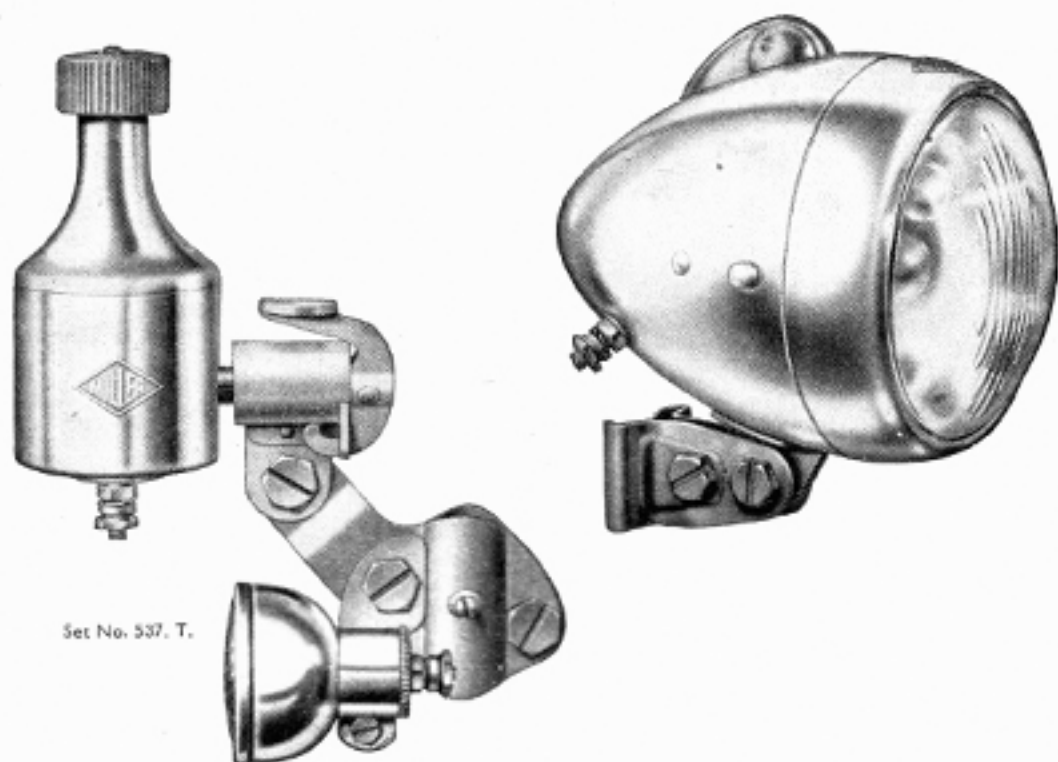


March 1955
9d



The SCOUTER

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.)

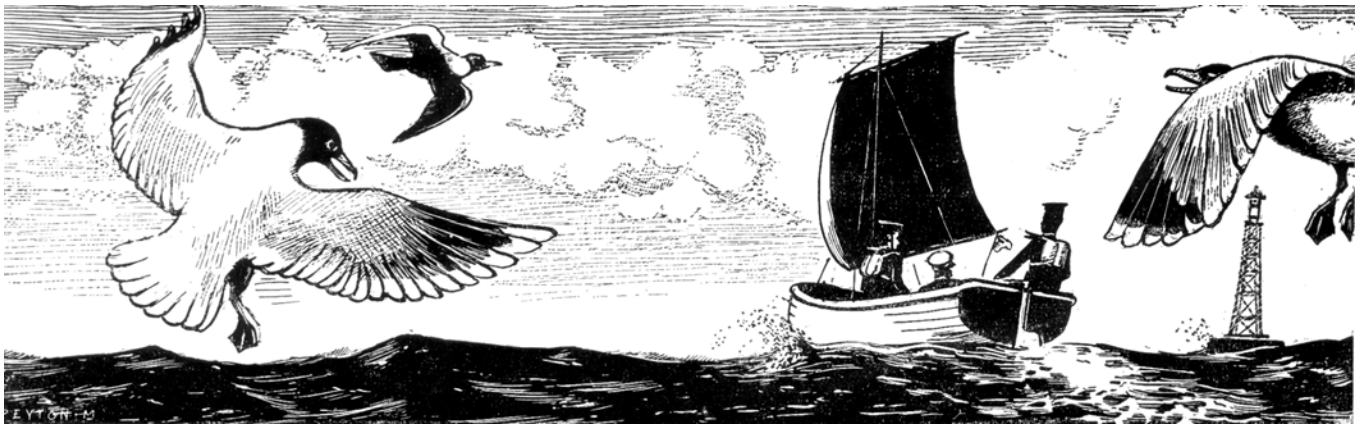


MESSENGER BADGE: “The Scout must keep on his bicycle a front light and tail lamp in good working order.”

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

Video “Scout Badge Series No. 20.”





THE OUTLOOK

By THE DEPUTY CHIEF SCOUT

How perennial are our problems! I have been reading the Headquarters Gazette for 1912. Amongst other headings I found the following:-

“Why do Boys Leave?” (“the great number of Scouts who continually leave their Troop for no apparent reason”); “Scouting for Crippled Lads” (“about the advisability of having a separate Scout Troop for physically defective lads :there may be a difference of opinion”).

“Boy Scouts and Public Schools”; “Airman’s Course for Scouts” (this was for “the Young Aerial League for Scouts” - obviously the first step to Air Scouts). All these are subjects which are to-day still exercising the minds of H.Q. Commissioners at I.H.Q. and many others in the Movement!

Incidentally, apropos of I.H.Q., I read the other day in a book by a bishop a description of what he thought a big Headquarters should be. He wrote, “a strong, human, understanding G.H.Q. behind the men and women in the front line who are doing the fighting, ready to back them, encourage them, and see that they get every possible help in their difficult job.” This is what I.H.Q. strives to be and do. I hope you all regard it in that way. I would add this: B.-P., in his Outlook for January 1912, wrote, “They” (Commissioners, Scoutmasters and Associations) “can, however, look to Headquarters for help and guidance in the matter of policy, for that has to be directed on certain lines best suited for the Movement as a whole, and a certain amount of local self-sacrifice has therefore to be expected, so that the Movement in general may prosper.”

In June last, Brigadier Tod Sloan resigned, owing to increased business commitments, his appointment as Headquarters Commissioner for Rover Scouts. To fill the gap thus created our International Commissioner, Lt.-Colonel Robin Gold, most nobly volunteered to act as Headquarters Commissioner for Rover Scouts in addition to his other duties. This offer was gratefully accepted, and since his appointment last July he has devoted himself wholeheartedly to the Rover Section, working with great enthusiasm and energy.

He has been instrumental in reforming the Rover Advisory Panel, which under his guidance and Chairmanship has made a good start on reviewing Rover problems.

But it was never the intention, nor the policy, to ask one man to double-bank two such important posts. Colonel Gold’s task was to “hold the fort.” And very well he has done it.

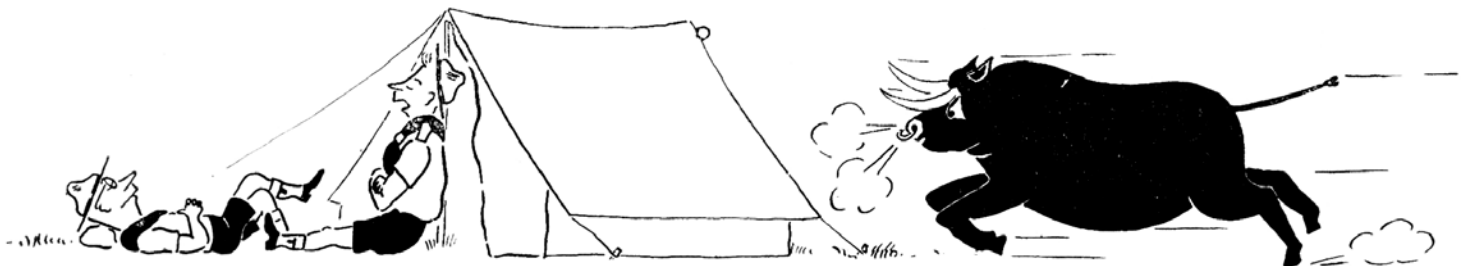
We have now been lucky enough to find someone to take on the job permanently. The Chief Scout has approved the appointment as H.Q. Commissioner for Rover Scouts, with effect from April 1st, 1955, of Group Captain David Lumgair, R.A.F. David Lumgair became an A.S.M. in 1932. Since then he has been at different times and in different parts of the world, S.M., G.S.M., D.C., A.D.C., and Deputy Camp Chief. His last appointment, which he only vacated in December 1954, was as Assistant Commissioner for British Scouts in Western Europe, a job in which he was closely concerned with Rover Scouting.

He has now taken up an appointment in the Directorate of Manning at the Air Ministry, and so is able to resume Scouting in this country. He thus comes to us with a wide experience of Scouting and of recent close connection with Rovering. I am confident that all sections of the Movement, particularly the Rovers, will give him a warm welcome and full support. I am glad to be able to say that he expects to be at the Air Ministry for at least three years.

About a month after this number of THE SCOUTER is in your hands we shall again be celebrating St. George’s Day.

The Chief said that he thought last year’s March Past at Windsor was the best he had yet seen. I hope that those of you who are concerned with the celebrations this year - no matter where - will do all you can to ensure that the turn-out, bearing, smartness and behaviour of all Scouts attending these celebrations, whether on parade or as spectators, are faultless.

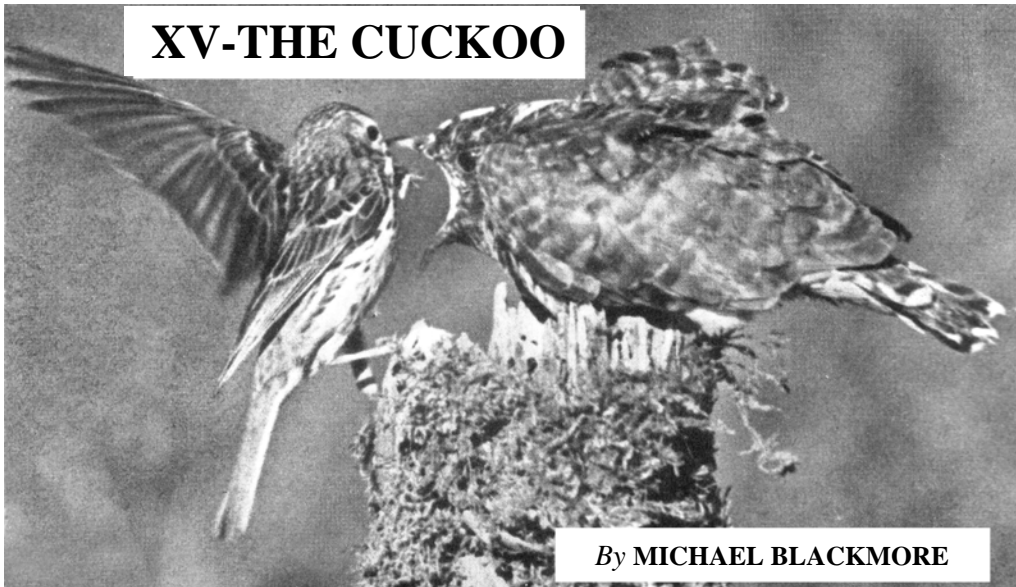
RON LOCKHART.



“I suppose it’s time we broke camp”

PATROL ANIMALS AND BIRDS

XV-THE CUCKOO



By **MICHAEL BLACKMORE**

It is hardly surprising that the earliest surviving song in our language should have been inspired by the cuckoo. Its melodious and unmistakable call has always had a particular fascination for poets and composers of music; and even if its voice becomes somewhat tedious after a few weeks there is no doubt that it is the most eagerly awaited and warmly welcomed of all countryside sounds in April.

If you live in southern England you may sometimes hear a genuine March cuckoo newly arrived from winter quarters in Africa and you have probably read reports in the popular press of February specimens. As far as I know no one has ever seen a cuckoo as early as February so you need not regard these records very seriously. With practice it is quite easy to imitate the song realistically - a gentle art which many schoolboys acquire to perfection!

You might think that a bird with such a flair for self-advertisement would have attracted careful study from naturalists throughout the ages, especially when you consider that its parasitic breeding habits, are unique among British species. Strangely enough the cuckoo is still very much a creature of mystery. Of course everyone knows that it deposits its eggs in the nests of other birds and takes no interest in the upbringing of its young. We also know that the newly hatched cuckoo ejects the eggs or nestlings of its foster-parents and is reared by them as if it were their own offspring. But that is only a part of the story. Does the cuckoo leave, her eggs indiscriminately in any nest that she happens to find? Does she actually lay into the nests of her victims at all? These questions puzzled naturalists for many years and it was only through the painstaking researches of Mr. Edgar Chance that we now know the answers.

Edgar Chance started to study cuckoos intensively in 1918 with the help of a few enthusiasts. Although one specimen may look very like another to the unpractised observer Chance soon learnt to recognise individual birds through slight differences in their plumage, behaviour and voice. After much watching he discovered that many females return year after year to the same strip of territory and that each one keeps to a particular type of host whenever possible. If a cuckoo victimises a meadow-pipit, for example, she will usually confine her attentions to that species. The same applies to "robin-cuckoos," "wagtail-cuckoos," "wren-cuckoos" and so on.

The female decides well in advance which nests she intends to use among those of her chosen fosterers. She watches their building operations carefully, waits until they have laid one or more eggs and then flies down from her observation post to add her own. She stays at the nest for a few moments only, flies away with one of the fosterers' eggs in her beak and swallows it, evidently on the principle that "exchange is no robbery."

But suppose the selected nest has been destroyed or deserted when the cuckoo is ready to lay.

She cannot postpone the event until the following day but must lay within a few hours.

Unless she immediately finds another fosterer of the right type whose nest is in a suitable condition she is likely to make use of some other species which then becomes an accidental fosterer. If she fails to locate a nest and her discomfort becomes intolerable she may even be compelled to lay her egg on the ground.

This brings me back to the second question I mentioned earlier: the method by which the cuckoo deposits her egg in the nest. At some time or other most of us have read that she always lays on the ground, carries the egg in her beak and puts it into the chosen nest.

This idea was a favourite theory for many years. You will even see it stated as a dogmatic fact in several of the older bird-books whose authors could find no other way of explaining the presence of young cuckoos in the small domed nests of wrens, willow-warblers and chiffchaffs.

Although Edgar Chance and his friends watched several cuckoos carrying stolen eggs away from the nests of fosterers nobody ever witnessed a cuckoo taking an egg to a nest. Cine-photography eventually proved that the cuckoo does sit on nests and lay in them when they are large enough to hold her but this still did not explain what happened when a wren or a willow-warbler was the intended host. Some ornithologists thought that the cuckoo used whichever of the two methods was more suited to the particular type of nest she was visiting. Others preferred to believe in an ingenious version of the "beak" theory in all cases, saying that the camera had failed to record the full details. They added that the cuckoo was not seen carrying her egg to the nest because she always swallowed it beforehand. When she arrived at the site she regurgitated it from her gullet!

Chance subsequently found that nothing of the kind takes place. When a wren or willow-warbler is to be the host the cuckoo clings to the outside of the nest and ejects her egg into it from her ovipositor or egg-laying organ. This discovery upset all the old theories and the diehards flatly refused to accept it at first. But Chance's researches have been verified by other observers and today all well-informed bird-watchers share his views.

In the course of a season the cuckoo lays about a dozen eggs and it is remarkable how often they tend to resemble those of the fosterers in colour. When this similarity occurs is it accidental? Or do various unknown factors play a part in influencing a cuckoo that lays eggs of a certain colour to victimise a nest containing eggs of a roughly equivalent shade? The cuckoo herself cannot control the colour of her eggs because this is already determined by her inherited characteristics and those of her mate. Some interesting theories have been put forward to throw light on the matter but it remains unsolved.

(continued on p.25)

HURRYING FEET

3. CLOSING THE GAP

By MISS "KELLY" EGGLESTON,
A.D.C. (Cubs), Salford Asst. A.K.L. (S.E. Lancs.)

The most staggering figures in the leakage report for Wolf Cubs to brood over show that only 48 per cent of Cubs within a year of going up age ever reach the Boy Scout Troop. Thus it can be argued that, as our main function is to provide the Scouts of tomorrow, over half the immense Cub effort is being wasted.

This gap must be closed.

There are some obvious reasons why Cubs do not go up into the Troop.

Akelas may hang on to their boys too long through unwillingness to see their star performers depart, or because they have little faith in the ability of the Scouters of the Troop to hold them. This fear may well be justified in some cases, or it may be due to the fact that the Group Council is not working properly and therefore there is little mutual confidence and respect between the Scouters of the two sections.

We must always remember that there is a natural shrinking on the part of a Cub at the prospect of taking down his badges and exchanging his position as a "Big noise" in the Pack for that of a Tenderfoot in a Patrol. Our job as Akelas is to float him off at that point and not allow him to cling.

Some people, including my D.C., believe that Cub camping is a thoroughly bad thing and that Cubs fail to go up and enjoy their Scouting because they imagine that they know it all. This school of thought holds that while Cub camping as a short term policy may pay dividends in the shape of a keen Pack - for who does not enjoy doing something which rightly belongs to someone else - as a long term policy it is disastrous. They believe that camping should be held as a carrot in front of a donkey's nose to lure Cubs on into the Troop where they can know its thrills.

On the contrary I believe that properly controlled and staffed Cub camps can be a great incentive to Cubs to go up to where more exciting and adventurous camps await them. On this point we must agree to differ.

There are some suggestions on closing the gap, however, which are not so controversial. Firstly, could we not hold our Cubs better during the period before they reach Scout age if we made our programme a little more ambitious? Do we not tend to underrate the intelligence of many Cubs?

Besides knowing the Union Flag could we not expect them to be interested in the flags of other countries?

How often do Cubs learn the purpose of a knot as well as how to tie it? Why should they not skip for half a mile instead of fifteen times to and fro. Why should they not learn to lay and light a fire out of doors as well as indoors. They do it anyhow when we are not looking. Being the lazy type my Cubs always light the fire in camp and bring a cup of tea to my tent. I am quite sure it does them no harm and teaches them how to light and keep a fire going and use it - and it certainly does me a lot of good.

They also used to take me on rambles and plan surprise outings. When I think back I must have been a responsibility to them. I feel our programme underrates the toughness and intelligence of the modern ten year old.

The establishment of a tradition in the Group that the Yellow Six always go up into the Beavers and the Green Six into the Owls. Occasional visits of the Six to a meeting of the Patrol they will someday adorn, and occasional visits of the P.L.'s of the Beavers and Owls to a Pack meeting to see their future Tenderfeet at play. Also occasional visits of the Pack to a Troop meeting and day visits to the Troop Camp.

The realisation that we are one family might close the gap a little. A 20 per cent gap might be excusable, but a 52 per cent one is just plain nonsense.

4. SOME OBSERVATIONS ON OBSERVATION

By F. CANNELL, *G.S.M., 43rd Salford Group*

I suppose most of us will agree that observation is one of the keystones of practical Scout training. To quote but two examples: knowing how to treat a fracture is of little use if the first-aider cannot recognise (or observe) the signs of a fracture: and all visual signalling is largely a matter of observation. Yet how many of us are content to leave the training of our Scouts on observation to monotonous repetition of Kim's game, a few charts on common trees, and an occasional trail of woodcraft signs?

Why not try a few variations on these well-worn themes? After all, they are only the standard test of efficiency and not necessarily the best training in observation.

Ideally, observation training is best done out of doors, for deduction and observation go hand in hand, and perhaps the best training is the track (not trail) left in a sand-pit by someone on his lawful (or unlawful) occasions. But a few scratches and burnt matches in a sand-pit can be rather frightening to a young Tenderfoot, and anyway it is not always possible for the training to be done out of doors.

Here then are a few ideas for indoor observation training. They need little preparation, and can profitably be the Scouter's contribution to the programme independent of the Court of Honour.

For instance, you announce a test in observation. An A.S.M. or P.L. carries in a tray of assorted articles. After one minute he goes out. Then ask the Scouts half a dozen questions about the A.S.M. - has he garter tabs on? Any buttons missing or unfastened? Colour of shoes? - or were they plimsolls? Had he a knife? etc. etc. It may sound a bit of a twist, but after all, you just told them to expect a test in observation.

Or how about a combination of compass, woodcraft and observation? Arrange eight leaves and eight pictures of trees - sixteen articles in all - in a circle, each object corresponding to one point of the compass. After one or two minute observation of the article, ask such questions as: "Is the oak leaf N., W., or S.W.? N.E.? Where was the elm tree? The horse-chestnut is S.S.W., what is E.N.E.?" etc. The same thing can be done, of course, with knots and drawings of lashings, or with morse and semaphore symbols, in fact almost any other Scout subject can be brought in with a little ingenuity.

Don't neglect the little mime - of a bag-snatcher, a pickpocket, a cycle accident. A little rehearsal beforehand by two of the Scouts can produce a very realistic incident - and a short report by each Patrol after five minutes' composition can be very enlightening. If you can induce a couple of unknown Rovers, or better still, laymen, to do your acting, so much the better. It's so much easier, really, for the Scouts to describe someone they really don't know than someone they do-know, dressed up!

