

## LEAD SWINGING—THE NEW CAREER.

"O H—! What have we here?"—M.O.

THE last few years of animated mineral deposits in Europe have led to the rise of many things, and incidentally to the Profession of Lead Swinging. The origin of the term is wrapped in the dim, damp mists of obscurity, and was only discovered by much prayer, fasting, and religious following of the Law of Diminishing Return. Some great authority, who had devoted fully fifteen minutes to the subject, evolved the following theory:—

The ultimate aim of every God-fearing private is to procure the much coveted P.B. after his name and number. This ensures him against the terror that flieth by night and the pestilence that wasteth at noontide. This eminent person, by a process of reasoning too complicated to be even hinted at under twenty volumes, noting that P.B. was the symbol for lead, gave the title of Swinging the Lead to all efforts aimed at the ad-

Methuselah towards the end of his earthly sojourn. Action should be marked by spasmodic effort—especially in the presence of witnesses.

3.—A particular malady should be taken up as a hobby. The appropriate symptoms should be worked out with care, and held to with religious, resolute, rigorous determination, both before and after breakfast, in the face of the severest cross-examination. What the malady may be is a matter of indifference, but it should be borne in mind that premature baldness, or similar troubles, are not likely to bring you to your coveted haven.

4.—Above all things, the impression must be created that your greatest fear is that you will not be allowed to face the crafty Tenton again; that your one aim and ambition in life is to take part in bombing raids, ration, wiring and working parties, and



Private Swingit: "I has it here every morning, sir, in the same place."

M.O.: "Now look here, if you were back in civil life would you come to me with a thing like that?"

Pte. Swingit: "No, I'd see a Doctor."

dition of the remark P.B. to a soldier's Medical History Sheet.

In order to "swing it" successfully, several broad underlying rules must be followed, but there is an infinitude of possibility open to the enterprising and the original. The pre-requisites for embarking on a Lead Swinging career are:—

1.—An expression of deep fedupitude with the world in general. A suitable one can be copied from any old-timer when the latest draft is describing his miraculous escapes on the way up from the Base.

2.—A general flavour of mild decay (decrepitude feeblysimus), such as one would expect to observe in the bodily habit of

all the festivities that go to make up the social life of the more undesirable map locations in France; that to leave such a charming occupation would cause you great, and possibly fatal, agony. This is a very good line, and if judiciously followed will be certain to produce the desired result.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

The Government, unfortunately, will not accept such bald statements as "I am sick" without a careful scrutiny of the statement maker, together with such vital information as next-of-kin, religion, length of service, etc., all of which shed a broad light on one's illness.