

the 22nd. of August General Dubail suffered a crushing defeat in the neighbourhood of Metz, and as a consequence all the gains, with the exception of a small strip of territory in Southern Alsace, had to be abandoned.

A week later the Russians who had been advancing in the direction of Königsberg, were completely defeated at Tannenberg. Having the control of the Baltic Sea, the Germans managed to send large bodies of troops to Dantzic, and part of the Russian army was surrounded and a great number of prisoners were taken. The news of the victory in East Prussia reached Berlin on the anniversary of Sedan : everything seemed to point out that Germany would emerge triumphant out of the war for which she had so carefully prepared. On all fronts the enemy was retreating, and the German main army was within striking distance of the French Metropolis.

Professor Baillie then sketched the advance of the German armies towards Paris, through Belgium and northern France. After Liège had been captured, the German Generals deployed their armies along the whole length of the French frontier, so that there was a continuous line from the Swiss border to the neighborhood of Mons. This was to prevent the French from starting an offensive and from outflanking the German troops. The problem for the French General Staff was to devise a plan whereby they might with inferior numbers, stop the advance of the stronger German hordes. A clever French strategist developed in the nineties the theory of the " Open strategic Square ". He induced this principle from a certain number of Napoléon's victories. The French Emperor had probably thought out the question, but not being given to writing, he had never put it down in words. The theory consists in dividing the weaker force in four and placing it in a formation closely resembling a square, one part of the army being disposed at each corner. The part of the army nearest to the enemy then advances, attacks and retreats until it joins the rest of the army which has had time to take up convenient positions. The offensive can then be resumed and decisive victories won, the smaller army being much the stronger on that part of the line where the main fighting takes place. It is found on examination that surrounding an army thus disposed, is

Continued on page 7.

During the intermission which followed Mr. Z. Willis spoke of the landmarks of the Y.M.C.A. work in France and told of the negotiations which led up to the handing over of the Bath Hut to the McGill Y.M.C.A. Field Branch.

Miss Chip sang after the intermission an old favourite " Because " in a strong contralto voice and followed it by even a greater favorite " The Rosary " and as an encore " I did not know ". Miss Chip's voice is well adapted to such songs and the applause only went to show how greatly her ballads were appreciated.

The next to sing was Mr. Turnpenny who gave " In an old fashioned Town " and then " the Trumpeter " which was encored by " Mary ". Mr. Turnpenny who has a baritone voice sang all three splendidly but the most appreciated was the " Trumpeter ".

Mr. Peterkin's and Mr. Turnpenny's duet " The Twins " was excellent. This was a humorous song telling of the twins who were different "quite from each and one another". This song so amused the audience, that they loudly called for an encore and were given " The Extra Special Constables ". This is a song of this war in England and depicts the doings of those who do their " bit " at home. It was very well sung and applauded.

This was the end of a very splendid performance, one for which it was well worth while missing an appointment. That the Concert was enjoyed goes without saying. Mr James, the organizer, who played the accompaniments for this concert has surely done " his bit " to help and amuse the boys in " blues " and khaki at the front.

MEN'S MESS MEETING

In the early part of last week the Corporals and men held a meeting to arrange for an extra messing fund. The meeting was in charge of Sergeant Gareau, until his promotion President of the Men's Mess, who explained the situation and then called for suggestions. The general feeling was that it would be well to supplement Government rations.

Corporal Fry was elected President of the Mess with Lance Corporal Elsmore and Pte. Roman as members of the Committee. The sum decided upon was 5 francs a month to be deducted from each man's pay. These measures passed practically unanimously.