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THE SOUTHINDIA BOY SCOUT

The Official Organ of the
Boy Scout Association:
Madras Province

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LOOK WIDE






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Editorial Notices.

Articles and photographs, intended for publication, should be sent to the Editor of the South India Boy Scout, 119 Andiyappa Mudali Street, Vepery P. O. Madras, excepting matter relating to the Boys' Section which should be sent to the Editor, Boys' Section of the South India Boy Scout, Avanti, Royapettah P. O., Madras.

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All communications should bear the signature and address of the writers.

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THE SOUTH INDIA BOY SCOUT

Vol. VII.]

NOVEMBER 1926.

[No. 2

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

He fought his doubts and gathered strength,

He would not make his judgment blind;

He faced the spectres of the mind

And laid them; thus he came at length

To find a stronger faith his own.

(In Memoriam.)

"Our Mother, our Motherland, higher than Heaven itself", because here, now, in this very life, India presents to us the opportunity of embellishing her to be heavenly by becoming heavenly ourselves by loving service, righteous lives, and kind deeds of thoughtful charity

Chandavarkar.

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232 D. Purushottam Naidu, "

233 T. A. Narasimhalu Naidu, "

234 A. S. Venkataraman, "

Prov. Scout Hd. Qrs.,

Madras,

1st November, 1926.

C. P. Rameswami Aiyer

Provincial Commissioner.

COUNCIL ROCK.



CALCUTTA,
Falling-leaf Moon.

My dear Akelas,

I would like these monthly letters of mine to be of help to you, in your work with cubs, so I want you to suggest subjects which will be useful to you. Every Akela sooner or later comes up against real difficulties in the running of his pack and I am sure that none of you are exceptions to this rule. I have myself come across many difficulties in dealing with boys and I am still meeting them every day, and just because of this, I hope I may be allowed to help you with yours. So, if you have difficulties to get over or problems to solve in the running of your packs, let me know and I will try to help you with them. I don't say that I can clear all difficulties out of your way, but will do my best to help you to solve some of your problems. So, if there is any way in which I can help you, let me know, by just sending a post card, care of the S. I. B. S. Office.

I think this month I might try and tell you about common cub faults and how to deal with them.

None of our little brothers are faultless, and in all of them there are the beginnings of sins which might grow into habits, that may spoil them and ruin their lives, may be. A wise Akela will always be keeping his

eyes open and noting little things about his boys. He must be careful in dealing with them, never getting cross or bad tempered, but gentle, quiet and very patient all the time. We all know the day when we find the pack difficult to deal with, they are quarrelling among themselves, rowdy and generally out of hand. There are two ways of dealing with the cubs under these circumstances,—one is to get cross and shout and yell at them, the other to quietly insist on obedience and let the pack see that you mean to have it. The second way is the only way that is any good. If we feel that we are getting cross and angry, the only thing is to close the meeting at once and send the cubs home.

Now here are the commonest sins that I have found among boys of Cub age: selfishness, lying, boastfulness, stealing, laziness, cruelty both to other boys and to animals. Among older cubs, one may come across insolence, defiance of authority, use of dirty language and impure acts.

I will only talk about the first list, which is common to younger cubs as well as older. Selfishness is due chiefly to the fact that the cub is too young to think of any one except himself; the doing of his good turn will help to conquer this evil. If the cub is selfish after being in the pack say six months, tell him so, some time when you have him by himself. By story telling, try to get the cubs to admire unselfishness in others.

Lying must be cured at once; the best way is to let the cub see that you know he is lying; don't abuse him, just laugh at him. If he tries again, let him see you remember his last lie. Boastfulness is due to the fact that a little boy has what is known as an 'inferiority complex', and is trying to get over it. The cure is the same as that for a liar.

Stealing can be cured by being generous to him; but it is a very difficult sin to deal with, and I will write more fully about it next month. Laziness may be due to either the boy being improperly fed, that is due to

(Continued on page 31.)

A MODERN MOWGLI.

The following is an extract of an account appearing in the "Outdoor Life" of Ceylon from the pen of 'Black Plume' of Calcutta.

An Anglican clergyman in charge of the station near Midnapore had picked up many of the children belonging to an orphanage near his parsonage, from the jungles near by, and one of the children he said was rescued by him from a she-wolf. It would appear that Mr. Singh the preacher, during one of his visits to a village was taken to a huge ant hill which when dug up was found to contain a huge cave fifteen feet across. First two full grown wolf cubs rushed out and escaped into the jungle. Next, a great scraggy she-wolf lurched out and showed fight. She was overpowered with the bows and arrows of the villagers, who had assembled to see the fun. When they dug deeper, they came upon two girls who had been nursed by the she-wolf. One was about 8 years old and the other about 2. Probably the old wolf must have found the girl as an abandoned child and removed her to the cave. Very soon after, the children were removed to the orphanage, they used to

crawl about on all fours. They made their own beds of leaves and stones, and slept the one on the other just as puppy dogs do. Some times the girl used to try to escape by hiding in the first bush she found and was easily captured. She was swift on her fours and outran every human being. She used to howl and this howl was said to be a blend of wolf howl and human cry. She has a very strong sense of smell and is able to scent out meat. Once when a fowl was killed, she quietly picked up the entrails and ate them with relish.

Having lived so long in a wolf's den, she is very slow to learn and has a poor memory for human things. Force of habit and poor memory are responsible too for her inability even now to walk erect. She has the wild animal's distrust for human associates. Bathing and dressing are two things to which she strongly objected at first, but is just beginning to tolerate. This drives home to us the tremendous importance of the first eight years of childhood, and how little can be accomplished later on if the child is neglected during the early period.

Educational Reform in the Light of Scouting.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE TANJORE

DISTRICT TEACHER'S GUILD

On the 28th August 1926 by Scouter

Ramamirtham at Kumbakonam.

(Note: This paper served to create great enthusiasm among the teachers assembled at the meeting and it is worth consideration owing to the fact that the items of work suggested have been actually tried with success in a School. Comments are welcome—Editor.)

At the outset I wish to draw your attention to certain glaring defects which you also would have had occasion to notice in the present system of education. What do we mean to prepare the boys for? What do we mean to do with them and what are we doing? While in the Training College all of us have learnt many definitions for the term 'Education'. We are only too familiar with what Prof. James says—"Education consists in the organisation of the resources in the human being of powers of conduct, which will fit him to the social and the physical world". Herbert Spencer is of opinion that the true function of education is to prepare for complete living. Can the programme of education we have in our schools be said to approach that aim? Are we at all preparing them for life, not to speak of complete living? "To create capacity and culture, to develop skill for the hand and sight for the soul, to open to the individual the means of honourable living and to reveal to him the full meaning of life is

the noble duty of the educator" so said Sir Ashutosh Mukerji. Judged by these standards our system of education falls far short of the ideal.

At best we can only be said to give instruction in the place of education. Through the curricula of studies in the various subjects we only aim at imparting information and giving instruction in the acquisition of certain languages. We do nothing towards the organisation and proper cultivation of the boys' resources. He is not a blank slate or an empty bottle. He is endowed with certain innate characteristics and tendencies. The purpose of education is to recognise them and develop the good, and inhibit the objectionable. In the present programme of education we are not in a position to find out the bent and bias of each and every individual and help him in training that which he is most naturally fitted for.

When we have to deal with 40 and more boys in a class and that during the most inconvenient part of the day, for only a limited number of hours, individual study and attention become well nigh impracticable. Besides the unwieldy nature of the class, the craze for passing the S. S. L. C. Examination has taken deep possession of the boys as well as the parents. Examinations have their own place, in so far as they serve as a help to the teacher to judge the pupil. But to make it the sole end and aim of education is to give too much importance to it and thereby narrow the vision of the educator

and the educated alike. Unfortunately there is a tendency for attempting to judge of a teacher's worth and capacity only by the number of eligibles he produces, and so, there is sufficient excuse for some of us teachers beginning to din into the ears of boys, whenever opportunities occur, how to answer the various questions which are usually given in the several papers of the S. S. L. C. Examination.

The Minister in charge of Education wants to have a vocational side also introduced into the school. Considering the present economic condition of our country and the large number of unemployable educated young men, every one concerned begins to think of some such provision to be made in the school curriculum. How far this aspect of reform is going to find favour with the managers of schools, who, being

faced with problems of finance are really at their wits' end, remains to be seen. This much is clear, that our system of education has neglected the practical side and does not provide for a sufficient training of the hand and the eye of the pupil.

The want of attention and lack of intelligent following of the lessons in class on the part of the boys are too well known to require detailing. Even the best of teachers have succeeded during certain odd moments only, to enlist the active cooperation of the pupil in following their lesson. This is because we have not yet seriously thought of a way of making the boys themselves take a real interest in what we put before them.

(To be continued.)

Letters to a Would-be Scouter.

Dear G,

That is indeed very welcome news to hear that *you* have decided to take up scout work. It is splendid and I was very glad to hear of it, though it was not much of a surprise to me. For, you were always an enthusiast in matters relating to boys and you always had their welfare at heart. And now you have definitely decided, I hope you will also overcome your unconquerable aversion for shorts!

This work which you have now decided to take up is going to do a lot of good to you and a lot of good to the country. Every new man like you means so many new scouts and you may take it from me that our country can certainly do very well with heaps more of these 'bare-kneed knights'. I can assure you, you will enjoy the game of Scouting playing it with BOYS. Scouting is 'the game of life itself as seen through young eyes, and it is a privilege to be able to lead the young ones'. It is a splendid game, a manly healthy one, and a team game and a very fine one at that! But,

mind you, it is jolly easy to make it serious and insipid and uninteresting, if only you want to! If we treat it that way, there is hardly an easier way of *killing* the Movement outright.

