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NOTES ON SCOUTCRAFT

By Rev. GEORGE W. TEBBS

The Scout and the Church.

IN the training of the boy, Scouting has had many predecessors. Many of the schemes have been most commendable, but they have usually confined themselves to one side of the boy's nature, either wholly spiritual or entirely physical. In appealing to the physical, mental, moral and spiritual side (that is every part of the boy), Scouting has made a step in advance, and blazed the way for the newest of the movements, the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests. The weakness in the application, however, has been the lack of the right men for Leadership, and herein is a magnificent opportunity for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew to do good work. Men are wanted who will devote all their spare time to this one thing, but they must be men of the right type or failure and perhaps disaster will follow. The fostering of a boy's religious spirit is both difficult and delicate, and this element of our work in Scouting is often crowded out in the desire to load the boys' uniforms with the little circular badges of proficiency in other things no matter how invaluable many of the tests may seem to be.

There is no badge for "Religion" to be put on the sleeve of the uniform, and it is not desirable to "tag" a boy as being religious. But it is the duty of the leaders of Church Troops to see that this side is not neglected. The Scout is bound by "The Scout Law" to carry out the teaching of the Parable of the Good Samaritan in the daily good turn; of the Parable of the Ten Virgins in his preparedness at all times; to love nature as the Master did, and to follow the example of our Lord in purity of life, in gentleness, kindness and patience. A Scout is taught that he is a brother, created, preserved and redeemed by the same Heavenly Father and Saviour, and must so treat his brother Scouts. He wants no praise for what he does. It is simply his duty to do good turns, without "tips" or rewards. He must be courteous because he has a great dignity to live up to as a son of the King of Kings. In his obedience to orders he must follow the Lord Jesus Who was obedient unto death, and in the little sacrifices he makes he must "whistle and smile," doing the unpleasant things with cheerfulness.

It is, therefore, the duty of the Church to see that the Scouts of Church Troops have this presented to them. The boy needs the Church and the Church needs the boy. No good will come of a mere benevolent toleration of a troop of Scouts attached to a Church. The Troop must receive stimulation and direction. Church Parades are showy, but are not as a rule in the best interests of the boy, and only touch the fringe of the matter.

Perhaps these few suggestions may aid leaders who have Scouting at heart that there lies within our movement a practical solution of the anxious problems—the Boy and the Church. We may return to this later.

A "Kiltie" Story.

A Scottish soldier on entering the Underground Railway at Paddington found himself in the centre of a group of Scouts returning from the great Jamboree at Olympia. There was no vacant seat. But a tiny Wolf Cub got up and said, "Take my seat, Miss." The Highlander blushed, smiled and then replied, in kindly tones, "Thank ye, me lad, but A'm no a Girl Guide yet."

Frank C. Irwin Now At Head of Boy Scouts.

W. K. George, provincial commissioner of the Boy Scouts' Association, has sent out a circular letter advising officers and friends of the movement in Ontario that Frank C. Irwin, M.A., has been appointed to take charge of the headquarters office, and also of the organization work in the province.

Mr. Irwin is a London boy, who received his education in that city, Peterboro, and Moose Jaw. He is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan (B.A.); of Columbia University (M.A.), and of the New York School for Social Work. For the past ten years he has been actively identified with Boy Scout work, starting as a member of the first Moose Jaw troop. In 1911 he was a member of the Canadian Boy Scout contingent to the coronation of King George, and two years later became scoutmaster of his troop. In 1915 he became the first employed secretary of the Saskatchewan provincial council of the Boy Scouts' Association, which he resigned a year later to accept a fellowship in the New York School for Social Work. In 1917 he went overseas, serving in England and India. He later became the first secretary of the Boy Scouts of Mysore, the largest and most influential Boy Scout organization in India. He has just returned from France, where he has been associated with the American committee for devastated France and other work.

Scouts Pay Last Tribute to Beloved Comrade.

The funeral of Harold Ure, a member of the 35th Toronto Troop of Boy Scouts, took place from St. John's Church, Norway, the Rector, the Rev. W. L. Baynes-Reed, officiating. Young Ure was one of the most popular scouts in the Beaches district, and his comrades turned out in large numbers to follow as far as they could the "last trail." A beautiful floral emblem in the form of the scouts' secret sign, "Gone Home," given by his scoutmaster, E. O'Callahan, and his brother scouts of the 35th Troop, was one of the incidents which emphasized the feelings of the boys in the death of one of their family of scouts. Troop Leader Tattersall sounded the "Last Post" over the grave at the conclusion of the burial service. In addition to the 35th Troop representatives from the 51st and 27th Troops were present, as well as the entire Wolf-Cub pack connected with the 35th, and of which young Ure was assistant cubmaster. The interment took place in St. John's Cemetery.

"EPIDEMIC" DEFINED.

The schoolmaster asked his class if any of them could tell him what an epidemic was.

No answer.
"Well, I will tell you. An epidemic is anything that spreads. Now, what is an epidemic?"

"Jam, sir!" shouted the class, in chorus.

THE WRONG TRAIN.

"Why didn't you put my luggage in as I asked you?" angrily demanded a passenger of a porter as his train was moving off. "I did," shouted back the porter; "yer luggage has more sense than yerself. You're in a wrong train."