

CONTENTS FOR JANUARY 1934.

Editorial	Page 2.
Starman's Page	3
Tubby's Topical Talk	4
International Code of Signals	4
Skipper's Scrawl	5
What do YOU think?	6
Rover Notes	8
Patrol Leaders' Opinions	9
The late Sir Edmond Elles	10
On the Starb'd Bow	10
What JOE thinks!	11
Whispers from the Jungle	12
First Aid Notes	13
"Leander's" Grand Old Man	14
Bazaar Balance Sheet	16

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EDITORIAL.

1934, and a new Volume! There were people who shook their heads when we revived the "WATER RAT" last year, and prophesied that it would never reach a third issue. Here we are, however, with twelve good months behind us, and still going strong. Twelve doesn't sound a very great number if said quickly, and twelve copies of the "WATER RAT" don't make a very large file in the Editorial desk, but they represent a truly vast quantity of time, energy, and thought expended in their production. To all those who contributed articles, or helped on the technical side, we give thanks!

We are now building up an efficient body of writers, artists, and printers which should guarantee the continuance of the magazine at its present standard for a long time to come. That our readers seem satisfied on this point is shown by the fact that many have subscribed in advance for the whole of this year.

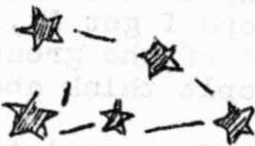
We welcome to the ranks of the local Press a new contemporary, the "RAVEN", official organ of the Tiffin School Group. We have read it with interest, and pass it as worthy to take its place beside us as a spear-head of the Movement. We can imagine no more successful way of promoting that spirit of co-operation among Scouts of the district, than by each Group publishing its own Magazine, and every Group reading all the publications!

The Sub-Editor.

THE STARMAN'S PAGE.

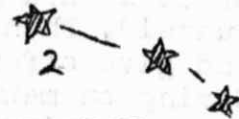
The great Thomas Carlyle lamented, "Why did not somebody teach me the Constellations, and make me at home in the starry heavens which are always overhead, and which I don't half know to this day." And an extract from "Boy Scout Tests & how to pass them", reads:- "Were any boy to ask the writer which test he thought would afford the student greatest pleasure, I would at once answer, The test for the Starman Badge".

Now, what say you? Water Rats love star-light, and there is no better month than January for making a start.



Look out at the Southern Sky at about 9 p.m. The small twinkling group of the Pleiades, or Seven Sisters, is easily recognised. Keen vision may count 12 or 15 stars; field-glasses will show 40 or 50; and the largest telescopes about 2000. The chief star is Alcyone, or the star of the Foundation, probably in connection with the great Pyramid. Left and lower down, are the horns of Taurus, the Bull, with its splendid star Aldebaran. (1)

ARIES may be seen a short distance to the right; three bright stars indicating the head of the RAM.



The chief star is named HAMEL. (2)

Turning left, and lower than Taurus, is one of the most magnificent and interesting constellations in the Sky, CRION, the hunter, supposed to refer to Nimrod. Betelgeus (3) is a beautiful amethyst star in constant violent contraction and expansion. (4) Bellatrix, (5) Salf, (6) Rigel, 7, 8, 9, Delta, Epsilon, and Zeta; three stars of the belt, are enormous spheres of blazing gas. Just below the belt is the Great Nebula, visible to the unaided eye; a vast expanse, which the telescope reveals as a veritable "Birth-place of suns".

Low down in the S.E. is the giant star SIRIUS, the brightest star in the whole sky. It was the "day Star" of the Ancients, and its appearance just before sun-rise heralded the rising of the Nile. Sirius is due South at midnight on the 1st of January, and is useful for telling the Time; remembering that it gains 4 minutes on the clock each succeeding day.

Last month an error occurred in calling Cassiopeia the chained lady. It should have been the Chair-ed lady, the lady in a chair. The CHAINED LADY was ANDROMEDA, the daughter of king Cepheus, who chained her to a rock to appease the sea-monster. She was rescued by PERSEUS who slew the monster. ANDROMEDA may be found by three stars stretching between Aries and Cassiopeia. The most westerly star is Alpherat, which occupies a corner of the Great Square of Pegasus, Almack is the most Easterly, and the centre of the three is Mirack, above which is the Great Nebula of Andromeda. The chief star of PERSEUS is Mirfack which lies between Almack and Capella.

