SOLDIERS ENTERTAIN THE POOR.
A BOMBALIUM DEPT. CONCERT AT STEYNING UNION.

The big dining-hall at the Steyning Union presented an unusual scene last week on the occasion of an Infantry Command Dept. concert arranged by Lieutenant Greatorex. All the inmates were present, row upon row of nurses in uniform, red-faced children, and on either side the old ladies with their white-starred caps and grey chipped shawls, and the old men in the ancient curiously smoking at the remarkable pipe. The remainder of the hall was packed with khaki. The band of the 2nd Durham Fusiliers, under Lieutenant Norton, which played frequent well-chosen selections, solemnly and face had a more appreciative audience, their performances being especially enjoyed by the old folks whose hearing was not good enough to catch the recitations, for Private J. Edward Fraser acted as accompanist. Corporal Bridgeman opened the programmes with “Somewhere” and “The Long, Long Trail,” followed by Private Wilson (2nd Royal Fusiliers), the possessor of a very high, sweet tenor, which seems to have been in no way impaired by a long wound received at Vimy Ridge, who was heard to best advantage in his second song. “Until.” Private Barlow (2nd Royal Fusiliers) gave a recitation from the lab board, which deals with the melancholy fate of the “cook and the cabin’s effect and the crew of the Nancy brig,” not to mention the “midshipman’s” and the “bellow tight,” that last being a base reproduction on the solitude of the Navy! Sergeant Fothergill, baritone, sang very easily. “The Trumpeter,” and, as an encore, “When you come home.” Private Carlisle made a big hit with his exhibitions of complicated variations on the dog dance. Corporal Kendal at the piano. Miss Margaret Flint sang twice. “If I were the only girl in the world” being perhaps her most popular contribution. Pte. E. Rafterford (2nd Royal Fusiliers), after travelling abroad with the band, burst forth into some highly amusing extracts (alleged) from “Old Moore,” which drew rounds of laughter, as did also his famous “imitation of a Sussex yokel singing himself to sleep.” Miss Dorothy Smith gave much pleasure with “Love’s Garden of Roses,” followed by Pte. Parker’s song, “The Day You Came.” Last, Mr. Tovey announced the names of the composer, who was warmly applauded. Miss Smith, always a prime favourite, also sang again later. Lance-Corporal J. S. Durant now contributed a story about a very aged lady and some very amusing variations on the “Charge of the Light Brigade” theme. A really wonderful demonstration of what can be done with a service rifle was now given by Private Wells, who seemed to be continually within an ace of doing his own head off with his glittering bayonet, but happily got no further. Private Horrocks came next, allowing himself to be tied up securely with string cord like an “Oursouo” parcel, and placed in a sack from which a decided bully three minutes he emerged, fresh, but triumphant, having wriggled himself free of all his bonds. The duet “Excaliber” was effectively rendered by Corporal Rodger (tenor) and Sergeant Fothergill. A clever ventriloquial entertainment by Privates Wilkinson and Joye, the latter shedding copious floods of tears on leaving the stage, and a lively martial barcarolle by the band, concluded the programme. hearty cheers were given the band and the concert party at the suggestion of the Master, who expressed very cordial thanks for the enjoyable entertainment.