

THE GUIDER

Published Monthly for Commissioners and Guiders

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'Otsego'—Place of Meeting

THERE is no doubt that the setting of the World Conference at Cooperstown, New York, was largely responsible for the happy atmosphere in which the deliberations took place. The road from Fort Plains (the nearest station twenty-seven miles away) climbs steadily, and for the last eight or nine miles runs near a lovely lake, seen at times through the trees. This is the Otsego lake, an Indian word meaning 'place of meeting'. At the extreme end of the lake stands the Otesaga Hotel where the conference was held. Under its columned entrance all the flags of the countries represented by delegates at the conference were held by some of the members of the three hostess countries—Brazil, Canada and the U.S.A.—who had come to act as 'aides' to the delegates and visitors. So by going to her flag each person quickly found her own 'aide'.

Tea was served on the balcony on the other side of the hotel and there lay the lake, stretching away with wooded hillsides coming down to its shores, broken here and there with patches of green grass and the camp where the 'aides' were living. The lake with the morning mists, the sun by day and the moon by night, will always spring to the mind of anyone present at the 12th World Conference.

The camp for the 'aides' had been put up in thirteen units or groups by Girl Scouts who had not stayed. The 'aides' were Guides from Canada, Girl Scouts from U.S.A. and Bandeirantes from Brazil who were each attached to one or two delegates or visitors. They had long days these 'aides'.

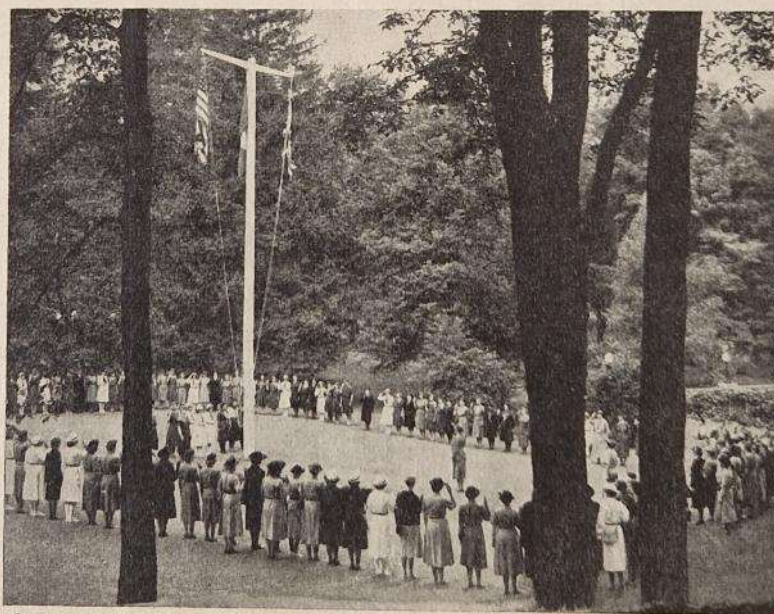
and their camp, open to visitors, was a mile from the place of the conference, but they were quite tireless in their desire to help in every possible way.

The meeting of the World Conference was not all work. Almost every day there was some highlight of ceremonial or social entertainment. Colours each morning was an impressive ceremony. On a lawn in front of the Otesaga Hotel a huge flagstaff with a crossbar at the top was erected. On this were three halliards and each day the Brazilian, Canadian and United States flags were hoisted simultaneously. The back of the horseshoe was formed by the 'aides' from the camp, while the delegates made one side and the members of the World Committee the other.

Another moment of ceremonial was the big campfire, held near the lake. As darkness fell, and the stars came out, a great fire was ceremoniously lighted—'Kneel always when you light a fire. . . .'. Then all the delegates, each led by the flag of her country, made a semi-circle

round the fire and in turn stepped forward and threw a faggot in the blaze, giving a wish from her country at the same time. Many of the delegates were wearing national dress, and the bright colours and delicate lace showed up in the light of the flames, leaping many feet into the air.

After the ceremonial campfire delegates, campers and visitors withdrew to the balcony of the hotel for an impromptu entertainment. Switzerland, the Netherlands, Sweden and others danced, and the Brazilians and Mexicans sang. Canada showed in an amusing way



Colours each morning in this lovely setting was an impressive ceremony at the World Conference. Guiders from twenty-three nations salute the flags of Brazil, Canada and the United States

Films brought by a number of nations were shown on another evening. Norway and Denmark had coloured films

These are but a few of the impressions of a memorable week that in its turn came in a visit to a country whose kind hospitality and great friendliness will never be forgotten by any of the British delegation.

J. M. NEWNHAM

Gardening: For this, one needs as many cards with names of flowers or trees as there are Guides playing, and samples of flower, leaf and seedpod of each of these plants. Each

If you were to hear us playing our games you would realise that Guiding has a very special kind of enchantment—it can transform the four walls of the city hospital into the open spaces of the country, with tents on the slope below, and even the scent of the woodsmoke tickling one's nose. What a vision, and what a game!

SYDNEY FOOTT

At the Top of the Ladder

THE Queen's Guide Award was instituted nearly three years ago, and from the experience of testers two facts are emerging which deserve careful thought. One is that a girl may be a First Class Guide and have fulfilled all the preliminary requirements and yet her B.P. test may prove her to be a quite unsuitable candidate. The other fact is the preponderance of Little House Emblems over Woodcraft Emblems among Queen's Guide candidates.

The aim of Guiding is to help every girl to achieve the highest development of which she is capable. The method is to present to each Guide a target which, although it is just beyond her reach, is yet so little beyond it that she can herself feel that effort and practice will enable her to achieve it quite soon. At each stage the distance between the Guide and her target is increased, but the Queen's Guide B.P. test is the only test which a Guide is asked to take without knowing exactly what she must be prepared for. When a Guide enters for this test without being physically and mentally mature enough for it the result is waste of time, disappointment, and perhaps permanent harm to her keenness and confidence. To avoid this we need to picture clearly the difference between the First Class Guide and the Queen's Guide.

First of all in a Queen's Guide we look for initiative and self-reliance. This summer a camp was badly flooded on a wild, black night of wind and rain. The Patrol Leaders and older Guides set a splendid example of cheerful helpfulness in a cold, unpleasant and rather frightening situation. But the girl who stood out as a future Queen's Guide was the thirteen-year-old who asked for the job of going with Q.M. to light a fire out of doors at 2 a.m. to boil water for making drinks. The First Class Guide cheerfully puts up with discomforts and difficulties; the Queen's Guide delights in overcoming them.

The other quality lacking in many unsuccessful candidates is effectiveness—not the same thing as efficiency; many candidates who fail are efficient. The efficient Guide is one who knows her technical work, and who, given the appropriate circumstances, can apply it. To be a really effective person (and this is what a Queen's Guide must be) a Guide has to be able to apply every bit of relevant knowledge in any circumstances in which she may find herself. And she must be able to apply it to produce a result; good ideas and intentions are not enough. A First Class Guide is expected to be able to direct a stranger about her own town; a Queen's Guide confronted in a strange neighbourhood with a foreigner, would be expected to find out the required information and to devise some method of communicating it.

Next we should consider whether there is any connection between the presence or absence of these qualities of initiative and effectiveness, and the choice by the candidate of the Little House or of the Woodcraft Emblem. Homecraft is a most valuable part of Guiding and we do not want for a moment to belittle its importance. But at the same time we need to remember that Guiding sprang from Scouting, and that, in Scouting, it is woodcraft which is the great developer of character. In particular it brings out initiative and effectiveness. So much of woodcraft must be done alone—two stokers can be fatal to a struggling fire—and in contending alone with nature good ideas go nowhere unless they are effectively carried out. Think of the useless, over-elaborate gadget which will never stop wobbling because it has never been strengthened in the one right place.

Do not let us ever discourage our Guides from taking the Little House Emblem, but let us remember that because so much of the ground for it is covered in school it calls for far less individual work than the Woodcraft Emblem. It is, of the two emblems the more likely to become the refuge of the lazy girl, and, from its very content, it will have done less to prepare its holder for her B.P. test. We should ask

ourselves of any candidate holding the Little House emblem, 'Is she just an ordinary, reliable, domesticated girl, or has she got those qualities of initiative and courage which a Queen's Guide needs?' And if she has, are we giving her the opportunities for outdoor work on her own which will develop her character and prepare her for the test? In the same way a Guide who has specialised in woodcraft should

be helped to apply her camping abilities to home life.

The proportion of candidates who fail in their B.P. test is on the increase and from time to time cases of hardship are brought forward, and suggestions are made for bringing the award within the reach of more Guides. This article is a plea that, for the sake of the Guides themselves, there may be no whittling away of the standard of the Queen's Guide Award. If we are to fulfil our aim of helping every girl we must keep the lower rungs of the Guide ladder so close together that even the weakest can attempt the next step up; and we must never forget the many Guides whose progress must be measured more by the effort put forth than by the result produced. But there are other Guides and we shall be failing them if we do not retain, at the top of the ladder, one test which can only be attempted by the finest Guides the movement can produce.

SARAH BRANSON



'In a Queen's Guide we look for initiative and self-reliance.'

Parcels for the G.I.S.

In the bombed city of Hanover, Team 136 Relief Section G.I.S. are looking to the welfare of 20,000 Displaced Persons.

During the past twelve months some of these people have emigrated to England, Canada, Australia, some are still hoping to emigrate, and some, through no fault of their own, will have no hope of going away to make a new home in a new country. It is for these people who are going to be left behind, these 'people without a country' that I want to ask your help. The team has forty-three camps to look after—some over two hundred miles from Hanover—there are three children's homes, two mental homes, over twenty-five German hospitals, where D.P.s are taken when too sick to remain in the camp sick bays, and one large T.B. sanatorium where some four hundred patients are lying, many with no hope of recovery. There are, too, D.P. men and women injured during the bombing raids on Hanover who are inmates of the Bismark Schule Plastic Hospital. They have few clothes, no comforts, and yet all they ask is a pack of cards to pass the time away.

The kindergartens, school children, Guides and Scouts, all love to see English picture books (old ones of course) and anything that can be spared from the company, such as cord, balls, first aid and hiking equipment, would give very great pleasure to the Latvian or Estonian Guide or Scout.

Clothes, handicrafts and woollen garments for mental patients to re-knit will be welcome and can be sent to the address below.

It is advisable to sew your parcel in sack, and to sew on a piece of white material with the address. A tie-on label for the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Association must be obtained from the post office and the address, your own address and contents of parcel written on it and stamps affixed. A 7-lb. parcel costs 2s. 3d., 11 lbs. 3s. 6d., and 22 lbs. 5s. 6d.

Thank you so much for what you have sent to us in the past.

GWEN E. HESKETH,

Team Leader, 136 Relief Section, G.I.S., B.A.O.R., 5.

Can You Speak in Public?

AN old lady was once asked the secret of her charm. She replied: 'In the alphabet of charm there is no letter "I". It is replaced by the letter "U"'. The old lady's recipe is equally good for public speaking. To the speaker, that letter 'U' represents the audience.

Who are you going to talk to? Are you going to give a five minutes' talk on parents' night? Do you want to say something at the Court of Honour about the general tone of the company? Are you wrestling with a twenty minutes' talk to the Local Association? Or are you going to try and give a talk to a sixth form on the opportunities of Guiding?

These are four very different audiences. Whatever you want to say to them you will only get it home effectively if you have some real understanding of their background and of their point of view. So before you begin constructing your talk it is a good plan to let your mind wander about among your people. Picture them to yourself. Try to see things with their eyes. Make yourself at home with them. Time so spent is well spent for it brings at least three gains.

1. It will help you to decide the exact content of your talk and the angle from which to present your material.

2. It will save you from becoming a crank on your pet subject. In Guiding, individuals are always more important than ideas.

3. It will overcome your nervousness which is due to a fear of 'putting up a bad show'. In other words, you're only nervous when you're thinking about yourself and the kind of figure you're cutting!

Having put your people first you can now safely turn to your ideas. What *exactly* do you want to say? Don't be satisfied with some hazy, woolly generalisation. There is some definite bit of knowledge you want to teach; some definite idea you want to put before people; some ideal for which you want their allegiance. Exactly what is it you want to say? Get it clear in your own mind—write it down; it is the core of your talk.

I suggest that the next stage in your preparation will be to look around in your own experience for little incidents or stories or poems that will illustrate and light up your talk. Perhaps you are enrolling some recruits. You know their home circumstances and you know that for them Guiding is going to be a big struggle. You want them to realise it is going to be a struggle, but that in the end something lovely is going to come out of it. That's the core of your talk. How can you put a living certainty into it?