TUBBY'S TOPICAL TALK TO ROVERS.

The Water Rat has now run the gauntlet for twelve months, during which it has maintained a pretty high standard, but I have one complaint to make regarding it. It has had too smooth a passage, which is not good for it. Its readers have accepted all that has been published without comment. Even the article by Jenks in the August number, although bristling with controversial matter, failed to draw a single reply from any member of the "Leander" group.

Constructive criticism is helpful and acts as a tonic, so I ask you to express your opinions. If you think the articles are good and useful, say so. If you think they are "tripe", say so and don't be too polite. I know I am asking for trouble. Well I hope I get it, but I am sure the Editor will agree with what I say. One of the greatest difficulties in this world is to know what other people think about us.

Yet it is in everyday life that where a word of appreciation may often mean a great deal to its recipient, we generally leave that word unsaid. Then again, we may quite innocently "put our foot in it" and give offence, and as we are not told about it, keep blundering on making matters worse, and probably wrecking friendships. An opinion expressed straight from the shoulder often clears the air, and gives one an opportunity of correcting any misunderstandings that may have arisen.

It is good for you to think for yourselves and having done so, then to express your thoughts. This builds up self-confidence, and if argument proves your line of thought to be wrong, well then you have learnt something. If you had not aired your views they would not have been contradicted and you would have gone blissfully on living in a fool's paradise.

Now that we are clear of the Bazaar and can settle down to a Thursday night programme, I should like to see a few debates held on various subjects of present day interest. Thoughts expressed help to kill that inferiority complex in ourselves and to counteract undue conceit in others.

THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF SIGNALS.

On January 1st certain changes were introduced in the system of signalling by flags as used at sea. The original code of 18 flags compiled in 1857 was based on an earlier one prepared by the celebrated Captain Marryat. Later this code was enlarged to 27 flags and remained in use unaltered until the end of last year. The number of flags has now been increased to 40 by replacing the five pendants C to G with five new square flags. These pendants and five new ones denote the figures 1 to 9 and 0. In addition three triangular flags have been added viz. 1st, 2nd. and 3rd substitute.



THE SKIPPER'S SCRAWL.

Scouts the World over are deeply concerned to hear that Lord Baden Powell has had a relapse following his second operation, and are anxiously awaiting the news that our beloved Chief is once more out of danger. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Leanders have had three invalids among our own members. They are our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Ide - bronchitis; "Peter" Dawson, - a broken toe; and Basil Stevens - mumps. I am happy to say that all three are making good progress. It must have been a great disappointment to "Steve" to be laid up after having made only one attendance at a Troop Muster.

Contrary to the practice of many periodicals which publish a Christmas Double Number, the "Water Rat", as you will see has reserved its "Monster" number for the New Year. Speaking of Monsters it is suggested that one of the species must be lying in wait near the Canbury Gardens to swallow up recruits on their way to "Leander" Headquarters. Certainly none have arrived lately. We need to be "Alert" and "Active" in introducing the joys of Scouting to others.

The attendance at our last Group Church Parade was very disappointing. This shortcoming was particularly noticeable on the part of the Rovers. I wish to remind them that both the Cubs and the Scouts look to their "elder bretheren" for example in this matter just as much as in others. It is, I think, significant that the combined musters of the whole Group are reserved for our public recognition of the spiritual basis of Scouting. Let us each resolve to make these in future the united gatherings which they have been in the past.

The Group has been asked to provide at least ten Scouts and Rovers to take part in the Sea Scout section of the great "Display of Scouting Activities" which Imperial Headquarters are presenting at the Royal Albert Hall in April. A lot of hard work in rehearsals will be needed but I know that Leanders will not be found wanting. Details will be announced to the Troop and Crew very shortly.

We still have a quantity of firewood in stock. Please canvas your friends for orders before the cold weather is over.

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1st. liner passonger.- "What a splendid view".  
 2nd " " "Yes, but it will be even better later. Wait till the moon comes up."

Groans from deck-chair, followed by voice.- "Has anything else got to come up"?

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER?

