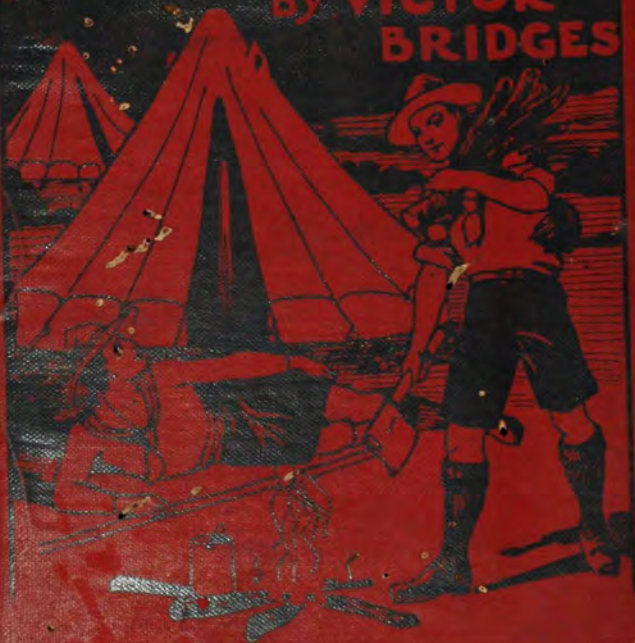


CAMPING OUT

By VICTOR
BRIDGES



WITH INTRODUCTION BY
LT. GENL. BADEN-POWELL

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Camping Out

For Boy Scouts and Others

By

Victor Bridges

With Prefatory Note by

Lieut.-Gen. Baden-Powell, C.B.

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PREFATORY NOTE

THE man or woman who has never lived in camp has missed one of the greatest pleasures on earth.

It is a clean life and a healthy one, for the soul as well as the body.

It is true that there are discomforts for those who come for the first time, ignorant of camp-tips and ways.

Of these this book is full, and the "Tender-foot" who reads them—and digests them—will find himself at home the moment he sets foot in a backwoods bivouac.

And after nightfall, as he lies rolled snug in his blankets, with his feet to the fire, and the stars blinking kindly down from the high dark arch of heaven, while the reek of the

Prefatory Note

wood-smoke blends with the fresh night-air in his nostrils, he can say from his heart as he sinks to his rest—

“Thank God! I have lived.”

R. S. S. B.-P.

July 1909.



Camping Out

INTRODUCTION

IF the best test of a pleasure is the amount of keenness with which it is followed, camping out is one of the finest amusements in the world. Those who have once tasted the sweets of living under canvas seldom, if ever, fail to return for further helpings. You will find grey-bearded men starting off for their annual spell of the open with as much eagerness as boys—in fact, once a camper-out, always a camper-out.

People who are altogether ignorant of camping often wonder at this enthusiasm. "What's the pleasure," they ask, "in lying on the ground with nothing but a bit of canvas between you and the sky? Of course, if the weather is fine it doesn't matter so much; but even then it must be pretty rotten never getting a bath, and having to cook and wash-up. Where does the fun

Introduction

come in?" The shortest and best reply to such critics is the simple one of: "Come and see."

In the first place, the hardships of camping-out are greatly exaggerated. It is true that an absolute novice will find it difficult to avoid a certain number of minor troubles, but when a man knows his business it's quite another matter. He does himself with an amount of comfort—one might almost say luxury—that enables him to laugh to scorn the croaking of his friends. In any case, the camper-out seldom worries. Little trials and accidents which would make him cross at home, merely afford him amusement in camp. The humorous side of things strikes him with a freshness and force that quite stops him from grouching.

This is the result of the splendid state of health, which is the reward of those who are living in the open air. The feeling of being absolutely fit is about the best sensation that life can give us, and the camper-out enjoys it to the full. Only those who have slept in the open know the proper meaning of sleep. One may go to bed and become unconscious for eight hours regularly enough in a bedroom, but it is a perfectly different sort of slumber from the

Introduction

deep, dreamless variety which awaits the camper-out.

He wakes in the morning positively brimming over with health, energy, and high spirits. He possesses an appetite that he would not sell for a fiver. As Heine, the German poet, has expressed it, he feels as if he could eat a herd of elephants, and pick his teeth with the spire of Strasburg Cathedral.

Parents, whose boys are anxious to try camping out, need not feel afraid that any ill effects will follow the experiment. Provided that the lads possess ordinary intelligence, and that one of the party has some previous knowledge of the game, it forms the healthiest sort of holiday in the world. After the San Francisco earthquake, when thousands of people who were quite unused to sleeping out had to make the best of things beneath the open stars, it was found that the general health of the city was *greatly improved*. Colds are the direct result of living too much indoors. In camp they are practically unknown.

There are other points also worthy of consideration. Camping provides boys with more fun for the amount of money spent than any

Introduction

other amusement. In subsequent chapters I intend to deal with the question of camp furniture, camp utensils, and other forms of equipment. It will then be seen that although all kinds of conveniences and even luxuries can be obtained by those who want them, and can afford them, a perfectly comfortable, healthy, and thoroughly enjoyable time can be secured at a comparatively trifling cost.

In conclusion, I may urge that camping out has as good an effect on a boy's character as it has on his health. It teaches him to be self-reliant, to look after his own wants, and not to be constantly grumbling about trivial matters. It is astonishing how much more tidy and considerate a boy becomes after he has had a week or two of cooking for himself, looking after his own belongings, and keeping his tent tidy.

CHAPTER I

Choosing the Party

THE first and most important point to think about before starting for an expedition is the choice of one's companions. The success of a camp depends almost entirely upon having the right sort of fellows. You see such a lot of one another, and are so dependent for comfort upon every one doing his fair share of the work, that the presence of one "rotter" will spoil the whole business.

If you are going in for a permanent camp, six is an excellent number. It is not too many to destroy the general feeling of "chumminess," and yet gives you enough pairs of hands to make the work comparatively light. A good-sized bell or ridge tent will hold half-a-dozen comfortably.

If possible, one of the party should have had some previous experience of camping. You can pick up a great deal from handbooks, articles,

Choosing the Party

and advice ; but in camping, as in most things, a pound of practice is worth a ton of theory.

In any case, there should always be a skipper—some one who, without bossing it too much, will partition out the work of the camp, and generally arrange matters for the rest. A certain amount of system is essential if you want to be comfortable, and you can't have system without having some one in command.

There are two kinds of companions to be specially avoided. One is the chronic loafer—the sort of fellow who is quite prepared to enjoy camping as long as the others do all the work. The second is the chap who can't keep his temper. If anything, he is the worse of the two. Nothing so completely spoils an expedition as having one member of the party who is always contradicting the skipper, or having a row with somebody else. Good temper is as necessary for camping as water is for swimming. You can't get on without it.

CHAPTER II

Selecting a Site

IF you have never done any camping before, you will find it best to start with a permanent camp of some kind. Boat camping, cycle camping, and tramp camping are very good fun ; but you want to know the ropes a bit before you attempt them. Later on I hope to give you some tips about these three, but to begin with we'll confine ourselves to the question of a permanent camp.

Let us suppose that you have arranged your party, and fixed upon your date for starting. The first thing you will have to consider is where you are going. In deciding, don't forget that the further you are away from home the greater the expense. There are few parts of England where a suitable spot for camping can't be found within a radius of twenty miles. Also it is much better, if possible, to have a good look round and fix on your camping-place

Selecting a Site

before you start. Otherwise you are apt to find all sorts of unexpected difficulties cropping up just as you have settled in.

Tastes differ, but to my mind the bank of a quiet river is far and away the jolliest place for a camp. To start with, you have your morning tub waiting for you at the door, so to speak. Then there is the chance of boating and fishing, if you care about it, and the additional advantage of having a limitless supply of water for washing-up.

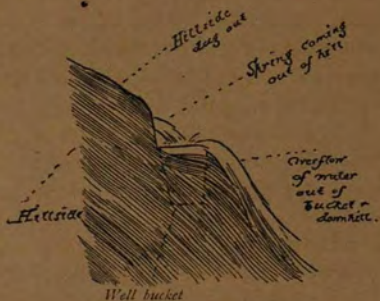
It is a good thing, if possible, to secure a site close to a wood, and to obtain leave from the owner to cut or pick up firewood. A camp-fire at night is great fun, and also gives you the chance of cooking one or two things which can't very well be tackled on a stove.

Look out for a spot where there is a spring of fresh water within reasonable distance. River water is good to wash in, but bad to swallow. *Under no circumstances should you attempt to drink it without first boiling it.* A spring can nearly always be found where the ground is wet and spongy, and by digging a hole and sinking a bucket, as shown in the illustration, you can provide yourself with a temporary little well,

Selecting a Site

which will always be filled by fresh running water.

If there is a farm within reasonable distance where you can procure milk and eggs, so much the better. Of course it is possible to lay in a stock of eggs, and to content yourself with con-



densed milk; but you can take my word for it that if you can get them fresh, it's more than worth the trouble of fetching them. Egg dishes in one shape or another are the principal stand-by in camp cookery, and when you get them by the dozen from a village grocer they are sometimes too prehistoric to be altogether appetising.

Selecting a Site

If you live near the coast, you might try a seaside camp. In that case be careful to choose a spot where the bathing is good and safe. Should you be able to get hold of a boat for the time you are there, it will add to the fun; but remember never to play the fool while you are rowing or fishing. To monkey about in a boat is a sure sign either of a fool or an ignoramus. Avoid any place too near a big seaside town. You don't want to be overrun with inquisitive trippers.

Mountains, moors, and other lonely parts of the country are splendid for camping in some ways. Apart from the fine scenery and bracing air, they give you the chance of learning something about the habits of birds and animals—a matter of which every scout ought to have first-hand knowledge. The chief difficulty is that, unless you have a bicycle, you are wholly dependent in such out-of-the-way places upon what you take with you in the way of supplies; also, if it happens to come on very rainy and windy, an open moor or exposed mountain-side is not the most cheerful place in the world to be in. Notwithstanding, given fine weather, this sort of camping takes a lot of beating. The prin-

Asking Leave

cial thing is to be sure to pitch your camp in as dry and sheltered a place as possible, and at most not more than a hundred yards or so away from your water-supply.

Asking Leave.

In choosing a site, remember that it is nearly always necessary to get permission. Find out first of all to whom the land belongs, and then, if you can, go and see the owner yourself. Explain to him quite frankly what you propose to do. Don't hide the fact that you want to have a camp-fire, or trap rabbits, or pick mushrooms. If you do these things without first obtaining leave, you will probably get into trouble. Provided the owner is a decent chap and the spot suitable for camping, you will most likely be allowed to do what you want. Should he make certain restrictions, observe them to the letter, or else go somewhere else. Some farmers make a small charge for letting camping sites, but in the majority of cases they will readily give you permission, especially if you intend to buy your milk, butter, and eggs from the farm.

Concerning Dogs

Concerning Dogs.