You lie on the grass wondering. Before your very eyes, a tiny bit of the lawn begins to heave. The hard earth cracks. Out of the crack comes a minute snout, followed by little brown wings, folded, and a baby moth struggles out, staggers a few inches, rests a moment in the sunshine, then spreads its wings and flies away. Out of the struggle a beautiful thing is born. In a similar way, incidents in the newspapers and magazines, poems, tales, and even the apparently insignificant happenings of an uneventful life can serve your purpose. So, search for little bits of real life that will make your ideas come alive.

Any good talk has a definite structure. There is the *preparation*, the *presentation* and the *conclusion*. There should also be the *response*.

The preparation should always be short, running to a few sentences at most. It should do two things; it should establish a friendly relationship between speaker and audience, and it should give a clear indication of what the talk is to be about.

The presentation sets out the main theme. It will divide itself into sections and sub-sections with their appropriate illustrations, all fitting into each other like the parts of a jig-saw puzzle. In it you must say as clearly and as attractively as you can what it is you set out to say.

The conclusion should be short too, but it should be as

telling and effective as you can possibly make it. It must drive home your ideas. A story, a poem, a quotation, can often sum up all you have been saying.

The response is to a large extent beyond the control of the speaker. It is the listeners' reaction to the talk. A Guider will always give a talk for a definite purpose. Her talk is therefore unfinished unless it stimulates her hearers 'to do something about it'.

Under these four headings you will write out your talk very fully, putting in those bits of real life, the stories and the poems as you go. You will then be able to read it through aloud to yourself, a blue pencil in your hand and a watchful eye on the clock. Set yourself a time limit and stick to it. Your fourth heading, of course, will have to be left blank, but later on, if you've found your Guides 'doing something about it', you can fill it in, just for interest.

You will now want to set out on a postcard the sections of your talk, numbering them 1, 2 and 3. The sub-sections will be a, b and c. This skeleton is what you will take with you. But you will now try to make yourself so familiar with every detail of your talk that the postcard will be unheeded, and you will be able to talk direct to your people without the barrier of a bit of paper between you.

I suppose that nervousness is the beginner's biggest worry. But how *can* you be nervous? You are very interested in your people; your mind is quite clear on what you want to say; you are so familiar with your talk you could give it in your sleep. If it comes to the worst you've got your little postcard to glance at. What is there to worry about? So snap your fingers at that self-regarding Ego and go ahead. In other words don't spare yourself in the preparation—then forget yourself entirely.

There is no doubt that practice improves one's speaking. So, if your first talk is not quite the success you expected, go in for a little wholesome self-criticism. If there is an opportunity, chat informally with your audience afterwards and pick up any hints. Discuss your disappointment with a friend. Then, having learnt your lesson, find an opportunity to give the same talk to a different audience. In fact, the same talk given three or four times, with modifications, will increase your confidence and ease.

Talks for Guides' Owns can be very effective if a Bible story, particularly a parable, is retold in terms of the present day. A miner, cycling home late at night, was set upon by some drunken roughs who threw him off his bicycle so that his head struck the road, robbed him of the few shillings he had in his pocket and left him unconscious in the gutter. Early in the morning a lorry driver, taking vegetables to the market, saw the figure lying there in the grey light of dawn. But he was driving fast as he had overslept. It wasn't long before a man on early shift in the factory hurried along. He, too, saw the figure lying in the gutter and crossed over to have a look. He even remembered he had seen the man at the Working Men's Club and muttered, 'Poor chap'. But he couldn't stop to do anything. He had to clock-in at the factory at 6 o'clock. By and by a Youth Hostel lad came by on his bike, with his rucksack on his back. He was a stranger in the district. However, when he saw the injured man he remembered he had noticed a doctor's plate far back. So he turned round, fetched the doctor and 'phoned for the ambulance. Not until he had seen the miner safely into hospital did he continue his day's ride.

Now which of these three was a friend to the miner?

You can follow up your modern tale by reading the incomparable story of the Good Samaritan.

Story-telling is of two kinds. A story may serve a useful purpose by pointing a lesson, or illustrating a difficult point. This is the kind of story you incorporate into your talks. The other kind of story is told in its own right, just for pure delight. Happy is the Guider who can gather a crowd of youngsters about her by the magic of the tales she can tell.

In our keenness to pass on all that Guiding can teach, don't let us forget that there is a place in life for just such magic.

Never forget, too, that one of the finest motives for telling a story is that you *like* telling it yourself. Your enjoyment will infect your listeners. 'Look as if you enjoyed telling your story' is Elizabeth Clark's advice. And she goes on to suggest you 'aim at establishing a bond of friendship and intimacy between story-teller and story, believing that this is the surest road to remembering and telling with freedom and delight'. Even the very matter-of-fact child, or the child whose knowledge is only built up from the wireless or films, will have her imagination stirred by a fine story sincerely told.

But story-telling needs preparation, too. Choose stories that are not too far removed from the children's range of experience. Take your age-groups into consideration. Most stories that appeal to the five to eight-year-olds will not do for the eights to twelves. After twelve you need a still different appeal. Try to find out the kind of stories the various ages enjoy reading. Discuss books with your Guides and

Brownies. Discover just *why* they like this book and can't get on with that. If you have an opportunity, chat with the librarian of your local children's library. This knowledge will not only give you a useful line of approach with the children in your packs and companies but also a clue for your own story-telling.

Make sure that you know your story and are quite clear about the stages by which it leads up to its climax. To be a successful story-teller you will have to dispense with even your little postcard of headings. Try to understand the value of words, and use them with true economy to produce the effect you want. Don't let your tale go on and on.

While you are telling it, watch the faces of your listeners. Throw in an explanatory word when you see a puzzled face. Hurry the tale along if there are signs of restlessness.

To be able to talk effectively to large or small groups of people is a skill. Like all skills it must be cultivated by practice, and mastery of this art brings its own delight.

MARGARET MUSSON

Canada's Good Neighbour Camp

AS a practical gesture in international friendship and understanding, girls from four countries camped together near Parry Sound, Ontario, under the auspices of the Canadian Council of the Girl Guides Association. Nineteen Girl Scouts came from the United States. They were all Senior Scouts, and came from all parts of the United States, from Pennsylvania, Georgia and Florida on the east, to California on the west. There were also girls from Wisconsin, North Dakota, Tennessee and Iowa. Most of these were about seventeen, and were chosen because they had won badges as capable campers. From farthest away came Alison Rogers, a Sea Ranger from England, and two Sea Rangers from Bermuda.

The Good Neighbour idea was carried on as far as the Canadians were concerned too, and each province was asked to send some good campers. Girls came from as far west as Calgary, and from Manitoba, Ontario, and three from down east in Nova Scotia. Four girls represented La Federation des Guides Catholiques de la Province de Quebec.

Miss Beth Riddoch, the camp commandant, came all the way from Calgary, a distance of nearly 2,500 miles, and she was assisted by Miss Dorothy McBride, of Toronto, with several other Girl Scout Leaders and Guiders.

Due to a shortage of tents (unfortunately there was only one) most of the girls lived in cabins, and were divided into patrols, called after various Indian tribes, for camp duties or 'kapers'. Much fun was derived from the variety of accents, the southern drawl, the northern twang, the flat Canadian voice, and the clipped English and soft Bermudian tones. For a while 'swapping' or the exchanging of friendship pins and other mementoes swept the camp, and for a time it seemed

that the blue uniforms of the Canadians and other British would go home on the Girl Scouts, and the green of the Scouts stay here. Whereupon authority had to step in gently but very firmly!

The camp was ideally situated on Otter Lake, one of the many beautiful little lakes in this Parry Sound district. Nearby is Georgian Bay, a part of huge Lake Huron, with its myriad islands. A forty-mile boat trip around many of these Georgian Bay islands was planned, and the girls looked forward to this with the keenest anticipation. The first night the District Fire Ranger came out from Parry Sound, and showed us beautiful coloured slides of the surrounding countryside in all four seasons, followed by a film, 'The Three Bruins get into Mischief', a funny picture showing the habits of bear cubs in a slightly exaggerated form. Arrangements were also made for everyone to visit the Fire Rangers' tower at Parry Sound.

The first thing to meet the eye as one approached the camp was the World Flag floating in the breeze, a fitting symbol for a Good Neighbour camp. To carry out the international idea there was a most impressive ceremonial at the first campfire.

As each one approached the campfire site they were handed a light blue triangular scarf with the golden world trefoil on it, to be worn as a symbol of unity in Guiding and Scouting during the whole camp.

As the Girl Scouts and Guides gathered round the campfire they thought of what the campers in Cooperstown, at Foxlease, or at Our Chalet would be doing at that time, and then they sang Lu La Le. They thought, too, beyond their own Good Neighbour camp to worldwide friendship and how the Scout and Guide spirit can be spread abroad.



Canadian Rangers and American Senior Girl Scouts just off to enjoy a canoe trip on Lake Otter

Producing a Nativity Play

IT has been suggested that it might help Guiders who hope to produce a Nativity Play this Christmas to hear how we, at Pax Hill, produced ours last year. It was August and the beginning of a four-month term. The nineteen Guides and Rangers had been with us less than a week and scarcely knew each other when Miss Ashcroft and I joined them one evening to discuss the possibilities of acting. She and I knew we should like to do a Nativity Play and put the pros and cons to the Guides, but we also gave them other possibilities, trying not to bias them one way or the other. We then left them for twenty minutes, and from a room nearby heard peals of laughter. This we took to mean that at any rate the Nativity Play idea was off—but not a bit of it! When we rejoined them we were greeted by: 'Can we write our own? We've cast most of the parts already'. And that is what all the laughter had been about.

In five days' time *The Lamb is Born* was handed to me. The two who had written it were both working in the laundry patrol and had washed and ironed side by side to continue discussion as to what should, and what should not, go into the play. The result was very simple, but amazingly good, and though bits of it were altered from time to time, it was always at the wish of the majority, and the alterations were worded by the authors. The one exception to this was a paragraph written by our rector when he was asked for his approval of the play.

The next consideration was the music. Various carols had been proposed but we were so very fortunate in being able to turn to Miss Chater for help. She came over twice and gave us just the suggestions and encouragement we needed, and then played the organ at both productions.

Rehearsals went on steadily all through the term. One week we practised the carols, and the next week one of the scenes. All nineteen students had their parts to play, though a few did not have to speak, and I think because they really felt it was *their* play, they entered into it with zest right from the start and we had practically no 'sticky' rehearsals. The play was written with consideration of the individuals who were taking the parts, with the result that they were able to grow into them, and it was interesting to note that the Guide chosen to take the part of Mary was the one who went home with the best report.

To begin with we thought we should give the play in the village hall, but we realised how difficult it would be to get the right atmosphere and so our minds went to our village church, and we soon saw how ideal the setting would be in the little Norman chancel. The rector was most helpful, and came to make suggestions at one of our rehearsals.

Costumes and Stage Properties

We tried to get expert help over the costumes, but in the end had tremendous fun working on them by ourselves. Our ideas grew from the Oberammergau book and one or two other well-illustrated books. The foundation of clothes came from our acting box but, for weeks beforehand, if any of us met a friend or relation in any bright-coloured garment it was more-or-less wrested from them! We also had many kind loans. As each player was dressed to the satisfaction of Miss Ashcroft, the authors and myself, so she was shown to the rest for approval or alteration, and sewing machines, needles and irons (most important) were busy for many days. The angels proved the greatest problem. Heated arguments went on as to whether they should be dressed in red and yellow or in white—the latter won, but even then there had to be a last-minute complete alteration which meant an S.O.S. for butter muslin!

Stage properties we kept to a minimum. No fire was attempted for the shepherd scene, and the only properties that had to be carried on and off were a spinning wheel for the innkeeper's wife and Herod's chair of state. The

home-made manger was behind the altar rails throughout, and the Holy Family took their places by it for the final scene. The lamb was made from wire, newspapers for padding and fluffy down, kept in place with string and glue—the result was life-like enough for a small boy to ask how old it was! With no curtains, the entrances and exits had to be planned with great detail, but this added to the dignity and reality of the scenes and helped to make the whole play more of a service. The choir, grouped round the organ, changed as each Guide played her part, but as everyone knew what to do this caused no difficulties.

