

PARADES.

EXTRACT FROM KAY ARRAN DOUGH.

Generally speaking, parades may be divided into four groups, viz.:—popular, unpopular, miscellaneous and indispensable.

Under the first-named classification there are but two parades, meal and pay. The former is conducted under the direct supervision of any old N.C.O. available, who will walk at the head of the squad in order that he may get into the dining-room first. Before moving off, the following commands will be given, "Shun, number, form fours, right," but it is not at all necessary that any notice be taken of them, unless it might be the last-named. Turning to the left would fall one in the wrong direction for the dining-room, but if so placed one might easily back up in this short distance without fear of spoiling the appearance of the parade, which in moving off resembles nothing on earth, unless it might be a column of lumps. Should one accidentally find themselves in step, change without undue delay, one of the principal objects of this parade being to train men to break step when crossing bridges.

PAY PARADE.—A semi-occasional occurrence, supervised by a Sergt.-Major, and very popular with the troops. Men who have to be duly warned at least six times for any other parade will invariably appear on this parade without any warning whatever, from ten to thirty minutes ahead of the time, stand in line without grouching, and return to their duties after parade, without having once cussed the Sergt.-Major; truly a marvellous exhibition of self-control. The event is generally heralded some two days previously by the collection of pay books, a heavy increase in the number of little scented notes that arrive at the front gate by special messenger, and a general atmosphere of peace on earth, good-will toward man. It is to be regretted, however, that some twelve hours after a decided re-action sets in, claimed by scientists to be the result of having refrained from cussing the Sergt.-Major, and the surrounding territory is anything but peaceable. Pay parade in itself is a most admirable institution, but is attended merely as a preliminary to securing a place on another little parade known as Orderly Room; it should not be attended at all. See Darwin's "Origin of the Species."

Under the heading of unpopular parades, two deserve special mention, "Orderly Room" and "Church." The first named is rather an impressive affair, in charge of a Provost Sergt. and a Sergt.-Major. It consists of two Cops, the accused, as many witnesses as know anything about the case, and a few who don't. It is unpopular in the extreme with all concerned, and in spite of a prevailing notion to the contrary, equally unpopular with C.O.'s. During our career, we have met with but one C.O. who

enjoyed an Orderly Room parade, and he is deceased. R.I.P. We bear this no ill will. The writer had been A.W.L. four hours—yes, out with the girls as per usual—and next morning found us on this Orderly Room parade. After a series of shunning, quick stepping, cap grabbing, etc., we found ourselves in the awful presence, and, believe us, it was awful. There were no trams in the vicinity, so we couldn't very well hand him that old "missed the last car" trap, so we tried a "Sir, my watch stopped," and drew five days F.P. 2 for our trouble—lucky we didn't get more for lying. Concerning Orderly Room parades, two things should always be kept in mind. Keep off them if possible, but if you do get nipped, don't squeal.

CHURCH PARADE.—A weekly affliction, of Teutonic origin, almost as popular as a bad corn, or an ingrowing toenail. It has, however, one redeeming feature, misery loves company, and it is some little satisfaction to know that an officer is stuck for it as well as the men. Even as he gives the commands his tone implies, "Darn you fellows, why didn't you all beat it and then I wouldn't have to be here." Ninety-nine and a half per cent. of the men anticipate his wishes and do beat it, far, fast and furious, the remaining half per cent. is known as "Church Parade." Many differences of opinion exist as to which honour is the worst, Orderly Room or Church. Personally, we think it is about six of one and half a dozen of the other.

MISCELLANEOUS PARADES.—Are all other occasions, when men are blown into a two thick formation by an happy or an unhappy bugler, and none of them are at all popular with the troops. Many men of B3 Category are excused these parades, but the same men can generally manage to win out by a length and a half when it comes to catching a little bit of fluff when down on the Prom. We know this for a fact, for we have often ran them a heat—and came in second.

Desiring a closer acquaintance with miscellaneous parades one should visit the C.A.M.C. Depot, Risboro. Please bear in mind that we do not recommend this, we merely suggest it; also we suggest that one take their rations with them. We were there for three days ourselves; and the parades were so numerous and the rations so light, that we got rather thin. In consequence, we were taking a bath one morning, and accidentally pulled the plug. They didn't find us until twelve hours after, and then soaked us for being absent without leave.

(To be continued).

Editor's Note:—The next instalment of this very instructive article may appear in our next issue. Don't miss it.