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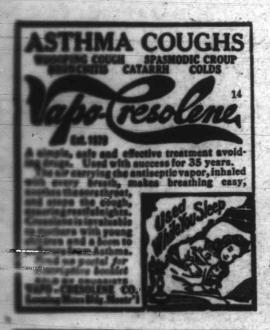


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BLIGHTY

The Tale of a Dog

by CAPT. W. T. TAIT.

"D LIGHTY" limped around on three paws. The fourth he had lost at Ypres when a few weeks old, but his lucky star must have been in the ascendancy at the time, for the shell that wounded him killed his mother and brothers and sisters. A Canadian soldier found him bleeding and whimpering, and in the proverbial kindness of a Tommy's heart "Blighty" was picked up and carried to safer quarters.

Rescued and rescuer proceeded down the line for three miles until they came to an obscure dugout known to the boys as the "Cafe Belge." A savory steam coming in frequent wisps through the open door, over which shone the Red Triangle sign, betokened hot coffee.
Before calling for his drink the soldier bound up "Blighty's wounded leg, and then over a steaming mug of coffee he related the story of the rescue. The soldier passed on rested and refreshed and left "Blighty" in a similar happy frame of mind and body to become a member of the Y.M.C.A. staff that manned the dug-

The human and permanent occupants of the "Cafe Belge" were three, the "Y" officer and his two assistants, one of them an ex-preacher, and the other an ex-bartender in a prosperous western town. The preacher was a McGill graduate who volunteered as a Chaplain early in the war, but finding others being given the preference he enlisted as an ordinary ranker with the Field Ambulance, being detailed later for Y.M.C.A. work.

Something in the preacher's theology seemed to attract "Blighty," and the orphan singled him out as lord and master, bestowing upon the re-maining members of the staff what was left of his canine affections. With the mud-stained customers of those of them who were not too badly wounded-he was a prime favourite, but the multitude and variety of tricks that they tried to teach him made him agile in only one thing—avoiding capture.

"Blighty" also made the acquaintance of the rats that swarmed in every corner of the "Cafe Belge." For some time he hunted them furiously, digging with frenzied and futile haste at the mouths of their burrows. The rodents were content to lie low for a little and then, like their human counterparts, the Huns, whose favourite plan is to attack in massed formation, they came out in greater numbers than ever. By this

time "Blighty" had become infected by the philosophy of the preacher and he did his best to imitate his master's unconcern for the sleekcoated and overfed Belgian rats.

With immunity from danger the rats grew bolder, but "Blighty" recognized his limitations and did not seek to emulate Horatius who nobly defied an army. One night the preacher was awakened by an un-usual noise, and springing from his berth he saw in the fitful moonlight the form of "Blighty" going out of the door slowly and under protest. Rushing to his friend's assistance the preacher found that a huge rat had "Blighty" by the ear and was dragging him out of the dugout. Something of the spirit that came upon the prophets of old descended upon the sky pilot, and with one swoop of his foot the rat sailed over the parapet like a "jam pot" from a trench mortar. "Blighty" spent the rest of that night in the crook of his master's arm.

"Blighty's" lucky star continued to follow him. The "Cafe Belge" was in the direct line of Fritz's fire, and although the chances of a hit were remote, early one morning a "coal box" struck the roof, burying everything. The only occupants at the time were "Blighty" and the preacher. The latter managed to crawl out, but repeated calls elicited no response from the dog. Poking among the ruins with the laudable intention of salving some of the "Y" stores, the preacher uncovered the bed under which "Blighty" slept in a box. Dragging out the box, he found the orphan, asleep and unharmed.

Long before "Blighty" had attained his mature doghood his name was spread far abroad. His fame proved his undoing, for it was decreed that he be sold by public auction, for the benefit of the Red Cross, at Christie's in London, where so many of the world's treasures have been knocked down to the highest bidder. It may have been that separation from his beloved preacher broke his heart, or perchance the indignity of being "knocked down" bowled him over, but whatever the cause, "Blighty" did not live to cross the Channel to the land that gave him his name. Amid all the crosses in France there is surely one at Boulonge erected to the memory of "Blighty, the Red Triangle Dog."—Canadian Manhood.

* * * *

IT'S ALL "BRITISH."

A little talk on the word "English," which sometimes replaces the word "British," was given by Harry Lauder during his address in Ottawa on January 13th. He was referring to the 5,000,000 women who had worked during the war at home in Great Britain. "You'll notice I don't say England," Mr. Lauder said. "It's Great Britain when we talk of the war and inter-national things. You sometimes say the English navy—there is no such thing. It's the British navy and don't forget these little things.'

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FOCH RHYMES WITH BOCHE.

There are millions of people in this country who do not know that Foch is pronounced like bosh or Bocheor Hoche, another famous French general. Every schoolboy and every schoolgirl ought to know that Foch rhymes with Boche. Ferdinate Foch was born at Tarbes on October 2, 1851. On the gate of his school is a Latin inscription to the effect: "May this house stand until the ant has drunk the waves of the sea and the tortoise made the circuit of the world." It is a motto which might be inscribed on the portals of the temple of peace.

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