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THE ROMANCE OF AIR-FIGHTING

Now that thousands have enlisted in the Flying Corps, and other thousands are debating in their minds whether or not to follow their example, a few facts concerning the work of British flying men may prove of special interest. When the War began, flying was a side-line; with all its fascination, it appeared to most people to be of minor importance, compared with the traditional tasks of strategy and the problems involved in the employment of vast bodies of men. Is there anybody alive who still holds that view?

What is the truth of the matter? The flying men will win the War. Victory depends, of course, upon a large number of factors—upon the plans of generals, upon the supply of munitions, upon the use of marvellous inventions (the "tanks," for example), upon finance, food, domestic economy. But the historians of the Great War may conceivably tell us that the final rout of the Central Empires was brought about when airmen in their thousands arrived in France to destroy the enemy communications and cut off the German trench-dwellers from all their sources of supply; and the time has now come when we are realizing that fighting the Prussians in the air is one of the noblest enterprises permitted to the youth of the present day.

The Pilot's Training

There are plenty of handbooks on the subject of practical flying, and no need exists to devote any part of this article to technicalities. The novice, when he reaches the Flying School, will be surprised to

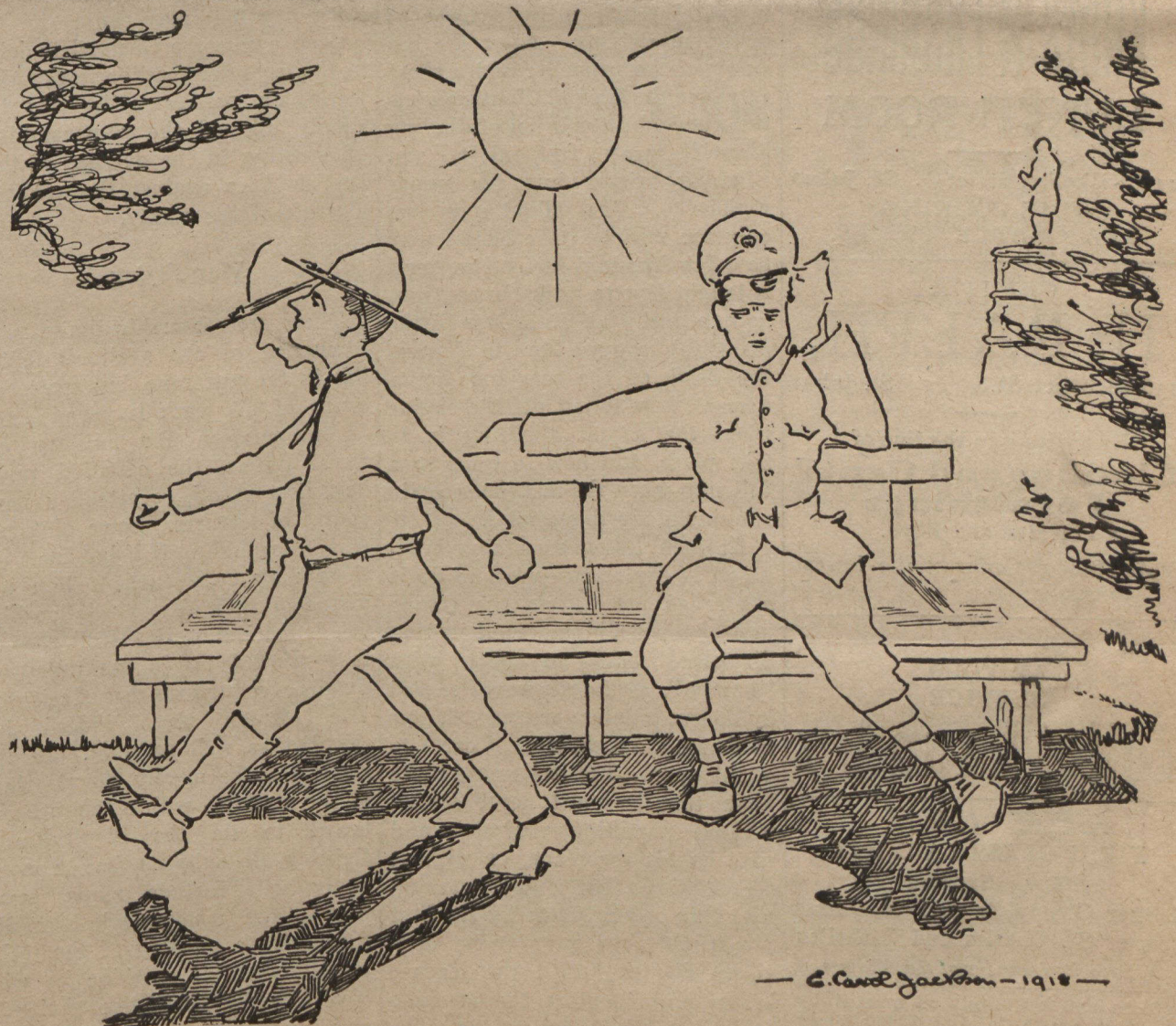
discover what a tremendous array of hints and instructions are given him, but he will be more surprised when he finds how easily they can be understood and remembered, and how simple is the task of mere flying. Later on, when he comes

to study the art of war flying, he will encounter something different—something that really tests his qualifications and decides whether he is worthy to mix with the world's supermen.

The candidate for the post of

fighting airman may be as young as eighteen or nineteen. He should not be much more than thirty-two, the age at which the English football player finds himself knocked out of the selected teams for "Rugger" and "Soccer". It is

MEMORIES OF MONTREAL—90 DEGREES IN THE SHADE.



— G. Carol Jackson — 1918 —

The Height of Envy.