

fuselage, which makes it look very birdlike. It obtains its elevation by means of its tail and is balanced by warps, operated by a rod that projects from under and behind the pilot's seat, and is shaped to fit his back, thereby allowing him the free use of his hands, even when banking. The steering is connected by steel wires to a pedal under his foot, while his left foot controls the speed of his engine. This machine was thought all powerful by the Germans, until, it was unfortunate enough to come in contact with the French "Silver Streak" This machine proved literally a trump card for France, firstly by routing enemy aircraft during the retreat of Mons; secondly, completely destroying a Zeppelin when under the control of Lieut Warneford V. C. and, (interesting to us) by bombing Monastir, 130 miles away, and also turning back two Zeppelins at a height of 1200 feet, that were on their way to make a raid on Salonika. In the Balkans our Unit had quite a unique experience in the matter of observing aircraft, on account of the French aerodromes, of which there are two, possessing several of each design of aeroplane. They had the big biplane, used only for bomb dropping and reconnoitring, several 'Silver Streaks' and also six 'Taubes', captured in this vicinity.

The most powerful of their machines is a huge gun-plane. They have in Salonika about twenty machines of this type, and they have proved a big shock to the German Flying Corps. They mount a 75 mm. gun in addition to the usual quickfirer; are armoured, and carry two observers with one pilot, a searchlight and wireless apparatus. When attacking they will often descend to 1000 ft. to ensure the accuracy of their aim. They are the dread of the Zeppelins and hostile aeroplanes. Their motive power is two 150 horse power engines, combined with practically automatic control, and their weight with fuel and ammunition being nearly two and a half tons, can stay in the air for ten to twelve hours, and usually fly at an altitude of about 5,000 ft. Their power was demonstrated by their recent achievement of destroying a Bulgarian village, and killing one thousand Bulgarian soldiers.

The latest German "bubble" is the "Fokker", which was successfully pricked by the Allied Airmen, who brought down five out of the first 8. They proved to be simply a heavy engine monoplane of a similar type to the "Bleriot." Their horse power being 150, with a propellor revolution of nearly 2,000 a minute, a high speed was able to be attained. However, on account of their heavy engines, they cannot carry much ammunition, so are usually kept well in the rear of the German lines, only rising to chase off invaders. Another distinctive feature is the hollow propellor shaft, which enables the quickfirer to fire on an object directly ahead.

(To be continued).

#### TO THE SPHINX.

The name of the builder of the Sphinx, and the date of its construction are unknown. It is older than both the Pyramids of Cheops (3733 B.C.) and Chephren (3633 B.C.) for these two builders are both said to have repaired it. It is supposed to be a colossal image of the Egyptian deity, Harmachis, the God of the morning. The body is 140 feet in length, while the head is about 30 feet from the forehead to the chin and 14 feet across. The front paws are 50 feet long, and the height of the figure is nearly 70 feet, although the sand has covered the greater portion. Authorities consider it possible that the Sphinx has been built over a great temple of the 1st and 2nd dynasties (4,000 B.C.), and that probably wonderful monuments of that period lie buried there. It would however be a great undertaking to carry out the excavations necessary to prove the correctness of this supposition. In the early years the Sphinx was said to be a most graceful figure, but owing to continued mutilation it to-day looks a very hideous monster indeed. Ed.)

Impassive Sphinx! What is that smile  
That draws our gaze, inspires deep  
thought?

Is't cunning handwork by man wrought  
In carved, provoking, sensuous style?

Or wer't thou living, animate,

Till some Medusa, gorgon-headed,

Did thus create in sand embedded

A mockery? Oh jealous hate!

Or stay, wer't thou a Magdalene?

For mark the impassioned lips, and  
sense

A surging up that beast immense

That sleeps within us, but unseen,

So like thy claws that lie so deep

In drifting sand. Must silent keep?

H. J. H.

#### THE HOSPITAL ZOO.

By "CHAMELEON."

Since our arrival in Egypt from Greece in March last there has been a terrible rush on animals and insects as pets. Lembet, the Salonika lamb, and the skinny goat found in the Camp when we took over, excluded, the chameleon rightly has first place among the multitude of creeping things that are now known as pets in the Ismailia Camp. It endeared itself to every one from the first, especially to the owner, as will be seen in the appended lines written by him to a friend in New Zealand—

"I have a little friend doing yeoman service while I write this, keeping some of the flies away. A chameleon perched on the side of a green drinking mug, his tail curled around the handle and his paws—funny bifurcated paws—on the rim. His eyes are independent of each other, they survey the World, in which—to him—the interest is chiefly centred on flies, and should a fly alight within four inches, the ugly misshapen head very gradually comes round, facing the fly, the mouth opens a yawning angle, out flashes the tongue, the fly is touched, and disappears.

The tongue is about 4 inches long, and is attached to the front of the mouth; it is covered with a sticky viscid substance that leaves the victim, be it fly, ant, or other species of the lower life, that are sent to try us, little chance of escape. The colour is neutral. He appears of green persuasion now, but on the table he inclines to a light brown, and on dirty white canvas is almost, invisible at a few feet.

That was the start, and before a few days had elapsed about a dozen specimens had been collected. Pte. Randell found a monkey but unfortunately it died a few days after its capture, its temporary keeper. "Pount," not knowing much about the ways of monkeys. Then Freddie Cooper caught a scorpion and Grit Lawlor, a rabbit. It was just after the capture of bunny that opposition was

noticed in the Camp. The enemy was on the trail, and one dark night when all was still the ringleader, believed to be Corporal Nathan, kicked the rabbit to death, his reason being that the bunny attempted to bite him. From this cruel and despicable act, there arose a spirit of kindness and pity towards the poor dumb animals such as would even make the worthy Mr. Crewes dance with joy. The next day Pte. Leo. Mann was observed in a quiet corner of the camp stroking and crooning to a snake about three feet long. Often after "lights out" Percy Wilkinson would roam away back into the desert among the wild dogs, and one night with the aid of a little "mungaree" he succeeded in enticing a great "tike" back to camp with him. The collecting went on for some weeks until almost every member had a pet which he claimed to have caught. The Colonel himself noted the rapid accumulation of animals, and ordered a general parade at 5 p.m. on April 30th. The day being Sunday everyone was dressed as neatly as possible, and as they were called for, the animals were brought in by their owners. "Benji" led in his rabbit first, and he was greatly admired by all. Percy Wilkinson came next with his wild dog, but here trouble commenced, and immediately the canine caught sight of the bunny he charged with a blood-thirsty howl. Fortunately, Captain Teichelmann had brought his sword along, and forthwith commenced to hack his way between the dog and his victim. It was a great sight, and at the finish the three participants were smeared in gore.

The parade which thus commenced in heavy drama, was continued by a number of semi-serious acts. For a time every thing proceeded quietly enough, as each specimen was brought in for inspection to a sort of a march entitled "Pushin' Around," played by Freddie Cooper on his violin. Lizards, snakes, scorpions, cats, mosquitoes, and even flies were led into the Marquee and examined critically by all. Then came another storm. Tailor Pit's pretty green lizard (which Pit always affirmed was a relief to his eyes while sewing) had been brought in. It was just performing its third trick, when Saph's cat, which was