One little matter before passing on to the question of tents and equipment, and that is whether it is advisable to take a dog. This depends entirely on the dog. No animal the least addicted to chasing sheep, or hunting game, should on any account be brought. On the other hand, if you have a steady-going old bull-dog, who won't wander away from the tent, he will prove a welcome addition to your party. You will even be able, if necessary, to leave the tent in his charge. The most avaricious Weary Willie will give it a wide berth if he sees the faithful "Grab" slumbering peacefully in the doorway.

CHAPTER III

Tents

MR. PUNCH's advice to those about to be married was, "*Don't.*" I would say the same to any one who was thinking of starting out on a camping expedition without a proper tent. To build your own hut, or curl yourself up in a blanket under the stars, sounds very romantic; but if you take my advice, you'll provide yourself with something a little more waterproof. It is almost impossible to make a hut which doesn't leak if it comes on to rain. Sleeping out is jolly enough on a fine hot night, but you want somewhere dry to go to in case of a sudden shower.

Tents are made in all kinds of shapes and sizes, and can be either bought or hired. The most common variety is the bell-tent, which is used in the army. This is a good, solid, useful sort of article, and for its size and strength is without doubt the cheapest on the market. In almost every town it is possible to hire one for

Tents

a few shillings a week, while an excellent second-hand one in good condition can be picked up for about two pounds. Gamage's of Holborn,



BELL TENT



RIDGE TENT WITH FLY-SHEET

Pope of Bury Street, St. Mary Axe, and "Sports and Games" of Edgware Road, advertise one complete with all accessories from 30s. The

Tents

only objections to the bell-tent are, that it is rather gloomy, and that its shape compels you to stoop most of the time when moving about inside.

Personally, I prefer something of the emigrant or ridge tent variety. It is a much more convenient shape, and though a little more expensive to buy, in the first place, amply repays the cost in extra comfort. It is quite



ANOTHER FORM OF FLY-SHEET

simple in construction, and the whole outfit, including the poles, which are jointed, packs away neatly into a valise. One 13 feet by 10 feet in size gives plenty of accommodation for six campers.

For a permanent camp I strongly recommend the addition of a fly-sheet. This not only makes you quite safe against the heaviest rain, but gives

Tents

you a very convenient little covered space in which to keep a bicycle, your cooking pans, and other articles which you don't want inside the tent. There are two kinds of fly-sheets, one which comes right down to the ground, and one coming partially down, as shown in the illustrations.

Tents and camp equipment of all kinds are supplied by Messrs. Gamage, of Holborn; Messrs. William Pope & Son, of Bury Street, St. Mary Axe; and "Sports and Games," of 56 Edgware Road. Any of these firms will send you a catalogue if you write and ask them; will also let out practically every variety of tent on hire.

Should you be thinking of plunging boldly on a second-hand one, however, keep your eye upon the *Exchange and Mart*. The columns of that paper often contain rare bargains in the way of tents, and you may be lucky enough to pick up exactly what you want at about half the price it would cost at a shop.

Of course for a tramping or cycling expedition, when weight is everything, you want a different variety of tent altogether. Just the lightest possible sort of arrangement, which can

Ground Sheets

be packed into a small space and run up and down with a minimum of trouble. But I will deal with this question later on.

Ground Sheets.

When getting your tent, you must at the same time get a ground sheet to fit it. Some tents are made with a waterproof flooring attached to the sides, but they are rather expensive, and interfere with rolling up the walls for ventilation. It is best just to buy a simple covering of yellow waterproof, which costs about 12s. 6d. If you want to be superior, you can go in for green Willesden, which will run you in for another 3s. 6d. Remember, by the way, that oil is absolutely fatal to rubber, so always keep your oil outside the tent. Should you by any chance spill a little on the ground sheet, mop it up at once, and wash the place thoroughly with soap and water. It is best also to have a ground blanket, as apart from being easily spoilt, an india-rubber sheet is not very pleasant for walking about and sleeping on.

Pitching.

On arriving at your selected camping-ground, the first job to tackle will be the pitching of the

Pitching

tent. In choosing the actual site there are several points to be taken into consideration. Remember that pegs can't be driven into rocky ground, and that they'll come out of marshy soil almost as quick as they are hammered in. You want a nice firm bit of turf, slightly, but very slightly, on the slope. The head of a tent should always be a trifle higher than the foot.

Arrange, if possible, so as to get the best of the view from the tent door, and try to have some sort of shelter at the back. A hedge or the fringe of a wood keeps off the wind better than a small, solid object like a haystack. Never camp *under* trees, even if you have a fly-sheet. The continual dripping of the rain long after a storm has stopped, is the most worrying thing in the world.

The actual putting up of a ridge tent should be carried out in the following manner. If your poles are in sections, first fit them together, taking particular care that the right part goes into the right socket; then pass the iron spikes at the top through the holes in the ridge pole or cross-bar which supports the roof. This makes your framework.

Stretch out your canvas on the ground, and

Pitching

insert the framework between the two walls, pushing out the iron spikes through the small eyes in the ridge of the roof, which are made to receive them. On to these spikes fix the large wooden knobs to which the guy ropes are attached. Your tent is then ready to raise.

The next step is to hammer in the four big pegs which hold the guy ropes. As these form the only support which the framework gets, you must take particular care that they are in the right place. They should be knocked in at a distance of about 5 feet from the gable ends of the tent—two in front and two behind, one being opposite each corner. Don't get them nearer to each other or the tent will sway about sideways.

Having reached this point one chap should fasten the guy ropes loosely to the pegs, while two of the others catch hold of the poles and raise them to an upright position. They must be held until the ropes are sufficiently tightened to support the framework quite firmly. If one or two of the pegs are not quite in the right position, take them out and hammer them in again.

When this is done all that remains is to

Pitching

fasten down the walls of the tent. This is done by driving in four pegs along each side, and attaching to them the smaller ropes, as shown in the illustration. If the tent is properly pitched, the lower walls should be quite vertical and the roof nice and taut.

Should you have a fly-sheet it must, of course,



RIDGE TENT PITCHED

be erected with the tent. There is a certain amount of difference of opinion on the subject, but personally I believe that the fly-sheet should be pitched with as steep a slope as possible. This prevents the wind from getting underneath it. If you can elevate it a few inches above the ridge pole by means of an additional cross support, well and good; but don't worry if you can't manage it. It works very well just resting

Pitching

on the top of the tent. When fixed it should extend about 20 inches in front and 10 inches behind. In the event of a furious gale it is best to tie your fly-sheet for the time being flat down against the tent.

It is a good plan, when the tent is up, to dig a small trench round three sides of it, especially if there is any higher ground in the immediate neighbourhood. In the case of a sudden storm an unexpected stream of water will sometimes make its appearance, and a trench in such cases will save you from being flooded out. The trench, which need not be more than 3 inches deep, should be constructed about a foot away from the tent. The sides should be sloped outwards, so as to carry off the water.

While engaged in this operation, you might at the same time dig out at the back of the tent a square hole about a foot deep in which to deposit any paper, food scraps, or other rubbish you may accumulate. Keep the top square of turf to act as a cover. It is better to have a small hole to start with, and if that gets full up to move on to another. Otherwise your rubbish pit is apt to smell.

Pitching

Your final job will be the construction of a latrine. General Baden-Powell deals with this matter in one of his Scout yarns, and you have no doubt read the advice he gives (see "Scouting for Boys"). The latrine should be made in a sheltered spot at some distance from the camp, on the leeward side. It should consist of a narrow trench about 3 feet deep, with a pile of loose earth beside it. Always throw some of this in the trench after it has been used, and fill up the whole place and make a new one every week.

CHAPTER IV

Equipment

Sleeping Arrangements.

IN the question of equipment of all sorts, you must cut your coat according to your cloth. In other words, you can only buy what you have the money to pay for. I propose to give you a few hints about the various articles which are sold for camping furniture, but don't worry if you can't afford them. Anything which is absolutely essential you can probably obtain from your own home, and luxuries, although pleasant, can very well be dispensed with. Some of the camping expeditions which I have enjoyed most have been those in which our equipment has been the most simple.

Let us start with the question of a bed. If you have looked at any camp catalogues you have probably seen several kinds of sleeping arrangements which can be purchased fairly cheap. You can take my word for it, however,

Sleeping Arrangements

that, provided you are a fairly healthy sort of individual, they are all unnecessary. A couple of blankets and the tent-floor will make just as good a bed as you will want. By far the most satisfactory plan is to sew two old blankets together at the end and down one side, thus making a simple sort of sleeping-sack. This is easy to get into and out of, and does away with the unpleasant chance of waking up in the middle of the night and finding yourself without any bedclothes. It is as well to have an extra blanket or rug to throw over you in case you feel cold.

Before laying down the ground sheet and blanket, each chap should select the place where he intends to sleep, and carefully remove all stones and hard lumps of earth. He should also make a shallow oval depression to receive his hip-bone when he lies down. It is an excellent tip to cover the ground with straw or bracken, but never put this *on top* of the ground sheet. If you happened to drop a match in it, you would probably have your whole tent in a blaze. Don't use hay or dried leaves. The former soon becomes sodden and useless, while the latter, being full of spikes

Sleeping Arrangements

and bits of stick, is not only uncomfortable, but scratches, and wears out the ground sheet.

The one indulgence I *should* advise you to go in for is a small square pillow. An ordinary soft sofa cushion does well enough. Unless you are accustomed to camping out, you are apt to find it difficult to sleep with your head on a pair of boots and a mackintosh.

Of course, if you want to do the thing in



INFLATABLE AIR-BED.

style, and can afford a couple of pounds, there is nothing to beat the inflatable air-bed, which can be procured at Gamage's of Holborn. It is made in a series of ridges, which prevent it from bulging out when you lie on it, and you blow it up with a special sort of bellows. Don't fill it too full, or it becomes rather hard. Just pump enough air in to stop you from touching the ground, and you will find it to be the most comfortable bed you have ever slept on. If you are using one of these air

Sleeping Arrangements

mattresses, you had better take a puncture repairing outfit with you. However careful you are, there is always the chance of running a pin through the rubber, and then, for the time being, your bed is useless.

The best things to sleep in are a flannel shirt, pyjamas, and some good thick socks. I always keep a pair of goloshes or canvas shoes by my bed, for one constantly finds it necessary to turn out at night either to slacken the guy ropes or fetch in something which one has forgotten, and it is a horrible nuisance to have to put on boots every time. If one attempts to go barefoot, one invariably stubs one's toe against a tent-peg, or brings it down heavily upon a well-developed thistle.

I don't think there's anything else to say about the sleeping arrangements, except to advise you not to get up too early. Fellows who are not used to camping are sometimes tempted to rise with the daylight, but they invariably pay for it by feeling very sleepy and not at all good-tempered in the middle of the day. Six o'clock is quite soon enough to turn out, and ten in the evening should be the latest hour for going to roost.

Camp Furniture

Camp Furniture.

