

SOLDIERS AT CHÂTEAU D'OEX.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—The mountain village of Château d'Oex in Switzerland is now crowded with British soldiers interned for the remainder of the war and until peace is signed. We have at present in Château d'Oex some 100 soldiers, and we are expecting a contingent of another 200 men this month. We shall thus have 300 in this little town and neighbourhood. The dangers through which each man has passed in the firing line, the ill-treatment that all without exception have met with in German camps, have served to impress their minds with a sense of thankfulness to God for their deliverance, and to quicken their religious instincts. This is shown in an appreciation of the Church services. The soldiers, especially when a hymn is chosen that they like, sing with all their hearts. They enter into the beautiful liturgy of our Church with a heartiness which is refreshing to hear. We need, however, an organ to give greater support to the singing. Our American harmonium, excellently played by one of our soldiers who was a professional organist in England, is not sufficiently powerful to lead the musical portions of the service. We have £40 in hand, but need a further sum of £300 in order to procure a small, but efficient, instrument. This organ would be a permanent memorial of the historic sojourn of our British officers and men in this valley of Switzerland. I feel sure that there are many relatives and friends of the British interned prisoners of war who would esteem it a privilege to contribute towards placing such a memorial in the English Church of Château d'Oex. Cheques, crossed "Château d'Oex Church Organ Fund, Cuénod's Bank, Montreux," may be sent to Colonel Vansittart, Chalet Benvenuto, Château d'Oex, Switzerland, who has kindly consented to act as treasurer of the fund.

E. DUDLEY LAMPEN, British Chaplain.
Château d'Oex, August.

The Times
17 August 1916