Incidentally, you can always get one Patrol to march round the den, with varying dress and step, and then ask the other Patrol such questions as: "Which Scouts wore hats? Who had a stave? Who limped? and which leg? Who was out-of step?" But be certain the marching Patrol tries it out once or twice first to make sure they know who is out of step.

Try an identification parade. Introduce a stranger to the Troop - just let him drift-around the den for one Troop meeting. At the next meeting produce a dozen or so assorted snaps, one or two of them including your "stranger." As added information, get the lads to describe the clothes he was wearing, how he spoke, and any peculiar gestures he may have shown when he visited you.

Purely as a memory test - and observation is of little value without memory - try asking the Troop to draw a sketch-map of your last Troop camp site with position of each tent, etc., or ask the Scouts-, without the assistance of -the Court of Honour, what your Troop programme was three weeks ago, giving length of time of each item.

Of course, you won't try one of these stunts every week, but if you use them (or something like them) just often enough, you may find the lads will pay a little more attention and listen a little more carefully every time you do anything at all - and that's always a big help.

BOB-A-JOB, 1955

By **CYRIL GOODLUND**, *Administrative Secretary, I.H.Q.*

The time is now drawing very near when Scouters will be receiving from their Local Association Secretaries the literature and material in connection with this year's Bob-a-Job Week, and it may help them to have a few basic points to consider now so that they can get on with the all-important planning of this annual event.

The objects of the scheme are, of course, known to all Scouters, but too often the Scout himself has only a vague idea of what they are, so let us start with a few words on these.

The main object is to meet the personal request of the Chief Scout that every Scout, Scouter and Commissioner should earn the sum of two shillings per head towards the cost of the services that I.H.Q. provides the Movement. These services are too many and varied to enumerate them all in this article, but they include the general administration of the Movement; the upkeep of Gilwell Park and the general scheme for the training of Scouters; the provision, maintenance and staffing of Headquarters camp sites in various parts of the country; the employment of Field and Travelling Commissioners and the provision of Headquarters Speakers; the payment of a per capita subscription on behalf of all Scouts in the United Kingdom to the Boy Scouts International Bureau; the fostering of our relations with Scouts in foreign countries; the development of Scouting in the Colonies; and the insurance of all Scouts in this country against claims alleging public liability. There are, of course, many other ways in which the Movement is helped and fostered, but these examples will no doubt help in explaining the main object of the scheme.

Following on the needs of I.H.Q. come the needs of County, District and Group. These vary considerably and are, of course, a matter for local decision, but there can be no doubt that Groups have found the amount that accrues to Group funds each year of the greatest assistance, and in many cases, of course, the fact that local Scouting benefits directly as well as indirectly will have an additional appeal.

The objects I have mentioned so far have all had a definite financial implication, but I venture to say that above all, our main object should be to show the general public that we are willing and anxious to earn ourselves as much as we can to set towards the costs of running our own show and to make it quite clear that we really do mean to earn it.

And what a wonderful opportunity it provides us during that week of bringing, not only our Bob-a-Job effort, but the Movement itself and what it is really doing, to the notice of the nation. In every part of the British Isles, Scouts in uniform putting their Scout training into practice in one way or another - what a marvellous opportunity!

And how does it all work? Well, in February, we issue from I.H.Q. to all L.A. Secretaries sufficient Bob-a-Job cards and other material for them to distribute to the Groups in their area in good time. The numbers on which we base this distribution are those shown in the previous year's census, plus, as our numbers are continually rising, an additional 15 per cent. This should usually be sufficient, but more can be obtained if necessary.

The L.A. Secretary, in turn, distributes this material to individual Groups, and since this is a very big task, especially in the larger Districts, a working party of lay members of the Association might well be formed to carry it out. It will mean an evening's hard work for them, but they will enjoy doing it. Then, of course, there are the issues within the Group itself to the individual Sections and subsequently, the issues to the Scouts themselves and, most important of all, the adequate briefing that is so necessary before they are turned loose on the general public.

It is essential that the objects of the week, which I have briefly referred to in this article, and the methods to be adopted, should be fully explained to all Scouts, by their Scouters, so that they will know what they are working for and so that there may be no possible cause of alienation of the sympathy and support of the general public.



MICHAEL CHURCHILL AND COLIN GAMMON, 1ST LEWES GROUP, CARRY OUT AN UNUSUAL JOB FOR THEIR BOB

One of the most common criticisms of the scheme has been that some people have been bothered by continuous calls to such an extent as to constitute a nuisance, while on the other hand some who have had jobs to offer have not been approached by anyone! These criticisms are, of course, directly traceable to lack of organisation and often lack of proper briefing, but they can and should be met if more care is taken in planning by the L.A. and by the Group Scouters. The allocation of areas to be covered by individual Groups, and Patrols, will do much to ensure not only that people are not bothered unduly, but that no one is missed.

To help in the matter of too many calls, it has this year been decided to issue to each *Scout* a sheet of six perforated gummed "Job Done" slips which can be issued to householders who have been served and have no further jobs to offer, to be placed in the window or affixed to the door. Further supplies of these slips can be obtained from the Scout Shop at a cost of 1/- per dozen sheets - each containing six slips - and it is hoped that all Groups will make full use of them.

One of the most important needs in the organisation of Bob-a-Job Week is undoubtedly publicity, and most of all, local publicity. The Publicity Department at I.H.Q. will arrange for publicity in the national press, and on radio and television, both before and during Bob-a-Job Week, but a letter from the District Commissioner or Local Association Chairman in the local papers will help tremendously. In addition, the use of the excellent posters which are available from the Scout Shop will do much to focus the attention of the general public on the Week, and can be overprinted with details of addresses to which they can apply for the services of *Scouts*.

Full details of the posters and other visual aids which are stocked by the Scout Shop will be found in the Bob-a-Job Publicity Bulletin, which this year is being issued at the rate of three copies per Group so as to ensure that it is seen by the Scouters of the various sections.

I have already suggested that lay members of the L.A. might help with the distribution of Bob-a-Job material and so on, and would also suggest that the Group Committee be called upon to help with the organisation so far as the Group's part is concerned.

After all, the money raised by the Group in connection with Bob-a-Job Week must be shown in the Group accounts, so they already have a forthcoming responsibility in the spending of it and can be of great help before and during the week itself in planning how the area allocated to the Group is to be covered. They may also act as recruiting agents for jobs, or as Jobmasters, among other things.

There is one word of warning that must be issued. Advice has been received from the Home Office in respect of possible contravention of local bye-laws, and it has been decided, therefore, that street trading, such as shoe-shine stands, and employment for business purposes, such as the distribution of commercial advertising circulars, should not be undertaken.

Concern has also been expressed that the introduction of the Bob-a-Job scheme has led to a lessening of the carrying out of the Good Turn. The Good Turn is a fundamental of Scouting and it is of the greatest importance that Scouters should continue to impress upon their *Scouts* that during this one week in the year *only* do they seek to offer their services for payment, and that during the remainder of the year, and indeed during Bob-a-Job Week itself, the spontaneous Good Turn should be carried out without thought of reward.

We sometimes receive inquiries as to whether there is any insurance cover provided in respect of Bob-a-Job activities, and I am glad to be able to assure you that all *Scouts*, Scouters and lay members taking part in the week are covered for public liability under the Indemnity Policy, and that the Personal Accident and Medical Benefits Policy continues to cover for this purpose those who are already covered by the Policy.

Finally, the Chief Scout and the Committee of the Council realise that the organisation of the Bob-a-Job Week does throw a considerable extra burden on Commissioners, L.A. and County Secretaries, and Group Scouters, but they are confident that with your whole-hearted co-operation this year's effort will be even more successful than the previous ones, excellent as they all have been, both in the raising of funds to continue our work and in achieving the goodwill and cooperation of the general public.

P.S. The dates, of course, are from April 11th to 16th!

OUR DISTRICT *By* A.D.C.

Hankin had a large map spread out on his table when I called on him last Sunday afternoon, and four Scouts were busy making copies of part of it. Two were P.L.'s, full of years and dignity, and the others scruffy youngsters of twelve, newly emerged from Cubhood.

"You'd better clear off now," he told them, "because I want to talk to Mr. Bugface here. See you all on the station at 12.35 p.m. sharp on Saturday."

He managed to squeeze me a cup of rather tepid tea from the pot he had brewed for his more important guests, and I asked him if he was going to camp on the following Saturday.

"Bit early in the year for the youngsters, isn't it?" I suggested. "We're not camping," he said. "I'm taking those four chaps to look at a possible site for summer camp. One from each Patrol. We go by train to Dexford, and though the site is actually only two miles from Dexford station, we shall approach it by a roundabout route amounting to nearly six miles in all."

"What's the idea of that?" I asked.

"The lane to the camp from the village station at Dexford isn't very pretty. There are a lot of new council houses and some advertisement hoardings, but the other route takes us out of the village at the unspoiled end, up a magnificent hill, and then across field-paths to a wood. As we emerge from the wood on the other side we look right down at the camp site. I want the Scouts to get their first glimpse of it from the best possible vantage point."

"Have you camped there before?"

"Twenty years ago, but I know how quickly sites can get spoiled, so I went down a fortnight ago for a preliminary glimpse. Except for the approach past the council houses it is as good as ever, and that won't matter when we actually go to camp in August, because we

shall reach it from the other direction by lorry."

I remarked that if he were satisfied, it seemed rather a waste of money to make a second reconnaissance expedition with some of his Scouts.

"I don't think so at all," he replied. "Nothing is too much trouble to make summer camp a success, because it is the focal point of the whole Scout year. It's the only time in the year when the Scouter has his fellows under his eye for a long enough consecutive time to really get to know them. It's the time when the boys cease to be odd individuals meeting for a couple of hours and then parting, and become blended into a real Troop."

I pondered.

"Isn't it unusual," I suggested, "to take two P.L.'s and two very young Scouts on the camp site reconnaissance? I should have thought you would have taken the four P.L.'s."

He grinned.

"My Court of Honour thought the same," he said, "and I had quite a job to talk them round, but I'm sure it's a good idea. I want an absolutely full muster at summer camp, and the only hope is to get everybody talking and thinking about it early, so that where possible parents will fit in the family holiday so as not to clash with the camp. If the four P.L.'s go, they will come back and tell their chaps that it is a 'smashing' site, and that will be the end of it, but those two youngsters I'm taking see all the other youngsters in the Troop every day at school, and they will be much better publicity agents for our summer camp than anybody else could be. We drew lots as to which Patrols should send their Leaders and which should send their youngest Scouts, and I'm sure the idea will pay dividends."

I wonder if Hankin is right? He generally is.

NOTEBOOK FOR A YEAR

21. By HIS HONOUR JUDGE JOHNSON,

Assistant Commissioner, N. Ireland

September

Had a yarn with the mother of a small fourteen-year-old Scout who has just completed his First Class journey. According to the map he travelled twenty-five miles and the weather on the second day was very bad. He arrived home utterly exhausted. It is a great pity that the joy of hiking should run the risk of being nipped in the bud by a Commissioner setting a journey so much beyond the powers of the Scout concerned. The journey should be made to fit the boy, not the boy the journey, but this will only be done if the Commissioner takes the trouble to find out something about the candidate before he sets the journey. The candidate's Scouter has also a responsibility to see that the Commissioner receives the necessary information.

October

I wonder how many Scouts with more than six months' service ever give thought to the Founder's ideal that they are expected to do a Good Turn every day. To me one of the best descriptions of the Good Turn is given by Wordsworth when he refers to

"That best portion of a good man's life
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love."

November

Ill Met By Moonlight which describes the abduction of the German General Kreipe from his headquarters on the Island of Crete in April 1944, is one of the most thrilling war books I have read. When Paddy and the officer, with the captured general, are finally waiting to be taken off the Island the following conversation takes place:- "For an hour we waited and then at ten o'clock we reckoned that the time had come to start flashing our Morse signal seaward. Paddy and I climbed on to a rock and I produced a torch from my sakuli. 'What are the code letters,' I asked. 'S.B.' he told me. How do you spell S.B. in dots and dashes?' 'Haven't a clue. I thought you knew how to do it.' 'Not I'. . . . We simply looked at one another and for a long time said nothing.'

The next time a Scouter finds his boys are not too enthusiastic in getting down to master Morse signalling, he might usefully tell this incident as illustrating the value of at least knowing the alphabet.

December

At Church Parades and certain Civil occasions Scouts have to march through the town sometimes on their own and sometimes along with other uniformed organisations which make military 'drill one of the main planks of their programme. The public judge by appearances, and it is hardly feasible for the Scouts to carry a banner stating "we are not marching very well but that is because we are backwoodsmen, not soldiers." Our Chief is very anxious that Scouts should march better on the occasions when they have to march, but nothing much is done about it.

It seems to me the root of the trouble is that many Scouters are quite unable to march properly themselves, far less teach others. Gilwell training has done a tremendous amount to raise the standards of Scouting in our Movement. What about a few hints on simple military drill in the Gilwell Courses? I expect that this will sound rank heresy to most holders of the Wood Badge, but as the theoretical necessity of Scouts doing drill is part of the Wood Badge training, why not a little of the practice. One of the answers might be that there is no time on a Wood Badge Course for this sort of thing. I think it possible that this difficulty could be surmounted if there was a little less note-taking on Wood Badge Courses and the practice adopted on some sessions of distributing typed notes to the Course instead of expecting the members to write notes. This would enable more work to be done in the same time.

As I passed down the road leading to our Scout Headquarters this afternoon, one of the Patrols was busily engaged shepherding about a dozen small boys from a welfare home on their way to a Christmas party, planned, organised, and run entirely by the Patrol without any assistance from the Scouters. The S.M. had told the P.L.'s that if they really required any help with their Patrol good turns, they had only to ask, but so far no requests for assistance have been received.

B.-P. said "the object of the Patrol system is mainly to give real responsibility to as many of the boys as possible with the view to developing their character." The P.L. must be given opportunities of leadership and plenty of responsibility particularly in Camp and through the proper use of the Court of Honour, but some Scouters seem to confuse this with the job of giving advanced instruction on technical subjects, which is rather the Scouters' than the P.L.'s' job.

January

I met a Scout's father today who told me his boy had gone to the pictures the previous evening which was Scout Night and that this was the first Troop night he had missed for months. It appears the boy was disappointed that though he was a Second he had been passed over for Patrol Leadership by a Scout much newer in the Troop who was in the same Patrol and who therefore, of course, had stood below him in seniority. The S.M. had probably very good reason for doing what he did, but at least on some occasions it is possible to explain to a boy why at the moment he is being passed over, and so the disappointment eased, and perhaps the boy helped to better Scouting.

February

My own Troop is busy this month on rehearsals for the Group Gang Show. One or two important points are emerging. By holding the rehearsals on Saturday from 6.30 to 8.30 instead of on Troop Night the normal Troop programme can be maintained up to the last few weeks before the performance. Even the Rovers are willing to attend on Saturday evenings if they get away by 8.30 or 9.0.

March

Acted as Inspecting Officer at the Annual Meeting of a Boys' Brigade Company. I told them in my remarks that there were two kinds of man, who never did much in the world. One being those who cannot obey orders and the other being those who can do nothing else. I wonder could the Brigade not do a little more in teaching their members to think for themselves, and the Scouts a little more in emphasising the merits of quick obedience to orders. "Koko" points out in his interesting article in a recent SCOUTER that 79 per cent of the Scouts under fifteen are still recruits or at Tenderfoot stage. This most unsatisfactory position could, I am satisfied, be soon remedied if Scoutmasters would set to and tackle the problem. The boys, with a little encouragement, will go fast enough for Second Class, but it is just that little encouragement that is too often missing. If every S.M. would put the following suggestions into practice the figures would easily be altered from 79 per cent to 50 per cent.

(a) The S.M. keeps a detailed record of each Scout's progress towards Second Class and when arranging Troop programmes has such record at his elbow.

(b) The S.M. makes it his business to see that P.L.'s realise their responsibility for training their Scouts in Second Class work and ensures that they do so. When necessary the P.L.'s' efforts must be supplemented by those of the Scouters. Signalling is a subject more suitable for teaching and practising in small groups of Scouts who are all at about the same standard of progress, than for teaching in the Patrol.

(c) Every Tenderfoot has a Second Class test card, or other suitable badge book.

(d) That there is a definite time and place outside the normal hours of Troop Night set apart for testing Scouts in the various parts of the Badge.

Is A little system in our Troop methods not inconsistent with the romance and imagination behind Scouting and indeed without it the romance and imagination are apt to turn to chaos.

April

Have been looking through the Group Bob-a-Job cards. On one of the Cub cards I found the entry:-

“For making less of a nuisance of himself than usual, 1/-..” I doubt the wisdom of a custom which seems to be growing in some Troops, Districts, and even Counties, of giving prizes (in some cases money prizes) to the Patrol earning most money. Apart from any other objection, I dislike the idea because the amount of money “earned” does not necessarily represent the efforts made. On one of the cards that I examined today I found the following entries:-

Gardening	6d.
Woodchopping	6d.
Cleaning Pans	3d.
Messages	3d. 1/6

On a card of another Scout I found:-

Lawn Mowing	5/
Party Preparations	3/
Cleaning a Pram and Bicycle	3/ 11/-

I imagine the 1/6 earned by the first Scout represented just as much, if not more, work than the 11/- earned by the other.

The type of district in which the two boys lived had obviously a lot to do with the amounts earned.

May

The Annual Meeting of the County Scout Council was quite a success. The business was expeditiously disposed of first, and any unavoidable dryness caused thereby assuaged with a cup of tea. The next part of the programme was entitled “I Was There.”

This consisted of short snappy accounts by Cubs, Scouts, Rovers and Scouters, of various important Scouting events in which they had taken part during the year. An air of spontaneity was created by the compere who kept putting questions. Amongst those taking part were: a handicapped Scout who had attended the Agoon in Belgium; a Rover who was at the Rover Moot in Switzerland; a Scout whose Troop had camped in Norway; a Cub who had played in the annual Wolf Cub Soccer International between Northern Ireland and Eire; a Scout who had represented Northern Ireland at the Coronation and so on.

This is certainly a telling way of driving home to the audience what the events catalogued in the Annual Report really meant to those taking part.

June

Attended a District Church Parade and led the Re-affirmation of the Scout Promise. The Scouts marched and looked well, but I doubt the wisdom of importing local town bands to lead such parades. They detract from the “Scouty” atmosphere and are quite liable to succeed (as in this case) in delaying the Service by failing to turn up on time at the assembly point. Very few Scouters appear to have noticed the Chief’s wish that at a Reaffirmation, we should say “On My Honour I Promise” and not “On My Honour I Have Promised.” It is also surprising how many insert the word “and” between the second and third parts of the Promise.

One of my Scouts asked me tonight to test him in what he described “The Highwayman’s Code.”



JUST AS B.-P. INTENDED IT

July

Paid a visit to our Northern, Ireland camp site to-day. Cross Channel and local boys fraternising freely and general air of happiness pervading the camp. On one site the Scouters (one of whom was an ex-army cook) were preparing the evening meal for their thirty Scouts over a most efficient and elaborately constructed camp “kitchen” built on the most orthodox army manual lines. The Troop who had been waiting around soon lined up in a queue, ready to consume the meal in the cooking of which they seemed to have had little or no part, though no doubt they would have plenty to do in the washing up.

Close by the three Patrols of another Troop were busily engaged cooking on their respective Patrol fires and I was proudly shown, and permitted to taste, thinly cut jam sandwiches dipped in batter and fried. I have no doubt as to which Troop was getting the more fun out of camping. Neither Troop ran separate “Senior Sections” and I wonder whether the fact that the Troop which was working on the Patrol System seemed to have more older Scouts was a consequence of their Scouter’s policy to give responsibility to the Patrol Leaders.

August

Went with the Troop to camp for a week at Gilwell and then three days at a hostel in London for sightseeing.

This is the first time in twenty-four years the Troop has had a camp on a permanent site and we were not too sure how we would like it.

Everyone is most enthusiastic and the camp voted a great success. The warmth and friendliness of Gilwell is most marked. How important it is that when Scouts go to places where other Scouts congregate they should feel really welcome and made to realise that the portion of the Law that a Scout is a brother to. every other Scout really means something.

Gilwell certainly did this for our Troop.

BE PREPARED

The third of a series of extracts from the book

By **RICE E. COCHRAN**
an American Scoutmaster

It is sub-titled "The Life and illusions of a Scoutmaster."

I discovered that blowing a whistle was not the most galvanic way of getting Scouts lined up, or capturing their attention. Somewhat Machiavellian methods worked better.

At the second meeting I wrote the names of the Patrols on a blackboard, and dramatically marked a tally beneath the name of whichever Patrol got itself into line first when I called for a formation. The Patrol Leaders quickly caught on. "Come on, you guys! Quit messing off!" they bawled, "Get lined up, so we can win!"

Nobody, least of all me, knew for what prize they were contending. However, victory is pleasurable regardless of the type of laurel wreath. The race to beat other Patrols into line-up became an impassioned one; stragglers got harsh words from their mates, which seemed to shame them far more than the rebukes of adults.

