

*Hos. Sergt.*—"It is not my business to explain the medical properties of an Army Chest. Well, what is the matter with you?" (*turning to Blondie.*)

*Blon.*—"They say as 'ow h've got an awful haddock of dyspepsia, and I feel as 'ow I can't eat enough."

*Hos. Sergt.*—"A pill and a powder are infallible. Here you are (*hands him dose*) '*Bedson on Stimulants*,' strongly recommends them—not the stimulants, but powders and pills I mean. The stimulants are only for very exceptional and individual cases. And you, sir?" (*turning to the last man.*)

*Leatherback* (*coming forward on a crutch, his arm in a sling.*)—"I have rheumatism, an earache, a sprained shoulder, a black eye, sore heels, influenza, and a cold in the head. I'm generally demoralized and broke up, but in other respects I feel tolerably playful."

*Hos. Sergt.*—"Ah, a most interesting case. A pill and a powder act every time. Now, some think that there ain't a difference in pills, but there is a difference. Some are white and some are black. Now, some have a glutinous covering, appertaining to the succulent; while others are plain and more of a nauseous character. Pills are good for somethings, and powders for others; and with the multiplicity of your casualties, I apprehend that a compound of the two will bring you rapidly to a convalescent condition." (*Handing dose, advancing to footlight centre sings.*)

#### THE SONG OF THE HOSPITAL SERGEANT.

AIR—"Says I to myself, says I."—(*Iolanthe.*)

When I went to the front as a brave volunteer,  
Says I to to myself, says I,  
In my youth having had a quack doctor's career,  
Says I to myself, says I,  
I can get on the ambulance corps I know,  
And they shall not know where the brandy will go  
When I give the sick boys a powder, oh—ho,  
Says I to myself, says I.

Before me each day all the sick will parade,  
Says I to myself, says I,  
But ne'er on a bed will a man then be laid,  
Says I to myself, says I,  
But a pill or a powder his wants supply,  
And it is not my fault if it knocks him sky-high  
When he goes up to look for the sweet hy and bye,  
Says I to myself says I.