

" We speak of brave men. Yes, these men are brave ! If the people at home could see the conditions under which our fellows fight, and how they die, I swear that every head would uncover to the colours of any regiment bearing the name of a battle, because that name had been won through the blood of real heroes.

" For example, some colours will have ' Marne ' upon them. I know what deeds were done, what lives were given, what wounds were received to have that one name so inscribed. Believe me, the Victoria Cross is won over and over again in a single day.

" They are brave. What if you were to see how the wounded act after the excitement of a battle ? They suffer their wounds, great and small, without a murmur ; they get their wounds dressed and give consent to have their limbs amputated just as if they were going to have their hair cut.

" They are gloriously brave. Men who have been in the thick of the fight all day, seen their chums wounded and killed, their own lives not worth a second's insurance, still cook their food and go off to sleep, and, most wonderful of all, go back to the thick of it next day.

" It is Sunday. In the evening we had a service in a barn. A great crowd of the officers and men collected. The scene was very impressive, with the place only lit with camp candles,