Furniture in a tent comes under the heading of luxuries; that is to say, that while you can quite well do without it, there are one or two articles which will greatly add to your comfort if you can manage to get hold of them. A small table and a few camp-stools, for instance, are by no means to be despised. Should you be under canvas for some weeks, you may get



FOLDING TABLE

a bit tired of squatting on the ground all the time. A small folding table, such as that



THE PARAGON

shown in the first illustration, can be picked up for about 10s.—the Paragon being a trifle dearer. I should advise you, however, if

you are thinking of spending any money on this part of the arrangements, to invest in

Camp Furniture

second-hand camp-stools, and borrow or hire a small table from the nearest farm. They would probably let you have one for sixpence a week.



"SECUREM" POLE STRAP
WITH LANTERN HOOK

Whatever else you go without, try and get hold of a pole strap. This is the only way by which you can safely hang up clothes in the tent. A good stout strap lined with rubber, and containing eight hooks and a lantern holder, will cost you about 5s. It will last you a lifetime, and the extra comfort it gives is worth anything. Every camp outfitter supplies them, but the "Securem" patent, sold at Gamage's of Holborn, is the one which I have found most satisfactory.

A couple of ordinary square camp lanterns, costing 1s. 10d. each, will do quite well for lighting the tent. Do not on any account



CAMP LANTERN

Camp Furniture

take a lamp. You are not going to read at night, and the extra light is quite wasted. Besides, you will probably upset it and spoil the ground sheet, or else set fire to the tent. See that you have a good supply of carriage candles and safety-matches.

For washing purposes, an ordinary bucket is all that you need. If there are six of you in camp, you would be able to do with three of these — two for washing yourselves, and one for washing the plates. A fold-



RUBBER BATH ?

ing india-rubber bath, which costs about 14s., is rather a jolly thing to have if you can afford it, but not in the least necessary. With a river, or the sea to bathe in, and a bucket for more careful ablutions, you can keep just as clean as you want to. Take a rubber sponge in preference to an ordinary one, and a small box of some kind to keep your soap in. Otherwise you are certain to get it muddy. Always wash a few yards away from the tent, and be careful never to throw any dirty water near the entrance.

Camp Furniture

The only other thing which you are likely to need in the way of camp furniture is a looking-glass. This may sound a trifle effeminate, but when it comes to washing yourself and brushing your hair for two or three days without one, you will find out how necessary it is. If you can rake out a small one with a handle, that will hang from the pole strap, so much the better.

CHAPTER V

Personal Equipment

Clothes.

IF you do not intend to wear Scout uniform in camp, knickerbockers, a flannel shirt, and an old coat are the best sort of kit to live in. Never take anything new or good: you will only spoil it.

In a recent issue of the *Scout*, General Baden-Powell gave the following list of clothes which each fellow should have in addition to those he is wearing:—

- Old greatcoat, or waterproof coat.
- One flannel shirt.
- One extra flannel shirt.
- One pair of drawers.
- Two pairs of socks or stockings.
- One vest.
- Flannels or sleeping suit.
- One pair of stout walking boots or shoes.
- One pair of canvas shoes.
- One sweater or old jacket.
- One pair of bathing drawers.

Clothes

I have no comment to offer on this, except that you will find a mackintosh more handy than a greatcoat. The latter when it gets really wet through takes a tremendous time to dry, and as far as warmth is concerned, a "mac" wants a lot of beating. Besides, you will find it very convenient when the grass is wet for putting blankets or bedding on if you are airing them outside. A grey army overcoat is useful, and can be had from 3s. 6d. from Pope's of Bury Street, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

An old well-fitting pair of boots are much better than new ones. You don't want to find yourself with sore feet the second day in camp. Remember to put in a good-sized tin of dubbin, and smear it well on your boots every morning. The best sort is the kind known as "Gishurstine," made by the Price Candle Co. Even if you are not wearing Scout uniform, be sure and take your belt. To this you must fasten your knife, purse, match-box, and watch. If you carry these articles loose, you are quite certain to lose one or other of them.

Slip in a cap in addition to your Scout hat, as it will give the latter a chance to dry should it get soaked through.

Miscellaneous Articles

Washing.

In the event of your being in camp for some time you will find it necessary to wash one, or perhaps two, of your flannel shirts. This is rather a ticklish job, unless you know something about it; for if you do it in the wrong way you will probably shrink the garment so that it will be unwearable.

It must be done with ordinary bar soap and cold water. Put the shirt in the bucket, and then make a good lather by rubbing the soap in your hands. When the water is nice and thick, catch hold of the shirt with your two hands, a little distance apart, and work it up and down as if you were using a pair of bellows. Having massaged it all over, tip out the soapy water and fill up with fresh. Go on doing this until no sign of soap remains; then wring out the shirt and hang it up in the sun. Be very careful not to put it on again until it is thoroughly dry.

Miscellaneous Articles:

Apart from your cooking and eating equipment, there are several things which you should

Miscellaneous Articles

take with you, if possible. Here is a rough list:—

Corkscrew.

Scissors.

Tin-opener.

Axe.

Wooden mallet (for driving in pegs).

Spade.

Whistle.

Two towels for personal use.

Pantry towels for washing-up.

Housewife (containing needles, pins, thread, and buttons).

Writing-case (containing paper, envelopes, ink, stamps, and blotting-paper).

Notebook and pencil.

Lint and a bandage.

Flask of Odol, or Den-coll.

Tin of Homocea.

The corkscrew, for choice, should be one of those which folds up into the handle, and the scissors should be fitted with a case. You must have an axe if you are going in for a camp-fire; but don't get monkeying around with it, except when you mean business. It's the easiest thing in the world to chop a toe off, and not all the

Packing

medical science in the world can stick it on again.

A spade is necessary for digging trenches, latrines, &c., while a whistle is always useful for calling chaps in to tea and dinner. I have put in a tin of Homocœa, because it is a good thing for cuts and bruises, and quite the best stuff in the world for smearing on your socks if you get your heels sore. One article I have omitted with which every experienced camper provides himself, and that is a spare set of boot-laces.

Packing.

The most comfortable method of carrying your personal belongings when camping out is to pack them away neatly in a waterproof hold-all. By spreading this out on the tent floor, you can find anything you want without turning over and upsetting all the rest of your belongings. Try to get your sister to make you a special little canvas case to contain your toilet articles.

If you haven't got a hold-all an ordinary bag will do perfectly well; but don't leave it standing about the tent just where the other fellows will kick it over.

Packing

Your miscellaneous articles and cooking equipment should be packed in expanding Japanese baskets. These are quite cheap, and hold an amazing amount. It is safest, however, not to trust to the straps sold with them, which as a rule are the veriest shoddy. If you can't afford to buy a good strong strap, see that your baskets are properly tied round with stout string.

Should you be camping near your home you will no doubt tramp to the selected site, while even if you go by train you will probably have some distance to walk from the station. Under these circumstances, the best plan is to be extravagant and get hold of a carrier or farmer, who for a small consideration will take your tent and heavier luggage in his cart. You don't want to arrive fagged out, with the job before you of putting up your tent and arranging your whole camp.

CHAPTER VI

Cooking Equipment

To set yourself up with knives, forks, spoons, plates, cups, and a cooking stove, sounds at first rather an expensive amusement, but ninety-nine times out of a hundred you can do it fairly cheap. In almost every home there are a few half-worn and rather shortened knives, and these are just the kind you want for camping. Don't borrow good spoons and forks, however, as you will probably lose them. White metal or aluminium ones can be bought for a few pence, and they do just as well as the best family silver.

Aluminium is also an excellent material for your plates. It is cheap. It weighs very little, it won't break, and it is easy to clean. Rather deep plates are best if you are buying them, because these will hold soup as well as meat. You can get these articles in practically any town, and all the big London stores stock them.

Cooking Equipment

For cups you can't beat enamelled iron. Aluminium gets too hot to drink out of with any comfort, and horn, though very nice, is rather expensive. Of course, if you can get old mugs, or anything of the kind at home, don't waste money on others. In buying, however, it is much cheaper in the long run to get unbreakable articles, because you can go on using them for one camping trip after another.

You will want a big frying-pan (with a folding handle for choice), two saucepans, and a kettle, two jugs, a big teapot, a small box with three compartments to contain salt, pepper, and *powdered* mustard, and a couple of tight-fitting tins for your jam and marmalade. Tea, coffee, cocoa, sugar, oatmeal, and bread are best carried in proofed lawn bags, which you can easily make for yourself. An old camper once put me on to rather a good tip, which consisted in getting half-a-dozen so-called "tin" plates for sixpence. These, being really made of iron, can be used for cooking chops, steaks, bacon, or eggs, and act just as well as a real frying-pan.

There are, of course, lots of patent aluminium

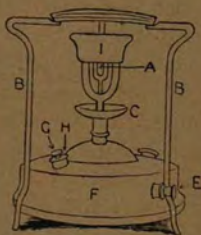
Cooking Equipment

and tin cooking sets, like the one shown in the picture, which pack away into beautiful neat boxes, and run you in for about 30s. As it is possible, however, to provide oneself with an equally useful, if somewhat less smart outfit for about a quarter of the sum, I don't think many Scouts are likely to bother about them.



PATENT COOKING SET

For a stove there is nothing to beat the "Primus." This consists of a brass reservoir



THE PRIMUS

containing paraffin, the vapour of which is pumped up through a couple of tubes, and provides a ring of flame which will boil a kettle in a very few minutes. If you look at the illustration, you will see the idea. You have first of all to unscrew the cap marked H, and fill the tank three parts full with good quality paraffin.

Cooking Equipment

Then screw up the cap again, and slightly loosen the valve G. Fill the little cup C with methylated spirit, and light it. Just as the spirit is burning out, close the valve G and give two or three steady pumps with the handle F. The ascending vapour at once catches, forming a rim of flame at I.

The beauty of the Primus lies in the fact that it is absolutely safe, gives a great heat, and if properly looked after never goes wrong. There is a small aperture at A, through which the vapour comes, that should be pricked out with a kind of needle supplied with the stove every time the latter is used. Do not pump until the spirit is just out or raw paraffin will come up into the cup, causing a lot of smell and smoke. If this happens, open the valve G. Do not be afraid of pumping. A Primus stove is most severely tested before being sent out, and you can blow up just as hot a flame as you like without any risk.

There are two useful additions to a stove of this sort. One is a wire frame to fit on to the top of the uprights, which will accommodate a kettle and a frying-pan at the same time. The other is a cone of copper gauze, which

Cooking Equipment

makes a splendid toaster, or in cold weather renders a lighted Primus almost as good as a fire.

The Picnic Primus, which packs away neatly into a small square aluminium box, is the best for camping. It costs about 10s., and there is no other article I know of which is as good an investment for the money.

