

The Boys' Brigade Gazette.

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BOYS' BRIGADE REST HUT AT EDINBURGH.

Brigade Notes.

ABOVE we give a photograph of The Boys' Brigade Rest Hut in Princes Street, Edinburgh, of the opening of which a description is given on page 100.

THE Boys' Brigade has lost a staunch friend by the death of the Very Rev. Donald Macleod, D.D., formerly of Park Church, Glasgow, one of His Majesty's Chaplains. In the early days of the movement he foresaw its value and gave it his powerful support. He was one of the speakers at the first public meeting in connection with our Organization held in the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow, on 21st January, 1889, and also at the first public meeting in London at the Queen's Hall on 20th May, 1892.

IN view of the approaching season of Annual Company and Battalion Demonstrations and Inspections, we would remind Officers of the importance of turning to the best account the opportunity which these events afford of stimulating the *esprit de corps* and enthusiasm of their Boys and enlisting the interest and sympathy of friends. Our Drill and Displays must be the best that we can make them, but let us not forget that, after all, these only show the external aspects of our work, and that unless we are getting at the heart of our Boys, saving their lives and moulding their characters, the most perfect Drill may be of little avail. It is at a time like this, when our hands and heads are so full of innumerable details in connection with our work, that we have most need to keep clearly before us the great purpose for which we exist: "The Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among our Boys."

The Executive had already given approval by post to the appointment of Mr. A. E. Barry, Captain 20th Dundee Company, and Mr. R. Edwin Boyd, Captain 1st Melrose Company, as co-opted Members of the Northern Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Roxburgh reported that the Finance Committee had met and considered the present financial position of the Brigade. He stated that the receipts were about the same as at the corresponding date last year.

"THE BOYS' BRIGADE GAZETTE."

Mr. Ferguson referred to the *Gazette*, and urged Members of Executive to do more in obtaining articles for publication or writing them themselves. During this critical time it has become increasingly difficult to obtain articles, as so many contributors are fully occupied and have little leisure for writing. The *Gazette* depends entirely on what can be obtained voluntarily.

RECREATION HUTS.

Mr. Peacock stated that the sum of £2,791 3s. 10d. had been received in Contributions to the Special Fund, and that £1,000 had been allotted to the Edinburgh Hut. The Rev. A. H. H. Organ had been appointed to take charge of the Rouen Hut for the duration of the War, having resigned his Church for that purpose. The work of the Hut is proceeding satisfactorily, but there is need for the services of a larger number of Officers. Mr. Campbell reported on the arrangements for the Edinburgh Hut.

TRAVELLING REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT.

Mr. Gibbon reported that owing to the War he felt it was unnecessary for the Executive to continue to employ a Travelling Representative. Since last Executive Meeting he had sent out about 700 letters to various Churches, Missions, etc. Many of these had shown signs of bearing fruit, and in some instances New Companies had actually started drilling, but the men who were to run them had been called up under the Derby Scheme, and nothing further had materialised. The Executive decided to relieve Mr. Gibbon of his duties, and at the same time express their sincere thanks and appreciation of the valuable work which he had done.

PROPOSED FORMATION OF JUNIOR SECTION.

A resolution, passed by the Brighton Battalion Council, was submitted, requesting the Brigade Executive to consider the advisability of recognizing the enrolment of Boys from 10 to 12 as optional by Companies, and to lay down such regulations as to uniform and conditions of membership as they might deem advisable. A full discussion took place, and it was generally agreed that, to open the advantages of Boys' Brigade Membership to junior Boys under any designation, was prejudicial to the retaining of the senior Boys. Mr. Longmore urged that the question be faced with special reference to the small village Companies. It was suggested that this was a subject which might well be ventilated in the columns of the *Gazette*, and Mr. Longmore undertook to write an article. The opinions of other Officers interested might thus be obtained.

NEXT MEETING OF BRIGADE COUNCIL.

Mr. Smith reported that invitations to hold the Brigade Council Meetings for 1916 had been received from the following Battalions—Bristol, Glasgow, and North Staffordshire. On the motion of Mr. Adams, seconded by Mr. Matheson, it was unanimously decided that the invitation of Glasgow Battalion be accepted.

Our Object: Its Interpretation and Realization.

By Rev. ALEXANDER D. BUTLER, Chaplain, 3rd West Kent (Woolwich) Company.

IV.—THE PROMOTION OF THE HABIT OF SELF-RESPECT.

