

BOY SCOUTS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The development of the scheme of boy scouts has assumed large proportions, and has gone beyond what had been expected on its first initiation six months ago. It was started with the idea that its chief points might form useful additions to the present attractions of training held out to boys by the different organizations, such as boys' brigades, Y.M.C.A., boys' clubs, &c., but it has been found in practice that a large number of lads have preferred to band themselves together as scouts, independent of existing organizations, and, though this is, in itself, a good sign that the movement is popular amongst the boys themselves, at the same time it lays the scheme open to misunderstanding or misdirection. In consequence of this, the executive now propose to extend a system which has already obtained in several large centres, by forming a boy scouts' committee in each large town. This committee would take cognizance of all patrols and troops within its district; it would appoint the scout masters and award the badges of classification to scouts; would make arrangements for camps and parades, &c., and generally help in the matter of establishing clubs and fitting out the boys with equipment.

Two travelling inspectors have been appointed by the central executives, whose business it is to visit, free of charge, any centre requiring their services, to give advice and suggestions, to conduct tests, and generally to regulate administrations on a recognized standard. This, it is hoped, will introduce method and system through the numerous branches which are now spreading over Great Britain. These inspectors are Mr. W. G. Wakefield and Mr. Eric Walker, for the north and south respectively.

Progress of the movement is everywhere evident, and in each of the Colonies branches are already being established, with the prospect of further development. The scheme has also been taken up in Germany by a strong committee of eminent representative men, whose delegate has already visited London with a view to taking up all information on the subject. The handbook has also been translated into Russian and Norwegian. It has, therefore, become necessary to establish some kind of system in the conduct of the organization, and it is hoped that the suggested method of the decentralization of administration into the hands of local committees will have the desired effect, and will give them a practical means for doing useful work.