

PERSONAL.

The latest recruit to offer his services at Forbes was William J. Spence.

The Rev. F. R. Swyny left Forbes yesterday to attend the Methodist Conference in Sydney.

Private Rowley Coleman, a well-known Forbes boy, has been in the trenches in France since November.

Mr T. K. Bowler, assistant rabbit inspector, was granted two weeks' leave of absence, commencing on February 26.

A couple of days ago a field card from Sapper Tom Lee reached this office. Tom, who is still in Egypt, reports all well.

Mr W. H. Lee, formerly of Forbes Lands Office, and now District Surveyor at Tamworth, has been on a visit to Forbes for the past few days.

Mr F. N. Crocker, who underwent an operation recently, has so far recovered as to be able to resume duties at Forbes Land Office yesterday.

Private Dick Robinson, a sturdy and popular Forbes district boy, spent his final leave at Forbes last week, returning to Sydney yesterday.

Trooper Tom O'Brien, of Forbes, who is attached to the camel corps, has been on final leave, and returned to Sydney yesterday. He expects to sail in a few days.

Writing to his parents at Forbes, Private W. S. Jones states he has been two days in the trenches, where he saw Sid and Reg Hutchison, and Johnnie Shanahan.

Sergeant J. C. Jenkinson shook the dust of Forbes off his carpet slippers yesterday, and left for Lithgow, to which place he has been appointed. He was so sorry to leave Forbes that he nearly missed the train.

Mr Campbell, an examiner connected with the Lands Department, is at present looking through the various departments of the local Lands Office. Mr Campbell was chief draftsman at Forbes some years ago.

Corporal C. Kelly, a Eugowra boy, has been awarded the Servian White Heart, which carries a bar and gold medal, for distinguished service at the front. Another brother, Private Jim Kelly, has been

service at the front. Another brother, Private Jim Kelly, has been killed in action.

Mr A. D. H. Nelson received a letter from his son, Sergeant "Snow" Nelson, on Friday. "Snow" is still in Egypt, and stated he was in good nick at the time of writing. Sergeant P. J. Chambers, formerly of Weelong station, is in the same regiment.

Dr. Ronald Hunter, the fourth son of Mr and Mrs Wallace Hunter to don khaki, has been on final leave, and returned to Sydney yesterday. The Forbes boy, who holds the rank of captain, expects to sail for England within the next few days.

A casualty list, published in yesterday's papers, states that Private B. C. Bartlett (Parkes) is severely wounded, Privates W. H. Hines (Cowra), H. W. Ashcroft (Parkes), A. M. Cannon (Grentell), E. J. Fish (Tomingley), and Second Lieutenant H. H. Ross (Parkes) are ill. Private J. H. Maher (Cowra) is a prisoner of war.

Writing from France, under date December 24, Corporal Will Patterson, stated he was again in hospital, suffering from a slight ailment. It was very cold in France at the time of writing. Corporal Patterson, who has been close on two years in the fighting line at Gallipoli and France, hopes to spend next Christmas Day at Forbes.

Mr T. G. Strickland, who has done a lot of good work for the Forbes branch of the Order of the Grand United Oddfellows at Forbes, was honored at the district conference recently held at Dubbo. He was elected District Master, one of the highest offices in the State, and was selected as representative of the district at the coming conference in Sydney.

Mr William Hazelhurst, a well-known Parkes mining identity, died suddenly on board the train on Saturday morning, between Orange and Parkes. Deceased, who was 78 years of age, occupied a sleeping berth, and was apparently all right on leaving Sydney. He was the most successful miner in Parkes district. In the nineties he followed a quartz mine in the bottom of an alluvial claim, which developed into a rich reef. Afterwards he spent large sums in prospecting, but had little

poor. Afterwards he spent large sums in prospecting, but had little success. At one time he was reputed to be worth £80,000.

Private Archie Muir, writing from Harefield, England, on December 15, says:—There are about six inches of snow on the ground this morning. Reading a Forbes paper, I note that the Lachlan has been overflowing its banks. I learn that Donald (Private Donald Muir) is a prisoner of war in Germany. Prisoners there are not treated as badly as English papers make out. I spoke to some exchanged prisoners, and they said the food was not of the Grand Hotel quality, but one could live on it. My wound still keeps me on crutches, as it is not yet healed.

An opportunity you won't get for long. C. O. Buckland has just secured a fine range of Brown Saltings, which are very scarce. Also a fine range of Pencil Stripes and Greys. This is our Autumn Stock, so make up your mind early, and secure one of these specials.*