

Doctor Grenfell at the Front.

SOME EXPERIENCES OF WAR.

Dr. Grenfell, after spending three months at the front with the Harvard unit, has returned to resume his great work in Labrador. On his way back he spent a few days in London and found time to give at the headquarters of the Young Men's Christian Association, in Tottenham Court Rd., W.C., an address on his experiences. Reference was made to the lecture in the last number of "Tollers of the Deep." We are now able to give an extended report embodying the substance of what was said by Dr. Grenfell, whose remarks were listened to throughout with the deepest and most sympathetic attention and who was frequently and heartily applauded. Dr. Grenfell said:—

I am on my way from France to Labrador, and I am really sorry to be out of khaki, though I never was in it before. While I was in the thick of my work on the other side of the Atlantic I was invited to join the Harvard Surgical Unit at the front. I found it possible to do so, because I knew that in my temporary absence my work in Labrador and Newfoundland would be faithfully carried on by my friends and devoted helpers. So I came over and was attached to the Harvard Unit with the rank of Major, and the experiences I have gained as an Army surgeon will remain amongst the greatest and proudest of my life. I have had the opportunity of seeing what the British Army is doing in many ways in this terrible war—I have been at many places, including the base at Boulogne, and many great battle-centres such as Ypres, Bethune and Armentieres. And I have had full chances of seeing what is really going on. It is hard, almost impossible, to find words in which to express admiration of the courage, endurance and humanity of the British troops in this terrible conflict.

All my life has been a roving one, ever since I took my degree as a doctor exactly thirty years ago. When I really began life I decided to look for some field of work where I could be useful. I went into the London Hospital and very soon became intensely interested in the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. In those days the fishing vessels were all sail, and when a man was seriously injured he had to be transferred to some vessel that was carrying fish to Billingsgate, and then he was taken to the London Hospital. This state of things on the North Sea brought home to me the possibility of Christian men preaching the gospel of love and help; and men went out and largely brought about that wonderful revolution which we see to-day amongst North Sea fishermen.

I cannot help feeling that in the trenches, right along the line where the surgical men are working, there is just the same problem to deal with as we encountered in those early days of Mission effort in the trawling fleets. Very great difficulties had to be overcome in performing operations in tiny Mission hospital smacks on the open sea, far from land; just as unusual treating wounded fighting men at the front to-day. The problem in the North Sea was to heal men's bodies, as well as to help them to take a

higher view of life; and it seems to me that the problem at the front is just the same.

In dealing with the body there have been preventive developments which are little short of marvellous. The history of war is not the history of wounds; as a rule it has been the history of disease, and speaking as an unbiased person, I think that in this connection we are doing a perfectly magnificent work.

First of all, the troubles of the trench fighting have been the gas bacillus, which is an animal bacillus; and the tetanus bacillus. Both began operations in this war with terrible results; but now they have scarcely any effect. It must be remembered that the soil in France and Flanders, where so much of the fighting has taken place, is highly cultivated and is therefore splendid breeding ground for those deadly bacilli. So much is this the case with tetanus that in the early stages of the war bits of uniform which had been driven into the body, however slightly, were infinitely more dangerous than serious wounds caused by clean shrapnel, for the cloth by contact with the soil had become infected with the bacillus. I have seen men with pieces of shrapnel left in their wounds and doing well; but a piece of uniform, sodden with the rich soil, was a very different thing. But so wonderful has been the advance in the method of treating tetanus that to-day, if taken in time, such a thing as a fatal result is extremely improbable. Every soldier is so quickly and skillfully treated that danger practically does not exist.

The very terrible gas bacillus caused another very common disease, for the gas produced a kind of gangrene; yet now, there is very little mortality indeed from this cause.

In the beginning, too, any number of men were lost from typhoid fever; but now typhoid is getting so rare that if a case occurs anywhere on the front it is known the same night at the French General Headquarters. That remark applies to the whole of our armies, and so rigid is the control which is kept over these matters that on the day following the report a searching local inquiry is held as to the cause of the disease.

At the front I saw men who came from all parts of the country where I have been working for the past twenty-five years—Canadians, Americans, and so on. And in passing, just let me say that in connection with this war we are misjudging America because of the attitude which the President has taken. I have stayed with Mr. Wilson and with Mr. Roosevelt, and I know that the spirit of America is with us. It is because the whole spirit of the American people is with us that thirty-three doctors and thirty-six nurses—most of them giving up splendid practices—went out from America to the front, as the Harvard Unit to help us. Just so the Chicago Unit, and many more Americans fighting in the ranks.

I have seen at the front men of all ages and of every rank in life—veterans who were a long way over the army age, and immature youths of 16 or 17. The spirit of loyalty and the determination to do their bit made them go. Often enough a boyish patient would smile when I looked at the chart and asked him how old he really was. "Oh, that's my Army age," he would say; and go on smiling.