Choosing the Music

Miss Chater writes: 'The music for this play was chosen by the authors and producers with some help from me as adviser. The main point, which the authors never lost sight of, was to put the play first, and to use the music entirely to enhance the story and its message, rather than as an end in itself. For this purpose certain hymns and carols were used and repeated at intervals through the play.'

"O come, O come, Emmanuel" and "O little town of Bethlehem" were both divided up in this way, and sung in sections, two or three verses at a time, where the meaning was appropriate. The refrain "Gloria in Excelsis" was a kind of theme music for the angels, and was either played or sung whenever they entered. The organ music was chosen from Bach's choral preludes and arias, and included "Wachet Auf" and "Sheep may safely graze", both of which were used several times.

"Veni Emmanuel" was used as the Expectation theme; it was ideal because of the mysterious quality of the tune, and its suitability for treble voices singing in unison.

"O Little Town" (to the traditional tune, "Forest Gate") made a perfect opening carol, bringing the sense of expectancy over from the hidden world of the angels to the village home and street.

'For the supernatural music heard by the innkeeper the choir sang the round "To us a child" (from *Songs of all Seasons*). "While Shepherds Watched" was sung in full, as a narrative, before the shepherds' episode.

The "Gloria in Excelsis" was taken from the chorus of "Angels from the realms of glory" (the translation as found, I think, in the *Kent Hymn Book*). Personally, I always play it in thirds over a pedal bass for this purpose. It is much more pastoral like this than with the rather elaborate harmonies of its usual setting. (The usual setting was sung off as a hymn of praise at the end of the scene.)

"Bethlehem of noblest cities", a most stately chorale, was chosen to represent the dignity and royal presence of the three Kings in the Herod interlude. Lastly, for the final procession and adoration, came several familiar carols to indicate each group of characters. "We three Kings", "Away in a manger", "In the bleak mid-winter" were all sung with the appropriate characters taking their own solos, and finally everyone joined in "Adeste Fideles". The singers were grouped by the organ, out of sight, and there was no difficulty in holding their attention though they were all taking part in the acting.

To those of you who are thinking of producing a Nativity Play, have no hesitation in going ahead. If you get the Guides to work with you and enter into the spirit of the play you will gain something very vital for the company. It will mean hard work and considerable planning, but you will have the Guides' help with this and you needn't think that because you are no actor or producer and your company is quite an ordinary one that you cannot produce a Nativity Play. It is not individual talent that is needed, but a united effort to produce something very worth while in as simple and reverent a way as possible.

EVELYN NUTHALL

A Drama Conference

THERE is to be what is imposingly called a Drama Conference at Headquarters on Saturday, November 6th and Sunday, November 7th. Put rather more modestly, there is to be a week-end for anyone interested in play-production for children, more especially for the Advisers in our own movement who are doing what they can to help the Guiders of their own counties.

This is the first conference since the divorce of music and drama by amicable agreement. The M. and D. weeks and week-ends always tended to be more M. than D. That was in the nature of things. An hour's training in singing by someone like Miss Chater and you can't help learning some M., but D.—what is an hour, even a day, for D.? As we are continually, and rightly, told, a properly produced play is the result of collaboration between all the arts (M., let it be said, often among them). The playwright, the actor, the dressmaker, the scene painter, egged on by the Producer, a comparative newcomer in the dramatic world who has now earned his right to a capital P, all must combine, with every ounce of the imagination they severally possess. He, the Producer (or in our case generally she) must have as much of that as anyone, and be an efficient and tactful organiser and a person of drive into the bargain. Even the smallest entertainment in the Vicarage garden, at the parish social, or in a corner of the schoolroom to the terrifying audience of friends, must contain this mixture of talent, or near-talent, or even absence of talent, the collaboration of everyone.

Whether we can do it or not we enjoy acting; it comes naturally to people of this island. Leave a collection of children to themselves on a wet winter's day and in no time you will find what chairs there are arranged for an audience

and yourself sitting on one, trying to disentangle a charade in which the actors shout each other down under the management of a director who has cropped up as inevitably as grass grows. And for many the love of acting stays with them. The number of dramatic societies among Britons must be vast and, thanks largely to the efforts of the British Drama League over a number of years, they grow more ambitious.

If a thing is worth doing it's worth doing badly is an aphorism attributed to G. K. Chesterton. True—but not too badly when you have charged supporters for their seats to watch your efforts. We are not like a dramatic club. We have our acting games, our improvisations, our spontaneous acting, but we generally keep such things for campfire or bad days in camp. When we aim at a finished performance it is, don't let's deny it, to make money. But when our performance is good other things, even art, are added; we have seen that a hundred times. We have the best material possible in Scouts and Guides (and Scouters and Guiders when we want them); these unaffected, lively children do what they're told, have no proud mothers in the wings, and enjoy every moment because it's their own show.

The purpose of this conference is to find out if there is any way in which Headquarters can help the Guider to discover her own powers as a producer, to give her the necessary confidence for her company's first entertainment, and wake her ambition for the next.

Will anyone help us by sending in suggestions, requests, ideas, criticisms? Miss Maisie Cobb, Drama Adviser for the Essex Educational Authority, is going to talk on 'Training the Actor' on Saturday afternoon, and Miss Alison Graham-Campbell on 'Religious Drama' on Sunday. There will be a demonstration of make-up, an exhibition of home-made and extemporised costumes, properties, and lighting effects. Anything of that kind will be most gratefully received. Saturday evening, by the way, has been left free for theatre-going.

Also we hope to discuss at length problems peculiar to Guides—the managing as stage crowds of new recruits, the people who can never rehearse and the ones who are struggling through the self-conscious stage, none of whom must be left out; the nightmare item in Youth rallies when we are asked to 'show what you Guides do' in seven minutes; the problem of finding some way to let the children express by acting what they mean by Thinking Day. May we have some more topics of this sort? And could they be sent in during October? These problems need thought, and the discussion will be more valuable if they get it beforehand.

Also plays—a vastly important subject, for who can act without the play? The policy of the Association as regards printing our own plays will be explained and discussed; also the problems of the ordinary publisher when he is asked to bring out children's plays. The new Play List (post free for one penny and available now) will be there for comments, also as many plays and publications on play-production as we can raise. The Shop stocks a representative number of these. The publishers' names are on the play list, and Guiders can order them direct from the publisher if they wish.

The play question is a difficult one,* we should be glad to have views about it. We should be glad in fact to have views about anything to do with play production. Miss Peake, at H.Q. (Imperial Training Department) is secretary for the conference and all letters should be sent to her.

KITTY STREATFIELD
[Commissioner for Drama]

The Little Nut Tree, by T. B. Morris. (French. 1s. 6d.) The Nut Tree is the most treasured possession of a Spanish peasant boy. We see the reaction of his family when he refuses to sell it to various important people. Finally he presents it to the King of Spain's daughter. There are some excellent character parts in this well written one-act play, with ten speaking parts.
E.F.





good things to make with hedgerow fruits

There's a rich harvest, free for the fun of picking, waiting for you in field or hedgerow. When you set out, remember to warn the children about shutting gates, straying on to crops, or damaging hedges or bushes. Then you'll enjoy your day with a clear conscience. And here are some recipes for using your spoils.

Potted Elderberries

This preserve needs little sugar, will keep for years, and is delicious to use as stewed fruit, in pies and tarts.

Strip the berries with a fork. Weigh them and allow 1 1/2 oz. sugar per pound. Put into jars (screw-band, spring-clip or jam-jar snap enclosure type) sprinkling the sugar among the fruit. When full, put the jars in a slow oven, cover with lids (not rings, screw-bands or clips) and cook until juice is completely drawn; this needs 3/4 to 1 hour.

Meantime sterilise rubber rings by putting in cold water, bringing to the boil and boiling 15 minutes. Remove one jar at a time from the oven, filling up from spare jar of fruit as contents will have shrunk. Seal immediately with hot rings and lids and fix on screw-band or clip. Test next day; remove screw-band or clip, lift jar by lid. If seal is perfect, lid will not come off. Otherwise, jar should be re-done or contents used within a few days.

In place of currants

Dried elderberries can be used as currants for puddings, cakes, for stewing with apple or marrow for tarts. Pick sprays of berries before they are too ripe, shake free from dust. Tie the stalks at intervals on a stout piece of thread. Tie the thread up over a warm stove or in a sunny window. The drying may take from 5 to 8 days. Gently remove berries from stalks and store in paper bags.



Blackberry and Apple Jelly

2 lb. blackberries, 1 lb. cooking apples, 1 pint water, 1 lb. sugar to each pint of juice.

Wash the fruit, cut up apples and place in a pan with blackberries and water. Boil gently until tender, then mash well and strain through a scalded jelly bag or muslin. Measure the juice and add 1 lb. sugar to each pint. Stir until sugar is dissolved, then boil rapidly

until setting point is reached (about 15 minutes) and pot in the usual way.

Rosehip and Apple Jam

1 pint rose hips (fully ripe), 2 pints water, boiling, 3/4 lb. cooking apples, 1/4-1/2 pint water, 2 lb. sugar.

Wash the hips, and put into the boiling water, boil gently until soft; mash with a wooden spoon and strain through a jelly bag, allowing it to drip overnight. Measure the hip juice and make it up to 1 1/2 pints with water. Cook the apples in water until they are reduced to a thick pulp. Rub through a sieve. Mix juice and pulp and bring to the boil. Stir in the sugar and when dissolved, boil rapidly until setting point is reached.



Berry Tart

Short-crust pastry made with 8 oz. flour, 8 oz. prepared blackberries or elderberries, 1 level tablespoon flour, pinch of salt, 3 level tablespoons sugar, pinch of grated nutmeg, pinch of cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon lemon essence.

Line an enamel plate or sandwich tin with half the pastry. Mix the fruit with the flour, salt, sugar, spices and lemon essence. Put the mixture into the plate and cover with the remaining pastry. Bake in a hot oven for 20-30 minutes.

Bottling Wild Fruits

Blackberries and elderberries can be bottled alone, or with apple, by any of the ordinary bottling methods EXCEPT the Campden method. A mixture of blackberries, elderberries and apple has a very good flavour. If a seedless preserve is required, use the juice only and apple pulp.



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Headquarters Notices

Meeting of the Committee of the Council held on September 15th, 1948

Present: Mrs. Davies-Cooke (Chairman), The Lady Oaksey, O.B.E., J.P. (Vice-Chairman), Finola, Lady Somers, The Lady Baden-Powell, G.B.E., The Lady Burnham, J.P., The Hon. Lady Cochrane, Lady Cooper, Mrs. Douglas of Mains, Sir Percy Everett, Mrs. T. W. Harley, J.P., Miss I. H. Kay, J.P., Mrs. H. S. Mair, M.A., Miss McSwiney, Miss D. M. Powell, J.P., Mrs. Stewart of Murdostoun.

By Invitation: The Hon. Mrs. Geoffrey Gibbs, J.P., Miss A. Tennant, Miss Stettauer (representing Miss Ward during the G.I.S. item).

In attendance: Miss J. Frith, O.B.E., General Secretary. Miss M. White, M.B.E., Assistant General Secretary.

The question of the petrol allowance was discussed and it was reported that the Ministry of Fuel and Power was not prepared to grant an interview with the Chairman, but that in spite of this cases which had been correctly handled at area level without success would continue to be forwarded to the Ministry by Headquarters.

Miss McSwiney reported on the success of the recent National Council of Social Service International Youth Conference, and also that Miss Mary Cotes, a member of the movement, had been a most creditable member of the British delegation to the Conference. A letter of thanks for the help given by various members of the movement was read from the Chairman of the Conference Committee.

Dates of conferences for 1949-1950, proposed by various branches of the movement, were considered so that these should not coincide with other events.

A letter of thanks was read from the World Association for the help given by Great Britain in the restarting of Guiding for German girls.

It was reported that in spite of the joint efforts made by the Scout and Guide Movements to obtain travelling concessions up to the age of fifteen it had not been possible to secure these. It was agreed that further efforts should be made at a later date.

A brief report of the recent World Conference at Coopers-town, New York, was given by the Chairman, one of the two delegates representing Great Britain.

The news of the death in an air accident of The Hon'ble Mrs. W. K. McIntyre, O.B.E., State Commissioner for Tasmania and Acting Chief Commissioner for Australia, was received with much regret.

A report of the progress being made with the Guide Club was given by Lady Oaksey, and it was agreed, owing to delay in completion of necessary work, to defer the opening date until November 1st.