Toward the end of the meeting I thought of another device which would glorify winners further. At the closing ceremony, I announced that the Owl Patrol's total on the blackboard was the highest, and that the Owls therefore were to be dismissed first. Jeering triumphantly at the rest of the Troop, the Owls gathered their belongings and swaggered out, while the other Patrols waited gloomily in formation for a full thirty seconds.

The following week everybody strove as fiercely for the privilege of being dismissed first as if money or even candy were at stake.

In a few weeks our dishevelled band was transfigured into a sleek, natty and punctilious corps, just like in the *Boys' Life* advertisements - because inspections were part of our contest. Censorious fingers were pointed and shrill aspersions cast when one Patrol detected a neckerchief awry in another Patrol, or a fingernail uncleaned, during inspection. As soon as inspection was over the Troop's dapperness disintegrated, but at least the first few minutes of each meeting were aglow with the reflections from polished shoes, oiled hair, and swabbed faces.

This was not an undiluted joy to me, because my ears sometimes caught youthful slurs upon the inferior sheen of my own hair and shoes as compared to those of my Scouts. Once I incautiously pointed out a grease spot on a boy's shirt. He thereupon called attention to an extremely small gravy mark on my own uniform. From then on I never dared appear at a Troop meeting without first giving my shoes such a gloss that they could have stood sentry-go at Buckingham Palace, and checking every visible inch of my regalia and epidermis for stains, specks, unslicked hairs or other disgraces.

I went further. I began slathering myself with after-shave lotion, gargling with mouth wash, and even polishing my belt buckle before Troop meetings. All this finally created the desired effect of magnificence. "You sure are well-groomed," one Scout said to me by way of casual conversation. This hard-earned plaudit made me feel as if I had been voted one of the ten best-dressed men in America. Not only did the boys notice my new fragrance and splendour, but they copied it. The church basement soon was aromatic with toilet water on Tuesday evenings, and aglint with burnished belt buckles.

While it is true that Scouting builds character, it is especially true with reference to the Scoutmaster's character. Almost willy-nilly, he acquires cleanliness, strength, cheerfulness and the other virtues listed in the Scout Law. As I slowly became aware, a Scoutmaster's Troop is more or less a reflection of himself. The more time he spends with it, the more he finds his own personality mirrored and magnified in it. I had been Scoutmaster only a few weeks before I noticed that several boys were unconsciously cocking their heads backwards and to the side - an odd mannerism of mine. In listening to Scout conversations, I heard phrases and intonations of my own come back to me as if on a phonograph record.

This is doubtless a commonplace to parents, who see their eccentricities and virtues mimicked daily by their offspring - but to me, having no children of my own at the time; it was a marvel. A Scout Troop is more effective than a nagging wife in getting a man to do something about his own shortcomings.

Even my momentary moods were matched by the Troop. On nights when I was determinedly jovial, the Scouts carried out my suggestions with high good humour. Other nights, when hubbub or bungling threw the programme plans out of joint and made me testy - or when I arrived at the meeting with some private annoyance eating at the back of my mind - there were very few smiles in the ranks. Minor squabbles kept breaking out among the Scouts, until by the end of the evening we all looked as murderous as a convocation of the Mafia.

My occasional eruptions of sarcasm or obloquy caused a shrinkage of Troop membership. Whenever I gave a boy a good stiff bawling-out, as I sometimes did in my early days, he was seen no more at Troop meetings. I knew from having done it myself that a schoolteacher can censure a pupil without losing him, since the massive machinery of the school system forces a boy into the classroom whether he likes it or not. A father can fulminate freely, without losing his audience; so can Army officers and road-gang foreman. But a Scoutmaster must mind his tongue or the Scouts will walk out on him. There is nothing to compel them to hang around for any more jeremiads than they feel like taking.

Defections from my Troop shocked and hurt me. I couldn't find much of anything to blame them on except myself; the deserters simply didn't like the Troop as I ran it. Then, too, I had become rather fond of some of these deserters, and their disappearance dismayed me as much as if some of my friends had dropped me.

This wasn't hard, once I made up my mind to be benign come hell or high water. I donned a mask of affability that grew into place and ceased, little by little, to be a mask. When Scouts strayed from the path of righteousness I registered amazement and disappointment, rather than fury. I abridged my monologues, and talked only about matters which I could make seem absorbing to the boys. Even these, of course, never held my total audience rapt for more than a minute or two. However, when Scouts began to confer among themselves during these necessary talks, or became diverted by experiments with bubble gum or surreptitious strife, I simply stopped whatever I was saying and stood mute. Presently my listeners looked around to see who wasn't listening, and yanked them back to attention.

Apparently I had shown a repellent solemnity during much of the first harrowing evening, but I strained myself thereafter to look as if I were enjoying every minute of the meeting. There were many minutes I really did enjoy, although not as exuberantly as my appearance indicated.

Anyhow, camaraderie soon became rife. This also led to instructive surprises. Once or twice, in conversation with small groups of my Scouts, I related certain exploits of my youth which I have always remembered with pardonable pride. They listened wide-eyed, then gasped in mock awe. "What a man! What a man!" it taught me to be guarded in mentioning the more heroic moments of my past. Once, thinking to impress the Troop, I rashly pinned my Auxiliary Policeman's star to the pea jacket I wore en route to Troop Meetings. As soon as I entered the church basement with the star glittering on my chest, I came under a running fire of irreverent comments, and for some weeks afterward I was called Fearless Trueheart Cochran to my face.

(to be continued)

To Keep You Thinking

We are responsible for the words we ought to have said and did not; for the things we ought to have done and did not do; and for things we ought to have uprooted and we let grow; for the things we ought to have planted and did not plant.

CARDINAL POLE

at the opening of the Council of Trent.

Overseas

SCOUTING IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is not merely a place where there are Maoris and geysers. It is a country of moderate sized but growing cities, of small but prosperous country towns, of farms, forests, scattered lakes and turbulent rivers. It has fairly large areas of rich rolling plains and many fertile river flats. But there are many stragling ranges with poorer soil suitable only for sheep, and many snow peaks in the high country that are not easily accessible, but offer grand opportunities for mountaineering, skiing, tramping or deer stalking. Its citizens are predominantly Anglo-Saxon, middle class and Protestant. There are no marked class distinctions and controlled immigration has resulted in a high level of employment with an almost complete absence of poverty. The Maoris form a significant and colourful minority which, whilst growing in number and retaining much of its own distinctive culture, is also readily adapting itself to modern civilisation and presents no serious racial problems.

The climate is equable with sufficient variety to be stimulating, and the country's natural products are sufficient to support a high standard of living.

These factors combine to make New Zealand almost ideal for Scouting, and its ratio of Scouts per head of population ranks about as high as that in England. In a total of just under two million inhabitants there are approximately 9,800 Cubs, 8,500 Scouts, 750 Sea Scouts, 970 Senior Scouts, and 400 Rovers. In addition to these, there are about 300 lone Scouts who live in the out-back, too far removed to belong to Patrols or Troops. These boys are linked with their nearest County Headquarters and are served by correspondence and occasional (though rare) visits. Some of them join with city Troops for occasional camps or County Rallies, and a few progress to the standard of First Class and beyond.

A surprising number of Groups own their own Troop rooms or dens and many of these were built by the boys and their Committees. There is a National Training Centre at Tatum Park near Wellington with a full-time Director of Training. Most Wood Badge training is conducted there, but a few courses have been held in other centres. Several counties have their own permanent camp sites of which the most notable is the 2,500 acre camp site and farm owned by the Otago County in the Dunedin hills. Apart from these there are plenty of places available for hiking and camping, and there are relatively few Groups that could not get out into open country inside half an hour. Troop camping, however, tends to be restricted to the Easter break and long week-ends by the national habit of family holidays over the Christmas holidays. Nevertheless some special features have been developed in the programme of open-air activities, of which the Annual Canoe Cruise down the Manganui River for Senior Scouts and Rovers, the bi-annual Sea Scout Regatta, and annual Rover Moots deserve mention. In December of this year, the Rover section is conducting a fortnight's training course in Alpine climbing in the Matukituki Valley near Mount Aspiring.

Scouting in New Zealand is by no means idyllic, however, and suffers from many of the deficiencies noted in other countries. With a small and scattered population still grappling with many problems of national development, there is a real shortage of Leaders. On the average there are only 17 Scouters to every 200 boys in the Movement, and the proportions for S.M.'s (Seniors), R.L.'s and G.S.M.s are much too low. It is difficult to find men of the right calibre to fill vacancies in the ranks of the Commissioners even at Dominion level, and compulsory National Service presents minor difficulties.

The mountainous and elongated nature of the country (together with the ocean gap between the two main islands) raises problems in administration. It is a surprise to many people outside New Zealand for example, to learn that the ferry from Christchurch to Wellington takes almost twelve hours (or three times as long as the crossing from England to Ireland) and that it takes almost a whole day to fly from Invercargill to Auckland.

Why Scoutmasters' wives grow weary



"You're too old for sleeping under hedges on night-hikes."

This means that local authorities need to be relatively strong, and capable of carrying on effectively with comparatively little supervision or assistance.

During the war, a policy of decentralisation led to the establishment of just over twenty counties. But some areas had considerable difficulty in finding sufficient support for an efficient County organisation, and in recent months the administrative system has been changed to one based on four Provincial Councils based on Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin respectively. Local Associations remote from these centres may link with the nearest Province for special purposes, but will normally be administered direct from Dominion Headquarters. It is hoped that the new scheme will strengthen some of the weaker areas and provide a solid basis for future progress.

Of more immediate interest to overseas readers, however, is the recent adoption of a special plan for Senior Scouts and Rovers. There was considerable discussion concerning the future of the Senior Sections when the Fusion Plan was dropped, and the outcome was a scheme which may be briefly, described as follows. Scouts over 15 will work for the Senior Scout Badges and may remain in their ordinary Troops or form Senior Scout Troops. The term Senior Scout is reserved for Scouts 15-18 enrolled in separately organised Senior Troops. Under special circumstances (but only with the approval of his Group Council or D.C.) a boy may be enrolled as a Rover Squire in his sixteenth year, but will normally go on to Roving in his seventeenth year. The upper age limit for Rovers is 25 years, and Warrant Officers (other than A.S.M.'s and A.C.M.'s) are *not* eligible for enrolment in Rover Crews. Preliminary and Wood Badge Courses for Rover Leaders are to be developed and the Rover Plan will be revised to emphasise the training of young men and the consolidation of the Group System. The plan is to be given a trial for three years, and a Committee has been appointed to review progress and report at the end of that time. On present indications the scheme is working out quite well, and its progress will undoubtedly be watched with interest.

Scouting in New Zealand has marvellous opportunities and apart from a few weaknesses is sound at heart and in pretty good shape. Given good leadership it can look forward to a rich and promising future.

F. W. M.

42. THE NORTH WALES NEW YEAR EXPEDITION 1954-55

Late on the night of January 3, 1954, at the close of the Eighth North Wales New Year Expedition the preliminary plans were laid for this year's expedition. The previous N.Y.E.s had always offered plenty of activity and adventure for Senior Scouts; the last two had included instruction in elementary rock climbing, in addition to scrambling, and high camps had been arranged for selected Scouts. Despite all this for the next year we wanted something more. So it was that, after much discussion, in a heavily smoke-laden atmosphere it was finally decided that not only would certain boys camp on one of the peaks but that all the Senior Scouts present would have an opportunity of sampling winter mountain camping. Thus was born this year's "Operation Everest." The 1954-55 N.Y.E. would consist, broadly, of a building-up process during the first four days, enabling the boys to learn how to move easily and safely over rock. The last two days would consist of ascending, and camping on, Snowdon, with five parties camping at different heights and supporting each other.

After months of preparation, during which routes were checked and rechecked; mountain tents hired or borrowed; alternative routes planned; emergency withdrawal arrangements made; and a host of other details settled the expedition started on December 28, 1954, at Capel Curig. Twenty-eight Senior Scouts from all parts of England and Wales met at the Capel Curig Youth Hostel, which was to be our Headquarters, most of them with little or no knowledge of the Welsh hills. Two Troops were formed, Harlech and Beddgelert each with two Patrols, a Troop Leader, two A.S.M.'s and an S.M. The Leader, The Rev. Skene Catling of Ellesmere College; Mr. Dudley Stevens, the Warden of the hostel, who was acting as the Chief Instructor and the Q.M. and his staff completed the expedition strength at that time.

It is essential on such an expedition to make sure that everyone is correctly equipped, especially with regard to boots and the nails thereon. Detailed instructions had been issued regarding the latter and an inspection revealed all boots to be adequate for what was ahead.

The first day, the Patrols, along with Instructors, traversed Siabod and the instructions given made it essential that each Patrol had to make considerable use of the map and compass. The traverse, whilst comparatively simple, gave the Patrols the opportunity to "bed down," included some rock scrambling and above all showed the importance of knowing distances, directions and estimated times when moving about the hills.

The next day Beddgelert Troop ascended Crib Goch and then completed the Snowdon Horseshoe, finally descending to the starting point at Pen-y-Pass.

Meanwhile Harlech Troop ascended Tryfan - what a magnificent mountain it is - by the North Ridge, then up Bristly Ridge to Glyder Fach and descended by way of the Gribben Ridge.

Both Troops thus had a considerable amount of rock scrambling and the Scouters in charge, because of their detailed knowledge of the routes, added sufficient climbing problems to make the day a most interesting and full one. Throughout the visibility was poor and the wind very cold. The two Troops, the following day, climbed the respective routes not yet followed, finding the weather conditions very similar except that the wind had become still colder and the rock slightly more wet.

In the evenings, after the necessary cooking duties had been completed a number of training sessions were held. In addition we were privileged to have three illustrated lectures on the Alps, the Himalayas and Scotland respectively. The first was given by Mr. Denis Davies, a member of the forthcoming Merseyside Himalaya Expedition; the second by Lt.-Comm. Showell Styles, a Scouter, who led his own expedition to the Himalayas in 1954 to attempt the ascent of the Moated Mountain and finally one by Dudley Stevens on an eighteen day expedition to the Highlands. The photography in each case was superb, showing wonderful shots in colour, of the beauty of the peaks, the splendid isolation and some of the hair-raising difficulties encountered. The talk on Scotland was of particular interest because, in consequence of its comparative closeness, any one of the Scouts present could possibly afford to do the same themselves at some time in the future.

On New Year's day instruction and practice was given in elementary rope-work and abseiling. In the afternoon Mr. Chris. Briggs, Leader of the Mountain Rescue for the area, gave a full, informative and interesting talk on rescue work. Later full details of the "Everest" assault were given, the respective parties announced and the all-important task begun of each party checking thoroughly the equipment it would use during the assault period. Excitement was high when the chaps finally turned in for the night.

We were up by 6.30 a.m. to find a biting cold wind blowing. Later as the first morning light appeared faces turned towards the peaks to find them shrouded in a heavy, foreboding looking mist; flakes of snow were trying to fall - "Operation Everest" was on! The assault parties left Katmandu (the hostel) exactly on schedule and made their way to the start of the Watkin path to Snowdon.

The plan followed the form of an actual Everest assault, the establishment of a Base camp, a No. 1 camp, a Col camp and a Ridge camp, each supporting the camp immediately above it and all combining to support the establishment of the final camp, in this case on the summit of Snowdon.

Thus No. 1 party helped to set up the Col camp, at about 1,800 feet, whilst the Col party established the Ridge camp some hundreds of feet above, and the Ridge party accompanied the summit group and helped them to establish camp. At the same time the main Base party were setting up a much larger camp at about 850 feet.



All the parties, with the exception of the latter, used two-man mountain tents, two at each support camp and three at the summit. Keith Smith (1st Whitley Bay), Ian Douglas (Merchant Taylor's School), Iwan Spencer Lloyd (3rd Aberystwyth) and Chris. Hollingham (19th Odiham) were selected to form the summit party along with Mr. Dudley Stevens and the Rev. Skene Catling. One Scouter and three Scouts were in each support party. Each party carried primus stoves and assault rations although the latter were a little less frugal than the pemmican and ships biscuits we had used in previous years.

The Base party, which to our delight included Mr. Laurence Stringer, Headquarters Commissioner for Senior Scouts, consisted of fifteen Scouts, a doctor, the Q.M. staff, three Scouters, the Chief Commissioner for North Wales and Mr. John Sweet, Field Commissioner. This party had the unenviable task of carrying up four Icelandic tents besides two mountain tents and other gear and food required at base. The Lord Kenyon, Chief Commissioner for Wales, who was with us for the day, assisted with this lift. The H.Q.s Commissioner, accompanied by an A.S.M., visited camps up to, and including, the Ridge camp. He would have liked to have continued on to the summit but his escort was adamant that time did not permit so down they came. He did not know until later that the A.S.M., a young but experienced climber had received definite instructions that he was to turn back when he thought it was necessary, however insistent the Headquarters Commissioner might be! He chose correctly otherwise they would not have been back when darkness fell.

So much for the set-up. The elaborate timetable drawn up for the ascent was kept very exactly, despite the high winds the assault parties encountered; these winds were continually increasing in force. All tents had to be anchored by heavy rocks, including literally masses at base to keep the Icelandics in position. Even so, just before darkness fell, one of the tents at the Ridge camp could withstand the wind no longer and ripped badly; consequently all four of the party slept in one tent. Apart from the fact that cooking was a major operation and even a muscle movement of one was felt by the other three all was well! Indeed when all the rest had decided sleep was needed a solitary Scout could be seen avidly reading a book. The others could imagine that only a book of the most bloodthirsty and lurid character could arouse such interest at such a time; its title:

Nuclear Physics!!! It was at this camp, too, that at times they had to shout from one end of a six-foot tent to the other to make themselves heard!

On the summit all was well, although the wind was achieving near gale force in some of the gusts; the temperature was six degrees of frost on arrival and was no doubt lower in the early hours of the morning. The water, taken up in water-bottles, four pints per man, because of the lack of snow, was frozen hard. After hot drinks the Scouts got into their sleeping bags about 4.30 p.m.; used the primus occasionally to warm the tent a little - this brought condensation trickling down upon them - and had a hot meal about 7.30 p.m. The ground beneath necessitated one Scout sleeping in an S shape to avoid the rocks, although sleep was fitful anyway, due to the wind and cold.

The Scout spirit was typified, when during the evening Keith Smith played his mouth-organ and between gusts the other tents could be heard joining in with melodious(?) voices. Their attitude was further shown by Chris. Hollingham when they returned. "Yes," said he, "it was certainly cold and the wind caused us to sleep fitfully but what a terrific time it was; I want to do it again."

The Col camp was particularly exposed and even had difficulty in lighting the primus stoves inside the tightly zipped-up tents. They succeeded in so doing eventually and obtained the necessary water for drinks from huge icicles obtained from nearby rocks. Here, too, a tent finally succumbed to the wind and ripped but this did not occur until after breakfast the following morning, so all was well.

At Base camp contact was kept with No. 1 camp and at both spirits were high.

At base the whole party crowded into one Icelandic (it was rather like being fitted into a sardine tin) and had a fine sing-song, interspersed by yarns by one or other of the Scouters.

What a jolly evening it was, with John Sweet in terrific form. Long will be remembered the remark of Laurence Stringer on seeing the doctor putting on his college scarf for warmth during the night: "Well I've slept in tents with all sorts of people but never one who was such a snob he even slept in his old school colours!" There are others of us who assert that to sleep practically naked in a down bag will result in keeping much warmer than wearing lots of clothing. The clothing taken off is used beneath as insulation. This was tried by some at all levels, with success, and those of us who have tried both methods are convinced of its efficacy. Considerable initial courage is, however, needed!

At nine o'clock the following morning a party left the Base camp to support the descent. This party and the Camp 1 party combined together to dismantle and carry down the Col and Ridge camps. The parties from these camps had gone to the summit to support the withdrawal of the summit party. Conditions on the ridge had deteriorated and the wind necessitated slow and careful travel. This party was, in consequence, half an hour late back at Base; the only time during the whole operation when the time-table was not quite kept. Hot drinks awaited their arrival which we are assured were greatly appreciated. At base incidentally the cooking had been done on open wood fires. The final stage of the withdrawal, the dismantling of Base, was completed and the total party of forty-two Scouts and Scouters, returned to "Katmandu." A final session and a camp-fire rounded off the Ninth N.Y.E.

The N.Y.E. owes much of its success to the support and co-operation of Mr. and Mrs. Stevens and the Y.H.A. Mr. Stevens always shows infinite care and patience in his role as Chief Instructor and inspires confidence. The presentation of Thanks Badges to both of them was a token of our gratitude for all they have done in the past three years.

It is not easy to sum up. We had set out to give the Senior Scouts involved, adventure and hard physical exercise; that they had, but in addition we hoped to give them encouragement, and the urge to wander in the hills safely themselves, in small groups. The success of the latter will only be known, if ever, much later. We hope they will be enthused to try on their own and it was a great thrill to see camping in the area two Scouts who had been on the last N.Y.E. Before last year they had done little in this way, but since then had been to the Highlands and to Wales. So perhaps something is being achieved in the way we hope. Time will tell.

