

OVER THE TOP.

(Written for "The Listening Post")

(Front Line Trenches)

Foreword.—He came to the hospital to visit me, and gee! but he was keen. I think he must have been a Jew, for he didn't make a noise like loose money when he walked, and I noticed when he proffered his cigarette-case there were only two in it. The following ensued:

"Did you ever go over the top?" he said,
 "Did you ever go over the top? Did you sweep along, an unbroken line, With bayonets gleaming and eyes ashine, And a feeling that went to your head like wine, The time you went over the top?"
 "Did you ever go over the top?" he said,
 "Did you ever go over the top? Did the flare-lights shine on the glorious sight As they stabbed the Stygian blackness of night; Did you thrill with a feeling of savage delight, The time you went over the top?"
 "Did you ever go over the top?" he said,
 "Did you ever go over the top? Oh, tell me!" he said, "how you held up your head Of the things that you thought and things that you said Of your glorious pride in the men that you led, The time you went over the top?"
 "Oh, yes, I've been over the top," I said,
 "You bet I've been over the top. But I felt alone in the flare-lights glare, And Mauser bullets were singeing my hair, And my knees were knocking together for fair, The night I went over the top."
 "Oh, yes, I've been over the top," I said,
 "You bet I've been over the top. But it's lonesome out there in no man's land, And you miss the crowd and you miss the band, And your feet take root in the place you stand,
 "Oh, yes, I've been over the top," I said,
 "You bet I've been over the top. There were yards of wire got attached to my clothes,

And how I got out of it God only knows!—
 A secret I fear He will never disclose
 Till I'm finally "over the top".
 "Oh, yes, I've been over the top," I said,
 "You bet I've been over the top. The artillery raised a continuous roar,—
 They'd been at it, it seemed, for a week or more,—
 And, mate, I was sweating at every pore,
 The night I went over the top."
 "Oh, yes, I've been over the top," I said,
 "You bet I've been over the top. The noise and confusion, the shouts and the groans
 Had paralyzed action and frozen my bones
 When a fellow went past me,—I think it was Jones,
 He was headed back over the top."
 "Oh, yes, I've been over the top," I said,
 "You bet I've been over the top—
 And since Jones had a blighty and wasn't napoo,
 "If they're handing them out," I thought, "me for one
 And blest it I didn't—in fact I got two,
 The night I went over the top."
 L. McK.

(Note.—We regret that the young Officer who wrote the above went "finally over the top" a few days later, leading his men gallantly, and falling mortally wounded when in sight of the objective.)

OWED TO THE FLU.

Unscrupulous, exacting you're worse than shot and shell.
 You claim the best among us to fill your ghastly maw.
 Our bones you make to ache, that feeling known too well
 Your ravishings upon our lives seems to know no law.
 You leave us weak and feverish and quite susceptible
 To chill that brings pneumonia immediate in its wake
 You're a stealthy filthy enemy, and one contemptible
 Your 'grippe' is one the strongest man has difficulty to shake.
 A fighting chance is all we ask but you are loath to give.
 Your appetite insatiate is, and death alone can purge
 Your greedy maw of that desire to fell the ones that live
 You're cursed not once but thousand times in every funeral dirge.

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