

THE BOY RESERVES.

THE TRAINING RESERVE OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

OBJECT :—The Object shall be the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among young Boys and the training of a body of suitable Recruits for The Boys' Brigade.

It is with very great pleasure that we are now able to publish the first article on The Boy Reserves. Since the Meeting of Brigade Council at Manchester, in September, a very considerable interest has been excited in Brigade circles in this new development, and it is no secret that Mr. Carey Longmore and Mr. Douglas Smith, to whom we owe this scheme, have been working early and late in developing the necessary literature, uniform, and regulations, for this new Movement. We hear from various parts of the Country that a start has been made in enrolling Junior Boys to form Sections of Reserves in embryo. A supply of Recruiting Leaflets, Enrolment Forms, etc., can now be obtained from the Northern and Southern Offices on application, and the uniform, caps, and badges are also now in stock, as will be seen from the advertisements appearing on the cover of this number.

The inception of this movement marks a very important stage in the development of a system for training the Boys of our Country, and the basis of The Boy Reserves movement being the same as that of The Boys' Brigade, viz., Religion and Discipline, we are satisfied that this development will be fraught with nothing but good for the Boys of our land. It is impossible to overestimate the value which The Boy Reserves may be to Sunday School work, and Officers will be able to appeal very strongly indeed to their Churches on behalf of both the Reserves and the Brigade. In consequence, the new appeal should be used to interest not only the Sunday Schools but the Churches even more than is at present the case, in the great question of how our Boys are to be kept and trained "in all that tends towards a true Christian manliness," instead of being allowed to drift into purely secular organizations, formed to give Military training without the higher ideals for which the Brigade movement stands.

The Reserves will also provide a field for our Senior Non-Commissioned Officers and Staff-Sergeants in which they can do some really valuable and interesting work for their younger brothers, and at the same time a Reserve Section should act as a splendid recruiting ground for The Boys' Brigade Company with which it is connected, and enable Officers to keep strictly to the age limit of 12 for enrolling in The Boys' Brigade, or even advancing the age to 13. Each month until the summer it is proposed that an article shall be contributed to the *Gazette* giving particulars of work suitable for Reserve Sections. These articles will be subsequently used in the compilation of the Handbook for the use of Captains of Sections.

As we welcome the New Year with high hopes and new resolves, so we welcome this new evidence of the vitality and adaptability in the good old B.B., and wish it Godspeed.



THE training of young Boys has become of first importance in recent years. The average leaving age of a Boy in town Sunday-schools, which a decade ago was fourteen years, is now very much lower. The Church attendance habit has been given up by the majority of men, and vast numbers of children are growing up to regard Sunday as merely a holiday. In a London Council school, attended solely by the children of respectable working men, a recent investigation showed that over forty per cent. of the Boys of ten and eleven years of age had already entirely given up attendance at any Sunday-school or religious service. The Boy Reserves has before it the great work of stopping this leakage, bringing or retaining the Boy under religious influence until he is handed over, an eager and promising recruit,

to The Boys' Brigade, where his connection with his Church is maintained and strengthened until he reaches the opening years of manhood.

The training of the younger Boy is quite a separate problem from that of the Boy from twelve to seventeen years of age, and unless the Officer is prepared to study the small Boy and meet his special needs he had better leave the junior work alone. The Boy Reserves is the Training Reserve of The Boys' Brigade. It is a comparatively simple matter to uniform and drill a squad of young Boys, and to allow them to attend a Boys' Brigade Bible-Class, but it is both unnatural and unsuitable. In The

Boys' Brigade the Boy is not trained for his approaching manhood by drilling him with a company of men, or by marching him to a students' lecture, but he is trained with other Boys as nearly as possible of his own mental and physical capacity in order ultimately to help him to become a healthy, useful, God-fearing man.

Junior work had been undertaken by many Officers of The Boys' Brigade over a period of about twenty years before The Boy Reserves was founded, and the experience gained seems conclusively to indicate that, where the training most closely approximated to that of The Boys' Brigade, it tended to lower the leaving age of the Company to which the junior Boys were attached, while proving but of little value to the younger Boys themselves; but that in cases where the Officers had taken the trouble to ascertain and cater for the needs of little Boys, and when neither the uniform nor the training was akin to that of The Boys' Brigade, a valuable body of fresh, keen young recruits was available for the Company at the beginning of each Session.

THE PLACE OF RELIGIOUS TEACHING IN THE BOY RESERVES.