IT might seem superfluous to write specifically about the promotion of this habit after having written upon Obedience, Reverence, and Discipline; for surely these are the essential features of Self-Respect. And yet we have accustomed ourselves to attach a somewhat special significance to the term "Self-Respect," feeling that, whilst it does include these other things, and can hardly exist without them, it nevertheless represents a special trait of character in a Boy. It is not necessary, I presume, to spend time or space in drafting a definition; perhaps the most simple and possibly the truest would be to say it means the respect of one's "self"; understanding whose we are, and what we ought to be; and—borrowing the thought from Hume—scorning to do a base or vicious action which might sink us below our Ideal. As a definition let this suffice; and where it is inadequate or confused we will gladly trust to the instinctive understanding and sympathy of our readers, many of whom, like the writer, know the meaning of "self-respect" as part of the Boy's necessary moral equipment, better than he can express it.

It must be remembered that we are dealing with the subject, not in the abstract, but with its precise significance in a Boy's life; the things that signify the absence of it, and the "all-round" strength that testifies to its presence. In adult life self-respect may assume a profounder ethical relationship than it seems to do in the Boy's life, but never a more important and vital one.

Perhaps the element that distinguishes this characteristic from the other qualities we have studied is that it is so *peculiarly personal*; that it is an attitude which is almost entirely related to the Boy's own "self." It suggests a kind of moral enterprise within the range of his own "self," the effect of which is almost entirely confined—certainly in its main issues—to himself. It is essentially a personal concern, so much a business of the individual that it might be called the secret morality of a life; as Milton has stated it, "the inward reverence of a man towards his own person." In any acceptable theory of life, the basis of morality, and hence of character, is always the attitude and conduct of man towards himself. It is there the good work must begin; though he has obligations toward society, yet his first moral concern is with himself. The right ideals must hold sway in him; truth, honour, purity and chivalry must have set up their rule within his own life before he can competently accept his wider obligations. Jesus, the world's greatest Social Worker, foremost toiler for the masses, ever urged this need. He always declared that an individual must first be "saved" himself, *i.e.*, his own "self" under the rule of the power that makes for righteousness.

The part of a Boy, at the age when the Brigade has to deal with him, that makes the strongest appeal, is the physical. We do not claim that it is the only appeal, for we know that at this time other voices are being heard, demanding attention with increasing insistency, and of course there is no clear, unchallenged line of demarcation—in years at least—between their claims. Yet, generally speaking, the most passionate at this time in a normal Boy is the physical. In this article we are not concerned with the physiological causes of this vigorous and healthy

claim; on that point we are doubtless too well informed to need further instruction, but with the question of how best to aid the Boy in dealing with the new situation in a manner that shall preserve his enthusiasm and self-respect. Here might be written a chapter of peculiar pathos, not more on the failure of the Boy to deal wisely with the situation than on the failure, through fear or carelessness of those who set out to help him. It is so easy to ignore this question and clamant need, hoping that it may adjust itself in time, whilst the Boy, in an ignorance that disguises itself as "clever" or "manly," plunges deeper into the slough. This evasive policy cannot surely be right or excusable. On the other hand, there is the very real danger of becoming so zealous that we become sentimental and mawkish, until it is a veritable obsession, blinding us to a true estimate of values and factors, unconsciously considering each Boy a "case." This policy is equally inexcusable and not infrequently is treated by the Boy with shattering contempt.

That at this juncture there is a tremendous opportunity to aid the Boy into a noble self-respect, we all agree, but how to save ourselves from cowardice on the one hand, and the Boy's contempt on the other is our problem.

Space will not permit of a thorough treatment of this subject here—such a subject demands a series to itself—but we may be permitted to note almost in catalogue style a few facts, with here and there a note appended. One need not tarry to urge the splendid service of all forms of gymnastics and out-of-door sport, and, as far as possible, the real interest, if not the actual participation of the Officers in the same. Our gymnastics and sports are something more than the "play" of the Company; they are a tremendous moral agency.