FRED. J. TIPPETT,
D.C.C., Salop.



43. A WINTER CONFERENCE

To be frank... I am not too keen on conferences, valuable though many of them are. So much talking and so little action usually lulls me into a frame of mind which can only be described as an advanced state of lethargy.

But this was different. . . the Essex Winter Conference which was held at the Royal Liberty School, Romford, during early January was organised and carried through with enthusiasm, vitality and in such a way that those who attended were given plenty of opportunity to air their views and, in general, feel that they were an integral part of the Conference. All this prompts me to tell you something about it.

There were close on a hundred Senior Scouts and apart from the county officials, who are commendably young, and the speakers, few other adults were present. . . did this account for the happy lightheartedness of the proceedings? And yet there were some serious moments which brought forth constructive suggestions which showed that the Seniors were well aware of their responsibilities as Scouts. One could not refrain from the thought that had B.-P. been present he would have enjoyed hearing the unrestrained laughter and seeing the youthful enthusiasm of these 15- to 18-year-olds.

Yes, it commenced, as do all conferences, with an opening session and a short talk by the headmaster of the school at which the week-end was being held. . . always a good idea this. Immediately afterwards one of the organisers of the forthcoming County Senior Scout Summer Expedition to Wales explained the outline plans for "PROMWAL" (prospecting for minerals in Wales).

Essex, who are well known for their expeditions abroad, are staging their county effort this year at home and from the description given during this session this year's effort promises plenty of fun, quite a lot of hard slogging, some mountain climbing and, for those interested in scientific research, a little investigation of a not too serious nature.

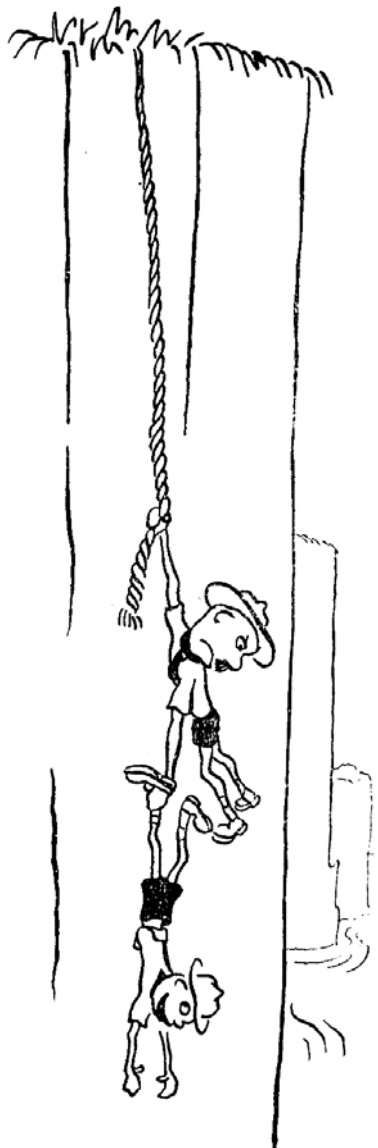
The question period provided an opportunity of clearing up several points about travel, cost and such-like administrative detail. No doubt the enterprise is now a topic of conversation at many Patrol or Troop meetings in the county.

The D.C.C., V. G. Hines, a very fine and able speaker at any Scout gathering, followed with an amusing and instructive talk on "Social Occasions." He had us in fits of laughter as he described the etiquette which we should observe when taking a young lady out to the theatre or to a meal, and yet we were all better equipped for the occasion next time such a pleasant duty comes our way.

Now it was time for a meal. The dinner in the main school-hall was carried out with due ceremony and - a nice touch here - all the toasts were proposed, and proposed very well, by Queen's Scouts.

The meal was a good substantial one and the catering and waiting at table carried out by two members of the school catering staff assisted by a team of local Rangers who knew their job and carried it out most efficiently. . . they were quite nice Rangers, too!

At the end of the dinner the toast "Our adventurous and distinguished visitor" was answered by Lieut.-Colonel F. Spencer-Chapman, D.S.O.



"Does this constitute an adventure, Skip?"

For almost an hour this famous soldier, Arctic explorer and author of *The Jungk is Neutral*, *Living Dangerously* and many other exciting books, told of his adventures and wartime experiences.

This was a thrilling talk which appealed to all. His theme in the main was that it isn't the problems of life that matter but the attitude of mind which one adopts to them. How well the stories from his own life proved this! A good subject this, for discussion at the occasional quiet Senior Patrol or Troop meeting.

An impromptu sing-song, bed and then at 7 a.m., "reveille" - sorry, "Wakey-wakey," "rise and shine," or call it what you will. Anyway, it meant that most of those attending the conference were soon doing P.T. in the school gym under the eyes of an expert instructor... and at the end of this period some chaps actually asked for more. The Bishop of Chelmsford had motored down to conduct a celebration of Holy Communion at 8 o'clock and, after breakfast, led the session on "Who is God?" This was another fine period and the Bishop, who is a Scout, invited and dealt with many difficult and searching questions in a kind and understanding manner; quite a number of the most awkward questions from the Scouts concerned God and communism.

The next session, led by the I.H.Q. Commissioner for Seniors, "What shall we do on Friday night" had week-night Senior Patrol and Troop meetings as its theme.

It was followed by a short period for questions. . . and then lunch. To maintain interest and to be well balanced the conference syllabus called for a change for the first session after lunch on Sunday. . . and a change of an unusual kind was forthcoming.

For the next hour John Russell, the celebrated B.B.C. pianist, talked and played his way through a session which he called "What is Music."

He made the grand piano talk and the majority of his youthful audience were held spellbound - and so the cultural side was not neglected.

With the end of the conference in sight, half an hour was devoted to "Discussions," during which the Seniors were split into small groups and, with no adults present, given a number of questions for discussion. Then, at the Open Forum, which was presided over by the C.C., David Papillion, assisted by a team of experienced Scouters, the various groups produced their answers and asked many more questions. "Before the actual awarding of the Queen's Scout Badge, should a young man have a probationary period to show that he is living up to the ideals of a Queen's Scout?" "Do the team agree with the opinions which I have recently heard expressed by an Antarctic explorer, that, at camp, supper and breakfast should always be taken in one's... and with these and many more questions in our minds we made our farewells and took our various ways home.

The outstanding impressions were of the Seniors who had performed the duties of chairmen for all the sessions and the completely free and easy atmosphere that existed the whole time. The Seniors present spoke highly of a conference, the details of which I thought might be useful to other counties when planning future conferences of this nature.

LAURENCE E. STRINGER,
Headquarters Commissioner for Senior Scouts.

BOOKS

NATURE

Man and the Land, by L. Dudley Stamp (Collins: New Naturalist, 25s.); *Moths*, by E. B. Ford (Collins: New Naturalist, 35s.).

This great and growing series has produced in *Man and the Land* a book of the greatest interest and entertainment. This subject is man's effect on the scenery of our islands, and it leads the author to an historical survey of field, forest and farmyard. Dr. Stamp begins with the earliest times, sketches in details of a few "improvers," lingers in our orchards, mentions guests "uninvited and invited," and ends with a consideration of our own days.

Permit me to quote: "By the time of Charles II cauliflowers were common, various peas and beans had been introduced, as well as Jerusalem artichokes, asparagus was esteemed and potatoes were common in gardens." That's the type of fact I like to read about!

Books get ever more expensive and are likely to do - so it is worth while buying only the best. For those sufficiently interested Dr. Ford's book belongs to this category. Many of you will remember the same author's *Butterflies* in the same series and will know what to expect, writing of the highest scientific level from a geneticist's viewpoint. This is not a book for the casual reader but for the scientific enthusiast willing to take trouble to become informed.

In both books there are the usual excellent selection of photographs that one expects from the series and a bibliography; *Moths* has also a glossary and maps showing the distribution of certain moths in the British Isles.

R. H.

The Cotswolds, by Edith Brill (Robert Hale, 1 8s.).

One would guess from reading this pleasant book that the author is a botanist with a leaning towards archaeology and architecture. But one would be sure that she had walked the Cotswolds mile on mile and knows its hills and water-meadows and pale-honey-stoned towns and secret villages in all the seasons of many years.

This book, with its complement of expected photographs and its sweetly-flowing prose, should be read (as it will be) by all devout lovers of the Cotswolds and equally by those who have not yet come under their powerful spell.

R. H.

Collins Pocket Guide to Nests and Eggs, by R. S. R. Fitter and R. A. Richardson (Collins, 21s.).

This large-pocket-sized book is a companion volume to *Collins Pocket Guide to British Birds*, as perfect a book in its class as one could wish for. Here we have nests of 250 birds - their habits and range, nest, eggs and young with 48 pages of coloured plates. All naturalists who can afford it will wish to possess it.

R. H.

The Great Whale Game, by Georges Blond (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 16s.).

I never thought a book on whales and whaling would thrill me, but then so few have been written. To me, whales were just huge mammals. Now I know that there are many kinds of these great animals. M. Blond has been able to write his informative book in a thrilling and fascinating manner. In addition to the heroic age of "Moby Dick" and aboard the old sailing ships and tiny whaling boats we are given graphic accounts of the modern whaling fleets with their own factory ships. Imagine a large whale, four times the length of a London bus, grazing on plankton in the vast meadows of the ocean. This book will give you a wonderful description of the life and habits of this great cetacean and the men who risk their lives to capture it.

G. F. W.

RELIGION

Hymns and the Faith, by Erik Routley (John Murray, 21s.).

There are books on Hymnology suitable only for the specialist. This is not one of them!

The specialist may very well profit by using it - but primarily this is a book for the layman. It has the simplicity of the Parables, as against the technical complexity of books about the Parables! Yet although it is homely and personal, it offers profound insights deserving long meditation.

Dr. Routley's book takes forty-nine popular hymns and discusses their meaning. Its concern is not with the love affairs of their authors, nor with the curious or exciting circumstances in which individual hymns were written; but is rather with the elucidation this hymn or that brings to the Christian Faith.

One may very well question whether these are in fact the most frequently sung hymns in present-day English Protestantism (a comparison with "Sunday Half-Hour," or with "Chapel-in-the-Valley," two of the B.B.C.'s most popular Sunday programmes, might be provoking. Similarly, a check with Mr. F. G. Pellow's careful survey published in *The Methodist Recorder* might result in some changes). Again, few will read the book through without differing violently from Dr. Routley's opinion at one point or another - for it is a mark of English Church life that people have the deepest of loyalties for the hymns they love. Nevertheless, this is a book that is both invigorating and wise. Its studies will be used as the basis for scores of devotional talks. But, outlasting this practical purpose, its greatest value will be found in private meditation. Many a man whose prayer life has grown "thin" would discover a new sturdiness in his faith after a week of quiet contemplation say of "When I survey the wondrous Cross," or of "O for a thousand tongues to sing," and of Dr. Routley's comments.

This is definitely a book to own. But oh for the day when the books one wants are less than a guinea a time!

WILFRED WADE.

"*But They Won't Lie Down*," by Stuart B. Jackman (paper-covered, 128 pages: S.C.M. Press, 5s.).

Do you find Christianity exciting as once perhaps you did, or has it become something half-believed, a little dreary, suitable for Sunday evenings - when it's fine and there's nothing much on television? In whatever state of grace or lack-of-grace you are in, if you're not afraid of having your ideas on Christ, Who is Hope, shaken up, if you're not afraid of enlightenment, read these three plays which were written by their author "for the members of the Pretoria Congregational Church whose co-operation and enthusiasm made these plays possible." When I add that one of them was presented in St. Thomas' Regent Street last December you will realise that these plays belong to that great order of plays - like Dr. Dorothy Sayers *The Man Born to be King* or T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* - which, by the grace of God, go beyond denominationalism and belong to all of us who, however inadequately, follow Christ.

"The Backyard Miracle" is a Nativity Play; "The Prototype" and "The Blind Man" are re-assessments of the miracles of the raising of Lazarus and of a Blind Man. They have wit and beauty; are unexpected, thought-provoking, memorable. It is likely that there may be some Groups (and Rover Crews particularly) sufficiently integrated with their Churches to "stage" one of these remarkable plays.

Most of you can't do that but you can buy and read them. If you haven't yet disciplined yourself with any special reading for Lent or Easter, may I suggest this book~ It is quite likely to remain in your thoughts and stir your beliefs for a long while to come.

R. H.

FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

Before another number of THE SCOUTER appears we will have entered upon a new Scout Year, Bob-a-Job Week will be over, and some L.A.s will have held their Annual General Meetings. A few years ago I attended an Annual Meeting on April 5th and was not a little surprised when we were given copies of the District census figures and the L.A. Accounts as at March 31st. A fine example of some good organisation.

I hope Group Scouters will help their L.A. Secretaries by getting their census forms in by April 4th at the latest and will ensure that Bob-a-Job dues are in the L.A. Treasurer's hands with the least possible delay.

The next few months are particularly busy for the General Office at 25 B.P. Road. They are eagerly awaiting your census forms - via L.A. and County Secretaries, of course - and it helps them in their task if the returns are here on time. It is, perhaps, not generally realised that the summary of the census must be ready by June so that it can be printed and circulated to the members of the Council before the Annual Meeting in July.

You may remember that in this column in January, I wrote about transfer forms. My note has brought forth several letters and I think one of them is of particular interest.

Just over three years ago a Scout in a Surrey Group moved to another part of the country. Form T. 1 was completed and despatched to the D.C. of the Scout's new District. In due course, the appropriate portion was received by the Surrey G.S.M. stating that the Scout had been linked up with a Group. That was the last anyone in Surrey heard of the Scout until last month when the Surrey Scouter received a letter from his present G.S.M. saying that the Scout had just gained his Queen's Scout Badge and would like his old Scouter to be present when he receives it. What pleasure a story like that gives and it confirms that our transfer system does work if everyone concerned will play his part.

How many of us, I wonder, know the correct method of obtaining medical treatment under the National Health Service for our Scouts, when in camp? A Scout in camp away from his own district is treated as a temporary resident. All that is required is for the patient to sign a form stating that there is no intention of remaining in the district for more than three months and to give the doctor his National Health Service number. The doctor will provide the form. It is courteous to warn the doctor of the Camp beforehand.

Scouters should make sure, therefore, that when Scouts go to camp they are in possession of their National Health Service number which is to be found on their Medical Card as it greatly assists the administration of the Health Service. Needless to say, medical treatment will still be given even if the number is not available but it makes the job easier for everyone.

After last year's Bob-a-Job Week a Scouter friend sent me a copy of a letter which appeared in a local newspaper under the heading *Cubs Only?* It is an interesting comment by a member of the public and is passed on as some G.S.M.s may think it worth bringing to the notice of their Group Councils when 1955 Bob-a-Job arrangements are being discussed:-

The strange thing about Bob-a-Job Week is that it marks the temporary disappearance of all those Herculean Rovers and Senior Scouts whose magnificent physique converts even the most humdrum church parade into a spectacle.

On Monday I had accumulated a mountain of garden refuse which it was my intention that one of these young giants should move to the bonfire site and burn. There were also some logs to saw if he felt like going on for another bob's worth.

Alas, when the inevitable Cub (aged ten, three badges) arrived, I gave him some firewood to chop and moved the refuse myself.

The Rovers, I reflected, as the flames shot upwards, were probably back at H.Q., planning the operation with large maps and little flags.

I like my Cub. He is an old friend now, having come and chopped wood for me during three Bob-a-Job Weeks. But I cannot help wishing sometimes that I knew his older brother as well.

A. W. HURLL,
Chief Executive Commissioner.

THE GILWELL LETTER

Only this morning when looking through an official Scout publication (not from this country I may add), I came across a rather extraordinary statement. The purpose of the article was to outline the procedure a chairman should adopt at any type of meeting. I was browsing through it, contentedly making purring noises of approval, when suddenly I came upon a phrase which made me stop and read it again. It said, "A Chairman can ignore motions which he does not like." If this is to be taken to mean what I think it means then it strikes me as being remarkably undemocratic.

However, the phrase set me thinking. It may be that it is this approach which sometimes makes the Court of Honour in the Troop something of a farce. If a Scoutmaster is really concerned to use the Court of Honour as one of the basic weapons he has for training his Patrol Leaders and, through them, the Scouts in the Troop, then surely he has to listen to what the Court of Honour says, to try to arrange the things the Court of Honour wants arranging, and only to use his sanction of veto if, as I suppose can happen, the Court of Honour proposes something that is so far removed from Scouting and the spirit of the Scout Promise as to be harmful.

I hope these few words will set Scoutmasters thinking once again about their attitude to the Court of Honour. If it is to be just a rubber stamp for the plots and plans already agreed between the Scouters it can have no training value whatever and it becomes no more than another instrument for massaging the Scouter's ego.

In the midst of a report from Bechuanaland I spotted this gem of an idea: "Several Troops are specialising on interests which fit into local conditions. Two Troops have for some time been carefully collecting, mounting, and naming specimens of plants used by the witch doctors as medicines and charms, and recording their uses alongside the specimens."

I wonder if that gives any Scoutmasters or, indeed, Cubmasters an idea: it gives me a great many. Witch doctors in Great Britain are rather at a discount these days but, certainly for Senior Scouts, knowing something about the medicinal and food value or otherwise of the various plants that grow in the locality seems to me a worthwhile activity which can be pursued over a whole year and which will give added purpose to a camp or hike. I have seen witch doctors in action in Bechuanaland and they seem to me to be very considerable fellows. Whatever the rights and wrongs of it, they certainly seem to know what they are doing and they have a sound herbalistic knowledge. I suppose it is too much to hope that in any future Badge Scheme we shall have a Proficiency Badge labelled "Witch Doctor" though I have no doubt that its attraction to a vast number of boys might conceivably be greater than some of the badges in the present list!

Finally, for this month, Easter is only round the corner. For my Australian friends that means the end of their normal camping season and the beginning of their winter activities, whereas for us Easter should mean the Scoutmasters training their P.L.'s, getting them into camp or on hike and building them up in enthusiasm and skill to cope with the summer camping programme.

I would like to make my annual plea, that if you have Scouts in your Troop who have never camped, Easter is not the time for them to start. I hope the Easter holiday is going to be glorious but, even if it is not, I would rather the Tenderfoots were at home, perhaps coming out to the Court of Honour Camp for a day visit and thereby building up their enthusiasm for their first camp to be held at Whitsun or later still.

I hope we shall have a very happy Easter Camp at Gilwell, with all the usual ingredients. We shall have an extended Providore with a sweet counter greatly enlarged by, I must say, public demand, film shows on the dark nights, Camp Fire and the Easter Sunday Scouts' Own. Above all, I sincerely hope there will be a very high standard of camping.

JOHN THURMAN,
Camp Chief

LUCK OF THE MONTH

By TILE EDITOR

Jan. 21. - Surprised to hear suggestion that we should protest about Mrs. Knight's ingenuous, innocent and ill-informed broadcasts. If the Christian faith is what I think it is, it should never fear attack, and certainly shouldn't become hysterical about an attack such as Mrs. Knight's which was about as terrible as a bombardment with a puff-ball.

Jan. 23. - The preacher this evening quoted George Macleod's "When two people meet there are six persons present!" (Work it out for yourself.)

Jan. 24. - Hear the Princess Royal is having her portrait painted in uniform as President of the Girl Guides, by Mr. Richard Mariemtreu. It is to be hung at the Guide Headquarters next door.

Jan. 25. - The price of the Junior Express goes up from 2d. to 3d.

Jan. 26. - Several letters of appreciation - very unusual! - about the contents list on page iii of January SCOUTER.



Feb. 1. - Several enthusiastic letters about "How to get your Second Class Badge in twenty weeks!" Pity that there must be many Groups and innumerable P.L.'s who don't see The Scout. That there are even Groups who don't take either The Scout or THE SCOUTER is all too obvious from some of the inquiries departments here receive. How much better our Scouting could be if every leader of whatever age saw either or both magazines regularly.

Feb. 3. - Saw middle-aged woman with shopping basket on wheels knocked down at a crossing. She went against the green with traffic almost on her although the place has "Cross Now" lights. Face bruised and cut. Is it lack of observation? Lack of discipline? Plain stupidity or selfishness or momentary unawareness? I did what I could. We should do all we can in the Movement to inculcate road discipline and road courtesy.

Feb. 6. - Interested (and, not foolishly. I hope, a little pleased) to read in B.-P.'s diary for 1933:- July 20. Hazlewood came for the night to take P[eter] on walking tour of Isle of Wight.

July 21. - P. and Hazlewood (after missing train) started for I. of W.

July 23. -P. returned from his hike on I.O.W. having done a good walk.

Feb. 11. - Attended (and spoke at) the Association Dinner at Abingdon. Held in the lovely old Council Chamber of the ancient Guildhall, with some of the fine plate on display, in the presence of the Mayor and Lady Mayoress and leading citizens, all there as the D.C., E. R. (Bill) Bailey, said forthrightly: "as friends of Scouting and for no other reason," it was a model of what such a function should be.

One hundred and thirty-six people sat down to a simple but good dinner after a glass of sherry with the President of the L.A.: a speech or two followed.

