

Correspondence.

The "Bulletin" does not necessarily associate itself with the views expressed by our correspondents.

(To the Editor.)

I was intensely interested in reading the three letters in this week's issue of the Bulletin, which presumably were meant to be replies to the gentle letter written by "A Lady Member" of the Pierrot Troupe.

I will take the first written by Whitwell H. Ranson. This gentleman did not attend the first meeting, and when approached about joining the Troupe replied that he was very busy, as he contemplated matrimony, and could not spare the time. I quite agree with him that the matter of the Troupe was treated in far too hole and corner fashion, but as he refused to have anything to do with it, I don't think he is qualified to speak.

The second letter is from S.Q.M.S. Sealy, who attended the first meeting, and also I believe one, if not two, rehearsals. He was elected on the Committee, but I think he will agree with me in saying that at the Rehearsals it was very difficult to get male voices; in fact, I think there was only one other candidate besides those chosen. The female element was in great strength, but for a Pierrot show I think the best were chosen. Several ladies who were present had very good concert platform voices, which are not needed in a Pierrot Troupe, but lacked those little points which are essential for the latter.

As regards the expenses, S.Q.M.S. Lunn handed in a statement to the Adjutant, who, if he sees fit, will publish it in the Bulletin. Many of the Office were sceptical about attending the performance at the Y.M.C.A., but judging by the remarks which were passed on it from the Officer i/c Records downwards, it was an unqualified success.

I was asked at the first rehearsal to take the Troupe in hand, but owing to circumstances over which I had no control I was unable to do so. Mr. G. F. Low was then approached, but his time was so filled up that he found he could not do himself justice, so he, too, resigned. As things were getting from bad to worse Lunn, Hunt and Harris, with Mrs. Payne, Miss Parrick, and Miss Vander Meerschen very pluckily decided to try and carry on. They held numerous rehearsals at each other's homes, and the result was an excellent show given at the Y.M.C.A. Central Hall in November. Special thanks are due to Cpl. Cranston for kindly taking Miss Parrick's place at the last moment, as he had previously resigned from the Troupe. Cranston's letter is a very fair one, but I would like to tell him that the Office i/c Records told the Adjutant that every facility was to be given to the members of the Troupe to get away, but owing to demobilisation matters, this was not always possible, and when S.Q.M.S. Lunn was sent to Rhyl and the Dispatching Section were working

night and day, it was thought best that the Troupe should close, so the Adjutant wrote to the eight hospitals in which performances had been promised, regretting that the Troupe would be unable to fulfil engagements.

Before I close I should like to thank one and all of the Troupe who tried to carry on under great difficulties, and would ask your readers to remember that this is a Military Office, and not a big Departmental Store.

L. E. CANDY.
Lieut.

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(To the Editor.)

I must have misled several of your readers by my letter in last week's Bulletin.

Regarding "expenses," all information can be had from the Treasurer. As the writers say, the first meeting went very well; but as many were against a "Concert Party" a Pierrot Troupe was decided on: it was learnt that only a few members were required, so that we had to dispense with many willing artists. "The Lady" was appointed as a member of the Music Committee only!

Since one writer wishes me to be candid I will be so. I did not insinuate that because one member had left we could not carry on. There is plenty of talent in the Office and the party need not want for suitable artists.

The Troupe has only been supported by Lieut. Candy, and after his good and willing work I am sorry it has had to close down.

After the concert at the Y.M.C.A., Officer i/c Records sent word that we could get the necessary time off for the concerts at the hospitals, but when on Dec. 30th we had a concert at Tooting, and required the boys to leave at 4.30, they were not granted the time, so the concert had to be cancelled at an hour's notice (which must have inconvenienced the hospital). So with a view to the likelihood of a recurrence of this it was best to cancel all future engagements.

ELLA VANDER MEERSCHEN.
("A Lady Member").
R.2.A.4.

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(To the Editor.)

I have always contended that to combat a lady journalist was taking an unfair advantage, but the letter signed "A Lady Member," written in reference to the C.R.O. Concert Party, calls for a reply.

During the winter of 1917, the former Concert Party held a very successful season, giving many concerts to Hospitals in and around London, besides handing over £15 to the Canadian Red Cross Society and a considerable sum to the more or less successful sports which were conducted by the Office Athletic Association.

It was considered that the summer months did not afford the best time for holding indoor concerts, and so the Party adjourned its efforts till the fall of last year.

When the recommencement of activities were mooted and a meeting called, I believe that some sixteen members of the military and civilian staffs attended for

the purpose of reorganisation, such number not including at least two of the seven persons who conducted the concert held at the Central Y.M.C.A. in November last.

Eventually, after considerable rehearsing, the concert was held, and was, both professionally and financially, a success. Although a financial statement has not been issued, the receipts must have been high, and therefore much money must have been available for the very excellent purpose for which the concert was ostensibly held, the entertaining of Wounded Soldiers.

However, after a visit by a portion of the Party to one Hospital, this cyclonic Concert Party ceased to exist.

I cannot believe that "A Lady Member" would really have us think that its demise was due to one of its members leaving the Office. One man shows have, like post boys and dead donkeys, long been relegated to the past with which alone they have anything in common.

Moreover, when a visit to a second Hospital was at hand, I was asked if I would assist the Party, and consented to do so, only to discover that when the program was completed, the name of the Hospital at which we were to perform had been inadvertently mislaid.

There are many able artistes in the Office who would willingly do their bit in the very laudable work of entertaining the Wounded Boys, and the arrangement of a program cannot seriously be considered as the reason for not fulfilling a contract that the C.R.O. Concert Party should have been in honor bound to carry out.

I may refer later to the financial aspect of the situation.

Thanking you for your space, I am,
Yours, etc.,

(Cpl.) EDWARD S. MARTIN,
R.1. "C."

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(To the Editor.)

Re Editorial article in Bulletin. It reads as if the Editor was surprised that there was any reason for soldiers to "grouse."

There is every justification for growling. We are in a position of seeing men, whose service of months can be counted on your fingers, being discharged, while men of four and a half years' service and others who are close up to them are being retained.

If you dare voice your opinions of unfair play you are a student of "Boloism" or a Bolshevic.

It is an injustice to men who first answered the call to be treated as mere pawns. They should be given the option of "staying on" if they so desire.

ONE OF THE "BOLSHEVICS"

Dear "Bolchey,"—

I am afraid there is not much substance in your remarks. Kindly read "Editorial" again, paying special attention to the following extracts from same:—"Intrinsically the recent processions and meetings held as a protest against the slow methods of demobilisation were of interest to the extent that they reminded the people

(Continued on page 3, column 3.)