

# GIRL GUIDES' GAZETTE

Price 2d

No. 7.

JULY, 1914.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

MY DEAR GUIDES,

July, 1914.

You may remember that I wrote to you in my previous letter to begin training early, to bend your soft twigs whilst they are young and before they become hard wood and grow into sturdy tree trunks, whose shape and leanings cannot be altered.

Your character is like your nails. It is what you yourself make it, and you know also that your nails can be cultivated and improved and kept beautiful. Sir Robert Baden-Powell has always been very particular about Guides' hands. He likes them to be smooth and very clean. We are all lent a few nails for this life, mostly nice ones, and we are not expected to ill-use them, or bite them, or they at once grow ugly.

We should all take great care to polish the nails with chalk and flannel, never cut off much at a time, and, of course, Girl Guides' nails are never in mourning. Now, what we know of our nails is just the same with our minds and characters.

### GROOM YOUR CHARACTER.

At birth we are lent a character, as it might be, a piece of stuff, and we are expected to make up something very nice out of it. Our parents help start it, and our teachers tell us the best way to do it, but we cannot do it without giving much attention to cultivating our minds. You must "groom your character" as you would your horse. Every day it must be cleaned and inspected and brushed up; you must not forget, either, to feed it, for your mind and character must have matter to build it up, such as reading high-minded subjects or looking upon beautiful scenes and seeing the beauty in them.

I have lately been seeing a great many Guides' hands, and very nice and clean they were, hundreds of them!

My visit to Crowborough proved how splendidly those Sussex Guides can groom themselves, both body and soul, and I was

particularly glad to learn at that Rally how much the Guides' mothers like the training and how much improved they find their daughters are after joining the Guides.

The Crowborough Guides have all sustained a very great grief following so soon on that splendid Rally, owing to the sad death of Mrs. Maude, who was the generous donor of their flag. We have all felt the deepest sympathy with their Captain, Miss Nesta Maude, in her great sorrow.

### ENCOURAGING RALLIES.

I have since visited Oxford and found a growing detachment of whom I have great hopes. Unluckily, a sudden stop was put to my efforts to improve our acquaintance by a violent thunderstorm, so that ambulance tents and "camp-kitchens" were all flooded out and there was a general rush for home.

At Derby the Guides mustered very well, and I had the great pleasure of inspecting a very fine body of Guides, well turned out, and looking intelligent and bright.

We had many competitions, and there was keen rivalry in fire-lighting and signalling. Tent-pitching was very smartly competed, the tents were well set-up, and very quickly done. The albums of dried flowers were beautiful, and the prizes for cooking were keenly contested. The whole Rally at Derby was a lovely sight, as Mrs. Mundy most kindly lent her beautiful park for it.

I am looking forward with the greatest interest to meeting many hundreds of you, my dear Guides, on the 18th at Birmingham, and I feel very eager to see what you can do.—Yours sincerely,

AGNES BADEN-POWELL.

\* \* \* \*

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations which have been received at Headquarters:

Lady Strathcona ...	£10	0	0
Miss Dupré ...	£90	0	0
Miss Girvan ...	£0	17	6

## HOW OUR BADGES ARE AWARDED.

## V.—PATHFINDER'S BADGE.

The centre of the Pathfinder's radius is always the Company Headquarters. A Guide must know every road, lane, and footpath for a mile round these. If the Captain finds that this will lead her girls into undesirable quarters, which in the case of a big town is quite possible, she must limit the radius in that direction and increase it another.

It is most important that Guides in towns shall be able to direct people, especially motorists, clearly. They should remember that places familiar to them are quite unknown to the stranger. Therefore, directions must be given simply. "Follow the tram lines for about a mile and turn to the left by a big red building with a glass roof!" is quite plain, but many people would say, "Go down King Street and turn down North Street by the Swimming Baths!" The same applies to country girls. It is no use telling a stranded motorcyclist that "He can get petrol at Mr. Smith's," and to get there he must go "up the lane by the schools!"

Pathfinders should make it their business to find out all sorts of little things, such as:

1. The state of the local roads. Are they being made up or tarred?
2. The nearest policeman on point duty.
3. The doctor's telephone number.
4. The nearest veterinary surgeon, in case of an accident to an animal.
5. The best hotels in the neighbouring towns and whether they have garages and are on the telephone.