You mean to teach yourself and want some of us just to help you? Well, that is a very good resolve, I mean the first half of it. As regards the other, it is immensely better to worry *your* District Scout Commissioner's life out of him until he gives you what is called a '*Training Camp*'. A matter of ten days' life out of doors, with other fellows who feel the call, it may not make you *expert* in scoutcraft, but will certainly set you well on the right road and *that* is a great deal.

That may not come off for some time, however. And since there is hardly anything better to do, you can consider some of these piloting hints. Books? None, except "Scouting for Boys" to begin with. At the same time you could take a peep at Lord Hampton's 'Scouting Sketches' (T. P. H. Adyar). I know some chap,

who start with a very ambitious scheme and send for the latest list of books on scouting and order a huge library! And when it arrives, allow them to lie mouldering in the shelf as food for moths! It is sheer waste of money and as a would-be scouter you should be thrifty. Send for "S for B"; it is worth its weight in gold, and *read* it. You will see how inspiring it is. You will notice another thing about it—read it as often as you like, and each time you read it anew,

you get greater and clearer insight into the way in which the game is to be played.

You think it is a handicap your not being a schoolmaster? Certainly not. On the other hand, *you* can do just as well as any of *them* or *better*. I can quote scores of instances where non school masters are doing splendid scouting work.

Yours in the service,
S. D.

Some of the necessary items of equipment of a troop.

A club Room:

The following books:—

Scouting for Boys in India. 2 copies

The Patrol System, by Roland Philipps. } 2 copies

Letters to a Patrol Leader, Parts 1, 2, 3 } in each

How to Run a Troop. By Young.

Scout Games. by B. P.

How to Run a Patrol.

Rules of the Boy Scouts Association in India

The South India Boy Scout Magazine. } sl. by

the Provincial Hqs. Madras. Rs. 2/- } Annum.

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Patrol Animal Flags.

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Semaphore flags. 4 pairs.

Staves 5 Ft. 6 inch. Solid Bamboo. Obtainable from Vellore. 32;

Compass (mariners', cheap sort);

Ropes, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick 5 Yards long, (Cotton) one for each boy.

Ropes, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick 5 Yards long, (Cotton) one for each boy.

A troop Notice Board.

Will our Readers kindly suggest any other essentials?

Training of Patrol Leaders.

(FROM THE "OUTDOOR LIFE.")

Note:—Our readers, especially scouters would have noted with care the programme of work which was suggested for a Patrol Leaders' Training course of a continuous nature, and which appeared in the S. I. B. S. some time ago. The following is a reprint from the Outdoor Life of Ceylon and we acknowledge with thanks the debt. We would request all scouters to give the scheme a trial and send on to us their comments and criticisms on the scheme so that others might be also benefitted. (Editor, S. I. B. S.)

EXTRACTS FROM A PAPER READ AT THE ROUTERS' RALLY, JULY 11TH 1926.

TRAINING courses for Scouters would serve no purpose, unless and until we give the benefit of our training to our Patrol Leaders by organising Patrol Leaders' Training Courses on similar lines to those for Scouters and these should form a vital part of the Annual Programme of activities for the District or the Troop.

The Chief emphasises that the best boys who are selected to be Leaders, should be given special training in their scout work and that such training should continue from year to year.

The key to success in a troop is the efficiency of a trained Scouter, but the key to the continuity of this success is the efficiency of the trained Leader.

All are not born Leaders. Such a boy if not born, can be created by giving special facilities for acquiring knowledge.

Course.—It is advisable to limit the number attending to 32—each Troop sending in a patrol of 6 or 8 leaders—at a time. As most of the Troops are controlled and managed by educational institutions, where boys are expected to take part in many other activities. It would not be possible to set apart more than a day or two in the week for the Training Course. Two days of 2½ or 3 hours each would suffice if the course is carefully and thoughtfully planned out. Consolidate each day's work into an "Evening's programme for a Troop." It is essential that the Scout masters or even the Scout masters of the District whose Patrol Leaders are in training should attach themselves to the Patrol and thus encourage by taking in a Training Course consisting of boys of various races, creeds, and temperaments.

Syllabus and Management.—The selection of the leaders for training should be left in the hands of the Executive Committee of the Local Association who are responsible for the Training Camp, expenditure and Control. Let the Sessions be conducted, as far as possible by Wood Badge men. This need not in any degree prevent outsiders who have the interest of the

movement at heart, from giving talks on subjects such as Outdoor Life, How to appreciate Nature, Sanitation, Ambulance, etc. It is a step forward, if we are able to get the Rovers to attend the talks and one of the Senior Rovers to act as the Troop Leader and an A. S. M. as the Badge Secretary, whose work would be to go round the Patrols and induce the Leaders to be ready for their tests and submit these names to the examiners. Success of the Course, so far as badges are concerned, depends on the liveliness of the Badge Secretary.

On the first day, leaders must be made to revise and re-pass their Tenderfoot test; within the next two or three days, their 2nd class tests; and the 1st class tests before the end of the Course. Do not let the course run too long, but a good week-end camp including the hike will throw a happy ending to the whole concern. If you feel, while the course is in progress, that you are unable to complete the full Syllabus within the scheduled period, it would be advisable to include two Saturdays as field-days and the Leaders will enjoy this change.

When only two or three days in the week are set apart for the course, the Leaders will be left with a deal of spare-time for their S.T.A.'s and those running the course must fit in a complete programme of S.T.A.'s which after all our book knowledge, will show to ourselves and to the others what we are able to accomplish as Jack-woodsmen.

See that the Leaders do the following S.T.A.'s before they leave for the hike: Patrol cry, Patrol log book, daisie sketches, T. F. knots, splicing and lashing, signalling (2nd class), cooking, singing or even story telling or play acting, a yarn, a new game, ambulance, tracking, tree telling and any other to suit the local conditions.

Some of the Sessions:

(1) Laws, flag, signs and salutes, knots, the staff.

(2) Aim of Scouting dealing with the usefulness and the popularity of the movement at the present time; Patrol system dealing with Patrol spirit, patrol discipline, patrol instructions, patrol good turns, patrol play, patrol visiting, patrol in camp, patrol competitions, patrol leader's responsibilities, when and how to lead, privilege (Roland Philip's Patrol System deals with each of these) lastly, platoon.

(3) Investiture and the patrol, P. and T. games, map reading and mapping, reports verbal and written, birds, tracking and animal sporing, Scouting and campfire games, Scouts Own, axemanship, splicing and lashing, life-saving (demonstrations) signalling, Scout's pace, camp expedients, patrol camp sites, patrol records, logs and diaries, sketching, 1st aid—how to treat simple cases, Personal measurements, heights, widths, weights, numbers, camp and personal hygiene, Local weather lore, starmanship (elementary), pop gun, questions, monsoon activities, our pets, patrol tests, handicrafts, bridge building, trees, cooking and feeding, thrift (Saving's Bank), singing, story telling or play acting, hiking and the 1st class journey. Most of these sessions can be grouped and taken at one session.

The course will thus include instruction in the details required for the various tests leading up to and including the 1st class badge and the study of the patrol system. Scout games and camp fires will form part of each day's relaxation programme.

A course of this nature is mainly for Patrol leaders who are young in scout experience and technicalities and for would-be-leaders.

D. J. SETUNGO, S. M.,
St. John's, Panadura

Local Associations and how they can help.

SOME POINTS.

(Adapted from the Imperial
Hd. Qrs. Pamphlet No. 19.)

Sir Alfred Pickford writes as follows in his 'Notes to Over Sea Scouters':—

"The advantages claimed for a system which, though cumbersome in theory, has been found to be the only satisfactory method of expanding the movement on sound lines:—

1. "Committee" or "Council" indicates an exclusive body. "Association" brings in the "Community" idea, and the assistance of the community is essential to proper expansion in a district.

2. More money and more Scout and Cub masters are got, and the appointment of the right men is assured—also the discovery of wrong ones.

3. More Troops will be formed, and, if the District Commissioners are the right

men, there will be continuous local inspiration in place of occasional boosting from Head Quarters.

4. The system is based on bold decentralisation on which the Movement has everywhere depended for expansion.

5. The routine work at Head Quarters is reduced and more time is given for constructive work *e. g.*, the formation of Local Associations in untapped areas, the distribution of literature, keeping in touch with the latest developments, and so on.

6. The system is elastic. A local Association area may be a town of 1000 inhabitants, or a group of towns, or township, or it may be a section of a city or an area of hundreds of square miles, large areas being subdivided as development continues.

7. Local Associations either direct or through Provincial Councils (In our Province, through District Councils) would be

represented on the Dominion Council, and the council (and also the Executive) would then become representative of the Dominion as a whole in place of the inevitable tendency for it to become an entirely local body. Outside Associations are always suspicious of the central Executive, but that feeling can be diminished to some extent by making both the council and Executive fully representative.

8. Delay in getting badges, forms, books, etc., is diminished.

The obvious disadvantage is that under a system of decentralisation with a large number of local Associations, one or two of the Associations will be "Dud", due, usually to the District Commissioner neglecting or misunderstanding his job."

Last month we mentioned that a go-ahead Association should have some Sub-Committees. We give below, a few:—

1. *Rover Sub-Committee*: for retaining the elder boy (a most important point) and for matters affecting the senior branch of the Movement.

2. *Wolf Cubs Sub-Committee*: for arranging to provide fresh recruits to come into the Movement in large numbers, sufficiently young, so that they stick to the Movement long enough to benefit by the Scout Scheme of training and to discuss all points connected with the Junior Branch of the Movement.

3. *Badge Sub-Committee with a Badge Secretary as Convener*: to control and regulate supply of all badges, to prevent their misuse and to provide facilities for boys to go up to the I class stage and earn Proficiency Badges.