A condition of membership in The Boy Reserves is that every Boy regularly attends Sunday-school, Church, or some definitely and entirely religious meeting. Every Boy will be provided with the official Membership Card, which will contain spaces provided for each Sunday's attendance being certified by the Sunday-school or Church authorities. All cards should be examined at each weekly parade and any absences inquired into.

It is not intended that special Bible-Classes should be formed in connection with sections, as it is undesirable to take these

younger Boys away from their Sunday-schools. By adhering strictly to the rule *re* Sunday-school attendance, The Boy Reserves should, in fact, be a source of great strength to the Sunday-schools as a whole.

While the direct religious teaching of The Boy Reserves will be given to him mainly in the Sunday-school, and one of the best evidences of the value of the Section to the Church will be the attendance and conduct of The Boy Reserves in the School, the religious influence of The Boy Reserves on the Boy does not stop with regular Sunday-school attendance. The concluding service of the weekly parade is a great opportunity of helping the Boy. Too much careful preparation cannot be given to this service, when a few minutes' talk from the Captain or Chaplain will probably have a more lasting effect on the group of eager, happy young Boys than any other work of the week.

The habit of regular Church attendance should be strongly encouraged. It should be impressed on the Boys that sitting in Church with their parents is the best arrangement where possible. Unfortunately in many cases parents of the working classes seldom are regular worshippers in our Churches. A very successful method of getting the Boy to form the habit of regular Church attendance is the provision of pews for the exclusive use of the section of The Boy Reserves and marking the Boys' attendance.

The informal talks at prayers will give the opportunity of introducing The Boy Reserves Scripture Union Card as an assistance to systematic daily reading. The Boy will be easily impressed by the fact that hundreds of thousands of other young people are reading the same portions with him, also his Officers and the big Boys in The Boys' Brigade throughout the world.

No subject can be made more interesting to Boys than the Missionary enterprise of the Church. The books of "Yarns" on different Mission fields will be found most suitable and helpful to this end. It is much to be desired that Boy Reserves cots in missionary hospitals may become as great a feature of missionary society reports as are Boys' Brigade cots at the present time. Full particulars of the different Boys' Brigade missionary schemes are published in the Annual Report.

But Boy Reserve work will indirectly always be bringing a religious influence to bear on the Boy. The fact that Christian men and women provide for him the most eagerly looked forward to and happiest hours of the week, that God's presence and blessing are asked for at gymnastics, lessons, and games, will unconsciously be affecting him as perhaps set teaching never could.

METHOD AND SCOPE OF WORK.

If in The Boys' Brigade it is found that in order to do a real and lasting work the Officers should have a personal and intimate relationship with each Boy, it is even more essential with younger Boys, as the training to a great extent must be individual work. There must necessarily be some section work, such as drill (of course, without arms), physical training and signalling, but generally speaking the work will be more individual when handicrafts are taught, and such subjects as observation, nature study, knot-tying, and general intelligence are being dealt with. It is not easy for Officers who have been accustomed to deal with older Boys only to realise that younger Boys have far greater difficulty in concentrating their interest for any length of time on the subject in which they are being instructed. A small Boy learns his elementary drill as quickly, often more quickly, than his elder brother, but must not be expected to have the same perfect steadiness on parade. From him discipline can

be exacted, but of a different and more elastic nature than that required of The Boys' Brigade Boy.

Meetings for young Boys should close not later than 8 or 8.15 p.m. The argument that is often advanced by workers in large towns that the Boys will in any case be in the streets to a much later hour is not a sound one. Every social reformer should be using his endeavours to induce parents to keep their children from the streets at night, and to impress upon them the necessity for longer hours of sleep for young Boys, whereas by arranging late hours The Boy Reserves would be sanctioning and helping to perpetuate a growing evil. It is often difficult for gentlemen employed in business to conduct meetings early in the evening, but with the help of ladies, who undertake the duties of Honorary Instructors, this difficulty may be overcome. Usually some Ex-Members or Staff-Sergeants or Non-Commissioned Officers are available on the local early closing night at the earlier hour.

It is very seldom the case that a Company of The Boys' Brigade is so well Officered that it can possibly provide a sufficient staff for efficiently working a Section of The Boy Reserves, but it should not be difficult to find in the Church or other organisation with which the Section is connected, friends who would be willing and suitable to assist in the work. Ladies often are most successful in training young Boys, and may be enrolled as Honorary Instructors, and as the condition of the Boys' membership is attendance at Sunday-school, it would be well to enlist the interest and assistance of Sunday-school teachers in the work in this way. Another source from which efficient help can be obtained is from Staff-Sergeants, N.C.O.'s, and ex-members of The Boys' Brigade. Their previous training has rendered them specially suitable for elementary drill, signalling, and physical training. The junior work in many Companies has solved the question of how to employ Staff-Sergeants. All such helpers in The Boy Reserves are known as "Honorary Instructors," and a badge is issued for use at meetings of a Section.