It is often said that Test No. 3 is impossible in a town, but, naturally, it is not so much the numbers as the positions of the shops named, that the Guide must know. A city Pathfinder should know all about the tram and 'bus routes which pass through her district.

It is a good plan for town girls, as they walk along, to say to themselves, "Now, suppose an accident happened here and I was told to fetch a doctor, where should I go?" She will probably find a house on the telephone at hand, and knowing a doctor's number would save several minutes. "Or suppose a fire broke out, where is the nearest alarm?"

In judging buildings suitable for hos-

pitals there are many things to be thought of. Drainage, water supply, means of lighting and heating. Of course, the building is one with several large, lofty rooms, like a school, but failing this barns, churches, lofts and garages can all be utilised. To estimate how many patients each would contain you must find out the length and breadth by pacing (an average full pace is 33 inches). These results in feet, multiplied, will give the number of square feet contained. For single beds allow by 4ft., 28 square feet is the least you can allow for each person, and 600 cubic feet of air. On these data you can easily work out the number of patients a building will hold, only remember to allow for space between beds and room for tables, etc.; also allow for the thickness of the walls and look out for the position of the fireplace. The duties of a Pathfinder are never-ending, for she must have information at her finger-tips to satisfy pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, and aviators!

## "DAGONET'S" COMPLAINT.

"Dagonet," the writer of "Mustard and Cress" in the *Referee*, who is better known as Mr. George R. Sims, the famous novelist and dramatist, ventured on a pathetic complaint a Sunday or two ago concerning the signalling ardour of his Girl Guide niece. He wrote as follows:—

"Our brave defenders, the Girl Guides of Bexhill, had a Grand Rally at Crowborough on Monday last. Miss Baden-Powell reviewed the assembled feminine forces, and when the review was over Miss Baden-Powell smilingly requested that Miss Tenderfoot Minty Lamb, of the Pimpernel Patrol, might be presented to her.

"I have seen our brave defender since this memorable occasion, and the kindly words of encouragement spoken on the Champ de Mars by the famous leader of the movement have had a great effect on the Tenderfoot's military ardour. But I wish she would not practise flag wagging in my study with the windows open. The last time she signalled to the outposts it took me an hour and a half to reunite my scattered papers into proper order, and there are certain china ornaments which used to be on my mantelpiece that are now in the hands of the riveter."

## LADY BADEN-POWELL'S MESSAGE TO THE GIRL GUIDES.

DEAR GUIDES,—I cannot write you a long letter, I'm afraid, as I have not very much time to spare—as you probably guess, because I nearly always go with the Chief Scout when he goes visiting Scouts in different parts of England.

I am so very glad often to see little companies of Girl Guides at some of these places, and I only wish I could see double the number. Of course, I don't want to see them with the Boy Scouts, because, although you are all working to the same end—that of fitting yourselves up like a wireless installation to send our good electric currents to those about you—you are doing it in a different way. In our sphere in life we do not want to do boxing and running or fencing and that sort of thing, do we? But the way to be useful and happy is to set to work on our own particular feminine jobs and do them well, and to show others, too, how to make themselves useful and handy in many ways.

### UNIFORM AND BANDS.

#### Two questions of importance to the Movement.

Two questions which affect very closely the welfare of the Girl Guide movement and its reputation for true womanliness as opposed to a "tomboy" spirit or militarism have been brought to our notice of late. One concerns the wearing of uniform in public and the other the use of bugle bands.

Will Captains please note that Guides must not take part individually in parades, carnivals, or flower and collecting days, in uniform. Captains desiring their girls to help must see that they are in ordinary dress, unless they attend as a Company, under the charge of an Officer.

It is also very much to be regretted that certain Officers allow their girls to go to public entertainments in uniform. We have before us, at the present time, a letter, in which the writer informs us that, at the Boy Scouts' Rally in the Horse Guards' Parade, she saw Guides in uniform, standing about alone, who looked very untidy and shabby—quite the reverse of what they should be. The writer goes on to say that these girls were in green shirts, dirty red ties, and khaki hats.

