry out the former programme satisfactorily should be denied any kind of recognition beyond the service star.

The remedy seems to be a greatly simplified high road to Second and First Class and an increased number of easier badges - alongside of the present harder ones - which can be won perhaps quite shortly after Tenderfoot.

Coming down to a bit more detail, regarding my argument that much of the test work does not sufficiently allow for the general intelligence and ability of large numbers of boys who are or might be Scouts, we find that exceedingly difficult hurdle - signalling.

On seeking the assistance of an Army Major with our signalling we were told the Army scarcely uses morse or semaphore to-day on account of the growth of walkie-talkie wireless, etc. The Navy still does quite a bit of flag and lamp work, but it may be truly said that this is a specialist job, certainly not a thing for every bluejacket to learn. It used to be said in educational circles that certain things children were made to learn trained their minds even if the things themselves were of no practical value, and much the same might be argued concerning signalling. Does it not train memory and observation? Does not the story of Kim and Kim's game bear this out?

The most reliable modern view, however, appears to be that the amount the benefit of acquiring one particular skill can be transferred to another skill is strictly limited. To illustrate my meaning from the case in point: signalling may well train concentration on some particular visual object (or with buzzer work, sounds) but will not help much in making a person generally observant; as regards memorising, signalling will not assist learning poetry or remembering a verbal message which are such different kinds of memorising.

In short the practical value of signalling is nowadays limited to a few specialists and the general educational value is slight. It should, therefore, be relegated to the proficiency badge department.

The introduction to the Second Class test of a further set of knots, some of them quite unnecessary as they duplicate the purposes for which the Tenderfoot knots are used, and the overloading of the First Class too with too many new knots, is confusing. Lashing should be a First Class activity as in days of yore and splicing relegated to Sea Scouts if they need it or Seniors or badges. Having once spent some time in a shop and learnt there the very useful art of packing a parcel, which is best done with a slip knot like a slip figure-of-eight knot, it has always astounded me that it is only pioneers', sailors' and firemen's knots that are taught and the exceedingly useful ability to tie up a plain ordinary parcel for the post is not introduced at all.

The practice of distance judging is no doubt a necessary part of Scout training but it does not seem right to make it possible for the granting or withholding of the First Class Badge to depend on a boy being able to develop sufficient skill in it to pass a rather fatuous test; the reading of sign likewise is very Scouty but exceedingly difficult to some boys, even after much practice. Cannot these things be left for the boys to enjoy doing as something outside the sphere of tests (apart perhaps from proficiency badges)?

Map-reading and writing reports are difficult subjects even for professional teachers to teach dull boys, but it is difficult to see how the conditions of the Hike can be fulfilled without them - and that, of course, must remain the culmination of First Class. It should perhaps be clearly agreed between the S.M. and examiners that here is a case where the mentality and schooling of particular Scouts may be taken into account for the test to be varied accordingly, so that the dull boy may not be prohibited from completing his First Class. The alternative is unwelcome - namely that only the bright boy in the scholastic sense can hope ever to become First Class.

The First and Second Class tests as at present constituted are concerned entirely with what educationalists call practical skills; no attention is given to the Scouts character - whether he is a boy willing to do good turns, willing to take his share of the donkey work in a Patrol camp, a boy with a clean mind or a strong sense of loyalty. In this the tests may be compared with most of the more advanced school exams in which all that counts is to secure the right number of marks.

All educational tests are not like this, however. In most districts (for example) the selection tests for secondary schools include, alongside the exams in English and Arithmetic, a Headmaster's report on the boys aptitudes and the kind of scholar he is.

If a boy is reported as conscientious and hard working he may sometimes be awarded a grammar school instead of a modern school place though he obtained only a good average mark in the exams.

If the Scout tests were to be revised and simplified somewhat along the lines I have suggested some weight might be given to a S.M.'s report in awarding the badges, though such a system has its difficulties. Chief of these would be the differing judgments different S.M.'s might pass on different boys. However, if the idea were to be that the Second and First Class badges were not so much made easier as that the conception of the title "First Class Scout" was broadened as indicated, then a satisfactory report of general Scoutiness might well be put in.

I may be wrong, of course, but I do feel strongly there are points deserving serious consideration here.

ANTHONY MASTERS.

THE GILWELL LETTER

About this time each year I try to tell you something about the developments that have taken place at Gilwell during the winter months, which is the time when most of the estate work has to be carried out.

Developments at Gilwell are of two kinds; I might almost say physical and mental, although there is never a clear line of demarcation between the two for work demands thought and thinking is hard work.

We have completed the equipping of the Storm Hut: a simple central heating system has been installed (it works!), an excellent cinema projection room has been built; a screen fitted, and there is a projector there as well, rather terrifying but it, too, works. Through your generosity two hundred chairs have been purchased. (We could still do with a few more - about fifty to be exact.) The whole vast hail of the Storm Hut is now literally ready for anything. I am delighted that Middlesex is basing a Rover Moot on the Storm Hut and London a Commissioners' Conference and a Rover Camp-cum-Conference. I hope it is not too much to expect one or two other counties within a day's travelling range to consider something similar.

In addition we have been working on Gilwellbury: alterations and decorations are complete and the furnishing is proceeding apace. Staff has been installed and very soon we shall be ready to receive you. Why not try staying for a few days to enjoy the pleasant surroundings and good company? From autumn onwards we shall be offering you a steady flow of short courses for Senior Scoutmasters, Rover Scout Leaders, and we shall not be forgetting the Scouters of the Troop and Pack. Many of these will now be possible in the winter months because of our extra room.

Ted Gathercole and a New Zealand Rover Scout have built between the two chapels what I regard as a very lovely Log Cabin. This is primarily for the use of Training Courses, but it may become available for winter use when we see how it works in, in practice.

Over to the West we have been developing the London Training Ground and it has been a real joy to me to see it progressing so rapidly and so sensibly.

On the Camping Fields the Providore has been practically rebuilt and we have put up a small building to house the equipment sent in advance by Troops holding their Summer Camp here - a long-felt want thus satisfied. Not to be outdone by the other departments, the Head Gardener and his minions have created what I think is going to be a very attractive rock and water garden just along the entrance drive leading up to the house. (At the moment of writing it's mostly water!)

You may well ask "How is all this possible?" and I will give you two short answers. First, by long-range planning and, second, by the hosts of willing volunteers who gladly come and put their shoulders to an infinite variety of wheels; round, square, triangular, and nondescript. Through Thu Scourer I do want to say "Thank you very much" to all of them, and I would add that the job is never done but seems to grow as the years go by. We can always use willing helpers for short or long periods. Watch out for announcements of next year's "Work Days."


So much for the physical side: as for the rest, you should hear shortly that "A Promise and Law Course has been arranged."

By the time this appears in print the Handbook of the Course will be in the hands of the Training Team and all District Commissioners. I am tremendously keen that this Course should be a success: it is something we have not had before and something we have always felt the lack of without, perhaps, realising just what was missing. Additionally, for those difficult-to-get-hold-of-in-a-training-sense chaps, the Rover Leaders, the new Rover Deputy Camp Chiefs Handbook is now with the Training Team. What a glorious day it will be when I or, indeed, anybody can announce anywhere in the world, that we have had to put up "Course Full" notices for a Rover Course.

Stop Press: Ralph Reader will be at Gilwell over Whitsun.

JOHN THURMAN,
Camp Chief

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LUCK OF THE MONTH

By THE EDITOR

May

"Some bell-like evening when the May's in bloom .."

May is the month of youth: happy as its lark song, bold as its cuckoo's shout, honeypale with its cowslips, shining with its buttercups, brocaded with lilac and laburnum and chestnut-flowers, fresh with the thousand colours of its dancing leaves.

The month of youth: so let it be our fate to snatch this month an hour or two of friendship and achievement and happiness and laughter for our Cubs and Scouts during their strange sojourn on this bewildering planet.

Summer Camp

I think it was Francis Cowie who first gave the name August adventure to the Senior Scout's summer expedition, but the phrase is indicative of what the Summer Camp for all Scouts ought to be. "The August adventure" - and half the fun of an adventure lies in the preparation and anticipation. The better (or perhaps one should say the more fortunate) Troops will have managed by now a P.L.'s week-end training camp (whether it be an initial training camp for the new P.L.'s or more progressive training for the fairly experienced campers). Whitsuntide is the traditional Tenderfoot's first camp - and whoever is in charge of it - Scouter or Patrol Leader - should put himself out to see that the Tenderfoot enjoys his camp. He's more likely to enjoy it if (a) he's had some Troop-room training beforehand - in what to take; in how to pack his kit; in how to make his bed; (b) he's not given all the camp chores to perform'

A Scout's future in Scouting depends very very often on his first camp.

And then in the next two months see that the August adventure is never wholly absent from Troop Meetings. Give the Scouts a yarn about the countryside to which they're going. Let each Patrol have "three wishes" (as we did in THE SCOUTER last July) to guide you in your camp programme-planning. Have an evening weighing kit, and showing how weight and space can be saved. Let them see their proposed destination on the map - and how they will approach it. Talk about menus and cooking recipes. And finally (and with most of three months to go there's no excuse) plan for the camp to have those unforgettable hours (or even moments) which will ensure that it not only happens in August but is an adventure for the Scout, for him a journey's end, a desire come true, a land of heart's content.

Competition

Will readers kindly bring to the notice of any Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts who do not (as yet) take THE SCOUTER the competition on p. 144? It will not be possible to repeat all the details in THE SCOUTER, although there will be a few "pulls" of the whole article available for those who apply to me early enough for them. Here is something that can equally be of interest and training-value for the lone Senior or Rover, or for the tiny Rover Crew or Senior Troop, as for the larger and livelier gangs.

Cub Material

Over the 10 years I have been editing THE SCOUTER I have managed, I think, to get a great deal of good Cub material into its pages and certainly the Cub section has had more than ever before. I want this to continue but I should very much welcome articles from Old Wolves as well as ideas about what they would like to see in their pages and what would be of particular interest to them. I should also be glad to have fairly brief accounts or anecdotes of their Camps or Pack Holidays.

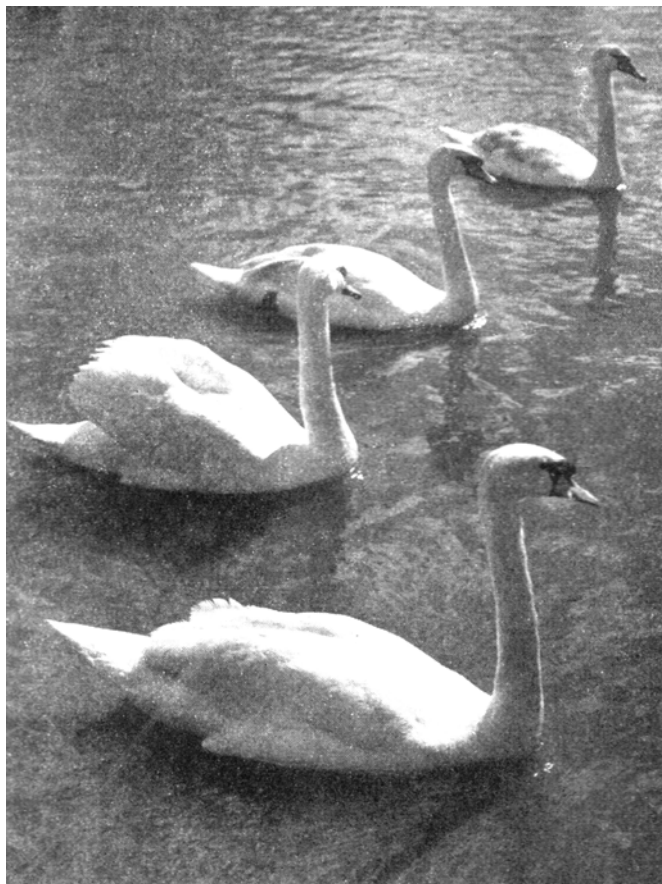
Early Days (16): from "The King's Scout," The South- West London Scout Magazine, October 1911.

The daily (camp) routine was as follows:-

6 a.m. - Reveille.