Miss Stettauer, in the absence of Miss Ward, reported on the activities of the G.I.S., and requested ratification of a proposal that the G.I.S. should give financial support to the proposed plan for opening a home for the care of elderly D.P.s.

A gift of 500 Swiss Francs for Foxlease and Waddow, given by Swiss Guiders who had trained at these centres, was reported.

AWARDS

Badge of Fortitude. Guide Christine Wakefield, age 14, 1st Black Notley Company, Essex.

Christine is a sufferer from tuberculosis and during her frequent spells in hospital she has displayed a patient cheerfulness and courage unusual in anyone so young. Her attitude towards other patients has been one of unselfishness and she has, in every way, upheld the high standards of a Guide.

Good Service

Medal of Merit. Miss Maguire, County Camp Adviser, County Down.

Camp Training Diploma. Miss Betterton, London, S.W. Miss Foster, Yorks. Mrs. Hawkins, Kent. Miss V. McFall, Lancs. Miss Measures, Hunts. Mrs. Nichol, Essex.

Brownie Training Diploma. Miss Robertson, New Zealand.

CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE

Barbara Hogg, aged fifteen, on August 22nd, after a long illness borne with great courage and patience. Well loved Guide of the 11th (Wesley) West Hartlepool Guide Company.

Mrs. Margaret McIntyre, O.B.E., M.L.C., Deputy Chief Commissioner for Australia and State Commissioner for

Tasmania, killed on September 2nd, 1948, in an air accident on her way back from Queensland, where her Parliamentary and Guide duties had taken her.

Mrs. Fairbairn, Chief Commissioner, Australia, writes: 'Through her election this year as a member of the Legislative Council, Mrs. McIntyre had the distinction of being Tasmania's first woman Member of Parliament. She had many interests and held executive positions in women's organisations, educational and dramatic art committees. Her life was given to the service of others and to the benefit of mankind. She was loved, respected and admired by all who came in contact with her. Mrs. McIntyre's death is an irreparable loss to the movement and Tasmania.'

Constance Hawthorne Parker, on July 23rd. For many years Captain of the 1st Symondsby Guide Company and Brown Owl of the 1st Symondsby Pack. Formerly Captain and Brown Owl of the 1st Hooke Guide Company and Brownie Pack. By her devotion to others, her efficiency and lovable personality she inspired many Guides who will remember her with affection.

GENERAL NOTICES

A letter has been received at Headquarters from the Ministry of Food thanking members of the movement for all their help in collecting jam jars. The number collected was not so large as last year, but the Ministry of Food was very pleased with the work undertaken by Guides.

COMING EVENTS

The English County Commissioners Conference, 1948, will be held at Girl Guide Headquarters, 17-19, Buckingham Palace Road, on Wednesday, November 17th, at 11.30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Thursday, November 18th, at 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The speakers will be the Chief Guide, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the Chief Commissioner, Miss de Beaumont, Miss Chater, Miss Frith, Mrs. Harley, Miss Newnham and General Sir William Slim.

Lady Cochrane hopes that, if neither the County Commissioner nor an Assistant County Commissioner of a county is able to attend, the County Commissioner will invite a Division Commissioner to take her place, so that her county may be represented. County Commissioners and Assistant County Commissioners will soon receive programmes and attendance forms.

North-East London Guiders' Week-end Trainings for Brownie, Guide and Ranger Guiders at I.H.Q., on Friday, October 22nd, 7 to 9.30 p.m.; Saturday, October 23rd, 2.30 to 7.30 p.m. Trainers: *Brownie*—Miss Chilton-Thomas. *Guide*—Mrs. Beer. *Ranger*—Miss J. K. Taylor. Fee for week-end: 1s. 6d. Applications by October 8th to Miss Shenston, 131, Watling Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex.

North-East London Commissioners' and Secretaries' Trainings at I.H.Q., Friday, November 26th, 7 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, November 27th, 2.30 to 7.30 p.m.; Sunday, November 28th, 3 to 7 p.m. Trainers: Miss Powell, Miss Frith, Miss Isherwood. Fee for week-end: 2s. 6d. Vacancies will be filled from other areas and counties. Applications to Miss Shenston as above.

The Empire Circle

It is hoped that the speaker at the October meeting of the Empire Circle will be Miss Victoria McCormack, who will speak on Guiding in Sierra Leone. This is an evening meeting and will be held in the library at Imperial Headquarters at 7.30 p.m. on October 28th. Lemonade will be on sale from 6.30 p.m. and sandwiches can be brought.

Development Fund

Further gifts since August 10th, 1948

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
England	869	9	11
Scotland	107	8	9
Wales	500	0	0
Paris (British) Old Guides	5	0	0
				1,481	18	8
Total up to August 10th	43,678	10	1
Grand total up to September 10th	£45,160	8	9

The 12th World Conference

THE 12th World Conference was held at The Otesaga Hotel, Cooperstown, New York, from August 13th to August 23rd. Delegates and visitors or observers were present from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, India, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Suomi-Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, The Philippines, British West Indies, Cuba and Mexico.

Behind the platform in the conference room stood the flags of all countries of the World Association, and to the right of the platform hung the gigantic World Flag, presented by the International World Camp at Pax-Ting in Hungary, 1939. This event, and the Conference at Evian are embroidered in gold letters on the flag, and now the Cooperstown date has been added. This is the setting in which the conference met, and among all the delegates there was an atmosphere of friendship and understanding which was present throughout.

The opening session took place at 8 p.m. on Friday, August 13th, and the Chairman, Mrs. Corbett, welcomed the delegates and visitors, and called upon them to stand and renew the Promise. The Chairman then called on the President of the Girl Scouts of the United States to read a message of welcome from the President of the United States, Mr. Truman; Mrs. Fenwick, of Brazil, to read a message from the President of Brazil, Mr. Dutra; Mrs. Wishart, the Chief Commissioner of Canada, to read a message from the Prime Minister, Mr. McKenzie King. Many cables, telegrams and messages were read from countries who had not been able to send delegates, from well-wishers in many countries, and from the Mayor of Cooperstown, the Cooperstown Committee and the Presidents of the hostess countries.

The Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell, G.B.E., the guest of honour, and centre of the conference in every way, had a great reception wherever she went. Her message of inspiration was received with great applause, and the amazing account of her tour in New Zealand, Australia, Panama and Curacao thrilled her hearers.

The daily sessions of the conference discussed many subjects affecting the expansion and needs of Scouting and Guiding in the world, and the results of deliberations were of considerable interest. The spirit of international friendship was a marked feature of all discussions. The constitution and by-laws were revised in the light of development of the duties and requirements of the World Committee.

Elections

Mrs. Captain, of India, Donna Rosita Bahiana, of Brazil, Mrs. Peereboom-Kikkert, of the Netherlands, were elected as members of the World Committee, in place of the three retiring members.

Mrs. Swift Newton, United States of America, was elected Chairman of the World Committee in place of Mrs. John Corbett, of Canada, whose term expired. Mrs. Swift Newton was Chairman of the Western Hemisphere World Conference Planning Committee, and the Chairman of the International Division of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. She is one of the best-known figures in Scouting in the United States.

Mrs. Paul Cornil, Commissioner for Rangers in Belgium, was elected Vice-Chairman. The appointment of the World Director was left open till a later date.

The Western Hemisphere Sub-Committee set up during the war on a temporary basis was instated as a permanent Sub-Committee of the World Committee, and other areas were left to decide whether similar sub-committees would assist a group of countries to promote a wider scope for interchange of ideas.

Reports

The report of Our Chalet was read in the absence of Fraulein von Herrenschwand and received with great enthusiasm. On the suggestion of the Treasurer a post box was placed on

the platform, into which delegates, visitors and "aides" placed donations towards a wireless for Our Chalet. The result was so splendid that the conference was able to send a fine gift as a token of love to our international home.

Reports were read from Our Ark, Publications, and Training, which showed good progress.

The publication of *The Council Fire* was fully discussed, and its value stressed as an international medium of news and announcements. Countries were encouraged to increase their number of subscribers to the paper and to assist in forwarding articles of interest to the Editor.

The Financial Statement gave evidence of rising costs, but for the years 1946-1948 the figures showed a credit balance over expenditure. The Budget for 1949 shows a rise in costs, and it must be borne in mind that with advance in the scope and opportunities of the World Bureau the financial burden must inevitably increase. All countries were thanked for their response to the appeal in 1946 and urged to make every effort to maintain, and if possible augment, their contributions.

Reports were read from the Director of the World Bureau and by the Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Committee. Both showed increased activity and proved that there is a need to co-ordinate the work and contacts between countries, both in the field of international relationships and in the development of Scouting and Guiding through a central medium.

World Badge

The conference approved the design of a World Badge to be worn by Scouts and Guides throughout the world, and each country was left free to adopt and use the badge at their discretion.

Guiding in Germany

Interesting reports were read giving news of Guiding, from the American, French and British Zones in Germany. Discussions took place on the expansion of Guiding in the three Zones, and it was agreed that a World representative be sent to co-ordinate the work and assist those responsible in every way possible.

Sub-Committees

Chairmen of sub-committees were appointed, and the World Committee, recognising the importance of public relations in the World Organisation, requested that a sub-committee be set up to deal with this subject. The conference voted to form this sub-committee, and Mrs. Alan Means, of Salt Lake City, Utah, was elected chairman.

Future Events

The date of the next World Conference in Great Britain in 1950 was confirmed, and Great Britain offered hospitality to the World Committee to hold a Conference of International Commissioners, prior to the Conference, also a Trainers' Conference prior to, or after, the Conference. Czechoslovakia is hostess country for the World Conference in 1952. The dates of the World Committee meetings are: Denmark, 1949; England, 1950; and Belgium, 1951.

In summing up this great gathering one may add that many friendships were made or renewed at Cooperstown, and there was evident proof that those present found inspiration and satisfaction from this opportunity, which has given a stimulus to the work which we are all so anxious to promote. The ultimate aim and accomplishments of the conference may well be recorded as yet another chapter in the history of the Guide Association, and a stepping-stone to world peace through international relationships.

KATHLEEN DAVIES-COOKE

[Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council]
[Delegate to the World Conference]

Notes of the Month

The Guide Club

The notes about our new club in the September GUIDER has called forth a good response from all over the country. Owing to necessary alterations and redecoration the date on which the club will first be open to members is still uncertain, but all those who have already joined will be notified as soon as possible, and any part of their subscription paid before that date will be refunded. The club will have an informal opening and an official one in the New Year. It is hoped that all intending members will write at once to the Secretary, The Guide Club, 46, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, for application forms in order to give the staff more idea of the numbers to be catered for. The entrance fee is £3 3s., and the annual subscription for country members £2 2s., and for London members (within fifty miles of London) £3 3s. Some lovely old furniture has already been loaned to the club and gifts continue to arrive, but rugs and carpets are still an urgent need.

Story of the W.R.N.S.

In one chapter of *Blue Tapestry* (the story of the development and achievements of the Women's Royal Naval Service, to be published shortly by Hollis & Carter) Dame Vera Laughton Matthews pays high tribute to the Guide Movement, to the experience she herself gained in it and the value of Guide and Sea Ranger training to Wrens. We all feel proud Dame Vera went from Guiding to the W.R.N.S., where she earned the distinction of being the only woman Director to remain at the head of her Service throughout the whole of the war. She was elected to the Executive Committee at the annual meeting of the Council of the Girl Guides Association on May 11th this year. A review of *Blue Tapestry* will appear in our November issue.

Rose Hips, Acorns and Beechmast

This month all over the country wild rose hips are ripe and ready for gathering. Dieticians are stressing the importance of this Vitamin C, and with continued rationing it is more essential than ever that people should be strengthened and built up to face the winter. When gathered the hips are made into National Rose Hip Syrup, which can be served in a number of attractive ways and is a saving on the sugar ration. Rose hip collecting should be done in fine weather when the hips are dry, and should be handed in, *if possible on the same day*, to the local W.V.S. Centre, where 3d. a pound will be paid for them. Ask the W.V.S. first, before you suggest your company or pack makes a collection, if yours is one of the rose hip collecting counties.