(To be Continued.)

TOWN AND COUNTRY.

The flowers are blooming in the woods, the daffodils and kindred goods, the cowslip and the rose; and, as I do my office task, I wish that I could go and back among such things as those. Oh, it would surely be sublime, upon a fragrant bank of thyme, for drowsy hours to rest; to revel in the wholesome breeze, and pluck the toadstools from the trees, and rob a hornet's nest. But now a farmer comes to town—a man whose residence is down where buds are bathed in dew; all day he sees the posties grow, all day he feels the zephyrs blow his flowing sideboards through. And when I'd talk, in burning words, of other woodland things, he looks at me as though he feels that my fat head is full of wheels, and cranks and rusty springs. He interrupts my glad harangue, and says, "I do not give a dang for cowslip, or for rose; I'm happy, when the sun goes down, if I can chase myself to town, to see the movie shows."

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Our Volunteers.

Sixteen young men presented themselves for enlistment at the Recruiting Headquarters on Saturday. Their names are:—

John Brown, Winterton; Geo. Wiseman, Shoal Hr., T.B.; W. J. Morrissey, Bell Island; Jas. Travers, Bell Island; John J. Lannon, Bell Island; Harvey Barrett, Bell Island; Garland Powell, Happy Adventure; W. J. Chalk, Elliston, T.B.; Mathias Ball, Exploits; E. A. Day, Port Rexton; S. Abbott, Charlottetown; Chas. Freebairn, Ferryland; Victor P. Crannford, St. John's; Geo. Lush, St. John's; Leo Clancy, St. John's; Wm. Shano, St. John's.

Patriotic Regatta.

Considerable comment is now going on respecting the Regatta and it is suggested, and supported by the public generally, to have our annual aquatic event take place this summer along patriotic lines. A suggestion is made that toll gates be erected at the different entrances to the lake side and a non-fixed attendance fee charged, thereby helping greatly some branch of the Patriotic Fund. We understand that a meeting of the 1914 Committee will be convened shortly by President Hiscock to consider the matter.

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Gents,—I have used your Minard's Liniment in my family and also in my stables for years and consider it the best medicine obtainable.

Yours truly,

ALFRED ROCHAV,

Proprietor Roxton Pond Hotel and Livery Stables.

Baseballers Met.

Season Will Be Opened June 14th. Proceeds for Soldiers and Sailors Club.

A meeting of the Baseball League was held on Saturday. Mr. Hawvermale presiding. Mr. Collins motioned to rescind the residential clause governing players with withdrawn owing to the fact that the rosters of the various clubs had been filled and the delegates therefore felt that in view of sufficient material having been secured it would be quite unnecessary to alter the rules respecting players. Owing to the adverse weather conditions which have prevailed for some time past, the Cubs and B. I. S., which are to open the season, have been unable to get consistent practice and the League therefore decided that the opening game be postponed one week to Jun 14th. The season will be opened in regular big league form with the usual attendant ceremonies. Mrs. John Browning who is so actively connected with Red Cross work was requested by the League to designate a fund to which the entire proceeds should be devoted. Mrs. Browning suggested that the receipts should be devoted to the Soldiers and Sailors Club which is being formed for the comfort of our brave lads in blue and khaki. The ladies' committee will work in conjunction with the League and both will co-operate in making the opening game on June 14th an unprecedented success in view of the worthiness of the object, and admission tickets will be sold broadcast at 10 cents each. The following committee of baseballers will be in charge of arrangements:—Messrs. R. G. Reid, J. O. Hawvermale, W. J. Higgins, T. V. Hartnett, N. J. Vinnicombe, A. Hiltz, J. Buckingham, W. J. Carew, Joseph Murphy, W. J. Collins, E. Clouston, T. Ring and W. J. O'Neill. The following gentlemen have again consented to act as officials this season:—Capt. Montgomery, Dr. H. A. Smith, Hanlin and F. V. Cheeman as Umpires; Mr. P. E. Outerbridge, Official Scorer; and Mr. John Stancombe, ground keeper. After finalizing matters in connection with the opening game on June 14th and the discussion of minor details the meeting adjourned.

Amusements.

AT THE CRESCENT.

Some of the greatest stars in Film-dom are presented at the Crescent Picture Palace to-day. Nell Craig, the great Essanay star, appears in "His Cradle," a powerful feature produced in three reels. Anne Schaffer and Alfred Vosburgh, the Vitagraph artists, appear in a fine melodrama: "The Siren." Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew in "The Fox Trot Finesse," a classy Drew comedy. Mr. Frank DeGroot sings: "As Long as the World Goes 'Round," a very fine ballad by Von Tilzer. This is a good show don't miss it.

"THE ALTERNATIVE" AT THE NICKEL.