In view of the many conflicting rumours about the presence of a strange creature in the waters of Loch Ness, the "WATER RAT" commissioned a Special Reporter to interview some of its readers with a view to obtaining their opinions on the subject. The results, which we print below, are very varied, and it seems impossible to draw any definite conclusions from them.

ARTHUR LANGRIDGE, when interviewed, declared that there was "something in it". Probably a tribe of enormous hippo-like creatures, hitherto seldom seen in civilised parts, had made its home at the bottom of Loch Ness. It was likely that these animals swam up the Moray Firth and then hiked 40 miles across country looking for a suitable place to breed, in a manner similar to the better known migration of the salmon up-river in search of a spawning ground. The fact of their being sighted in various parts of Europe at different times seemed to indicate that they were of general nomadic habits. Colour was lent to this theory by the size of their feet, as revealed by the plaster cast taken of a spoor left by one of the tribe.

PHIL DAY, on the other hand, characterised the whole story of the Monster as "a lot of baloney".

FRED HALLETT at first declined to give an interview, declaring that his lips were sealed by an exclusive contract with the "WATER RAT". When our reporter explained that he represented that very journal, HALLETT replied; "Indeed, and how am I to know that, pray? Produce your credentials!" The production of a dog licence, Wireless Licence, pedestrian licence, birth certificate, and tri-cycle permit (twice endorsed) failed to satisfy him, but when at last a Final Demand Note was shown, he exclaimed "Ah, that proves that you are indeed he, the notorious swindler of Magazine Editors. Kindly oblige me by stepping outside, and don't forget to shut the gate!"

ERIC TURVEY grinned approvingly, when the question was put to him. "I've been celebrating pretty well during Christmas and the New Year, and I knew some funny things do happen at 2 in the morning, but I'll say there's no one like the Scots when it comes to distilling spirits".

OUR PUBLICITY MANAGER went into ecstasies over the topic. "Wonderful, stupendous! I wish I could meet the man who thought that one out! If they can only keep it up till the Spring, Scottish Hotels and caterers will do a tourist trade unheard of in the world before!"

LIMEHOUSE BILLY, when interviewed in a low tavern in Wapping, claimed to have actually caught the Monster. "Yus", he rasped, wiping his mouth and closing one eye, "I went up there on the Crawlin' Scotsman a few days ago, takin' with me, among other things, a trout-fishing rod, 100 yds. of stout hawser, a can of red pepper, and a

butterfly net. Procurin' a small boat, I rows out to a lonely part of the lake - loch - and sprinkles pepper on the water. Then I lays back in the stern, wets me whistle with a nip of the local stuff, and starts singin' "Come Back to Erin". Well, the Monster, 'e must 'ave bin a Irishman, because sure 'nough in about five minutes, up 'e comes, eyes drippin' and looking all Mourneful like. But as soon as 'e smells my pepper 'e starts a 'sneezing' fit to blow 'is 'ead crf. I watches me time, canny like, and when 'e opens 'is mouth wide for an extra big sneeze, I shoves me 'and down inside and pulls 'is tail up between 'is teeth".

Our reporter was anxious to hear further details, but unfortunately Closing Time was announced at that moment, and Limehouse Billy absolutely declined to hang about outside talking. His wife, he said, was waiting for him at home.

... ..

Here are a few other replies to the Monster question gathered at random:-

A CUB - Coo! I wouldn't like to meet it in the dark!

DICKY SMITH - Gert yer!

BERT HAWKEY. I think you should change the name of the Magazine to the "Loch Ness Monster".

JOE BUNKIN - see page 11.

AN A.C.M. Seein'g's believing - I haven't been introduced to him yet.

A SUPPORTER. I refuse to talk about the matter.

THE WATER RAT. I only hope it doesn't come up the Thames. It may feed on rats!

THE SKIPPER. I'm afraid I've been too busy to look at the papers just lately.

JOHN JENKS. Did I ever tell you about that trip when we found a sea-serpent in our fresh-water tank?(No! and you won't be allowed to here. - Ed.)

---

STOP PRESS! Special Correspondent at Loch Ness reports discovery of Monster. Interviewed, it would only say "Leave me alone! I'm just a plain, homely woman, and I want to be alone."

(Alright, Greta, we get you!)

R O V E R N O T E S .THE NEW YEAR.

