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CHEERFUL WIVES AT CHÂTEAU D'ŒX.

ARRIVAL OF SECOND PARTY.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CHATEAU D'ŒX, Oct. 9.

A second party of soldiers' wives arrived this evening. They had had no delays on the journey, so that they were more cheerful and less tired. As the electric railway train climbed from Montreux to Chateau d'Œx, they sang "Keep the Home Fires Burning," and "Tipperary," much to the amusement of the other passengers. A Gurkha Subadar at one of the stations passed gazed appreciatively at the party, and bewailed his fate that his wife was in the hills of Nepal and not in Switzerland. Three miles from Chateau d'Œx, the first husbands boarded the train. There were over 30 people in a carriage meant for 12, and the guard who was attempting to collect the tickets gave it up as hopeless.

It could not be anything but a duplicate of the first scene when the other party arrived. One of the wives is a munition worker and has been invaluable all along and kept up the spirits of all. As the train ran into Château

d'CEX Station she was singing "Tipperary," and the crowd took up the refrain. As the party detrained, unconcerned at the eyes of the crowd, the wives made their greetings openly and lengthily. Even those who had been tired a few moments before forgot their fatigue, and now, three hours after, in groups of two, the reunited couples are walking through the pine woods. One couple I visited had already settled down to domesticity in a small chalet and were washing up the tea things—a slow process, for the husband was more disposed to talk than to work.

The Swiss are as kind as ever and are entertaining the men and their wives at a *foyer des soldats*. Visiting is the order of the day, and the earlier arrivals are explaining life in the valley to the newcomers. All soldier couples are welcomed at any chalets by farmers, whose hospitality is that of all people who live in highlands.

There are now 30 happy couples here, but, as a Swiss said to me, "they have made us happier too to think that we can do even so little for men broken in war. We should like to have them always here, and we should like all the prisoners that are in Germany to come also"—a sentiment very generally echoed in the country.

The Red Cross escort got a great testimonial from the wives, saying that their indefatigable care for their welfare and general kindness made the journey smooth and a pleasure.