If there are six or more of you in camp, however, and you intend to do much cooking, I should recommend one of the little



APPLETON'S LIGHTNING
BREAKFAST COOKER

portable ovens known as "Appleton's Lightning Breakfast Cookers." These are specially made to go with the Primus, and cost 6s. 6d. each. With the aid of one of them you can bake, roast, and grill in a style that will challenge comparison with a swaggar restaurant. At least that is what my friends say who have breakfasted out of mine. Gamage's of Holborn and other well-known suppliers sell portable ovens,

Cooking Equipment

and Pope's have a cheap line in camp kettles at 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d., and new camp ovens with hooks at 1s.

To protect your stove, when cooking, it is necessary to have a wind screen. A piece of



WIND SCREEN

canvas or cloth of any kind sewn on to three canes, or old umbrella ribs, each about three feet apart, answers the purpose admirably. Whatever way the wind blows the stove may then be sheltered by fixing this screen round it in the form of three sides of a square.

CHAPTER VII

Camp Cookery

NEXT to a waterproof tent and ground sheet, a knowledge of how to cook a few simple things is the most important possession for a camper who wants to be comfortable. I advise any chap who is thinking of going under canvas to trot down into the kitchen several times first, and practise turning out two or three plain dishes with the aid of his Primus. To start off trusting to luck and a certain number of recipes, generally means that you end by falling back entirely upon tinned food—which, as Rudyard Kipling would say, is not good for one.

With a Primus.

Cooking with a Primus and cooking over a camp-fire are, of course, two quite different matters. With the aid of the first you can tackle anything in the way of grills, stews, egg dishes, porridge, and a good many kinds of puddings.

Cooking with a Primus

The art of the business consists in getting all the things finished at the same time, so that you can have your meal in peace without being compelled to keep getting up and going to the stove.

Take breakfast, for instance, and picture yourself trying to turn out tea, porridge, and bacon for six on a stove that will only hold two pots at the same time. The way to start is to place one saucepan of water on the stove and then make the porridge in the other. As soon as the porridge is ready, place it on top of the saucepan containing the boiling water, where it will keep quite hot while you turn your attention to the bacon. Directly the latter is finished, you can make your tea with the boiling water, and, hey presto! breakfast is ready.

If you only have room for one pot at a time, and want to keep something else hot, never place it on the ground. Always stand it on an inverted plate, which will enable it to retain its heat for at least twice as long.

Of course there is no necessity to cook very much. Your chief stand-by will be preserved food of various sorts. However, if you want to keep really fit and enjoy your meals, you

Bacon

can't live on an endless round of tinned tongue and jam. It should be varied with a certain amount of fresh meat, vegetables, and eggs. Here are a few tips for cooking ordinary simple dishes, which will be useful for any one who is a novice at the game.

Porridge.

This is always welcome in camp, and quite easy to make. For six people put in four cupfuls of water and two cupfuls of milk, two cupfuls of oats and one teaspoon of salt. Stand it on the stove, and keep on stirring it until it thickens, which will take place a little while after it has begun to boil. Let it have another five minutes more, and then ladle out into hot plates. Quaker Oats are the best sort to get.

Bacon.

When you buy it, see that it is cut up into small, thin rashers. You ought to get good bacon in a village for eightpence a pound. Nick the rind before putting it in the pan; this stops it from curling up. Don't have your stove too hot, and turn the bacon frequently while it is cooking.

Fried Eggs

Fried Eggs.

These should be cooked in the fat of the bacon after you have removed the latter. Break them gently into the frying-pan, taking care not to smash the yolks. While they are cooking, keep on gently running a knife underneath them to prevent them from sticking to the pan. Separate the whites from each other, so that you can lift them out separately. A piece of tin, with the edge turned up for a handle, is an excellent implement for transferring them to the dish.

Boiled Eggs.

Unless you are sure they are fresh, don't boil them: they are nicer fried. If you do, wait till the water is actually boiling, and then put them in and leave them there exactly four minutes; the white will then be hard, and the yolk still slightly moist. A piece of soft bread makes an excellent egg-cup, if you don't run to such luxuries.

Poached Eggs.

These should be dropped gently into boiling water, care being taken, as in the case of fried eggs, that the yolk is not broken. Plenty of salt in the water considerably improves the taste.

Steak or Chop

Omelette.

Rather extravagant, but jolly good to eat. Allow three eggs for each person; break them into a pan with a tablespoonful of milk for every egg, and then whip them up till a nice smooth yellow liquid is formed. Add a bit of butter, and put the whole thing on the Primus. While it cooks, continue to scrape it away from the bottom and sides, and take it off just as it is beginning to get dry; don't be discouraged if your first shot is a failure. This dish is worth learning.

Fried Mushrooms.

Take care they *are* mushrooms, and not toadstools. The great thing is to have plenty of bacon grease to fry them in, and to put in a pinch of salt while they are cooking. In the case of the big ones it is best not to eat the hard centre, which is apt to give you a pain under your waistcoat.

Steak or Chop.

Heat the frying-pan, and then rub it well over with a bit of fat; put in your steak or chop, and sprinkle some salt on it. Don't

Fried Potatoes

have too hot a flame underneath, and turn the meat as soon as the blood begins to show on the top; cook the other side for about the same time. You can tell whether a steak is cooked by making a small incision and seeing whether the last trace of blue in the middle has disappeared; this doesn't improve the steak, however, and after your first attempt at cooking one you ought to be able to judge the time all right.

Fried Potatoes.

If you want to fry potatoes cut them up very thin, and have plenty of lard or grease of some kind to prevent them sticking to the pan. Keep on stirring them about with a fork and turning them over while they are cooking.

Fried Fish.

You may be in a neighbourhood where you can catch trout or other fish; these are quite easy to cook, and make a welcome change on fried eggs and bacon. Cut off the head and tail, slit open the fish and clean the inside thoroughly and carefully. Before putting them in the pan rub them well over with flour, which prevents them burning. Trout should

Ground Rice

be cooked in melted butter. Lay them on paper for a moment after taking them out, to remove the grease.

Stewed Fruit.

Apples, blackberries, and plums are all good stewed, and you can generally get hold of one or the other. Put about a couple of inches of water in your saucepan, and then add as much fruit as you want; also some brown sugar to sweeten the juice and bring out the flavour. Apples, of course, should be cut up before being put in. You can also make good stews of wild raspberries, strawberries, and bilberries.

Ground Rice.

There is nothing nicer to eat with fruit than cold ground rice. To make this, put a couple of pints of milk to boil, and while it is getting hot mix together five tablespoonfuls of ground rice and five of moist sugar; add a cupful of cold milk, and stir them well up. Pour this into the boiling milk, and go on stirring until it thickens. Ordinary boiled rice wants half-an-hour's boiling, with plenty of milk.

Tea and Coffee

Tea and Coffee.

Every chap knows how to make tea, or he thinks he does, and some horrible stuff you get in consequence. The great secret of turning out good tea is to make it with water that is absolutely boiling. If you go and carry a kettle ten or fifteen yards before pouring the water on the leaves, the brew is absolutely spoilt. Supposing you haven't got a kettle, it is best to put the leaves bang into the boiling water. Don't mind if people tell you this is wrong; it makes jolly good tea, which is the important point. One teaspoonful of leaves should be allowed for every person.

When you buy coffee insist on having *pure* coffee. Chicory mixtures are all beastly, and very little cheaper. The best way to make coffee is to boil the water first, and then put in as much as suits your taste. Boil for a couple of minutes, add the milk, and then boil the whole lot together for about half a minute. This plan would also horrify a cook, but for making camp coffee it can't be beaten.

CHAPTER VIII

Camp-Fire Cookery

I SHOULD advise you not to trust for your cooking arrangements to a camp-fire, but it is good fun to try it occasionally instead of the Primus. Besides, every Scout should know how to turn out a meal at a pinch without artificial assistance. In lighting a fire to cook by, you should first of all arrange some sort of fireplace. This should be constructed of stones, about six inches high, broadside on to the wind, and open at one end; keep a bit of flat stone sticking out on the inside to act as a hob. Cover the ground with dry grass or paper, place small dry sticks on top of this, and then bigger ones. If you can spare a little paraffin or methylated spirit to pour on it, so much the better. Light it, and let it burn for some time before you attempt to cook on it. You want just a heap of glowing embers at the bottom of the fireplace.

In addition to matches, which should be

Camp-Fire Cookery

carried in a small, thick glass bottle with a cork, it is as well to have a burning-glass with you. Provided the sun is out, you can always light a fire with this. Savages are able to do so by twirling a stick round in a block of wood; but personally, I believe this accomplishment is peculiar to savages. At all events I never yet found a white man who could do it, so I shouldn't advise you to waste your time trying.

Never throw away a match after using it, but always thrust it head first into the ground, so as to be sure that it is out. Many a bad fire has been started by a carelessly discarded lucifer. If you want to start a fire on sopping wet ground, light the first few sticks in the frying-pan. In wet weather always keep a stick or two in your pocket if tramp camping, and if settled somewhere, a small supply in the tent. Be *absolutely* certain that your fire is out before leaving a camping ground.

Grilling.

Chops or steaks will grill beautifully on a fire of this kind. You can make an amateur grid by laying wet green sticks across the fireplace, and putting your meat on top of them.

Bacon

Baked Chicken.

This is a dish much patronised by gipsies and other gentlemen who know the art of getting hold of fowls without paying for them. First of all clean out the inside of the bird, and then wrap the carcass in damp clay. Bury this in the red-hot ashes, heaping some more fire over it; when the clay cracks the chicken is cooked, and the skin and feathers come off absolutely clean. An excellent stuffing may be made either with boiled chestnuts or by chopping up the chicken's liver and mixing it with squashed bilberries. Properly done, chicken cooked in this way is absolutely delicious; but you will most likely make a failure of it the first time you try it.

Fish.

First clean your fish, and then roll it up in a piece of damp newspaper with the ends twisted. Put this in the fire with some embers on top, and leave it to cook for about a quarter of an hour.

Bacon.

Don't try and grill bacon over a fire unless you have a tin of some kind to put it in. The

Wellbank's Boilerette

fat of the bacon will catch fire, and the slice will be burnt to cinders.

Wellbank's Boilerette.

If by any chance you intend to do all your cooking in this manner, you should provide yourself with a Wellbank's Boilerette. This only costs a few shillings, and will enable you to cook as good a dinner as you want. It is a kind of double-skinned stew-pan containing an outside water-jacket, and turns out a stew which the chef at the Carlton would not be ashamed of.

Preserved Food.

As I said before, preserved food will be your principal stand-by in camp, but you want to be careful about the stuff you get. Tinned meat is rather like the little girl in the poem—

“When it's good it's very, very good ;
And when it's nasty it's horrid !”

On the whole, preserved tongues are the most satisfactory. The best are the English brands, and although it may be fancy, I always think those put up in glass taste nicer than those in tins. The same remark applies to brawn, which

Preserved Food

forms, with plenty of mustard, a very appetising and tasty breakfast dish.

Never get preserved fish, except sardines. In the occasional cases of ptomaine poisoning which one comes across, it is nearly always tinned fish which is responsible. No doubt the great bulk of what is sold is wholesome enough, but the chance of striking a "wrong 'un" is quite enough to keep me off this particular delicacy.

