

## Confessions of a Censor

Delightful Bits from the Many Soldiers' Letters Which Pass Under His Eye.

(From a Member of the British Censoring Staff.)

A Certain Postal Station in an Allied Country, Aug. 15, 1916.—One of the oddest things about censoring is the easy way in which one takes to reading other people's private correspondence. Shades of the past, when one averted an honorable eye from the letter lying half open on a friend's (or even an enemy's) desk! And here I sit, because it is war time, before a large table covered with serried rows of letters, with instructions to open them all and search diligently therein for, first, information likely to be useful to the enemy; second, anything likely to discourage recruiting; and third, false information likely to alarm or depress a credulous public.

After one uneasy day I take to it as a duck to water, and the qualms of a lifetime vanish. My inquisitive nose goes impartially into business letters, family letters, love letters and letters written simply to pass away the time. There are more family letters and love letters than any other kind, though I suspect that they are also partly the result of idleness and the franking system.

The little room in which we sit is a cell in the large hive of a hospital in the war zone, and the writers of these letters are either sick or wounded, and their first thought is to write of their safety and welfare. This does not take the form of long descriptions of illness or wounds. The great majority of men linger long and lovingly over the hospital menu, with its four meals a day, and make a grateful reference to the kindness of doctors and nurses, but the cause of their being in hospital is dismissed as a "septic wound," or "that ferocious 'trouble,' the foe of the British soldier, called dysentery." Suffering is rarely mentioned, but most writers seem to prefer wounds to dysentery.

Among many Spartans one, however, stands out who wrote that, baring pneumonia, and a coming "operation" on his "thum," he feels well in himself. Very little comment is made on the country and surroundings, though the writers are probably out of England for the first time. For one reason the patients are carried from ship to bed in a closed ambulance, but even those allowed in the grounds the only subjects worthy of mention are the perpetual sun, "the same as we call in England hot," says one cautious writer, and the "antiques" of the night-gowned inhabitants, which in this sense does not mean antiquities. Only a budding Munchausen, with the willing assistance of idle friends in the ward, occasionally undertakes to comment on the customs of the country to some credulous friend in an English haven.

## HOME!

For everyone there is a place known as home, and it is the duty of someone to make it cheerful and attractive. Perhaps that some one is you.

Now that the evenings are beginning to close in earlier, persons will be more indoors than during the summer months, and now is the time to

**Brighten Up The Home,** and make it pleasant.

Nothing changes the appearance of a place more than

### Wall Paper.

It can be bright, and clean, quiet, and restful, or it may be soiled and so old that the monotony of looking at the pattern for day after day gets on your nerves.

We have a large stock of carefully selected

**Room Papers of the Right Kind with Borderings to Match.**

These are all modern designs, and it will give us pleasure to help you with your decorating problems.

**Come & Inspect Them.**

**ROBERT TEMPLETON,**  
333 WATER STREET.

On the other hand, the sight of electric trams is greeted with delight in scores of letters, and commented on with loving detail.

There are several things which make reading these letters easier than at first seems possible, when one is dismayed by the sight of hundreds of pencil-scratched pages. To begin with, few letters are very long, with the exception of a percentage of rambling love letters, and the formula of beginning and end takes up a certain amount of space. "I write these few lines, hoping to find you in the best of health. As I am glad to say I am in the Pink. (The fact of being in hospital is not allowed to interfere with purity of style.) Right back soon. From your loving soldier husband to my dearest loving wife and darling

children," or "Fondest love from your ever-loving" is the usual beginning and end, with a suitable arrangement of crosses for kisses. Crosses occur in all letters except business ones, and are bestowed on men friends and also on young ladies to whom the writer signs himself "Yours truly."

Between these formulas the censor's eye travels rapidly over a glancing reference to health, a description of the day's routine, with careful analysis of the food, a request for parcels, and a lament for those which have never arrived. Messages to friends and inquiries about the children and the letter is read. Welsh letters are flowery, and Irish letters illiterate, with references to the Holy Mother, and requests to tell innumerable Mikes and Pats and Kates that he was after asking for them. There is another type of letter that is infinitely more trouble. It is well written, in a small hand and very long. The writer does not feel in the Pink, nor are kisses included. He thinks and comments on what he sees and speculates, generally wrong, and gives names, and altogether the censor curses his power of skating on the thin ice of what may not be said.

