

REAL WAR CONDITIONS IN MANEUVERS HERE.

New Intensive Training Plans Include Use of Real Gas.

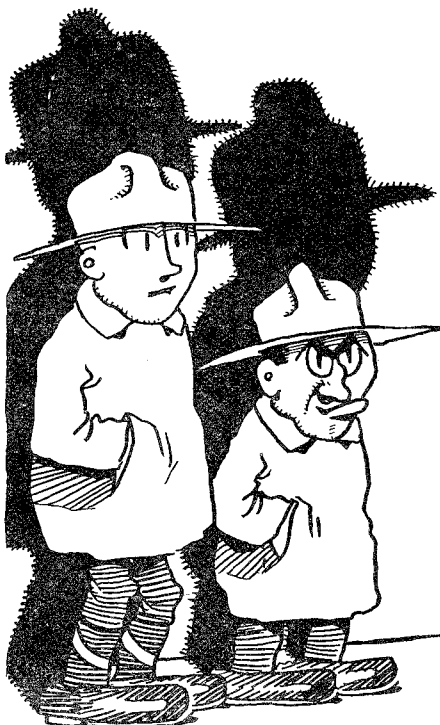
More intensive training for the 27th Division is the plan of its commanding general. Gas attacks with real gas will be one of the features. The gas will hurt you if you don't get your mask on in time, but it won't be dangerous. The experience of being gassed for practice will not, however, be a pleasant one, and the man who hasn't the gas mask drill down so pat that he can leap out of a sound sleep and adjust this protection in a twinkling will have a bad hour or two with the gas, and probably a worse fifteen minutes with his captain.

Major General O'Ryan in speaking of the planned training, which will include maneuvers on a large scale, said.

"It is a splendid body of men. The morale is high, and the officers and men alike have been severely tried by the usually severe winter. From now on, during the remainder of our stay here, we will work faster. The maneuvers we have planned will be made very realistic—that is they will approach actual conditions as nearly as possible. The battalions going to the target range will march the entire distance, instead of going by train as heretofore. There will be some very interesting work in the trenches. We are planning to give the men a touch of the gas that will test them as to how much they have learned about gas defense. Those who are caught napping when the gas alarm is given will suffer for it. It will not be the deadliest kind of gas, of course, and it will leave no lasting effects, but those who inhale it will undergo a good deal of pain. I suspect it will take something of that kind to teach some of the men the needed lesson. Then there will be some lively skirmishing and field work, and the commanding officers and the men under them will get some new training and tests that they have not had heretofore.

"The physical condition of the division is as good as it ever will be," Gen. O'Ryan continued. "It is even better now than it will be after we get into the thick of the fighting, for then we will have sick and wounded, and the ranks will be constantly filling up with new men. But we have done about all the preliminary training of the kind that we have had up to now that is needed. From now on we will more nearly approach war conditions until we get right into the real thing."

There will be frequent inspections from now on of every organization in camp. Special attention will be paid to personnel, soldierly bearing, condition of equipment, etc. The training work is to be intensified, but will be of a new kind and more varied than heretofore. There have been few idle days for the division during the six months that it has been here, and there will be none at all from now, but the officers and men alike are eager for the strenuous days that are



"If I joined some branch of the service, could I take my pick?"

"Yes; and if you enlisted in the Pioneers, you'd get a shovel, too!"

ahead of them, for they are convinced that before a very great while they will be on their way "over there." There will not be any more of the restlessness that comes from tarrying too long in one place and doing the same old thing until one grows stale.

BIG IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED AT K. OF C.

So many men are coming to the Hall of evenings that the writing accommodations are being strained to the limit. To meet the added demands being made, more than one hundred and seventy-five feet of folding desks will be built into the east and west walls, so that all who come may have ample space to unfold their ideas. One is almost tempted to add at length.

The north inside wall has lately had an addition, called for by the splendid movies being shown in the hall nearly every evening. Several friends have given us a fine screen, on which the pictures show more clearly and evenly than on the old movable one which formerly hung there. It is a joy to watch the film favorites of town and country disporting themselves on the whitened surface of our new curtain.

One of the most interesting pictures seen recently was the War Department films of boxing and bayonet instruction. A goodly audience greeted the first appearance in our little house of Kid McCoy, Benny Leonard, Frank Moran and other knights of the screen.

The assistant secretaries are planning a series of vaudeville and musical entertainments that will be well worth while. There is many, as the parodist remarked, a social bud so fresh and green, that wastes her

ORIENT YOURSELF.

I promised Gus, the philosophic second loot of our Fifty-umph Pioneer outfit, to type out his latest bit of optimistic advice to the throng of officers who came but lately from the alkalined arroyos of Texas and the dry, frozen north to this—well, somewhat misty camp.

Gus says that one of the first things a young officer must learn in the military game is to orient himself, especially as regards the social topography. During the first week he was here, like the rest of the newcomers, he felt a bit chilly and damp. He came, he saw—and even oggled—but he couldn't conquer. Every time he cheerfully broke some one's floating rib in one of the catch-as-catch-can hops on the top floor of Spartanburg's great, white hostelry, he tried to negotiate an appointment with his captured Cinderella—but no. Nothing but a series of sugar coated squelches came his way. Each girl would laugh her silvery Robert W. Chambers' laugh and would waft this mockery at Gus as she floated away with another partner:

"Ah'm so sawwy, but I've a date with Lieut. Brown on Monday, Sergt. Smith on Tuesday, Pvt. Jones on Wednesd-a-a..."

Her voice died away in the whirlpool of chatter about her. The disconsolate Gus would slink towards the squatters' bleachers, gingerly rubbing his shattered shoulder blade as he went. He became bluer and bluer—almost indigo—and he came to curse the place, the game, the weather and the life.

Sixes and sevens had Gus in their grip until he bethought himself of the orientation philosophy. He got out his mental alidade and slope board and took a few backsights on his social traverse. The discovery came to him that he had been flivvering by using a depressed compass. He began a scheme of correction by smiles. Now, so he avers, he is triangulating perfectly. The date books are open to him, and the smile of the eternal feminine has transformed the valley of mud into a vale of green enchantment.

Being one of the kind that wishes the same good luck to his fellows as befalls himself, Gus puts emphasis on this advice:

"Orient yourself."

D. H. H.

KNOCK-KNEED.

Passing a hand over his forehead, the worried drill-sergeant paused for breath as he surveyed the knock-kneed recruit. Then he pointed a scornful finger.

"No," he declared, "you're hopeless. You'll never make a soldier. Look at you now. The top 'alf of your legs is standing to attention, an' the bottom 'alf is standin' at ease!"—London Fun.

sweetness on a millionaire, and the assistants have taken on the particular job of fathoming some of old Ocean's dark unfathomed caves and gathering in a pearl or two that lies hidden in the ranks of the men at Wadsworth.