Baked beans are splendid things to have in camp. Boiled in the tin for twenty minutes they turn out an excellent hot, savoury dish, which by itself is almost as satisfying as a plate of meat.

I should also recommend you to keep some small pots of Oxo or Lemco handy. These make good gravy, and are very welcome in the form of hot soup when you come in wet or tired. If you want more variety, Crosse and Blackwell's tinned soups are always reliable; the thick kinds being more suited for hungry campers than the clear.

With regard to jams, every one has his particular fancy—my own being Beach's. If you don't finish a pot at a meal, always remember

Washing-Up

to fasten the parchment cover on tight or the wasps will get in. Marmalade is also a matter of taste, but the jelly variety turned out by Cairns has the advantage of not running about the place and getting on your clothes. Remember, if you want to economise, that jam and marmalade pots do excellently in place of china jugs.

To conclude the question of food and cooking with a few final hints, don't forget—

To put your bread back into its bag directly you have finished.

To shove a spoon into the milk when it attempts to boil over.

To bury your empty tins if you can't make use of them.

To keep your food under cover, in case a stealing dog pays you a call.

To do your share of work without grumbling.

Washing-Up.

Never shirk your washing-up. It is impossible to be comfortable in camp unless you wash-up properly after every meal. The best thing, if there are six of you, or more, is to take turns—say, two fellows to tackle the job at a time. The arrangement of this should

Washing-Up

lie with the chap you have elected as camp captain.

The right way to set about the business is to boil a good saucepanful of water first, and then having scraped off the bits and pieces from the various plates, pour a little of the boiling water over each of them, finishing up by plunging them in a bucket of cold water. Dry them with a clean cloth, taking care that they don't slip through your fingers in the operation.

If you have a stream of running water close by, it is only necessary to put the plates in this for a minute or two, scrub them with a bit of twisted-up paper, and then dry them.

Knives are cleaned by rubbing them up and down in the earth. You should keep a bit of sandpaper to polish your pots with, and always bury all your scraps and rubbish after you have finished.

CHAPTER IX

Camp Routine

It would be absurd to lay down any hard-and-fast rules about the best way of spending the day in camp. One fellow's meat is another fellow's prussic acid, and each party must arrange for themselves what they consider to be the most enjoyable and convenient plans for having a good holiday. At the same time a few general hints, which will apply to pretty well every case, may not come amiss.

We will start right at the beginning of the day with the question of getting up. It is best to have a fixed time for rising—say, six o'clock—and make a rule that no one is to walk about and dress in the tent before that. If a chap wants to see the sun rise, let him do his toilet outside and give the rest of you a chance to sleep.

Go and have your swim directly you get up. If you mess about the tent for twenty minutes

Camp Routine

or so, half the edge of the enjoyment will have gone off. The proper way to go into the water is to dive, but should you be bathing in a river be very careful where you make your plunge. In diving into water you don't know there is always a risk of knocking your head against a rock, or getting entangled in weeds. A bathing party should consist of at least three, and each chap should keep his eyes skinned in case one of his pals gets into trouble. In the event of your getting cramp, shout to your friends for help, and don't struggle when they come to assist you. Swallowing a little water won't hurt you, while if you clutch and fight you'll probably drown both yourself and your rescuer.

Dry on the bank, and walk back briskly to camp. Never dawdle immediately after a swim; it's as good a way of catching a chill as there is. Having got back, finish your washing and dressing.

If your skipper knows his business, each fellow will then have his job to tackle. First of all, there is the tent to be aired. This is done by tying up the bottom flap all round, care being taken that the strings are fastened in such a way that they can easily be released. The bedding

Camp Routine

should be carried outside, well shaken, and then folded up neatly and put on a mackintosh or ground sheet in the sun.

Meanwhile some of the others should have set the Primus going and got breakfast well under way. Don't worry the cook, however hungry you are, and be prepared to sit down directly the meal is ready. This is undoubtedly one of the jolliest moments of the whole day, especially if the morning is nice and sunny. With your appetite sharpened by the morning swim, a plate of smoking eggs and bacon in front of you, and a fragrant cup of coffee steaming away at your elbow, you will feel that you have a very definite answer to the silly old riddle: "Is life worth living?"

There is no need to hurry over breakfast. You have a nice long summer day before you, and can afford to take things easy. Besides, this is the time for chatting about your plans and arranging for any little emergency which has cropped up, such as the necessity of some one walking into the village to get some more tea or sugar.

Directly you do rise, washing-up should be the order of the day. This is not a job that

Camp Routine

there is much competition for as a rule, but the skipper must see that every one takes his turn at it, and does the work properly and promptly.

The question of spending the morning depends, as Sam Weller would say, "upon the taste and fancy of the individual." Unless you are an absolute loafer, you will find heaps of things to do. Leaving scouting and scouting games out of the matter, there is pretty sure to be some out-of-door hobby to which you are specially attached. If you are keen on birds' eggs or butterflies, for instance, you will no doubt spend a good deal of time trying to add to your collection. A chap who has a camera, or who can sketch a bit, not only has a splendid opportunity of gratifying his taste, but can keep a whole pictorial record of the camp, that it will be great fun to look back on in after days. Fishing, if you can get permission, is a delightful method of wiling away a few hours, and has the additional advantage of adding to the larder —at least, sometimes!

Be back to time if you have arranged to have your principal meal in the middle of the day. Nothing is more annoying for the chap who cooks than to see his masterpieces spoilt through

Camp Routine

the unpunctuality of the others. The best arrangement really, I think, is just to have cold stuff going at lunch-time, and keep your cooking for a corking "high tea" at five o'clock. This gives those who want it a good long spell for rambling and exploring.

After tea one nearly always finds that there is a certain amount to do about the camp. This is a good time for cleaning boots, repairing ropes, digging a fresh rubbish hole, and generally pottering around and putting things straight. If you intend to have a camp-fire, some of you must go and cut or collect wood. Very few farmers or landed proprietors will consent to your lighting one on their property, but should you be lucky enough to have permission, your evening round its cheerful blaze will be the great feature of the day. When we were up in Northumberland camping with General Baden-Powell, we had a roaring camp-fire concert every night, and any of the chaps who were present will tell you what good fun it was.

Be careful to choose a site for your fire where it is impossible for the sparks to set a light to anything else: the two angles of a wall in the corner of a field form the ideal position, provided

Camp Routine

the wind is coming from the other direction. In case it is damp, always keep a few dry sticks in your tent ready to start the blaze. In the event of a high wind you must, as I said elsewhere, place a few flat stones parallel with each other, broadside on, and then begin your fire between them. An experienced camper can always light a fire with one match and no paper.

While you are sitting round the fire yarning, or singing, take the opportunity of putting a few potatoes to roast in their jackets. A hot "praty" with butter, salt, and pepper makes a supper fit for a king. Ten o'clock, as I said before, is a good sensible time to turn in. Fellows seldom go off to sleep at once, but invariably lie talking for a bit, so don't be later if you can help it. Should there be any chance of rain, be sure and slacken all the ropes slightly before entering the tent. When ropes get wet through they tighten, and unless they have plenty of play, drag out the tent-pegs and bring down the whole affair. Sometimes a sudden storm will come on in the night after you are all asleep. Any chap who wakes up under such circumstances should put on his shoes and mackintosh and go outside and see if

Camp Routine

the canvas is getting too taut. It's not a pleasant job, but it's better than having the tent on your head.

Occasionally, if there is a heavy wind and the tent is an old one, rain will come through at first in the shape of a very fine spray. I know of no plan for stopping this. The only thing is to shove a coat over your shoulders and wait in patience. As soon as the canvas is really wet, the shower-bath will automatically cease. In the event of the canvas beginning to let actual drops through, all that is necessary is to draw your finger down from the leaking place to the ground; the water instead of falling will then follow this line. ◊

Be sure you have plenty of ventilation in the tent. Personally, unless there is a tremendous gale on, I always peg open the front door. The idea that the night air is unhealthy is all bunkum. Those that consider my plan too Spartan can just leave the two top hooks unfastened, and fix a bit of stick so as to make a miniature window. In the unlikely event of your striking a really cold patch of weather—I refer to one of those Arctic spells which occasionally turn up in the middle of summer—you

Camp Routine

can, if you want to, heat the interior of the tent by lighting up the Primus for a few minutes before turning in. Be very careful, however, or you may have the whole place in a blaze.

Cattle are sometimes a source of trouble at night. Once when I was camping out on the banks of the Avon, between Bath and Bristol, a cow came and put her head right in at the tent door. The chap who was sharing the tent with me gave a scream, and so frightened our visitor that she tossed up her head, got her horns caught in the canvas, and pulled about half our tent-pegs clean out of the ground. It is best not to pitch where there are cows or sheep, but if you do, and a cow pays you a visit, take it quietly.

Never leave your tent absolutely unprotected, unless you have a trustworthy old dog, who will sit in the entrance and keep off intruders. If there are six or more of you, you can arrange for a couple of fellows to stay behind each day. One healthy tramp, dropping across an unguarded tent, will clean it out as successfully as a flight of locusts. This unpleasant experience happened to some friends of mine in Yorkshire, who returned dog-tired one night to find all

Camp Routine

their food gone, and the following scrawled notice pinned to the pole:—

*Why don't you
keep sum beer?*

CHAPTER X

A Few General Hints

WHATEVER else you have in a tent, you don't want mud and dirt. Make a rule that every chap has to take his boots off before stepping on the ground blanket, otherwise you'll have the whole floor filthy in a very little while.

If you want to dry your clothes, and the weather is still wet, sling a line along the roof of the tent, hang your garments on that, and place the lighted Primus below. Put the toaster on if you have one; it will distribute the heat better.

Any chap who has got a banjo, and can play it, should always take it to camp. On a wet day it's worth its weight in gold. Even the roughest sort of accompaniment makes fellows less shy about displaying their vocal powers.

Paraffin, meat, and vegetables are best kept outside under the fly-sheet. Cover your food over with the lid of the Jap. basket and a weight on

The Law of Trespass

top, or a stray dog may think you have invited him to dinner.

The Law of Trespass.

PRIVATE TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED.
--

Whatever part of England you are camping out in, you are pretty sure to run across a board bearing the above notice. If you disregard its warning, you will most likely be stopped by some elderly, angry, red-faced gentleman, who will demand with indignation whether you read the board. Of course, like the ingenious boy in the story, you can reply: "Please, sir, it was marked *Private*, so I didn't like to ;" but I am afraid that in any case you will be turned back without ceremony to the public road.

According to the law, "every unauthorised entry upon the house, land, or premises of another person constitutes a trespass, in respect of which an action for damages is maintainable."

The Law of Trespass

This applies even to cases in which the trespass is committed unintentionally.

If you persist in trespassing after having been warned it is regarded as a worse offence, and heavier damages can be recovered.

A trespass can be committed by the act of walking over the land of another, even if no damage be done to the land. The mere treading down of the grass is held to be sufficient injury to enable the owner to recover nominal damages.

