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## Boys and Girls

### Beside the Home Fires

Notes on Girl Guide Work  
By IRIS

"BEND aright the supple twig—to wait until the branch grows tough is hard both for the branch and for the bender: often useless too," says a modern writer.

Sir Robert Baden-Powell writes: "The Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements are only held back in their development by want of help in the form of personal service or funds. The personal service is the most important for the Children." Indeed one might say important for the whole country, because at the root of all Guide work is the idea of building, of constructing, to train ourselves and the children so that we may form that most important thing of all—character.

Guides! I wonder if you know that our Prince, before he left Canada last year, wrote a message to the Girl Guides, in which he said, "Value your training as guides, for the more you value it the greater will be your own value as Canadians and as Britishers." The girls of the Iris Patrol have written his message in their roll book, as it seems to be a link in the chain of our Empire. Lately we have had another link in the visit of several Commissioners from over the sea, and they were welcomed in many places from Vancouver to Montreal, showing us we are all one under the old flag.

Now a guide is a sister to every other Guide all over the world. A Great British sisterhood for the teaching of all that is noble in womanhood, loyalty, truth, honour, efficiency, and good citizenship.

The visiting Commissioners tell us of Camp Fire Girls, in the West, and of the Provinces not being organized into Guide Committees. The West always takes the lead in all good works, so get together, girls of the Golden West, and organize your Provinces and let us all be one in the Empire, one with the girls of Australia, India, Africa, New Zealand, and the Islands of the Seven Seas.

A Junior Superintendent writes to us to say she is starting a Patrol in her branch, and that the girls are delighted with the idea. Write to us again and tell us how you get on. It might be a help to other branches.

All the girls in the Iris Patrol are keen missionaries, and are studying about the girls of India, and correspond with a Guide in Bombay, who tells them about the work in a mission school there.

A mother told us the other day that her little daughter no longer thought housework a drudgery since she was trying to get her Domestic Service Badge; that it was all a beautiful game and that she passed her cook's exam. and now could be trusted to look after a meal when mother was out so that mother was loud in her praise of the Girl Guides.

A correspondent has asked about the origin of the Scout and Guide Movement, so we will answer that next time we write, and any questions that the Captains care to ask—if we are able to do so, and thus do our "good turn," also showing that a guide is a sister to every other Guide.

If we were capable of harnessing all the atomic energy contained in a small piece of chalk, we should have enough power to raise 100,000 tons to a height of 3,000 feet.—Sir Oliver Lodge.

### ELEPHANTS APPOINTED OFFICIAL EXECUTIONERS.

THE first instance of an elephant being brought to the West was in the year 807, when the Caliph Haroun al Rashid presented one to Charlemagne.

It was not until 1255, however, that this well-known and sagacious animal came to England, and it was in that year that the King of France made King Henry III. a gift of one 10 years of age. It arrived at Sandwich, and was then taken to the Tower of London, where, by the King's command, a house had been built for it. Ten feet high to the top of its back. England's first elephant lived to the age of 41 years. Its keeper was John Goach.

An elephant's skin is generally of a deep ash-brown, but sometimes it is white or cream-colored. The latter variety is very valuable and highly prized, being one of the attributes of royalty in Siam. One of the titles of the King of Siam, by the way, is "Lord of the White Elephant."

Whilst on the subject, it is interesting to find that in many parts of India elephants have been appointed official executioners of justice. They will break the limbs of a criminal, trample him to death, or pierce him with their tusks, according to their master's instructions.—Answers.

### SPIDERS.

Spinning webs is second nature with spiders. After they are hatched from the eggs in a cocoon, they cling together for about a week. Then they separate, but their legs do not carry them very far. Facing the wind, and standing on the tips of their legs, the baby spiders raise their abdomens and emit a silken thread. The faintest current wafts the gossamer in the air, and when enough is let out to permit of aerial flight the insect drifts away. When it wishes to land it hauls in the thread. Wherever it lands it can spin webs without the slightest instructions from older spiders. Older male spiders seem to lose this gift. There are about 550 species of spiders in America, but only two, the house and garden spiders, are well known.

### WORKED BOTH WAYS.

"Bothered with time-wasting callers, are you? Why don't you try my plan?" asked the first.

"What is your plan?" said the second.

"Why, when the bell rings I put on my hat and gloves before I open the door. If it proves to be someone I don't want to see, I say, 'So sorry, but I'm just going out.'"

"But suppose it's someone you want to see?" asked the second.

"Oh, then I say, 'So fortunate, I've just come in,'" said the first.

### AND IN GERMANY THEY OFTEN CARRY MARKS.

"The police," declared a Hongkong paper, with one of those fortunate misprints that give the joker opportunity, "announce that dogs without dollars found wandering after ten o'clock in the evening are liable to be destroyed."

On which "Punch" makes an appropriate comment: "We understand, however, that in China dogs are almost invariably provided with tails."