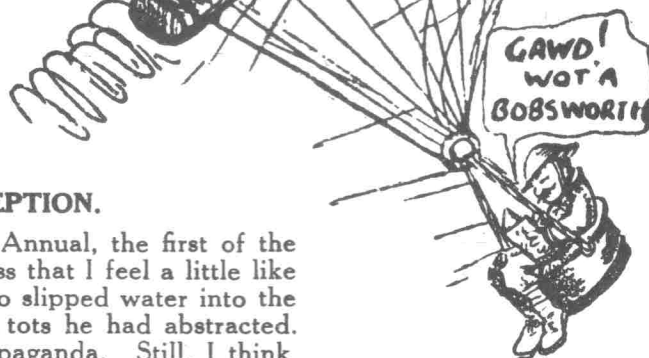


THE M.O.T.H ANNUAL

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THE MOTH CONCEPTION.

IN writing the "editorial" for this Annual, the first of the Memorable Order, I frankly confess that I feel a little like the enterprising Quartermaster who slipped water into the rum ration to make up for the liberal tots he had abstracted. I have slipped in a good deal of propaganda. Still, I think Moths will find it interesting and entertaining propaganda, and, after all, the object of the Annual is to indicate the wonderful progress made by the Order during the first 18 months. There are now over 16,000 ex-servicemen wearing the little tin hat in the Union.

This rapid growth shows that there was nothing much wrong with Old Bill Evenden's original conception of the Order. Occasionally the ex-soldier who must have his grouse will criticise, and wonder what the Order is achieving. The restlessness sometimes breaks out on the headquarters staff, and there is vague talk of a definite objective. But, personally, I think the Moths should be content to stick to the first big idea—that is, to develop a Sound Memory of the sacrifice made by the fallen, and to revive the old spirit of camaraderie that prevailed between soldiers during the war. For most of us the unselfish comradeship of the trenches remains the finest memory of the war. Yet how long did the feeling of comradeship exist after the war? Until the Memorable Order of Tin Hats was formed greetings between pals who often made the most of a muddy dugout were almost sheepish. The old spirit of friendship was renewed at regimental and sectional reunions, but in the daily round it was almost forgotten. To-day, amongst the Tin Hats at any rate, the feeling of camaraderie is stronger than ever. Thanks to the shell-hole—the brain-wave of the Order—we meet regularly in the atmosphere of democracy that prevailed in the trenches, despite army rules and regulations. Irrespective of social standing, we join enthusiastically in singing songs like "Mademoiselle from Armentieres" and "Old Soldiers Never Die."

This cementing of the old bond between ex-soldiers has alone been a worthy achievement of the Memorable Order. Let the ex-soldier who doubts, the man who is too shortsighted to see through the camouflage of irresponsible levity, spend an evening with a shell-hole or look into the Town Hall for the Armistice celebration. He will not only be converted, but he will quickly learn that the very existence of this comradeship gives opportunities for the expression of the altruistic instinct inherent in every true soldier.

Just a last word about the Annual. It has been written, compiled, and produced by Moths for Moths, and all ex-servicemen of SOUND MEMORY.

MOTH DAWSON.