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## Beside the Home Fires

NOTES ON GIRL GUIDE WORK

By IRIS

"Give me the insight into to-day, and you may have the antique and future worlds," says Emerson.

THE pressing need of to-day is the building aright for the future, and the hope of the future is in the right leading of the boys and girls of to-day. That is why so much is being done for child-welfare and child-training. The call is to the Church: "Come, unite yourself with every organization doing this work. Take the lead, as the Church has always done, in every work for the children, the little ones that the Master still blesses."

Cannot every Church have its Guide Company, where the children are learning to play the game of life—a useful, friendly life, with a wide outlook, learning the happiness of serving, loving, befriending and defending, and trying to conquer all that is difficult, dangerous or evil? One great worker and thinker said in an address to a Big Sister Association: "If the Guides had done their duty there would be no need for Big Sisters." How true! We are still trying to mend and patch where we might have prevented.

In a letter this week a Big Sister says: "I see you are trying to appeal to women to come and help. Oh, send out the call to Churchwomen! I am heartsick when I come from the Juvenile and Women's Court in our city and see the children. Such things need not be. Why have we not Guide organizations in every town and village in the country? Can't you get the younger women to work? The war has taught us that they can work, and work well, and always will if given responsibility. To-day they are being blamed because they are playing, dancing and amusing themselves. Why won't the old women realize that their day is over, and that the world wants the modern outlook and energies of the young women? Let the young life take up what used to be so much talked about, namely, reconstruction."

There is a great deal of truth in what Big Sister says, and a great deal of selfishness in the desire of some older women to hold on to office, forgetting sometimes all that is at stake, and that the world has rolled by them.

#### Lack of Leadership.

I must quote one other letter, signed "Ex-Guider": "I wonder if you know that we owe the starting of our Guide work in Canada to some of our Churchwomen, and very well started it was, too? They were most successful in one of our big cities, and requests for help came from many other places. Thinking it was time the work branched out, they requested a few Presidents of National Societies to come to a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Dominion association, for these presidents to gather active women from all parts of the country, as the Boy Scouts' Association have done in getting men. But, alas! These presidents and a few others elected themselves as committee or council, as they call themselves, and stayed. Not one province has been organized, and that is over ten years ago; and the worst of all was that these clever young women who called the meeting discovered themselves pushed out, their work was taken from them and they were told to go home."

These young women are ten years older now. They should call another meeting of the heads of the present national organizations and see what they can do. Send out an S.O.S. call

for women's help. This is the psychological moment, when we must do all we can to help and train and protect our girls."

Then "Ex-Guider" adds: "I wish I could tell you what the Guide work did for me, and how I know from experience what a wonderful system it is, and what a help it might be for the girls all over our country."

These two letters have made me feel that perhaps our women can do something. Just go ahead and start a company in your town or church. Get a strong committee of women to back you, then join in with the nearest company and nominate a commissioner for your county. Several counties together could start a Provincial Association—Church Women, Women's Institutes, I.O.D.E.—all together. Let the West begin and Nova Scotia. They are always active. Let each and every province realize it is their duty to organize themselves, and so we will line up and show "Big Sister" and "Ex-Guides" that we are not asleep, and that there is life in the women of our dear country.

#### "ROTTEN ROW."

"Rotten Row" is the name given to the most fashionable driveway in old London. Anyone who has taken this drive cannot but wonder why such a beautiful roadway could have such a despicable name.

It seems, however, that this appellation was born of one of the most beautiful phrases in the French language. After the Normans conquered England in 1066 they gave French names to many places and things. To this driveway through London parks they gave the name, "Route du Roi," which in English meant "Route of the King," because it led to the royal palace. The Englishman had difficulty in pronouncing this French phrase, and so, as the years passed, "Route de Roi" degenerated into "Rotten Row." No doubt it is due to the spirit of conservatism which characterizes the English people that this objectionable name has been associated with one of the prettiest places in the largest city in the world.—H. W. Crews, in "Onward."

#### NOT A REAL EMERGENCY.

An elderly Scotchwoman was arrested one day for stealing from a department store, says Col. G. T. Denison in an article in the Canadian Magazine. When the court opened the next morning the matron found the husband waiting outside, and she advised him to secure a lawyer for his wife.

"I canna dae that," he replied. "I canna afford it."  
 "Your wife told me you had over two hundred dollars in the bank."  
 "Ou, ay, I ken that, but that was saved up for an emairgency."

#### EASIER TO SPELL.

A doctor received a note asking him to go at once to a case of small-pox, but to his surprise, on arriving at the patient's bedside, he found that it was merely a case of rheumatism. "But this is very plainly not small-pox," he said.

"Well, doctor," replied the man, as he shuffled one foot over the other, "to tell you the truth, we knew it was rheumatism, but nobody in the house could spell the word, and we thought small-pox would do just as well until you came, and probably bring you quicker."