

kept spinning and driven along by whips. Most children possessed hoops, wooden ones with sticks by girls and iron ones with iron sticks and a loop attached to the hoop were driven along at great speed and a clanking noise by the boys. I remember a collection of hoops hanging up in an outhouse of different sizes which I had outgrown one after another. They accompanied one to school and out for walks. Later scooters gradually took their place and fairy bicycles.

Another game favoured by girls and some boys was hop scotch, a small stone had to be kicked from one numbered square or paving stone to another without putting the other foot down. Toy reins were often taken out by smaller children to play horses. Some had bright coloured knitted ones with round bells run on the wide strip across the chest between the arm holes, sometimes there was a whip covered with a piece and a bell at the end. Older children owned reins made of leather. It was usual to take turns at being driver or horse.

[f.13] I had a large family of dolls of which I was very fond. Some were jointed with pretty faces, others had bodies made of kid which we liked but the most unsatisfactory had faces made of wax. These were pretty when new but soon lost their colour and if exposed to sunshine melted and caused much grief. I had a little musical box with a coloured picture on it which played two tunes when the little handle was turned. One tune was "Believe me of those endearing young charms" which was one of the tunes played by the church chimes.

Every Thursday evening during the summer months the Band of the Volunteers, later called the Territorials, used to play either in the Horse Fair or North Bar from seven o'clock for about two hours. If not in the town they played in the grounds of one of the big houses near. I remember being taken to hear them in several of these gardens. In the Bloxham Road at the house "Springfields", now a school, then lived in by a family named Vanner. Two houses in the Oxford Road, one South Bank, lived in then by Mr Stockton and family, later by Dr Penrose and now a Nurses Home, and also in the grounds of Windmill House then known as "Perrys Nursery". On the north side of the town they sometimes played in the grounds of Neithrop House. The other large house with suitable gardens would be "Woodgreen" in the Broughton [Road] but I do not remember going there. The town concerts were spoilt by children who ran screaming round the band stand. This wooden structure was erected earlier in the People enjoyed visiting the gardens as well as listening to the Band, which played very well. The latter part