Under these circumstances you will see that, when possible, it is best always to obtain leave if you want to go on private property. This is not much trouble in the case of a permanent camp, as the land in the immediate neighbourhood will most likely belong to one, or at least two owners, who if approached in the proper manner will probably give you the permission you ask. Be careful never to abuse such a kindness.

The chief things to remember are—firstly, always to shut gates behind you when crossing fields; the carelessness of some fellows in this respect is deplorable, and a farmer naturally gets disgusted if he finds his sheep wandering

Poaching

all over the country-side in consequence of his good-nature in allowing you the use of his land.

In the second place, never walk across growing crops or grass. What means a short cut to you may mean a good many pounds out of the farmer's pocket. Go round the beaten track by the hedge, and don't try and get over into the next field until you come to a stile or gate. If you make a gap in the hedge, you may let cattle in and ruin the entire crop.

Should you have permission to go through a wood where game is preserved, stick to the path. Nothing makes a landowner more reasonably annoyed than to have his pheasants disturbed.

On no account cut trees, or light a fire without first obtaining leave.

Poaching.

Simple trespass, of course, is not a criminal matter, but anything in the nature of poaching will get you into serious trouble. As the law bluntly puts it: "Whoever unlawfully goes upon land not his own to pursue or kill game, rabbits, woodcock, snipes, quails or landrails,

Poaching

is liable to a penalty of £2." In the event of his refusing his name and address, he may be seized and taken before the nearest magistrate. He may then be fined as much as £5, with the pleasant alternative of a spell in prison for not more than two months. For poaching at night the first offence involves imprisonment for not more than three months. The fine for fishing without a licence is £2, but in this case the offender can only be summoned and not arrested. So you will see that, taking it all round, it is very inadvisable and extremely expensive to try and add to your larder without first receiving the permission of the owner.

CHAPTER XI

Tramp Camping

IF you are fit, fond of walking, and a handy sort of chap, tramp camping is without any doubt the best fun in the world. By its aid you can explore all kinds of interesting places, which are inaccessible either by bicycle or boat. A camper with his pack on his back is as free as a bird. Independent of roads or even by-paths, he can trek across country at his own sweet will; there is no necessity for him to get to a certain place by a certain time. He can take his night's lodging in the middle of the wildest moor, and sleep more soundly and comfortably than he would with the finest of tiled roofs over his head.

The outfit differs considerably, of course, from that which you would take for a permanent camp. It must be arranged on the stern principle of leaving behind everything which you can possibly do without. Thanks to the

Tramp Camping

inventive genius of Mr. T. H. Holding, who may justly be described as the father of camping out in comfort, it is possible nowadays to arrange a full equipment for two fellows which will not weigh more than 12 lbs.

The "Holding" tent for two measures about 6 feet 6 inches in length, and 5 feet 9 inches in breadth. The poles are made of the lightest bamboos, and the ground sheet (if you take one) constructed of a specially light gossamer material. I have found, however, that, provided one has a mackintosh and a waterproof hold-all, a ground sheet is an unnecessary luxury. The two articles named perform its duties quite successfully.

Of course, if you are going in a party—say, six of you, or even a couple of patrols—it might pay you better to take one large tent. The chap who carried it would then have the remainder of his equipment split up amongst the others. You can get a full list of light tents suitable for this type of camping from Messrs. Gamage of Holborn, Pope's, or "Sports and Games."

For your cooking equipment you can't beat a Baby Primus stove and a "So-Soon" set—

Tramp Camping

both of which are inventions of Mr. Holding. The "So-Soon" set consists of two aluminium pans, one of which holds the Primus, and then fits into the other. Each chap should also take an aluminium plate and cup, together with a spoon, knife, and fork. Two or three of the little tin plates which I mentioned before will come in handy for grilling over a camp-fire, and can be thrown away when no longer wanted.

If every fellow has his Scout "billy," one Baby Primus and one "So-Soon" set would do for six. The "cook" can then tackle anything in the nature of eggs and bacon or stew, while the others make their own tea over a fire. I should be careful not to use the "billy" except for tea or cocoa, or for boiling eggs, or you will find that it is rather spoilt for those purposes. Some of the chaps we had in camp up in Northumberland used to turn out wonderful Irish stews, with the result that their tea next time they used the "billy" was beautifully flavoured with onion!

With regard to kit, I should recommend knickerbockers, a flannel shirt, a scout hat, and a pair of light gaiters or putties. You should

Tramp Camping

also carry a mackintosh, a sweater, an extra pair of stockings, and an extra vest. The whole equipment which you would have to carry, would work out as follows:—

Tent.	Mackintosh.
Tent poles and pegs.	Sweater.
Baby Primus.	Extra stockings and vest.
So-Soon set.	Light quilt or blanket.
Cup, plate, knife, fork, spoon.	Tooth-brush and hair-brush.
Candle and clip.	Homocea.
Box of soap and matches.	Canvas shoes.
Towel.	Food.

In the event of there being two or more of you the first four items would, of course, be divided up between you. The whole weight of this equipment should not come to more than about 14 lbs.

Be sure you have a really comfortable pair of boots, with a set of spare laces, and rub the heel of your stockings with a little Homocea every morning before you start.

The best way to carry your stuff is, as I said before, in a hold-all. This should take the form of a strip of waterproof canvas, about 1 foot 10 inches wide, and 2 feet long.

Tramp Camping

It should be rolled right round both tent and clothes, and have a couple of flaps sewn on at the side to tuck in and keep out the wet. The mackintosh should be rolled up, and strapped on top. Have a strap that brings the whole burden just above the small of your back, and keeps it fairly tight, so that it won't flop about or slew round when you walk. Some fellows prefer to have a light little hand-cart in which to carry their stuff. I have never tried this plan myself, but Mr. Holding in his book on the subject gives a description of a very neat arrangement, dodged up out of a couple of old perambulator wheels, with the tent poles for shafts. In the event of a whole patrol going tramping, I should think it would pay you to construct some such vehicle.

What I said about selecting a site for a permanent camp, applies very much to the present case. Unless you are right out amongst the moors or mountains, always apply for permission before you settle for the night. It is a very good plan when you find a friendly farmer, to get him to give you a letter of introduction to some one at your next probable stopping ground.

Tramp Camping

Make a point of always thoroughly cleaning up your camping ground before you leave. Bury all waste paper and scraps, so that when you set out there is no sign of a camp having been pitched there the night before.

Should your tent be wet, it is best to stop and dry it before you start. If you can't do this, roll it up, and carry it in such a way that it won't saturate the rest of your belongings. At a pinch you can always use the mackintosh to divide wet articles from dry. You will find that five or six miles a day will be about as much as you can cover comfortably. Some trampers, of course, do ten, twelve, or even twenty; but to my mind distances like these rob one's holiday of half its fun. You want to feel that you have plenty of time to ramble about, to explore attractive spots on either hand, to stop and admire a particularly beautiful view, and to indulge in occasional little bits of scouting, just to keep your hand in. Besides, as I said elsewhere, it's no joke to arrive at your camping ground fagged out, with your tent to put up and your tea to cook before you can get any rest.

CHAPTER XII

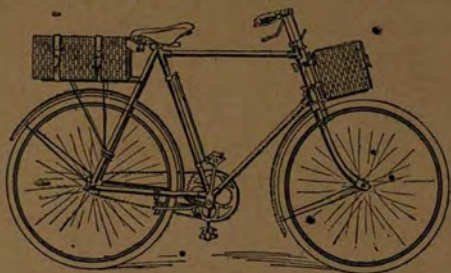
Cycle Camping

THE equipment for cycle camping is, roughly speaking, the same as for tramp camping—the only difference being, that on a machine you are able to take one or two little extra luxuries. For instance, I should recommend the addition of a light ground blanket, a canvas bucket, a gossamer pillow-case, which can be stuffed with hay, a short coat, and a pair of slip-on waterproof overalls.

There are numerous ways of carrying your luggage, and different people swear by different methods. Bags are made to fit in the following places: in front of the handles, behind the handles, in the angle of the frame, and behind the saddle—to my mind, the last arrangement is the most satisfactory. A bag on a carrier behind the saddle will hold a surprising amount, and it doesn't matter in the least how much it bulges. A miniature

Cycle Camping

tent, if rolled up properly, can be strapped on to one of the bars of the framework, and your quilt and coat rolled up and fastened to the handle. If you can manage a handle bag, as well as one behind the saddle, so much the better. You will make certain of keeping your ground blanket dry. Don't forget your bag



CYCLE WITH FRONT AND BACK CARRIERS.

when jumping off in a hurry, as it is very easy to catch your foot and come down full length in the road.

Japanese expanding baskets will do quite well in place of bags, if you want to economise. It is advisable, however, to have a small piece of mackintosh to place inside the lid to keep out the rain. You can easily carry two Jap.

CHAPTER XIII

Boat Camping

THOSE who consider a permanent camp slow, and tramp camping a shade too energetic, will find in boat camping the ideal amusement. While it affords plenty of exercise to keep you fit and well, it gives you at the same time the chance of occasional spells of particularly luxurious loafing. A patrol, especially one in the neighbourhood of the Thames, the Wye, or the Ouse, could scarcely treat themselves to a jollier holiday than to get hold of a couple of boats and set off up stream for a fortnight's wandering and scouting.

A punt, or double sculler, can be hired for about £3 a month on the Thames; but of course rates differ according to the time of year, and also the place you hire at. On other rivers you might pick one up a little cheaper.

With regard to a tent, most handbooks recom-

Boat Camping

mend an ordinary "A" or "Wigwam" type, which can be pitched on the bank. If you are in a punt, however, I should certainly advise a boat-tent. I have used a tent of this latter type for the last fifteen years, and I personally think that its conveniences greatly outweigh its faults.

Not only does it save you a certain amount of money in the way of rent, and perhaps tips, but in the event of a shower of rain coming on, you can always run it up and keep as dry as a bone, without having to make tracks for the nearest shelter.

The objection urged against a boat-tent is its stuffiness. I will admit that if you have four chaps in a punt, and the canvas fastened down tight all round, things are apt to get a bit close by the morning—but so they are in an ordinary tent. My own boat-tent has a window down the middle, which I always lace back, and though I have frequently slept four in it on hot nights, I have never found it uncomfortably stuffy. If you are a fresh-air enthusiast you can always fasten up the whole of one side, and allow the gentle breezes to play round you at their own sweet will.

Boat Camping

A boat-tent can generally be hired together with the boat. It is stretched over three iron hoops that fit into sockets, and has two pockets that clip over each end. There is no difficulty about putting it up—the right method being to secure one end first and then slowly unroll it over the hoops. I have on several occasions put mine up single-handed and late at night, with nothing but a candle to light the boat.

One of the chief advantages of a tent of this sort lies in the fact that it saves you the trouble of hunting about for a suitable camping ground, and then getting leave to pitch.

