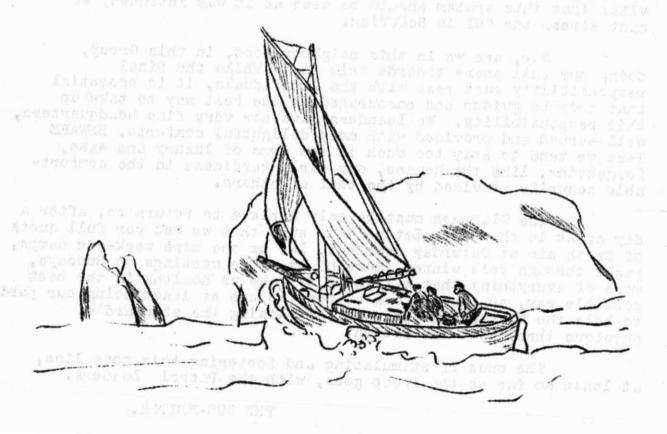
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Editorial & Publishing Office - 59 Eden Street, Kingston. Phone - Kingston 2687.

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### EDITORIAL.

The Chief Scout. in the current number of the Scouter. has a great deal to say about physical fitness, particularly as it affects the Movement. This is a topic that may well be echoed in these pages. Whether due or not to a spasm of "War babies". now growing up, it is a lamentable fact that the general standard of health throughout the youth of the nation is not as high as it might be. Modern life tends either to the sedentary or the violent. Thus, when we seek mere amusement it usually takes the form of sitting still in a picture theatre, in an atmosphere which certainly does nothing to develop the body of a growing boy. while most of our exercise is in playing football or some such game, exercise violent and exacting while it lasts, and consequently of short duration. The result is too often to breed the "weedy" type of specimen, good perhaps at the games he has practised, but in general fitness well below the standard desirable in an A.l.nation.

Scouting has been designed to provide a remedy for this condition of affairs, and if carried out properly, can be guaranteed to develop the youthful body in the way it was intended. It endeavours to keep the boys out of doors as much as possible, occupied in moderate but continuous exercise. In our hiking, cycling, camping, games, etc. we have the ideal system both for keeping fit and free from mind ailments, and also for building up the growing body during the most important years. But it is vital that this system should be used as it was intended; we must stress the OUT in ScOUTing.

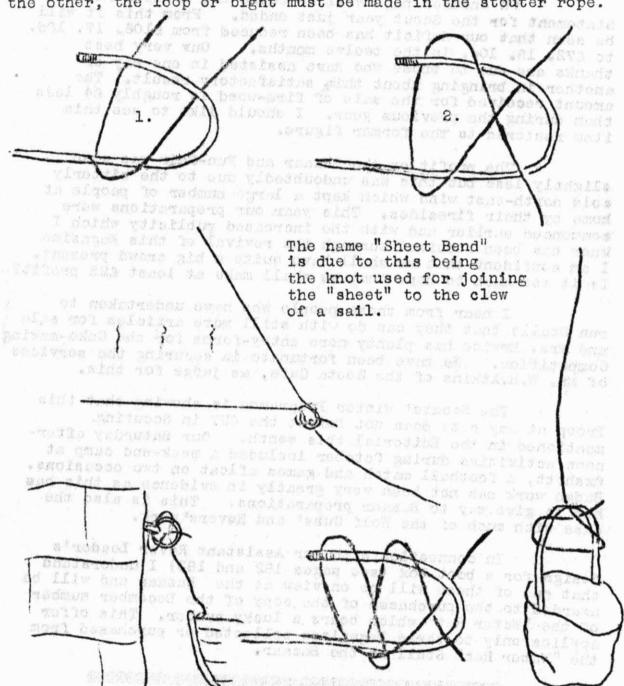
Now, are we in this neighbourhood, in this Group, doing our full share towards this end? While the final responsibility must rest with the individuals, it is essential that they be guided and encouraged in the best way to take up this responsibility. We Leanders have now very fine headquarters, well-warmed and provided with many delightful comforts. BEWARE lest we tend to stay too much in the arms of luxury and ease, forgetting, like the Romans, our early hardiness in the comfortable security provided by the toil of others.

The Clubroom must be only a place to return to, after a day spent in the open. Let us make sure that we get our full quota of fresh air at Saturday meetings, let us see more week-end camps, right through this winter, more hikes, more meetings on Sundays, more of everything that will help to make us healthy in the best possible way, so that we can be sure we are at least doing our part to help the Movement in its task of raising the standard of physique throughout the Nation.

