

West Sussex Gazette 1st March 1917 page 1**SOLDIERS ENTERTAIN THE
POOR.****A SHOREHAM DEPOT CONCERT AT
STEYNING UNION.**

The big dining-hall at the Steyning Union presented an unusual scene last week on the occasion of an Eastern Command Depot concert, arranged by Lieutenant Gurteen. All the inmates were present, row upon row of nurses in uniform, red-frocked children, and on either side the old ladies with their white-starched caps and gay checked shawls, and the old men in the ancient corduroys, smoking at interminable pipes. The remainder of the hall was packed with khaki. The band of the 3rd Dragoon Guards, under Bandmaster Horton, which played frequent well-chosen selections, could hardly have had a more appreciative audience, their performances being specially enjoyed by the old folks whose hearing was not good enough to catch the recitations, &c. Private J. Edward Frazer acted as accompanist. Corporal Bridgehouse opened the programme with "Somewhere" and "The Long, Long Trail," followed by Private Wilson (22nd Royal Fusiliers), the possessor of a very high, sweet tenor, which seems to have been in no way impaired by a lung wound received at Vimy Ridge, who was heard to best advantage in his second song, "Until." Private Barrett (22nd Royal Fusiliers) gave a recitation from the Bab Ballads, which deals with the melancholy fate of the "cook and the captain bold, and the crew of the Nancy brig," not to mention the "midshipmite" and the "bo'sun tight," this last being a base reflection on the sobriety of the Navy! Sergeant Pither, baritone, sang very finely, "The Trumpeter," and, as an encore, "When you come home." Private Carlisle made a big hit with his exhibition of complicated variations on the clog dance, Corporal Kendrick 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. Rutherford (22nd Royal Fusiliers), after frivolling awhile with the band, burst forth into some highly amusing extracts (alleged) from "Old Moore," which drew roars of laughter, as did also his famous "imitation of a Sussex yokel singing himself to sleep." Miss Dorothea Smith gave much pleasure with "Love's Garden of Roses," followed by Pte. Frazer's song, "The Day You Came." Lieut. Gurteen announced the name 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 chopping 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 strong cord like an "Overseas" parcel, and placed in a sack, from which after a decidedly busy three minutes he emerged, flushed, but triumphant, having wriggled himself free of all his bonds. The duet, "Excelsior" was effectively rendered by Corporal Rodger (tenor) and Sergeant Pither. A clever ventriloquial entertainment by Privates Wilkinson and Joey, the latter shedding copious floods of tears on leaving the stage, and a lively musical burlesque 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.