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The Casualty Clearing Station

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Before the present war, the most advanced medical unit in the evacuating zone was called a Clearing Hospital, but it was soon seen that the name was hardly appropriate. The immense numbers of sick and wounded which it was called upon to handle, in a very limited time, seemed to take away from it the character of a Hospital, and the name "casualty clearing station" came into use; and, although the stationary phase of operations during the past year has somewhat developed the Hospital idea in clearing stations, still its chief function remains the rapid evacuation of cases. It was originally a Line of Communications Unit, under the I.G.C. but, as the war progressed, it was seen that it was to occupy a more advanced position than had been anticipated, and was, for convenience of administration, placed under the direct control of D.M.S. of the Army, as army troops. While mobilized in the proportion of one clearing station for each division of the field army, it does not necessarily evacuate for any particular division, its location depending largely upon the accommodation to be obtained in buildings, and upon the proximity of the railway. During the present war, at least in Europe, it has been possible to utilise buildings for the accommodation of casualty clearing stations, either wholly or partially, and although a number are still under canvas, during the past winter, huts have replaced most of the tents.

The casualty clearing station at the beginning of the war had no transport attached to it, if we except one riding horse per Officer. These have now been struck off the strength and three 3-ton motor lorries have been detailed for duty, with six drivers. These are supplied from the A.S.C. through the D.M.S. of the Army. The establishment also has been slightly changed by the attachment of an interpreter, three Chaplains, and a Dental Surgeon with assistant. From seven to nine Nursing Sisters have been allotted to each casualty clearing station adding greatly to its efficiency.

With the long period of comparatively stationary warfare, the clearing station has taken on more the character of a Hospital. It is now supplied with beds for the very serious cases, as many as seventy-five of these being seen in one, although the usual number is from twenty-five to fifty. All have very good operating theatres, and a good deal of major surgery is now expected of it. All abdominal cases offering any chance of recovery are operated upon with good results. Some of the clearing stations have thus accumulated a good deal of equipment, far in excess of the twenty-two tons as laid down, and there are to be seen in some of them even electric light plants. The nominal accommodation of two hundred has in some cases been exceeded by four or five times this number, the patients lying upon stretchers, paillasses, the floor or mother earth.

It was thought that the sick and wounded could be brought from the Field Ambulances in the empty supply wagons returning from the front. This was found to be far from satisfactory, and a new medical unit, the motor ambulance convoy, was organised to do this work. This consists roughly of fifty motor ambulance cars, which clear the field ambulances, and evacuate patients from the casualty clearing stations to the ambulance train.

To be continued.

Portia Up-to-Date

With apologies to the Shades of Shakespeare

The dread unwanted SHOWER is not strain'd;
It droppeth, like too frequent rain from heaven,
Upon the face beneath. It is twice blessed
By him that gives, but "cussed" by him that takes:
'Tis iciest to the mightiest; it becomes
A thing you'd gladly dodge for half-a-crown
If bribery would work, it's force and power
Are in the hands of Pollard's majesty.
(Therein doth sit the dread and fear of kings)
Here, then, a whisper to that man himself;
For earthly power doth e'en show likest God's
When "lukewarm" tempers "freezing." Therefore, Walt,
Though, 'orders" be thy plea, consider this,
That in the course of treatment none of us
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
The deed's of mercy. I have spoke thus much
To mitigate the coolness of my douche;
Which if thou follow, from my patient's heart
Sweet songs of gratitude shall rise on high.

—*Kriticos.*

GRANVILLE RIFLE TEAM.

Saturday last our boys suffered defeat at the hands of the King's Liverpools, but made amends by the splendid score of 798 points (possible 800) in the match versus Margate on Monday which they won by 10 points. On Tuesday they met and defeated Ramsgate by 41 points, and following that they won with the Anti-aircraft Artillery at St. Peters, winning by 61 points. Not bad for a bunch of cripples, Eh?

Mr. Boyland added to his laurels with another first-class concert on Wednesday. In addition to vocal and instrumental numbers, a most amusing comedieta "Mrs. Hilary Regrets" was given. A worthy addition to the talented Company was Miss. Mitchell, the gifted Australian Soprano, whose splendid voice was greatly appreciated by the boys.

Who was the N.C.O. who was seen walking up to St. George's Church with a lady last Tuesday evening. Are congratulations in order?

Did they enjoy themselves at Margate? We should smile!

All day he struggles manfully,
With fragments good and bad,
Poor over-worked News Editor,
They'll surely drive him mad.