Among the facts that we should bear in mind I would suggest (1) *The development of the physical life in all its phases is a Boy's natural heritage.* It is part of his natural equipment for life, and, as such, is not evil but decidedly good. (2) *The mystery and emotion of this heritage are not peculiar to his case, but general to all.* A reasonable use of this fact on the part of the worker will save the Boy from that moral depression which arises from a sense of loneliness in the strife. We all have, or have had, to do battle here. This keeps active in him a demand on his courage. (3) *That it is disloyal to the ideal for him to do anything that limits or cripples his equipment.* All the great obligations of his life, such as service, affection, manliness, etc., depend very largely upon an unspoiled heritage. There are very few circumstances in life that he will not be able to deal with successfully, if he can learn to be master of himself. (4) *The secret of success is a wise use of time and mind, and a strict obedience to conscience.* Here is room for the acknowledgment of the ascendancy of his powers: will-power over the body; spiritual over all.

Whether inculcated in a method or in conversation, I suggest it is by the recognition of such points here indicated that we shall be of most service to the Boy in the matter of promoting the habit of self-respect. No one can set up a law for another in this matter. The nature of our intimacy with the Boy depends largely upon temperament, and we must allow to each other good freedom here, taking care all the while that our conscience shall never convict us of cowardice, and praying that we may be saved from doing anything that should earn the Boy's contempt.

But some will say, surely Self-Respect is not limited to the particular phase of the subject here dealt with. No, it is not, by any means. Self-Respect is behaving honourably toward certain inward and indomitable voices of our personality which range over the whole province of our life, appealing for a place

in every consideration, full recognition in every proposal. It is a *sine qua non* of Christian character, permeating the whole, without which character becomes "loose," the delicate but fundamental susceptibilities of the soul having been blunted. Limitation of space, however, prevents a more complete survey, but it will be seen that the suggestions in this article indicate the area involved and the complexity of a subject of which not even a life, much less a magazine article, can make full explanation.

Opening of The Boys' Brigade Rest Hut at Edinburgh.

A CROWDED audience filled the spacious Hut at the foot of the Mound on 1st February, when Lord Strathclyde, Lord Justice-General, declared the Hut open. Among others present were the Dowager-Duchess of Roxburghe, the Earl of Rosebery, Lord Kingsburgh, Lord Salvesen, Lord Anderson, Sir Joseph Fayer, Sir Robert Cranston, Sir Andrew Fraser, K.C.S.I.; Sir John Clark, Sir David Paulin, Colonel Roxburgh, Professor Lodge, and many other leading citizens. The Lord Provost had expected to be present but was detained in London.

The Lord Justice-General, who came with Lady Strathclyde and Lord and Lady Guthrie, was received at the Hut by a Guard of Honour of Sergeants of Edinburgh Battalion. After the Hundredth Psalm was sung, Lord Guthrie, Chairman of the Joint-Committee of the Hut, explained its origin. The Y.M.C.A. were negotiating with the Board of Works and the Corporation for the site on which the present Hut is erected, and the Boys' Brigade was considering the best site in England or Scotland on which to erect and equip a Hut for Sailors and Soldiers. The two associations came together, and this admirable Hut was the result. The Boys' Brigade had asked their Boys to find £500 for the erection of a Hut abroad. They had raised not £500, but fully £2,700. Of this sum £1,000 was available for the erection and equipment of a Hut at home; and, accordingly that sum had been spent on this Hut, which had been erected and equipped at the sole expense of The Boys' Brigade.

Lord Guthrie explained that the general affairs of the Hut would be managed by a Joint-Committee representing The Boys' Brigade and the Y.M.C.A., of which he would act as Chairman; that the Hut would be staffed by The Boys' Brigade, with the assistance of a Ladies' Committee under the Chairmanship of Lady Russell, assisted by Miss Annie Moir, as Secretary, and that the Y.M.C.A. had agreed to be financially responsible for the running of the Hut.

The Lord Justice-General then declared the Hut open. He spoke with delightful enthusiasm of the splendid work done for the nation, before the war and now, both by the B.B. and the Y.M.C.A., giving facts and figures in regard to both. He thought the joint-action of these two great national institutions, in connection with this Edinburgh Hut, a most happy idea, and he was sure it would prove a great success. He dwelt with much feeling on the boon such Huts had proved, at home and abroad, to all classes in the Navy and Army, and specially to men who had been accustomed to use their leisure for rational enjoyment and improvement.

A dedicatory prayer was then offered by the Very Rev. W. Wallace Williamson, D.D., one of His Majesty's Chaplains.

Major-General Sir Spencer Ewart, K.C.B., in the name of all branches of His Majesty's Forces, expressed the deep obligation of the Navy and Army for the benefits they were receiving from the numerous Huts and Clubs which had been created at home and