

so roomy that a ball there is indeed a thing of joy, and always hailed with delight by the young folks. The mess room makes a beautiful ball room, there are many sitting out-rooms where the chaperons (who are generally looked upon by the giddiest of the young people as necessary evils) have plenty of room, and are never neglected either. I must say that as a rule the officers make ample and very charming arrangements for the chaperons, wherein they undoubtedly show much wisdom, because if the mothers are comfortable and happy, they are in no hurry to take their daughters home. Besides the many corridors and nooks and corners which belong to the barracks, there are always extra places built out for the sole purpose of flirtation. If you see a couple throw open a window and deliberately walk out, don't be alarmed! It is not a case of suicide, or even of broken bones! Just outside of that window has been built a perfect gem of a "lovers' retreat!" And that is the only kind of retreat our soldiers understand. Into this pretty little fairy bower they retire, and often (I regret to say) this innocent little retreat means—*nothing*. I once heard an officer who had been paying desperate attention to a girl for months say to a civilian, "I don't see how you fellows manage in a place as full of pretty girls as this is. When you find yourself getting really fond of a girl, you can't retreat. Now with us it is different. All we have to do is to get six months leave, and the whole

thing is done, and by the time we come back, it and we are forgotten." It has often struck me that this young fellow was something of a philosopher.

I must not forget among the many varieties of social life and amusement of which I have not mentioned the half, to tell you about our amateur theatricals. We have a really fine Dramatic Club, which has given us much amusement during the long winters. Among the wives and daughters of the civilians, nay, among the civilians themselves we have some talent which is far above the mediocre and to this is added military talent of which there is generally abundance. Joining forces, the results are surprising indeed. In Easter week we had "School" presented to us in a truly masterly style. No professional company could have done better, and of course a good amateur company composed of the ladies and gentlemen so well known to us will always draw a full house, and again I must record a case where "social life," allies itself with charity; for these amateur theatricals are a money making pastime and the proceeds are always devoted to some worthy local charity.

Space is limited so I must leave for a future occasion, a description of "Social life" as a musical body, though we rather boast of our musical organisations, among which we reckon clubs, bands and last but not least *two* Conservatories of Music.

M. TREMAINE.