That is why I am so glad to hear that some of you are taking up the work of training Rosebuds, to follow in your footsteps. I heard the other day from a company at an Ealing school, who had formed a company of little sisters, and I am proud to say that they have asked to be allowed to call themselves by my name. I hope many more of you will start too. When you are teaching others you absorb such a lot of knowledge yourself, and I am sure you are all anxious to get badges and carry your splendid character on your sleeve!

I saw a fine muster of Guides at Liverpool last week. I don't think I have ever seen so many girls together before, and I only wish I had had longer time and could have got to know them all more personally.

Good wishes to you all for the best of good camping these holidays.

Yours ever,

OLAVE BADEN-POWELL.

The Headquarters think they are correct in saying that girls dressed in the above-mentioned costume were not registered "Girl Guides." However, they urgently make this appeal to all ladies interested in the movement, and to Guides themselves, that the official uniform shall be strictly adhered to—that is to say the dark blue costume, dark blue felt hat, and pale blue tie. This uniform may only be worn when the girls are attending their own meetings or a special gathering of Guides. When they merely go out independently, as spectators, they should, in no circumstances, be allowed to dress in their uniform.

When these orders are disobeyed the whole movement suffers, and, therefore, the Headquarters Committee hopes that such irregularities will be brought to its notice.

As for the question of bands, we all know that marching becomes twice as easy when you can swing along to the tune of a band or even the tap of the drum. But, in the words of the "Handbook," "the less Girl Guides are seen marching in public the better." Girls playing bugles and drums will attract attention anywhere, and not always attention of a sympathetic kind. The use of bands of any sort when marching in public is therefore to be discouraged.

## HEADQUARTERS' NOTICES.

Officers are reminded that they must not do account accept girls from another Patrol without obtaining the necessary transfer. The trouble and confusion which may arise does arise from the failure to obey this obviously necessary and desirable regulation ought not to need emphasising.

**Girl Guides and Religion.**

As many questions have been asked on the subject of the Girl Guides and religion, it may be well to explain that there is no definite religious basis to the movement. For every Girl Guide is expected to be a member of some religious organisation. Every facility is given for the formation of Companies in connection with the various denominations, and such Companies exist in connection with almost every religious body in the country.

**Size of Companies.**

The answer given in our last number to the enquiry of a correspondent ("R.F.") with regard to the size of Companies seems to have been misconstrued in some quarters as meaning that no Captain should have more than 24 girls under her charge. While it is generally found advisable to divide the Guides of each Association into Companies of three Patrols each, there must of necessity be an adaptation of rules and methods to suit the district, and we know of large companies which are admirably conducted, and in which a change would perhaps be undesirable. In most cases, however, as soon as a Company has three Patrols at full strength, another should be formed, although the same Captain may continue to command both. In fact, there is no limit to the number of Companies a single Captain may administer, so long as she is able and willing to devote the necessary time. We know of cases where three or even four Companies are under one officer. Strictly to limit the number in each Company to 24, if each Company had to have entirely independent officers, might in some places prevent many would-be Guides being accepted, for officers, who are both capable and willing to devote enough time to making themselves and their Company efficient, are sometimes difficult to find. There should, of course, be no question of eligible girls being shut out.

D. M.



16TH LIVERPOOL COMPANY.

### BLIND GUIDES.

#### Liverpool Girls who triumph over Infirmity.

[In response to a request for a few notes about the Company of keen Girl Guides which has been formed at the School for the Blind, Wavertree, Liverpool, Miss Agnes M. Allen, the Lady Superintendent, has kindly sent the following, together with some most interesting photographs, one of which is here reproduced. Miss Allen is also Captain of the Company.—ED.]

I am proud to say the 16th Liverpool is the first registered Company of Blind Girl Guides in the British Isles. In the U.S.A. they have a similar organisation, under the title of "Camp Fire Girls," and there is a Troop in connection with the Blind School at New York.

The movement is making great headway, and I hope ere long that most of our schools will take it up. - In passing, I should like to say we have also a Troop of Scouts, the 81st Liverpool.

We were registered on February 15th, 1914, but long before that I had read aloud

to the children the "Handbook for Girl Guides," and also chapters from the book on "Scouting," to get the interest of both girls and boys. My great difficulty seemed to be in finding officers, as people naturally think it must be a difficult thing to train blind children. It is an idea which I hope will soon be wiped out, as, given the same opportunity for work and play, the blind girl will compare very favourably with her sighted sister. Different methods, however, may have to be resorted to. For instance, in the Morse Code whistles are used instead of flags, with long and short blasts for the dash and dot.

