

## KISMET

I watched him as he sat at his ease,  
 So care-free and handsome, and gay,  
 With never a thought for the morrow  
 And never a sigh for today.  
 Flusned with the vintage of life he sat,  
 The image of youth and of grace,  
 When the breeze through the open window  
 Swept the Shadow across his face :  
 The shadow from out the swaying palms  
 Fell sinister, ugly and grim,  
 Blanching the bloom of his youthful cheek  
 In the lamp-light grown pallid and dim.  
 And I saw there scarred on his temple  
 The cicatrice baleful and raw,  
 The mark of the death-wound o'erspreading  
 His forehead, his cheek and his jaw.  
 I banished the thought as prepost'rous :  
 I sneered at the Finger of Fate :  
 I thought my fancies were womanish,  
 But nothing had power to abate  
 The fear that had clutched at my heart-strings,  
 The chill that crept over my mind,  
 The knowledge to me had been given  
 Of seeing where others were blind.

T'was here, in the path of the path of the tempest  
 Of steel that had swept on ahead,  
 In the midst of stark desolation,  
 I found him stretched out cold and dead.  
 And I saw there scarred on his temple  
 The cicatrice baleful and raw,  
 The mark of the death-wound o'er spreading  
 His forehead, his cheek and his jaw.

J. W. C.

## ADVICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

By « Sister Smiff. »

## Perplexed.

Que. « To settle a wager, could you tell me whether our new 20 inch howitzer is fired by fuse or electricity ? »

Ans. Neither. It is necessary to wait until a thunder-storm blows along and let the lightning strike it.

## Chislehurst.

Que. « How is the Military Cross gained ? »

Ans. Just put your head above parapet level and Fritz will see that you get a Military Cross.

## Highflier.

Que. « I am going to join the Balloon Section of the R. F. C.  
 Is there any danger going up in one ? »

Ans. None. Only coming down.

## Those Runners Again !

1st Runner : « This tea's rotten. Too much *aqua pura* in it. »

2nd Runner : « Oh no ! Our cooks are too decent for anything like that. Of course if the M.O. was watching them they'd have to, but they wouldn't put it in every day like this. I know ! »

« Charge your glasses, » said the Sergeant-Major.  
 « The toast is The King »

After the patriotic murmur had subsided one sergeant was heard expostulating with a waiter :

« Why didn't you fill my glass full ? I only drank the Prince of Wales. »

Pte. R. Jones (a little deaf on guard at Headquarters at midnight hears footsteps approaching, turns quickly and shouts :

« Halt ! Who goes there ? »

« Army Chaplain. »

« Pass Charlie Chaplain, — all's well. »

ADVERTISEMENTS  
HUNTING IN FRANCE

Season Always Open

No « Licence » Required

*Scientific Description of Game* : — Koo, Itchy Marks I-II-III-IV.

*Information as to Habits, etc.* : —

The four known varieties of these industrious creatures, are expected to be unusually prolific this year. Not of any recognised value as food, or for their pelts, but are eagerly sought for on all spare occasions by all ranks. They provide one of the most absorbing pastimes practised by troops contiguous to the line. Keep the men of our armies from wondering about who is winning the war. Banish melancholy and prevent silent brooding. The Y.M.C.A.'s one serious rival as a means of diversion. An end to ennui. Restore interest in « life. » Adopted as pets by many members of the B.E.F. Soldiers refuse to be parted from them. Carry them about wherever they go. They generally prefer to feed an hour after bed-time, but will dine at almost any time. Latest news of these pets is eagerly « read » daily.

## WAR TRAINING BY MAIL

The soldier of the future will receive a much more varied and extensive course of instruction than has hitherto been considered necessary to fit him for war. In consideration of this need a well known and deservedly popular correspondence school has added *Scientific Extermination* to its list of subjects.

Home students — those whose occupation and circumstances do not permit of their taking advantage of this excellent opportunity to acquire one of the most absorbing if exacting professions — are earnestly advised to study the following text-books :—

*The shovel, how to use.*

*Pack carrying, its history and purpose.*

*Trench cookery.*

*Bivvy architecture.*

*Dug-out housekeeping.*

*Artistic wire weaving.*

*Drinking water and its deficiencies.* Including.

*S. R. D. As a substitute.*

*Batmanship on the battlefield.*

*Trench ailments, how to acquire.*

*How to deceive doctors.* Including

*Counteractants for the number nine.*

*Social life on active service (Estaminating — Crown and Anchor,*

*Mademoiselles and other Games of Chance.)*

*The complete puttee guide*

*How to replace lost equipment also*

*Rustling in all its phases.*

*Souvenirs, how to acquire.*

*Horse wrangling and mule maltreatment.*

*The whole ration question.* (An exhaustive and exhausting study).

*Shell-zone chinook and near-French.* (With vocabulary)

*Brazier engineering and trench plumbing.*

*The art of bomb-proofing.*

These publications will shortly be on sale at the office of « The Post. »

Pte. Jack Mc Lean says he hears that men up to 50 are to be called up and then the girls are to be called up. Jack is wondering when our first draft is due.