The onus of stimulating and fostering this move lies, at least so far as the Troop goes, with the Patrol Leaders.

### THE SHEET BEND.

The Sheet Bend is the best knot to use for tying or bending two ropes together. When one rope is thicker than the other, the loop or bight must be made in the stouter rope.



Right and left. Two variations of the Sheet Bend.

Centre.

A Double Sheet Bend for use when the ropes are wet er when one is considerably thicker than the other.

### THE SKIPPER'S SCRAWL.

On another page will be found the Group's Financial Statement for the Scout year just ended. From this it will be seen that our deficit has been reduced from £106. 17. 10d. to £72. 15. 10d. in the twelve months. Our very best thanks are due to those who have assisted in one way or another in bringing about this satisfactory result. The amount received for the sale of fire-wood is roughly £4 less than during the previous year. I should like to see this item restored to the former figure.

The profit on the Bazaar and Fun-Fair was also clightly less but this was undoubtedly due to the bitterly cold north-east wind which kept a large number of people at home by their firesides. This year our preparations were commenced earlier and with the increased publicity which I know has been received through the revival of this Magazine I am confident that we shall have quite a big crowd present. Is it too much to hope that we shall make at least £25 profit?

I hear from those people who have undertaken to run Stalls that they can do with still more articles for sale and Mrs. Ervine has plenty more entry-forms for the Cake-making Competition. We have been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. W.H.Atkins of the Zeeta Cafe, as judge for this.

The Scouts' Winter Programme is showing that this Troop at any rate does not forget the CUT in Scouting. mentioned in the Editorial this month. Our Saturday afternoon activities during October included a week-end camp at Oxshott, a football match and games afloat on two occasions. Badge work has not been very greatly in evidence as this has had to give way to Bazaar preparations. This is also the case with much of the Wolf Cubs' and Revers work.

In connection with our Assistant Rover Leader's design for a boot box (see pages 182 and 183) I understand that one of these will be on view at the Bazaar and will be awarded to the purchaser of the copy of the December number of the "Water Rat" which bears a lucky number. This offer applies only to those Magazines collected or purchased from the "Water Rat" Stall at the Bazaar.

### WHISPERINGS FROM THE JUNGLE.

The Pack has had a red-letter day since we last appeared in print. Akela was able to come to Pack Meeting to invest Fullick with his First Star, and Marden (formerly Brown Second) and Wilson, as Sixer and Second of the Browns. The Sixes have been re-arranged, so that they can now compete without handicapping odds, and we have two recruits, so there is work to be done in that line when we can again turn our main efforts from keeping in time with each other, and the "music". It looks easy enough and really is not hard so long as we all do our best, but the gramaphone must be included in the "all", and we once found we could not rely on it!

The Pack has had some kick-about practices on Saturdays and one really good football match; we were beaten 3 - 2, but thoroughly enjoyed the game, because it was well played by both teams. We are hoping to meet the Coombe Cubs again next month and reverse the score, but there are other Packs to play before then.

On November 12th the Pack Flags were fetched from their resting place and taken to Church; quite a fair number of Cubs turned out. The flags give added meaning to Church Parade, as they are visible reminders of the things for which we stand.

One Sixer who was privileged to carry the Cub banner, was heard to say that he would not be tired of carrying it all the way from H.Q. if we met there instead of at the Coronation Stone!

In our Christmas Number we shall again hear Akela's call.

For now, Good Hunting all,

CHIL.

HULLO BRCWNS! I know all of you will agree that we are unlucky in losing "Tommy", our Sixer, but with Marden as a new Sixer and yours truly as Second, two transfers and one new recruit, we should make things hum! First we must all pull together to see if we can bring our attendance up to the top. I want you chaps to put your backs into it and show them what kind of stuff you are made of. Please do not forget to bring along August subs, long overlooked.

B.WILSON ( Brown Second).

NOW GREYS! We are being let down because some of you stay away and we do not get enough points for Six work etc. so you will have to work hard now that the Sixes are even. See that you get top points for November and December! Here's to the next time, as Henry Hall says.

F. CAKLEY.

# TUBBY'S TOPICAL TALK TO ROVERS.

This month's Water Rat is the last one before the Bazaar and Fun Fair, and I hope that as an advertising medium it will justify its existence. I think the most important thing remaining to be done is to get the people there. This is a splendid opportunity for you to render service, and to show in a practical manner your loyalty to the Group.