4. *Sports Sub-Committee*: for football, cricket, swimming and sports generally.

5. *Propaganda Sub-Committee*: for Publicity, public meetings, Literature in the vernaculars of the locality etc.

6. *Appeal and Finance Sub-Committee* with the treasurer as one of its members to look to income and regulation of expenditure. Ladies may be encouraged to take up some kind of propaganda work and use their influence to get funds for the Association.

Meetings: In most cases, the Executive might meet with advantage once a quarter. Larger Associations might, if there is business, meet monthly. But, usually it is found that the members are busy and cannot devote time for monthly meetings. Trivial matters should not be discussed at the meetings and time wasted.

Scouters' Meetings: The Scoutmasters should meet monthly with the Commissioner presiding. At these meetings, in addition to a general talking over of hopes and disappointments, they can discuss details connected with troops, competitions, badges, etc., so that the Executive Committee, when it meets, can have the Scouters' considered opinions at once, instead of listening to a lot of discussion.

(To be continued.)

CAMP PRAYERS.

We thank Thee for Thy blessings in creation, for the beauty of the earth and sea and sky, for the happiness of our lives, for peaceful homes and healthful days, for our powers of mind and body, for faithful friends for the joy of loving and being loved.

(From page 26.)

COUNCIL ROCK.

a physical cause, but it may be also to a dislike of doing something. In the latter case, Akela must encourage the cub until he knows the joy of tackling something very difficult.

Cruelty is only cured by love. Give the boy something to love, if he is cruel to other boys, make him responsible for a younger and weaker boy. If he is cruel to animals, get him a pet.

I will say more on this subject next month.

Yours ever,

Tall Pine.

Ak. L.

that was transacted there. As was pointed out in the S. I. B. S., at the time of his departure, the head of the Junior League of Nations in Madras took particular care to make the Senior League of Nations know something of the activities of the "Junior League" in India. We are all grateful to our Chief for the splendid work he did there.

The Provincial Commissioner very kindly paid a visit to Bimilipatam and spoke words of encouragement to the Scouters under training in the 1st Vizag District Training Camp. Some extracts of his speech appear below. His visit was most encouraging and Scouting work has thus begun under the best auspices in the Northern Circars. Immediately following this camp the one at Rajahmundry intended for Kishna and Godavari Districts is expected to supply a long felt want in those districts. The Provincial Commissioner has promised to visit this camp also if circumstances permit and we hope that the Scouters of Godavari and Kishna will have the same good-luck as their brothers of Vizagapatam.

"Let me assure you that it has given me unalloyed pleasure to be amongst you this evening. When some few days ago I was asked by the Organising Secretary Mr. Narayanaswami, whether he may proceed to Vizagapatam in order to help in the running of this camp, I gave the permission with the utmost readiness and alacrity. My reasons were manifold; I am afraid that commensurately with their general progress and their being abreast of the many sided movement of various kinds in this country, the people of the Andhra Province have not at all events recently manifested that interest in this great ennobling movement of which I desire to say a few words.

In the first place so far as I had heard of Bimilipatam the site offered almost ideal opportunities for an ideal camp, because nature and men have to operate to produce the right kind of scouting. My friends will pardon me inasmuch as this scout gathering is one of the first of its kind in the district if not indeed in the Andhra province, if I address a few words on the scout movement hoping confidently that I shall be able to arouse the little of your interest and your enthusiasm. What is the scout move-

ment? A very great man described it as the Junior League of Nations, but I consider it something better and higher than that. What is the natural instinct of the young man or the child? He wishes to go out into the open and when he reads stories, he is attracted by anecdotes like Robinson Crusoe and Gulliver's Travels and the spirit of adventure and heroism is instinctively roused in him and it gives the young boy a habit of self-reliance. Secondly a habit of open air and open outlook gives a different shape to men's thought. The scout has no leisure to be morbid, to be merely introspective and feed on his own thoughts and get into controversy. He is a part of Nature around him. Thirdly he has the instinctive readiness to be of immediate service to his fellow creatures. His motto is "Be Prepared" and Be Prepared for every emergency. Lastly the Movement enables people to work regardless of race, regardless of communities, regardless of barriers which are baffling in character and distressing to the true lover of the country. I call upon every one to join this movement as a true patriot and make that a live force in order to produce a regimentation of true ideas which is so necessary for the uplift of our country."

We regret that lack of space prevents us from giving our readers an account of Kandersteg, and also the next instalment of P/L Bisu. We hope to publish them in our next issue.

Arrangements are rapidly going on for the establishment of a permanent training camp on Gillwell lines for the Presidency, and God willing we will have one very soon. It would then be possible for many more men to take the training and come into the Movement.

The Provincial Scout Headquarters is improving day by day and the new hall built in commemoration of the Jamboree will be opened by His Excellency the Chief Scout on the 3rd of December next.

The Annual meeting of the Provincial Council of the Association will take place on the 7th December 1926 when His Excellency will preside.

The Boy Scouts Association of Mysore are organising the Sri Krishna Raja All-India First Aid competitions open to Scout troops in India, Burma and Ceylon, from the 27th to 31st December, 1926, at Bangalore. Applications should be sent through their respective Provincial Organisations. Rovers are also eligible to compete, but they will be judged with a handicap. For further particulars please apply to the Organising Secretaries. Post Box, 424, Triplicane, Madras.

The need for propaganda to educate public opinion is very great and we request

District and Local Associations to send us suggestions as to how best such propaganda work could be carried on in an intensive and effective manner calculated to serve the best interests of the BOY.

Good Scouting.

Narayanaswami

Managing Editor, S. I. B. S.

News From Various Quarters.



Papanasam, Tanjore :—The second anniversary of the Dhavala troop was celebrated on the 5th October under the Presidency of P. V. Seshu Iyer, Esq., Principal of the Kumbakonam College. Messrs. C. H. Boulton M. A., I. C. S., Sub Collector, C. S. Krishna-swami Aiyer, Vakil and other distinguished gentlemen were present. There was a very interesting and scout display, a camp fire sing song, games etc., to amuse the audience. I Class badges were distributed to the winners of those Badges. The president made a very eulogistic speech and congratulated the troop. Mr. Boulton also addressed the boys and advised them to be proud of their uniform and not bring disgrace on it on any account.

Pudukotah :—The present strength of scouts and Scouters in the State is 300 and all the scouts met together in a grand Rally and March Past, during the Dusserah. The Regent who is the Chief Scout of the State took the salute. The Cheri troop furnished the band. The Regent addressed the boys on the ideals of the Movement and exhorted them to train themselves to be worthy citizens of the State. In the evening the scouts were given a sumptuous treat and there was a splendid camp fire sing-song.

Chingleput :—The Vth Chingleput troop camped 3 miles away from their Hd. Qrs., on the 10th October. They camped in a shady grove and work and play were in the Patrol system. Scout practices in I Class and II Class work occupied most of the time. The evening camp fire was a great success. The thanks of the Troop are due to the Superintendent and the Headmaster of the Reformatory School.

Madras :—The Rama Troop, Triplicane had two camps during the Dusserah and had a very nice time of it. Prof. Cherian of the Christian College who saw them at work was very favourably impressed and congratulated them on their efficiency.

The Madras Provincial Council was At Home to the Provincial Commissioner on the evening of the 1st November. Messrs. F. H. Oakley and Parankusam Naidu, and Capt. Barnard spoke in appreciative terms of the Chief Guest's work at Geneva and welcomed him

Madura :—The scouts of the Sowrashttra, Setupathi High Schools and College helped very much during the local Navarathri festival at the temples. The District Scout Commissioner writes to say that the Police and Temple authorities heartily cooperated with the scouts and appreciated their services.

Mangalampet, South Arcot :—The Bharathamatha Troop scouts had very good camping at Edakkal, 7 miles away from their Hd. Qrs. With the help of the Forest Panchayet members and the guard, they were able to go round and see the interesting portions of the dense forest. They had exercise in mountain climbing also.

Amhur, North Arcot :—The D. E. O. and the Dy. I. S. paid a visit to the Vikrama troop on 20/10/26. After a programme which was much appreciated, the D. E. O. distributed the proficiency badges which a number of the scouts had won. A short address of advice to the scouts concluded the function.

once more to Madras. The Provincial Commissioner gave an account of the work that was done at the League of Nations and at Kandersteg and compared the work transacted by the Senior and Junior Leagues of Nations at Switzerland, and told the gathering his share in it and thanked the members for the kindness.

Bimlipatam Vizag Dist.:—The Scouts of the 1 Bimlipatam Troop had their 4th Anniversary celebration on Tuesday the 26th Oct. when Mr. J. V. Subbarao Garu, D. E. O., Vizag Dist., presided. The troop gave a very successful show of a short scout play and a scene in Telugu from Lava Kusa and had a Camp fire sing song. The president spoke on the value of the Movement and exhorted every parent present to make his boy a scout. The Provincial Organising Secretary Mr. P. S. Narayanaswami who was conducting a scouts' Training camp at the place also spoke on the value of scout training for boys. Mr. Dikshitulu the scoutmaster of the troop thanked the president and the audience for their great interest in the Movement.

Vizagapatam:—Mr. P. S. Narayanaswami, the Provincial Organising Secretary who was on a short visit to the town addressed a large audience on the Boy Scout System of training for boys at the Town Hall on the evening of the 28th October under the presidency of M. R. Ry., A. V. Bhanojirao Garu M. L. C., Zemindar. As a result of the address, steps are being actively taken for the formation of a District Scout Council for the District.