As originality is one of the prime virtues of a good journalist, anyone who thinks I'm going to commence these Notes with Best Wishes for 1934 is jolly well mistaken.

THE LOCH NESS MONSTER.

I propose to say nothing on this topic either.

UNITY IS STRENGTH.

We all know very well that if we rally round, put out backs to the wheel and pull together, etc. etc. we shall soon be out of the wood and everything will be right.

THE BAZAAR.

Even Scout Bazaars are a swindle, anyway!

AND NOW -

-having cleared the air over these little points, I will proceed to tell the world of our latest achievements.

PING-PONG.

The standard of play in the "Leander" Table Tennis Club is rapidly rising. One enterprising member, indeed, even imagined he could beat me! He is now disillusioned.

EATING.

During the festive season food has gone down very well. Tubby's Christmas pudding is said to have flown straight to his stomach. Unfortunately, Mrs. Ervine had no sixpences, so Tubby now has a copper lining.

CAMPERS.-

- are reminded that tents and equipment put away for the winter should be inspected about now.

GROUP SCOUTMASTERS -

- are reminded that boat varnishing and kindred complaints should be thought of in the near future, not when tired Rovers want to go sailing.

ROVERS -

- should remember that this is the "off" season, but it is the golden time of preparation for joys to come. Start on the summer programme now. Get all the odd jobs done NCW!

So buck up, you lads, mend your tents, varnish your boats, oil your cricket bats, re-string your racquets, put away your skates (except those who can afford half-a-crown for Streatham Rink) and prepare to Play the Game in the coming season as they taught you at the Old School.



WARNING.

Costumes must be worn, when bathing in the Thames at Kingston, on and after January 26th. Below Richmond Lock, at Low tide, clothes need not be discarded.

CONCLUDING MORAL.

Never do a trek-cart job on an empty stomach. (Wisdom of Lao-Tse).

A.J.L.

PATROL LEADERS' OPINIONS.HAIL STORKS!

I want you people to make 1934 an A1 Scout year. This can only be done if everyone bears the following points in mind (1) Attend all Troop parades and Camps; (2) Work as one, instead of seven separate Units; (3) Have Scouting as your only hobby.

Sea Scouting is a full-time job, and it is no earthly use keeping it as a stand-by amusement. The other week I heard a Scout in this Patrol say "You don't want to work too hard for this Troop, or you'll soon be doing all the work". This is a rotten, selfish, childish attitude, and if I hear any more of it from anyone I shall go all out for suspension. Get that?

To those fellows - the majority, thank goodness - who have done their jobs willingly and without a lot of talk, congratulations! It was jolly good work. You have the right spirit - keep it!

There is a Scutcraft Exhibition being held in the Assembly Rooms in May. All of the "Dons" are making something for it, but I haven't heard what the "K's" are doing. Let's hear from you!

Now Storks, I want to see you wipe those Seagulls off the map, so jump to it!

F.C.HALLET.

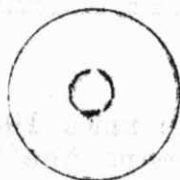
OTTER PATROL CALLING!

Happy New Year to All! Now that another year has opened we can look back over the last twelve months and realise what an eventful year it has been in the history of "Leanders". We must make this year even better than last. Already we have had a fine commencement with some prime new material from the Cubs. Cheerio!

H. MARTIN.

THE LATE SIR EDMOND ELLES

By the death of Lt.Gen.Sir Edmond Elles Scouts everywhere, and particularly those in Surrey have lost a great friend and a fine leader. Major E.F.Browell, his successor as County Commissioner, writes of him "I don't think there could be a truer Scout than our dear old friend; though a big man nothing was too small for him to undertake...With his wonderful example of duty before us, let us get on with the work, and if at times we feel inclined to chuck it, thinking we have done enough, let us ask ourselves the question - What would he have done?"

SIGHTED ON THE STARBOARD BCW.

Group Church Parade - Feb. 11th.

Rover Crew meet Capt.J.Cameron, A.C.C.for  
Sea Scouts at the Petersham Group's  
Headquarters. - Feb.15th.

Walsall Sea Scouts' Film "PLUNDER" at Cheam  
Parish Hall. - Feb.17th.

Easter Hike. - Mar. 30th to Apr. 2nd.