We have a splendid programme of amusements and our Stallholders are very enthusiastic, so we simply must see that we have plenty of customers for them. Let those who come, however, understand that we do not wish them just to spend a certain amount of money and then clear out. We want them to stay with us and enjoy the fun. This Annual affair is a great opportunity for getting to know one another and to have a gossip. I am afraid I am a very bad one at recognising people, and I am sure that I am expressing the wish of all the officers of the Group when I ask you to introduce your parents and friends to us. Now I am going to ask each of you Rovers and any of my friends who read this to do something for me personally, and that is to make yourself responsible for at least three other people coming to the Bazaar. This is a job that needs to be done by each individual.

I think one of the most marvellous things in this world is the fact that although it is inhabited by millions of people, each one is a complete unit separate from his fellow beings. We have our own particular problems in life which we must tackle ourselves, and it therefore behaves us to realise that everything depends upon our own actions. It is so easy just to drift along with the crowd and to blame others when things go wrong. When I receive a complaint from anyone, the first thing I consider is what the person complaining has himself done towards remedying matters. Often at the Rover Mates' Monthly Meeting a problem arises and I ask what do the other fellows think about it, only to get the answer that they just don't. Everything you do must be done by your own individual effort, and always to be a mere passenger is nothing but sheer laziness.

If you wish to go ahead you must make your presence FELT. Unless you develop your individuality you become just one of the crowd, and you must not complain if you are overlooked when there are any plums going.

Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance. - Steele.

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# AMAZING UNIVERSE.

Have you ever paused on a clear and moonless night to consider the vast expanse of sky and its grand magnificence?

About three thousand stars are visible to the unaided eye. but millions and millions more exist unseen. They differ in size. density, constitution, and colour; red, yellow, green, white, blue; colour indicating temperature, blue hottest, red coldest.

A large number which appear to be single, are found to be double when viewed in a telescope; and many of these revolve round each other; but in some cases they look double because one is nearly in line but far behind the other.

Dr. Robt. Aitken of the LICK Observatory discovered 3.100 Doubles in 35 years, and in 1932 he was awarded the gold medal

of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Triple and multiple stars, and Globular Clusters abound. There are others called "Variables" which increase and decrease in brightness periodically. And occasionally a "NOVAE" or temporary star bursts out unexpectedly, and shines for a few days or even years, and then dies out and disappears.

Stars are graded according to their brilliancy in magnitudes, 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc; the sixth magnitude being the smallest

which can be seen by average unaided eyesight.

Scattered among the stars are hazy spots and cloudy patches of Nebulae; globular, ringed, spiral, dumb-bell, etc. A few are visible to the unaided eye; others are too faint to be seen, even in the largest telescope; these are revealed by long photographic

exposures.

It is believed that our Universe is an irregular and much flattened spiral cluster of stars, and star-clouds, somewhat the shape of a watch, the whole in slow rotation, like a great wheel with our sun somewhere near the "hub", Stretching across the sky is a faint luminous cloud-like band of varying width, known as the "Milky Way". Viewed through an opera glass or small telescope, this band is seen to be a swarm of faint stars. Looking at the "Milky Way" it is in the direction of the long axis and towards the outer edge or rim. The Stars look faint and closely packed because of their numbers and great distances.

Far outside our Universe a vast number of Spiral Nebulae can be seen, many too far distant to be resolved into stars. These are commonly called "Island Universes".

Star distances are staggering and are not measured in miles, but by the time taken by LIGHT to traverse the distance.

LIGHT travels 186,000 miles in ONE SECOND. A YEAR contains thirty one millions, five hundred and seventy-eight thousand, four hundred and sixty-nine SECONDS. Light can therefore reach an enormous distance in a year. This is called ONE LIGHT-YEAR.

Light from the Moon reaches us in 12 SECONDS, but it takes

4½ YEARS to come from the NEAREST star, and the distance across the Universe from "rim to rim" is estimated at 30,000 LIGHT-YEARS.

# ROVER NOTES.

# WINTER IN THE BETTER OLE.

For the benefit of those readers who are charitable enough to peruse this un important feature, we will endeavour (fountain pen permitting) to provide a diversion from our usual Notes.

Let us not talk, this month, about the concrete we have laid, or romance about the lone Rover who camped 'mid midnight storms. We will forget the virtues of Tubby, the untiring energies of 'Erbert of Enfield, and take a peep at the running machine instead of at the various parts.