Acorns and beechmast are also wanted again this year to add to the restricted supply of feeding stuffs for pigs and poultry. Local pig and poultry keepers should be asked what quantities are needed, and the Feeding Stuffs Officer of the County War Agricultural Executive Committee will probably be able to put collectors in touch with likely purchasers. A fair price for acorns in good condition is from 5s. to 7s. 6d. per cwt., and for beechmast, in its natural state, but free from

burrs, from 7s. 6d. to 10s. per cwt. Buyers will usually be prepared to provide collectors with bags and to arrange to pick up the collected nuts from a convenient centre. Before entering private property Guiders are asked to make sure their Brownies, Guides, Cadets and Rangers have obtained permission from the owner. Gates should be carefully closed and no damage done to crops. In some areas the Forestry Commission is arranging for nuts to be collected for seed, and where this is being done nuts should not be collected for other purposes in quantities to interfere with the supply of seed.



The Chief Guide, accompanied by Frl. Lotz, Switzerland (second from left), Dr. Lilian Glibreth, U.S.A., and Miss Freire, Brazil, visits the World Conference camp and enjoys a cup of soup

1949 Training

Commissioners will be glad to know that at a Guide training at Foxlease from March 25th-29th, 1949, special separate sessions on their work have been arranged. A week-end training for Commissioners and Secretaries has also been planned at Waddow from February 4th-7th. Ranger Guiders are asked to note a week-end training at Waddow from January 21st to 24th and at Foxlease from January 28th to February 1st. At the Waddow week-end training will be available for all sections—Land, Sea and Air, but the Foxlease week-end will be primarily for Land and Sea.

Our Chalet

Bookings for Our Chalet's next summer season will be taken from November 1st onwards and should be addressed to Mlle. Yvonne Cuénod, Contamines 27, Geneva, Switzerland. (Applications coming in before November 1st will be held until that date). Please enclose the written approval of your Commissioner with your enquiry and an international reply coupon. Our Chalet will be open from the middle of May till the end of September, 1949. *It is never open at Easter.* When making your application please do not forget to give alternative dates. Parties should not exceed twelve members. The Chalet leaflet and information about currency should be obtained from the International Secretary at I.H.Q.

For Commissioners

Headquarters can now supply again the pamphlet on *The Recruitment of Guiders* (with Notes to Commissioners), price 2d. The original issue was circulated free of charge through the counties, but many Commissioners were unable to obtain a copy, and new Commissioners will find useful suggestions which have been tried out successfully in other areas.

'Many Happy Returns' to Waddow

Readers of THE GUIDER send their birthday greetings and good wishes to Waddow for its 21st birthday. H.R.H. The Princess Royal, who opened Waddow in 1927, was present at the birthday celebrations on September 25th and was welcomed by the Chief Guide. Other guests included the Chief Commissioner for England, Lady Cochrane, the Hon. Treasurer, Sir Percy Everett, and two thousand Guiders from neighbouring counties. Birthday presents already received include money for re-equipping the huts on the camp sites, bulbs and garden equipment and furnishings for the house.

The Commissioners' Meeting Place

Parents' Associations

COMMISSIONERS will be interested to read of the experience of two District Commissioners whose letters have been received in response to the request in the August GUIDER. 'A. is a neighbourhood of about 7,000 people, the original village having been extended to include a fairly large dormitory suburb near London. The first Guide Company was started in 1919, and there are now five Guide Companies, three packs, a Ranger Company and the local Division Cadets—a total Guide population of about 210. There is a flourishing Scout group consisting of two packs, one troop, one senior Scout Patrol and a Rover Crew.

The Guide Local Association consisting of parents and a few prominent people in the neighbourhood has been in existence since the 1920s. The Executive Committee consists of about eight members, including the chairman and secretary. I took over the District in March, 1947, and shortly afterwards the Scout and Guide Supporters' Association was formed. It was the parents' idea, aided and abetted by the G.S.M. and myself, and came into existence spontaneously. It has 250 subscribing members, and the Association handed the Scouts and Guides £50 each at their annual meeting.

Our own Guide Local Association continues to exist and is very much alive. Both associations work happily together, each supplying the other with all relevant information. The Local Association is entirely responsible for the letting, maintenance, cleaning etc., of our Guide hut, and takes all responsibility for its management off the shoulders of the Commissioner. In addition, the Local Association helps us in force at jumble sales. When the Scout and Guide Supporters' Association first started the L.A. was a little inclined to feel that their powers had been usurped, but it has been found that provided both Associations are kept busy and given plenty to do they are quite happy.

Membership: The Association includes fathers as well as mothers and any interested person.

Aims: In addition to raising funds the Association has set itself to give active support and to show real interest in Guide and Scout activities.

Relationship with Scout Group Committee: This is made clear by our title and aims.

Link between Parents' Association and L.A.: The Supporters' Association has taken over the activities of our L.A., but the Executive Committee of our L.A. continues to function separately, and so far has most amicable relationships with the new Supporters' Association.

The Commissioner enclosed a copy of a printed leaflet setting out the aims of the Supporters' Association, and two numbers of a printed magazine published quarterly. She adds: 'So far everything seems to be running smoothly, but a great deal of tact is always necessary and, to a certain extent, I feel that this additional Association *does* mean extra work, although we hope this will be more than offset by the financial and other backing we shall receive in the future. Undoubtedly there is increased interest in all our activities. At present in A. we have no shortage of Guiders (despairing Commissioners please note!), but should this arise in the future I think the Supporters' Association might be a useful source of supply'.

The second District Commissioner writes: 'West W. is a typical outer-London suburb. We have four churches, each with their own pack and company, one odd pack and a District Ranger Company. There is also a fairly lively Local Association with a fluctuating membership. The L.A. was represented at the conference held at the Central Hall, Westminster, and the members came back full of enthusiasm for the idea of Parents' Associations. After discussion with the L.A. Executive Committee and the Guiders a meeting of the parents was arranged in each of three parishes (we found often both parents came), where a short talk on the aims of the association was given by the Commissioner.

The aims that emerged were that parents and Guiders should meet and work together for the good of the child, that by talks and discussions parents should try to get a fuller understanding of the aims and ideals of Guiding, and how we try to carry them out, and should help in the forwarding of these ideals by setting the same standard at home.

Of our four churches one has a very strong Parents' Association which covers Sunday School, Guides and Scouts so that the need was filled here, but the other three were quite enthusiastic. One Parents' Association has now been running for nearly eighteen months, the others for a year and less. The former has a 75 per cent membership of parents, and as a child comes into the group the parents are invited to join. One of the others has a 45 per cent membership, and the last less than that, but this committee rendered valuable service during this year's camp.

So far there has been no active link with the corresponding Scout organisation, but a valuable contact has been made with the congregation, and much more interest in Guiding has been aroused. The link with the L.A. is very close indeed—each Parents' Association is affiliated to the L.A. and pays 6d. per member as affiliation fee. It has one member on the L.A. Executive Committee, and this member not only reports the activities of its own P.A. but reports back as well. Each Association makes its own rules, runs its own finance and carries out its own programme, every member attending the Annual General Meeting of the L.A. as a right. We feel that the L.A. has been strengthened in the town by becoming the parent body of these young and encouraging concerns.

Besides foregathering at the Annual General Meeting one Parents' Association meets about once a term in the evening when a speaker gives a talk on Guiding, or an exhibition such as a model camp is shown, followed by discussion. Another Parents' Association meets regularly once a month for mending camp equipment or other repair work. Very practical help was given by two fathers who made a new fire shelter and poles for screening. Other fathers mended food chests, dug trenches, collected kit and helped strike a camp in wet weather. Mothers have volunteered to cook and taken charge of Brownies when no Guiders were available. There has been much useful discussion at committee meetings on finance, rallies, uniform and general policy, but without any interference with the running of the company. The Guiders who have a Parents' Association feel that they are an unqualified success, and the parents feel they have a real part in helping Guiding. The Executive Committee of the L.A. agree with me that this new paragraph in P.O.R. has filled a real need.

A Commissioner who has been in America has written: 'They were very keen on having Troop Committees in Philadelphia, but it was hard work to organise them and to keep them going. It was always stressed that the Troop Committee acted in an advisory capacity to the leader and troop. Undoubtedly the committee was of great value when run properly'. The literature about Troop Committees is very detailed, and among the specific responsibilities mentioned are to 'help find proper leadership and proper meeting place for the troop, present Girl Scouting to the community by attending to publicity of troop in relation to the church activities and all community agencies'.

It is obvious from this correspondence that a need is being filled in various ways by having the active support of interested parents and other grown-ups.

DOROTHEA POWELL

Knowing Where You Are!

Asked at short notice to open a 'Bring and Buy' sale a Commissioner was greeted by the Guider in charge with the remark: 'I hope you don't mind coming, but we didn't like to ask anyone important as this is our first effort and we weren't sure how it would turn out'.

A Ranger Guider's Training Course

HERE is the first of what we hope will be a series for Ranger Guiders. Some of the suggestions may be quite suitable for your company, but it is likely that most of them, if you use them, will have to be adapted to fit the circumstances. It is hoped to cover in due course the Pre-Enrolment and Ranger Star test.

It would be most helpful if you would send to Headquarters any questions, comments or criticisms with regard to the suggestions. Your letters should be addressed to the Training Department, and we shall be glad to know if you are willing for your correspondence to be published in THE GUIDER.

Study the Promise and Law from a Ranger point of view.

I Promise. . . . Discuss with the Rangers the various uses of the word *promise*. Can they define it? Can they supply examples?

'The Promised Land'. What was it? What did it promise?

'A lad of promise'. What does this imply?

A promise made to a child. What does it mean to him and to the maker of the promise?

The promise made at baptism on our behalf. By whom? Why?

The Guide promise, made by every Guide, Ranger, Guider and Commissioner at enrolment.

(a) 'To whom is the Ranger's or Guide's promise made? To Captain? To herself?

An undertaking; a pledge of her word; on her honour. Who is 'let down' if the promise is not kept? It is generally made in public. This means witnesses. Does this make any difference?

(b) The making of the promise is only part of the business. Constant effort is involved in the keeping of it. Great qualities of character do not just 'happen'. A man or woman does not generally rise to a supreme sacrifice without the practice of lesser sacrifices. Think of acts of unusual loyalty, helpfulness, etc. Consider then what day-to-day acts may have been a preparation. This makes a very worthwhile discussion. Think how long the Children of Israel were kept in the desert. Why?

(c) We all make promises to ourselves as well as to other people. Do they all matter equally? Are we more likely to keep our promises to others if we are particular about those we make to ourselves?

(d) What are the most important promises which a Ranger has made or is likely to make in life? This might lead to a discussion on the marriage promise and what it involves.

Consider the time which a French Ranger takes to prepare to make her Guide promise. For her it marks the attainment of a standard; for us it is the beginning of an endeavour. There is much to be said for both and much opportunity for discussion.

Have you by any chance a friend with experience of Rangers in France who would come and discuss with your company? Might this be an introduction to the Rangers' interest in the French language? At least you could find out how many would try to talk to your friend in French.

Collect and keep in readiness. . . .

Has your personal camp or hike equipment been put

away in good condition, but 'in readiness'? Where are the groundsheet? Are they folded or rolled or hung? Which is best? Which is to be avoided and why? How are the billies preserved? Is it worth-while cleaning off all black after each time of using? If so, why, and how is it best done? If not, why not, and how are the sooty utensils stored? If it is not possible to keep all the equipment together can one avoid leaving bits behind in a hurried packing?

When do you clean your belt?

Immediately you take it off, before you put it on, or not at all? How many laws do you break by not cleaning it at all?

It is important to keep other belongings in readiness as well as expedition equipment. The self-testing game could be played on such a subject as: 'You are suddenly invited to go away for the weekend'. Could you pack in half an hour a set of underclothing, clean and mended? A pair of stockings? A clean blouse, etc., etc.? Are your brush and comb clean? Are your shoes whole and tidy? If you had to go off in the clothes that you are

wearing would you feel quite happy about their cleanliness and condition? Rangers answer 'Yes' or 'No' and give themselves points for each 'Yes'. They may supply some of the questions. The answers are not revealed.

Perhaps you have a friend who is an expert packer. Arrange a packing demonstration for the company. If the Rangers can bring a few garments, especially the awkward ones to practise folding, so much the better.



