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**Soldiers' "Slangage"
Made of Many Tongues
Puzzles the Civilian**

British Tommies Have a Jargon All Their Own From French and Hindustani Which Gives the Nurses Cause for Worry.

Among themselves the British "Tommies" of to-day make free use of a "slanguage" that, previous to the war, at any rate, was practically unknown outside the ranks, says the London correspondent of the New York Herald. It might be called "Soldiers' Hindustani"; really it is a selection of a few easily picked up and explanatory words of that alluring language which are indispensable to the soldiers who do their allotted span of "time" in India. It is by no means pure Hindustani, though most of the "Tommies" may think it is, and pride themselves on it. Rather is it a distortion of the words he picks up and suits to his own pronunciation, which in course of time and with constant use he accepts as correct. And when "Tommy" suits himself as to the pronunciation of a word, just as he does with the style of singing a song—well, that goes. It's "pukka"—the right way.

Not only Hindustani, though. The soldier at the front is keen now at picking up a little French phrase or word and adapting it to the importance of the moment or the embellishment of his conversation. But just as with the corrupted Hindustani, this goes through the process of distortion in pronunciation till it becomes totally distinct and dissimilar from the original, and yet is never misanderstood.

"Na Plus" Becomes "Na-Poo."
For instance, the French "na plus" as signifying the end of a wounded soldier's interest in the war, in a phrase in common use to-day. The Belgian soldier who himself is so badly smashed that it is certain he will never bear arms again, speaking to a wounded Britisher in his broken English, will say, "And you— you go back to the front— yes?" and Tommy will boldly reply in what he thinks is good French, "Na-poo."

And "Na-poo" it is to-day all over the British army to signify "no good," or "no more for me," or "I've had enough," and even "it is finished."

"Cushy" Means Comfortable
Probably there is no word derived, or adapted, from the Hindustani so much in use among regulars, reserves, Kitchener's army, or Territorials as "cushy" or "khooshi," which is always rendered as "cushy," to signify that one is nicely comfortable, or that a task is easy to perform.

"How's the sergeant major?" the recruit will ask the old hand.

"Oh, he's cushy to get on with—a pukka (proper) good sort,—that is if the high authority happens to be well liked and is a decent chap—something of a rare avis among N. C. O's, in fact. If the average Tommy is to be believed. But if the S. M. on the contrary, is not exactly the well-beloved of his flock the answer will most likely be, "Oh, he's 'no bottle," which is not Hindustani, nor even a corruption of the language of Ind, but simple barrack room slang, derived from goodness knows where.

Tommy is cosmopolitan in his tastes, so far as expressive conversation goes but you will rarely now find him using the rhyming slang so popular in certain circles a decade or so ago. Occasionally you will hear somebody asking for the loan of the "Cape o' Good Hope" (meaning, of course, the soap, not the colony), but more frequently the request now is, simply and tersely, "Len's yer soap."

Again you rarely hear a soldier ask "What's the birdlime," when he wants to know the hour; it is always, the budjee; for "budjee" is Tommy's Hindustani for time, and when he knows even a corruption of Hindustani, which will express what he wants to say, he uses that and no other.

Hard on the Nurses.
Nurses and sisters at the military hospitals in Britain are at first, greatly confused with the varied and striking assortment of dialects they have to listen to, but when with these are mixed up bits of the soldiers' Hindustani and slang, the resulting babel of tongues leaves the probationer in almost hopeless confusion. The usual well-educated nurse, whose life has been spent among her own people, will find her first few weeks of war hospital life a veritable maze, quite apart from the multifarious duties she is called upon to perform. She is on duty, say, in the mess room (or day room, as it is called in hospital) at breakfast time, and a sunburnt, hard-faced regular will call out:

"Slig us a tara bit o' rooty, nurse, please."

"What on earth did he say?" she will ask, and she will remain in wonder-dering amazement till somebody explains, "Oh he wants a little bit of bread, miss."

Dialects, from broad Scots to pure Cockney, puzzling Novocastrian to rolling Zummerzeit, well mixed with native Lancashire and Yorkshire, she will get used to in time, but the slang in conjunction renders understanding more difficult.

Another favorite word with Tommy is "tabby." "All tabby, sir," is an expression which seems to cover everything in the way of comforts. "Are you comfortable?" "Tabby." "Have you got your pipe, matches and tobacco?" "Tabby." Or the query, "All tabby?" may be taken to imply everything to which a mere nod can reply.

