

MATERNAL COMMUNINGS.

By P. L. MacHale.

Dear sons of mine, whose faces I shall never
 Again behold with these poor mortal eyes,
 Who, when you said good-bye it was for ever,
 O God! the anguish of these last "good-byes",
 You told me at the gateway as I kissed you.
 Aye, each of you, to ease my aching heart,
 Well knowing how, away, your mother missed you,
 That you would soon be back ne'er more to part.

You briskly marched to—death!—those cruel mornings,
 With well-feigned courage, tho' with eyes tear-filled;
 And in my bursting breast I felt the mornings
 Of these dread missives with their burden—"Killed!"
 Those messages that have for ever ended
 The hope, the yearning hope, of your return,
 That have in one deep chalice swiftly blended
 The bitter sorrows that I cannot spurn!

Dear sons of mine, they tell me of the glory
 That each of you by dying thus has won;
 "Decorum est pro patria sic mori,"
 They lightly quote who have not lost a son,
 "Fame," "glory," "immortality," are only
 Vain empty words, all meaningless, to me;
 I only know I'm desolately lonely,
 And that I long—so long—with you to be!

And yet (I'm proud, oh! proud) you've done your duty—
 Have fought for honour and for honour died—
 For God, for freedom, spiritual beauty,
 And not for merely kudos, human pride.
 You yearned for no V.C., no decoration:
 To cleanse the world of wrong—that was your aim;
 Wherefrom there flows to me some consolation,
 Yes, I am proud; you did not die for fame.

Dear sons of mine, farewell—farewell for ever—
 No, not for ever—Death shall not prevail;
 We'll meet again, pray God, ne'er more to sever,
 When I have conquered Death and passed the Veil—
 That Veil the Intellectuals are seeking
 To penetrate, yet spurn the Crucified,
 Whose Spirit to our spirits has been "speaking,"
 Since on the Hill of Calvary He died.
 (News of the World, Nov. 17, 1918.)

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THINGS WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW.

Who is the Sapper who was found eating raw potatoes in the basement of the Officers Mess?

Who is the lady who was initiated at a recent session of the Hooligan Club?

Also are lady members offered any rebate on payment of initiation fee?

Have the Hooligans got a pull with the M.O.?

Who is the Sapper who, when

his subsistence was stopped, thought he was up for discharge.

ANSWER AN EASY ONE.

"How did so many of the men who are in Training Camp happen to get 'Influenza'?"

"We give up."
 "Because they were in the Draft."

PROPOSAL.

Should a man propose to a girl on his knees.

Well if he does not, she should get off.