6.15 - Short drill by tent commandant for ten minutes or a double round the camp, halting at the flagstaff; prayers, saluting the colours, orders for the day.

6.45 - Tents cleared, ablutions, curtains brailed.



SWAN PATROL

7.30 a.m. - Breakfast.

6.45 - Tents cleared, ablutions, curtains brailed.

7.30 a.m. - Breakfast.

8.30 - Tent and kit inspection by officer of the day: fatigue parade for water, wood, kitchen, and clearing the ground.

10.00 - Scouting, drill, or classes of instruction.

12.30 p.m. - Dinner.

1.00 - Inspection of mess tins; boys free until 4.30.

5.00 - Tea.

6.00 - Inspection of mess tins.

6.30 - Camp games or night scouting.

8.30 - Parade at flagstaff; prayers, salute, orders.

9.00 - Last post.

9.30 - Lights out.

10.0 - Guard mounted, till 6 a.m.

Early Days (17): 1st Harrow (Herts. and Middlesex Borderers) Troop. (Provided by G.S.M. Len Stone.)

1st H.T.B.S. Order of the Day - Sat. 8th Aug., 1908, 3.30 p.m. Troop assembles Harrow View (Patrol from Legion of Scout Borderers, Ealing Division, expected to join Troop for the day). "Flag Raiding" is the principal occupation for the afternoon. You will find Bulls or Ravens Patrol glad to have you help make up sides. Bring a supply for own tea and come if you can; we are taking up Military Drill; Gun Drill and Firing; and running Competitions in Scoutcraft, in the course of Autumn Quarter (after Camp) and during camp as far as possible. Evening practices can be put in as well as (or instead of) the Saturday afternoon "Meets." Can you get a week in camp (or a fortnight)? Particulars on application.

The Uniform, navy blue Scout shirt and shorts can be seen at Headquarters and had for 3/- (or supplied for three monthly subscriptions of 1/- to enrolled Scouts only).

LETTERS TO A YOUNG ROVER – V

DEAR DAVID,

I was wondering which of our ten laws to deal with in my letter to you this month when the postman arrived with yours, and my problem was solved, for you seem to be suffering from what somebody has called “the meanest of all vices,” self-pity, which involves me in the somewhat grim task of writing to you about the eighth Scout law, “A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.”

Grim? Yes, because cheerfulness is such an elusive thing that it is harder to give advice about it than about almost any other human quality. I remember that when I was a rather melancholy youth of seventeen, with all the cares of the universe on my shoulders, an aunt took pity on my condition and gave me for Christmas a little book called (I think) *The Secret of Happiness* which explained, in twelve long chapters, how a man could become so joyful that he went singing gaily about the place. It was the most depressing book I ever read, and when I had finished it I turned to Poe’s *Murders in the Rue Morgue* for light relief.

I picture you sitting in a N.A.A.F.I., all by yourself, looking suicidally into the dregs of your empty mug of beer or, I hope, the tea-leaves at the bottom of your tea-cup. Of course you are alone, because we all prefer to be alone when we want to enjoy being miserable. Dr. Johnson, in fact, who suffered from terrible fits of melancholy, thought that being alone was one of the main causes of human misery. “Never be solitary,” he said, “and never be idle.”

So before we go on to discuss the positive virtue of cheerfulness, let’s take a glance at the reverse side of the shield, and think up a few cures for melancholy. In one of my favourite books *The Setons*, written by the sister of the great John Buchan, the authoress says that when she had a fit of the blues she always tackled some particularly dreary and unpleasant job of housework such as darning a very old pair of socks. I’ve tried this I’ve tried this recipe myself with good effect, though I don’t actually darn socks. Not that I can’t darn socks, but I can’t get them on when Eve darned them, because in some mysterious way when I darn socks I always seem to sort of sew the two sides together, if you see what I mean. Usually, however, I can think of some job that I have kept putting off, such as mending a hole in the fence at the bottom of the garden, or writing to somebody who doesn’t really deserve a letter but expects one, or cleaning the lawn-mower. I don’t suppose you have a lawn-mower with you in your tent, but I’m sure you can find *some* unpleasant job, and you’ll feel all the better for doing it.

I think, however, that wise old Dr. Johnson got to the real root of things when he said that idleness and loneliness were at the root of melancholy, for it is only when we are idle and alone that we selfishly turn our thoughts inward, and it is the selfish man who is the sad man. Let us suppose, then, that you have got rid of your melancholy, how can you then develop positive cheerfulness? Only, in the long run, by developing a right attitude to life, by teaching I yourself to value the things that really matter, and not stupid things like riches and fame and comfort and the praise of men. Riches certainly never bring happiness. The best you can say for wealth is that it “enables you to be miserable in comfort.”

There is a passage in Jerome K. Jerome’s *Diary of a Pilgrimage*, which I always re-read when I find myself getting greedy for gold.

The Pilgrimage takes the author by the lordly pleasure house where Ludwig, King of Bavaria, spent hundreds of thousands of pounds to make himself and became so miserable that he drowned himself in the lake. This reminds Jerome of the happiest person he ever met: “a little shoe-black who used to follow his profession at the corner of Westminster Bridge.

Fate gave him an average of sixpence a day to live upon and provide himself with luxuries; but she also gave him a power of enjoying that kept him jolly all day long.

“He could buy as much enjoyment for a penny as the average man could for a ten-pound note.

He did not know he was badly off... the last time I saw him was in St. Thomas’s Hospital, into which he had got himself owing to his fatal passion for walking along outside the coping of Westminster Bridge. He thought it was ‘prime’ being in hospital, and told me that he was living like a fighting-cock, and that he did not mean to go out sooner than he could help. I asked him if he were not in pain, and he said ‘yes, when he thought about it.’ He died three days later, like the plucky little English gamecock he was, cheerful to the end. He was twelve years old.”

There’s another story I like, about a man horribly wounded in the 1914 war, lying in a hospital bed with both legs and arms shot off, and trying to dry the tears of the nurse who looked compassionately at him by retailing a few old army jokes. His last words were “This is *the* War for laughs!”

The longer you live, the surer you’ll become that cheerfulness comes from inside a man, and has nothing whatever to do with the way Life treats him. You’ll always be miserable if you wait for Fate to bring you happiness on a plate, you’ll start being happy when you open your eyes to God’s beautiful world, that world which poor consumptive R. L. Stevenson said was “so full of a number of things, that we all ought to be as happy as Kings.” Above all, you’ll find happiness when you cease to try to grab it for yourself, and concentrate on doing your best to make others happy.

So far I have quoted from books, but looking back on my own life at my gallery of friends, living and dead, I can assure you that the cheerful people I remember were always the “givers” and never the “getters.” I remember two soldiers who trained with me. One was a well-educated chap with plenty of money and a nice wife and family and a good job in civil life to go back to. He grumbled at the food and everything else, and on a route-march he would always develop a limp, and his pal would carry his pack for him. This pal of his was a little wizened cockney, physically frailer than the lazy man. He had been brought up in an Institution and had nobody in the world belonging to him, and in private life he sold what he called “statoettes” in Petticoat Lane. He was illiterate and foul-mouthed and got drunk every pay-day, but he carried his pal’s pack because he was grateful to have even such a curmudgeon for a friend. He was a giver and cheerful, the other was a getter and miserable, and at Judgment Day we all knew which man’s shoes we would sooner be in. There’ll be a lot of sins forgiven for the man who in life has made a habit of carrying the other fellow’s pack.

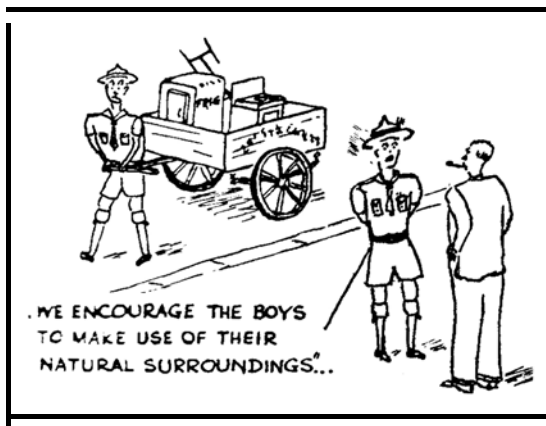
By the time you get this letter I expect you’ll have got over your fit of melancholy, but keep it by you and glance at it next time you’re feeling “down.”

“A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties,” and if you’re really a Scout you’ll -not indulge in such a bout of self-pity again.

But please don’t go to the other extreme and become one of those hearty types who smile and whistle so loudly all the time that they get on other people’s nerves.

Particularly remember this if you come to stay with me next time you’re home. Before breakfast, especially, don’t do any smiling or whistling at all. At that time of the morning I am always a bit thoughtful and ruminative, and if you try any of your hearty cheer-up-you’re-not-dead-yet stuff on me there’ll be trouble!

Yours ever,
A. D. C.



ROVER SCOUTING IN VICTORIA – II

Earlier Entry to Rover Scouting

While the question of an Upper Age Limit to Rovering was being considered in Victoria in 1935-36 as described in a previous article it was thought likely that one of the faults of Rovering was connected with entry of Squires to the Section at an age later than it should have been, with an outlook consequently too matured.

B.-P. on page 208 of *Rovering to Success* (third impression) had written about a living example of a "hefty Rover Scout about seventeen years of age; that is a fellow training to be a man."

P.O.R. in Rule 254 defining Rovering had stated it had an added object in helping Rovers "to make useful careers for themselves."

All these pointers appeared to indicate, the really young or unmatured young man in Rovering. Up to that time many of the keen lads and Patrol Leaders, the keenest and best blood of Boy Scouting, had avoided Rovering because of the older men in its ranks and the consequent programmes suited to older but unattractive to younger men, and because of the high age for entry by which time many of them had become young Scouters and had no time available for Rovering as well as their warranted jobs.

Experiments were tried in a few Crews by entering Squires at 16 plus, and putting them on to a definite scheme of Squire training. The results were most encouraging, and other Crews were induced to experiment.

Up till then Crews in Victoria were entering their Squires into Rovering at 18, 19, 20 and even older, into an organisation which B.-P. stated was for "fellows training to be men."

The call-up in the last war was and now is for young men of 18 years of age. Obviously the Services chiefs consider that, at that age, a young fellow has advanced so far towards maturity that he is fitted to undertake the defence of his country - a job for a man in the fullest sense.

By 1937, the pattern of Rover Scouting had become clearer as the following conclusions had been reached in regard to Rover training:

1. That it should cover the period between youth and maturity, and consequently was for the unmatured young man, and had its greatest effect in his earliest years in the Crew in. Squire training; that its effect declined as he approached maturity, and that the youngest members of a Crew were therefore its most important responsibility.

2. That it should be received by the youth after entry into the Crew at 16 plus, depending on the normality of his mental and physical development, while he was still young enough to be keenly receptive of Scout methods and near to the time when a series of big changes were in progress in his life, viz.:

- (a) the muscular, 'sexual and mental change from that of a boy to an adult male.
- (b) the change from the juvenile atmosphere of home and school, where his life was largely shaped for him to the adult atmosphere of work, where he began making his own decisions, and to have some independence due to possessing his own money.
- (c) the change in outlook towards girl friends and the desire to meet them.

3. That it must have been intended to come into his life at this disturbed period of mind, bringing *Rovering to Success* with it as a guide and chart to life.

4. That it should find a place in his life to mould his inclinations, when, as a young man, he was beginning to interest himself in social, athletic, cultural and other pastimes. If it comes even slightly late it is frequently crowded out by a multiplicity of new and attractive interests, just as the builder of a mosaic pattern in tiny tiles cannot, once the pattern is formed, admit one extra tile without disturbing the whole pattern.

WHY SCOUTMASTERS GROW OLD QUICKLY..!



5. That it should begin to shape his outlook in the company of young men of his own age *and older*, rather than among younger men and boys, to help develop a more manly and mature outlook, and so keep pace with the change in his business life from the juvenile conditions of home and school to the adult atmosphere of his work.

6. That he should have its help at the *commencement* of the difficulties and changes mentioned above, and not some years after, when the opportunity of *helping* him had passed.

