

BOY SCOUTS AND WAR WORK

were ready to undertake any work within their capacity to perform. At the various canteens of the Y.M.C.A., in England and France still Scouts and more Scouts—indeed, the Scouts themselves are running more than one hut in France. Local authorities have accepted their offers of work for the purpose of clearing the streets from snow and for other such work. In large towns, such as Liverpool, their labour has been organized for the collection of bottles, tins, and waste paper with extraordinary results.

On the land they have been employed in almost every capacity suitable to a boy's strength. One will find them in munition works and all Government factories, and everywhere, with few exceptions, giving good account of themselves. Even as I am writing I catch glimpses of the familiar uniform flitting up and down the passage outside my office door—for it is a characteristic of the Boy Scout that he gets a "move on him" and does not dawdle in getting from one point to another; he has learned to obey an order "at the double" and not "at the dawdle" as is the manner of the "mere" boy!

The Government at a fairly recent conference on the problem of infantile crime requested the Scouts to come to its assistance and help stem the tide during the war by taking into the various Troops as many of the other boys as could be with safety done, and still more recently a magistrate suggested that boys coming out from a reformatory school should be compelled to enter a Troop of Scouts whose influence might have the desired effect of helping such to "make good."

The Scouts are also being employed on board liners and transports, and have here as elsewhere made good their position, as witness the incident on the *Britannique*—the hospital ship which met with disaster in the Mediterranean. An order was given that the women and Scouts were to take to the boats. The women were got off, but the Scouts refused to leave, saying that their duty was on the ship. When the ship at last listed so badly that they, as everyone else, had to go it was necessary for them to slide down the ropes—a distance of fifty feet. The master-at-arms, speak-