

Rumour.

(WITH APOLOGIES TO LONGFELLOW.)

Should you ask me whence the Legends,
 Whence the stories and traditions,
 And the wild and furious rumours,
 That in never-ending numbers
 Come and spoil our sweet existence;
 Rumours of defeats and victories,
 Rumours of impending troubles,
 Rumours of forthcoming pleasures,
 Growing like a mighty mushroom,
 Travelling swifter than the swallow
 Through the quiet of our billet.
 I would answer—I would tell you.
 Through the yard and past the cook-house,
 Past the mess-tent and the washstand,
 You will find a wall and doorway,
 On the other side the land is.
 Birthplace of all fearsome rumours,
 Where they live and grow and flourish.
 Coming thence in countless thousands,
 To bestrew our lives with anguish.

H.S.S.

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**The 3rd Canadian Field Ambulance
Minstrel Troupe.**

Thanks to the hearty co-operation of the Officers,
 quite a number of entertainments have been given by our
 Minstrel Troupe to various units of the 1st Canadian
 Division since our residence in France.

The success which has crowned our efforts to date is
 due in no small measure to the enthusiastic and untiring
 efforts of Captain McGreer, our Chaplain, as "Show
 Manager." The booking of engagements and the
 necessary transport and stage arrangements have all been
 in his hands, and, in addition, he makes an excellent
 interlocutor.

The scheme of operating on an extensive scale to
 provide concerts for the "boys from the trenches" was
 formulated during our stay at — last August, but there
 is no doubt that the idea sprang from the never-to-be-
 forgotten effort before the footlights at Bailleul last July
 of "Flight Commander Higham's Awkward Squad," who
 "took a chance," played and sang, and were acclaimed
 before a highly appreciative audience, which filled the hall
 to the nethermost rafter.

Since August the Minstrels have performed about
 fifteen times for different units, three performances being
 given at Divisional Headquarters.

On Tuesday, September 14th, the Troupe put on a
 show for No. 8 Casualty Clearing Station (Imperial),
 where the staging arrangements were really excellent. It
 was a treat to note the patients—some of them propped
 up in their cots—enjoying the programme.

On Thursday, October 21st, the Minstrels furnished
 part of the programme for a grand concert given to
 Canadian Troops for the purpose of raising funds for our
 Canadian comrades who are prisoners in Germany. The
 hall was packed, the concert a success, and about £1,500
 (\$300) was raised for the worthy object in view.

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