It must be constantly borne in mind by those responsible for the working of a section of The Boy Reserves, that the Boys are destined to become members of The Boys' Brigade, and in drill, as in most other things which are more essentially the work of the senior organisation, the most of it should be left to appeal to the Boy as something new when he transfers into The Boys' Brigade. It will, however, be found useful to teach the Reserves sufficient drill to enable them to be handled in an orderly manner by word of command when occasion arises. The following parts of "The Boys' Brigade Drill Book" will be found sufficient to cover all the drill that it is advisable to do—Part I., Sections 1-23, 25, 26. Part II., Sections 44-46 (substituting the word "Section" for "Company"). Part I., Sections 30-36, 39 (a).

SUGGESTED RULES FOR A SECTION.

The rules of each Section will necessarily vary according to circumstances, with the exception of Rules 1 and 2, which are in accordance with the Constitution of The Boy Reserves, and therefore cannot be altered. The following suggestions for other Rules will be found applicable to most Sections:—

1. Members shall be Boys between nine and twelve (or thirteen) years of age.
2. All members shall regularly attend Sunday-school, Church, or other entirely religious meeting, and shall have their attendance certified on their attendance card, which must be brought to the next parade of the Section.
3. Members shall at all times endeavour to set an example of good conduct to their comrades and other Boys, and shall conduct themselves as little gentlemen wherever

they may be, remembering the good name of The Boy Reserves is in their keeping.

4. Members will at all times endeavour to be frank and open towards their Officers, asking their advice and help in any matter.

5. Smoking is forbidden. Boys must be on their guard not to get into this habit, which does such harm to growing Boys.

6. Members shall be responsible to take the greatest possible care of any property belonging to the Section which is entrusted to them.

7. Members shall always salute their Officers when they meet them or go to address them, either on or off parade, and shall always use "Sir" when speaking to an Officer. Members in uniform shall salute Officers of other Sections of Reserves or Companies of The Boys' Brigade in uniform.

8. Members must instantly and cheerfully obey all orders given by those placed in authority over them.

9. Members shall pay an annual (or a weekly) subscription of — towards the expenses of the Section.

10. Any member changing his address shall at once give his Captain a *written* note of his new address.

11. Members will be punctual at all meetings of the Section, and will parade with clothes and boots brushed and hands, faces, and knees clean.

12. Two late marks will count equal to one absent mark.

13. Any member who misses two meetings, one after the other, without a good and satisfactory reason, may be struck off the roll.

14. Members who have been absent from any meeting of the Section will report to the Captain at the next meeting after their absence. If late for any meeting they will report at the close of that meeting.

15. Members shall be responsible to make themselves acquainted with these Rules and with all notices put up on the notice board or announced at parade.

UNIFORM.

The Boys' uniform shall consist of:—Regulation cap of The Boy Reserves; sailor pattern, with "The Boy Reserves" in blue on ribbon. Navy blue jersey, on which will be sewn over the left breast, the crest of The Boy Reserves supplied for this purpose. Navy blue shorts.

Officers, Staff-Sergeants, etc., of The Boys' Brigade, when acting as Officers or Honorary Instructors in The Boy Reserves, will wear their Boys' Brigade uniform.

Captains of Reserves, not being Officers of The Boys' Brigade, will wear the uniform of Officers of The Boys' Brigade, with the distinctive Reserves cap-badge, but no collar-badges. Honorary Instructors may wear the Staff-Sergeants' cap with their distinctive badge on it, without the Staff-Sergeants' shoulderbelt or chevron.

AWARDS.

With the same point of view, the number of awards should be kept low. Attendance prizes, if given, should only be awarded for perfect attendance. One minute late on any parade should disqualify the Boy, and no excuse, however good, should

give the Boy his mark. Strictness, almost to severity, on this point has invariably the curious result of making the percentage of perfect attendance very much higher. Whenever one case is considered to be exceptional and a concession made, it will be found that exceptional cases become of very frequent occurrence. The only safety lies in the maintaining of a hard and fast rule.