Rajahmundry: At the special request of the Municipal chairman, Mr. T. S. Subrahmanya Iyer, M.A., L.T., Principal, Govt. Training College, has arranged for fortnightly talks to about 200 Elementary School masters. The first of these talks "Scouting and Citi-

zenship" came off on 30th October when Mr. P. S. Narayanaswami, Prov. Org. Secy. spoke to the teachers on the aims and ideals of the Movement and how it was eminently suited to Indian conditions.

Training Camps.

Vedamoor, near Chittoor: 7th October to 15th October 1926. A very successful Training Camp was conducted by Mr. G. T. J. Thaddaeus, Prov. Org. Secy. during above dates. The arrangements were very good and though it rained heavily, the campers were not damped in spirit at all. 23 attended and total working time was more than 40 hours. The last day the Collector of the District Mr. Braidwood, I.C.S., presided at the investiture ceremony. Many visitors including Mr. R. Narayana Iyer, I.C.S., Dist. Judge and the Dist. Educational officer were present at the function.

Bimlipatam, Vizag: 17th to 27th October 1926. A training camp for Vizagapatam District was conducted by Mr. P. S. Narayanaswami, Prov. Org. Secy. The campers came from all parts of the District and the camp was a success. 19 members attended as fulltimers and 8 Rovers of Bimlipatam as part timers. On Sunday the 24th October, the Provincial Commissioner the Hon'ble Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, K. C. I. C., who was on a short visit to Vizag visited the camp and addressed the Scouters. Extracts from the address appears elsewhere and will be read with interest by our Andhra brothers.

Kumbakonam: Tanjore:—The Tanjore District Scouters' Refresher camp was held in the Kumbakonam Town Extension grounds from the 8th to 12th October. Mr. P. S. Narayanaswami, Prov. Org. Secy., with help of Mr. J. I. Muthiah of Mannargudi conducted the camp. 16 active Scouters from all parts of the District took part in the camp.

PROSPECTIVE TRAINING CAMPS.

C=Continuous, W. E.=Week-end.

(After each course is given the name and address of the authority to whom correspondence should be addressed for further particulars.)

Scouters'

Tanjore (C) Kuttalam, N. R. Subrahmanya Iyer, Esq., Headmaster Board High School, Kuttalam.

Nilgiris (C) Mr. Devanesan, Hony. Secy., Nilgiris District Scout Council, C/O Col. Porter, Dist. Scout Commr. Coonoor.

Salem (C) S. A. Steele, Esq., District Scout Commissioner Salem.

Bellary (C) The Hony. Secy., Dist. Scout Council, C/O A. Ranganatha Mudaliar, Esq., M. L. C., Y. M. I. A., Madras.

Trichinopoly (C) Swami Desikachariar Esq., Joint Secy., Trichy. Dist. Scout Council, Venkata Park, Cantonment, Trichinopoly.

Madura (C) R. Krishna Iyer, Esq., B.A., B.L., Dist. Scout Commissioner, Thanappa Mudali Street, Madura.

Godavery and Kistna (C) T. S. Subrahmanya Iyer, Esq., Principal, Govt. Training College, Rajahmundry and District Scout Commissioner.

Ananthapur (C) V. S. Vasudeva Sastry, Esq., District Educational Officer, Ananthapur.

Tanjore (W. E.) P. S. Narayanaswami, Esq., Prov. Organising Secy., P. B. 424, Triplicane, Madras.

Cubbers'

Trichinopoly (W. E.) R. Madhavachary, Esq., B.A., B.C.E., Asst. Engineer, Golden Rock, Trichinopoly.

South Arcot (C) M. G. Parthasarathy Mudaliar, Esq., Dist. Scout Commissioner, Vriddhachalam.

(*—this camp will have been half over by the time this number of the S. I. B. S. reaches you.)

OUR VERNACULAR PAGE.

ஆகவே யாதொரு வேலையைத் துவக்கினும், அம் கனஞ் செய்வதில் நமது கருத்து யாது? என்று முதன் முதலில் கன்காலோசித்துப் பிறகு அக் கருத்துக் கிடைத்தபடி அந்த வேலை எவ்வித முடிவையடைய வேண்டுமென்பதையும்—அவ்வித முடிவை யடைவதற்கு யாம் புரியவேண்டிய முயற்சிகள் யாவை—அம் முயற்சிகளைப் புரியவேண்டிய முறையாது? என்னும் வினாக்களையும் கன்றாய்லோசித்து ஓர் ஏற்பாட்டைச் செய்து கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

பிறகு, இவ்விதமான ஏற்படுத்திக்கொண்ட முறைப்படி தன் முயற்சிகளைப் புரியும்போது அவை திருப்திகரமாய் முடிவுறுவதற்கு அனுகுணமானது சிறிதளவு சட்டங்களையும் மற்றும் கிரியக்கிரமங்களையும் ஏற்படுத்திய வற்றையெல்லாம் நம்கருமத்தைத் துவக்கும்போதே கன்றாய் ஸ்தாபித்துக் கொள்ள வேண்டும்.

பிறகு, தான் இங்ஙனம் ஸ்தாபித்துக்கொண்ட விதிகளையும் கிரயக்கிரமங்களையும் வடிவமல்—முன் சித்தித்து வைத்துள்ள முறைப்படி தன் முயற்சிகளை நடத்தி தன் மனோ இஷ்டப்படி காரியசித்தியை யடையவேண்டும்.—

உதாரணமாக—ஒருவன் ஒரு இளஞ்சாரணர் பட்டையை பதிதாக ஏற்படுத்தி நடத்த இச்சிக்குரா எனன்று வைத்துக்கொள்வோம். தன் திஷ்டப்படி அப்படை சரிவர ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டு நடக்கவும் வேண்டுமாயின்—இதுகாரும் யோசித்தபடி செய்யவேண்டியவை யாவை? முதலில் “கருத்து—ஸ்தாபனம்” என்ற கலைப்புகளின் சீர்தரத்தக்க விஷயங்களை யாலோசித்து ஏற்படுத்திக்கொள்ள வேண்டியதே. இது சிலருக்கு அசாத்நியமான கருமம். தனக்குப் பதிலாக வேற யாரேனும் யோசிக்க வேண்டியவற்றை யெல்லாம் யோசித்துத் தன் தீர்மானங்களைத் தீர்த்திடல் சந்தர்ப்பத்துடன் ஏற்பது இவர் சுபாவம். தான் யோசிக்கும் முறைகளைப்பற்றியாவது கற்றோரால்

கவரப்பட்டுள்ள புத்தங்களைப் படித்து அவற்றுள் செப்பியுள்ள முறைகளை யனுசரித்து அதனால் பயனை யடைவதெனினும்—அதற்கும் அப்புத்தங்களைப்படிப்பதற்கு இவருக்குச் செளகரியப்படாது. ஒரே வேலை யாயினும் அதைப் பரிவதற்கு அநேக முறைகளுண்டு. அவ்வச்சுத்தர்ப்பங்களுக்கும் அவரவர் செளகரிய செளகரியங்களுக்கும் ஏற்றபடி ஒவ்வொருவரும் தனக்கென்று ஒரு முறையைத் தானே ஆலோசித்துத் தீர்க்கெழுதல் தரமேயன்றி—எல்லோருக்கும் எல்லாச் சந்தர்ப்பங்களிலும் செளகரியப் படத்தக்க ஒரு முறையைப் புத்தகத்தா லறிய முடியாது ஆகவே ஒவ்வொருவனும் தம்மன் செளகரியங்களுக்கும் சந்தர்ப்பங்களுக்கும் அனுகுணமான முறையைத்தானே யோசித்துத் தீர்மானிக்கவேண்டும்.

ஆயினும் கூடியவரையில் பொதுவாகச் சொல்லப் புகின்—“இளஞ்சாரணர் பட்டையை நடத்த இச்சிப்பதின் கருத்து என்னவென்று” முதலில் ஆலோசிக்க வேண்டும். இதற்கும் ஒவ்வொருவருக்கு ஒவ்வொரு விதமான கருத்து இருக்கலாம். என்னப்பற்றிய வரையிலாயின் நான் சிறுவருக்கு மனோவாக் சேஷ்டாசிகளில் நற்பத்தியைப் பயிற்று விப்பதற்காக பல சிறுவராலாகிய ஒரு இளஞ்சாரணர் பட்டையை நடத்த விரும்புகிறேன் என்று பதில் சொல்லுவேன். உடனே, இங்ஙனமாயின், முதன் முதலில் யான் செய்ய வேண்டியது யாது? என்றோர் கேள்விபிறக்கும். முதன் முதலில் சிறுவரைக் தேடித்திரட்டுவதே. பிறகு, சிறுவரைக் தேடித்திரட்டுவ தெங்ஙனம்? அவர்களைத் திரட்டியபின் அவர்கள் திரும்பவும் மூலைக் கொரு வராய் ஒடிவிடாமல் நம்படையினுள் ஒட்டி நிற்பது எங்ஙனம்? அங்ஙனம் நிற்பராயின் அவருக்கு நற்பத்திகளைப் பயிற்றுவிக்கும் முறையாது? என்ற கேள்விகள் ஒன்றொன்றாய் பிறக்கும்.

(தொடரும்.)

மு. வ. வே. ரா.

Sc. 2.

(வஜ்ஜிமழர்ந்தி, வைபவமழர்ந்தி என்ற இருவரும்)

கய்ம லஷித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள்.)

வஜ்ஜி:—பைரவா! என்னடா, நம்முடைய வேலை கஷ்டமாயிருக்கிறதே.

வைப:—என்ன கஷ்டம், மனோந்திரத்தான் நல்ல வழி காட்டியிருக்கிறதே.

வஜ்ஜி:—என்ன பிழைப்பு, தினம் எவ்வளயாவது மொத்திக் கசாப்புக் கடைக்குக் கொண்டுபோகும் ஆட்டைப்போல் அழைத்துச் செல்லவேண்டி யிருக்கிறதே.

