

Insignia Worn by Girl Scouts Who Have Taken up Various Branches of Domestic Science Qualifying Them to Be "Little Mothers."



Mrs. Jane Deeter Rippin,
National Director
of the Girl
Scouts' Organization,
Who Is
Superintending
the Domestic
Education of
86,000 Little
Mothers.

Grandmothering 86,000 Little Mothers

What It Means to Direct the Development of a Rising New

Generation of Expert Housewives, Nurses and Mothers,

By William Hamlin

Explained by the One Woman Who Is Doing It.

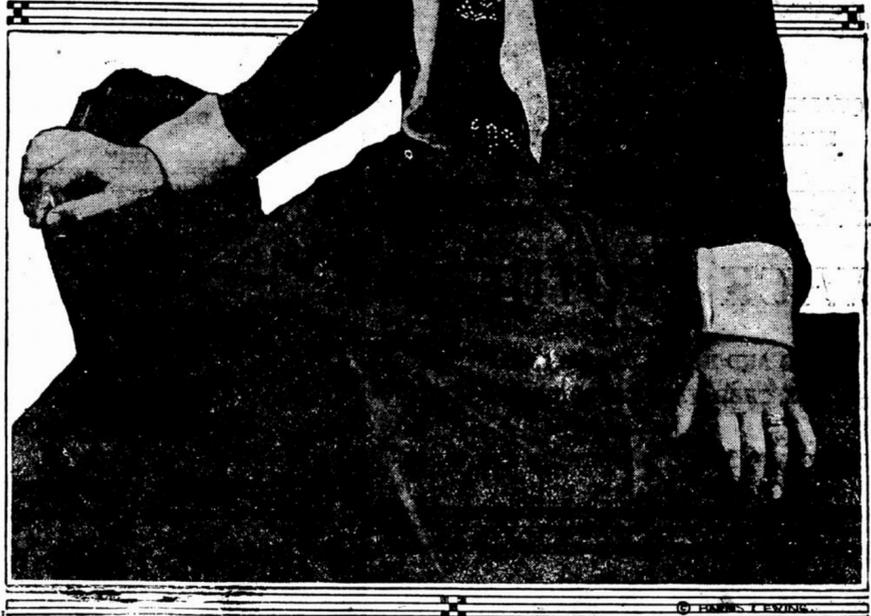
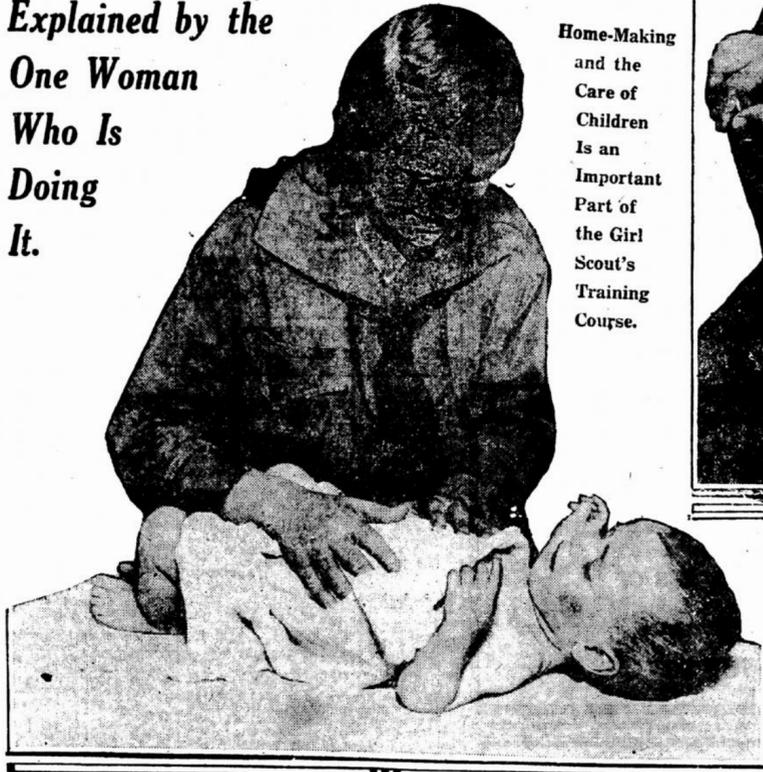
Used to be that little Miss America played "mother" to her dolly, winning approval of the really, truly mother by the manner in which she handled the dolly or the skill with which she fashioned a dress for her plaything. This is an age of progression. Now little Miss America, charming in her O.D. girl scout uniform, plays with a real baby, one that smiles as angel and, sometimes, bawls as a— But, bless little heart, little Miss America makes an expert mother!