7. That it should end at the indefinite point termed maturity, which had been fixed at 23 to 25 years of age.

In November 1937 Victorian Commissioners favoured the lowering of the entry age to 164 and in December 1941 Commissioners recommended that Squires who were.. exceptionally advanced in their mental and physical development should enter Crews from their sixteenth birthday and the Victorian State Executive approved accordingly.

Earlier entry to Rovering was not instituted in Victoria as a temporary war measure, but was and still is considered to be one of the most vital factors in the success of subsequent Rovering.

In 1947, at the introduction of Senior Scouting, Commissioners decided that entry to Rovering should take place from the seventeenth birthday.

The institution of an upper age limit and the lowering of the age for entry resulted in a greatly increased flow of Squires into the Crews and the next step was to find for them a suitable system of Squire training, which I will deal with in my next article in July.

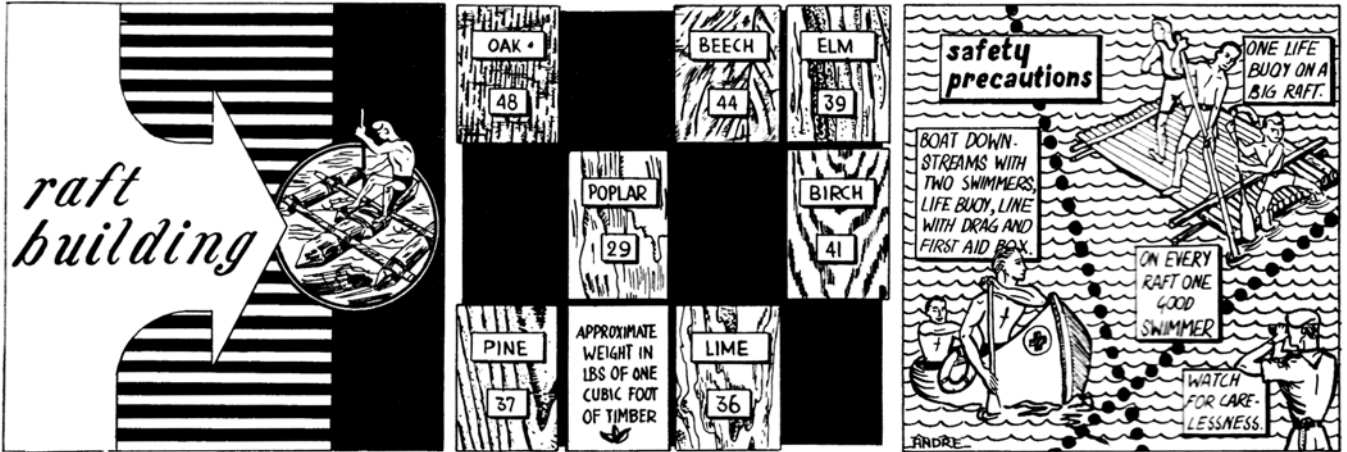
W. F. WATERS,

*Headquarters Commissioner for Rover Scouts, Victoria,
[Rover Roundabout will return next month.]*

TRAINING NOTES

[These notes are intended as a basis for yarns on parts (only) of certain badges or of Scout Training.]

5. RAFT BUILDING



Although pioneering - if done properly - is one of the most fascinating activities in our Scout training, we often find that all imagination and initiative seems to be thrown overboard, when we embark on building a certain project. What's the good of building a bridge in a field, when we can find some little stream only a few miles away; and why build a signalling tower, surrounded on all sides by buildings? Let's make pioneering a real adventure for our boys by building our projects in their natural and logical surroundings, and by making them fulfil a useful purpose.

Needless to say, it is generally preferable to cross a river by a bridge, but there might be circumstances - or in our games we may create such circumstances - whereby the laying of a bridge is either undesirable or technically impossible. In that case we will resort to rafts.

Thus rafts may be used: (1) when we want to transport heavy or bulky equipment (trek carts, etc.), if we haven't got the time or the materials to build a heavier type bridge; (2) in wide-games, when one of the conditions under which we must cross a river is that no bridges are available and that it is not possible to build one; (3) when we go out on adventure journeys.

As you know, if an object is heavier than the total displaced water, the object sinks (stone); if it is as heavy as the total displaced water it is suspended (submarine), and if it is lighter it floats (your raft - we hope). The higher an object extends above the water, the greater are its floating properties. If you throw a piece of wood in the water, only part of it will be submerged. In order to make the top of the wood even with the level of the water, you will have to load it.

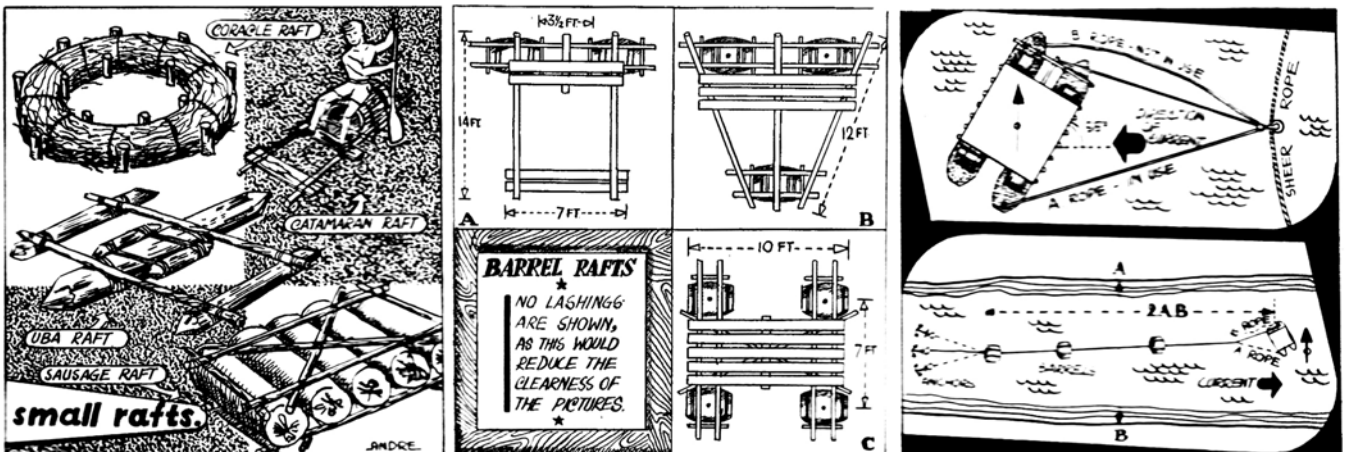
Thus rafts may be used: (1) when we want to transport heavy or bulky equipment (trek carts, etc.), if we haven't got the time or the materials to build a heavier type bridge; (2) in wide-games, when one of the conditions under which we must cross a river is that no bridges are available and that it is not possible to build one; (3) when we go out on adventure journeys.

This loading, expressed in pounds, we can call the floating property or the carrying capacity. The difference in weight of the displaced water, and in our case the raft, will give you thus the carrying capacity of your raft. You can calculate the weight of your raft by working out the volume in cubic feet of the parts of it; add these together, and multiply this by the approximate weight of the timber used. In picture (2) you'll find the most frequently used timbers and their weight per cubic foot. For newly felled trees you add 10 per cent to these figures. Old timber weighs lighter but absorbs water easier than living wood. When calculating the carrying capacity of your raft, always work with a safety margin of between 10 and 25 per cent.

It would take us too long to explain in full the whys and hows of stability, but there are three points worth remembering:

(1) Very small rafts have little stability, while other rafts might lose their stability when loaded disproportionately. (2) When working with two or more floats, we can increase the stability of our raft by putting them further apart. (3) When using one round float, you will have to attach secondary floats in order to make your raft stable.

When training with rafts and ferries, it is advisable to have a boat of very solid and stable making available downstream, provided with a lifebuoy, a 'line with drag, and first-aid equipment, and always manned with two extremely good swimmers and rowers. That is unless the depth of the water is less than three feet, or if the width of the water is so small that any Scout falling in the water can be reached easily from the banks by means of a spar or pole. Scouters in charge of exercises with rafts and ferries should take the necessary precautions to prevent, as far as possible, any danger of drowning through carelessness. These measures must, however, never cause the non-swimming lads among us to lose their self-confidence. We must see to it that there is a good swimmer on every raft, who can act in emergencies. On big rafts it is advisable to carry a lifebuoy, etc.



THE GAMES CHEST: CUBS BELLS

One Scout must be ordered to look after this safety equipment.

In picture (4) you see some of the smaller rafts, which are fairly easy to make. There is, for instance, the Coracle raft, which is used by the primitive peoples, and, as some would like to suggest, by our forefathers. It consists of a circle of twigs or hay. To make the Coracle you hammer eight sticks in a circle of about six feet in the ground, and six more sticks in a circle within the previous one. Fill in between the sticks with brushwood, and tie the circle so formed with string. Take the sticks out of the ground, and place the circle on a waterproof tarpaulin, which you fold right over the brushwood, and fasten everything carefully with rope.

The Catamaran is one of the most durable and stable small rafts yet designed and is very easy and quick to make. The picture shows you clearly how to make it. Only one more point: the barrel rests in ropes which are fastened on to the long spars. The framework rests on the barrel in order to keep it in its place.

The Uba raft is based on a model used in Tasmania. It is intended that the occupant should stand upright on it, and you can propel the raft by paddling it. But be careful when using it as it needs quite some balancing to stay on it. Needless to say, only good swimmers should use this raft.

The Sausage raft can be made as small or as big as you like, and the sausages consist of grass, bracken, hay or any other suitable stuffing wrapped in waterproof tarpaulins, and are about four feet long and one foot thick. Make two frames - one for the top and one for the bottom - and secure all sausages for safety's sake individually to both frames.

Barrel rafts are very stable and can carry a comparatively heavy load - if constructed properly. In picture (5) you see three types illustrated. (a) The two-barrel raft (carrying capacity 400 lb.) has a framework, ending in two planks, which will prevent any danger of capsizing. You need the following materials to make this raft: 2 spars 14 ft. long, 24 in. thick; 2 spars 12 ft. long and 4 in. thick; 4 spars 24 ft. long and 24 in. thick; 4 planks 7 ft. long and 1 in. thick by 6 in. wide; 2 barrels; about 60 ft. lashing rope; 4 pieces of stout rope, 30 ft. each. This raft can be made in 4 x 4 man-hours. (b) The three-barrel raft has a carrying capacity of 700-800 lb. and needs the following materials: 2 spars 14 ft. long and 24 in. thick; 2 spars of 12 ft, 4 in. thick; 1 spar of 10 ft., in. thick; 2 spars of 6 ft. long and 24 in thick; 6 spars of 24 ft., 24 in. thick; 3 planks of 10 ft., 1 in. thick, 6 in. wide; 3 barrels; about 80 ft. of lashing rope; 6 pieces of rope, 30 ft. each. Working hours, 4 x ¾ man-hours. (c) The four-barrel raft (carrying capacity 1,300-1,500 lb.) requires the following materials: 4 spars 12 ft. long by 4 in. thick; 2 spars of 12 ft. by 24 in.; 4 spars of 24 ft. by 24 in.; 5 planks 10 ft. long and 1 in. thick by 6 in. wide; 1 plank 34 ft. long by 1 in. thick and 6 in. wide; 4 barrels; 100 ft. lashing rope; 10 pieces of rope, 30 ft. long. This raft can be made in 4 x 1 man-hours.

If you want to use your raft for ferrying Scouts over a stream you can use several methods, depending on the circumstances under which you want to do this. First of all you can fasten two blocks on both banks of the river and attach a rope through them twice the width of the river. Fasten both ends onto your raft - one end at the front and the other at the back. Now you can pull yourself standing on your ferry, over the stream in either direction. Another method is by fixing a strong rope or cable with block over the stream, anchoring it on both banks. Attach three ropes through the eye of your block, and fasten one to the front and one other to the back of your raft, while the third one can be fastened in the centre of the front to keep your raft at an angle of 55 degrees against the current. [See top picture in illustration (6).] You only use one of the first two ropes mentioned at a time. The current will force your ferry now to the opposite bank.

A third method is shown in the bottom part of picture (6). It is much like the previous one, except that you do not need a block, but instead work with anchors and barrels or boats. The principle, however, remains the same.