The Pre-Enrolment and Ranger Service Star tests form the general training for 'Land', Sea and Air Rangers, and this course is of equal value to Guiders of all sections

The International Youth Conference

A wonderfully friendly and cheerful atmosphere permeated the International Youth Conference, held in London in August. Twenty-five countries were represented by 340 delegates from Youth Organisations and Government Departments concerned with young people. Observers were sent from the International Scout Association and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts. Keen exchange of news and views from delegates with such widely different backgrounds and experiences went on in the ten Commissions and it was interesting and instructive to hear of the problems, methods of training and experiments connected with different organisations in countries where conditions varied so greatly. The question of vital interest to the conference was whether or not some non-political continuing organisation should be set up. The vote in favour of such an organisation was carried unanimously and there was obviously a keen demand for it. A temporary Council was therefore appointed by the conference in order to draw up a draft constitution and call another conference to consider it in a year's time. Delegates hoped that the organisation will arrange some cultural projects such as international music festivals, so that members may share the work and recreation of common projects together instead of only meeting to discuss. A number of Scouters and Guiders from all over the world were there as official Scout and Guide delegates from their countries, but there were others who were delegates from other organisations or as representatives of Government Departments. Any opportunity for strengthening the link of friendship in the world to-day is of great importance and our good wishes go to those who plan this 'International Organisation of Youth Organisations'.

Brownies—and All Hallowe'en

LAST year we built our Flying Up ceremony round the old custom of All Hallowe'en. We invited our Commissioner, Captain and Lieutenant, and by the time they had arrived our Sixes were 'hidden' away in their corners. Then the Toadstool Fairy carried the totem into the centre of the hall and handed me a well-polished rowan stick, saying: 'We are ready for Pow-Wow, Brown Owl, and here is the magic stick'.

I took the rowan stick—an old charm against evil—and walked slowly around the toadstool saying:

Then this rowan twig shall draw
A magic circle on the floor.
All who meet within its charm
Shall be safe from hurt or harm.

BROWNIES: Hush, hush, tu-whit, tu-whoo!

Each Six then rose in turn and suited actions to the following words, which they chanted as they joined Pow-Wow.

FAIRIES: The Fairies come flying o'er forest and fen.

GNOMES: The Gnomes come galloping through the glen.

KELPIES: The Kelpies are skipping a-holding their kites.

PIXIES: The Pixies paddle canoes so light.

PACK LEADER (*Joining ring carrying small wooden chest*):

Here is our treasure chest with rich Brownie gold,

ALL: We are all ready our Pow-Wow to hold.

Then we all skipped slowly round the toadstool and the chest which had been placed beside it, halting on alternate lines with our finger on our lips.

Here we meet on All Hallowe'en,

Hush, hush, tu-whit, tu-whoo,

Not a Boggart to be seen,

Hush, hush, tu-whit, tu-whoo,

We may wander every day

Over the hills and far away,

But tonight we'll Pow-Wow stay,

Hush, Hush, Hush. (*All sit.*)

BROWN OWL: Now who will open our chest for us?

(*Jenny, a Brownie about to 'fly away', went to the chest and pulled out some Brownie Wings.*)

JENNY (*Holding up the Brownie Wings*):

Look, oh look what I have found

Hidden in the chest, deep down.

Do you think that if we try

To wear these wings—then we could fly?

BROWN OWL: Brownies, Brownies, sit quite near,

For I've a tale which you shall hear,

My heart is sore, but my tongue doth itch

To tell you the tale of the lonely witch!

Once upon a time, in a little old cottage on the edge of a great moor, there lived an old witch. Because she had neither dog nor cat, nor bird, nor fish to keep her company she was called the lonely witch. True, she had a broomstick which she kept behind the door and on which she went adventuring over the moor, but the only other thing she possessed was an old oak chest, full of magic, which the Fairies had given her.

'But whatever good is magic to her?' the village folk asked each other. 'She never uses it'. And the more they thought of it the more they wished they owned the chest. So one day they sent the big blacksmith, who was their leader, to ask the witch if they might buy it.

The lonely witch saw him coming and chuckled to herself for she guessed his errand. But all she said when she opened the door was: 'Good day to you, Mr. Smith'.

'Good day to you, Ma-am', he replied, and stopped, for he didn't know how to go on, but his little granddaughter, who had come with him, was far less shy, and began to peep behind the door. At last the blacksmith said: 'A customer of mine wants to buy an old chest you see Ma-am, and as I

heard about your chest I came to see if you would sell yours?' 'So I will, if mine will be of any use to you', said the witch, 'but I doubt if you could move it for it was given to me on All Hallowe'en and that makes it doubly heavy'.

The blacksmith drew himself up very big and tall: 'I am a locksmith and should have no difficulty', he answered.

So in they went, the witch leading the way to the chest that stood, all musty and dusty, in a corner. The smith pushed and pulled with all his might, but it stood firm. He was just as unlucky when he attempted to unlock the chest, though he carried all manner of tools with him.

At last the smith was forced to rest. Then the lonely witch asked the child if she would like a sugar-plum, telling her she kept them in the chest. To the big smith's amazement his little granddaughter went straight up to the old chest and, lifting its lid without any effort, took out a fine, fat sugar-plum! Quickly the smith looked in the chest, but all he saw was a collection of old rags!

Then the smith was very angry for he was sure the old woman had played some trick on him. 'You forget it is a magic chest', was her reply. 'Only those who are young enough to have magic eyes and fingers may open it. See, the little girl has found something else hidden away under those grey rags which, alas, are my broken dreams! And what do you think the child has found? Why a dear little white mouse with pink eyes and a curly tail!'

The blacksmith was by now very angry indeed, and he went home and told the village folk that the old witch was mad, and they had best forget about the chest, but his granddaughter went home and told her friends about the magic she had found. Soon every child in the village came to play with the magic chest, and they found all sorts of things, for even broken dreams when shaken out and pinned together with a little imagination can be fun.

So the days and weeks and months went by and the little girl grew into a big girl until at last, one autumn day, she came as usual to the cottage only to find the witch was out and that no amount of pushing would open the chest.

'She must have locked it', said the blacksmith's granddaughter to her friend, and they began to look round for something else to play with. Soon they saw the broomstick in its place behind the door and, eager to try fresh magic, they took it in turns to fly round the room.

But the room soon became too small to fly in. 'Let's go off across the moor', they said. 'It is ever so much better than the chest', and they were just about to fly out of the window when the witch came in the door.

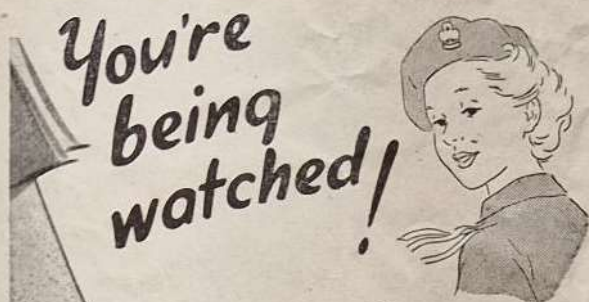
The children felt rather guilty, but strangely enough the witch was not angry. She just heaved a big sigh and said: 'So you have lost your magic eyes and the power to find magic in my chest, have you? Ah well, maybe it was bound to happen. I will make you broomsticks of your own for I am glad you want to go adventuring, but don't lose all your imagination pins too, will you?'

The witch was as good as her word and showed the way across the moor and waved them good-bye as they set out. Then she opened her magic chest again for the three new children who had just come in her door.

BROWN OWL: And now our fledglings, like the children in the story, are going to fly out on their great adventure. But not quite alone, for Captain is here and she is going to show you just how exciting the great moor of Guiding can be. And Commissioner will see your wings are fastened securely.

Everyone stood as the Fledglings said good-bye to Commissioner, Brown Owl and the pack. We then gave the 'Guides' a Grand Howl as they left the ring. Prayers and Brownie Bells followed.

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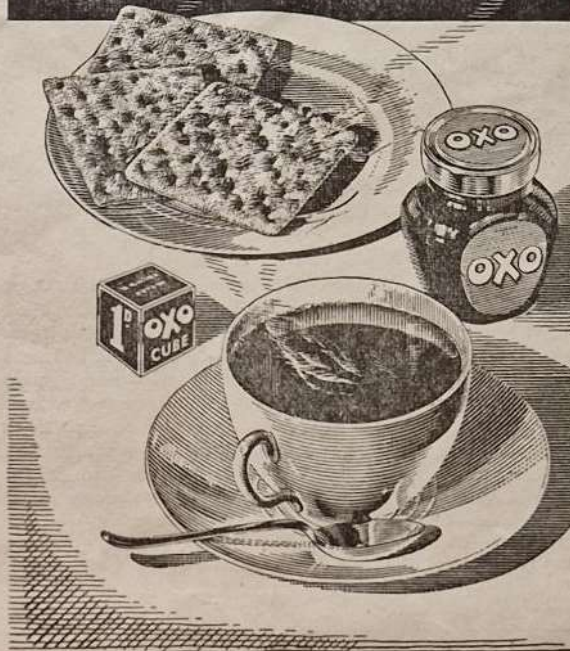
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 - 3 Eyes—LEFT.
 - 4 Glance again—RIGHT.
 - 5 If all clear—QUICK MARCH.
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"You see, if you take a risk on the ice and slip—well, you just laugh and try again. But if you take chances in traffic and make a mistake, you may *never* get up—and you may cause an accident that kills someone else. Every good Road Navigator remembers that, all the time. Kerb Drill is to remind us of the only proper way to cross streets."

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Where to Train

Note.—Applications for all trainings should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope and a deposit of 5s., which will be refunded if notice of withdrawal is given two full weeks before the training is due to commence. The minimum age for prospective Guiders attending all residential trainings is seventeen-and-a-half years.

FOXLEASE

October
8-12 Brownie and Guide Week
18-19 Oxford Week-end
23-26 Commissioners' and Secretaries' Week-end
29-Nov. 8 Guide Week
November
9-16 Guide and Brownie Pre-Warrant Week
19-23 Hampshire Week-end
26-30 Ranger and Cadet Week-end
December
31-Jan 4 Guide Week-end

1949
January
7-11 N. Surrey Week-end
14-18 Brownie and Guide Week-end
21-25 Music Party
28-1 Feb. Ranger and Guide Week-end
March
1-8 Guide Week
11-15 Guide and Brownie Week-end
18-22 Dorset county Week-end
25-29 Guiders and Commissioners
April
1-8 Guide Week

All applications to the Secretary, Foxlease, Lyndhurst, Hants. (Tel.: Lyndhurst 36.)
* Ranger training primarily for Land and Sea Sections.
† There will be special separate sessions for Commissioners at this training.

WADDOW

October
1-4 Guide and Ranger Week-end
8-11 S.E. Lancs. N. Week-end
22-25 Cheshire Week-end
26-28 Local Association Conference.
29-Nov. 2 Guide and Brownie Week-end

November
5-8 Brownie and Guide Week-end
12-15 S.W. Lancs. Week-end
19-22 Cadet Guiders' Week-end
26-29 Guide Week-end

December
30-Jan. 7 Guide and Brownie Training and New Year Party

January, 1949
14-17 Guide Week-end
21-24 Rangers (Land, Sea and Air)
28-31 N.E. Lancs. County Week-end
February
4-7 Commissioners' and Secretaries' Week-end
11-14 S.E. Lancs. W. County Week-end
18-21 Brownie Week-end
25-28 Manchester County Week-end
March
4-7 Guide and Brownie Week-end
11-14 Cadets
18-21 Camp Fire Week-end
25-28 N.W. Lancs. County Week-end
April
8-11 Woodcraft and First-Class Week-end

Applications to the Secretary, Waddow Hall, Clitheroe, Lancs. (Tel. Clitheroe 186). Unless otherwise stated, week-end trainings will finish on Monday afternoons, but Guiders who cannot attend the whole of any training will be accepted for part of it provided there is not a waiting list.

FEES: (minimum, 10s.)

Single room	£3 a week, 9s. 6d. a day.
Double room	£2 10s. a week, 8s. 6d. a day.
Shared room	£2 a week, 7s. a day.

Bursaries.—Guiders wishing to apply for a bursary place (half fee) should get in touch, through their Commissioner, with the Chairman of their County Training Committee or, where there is no Training Committee, with the County Secretary.
Grants on Railway Fares.—Where a Guider finds difficulty in attending a training week at Foxlease or Waddow on account of the train fare, the following rebates may be obtained if the Commissioner applies direct to Foxlease or Waddow.

£1 towards a return fare exceeding £5
10s. towards a return fare exceeding £3
5s. towards a return fare exceeding £2

S.R. TRAINING SHIP, M.T.B. 630, DARTMOUTH

Details of 1949 trainings will be published later.

PAX HILL

The 8th Homecraft Training Course is from January 18th to May 16th, 1949, and the 9th from August to December, 1949. Applications should be made to the Secretary, Homecraft Training Committee, I.H.Q.