Meet us at the corner of Bank Lane, on any Thursday evening. It is a typical November night, with thick banks of fog rolling up from the river. Into the wall of blackness we strike, between high trees and bushes, until a gentle lapping tells of the proximity of the river. We feel a slight breeze, suddenly the curtain of fog is raised, and we see the sheen of lights on the water of Teddington Reach. Proceeding along the tow-path we come upon a clump of bushes, illuminated by a magnificient lamppost, kindly presented by the Kingston Corporation. Just beyond, barely descernable against a dark ground of trees, we see a row of low buildings, a thin streak of light below one of the doors being the only indication of human presence.

As we pause at the door, the town clocks strike eight, the hour fixed for the weekly Rover Meeting. The gentle lapping of water is disturbed by the rancous cry of a gull. The distant rumbling of a train over the iron bridge is heard, and all is still again.

With a little shudder, we throw open a large grey door which slides back at a touch of the finger, and fumble for the electric light switch. Click! and we find ourselves in the boathouse, the various smart craft appearing very dejected, almost, we think, asleep. Still no sound from the next room. Tapping politely on the small door, we enter what is known as the Main Deck.

The room is warm, and dimly lit by one bulkhead light. A solitary figure is asleep on a wooden form beside one of the shining black radiators. Astonished at this lack of movement, we jab the sleeper violently in the ribs. "Wake up, Bustor, it's gone eight". Rover Mate Cole, of the Nelson Patrol, rubs his eyes, and then perceiving visitors, becomes suddenly alert. He explains that the blokes will be along soon. Trains have been held up by the fog, some are working late, etc. but anyway, they will be along.

Even as he speaks, the door bursts open, lights are turned up, and cheery greetings are exchanged as the advance guard arrives. Various games are started, the recreation period being arranged so that the inevitable late arrivals do not interrupt important business.

Suddenly from outside a strange turmoil is heard, then a succession of bangs and squeaking of brakes, and at last the rumble of the sliding door, (our faithful watchdog) which warns us immediately of a new arrival. By our trained woodcraft instinct we know these sounds to indicate the presence of our beloved Bert, wearing his broad smile and brown attache case.

Order falls upon the multitude, Cards are put away. Put and Take Tops hastily hidden, and double-headed pennies restored to their proud owners' pockets. The company is divided into predetermined parties, and the instruction period proceeds. This consists of knotting, lashing, ambulance, seamanship &c. or preparing for specific events such as the Rover Play, or a pending competition.

Then follows a short Lecture by one of the Rovers, a very interesting feature. The fellows work up these lectures each in turn, on subjects usually dissociate from their daily work, chosen themselves, and approved by the Leader. It is surprising what good training this is.

Meanwhile, the Duty Patrol is busy preparing a light meal on the new gas-cooker, or getting out the canteen apparatus. At the conclusion of the lecture, we all gather round the table in the screened-off portion of the boat-deck, and commence what has become known as the "business period", consisting of discussions on future programmes, jobs of work, and the hundred-and-one items which go to make up active Rovering.

At the conclusion of business, the early birds prepare for home. Then - for some - the real evening commences, but we will draw a veil over these habitual wasters of light and sleep, and bid them, and our visitors "Good-night".

A.J.L.

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THE	"BAZAA	R AN	D FUN	FAIR"	TO	BE
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# SUPERSTITION.

Some people will tell you that all the sailors superstitions died with the square riggers, but ask the modern tramp "salt". On one occasion we disregarded the old belief which says that you should never, under any circumstances, return to a berth once you have left it, without having either loaded or discharged some cargo.

I well remember the occasion; it was the night the Rye Lifeboat was wrecked. We were in Amsterdam and had just finished discharging. We had been out East and were looking forward to pay day, London, and a good time. Cur pilot stepped on board just as two bells struck, and the "Doctor" shouted "Come and get it" from the galley door. "Stand by" was rung soon after the watches had changed and by three bells we were under way in the hands of four tugs and the pilot. We had only got about half-way down the canal to Ymuiden when we received orders by semaphore to return to Amsterdam on account of the gale blowing which would have made it impossible for us to get out of the Locks.

We were towed back to Amsterdam and there the "Old Man" had to choose between tying up at the canal entrance and returning to our old berth in the lee of the warehouse. Rather against the pilot's advice he chose the latter, and certainly raised a mean amongst the older members of the crew who predicted terrible happenings. We finished mooring up at about six bells in the first watch, then we had ceffee and one of Spillers' specialities. As we were expecting an early start all hands were below by eight bells. It happened to be my watch on deck, so I had a final look round and then "got my head down" on one of the galley benches. I had hardly shut my eyes before there was a terrific crashill

It took me about a minute to put on my Reefer and seaboots. I could only manage to open the galley door far enough to squeeze through and then it took me about five minutes to reach the bridge, climbing over sheets of corrugated iron, blocks of concrete and steel girders, but by the time I had got there all hands were on deck surveying the mess.