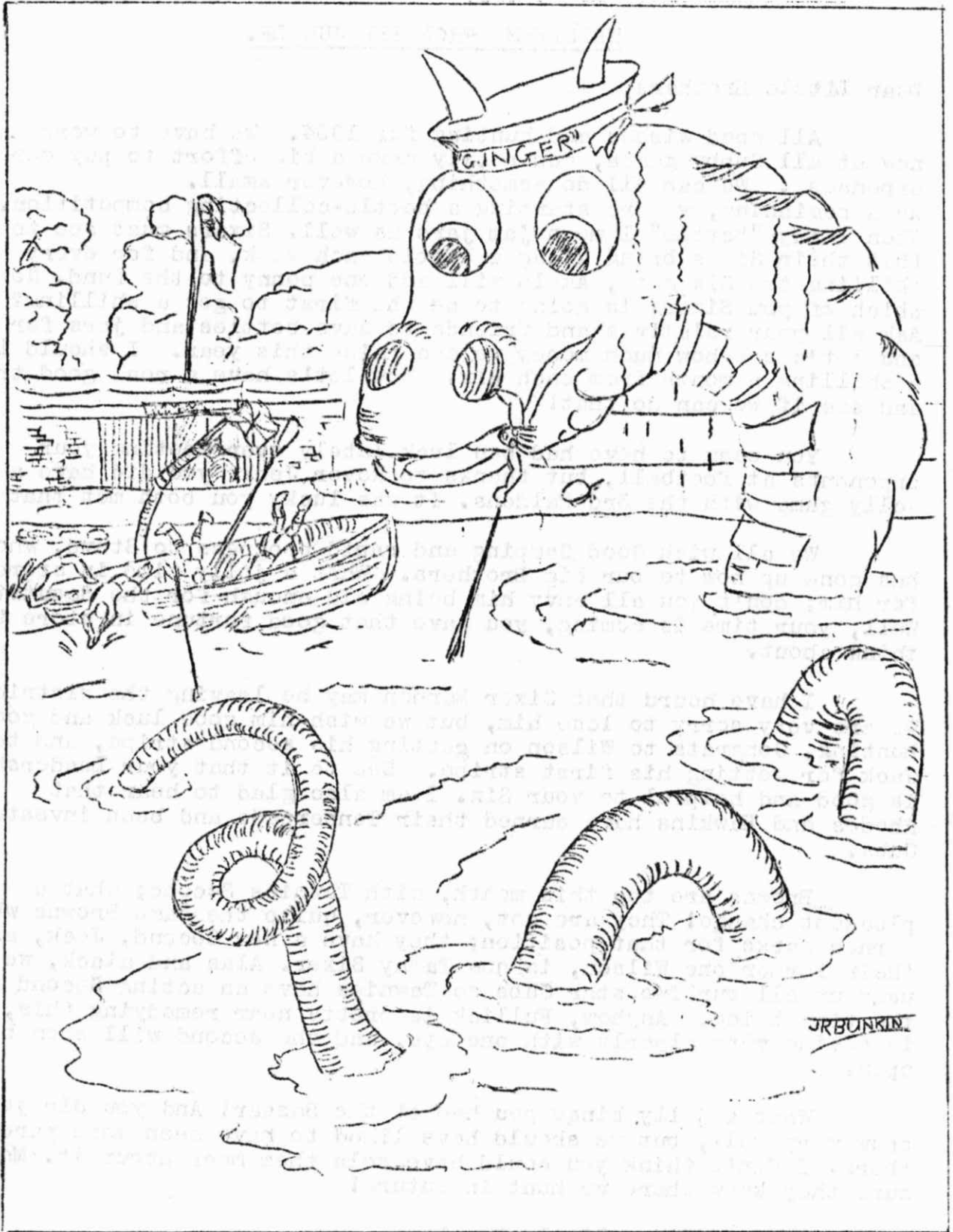
National Display of Scouting Activities at  
the Royal Albert Hall - Apr. 18th.

Kingston Association Scoutcraft Exhibition  
at Surbiton Assembly Rooms - May 9th to 12th.

All England Sea Scout "Meet" at Petersham  
May 19th to 21st (Whitsun).

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER FROM RHODESIA.