As for love letters, you may think that knowing they are to be read by the censor reduces them to letters unworthy of the name, missives of an early Victorian propriety. The married man writing a devoted, affectionate letter to his wife upon family matters is far more disturbed at the idea of the censoring to follow than the ardent lover, who lavishes kisses and endearments brazenly throughout the letter. He even writes S. W. A. K., (sealed with a kiss), across the open flap of the envelope, cheerfully unconscious that the censor, who does not include kisses in his war work, performs the office with some mechanical device, or simpler still, a damp rag. He occasionally shakes one's faith by writing identical letters to two or more girls. Love, not being a normal condition, incites him to bashfulness, sometimes he is even untruthful, and quite often fatuous. Certain lovers become literary under the influence of the hospital library, but even this does not excuse the romantic and untruthful soul, who, after the opening formula, "I write these few lines, hoping to find you in the best of health. As I am glad to say I feel in the Pink," included a poem, which he said he had dashed off in an idle moment. It began:—

With purple softness on the gray are set  
My amethystine blossoms on the grass.

Let us hope that the divergence in style makes less impression on the young lady than it does on us. Another young gentleman whom we only knew as Albert wrote to his sister that he could not break off with with Bella, as it would break her heart. After reviewing the situation critically he decides that there is nothing to be done, and that they must remain engaged. "God! how she loves me!" he concludes quite simply. We turn with relief from him to a Maori writing to a fellow-warrior, "God be with us 'til we meet again," he says, "but look out for them dam Turkeys." An excellent sentiment whether the foe be Turk or Hun.

But, whether they treat of love or other matters, these letters leave us in the end with a stronger belief in man's inherent righteousness. This hospital is as other hospitals. The men lying in their cots or shuttling about are recruited from all sorts and kinds. Some of them are good to look upon, some coarse, and some weak-looking; but an overwhelming number seem to be endowed with courage, belief in their cause, and love of home and family. These letters reveal men's minds very much "en deshabille," and if it is an ungrateful task thus to pry into them, what censor in any hospital will ever forget such revelations of patience and courage? Can it fall to touch any one that thousands of men—and rough men, too—still write pitifully affectionate letters to their mothers? There are more letters written to mothers than to wives, sweethearts, or friends. I only echo the hope of the gallant soul who writes back across the seas that "there is happy days in store for us all." Such men have earned victory, and with it happiness.

### Join the Army of Health

Why be a straggler in the rear guard limping along half dead with nerves, chronic indigestion and lower vitality? Desert to-day from the army of General Debility and enroll under the banner of General Good Health. You need assistance? Zoelie is a faithful friend that will put you on your feet again. This famous health tonic supplies in a most pleasant form just those elements which your nerve torn fibres are crying for. Take it for two weeks. And if you cannot report real progress toward renewed health we will refund the purchase price. That's how sure we are of it. So how can you longer trifle with this urgent matter of getting well again? Sold by T. McMurdo & Co., Sole Distributing Agents for Newfoundland.

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

## THE NICKEL "ALWAYS WORTH WHILE."

### Programme for To Day. "THE CLIMBERS"

A powerful five-act social drama from the famous play by CLYDE FITCH. A truly powerful production, without being sensational or overdrawn. GLADYS HANSON plays the part of the wife; GEORGE SOULE SPENCER that of Ned Warren, and WALTER HITCHCOCK that of the husband. Direction of BARRY O'NEILL.

### The Broadway Star Features present "HUSKS."

By JAMES OLIVER CURWOOD, a beautiful three-part drama produced by Vitagraph. Star cast includes CAROLYN BIRCH, ROSE TAPLEY, HARRY NORTHROP and WILLIAM PUMPHREY. Coming—ROBERT EDISON in "MORTMAIN," five act Vitagraph drama; "WHEELS OF JUSTICE" with DOROTHY KELLEY and JAMES MORRISON. TRAVELOGUES, CARTOONS, COMEDIES and SHORT DRAMAS are shown with the BIG FEATURE PROGRAMMES.

### Helping the Bomb Droppers.

In France they are testing a naval bomb-dropping mechanism which makes it virtually impossible for the aviator to miss the object at which he launches a bomb. The invention is intended for use in conjunction with battle-planes, the aerial bombs being dropped through a cone of light.

This powerful illuminant is composed of a ring of high candle-power electric lights. Each lamp is supported in a separate reflector under the hood of the bomb-dropper. The light beams from each lamp across the other beams, and in this manner a concentrated cone of light is produced.

There are several powerful electric lamps available for this purpose, and by means of a switch on the aeroplane the illumination can be cut off as desired.

The bomb-dropper, with its ring of lamps, is suspended at the lower end of a flexible steel cable, and the wires controlling the whole outfit follow this cable also. When necessary the suspension cable is wound up by a power-driven winch, and the bomb-dropper can thus be raised right up into the plane.

This scheme has several distinctive features. For one thing the dropping of the bomb through a circle of light is bound to increase the accuracy of the marksman. Once the target lies in the centre of the circle of light, a missed shot becomes a rarity indeed.