Used to be that little Miss America cooked a toy stove and served imaginary meals to dolly chimerical visitors. Now, little Miss America turns out of the oven and takes from off stoves culinary achievements that would do it to an experienced chef.

Used to be that little Miss America bathed a doll's head in vinegar and wrapped it in paper, emulating Jill. Now little Miss America, about real heads, heads of the injured, puts bandages, or applies to other injured the puzzling "figure 8" bandage with the adeptness of a trained nurse.

Used to be—but, pshaw! It isn't—any more!

Home-Making and the Care of Children Is an Important Part of the Girl Scout's Training Course.



that open to the real baby she now "plays with." My! What a pout you would surely evoke! Push a good thing along is the excellent slogan the girl scout army is marching under, and the organization, consequently, is making great strides. New troops are being formed every day in widely separated parts of the country. Soon the army of inchoate cooks, little mothers, nurses, seamstresses and housekeepers will reach six figures. Under Mrs. Rippin's directions the scouts are taught to plan, purchase, prepare, cook and serve complete meals, exercising economy in both the buying and the using of the food. They are instructed in the care of baby, making a better mother, some say, than the natural parent whose

After Learning How to Bathe and Dress a Baby, Virginia Campbell, Aged 12, Said Babies Were Superior to Dolls as Playthings.



maternal instinct sometimes reacts to the harm of the infant. As nurses for emergencies the girls have shown themselves to be wizards of the bandage, manipulating the difficult figure "8" and head bandage with the facility of trained and experienced nurses. But let Mrs. Rippin tell you in her own words of the work she is carrying on: "I feel sure," said Mrs. Rippin, "that the girl scout program of training followed out on the large scale made possible by their organization, will exert a powerful influence on thousands of homes in this country. With 35,000 taking systematic training now, and thousands of new ones beginning each month, the cumulative effect must be tremendous.

Scouts Cooked 5-Course Dinner

"The girl scout movement is really woman's job cut down to girl size. It has invented no new material, but endeavors to supplement and re-enforce other agencies, such as home, school and church. Democracy is the keynote of the whole movement; rich and poor may benefit from it alike. Through organization the poorer girls can get advantages, such as beautifully equipped summer camps, which otherwise would be impossible for them, and the rich girls can learn lessons of democracy and teamwork, scarcely taught in their homes or private schools.

"While the movement places sufficient emphasis on outdoor diversions to insure adequate opportunity for physical development, the fundamental idea is to train the girls to be really efficient mothers, home-makers and citizens. In this respect lies the chief importance of the girl scout organization, although it is sometimes overlooked by the public, because domestic work is not so spectacular as outdoor activities. By far the larger part of the scout program consists of these steady, quiet training courses, which enroll all of the members throughout the national organization.

"To emphasize the practical results which are being achieved, we frequently arrange demonstrations at which the girls can show their parents and friends what they have learned from scouting. At one of these held recently, in New York city, the scouts presented a play, the plot of which necessitated the practice of all first aid and housekeeping activities taught in the program of training. In addition, concrete and most appetizing proof of our culinary training was presented in the form of a full five-course dinner, planned, purchased, prepared, cooked and served by four of the New York scouts who hold the 'golden eaglet,' the highest award given by the organization.

Did "Yeoman Work" During War

"The 'golden eaglet' is won by attaining a fixed standard of efficiency in 21 subjects, for each of which a merit badge is awarded. These badges are sewn on the sleeve of the uniform like a chevron and are much coveted by the scouts. The subjects are chosen to cover both the physical development and domestic training branches of the girl scout program. There are merit badges in pioneering, signaling, pathfinding, buging, athletics, swimming, nature study, bird study, first aid, child nursing, home nursing, cooking, sewing, housekeeping, personal and public health, and several other subjects of practical significance.