வைப:—என்ன பைத்தியக்காரனா யிருக்கிறாய். நாம் ஆட்களை மனோந்திரனிடம் கூட்டிச் செல்லுகிறோம். அவன் அவர்களிடம் வேலைவாங்கி அதனால் வரும் லாபத்தை யடைகிறான். இதனால் நமக்கென்ன!

வஜ்ஜி:—இன்றைக்கு ஒருவரையுங் காணோமே.

வைப:—வஜ்ஜி! நான் இன்று இவ்வுர் அரசர் சபைக்கு மறைவாகச் சென்றிருந்தேன். சிலர் நம்ம வரைப்பற்றி முறையிட அரசர் மந்திரி குமாரனை யனுப்பி யிருக்கிறார். நாம் வேற்றுருக்கொண்டு அவனை யெயாற்றிக் குகைக்கு யழைத்துச் செல்லுவதே சரி, வா போகலாம். (இருவரும் போகிறார்கள்.)

Sc. 3.

(நத்ய பியில் ஓர் தெருக்கோடி துஷ்யமன் வருகிறார்.)

துஷ்ஜி:—நம் நாட்டிலும் இவ்விதமான அந்த முண்டோ னுனங்கள் எவ்வாறு காணாமற் போகக்கூடும் அவர்கள் கொலை செய்யப்படுகிறார்களோ ஒன்றுக் கொன்றவில்லையே நாம் எப்படியாவது அவர்களை கண்டுபிடித்தே தீரவேண்டும். அத்திருடர்கள் பல வேடங்களோடு வருவார்கள் அதோ ஒரு குடுகுடுப்பை

THE STUDY OF BIRDS.

(This was originally written for a Magazine to be published in Malabar. Hence the references to that District—Ed.)

There is no aspect of Scouting more neglected in India at the present time than observation and the patient study and love of nature. How few Scouts can read the story of footprints and tracks? How few care to spend a quiet hour in the country or in woods, watching and studying the ways of its dwellers? It is hard to find a Scout who can tell you the names of all the birds and trees you pass along a mile of country lanes.

But, at the same time, there is no more important part of scouting. Observation and nature study are, in fact, the educational method of scouting, the only way in which we can train ourselves to be true Scouts—backwoodsmen, pathfinders. They are the most fascinating, if not the most useful, things a Scout can learn.

Bird-lore is a delightful introduction to nature-craft. Birds are everywhere and the study of them involves no special knowledge, time or expenditure. They are creatures full of life, vivacity and beauty, with marked characteristics and not a little individuality. Every Scout should make an effort to know something of these little beings, the birds our sisters, as St. Francis called them. At so many points they are superior to man. They move with ease in an element, which we have only learnt painfully and imperfectly to float in. There is an innate grace in nearly all their motions. They compass with unfailing certainty notes which no human throat can reach. They are clothed in colours which Solomon in all his glory might envy. They are guided by an instinct which often leaves us dumb with surprise, as when a swallow, after spending a winter in southern warmth, returns the next spring, after a journey of 3,000 miles, to the very chimney stack where it built its nest the year before. Birds are also the friends of man, not only cheering us by their brightness and their music, but also doing the farmer invaluable service by eating up the destructive caterpillars and

worms. Not a crop could be harvested if it were not for the birds.

Begin the study of birds by learning their name. When you meet a strange bird, ask someone who knows or, better still, identify it by referring to that excellent key, Dewar's Indian Birds. If you know the size and colouring of a bird, Dewar will tell you its name in five minutes. No bird lover can afford to be without this book. But, since you cannot always carry it about, it is necessary to have a little field note book in which you can enter the details of shape and colour and size when you see a bird. An admirable little note book for this purpose has been published by Mr. Ross, the Scout Commissioner for the C. P., which can be obtained for the modest sum of two annas. It is hardly necessary to warn scouts not to throw stones at birds. Only by very quiet movements can you get near enough to them to watch their ways. Give them the least cause for alarm and they are off over the near meadows, past the still stream.

In Malabar, there is a large variety of birds, because the district has sea and river and lagoon, field and forest, plain and hill. You cannot find the same birds everywhere; each species has its particular habits. Some, like gulls, love the sea; storks, cranes, terns, heron are all water or marsh birds; for martins one goes to the sands, for pond herons to wet fields, for lapwings to heaths; and so on. The red-vented bulbul is a common inhabitant of the plains; but the redwhiskered bulbul is fastidious, likes a temperate climate and haunts the hills. The black fork-tailed drongo or king-crow may be seen on any telegraph wire, but his cousin, the racket-tailed drongo, is a shy bird and keeps himself almost entirely to forests. It is a magnificent bird, black all over, with a proud crest on its head and with two long tail feathers, twenty inches long, swelling at the tip into the shape of a country oar. I shall never forget the thrill with which I saw my first specimen in the heart of a forest near Trichur.

The king-crow, in spite of being so common, is a very interesting bird. It is an extraordinarily plucky creature and puts crows and even kites to flight. It cherishes an invincible animosity against anyone who throws stones at its nest and will pick him out unerringly from a number of people. The appetite of the infant king-crows for caterpillars is almost inexhaustible; the parents are kept busy the whole day in a vain attempt to satisfy the cravings of the youngsters. Its flight is remarkably graceful and it volplanes in the most elegant curves.

Birds differ as widely in their manner of flying as in their colours or their calls. Some spend the best part of the day on the wing, like the kite which hovers almost motionless, a speck in the infinite blue, while its telescopic eye misses no chance of prey below. The kite's tail is its rudder, as a little observation will verify. The common myna has whirring flight, beating its wings rapidly nearly all the time. The woodpecker has an undulating motion flying in long curves, very curious to watch. Some birds, degenerate, never fly at all, like the ostrich; and one or two have even lost their wings, like the moa. Wild duck are good fliers, but the domestic duck has almost lost the faculty.

The most obvious thing about birds is their colour; and this raises all kinds of interesting questions. Why is it that the most gay in plumage are usually the least sweet in song? Some of the brightest birds are also very shy and love to hide themselves in foliage, for instance the oriole, the coppersmith, the pitta. The oriole is the black and gold bird, often seen in mango groves. The coppersmith is a barbet, which has earned its name by its monotonous tonk, tonk, tonk, a bird more often heard than seen. The pitta I have only seen once, in a wood; in North India it is called the naurang, nine colours. Then, again, there is the curious phenomenon of a bird changing colour as it grows older. The best example is the Paradise flycatcher, not a very common bird, but one that may be found with a little searching in most parts of

The cock in the first year is

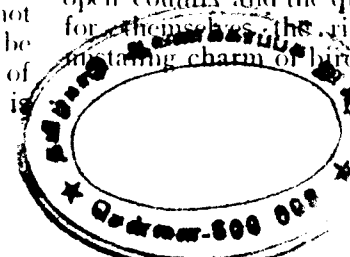
chestnut above and white below, with a black head and crest; the next year it develops two long tail feathers; and as it grows older still, the chestnut gives place to pure white. The hen is all the time like the young cock. This is only one instance of a strange feature, the difference between male and female, what scientists call sexual dimorphism. The curious thing is that the male is nearly always the brighter and more gorgeously clad, reversing the order of human society. Compare the tails of the peacock and peahen. Or take the little sunbirds, the tiny creatures with long curved beaks that flit from flower to flower. The hen is of a dull brown, the cock shines in purple and lilac and green. The same difference may be noted in the common koel.

The koel, of course, is a cuckoo. The English cuckoo is rarely seen in the Indian plains, but the Indian cuckoos have, most of them, the same parasitic habits, laying their eggs in other birds' nests. The brain fever bird is also a cuckoo, but it is so like a hawk that it is often called a hawk-cuckoo. Most people have heard it, uttering its crescendo three-note shriek at night with persistence worthy of a better cause; 'ry it is a most difficult bird to approach, hiding itself in the tops of tall trees and flying away on the slightest alarm. Its call can hardly, even by courtesy, be described as a song.

There are not many true singing-birds in Malabar or in India. We have no nightingale in the plains; and although we have larks, I have never heard them sing in profuse strains of unpremeditated art. But the fantail flycatcher has a very pretty song of six or seven notes, which it is never tired of repeating.

I have made no attempt to enumerate all the common birds of Malabar. Such an enumeration would take up more room than the Editor can spare and it would not be of very much use. But perhaps I have said enough to send some Scouts at least to the open country and the quiet woods to observe for themselves the rich variety and the lasting charm of bird life.

ZACHARIAH.



Letters to Young Scouts.

1

When General Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, was in America once, a newspaper reporter asked him how old he was.

"I am eighty three years young", replied the General cheerfully. And when he died his heart was still that of a child.

Now I am rather an old person (or shall in say 'not very young' person) to write to young Scouts. But when I became a Scout, I had to choose a Scout name. At first I thought of calling myself "WHITE HORSE"—till somebody said that was the name of a famous brand of whisky. So I thought again: and suddenly I remembered that one of my names was BROOKE—which suggested WATER. So I turned that name into "RUNNING WATER"—and that is how I shall sign myself in future. Being a keen trout fisherman I always love running water: and further it is a cheerful name that refuses to stagnate. For there are few things more poisonous and harmful than foul stagnant water.

For water, like a Scout, is meant to run—not to stagnate.

2

Have you, by the way, taken a Scout Name? It is rather a jolly thing to do. One of my Ceylon friends (who has proved a real friend to many Madras Scouts) is called "CHOTA LION." And another is "KINGFISHER BLUE."

So now I hope you will do the same. Try and think out a name that will be a symbol to you of energy, happiness, and help to others. Then find out the proper Scout writing for it. "Running Water" in Scoutese is written.