—Tit-Bits.



### Don't Get Sick!

Don't wait until that Cough or Cold develops into the Cough that you are not able to throw off.

If you have contracted a Cough or Cold don't keep on saying, "Oh, it's only a cold; it will wear off after a few days!" That is just where you are making one of the biggest mistakes in your life. Try a bottle of Stafford's Phoradone Cough and Cold Cure and watch results. Price 25c. Postage 5c. extra.

If you have an impression or tightness on your chest, mix equal parts of Camphorated Oil and Stafford's Liniment and apply to the chest on a piece of thick flannel.

Stafford's Phoradone is prepared only by

DR. F. STAFFORD & SON, St. John's, Nfld.

Manufacturers of 3 Specialties: STAFFORD'S LINIMENT, STAFFORD'S PRESCRIPTION "A", STAFFORD'S PHORADONE. sep18.1f

### Your Boys and Girls.

As a rule, indigestion in the nursing mother is caused by such foods as heavy puddings, or underdone pastry, doughnuts, fried foods soaked in fats, made dishes such as croquettes or fritters, pickles and poorly cooked foods. But people differ greatly in their power of digestion, and what will suit one person may upset the next. Overeating may also be a cause of indigestion.

A mixed diet of such digestible and nutritious foods as are readily available, is desirable for the nursing mother. All foods are milk making foods. The foods selected will differ widely according to circumstances, but will all include vegetables, ripe fruits, meats, acorns foods of all kinds, breads, especially graham, whole wheat, corn meal, bran, and simple desserts.

### Everyday Etiquette.

"Please tell me how a widow's card should be engraved?" asked Mrs. Widow.

"A widow is at liberty to retain her husband's Christian name on her card or to substitute for it her own; as, for example, the widow of Henry Smith White may have her cards read either Mrs. Henry Smith White or Mrs. Jane Louise White. You will notice that as a rule the widow uses her maiden surname," answered her friendly neighbour.

## THE EVER POPULAR MILO CORSETS

80

CENTS AT

MILLEY'S

## CLOSING OUT

all our Summer Merchandise by lowering prices in a manner almost unheard of. Many extraordinary specials prepared for to-day and all week.

### Final Clearance of all Summer Goods.

Every prudent shopper should take advantage of our bargain news. Come and get your share of the

SAVINGS AVERAGING FROM A THIRD TO A HALF.

45c. DISH PAN. Our big leader and a big bargain. Special to-day. 29c.	75c. MEN'S SHIRTS. In many patterns, and very newest styles. Come and see our selection. 55c.	\$1.30 WOMEN'S HATS. A very special lot, suitable for fall wear. Your choice . . . . . 50c.
20c. MEN'S TIES. Many different patterns in natty styles, a grand selection and price less than cost . . 10c.	50c. CASTORIA. Will make you well. Price only 35c.	35c. SLOAN'S LINIMENT. One of the best Liniments made. Price to-day . . . . . 29c.
45c. ENAMEL TEA KETTLES. In good quality enamel and price away down. Special . . 35c.	30c. WILLIAMS' TALCUM POWDER . . . . . 25c.	2 IN 1 SHOE POLISH. Regular 10c. . . . . 9c.
	6c. GLASS TUMBLERS. In fine quality glass, offered at a special price . . . . . 4c.	15c. BUTTER DISHES. Something that everybody needs. You had better come early at this price, only . . 10c.

**WE GIVE Travel COUPONS**  
We give Travel Coupons with every cash purchase.

**THE FAIR**  
St. John's Newest Specialty Store.  
Cor. Water and Springdale Streets.

Come and see our 5, 10, 15, 20, 25c. Bargain Counters, which are overloaded with grand bargains.

Advertise in the Evening Telegram

## Preserving PLUMS, DAMSONS And Greengages.

Kellogg's Toasted Corn Flakes. Shredded Whole Wheat Cream of Wheat. Malt Breakfast Food. Grape Nuts. Force.	Heinz Cream of Tomato Soup. Heinz Cream of Celery. Campbell's Soups. Morton's Soups. Edwards' Desiccated Soup. Gong Soups.
---	---

### Green Tomatoes for Pickling.

ELLEMORE TEA. A choice Ceylon Tea imported direct from the gardens. 45c. per pound. 5 lb. lots, 40c. per pound.	Monk & Glass Custard Powder. Pure Gold Quick Tapioca. Instant Postum. Nabob Almond Paste. Knox Gelatine.
--	--

**KOLA TONIC WINE**  
Dr. Emerson's Invalid Port.

**THE ROYAL STORES, Ltd.**