Keeping in view that the Reserves will one day be admitted to the ranks of The Boys' Brigade, it is undesirable that badges should be awarded, all of which they would have to relinquish when entering the senior organisation. Furthermore, it is the policy of The Boys' Brigade to keep down the number of badges, and to keep up the standards necessary to gain them, and it is well for the younger Boys to look upon the gaining of a badge as a real achievement, attainable only by elder Boys, and after considerable effort. There are, therefore, no badges in The Boy Reserves, and the spirit of work for work's sake, play for play's sake, and hobbies for hobbies' sake should be cultivated to the greatest possible extent. The Boy possessed of this spirit has the healthier outlook and will make the better man.

RANKS.

There are only two ranks that a Boy may hold: Reserve, the general term for any member, and Leading Reserve or L.R., who will wear the L.R.'s star on the right arm midway between shoulder and elbow. There will normally be two L.R.'s in a Section, but in large Sections more than two may be promoted, the proportion being *not more* than one L.R. in every eight Reserves.

All Officers should remember, but particularly those accustomed to deal with senior Boys, that a leading Reserve is younger than the youngest Brigade Boy; therefore, very little actual responsibility must be put upon him. Leading Reserves will be used almost entirely for administrative purposes. They will be in command of Squads; they may mark up squad roll books, distribute games, material, etc. to their squads at the beginning of a meeting, and be responsible to return same at the close. They will be the Boys at hand to help the Officers in the carrying

out of any of the work. There is always among a crowd of little Boys the obvious handy Boy, who is more capable of helping than the others, and it will give that Boy some right to be in a position of a helper if he bears a rank. The L.R.'s should be made to understand clearly that, when entering The Boys' Brigade, they will be on exactly the same footing as the other Reserves, and that the fact of their having been L.R.'s will not necessarily influence their eventual chances of promotion in the B.B. Company. The minimum number of L.R.'s in a Section should be two. When there are more than two in a Section, they should be in a proportion of one leading Reserve in eight Reserves as mentioned above.

ENROLMENT.

(1) SECTIONS ATTACHED TO COMPANIES OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

After three weekly meetings of the proposed Section have been held, the Captain of the Company will forward the following particulars to the Brigade Office for his area, asking that application form for enrolment may be sent:—



Number of Boys on roll.
Attendance at first three meetings.
Nature of meetings.
Number of assistants.

On receipt of the Application Form for Enrolment, he will have it duly filled up and signed, and return it to the Secretary. When the Section has been enrolled by the Brigade Executive or the Battalion Council, he will receive Boys' Forms of Application, Membership Cards, Regulation Order Forms, etc.

(2) SECTIONS UNATTACHED TO COMPANIES OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

When it has been decided to start a Section of The Boy Reserves three weekly meetings should be held to determine the number likely to join. After this, some authorised person on behalf of the Church, Sunday-school, School, etc., with which the Section is to be connected will communicate with the Secretary, The Boys' Brigade, 34 Paternoster Row, London, E.C. 4, or the Secretary, 30 George Square Glasgow, stating that the authorities are desirous of having a Section started, that the services of a suitable gentleman have been obtained to act as Captain of Reserves, and the number of Honorary Instructors obtained. He will also state the attendance at the first three meetings, the nature of these meetings, and the general idea of the Section's programme. It should be noted that a Section should consist of at least twelve Boys. On receipt of this information, the Secretary will forward to the applicant the Application Form for Enrolment of the Section and the Declaration Form for the proposed Officers, all of which will be duly filled up and signed and returned to the Secretary. When the Section has been enrolled by the Brigade Executive or Battalion Council, the Captain of Reserves will receive Boys' Forms of Application, Membership Cards, Regulation Order Forms, etc.

(3) BOYS—(a) RECRUITS.

All Boys joining as recruits will require to fill up and sign the Recruits' Application Form, which must be signed by a parent or guardian. Only Boys of nine years of age or over, at the date of actual admission to the Section, are eligible for enrolment.

(b) ENROLLED MEMBERS RE-ENROLLING.

At the commencement of each Session, Boys already members will require to fill up and sign the Enrolled Members' Schedule so as to assist in correct records being kept, and at the same time to remind them of their obligations towards the younger Boys who come into the Section as recruits.

(4) OFFICERS.

Officers of The Boys' Brigade acting as Officers in The Boy Reserves will not be enrolled as such, their enrolment in the senior organisation entitling them to undertake the duties of Officers in the junior organisation.

OFFICERS OF UNATTACHED SECTIONS.