Just Like That.

3

As we know in our Scout World people aged from 7 to 70—after which age I think

they ought to begin again!—everything written ought to make an appeal to somebody. What, I wonder, will appeal most to you? For we have to get to know one another first. After thinking hard, shall we begin with Honour?

4

As you all know, Scouting is founded on the game of Honour. I say 'Game,' because I think a splendid thing like Scouting is not work (which so often means drudgery) but fun—something you love to do with a smiling face pluckily and which not only makes you happy, but makes you make other people happy too. The other day I spoke about Scouting to some young prisoners in a gaol. And gaols are not much fun, I can tell you. Yet after a short time I found these young prisoners were smiling at the very thought that they were going to be given a chance of taking up this wonderful life-game of Scouting. We got a fine Scout to come and help and I wish you could have been present and seen their faces, when we promised to show them with lantern slides all the jolly things Scouts learn and do.

5

And now, a word about Honour. That is a man's most precious possession. Yet how often we all slip away and find our honour is stained. Honour is the Scout's shield against temptation and wrong doing. In olden days men used shields and looked after them. Otherwise, in battle, the shield through neglect was no help, but rather a hindrance. So keep your shield of Honour bright. And, it might help if you made for yourself a little metal shield and hung it up in your room and polished it every day so that you could see your own face in it. Then I think you would find that your honour would become a very real thing and both your honour and your face would be bright.

And nor I must forsake more running of ink, and be simply

RUNNING WATER.

CAUGHT.

Rajagopal, The 1st class Scout of the Ranjit Singh Troop sat outside a tent and whisted disconsolately, for it seemed dull work staying behind to watch the camp equipment and preside over the pots and pans while the rest of the troop were exploring the mountains and caves some three miles away.

Rajagopal considered himself a man of action, and he was certainly the best all-round athlete in the little company; in fact, the only thing he couldn't do was to sit still, and that was why cooking in a lonely field seemed dull on a bright morning when one felt particularly jolly and well, and very keen on doing something with one's arms and legs.

But, as the Scoutmaster had pointed out every one must take his turn, and it was now Rajagopal's turn to see if he could distinguish himself as cook.

He had peeled a whole basketful of potatoes and found it not at all an amusing task; he had to look after the big pot of rice which *simmered* slowly over the camp oven not once but many times; and between whiles he had practised his favourite pastime (a coiled rope lay at his feet); and now he glanced rather distastefully at a huge pumpkin, just outside the tent, and wondered if he ought now to begin to work on it in time for dinner.

Then a man came out of the wood near, a dilapidated dissipated looking creature, plainly the sort of ne'er-do-well who always blamed ill luck for his misfortunes.

He began to whine.

"Give me a morsel of food for pity's sake, lad. I'm starving, and haven't got a pie or a friend in the world."

"Can't you get any work? My friends and I have been put up at the farm helping the farmers round here, because they are so short-handed."

"I can't work, lad," The man told such a piteous tale that Rajagopal gave him some food and while his visitor ate it—he showed little appetite for a starving man—he went once more to attend to the boiling pot of rice.

As he stirred it briskly his quick ear heard a stealthy sound behind him, and he turned round in time to see the tramp making off as fast as he could with some of the clothes that were left out in the sun to dry.

Like a flash Rajagopal's brain worked. If he followed, the man would lead him a dance, and he was pledged not to leave the camp on any account.

With a quick gesture he stooped, and through the air flashed a coil of rope so gracefully thrown that it looked like a wreath of curling smoke.

There was a scream of terror, and the lassoed man was fairly caught.

Rajagopal allowed him to go with a caution and when his friends came back and asked him how he liked cooking, he answered, with a grin, "Best sport I've ever had."

Life in an Indian Pond.

(by S. T. MOSES, M. A., F. R. A. I., F. Z. S.)

(Continued from last month's issue)

(iii) Vorticella the Bell animalcule (Fig 3.) This creature which gets its popular name from the shape of its body is fixed, by a long stalk capable of being coiled like a watch spring, to weeds. The rim of the bell is fringed with a circlet of

short hairs, which cause by their action a whirlpool (Vortex) washing down food-particles. The nucleus is peculiar in being shaped like a horse-shoe. Multiplication is by division, equal or otherwise. Usually there is a longitudinal division into 2 equal individuals, one of whom remains in the stalk the other swimming away to start life

on its own'. In the unequal division, the largest among the resultants stay in the stalk, the others as many as seven going away to shift for themselves. A cousin of vorticilla is colonial, assuming the form of a branched tree, each branch carrying a body, as a result of the divided individuals retaining their connection with the stalk.

iv Volvox (Fig 4.) This is a colony of green cells arranged in a hollow sphere of mucilage. Seen as a round green speck, huge numbers of these congregate in the stagnant temple tanks and give the water a characteristic greenish appearance. Each cell carries two long hairs and by the combined action of all hairs, the whole colony rolls along with a rotatory motion. At Puri temple-tank the water considered to be sacred because it moves of itself owes it to these creatures which are claimed both by Zoologists and Botanists. The individuals composing one colony may be differentiated into those who by division give rise to similar ones, some who by division give rise to male cells and others who give rise to female cells. Several daughter-colonies may also be seen swimming freely in the interior.

The animal next to be described is higher in the animal scale. It rarely reaches 3-4 millimetres and is found attached to duck-weed, twigs, etc., in the pond. It is a cylinder at the free end of which there is a number of long delicate tentacles arranged in a circlet round a mouth (Fig 5). When tired of being in one and the same place, it floats away to another; or it loops like a caterpillar or like an acrobat moves on its tentacles keeping the body nearly vertical. The tentacles seize the prey which includes young fish-fry. When alarmed the tentacles disappear within the body and the whole animal shrinks up into a rounded mass. One curious thing about the creature is, it goes on feeding as usual, even if it is turned inside out. Reproduction is by the union of male and female elements which however are produced in the same individual. Another method is that of budding, when miniature creatures grow at the sides of the parent to separate eventually and lead an independent existence. The fact that the

animal can be multiplied by artificial division, the 2 halves becoming later complete individuals has secured for it the name Hydra the mythological water serpent with many heads which when cut off were succeeded by double the number (Raktha Bajasura of Hindu mythology.)

Of the worms in a pond, 3 examples may suffice. Two are readily visible as also recognisable as worms; but the other is microscopic in size and there is nothing in its appearance and structure to suggest its being a worm, though in its life history it passes through a stage which is common to all worms. These wheel animalcules which are usually found fixed on weeds &c., are so called because a pair of wheels are present at the free end of the body. The wheels carry hairs at the fringe and these go on revolving, causing a current to take the prey in. To chew the food is found a special organ in the stomach, 2 hammers working alternately on an anvil. They are propagated by means of eggs as well as by budding. The animalcules and their eggs retain their life right through droughts and resume their activity when the rains fill up their ponds.

The hairworms are very common in ponds. They are found in such large numbers in ponds especially after rains that the popular belief is it rains worms! When seen they are usually found coiled one with another in such a tangled mass that the name Gordius of the Gordian knot fame has been applied to them. They pass one stage of their lives in waterbeetles.

Leeches also inhabit ponds especially dirty ones with stagnant water. Hence the Malayalam saying "Attaku Pattakulam." Tamil and Malayalam proverbs say that a leech when washed and placed on a cot will not stay there but will only go to its muddy tank. The leech has 2 suckers one at each end of its body. It has eyes, the popular belief based on the saying "attaku kannu koduthal" that it is blind is not true. Its stomach is a long tube running from one end to the other of the body and carries pouch-like extensions on both sides. (Fig 6.) When the leech is gorged with blood it assumes about 8 times its usual proportion. A pigmy kind gets access into our nose



Fig 3:—VORTICELLA.

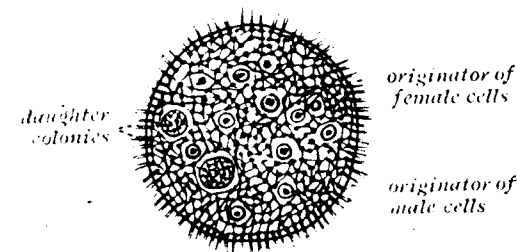


Fig 4:—VOLVOX.

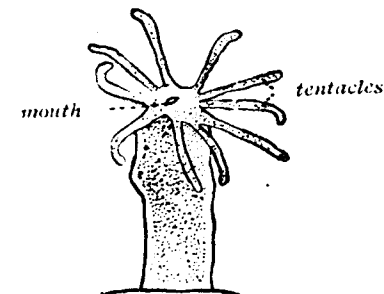


Fig 5:—HYDRA.

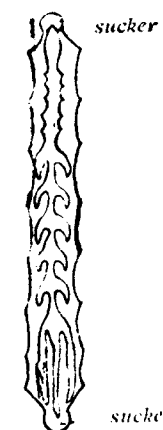


Fig 6:—LEECH DISSECTED TO SHOW ITS STOMACH.

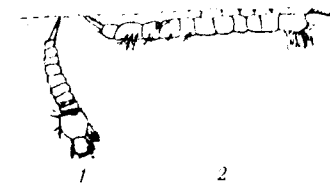


Fig 7:—1. Culicine and 2. Anopheline larvae in their usual resting posture just below the surface of water.

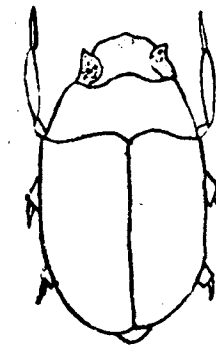


Fig 8:—WHIRLIGIG BEETLE.



Fig 9:—WATER-SCORPION.

