

COLLECTION OF POEMS BY OTTAWA SOLDIER

The little booklet, "Invocation and Other Poems," by William Quintard Ketchum Jr., is a collection of seventeen short poems deriving their inspiration almost entirely from the emotions of courage, sadness, and triumphant faith kindled by the great war. That the emotions are not those of an onlooker only, Mr. Ketchum has proved by enlisting in the Divisional Signallers adding one more to the splendid list of our writing-men who are in khaki.

There are only two poems in the collection before us which are not on war-subjects; of these one, "Unrest," which we quote in full, show the feeling of closeness to nature so characteristic of the best Canadian verse.

"In my heart the bitter unrest
Doth surge to the overflow;
I fain would the north-wind
 breast.

Across the leagues of snow,
With only the polar star to guide
And only the stars to see,
As I face the winds of the great
 divide,

My soul untrammelled and
 free,—
Face the winds of the great di-
 vide

Over endless leagues of snow,
Wherever the restless wind doth
 ride
With its tale of bitter woe."

"Edith Cavell," "Comrades Harken," and "Arise," would all come under the heading of recruiting poems, making their appeal with strong feeling and dignified restrained diction. "The C. E. F." is a tribute to the men who have
"Answered to the call,

And fighting, ever fighting,
For freedom gladly fall."

Perhaps best of all are the two last poems in the booklet,—"Quiet"

and "Fulfilment," the last-named striking a strong note of clear and quiet faith.

We hope for much good work from Mr. Ketchum in the days to which we all look forward—"after the war."