I do not recommend it, however, in the case of a double sculler. This does not give you anything like the same sleeping room as a punt, so when using a boat of this sort it is best to take an ordinary light "A" tent and camp out in the regulation manner.

The outfit for boat camping would be much the same as that which you would take for a cycle tour. Flannels should take the place of knickerbockers, however, and you should always have a complete change of everything, in case of falling overboard.

If you are likely to do much boat camping,

Boat Camping

it would pay you to invest in a yachting bag; these cost about 15s. each. They are made of waterproof canvas lined with mackintosh, and not only do they keep the rain out, but in the event of your boat upsetting they float on the surface of the stream instead of going to the bottom.

For your cups, plates, food, &c., the ordinary Jap. basket is as good as anything, with of course the unrivalled Primus on which to do your cooking. You should wash up and repack after every meal, and fasten the baskets in such a way that they will stop in the boat even if it turns turtle.

The distance you will cover in the course of the day depends on several considerations. You can, of course, get along much faster in a double sculler than you can in a punt—indeed in the former you can do your fifteen miles a day up stream on the Thames without discomfort. On a more sluggish river, such as the Ouse, you could easily do twenty. Coming down stream, rowing is mere child's-play, and even in a punt you can cover the miles at a surprising speed. It is a great mistake to hurry too much, however. Take life easily; stop and have a bathe

English Rivers

when you feel like it, and generally act on the principle that time was made for slaves, and not for campers-out.

English Rivers.

A note or two on the principal English rivers suitable for boating trips may perhaps be useful. We'll start with the Thames, as being in every respect the pick of the bunch. Putney to Lechlade and back, a distance of about 130 miles, would form an excellent fortnight's trip. It would perhaps be nicer, however, to start from Teddington or Hampton Court, and thus miss the earlier and more crowded part of the journey. There are about forty locks to pass through, but nowhere from start to finish is there any spot which could be described as dangerous to any one with a simple knowledge of how to handle a boat. You can't very well get further than Lechlade, especially after June, as the river at this point becomes a mass of flowering vegetation, which practically stops the boat. From Lechlade you can make a change on the return journey by coming down the Cherwell and joining the main stream again at Oxford. You reach the Cherwell by going

English Rivers

through the Oxford Canal, which branches off out of a backwater just opposite King's Weir, and about three miles below Eynsham Bridge. There are five locks on this canal, which you will have to open for yourself; you can obtain a winch at the Oxford wharf.

The Severn can scarcely be called an ideal river for camping on, but with the aid of a good deal of towing it is navigable from Welshpool to Gloucester, a rough distance of 130 miles. Above Stourport there are a collection of rapids and shoals, and some bad shallows under the bridges at Shrewsbury. From Gloucester, by means of the Berkeley Ship Canal, the Stroud-water Canal, and the Thames and Severn Canal, it is possible to reach the Thames at Inglesham, near Lechlade. The scenery most of the way is very pretty, and the charges would amount to about 45s.; the distance is between fifty and sixty miles.

To go down the Wye from Hay to Chepstow is to make yourself acquainted with one of the most lovely bits of scenery in England. In addition to this, the river is very quiet and eminently suitable for camping out. Unless you have had some previous experience of it, how-

English Rivers

ever, you want to keep your eyes open, especially in the neighbourhood of Symond's Yat, where there are some ugly reefs. Once on these, both you and the boat are likely to remember it.

The Bedford Ouse, which is about the slowest of all English rivers, is navigable for rowing boats from Bedford to King's Lynn—a matter of just under a hundred miles. Above Bedford there are a number of mills, which involve portage. The Ouse runs for the most part through rich, flat meadows, and contains a good number of coarse fish. Some of the locks at present are in a shocking state, owing, I believe, to local squabbles.

The Warwickshire Avon is a charming river, and for those that don't mind a little exertion affords a delightful holiday. Warwick to Tewkesbury is about fifty-six miles, but navigators must be prepared in accomplishing this journey to do a good deal of unloading and towing. The locks below Stratford are in such a rotten state of repair that they are quite unworkable, and the boat has to be lifted out and carried round. One can reach the Warwickshire Avon by canal from Oxford, pass from

English Rivers

the Avon into the Severn, and thence by the canal route I have previously mentioned back into the Thames. For any one who is fond of boat camping, and can spare the time, this would be a grand trip.

CHAPTER XIV

Some Medical Hints

ONE does not go under canvas with the idea of getting ill. Still accidents will happen even in the best regulated camps, and so before bringing this volume to a conclusion I think it would be as well to give you a few tips of a medical character.

The Care of the Feet.

This is a serious matter, especially if you are tramp camping, for a foot-sore pedestrian is about as helpless a thing as you could find. It is a good plan to pickle one's feet for ten minutes or so for two or three days before starting. This is done by putting them in hot water, in which a good lump of salt and some boric acid have been dissolved. Be careful not to have your toe-nails too long, and always cut them square across, never down the sides or into the quick. Wash your feet frequently, using hot water

Cuts

when you get the chance. Before putting on your socks smear your feet, especially the heels, with Homocea. If you haven't got Homocea, oil, fat, or soft soap will serve the purpose. Take a second pair of stockings, and wear each pair alternately. In the event of getting a blister on your foot, lance it with a clean needle, but don't attempt to tear the skin off. A little powdered boric in your stocking and boot will greatly reduce the chance of your going lame.

Cuts.

Wash very thoroughly with clean water. If you have a little "Listerine," or a 5 per cent. solution of carbolic, apply some of it to the wound; then join the cut together with plaster, binding it round with two or three strips. Put a piece of lint on top, and tie up with a bandage. Should it be a finger that is damaged, cut off a finger-stall from an old glove, and fit on over the linen.

Gatherings.

A gathering may come from several causes, but the most common reason is a scratch from a splinter or nail. Bathe the place in very hot

Drowning

water for about a quarter of an hour, and then put on a bread poultice, covering the latter from the air. Keep the poultice on all night, and you will probably be all right in the morning.

Headache.

A strong cup of tea will sometimes cure a headache; but an even better tip, if you can manage it, is to soak a bandage in vinegar, and tie it round your forehead. Headaches very often come from walking about in the sun without a hat, so don't do it.

Sun Burn.

You can get some nasty burrs from exposing your arms, legs, or chest to a hot sun when you are not accustomed to it. Should you find yourself getting scorched, cover the place at once, and don't wash it at all for at least twelve hours; then swill with warm water (no soap), and smear with Homocea or vaseline.

Drowning.

In the event of a chap being half drowned, lay him on the bank and apply first-aid as described in "Scouting for Boys."

Broken Limbs

Broken Limbs.

Never try to move a chap who has broken a limb, before bandaging it. This must be done very carefully, by applying two splints—one each side of the broken limb, and then bandaging above and below. At a pinch, sticks will do for splints, and handkerchiefs for bandages. Having placed the patient in as comfortable a position as possible, trek for a doctor as fast as you can.

Medicine-Chest.

Campers-out should always carry the following articles :—

- A bandage.
- Some lint.
- Plaster.
- Homocea.
- Pair of scissors.

A small bottle of iodine for painting a strained tendon, or a sore throat, may also come in handy.

Books about Camping

THE following books, the titles of which speak for themselves, will be useful to any one who wants more detailed information concerning any particular branch of camping than that given in this volume.

For Cyclists and Caravanists.

- "The Roads of England and Wales."* By Charles Howard. Published by Mason & Payne.
- "Gipsy Tents and How to Use Them." By G. R. Lowndes. 2s. 6d. nett. Horace Cox.
- "Cycle Campers' Handbook." By Colin Clout. Published by the Association of Cycle Campers (for Members only).

For Boat Campers.

- "Camping Out." By A. A. Macdonell. 2s. G. Bell & Sons.
- "The Ouse." By A. J. Foster. 5s. S.P.C.K.
- "A Guide to the Thames." By J. H. Salter. 1s. Field & Tuer (Leadenhall Press).
- "Pearson's Gossipy Guide to the Thames." 1s. C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd.

Books about Camping

General Camping.

- "Scouting for Boys." By Gen. Baden-Powell. 1s. nett;
post free, 1s. 3d.
- "Camper's Handbook." By T. H. Holding. 5s. nett.
Simpkin, Marshall & Co.

CHAPTER XV

Scouting for Campers

IF the ordinary chap finds camping out good fun, scouts ought to find it doubly enjoyable; they have all the extra pleasure and interest of scouting thrown in.

In his Handbook the General gives particulars of several scouting games suitable for a patrol under canvas, but perhaps a few further observations on the subject will not be out of place here.

The best game of all, I think, and one which can turn what might otherwise be a long and uninteresting tramp into a series of thrills and adventures, is the simple and time-honoured one of laying ambushes along the road. When we were camping out with "B.-P." in Northumberland, we used to do this on every march, and after a little while both ambushers and ambushed got as smart as Red Indians or Boers. I remember one occasion when a patrol scored

Scouting for Campers

a signal victory by concealing themselves in a cow-yard, and sending one of their number to stick his pole out of a very obvious clump of bushes several hundred yards ahead. The enemy naturally spotted this pole a long way off, and while they were advancing cautiously, and chuckling to themselves over their smartness, they were badly stuck up by the chaps in the cow-yard.

On another occasion, this time in Devonshire, I saw a most successful ambush worked, by several scouts getting permission from the driver to climb into a big stone cart that was lumbering slowly along the road, and holding up the surprised foe as they passed.

These two little incidents, to which any experienced Scout can doubtless add others equally ingenious, will show what a lot of fun and excitement can be derived from this pastime.

Another excellent game for campers is that of judging distances. It is extraordinary how accurate you can get with a little practice. The idea is to take a tree or any object at some distance, and then guess how far away it is. After each chap has had a shot you pace it off, and the fellow who was most out has to

Scouting for Campers

wash-up after tea. A good tip for saving the pacing of long distances is to tie a bit of ribbon to the rim of your bicycle, and see how much ground each revolution covers. You have then only to ride the distance, counting the revolutions of your wheel.

To judge height, a variation on the former task, the following is the method. Get a pal to stand, say, a hundred yards off, shut one eye, hold up a pencil, and mark off with your nail his apparent height; then get him to stand two hundred yards away, and repeat the operation. After practising at this for a bit, you will have a rough-and-ready scale in your mind that will give you remarkably correct results.

All the various methods of signalling should, of course, be worked at carefully. Apart from the fact that every scout ought to be able to semaphore and heliograph, a knowledge of these codes is most useful in camp. I remember one instance in which we had forgotten to ask one of our party, who had set off for the village, to get some more bacon; however, we spotted him on the opposite hill, and with the aid of a couple of flags sent over the intervening two miles a gentle reminder that we were out of pig.

Scouting for Campers.

Other good methods of beguiling time in camp are cock-fighting, practising gymnastic tricks, wrestling, boxing, if you have gloves and can keep your temper, and sports, such as racing, jumping, and swimming.

