

figure. Ice cream is one of the most favored luxuries in this hot weather, and can be had at 2d. a glass. In fact, everywhere evidence is seen of endeavors to make the soldier comfortable and to make his pay go as far as possible.

One strolls into the reading room to find a Gordon Highlander side by side with a Shropshire man or a Dublin, writing letters home. At another table a Lancashire and a Cornwall are engaged in the soldiers' favorite game, checkers, while small groups are chatting or reading in other parts of the room. In the refreshment room a tall cavalry man and a little Cockney leaning over the counter have their "two penn'orth o' soda" while telling yarns of the first battles of the war. "Gie' us a bob's worth o' pop and a tanner o' bloomin' fags, Tarnie," says a broad-tongued Lancashire man, who is engaged yarning and treating his comrades.

I had the good fortune to stroll into a soldiers' concert at Pretoria one evening, and was astonished at the generous manner in which Tommy is entertained by the kindness of his officers and the women of Pretoria. The concert room of the Soldiers' Institute is a large, fine hall, profusely decorated, and lighted by handsome electric chandeliers. The stage is large and well arranged, the refreshment rooms adjoining the hall are quite in keeping with the surroundings.

A good tea was given to the soldiers, and just before the concert began little girls went round with plates of apricots, luscious figs, passion fruit, and bonbons. The concert was a splendid one. As I left the building I could not but think of the great benefit these institutes confer on the British soldier, both for his moral and physical good.

AIKONA.