There you are: we hope that this article may give you an appetite to indulge in this fascinating section of our activities. Make things real and adventurous but do not forget to take the necessary safety precautions.

J. ANDRE DE JONG.

1. SHEEP GATHERING.

Gear: One bell per Six - all slightly different notes.

Purpose: Sense training, a quiet game.

One boy in each Six is the shepherd and has a bell; remainder are sheep. Sheep are allowed to hear their own shepherd's bell, and are then blindfolded with scarves. Sheep are then herded into the centre of the room or ground and mixed up thoroughly. Shepherds ring their bells and the sheep have to find them by sound alone. First Six assembled wins. Shepherds must be stationary.

MARY SMITH.

2. THE RINGER.

Gear: A small tinkling bell on a string.

Purpose: Sense of direction and hearing.

This should be played in the dark, or with the Cubs blindfolded. Without the rest knowing, one Cub has a small bell fastened to his left wrist. The others have to locate him. The bell-ringer may keep his arm still if he wishes, or when other Cubs are near, and then the catchers will have to make every Cub they meet shake hands with them, with the left hand, in order to discover if he is the ringer.

HAZEL ADDIS.

3. DASH DOT BELLS.

Gear: Two bells with different sounds.

Purpose: To teach Morse.

Pack sits in a circle - after a period of instruction in Morse. The two bells are given to one Cub who then rings a letter, using the deeper sound for a *dash* and the higher sound for a *dot*. The Cub on his left tries to give the correct answer, scoring a point if he does so. The bell is then passed on, and the next Cub rings a letter, until all have had turns.

This game could begin with a few - more being allowed to join in as they learn some letters.

A. M. DOUGLAS.

4. BELLS IN THE FOG.

Gear: A bell for each Six, all with different notes.

Purpose: Sense training.

Sixes are formed in relay formation and are blindfolded. The Sixers at opposite ends of the Den have small bells with different sounds. On the word "go" the Cubs creep forward individually and the Sixers ring their bells, moving about between themselves. Directly a Cub locates his Sixer by the sound of his bell he is seized by the hand and forms up behind his Sixer. The first Six to be complete is the winner.

A. K. MUSOROVE.

5. COMPASS BELLS.

Gear: Four bells of different pitch. North should be highest tone, East next, South and then West deepest.

Purpose: To develop sense of sound and at the same time to learn compass points.

This is an open formation game, Cubs together in centre of room. Akela rings the bell and Cubs run to that compass point in the hall. Two bells together denote other points when they become more skilled. This game can be played out-of-doors with marked spots for points of compass, which must always be in correct position.

MOLLY BOLTON.

REMINDER

The Scouter's Books, 1/- each
(postage 2d.)

Just Published :-

No. 5: It's Troop Night Again
(75 more ideas for Troop Nights)

No. 6: Special Pack Meetings
(A book for Old Wolves)

No. 7: Handicrafts for All
(For Scouters of Pack and Troop and
Rover Scouts)

SPECIAL PACK MEETINGS

(New Series)

IV. "THE SALE OF WORK"

The idea was born at our Old Wolves Council. You see it 'was early spring, the winter's work was behind us and our A.D.C., tactless sort of bloke, was suddenly heard to say: "No Cub ever remembers what you say until he's about seventeen." That started it. Before the noise had died down we had decided to split our Packs into small groups and hold some Sales of Work, the reason being a desire to know how much of the winter's work remained in the Cub's heads and how the Sixers were shaping. We had to split up so as to have about twelve at each sale. All Akelas went with their own Packs for the sake of discipline but the A.C.M.s and C.I.s all attended a different sale from their own Pack. This is how each one worked.

The Cubs were assembled in Sixes and were placed in the care of their Sixer. Mound the Den the Old Wolves had improvised a number of stalls with the help of card tables and a few chairs. These stalls were each run by an Old Wolf and the articles for sale were all connected with a Star or Badge Test. The Sixers were each given a score card which down one side gave a list of the stalls and opposite, a column for marks scored, say out of ten for each test.

Then, when all was ready to start, a sudden stir announced the arrival of a V.I.P. (a sporting Mum dressed in flowing clothes with feather in hat). This Eminent Person welcomed all Cubs to the sale, hoped they would buy wisely and announced that the proceeds would go towards the Cub Fund of Knowledge. The sale was open, and off went the Sixes. Now each Six, led and helped by their Sixer, had to visit each stall in turn in whatever order they fancied and by their actions or answers bought knowledge from the stallholder who assessed the value of their effort on the score card the Sixer carried with him. We had the following stalls, but you can make them up for yourself.

1. **Wild Birds.** A series of untitled pictures were arrayed and each Cub in the Six had to know the name of the bird the stall-holder offered him.
2. **Wild Flowers.** Run with pictures as above.
3. **Wild Creatures.** As above.
4. **Compass.** This compass was placed on a large map and Cubs were asked practical questions as to the direction of certain places.
5. **Flags.** Cubs were asked to recognise pictures of flags, symbols, saints, etc.
6. **Knots.** Cubs were required to recognise and tie various knots.
7. **Telephone.** A dialing set was on show and Cubs dialed various exchanges and numbers, and emergency calls.
8. **First-Aid Stall.** A supply of triangular and roller bandages were exhibited and Cubs, by answering questions and demonstrations, bought knowledge from the stallholder.
9. **Kim's Game** competed as a Six.
10. **Table.** A cloth was laid, knives, forks, plates, etc., provided, and each Cub laid a proper table for three.
11. **Match-sticks.** A liberal supply was provided and with each Cub helping, a picture or simple story was depicted in match-stick figures.
12. **Semaphore.** A coloured cardboard figure of a Cub was provided having movable arms. Simple messages were sent and received by each Cub.
13. **Highway Code.** A flat drawing or model of a section of crossroads was provided, with toy models of beacons, people and forms of road transport. The Cubs each moved models and halted them as questions' on the Highway Code were asked.

You will notice we had one or two more stalls than Sixes so that if one Six finished at a stall quickly they had somewhere to go without waiting for others.

Now even if you vary the stalls, Cubs must pause now and then in their buying, so halfway through the time allotted to the sale (3 - 5 p.m.) we played the good "Bazaar" game of "Bran Tubs."



BROTHERS - AND BROTHER SCOUTS

The Cubs lined up in their Sixes, relay fashion, and at a fair distance ahead a long woolly stocking was placed before each line. In this was a number of small articles, e.g. button, screw, match-stick. Each Six was numbered front to back and we were ready. First an article was clearly named, then a number called. The Cub in each Six having that number raced to his stocking and, using only his sense of touch, found the named article. First Cub holding it aloft scored a point for his Six.

Just before the sale, ended we all joined in a great circle and in the centre placed six stallholders minus their scarves (for recognition).

It was explained that all in the circle represented one pound (1 lb.) in weight, while those in the centre were each "highly desirable half-pounds" (½ lb.). The game was guessing the weight of the cake, and we played it in this way. Those in the circle danced round and round singing: -

Half a pound of tuppenny rice,
Half a pound of treacle,
That's the way to bake a cake,
Pop goes the weasel.

As the song ended a weight was called always containing a half-pound. If 5 ½ lb. was called the circle first formed in 'groups of five and then, and only then, each raced to the centre as a group trying to secure one of the few "highly desirable j lbs." What a scramble; what fun as different weights were called each time the song ended.

By now time was approaching for tea 50 "15 minutes more" and the Sixes raced to finish their shopping.

Tea-time came and score cards were handed hi. Then, appetites satisfied, the V.I.P. complimented one and all and announced results, winners only, as all did their best.

It had been a varied, useful afternoon and not only had it checked knowledge but had demonstrated how a Six could work as a team when well led. As the A.D.C. said afterwards, "Not at all bad; perhaps I should have said sixteen."

BALOO,
Asst. Akela Leader, Essex.

BOOKS

THE VENTURERS

Alone to Everest, by Earl Denman (Collins, 165.).

We talk about a lack of enterprise, but there must be few comparable periods of history when so many first-class books of adventurous biography have appeared, and I don't think it is because the authors are seeking publicity for themselves. A bit of money, yes, probably for further travel. Most of these expeditions are fairly expensive and need considerable equipment. They are quite beyond the scope of Scouts and Rovers, although we hope that some day, perhaps, those climbing expeditions or pot-holing, will lead to still greater enterprises.

One expedition, or series of expeditions, made with the minimum expense and organisation, is recorded in this book. It is a remarkable story in every respect, not perhaps so well written as some others which have appeared, and showing in its relation a curious character in revolt against convention. The courage, the determination, the endurance are all admirable, although one cannot gloss over, as he does, the fact that having given his word of honour not to enter Tibet he quite deliberately went and broke it because it happened to suit his purpose. The description of his climbing of the eight peaks in the Virunga Mountains on the Uganda - Belgian Congo Border and of his companions on this exploit is excellent. The long journey to Everest and the early stages of the ascent, so lightly undertaken through financial necessity, at last the realisation of failure and the courage to turn back. Yes, there's a lot for Scouts in this book, and I hope that many will read it.

ROWALLAN.

Rescue below Zero, by Ian Mackersey (Robert Hale, 15s.).

Our memories are short and the events pile on one another so relentlessly that it is no wonder. But this book, written in a pleasant easy style, reminds us of the aircraft which, in 1952, intent on flying supplies to the British North Greenland Expedition, crashed in the attempt. Its crew nine days after were rescued by a ski-wheeled Dakota of the U.S.A.F. It seems a small story against the -general cosmic mess but it is refreshing to read it. Senior Scouts and all interested in flying or the Arctic will find it particularly attractive. There are good photographs.

R. H.

NATURE

Leopard of the Hills, by James Temple (G. Bell & Sons Ltd., 12s. 6d.).

It is impossible not to make comparison with *The Jungle Books* when reading *Leopard of the Hills*, so let me say at the outset that it has not the swift compulsion, the vivid characterisation and the magnificent language of Kipling's stories. Nonetheless, it is an absorbing tale, competently written (if at times a trifle repetitive) and full of authentic detail, obviously written from first-hand experience and great love of the subject.

The book recounts the life-story of a leopard from its early training as a cub. We read of its mating, of its gradual awareness of the habits and powers of the human beings on the tea plantations fringing its native jungle. We follow its developing strength and cunning until at last, badly maimed and unable any longer to bring down wild prey for food, it turns man-eater.

A book for all ages from, say, a mature twelve onwards. Equally fascinating for Scouters as for Scouts. Above the head of the average Cub in its present form but would condense into a series of excellent yarns.

MARY SMITH.

The Hill of Light, by G. D. Adams (Constable, 12s. 6d.).

In precisely four pages Mr. Adams dispelled the light-hearted humour in which I began his book, for by then Corvo's mate had died in misery and Corvo himself had transfixed and eaten alive several families of frogs. This was not at all what I had expected. Here is no lilting song of babbling brook and trilling lark; no prating of peace and perfect harmony amid the beneficence of loving Mother Nature. From cover to cover it is filled with deeds of savagery and callous cruelty, through which runs the thread of the life of Grey, the badger. Small fry?

Yes, indeed, small fry - duckling, water hen, lapwing, shrew, vole, goose, fox and rabbit - but nevertheless the daily peril of their lives and the incessant battle for survival compel me to the conclusion that any suggestion that mankind should return to the "natural life" from the mixed blessing of modern civilised life, with organised social security on one hand and the hydrogen bomb on the other, should be received and examined with due caution.

All notions of the tranquillity and calm serenity of Nature go out of the window in Mr. Adams' book. There is, in fact, a certain air of calmness about his text, but this is a deception. There is no calm at all, only an inexorable passing from the butchery of one little victim to the next.

Grey survives all, trap, poison, dynamite, dog and the arch-enemy Man alike, but we cannot say the same of poor Fang, the three-legged fox, who dies gallantly in battle with Ploughboy, the huntsman's hound, nor, indeed, of many, many other creatures who perish in Mr. Adams enlightening and somewhat sobering discourse on small animal life on a Welsh hillside.

L. A. W.

ATHLETICS

Teach Yourself Athletics, by F. N. S. Creek (English Universities Press, 6s.).

