

CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE SPIRIT OF THE TROOPS IS EXCELLENT."

To the Editor of 'TCHUN.

DEAR SGT.-MAJOR LESSELS,
Rather shaky, but coming on strong.
I fooled them, though they did hit at the soft spots—hip, groin, stomach and chest, and a parting shot in the foot. Seemed to graze every organ I have, and passed without fatal damage.
I went over with the first line of the first wave of assault. It's a crime I had no chance to use any of your "dirty tricks," but they got me in 20 yards.

Every surgeon says it is a miracle I am alive. Many of the officers of our course have fallen, including Capt. Platt.

Remember me to the R.S.M. and the other instructors.

Yours sincerely,
G. COSTIGAN.

50, Weymouth Street,
London.

P.S.—I'll be fixed up and back again in four months.

NOTE.—Captain Costigan, D.S.O., M.C., attended the eighth course at the Corps School and was particularly keen on bayonet-fighting. After parade he used to get extra and special lessons, usually called "dirty tricks," from Sgt.-Major Lessels in methods of "disarming and disabling" an opponent.—ED.

ARMY v. CIVIL LIFE.

To the Editor of 'TCHUN.

SIR,—May we encroach on the necessary space in your widely-read columns to express the feelings of the Batmen's Mess on the above subject?

With the exception of Pte. Spurs, whose opinion carries no weight anyhow, we realise at last that we have brains.

In the early days of the great war we never could anticipate whether our beloved masters would wish to wear gumboots or Balaclavas for the Minister of Militia's inspection (and to tell the truth neither did the aforesaid gentlemen themselves). Now, thanks to years of training in polishing shoes and Sam Brownes, that is all changed, and our brains work almost as fast as a policeman's. The old friends who knew us in 'Varsity, on Exchange, on the grade, and in the desert, where our day's intellectual exercises began and ended with the morning paper, can hardly believe we're the same old sleepy heads they now see emptying the matutinal wash basins of our masters.

Signed on behalf of the Batmen's Mess,

CORNELIUS B. BRECKENRIDGE, A.M.I.C.E.,
etc., Pte. Nth. C.M.R., late consulting
engineer Panama Canal.

JOHN PTOLEMY, F.R.C.S., A.M.X.P., L.N.N.,
Pte. Rt. Bn. Cdns., late Professor,
Clinical Research, University of Toronto.

"CANADA IN KHAKI."

Gift books have been a feature of war publications, and so many have been published, that we look askance at new ones, and are somewhat inclined to regard the purchase of them as a duty. But the most recent, "Canada in Khaki," is every sense of the word a gift. At the price of 2s 6d., its 172 illustrated pages yield excellent value for the money. It contains articles of genuine interest by leading contemporary writers, and, of course, deals more particularly with Canada and Canadians.

A most attractive frontispiece in colours depicts a "Canuck" smilingly inviting us to enjoy a treat. A typical Canadian he is, with the inevitable smile, the inevitable cigarette, and the almost inevitable souvenir—a Hun helmet.

There are many other excellent coloured plates—"The Call," by Byam Shaw; "The Girl He Left Behind" (Lewis Baumer); "The Thin Red Line" (H. Piffard); and "Whither" (Dudley Hardy).

A splendid photograph of the Hon. Sir Julian Byng, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., M.V.O., Corps Commander, is the best we have seen of him. There are fine portraits of Major-General Turner, V.C., and Brigadier-General Hillman, D.S.O., all by Captain Matthews, also one of Brigadier-General Tuxford, C.M.G. Then there are innumerable sketches by such masters as Heath Robinson, J. Hassall, R.I., G. E. Studdy and MacMichael.

Many very fine photographs are reproduced from the Canadian official photographs.

The reading material is of the most interesting, and there are articles by men who are in a position to know facts and able to tell of them. "The Dominion at War," an article by Sir Geo. Perley, tells how Canada, a peace-loving people, became a nation at war. In "The Spirit of Heroism" Sir Gilbert Parker and Capt T. G. Roberts narrate a very few of the most outstanding acts of heroism that have made the world ring with pride as they read of Canadians' glorious deeds. An Englishman's impressions of Canadians' arrival in England, and comments on their apparently novel ideas of discipline are well told by Austin Harrison. And so through the whole volume we get articles by the most popular and successful writers as Horatio Bottomley, Theodore Goodridge Roberts, Lieut.-Gen. Sir R. Baden-Powell, Major Davey, and Francis Gribble, the eminent English critic who spent so long in Ruhleben.

Delightful articles by W. Pett Ridge, Kehle Howard, J. B. Fagan, Max Pemberton, and Capt. McNaught are interspersed with excellent poetry by Major (Canon) Scott, Jessie Pope, J. L. Hughes, and W. M. Scanlan.

"Canada in Khaki" will make as big and as lasting an impression on the general public as Canada in khaki did on the Huns at Ypres, Festubert, the Somme and Vimy Ridge.

All profits, which should be considerable, go to the Canadian War Memorials Fund.