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TO BE---OR NOT TO BE

Concluding an article commenced in the August issue by
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(By now I expect you think I have run amok, but have patience it will all knit together later!)

Now I come to the notes taken from B.P.'s OUTLOOK. He was talking of a wonderful Brotherhood, The White Brothers of the Sahara, and B.P. describes them as a kind of revival of the Knights Crusaders. They were ready to fight in the defence of peaceful folk. Will readers read that second paragraph again and again. It has "something". It is likened to the Scout Movement, they came into it of their own desire to do something for their kind without thought of reward. SO LONG AS THE SPIRIT IS THERE, THE MOVEMENT IS ALRIGHT.

And there we have it in a nutshell. Now to gather up the threads. I have been in Scouting for over thirty two years, and a large part of that was spent as a Deep Sea Scout, just roaming around the world visiting Troops all over the globe. And what an experience it has been! Just recalling places I have visited Scouts, there is Canada, United States, France, South America, West Africa, South Africa, East Africa, Fiji, Ceylon, India, China, Hong Kong, Burma, Greece, Palestine, and last but not least our own Australia. I feel that when you meet all these other chaps in their own settings (you realise just what the word Brotherhood means.

I suppose that most people have heard of the phrase "been bitten by a bug." I often apply that phrase to Scouting. It is as though you have been bitten by a bug. You are either in it whole heartedly or not in it at all. It is no good being lukewarm about Scouting.

Listening in to a radio pro-

gramme the other day, I found that it was a session given over to Scouts and Guides. The announcer gave our Movement a tremendous plug, and then he had one or two Scouts up to the microphone and asked them why they had joined up as Scouts. I was a bit disturbed by the answers. The first said that he just hadn't anything better to do. The other said "Oh Mum sent me along." Asked what they thought of Scouting, the answer was "Oh, it's O.K. I guess" and the other "I like it alright". It wasn't so much what they said, as the way they said it.

A few months ago, a Venture was put on for Senior Scouts to the Barrington Tops. The thing flopped for lack of applications. Then I pick up a "Pix" magazine, and read of the "Outward Bound" Movement. It gave a picture of boys crossing a bridge which they had built, and another of the boys climbing up over a steep rock about twenty foot high. I was really astounded to find that these boys had actually paid quite a large sum of money to undergo this Course. Their last venture was to go to the top of Barranjoey Head, then make their way to Gosford, where they had to get the signature of the Sergeant in Charge, thence to Liverpool, where they had to do the same, and then back to Camp. All they had was 3d. in their pockets. Now forty boys joined up on that Course!

Now what I do think about this set up is this. Here we have a comparatively New Movement, one might say copied along our lines, but where the boys have to pay large sums of money to be taught a bit of pioneering, and they simply lap it up. Here in our Movement, we put on a