

Canadian Hospital

GRANVILLE
CHATHAM HOUSE

News

YARROW HOME
TOWNLEY CASTLE

VOL. IV

RAMSGATE, FEBRUARY 24, 1917

No. 8

EDITORIAL

NEVER NO MORE

Back to the army again, Sergeant,
Back to the army again.

Kipling.

THE British temperament is as mysterious as electricity, and as subtle as the moonbeams. One has to brush past an incomprehensible exterior to find an internal loyalty and an indomitable will in the cause of the Empire. The Briton will fight his battles grumbling all the while; the Briton will never relax his stranglehold though murmuring anathemas upon all and sundry that brought him into the game. The British breed is the same under the Southern Cross or beneath the Northern Lights, mid the fogs of the Mother Isles, or under the scorching sun of tropical deserts. After every war the Briton takes off his uniform and says, emphatically: "Never No More." He did it after the South African affair; he has done it after every little affair the British have had "wiping something off a slate." From all these little affairs ex-service men have floated to the ends of Empire, and have entered enthusiastically the avenues of peaceful pursuits. They are proud of the part they played in these little affairs, but, "Never No More." Yet, let the tocsin of war fall on their ears and they come smartly to attention, and hasten to the nearest recruiting depot. In this last big affair it was noticeable in the first days how eagerly old service men rallied to the colours. They came with all the earmarks of military discipline, and with the enthusiasm born of participation in famous campaigns. They had forgotten their emphatic disavowal of military obligation and were only anxious to play their parts again in the making of British history.

Not long ago, a youthful Canadian soldier was discharged after having done his bit, through strenuous months on the western front. Recovering from his disability he re-enlisted. He could not keep out of the great game into which he had once given his heart. We repeat that the mystery of the British temperament is too deep for solution. "Never No More" from a Britisher means "Ever, Yes, Always."

O. C. J. W.