

Miscellanea.

IS THIS TRUE?

A good story of a private in the Canadian Contingent is now going the rounds.

The private in question was in the front line carrying a pail of water, when the General, followed by the Colonel of the regiment, came along on a tour of inspection.

The private still clung to his pail, and the Colonel, exasperated at this lack of discipline, asked him if he did not know that the officer who had just passed was the General.

"No, how was I to know?" exclaimed the Canadian. "We were never introduced!"

WARTIME DEFINITIONS.

Sandbag.—An implement designed to deaden the sound of rifle fire (preferably that of the enemy). Can also be used as a chest protector, a foot-warmer, a sleeping bag, a bread bag, or improvised gaiters. Bags that have been slept on have been known to harbour many strange insects.

WELL-KNOWN QUOTATIONS.

"Who stole the rabbit?"
 "Gott strafe the cooks!"
 "Oh, damn it, Fifteen!"
 "Dirty work at the crossroads."
 "Show a leg there."
 "Fall in for Pay."

IN THE NAVY.

An exhorter in a negro camp meeting in Alabama had just made a great speech. When he got through he went down among the congregation and asked each one to join the army of the Lord. One of the congregation, when this question was put to him, replied—"I'se done j'ined." "Whar'd yo' j'ine?" asked the exhorter. "In de Baptist Church." "Why, chile," said the exhorter, "yo ain't in de army; yo's in de navy."

NOT PREPARED TO DIE.

Recruiting Officer to Pat: "And now, my lad, just one more question—are you prepared to die for your country?"

Recruit: "No, I ain't. That ain't what I'm joining for. I want to make a few of them German blighters die for theirs!"

ASKING FOR TROUBLE.

The Curate: "And whose little boy are you?"

The Boy: "Don't ask that, guv'nor, that's what's the cause of all the blooming rows in our house."—*Sporting Times.*

THE "ALSO RAN."

"Why are your patients all so awfully plain?" a visitor to the Canadian hospital at Le Touquet asked the C.O.

"They are rather, aren't they?" he replied. "But you see, it's like this. The ambulance-cars all pass the Duchess of Blankminster's hospital first, and they have first pick. And, of course, they don't want ugly or very badly wounded ones to make pets of and call 'Boy-Boy!'"

SUPERFLUOUS ADVICE.

Officer (to recruit who is learning trench-digging)—"You're getting on very slowly with that trench, aren't you?"

Recruit: "Ground as 'ard as iron, sir?"

Officer: "Why don't you try blasting it?"

Recruit: "Been doing nothing else all the morning, sir!"—*Bystander.*

ROUGH ON THE SCOTS.

All English battalions were recently warned to keep a careful watch for any contrivances which the Germans might use with the object of producing poisonous gases. Shortly afterwards a certain regiment on taking over some trenches found an old bagpipe left in the lines. At once the colonel, who possessed a rare sense of humour, sent the following message to brigade headquarters:—

"A weird instrument has just been discovered in my trenches; it is believed to have been used for producing asphyxiating noises."

BATTLEFIELD DISEASES.

Cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery and pneumonia are by far the commonest diseases soldiers suffer from, apart, of course, from those caused by bullet and shell wounds.

In past wars these diseases have carried off more soldiers than the fighting. The deaths in the Boer War, for example, were 21,900, of which 16,160 were due to dysentery and other diseases, and only 5,740 to the rifles and guns of the Boers.

Modern science has, however, altered the proportion, and more men are killed from bullets than diseases. The two great causes of typhoid, cholera, and so on are bad drinking water and the myriads of flies which breed on dead carcasses, offal, and the refuse which collects round every camp.

THE CIRCULAR ROUTE.

(Scene: New York.)

German-American: "Halloa, Irishman! Vot you doing now?"

Pat: "I'm making war ammunition."

German: "Vell, dot's a nice way to be neutral."

Pat: "But I'm making it for the Germans."

German: "Oh, vell, dot's different; but how you get de ammunition to de Germans?"

Pat: "I ship it to the Allies and they shoot it at 'em!"—*Tit-Bits.*

Christmas Gifts for the Canadian Troops.

The Canadian Soldiers' Field Comfort League will (if the necessary funds have been subscribed in the meantime) deliver to the trenches on Christmas morning a Christmas-box to every officer, non-commissioned officer, and man, irrespective of his birthplace, provided he has gone from Canada. The Canadian troops quartered in England and Canada will be similarly treated. For every dollar subscribed a box will go forward containing a card bearing the name of the donor. The box will contain one 50c. pipe, one quarter pound smoking tobacco, 40 cigarettes, two khaki handkerchiefs, a package of playing cards specially printed with a message from the citizens of Canada on one side, a package of pipe cleaners, two candles, a package of cigarette papers, writing paper and envelopes, a soft lead pencil, two bars of chocolate, a cake of soap, two pairs of shoe laces, a box of matches, and one or two other articles.

These will be contained in a tin box of a size suitable for carrying in the haversack. The box is of a heavy design, in red, gold,

and white, while there is a picture of a "Tommy" on the front, surrounded by maple leaves in natural colours. The lid bears the message that the box is a gift from "The Citizens of Canada." Expert opinion has been secured in making the choice of gifts, and all are agreed that each fills a real want of the boys at the front.

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