"Just as the domestic training courses make the girls efficient in the home, the courses in civics and public health are designed to train them to think of the conditions in their communities and cities. Young as it is in America, the organization's records are full of incidents showing the valuable aid rendered by the scouts during times of emergencies, such as the influ-

enza epidemic last year, and in more usual forms of public service, such as taking the census, selling Liberty bonds, preparing and serving school lunches, and similar public spirited activities. More than \$20,000 worth of Liberty bonds were sold by these four golden eaglet girl scouts of New York city alone, while four other girls of 14 and 15 years of age, of troop 33, that city, were presented 'thanks badges' for services extending at least a year in each case. All alone, one of these scouts made and served cocoa to 75 crippled children twice a week; two piloted blind persons daily to and from a home for the blind, while the fourth served as waitress for 30 people at a settlement.

"In first aid and hospital work the girl scouts' proficiency is little short of astonishing. They make a hospital bed as expertly and almost as swiftly as a professional nurse. They know the proper procedure for all the more common injuries and the antidotes for poisons. At the demonstration they bandaged very spry and happy looking 'patients' in many different ways, without hesitation doing difficult head bandages and the 'figure 8,' which many professional nurses find troublesome. Not satisfied to stop there, they went out on the street, borrowed a baby and scrubbed him."

Scouts Are Also Publishers

From 1914 to 1917 Mrs. Rippin was chief probation officer of Philadelphia, where she supervised the probation work of five courts and developed her staff to 365 workers who made intensive investigations of all who came before the courts. Mrs. Rippin was especially interested in the work among women offenders and it was under her supervision that the Philadelphia Municipal Detention Home for Women Offenders was established. When the war came on and the government was faced with many unprecedented problems in regard to the mobilization areas, Raymond D. Fosdick asked Mrs. Rippin to supervise the work among the women and girls of the mobilization areas of the Southwest. In 1918 she was called to Washington to direct the entire section on women and girls, in which capacity her field staff collected more than a half million dollars and gave individual care to more than 38,000 delinquent women.

Characteristically, Mrs. Rippin went to the bottom of the situation her field staff uncovered. A thorough analysis of 6000 of the 38,000 cases was made, which showed that 56 per cent. of them were below the age of 18 and that they came from homes with the most limited opportunities. The results of this intensive case study convinced Mrs. Rippin that much more time and effort should be given to the prevention of delinquency than to its cure, and so she made a detailed study of the programs offered for adolescent girls. This investigation led her to the conviction that the activities offered by the girl scouts would serve as the best prevention of delinquency in any community, besides affording every girl who joined the movement inestimable opportunities for training and development.

More than 86,000 girls are now enrolled in the Girl Scouts of America, including troops in the Philippines and Hawaii, while new members are being recruited at the rate of 5000 per month. To direct the activities of this army of girls, 8000 leaders are required, and hundreds of local councils must be co-ordinated and kept smoothly functioning by Mrs. Rippin and her staff. In addition to sustaining a highly efficient organization, national headquarters publishes a monthly magazine, the American Girl; a 500-page handbook, Scouting for Girls, which is a most complete book on camping; Campward Ho! and a score of manuals and pamphlets.

Qualify for a Golden Eaglet a Girl Scout Must Be Able to Plan, Purchase, Prepare, Cook and Serve a Complete Dinner—and, Afterward, Wash the Dishes.

the old woman who lived in a shoe had consulted Mrs. Jane Deeter Rippin she would have known just what to do. For, many as the offspring of the dame of the nursery are, they would make only a handful for Mrs. Rippin—who knows what to do! Under the late woman's care and attention are 86,000 girls who might be playing at dolls and toy stoves or at mimicking a nurse or doctor. Which mothers believed, was recreation, suitable enough, for little girls to have. But Mrs. Rippin has made these same girls not only useful, but has aroused greater interest in their diver-

sion by training them as little mothers, nurses, housekeepers, cooks and plyers of the needle. The results have been amazing! Ask any of the neat and trim girls budding about you in girl scout uniform what they think of the training. Every mother's daughter of them will say: "Training? Please don't use that word. It sounds too much like day school. Why, we are only taught to play! Only, it is such interesting play!" Better ask one of them, say Miss Virginia Campbell, 12-year-old New York city "Golden Eaglet" of Girl Scout Troop "A," if she wouldn't prefer a nice dolly with eyes