

You Mustn't Hypnotize the Mess Sergeant

Division Order Has Been Issued Against Indiscriminate Use of Science.

"Hereafter no enlisted man of this division will be subjected to hypnotic influence without the approval of the division surgeon."

This order, issued from division headquarters recently, caused the Gas Attack to detail one of its bright young reporters to make an investigation into the hypnotic situation in camp.

The Order is a Preventive.

First, it was discovered that Lt.-Col. E. R. Maloney issued the above order as a preventive. It was to prevent rumors getting around that enlisted men were being hypnotized for the amusement of officers or other enlisted men. Hypnotism must be used wisely, he said, and judiciously.

Second, it was discovered that a seance took place at which Major J. B. Sharp and Sergeant Major Tector, of the British army, successfully practiced hynosis before "a distinguished company." Unfortunately for our readers, no reporter for the Gas Attack was present at this seance. But the vigilant sleuth of the staff who was detailed to "go out and find out something—if you can," came back with the report that at this seance a subject drank three pints of water and enjoyed it more than he has any drink consumed since camp was established here. He was told, while in the hypnotic state, that the water was beer. It is unofficially reported that the subject, upon awakening, begged the major to hypnotize him again.

The Work of Major Sharp.

Major Sharp, it is understood, has done some valuable work with hynosis in the base hospital. But the reporter couldn't get at the facts in the case.

Another enlisted man who was a subject at the seance was made to believe he was a French general. As such he made a polite speech to the company. Another played an imaginary hurdy-gurdy and grew exceedingly peeved when any one tried to annoy the leather puttee he held under his arm—it was the monkey, of course.

All of the men came out of the hypnotic state feeling better than when they went into it, for a strong suggestion was left in the mind of each that he would awake in a pleasant frame of mind. Our reporter suggests that this suggestion should be applied to every man in the division just before reveille.

Interviews With Mere Privates.

Our reporter, unable to reach high officers in his investigation, fell back upon interviewing ordinary privates. Private Billy Payne told him:

"We have had our revolvers taken away from us recently. This was not done for the purpose of issuing new ones, as some believe, but because we are to carry none at all. Instead each of us will be issued lessons in hypnotism, and when we get to the other side and meet the Germans, we will simply make a few hypnotic passes with our hands and lo, the Huns will drop their guns and stand still in their tracks. This way the war will be won without bloodshed. But don't say I gave you this inside information. Don't under any circumstances use my name. I spell it with a 'y'."

What Private Jones Said.

To our reporter Private John Jones said: "Yes, I have read the division order against indiscriminate hypnotizing. But what I am in doubt about is this: Would hypnotizing the mess sergeant into giving you seconds be put in the indiscriminate class?"

Private Smith informed our reporter as follows:

"I am going to ask the division surgeon for permission to be hypnotized. I want to be told that I am back on Broadway on a furlough, that it is eleven o'clock at night, that I have just come from the 'Follies,' that I am now sitting at a table in Rector's, and there's a sound of revelry by night—not reveille."

Private Brown's Communication.

Private Brown permitted the reporter to see a communication he had just drawn up. It read:

"To: Division surgeon.
From: Private Brown.
Subject: Revenge.

"Private Brown requests the division surgeon to give his approval to the hypnotizing of Private Brown into a commissioned officer. Private Brown desires to enter the state of trance in the presence of his first sergeant, and to be told to reduce the first sergeant to a private in full view of the entire company."

The reporter for the Gas Attack obtained other interviews, but they were all of a similar nature.

C. D.

OH, SAY CAN YOU SING?

Do you know the Star Spangled Banner? Be honest, now. Do you? Or do you have to fill in missing words with "da da da de da"? Ten to one you don't know the first verse. Twenty to one you don't know all of it.

Why not learn it? You can fix the words in your mind some night when you are on guard. Once you fix them there you won't have to cough and "da de da" your way through your national anthem. Try singing it over to yourself next time you stand guard.

BUMPITIS.

A New Disease.

During my stay here in camp I have discovered a new disease. It is entirely dissimilar to measles, pneumonia, fevers and other diseases which are naturally prevalent among large bodies of men.

The germ of this strange disease is found only in the brain cells of embryo sergeants. It develops rapidly. The first symptoms can be detected by closely observing the victim as he gazes from side to side at three small strips of cloth firmly cemented to his shirt sleeves, and his artificial look of importance.

As time goes on the disease enters its second or more serious stage. The germs overpower the white corpuscles, and the sufferer shows his misery by establishing new rules of his own. He may re-write the drill regulations at a moment's notice. He will turn in all men who permit one minute to elapse after fatigue call is blown. He tries to enter conversation with the officers, he applies for a furlough so as to convince the home folks of his superiority over their neighbor's son, he looks in all shop windows at the natty lieutenant's uniforms on display and examines same closely, and he repeatedly shouts "close up" when he takes the company on a hike.

The only treatment or cure for this terrible disease is by exposing the victim to the remainder of the company at the next entertainment or performance given by the men. This is best done by having a courageous private who can handle his dukes compose a little verse gently reminding him that the others are aware of his ailment. After he has swallowed this verbal dose, though he will try to put on a sickly smile, he will sneak to his tent with a crestfallen air, satisfied that after all he is only a mere man.

J. C. C.

Ambulance Co. 106.

THE LAST STRAW.

A new health regulation issued by the state board of health to conform with the United States public health service regulations for Spartanburg and all cantonment towns in South Carolina, is that all bottled goods, such as soft drinks, must be sold and served in the original containers with straws inserted in the bottles. The contents must not be poured into a glass.

The government regulation regarding the washing of dishes at public eating places requires that all dishes be washed and rinsed in boiling water.

The Nut number of the Gas Attack will contain no chestnuts.