Prom. Flapper—"Have you been out to the Front?"
Damaged Hero—"No, I'm doing this to advertise Bing's
Splints and Crutches"

The Monkey is looking "blue" these days. The Policeman has joined the army. The Beauteous Female is wearing puttees again. The Clowns are busy thinking what they might have done. And the old couple are considering an engagement, for a thousand nights only, at the Palace.

On Physo-Fungi Generally.

In your last issue you were soliciting information on military law as effecting moustaches. The science of Facial Fungus Excrescences is one to which I have devoted considerable study, so the following notes extracted from my last paper to the Royal Society may possibly relieve your coagulated abysmal ignorance.

Firstly, of our more uncommon forms FUNGUS BUFFALOCUS AFRICANDUS is our most beautiful; and the more perfect specimens very rare indeed; the prongs should curve gracefully outwards and slightly upwards till a complete circle is formed, or three circles growing smaller each time; genuine specimens are rare in this country though more common on the continent.

FUNGUS ELANDI is another rather uncommon form, the necessity of frequent attention and the increasing price of cosmetics being deterrent to extensive cultivation; occasionally specimens measuring ten to eleven inches have been known. "Dulcinea" (with whom I always discuss these things) informs me the shoots, cut when fully grown, stewed in hydro-cyanic acid, then treated with bitumen, make excellent hat-pins.

CHARLY CHAPLINI VULGARIS.—This is the commonest known variety, particularly so in the neighbourhood of the Military, due no doubt to the ease of production, three days lack of tonsorial attention producing a good healthy one in adult males, whilst its hardihood and necessity for but scant training greatly enhance its popularity; in the less mature animals it is the only kind they can attempt to grow anyway.

On Tuesdays and Fridays (soup days) the sanitary superiority of this breed is very evident. "Dulcinea" says it is not liked by the fairer sex owing to its prickly nature.

The variety SHULTZI, so called after a well-loved cartoon, is really a "sport," being the CHAPLINI VULGARIS run to seed, it is of course quite common, and called by the illiterate, "Toothe brush moustache. FUNGI WILLIAMENSIS—one of the sorrows of the ardent fungalist is the rapid decline of this form since 1914, it was elegantly suited to weak-chinned individuals, imparting quite a fierce expression; though careful training and frequent pruning were imperative or the sharp up-growing ends damaged the eyelashes and caused ophthalmia, or the inability to see straight with the rest of mankind.

Many other sorts occur, that discovered some time ago and named the CROWN PRINCE is not a true fungus at all, being more in the nature of a disease, whilst the TRIPITZI and FRANZ JOSEPHUS, not being found in the British Empire (or if found placed under close arrest) do not concern us. The only known poisonous variety is the WILLIAMENSIS, but according to the Fungoid Society its world-wide extermination is imminent.

To all those interested in the subject I recommend the following books—"Facial Fungoddities," by Professor Archibald Iswas, B.S., and "The Amateur Moustachite" by H. S. S.

Congratulations and A Warning.

It has come to our ears that a fine piece of work was accomplished by Sergt. Duncan on Saturday last. A patient got into difficulties whilst bathing north of the pier, and was in imminent danger of drowning. Observing this, Sergt. Duncan swam out, and with great difficulty secured his man, then battled his way back to where other bathers were able to secure the pair with ropes and haul them to the beach. We congratulate Sergt. Duncan on his gallant and timely action; and at the same time we would warn patients, especially those not in full possession of their wonted strength and stamina, that the under-current north of the pier at full tide is very strong and by no means to be trifled with.

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Sounds in the Night

There are few of us who could not dwell at length upon this subject. Some of our earliest recollections probably centre around it. In our memories there echo many sounds we have heard in the stilly silence of the night. The plaintive love-song of a neighbour's cat; the persistent howls of a forlorn canine; the foreboding whirr of a Zepp's engines; and later, the crushing of guns and bombs.

Yet, amidst all these other memories of sounds heard at night there will ever linger in my mind the steady, measured cadence of the snore of the man in the next bed. We may throw a boot at a cat or a brush at a dog; Zepp's don't come every night, and they soon disappear; but this friend of mine with the soul of music in his nasal-organ is ever with me. Usually he begins to tune up with a few preliminary grunts and groans at about eleven p.m. I wait in awful silence, hardly daring to move for fear of missing the opening notes of the selection. Will it be a flighty Mazurka or a dreamy Waltz? Shall I glide away on its wonderful harmony into the land of slumber, or will its terrible dissonance curdle my blood?