Captain Francis Peirson-Webber, who is totally blind himself, says he considers that Scouting and Guide work is of great value in our Blind Institutions, that it is a happy help towards self-reliance of the right kind, resourceful initiative, and a wider appreciation of the difficulties of life and the way to overcome them.

The most difficult test, to my mind, for blind girls is the cutting out and placing the Union Jack. Some, of course, are much quicker than others, and can use a pair of

scissors very well. I had two jig-saw Union Jacks given to me—one is very simply cut, and the other is the usual jig-saw—the three colours being shown by different surfaces—one perfectly smooth, the other not quite so smooth, and the third a rough surface.

Perhaps in a short time I may be allowed to give a further account of our doings. As yet we have not trained for any of the Special Badges, but we are hoping to begin at once.

AGNES M. ALLEN.



M. H. (Old Aberdeen).—We have inquired into the matter you mention and hope you will have no further cause for complaint. Glad you find the paper "splendid."

PATROL LEADER. — No alternative for jumping and climbing is authorised at present, although the vaulting horse, parallel bar and horizontal bar are allowed instead of ju-jitsu. If you write into Headquarters, however, they will be glad to consider any suggestion you have to make.

AN IRISH FACTORY GIRL'S LETTER.—We have received a striking letter from a girl worker in a large paper mill at Inchicore, Co. Dublin. Here it is, just as it was written, yet we value it more highly than many epistles that are models of literary form:—

Dear Sir,—I am writing to you this evening in high hope that you will give me some relief, because the days seem so dreary to me as I work hard in a factory all day. I have heard you have made up a plan of cheering those poor working girls by forming a girl guide troops. I have taken a great fancy to boy scouts movement, and wish if it is in your power to do some thing in way of a little pleasure for us unfortunate working girls, as I have to work from six o.c. in morning till six o.c. in evening and when I am finished working I have nothing to cheer me up. please send some hope if I do not ask to much of you. boys have pleasure in playing bootball, cricket, and a merry time in the fields and woods, while girls have nothing at all to enjoy themself with.

Please send me answer.—I remain, yours truevelly,

## DON'TS FOR CONTRIBUTORS & WHY

Useful Hints to those who write for this and other papers.

Don't write on both sides of the paper, because the printer may have to cut up the "copy" for distribution to several contributors.

Don't write without leaving space between the lines and in the margin, because corrections or alterations are sometimes necessary.

Don't send long cuttings from local newspapers with a request that they may be reprinted in the *Gazette*, because we have not the space, and the Editor has not time to re-write them.

Don't forget to put your name and address on the first sheet of your MS., because it may get separated from a letter, if you send one with it. Similarly, photographs should have written on the back what they represent.

Don't omit to write names and figures specially clearly.

Don't send long reports of purely local interest, including long lists of names, because, if every Company did the same, the *Gazette* would have to be about fifty times the size it is. But brief reports for "Company News" are always welcome.

Don't be discouraged if, for some reason or other, we are not able to use all the articles or photographs you send us. We should like to print a good many more—only there isn't room.

Don't forget that only very clearly defined photographs are suitable for reproduction.

Don't expect articles or photographs to be returned unless you send a stamped addressed envelope.

Don't mix up communications for the *Gazette* with letters to Headquarters or other matters. Correspondence for the *Gazette* should be addressed separately to the Editor.

But do write and tell us if you have any suggestions for improving the *Gazette*, and send us items of news or articles either on new aspects of Guide training or on general subjects which you think will interest Girl Guides all over the United Kingdom, and even across the seas. Letters addressed to the Editor will be answered, when possible, in "Our Post-bag" column.

## THE GIRL GUIDES' GAZETTE,

JULY, 1914.

The Gazette will be published on the 15th of each Month.

Annual Subscription	2/6	(post free)
Single Copies	2½d.	"
Foreign and Colonial Subscription	5/-	"

B. P.



G. G.

All communications should be addressed to—

THE EDITOR,  
GIRL GUIDES' GAZETTE,  
116 Victoria Street,  
London, S.W.