This handy little book fills a gap in the books on athletic coaching. It is written in readily understandable language and is meant particularly for the newcomer to the sport and those who are not in the position to obtain the advice of coaches. The contributors who have assisted Mr. Creek pass on their own coaching experience particularly well in the section dealing with running and if some of the hints in the field events section bring forth criticism from other coaches - well this will always occur.

More photographic illustrations would have been a help; nevertheless anyone interested in trying their hand - or should that be foot? - at athletics would do well to have a copy. Scouters too, bothered with their District sports, will find the chapters on organising a meeting quite a help.

ALEC G. WHITE.

RELIGION

There's an Answer Somewhere, by Marcus Knight and L. S. Hawkes (Longmans, 7s. 6d.).

This book was written at the instigation of the Church of England Youth Council, and seeks to provide answers to some of the questions asked by young people groping for faith. The questions answered have been actually asked at various times in schools, etc., and since they will probably be asked again and again until the end of time, this volume can be usefully read by all teachers and leaders of youth. Why is a Church necessary? Does Prayer do anything? Must Science and Religion disagree? These and other questions are tackled patiently and thoughtfully. Not perhaps a book to be put into the hands of a non-churchgoing youth with a view to lead him to faith, but a helpful book for those who like to remove, some of the rocks from the road of those whose faith is disturbed by intellectual doubts,

D.H.B.

HOLMES AND WATSON

The Exploits of Sherlock Holmes, by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr (Murray, 12s. 6d.).

Our two authors are to be congratulated. Using the titles of cases mentioned by Watson but not recorded by him they have recorded the cases themselves. The plots are good; the atmosphere and familiar detail have been lovingly (and perhaps at times smilingly) reproduced; the canon is richer by twelve stories - or if they must be held to be apocryphal, our pleasure in them need be none the less.

In their footnote to "The Deptford Horror" ("the arrest of Wilson the notorious canary-trainer") the authors write: "In the Wilson case, Holmes did not actually arrest Wilson, as Wilson was drowned. This is a typical Watson error in his hurried reference to the case."

This is the only licence they allow themselves. We know that dear old Watson was liable to be a little uncertain about names and dates and the like: why even in this story of "The Deptford Horror" Watson cannot spell Frascati's!

R. H.

A TANK OF FISH

By **L. HUGH NEWMAN**

You may perhaps think that fish are not very exciting creatures to keep as pets and of course they will never respond in the same way as a dog or even a budgerigar to your friendly advances. But they will get to know you in time and they will show, in their own way, obvious pleasure and animation when you come close to the tank. They have, too, many good points which other pets lack. They are perfectly silent, they are always attractive to look at, they need the very minimum of attention and their food costs practically nothing. They will live for many years and you will have the pleasure of seeing them grow from "tiddler" size to really beautiful fishes. I have three fantails which I have kept in an indoor tank for ten years. They have always been perfectly healthy and my sitting-room would seem very dull without them.

Fish should never be kept in one of those round vessels popularly known as goldfish bowls, because the surface area of the water is too small to allow sufficient oxygen to be absorbed from the air. If you intend to keep fish indoors you should always have a proper square fish tank or aquarium. There are now innumerable shops which sell fish of all kinds as well as tanks, weeds, fish food and anything else you might need, and they usually have a good selection of tanks of different sizes. Personally I think a tank two feet long and a foot wide is the most useful size. Anything smaller will hold only very few fish and larger tanks are often difficult to place in a room.

I am going to deal now only with cold-water fish, which never need to have their water artificially heated. There are several attractive kinds which are suitable for indoor tanks and the most popular are shubunkins, which are flecked and spotted in a variety of different colours, fantails which are a beautiful warm gold and veil tails of the same colour, but with tails so over developed that they look like sweeping veils. Young goldfish can also be kept in a tank for some time, but they grow fast and soon become too large for such confined quarters.

There are three main points to remember if you want to be a successful fish keeper and they are these; never overcrowd the tank, never overfeed your fish and always see to it that the water is clean. The number of fish you can keep in a tank depends of course both on the size of the fish and the size of the container, and the best person to consult is your dealer.

Personally I would not keep more than half a dozen small fantails in a tank measuring 24 inches by 12 inches, and as the fish grew larger I would reduce the number to four.

Most people who have had little experience of fish tend to overfeed their pets. As a matter of fact fish are small eaters, and when they are kept in a tank it does them far more harm to have too much food than to be kept on rather short rations. In winter especially, when cold-water fish go into a state of semi-hibernation, they eat hardly anything at all. In the spring and summer when they are lively they need quite a lot of food, but in very hot weather again their appetites flag.

You will soon learn to judge whether or not your pets are hungry and you should adjust their feeding so that they only have as much as they will clear up in about ten minutes. Any food which is left to sink down to the bottom of the tank quickly fouls the water.

When the fish appear to be very hungry you can feed them twice a day, but normally one feed is enough and in mid-winter you will probably find that once or twice a week is sufficient. There are several good brands of fish food in the shops, but you should not rely entirely on these dried foods. Your fish need a certain amount of live food such as water fleas, freshwater shrimps, worms, greenfly and so on if they are to keep really healthy. You may have the opportunity to collect such foods yourself, and small worms and greenfly can usually be found in the garden at least during the summer. Many fish breeders think it dangerous to give your pets creatures caught in ponds and streams because they might introduce disease, but if you collect them in clean water I do not think the risk is very great. I have fed my pet fish on "wild food" for years without any trouble.

However, if you feel nervous about it you can always buy live food from your local aquarium shop.

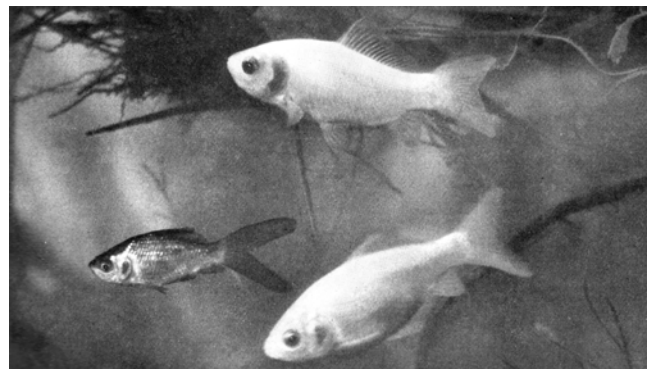
Now for the problem of keeping the water clean. It is entirely wrong to think that you must change it every day - in fact it is quite possible to keep it clean without even changing it at all! Before any fish are put into the tank it should be planted up with suitable water weeds, and if you have sufficient weeds for the size of the tank and the number of fish, a natural balance will be established. In this way the carbon dioxide given off by the fish breathing will be absorbed by the plants, and they will in turn give off enough oxygen to keep the water fresh.

A few water snails will also help by eating some of the refuse which collects at the bottom of the tank, but at intervals this "mulm" as it is called, must be cleared away with a siphon or the water will gradually turn foul.

Even the sides of the tank can be cleaned without removing the water, but I myself prefer to change the water entirely at intervals because I find it so much easier to get the tank really clean when it is empty, and it certainly does the fish no harm as long as you take care that the fresh water is of the same temperature as before. A sudden drop in the temperature of the water chills the fish and may cause all kinds of troubles.

First of all you should bail out most of the water with a clean jug, and then pick up the fish gently and put them in a basin of clean water. When the tank is empty you can carry it to the draining board by the sink and there scrape the sides with a razor blade to loosen all the green algae and then thoroughly rinse the tank, wash the sand and the plants and put them all back again. Carry the still empty tank back to its place and then refill it, pouring the water in very gently so that the sand is not disturbed. Adjust the temperature by putting in some warm water as well as cold, and when the tank is filled tip the fish carefully into it again.

If your tank is standing in a place where it gets a lot of light the water will turn green fairly quickly, specially in the summer. This is not harmful to the fish; in fact just the opposite and they will thrive on the algae so you need not be in a hurry to clean the tank until it becomes unsightly. A white, brown or yellow cloudiness on the other hand is a warning sign that the water has turned foul and you should change it at once or the fish may die. Such a state of affairs is usually due to overfeeding or overcrowding or sometimes to a dead snail in the water. It should not happen if the tank is properly managed. If you should come up against any trouble, which you can't understand, ask your local dealer for advice. He will be glad to help you.



THE B.-P. GUILD OF OLD SCOUTS AND THE COMMUNITY

The second Object of the B-P Guild is set down as: "To carry that Spirit into the communities in which they live and work."

How should this be interpreted? Is it merely an exhortation to Old Scouts to set a good example of honesty, cheerfulness, neighbourliness, and obedience to their lawful superiors? Or does it entail something more active, the performance of some regular act of service to the community? An Old Scout has obviously, by the re-affirmation of his Promise, undertaken to try to live his life in accordance with that Promise, and the Scout Law, and he should be active in influencing others by his example. Whether he can go further and do some regular act of service must depend, as it does in the case of his obligation to help the Active Movement, on the time at his disposal and the opportunities available.

Some critics of the Guild feel that it will never succeed in its object unless it can lay down a national aim of service, some universal need in the community which every Old Scout will pledge himself to meet to the best of his ability. This is more easily said than done. It is difficult to find such a national requirement which is not already covered by one of the many older organisations, government trolled or voluntary. Nor is the Guild at present so strong or so well organised that it can accept complete responsibility for such an undertaking. To agree to do so and to be unable to fulfil the promise would be a disaster to the prestige of the Guild.

This does not mean that there are no practical ways in which the Guild can help the community. There are a thousand and one things that can be done by branches or individuals. But the strengths of branches, their geographical situations, and the types of communities in which they live, all vary, and with them the opportunities which will present themselves. Many have already solved the problem, and their help is being eagerly and gratefully accepted by civic and other organisations in their areas. For instance, one branch has taken many disabled men to football matches on Saturday afternoons, and another makes itself responsible for writing the letters of crippled ex-servicemen. Some individuals serve on Probation Committees, and others are bell ringers. Opportunities have been found at Christmas and other times to help old people and to arrange parties for poor or orphaned children. Many other acts of service are being done, none perhaps of a very startling nature but all designed to "help other people"; and the more it is known that the Guild is willing to assist in small matters the more will be asked of it.

It is suggested that a branch which is strong and well organised, and which wishes to be of service to the community, should approach the local authorities, or leaders of charitable organisations in its area, and give them a list of those who are willing to spare a little time, with an indication of how they can be of most use. In most cases advantage will quickly be taken of such offers if they are genuinely meant.

In factory branches there may not be the same opportunities for practical work for the community, but members, can perform a valuable service by watching over the youngsters who come into the factory, during their first difficult months of a new life in strange surroundings. They can make them feel that there are friends in the works who are ready to give help and advice; and they may often be able to prevent a lad from making bad associations with older and undesirable young men whom he may be tempted to look up to and imitate.

A Scouter reading this may wonder how the question of service to the community can be of interest to him. The answer is that a branch kept together by the interest of service to the community as well as service to the Active Movement is likely to be a strong and energetic one, and the Scouter will benefit in the long run. He should also feel that it is a branch to which he would like his Scouts to pass eventually, where they will be able to put into practice the ideals they have been taught.

The Guild has a common object in its obligation to the Active Movement. It has, no less, an obligation to help the community what and where it can. Each branch and each individual should think out the best ways of doing so, and of making the Guild badge a welcome and respected symbol among those who have not had the privilege of being Scouts.

E. MOCKLER-FERRYMAN.

Next Month. - The International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides.

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

I.H.Q. Appointments

Headquarters Commissioner for Senior Scouts. - Laurence E. Stringer, T.D.

Cub Cyclist Badge

The Committee of the Council has approved the introduction of a Cub Cyclist Badge, the tests for which are as follows:-

(i) Own or have the regular use of a bicycle of proper size.

(ii) Be able to mount and dismount properly.

(iii) Be able to clean and oil his bicycle and pump up the tyres.

Understand the need for keeping the bicycle in a roadworthy condition.

(iv) Under observation go for a short ride on a specified course, showing a knowledge of the proper use of signals and of the Highway Code (para. 62 - 75 and special notes for cyclists pages 30 - 31).

