T hey were talking about the boys who were coming back of the army. What was said in the first instance was apt to take the form of a sweeping generalization. When the generalization was challenged, particulars were confidentially produced. Most of the talkers were women, and as each of the women had a son, a husband, or a brother in or just out of uniform, the talk was in the particular was naturally very never long. It seemed, in fact, that a very sweeping generalization often sprang full armed from an audience of five— or two. For that reason what was... what it is more as ... as it is in the concrete.

The woman who had lived in New York for the best part of twenty years started should be. She had met him again after he came back from overseas, and he said things to her that she had never in her life before had said to her in polite society. Army life had done that to him, she insisted with some vehemence. And it wasn't only those that had gone overseas and picked up things from the French. Among the men who had stayed home in uniform a similar backsliding was evident. The restrictions of the American home had been taken from around all of them. And they had lost, or any- way dimmed, precisely those qualities which American mothers had always been most jealous of in their boys and least able to control.

There was a man in the company. He interposed at this point. He said he had, there had been a lot of drinking among young men before the war. Prohibition by constitutional amendment was an impressive tribute to the public's realization of the extent of the evil. And perhaps the nearness of prohibition had its effect in a certain added recklessness or abandon in the way young men took their drinks just now. It was now or never.

Bute, as far as, some of the women admitted. There might lie a responsibility by a least contributory. But the more earnest souls amongst there evidently made up their minds to regard a prud- ence to public drunkenness as a direct re- sult of army life and to get it down definitely as evidence of the general vul- garizing tendency of army soldiering.

"Why you, yourself," said a quiet little people suddenly bursting into vi- vacity and turning sharply on the devil's advocate—the one man present who had dared to put it in his—"why you, your- self, told me how tough Jack Smith looked when you met him on the street just after he got back with the Rainbows. And Jack always had such beautiful manners, and you know Jack's mother is just the loveliest woman."

"How I only said Jack looked tough," the man urged. "A certain rouging of the exterior at least was inevitable in the case of a pattered youth who had served eighteen months and more as a private soldier in an active fighting unit. Jack was a doughboy, you know."

The perfectly ready answer was that Jack looked tough in city clothes, had his hair neat, and had no business looking tough. If he'd still had his uniform on there might have been some excuse. But he didn't.

In fact, Jack outside of his mother's dressing room and among his com- panions had always been bawdy, to say the least of it. The truth may be set down here, even though for obvious rea- sons the man did not thrust it into that conversation.

What emerged from the talk of which these samples have been reported was that at least half the women present were aware—or thought they were aware—of the lowering of the quality of young American manhood—or perhaps of a declining of its fitness—growing out of military service, whether at home or abroad. If this was the price paid for becoming heroes—and none of the women failed in proper pride that way, none were a greater advocate of that, many sort of pre-Germanism, all had their own man or men in the service and were glad of R—if it had not the same kind of a country and their womenfolk had paid for what the Army Did to Them: The Present State of Young Men in America... New York Times (1857-1922); Jun 8, 1919; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times pg. 77
his progress. These letters usually bring a hearty response and the active cooperation of the family is secured.

The Red Cross has furnished an elaborate program of entertainment. The Field Director, A. W. Popper, a retired business man of New York, has enthusiastically devoted his entire time to the work. A portable moving picture machine shows the latest released films in one or more of the infirmary wards every evening, and groups of entertainers visit the wards in the afternoon. The citizens of nearby and even distant communities have vied with one another in showing their appreciation of the soldiers’ services to their country. These activities cover a wide range, such as gifts of phonographs with records, pianos, pool and billiard tables, games, books, and many delicacies to the infirmary patients.

The Young Men’s Christian Association has a fine hut, the Knights of Columbus have built a large gymnasium. The Jewish Welfare Board representative likewise is doing excellent work at the hospital. The American Library Association has established a library.

The results of treatment have been gratifying, as the great majority of patients have been admitted with mild symptoms, and with the elasticity of youth in their favor their recuperative powers are more easily developed than in elderly patients. A large number of patients, with the activity of the disease arrested, have been returned to nearby camps for subsequent honorable discharge from the service.

The soldier, on leaving the hospital, has learned to recognize the value of rational living habits and the importance of maintaining his vitality at a high level in order to prevent a possible future breakdown. He has also become convinced to his surprise that tuberculosis is not only a preventable disease, but also one that is curable if nature is given a reasonable opportunity and if he cooperates with his physician. He returns to his family and friends as an advocate of the out-of-door life, and thereby aids greatly in enlightening the community about the benefits resulting from the observance of a hygienic mode of life.