

SNIPPETS FROM TALKS.

Levels Scorn At Gallery Patrons

Polite but Scathing Remarks by Early Canterbury Reviewer—Thrilling Capture of Criminal and Half a Million Square Miles in the Arctic—Sickroom Hints.

A. L. M. PERRY (3YA)

THE very scathing report (on one of the first theatrical performances in Canterbury) said: "The performance at the theatre on Monday night went off tolerably well so far as the actors were concerned; but the most respectable part of the audience earnestly complain of the negligence of the police in not checking the silly pastime of flinging nuts, oranges, etc., from the gallery, to the annoyance of all the occupants in other parts of the hall. There is no doubt that the performers of such feats consider their doings very clever, witty and original; but as there are others also who have different notions of decorum, those exhibitions of extreme cleverness might as well be pursued in a back lane or tap-room, where they might meet with applause and where those sedate persons

who cannot appreciate the extreme talents that expert flinging of a globular missile requires could not mar the deserved éclat."

MR. G. M. KEYS, M.A. (3YA)

IN 1921 the frontier of the Eastern Arctic was pushed back by the efforts of a single man, Staff-Sergeant Joy. The commissioner informed Joy that he had a "little errand" for him. This little errand was the largest assignment ever to be made to one man of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force. He was to hunt down a criminal in that vast and barren waste of Baffin Island, and, incidentally, to take over the Eastern Arctic, very much as the force had taken over the West, by occupation, thus cementing Canada's ownership of an additional half-million square miles. The north had always attracted Sergeant Joy, who had served for years in Northern Saskatchewan

and on the MacKenzie River. He realised the tremendous compliment that was being paid to him as he received his final instructions. "You will make a thorough investigation of this case, and, acting on the information you obtain, take any action which may appear advisable." It was a stupendous order to be carried out in a stupendous setting; and the sergeant was highly pleased. Let those who said that adventure in force died with Sitting Bull, or after the Yukon excitements now take notice.

THE story of his adventure is too long to tell in full here. A fur trader named James had established himself among the Eskimos and amassed a valuable supply of furs, but gave no reason for some of the Eskimos to hate him. During one of his visits to a particular small village he was shot. A year later Sergeant Joy arrived, and with boat and sledge set about his task, undertaking journeys and bearing hardships and disasters with an endurance almost incredible. He moved among the tribes alone, at first with his life in his hands, but gradually he won their confidence, and for his uniform the respect it merited and held in all other parts of the great Dominion. He became, in turn, hunter, explorer, counsellor, coroner, J.P., policeman and magistrate. He found his man, learned enough to know that a full trial was warranted, and prepared for his commissioner a report.

IN the annals of the Force there is probably no report of greater achievement more modestly recorded. He had occupied the land for Canada. He had performed an autopsy, arrested the chief offenders single handed, produced jurors out of this barren region, held a preliminary trial with decorum, and finally arranged for a learned judge and jury to proceed to the detachment of the R.C.M.P. at Pond's Inlet in the Arctic and complete the consequences of the murder. James' death occurred in 1920. Sergeant Joy arrived in 1921. His report went to Ottawa in 1922, and late in 1923 the final trial was held and the chief culprit found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment.

AMBULANCE TALK (2YA)

THE bed in a sick room should be a single bed, as with a double bed it is not so easy to get at the patient. The position of the door, windows and fireplace differ so much that no definite rule can be laid down as to where the bed should be placed, but these points should be observed as far as possible: The bed should have its head against the wall (preferably an inside wall) so that both sides are approachable; the window should be to one side and not opposite the foot, for that would send the light straight into the patient's eyes; between the door and



STARS OF "THE LOVE PARADE."—Maurice Chevalier and Jeanette Macdonald, who are together again in a modern version of the world's most popular musical comedy, "The Merry Widow." This film is to be an Easter release in the principal New Zealand centres.