"Many thanks for the "WATER RAT" which, when I have read, I pass on to the Scoutmaster here. It is a fine little paper and lots of work must be needed to turn it out in such good style".



Unexpected visit of the Loch Ness Monster to the Thames.

WHISPERS FROM THE JUNGLE.

Dear Little Brothers,

All good wishes and hunting for 1934. We have to work hard now at all Cubby games, and really make a big effort to pay our expenses. We can all do something, however small. As a beginning, we are starting a bottle-collecting competition. When I say "bottle" I mean jam jars as well. Sixers must see to it that their Sixes bring along a bottle each week, and for every shilling the Six gets, Akela will add one penny to the fund. Now, which of you Sixers is going to be the first to get a shilling? Ask all your relatives and friends to save bottles and jars for you, and let's see how much money we can raise this year. I should like a shilling a month from each Six. Now let's have a real good try and see if we can do that!

You seem to have had bad luck lately over meeting your opponents at football, but thanks to Rover Jenks you did have a jolly game with the 3rd Maldens. It was lucky you both met that day!

We all wish Good Camping and rapid progress to Steve, who has gone up now to our big Brothers. What a jolly time in store for him; don't you all envy him being old enough for the Scouts? Well, your time is coming, you have that good fortune in store to think about.

I have heard that Sixer Mardon may be leaving the district. We are very sorry to lose him, but we wish him good luck and good hunting. Congrats to Wilson on getting his second stripe, and to Jack for getting his first stripe. See to it that your Leadership is good and helpful to your Six. I am also glad to hear that Rhodes and Hawkins have earned their Tenderpads and been invested as Cubs.

Browns are top this month, with Tawnies Second; what a pleasant change! They are not, however, quite the same Browns who earned marks for that position; they have a new Second, Jack, as their former one Wilson, is now Tawny Sixer. Alas and alack, we have used up all our Two star Cubs so Tawnies have an acting Second for the time being. Anyhow, Fullick is pretty near remedying this, he is seeing very clearly with one eye, and the second will soon be open.

What a jolly binge you had at the Bazaar! And you did your show very well, but we should have liked to have seen more parents there. I don't think you could have told them much about it. Make sure they know where we hunt in future!

Good Hunting, Little Brothers,

AKELA has spoken.

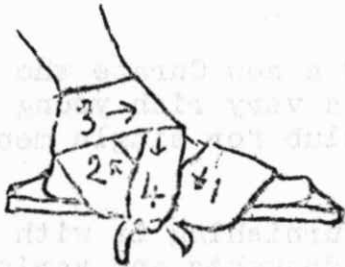


FIRST AID NOTES.

A First Aid Man's JCB is to apply the treatment most suited to the circumstances until professional help is available.

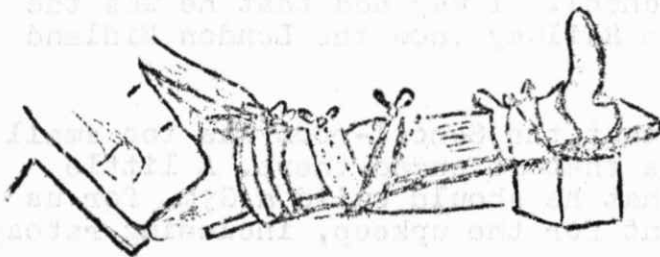
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CRUSHED FOOT. (Fracture of Tarsus, Metatarsus and Toes.)



Remove boot, apply a well-padded splint to the sole of the foot, reaching from heel to toes. The centre of bandage being placed over the instep. Apply it crossed, after the figure of 8 (as shown) Support the foot in a raised position.

FRACTURE OF KNEE CAP. (Patella)



Lay patient on his back raise well and support the head and shoulders with a chair-back (chair turned upside down) straighten and raise injured limb.

Apply a splint along the back of the limb, reaching from the buttock to the heel, apply narrow bandage with the centre

immediately above knee cap cross ends behind, over splint, pass them again to the front of the limb just below knee cap, and tie. Apply second bandage in a similar way but commence below knee cap and tie above.

Secure splint by applying bandages round thigh and leg. Support the foot well off the ground by a pillow or box, etc. (as shown).

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We prepare ourselves for sudden deeds by the reiterated choice of good or evil, which gradually determines character.