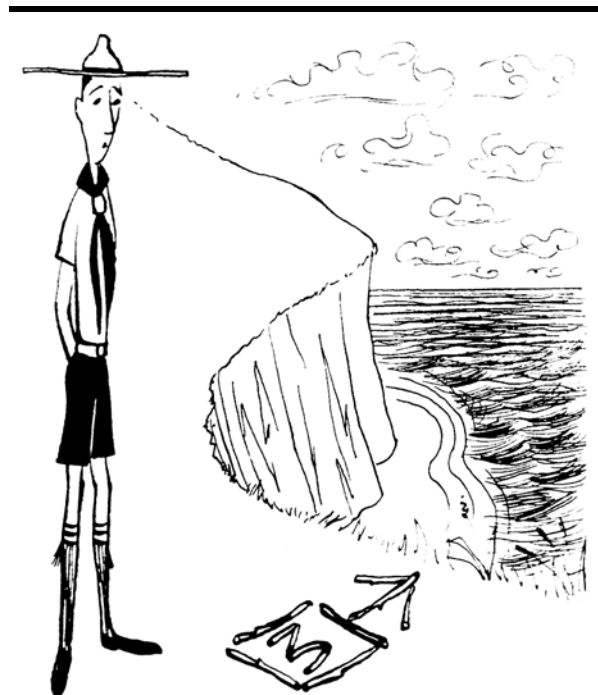
(Note for Examiner. The route shall, if possible; include a cross-roads, pedestrian crossing, right-hand turn and roundabout.)

Whitsuntide Holidays

I.H.Q., including the Restaurant, will be closed from 5.30 p.m. on Friday, June 4th, to 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 8th.

The Scout Shops will be closed from 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 5th, to 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 8th.

C. C. GOODHIND,
Administrative Secretary



A COMPETITION FOR SENIOR AND ROVER SCOUTS

LOOKING WIDE: AN EXERCISE IN PLANNING

IF you look at the biggest map of Asia you can find, Lat. 36, ' Long. 74, you'll see a bit of country tucked away under the mountains which rise well over 20,000 ft., called the Hunza Valley, which is reputed to be one of the most beautiful valleys in the world. Just a year ago I said farewell to my Troop in England and having, at last, a little spare time, finding myself not too far away from Hunza, I want to go there this summer. But, unfortunately, being six thousand miles from London, and a very long way from books and maps, I've had to ask the P.L.'s to find out about the area for me.

To get to Hunza the four of us making the trip will have to fly to Gilgit and walk. The distance is 200 miles there and back. The country, so far as we can find out, is rugged, often bleak. We think that we can expect to walk on nothing more than narrow mule tracks, often tracks which cling to the side of the mountain. A climb from nine to eleven thousand feet, a drop of six or seven hundred and then another climb up again must be expected as the usual pattern of a day's march. The temperature in July may well be up in the high eighties most of the day, and a good deal colder at night than you were in camp last summer. Indeed, on the passes which we expect will be about 14,000 feet, there is likely to be snow.

We shall engage in Gilgit, we hope, the services of a man with a couple of mules to carry all our gear. If we can't get mules we'll have to have porters. This is not laziness, but even at ten thousand feet, humping a full rucksack about is a lot harder work than it is walking along Striding Edge, and anyway, as you'll see, we shall have far too much to go in a rucksack. We shall also take with us a local cook: partly to act as an interpreter, if we can find one who speaks any English or Urdu - up in the Frontier they have their own very local languages, partly because we are not so hot at cooking the locally-available food.. All these gentlemen will have to be fed. A mule carries about 160 pounds of kit and a porter 60 pounds.

Food: this is a major problem. Last year we did the Kaghan Valley and for a hundred miles we were unable to obtain any food other than a few small eggs, a little milk and three very ancient chickens which in the end we fed to pi-dogs. We expect to be able to get in Gilgit atta, which is a type of unleavened flour; *ghi*, clarified butter often made from buffalo milk and used as a cooking fat; *dah*, which are lentils, and rice. Vegetables are likely to be unobtainable, so is fruit; anyway, eating soft fruit all too often means tummy trouble and is a bad thing. We had to use the atta to make *chappattis*, which are large flat affairs like an outsize damper, dry, filling and dull: after a week of them one gets a bit weary; after five weeks. . . I guess we'll look like one!

And in the plane to Gilgit we are allowed 44 pounds each: four of us. Anything else costs us £3 15s. per 80 pounds. I might mention, too, that most of the time we shall have to cook on a primus for there may not be any wood to burn.

Cliff and I have had great fun this winter working out kit lists and menus. We know no more about the trip than I've told you here. We have the advantage of the experience of a fortnight last year and all that has done is to underline that we must be prepared for most eventualities. Even the weather is uncertain: how much rain can we expect? Last year we had one or two nasty storms with high winds and at least one day we were in a very cold cloud: most of the time we sweated in a burning sun with no- shade from sunrise to sunset, and that can be wearisome, I tell you. We found out that it is very important to have interesting food, with some variety, otherwise one gets very fed up. We found out that days and days will go by without seeing another living person and that if there is sickness or an accident one is entirely on one's own; the nearest doctor may be two or three hundred miles away; and someone has to walk all the way.

So, you see, one has to plan a little.

Just what kit and rations would you take? Remember, almost everything will have to be flown in and paid for; everything must be carried . . . for the whole five weeks. Nothing essential can be left behind: there is no room for non-essentials, and no sending Pugnose down to the village for the things you've forgotten to pack!

I repeat, we are merely going on a long hike; no climbing or real mountaineering, just walking rather higher than usual above sea-level, and we are planning just on what we hope is common sense based on Scouting experience at home.

We've had great fun making out the lists and debating the merits and demerits of a vast number of items, particularly food. And I thought you might like to share in the fun. The Editor has kindly agreed to put this up as a competition for you, with suitable prizes for the best entries.

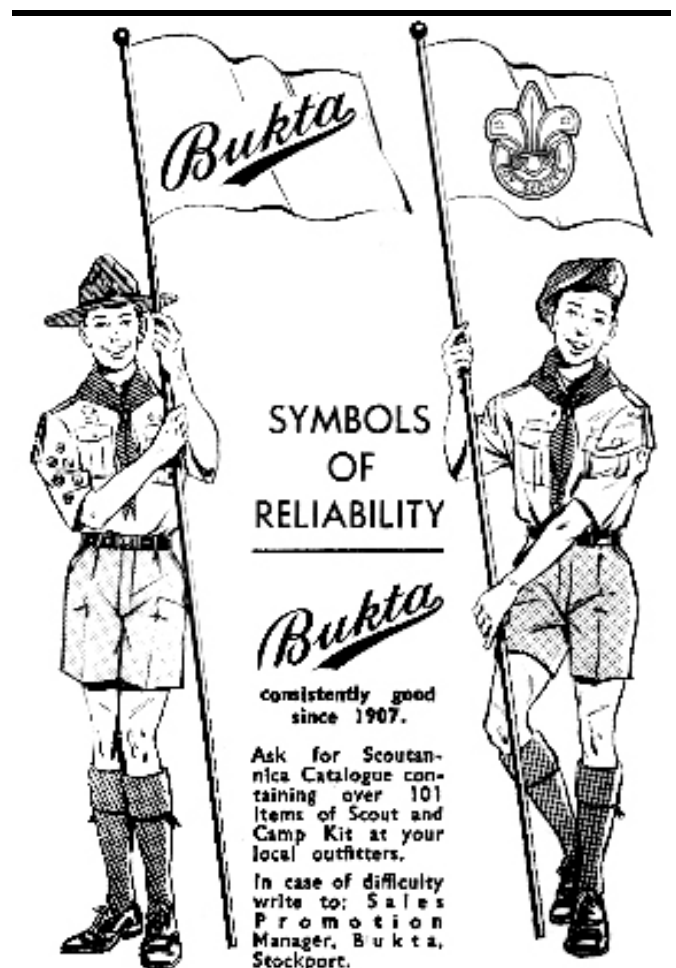
I'll send the Editor ours when we get back, with comments on what we forgot and what we took which was not necessary, and he'll give the prizes to those of you who produce the best list: all camp gear, personal kit and rations. And remember the weight factor: and that everything has to be packed for easy access and safety on the mules; and must be so packed that if necessary over the higher passes it can be transferred to porters. It needs a bit of thinking about!

“SOCKS.”

EDITOR'S NOTE

Here is matter for a dozen Crew or Senior Scout Troop meetings! To allow all to compete the competition will not close until August 31st, and entries will be permitted from individual Rover or Senior Scouts, or from complete Crews or Troops, or from teams of two or three Rovers or Seniors.

Prizes of vouchers on the Scout Shop to the value of five guineas, three guineas and two guineas will be awarded for the best entries received.



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33. QUANTOCK FOLLIES 1953

By **R. A. ARCHER, JOHN MOORMAN**
and **ROBERT BRANTON**

This exercise started on Friday evening, January 2nd, and ended on Sunday afternoon, January 4th. It was based on Crowcombe Youth Hostel, at which most of the Scouts had arrived soon after 6 p.m.

The previous year we had announced that the programme would be a strenuous one, and that boys under 15 should only be allowed to take part if they were substantially above average strength for their age. In spite of this warning, several younger boys had arrived who did not appear to be in any way above average strength for their age, so this time we announced that the programme would be even more strenuous, and that we reserved the right to prevent any boy going out on any part of the exercise to which he appeared likely to be unequal.

Full moon had been on December 31st, and we had decided to have the entire outdoor exercise take place by night, and to make finding the way from point to point across country in moonlight one of the main items of training. We had two very cold, clear and cloudless nights, with no ice on the roads, probably making the exercise as easy as it could have been. On arrival at the hostel they had supper, after which Mr. J. J. Webber of Minehead, who during the war had been a paratroop company commander, gave a yarn. Then, as far as it had not already been done, they were made up into Patrols of three or four, and briefing for the first night took place.

Throughout the exercise they were supposed to be paratroops. The first night was their final night's training and the second their first operational drop. Both nights they left the hostel at about 10.30 to 11.30 p.m. and returned at divers hours from about 4.30 a.m. to full daylight. As soon as all had arrived they had a meal and went to bed till the afternoon, when they got up and had breakfast. On Sunday afternoon, after 3 p.m. breakfast, we had Scouts' Own in the hostel and dispersed.

The "final night's training" took the form of an obstacle expedition over the Quantocks, a course of about 10 miles. There was usually a matter of a mile from obstacle to obstacle. Parties were sent both ways round the course. Hot drink and food had been laid on about mid-way at Dead Woman's Ditch, partly because it was very welcome, and partly to give us a chance to gather up loose ends and regulate the flow of Patrols to obstacles.

The obstacles included finding a fairly easy landmark after going about 1 ½ - miles with their maps sealed, after study but before starting, finding a much less conspicuous object by crossing about three-quarters of a mile of heathland on a compass bearing, and, also by compass bearing, finding a Scouter on a track through a pinewood, some half mile from where they started. In the course of their wanderings they met one Scouter who had twelve bottles with strong but unfamiliar smells to which they were unlikely to be able to put a name. The bottles were numbered, and they were told to remember the numbers of the smells. The next obstacle but one was another Scouter with another set of bottles with a duplicate set of smells, this time lettered. They were then given instructions written out in numbers. If they remembered the smells they could connect the numbers with letters and decode. Provided that the task was well distributed, and each Scout given three or four smells only to remember, this was not unreasonably hard, but it needed organisation like this. There was also a wood-fire suitable for cooking to be lighted in the open. It had to be small enough not to attract attention if they had been in an enemy country; also splicing. They next arrived at a commando bridge over a small stream. When they arrived they found a rope properly made fast to a tree on the far bank, about 8 feet up, but not tight or properly tied on their own bank.

They had to get one Scout across on it, put a second rope over and make a commando bridge. The Patrol then had to cross. Most Patrols failed to tighten the original rope enough, giving the first Scout a very hard and sometimes rather a wet task.

The temperature was well below freezing.

The first Scout nearly always shed the contents of his pockets into the stream. There was one more obstacle, a casualty who had to be got some distance up the side of a very steep-sided combe in a mountain rescue stretcher.

