

TOURIST AND TRAVELLER.

(Continued.)

A potato resembling a duck in shape was sold by auction for £20 10s. at Chelmsford, England, for the Y.M.C.A. flag day.

A returned soldier, speaking of the deadly work sometimes carried out in the night raids of the German aeroplanes, told how one night an aeroplane dropped two bombs—one at each end—on the horse lines, and that, when they had finished shooting, of the horses badly or mortally wounded there were 34 horses dead out of a total of 85! Andrew Thaw, who went to the front from Balclutha, was spoken of as a man with iron nerves—or, rather, with no nerve at all—who paid no heed to shrapnel or anything else, and was as strong physically as three ordinary men. On one occasion relays of men were detailed to secretly carry slabs of concrete at night up a steep hill to make an emplacement. The work went on for several nights. One slab at a time was plenty for every one of the soldiers, with the exception of Andrew—he carried one under each arm, and would reach the emplacement and be half-way back again before the others got there. Andrew's father was a Hudson's Bay trapper. The bravery of the stretcher-bearers was referred to in enthusiastic terms, and the heavy proportion of their casualties deplored. "I am no drinking man, as you know," said the soldier, "but I will say that the issues of rum have saved more lives than anything else. We would be standing all night in the trenches, mud up to the tops of our thigh boots, perished with cold, hardly able to lift our guns. Then we would each get a small tot of rum—it was but a small tot, but it was good rum. It would make the blood flow, put life into us, and make us feel hungry, and then, when the dioxies o' hot stew came along, we would fall to with the keenest appetites."

Count Yoshinori Futara recently arrived in England on a mission from the Japanese Home Office to study our Boy Scout system. "After travelling by way of Siberia, which was a dismal adventure enough," he said to a representative of the "Daily Mail," "to arrive in England is like coming home again to a place where everybody is kind and pleasant and the sun shines as in Japan. The wonderful success of the Boy Scout movement here has moved us in Japan to follow your example. We have as yet only four troops in Japan. Hitherto the movement has been part of our school teaching, but I find in England it is altogether independent of that. I have had a pleasant interview with General Baden-Powell, who has given me much valuable information, and I have already discovered that the great object is not so much to make a soldier of a boy as to make a man of him. There could be no better way."

A new war-time pharmacopoeia came into force in England on December 1. This consists of some 120 medicinal preparations which now contain sugar or glycerine, but in future will be compounded without either. Glycerine is required for explosives and sugar must be saved. Doctors will prescribe the new preparations under the old names, merely adding the letters "W.E.F." (War Emergency Formulary). The substitutes to be most commonly employed in place of sugar are glucose and "artificial syrup," which contains chloroform as a sweetening and preserving agent. In some cases, as, for instance, cod-liver oil emulsion, the sugar is left out altogether without any substitute. Another popular drug—compound liquorice powder—which is now one-half its weight of sugar, will contain none, but will be brought to its former strength by means of rice starch. Some of the new medicines will be less palatable.

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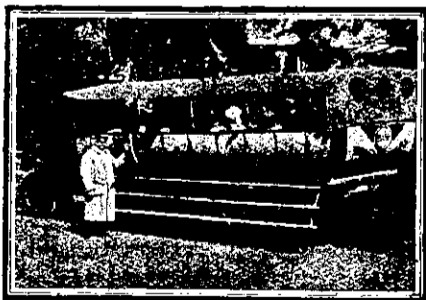
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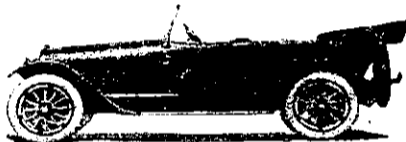
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