An evening such as this is an opportunity for showing gratitude, and equally for engendering goodwill and kindnesses to Scouting in the months ahead.

This sort of function is fitting and proper for the world's leading Youth Movement. There ought to vanish for ever from our midst North Berks Local dreary meetings in draughty schoolrooms (which produce nothing but pity or scorn in those not quick enough to find

an excuse not to attend) along with all the other old-fashioned trappings of the Movement's adolescence.

Feb. 18. - Cut the birthday cake - and delicious "how-I'd-like-some more-of-this" cake it was - at the twenty-first birthday banquet of the Captain R. F. Scott Rover Scout Crew of the 2nd Kenton (Middlesex) Group' in their fine Methodist Church Hall. A happy, nostalgic evening, with 107 people enjoying a simple dinner, with brief, appropriate speeches and an admirably-lunatic fifteen minutes when the Crew put on a miniature revue. I was presented - one of life's embarrassing moments - with a handsome scroll which read: "Oh Great Scribe, whose writings spread B.-P.'s message to our Brother Scouts throughout the world, we thank you. By these presents let it be known to all Brother Scouts that henceforth you shall enjoy the Freedom of our Rover Den, and that a Hearty Welcome awaits you at all times. Good Scouting and Best Wishes from your Brother Scouts of this Crew.

This Crew has one of the finest log books over the twenty-one years I've ever seen: I hope it will continue to be as faithfully and affectionately kept for the next twenty-one years.

Such Crews as this are the living proof that nothing is wrong with Rovering when it's active, gay and busy, and every Rover Scout is living up to the motto of Service, either within or without the Movement: if we challenge the young men to a Rovering that is hard and demanding, as well as high spirited and gay, they will respond. And they won't respond when the leadership is uncertain, uninspired, lazy, envious and complaining.

Feb. 21. - It's always nice to know that people whom one admires are or have been Scouts.

Take, for example, Mr. Tyson and Mr. Chataway. Frank Tyson was a First Class. Scout and a Patrol Leader in the 8th Middleton (Queen Elizabeth Grammar School) Troop; Chris Chataway was a Troop leader in the 3rd Swanage.

Feb. 22. - The birthday of our Founder and his devoted, beloved, brilliant wife. Each year more come together at our family gathering at Westminster Abbey on this day when wreaths are laid on the memorial stone. This year there must have been four hundred members of the two Movements there, old and young: the sub Dean led the prayers and the Abbey choir boys sang like angels. This little simple ceremony of remembrance may well become a pilgrimage.

Feb. 28. - A lovely day of sunshine, though the lake in the park is still stiff and cloudy with ice.

A most welcome letter from a Yorkshire S.M. who writes of The Scout: "Congratulations on your edition of 25th February. I like everything in it.... Your 'Second Class in Twenty Weeks' is a winner. Please send me twelve copies of The Scout dated 25th February and a further twelve for the next edition of 4th March in order to try and spread sales in the Troop. Enclosed please find cheque."

May I hope that my brother Scouters will try to follow this enlightened and true-spirited example?

REX HAZELWOOD.

GOING ABROAD THIS YEAR?

Plans are already well ahead for exciting activities in International Scouting this year and I offer every good wish to the many Patrols and Troops that will be concerned, for success in their ventures.

First, the Eighth World Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Canada. What a great opportunity this will be for the thousands of Scouts who will be going from all over the world! I hear that the British Contingent from the United Kingdom alone will number one thousand and, as an indication of the keenness and vitality of our Scouting, I can think of little more encouraging. Congratulations to those who have been chosen and good luck to all.

But numbers of Troops and Patrols not going to the Jamboree will be journeying abroad this year for their summer camps and hikes. I hope that those with the intention of going off to another country will think carefully upon the opportunities that will be open to them, and that each visit will have behind it a clear purpose and plan. It is of course a sheer waste of time and money - to say nothing of the loss of opportunity - to wander abroad aimlessly. And no Scout party should think of going abroad without making some organised contact with the Scouts of the country visited. I regard this as most important and we in the International Department will at all times do everything in our power to help you in arranging such contacts. But remember - let me have your applications and any enquiries at I.H.Q. as soon as possible - it will be a lot easier in the long run for those going abroad if first steps are taken early.

This Year's Opportunities

The following invitations have been received for British Scouts to join in camps and hikes in Europe this year and I shall welcome enquiries from any who would be interested in taking part in any of them. I hope that in some cases more particulars will have been made available by the time this appears in print - so please write for them.

Finland

Lappkmd Hike, July 16th to August 7th. The Scout Union of Finland has generously invited fourteen British Senior Scouts and Rovers to a hike through the far north of Lapland in company with Finnish Scouts. The opportunity to take part in this exciting venture is exceptional and merits the keenest interest of all Senior Scouts and Rovers.

The journey to Finland will probably be made by air to Helsinki and thence by train and motor-boat to the far north. The going will be hard at times and suitable only for well-trained Scouts and Rovers with good hiking equipment. At the conclusion, the party will return to Helsinki where Finnish Scouts will arrange a further programme for a final period of six days.

Applicants must be Scouts or Rovers of outstanding ability and experience. In the case of Scouts they must hold the First Class Badge and preference will be given to Queen's Scouts and those holding the Venturer and Pioneer Badges.

The cost of food and other incidentals on the hike will be met by Finnish Scouts. The cost to Scouts from this country will be confined to about £8 per head for fares within Finland and about £5 per head for subsistence and excursions for the final week in and around Helsinki. To these figures must be added the cost of the return fare to Helsinki. Further particulars, together with an outline of the programme of the hike and the list of equipment required are available upon application. Applications must reach the International Department by the end of May.

Sweden

"Blue Hike," August 15th-26th. The Swedish Boy Scouts Association invite four British Patrol Leaders, between 15 and 17 years of age, of first-class experience in Scouting, to join selected Swedish Patrol Leaders in the "Blue Hike." In pairs, the selected P.L.s will join two of the three hikes in Smaland, Varmland and Hielsingland. Each party must expect to cover about ten miles a day through forest country, carrying all equipment in rucksacks. The last three or four days will be spent journeying by canoe and raft on some of the many rivers and lakes of Sweden.

The going will be hard and suitable only for well-trained Scouts with good hiking equipment.

Applicants must hold the First Class Badge and preference will be given to Queen's Scouts and to those who have gained the Venturer and Pioneer Badges. All costs while in Sweden will be met by the Swedish Scout Association. Full hiking equipment except tentage should be taken.

The Chief Scout hopes that we shall be worthily represented on these two grand hikes.

In addition the following six camps will be held in Sweden this year with, we are told, 1,000-2,000 Scouts in each. They will be spread over the country and will constitute parts of one national event - the National "Jamborette" of the Sveriges Scoutforbund, 1955.

1. *Midnight Sun Camp.* July 23rd-31st, at Lake Tome Trask in Lapland, surrounded by snowy mountains. Camp fee, 40 Swedish Crowns (approximately £3).

2. *West Coast Camp.* July 22nd - August 1st, at Dyrsten on the Island of Orust, north of Gothenburg, with facilities for Sea Scouting. Camp fee, 30 Swedish Crowns (approximately £2 10s.).

3. *East Coast Camp.* July 24th - August 2nd, at Breviksnis, 70 kilometres north-east of Norrköping, with inland and sea expeditions. Camp fee, 40 Swedish Crowns (approximately £3).

4. *Tunaberg Camp.* July 22nd - August 1st, near Oxelosund, a port on the Baltic, 100 kilometres south of Stockholm, again with facilities for Sea Scouting. Camp fee, 35 Swedish Crowns (approximately £2 10s.).

5. *Gotkmd Camp.* August 2nd - 12th, on the "Isle of Roses and Ruins" off Gotland in the Baltic. Camp fee, 51 Swedish Crowns (approximately £3 1 5s.) including travel from Visby, in Gotland, and return.

6. *Skdne Camp.* July 18th-28th, at Broby, on the lakeside amid fir forests, 100 kilometres north-east of Malmö, in the southernmost province of Sweden. Camp fee 42 Swedish Crowns (approximately £3 3s.).

Fees for all the above cover all meals during the camp and expenses of planned activities, but no travel expenses unless specified. Cooking equipment, tents, etc., will have to be brought by those participating. In addition it is hoped to make arrangements for all visiting Scouts and Scouters from other countries to be guests in Swedish Scout homes for one or two weeks before, or preferably after, the camps, without charge. The invitations are for full Patrols or Troops but also include individual Scouts of senior age and Rovers who will be attached, as guests, to Swedish Senior Scout Patrols and Rover Crews.

The Netherlands

National 45th Anniversary "Jamborette," Rotterdam, July 27th-August 5th. Two Troops of thirty members each including Scouters are invited. Camp fee for visiting Scouts is 50 guilders (approximately £5) which covers a full programme of excursions, sightseeing, competitions, canoeing, etc. Applications from Troops, Patrols and individual Scouts are invited.

Amersfoort District "Jamborette," August 4th-11th, to be held at Soest, situated in attractive scenery in the centre of the Netherlands. The invitation is for a Patrol or Troop. After the "Jamborette," visiting Scouts are invited as the guests of Dutch Scout Troops to a further camp or hike, or to spend the extra time in the homes of Scout families. Camp fee 20 guilders (approximately £2).

Norway

Salten Krets 30th Anniversary Camp, Misvaer, near Bodø, July 3rd-10th. A Patrol of British Scouts with one Scouter is invited to attend this camp situated north of the Arctic Circle. Further particulars on application.

Austria

Lower Austria Provincial Camp, Waidhofen, July 11th-23rd. Waidhofen is 150 kilometres west of Vienna. A Patrol of eight British Scouts of senior age with one Scouter is invited.

After the camp guests will be entertained for a further two weeks in the homes of Austrian Scouts.

There will be no camp fee but visiting Scouts will be required to pay the cost of travel from the camp to the homes of their Scout hosts. All personal and camp equipment including tents must be taken.

The Scout and Rover camps are also open to other Scouts of senior age, Rovers and Scouters. The camp fee, in their case, will be 120 Austrian Schillings (approximately £1 15s.), for food, fuel and services in camp, but excluding the costs of hikes and excursions outside camp.

Germany

The Scouts of Hamburg invite a Scout Troop or District in this country to arrange with them an exchange camping visit for twenty to thirty Scouts.

I shall be glad to hear from any Troop or District which would like to take up this proposal and will put them in direct touch with the Hamburg Scouts. This done, I would like to see the Scouts who will be in the party making friends by correspondence with the Hamburg boys well before leaving for Germany.

Denmark

National Camp of Danish Y.M.C.A. Scouts at Bornholm, July 10th-22nd. A Troop is invited. Further details can be obtained on application.

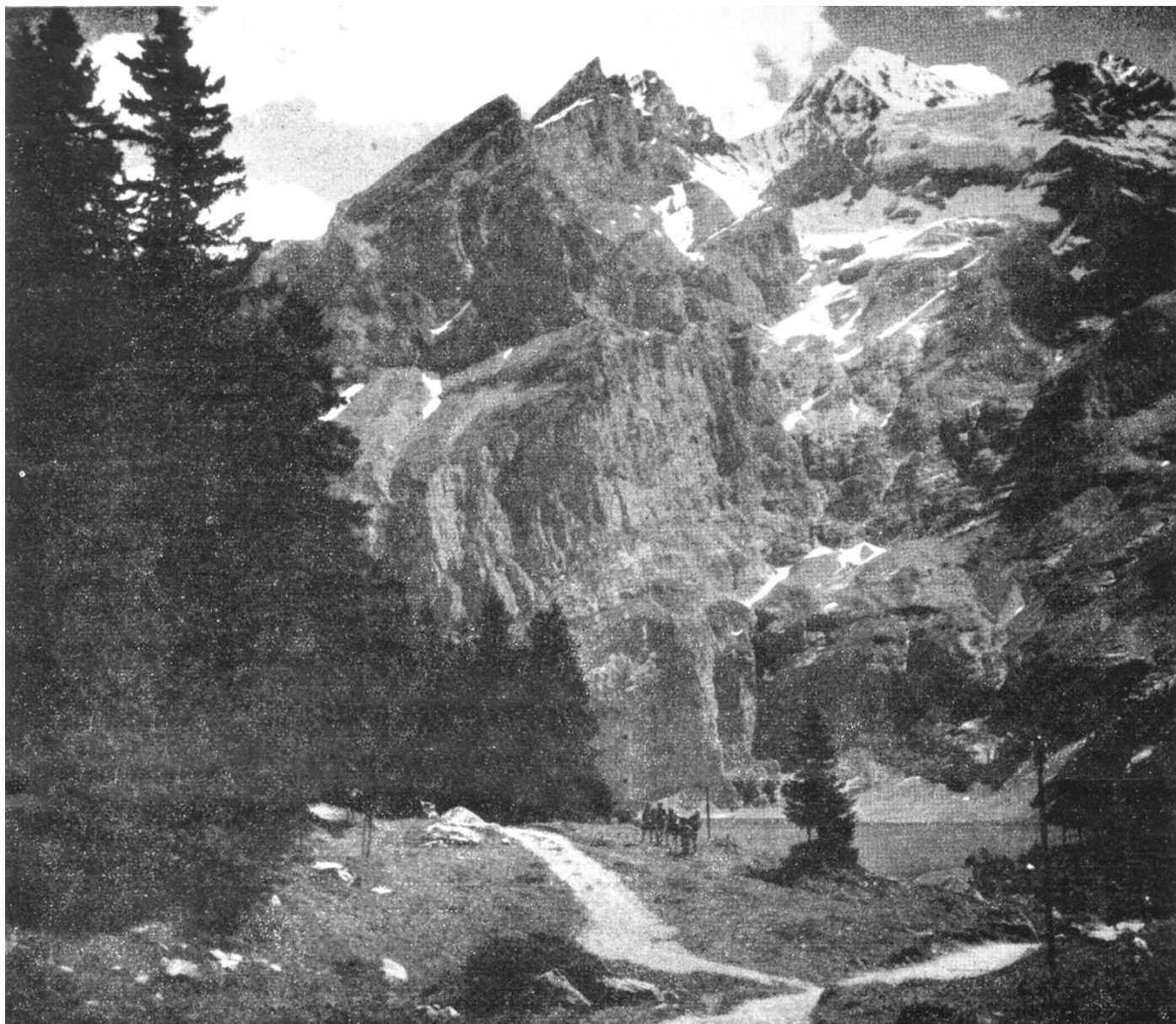
North Sea Divisional "Jamborette," Norre Nebel, July 29th - August 6th. British Scouts are invited to take part in the above "Jamborette" at Nyminde Plantation, Norre Nebel. The camp will be situated among the characteristic scenery of Western Jutland, surrounded by pinewoods, one mile from the North Sea with a good beach. During the eight days of the camp there will be a twenty-four hour hike and excursions to "Blvands Huk," Esbjerg and Ribe. Visiting Scouts are invited to spend a few days before the camp in the homes of Danish Scouts. There will be a camp fee of 45 Danish kroner (approximately £2 10s.) but no extra cost for excursions, etc. Tickets should be booked to Norre Nebel.

Arhus Divisional "Jamborette" at Rathlousdal, July 29th- August 5th. A Troop is invited and Scouts will also have the opportunity of spending a few days before the camp in Danish Scout homes in Arhus when there will be opportunities for sightseeing, etc. Camp fee, 30 Danish kroner (approximately £1 15s.).

Lastly, I hope that Scouts camping in Britain this summer will remember to invite one or more brother Scouts from abroad to camp with them, and perhaps to spend some additional time afterwards as guests in their homes. There are likely to be many opportunities in this connection and I hope Scouters will not hesitate to put this idea before their Courts of Honour and let me know if we at I.H.Q. can help in placing Scout guests from abroad with your Groups.

ROBIN GOLD,

International Commissioner.



NEAR THE SCOUT CHALET, KANDERSTEG, SWITZERLAND

LEAKAGE!

With apologies to Stanley Holloway

1. Young Albert Ramsbottom joined t' Wolf Cubs, To learn about bowlines and such, He were fond of the games and outings, But the starwork he didn't like much.
2. G.M. were a pretty young lady, Who hadn't been long at this ere, With Cubs she were somewhat frightened, With lions not a morsel of fear.
3. T'were a fine sunny day in August, She took em to Wigan by pier, And Albert, his face all shining, Trailing behind in t' rear.
4. He took an apple, banana and orange, A tin mug and sandwiches too, His stick with the 'orses 'ead 'andle, Round his shoulders a neckerchief blue.
5. They travelled to Wigan by charabanc, Arriving at half-past two, By this time Akela were flustered, And wished she'd brought lions from t' zoo.
6. The lads had their grub near a farmyard, With haystack and duckpond as well, The tea and the cakes were smashing, But didn't mix in with the smell.
7. While t'other little lads were resting, As G.M. had told em to do, Young Albert were busy birdnesting, And had vanished completely from view.
8. He hadn't been gone above minute, When a cry of anguish was heard, It might have been cows or horses, or the call of a tropical bird.
9. Akela dashed off in t' direction, From which the cry had been heard, And stopped, when she caught sight of Albert, In t' duckpond, like an aquatic bird.
10. Cubmistress was all of a fluster, When she saw t' little lad in the pond, But she took him by t' seat of his briches. And brought him in safely to land.
11. Meanwhile Mr. and Mrs. Ramsbottom, Had followed behind for the day, And would have been there a lot sooner, If they hadn't got lost on the way.
12. When they arrived at the farmyard, And heard about Albert's mishap, They dashed right over to t' duckpond, And Pa retrieved t' little lad's cap.
13. The sight that met Mr. Ramsbottom, on the side of the rippling pond were his son with a fish in his earole and a bundle of weeds in his hand.
14. After taking one look at young Albert, His boots all sopping and queer, Pa said, "YOU'D BETTER PUT HIM DOWN TO LEAKAGE, HE'S HAVING NO MORE OF THIS ERE."

**HAROLD DANIEL,
D.C.M., Salford (S. & W.).**

“THE SPRING RUNNING”

The rain which drove me from the garden has stopped. Once again the sun comes out from behind the scudding clouds. Raindrops sparkle in the sunshine. The very breath of spring is in the air; young buds are beginning to open; flowers are thrusting through the soil. The sun's rays catch a cobweb in a corner of the room - a timely reminder that spring-cleaning is overdue!

This is the time for spring-cleaning our Scouting. Is that why so many A.G.M.s are held at this time of the year when the previous year's work in the District is sorted out and gone over? But more important still - what of your personal "spring-cleaning?"

One muses

"Yes, next week Ginger, Bill and Tom go up into the Troop. In fact, Ginger and Bill are leaping up. Jolly good! But Tom is just going up. Perhaps it was my fault? He kept asking me to pass his Second Star Tests but somehow there just wasn't the time to do it. Still, he's very keen and wants to be a Scout anyway because his brother is P.L. of the Owls. So it doesn't really matter if he wasn't a Second Star Cub... or does it?"

"That's made me think! Peter and Jack left just after Christmas. They, too, kept asking when they could pass their Star Tests. Goodness, I did let them all down! They were two jolly youngsters and I felt sure I'd got them in the Pack for keeps. I never dreamt they'd leave; I was quite sure they'd go into the Troop. But I really didn't have time. ."

Conscience nags again. "John Graham's dad is an old Scout. Why didn't you ask him to give you a hand?"

"It mustn't happen again. They can't be blamed if they thought that Scouting would mean as much messing about as the kind of Cubbing I gave them."

"Who else has gone? Oh, I wish now I had kept some records. And Skip is sure to ask me about Ginger as soon as he finds out what a handful he is. . Yes, Frank Smith. He left last autumn ... I think. . . That's right.

His father has a job at Basildon and they've moved away.

Sorry to see him go. He was only nine and would have made a jolly good Sixer. Still, thank goodness that wasn't my fault!"

Conscience pricks again: "Transfer form?"

"I forgot all about it! Still, if I get a T.1 off straight away it may not be too late...."

Is this your reverie? Each Cub in your Pack is an individual with his own destiny to follow. He relies on you to help him. Consider each boy who has left your Pack in the last twelve months. Why did he leave? Do not be satisfied until you know the *real* reason. Is it due to a cause you could have prevented? If so, vow that it shall not occur again. Weigh up. your Cub programme. Is it *real* Cubbing, or watered down, "flat, stale and unprofitable?" Has it a real spark of excitement or is it just junior Scouting? If so, don't blame the Cubs if they leave or if, having gone into the Troop, they drift away after a very short time. Just as too much "jungle" takes the edge off his imaginative appetite, so no jungle atmosphere at all deprives him of half the adventure Cubbing offers. Ideals of manliness, heroism and chivalry still appeal to the modern boy and in the task of character training we have, through media which appeal to him, constantly to place these ideals before him. I have yet to find a background more suitable for our purpose than Kipling's "Jungle Books." But let it *be* a background. There's plenty of scope for the foreground but, alas, all too often the importance of a proper background is overlooked by Akela.

I again appeal to you: in your foreground please ensure that the Cubs *do* progress with their Cubbing - particularly the ten year-olds. There have now been added two more books to the already valuable Wolf Cub Series. They are *The Way to the Stars - First Star and Second Star* (Nos. 11 and 12 of the series). It is to be hoped that these excellent books will act as a stimulus to your Cubs to gain their stars - but they still need your encouragement.

