

The Brazier

Printed and published at the Front by the Canadian Scottish for the Third Brigade.

Contributions are invited.

Address all communications to

The Brazier,
16th Batt., The Canadian Scottish.

Editor and Manager—Piper Geo. Inglis.

As all copy intended for publication in The Brazier must previously be censored at Army Headquarters we would remind contributors that contributions must reach us as soon as possible and not later than the 1st of the month to ensure publication in the issue of the same month. Whenever possible contributions should be sent in for the next number immediately the current number is published.

CHRISTMAS, 1916.

Those thoughts there are that but in
absence rise;
Thoughts inexpressible, but ever kind;
And there are gentle wishes that one
tries
In words to measure, yet no words
can find.

—R.M.E.

IT IS DIFFICULT to express in mere words our thoughts as Christmas draws near. Some of us are spending our first, and some our second Christmas amid the turmoil and the discomforts of war. Some there are who will, in all probability, spend this Christmas in the front line. Some, a little more fortunate, will spend it in rest billets. There are many of our comrades who will spend the festive season in the more comfortable surroundings of a military hospital where there are more opportunities for observing the time-honoured customs that one usually associates with Christmas. A few, also, will be fortunate enough to spend Christmas within the circle of their own homes. Obviously, therefore, it is difficult to find words to express a fitting greeting to all our readers. There is nothing in common between the home circle and the discomforts of a dug-out, or a rest billet. In the one Christmas comes surrounded by all the old customs, but in the trench Christmas must of necessity come and go with little opportunity of enjoying the pleasures of the festive season. But to all our readers, whether in trench or billet, in hospital ward or the home, we extend the old, old greet-

ing. According to the circumstances you may be placed in we wish you all

A Merry Christmas.

THIS is our first Christmas Number and we hope our last. May next Christmas see us all back in Canada. Should circumstances permit, the next number of The Brazier will be published in January, and we hope our contributors will continue to give us their hearty support and make the first number of the New Year a success.

ROBERT SERVICE, the Canadian author, has produced some typical verse in his latest volume, "Rhymes of a Red Cross Man." While he touches but lightly on the tragedy of war, his verses are for the most part a reflection of the British soldier's refreshing humour. The "Blighties" will appreciate the sentiment expressed in "Going Home"—

I'm going home to Blighty; can you wonder
as I'm gay?
I've got a wound I wouldn't sell for 'alf a
year o' pay;
A harm that's smashed to jelly in the nicest
sort o' way.
For it takes me home to Blighty in the
mawning.

The author has seen much of the life led by Tommy at the Front and his new work catches up the spirit of the trenches in an admirable way. The volume is dedicated to the poet's brother, Lieut. Albert Service, who was killed in August this year while serving in the Canadian Infantry.

Congratulations

The Brazier extends hearty congratulations to the recipients of the following decorations:

Military Cross

Capt. A. Turnbull, 15th Batt.; Lieut. E. B. Hart, 16th Batt.

Military Medal

13th Batt.—Lce.-Corpl. J. Ryan, Pte. R. E. Breckon; 16th Batt.—Lieut. C. Bevan (formerly sergeant), Pte. O. G. A. Bjornsfelt, Pte. G. Blair, Pte. R. T. Fernie, Corpl. A. W. Minchin (now with First Div. Signals), Act.-Sergt. F. Bull (attached 3rd C.T.M. Battery.)

Regimental Journals

We have received a copy of the trench edition of the Western Scot, published by the battalion of that name. This journal is usually produced in London but evidently the Editor has developed "trench fever" and feverishly published a "trench" number. He apologizes for its "shell shock" appearance as follows:

Excuse this paper if it is sort of blotchy. The printer got most of the shrapnel out of the ink but not all. We're trying to get the Q.M. to issue a tin hat for the ink can.

We hope the Ed. will get over his mechanical difficulties after a while. Meantime, his paper is full of the cheery spirit that makes for success. We wish our "young brother" every success.

The Canadian Hospital News comes to hand regularly every week. This bright little paper is printed and published by the patients of the Granville Canadian Special Hospital, Ramsgate. One of the patients apparently finds that it isn't all honey even in a special hospital. He gets this off his chest:

The Rub

Of atrocities in Belgium we all have heard
a lot;
Of Kultur, Hymns of Hate, and strafing good
and hot;
Of poison gas and tear shells, massed at-
tacks, gun fire barrage—
But give me the whole darned bunch be-
fore another month's massage.
—PRETIUS.

"N.Y.D.", the official organ of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Field Ambulances has not published for some time but, at the time of writing, we understand another number is on the way. The Listening Post is once more under way also.

A new publication is The Clansman, printed and published by the 17th Canadian Reserve Battalion, East Sandling, the object of which is to form a link between the Canadian Highland battalions in France, their reserves in England and the people at home. Copies of the first number are not yet to hand but we wish our new contemporary every success. News items and contributions that might be of interest to the people at home are invited from the battalions in France.

"Little bit of Heaven"—Ten days leave.