

TOURIST AND TRAVELLER.

(Continued.)

MORE ARMY SLANG.

The soldiers in the New Army have unfortunately taken, according to a chapter in Mr. Ward Muir's new book, "Observations of an Orderly," to the most wearisome of all kinds of slang. This is rhyming slang. Many of them call their feet "plates of meat"—which is not so bad—but when it comes to calling the nose "I suppose," or the arm a "false alarm," one feels that the line has been crossed into idiocy. It has recently been observed that even Cabinet Ministers have had to resort to slang phrases in search of expressiveness. Mr. Lloyd George has talked about "turning down" a proposal, and Sir Edward Carson has declared that the British Navy intends to "stick it." One of the supreme virtues of Lord Curzon is that he looks down at the demagogic world from a height at which such obscene syllables are unthinkable. He is the only Cabinet Minister left who can be trusted not to announce some day to his compatriots that it is "up to" them to do so-and-so.

As for the slang of soldiers, at its best it is on a far higher level than the slang of Cabinet Ministers. "Gene west" is a fine image for one who has died. Mr. Ward Muir tells us that it is also applied to things that have been broken. Thus, a broken jug has "gone west." This, however, is clearly a humorous extension of an image that is as beautiful as a legend. Admirable again is "to get the wind up," meaning "to feel afraid." In time, it may be, the phrase may be worn smooth of its image; in the meanwhile it pleases one like literature. Other phrases which Mr. Ward Muir quotes are: "Goes in off the deep end"—used of an officer or n.c.o. who administers a specially severe reproof—and "going to the pictures" as a euphemism for a soldier going under the surgeon's knife in the operating theatre. He also quotes a soldier whose "plates of meat" had got frost-bitten, and who afterwards said: "When I went sick the doctor thought he'd rumbled me swinging the lead. But as soon as he spotted them there toes of mine—the ones that is gone—I could see he knew I'd clicked a packet, square dinkum, this trip." "Square dinkum" is apparently the Australian for "sure enough." To "rumble" is to detect. To "swing the lead" is to malingering. And the meaning of "clicked a packet" is not difficult to guess at.

Before the New South Wales Registrar in Bankruptcy (says an Australian paper), Rudolpho Gonzalez, of the Italian Opera Company, was examined by the Official Assignee. Bankrupt stated that about a year and a-half ago he brought the company to Australia. The artists were engaged for his brother, Joseph Gonzalez, who was a resident of Sydney. Witness' salary was £12 a week, but it was lowered by £2 for the last three months of the season. He also received a seventh, amounting to about £1160, of the net profits. The profits made by bankrupt out of the company's tour were sent to Italy for the maintenance of his mother and her three sons. Continuing, bankrupt said that he had no means to pay the Supreme Court judgment which Innocenti Olinto, a member of the company, had obtained against him. He played cards a little, but did not lose much. His living expenses were about £7 or £8 a week. There were no losses on the Australian tour.

The Military Cross has been awarded to Temporary Second-Lieutenant William Mc'one, Royal Munster Fusiliers, who, it is stated in the "London Gazette," is over 50 years of age. He insisted on going into action with his company and led his platoon throughout an attack under heavy shell fire. Not content with reaching the final objective, he pushed forward with a patrol and established an advanced position, which he held until the next wave of the attack passed through. "A magnificent example of coolness, fearlessness, and determination," says the official record.

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