Of the soldiers' "Slangage" of to-day words derived from Hindustani that will stick and remain in general use are probably "pukka," meaning real good, proper or tip-top; "cushy," indicating an easy job, a comfortable place or feeling all right, and "jildy," to convey hurry up, look smart or be quick; while, gained from the experience in France or Belgium, "na-poo," as used to express "no more" or "nothing more," or "I'm finished," will live in the soldier's memory, and may even be incorporated into use by certain classes of civilians.

Our idea of a mean man is one who spends two-thirds of his time in getting money and the other third in keeping it.

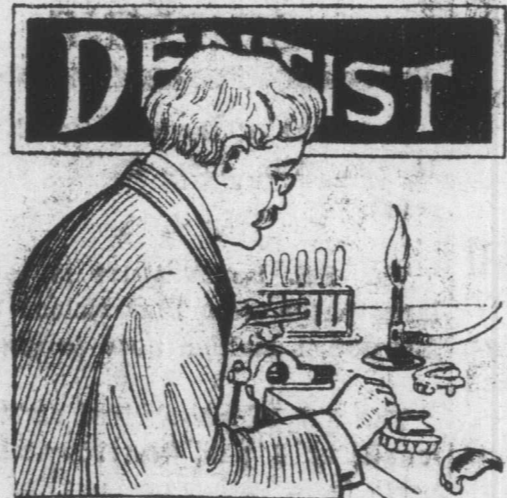
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**WANTS 4,000,000 MEN
IN BRITAIN'S ARMY**

Only Thus Can Enemy Be Overwhelmed says J. L. Garvin—Seems At Hint At Conscription

London, July 31.—J. L. Garvin, writing in The Observer, reviews the first year of the war and with regard to the future says:

"Until the German man power is still further reduced, upon the principle which Germany was among the first to recognize and by methods which the Allies can devise in common, there can be no escape in the west from the conditions of siege and counter-siege, or from the logic of a war of attrition. But this leaves far more scope for a movement of enterprise than might appear at first sight."

"There is only one thing that can be trusted with certainty to turn the balance in favor of the Allies. We shall have to bring into play the biggest fighting factor by far that yet remains unmobilized in Europe. That factor is the yet unemployed military strength of Great Britain. This is a thing which has been hitherto wanting in the war; it is the one thing needful to win the war; without it there can be no victory, and with it success is sure."

"One master function of the organization of Government leadership in this country is to concentrate upon the swift development of our military man-power: Lloyd George is concentrating upon the output of munitions. The Allies have much more than twice the male population of the central empires, yet we are still speculating upon where Germany may next strike, instead of imposing our own initiative on the enemy."

"For a full initiative, under modern conditions, there is required a large superiority of number, capable, like the Germans, in the eastern theatre, of simultaneously threatening, in pursuance of a concerted plan, many points widely removed from each other. The Allies cannot seize the mastery in that sense until Great Britain places in the field more than twice the number of troops, large though it is, that she has yet thrown into Europe. We are supposed to have 3,000,000 men enrolled, we may assume that, so far as two-thirds, at least, of these are concerned, their existence has not yet made itself felt in the European theatres, where the world's fate and that of the British Empire is being decided."

"No close student of war at home or abroad can doubt for a moment that what is needed to make assurance doubly sure for the Allies is for Great Britain, after a year of war, to rise to a bigger view of her military requirements and to make bolder use of her military means. The effect of that will be the same as though another great Power could be added to the Great Alliance."

"We can be on the safe side only by running the risk of doing too much; we dare not run the risk of doing too little, and this country will not be equal to its duty to the Allies and to the issues of existence that are at stake for the empire until we have created a factor that can alone insure the overwhelming of the enemy east and west by adding the military power of 4,000,000 Britons in arms to that silent supremacy at sea which is as complete as Nelson ever won."

**REAL MOVIES OF
GREAT WAR ARE
TO BE SHOWN**

British War Office to Allow Operators on the Lines—No Monopolies to Any Single Firm

London, August 10.—Under the authority of the war office, arrangements have just been completed for taking a complete moving picture record of events of the war in the British lines, both at the front and along the lines of communication. The leading film producers and exhibitors, it is announced, have been brought into a co-operative scheme, so that no single firm shall have a monopoly of the pictures. The first photographs will begin in about a week. A set will eventually be placed in the British Museum. The board of education is expected to co-operate in a scheme for the use of the films in the public schools.

Current Conversation

Washington Star
"That man invariably agrees with what I say," said the argumentative person.
"Rather complimentary."
"Not at all. He would rather agree with me than pay attention to what I am saying."

This is a busy season for the farmer and the hen.

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Per S.S. Stephano**

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