Require to fill up and sign the Declaration Form of Officers of The Boy Reserves, which in the case of a new Section must accompany the Application Form for Enrolment of the Section. The Captain of Reserves will be responsible for seeing that any new Officers are duly enrolled at the Brigade Office for his area by applying for Enrolment Forms and Declaration Forms whenever a new Officer is to be enrolled.

Captains of Reserves must be not less than nineteen years of age.

The Training of The Boy Reserves.

A NOTE OF WARNING.

IT may be well before proceeding to outline the suggested training of a Section of The Boy Reserves to impress upon Company Officers a danger to be avoided in starting work among Junior Boys, which might make this movement—so full of possibilities for helping young Boys, and of providing large numbers of regular Recruits for our Companies at the beginning of each Session—the means of doing a great ill-service to The Boys' Brigade, and to be of little or no value to the youngsters for whose benefit it is founded.

The unique system of training elder Boys, which is the characteristic of The Boys' Brigade, is quite unsuitable for the little fellows who are now flocking into our Boy Reserves Section, and attempting to introduce it is likely to bring the Company with which the Section is connected into contempt of the older Boys whom we specially wish to retain.

One Company of over twenty-five years' fine reputation throughout the whole Boys' Brigade introduced Junior work on similar lines and with a somewhat similar uniform to the Company, with the result that the next few Sessions saw it decline to a small Company of younger Boys, and The Boys' Brigade in the district is now generally looked upon as a Children's movement.

A Boy Reserves Section, where the training is carried out on the lines suggested in this and subsequent *Gazettes*, can be nothing but helpful and delightful to the young Reserve, and must inevitably strengthen our Companies and widen our influence on the Boyhood of our Country. Visitors to a Section of The Boy Reserves, or to the unofficial Junior work, carried on with the same method, which had preceded it, often accused the Officer of plagiarism of the popular Scout Movement. There is a simple answer to that suggestion. We have so worked amongst young Boys for about twenty years, and where there is any similarity, it is due to the fact that both sets of workers are training little chaps along natural lines, suited to their temperament and years. Of course, we gladly acknowledge our debt to the Scout movement for many suggestions, and "Scouting for Boys" is one of the most useful books of reference for The Boy Reserves Officer.

It is hoped that, before reading this paper, Officers have carefully studied the general paper, and that the Section dealing with Hours of Meetings has, amongst others, been duly noted. If it is impossible to arrange for meetings closing not later than 8 p.m., it is certain a Section should not be started.

Nothing should be left to chance in a meeting of The Boy Reserves. The Programme and Time-table for each evening needs to be carefully thought out beforehand, and Boys should never be left with a loose end of time in which to get out of hand. The Programme should be as varied as possible, and no one item should be long enough to exhaust the interest of the Boys.

SUGGESTED PROGRAMMES FOR TWENTY-FOUR EVENINGS.

The Programmes that follow have been actually and successfully carried out in a Section of twenty Boys, and, as will be noted, class work is usually given to half that number at a time. Where large Sections are being trained, it will be advisable, as far as possible, to do class work in quarter Sections. At any rate, classes are better handled which do not exceed twelve Boys. The Staff of the Section in this case consists of the Captain and two Honorary Instructors, a lady and a Sergeant of the Company to which the Section was attached.

The Reserves are seated for Class teaching and for "Talks."

FIRST EVENING'S PROGRAMME.

10 Minutes.—Opening Service—Hymn, Prayer, and Talk on The Boy Reserves and its Programme.

Usually the evening concludes with the Talk and Prayers, and Drill is the first item, as it steadies the Boys.

10 Minutes.—Squad Drill, from *The Boys' Brigade Drill Book*. Sections 2 to 7.

15 Minutes.—Half Section—Knot Tying—The Reef Knot, Sheet Bend, and Half Hitch. See *Scouting for Boys*.

Half Section—"Finger" or "Deaf and Dumb Alphabet."

In the 15 minutes the Reserves learned the Alphabet up to the letter N, and of course, all the vowels, which were taught them first.

15 Minutes.—Reverse Half Sections on above work.

10 Minutes.—Games. Half Section—Ring Quoits. Half Section—Deck Quoits.

10 Minutes.—Reverse Sections on above games.

The Reserves "Fall in" to sound of whistle at the double. Close meeting with the Benediction and first verse of "Abide with me," sung very softly, almost in a whisper, unaccompanied, the Reserves standing with heads bowed, in the attitude of Prayer. This is a very effective way of closing a meeting, and is always adopted in this Section. The Reserves start the singing without an order immediately after Benediction.

