

YULE SMILE

POETRY ON PARADE.

The battalion recently received as recruit a young man of education and culture, who had failed to make it in other vocations. On his first day on the parade ground he was exhausted by several hours of marching and down.

"Stand at ease!" ordered the officer.

"How wonderful is death!" muttered the recruit.

The officer turned like a flash.

"Who said that?" he demanded.

The culprit smiled wanly as he replied: "Shelly, I believe, sir."

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The British pilot-officer returned from a raid into Germany.

"Sorry to be three hours late, sir," explained to his commanding officer.

"I misunderstood instructions and burned the leaflets under people's noses."

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Recruit: Is the air always clear and here?

Old Hand: Yes, except when it is coming from the parade ground.

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Nurse: Oh, dear me, your temperature is very low!

Recruit: Well, you're not so hot yourself.

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A young recruit, remembering his father's advice always to be polite, displayed his best manners in the mess by quietly asking, "Please pass the salt."

Several times he repeated the request, until at last, losing his patience, he bellowed, "Hi! Ain't none of you wank-kneed, hen-brained perishers with enough manners to pass the salt?"

"Oh, crumbs," said a quiet voice, "any man on earth couldn't you have said that at first? 'Ere, catch!"

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Mrs. Smythe was expecting some educated children, and on being informed that they were fairly big boys, decided to engage a strong, capable woman to look after them.

The boys arrived before the foster mother, and as Mrs. Smythe had to be away from home that day, she left instructions for her.

"I want you to get the boys thoroughly bathed and put to bed before my return, Mrs. Brown," she wrote.

"Don't stand any nonsense from them, firm."

On her return in the evening, the house was strangely peaceful. "Well, Mrs. Brown," she said, "did you find the boys easy to manage?"

"Fairly," replied Mrs. Brown. "Five of them weren't so bad. But, my! I 'ad a 'ell of a time trying to bath the little ginger fellow in his rimmed glasses."

"Great Scott!" cried Mrs. Smythe. "What's my husband?"

WEEKEND HOSPITALITY

Soldier Guests At Y.W.C.A. Gatherings

The opening celebrations of the weekend hospitality sponsored by the board of the Wellington Y.W.C.A., for soldiers, took place on Saturday and were most successful, being attended by more than 200 men and girls. The board with a committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Knox Gilmer, will conduct the entertainments, and for the opening weekend the association and the soldiers were the guests of Mrs. Knox Gilmer, who was unfortunately unable to attend because of illness.

The men began to arrive at 5 o'clock and games were held till tea time, when two large relays dealt with the demand for refreshments. Dancing followed, and at 8 o'clock the official opening took place in the Blue Triangle Hall.

On the platform the official party comprised Mrs. R. Gardiner, president of the Wellington Y.W.C.A. board, who was chairman; Mrs. P. Fraser, who attended in the absence of the Prime Minister; the Minister of Defence, Mr. Jones, and Mrs. Jones; the mayor and mayoress of Wellington, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. A. Hislop; Captain R. Haddow, Mr. and Mrs. Proctor. Brief speeches of welcome and appreciation were made by those on the platform. Board members present were Mrs. Martin, Miss Rennie, Miss Kersbaw, Mrs. E. W. Hunt, Mrs. Nichols, Miss G. Plimmer, Mr. and Mrs. Carter, Mr. and

Mrs. Bowden and Miss M. Toulson. Members of the girls' clubs of the Y.W.C.A. attended as partners for the men. The cafeteria, lounge and Blue Triangle Hall were thrown open to the men. Community singing and dancing were enjoyed till 11 o'clock. The programme was in charge of the three activities secretaries, Miss E. Bennell, Miss McDonald and Miss Saunders. Another enjoyable afternoon was held yesterday, when a large number of soldiers were present.

Miss Bridgeman expressed her pleasure at the attendance and at the real enjoyment of the men, who keenly appreciated the efforts made on their behalf.

CANTEENS IN EGYPT

Soldiers Can Buy Almost Everything

For the first time in history, it is claimed, an efficient canteen service was ready to take the field at the same time as the troops, and is functioning in every part of the world where British sailors, soldiers and airmen are serving.

To the Britisher serving anywhere overseas, N.A.A.F.I. (Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes) means canteen. In the camp of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force alone there are eight of these institutes. They are the soldier's source of almost everything he wants to buy—postage stamps, soap, cameras, films, tobacco, beer, hot suppers and many other luxuries and neces-

sities. Even messing issues are made through the central store and distributing depot in the camp.

Each of the institutes is a large wooden building with two spacious rooms, filled with tables and chairs, opening on to the central servery and kitchen. One room in the past has been available for general use and the other reserved for corporals, but it is now planned to convert each corporal's room into a recreation and social centre. Each institute also has a reading and writing room controlled by the Y.M.C.A.

The canteen maintains its traditional popularity as a rendezvous for the men of the force. On pay nights in particular it presents a cheerful, convivial scene, and is frequently used for smoke concerts by sections or platoons. Community singsongs held there periodically are always well attended.

Prices of several of the articles stocked are lower than those ruling in ordinary retail shops. According to a statement issued on the operation of the institutes, they are conducted by a non-profit company, which has no shareholders and does not pay dividends. The company is controlled by a council whose members are drawn from the three services and a board of management made up of service representatives and civilians with business experience.

Of the money spent at the institutes, it is stated, the greater part merely covers the cost of the goods purchased. A percentage of the remainder goes back to the units in the form of a rebate, and after reserves have been allowed for, the balance is expended for the benefit of the services as a whole.



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•
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ENGLAND
•
TEN FOR
SIXPENCE

"You're perfectly right...
De Reszke are
so much better"