I have not long to wait. He has chosen a score marked *Andante*, and with measured, deliberate directness he gives expression to each well-placed note. Now with slight *diminuendo* he makes me believe that I am at last to be allowed to slumber. Alas! the theme enters a more lively passage and exasperates as it certainly invigorates. My pillow, already well pummelled, is subjected to some more vigorous treatment. I try to drown the sound by covering my head with the blankets, but find I have misjudged the penetration of this nocturnal music. Rising to double *forte* and quickened perceptibly, the sound waves beat their way through my defences and defy resistance. With one great sonorous note the music ceases and I sigh with relief and hope. Murmuring my heartfelt thanks I slowly emerge from my sub-blanket position and breathe the still night air once more.

Before endeavouring to close my eyes in slumber I saw to it that a heavy volume on Voice Production was resting handy near so that in case of a repeated attack I might have some means of counter-offensive. Gently, tenderly, I sought repose. Once I reached out a menacing hand as I heard a faint wheeze. Somehow, sometime, I fell asleep. I don't know how or when, but I did. It could not have been for long, for it was only midnight when I woke. My first recollection is of hearing my volume on Voice Production rustling its pages as it sped on its vindictive errand towards my neighbour's head. He woke with a yell. Just then I heard a long drawn out sound, and listening intently recognised it as the fog-horn snoring out its message to fog-bound mariners. My neighbour shouted "Who threw that book."

I crept down beneath the covers and thanked the Gods that my name wasnt in the volume: also, I hope he doesnt read this.

Granville Breezes

Who was the M.P. who spent three shillings in chocolate the other night?

Who went around swearing to slay the News Editor last week? He trembles!

There are four patients in Ward I who have only two legs between them. Some of the grousers ought to go around and learn how to be happy and cheerful from these boys.

Keep away from the X-ray people—they can see through all your little tricks.

Can any reader tell us the meaning of the word Royal, as applied to regiments of soldiers?

Sports and Entertainments

A series of fine orchestral and vocal concerts extending over last week en was given by Mr. Roselli and his London Party. The vocalists included such well known singers as Miss. Barthel, Maeide Fyfield, and Dore Goy, humour being supplied in large quantities by Mr. Selwyn Driver and Mr. Merry. The orchestral music was of a very high order and thoroughly enjoyed by the boys.

BASEBALL On Saturday last the Granvillains secured another victory; this time against the Walmer Can. Hospital, whom we defeated by 14 runs 2.

FOOTBALL Tomorrow (Saturday) our boys meet the team of the Military Hospital, Shorncliffe, on the Chatham House grounds. Kick-off at 3 p.m. Rooters please note.

The Palace Coy. entertained the boys on Wednesday Afternoon. The revue is very aptly named "Pretty Darings," and the bevy of talented beauties gave the boys a real good time, while the comedians were voted first-class.

The Wild Horse Bunch

Parade was over at half past ten,
And the Captain called for a dozen men
Men who could ride and punch the steers,
Half of the squadron were volunteers.

There was Big Hat Tom, the Bucaroo,
Wild Horse Clem from Tenderfoot Slough,
A Mexican fresh from the Rio Grande,
And Broncho Wilson among the band.

The Captain coughed, and cleared his throat.
Such painful details got his goat.
Gave the command "at ease," and then
Spoke as follows to those brave men.

"Fifteen wild horses from Canada's plain,
That know not saddle, nor bridle, nor rein,
Await your pleasure to-morrow, men,
They've got to be ridden by half-past ten."

So spake the skipper, and bade good night,
Left them trembling with doubt and fright.
So soon to ride—so soft—so fat,
With loafing around in Medicine Hat!

Early next day the Wild Horse Bunch
Went out early upon the "hunch."
Had, of schooners,—well, not a few.
Said to themselves, "We're good as new."

So bring out your buckers, Scar Face, Cyclone,
Steamboat, Vixen, we'll ride 'em alone.
They yelled "Let her buck," and spat in the snow.
"Bring out yer bronchos—Whoopee—Let's go."

L'envoi.

The finish, alas, I grieve to tell,
The Wild Horse Bunch that day caught—well,
The "Bronks" were fresh and onto the game;
And the Bunch came in subdued and tame.

F. Andrada.

The G. C. S. H. has this week suffered a loss by the departure of the Misses Rowe. These ladies came from Exeter, their home town, to act as voluntary workers in the Y.M.C.A. canteen, and by their kindly sympathy and attention quickly endeared themselves to the patients. They go from us to work at night providing meals for the munition workers of Woolwich Arsenal, and we extend to them our compliments and hearty good wishes for success in their new sphere.

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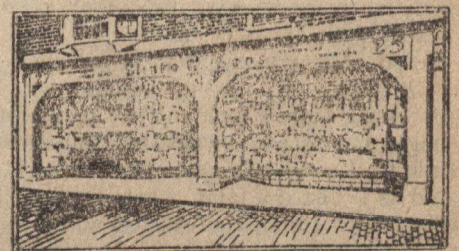
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