

A great deal of verse has been written during the last six years in praise or extenuation of war; only now and again has a singer railed against it, and the most insistent and bitter of these railers has been Seigfried Sassoon, the English soldier-poet, who visited Toronto on Wednesday when he gave readings from his poems at the Bliss Carmen benefit meeting held in Convocation Hall. A few years ago if a man was found

Wednesday when he gave readings from his poems at the Bliss Carmen benefit meeting held in Convocation Hall. A few years ago if a man was found railing against the horrors and beastli-ness of war he was condemned as either a pacifist or a pro-German—at least, he was regarded os having, "lost all patriotic feeling," as Mr. Sassoon puts it. There were, no doubt, some cowards to be found among the ranks of the pacifists, but Seigfried Sassoon was neither a coward or a slacker. He march-ed to war with head erect and a "heart for any fate," and he fought with a fierce zest alongside the best of the lighters to the end. He endured four and Palestine, and wears the Military Cross as a reward for his prowess and valor. valor.

Sassoon's intense hatred of war seem Sasson's intense hatred of war seems to have been a reaction from his in-terse love of beauty and peace, as ex-pressed in the poetry he was writing before August, 1914. The experiences of the conflict appeared to mellow most poets; they embittered this one. He could see nothing in war but butchery and horror, and he depicted what he said in vignettes of verse which make indelible inspressions upon the mind. There is nevertheless a tender human note running through his work, and he sings as much in sorrow as in anger:

"Oh my brave brown compar when your souls Flock silently away, and the eyeles

dead Shame the wild beast of battle on

the ridge, Death will stand grieving on that field of war

Since your unvanquished hardihood is

spent, And through some mooned Valhalla there will pass Battalions and battalions, scarred from

The returning army that was youth; The legions who have suffered and are dust."

Anger, hatred and the bitterest irony all find virulent expression in Sassoon's war verse. He could have escaped the conflict and secured an easier billet, but he accepted the ordeal under protest—not so much out of pity for himself, but rather for his fellows. In his poem "The Dreamers," he says:

"Soldiers are dreamers; when the guns begin They think of firelit homes, clean beds

and wives. I see them in foul dug-outs, gnawed by

And in the ruined trenches, lashed with

rain, Dreaming of things they did with balls and bats, And mocked by hopeless longing to

Bank holidays, and picture shows, and

And going to the office in the train."

Some might think that Mr. Sassoon's Some might think that Mr. Sassoon's irony borders on the blasphemous; at least, he is no respector of high per-sons. He lashes with stinging satire those who spoke lightly or seemed to enjoy the war—at a safe distance. Here is a jibe at "The Fathers":

"Snug at the club two fathers sat, Gross, goggle-eyed and full of chat, One of them said: 'My eldest lad Writes cheery letters from Bagdad. But Arthur's getting all the fun At Arras with a nine-ince gun.'"

He has also a sharp lash for his superior officers. Into the brief space of seven lines he puts some searching lrony of "The General":

"'Good-morning, good-morning' the General said When we met him last week on our

way to the line, Now the soldiers he smiled at are most of 'em dead, And we're cursing his staff for in-

competent swine, 'He's a cheery old card,' grunted Harry

As they slogged up to Arras with rifle and pack.

But he did for them both with his

"Does it matter?—losing your sight? There's such splendid work for the blind; And people will always be kind, As you sit on the terrace remembering And turning your face to the light." we'll share The league-spread, quiring eymphonies

that are Joy in the world, and peace, and dawn's one star."

Mr. Sassoon came to Toronto under the auspices of the Players' Club and the Arts and Letters Club, which are raising a fund for the benefit of Bliss fallen into ill-health.

Crushing.

O. D. Hanson Fairville, N. B.

"In the grey summer garden I shall find you With daybreak and the morning hills were the last of the species?"

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NUISANCES

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Definition of a Nuisance. (Public Health Act, 1918.) Section 2. sub-section (0.)

"Nuisance" means and includes any state or thing dangerous or detrimental to human health or comfort through uncleanness, filth, impurities, gases, vapours, smells, dust, smoke, overcrowding, lack of proper ventilation, diseased animals, decay, accumulation or deposit, leakage overflow, drainage, or anything that is, or is likely to be, injurious to health.

The following are some of the Regulations of the Minister of Health respecting nuisances :---

REG. 130. No owner, proprietor, householder, occupier or tenant, nor any captain or master of any ship, shall commit or maintain or suffer to be committed or maintained, any nuisance in or upon any house, land, ship or other property of which he is either temporarily or permanently in possession or command.

REG. 131. No person shall commit or maintain any nuisance in or upon any public place, or any street; nor shall any person deposit sputum in or upon any public conveyance, street or the floors, stairs, or parts of any building or ship.

REG. 135. No stables or other places in which animals are kept, whether in urban or rural communities, shall be so situated that the drainage therefrom shall pollute, or shall be liable to pollute any source of water used for domestic purposes.

REG. 136. In cities, towns and villages all manure from a stable in which any animal is kept shall be deposited in a manure-bin or other receptacle so constructed that it shall be impervious to flies and rain; such bin or receptacle shall not, at any time be completely filled, and shall be emptied not less frequently than each two weeks.

REG. 138. No owner, occupier, tenant or householder, or captain or master of any ship shall permit the accumulation of any garbage, swill, animal organic material, decaying vegetables, excrement, refuse or other mtter subject to fermentative decay, or rubbish, in or upon any house or premises or ship under his control

REG. 142. In cities, towns and villages it shall be the duty of each sub district Board concerned, to have an inspection made of all conditions relative to each house and family in such city, town or village, as is laid down by schedule, at least once in every year, and as near as may be in the month of June. Nothing in this regulation, however, shall be taken as in any degree abrogating or narrowing either the scope or frequency of inspections at other times as may be thought necessary or expedient by such sub-district Board.



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Gray-Dort. sturdiness in the Gray-Dort. *The sidecurtains open with the doors as in cars costing \$2000 and up, and they fit smoothly. *The tonneau has very much more leg-

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which remains in favor for many years.

plan of attack.

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In the lines entitled "Editorial Im-pressions" Mr. Sassoon takes a fling at the Press:

"He seemed so certain 'all was going well,' As he discussed the glorious time he'd While visiting the trenches.

Ab. yes, but it's the Press that leads

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