When daylight came we discovered that the roof of the warehouse had been blown off complete with four big cranes, and most of it had landed on us. It took us twelve days to clear the wreakage, twelve days we should have spent in London. Then to crown it all, we were ordered out East again, and all we saw of England that trip was Beachy Head and St.Catherines, as we passed down Channel.

LEANDER (Kingston) SEA SCOUT GROUP.

Statement ofAccounts for Year ended 30th September 1933.

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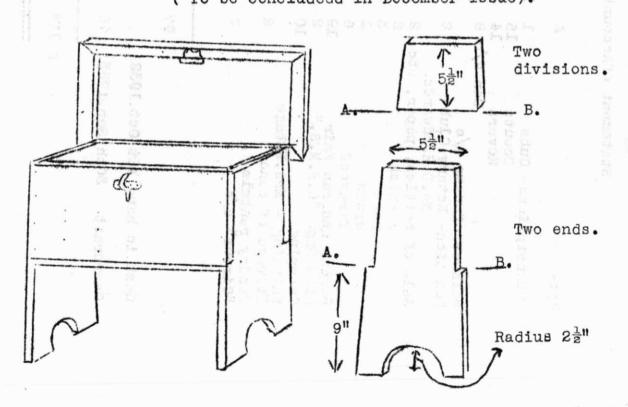
### A BOOT BCX.

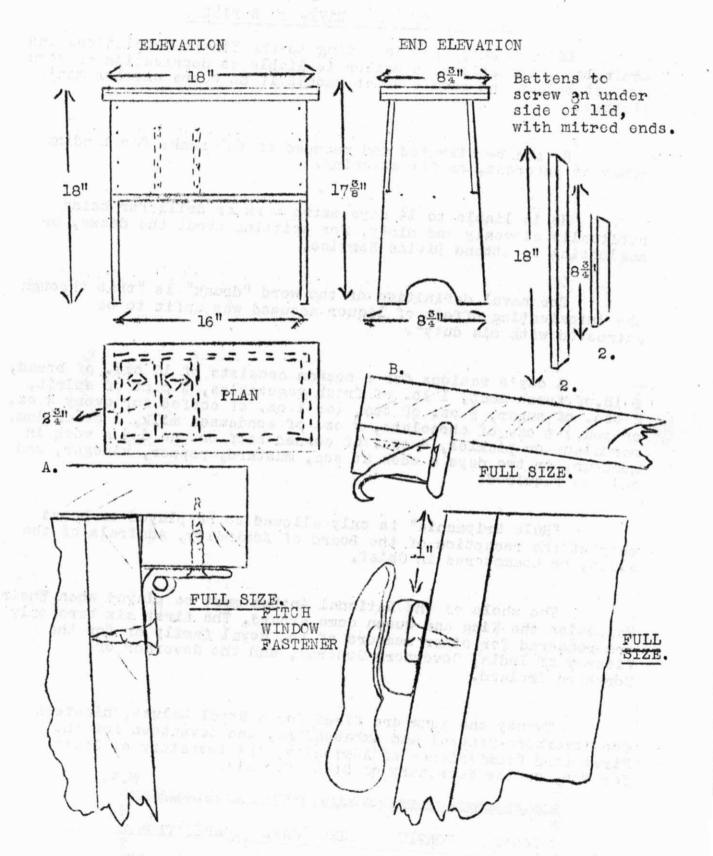
Have you ever thought of having a stool on which to put your boots or shoes and polish, brushes, &c, while doing the cleaning? Well; here is a very useful one which also holds all the things required, with divisions for both black and brown brushes and a large section for cloths, pad,&c:(and by the way, I hear that the Household Stall at the forthcoming Bazaar is showing a bargain line in shoe pads). Now,as to the materials required, first you must visit the wood yard and buy 10 ft. of 9" x 4" planed deal board, and 5 ft. of 1" x 4" planed batten costing about three shillings; then at the ironmongers, 4 lb, 12" (or 14") oval brads, 1 pair 2" pressed steel butt hinges, 1 "Climax" fitch sash fastener and 1 doz, 4" x 6s iron screws.

