

OFFICERS' MESS ROOM CHATTER.

BY WELLANDGOOD.

WILL someone kindly tell us:—

Why the morning tub seems to make some of our officers sing, and if some of them should not have their voices cultivated before inflicting songs on the sleeping brethren at 7.15 a.m.? Also, who was responsible for the following, sung to the tune of "We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall":—

You'll have to let your moustache grow,
It came out in orders you know;
We all want to shave, but you can see
That if you do you'll get C.B.
Now some look fine and some look swell,
But as for mine it looks like—well,
The orders of the day you must obey,
So you'll have to let your moustache grow.

Where all the M.O.'s spend their Sunday afternoon and evening, and if some of the married officers' wives should not be informed of their husbands' whereabouts?

Why the Mess is so quiet this week? Had the departure of certain M.O.'s anything to do with this?

If Captain R. J. Wilson would not make a splendid traffic policeman, after all the experience he is getting in handling the ambulances when a convoy is arriving?

Why Captain Fox does not go into the moving picture—beg pardon, "cinema" business, and if his "shows" are not the most popular given in the recreation hall?

If we will "see ourselves as others see us" when the cinema people finish taking the film of the Ontario Military Hospital?

How it is that the officers pay so little attention to sports, and if a little encouragement would not be appreciated by the non-coms. and men of our unit?

How our new Lieutenant-Colonel bears his honours so well? He still is one of the "boys."

HEARD IN THE MESS ROOM.

C. . . —Come over here, K., and tell me all you know; I have a couple of minutes to spare.

SPORTS.

THE Cricket Match between the Police and Special Constables' team and the Canadians at Grassmeade Meadow, St. Mary Cray, on Thursday, July 27th, which was followed by a Baseball game, was as near an old English sports day as war times will allow. There were shows and roundabouts and donkeys, and what we lost on the swings we must have made up somehow on the teas for the patients, so thoughtfully provided by the committee and gracefully served by the ladies. Talking of ladies, who would have said the county itself could have provided so many? And the kiddies! It was good to see them. The braiding of the maypole shared honours with the needle-and-thread race among the Nursing Sisters; but there was something for everybody, and not least a long afternoon in glorious sunshine.

The prizes won in the various sports were presented to the winners by Mrs. MacPherson. In addition to the Officer Commanding, a large contingent of officers, mess men and patients were present. The kindness of many owners of motor-cars, resident in the neighbourhood, was again evidenced in carrying large numbers of patients to and from the grounds.

The score in the cricket match was as follows:—

ORPINGTON POLICE & SPECIAL CONSTABLES.	
Sergt. Hemmings, c Leach, b Alabone	1
S.c. Cruttenden, b Richardson	0
S.c. Townsend, c Bradfield, b Alabone	0
P.c. Carter, b Richardson	1
S.-Sergt. Berens (capt.), b Alabone	6
S.c. Corbin, played on, b Richardson	1
P.c. Baker, c Cpl. Dear, b Alabone	1
S.c. Hook, c Butler, b Alabone	4
P.c. Church, c Cpl. Leach, b Alabone	3
S.c. Mayatt, run out	3
P.c. Lowes, c Cpl. Dear, b Richardson	0
P.c. Leach, not out	0
Extras	2
	—22

ONTARIO MILITARY HOSPITAL.	
Sergt. Bradfield, c Carter, b Corbin	0
Dr. Alabone, played on, b Corbin	19
Pte. Richardson, b Corbin	1
Pte. Maloney, b Berens	3
Lieut. Gooderham, b Corbin	4
— Wilson, b Corbin	19
Corpl. Dear, b Baker	1
Sergt. McNaughton, lbw, b Baker	2
Dr. Butler, c Mayatt, b Corbin	5
Corpl. Leach, c Cruttenden, b Baker	1
Pte. Uren, c Mayatt b Corbin	7
Sergt. Gammon, not out	0
Extras	7
	—69

AS THE NURSING SISTERS SEE IT.

AS the guests of the Kent Archaeological Society some of the Sisters enjoyed a visit to the old City of Rochester to see its beautiful Cathedral and the ivy-clad ruins of its Norman Castle Keep, built in 1126, and considered to be one of the finest specimens of Norman military architecture to be found in England. The inspection of the interior of this old-time fortress and the climb to the top of the Keep were conducted by Mr. Payne, who in 1901 excavated the dungeon and restored the walls and stairways to their present condition. His explanation of the separate styles of architecture and masonry found in the additions made to the Keep, and the Curtain Hall—part of the old Roman City—made it doubly interesting and attractive.

For the want of time Dickens' land was not explored. To the friends of Charles Dickens, the very atmosphere of the human abodes of "Pickwick" and of "Edwin Drood," the old "Bull Inn" in High-street, to say nothing of readily identified scenes, was thrilling, and were reluctantly left with a promise to return some time to see Dickensian Rochester.

Amateur baseball broke loose this month. A game between the O.M.H.'s and Uxbridge pointed out the fact that it is in decline, and some would like to know to what it is due, and whether there really is that much difference in the way the game is played to-day and a year ago.

In the first place, amateur baseball is not dead because we do not happen to be playing much at it. Unlike the baseball magnates of professional baseball, who do their quarrelling on the field and then hold league meetings to decide the argument in the best interests of the game, the O.M.H.'s carried their troubles in their own bosoms, and bubbled and fumed and boiled over, but cared little about improvement in the way baseball was conducted. Anyway, it made one laugh and long for the days of the really and truly amateur team.

Baseball has declined, there is little doubt of that. The absence of material and the fact that the "magnates" tried their best not to beat the other fellow without any regard to the welfare or science of the game are perhaps the main reasons. And what if amateurism did kill the game! Amateur baseball drew more natives to the campus on July 1st than it did O.M.H. Canadians.

We would like to know what is wrong with the padre who at B—the other day kept a line of passengers waiting while he searched pockets and leggings and leggings and pockets for his railway ticket, and finally decided that he had "left it in his room," and "it would do next time."

Alice, what art thou singing
So early in the morn?
You'll make the Sisters sorer
Than does the old brass horn.
Alice, why art thou knocking
So early in the morn?
There is no toast for breakfast,
Don't treat the bread with scorn.

One of our guests, explaining the popularity of our Tuesday afternoons, says:—"You know, we always took our visitors to the graveyard, but now we bring them to the Hospital!" We recall that one of our Colonels also had a strong liking for the graveyard in our early days.

When getting the names of patients for an Irish tea party, we find a man who belongs to the Liverpool Irish!

One patient, who owns to being 60, guilelessly remarks that he was too old for South Africa, but they took him for this.

One of our attached men declares that the war will not end until they send him back to France—that last time his Colonel ordered him back. "Wipe your sword and go to the rear—you've killed enough."

Wanted.—The name of the M.O. who went to London to see his aunt, but was noticed at Charing Cross with one arm full of flowers and a lady on the other.

To Inquiring N.S.—"Ovah theah" is the English for the Canadian—over there. Yes, it is quite proper to ask him to spell any word that is obscured by his English accent.

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