Another matter. When a boy is ready to go into the Troop and the S.M. is ready to receive him, please don't hold him back under the illusion that the Pack or you cannot manage without him.

It's untrue and you will be doing him a great disservice.

Read again *The Spring Running*. Just as Mowgli felt the urge to put aside his boyhood in the Jungle, so your Cubs will one day grow out of their family life in Cubbing and obey the call of Scouting with its greater self-reliance and opportunities of adventure.

And to round off this article as I hope you round off your Pack programmes with a yarn, let me refer you to the recent publication, *It's Time for a Story*, by J. B. Gearing. It is a practical book full of helpful suggestions and ideas on story-telling, with many yarns to choose from.

Here, then, are three books like three brooms to help with your spring-cleaning. But don't get so immersed in this that the out-of-doors is forgotten. Everywhere in the outside world is a sense of bursting life. Your Cubs are part of it. Each boy can and should be, like Mowgli "sometimes shouting, sometimes singing to himself, the happiest thing in all the Jungle. ." Read again *The Spring Running* and think sense of bursting life. Each boy can and should be, like Mowgli "sometimes shouting, sometimes singing to himself, the happiest thing in all the Jungle. ."

E. DENNIS SMITH.

THE GAMES CHEST: CUBS

MISCELLANEOUS

1. SPACE SHIPS

Gear: Nil.

Purpose: Nature study.

Cubs are told that each Six is a Space Ship that is to fly to the moon but that before doing so each Ship must have the right mixture to power the jet engines. Mixture to consist of a leaf of a plant or tree starting with each of the letters S P A C E

Cubs in Sixes hunt for the mixture. Return to airfield where they are checked by Akela. Sixes then form into Space Ships, Sixers in front holding mixtures, others in files behind, each Cub holding on to the Cub in front. They then proceed to the moon. Any Ship coming apart on the way is disqualified. The Ships can be welcomed on arrival by Baloo, dressed in any fantastic attire as the Man in the Moon.

If points are awarded they should be for accuracy of the mixtures and not for speed.

2. TIME TELLING GAME.

Gear: Box of matches for each Six.

Purpose: Star Test.

Akela should first show the Cubs the Roman numerals I-XLJ, explaining how they are formed.

Sixes line up as for relay race. There is a chalk circle on the floor in front of each Six. The Sixes are numbered off. Akela calls a boy's number, and then a number from I-12. The Cub runs forward and places his matches in Roman numerals in the correct position on the "clock face." When the clock face is completed the game can be continued by Akela calling out a time, and having matches placed in the "hand" positions, which are then moved for the different times.

3. CUT-CUT NAMES

Gear: Card for each Cub.

Purpose: Observation.

Each Cub's name is written in capital letters on a card which is then cut into 1/2 inch squares (with one letter in each square). Akela jumbles these and hides or scatters them over an area.

The Six which gets all its Cub's names completed and neatly laid out is the winner.

4. CHRISTMAS CARD STORIES

Gear: About six Christmas cards to each Cub.

Purpose: Self-expression.

Deal out about six cards to each Cub who makes up a story from the pictures. Each Cub in turn tells his story; putting each card down in turn as the story unfolds.



TELEVISION BRIDE: MISS JANET TURNER, A.C.M. 45TH BECKENHAM, AND HER FIANCE, BARRY STEEL, A.S.M., 44th BECKENHAM

5. CUT-UP PICTURE POSTCARDS

Gear: A picture postcard per Cub cut up as a jigsaw puzzle into six squares, etc.

Purpose: Observation.

Akela gives each Cub the bottom left-hand corner of a postcard. Akela jumbles the rest of the pieces and hides or scatters them over an area. The winner is the Six which completes its postcard first.

6. CHRISTMAS CARD WHIST

Gear: At least six Christmas Cards per Cub.

Purpose: Fun.

Akela deals out equal number of Christmas cards to each Cub. From a previously compiled list Akela calls out a subject such as - picture with most snow, or with most holly or with greatest number of prancing horses, or most people, or ugliest, prettiest, dullest; funniest.

Each player chooses from his "hand" his most appropriate card, the best card wins the "trick."

The winner is the individual or Six with the greatest number of "tricks."

7. SQUAW GRABBING

Gear: A chair for each Cub and one extra.

Purpose: Fun.

Cubs sit in circle in pairs of Red Indian and his Squaw. The Squaw must sit on the Indian's left. One Indian who has no Squaw grabs someone else's by "her" hand and brings "her" to sit next to him thus leaving another Indian without a Squaw. This one then grabs a Squaw. This continues until whistle blows. The Indian and Squaw who at that moment are on their feet are "out." Their chairs are removed and the game continues until last Indian is left in.

7. BUNDESLAGER 1954

“Was kan das Leben
Uns schoneres geben,
Wir wollen Pladfinder sein.”

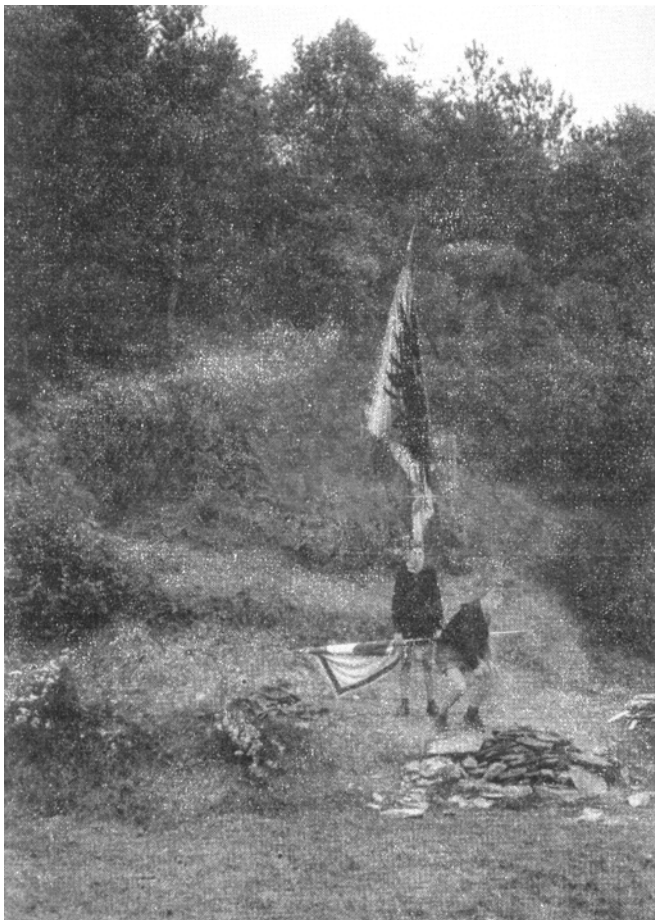
“What better can Life give us:
We want to be Scouts.”

Thus run the words of a song which we were hearing often several weeks ago. Sung by a group of ten, or a thousand, they expressed the spirit of the German National Boy Scout Camp held in the Hunsrück, not far from the Rhine Gorge.

This was not our first contact with German Scouting. Stationed at Cuxhaven in the last six months of our National Service with the Royal Navy, we had, as Deep Sea Scouts, attended several of the Patrol and Troop meetings of the local Troop. We had also visited their Easter and Whitsun camps.

Then came the invitation to camp with them at the - to give it its German name - Bundeslager des Bundes Deutscher Pfadfinder.

The Bund Deutscher Pfadfinder (or B.D.P.) is the second largest of the three Scout Associations in Germany, and is the only “open” one; the other two are sponsored by the Evangelical and Roman Catholic Churches.



The Bundeslager was the second since the-war. The first one, at Oberegg-Daisenhauser See in Oberschwaben, was held in 1950.

The camp was in the beautiful region south-west of the Middle Rhine, not far from the small town of Kirchberg. Tents were pitched on gentle slopes intersected by several small streams, in a small valley surrounded by the forests and rolling hills of the Hunsrück. The weather was excellent when compared with the bad summer experienced in Northern Europe generally this year. That is to say, there were more sunny days than wet ones, though it rained in traditional fashion for both the opening and the closing ceremony!

The Bundeslager was divided into sub-camps by Landesmarks. (these are rather larger than English counties), of which there were sixteen. We camped in the Unterlaher der L.M. Hamburg, as Cuxhaven is situated at the mouth of the Elbe, the river on which Hamburg stands. The camp had the usual camp shops, provided by the local tradesmen of Kirchberg, and a “Bundes-kiimerei,” which sold Scout uniforms and camping equipment. A camp newspaper, “Lager Jungenleben” was published at the end of each week, and was so popular that it quickly sold out of a reprint, after the first edition had all gone.

The object of the camp - to get Scouts from all over Germany camping together and meeting each other - was fully realised; many troops had covered great distances to be present (we had come two hundred and seventy miles), and the Berliners, forty of them, had travelled, by night, through the Russian Zone.. A total of about eight thousand attended the camp, but many did not stay for the whole fortnight, either going out for short overnight camps, or making the Bundeslager one stop in a tour of the area. The camp was also on a small scale international; there were groups of about a dozen from Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, French Morocco (both French boys and Moroccans), and a Troop of American Scouts, the sons of American servicemen stationed in Germany, with their Scoutmaster. There were smaller groups and individuals from the Saar, Holland, Sweden, and Norway. Also camping were six Lithuanian Scouts who are living in a school for Lithuanian boys in Heidelberg, and five Russian D.P. Scouts with their Scoutmaster who are living in Stuttgart. We were the only two British, much in demand for the usual badge swapping, and honoured, perhaps, as representatives of B.-P.'s country.

The Bundeslager was held from July 25th to August 7th. Quite a full programme had been arranged, but there was no overplanning. Kajus (pronounced Caius) Roller, the Chief Scout of the B.D.P., spoke at the simple opening ceremony on Monday, July 26th, there were church services and a camp fire on the Sunday a week later - which was also Visitors' Day, when the camp became quite crowded - and a closing camp fire was held on the last Friday.

Also in the programme were sports, swimming and singing competitions, and on both Saturdays there were exhibitions of the work which had been produced in the preceding week. Groups worked for two hours every morning and afternoon at a variety of activities, some of which were: drawing and painting, photography, pottery, modelling, wood-, leather-, and metal-work, puppetry, first aid, pioneering, and two things which appealed to the many younger Scouts in camp, Indian and Stone-Age Man life. Attendance was of course entirely voluntary; an instructor was present at each group, and all necessary materials were provided.

The comparative loose programme suited us. We were able to wander round the camp, making friends and receiving many invitations to unofficial sing-songs. One most enjoyable evening was spent at a little international camp fire with the Russian D.P. Scouts. The other guests included several French Moroccans, two Swedes, and a number of Germans. First we were regaled with “kompot” (a pleasant concoction of plum), after which we moved over to the Camp Fire circle.

The Scoutmaster, speaking in German, opened the Camp Fire saying that the circle should not be closed but always kept open for new-corners.

During the evening our hosts sang several songs in their native language, and called upon the guests in turn for items. One or two simple stunts were produced (even we managed to find a translatable one), the Moroccans sang in French and were encored for "Alouette," in which we all joined, and the Swedes replied with a resounding yell. The Camp Fire ended with a German "abendlied" and we parted with mutual thanks, taking away memories which will not quickly fade.

Another evening, when we were sitting round our own fire teaching the Cuxhaven Troop some English songs ("My Bonny" was a great favourite), three guitarists joined the circle, accompanied us for about an hour, and then as we began to prepare for bed invited us to a sing-song the following evening with them, the Hoheuzollern Troop of L.M. Franken.

The next evening accordingly found us seated in a "Kohte" with about fifteen members of the Troop. The "Kohte," derived from the tents used by the Lapps, is a black pyramid-shaped tent suspended from a bipod of two poles. As the poles are cut on the site and the tent unlaces to form four sections each weighing about as much as a blanket the "Kohte" is very portable, and is probably the most popular design in Germany. The usual size sleeps ten and costs £12 - 14. Sitting round the fire - which they light in a shallow pit in the middle, and keep burning all night if it is cold (the tents are fire-proofed!) - eating toast and drinking peppermint tea, with the guitars softly strumming, singing songs to which we in England seem to have no equal - all more memories which will remain with us for a long time.

Guitars and singing were to us a noticeable feature of the camp. German Scouts often sing with guitar accompaniment whilst marching, and at flag break each morning a song is sung, accompanied by guitars. It is also the custom always to sing one short song before each meal.

The badge of the Bundeslager consisted of the words:- "Bundeslager - Hunsruck," and the two camp symbols: "The closed circle as the sign of the brotherhood of the Scout organisation, and the shield of the Teutonic Order of Knighthood." Each Landesmark has "adopted" a town in the East Zone of Germany, and a number of Scouts at the camp were born in the East Zone and are now separated from their relatives. The Scouts were told that they must always be ready to help their brethren in the East Zone in any way possible.

The Bundeslager was noticeably different from an English camp with regard to flags. These seemed unusually numerous to us and we were surprised at the attention that was paid to them. The "Bundesbanner" (the German National Scout Flag) was guarded day and night by pairs of Scouts in two-hourly watches, and so were some of the Landesmark flags - for each L.M. had its own flag. Also we witnessed the solemn ceremony of the dedication of a new flag for L.M. Franken.

Unfortunately, our leave was not long enough to allow us to stay until the end of the Bundeslager. Regretfully we left three days before the end of one of the most enjoyable camps we have attended. "Komme wieder" is still ringing in our ears; we hope we shall be able to return. Anyway, we are already making plans for our trip to the next Bundeslager in 1958.

J. P. SAUNDERS.
W.O. F. HETHERINGTON.

ROVER ROUNDABOUT

How fortunate Scouting is in its odd Rover here and there who as his job of service does what he can, wherever he may find himself, to further the cause of the Movement by giving a helping hand at a native Troop, a local hospital, orphanages, old people's homes, leper colonies and so on. But how about this from W. D. Timms, D.S. M. (south), British Boy Scouts in Egypt, do Forces Broadcasting Service, Canal Zone, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., 17.

"Scouting Scrapbook is on the air, by kind permission of the Forces Broadcasting Service Canal Zone, each Monday evening at 6.30 p.m.

"The programme is edited by me and consists of reports on the activities of all Sections of the Movement in the Canal Zone.

We have a reporter for each section, who comes along each week and reads out his bit. In addition to the news items we broadcast sketches, serial stories, talks by Scouters, etc. etc.

At the present time we are broadcasting an Inter-Rover Crew General Knowledge Quiz. There is very keen competition among our numerous Crews for this. The present quiz champions are the 4th Great Bitter Lake Crew who, last Monday, beat the 2nd G.B.L. Crew. We will continue the quizzes after Christmas as we are organising a special variety programme for this event.

Last year we made contact with the Movement in New Zealand, who also have a Scouting programme on the air, and exchanged recorded material with them. I would very much like to contact other countries with a view to exchanging recorded programmes. Anyone interested should contact me care of the above address.

The Movement is very much alive in the Canal Zone and although Scouting conditions are far from ideal, everyone is very enthusiastic and we have a good time all round."

Now those fellows to whom the National Service period is an opportunity to expand their knowledge of the international side of Scouting. The R.A.F. El Firdan Rover Crew spent a week-end in Port Said and their very worth-while visit was made possible by a Greek Scout. The report is as follows:- "On Saturday evening we were taken by car to visit a Greek Scout Troop where we were given a brotherly welcome. The first Troop room had four Patrols in it, one in each corner, and the Patrol corners were something to be proud of. There were pictures and designs on the wall and copies of the Law and Promise on skin or parchment which was drawn tight inside a wooden frame. One corner had a copy of the picture "The Pathfinder" in it. We then went into the second Troop room which was slightly different in layout. Each Patrol corner still had its wall decorations but they had roped off their corners by using nets made from rope. The Cub room was very good: it was cut off from the Troop room by the rope net and on going inside we found the room had been transformed into a cave by the use of crinkled brown paper on the walls. There were plaster of Paris plaques on the walls that had been made by the Cubs themselves. In the middle of the room was a cairn of big stones which made up the council rock. This last part put the finishing touch to the nicest Cub den I have ever seen.

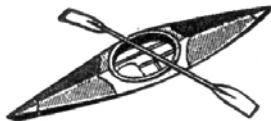
"The Rover den is a building on its own and there are no words which can suitably describe it. As we went in it was like coming into a modern home. There were curtains at all the windows, and round three sides were leather-bound window-seats. All the woodwork looked like light oak. There was wall lighting as well as the centre lights and at one end was written in Greek the motto 'BE PREPARED'."

Repercussion from the Devon Jamboree has meant a new A.C.C. Rovers and much more enthusiasm from the rank and file. These jobs do band Rovers together in no uncertain manner. Make an effort to go on one such "do" if you have a chance: it does your heart and spirit no end of good. Now the Rover County Committee of Devon are producing a quarterly news sheet and they promise me a copy regularly in future. Plus all 'this Denis Vincent of Beresford House, 41 Key-berry Road, Newton Abbot, would be only too pleased to put you in touch if you are holidaying down in that county this year: make a note of it.

London Rovers have a job on hand this summer: another International Patrol Camp at Gilwell, with open days on August Bank Holiday - much clearing up, providing tea, looking after stores and all the usual camp chores. Write me if you want to help, especially you Londoners. Don't be fright: camp with me and work hard and have a whale of a good time.

JACK SKILLEN.

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Proficiency Badges

DEAR EDITOR,

Reference was made by correspondents in the December issue to John Thurman's suggestion of having stocks of the commoner badges for immediate presentation and to Martyn Lamb's mention of this, speaking of Cubbing. at last year's National Conference. May I offer the following suggestions (at the risk of bombardment by enthusiastic Local Badge Secretaries!) by which this may be effected:-

(1) Local Associations to issue each Pack and Troop with a stock of the most popular badges. For the former, as there are only thirteen, there could be some of each. The number of each badge could depend upon (a) its degree of popularity, and (b) the complement of each Section, e.g., 18, 24, 30, etc.

(2) This stock could either be purchased outright or, in the case of the poorer Groups, remain the property of the Local Association in the hands of the Group. In either case the value of such (with reference to details elsewhere) should be shown in the Group's and L.A.'s Balance Sheets.

(3) After the presentation of such badges they could be replenished by forwarding the certificate counterfoils with the cash to the L.A. Badge Secretary. This could be done at agreed intervals, say monthly. In this way District Badge Records could be kept up to date.

Admittedly there are loopholes but the success of such a scheme would be dependent upon the honour of being able to be trusted. An isolated case of abuse would be negligible compared with the joy and encouragement it would give to the boy on receiving his badge immediately after he had earned it.

So much for remedying the delay in presenting badges but what about doing the same in arranging the tests? So many Districts appear to have unwieldy and costly methods by which contact is made with the examiners, thus frustrating the busy Scouter and damping the enthusiasm of the boy. Let us have the simplest method - direct contact between Scouter and examiner. The former to have a list of the names, addresses and, if possible, telephone numbers of the latter.

Cut out the "Red Tape" and let the stress be on the standard of tests and not on the method of procedure. Let's have "Proficiency with Efficiency!"

E. A. HUGHES,

A.D.C. (Cubs) and C.M., 10th Edmonton.



NATURE SCRAPBOOK: (4)
WHITETHROAT'S NEST AND EGGS

DEAR EDITOR,

Referring to Mr. L. Hillier's letter in the December SCOUTER, I think he will find that Badge Secretaries require the certificates for annual returns and for the information of I.H.Q. If he orders proficiency' badges as "replacements" - as I do - the Badge Secretary will then be in a position to omit the badges so ordered from statistical returns of badges gained. In this way a small stock (one or two) of the more common badges may be kept on hand and when a badge is eventually won, the certificate can then be sent to the Badge Secretary in the usual way, and the badge obtained in due course can be put back into stock. It will be apparent that the extra badges required need only be ordered at the outset.

I have been operating this system for some while, as have other Scouters in the District, and no trouble has ever been caused by it so far as I am aware. Replacements for badges must be made from time to time, as, especially with Cubs, they do get lost or badly worn and obviously another certificate cannot be granted.

N. R. HANDLEY,

C.M., 4th Purley and District.

Back Room Girls

DEAR EDITOR,

I wish to pay tribute to the authoress of the article "Why Scout - masters' Wives Grow Old Quickly," published in the December issue' of the SCOUTER. What grand encouragement in that last paragraph! I take off my hat to Mrs. Hull and many others like her who are doing' so much for Scouting, often behind the scenes. In fact an article could well be written on the "Back Room Girls."

It is amazing (or is it?) how many Guiders are destined to become Scouters' wives and who better than they to fill such a position of responsibility. They have had just the right kind of training, they share the same ideals and last but by no means least they UNDERSTAND (though they may not allow this to be noticed!).

As a teacher in a technical college, I have often heard teachers' wives referred to as "technical college widows" because of the number of evenings their husbands spend away at the college. I am sure many wives of active Scouters see much less of their husbands. I feel that I can write this now having recently retired from active Scouting.