Before commencing to cut up the wood, carefully mark off the different pieces required, as following: - Cut square one end of the 10ft. board, then mark off the length of the top, 2 sides, 2 ends and 1 bottom, along it; the piece over will be wanted to make the division pieces. When each piece has been cut to shape; make sure that they fit together true.

Now to commence the assembling. First fix the sides to the two ends, nailing with the oval brads, then put in the divisions and finally the bottom. Next lay the board for the lid on the bench and place the stool upside-down on it, centre it up and fix the battens which have been cut as illustration opposite, plane off surplus round the edges. The hinges and latch are fitted as shown in (Fig. A. and B) opposite.

(To be concludedd in December issue).





## ACCORDING TO THE NAVY-MAN'S BIBLE.

Did you know that according to the King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, a sailor is liable to deprivation of good conduct badges and good conduct medals if he wears another man's clothes?

He can be disrated and reduced to the ranks for lending money at interest, or for swearing.

He is liable to 14 days extra work or drill for being habitually slovenly and dirty, for spitting about the decks, or neglecting to attend Divine Service.

The naval definition of the word "drunk" is "that through the intoxicating effect of liquor accused was unfit to be entrusted with his duty".

A day's rations for a seaman consists of 10 ozs. of bread,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.of fresh meat, 1 lb. of fresh vegetables,  $\frac{1}{8}$  pint of spirit, 2 ozs. of sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of tea, (or 1 oz. of coffee for every  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. of tea,)  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of chocolate,  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. of condensed milk, 1 oz.of jam, marmalade or pickles, 4 oz.. of corned beef on one day a week in harbour, or two days a week at sea, mustard, pepper, vinegar, and salt as required.

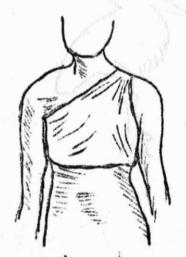
"Rule Britannia" is only allowed to be played on board ship at the reception of the Board of Admiralty, Admirals of the Fleet, or Commodores in Chief.

The whole of the National Anthem must be played when Their Majesties the King and Queen come aboard. The first six bars only are rendered for other members of the Royal family or for the Viceroy of India, Governors-Geheral, and the Governor of Northern Ireland.

Twenty one guns are fired for a Royal Salute, nineteen for Governors-General and Ambassadors, and seventeen for the First Lord Commissioner of Admiralty, the Secretary of State for War, or the Secretary of State for Air.

### FIRST AID NOTES.

A First Aid Man must be discriminating in that he may decide which of several injuries presses most for treatment by himself, what can best be left for the patient or the bystanders to do, and also what should be left for the Doctor.



## BANDAGE FOR FRONT OF CHEST.

Place middle of bandage over the dressing with the point over the shoulder on the same side as the wound; carry ends round the waist and tie them, then draw the point fairly tight over the shoulder and tie it to one of the ends. (as shown).



### BANDAGE FOR THE BACK.

The bandage is applied as above, except that it is begun at the back.



# BANDAGE FOR THE KNEE.

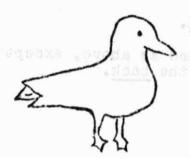
Fold narrow hem along the base of the bandage, lay the point on the thigh and the middle of the base just below the knee-cap, cross the ends just behind the knee, then over the thigh and tie, bring point down and pin to base. (as shown)

### PATROL LEADERS! OPINIONS.

The Camp we had at Oxshott was a great success, but we hope that next time we shall have some of the Sea Gull Patrol to keep us company. The attendance on Tuesdays has been very good lately, but on Saturdays it falls off. See to it that it remains the same all the week round. It is the natural tendancy of men and other animals to hibernate or lie dormant for the next four months, so every time you feel like slacking off, give yourself a jab in the back with a very sharp pin and you will soon conquer any drowsiness of this kind.

A short while ago the Troop was able to assist at the salvaging of a car from the River, close to Turks' Boathouse, so remember that the Stork has traditionally a very sharp and quick eye, and keep a good look-out.

F. C. HALLETT.



SEAGULLS.

Cur interests are at present centred on the forthcoming Bazaar. The Scouts' play is going forward steadily, and surely, and a last hectic polish-up should turn out something of interest to our visitors.

Please remind your parents again that gifts of groceries, &c. will be appreciated as soon as possible. Hoping the Bazaar will be a success.

J. PHILLIPS.

HOW DO OTTERS!

I hope that you are all doing your bit towards our Annual Bazaar, so that it will be an even greater success than in previous years. We all hope that you will remember to bring along as many people as possible, so that we have a record attendance. H. MARTIN.