NETHERURD (SCOTLAND)

October
8-10 East Lothian Reservation
18-17 Winter Camp Training Week-end
22-24 First Class Training Week-end
29-31 Brownie Week-end
November
5-7 Advanced Training (by invitation)

November
12-14 Commissioners' Week-end
19-21 General Pre-Warrant Training
26-28 Diploma'd Guiders' Week-end
December
2-5 Brownie Week-end
10-12 Available for County, Division or Ranger Reservation
30-Jan. 2, 1949 House Party

FEES: Shared room, £3 10s. per week, 7s. 6d. a day. A training fee of 2s. per course will be charged, and an additional fee of 2s. 6d. per course for a single room. Applications to the Secretary, Netherurd, Blyth Bridge, West Linton, Peebles-shire. Unless otherwise stated, week-end training will finish on Sunday evening, but Guiders may stay until Monday morning if they wish.

BRONEIRION (WALES)

October
1-4 Certificated Trainers
8-11 Guide Guiders and Ranger
Guiders (separate groups)
19-22 Local Association members
October
29-Nov. 1 Brownie Guiders and Commissioners (separate groups)

November
12-15 First Class Training
19-22 Winter Camp Training
26-28 Welsh Diploma'd Guiders' Week-end

Applications to the Guider-in-Charge, Broneirion, Llandinam, Montgomeryshire. Fees as for Foxlease.

LORNE (ULSTER)

October
8-10 North Belfast Division
15-17 Windsor District
22-24 Brownie
29-1 Nov. Guide
November
4-7 Song, Dance and Drama

November
12-14 Tyrone County
19-21 Camp Training
26-28 Guide and Ranger
December
2-5 Ranger Training
11 Annual Meeting

FEES: 8s. per day (cottage, 15s. per night). Lorne is beautifully situated on the shores of Belfast Lough, close to the station and golf links, and is a good centre for touring. Guiders and Rangers may book accommodation between the advertised trainings. There are two equipped camp sites. Applications to the Guider-in-Charge, Lorne, Craigsavod, Co. Down.

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS

MUSIC CONFERENCE

A Music Conference for County Music Advisers, Campfire H.I.s and Division or District Music Representatives will be held at I.H.Q. on Saturday, October 9th (11.30 a.m. to 9.15 p.m.), Sunday, October 10th (2.30 to 6.15 p.m.). Applications, enclosing fee (5s. for week-end or 2s. 6d. a day) and a stamped, addressed envelope, should be sent to the Secretary, Imperial Training Department, Headquarters.

DRAMA CONFERENCE

A Drama Conference will be held at I.H.Q. on Saturday, November 6th (11 a.m.) and Sunday, November 7th (2.30 p.m.). Fees (including tea): 5s. for the week-end or 3s. 6d. a day. Priority will be given to Drama Advisers, but other Guiders will be welcomed. Applications, enclosing fee and a stamped, addressed envelope, should be sent to the Secretary, Imperial Training Department, Headquarters.

C.C.A. CONFERENCE

The C.C.A. Conference for 1948 will be held at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, from December 3rd to 7th. The conference is open to all Green Cord and to one representative from those counties which have no holder of the Green Cord. Applications, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, to the Secretary, Imperial Training Department at I.H.Q.

CADET CONFERENCE

A non-residential conference for Cadets from England, Scotland, Ulster and Wales, will be held at Imperial Headquarters on January 8th and 9th, 1949. Entries will be accepted in the order in which they are sent in. (In England not more than one will be accepted from any one company until after November 15th. Additional names from a company will be placed on a waiting list until that date.) Cadets attending the conference are asked to do their utmost to find their own hospitality, as Headquarters can only find a limited amount. Applications for the conference should be made to the Secretary, Imperial Training Department at Headquarters. The written permission of the Captain and District Commissioner must accompany each application. Offers of hospitality from Cadets in London or the Home Counties will be gratefully accepted and should be sent to the Secretary.

For Your Bookshelves

*Pathfinders of Christ**, edited by Desmond Ford. (Burns Oates, 7s. 6d.) In the lives of these saints Guiders will find stories to illustrate the keeping of the Law and Promise. Written for Scouts, they can be adapted for Guides. As Father Martindale says in the excellent prologue, what is underlined in the stories is that the saints did not start miles ahead of us, but that each reached his goal by 'cheerful stickability'. D.O'B.

*Daily Readings from William Temple**, compiled by Canon H. C. Warner (Hodder and Stoughton, 10s. 6d.). The many people to whom the thought and life of William Temple are an inspiration, will welcome this anthology. It will also give an insight into the teaching of this great Archbishop, to those who are acquainted with it. The readings are meant to be for the ordinary man or woman who is looking for guidance on 'the problems of life', not for the trained theologian or philosopher. The meaning of some of it is as plain as a pikestaff; others need much thought, but the treasure is a rich reward for those who have worked to find it. The readings cover a wide field as is shown by the following titles: 'Atheistic

Education', 'Divorce and Re-marriage', 'Equality and Democracy', 'The Eucharistic Presence', 'Exploiting the Earth', 'The Function of Creeds', 'Futile Prayers', 'International Justice', 'Spiritual Freedom', 'The Sacredness of Sex'. Those who have read that other fascinating book, *William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, His Life and Letters*, by F. A. Iremonger (Oxford University Press, 25s.), will not be surprised at the width of the Archbishop's interests, nor at the number of subjects on which he could speak with authority. The *Daily Readings* is a book to be possessed. A.A.T.

*Sunshine Tales for Rainy Days**, by Elizabeth Clark. (University of London Press, Ltd., 6s.) Brown Owls will like to know of a new book by Elizabeth Clark—either for telling the stories to Brownies or suggesting they read them to themselves. In these nine tales Grandma tells Polly about their neighbours, about the bad little men called Trolls and many other things which she remembers, including her garden and the story of the flax flower. Miss Brisely has illustrated the book with the delightful sketches which one associates with Miss Clark's writings. B.M.R.

* Stocked at Headquarters Bookshop.

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THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

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'Parrots and Pigeons'

HAVING rounded up the 'hares' at the 1947 conference of Diploma'd Guiders we found ourselves this year, without premeditation, involved with 'parrots' and 'pigeons'. On the first evening at Waddow Miss Chater produced a song on the theme 'It's tiring to listen to a parrot all day' with the result that the more obvious laments on subjects like the lack of Guiders were anticipated and ruled out from the start. The 'pigeons' were dispatched in the form of 'Ideas Wanted'.

We were privileged to have as our guest on one day Mr. E. J. W. Jackson, Chief Inspector of Schools, who gave us a heartening picture of the Ministry of Education's attitude towards voluntary organisations and some interesting information about plans for County Colleges. Apart from Mr. Jackson there were no speakers from outside the movement and although this was not according to the original plan of the Training Committee, but merely because of the time of year at which the conference was held, the result was interesting. We really conferred.

Subjects ranged from 'The Value of Scouting Games' (with practical illustrations) to 'Influences affecting the lives of Brownies, Guides and Rangers at the present time'. This discussion took place in groups representing the interests of the different branches and brought us face to face with realities and with the need to relate our Guiding to them. Demonstrations of the various teaching methods and consideration of their application were valuable and provided much interest and amusement. The campfires included news from overseas and talks on training in Australia, Guiding in Germany and the work of a G.I.S. Team. On the last day Miss Frith, our General Secretary, gave us a challenging talk on Leadership which if we were in any danger of feeling complacent removed the danger, but also sent us home with a renewed awareness of the worth-whileness of the job.

The 'pigeons' returned safely at the end of the week, bringing lots of ideas which will be incorporated into the plans of the training department.

There was no particular theme, although on the first night it was suggested that the trainers should have in mind the idea of 'the disentangling of fact from fiction and the proven from the plausible'. Nevertheless the theme developed, and the different sessions and discussions seemed to build themselves into it. It was perhaps less a theme than a renewing of our conviction that Guiding, although dealing with comparatively small numbers, possibly indeed because of this, can be a real power for good provided there is a recognition of two things needful on the part of those entrusted with its interpretation. These are, an ability to distinguish between the technicalities and trends of fashion and the simple fundamental things (using the former to serve the latter) and a sure conviction that what we are doing is worth while.

MARGARET L. MARTIN [Commissioner for Training]

* The Lost Tools of Learning, by Dorothy Sayers.

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The Guider's Post Bag

Classified Advertisements

A Prayer for Thinking Day

Would it be possible for a prayer to be chosen for use especially on Thinking Day? Last February I found it very difficult to choose one for my company which was really appropriate. I suggest that if a suitable prayer could be found it should be used in as many companies as possible on each Thinking Day. If it was also used by Guides in other countries it would create a feeling of world-wide unity in Guiding for the children. What do other Guiders think? ANGELA GREEN.

[Please send in your opinion soon.—EDITOR.]

Scouting and Guiding

As one of the number of Guiders and Cubmistresses who staffed the camp kitchen at the Scout Patrol Jamboree in Blair Atholl this summer I should like to express some of the ideas which we formed there. First of all it seemed to me that the Scout Movement has a spirit and energy which is absent from Guiding as I know it. No one could have attended the magnificent international campfires held at Blair Atholl without feeling that Scouting is a great force helping towards international friendship. And yet many Guide companies, my own included, seem to be little more than girls' clubs to which girls go once a week if they have nothing better to do. Could the Guides not organise something on the lines of the international Scout Patrol Jamboree? How can we instil this spirit into our ordinary Guide meetings? The camp at Blair Atholl also helped to convince me of the advantages to be gained by greater co-operation between the Scout and Guide Movements. If there were a few more joint activities, both on a large scale and locally, surely it would be to the advantage of both movements. Let Scouting and Guiding move forward together and we would have a very potent influence towards world peace.

DOROTHY WALLACE.

Empire Ranger Week

Although this was a personal letter sent to me from Mlle. Demetre, Conseillère de District (N. et U.) Alpes Maritimes, I feel it belongs to the staff of Our Ark, Headquarters, Pax Hill, Foxlease, and all those who set the standard of Guiding during Empire Ranger Week. Thank you everyone for making all the visits possible. The message reads:

They (the two French Eclaircuses) came to call . . . and we had a very exciting description of all the happenings they experienced in England. They are just brimming over with gratitude for the reception you gave them, and with plans to raise the standard of our Scout work in Nice! They want to wear English berets, they want their "ensigns" to shine like yours, and their buckles and their shoes. They want us to demand great respect towards their Chieftains! They want well-built programmes for the year. I was quite touched by the way you showed them good Scout training, and I am sure we are going to turn a new leaf here in Nice and that we will be able next year to show you how much we will have grown in number and in quality of our technique—thanks to the enthusiasm you have awakened in those two girls. You certainly have done a wonderful work in that short time.

W. M. FLEETWOOD, C.R.A. Dorset.

Woodcraft in the Pig-Bin

A whispered 'Here he is', sounded through the darkened library. Six pairs of sleepy eyes peered through the windows at the gate below. Hardly daring to breathe, the silent watchers saw a dark form creep from the hedge through the gateway. 'Clang', went the pig-bin lid, startling raider and watchers alike into several seconds' absolute stillness. The visitor, with a sea-lion-like movement, jumped on to the bin, listened anxiously, and then dropped its black and white striped head into the pig-bin. After several minutes he hopped out again, retiring to a hedge to consume his spoils. At last the watchers' weary eyes saw him depart to his home. Gone was the cause of all the excitement—the badger in the Foxlease pig-bin.

MARGARET DEARMAN.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH HEADQUARTERS

It will greatly facilitate the work at Headquarters if equipment orders, matters relating to registrations, subscriptions for the periodicals, and miscellaneous enquiries are not included in a combined letter, but on separate slips for the departments concerned, which can all be forwarded in one envelope as at present. Each subject is dealt with in a different department, and separate slips will ensure that orders and enquiries are more speedily handled than at present.

Advertisements must be received by the 10th of the month for insertion in the next issue. Charges: 3d. per word, 1d. 3d. for box number. Advertisements for the sale of second-hand clothing cannot be accepted.

(Accommodation offered has not necessarily been approved by Headquarters.)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

The Metropolitan Regional Hospital Nursing Recruitment Centre is open Mondays to Fridays from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Thursdays to 5 p.m.) to advise, help and offer vacancies in all grades of nursing staff. Call or write to: The Nursing Recruitment Centre, County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.W.1.

Ranger or Guider as Nursery Governors for two small boys aged 3 and 4 years. To live as family, Park House, Mrs. Paul Kemp, High Oak Manor, Church Eaton, Bedford.