Let us consider for a moment the duties or privileges-of these ladies. What we read of the article in last month's SCOUTER is so typical of what goes on in Scouters' homes. We all have our own additional experiences. For instance, the Group Committee meets on Monday - all the chairs in the house are required and so madam is relegated to the kitchen for a few hours where she can only stand preparing refreshments and washing up afterwards. A Gang Show is to be held - most of the costumes have to be made or borrowed (the Scouts rarely know where to get hold of these themselves) and many late hours are spent feverishly sewing until the date arrives. Dress call Saturday afternoon and evening right through, probably most of Sunday dress rehearsal and then the show. "Wasn't it marvellous?" the audience say to these ladies who can honestly retort "I don't know!" for they have been' packed in a "Black Hole of Calcutta" all the week with about twenty Scouts who must appear on the stage at the right time, and these ladies have never seen the show.

We could go on but time and space do not permit. However, one final point which might, well be discussed is the desirability of Scouters' wives helping at camp. I feel that in camps run single-handed by' married Scouters, a wife of the type described, camping or staying, near the site, can be an invaluable help with her Guiding (and guiding) experience. He knows exactly how she will react in emergencies and can therefore deal with them without hesitation, and what a stabilising effect on the first-year youngsters who may feel such a long way from home.

S. BUTTERS,

Darlington Assn.

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with interest the troubles and trials of a Scoutmaster's wife in the December SCOUTER, but feel her troubles are less than those of a Cubmaster's wife.

I have repeatedly stated that I am "on strike" but I still get my house full of little boys during concert rehearsals as I am the only pianist and I have a nice large living room. It invariably snows on rehearsal nights. My sheets are used as "Ghosts" and cut up for shorts (twenty-nine pairs); my son's shirts are taken in case some dear little boy turns up without one.

My nail scissors are used for handicraft evenings. In Bob-a-Job week I am constantly fetched to the door to supply a new card for Cubs who have filled the original card. None have yet volunteered to do a job for me.

The 'phone is constantly ringing and I have to placate anxious mothers and help with information when a small boy has lost his notice (a pause here; another Cub on the 'phone). These are a few but minor troubles compared with camp. I hide everything of value from carving knives to tea cloths. The only thing of value my husband can't whisk off to camp is his wife. He still has hopes. My garden was used as a campsite during the war and my living room "sleeping accommodation."

My fourteen-year-old daughter says it's bad enough to be a Cubmaster's daughter; what it's like to be his wife she can't imagine.

The only asset I have yet found is that I always get a fresh lettuce at the greengrocer's. The manager is a Cub's father.

My husband is well known as a Cubmaster so I will just sign

A CUBMASTER'S WIFE.

Dits and Dahs

DEAR EDITOR,

I would like to say how much I enjoyed the two articles on Signalling in the January and February issues of THE SCOUTER.

I tried out a number of the games suggested in the February issue with the First Class Training and Testing Course last week-end, and having copied them blindly from the magazine, I got caught over the specimen Instructors' card printed at the bottom of page 40. Just in case nobody else points this out to you, I am writing to let you know that the letter quoted in Section No. 7 on the specimen Instructors' card ought to be "U" and not "V."

The games were all well worth playing and were enjoyed.

KEN STEVENS.

Camp Chief's Deputy.

New (or Old) Curates

DEAR EDITOR,

I have just read the article "Our District" in the January issue of THE SCOUTER. Though I find no fault with the subject and contents generally, I do take exception to the picture painted of the new curate - "doing his best," but who hasn't a clue.

This personality (the new curate) has always been misrepresented in cartoons, jokes and actual life. I do plead that some other type be used by the pamphleteer who wishes to use some person or profession to make his own point clear.

With reference to Scouting in particular I should like to point out that both at the university and theological college the ordinand of today is found, in many cases, to be a member of the College Rover Crew. In my own college our Crew existed for the purpose of drawing into the Movement potential Scouters and seeing that they received training to fit them for the positions of Warranted Scouters. Most of the Crew were Wood Badge holders either before coming up to college or achieved this standard while in the Crew.

In the colleges Scouting is given serious consideration alongside other subjects and it is never held out as being a joke that a "new curate" might be expected to take out a Warrant in the Scout Group. A student is warned not to associate himself, as a Warranted Scouter, with a Group unless he has a clue and knows what he is about.

I know that there are exceptions but let them prove the rule. We give Scouting, for we are Scouts, a serious consideration - please treat us as more than a type to help bring home a point.

REV. C. HENDEY,

SM., 15th Wimbledon. ("A new curate.")

[I think Mr. Hendey is being over-solemn. We all have known parson Scouters who are the salt of the earth in both capacities. We have known others. - R. H.]

The Crux of the Problem

DEAR EDITOR,

"Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose"

The correspondence originating with G.S.M.'s letter has continued over a long period; and quite rightly, I think most of us would say, since this question of standards is probably one of the most important and certainly one of the most perplexing that a Scoutmaster - or any other youth leader for that matter - ever has to face. But what is a problem in this year of grace seems to have been already becoming a problem in '1909, a fact which struck me rather forcibly on looking into a valued possession, No.1 of Vol. 1 of the *Headquarters Gazette*, where I came upon the following:- "Last term we formed a Patrol of Boy Scouts as an experiment, and the result has been more than satisfactory. The boys whom we selected were all good fellows to start with, who fully realised that besides the pleasures which Scouting brings they would be called upon to bear their share of the responsibilities which the great game entails. It has emphasised many good points in their characters.

"It has tended to make them more purposeful, responsible, and thorough, and to instil into their minds the old maxim: 'Whatever is worth doing, is worth doing well,' a thing which it is always difficult to get small boys to see.

"You have given me leave to make suggestions, and there is one which I should like to make, viz., that no boy should be sworn in as a Scout except by someone who personally knows him or who receives a satisfactory testimonial about him. We have here one or two boys who have been sworn in during the holidays, who neither before nor since have shown that they realise the full purport of the brotherhood in which they have been enrolled."

I will make no comment except to suggest the essential truth of the old French saying, that (in homely English) the more things change the more they remain the same!

[This correspondence is now closed. - R. H.]

W. E. GOODCHILD.

The Cuckoo (continued from p. 4)

I must end this article with yet another problem. Adult cuckoos migrate back to their winter quarters from the beginning of July until about the third week in August. The juvenile birds leave in August and September independently of their parents. How does the young cuckoo, travelling alone for the first time, find its way to the shores of Africa? Call it instinct or "inherited memory" if you like. No one can give a more precise answer that really explains this amazing aspect of bird behaviour..

VISUAL YARNS

111. THE LEAGUE OF GOOD SAMARITANS

By REV. E. J. WEBB

INTRODUCTION

[On a blackboard you have a large copy of the Badge of the League of Good Samaritans.]



You must wonder whatever this is! I wondered myself when I saw it first. What a peculiar badge. It is made up of five symbols and a circle. It is the badge of an interdenominational society called "the League of Good Samaritans," and it expresses in miniature the lovely parable told by Jesus. The members of the League endeavour to carry out in practical fashion, the command of Jesus to go and do likewise. When a person is in difficulty or distress, the members get to work. One will lend a car, another, who is a carpenter, will do the woodwork, or if it is machinery that needs righting, the mechanic will lend a hand, or if a room needs wallpaper, it will be one who can do it. It started in 1910 when Herbert Buckley asked, "What can we do for Albert?", a member of a young man's class, who was stricken down and needed the help of others.

I. THE HORIZONTAL LINE

It is the man who was waylaid and wounded and left for dead. He lies pretty still and flat, doesn't he? The road he travelled is still a dangerous one, being rocky and desolate, with many caves where bandits can make hideouts; it wends its way for 19 miles through a deep ravine, notorious for robbers. Notice in the Bible story that they stripped him first, for the valuable raiment must not be dirtied or torn.

"A certain man," the parable says. Altering the meaning a little, we may wonder whether he was a little too certain. Was he not foolish to travel such a dangerous road without taking precautions? We have to remind young people that life is dangerous and difficult and that we are very foolish not to avail ourselves of the safeguards that are there. Above all, there is One, who will go with us and defend us.

II. THE VERTICAL LINE

It is the priest, stately, erect, proud, unbending, who passed by on the other side. He did see the victim, the narrative says so. It also says that it was "by chance" he came that way. It was probably not his normal route and he was confronted suddenly by the unexpected and the undesirable. Often the decisions we make have to be made rapidly on unforeseen issues. How can we be sure of making the right decision in such a case? Our general character must be sound. The priest's action shows a fault in his character; breakdown occurs where there is already a defect.

"By chance?" What sort of chance is it that gives an opportunity of doing good? Is it not more than chance? Some people are so heavenly-minded they are no earthly use. What makes the priest's action, or lack of action, so bad, is that he is on his way to Church!

III. THE HOOKED LINE

It is the Levite, looking, but not heeding, not pausing long enough to help. Did he say to himself, "If my master the priest did nothing, surely I am not called upon to do anything, since I am only an assistant?" Of course, the priest could have retorted, that it was an assistant's job! There is no shirking of personal responsibility, no "passing the buck." Perhaps both priest and Levite realised that if they stopped they would present an easy prey to the bandits and might incur their wrath for assisting one of their victims whom they would prefer to die, since dead men tell no tales. Fear of consequences never deters a truly brave man. They should have been willing to face the robbers had the latter returned.

THE CHILDREN'S ACT AND SCOUT ENTERTAINMENTS

by
L.H.Q. LEGAL ADVISER

Concern has been expressed by some Scouters lest a recent decision in one of the London Magistrates' Courts should have made it necessary for any Scout or Cub to be licensed by the local education authority before he may take part in a Scout entertainment, whether or not any charge is made to any of the audience.

No apprehension need be felt on this point; the decision in that case was on facts materially different from those of an entertainment of which the profits are devoted to the objects of the Scout Movement.

The point is clearly covered by Section 22 of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, which makes such a licence unnecessary provided:-

(a) the boy has not during the preceding six months taken part on more than six occasions in entertainments for which any charge was made to any of the audience, and

(b) the net proceeds of the entertainment are devoted to purposes other than the private profit of the promoters. This it will be seen covers taking part not only in Scout entertainments but also performances given to assist other worthy objects, such as, for instance, some need of a Church, or the building of a village hall.

It must, however, be noted that a licence is necessary for a boy who is going to exceed the permitted number of appearances whilst he is still of compulsory school age (i.e., until he has attained the age of 15, or if he attains the age of 15 during a school term, until the end of that term).

IV. THE BENT LINE

It is the Good Samaritan, bending right over in ministering mercy, by the roadside. The Samaritan was one excommunicated and hated by the Jews as the worst of heretics. He was also a stranger, an outsider, an enemy. Yet he proved to be neighbour. Nobody would have blamed the Samaritan, if *he* had passed by. Nobody would have expected anything else. Until Jesus made it clear, probably nobody at that time would have blamed priest or Levite for passing on. It was customary to leave the sick and wounded to die. Here is one of the merciful changes Jesus has wrought in human thinking. Anyway, the Samaritan did not say, "Why should I?"

V. THE FIGURE 2

It is the two pence, equal, we must not forget, to two days' wages, and therefore a considerable sum, enough to support a sick man for several days. The Samaritan did not grudge the cost.

The lawyer said, that the true neighbour was the one who showed mercy. How grudging is his praise. He will not even mention the hated word, "Samaritan."

VI. THE CIRCLE

It is THE Good Samaritan: the Lord Jesus Christ. "He found me bruised and dying and poured in oil and wine." Millions have become Good Samaritans through Christ, yes, and through this story He told. Maybe we can ask, not only, "Who is my neighbour?" but notice that Jesus really answered a different question, "Who proved neighbourly?", as well.

Whose neighbour am I? Who needs my help? There is no end to the answers that question will get.

Ideals won't work unless we do.

(Read Luke X 30-37.)

HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

THE COUNCIL

Dr. L. P. Jacks, M.A., D.D., LL.D., D.Litt., a member of the Council from 1934, was Called to Higher Service on February 17th, 1955.

I.H.Q. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Appointments

Headquarters Commissioner for Rover Scouts - Group Captain David Lumgair.

Legal Secretary - Ian Graham.

Field Commissioner, Yorkshire East and North Ridings - B. F. P. Blake.

Training Instructor, Gilwell Park - P. M. Groom.

Resignations

Acting Headquarters Commissioner for Rover Scouts - Lt.-Col. R. M. Gold.

INTERNATIONAL WEEKEND, GILWELL PARK

It is proposed to hold an International Weekend at Gilwell Park over the week-end of May 21st-22nd, 1955, for unwarranted Rover Scouts, Senior Scouts and Scouts over 15, who are proposing to camp or hike abroad this year or in the future or who may in due course be serving in H.M. Forces overseas, so as to give them an insight into International Scouting and advice in respect of Scout activities abroad and foreign travel generally.

Those attending will camp in the Boys' Camping Field at Gilwell and will be responsible for providing their own tentage and camp equipment and, apart from tea on the Saturday, their own feeding arrangements.

Full details in respect of the weekend may be obtained from the International Department at I.H.Q.

"BOY SCOUT"

As already announced, the pageant play *Boy Scout* will be presented in the Royal Albert Hall at 7.30 p.m. each evening from Monday, June 13th, to Saturday, June 18th, 1955, inclusive, with a matinee performance at 2.30 p.m. on June 18th.

Prices of admission will be 3s. 6d., 5s., 7s. 6d., 10s., 12s. 6d., and 15s. The Box Office will open for post orders only on Monday, May 2nd, and for personal callers on and after Monday, May 16th. Ticket Order Forms will be inserted in the April issue of THE SCOUTER.

UNSUITABLE CAMPING AREAS AND SITES

The List of Unsuitable Camping Areas and Sites for Scout Camps for 1955 has now been circulated to District Commissioners.

This list of sites which are not available, or which are not entirely suitable for the special conditions of Scout camping, is issued for the assistance of Scouters in arranging camps and to avoid applications being made to owners who have clearly indicated that it is not convenient for them to allow camping on their ground. The list also includes the names and addresses of people willing to help in certain areas.

The District Commissioner's copy may be consulted by Scouters, but further copies can be obtained from the Training Department at L.H.Q., price 6d. each (including postage).

FORMS P.C. AND P.C. (CUBS)

Forms P.C. and P.C. (Cubs) have been revised and the period of advance notification in respect of Camps and Pack Holidays extended from 21 days to 28 days.

The revised forms are available to L.A. Secretaries on request from I.H.Q., and may be obtained by Scouters from L.A. Secretaries in the usual way.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY SCOUTS' OWNS

At this time of the year, I.H.Q. receives many enquiries from Groups and Districts for advice about Scout Funds which might benefit from collections at Scouts' Owns.

Special objects which are suitable for these gifts are: Roland House; the B.-P. Memorial Fund; the Benevolent Fund. Roland House is particularly deserving of consideration this year.

COMMISSIONERS' DINNER

A Commissioners' Dinner, open to all Commissioners, will be held on Friday, April 22nd, 1955, at the Strand Corner House, Charing Cross, London, W.C.2, at 7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. Tickets, price 17s. 6d. each, may be obtained on application to the Administrative Secretary at L.H.Q.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

I.H.Q., including the Restaurant and the Scout Shops, will be closed from 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, April 7th, at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12th, 1955.

C. C. GOODHINO,

Administrative Secretary.

NOTES AND NEWS

MARCH COVER

This month's cover is by Mr. R. B. Herbert and shows Cubs of the 6th Norwich Group doing the jungle dance of Shere Khans Death.

SENIOR SCOUT EXPEDITION

The Oxford University Rover Crew is running a camp on Dartmoor for those Senior Scouts who will be unable to go to a camp of their own from July 30th to August 13th. The cost of the camp will be £5 for the fortnight, plus a non-returnable deposit of 5/- which must be sent with the application form. Each Scout must take a hike tent and lightweight equipment including a primus stove as much of the camping will be done above the wood line.

Application forms can be obtained from Mr. N. J. R. Napper, Hertford College, Oxford.

JEWISH SCOUTERS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the Council of Jewish Scouters will be held from April 22nd/24th, 1955, at Skeet House, Skeet Hill, near Orpington, Kent. Particulars can be obtained from the Conference Secretary, 202 Westbourne Park Road, London, W.1 1.

HILLCRAFT COURSES

The Capel Curig Youth Hostel will be organising hillcraft courses in the neighbouring mountains.

Each course will be of one week's duration and will be held in June, July, August and September. The cost will be 25/- per head.

Full details may be obtained from the Warden, Plas Curig Youth Hostel, Capel Curig, North Wales.

EMPIRE YOUTH SUNDAY

Under the patronage of H.M. The Queen, Empire Youth Sunday will be observed on May 22nd, 1955. Her Majesty has graciously intimated that she hopes to send a message to all who take part in the observance. Particulars of how to obtain a copy of the message, and of the special orders of service which have been drawn up, are given in a leaflet which may be obtained free of charge from the Secretary, Empire Youth Sunday Committee for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 44 Rutland Court, Denmark Hill, London, S.E.5.

PATROL LEADERS' TRAINING COURSE

A Training Course for Patrol Leaders of the Senior Troop will be held at Gilwell Park over the period Friday evening, May 13th, to Sunday, May 15th. Applications are invited from P.L.'s who are sixteen years of age and over and who hold the First Class Badge. The Course fee will be 10/-. Not more than one P.L. will be accepted from any Troop.

Applications to and full information from The Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, Chingford, E.4.

WOOD BADGE COURSES 1955

In all Courses, age limits for the appropriate Warrant holders are as follows—

- Pack Scouters, Eighteen years and over.*
- Troop Scouters, Twenty years and over.*
- Rover Scouters, Twenty-One years and over.*

In each section, probationary Scouters of the appropriate age may be accepted.

Gilwell Park

Cub Courses

- No. 135 Sunday, May 22nd—Friday, May 27th
- No. 136 Monday, June 13th—Saturday, June 18th
- No. 137 Monday, July 4th—Saturday, July 9th
- No. 138 Monday, July 18th—Saturday, July 23rd
- No. 139 Monday, August 8th—Saturday, August 13th
- No. 140 Monday, August 22nd—Saturday, August 27th

Scout Courses

- No. 236 Saturday, April 16th—Sunday, April 24th (Full)
- No. 237 Saturday, May 14th—Sunday, May 22nd
- No. 238 Saturday, June 4th—Sunday, June 12th
- No. 239 Saturday, June 25th—Sunday, July 3rd
- No. 240 Saturday, July 23rd—Sunday, July 31st
- No. 241 Saturday, August 13th—Sunday, August 21st
- No. 242 Saturday, August 27th—Sunday, September 4th
- No. 243 Saturday, September 17th—Sunday, September 25th

Rover Course

- No. 13 Saturday, July 9th—Saturday, July 16th
- Applications to:* Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, Chingford, E.4.

London (Gilwell Park)

- Cub, 3 W.E. May 14th Cub, 3 W.E. July 2nd
- Cub, Cont. August 8th—13th
- Scout, 3 W.E. April 9th (incl. Easter)
- Scout, Cant. August 13th—20th
- Scout, 5 W.E. Sept. 17th
- Apply:* The Secretary, London Office, 3 Cromwell Place, S.W.7

Scotland

- Cub, 4 W.E. May 21st (Rowallan)
- Cub, 4 W.E. June 4th (Fordell) (omitting June 11th/12th)
- Cub, Cant. July 25th—30th (Fordell)
- Scout, 5 W.E. April 23rd (Rowallan, last w/e at Fordell)
- Scout, 5 W.E. April 16th (Fordell)
- Scout, Cont. August 6th—14th (Fordell)
- Apply:* The Secretary, Boy Scouts Association, Scottish Headquarters, 44 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2.

Bedfordshire (Milton Ernest)

- Cub, 4 W.E. May 14th (omitting Whitsun)
- Scout, 5 W.E. May 7th (omitting Whitsun)
- Apply:* Capt. S. H. Starey, The Home Farm, Milton Ernest.

Birmingham (Yorks Wood)

- Cub, 3 W.E. June 11th
- Scout, 5 W.E. April 23rd (alternate week-ends)
- Apply:* (Cub) J. W. Hawtin, 31 Gillott Road, Birmingham, 16.
- (Scout) C. Raeburn, 36 Innage Road, Birmingham, 31.

Bristol (Woodisouse Park, Almo Scout, 3 W.E. June 10th (assemble Friday evening)

- Apply:* J. L. Moore, 28 Campden Hill Court, W.8.
- Scout, Cont. July 9th—16th
- Apply:* Rev. L. E. Whitlock, The Vicarage, St. James Road, Purley.

Sussex (Brighton)

- Cub, 2 W.E. May 28th (incl. Whitsun)
- Apply:* C. H. Goddard, 48 Milton Drive, Southwick, Sussex.

Warwickshire (Rough Close)

- Rover, 3 W.E. June 11th
- Apply:* P. W. Blandford, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon. **ndsbury**)
- Cub, 3 W.E. June 4th

Cumberland North and East (Grange-in-Borrowdale, Keswick) Scout, Cont. June 25th—July 3rd.

- Apply:* J. S. Dawson, 13 Cumwhinton Road, Carlisle.

Durham (Brancepeth)

- Scout, 5 W.E. June 4th
- Scout, Cant. August 6th—14th
- Apply:* C. Rogers, Woodcraft, Seaview Park, Whitburn, Co. Durham.