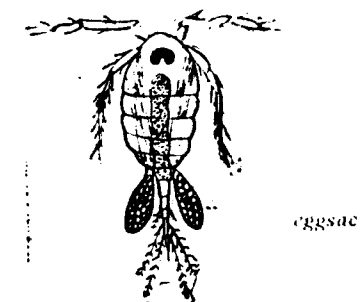


Fig 10:—FEMALE CYCLOPS.

(See page 13.)

through drinking water and causes bleeding through the nose. Popularly it is said leeches can be avoided by drinking with cupped hands but the safest thing is to drink boiled filtered water and nothing else.

Of the insects characterised by the presence of 3 pairs of feet, 2 of our examples spend in water only a portion of their existence while the rest are aquatic through their lives. Most insects pass through the following stages in their life history. From the egg hatches out a caterpillar (larva) which is worm like in appearance and very gluttonous in habit. It is then transformed into a pupa from which case finally emerges the winged insect. The mosquitoes and dragon-flies spend their larval period in water. Mosquitoes, 2 genera of them, are common in South India and both stand convicted of transmitting disease germs from man to man. Anopheles is responsible for the spread of malaria and culex carries the parasite causing elephantiasis. It is the female with its pair of lancets, wedges, saws and a sucking siphon, that is the 'bloodsucker,' the male is perfectly harmless. The eggs are laid in water, the anopheline ones being single, while the culicine eggs are stuck together to form a raft. The larvae are voracious feeders, having the mouth at one end and a breathing tube at the other (Fig 7.) Atmospheric air is required for breathing purposes, hence it is that the breathing tubes at the tail end are kept bobbing up on the surface of the water in the pond. By applying kerosene to the surface of the water these potential mischief makers can be suffocated. Another effective way of getting rid of these pests is to introduce into the ponds special kinds of fishes, many of them very common, which consider the larva as a delicacy. Dragon-flies which are harmless to man, deserve their name, being the hawks of the insect world, more voracious and active than the fabled dragons of antiquity. The eggs laid in water or on weeds, hatch out into larvae which carry a mask attached to the head. When a prey approach within a safe distance, the mask which is armed with teeth is projected, the prey seized and drawn towards the mouth.

The whirligig beetle (Fig 8) is a small shiny insect seen moving in incessant activity on the surface of tanks and ponds. Their name implies their habits for they are whirling about very fast on the surface of the water, rushing round and round in a curious way as if engaged in a game of 'Catch as catch can.' When alarmed they dive for a time to reappear and continue their interrupted pastime with greater vigour. It is known in Malayalam as 'Ezhuthachan'—the caste title of school masters, as it is supposed to describe the outlines of the letters of the alphabet on the water.

The water scorpion (Fig. 9) though so-called from its scorpion-like aspect, the front legs recalling the forceps of the scorpion and the breathing tube the tail, is a bug; it is predaceous on other aquatic insects, the raptorial forelegs being effectively used to grasp the prey. The tail consists of 2 filaments which when apposed serve as a tube for obtaining air.

Of the Crustacea, so named because their bodies as well as their limbs are coated with a hard crust 2 may be mentioned. The prawn a favorite food of many of us, is easily recognisable by its sawed spine jutting out from the head. Locally the spine is believed to be an efficient weapon of which the fish are so much afraid as to avoid localities frequented by the prawns. It is however not true as fish are able to eat prawns spine, shell and all! The prawn is a scavenger and so scouts in charge of culinary operations when preparing prawns for dinner, should after shelling them be careful to remove the digestive tube, a green line edging the transparent body, as otherwise unpleasant effects will result from such a meal.

The other crustacean is a small one which may be seen continuously jerking about among weeds in ponds. The female (Fig. 10) is readily recognisable by the pair of pevrse-like eggsacs trailing behind her. It bears an eye in the middle of the forehead & hence receives the name of the one-eyed giant of greek mythology, Cyclops. By drinking unfiltered water laden with Cyclops, man infests himself with the

Guinea worm, which passes one phase of its life in this waterflea. Ponds and tanks used by the public should not in the interest of public health be waded across or safer still used at all by men with guinea worm ulcers.

Among Molluscs creatures with soft and hard shells, are mentioned 2 examples one with a single spiral shell and the other with 2 valves united by a hinge. The applesnail or idolshell, common in ponds, has a globular (hence the name Ampullaria, shell with a small spire. It breathes by gills under water but has also a 'lung' to breathe air. During the dry season it retires deep into the mud at the bottom of the pond after shutting itself tightly within the shell. It resumes its active life when rains arrive, moistening the caked mud enveloping it. The eggs are large and enclosed in capsules and are aggregated in globular masses reminding one of a sweet sold in the streets by name 'Pori urundai'.

The fresh water mussel should be familiar to all who have visited Zoological laboratories in the Colleges, as it is a type for dissection. The gills of this creature in addition to its normal function act as a pouch where the eggs develop till a particular stage. Then the young ones attach themselves to fishes in the pond and drop off when the final stage is reached. The mussel in Ganjam irrigation reservoir yields small reddish pearls. Among the many fishes which inhabit ponds, mention may be made of 2—the murrel and the x ray fish. The x ray fish is a topminnow, small in size and so called because one can see through it Vertebrae and all. It is a very useful larvicidal fish. The catching of this fish in ponds is one among the many ceremonies connected with weddings among certain castes in Malabar and Canara.

The murrel is monogamous and builds a nest for its eggs. The nest is a circular clearing in the weedy edge of a pond and in it will be found a number of tiny eggs floating. The male and the female mount guard. When the eggs hatch out, the fry are led here and there by the parents. After a time. However the parental instinct gives place to the vulgar cannibal instinct and

the young ones which are not wise enough to fly away from the parents are made a meal of!

Frogs with their irrepressible croakings loudest in the wet weather, are common residents of ponds. Their life history is too wellknown to be repeated here. The early stages resemble those of a fish very closely as to deceive easily the amateurs. As the frog jumps into the water plunging head foremost, it has given its name to a dive practised by scouts and others in natural swimming baths. Mud-turtles are also common in ponds. The body is curiously enclosed in a double buckler which allows the head, the tail and the 4 limbs to be protruded 2 kinds are common one being known locally as the 'Milk-tortoise' in reference to its white skeleton; the name of the other has reference to an obnoxious habit it has of shooting faeces into the water etc., when alarmed or handled. A tamil proverb compares this tortoise which spoils tanks to a dumb man who spoils his village. At Puri in the temple tank are found a number of mud-turtles said to be descendants of one Gopal who displeased the god Jagannath, and they are fed daily with sweets by priests each of whom is a Gopal.

Crocodiles are found in some tanks e. g. in Malabar & Canara. Their fish-eating propensity brings them into clash with the tankstocking activities of the Fisheries Department. It is dangerous to wade through or even go to ponds where these reside as they are notoriously fond of human flesh. It is said that when your leg is caught in the jaws of a crocodile, you should dig your fingers into its eyes with all your might, to extricate yourself. Whether effective or not, it is certainly worth while remembering though I do not wish any scout ever to be in such a predicament. A colony of these animals live in a pond attached to the madai temple in Malabar and they are fed regularly by the priests.

As for the birds which visit ponds daily for food etc., and the waterfowl which throng there in numbers during season, they are most of them, familiar and I leave the scouts to make their own observations.

No animal higher in grade than those described above, is a permanent resident of ponds, though according to Hindu mythology, Skanda hence called Saravanabavan, was born and brought up in the Saravanam pond, a sacred pond in the vicinity of the Himalayas. Men in this country, especially in the mofussil go to the ponds for purposes of ablution, it may be cleaning the mouth

or the body or for washing after evacuation. And perhaps the water from these very ponds is used by people around. The evil of this is obvious and one of the duties of the Scouts is to educate public opinion both by example and talk and persuade the people to observe strict privacy in attending to the calls of nature, doing things in their legitimate places, and thus ensure general public health.

THE JAMBOREE BOY.

Ten thousand Boy Scouts filled Olympia for a week at the 1920 Jamboree, heroes all—are not the Scouts the glory of our Youth?

Who does not love the Jamboree Boy, racing the politician fast in the march to save the world? No cynic can see the Jamboree and live. No Junker can see it and be a Junker still. It is as certain as the rising of the sun, that the spirit of the Jamboree will make an end of War.

It used to be said that wars are necessary to keep men fit, and there are still a few people left in the world who think the only way to keep the human race going is to train men to kill each other.

What pitiful nonsense it is! Not a thing does military training teach a man in the name of War that the Jamboree does not teach a boy in the name of Peace—not one thing save KILLING. If there is any good thing in militarism; if there be in it any virtue, or wisdom, or courage, or discipline; if it teaches men to face sudden danger, to be ready for whatever should come whenever should come—all these things the Jamboree can do without the idiocy of war.

The Jamboree can beat a War Office all the time. The War Office can take a boy and train him to kill his brother for the sake of his country; but the Jamboree can take a boy and train him to love his brother for the sake of the world. Put these two boys together, in a race or in a crisis, set them to build a bridge, or put out a fire, or carry a despatch, or face a pit explosion, or make a road or a shirt or a boat, and the Jamboree Boy will win through everywhere.

He knows what to do. Give him a knife, a stick or two, a box of nails, and a bit of string, and he will build a house. Give him time and he will build a new world. Militarism takes a lot of boys makes them masters of themselves, and thinks nothing about it.

It is not for nothing that the Jamboree comes as the Junker goes. It is part of the order of things. The way to kill war is to give men better things to do, and the Jamboree has shown the way.

Attention! Salute the Scouts of all nations, guardians and defenders of the peace and honour and glory of the world in the great days coming.

Arthur Mee's Hero Book.

