

# News of the Y. M. C. A.

Edited by E. REED SHUTT.



The "Y's" Men at Camp Wadsworth.

## BUSY WEEK AT BUILDING 96.

With a large number of the men it serves absent at the range or in the trenches, 96 has been less thronged than usual. Yet the movie programs on Tuesday and Friday evenings, and the concert on Monday drew crowds that taxed our capacity. Madame Riheldaffer's visit was the big event. Nothing we have had in a long while has touched the hearts of so many men as did her songs and intimate talks and cheery greetings afterward. Not only was she recognized as a real artist with a rich voice under perfect control; more than that, a big, friendly, motherly soul, with an unfeigned interest in every soldier boy.

On Wednesday evening of last week the band of the 57th Pioneers repeated their former triumph in another splendid concert. It was perhaps even better received than the first, there being more popular and fewer classical selections in the program. At the religious meetings on Thursday and Sunday evenings the attendance was not up to par, but the addresses were among the best we have heard. Dr. Lewis, the new camp religious work director was the speaker Thursday. It was his first message to our men, and they will look forward eagerly to the next. Before the address Dr. Woolsey conducted a sing-fest, introducing the new song, "Keep on Hopin'." Lt. Gleason of the 54th Pioneers made the Sunday evening address, a stirring and manly presentation of the soldier's need of real religion. Lt. Fleming of the same regiment helped us out of a tight place by taking charge of the singing, and proved a fine leader. All the hymns he chose were Fanny Crosby's.

In appearance 96 has been improving both inside and out. The floors are being oiled this week, and the Y. M. C. A. emblem has been worked in broken stone on our front lawn. More landscape gardening is still to be done.

## NEWS FROM UNIT 97.

A ting of sadness settled over our part of the Camp when the sad news of the accident which cost two of our boys their lives and sent several more to the hospital was received. The military funeral was held Sunday afternoon, conducted by Chaplain Sattig assisted by Chaplain Kelly. The services were most impressive, and those in attendance were made to realize that these two lads had made their contribution toward the winning of the war as truly as those who may later fall beyond the sea.

The continued activity in this section keeps things lively at 97. There is much of go and come since our Unit is located on the highway to the Range, and also in position to witness the frequent arrival of new troops. There is considerable hilarity on the part of the marching bodies of troops, and so well drilled and hardened are many of them becoming that a march of twenty-seven miles in a single day is a mere incident. They come in with jubilant spirits and ready to do justice to the evening mess as soon as the bugle calls.

Letters are pouring through this Unit by the thousand, and Uncle Sam must almost stagger beneath the load of mail that is daily laid upon his back. The library is continually patronized and the late acquisition of a quantity of new books has only added zest to the reading mania. New paper racks and hangers have also brought an added convenience in the use of the periodicals.

Mr. Ray Jenney, Camp Physical Director, shot a message straight to the hearts of the boys in his able address on "Sailing On," last Wednesday night. Dr. Ames Maywood, of Detroit, who spoke Sunday night captivated all hearts with his mingled humor and pathos, as well as with his eloquent and masterful appeal for Christ-like living. No messenger will be more welcome than he on return date.

## French Class.

Dr. Libby does not lack for pupils in the French class which he is meeting three times a week under the direction of Mr. Pafford, our Educational Secretary. Several hundred men have been participating in this study and the eagerness with which they lend themselves to the work indicates that they are anticipating the use of the language ere long. The men all appreciate the excellent service Dr. Libby is so cheerfully rendering, and all without money and without price.

A happy half hour with the Bible has been introduced by Religious Work Secretary Ayres. Each Tuesday evening at 7:30 he directs a public forum for the discussion of Biblical themes with a direct bearing on soldier life, the full attendance and ready response on the part of the men would indicate that this is the best method for this work in our Unit.

Secretary Allen since his return from the Blue Ridge Conference has been asked to assume additional obligations. All are aware that he has a broad back and is capable of carrying two men's load. In addition to continuing as Building Secretary for 97 he will assist in the instruction of the "uninitiated" secretaries in the various units of our Camp, and will also act as Recruiting Secretary for Overseas work, covering a district that centers in Bennetville.

## Madame Riheldaffer Given an Ovation.

Some who were present had not forgotten her previous appearance early in the history of the Camp. A storm of applause greeted her Saturday night when she came upon the platform. The story of her son "Billy" who is somewhere in France with the 15th Engineers, riveted the attention of all; and with her marvelously sweet voice she had soon sung her way into the hearts of every hearer. For the boys it was like a breath from home to be the recipients of the motherly interest she so cheerfully tendered them all at the close of the public recital.

Just as we go to press a new member arrives for our Secretarial force. He comes with a smiling face and with a readiness to serve. We are sure we have in him a most valuable addition to the working force for this unit. He is Mr. G. Wilbur Taylor, from Baltimore.