The difficulty of the Instructors being unable to impart this knowledge can be removed by a preliminary meeting to go through the work of the evening. "The Finger Alphabet" can be easily learned in 20 minutes; the knots required for first lesson in less time.

SECOND EVENING'S PROGRAMME.

15 Minutes.—Drill. Last week's drill will be repeated, and Sections 19, 20, and 21 from *The Boys' Brigade Drill Book* will be learned.

15 Minutes.—Half Section.—Finger Alphabet. Review of last lesson and remainder of Alphabet; also reading slowly a few words.

Half Section—Knot Tying. Review of last lesson and "The Sheep Shank" and "The Bowline."

15 Minutes.—Reverse Half Sections on above work.

15 Minutes.—Each Half Section playing separately "Kim's Games."

For both Knot Tying and Kim's Game, see *Scouting for Boys*.

10 Minutes.—A Talk on Things a Reserve ought to Know, followed by Hymn, Prayer, and first verse of "Abide with me," as on first and subsequent evenings.

The subject of the Talk this evening was "Our King," and incidentally his promise to his mother to read daily a portion from the Bible. The Reserves all desired to follow his example, and so The Reserves Scripture Union Card was introduced.

PERHAPS nothing will so much hasten the time when body and mind will both be adequately cared for, as a diffusion of the belief that the preservation of health is a *duty*. All breaches of the laws of health are *physical sins*. When this is generally seen, then, and perhaps not till then, will the physical training of the young receive the attention it deserves.—*Spencer*.

How to Utilise the N.C.O.'s.

By "PERSEVERE."

V.—THE LIBRARIAN.

I AM sure other B.B. Captains will, like myself, have found it difficult sometimes to know what work to give to a newly-promoted Lance-Corporal. A smart Private, keen and intelligent, having secured his Three Years' Service Anchor, as well as one or two Certificates or Badges, earns at the beginning of his fourth session his first stripe, and, naturally, is anxious to do all he can for his Company.

Unless one's Company is very large, or Squads very small, it is almost certain that this young Lance-Corporal will not be appointed a Squad-Commander; with Sergeants and Corporals above him, there is no prospect of his ever acting as Guide, Marker, or Platoon-Commander. This Boy has, perhaps, recently left school and has not yet proved his capacity for the management of a responsible department. Of course, he has not yet had the opportunity, and the only way of testing his abilities is to give him some position.

Such a junior Lance-Corporal I appoint "Librarian," and, if available, prefer to choose a lad who is a bit of a reader; in fact, it is a good thing to select as Librarian a Boy who indulges omnivorously in the *Union Jack*, *Boys' Friend*, or *Nelson Lee* series, and stories of that type. These stories are a great improvement on the old "Penny Blood," which they have killed, and they do not contain anything positively harmful like so many of the sensational Sunday newspapers. While not condemning the perusal of these Boys' papers, we hope the Librarian may be led on to take up reading a more advanced class of literature, such as is provided by our Company Library.

Our Church Committee has been very good in giving us a commodious locked cupboard in our Drill Hall, the keys of which are held by the Librarian and myself. The Library is open on Drill nights for at least quarter-of-an-hour before "Fall in," and sometimes it takes the Librarian all his time to dispose of the queue before the Bugles sound. He has several copies of the list of books pasted on to the backs of old calendar cards, so that each Boy in the queue may decide which books he wishes and their numbers, thus avoiding delay.

A word as to the list. We started our Library a good many years ago with a number of school prizes of my own and my brothers'—chiefly my brothers', for obvious reasons. Since then we have steadily added to our list by donations of similar books from my relatives and friends. Various members of the congregation have also offered me parcels from their libraries, and I always accept these very gracefully, sending the Librarian to lift them. Frequently the books are antiquated and unsuitable for Boys, and I have no hesitation in discarding such; occasionally one finds among them a few really good Boys' books.

We have over one hundred books—a good many of the old stagers which some of us Officers knew while in our youth—Kingston, Ballantyne, Henty, T. B. Reid, "B.O.P.'s," "Chums," etc.; I also think it advisable to have some more advanced reading for the older lads, such as Fitchett, Scott, Kipling, R. L. Stevenson, Dickens, and even Thackeray, and I find these are steadily taken out. There are other ways of getting suitable books. I only give one instance, but there are many methods. Last Session an able speaker at Bible-Class took as his subject "Traditions," and referred frequently to a chapter in *Naval Occasions*, by Bartimaeus, telling the Boys that if they had not read this excellent book they should do so.