It is always good fun, provided you have sufficient enterprise, to run a camp newspaper. One fellow must take charge of it, and screw up the others to do their contributions. You ought to be able to bring it out at least twice a week. Camp life lends itself to all kinds of humorous writing, and the paper offers a splendid chance of poking fun at each other, and also of keeping a most interesting record of your various jokes and experiences. Each chap should write his contribution clearly and neatly, and the Editor should paste them up on a big sheet of paper, putting in appropriate headings and comments. The following suggestions for would-be contributors may perhaps be useful:—

“Camp Gossip,” by the Man who does the Work.

“Told by the Water-rat.” (Supposed to be an account of the camp as seen by a water-rat.)

Biographies. (Humorous descriptions of the various members of the camp in the style of “Who’s Who.”)

Humorous verses descriptive of various incidents in the camp.

Self-Defence

Letters to the Editor. These, of course, are "cod" letters, and can be made very funny.

• Pictures, photographs, and caricatures.

Don't funk trying a paper through excessive modesty. You never know what you can do till you have made an attempt at it, and once you have got the paper started you will find it rare fun.

Self-Defence.

• This, thank goodness, is not a question of supreme importance in camping out in England; but even so, it is as well to be prepared for an emergency. Even in this peaceful country one is always liable to an attack from a tramp or a drunken rough, and in such an unpleasant event a fellow should be ready and able to defend himself and his belongings. I do not propose to deal with boxing or jiu-jitsu, which, of course, are invaluable, for the simple reason that it would be impossible to give any useful advice in a work of this scope. They are both pursuits which must be studied and practised assiduously to be of any real use. In the use of a stick, however, the following tips will be of value. In the case of a man running

Self-Defence

at you, grasp your weapon firmly and meet him with a thrust in the middle of the waist-coat. If you get well home, no second blow will be needed. Do not drive your lunge home until the last moment, when he will get the full benefit of it.

It is worse than useless to strike at any one's head. If you cannot get in a thrust, aim a blow at your adversary's collar-bone, holding the stick by the handle, and not by the end. Strike at the front of the collar-bone rather than the back. You can be sure that if you land fairly and squarely, he will not do any more attacking for some time to come. In conclusion, I advise you never to fight with anybody if it is possible to settle the matter in question by any other honourable means. If you are made to fight, however, take Shakespeare's advice, and don't hesitate to let your adversary have a dose of his own medicine that he won't forget in a hurry.

CHAPTER XVI

Camp Hobbies

Photography.

I AM always sorry for the chap who has no hobby. He misses half the interest in life, especially when camping out. Put him out in the country by himself without any one else to talk to or play games with, and he is quite lost. You never saw a fellow with a hobby stranded like that. The wettest day under canvas has no terrors for him; he has always got something to work at, to arrange, or read up.

I should be inclined to put photography at the very top of all. You can use a camera anywhere. Your pictures form an intensely interesting record of your camping outings, and are delightful to look back at afterwards. Above all, you can combine photography with other hobbies.

Photographing wild birds is one of the most engrossing amusements that exists. It takes

Camp Hobbies

no end of patience to get really good pictures of birds in their natural surroundings. Mr. Cherry Kearton, who is one of the great experts at bird photography, once spent seven days of ten hours each, buried up to his neck in mud, to get a picture of a "great crested grebe" sitting on her nest. Another time he lived five days in a green-painted tent covered with ivy just to secure one snapshot of a nightingale.

But all birds are not so difficult to photograph as these, and any one who has learnt the simple lesson of standing or sitting quite still will find no difficulty in getting good snapshots of dozens of different kinds of wild birds and of our commoner wild animals, such as the squirrel, rabbit, weasel, and water-vole.

Definite advice as to the best form of camera is difficult. There are so many excellent makes upon the market, and it is entirely a question of what you can afford; only remember that for camp use your camera must be light and portable, and that a good lens is the all-important part of the apparatus. Of course, if you purchase an expensive camera, you may feel fairly certain of getting a good lens, but in the cheaper makes lenses vary greatly in definition.

Camp Hobbies

The only difficulty about the camera in camp is that of keeping one's plates or films dry. Allow damp to penetrate, and the careful work of days is certain to be utterly lost. In old days a general's advice to his soldiers was to "keep their powder dry"—mine to you is, "Keep your plates dry." Some put dependence on a leather camera case, but this is a mistake; even the best leather is not waterproof unless thoroughly greased. A case made of mackintosh can be provided at small cost, and failing this, a square of mackintosh in which the camera can be kept strapped.

Kodak films are probably the best to carry for camp work, not only on account of their handiness, but the advantage of daylight loading and the easy way you can develop with the aid of Kodak developing-tanks. "No dark room required" is a Kodak motto the camping photographer should keep in mind.

Collecting Minerals.

In whatever part of the country you are pitching your moving tent, the earth has always plenty of treasures worth grubbing for.

On the seashore there are wonderful shells and

Collecting Minerals

beautiful, and sometimes valuable pebbles, to say nothing of such semi-precious stones as jet and amber. In the chalk country, which comprises all our southern down lands from Kent to Hampshire, there are fossils innumerable, such as ammonites and trebolites and fossilised shells of many descriptions. Go northwards to Derbyshire, and here are treasures of spar and other exquisite minerals. In the coal measures are to be found beautiful fern and leaf impressions, while among the granite of Devon and Cornwall there are tin and copper ores and certain precious stones.

Most chaps are quite surprised to hear of precious stones in the British Isles; but they exist nevertheless, and these and minerals make a most interesting collection. More than that, some of them are valuable. In the Mourne Mountains of Ireland, beautiful specimens of beryl and of golden beryl may be picked up; topaz is found in several parts of England, especially near St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall. In the hill districts of Cornwall and Cumberland you may pick up garnets; and rock-crystal, sometimes known as Cornish diamond, is to be found not only in that county but

Butterfly Collecting

also near Bristol. Onyx and agate are met with in Perthshire and other parts of our islands, while it must not be forgotten that very good pearls are yielded by the fresh-water mussels in many of our British rivers. Only the other day a man found in the Irish river Foyle a mussel which yielded a pearl worth eight pounds.

The only objection to the collection of fossils and minerals is that they are weighty; but to make up for this they are easily packed. An old packing-case can be purchased from the nearest shop for a few pence and filled with hay. In this one's specimens can be sent straight home by rail. The one and only implement essential to the mineral collector is a small geological hammer.

Butterfly Collecting.

The butterfly collector rejoices in an outfit which is both light and inexpensive. A net, a killing bottle, some nests of collecting boxes, and a few setting boards—these are the main requisites for the collector under canvas. They will all pack into a small space, and their cost is but a few shillings.

Butterfly Collecting

Some collectors make a specialty of butterflies, some of moths—some collect both. As a matter of fact one soon gets to the end of British butterflies, for the number of species is small, while of moths, on the other hand, there are a large number. An interesting point about butterflies is that the same species vary very greatly in colouring, in different parts of the country. Some chaps go in for making series of dozens of varying specimens of the same kind, labelling each with the place and date of capture. Common varieties with peculiar markings are thought a deal of by collectors, and sometimes bring fancy prices.

The moth hunter secures his choicest specimens by "sugaring": for the benefit of those who are not yet collectors, it may be as well to explain that the so-called "sugar" is really a mixture of treacle and beer, which is smeared on the bark of trees. Moths cannot resist it. They settle on it by dozens and soon get into a muzzy condition, when they can be picked off with ease.

For a sugaring expedition a lantern of some sort is necessary. A common bull's-eye is quite sufficient, but personally I prefer one of those

Butterfly Collecting

small electric torches fitted with a dry battery; they cost from half-a-crown upwards, and the refills may be bought for sixpence. They are very handy, and can of course be carried in one's pocket. Besides, they save the mess and heat of an oil-burning lantern.

On dull or cold days, when insect life is not on the wing, the butterfly collector need not find time hang heavy. He can always go out on the hunt for caterpillars. Almost every plant has its special caterpillar, and the collector must be careful to give his capture the leaves upon which it is accustomed to feed. There is no particular need to carry a breeding cage for caterpillars to camp. An empty tin biscuit box with plenty of air-holes punched in it is amply sufficient.

The boy who is only beginning to collect should provide himself with one of the many handbooks which give coloured illustrations of British butterflies and moths, and of their caterpillars. I might add a word of advice. When buying a book of this kind don't trust to its covers. Look inside, or you may get done like the chap who bought a book called, "Advice to Young Mothers," and when he got home found it was not about moths, but babies.

Collecting Pond Life

Collecting Pond Life.

If you are going in for boat camping, or camping out on a river-bank, you can, if you like, make a most interesting collection of the various insects which make their home in rivers and ponds. These include water-snails, water-beetles, water-spiders, water-mites, and water-fleas—in fact, almost every dry-land insect seems to have its counterpart in the water. The most ordinary dirty-looking, weed-covered little duck-pond offers whole days of interesting study to the collector of water creatures.

I once saw a collection composed of nothing but caddis-worm cases. The caddis-worm is the larva of the caddis-fly. The larvæ live in the bottom of ponds or rivers, and each makes a sort of suit for itself out of whatever material comes handy. Some use bits of gravel or small fresh-water shells neatly glued together; others make cases out of little pieces of wood or rush. Moss is often used, or morsels of dead leaf, and one very ornamental case which I especially noticed in the collection I spoke of was constructed entirely of seeds and some water-plant. Its owner was evidently a bit of a dandy.

Flints and Arrow-Heads

Caddis cases vary in shape as much as in material, and I can strongly recommend them as worthy of any chap's attention.

The collection of pond life demands rather more of an outfit than the gentle sport of butterfly hunting. A supply of wide-mouthed bottles well corked is essential. If you want to do the thing in style, you can purchase cases containing such bottles at any naturalist's or at most opticians'. Most of your spoils will prove to be out of reach of hand, so you will want a walking-stick fitted with a collecting hook that screws in at the end. You must also have a brass ring which fits round the neck of the collecting bottle like a collar, and can be screwed into the end of your stick. With this contrivance you can fish out the insects and other objects which are too small to be nobbled with the hook. A good lens, a small piece of muslin as a strainer, and a trusty scout knife will complete your necessary equipment.

Flints and Arrow-Heads.

Remains of our fur-clad ancestors, whom elderly, grey-bearded professors refer to

Flints and Arrow-Heads

learnedly as "neolithic" savages, are by no means as rare as is generally supposed. All through the south-eastern parts of our island you may find the flint implements with which they used to carve their dinnets, and also each other. The rougher-shaped ones are the oldest, and may very likely have been made from twenty to seventy thousand years ago. Those more finely finished—and some of them are perfect works of art—are much more recent, being perhaps a mere trifle of twenty-five centuries old.

I have found some in chalk-pits when collecting fossils, and have seen others ploughed up in the wheat-fields in the Thames valley. There is no more fascinating hobby than collecting flint implements. At any time you may have a stroke of luck and find a bronze knife or some such treasure belonging to a later age. One word of warning, however: don't go digging on other people's property without permission, or you will bring trouble on yourself and discredit on the Scouts.

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