Ten Patrols took part. One going each way round got lost in the first half, and one Patrol got lost in the second half. It was a reasonably stiff test of finding the way, and was profitable as such even for, or possibly especially for, those who through failure in this respect missed some of the obstacles.

Second Night

We had food and briefing. The general idea was that two states were at war with one another. There was a neutral country - represented by much of south-west England which has some uranium mines from which she was prepared to sell ore to either side, but communications to the mines were very bad, and the only railway to them led through Crowcombe. It led on through a corner of one of the belligerents, and so could not be used for supplying the other, whose ore had to leave the mines by pack transport. Thus one of the belligerents got a practical monopoly of the ore. The other then decided to do a paratroop drop into the neutral country and destroy the railway. The other belligerent got wind of this and decided to do a counter-drop. It had been hoped until quite a late hour that we could get some other institution, a C.C.F. or something, to defend, and the idea of a rival drop was a late development when we failed to get co-operation. But it did make us very thin on the ground if we were to give them the, type of exercise we intended. It became obvious that we would probably have the wide-game ending of the exercise a failure, owing to the two sides not meeting. Scouts were to be dropped in pairs, and it would take the explosive load of two pairs at one point to do a worth-while amount of damage to the railway. This had to be done on a stretch all within a mile of Crowcombe, and even so, at certain points only was it possible to do significant damage. It was further laid down that all must cook and eat some food before laying their explosive. When arranging a wide-game on a moonlight night it is a good thing to have some coo4cing take place. The game has to be arranged before one knows about the weather. Cooking draws much more attention if it is cloudy) and so tends to neutralise the effect of cloud on the 'chances of the two sides meeting. The two sides were then sent into separate rooms to make their plans, while we arranged the cars to do the "drop."

Here "nature" intervened to upset the Scouts' plans. It appears that the planes that carried out the drop travelled at a great height, and got their position by dead reckoning only, and that the meteorologists of both sides had a common source of mis-information. They planned for a gentle NE. wind. What they got was a very gusty gale from the NE., no trace of which was apparent to observers on the ground. As a result, instead of being dropped near Crowcombe, or in the Quantock Hills which lie to the NE. of them, as the Scouts would expect, they were dropped about 15 miles from Crowcombe, between SW. and 'WNW. This landed them in the Brendon Hills. These consist mainly of pasture divided up into large fields, rather "marginal," with a few lanes, very few and small hamlets, and hardly any signposts mentioning names which would ever have been beard of by anyone who did not know the country so well that he had no use for signposts. And they only had maps of the country within 2 miles of Crowcombe.

In actual practice, the boys were blindfolded, put into cars, driven out to various places on the 15-mile quarter-circle, got out of the cars, led off the road, and then told to remain blindfolded for 3 minutes, and then get to work.

They then had to try to discover where they were and which was the way to Crowcombe. Now the Brendon Hills are on the way from nowhere where there are Scouts to anywhere they are likely to want to go. All main roads lead round them. As a result even Scouts from the nearest Troops had difficulties, and one of the most local pairs began by walking 2 miles straight away from Crowcombe. Eventually they came to a signpost to Bampton in Devon, which put them right. All, however, did succeed in overcoming their difficulties by legitimate means, and felt rather triumphant on their return.

As a wide-game, it was a complete failure. Numbers were too few, and the night was too cold for those who got first into the area where wide-games would have made sense, to wait for the others. This, however, was not unexpected. We had been driving round the roads on the probable lines of approach, and had discovered before 3 a.m. what was going to happen. We therefore met the Scouts on their way to the rendezvous which the two sides had chosen, and told them to return to the hostel. They began arriving between 5 and 6 a.m. and were all in before sunrise. The last to arrive were a Patrol whose home was near the eastern border of the county between 40 and 50 miles away. They had come by a very circuitous route, but got in without making any inquiries. At first I was of opinion that the game had been a bit of a flop, but the boys thought otherwise. The ability to find one's way in spite of difficulties is a very useful quality which Scout training should develop. They had been given a high test in this and passed, and felt very braced by it.

Food, sleep, and Scouts' Own ended the Exercise.

Next month: the 1954 Follies.

NOTES AND NEWS

MAY COVER

This month's cover is by R. B. Herbert. It shows the 26th Cambridge Pack enjoying their Pack Holiday in the grounds of Old Lakenham Hall, Norwich.

DEPUTY CHIEF SCOUT'S WEEK-END

The Deputy Chief Scout, Sir Rob Lockhart, will be in camp at Gilwell Park over the week-end of July 10-11th in order to meet as many campers as possible. Sir Rob will be present at the Camp Fire on the Saturday night and address Scouts' Own on the Sunday morning. Applications for a permit to camp at Gilwell that week-end should be addressed to the Camp Warden in the usual way.

PENNY SEATS

The Infantile Paralysis Fellowship is selling specially printed 1d. seals during the week June 5th-12th to help those permanently disabled by polio. This is an obviously good cause which Scouters will want to remember.

NATIONAL "JAMBORETTE"

A cordial invitation has been received for British Scouts to be represented at the 5th Italian National "Jamborette" at Val Fondillo, Abruzzi, Italy. The dates of this Jamborette are July 18th-25th following which visiting Scouts are invited to camp on a site near Rome until August 7th. Scouts attending should be between the ages of fourteen and seventeen years. It will be necessary for visiting Scouts to take their own camping equipment and to provision themselves. The approximate costs from London, inclusive of subsistence, will be about twenty-five pounds. Applications from Troops, Patrols and individual Scouts will be most welcome and should be made to the International Commissioner at I.H.Q.

A CAMP IN GERMANY

The Scouts of Southern Germany in the area of the Hopfensee, near Fussen, invite two Patrols of Senior Scouts or Rover Scout Crews from the U.K. to join them in camp for eight days from July 25th to August 8th this year. Costs in camp will be D.M. 20 (£2 12s. 0d.) per head. The return fare from London can be reckoned at about nine to ten pounds. It will be necessary for camp equipment to be taken and, if required, the time spent in Germany might be lengthened.

It is hoped that a good representative party of our Scouts may be able to accept this invitation. The International Commissioner at I.H.Q. will welcome early applications and inquiries from Troops and Patrols and from Scouts over the age of fifteen years. There will be a number of places open to Scouters of experience.

CAMP WARDENS

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

CAMP TRANSPORT

Groups wishing to visit North Staffs for their summer camp are invited to share transport with Stone Groups, thus making full use of the two return journeys made by coaches. Groups wishing to take advantage of this suggestion should submit particulars of proposed dates and numbers of passengers involved to Mr. C. W. L. Belcher, 64 St. Vincent Road, Walton, Stone, Staffs.

L.H.Q. SPEAKERS' VISITS FOR JUNE

5th/6th	Sea Scout Meet, Wirral	Capt. H. W. S. Browning
5th/6th	Gloucestershire Rally	Major-Gen. D. C. Spry
5th/6th	Wiltshire Jamboree	Col. J. S. Wilson
6th	Salvation Army Scouters' Week-end, Sunbury Court	W. J. Rapley
6th	Surrey Rally	Deputy Chief Scout
7th	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	Chief Scout
12th/13th	Midiethian, East Lothian and Fife	Chief Scout
12th/13th	Northumberland County Rover Moot	Brig. J. J. Sloan
19th	Sussex County Scout Council	A. W. Hurl
19th	Hampshire County A.G.M.	Deputy Chief Scout
19th/20th	Perthshire and Renfrewshire	Chief Scout
26th/27th	West Yorkshire	Deputy Chief Scout

ERRATA

In Mr. Edgar Vernon's letter in the March Scouter the painter of The Pathfinder was referred to as Don Carlo. The name should, of course, have been Carlos as we hope every Scout knows.

We are sorry that the name of the authoress of *Icebound Summer* on page 113 of the April issue was given incorrectly. *Icebound Summer* is by Sally Carrighar and is published by Michael Joseph at 15s.

HELP AT I.H.Q. CAMP SITES

Additional help for minimum periods of a week will be welcomed between July 15th and August 31st by the Wardens and Bailiffs of Broadstone Warren, Youlbury and Kingsdown. Sea Scouters holding Charge Certificates could be of the utmost help at Kingsdown.

Offers are invited from Senior Scouts, Rover Scouts and Scouters, who should send details of the period available and preference for any site to the Camp Sites Administration, I.H.Q. Only those wishing to do a job of work should apply. For Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts, a note of recommendation from a Scouter is necessary, and for Scouters a recommendation from a Commissioner. Free rations and accommodation will be available.

WOOD BADGE COURSES

Gilwell Park

Cub Courses

No. 129 Sunday, May 30th-Friday, June 4th

No. 130 Monday, June 21st—Saturday, June 26th

No. 131 Monday, July 12th—Saturday, July 17th

No. 132 Monday, August 2nd—Saturday, August 7th

No. 133 Monday, August 23rd—Sunday, August 29th

Scout Courses

No. 230 Saturday, July 3rd—Sunday, July 11th

No. 231 Saturday, July 17th—Sunday, July 25th

No. 232 Saturday, August 7th—Sunday, August 15th

No. 233 Saturday, August 14th—Saturday, August 28th.

(To be held in the Lake District. Scouters (5) specially invited)

No. 234 Saturday, August 21st—Sunday, August 29th

No. 235 Saturday, September 11th—Sunday, September 19th

Rover Courses

No. 11 Saturday, June 12th—Saturday, June 19th

No. 12 Monday, July 26th—Monday, August 2nd

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

County Courses

A full list of Wood Badge dates, covering the whole of the United Kingdom, was published in the February issue. Up-to-date information about Courses can always be obtained from Gilwell Park.

London (Gilwell Park)

Scout, 5 W.E. Sept. 11th
 Cub, 3 W.E. June 5th Cub, 3 W.E. June 26th
 Cub, Cont. July 18th—23rd

Apply: The Secretary, London Office, 3 Cromwell Place, S.W.7.

Scotland (Fordell)

Cub, Cont. July 26th-31st Cub, Cont. Aug. 23rd—28th
 Scout, Cont. July 10th-15th Scout, Cont. Aug. 7th—15th

Apply: The Secretary, Scottish Headquarters, 44 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh.

Leicestershire (Ullesthorpe)

Cub, Cont. June 5th—8th

Apply: Mrs. Pye, 4 Cowper Road, Hinckley.

Yorkshire, West and Central (Bradley Wood)

Scout, 4 W.E. May 22nd (incl. Whitsun)

Scout, Cont. June 5th—13th

Apply: J. E. Wilson, Grinlde Dene, Linton, Nr. Wetherby.

Cub, 2 W.E. July 24th (incl. August Bank Holiday)

Apply: Miss G. Barker, 17 Victoria Mount, Horsforth, Leeds.

COUNTY EVENTS

5th/7th June Six Counties Sea Scout Meet, Winsford, Cheshire.
 11th/13th June Three Counties Rover Moot, Herefordshire.
 12th/13th June Bristol Rover Moot.
 12th/13th June Eastern Counties Rover Moot, "Beichamps."
 12th/13th June Northumberiand Rover Moot, Dilston.
 12th/13th June N.W. Kent Rover/Ranger Conference, Bexleyheath.
 26th/27th June Wessex Rover Moot, Poole Park, Dorset.

AWARDS FROM 4th MARCH TO 7th APRIL, 1934

"CORNWELL SCOUT" BADGE (Posthumous).

B. J. Saunders, Scout, 20th West Ham (St. Paul's).

"In posthumous recognition of his high standard of character and devotion to duty under great suffering."

"CORNWELL SCOUT" CERTIFICATE.

E. Brown, Scout, 1st Richmond (St. Mary's).

"In recognition of his high standard of character and devotion to duty."

MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

J. H. Jenkinson, G.S.M., 1st Millom (Parish Church), A.D.C., Millom and District.

"In recognition of his great courage, fortitude and cheerfulness despite a great handicap, and his outstanding services to the Scout Movement over many years."

CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT.

N. Carr, Patrol Leader (Seniors), 12th North Leeds (St. Edmund's Roundhay).

"In recognition of his courage, fortitude and cheerfulness despite a great handicap."

Holy Trinity (Guildford) Senior Scout Troop.

"In recognition of their prompt action and presence of mind in dealing with an accident between a car and a motor-cycle combination, St. Lawrence. Isle of Wight, 9th August, 1953."