Cub, 3 W.E. July 9th

- Apply:* A. Knox, Laureldene, Park Road, West Hartlepool.

Herts (Well End)

- Cub, 3 W.E. June 11th
- Scout, 2 W.E. April 1st (incl. Easter, assemble Friday)
- Apply:* Harold Warren, 27 High Street, Ware.

Kent

- Cub, 3 W.E. June 4th (Tovil)
- Apply:* O. C. Simmons, 127 Upton Road, Bexley Heath.
- Scout, 4 W.E. April 30th (incl. Whitsun) (omitting May 14th/15th)

(Sevenoaks)

- Apply:* F. J. Peters, 22 Warren Wood Road, Rochester. Lancashire N.W.

Cub, 3 W.E. March 5th (Great Tower)

- Apply:* R. Waters, 72 Queen Street, Barrow-in-Furness.

Lancashire S.W. and Liverpool (Bispham Hall)

- Cub, 3 W.E. May 7th
- Apply:* P. Walmsley, 52 HaIshall Road, Birkdale, Southport.
- Scout, 5 W.E. June 4th
- Apply:* C. E. Booth, 21 Fullwood Park, Liverpool, 17.

Middlesex

- Sea Scout, 3 W.E. June 3rd (Osterley)
- Cub, 3 W.E. 4th June (S.A. Youth Centre, Sunbury)
- Scout, 3 W.E. May 6th (Elstree, assemble Friday evenings)
- Scout, 3 W.E. Sept. 16th (Elstree, assemble Friday evenings)
- Rover, 3 W.E. June 4th (Elstree)
- Apply:* J. A. Walter, Selwood, Cornwall Road, Hatch End.

Norfolk (Old Lakenham Hall)

- Cub, 1 long W.E. May 27th (Whitsun)
- Apply:* W. J. England, 17 Churchill Road, Norwich.

Northamptonshire (Thrapston)

- Cub, 3 W.E. April 2nd (alternate week-ends, indoor)
- Apply:* M. H. Lamb, 117 Headlands, Kettering.

Northumberland (Gosforth Park)

- Cub, 4W.E. June 11th
- Apply:* Miss G. Peel, "Ullathorne," 9 Eaglescliffe Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne, 7.
- Scout, 5 W.E. Sept. 3rd
- Apply:* D. M. Paulin, Boy Scout Camps, Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, 3.

Nottinghamshire (Waleshy)

- Cub, Cant. April 8th—12th (Easter) Indoors
- Scout, Cant. June 11th—19th
- Apply:* J. N. Davey, B.S.A. Headquarters, Shakespeare St., Nottingham.

Shropshire (The Wrekin)

- Scout, Cant. July 30th
- Apply:* F. Tippet, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Salop.

South Staffordshire

- Cub, 3 W.E. Sept. 10th-11th (indoors at "The Mount," Penn Road, Wolverhampton).
- Apply:* Miss D. Overton, 92 Lower Villiers Street, Wolverhampton.
- Scout, 5 W.E. August 27th—28th (omitting Sept. 10th-11th), at "Gay Hills," Lower Penn, Wolverhampton.
- Apply:* J. K. Davies, Chequers, 29 Patricia Avenue, Goldform Park Wolverhampton.

Surrey (Bentley Copse)

- Cub, 2 W.E. May 21st (mel. Whitsun) Assemble 4 p.m., 27th
- Apply:* Miss R. Guggisberg, Trenowan, Tupwood Lane, Caterham.
- Apply:* A. C. Hone, 6 Greenacre Road, Knowles, Bristol.
- Scout To be arranged.
- Apply:* W. G. Webber, 2 Ableton Walk, Sea Mills, Bristol.

Cambridgeshire (Abington) for East Anglia

Scout, 3 W.E. April 9th (incl. Easter, omitting April 22nd/24th)
assemble on Friday evenings

Apply: R. B. Herbert, Old Lakenham Hall, Norwich.

Cheshire W. (Overchurch)

Cub, 3 W.E. May 14th (incl. Whitsun)

Apply: J. P. Hindley, 10 Warwick Drive, West Kirkby, Wirral.

Worcestershire (Kinver)

Scout, 5 W.E. June 11th (omitting July 2nd)

Apply: David Fleming, 24 St. Peters Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge.

Yorkshire Central (Bradley Wood)

Cub, 2 W.E. May 21st (incl. Whitsun)

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

Scout, 5 W.E. August 27th (omitting Sept. 17th)

Apply: John E. Wilson, Grinkle Dene, Linton, nr. Wetherby.

Yorkshire South (Hesley Wood)

Cub, 3 W.E. May 7th

Apply: Miss M. Stephens, 3 Victoria Crescent, Barnsley.

Scout, 4. W.E. June 11th (assemble 10 a.m. Sat.)

Apply: J. Dorgan, 1 White Lane, Chapelton, Sheffield.

Wales S.E. (Miskin)

Scout, 5 W.E. April 23rd

Apply: J. P. Garrett, Buckland, 313 Kings Acre Road, Hereford.

Cub, 3 W.E. April 2nd

Apply: Miss E. M. Jones, 37 Grosvenor Street, Canton, Cardiff.

Wales S.W.

Scout, 5 W.E. June 4th (Silver Cross Camp, Penllergaer) *Apply:*

Frank Thomas, 57 Glanmor Road, Swansea.

Northern Ireland

Scout, 3 W.E. June 3rd—5th (assemble Friday) Cub, 3 W.E.
August 13th—14th

Apply: Ernest Moore, Northern Ireland Scout Council, 50, Dublin
Road, Belfast.

FOUR COUNTIES ROVER MOOT

Four Counties (Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Wiltshire) Rover Moot, 1955, will be held at Banbury on September 17th/18th. Further details will be published shortly.

TELEVISION FILM

Mr. H. Seymour Thomas, Oerley Hall, Oswestry, is willing to hire out the television film of their Mid-winter Snowdonia Expedition to interested Scouters for 2/6. It is 16 mm. size and silent.

LOOK WIDE COMPETITION

The winner of this competition, which appeared in the May 1954 issue, is the 155th North London Group, and as the number of entries was very small only one prize will be awarded.

An account of the actual trip to Hunza and back will appear shortly.

OPERATION COWBOY

Mr. Ross Salmon, the well-known author and T.V. personality, will be holding courses on his farm on Dartmoor to teach horse-riding, rope-spinning, cattle ranching, pioneering and exploring during the summer holidays. Full details are available from Mr. Ross Salmon, Springdale Farm, Longdown, Exeter, Devon.

I.H.Q. SPEAKERS' VISITS FOR APRIL

2nd Durham Cubmaster's Conference

16th/17th Derbyshire Scouters' Conference Wiltshire Senioree

30th/1st May Visit to Jersey

B.-P. Guild Speakers for April

1st North Staffordshire Get-Together, Twyford Hall, Hanley

14th or 21st Taunton Annual General Meeting

15th Scottish B.-P. Guild Conference, Glasgow

16th 5th N. London B.-P. Guild Reunion Dinner

16th East Ham B.-P. Guild Week-end Conference

CLASSIFIED

COMING EVENTS

1st Chesham Bois Scouts present "Our Show - 1955," a new revue written by Ralph Reader, at Pioneer Hall, Bois Lane, Chesham Bois, for nine nights. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, March 17th, 18th, 19th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 31st, April 1st and 2nd. Tickets numbered, 3/6 and 2/-. Order forms from Mr. F. E. Davies, Lynton, Chesham, Bucks.

The 9th and 15th Stepney Scout Groups present their 4th Annual "Gang Show" at Roland House Scout Hall, Stepney Green, E.1. on Friday 1st, Sat. 2nd, Friday 15th April, at 7.30 p.m. All seats numbered and reserved 2/6, 3/6 and 5/-. Special reduced rates for organised parties on both Fridays. Box Office: Mr. G. H. Fail, 259 Stepney Way, Stepney, London, E.1.

2nd Whitton Group presents "Our Show, 1955," April 13th, 14th and 15th. Tickets 5/-, 3/6, 2/6, from A. W. Holmes, 48 Montrose Avenue, Whitton, Twickenham.

Senioree, Pockeridge Park, Corsham, Wilts, April 16th—17th. Programme includes speakers on Sport, Toxophily, Anthropology and other activities. Write details to P.L.(S) J. Spencer, Gastard, Corsham, Wilts. All Senior Scouts welcome.

"Our Show, 1955" - the Hertford Gang Show, each evening, April 18th/23rd inclusive, at the Corn Exchange, Hertford. Tickets 5s. 6d., 3s. 9d. and 2s. 9d. weekdays, 6s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. on Saturday. Immediate application should be made by post to Mr. A. A. Franklin, "Benalva," Farquhar Street, Bengoe, Hertford, Hens.

The Boy Scouts of Newcastle upon Tyne present The Gang Show 1955 at the Theatre Royal, April 18th to 23rd, inclusive. "This is the Life." Horsham and District Gang Show, Capitol Theatre, Horsham, April 18th—23rd. Reserved seats 5s., 4s., 3s. and 2s. Reductions for parties. *Apply:* 5 Churchill Avenue, Horsham.

Hornsey and Tottenham L.A. present their Gang Show 1955 at Hornsey Town Hall, Crouch End, Broadway, N.8, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 19th—23rd. Tickets 5/-, 3/6, 2/6 and 1/6 all reserved, obtainable from: *Hornsey:* W. A. Ailman, 17 Myddleton Gdns., N.21. Tel.: Labunum 2404. *Tottenham:* G. Downes, 112 Roslyn Rd., N.15. Tel.: Stamford Hill 9538.

Burnham District Scouts and Old Scouts are producing Revue "Jamboree Bound" at Taplow, April 20th and 21st, and at Burnham, April 22nd and 23rd, to help local Scouts going to the 8th World Jamboree. Ticket order forms from N.E. Wallis, Nortonbury, Taplow, Maidenhead.

"We'll Do Our Best"... Wembley and Sudbury District Wolf Cubs present their 1955 Cubborree on Friday and Saturday, April 22nd and 23rd at Wembley County School at 7.30 p.m. All tickets numbered and reserved 1/6, 2/6, 3/6, obtainable from R. Hopkins, 75 Riverside Gardens, Alperton, Middx. (Perivale 9610). All orders to be accompanied by cash and S.A.E. Box office now open. Book early to avoid disappointment

"Coopers Capers." The 11th Stepney (Coopers' Company's School) Troop announce their 7th Annual Show. Many new songs by Don Sutherland. Dates: April 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th. Place: Roland House Scout Hall, Stepney Green, E.1. Tickets (all reserved) 3/6, 2/6, 1/6. Early application advised to "Coopers Capers," 17 Glenavon Road, London, E.15.

Welcome to Wiltshire for the Annual Rover Moot, April 30th—May 1st, at Devizes. Many new speakers; all meals provided. Programmes from R. T. Kemp, 31 Brittox, Devizes, Wilts. (S.A.E. please.)

Gang Show. City of Nottingham Boy Scouts Association Gang Show, Theatre Royal, Nottingham, May 2nd—7th. Advance booking form from Hon. Secretary, Scout Headquarters, Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.

Sussex County Rover Moot 1955, September 17th and 18th, Haywards Heath area. Full programme, including Ralph Reader. Details from R. Timms, 29 Wood Ride, Haywards Heath, Sussex. Isle of Wight Rover Moot, Puckpool, Ryde, Sept. 24th—25th.

ACCOMMODATION

Why Not Camp in Wales? Excellent camping facilities for large or small units on beautiful estate purchased by gift from South Africa Aid to Britain Fund. Close to finest sea and mountain scenery. All equipment available for hire if desired. Write for full details to: The Warden, Rhowniar Youth Camp, Nr. Towyn, Merionethshire.

For your summer camp come to Silverdale, seaside and lovely country, ideal for a real Scout holiday. For particulars of good camp sites write to Mr. Roscoe (Grocer and Provision Merchant), 18 Emesgate Lane, Silverdale, Nr. Carnforth, Lancs.

Cornaa Beach and Valley camp sites. Every amenity. Particulars from Shimmin, Glen Mona Stores, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

Camping. City of Nottingham Boy Scouts Association camp site of 250 acres woodland and open country, near Sherwood Forest. Particulars from the Warden, Walesby Forest, Nr. Newark, Notts.

Camping? Come to Hophill, the Gravesend and District Camping and Training Ground, situated on the North Downs at Meopham, Kent (51/637642). Good camping in beautiful surroundings. Ideal for map reading exercises, wide games, badge work and nature study. Cub camping. Enquiries welcomed by the Warden, A.D.C. H. Bennett, ("Skipper"), 5 Moscow Road, Gravesend, Kent.

Buckmore Park - a Scout Camp Site and Training Ground of over 60 acres. Ideal for Scout summer camps and excellent facilities for Cub Camps and Pack Holidays. Details - Camp Warden, Buckmore Park, Chatham, Kent.

12 Hans Road, London, S.W.3 (Kensington 5951), has been opened as a hotel by Adeline Willis, formerly Warden of the International Guide Hostel in London. Rooms (some with private baths) and breakfast from 17s. 6d. to 25s. Dinners by arrangement. Special weekly terms. Convenient for main line stations, I.H.Q., shopping and sightseeing. Scouters and their families specially welcome.

EMPLOYMENT

The Church Army offers a Free Two-Year Course of Training, with small allowance, to suitable keen Christians, between the ages 18—33; 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.1.

Merchant Navy Radio Officer Cadet Training School, World Travel and Adventure Overseas, Brooks' Bar Manchester.

Scouter requires help. Ten years' experience Shopfitting Surveyor and Estimator, with all types interiors. After twelve months' inside work, advised to return to outdoor activity. Seeks post as Representative, Supervisor, or similar. Clean driving licence. Age 39. S.E. Lancashire. Box 198, THE SCOUTER.

A Scouter and his wife require help in small South Coast Guest House. Generous leisure hours daily, plus weekly half-day. Good salary. Other help given. Box 200, THE SCOUTER.

Victoria College, Alexandria, Egypt. Resident Scoutmaster required for Sea Scouts who would also be qualified to teach General Subjects in the Lower and/or Preparatory School. Salary within the scale £E500 x £E20 to £E840 p.a. A deduction of £E60 p.a. will be made in respect of part cost of board and lodging. Provident Fund. Passage to Egypt paid and return passage or holiday travelling allowance at end of two years. Passage allowance also granted for wives and children of married Masters. Apply Mr. A. R. Hogg, 27 Elgin Road, Bournemouth, Representative in England of the Council of Victoria College, Alexandria.

PERSONAL

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

Cord Shorts by Dover have been reduced in price for the next 3 months to enable you to buy now ready for the season ahead. S.A.E. for patterns to Ossie Dover, "The Cycling Tailor," 160 Kensington, Liverpool, 7. Phone: Anfield 1683.

Belgian Surgeon wants exchange or hospitality for son 18, daughter 15, in July. Not together. Churchill, 82A, Granville Road, Sevenoaks.

Hampshire Cub Song Book—just reprinted again. Have you sent for your copy? Your Cubs will love it. Price 1s. (linen cover) or 6d. (card cover) plus postage. Special terms for quantities above 50. Cash with order. Miss Barrett, 236 Vale Drive, Bitterne, Southampton.

Canal Boat for hire, equipped for twelve. Special rates for Scouts £12 per week including fuel, excluding tolls. Mrs. Knill, Bee-Line Waterway Cruisers, Top Lock, Braunston, Rugby.

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. Theatrical and fancy-dress costumes. Artistic, fresh, colourful. Moderate charges. Black Lion Costumes, 25 Sommerville Road, Bristol, 7. Phone 41345.

A.S. 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.

Wild Life. A 16 mm. sound or silent film depicting the wild life of the British countryside. Particulars of hire from Secretary, L.A.C.S., 58 Maddox Street, London, W.1.

Scouter (24) seeks companion(s) for hike holiday in the Black Forest (July). Box 199, THE SCOUTER.

Talking Film Shows. For your Annual General Meeting, your Scout, Guide or Cub parties, why not have a Film Show? I provide full sound equipment and can screen any film you wish. Another good idea is to have a monthly film show when some of the very good older films can be enjoyed again in the comfort of your H.Q. I also present film shows in private homes which are always a considerable attraction. F. Burton, 27 Audley Court, South Woodford, London, E.18. Tel.: Wanstead 6202.

Heating by gas-fired infra-red heaters. Cheapest warmth for halls, etc. Write for details of special offer to Scout Organisations, The "RayHeat"ing Co. Ltd., Leatherhead, Surrey.

Scouts. Why not organise a Paper Salvage Drive? We buy newspaper, magazines and cardboard cartons flattened and tied in bundles. Write for quotations and collection arrangements to: Richardsons (Salvage Merchants) Ltd., St. Ann's Wharf, King Street, Norwich. Tel.: 21865.

"Scout-Ink Catalogue" No. 35. 32 pages illustrated. Group Progress Records: District Records: Certificates: Camp Bank Cards and Forms: Envelopes and Postcards: Posters: Programme Blanks: Letter Headings: Duplicated Magazines: Receipt Books: Compliment Slips: Birthday Cards: Rubber Stamps: Badges: Armlets: Rosettes: Nametapes. Send postcard to Stacy Ltd., 99 Kingsland High Street, London, E.8.

Lady C.M. uniforms made to measure from 65/-. Dress, skirt, battle-blouse and/or shirt. Send S.A.E. for patterns and self-measurement form to Miss Puttock, Upeotts, Everton, Lymington, Hants.

Trek cart wanted, wooden, in good condition. Thompson. The Grammar School, Brewood, Stafford.

Wanted. Four ex-Army Ridge Tents for School Troop, Apply D. Herd-man, Downside School, Purley, Surrey. Uplands 0558.

Photographic processing for the discriminating amateur. Discount to Scouters. Hayden Carr, S.M.(S), 7 Blenheim Place, Brighton, 1.

Rover has been able to arrange with Lloyd's Underwriters specially reduced premiums for private and commercial motor insurance for warranted Scouters. Rover Scout Mills, 123 Queen Victoria St., E.C.4.

STAMPS

Requests invited from general collectors for approval selection of fine used and mint stamps. Albums, accessories and new stamp catalogues in stock. Approval selections can be sent overseas against a minimum deposit of £1. Prompt and courteous service. P. F. Gray, 4 Old Palace Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

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Length 7' 6", width, at front 4' 6", at rear pole 1' 6", height, at front 4', at rear pole 1' 6" Weight 2½ lb.
Price, with alloy poles £7 5 0
Groundsheet (1½ lb.) £1 15 0
Flysheets (2 lb.) £4 12 6



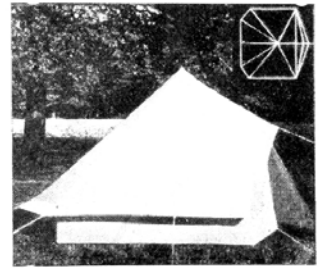
"ITISA Mk. II"

Width 7' 6", depth 6' 9", height 5' 6" Weight 3 lb. 6 oz. Price, with alloy pole £8 17 6
Groundsheet (2½ lb.) £3 0 0
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"NOOK"

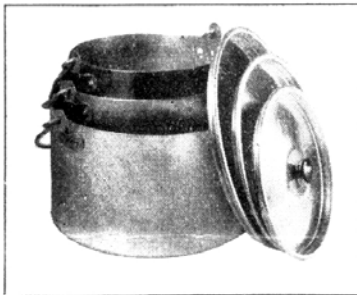
Width 7', depth 5' 2", height 4' 6", walls 9". Weight 3½ lb. Price, with alloy pole £9 10 0
Groundsheet (2 lb.) £2 10 0
Flysheets (2½ lb.) £6 2 6



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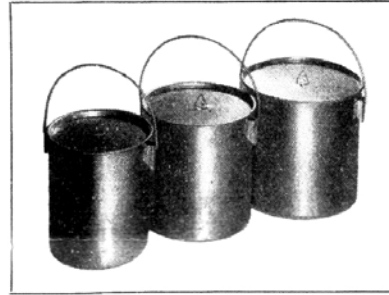
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Strong Campfire Billy Sets!



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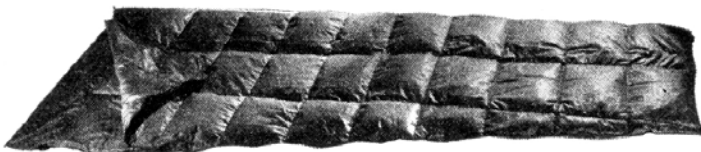
A serviceable set of stout gauge aluminium, seamless, with fixed handles. Capacity of saucepans 2½, 4½ and 6½ pints. Do not nest completely, but as illustrated, packed size 10" x 7". Weight 3 lb. 6 oz. Price 25 -. Post and packing 2 6 extra.



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Heavy gauge aluminium, capacity 5, 8 and 10 pints. Seamless bases. Detachable handles. The two smaller saucepans nest inside the largest. Packed size 8" square, weight 3½ lb. Price 39 6. Post and packing 2 6 extra.

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1955
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A weekend tent. Length 6'6" width 4'6", height 3'6", 9' walls. Weight 5½ lbs.

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