

RETURNED SOLDIER WELCOMED

EXPERIENCES ABROAD:

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Norseman, May 23.

The Royal Hall was crowded to its doors on Thursday last on the occasion of a reception under the auspices of the Soldiers' Welcome Committee to two Norseman soldiers who have been invalided home, Corporal Rees J. David and Lance-Corporal Albert Fredrickson. Mr. J. R. Scholey, chairman of Soldiers' Welcome Committee, presided, and heartily welcomed the guests. He referred to Lance-Corporal Fredrickson's long period on active service, and his creditable record. Corpl. David had been prevented by illness from actually serving in France.

The Revs. E. H. Prahl and T. Cook, Messrs. R. L. Strongman and F. W. Campbell, and Captain McVicar Smythe (late of the 5th Divisional Pioneers) supported the mayor's remarks.

Captain Smythe mentioned that Lance-Corpl. Fredrickson had been in the same division as himself, and both of them had participated in several of the same engagements. He mentioned in the long journey through France with the original Australian troops he was particularly struck with the warmth of the French people's reception. Old veterans of 1870 stood to attention in the fields and saluted the troops as the trains passed by. The boys from the Antipodes were soon fast friends with the peasantry, who

friends with the peasantry, who kept open house for all the soldiers. The tenacity of the villagers in remaining at their farms or businesses was nothing short of marvellous. He paid a tribute to the cheerfulness of the Australians under the awful conditions existing on the Somme in winter. He had never seen anything finer than Australian infantry advancing steadily over No Man's Land, and he had personally witnessed many examples of absolute heroism amongst the wounded. The men who returned were deserving of the best a grateful country could give them, and he appealed to everyone to remember their bounden duty in this respect.

Mr. Strongman said that he had heard from the late Captain S. E. Mills, who was an old Norsemanite, of the gallant work of rescuing wounded comrades, performed by Lance-Corporal Fredrickson.

Mr. Campbell recalled that the inaugural function of the soldiers' welcome and farewell committee had been Corporal David's send-off. As president of the hospital board, he assured Corporal David that his old position of secretary was ready for him. Lance-Corporal Fredrickson briefly responded.

Corporal David said that he met many of the Norseman men whilst in England. The work of the Red Cross Society was simply wonderful and was deserving of the support of all. Lance-Corporal Fredrickson, but for the death of his officer, would have been wearing a decoration for valour.

An enjoyable evening's entertain-

AN ENJOYABLE evening's entertainment was contributed to by Misses D. Martin, I. Beardon, G. Hanthorne, E. Russell, E. Plummer, E. Hanthorne, and R. Ide, Rev. Thos. Cook, and Messrs, C. I. Waters, J. Strongman, and E. Nulsen, and the ladies of the Soldiers' Welcome Committee provided an excellent coffee supper.