

an outlet. The Captain soothed and comforted him, until his sobbing ceased, and then he talked to him as Harris had never been talked to before. No one knows what was said, but at last they understood one another.

From that time Harris was the Captain's shadow. There was nothing he wouldn't do or give up for him, and his conduct, all the rest of the time out, was so irreproachable that the Boys began to notice him, the more generous of them to befriend him, and all who took the trouble to get acquainted with him, voted him a first-rate fellow "since he got doused."

The next fall, after they got home from camp, the Captain, learning that Harris was willing to work, got him a place in a printing office where he is now employed. He is generally steady and faithful, only occasionally breaking out after his old fashion. He is not a saint or a hero, by any means, but he *is* a changed Boy, and all the other fellows say that "camp was just the making of Harris."

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The Company Band.

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AFTER four years' successful experience, I feel that perhaps a few practical hints on starting and conducting a Company Band may be useful to any Officer who contemplates establishing one in his Company.

Most B.B. Officers know, either from hearsay or from experience, the great amount of harm that is done by a badly managed Band. How often have we heard of the insubordination of a Band at a critical moment, the Boys perhaps refusing to play, or to stop playing, or to play a certain piece as ordered. Such a Band in a Company cannot but have a very evil effect on the rest of the Boys. Many efforts have been made to overcome this difficulty, but a large number have failed. I fear that insubordination is often caused by the Boys being allowed to get the idea that the Company cannot do without them. This idea is frequently fostered by the too great leniency of Officers on account of their not wishing to lose a good player, an offence that would not go unpunished in the Company being overlooked in the Band.

Taking for granted that you have sufficient funds to start and carry on a Band, I would advise the getting of the best instruments, such as are used in the Army; although more expensive at first they are cheaper in the long run; and, what is still more important, they produce a finer tone.

Many B.B. Officers advocate one of the Lieutenants acting as instructor; but my experience teaches me that a competent professional Bandmaster is better. Boys have a great respect for a man who is paid to teach them, and regard the practice more as a lesson. Never, however, allow the Bandmaster to be present alone. One or more Officers should always be on parade, to open with prayer, inspect the instruments and call the Roll.

Having engaged your Bandmaster and obtained your instruments, the next step is to select the Boys. In order to prevent any jealousy that might arise from the choice being made by the Officers, the wisest plan is to leave it entirely in the hands of the Bandmaster who will distribute the instruments. The Officer in charge should then explain that all Boys are on trial for, say, eight weeks; and if, at the end of that time, they

do not shew sufficient progress their places will be taken by others.

A list of rules drawn up on the following lines, should be handed to each Boy:—

1. Members must be members of the Company.
2. Members must take the greatest care of all instruments and music entrusted to them.
3. All members must practise at home.
4. There must be strict attention during the lesson, and no instrument may be played between the pieces.
5. Any member missing two lessons in succession without a good and satisfactory reason shall forfeit his instrument.
6. No instrument shall be sounded either coming to or going from the lesson.
7. Members must parade in Band-Cap and Belt, unless otherwise ordered.
8. Members must pay an Annual Subscription of 6d. towards the expenses of the Band.

The breaking of any of the above Rules renders a member liable to instant dismissal from the Band.

Not only at practice, but at all times, the Boys should be made to thoroughly understand that the Band is not a pastime, but a business and an education, which is to be of use to them in after life; for to work without this object is a waste of time both for Officers and Boys. In order to prevent the too prevalent idea among Band Boys that they are superior to the rest of the Company, the practice and Company Drill should not be on the same night. All should drill together in the usual way, the Boys parading in ordinary caps, but in Band caps on practice nights or on special occasions. In this way Band Boys get the same amount of drill and receive the same amount of discipline as the rest of the Company.

A great mistake to be avoided is that of being too anxious to parade the Band as soon as possible. This anxiety is more often on the part of the Officers than the Boys. Let it be the object of both, however long it may take to accomplish it, that when the Band does appear it may gain praise and not meet with ridicule.

Again, do not parade the Band too often on drill nights; once a month is quite often enough. Give the Boys always to understand that the Band is not essential to the Company, and that, at all times, it must be subservient to it. "Company first, Band second."

Never be afraid of dismissing any Boy from the Band who shows the slightest sign of insubordination, whether a good player or not. Rather, by far, weaken your Band for a time than your influence over your Boys; for such a spirit spreads like wildfire; and, unless dealt with promptly and severely, will do an untold amount of harm. One or two painful examples are sure to be necessary at first; but you will never repent having acted with firmness, and you will find, moreover, that you create a high standard of discipline in your Band, which will then become a source of strength, instead, as is too often the case, of weakness to your Company.

Should this paper fall under the eye of any Officer who contemplates starting a Band, or of one who finds his Band a source of worry and annoyance instead of a pleasure and a help, I strongly advise him to conduct it on the lines I have endeavoured to lay down. They are thoroughly practical, and have not only been tried, but are working with marked success in the Company with which I am connected.