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (MERITORIOUS CONDUCT).

S. Copley, Wolf Cub; A. Lee, Wolf Cub Sixer, 20th Blackpool (Holy Trinity).

"In recognition of their prompt action and presence of mind in locating a lire, raising the alarm and keeping the fire in check until the arrival of the Fire Brigade, Blackpool, 23rd December, 1953."

GILT CROSS.

R. Bradshaw, Scout, All Saints (Burton-in-Lonsdale).

"In recognition of his gallantry, in rescuing two children who had fallen through the ice on a frozen pond, Burton-in-Lonsdale, 30th January, 1954."

D. J. Brown, Wolf Cub, 3rd Sheppey (Minster)

"In recognition of his gallantry in rescuing a baby from the savage attack of an Alsatian dog, Sheppey, 22nd July, 1953."

M. D. Evison, Scout, 1st Tadworth (Church of the Good Shepherd).
 "In recognition of his gallantry in saving a boy from drowning in the sea, Hastings, 16th August, 1953."

I. T. Hunter, Patrol Leader (Seniors), 4th Heston.

"In recognition of his gallant attempt to save a companion from drowning after their boat, in which they were part of the crew, had sunk, Hammersmith Bridge, River Thames, 16th January, 1954."

H. Martland, Wolf Cub, 5th Douglas (St. Thomas).

"In recognition of his gallant attempt to save a girl from drowning by diving from a promenade into a rough sea, Douglas Bay Isle of Man, 7th-Mardi, 1954."

LETTER OF COMMENDATION (GALLANTRY)

D. Eastwood, Scout, 20th Huddertfield (Milnsbridge Baptist).

"In recognition of his prompt action and presence of mind in saving a boy who had fallen through the ice on a frozen canal, Milnsbridge, 30th January, 1954."

L Holt, Wolf Cub 51w, 5th Douglas (St. Thomas).

"In recognition of his prompt action and presence of mind in saving a girl from drowning in the sea, Douglas Bay, Isle of Man, 7th March, 1954."

BAR TO THE MEDAL OF MERIT

Devon. H. F. Rawling, G.S.M., 11th Plymouth.

Hampshire. -R. P. Moody, G.S.M., 10th Itchen (West End).

London. - A. J. W. Adams, G.S.M., 15th St. Pancras.

"In recognition of theirfirt her outstanding services to the Scout Movement."

MEDAL OF MERIT.

Cheshire East. - J. Redfern, D.C., The Goyt and District, Asst. D.C.C. Conswall. - R. Pearse, formerly Hon. Secretary, Par and District.

Essex. - R. E. Gibbons, A.D.C., Brentwood and District; J. B. Smith, S.M., 1st Hutton.

Hampshire. - G. W. Jones, G.S.M., 13th Portsmouth (Copnor Methodist); P. C. E. Whettam-Marsh, Hon. Treasurer and Badge Secretary, Fareham and District.

Kent. - W. H. B. Quick, Hon. Secretary, Isle of Sleppey.

North-West Lancashire. - C. G. King, S.M., 19th Barrow-in-Furness (Grammar School), Asst. D.C.C.

South-East Lancashire. - C. J. Crabtree, Hon. Treasurer, Salford; K. A. Knupfer, A.D.C., Salford.

Leicestershire. - A. Tindal, Hon. Secretary, Leicester District.

London. - Miss M. E. Davey, C.M., 4th Battersea (St. Mark's); C. A. Pooley, D.S.M., Shoreditch.

Oxfordshire. - H. E. Hobbs, G.S.M., 2nd Banbury (Methodist).

South Staffordshire. - W. T. Stewart, formerly D C. Cannock Chase. **Surrey.** - Miss P. M. Bartlett, C.M., 8th Purley and 'District (St. Mary's, Sanderstead); C. J. Hudson, A.D.C., Purley and District; C. P. W. Singer, S.M., 4th Wallington (Queen Mary's G.S.M., 2nd Purley and District (Reedham Schools B. J. G. Walford, D.R.S.L., Purley and District.

Sussex. - Miss E. E. Coffins, A.C.M., 1st Hove (Parish Church); Miss I. B. Mitchell, C.M., 6th Hove (2nd Southern Cross, St. Nicholas, Portslade).

Yorkshire North Ridlng. - Lt.-Col. K. G. Chilman, T.D., S.M., St. Peter's School, York.

Northern Ireland.

Fermaaagh - W. G. Vaughan, C.M., 1st Inniskilling (St. Macartin's).

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CLASSIFIED

COMING EVENTS

W stands for Whitsun, and also for Wales! The Snowdon Group will hold its ninth Whitsun Camp at Lianberis. The camp will be open throughout the holiday period. Tuition will be available in mountain-craft, and also facilities for outdoor badge-work. The registration fee will be 3s.; and food will be provided at 4s. per day. Those desiring registration forms should send s.a.e. to The G.S.M., The Rectory, Lianberis, Caerns., N. Wales.

Bristol Rover Moot, 1954, June 12-13th. Main speaker: Cyril Oliver, A.C.C. (R), Birmingham. Other speakers: Eric Hobbs of broadcasting fame; Deputy Governor of Leyhill Prison, and demonstration by the Casualties Union. Moot fee 3s. Programme and booking forms from the Moot Secretary, D. Chandler, 452 Fishponds Road, Fish-ponds, Bristol.

Late Extras!! Eastern Counties R.M., June 12-13th. Camp Fire: Jack Beet. Brains Trust: Jack Cox. Sports: baseball and a full gymkhana. Details: Ken Greenwood, 25 Poplars Avenue, Hawkwell, Hockley, Essex.

1st Compton Bassett (R.A.F.) Group - a Crew Reunion will be held at Frylands Wood L.H.Q site, Surrey, on July 10/11th. All past and present members welcome. Further details from D. G. Tapper, 5 Lake View Terrace, Edmonton, London, N.18.

Mountaineering Course (Lake District), July 10th to 17th. For particulars write to Mountain Guide Geo. B. Fisher, 6 Latrigger Close, Keswick, Cumberland.

Second Scottish International Rover Wee Moot, Monzie Castle, Crieff, July 17th - 31st. There will be a full programme of sports, tours, hikes, climbs, etc. The camp fee will be £5 for the fortnight and £2 10s. for one week. Further information can be obtained from Wee Moot Secretary, Boy Scouts Association, 44 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2. September 18th - 19th, 1954 - keep this date clear for the Hampshire Rover Moot at Itchen Grammar School, Southampton.

Four Counties Moot, 1954, at Aylesbury, Bucks, September 25 - 26th. Details from F. Davies, Lynthorpe, Waterside, Chesham, Bucks.

ACCOMMODATION

Ashlack. Camp site of Duddon and District L.A. Wood and water plentiful; hut available. Apply to H. Kellett, 30 Greystone Lane, Dalton-in-Fumess.

Scouters wishing to marry seek flat in the area Sutton to Ashted & Offers to Box 182, THE SCOUTER,

A.C.M. marrying August requires unfurnished flat outer S.E. London. Box 183, THE SCOUTER.

PERSONAL

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

Happy Scouting to all in 1954. And make your Scouting happier with a well-fitting pair of Dover shorts in best English cords. Write to Ossie Dover (The Cycling Tailor), 160 Kensington, Liverpool, 8. Phone Anfield 1683. S.A.E. for patterns and prices.

Theatrical costumes and accessories. Costumiers to the London Gang Show. Special rates of hire to Troops for all productions. West End Costumes (Peter Dunlop), Ltd., 18 Tower St., W.C.2. Temple Bar 6806.

Rover has been able to arrange with Lloyd's Underwriters specially reduced premiums for private and commercial motor insurance for warranted Scouters. Apply Rover Scout Mills, 59-60 Cornhill, E.C.3.

Screen Printing. Print your own posters, Group notices, magazine covers, etc., with the C.L. Screen. Complete outfit from £4 10s. 0d. Write for details to C.L. Screens, 33 Wellington Avenue, Hounslow.

AS. Vaissiere Bugle and Trumpet Makers. "What," never heard of us? Well, now is the time to get in touch with us in regard to your instruments that need repairs. You will never regret the day. Note our address: 16b, Georges Road, Liverpool, 6. Phone: Anfield 3343

Printing and Duplicating for every need: letter headings, labels, cards, menus, programmes, tickets, etc. Details from W. Langsbury, Kings Head Cottage, Lower High Street, Cheltenham.

Scout companion(s) wanted for adventurous trip abroad during the summer holidays. Box 184, THE SCOUTER.

Scouts camping at Newlaus Manor, Milford-on-Sea, will find it advantageous to contact Mr. Adams, Hyde's Stores, Everton, for all groceries, etc. Phone Milford 291 or write with requirements.

Photography. Contacts 3½d., Postcards 7d., Half-plate 1/3. Doubtful? A trial will convince! Hayden Carr, 7 Blenheim Place, Brighton.

Small amateur snapshot photographs exchanged. Inquire from R. G. Richardson, BM/GRAN, London, W.C.1.

EMPLOYMENT

The Church Army offers a Free Two-Year Course of Training, with small allowance, to suitable keen Christians, between the ages 18-30; Church of England Communicants. After training, a salaried post is found as an officer in the Church Army (Mission Vans, Parish Workers, in Youth Centres and Men's Hostels, etc.). Apply to Captain J. Benson, 55, Bryanston Street, London, W. I.

Redhill County Hospital have a few vacancies for men who are anxious to train as Student Nurses for the examination to enter the State Register. Amenities include comfortable accommodation, sports and pastimes. The hospital is within easy reach of London and the coast. Apply to Matron for full particulars of salary, conditions of service, etc., Redhill County Hospital, Earlswood Common, Redhill, Surrey.

Resident Supervision Officer (single) required for Ashbourne Lodge Remand Home, Winchester (24 boys, 8-14). The duties are to assist the Superintendent in training boys. Candidates should be interested in games and hobbies and must be able to instruct junior boys in Handicrafts and/or Gardening. Salary: £385 x £15-£445 p.a. less £100 p.a. for board and lodging. Application forms from the County Children's Officer, The Castle, Winchester.

Openings exist for men between 21 and 30 to train as General Secretaries. First essentials: sense of Christian vocation, good education, organising ability in religious, social, educational and physical activities with youth. Write giving particulars of experience and qualifications to Personnel Secretary, National Council of YM.C.A.s, 112 Great Russell Street, W.C. 1.

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Asbestos, Nissen Type, H7all Type, etc. All sizes and prices. Write, call or telephone, Universal Supplies (Belvedere) Ltd., Dept., 93, Crabtree Manorway, Belvedere, Kent. Tel. ERITH 2948.

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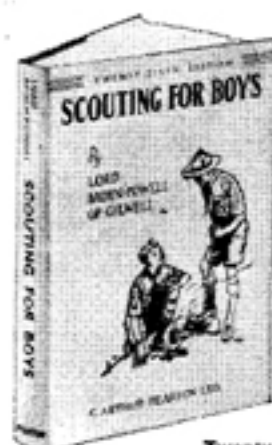
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CLEAR THE DECKS!

With the approach of the publication of the 1954 Good Companions catalogue we wish to clear our shelves of discontinued lines. Whilst they last there are some astounding bargains. Space does not permit us to give full details but we give below a short selection. For further details please write to us asking for a copy of our Special Sale Sheet. This is a grand opportunity for equipping yourself and your Troop at bargain prices.

Air Beds: Li-lo New Wonder, brand new in ordinary cellophane packets. Listed at £4 4s. 0d., now **£3 15 0**

Air Pillows: Lightweight plastic size 12 in. x 17 in., weight 2 ozs. List price 4 6 now **3 6**

News of Billies: 2, 3 and 5 pint capacity with frypan handles and lids. List price 22 6, now **17 -**

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Mitts: Strong brown hide working mitts ideal for all outdoor activities. List price 8 6 now **6 6**

Ordnance Survey Maps: Old editions, differing only in slight detail from current editions; on linen. Listed 2 6 now **1 -**

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STRAIGHT



FROM THE PACKET!

Uniform

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These popular Scout Shop jerseys are stocked in green, navy blue, khaki and grey, with stand collar.

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