

being that one halfpenny on each song sold would go to the Appeal Fund for the College Endowment, and expressed natural and righteous indignation. We added, "if the members of the London Centre have any ideals left, let them, for very shame, produce the halfpennies out of their own pockets, and decline to be associated with the shameful and degrading methods of cadging for halfpennies advocated, as above stated."

In a letter in our issue of November 24th Miss Mary Burr took great exception to the application of any part of the money obtained from the public "in return for a 'Poppy Song,' upon which is printed, 'On behalf of Earl Haig's British Legion Appeal,'" as "likely to bring the British Legion Appeals into disrepute," and wrote further:—

"That even the members of the College of Nursing should drag the Nursing Profession still lower, by lending themselves to such paltry means, to obtain funds, is almost unbelievable. Is it possible that there are women—nurses—so wanting in self-respect and sympathy as to deprive necessitous ex-soldiers, widows and orphans of halfpence!"

This is the point that appealed to us when we suggested that the members of the London Centre of the College of Nursing should produce the halfpennies out of their own pockets. We did not in doing so make any reference to Earl Haig's (British Legion) Appeal, but Miss Burr not unnaturally assumed that the "Poppy Song" referred to was the one which is known by that name, beginning "Oh! ye who sleep in Flanders' Fields," which "has been set to music for use at War Memorial Services, on Remembrance Day, November 11th, and other Solemn Occasions." This includes the words—

We cherish, too, the poppy red,  
That grows in fields where valour led;  
It seems to signal to the skies,  
That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flow'r that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders' fields.  
And now the torch and poppy red  
Wear, in honour of our dead.

We have now received the following disclaimer from Captain W. G. Willcox, Organizing Secretary of the Appeal and Publicity Department of the British Legion:—

"No authority was given to any persons to retain one halfpenny per copy sold, of music bearing the words, 'On behalf of Earl Haig's (British Legion) Appeal.'

A searching inquiry has been made regarding this allegation, and it is found that an association unconnected with British Legion, having different objects, and not appealing for funds to alleviate distress amongst ex-service men, publishes music upon which one halfpenny per copy sold is retainable by all agents.

"I enclose a copy of the poem, 'Oh, ye who sleep in Flanders' Fields' set to music which is rendered by choirs throughout the Empire at Cenotaph and similar memorial services; no commission being payable or retainable in respect of this sacred music.

"I also enclose a copy of what 'Mary Burr' calls a 'Poppy Song' which, as you see, is nothing at all to do with Earl Haig's (British Legion) Appeal, or Poppies."

We gladly publish Captain Willcox's disclaimer on behalf of Earl Haig's (British Legion) Appeal, and are obliged to him for sending us copies of the two songs. We agree with him that the second song which he encloses, "The Song of the Ypres League," has "nothing to do with Earl Haig's Appeal, or Poppies." It is a song about cornflowers, called "A Corner in Flanders," and the ruined tower of Ypres and cornflowers are depicted on the cover. If, as Captain Willcox assumes, this is the song which the London Centre of College of Nursing, Ltd., invited its members to sell in the cinemas, in order to earn ½d., per copy sold, for the College Endowment Fund, we hope he will enquire, from those responsible, why volunteers were called for to sell the "Poppy Song," and why they selected the week before that in which Remembrance Day (November 11th) occurred, for this purpose.

We note that the Ypres League, which enrolls in its comradeship all those who fought at Ypres (which is to the British Empire what Verdun is to France) together with the relatives of those who died there, includes F.-M. Earl Haig amongst its Vice-Presidents, and we hope the great Field-Marshal will use his influence with the Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, who is also Chairman of the College of Nursing, Ltd., to prevent the cheapening of this song by its sale in cinemas, in order to collect halfpence for the College of Nursing, Ltd. For our own part, as we have already said, we consider that College members owe it to their profession to give these halfpennies themselves instead of cadging for them in places of public amusement.

#### AN ACCEPTABLE CHRISTMAS GIFT.

Just now shops and bazaars are filled with a display of novelties, useful and otherwise, from which we select gifts as reminders to our friends of our affection and good wishes.

Yet when we get them home we sometimes wonder whether, after all, the gift which we may have exercised some self-denial to purchase will give the pleasure which we hoped when we selected it, or will prove a white elephant, to be set aside when Christmas is passed with kindred useless trifles.

No mistake can be made if we select a hot water bottle as our gift to either man or woman, that is if we select the right one, and the right one is of course Ingram's "Eclipse," which can be purchased from any high-class chemist or stores.

Besides being made of good rubber, it is fitted with a patent constructed neck, and patent rubber covered screw stopper. Nothing is more annoying, or may be even dangerous, than to find one's bed sodden, instead of warm and cosy, because a loose washer has been mislaid, and a leaky bottle placed in the bed. Such untoward accidents cannot occur if the bottle used is Ingram's. Be sure, therefore, that it is branded Ingram's "Eclipse."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)