The Editor will be glad to receive short articles, correspondence or items of news of general interest. Manuscripts must be written on one side of the paper only and bear the name and address of the sender (not necessarily for publication). No MSS will be returned unless a stamped envelope is enclosed.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

## Company Flags.

Has your Company got its own Company flag yet? Every Company ought to possess its own colours, which can be obtained from Headquarters, either with or without the name of the Company added. The flag is quite a handsome affair mounted on a jointed pole made in two pieces. It has in the middle of a dark blue ground a reproduction of the 1st and 2nd Class Badge in red and green.

## Our Essay Competition.

Our competition last month brought in some excellent essays from Guides in many parts of the country. Their ideals of womanhood were always interesting, and such as one would wish a Guide's to be, although in one or two cases the ideal could apparently only be fulfilled in the face of all sorts of misfortunes. It ought not to be

necessary to be crossed in love or to have a drunken husband in order to be a true woman. The most extraordinary thing about the competitions, however, was that while we received lots of really good essays from girls of 15 and under, only one essay was sent in by a girl over 16, and that was by no means so good as several that failed to win a prize in Competition A. In the circumstances, therefore, we have decided not to award the prize in Competition B.

## Teignmouth Guide wins prize.

The 5/- prize in Competition A (for Guides between the ages of 11 and 15) is awarded to Patrol Leader Ellen Stewart Coulson (aged 15), of Marsland, Teignmouth (1st Teignmouth Company). Her essay appears on another page.

## More Dont's.

Perhaps "Wails from Headquarters" would be a better and more touching title for this paragraph, for it is the result of notes I have made from time to time of the troubles of the worried-looking people who try to cope with the daily growing correspondence inseparable from such a great organisation as ours, and to supply your needs in the way of Badges and equipment as quickly as dilatory manufacturers will let them. It would simplify matters a lot if orders for anything to be sent could be written on a separate sheet of paper. If they are scattered through an eighteen-page letter and mixed up with some of the conundrums which it is the Secretary's lot to answer — sometimes with an after-thought or two on the envelope—it is a little difficult to dig them out without overlooking any. This the way the "orders" sometimes come: — "We have got 22 girls in the Company now and three have just qualified for the Cook's Badge and two for the Ambulance. By the way, will you please send Badges for them? If a Guide sees her Captain in a carriage of which the horse is running away, ought she to salute before trying to stop the horse? Please also send four Second-class Badges. We have just appointed So-and-So Patrol Leader, and she would like her stripes as soon as you can send them, please. . . ." And so on. Delay is often caused by the omission to send a straightforward list on a separate sheet.

Too enthusiastic stamp-licking.

Also when sending stamps to Headquarters don't stick them down tight to your letter. Their condition when removed is sometimes not such as to make them acceptable to the Post Office.

Last, but not least, if you have a grievance about something, write and tell Headquarters all about it. They are never so happy as when they are hearing about their own shortcomings. But complain to them direct before you complain about them to

others. And, by the way, don't be offended if, when you write for a Badge you are referred to your local Committee. The rule is made in the best interests of the organisation as a whole.

#### Improved Tenderfoot Badges.

Another matter to which I am asked to call attention is the improvement in the pins of the 1d. Tenderfoot Badges, which are now very much stronger and more efficient.

### PROGRESS IN BRISTOL.

After four years of wonderful progress due mainly to the efforts and enthusiasm of Miss Sherriff, it has been decided to form a local committee to control the organisation of the Bristol Guides, who now number about 300. There are actually 15 companies at work in Bristol.

An important meeting of officers and patrol leaders of Bristol and district was held on June 10, at the headquarters of the 1st Bristol Company (whose photograph is given on this page).

Miss Sherriff, in introducing Miss Malcolm, commissioner for the Y.W.C.A. Guides, referred briefly to the need for a committee, in the formation of which Miss Malcolm had come to assist.

Miss Malcolm then explained the proposed scheme, and gave an account of what had already been done on similar lines in Manchester.

She emphasized the need for getting as many people from outside as possible interested in the movement by appointing them as examiners or otherwise securing their co-operation.

We understand that thanks to the energy of Miss Sherriff, who is acting as secretary, a very representative committee is being formed at Bristol. The Marchioness of Aylesbury has consented to become one of the vice-presidents.



1st BRISTOL COMPANY.

Photo by R. T. Batt, 53 Corn Street, Bristol.

