

EXPERIENCE IN THE WAR

A SEMINARIST Soldier gives some of his experience in the War:—"Nearly all our men have been to confession and Communion. It is wonderful. I had to come to war to see for the first time in my life so wonderful a sight—a whole congregation of men going to Communion together. I rejoiced as I saw the God in the Host giving Himself to these warriors with unkempt beards, in uniforms all covered with the mud of the trenches, but with hearts full of submission, and tender love."

Another, writing to a priest friend on Good Friday, says: "To-day owing to some oversight on the part of the administration, our comrades had meat as on other days, and I have just witnessed a little scene which will show you the general feeling. When the men of my section got to know that they had meat instead of the cod most of them had counted on having, a discussion arose, and calling the cooks, they decided to manage a meagre meal. A party went off in search of herrings and vegetables, and the meal was quickly prepared. The meat ration was untouched. No one wanted it. Some who boasted that they believed in nothing, did like the others, saying they never had meat on this day, and that being in war service was no reason for their now doing otherwise".

A FRENCH priest, engaged in hospital work, gives a harrowing description of the scene he witnessed one morning in the village church after a short bombardment by the enemy:

"It was a sight I shall never forget. At the foot of the altar lay the priest in his Mass vestments, holding a handkerchief to his head. He was covered with blood, and his head lay in a pool of it. By him were the curé in a cotta and four or five priests *infirmiers*. All were terror-stricken, and so I asked the soldiers present for their dressings, with which I bound up the wound, and we carried him just as he was, on a stretcher to the ambulance. I found from the clothes under his vestments that he was a stretcher-bearer, and I learned