Second Assistant in Superintendent of Girls' Hostel in West End, London, required at once. Christian women essential. Apply by letter, stating experience, age, salary required.—Superintendent, 11, Finsbury Street, London, W.1.

West Sussex County Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. Secretary urgently required. Vacancy through illness. Short-hand, typing. Good lodgings.—Apply Mrs. Eileen King, O.B.E., County Organiser, Selsey, Petersfield, West Sussex.

Wardens and Assistant Wardens wanted for Women's Land Army Hostels in all parts of England and Wales. Country districts. Salary: £1 to £4 per week, resident. Knowledge of catering and interest in young people essential.—Apply in writing to Hostels Department, W.L.A. Headquarters, 6, Chesham Street, S.W.1.

Cooks, Assistant Cooks and Domestic staffs wanted for Women's Land Army Hostels in all parts of England and Wales. Resident posts. Salaries from £1 to £4, to £7 weekly.—Apply in writing to Hostels Department, W.L.A. Headquarters, 6, Chesham Street, S.W.1.

Northam Royal Hospital, Monks Orchard, Eton Park, Northampton. Kent. Student Nurses trained in psychiatric nursing. Resident or non-resident. Full recreational facilities for resident staff. Four weeks annual holiday with pay. Salary during training £100 to £150 per annum, plus Government allowances for women who have served a year in R.A.M. Forces or in work of national importance (last year £28 p.w.), Grades of £30 and £38 are paid at the end of the second and third years of training, provided the necessary examinations have been passed.—Apply Watson.

Scottish County Commissioner requires Domestic help. Two sisters or friends. AD duties except rough work. Modern country house on two roads. Farm and garden produce. Two in family. Self-contained but available. Relative or child of school age no objection.—Box No. 315.

HEADQUARTERS VACANCIES

Registrations Department.—Junior Clerk wanted immediately, aged 16-17, salary £1 to £1 10s. per week according to ability. No special training required but must be keen, quick and intelligent. Apply to: The Secretary of the Registrations Department, Girl Guides Association, 17-19, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

Annual Report Checker.—Temporary full-time appointment from middle of November, for 4-6 months. Work requires accuracy and concentration, some secretarial experience an asset. Salary £4 10s. per week.—Apply as above.

Waddow.—Cook/Career required.—Apply for particulars to Guider-in-Charge, Waddow Hall, Clitheroe, Lancashire.

ACCOMMODATION OFFERED

Exceptional opportunity for Guiding.—Accommodation offered in historic country house in lovely Somerset. Grand views, spacious grounds, every modern comfort. Warmth assured. Excellent cuisine. No staff worries.—Apply Mrs. G. I. Jansen-Potts, Nymebod Court, Nymebod, Wellington, Somerset.

The Lake District.—Miss Buckley's little holiday house is open all year round. There will be a Christmas and New Year house-party, from early 1949. Bostley St., Keswick, Cumbria.—Refined accommodation, 1, Westbourne Terrace Road, W.2. Bed and breakfast from 10s. 6d. nightly, central for places of interest. Phone Cunningham 2373.

Accommodation offered under children of educated parents who reside abroad. Small convenient house. Yorkshire dales.—Whitworth, Waddow, Low How, Yorks.

Come to Castle Gay for a lovely holiday, open all the year.—Miss Ashby and Miss Rutherford, Farmhouse Road, Horne Bay.

Bunglow Guest House, open all year, run by ex-Guides, two minutes' walk and bus. From 4 guineas. Ideal surroundings.—Apply 'Summer's End', Bucks Road, Sandbanks, Bournemouth.

Halmer Lawn House, Brockenhurst, Hants.—The Guest House that is open all the year round. Come and explore the New Forest at your leisure.—For particulars, apply Miss Sandy.

Holidays between Downs and Sea.—Apply, ex-Guide, 14, Vale Avenue, Worthing. Frenchwoman of 41, retired teacher French-Latin. English-speaking, musician, spinster. Commisariat Guides de France, would take as paying guests English girls, good education, wishing to learn French. Good food assured. Lightening steps arranged to see France.—Write to: M. Cordana, 1, rue Rabaud-Lacroix, Conflans (Charente), France.

FOR SALE

Blue Grey Basset, 15 ins. frame, unaged, etc., also Merse practice hunter, 20.—Miss Strain, Reynolds, Ellsworth, Shropshire.

Tooth brushes, pocket combs, dressing combs, etc., stamped in gold with any name. Repeat orders assured.—Samples from Northern Newsletters, 26, Patrician Road, Heston.

No. 1000—Amusing plays, reprinted.—Bargain Sale, 'Brain Pie', etc., 2s. 'Village Shop', 'Remedies', etc., 1s. Six approval plans, 12d.—13, Overland Mansion, London, S.W.11.

Suitable for preservation.—Diamond Timberlock Birch, £17 10s.—Box 312.

Guide Hints, recently re-written, 10s. each.—Box No. 311.

WANTED

Commissioner's Uniform, sizes 42-44, suit 36-38.—Box No. 311.

TYPEWRITING AND DUPLICATING

All classes of Duplicating and Typewriting made and accurately executed. Prompt delivery, moderate charges, special terms to Guiders.—Alert Typewriting Bureau, 26, Rutland Road, Harrow, Middlesex. Harrow 4626.

Camp Notices, Bulletins, News-letters, Minutes, etc., etc., duplicated by Miss Molloy, 46, Barthall Lane, King's Lancher, Herts. Stamp please, for specimens.

Articles, Reports, Photographs and Drawings for insertion in 'The Guider', Letters to the Editor and Books for Review, should be sent by the 10th of the previous month to the Editor, Girl Guide Imperial Headquarters, 17-19, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

MSB, photographs and drawings cannot be returned unless a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. No responsibility can be accepted by the Editor as to contributions, but every effort is made to ensure their safe return.

Subscriptions to be sent to the Secretary, Girl Guide Imperial Headquarters, 17-19, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

'The Guider' is sent direct from Imperial Headquarters to any part of the United Kingdom at the rate of 1d. per month (which includes postage). Annual subscription, post free, 1s. to any part of the world.

The Girl Guides Association

HEADQUARTERS INSURANCE POLICIES

Personal Accident and Medical Expenses Insurance Policy

THIS policy runs for twelve months from November 8th each year.

Although the new National Insurance Act is now in force our claims experience so far has shown us that in a great number of cases medical expenses are still being incurred on much the same scale as before where Guides are taken ill or meet with accident in camp, or on other Guiding activities. There are various reasons for this, one of them being that by no means all the doctors have joined the scheme and the Guider may have to call on the services of such a doctor. In addition there are various expenses which in any case are not covered under the Act and for which the Guider may feel a moral liability, e.g., out-of-pocket travelling or personal expenses incurred by, or on behalf of, the patient.

It therefore seems clear to us that there is still a very real need for our policy, and to offset those charges which may in future be covered under the National Insurance Act we have negotiated with the underwriters for a *one-third reduction in premium*, while at the same time obtaining a very worthwhile increase in benefits. We hope, therefore, that as many members as possible will continue to give the policy their support.

COVER

The object of the insurance is to cover the moral liability of Guiders for accidents sustained during Guiding activities throughout the year.

The policy operates as a general insurance of all members, including Guiders and authorised officials, of those units which join the scheme.

It provides for the payment of compensation as set out in the schedule in the event of:

1. Accidents occurring during any organised Guide activities throughout the year, and
2. Illness contracted during the period of any Guide camp, subject to the members concerned being in charge of a Guider, subject always to the terms of the policy and the agreed schedule of compensation.

Counties, Divisions, Districts, companies and/or packs are urged to insure their total membership on an annual basis which automatically includes cover for camp.

In cases where this is not possible, the total number attending any one camp may be insured for the period of the camp only, but it should be noted that when insuring for a whole year the rate of premium is exactly one-third that required for camp only.

Units may join the scheme at any time in the year on paying the full rate of premium.

N.B.—The term camp includes Guide and pack holidays and visits abroad.

PREMIUM

Annual Basis: 2d. per three members. (On total membership of Unit in multiples of three.)

Camp: 2d. per head. (Paid on each camper for period of camp only.)

EXCLUSIONS

The policy does not cover:

1. Travel by air. (See terms for special cover.)
2. Travel by motor cycle.
3. The use of motor cars, except when used by Guiders for transport of members on authorised Guiding activities.
4. Winter sports, mountaineering and other risks outside normal Guiding activities.

SPECIAL COVER

Special cover can be arranged for:

1. Air Ranger Flights undertaking air training including flying and/or gliding for an additional premium of 1s. per head paid on total membership of Flight.
2. Parties of Guides going to Eire or the Continent of Europe for camps, etc.
3. Winter sports parties.
4. Foreign Guides on official visits to this country.

Details on request.

APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

Application for insurance should be made on the form obtainable from Headquarters.

The policy expires each year on November 8th, when a new policy is taken out. Renewal forms are therefore sent during October to

all those already insured, and should be returned to headquarters on or before November 8th, together with the necessary premium.

When arranging their insurance Guiders are asked to include any recruits in their total membership, as no adjustment in numbers is required later.

Scotland: Scottish Guiders should apply to their own Headquarters which has a separate policy.

CLAIMS

Headquarters must be notified immediately an accident or illness occurs. *Failure to comply with this within seven days may invalidate the claim when made.*

A form will then be sent to the applicant to be filled in. This must be returned to Headquarters immediately, and all bills and accounts for expenses incurred must be sent in as soon as possible.

Should the question of insurance ever arise when Guiders or parents are arranging payment for treatment, it should be borne in mind that the policy is a private one arranged for the Girl Guides Association, and is therefore on a very limited scale. *Its intention is only to cover such expenses as would have been incurred did no such policy exist, and all claims will be considered on that basis.* Only if claims are kept as small as possible can the present extremely low rate of premium continue.

SCHEDULE OF COMPENSATION

1. DEATH	...	£100
2. PERMANENT TOTAL LOSS OF SIGHT OF BOTH EYES	Within 3 Calendar Months from date of Accident	£500
3. PERMANENT TOTAL LOSS OF SIGHT OF ONE EYE		£125
4. TOTAL LOSS OF TWO LIMBS		£500
5. TOTAL LOSS OF ONE LIMB		£125
6. PERMANENT TOTAL LOSS OF SIGHT OF ONE EYE AND LOSS OF ONE LIMB		£500
7. PERMANENT AND IRRECOVERABLE TOTAL DISABEMENT FROM ACCIDENTAL INJURIES, CERTIFIED AFTER TWELVE MONTHS' TREATMENT, OTHER THAN LOSS OF LIMBS OR EYES AS ABOVE PROVIDED		£500
8. MEDICAL EXPENSES: Including cost of conveyance by ambulance or other means of transport to Hospital or Home, necessarily incurred by or on behalf of any individual: (a) Following an accident occurring whilst under the control of any Officer or other authorised official, or (b) by reason of illness (common to both sexes) arising during participation in any recognised or official indoor or outdoor camp, training course or other activity involving domicile away from home. Provided always that the illness be diagnosed or the indisposition such as to require initial treatment during period of camp, course or activity, but in no case shall the benefit extend to infectious or contagious diseases developing after the individual concerned has left scene of camp, course or activity. N.B.—No claim arises for services rendered under the National Services Act, 1946. LIMIT ANY ONE INDIVIDUAL		£20
9. OUT-OF-POCKET TRAVELLING OR PERSONAL EXPENSES: Where necessarily incurred by or on behalf of any one individual following an accident or illness as defined under Benefit 8. N.B.—Extra travelling expenses incurred by an Officer or a parent summoned to attend are recognised for the purpose of this section. LIMIT ANY ONE INDIVIDUAL		£5
10. WEEKLY COMPENSATION AS A RESULT OF TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABEMENT: By accident or illness as defined by Benefit 8. Restricted to those who have left School on the date on which the accident or illness occurs. Limit 26 weeks. Claim under £2 10s. not recoverable. PER WEEK—PER INDIVIDUAL		£2 10s.

Guiders' Indemnity Policy

All Guiders in Great Britain and Northern Ireland are insured under the Guiders' Indemnity Policy, the premium for which is paid by Headquarters. This means that all Guiders are protected against any legal claims which may be made against them for accidents and/or occurrences to Rangers, Guides, or Brownies in their charge, or for damage to property caused by them. It is not an accident policy for the Rangers, Guides or Brownies themselves, and an accident would have to be legally proved due to negligence on the part of the Guider for a claim to succeed against her.