DO YOU KNOW THAT

1. Paper boot-laces are made in Germany.
2. The Moon moves at the rate of 67,000 yards per minute.
3. A square foot of honey-comb contains 9,000 cells.
4. There are 11,000 rooms in the Vatican, the Pope's Palace.
5. If a man had the leaping powers of a flea, in proportion to his size, he could jump 96 miles.
6. There is sufficient carbon in the human body to make 65 gross of lead pencils.
7. The longest railway station platform in the world is at Sonapur, in India; the length of which is 2,450 feet; Manchester comes next with 2,175 feet.
8. Brass is an alloy of two parts of copper with one of Zinc.
9. A plumber is a man who works in lead and is so called from plumbus the latin name for lead.
10. The actual weight of the Moon is 78 Million Million Million tons (or 78 followed by 18 noughts).

WHY THINGS ARE DONE.

(i) *Why the boards of a church tower slant downwards.* The slanting boards which are called "abatsons" are so fixed to throw down the sound of the bells.

(ii) *The three white lines on a Sailor's Collar.* These lines are supposed to represent the battles of the Nile, Copenhagen and Trafalgar.

(iii) *The Wedding Ring.* Wedding rings owe their origin to the days when men owned their wives and treated them as slaves. It was the pagan custom to place a ring on the bride's finger as a symbol of possession. In the days when men used brutal strength to make women their slaves, they would actually fasten a ring round the neck or body.

(iv) *The Tapping of Railway wheels.* All railway wheels undergo a severe test before leaving the workshops. They are examined again every sixty miles whilst in use. And this accounts for the wheel tapper disturbing you at night when you are fast asleep. He knows whether all is well or otherwise by the sound produced when he strikes the wheel with his hammer with a very long handle.

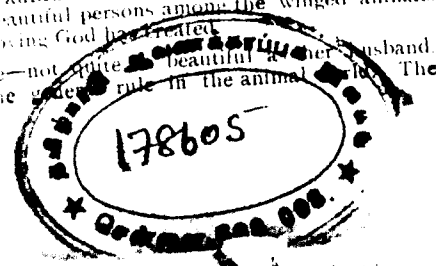
(v) *The bottles in a Chemist's shop.* The bottles containing coloured liquids are relics of bygone days when the apothecaries had a number of large jars in which they kept their mixtures. It is said that the blue and red colours represent venous and arterial blood and the exhibition of these colours was to let the public know that the person displaying these signs was capable of blood letting which was then considered a cure for almost every known disease.

THE TUSSEK SILK MOTH.

Every Scout must have some idea about the silk worm and the silk moth, scientifically called Bombyx-mori. I am sure all the scouts have seen pictures of the silk moth and the worm and the cocoon. In this issue I should like to tell you of another silk manufacturer. He is called the Tusser silk moth because he gives us the Tusser silk. Among the scientists he is known as *Antherata paphia*.

The moth is a very beautiful one, much more beautiful than the ordinary silk moth. It is also much bigger, sometimes as big as the palm of your hand. It is of a beautiful yellowish golden colour. There is a brown margin at the edge of the wing. There are four white spots on the wing. In the Museums this makes one of the most beautiful of collections. He is in fact one of the most beautiful persons among the winged animals that our Loving God has created.

His bride—not quite so beautiful as he is. The Tusser silk moth is the golden rule in the animal world.



males are always much more beautiful and stronger than the females. The peacock, the lion, the moth, and lastly the bearded man are all evidences of this truth. About the last some scouts may not be quite so sure. But all scientists and artists are of opinion that man is more beautiful than woman. We shall leave this question here.

Now then, any scout who has powers of observation can study the life story of this moth. All that he requires is a small box and a mind that wants to study the insects. The study of insects (Entomology) is one of the most interesting branches of science. It is also very useful. Our remedy over many diseases like Malaria fever is entirely due to the study of insects like the mosquitos and the house fly.

The female moth lays about two hundred eggs in the branches or leaves of such trees as the country-almond (*Albizia*) and the *Zyzybus Jijuhh* (*செவ்வெலி*). Out of these the caterpillars, the small worm like young ones come out. The caterpillars or the eggs can be collected and put into a box. A few leaves of the same tree also must be taken and put into the box. The caterpillar lives on the leaves. He is a great glutton. One is surprised at the amount of leaves he eats and the rate at which he grows. One has to renew the leaves once or twice a day and clean up the box. Some scouts may feel a sort of a cold creeping feeling at the sight of the caterpillar. But this must be got over and must get used to the caterpillar. It is a beautiful thing and can be taken gently into the palm of the hands. There are a few metallic bright spots on each side of the caterpillar that makes it look very nice and beautiful.

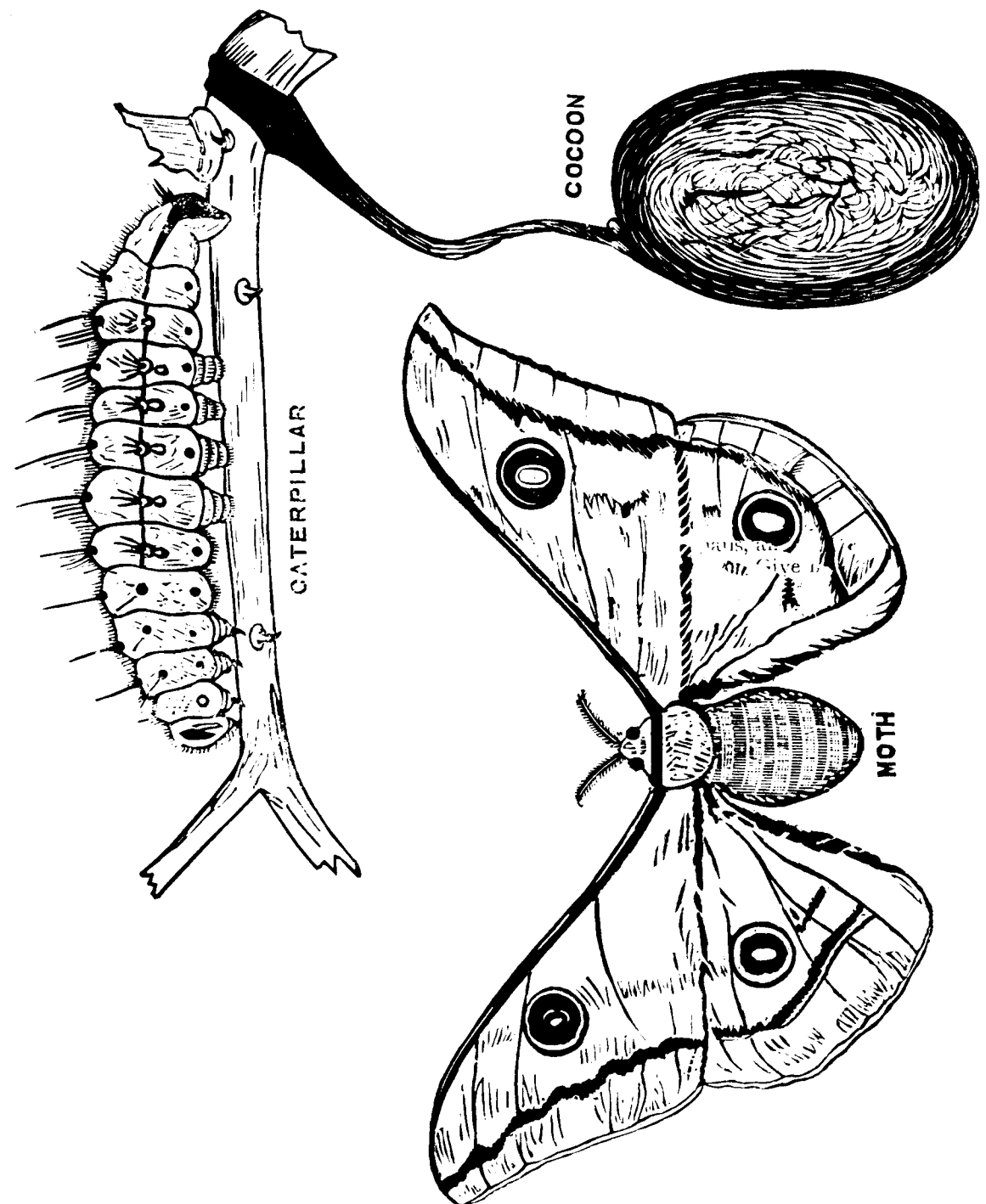
After this period of feasting and rapid growth the caterpillar takes a holiday and sleeps away his time. Before sleeping, a house is made out of silk. This house is called the cocoon. It is made up of a very long thread of silk. Inside the cocoon during the sleep many wonderful things take place. The future wings and other parts of the moth are made and added on to the body. Quietly one evening after weeks of sleep the cocoon is broken up and out if it the moth comes up. After drying its body in the outside air for some time it flies away into the starry skies to fly with other moths who also had a similar series of adventure and to suck honey from the flowers when they speak to each others about the wonderful experiences of the life they had, their hearts, (they have over ten hearts each) must throb.

When the moth comes out of the cocoon it breaks up the silk into small pieces and renders it useless. Therefore if the silk is to be made into clothing what we have to do is to prevent the moth from coming out of the cocoon. For this the moth is killed inside the cocoon by immersing the cocoon in hot water. Later on the cocoon is soaked in one or two liquids, (alkaline solutions,) and one end of the silk is taken out and the whole cocoon is rubbed off as the future yarn for the loom.

It is a wonderful life, that of the moth. Any caterpillar can be reared at home. Care must be taken to provide a clean box and plenty of leaves to eat. If one does not want silk for large commercial purposes it is much better to allow the moth to come out and fly away into regions of freedom and happiness.

I hope this short account of one moth will make many scouts study the habits and life histories of some of our beautiful winged friends.

A Naturalist.



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Aches and Pains - - - -