

A Write-up on the Camp Sketches.

A little write-up on the page of sketches in this month's magazine.

As we have quite a number of civilian subscribers, the following explanations will not come amiss:

The first on the programme is the Y.M.C.A.

Concerts are becoming so popular at this abode of love (?) that the boys have to stand outside. On the night of a concert, although the concerts never commence before 7 p.m., you can see 'em staking their claims as early as 5.30

The second one is of a popular Staff-Sergeant helping to get things into shape for Div. II. He became so enamoured of a hammer that he thought he would try his hand, but missed it.

V.A.D.'s. Here we have the real thing. I know I will get the dickens for these two specimens, but I promise the girlies I will give them the ideal next month. A real ripper.

Our centre piece is a sketch of one of our Concert Party which has just come into being, and believe me, people, it is some concert party. The Parakeets are fine.

Asleep at the switch. Here is an M.P. directing the populace how to board a car. There was quite an abundance of boarding, but no directing, as the Director was in the arms of Morpheus. The gentle breezes and the summer weather experienced in August are responsible for it.

Now this place is becoming something like a Hospital. Patients are admitted and discharged daily, and all roads really lead to Cooden.

OUR OFFICERS.

NOTES FROM THE MESS.

Pursuant to order, as they say on these nice blue Army Forms, the first meeting for the winter lectures was held in the Officers' Mess on Friday, September 13th. A very full meeting it was, too, there being no absentees. The best description was given by the P.T. Officer when he called it "neat but not gaudy."

The Commandant introduced the first Lecture in a brief, well-chosen speech replete with happy similes, his words being, "Gentlemen, the lecture for to-day will be 'Fish,' by the well-known authority, Capt. K., a man known to you all by deeds rather than words." The lecturer then came forward, and, hastily gulping down a glass of water, began his lecture, the following being a brief but accurate summary of it.

"Gentlemen and Brother Officers," said he, when the noise of the welcome had died down and the Registrar had been brought back into the room. "The Great family of fish has been divided for the purpose of this lecture into three great classes:—

- 1.—Those of the Shark Family, or Sharkus Cardicus.
- 2.—The Sucker Group.
- 3.—The Crustaceous or Lobster class.

The above classification differs widely from

any yet published by other Investigators, although the one first made by that celebrated authority, Jonah, comes nearer to it than any. My division has been made after the very closest study of the types I see around me." Interruption by the Registrar: "If the lecturer is going to be personal"—cries of "Name them."—"Here, in the waters of Cooden," continued the lecturer, quite coolly, pouring out another glass of water.

"These three classes are each distinguished by definite customs, habits, movements, etc., and it will be necessary to briefly outline the salient features of each class.

Those of the shark class are of large size and rapid movements. They are both rapacious and voracious. Their food is obtained by sudden attacks on their more timid neighbours. It has been said that in order to devour his prey, the shark must turn on his back. From my personal observation this is not a fact. The sharks I have known can enjoy their meal in any position; in fact, a card table seems to be their natural element. At times they go disguised as M.O.'s Dental Officers, and even assume the appearance of Quarter Masters, in which latter case they try to get their victims cornered at a Billiard Table.

The second and largest group nearly always furnish the food for the first. It has been said that the Sucker group have special and distinctive markings. This is not the case. Their one claim to special notice is the fact that they are 'born and not made.' The great Russian Pathologist, 'Makemkoff,' has shown that all the members of this group are edible and may be eaten in quantity without the slightest effect on the digestive system of the shark. I believe this to be a fact firmly established by my own work. There are none of this group at Cooden.

The third and smallest group, the Crustaceous are noted for their method of locomotion, namely, a sliding autero-posterior movement; of this group the Lobsters form a prominent part. It is from this member of the class and from their marked tendency to cling or 'sit tight' when feeding that the common term, 'the clutching hand,' originated. The lobster, and his brother in arms, so to speak, the 'crab,' while not active in movement, are able to follow their prey for weeks, and once attached, it is a lasting one. Eels, that is the slippery ones; 'Shrimps,' Bloaters, or Breakfast fish, and the Sandwich fish or Sardine, have all been identified by me among the 'Fish' at Cooden."

At this point the enthusiasm of the audience could no longer be restrained. In one solid body they made for the Lecturer, and it is with great regret that we have to announce his refusal to wait for his admirers. He disappeared suddenly, taking with him his jug and glass, which has led to the suspicion that although it was a water jug, it was not a jug of water.

The second lecture will be held next week, under the auspices of the A.P.M.