



KEEP SERVICE TO THE FRONT



CHRISTMAS season brings thoughts which extend in many directions, largely in relation to events of the past, the nature of which is diversified, and dependent on the individual doing the thinking.

To many of us the recollection of childhood's happy days looms large, with the hanging of stockings beneath the mantle or beside the fire-place, only to have it's counter-part for those in the service who wash their own socks and hang them up for another purpose.

To every one, at this time, our thoughts revert to those who are near and dear, and the home and the home folks claim much of our attention:

Most homes are glad,
Some homes are sad
This Christmas,—Year of Peace,—
For men have fought
And with lives bought
The world's supreme release.

To all of us our thoughts have been occupied with service,—service to our country,—and while many of us leave here to take our places among the home folks and our former associates, let us keep to the fore-front this word "Service," and use it in the sense that He who was responsible for the foundation of Christmas would have us, "Do unto others as you would that they would do unto you."

PHILIP A. SHEAFF.,
Major, M. C.

Assistant to the Base Hospital Commander.



MORALE

CHEERFULNESS AND GRIT MUST TURN TO PEACE

By Ralph Van Deman Magoffin, Major,
Q. M. C., Camp Wheeler



MORALE is not a new tonic, but is a perscription which has been satisfactorily filled ever since the world began, but filled by the individual himself who needed the tonic. Now the tonic is going to be put into the National pharmacopoeia, and it has been given guarantee by the War department, which has appointed a Chief, Morale Branch, General Staff, under whom are morale officers in every camp, and at least one morale sergeant for each company.

Morale was first used as a national tonic by Germany which began sys-

tematically after the Franco-Prussian war to give morale in rather nauseating doses at first to the Teuton, who was not so keen about getting ready for another war. Even the Germans knew that their three wars against Denmark, Austria and France were the wars of a bully, and although they won a great deal by them, it was recognized by the Prussians, who were the war lords of Germany, that it would be necessary for them to tonic up the rest of the Germans who had just come into the German empire, ostensibly with, but really under the Kingdom of Prussia. The nauseating tonic of the Prussian finally so deadened the sensibilities of the rest of the Germans, and so poisoned them against what the rest of the world called honor and honesty, that they were in a state of stupor as to what was meant by treaty obligations or neutrality of Belgium or honest treatment of Serbia.

Italy lost a campaign or two be-

cause of poor morale, and two years ago Italy began to openly and honestly tell its soldiers what the war was all about, and to keep them informed of how things were going at home, and did everything possible to ally unrest, to keep up the spirit of the army during a hard campaign, and the results have proved the value of the remedy. This country too, spent the first three years of the war in finding out just how many and how bad were the deeds of Germans, because, at first it could hardly believe. But when the realization of all that German domination meant, this whole country burst into a flame of righteous anger against Germany, the out-cast among nations. That burst of righteous indignation is morale, and this carried our soldiers, both here and abroad through their hardships and sacrifices in splendid style.

Now that the war seems to be over, that spirit which made for self-sacrifice, and which helped to keep up one's spirit under privation, must now be turned into other channels. Morale is even more necessary in peace times than in war times, because the excitement which goes with war and the interest which attaches to travel from one camp to another or abroad, are missing. The ideal, which is the greatest of all ideals to be reached is that of the national and international spirit or frame of mind which will let this country resume its normal activities without undergoing the dreadful period which usually follows a great war, and it is the intention of everybody concerned to try to have all our soldiers learn the reasons for this war and for the demobilization and the dangers of a reconstruction period, in order to bring about a continuation of stable government and a resumption of all our activities without any of the distressing incidents which might accompany social or labor unrest, or a period of anarchy.

A spirit of cheerfulness, of steadfastness, of belief in our nation and its national ideals, and a determination to go through these next few trying years without a moral or national calamity; such is the morale which is going to be given, and which will be gladly taken as a combined national tonic and national remedy.

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