- George Eliot.

"LEANDER'S" GRAND OLD MAN.

(On December 29th our Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. H. Ide, celebrated his 83rd birthday. When the Editor called to wish him Many Happy Returns he suggested that a short account of Mr. Ide's early association with Scouting would be of interest to our readers. Mr. Ide agreed, and in due course kindly contributed the following article.)

IT must be forty years since I became interested in Men's and Boys' Clubs.

It came about in this way. We had a new Curate who came to our Parish Church at Harpenden. He was a very rich young man. He came to me one day asking me to run a Club for single men, during the winter months. I agreed.

He hired a room in the village, furnishing it with tables, chairs, Bagatelle board, chess, dominos, draughts and various other games, all the daily papers, a good light and a good fire.

The charge was a penny per week, when they could afford it. If they could not, it was paid for them. I attended from six to ten every night except Wednesdays.

Before the winter was passed, application was made to me, asking if I would go and assist another gentleman who was carrying on a Gym. held in the village school. I may add that he was the Managing Director of the Midland Railway (now the London Midland and Scottish Railway Co.)

No doubt he could see that the School-room was too small for the number of boys and girls that attended there. A little while afterwards he suggested that he should build a Gym. for us if we would guarantee the payment for the upkeep, including rates and taxes and water rate.

The building was put up, I should think it was larger than St. Peter's or All Saints' Hall. We took possession and equipped it with horizontal bar, parallel bars, climbing ropes, clubs, dumb-bells, boxing gloves, fencing sticks, masks and rings.

When we started we had nearly a hundred members, made up with girls from eight to sixteen, boys up to about fourteen, and bigger boys and men.

We had to divide the girls according to age into classes, - the same with the boys. The younger ones left before 8 o'clock, when the men took possession. The charges were 2d. 4d. and 6d. After a time we engaged an Instructor at £1 per week for two sessions. This was for the men and bigger boys who paid us more fees than the younger ones during this time. No doubt you will wonder how all these expenses were met. We had Exhibitions, and Competitions for which we made a charge to the public. Also Jumble Sales which usually brought us in about £40 per year.

When we gave our Exhibitions we always remembered to invite the best people in the village and give them seats on the Stage, when we received many donations later.

I then went to live at Tottenham and attended Trinity Church, where I was a Sidesman. After a time they found out that I had been doing Club work at Harpenden and they asked me if I would assist their Scouts. This Troop belonged to the Church and was one of the best I ever knew. They ran a bugle and drum and fife Band. The chief of the Band had been a trumpeter in the Hussars in the Boer War. We also had a man who had been in the Highlanders who played the bagpipes. It was quite a sight to see the people flock to watch the Troop march through the High Street. This was all due to another rich Curate. He hired a house in which we had four rooms, one for music lessons, billiard room, one for games and the other as a Reading Room. All I did there was to take charge of the Billiard Room to collect the money for each game.

In 1912 I came to Kingston. They soon found me out and gave me a job with the 4th Kingston Troop. It was with a party from this Troop that I went down to keep a guard on the church at Stoke d'Abernon one week-end during the War. We camped quite close to the Church, and at night we stowed our supply of food, for better safety, in the branches of a large tree. We watched the Church all night, and saw nothing at all, but in the morning all our food had vanished from the tree! It wasn't till the afternoon, having made numerous 'phone calls, that we got someone to bring us down a hamper of grub.

When, a little later, the Vicar of St. Luke's disbanded the Troop, I came over to the "Leander" Sea Scouts, bringing a few boys with me. The rest of the date is known to you all.

In all my associations with boys' clubs and Scout Troops I have had the job of keeping the accounts, and I hope to continue to do so for the "Leanders" as long as I can add up figures.

J.H.IDE.

Message picked up in Lat. 51° 26' North. Long. 0° 18' West.  
TO SEA SCOUTS EVERYWHERE.

With the object of making the technical details of the Boy Scout Tests usually undertaken by Sea Scouts more readily available for their study, a collection of chapters from the larger book "Boy Scout Tests & How to Pass Them", has been published in a separate book... I think every Sea Scout should possess one. The price is 2/-.

A. V. CAMPBELL.

Headquarters Commissioner for Sea Scouts.