All patrons of the Nickel Theatre should be sure and attend to-day's performance as the programme is an interesting and attractive one, and is sure to be viewed with the greatest satisfaction. One of the grandest pictures ever given at this popular theatre is "The Alternative," in which the celebrated artists Miss Constance Crawley and Mr. Arthur Maude are in the leading characters. Another big feature film to-day is "The Long Arm of the Secret Service," which is a thrilling detective story. Bert Stanley will be heard in another novelty song. There is coming to the Nickel shortly another great serial social drama—"The Strange Case of Mary Page," in which the principal roles are taken by Edna Mayo and Henry E. Walthall. There are fifteen episodes in the serial.

OPORTO PRICES.—Saturday's fish prices at Oporto were 42 to 44 shillings for large and 38 to 40 for small.

Soldiers and Sailors Club.

A meeting of the various committees interested in the formation of "The Soldiers and Sailors' Club," was held at Government House on Thursday, 28th inst., at 3 o'clock. His Excellency the Governor presided, and there were present the following: Mrs. W. J. Herder, Mrs. T. J. Edens, Mrs. L. Paterson, Mrs. C. F. Ayre and Miss E. Dickenson, representing the Ladies' Committee; Messrs. Dunfield and Sheard, representing the International Grenfell Association. Corporals W. E. McHenry and L. Moore, Lance-Corporal J. J. Murphy and Privates R. N. Balsam and N. Gilles were present on behalf of the members of the B. I. S. Reserve and 1st Mid. Regiment. Plans were approved for the furnishing and equipping the Grenfell Hall as a convenient recreation and reading room. At one end there will be a refreshment counter, separated from the main hall by screens. At the other end will be a writing room, where writing materials will be supplied free. In addition the Institute are placing at the Club's disposal the exclusive use of the gymnasium, and the use of the baths, bowling and billiard tables at special rates.

Donations of games, books, periodicals and magazines are asked from the public. The heating and lighting will be furnished by the Institute at a maximum charge of \$50 a month. Attendance and cleaning at cost approximately \$50 per month more. The expense of suitably furnishing and equipping the Club will be \$1,000, and the upkeep \$100 monthly. Subscriptions in aid of the Club will be received by the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Charles P. Ayre, Burn Brae. It is hoped this sum will be quickly donated, as the orders for the furniture to be made locally have been placed. The idea is to have the Club rooms ready for the use of the men and opened by the 14th June next.

"MEASLES."

Hundreds of children are suffering from "Measles" at the present time, and one has to be very careful in trying to avoid the complications that often follow them.

A heavy "Cough" is very prevalent during the present epidemic, and "Parhamonia" is the great danger. Avoid this by using the best "Stafford's Phoratoxine Cough Cure" on hand.

Stafford's Drug Store (Theatre Hill) is open every night from 7.30 to 9.30.

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Notes From Botwood.

Perhaps a few notes re our doings would not be out of place as one rarely sees an item in the newspapers from Botwood. Things have been dull here all the spring, owing in part to the non-arrival of the A. N. D. Co. steamers, and also to so many of our men being on active service, something over forty having responded to the call; as a matter of fact we feel quite proud of our record. We were all pleased to hear of the reception given to the crew of the Cravey's arrival at Heart's Content. He is one of the best and a general favourite in Botwood. We hope that ere long he will be visiting us.

Empire Day, as in other places, was set apart as Red Cross Day. It happened to be a beautiful day—one of the nicest for the season, and numbers attended the events held during the day. Some young ladies headed by Miss Gosse held a sociable in the Masonic Club Rooms during the afternoon and evening; teas, ice cream, etc., were served and a nice sum was raised. We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to Miss Gosse and the young ladies who helped to make the affair such a decided success. A public meeting was also held in the Orange Hall at 8 p.m., the Magistrate, Revs. J. T. Newman, M. K. Gardner and English Tulk emphasized the necessity of all doing their "bit" to help swell the Red Cross Fund. A subscription list was opened, and as many were unable to be present, collectors were appointed, and it is hoped that Botwood will not be behind in its donations to this worthy fund. The Masonic Club and the Orange Society gave free use of their rooms and we thank them for their kindness on this and other occasions.—Com.

Here and There.

ATTENDED INEBRIATE.—An inmate of the lock up was seized with the D. T.'s on Saturday night and had to be given medical attendance.

Fresh Salmon, Fresh Halibut, at ELLIS'.

DANE ARRIVES.—The Danish S. S. Danebul, 15 days from Cuz, arrived here yesterday, bringing a cargo of salt to Baine Johnstone & Co.

Corned Ayrshire Bacon and Fresh Sausages at ELLIS'.

ALCONDA OFF.—The S. S. Alconda called yesterday afternoon at Botwood to load pulp and paper for the A. N. D. Co.

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B. I. S. MEETING.—At the quarterly meeting of the B. I. S. yesterday some private matters were talked of, but no definite action taken yet.

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