

# AMONG US MORTALS WITH THE HOME GUARD

By W. E. HILL



Ethel Faille-Toots, who spent three weeks in the Isle of Wight, after the outbreak of the war in 1914, writes graphically of her experiences under the title "Keeping Up With the Cooties" (published by the author). The picture shows her posed for the frontispiece



Aunt Jane has just been to report a wireless outfit to the government. It proved to be a government wireless.



"What's she doing with all those young officers—that's what I'd like to know; asking them if they expect to go over before long. I think she ought to be watched!"



What's the use! Here Percy de Puvster had gone and joined the Secret Service, and had put a neat little "Secret Service" sign right where the kewpie used to be on his machine—and then they made him remove it!



Mr. Wentz, who does those snappy obituaries for the Evening Blat, is dead sure that in five minutes' conversation he could show Creel where he makes his mistakes.



The Sunday editor listening to the amateur press agent who wants the editor to feel that he can call upon him at any time for ideas without the least hesitation.



Mrs. Burk was trying to make out whether the woman with the German name across the way was brushing her hair or setting the table when she made the startling discovery that there was painting and papering going on—and if that doesn't show pretty conclusively that a dictagraph or a wireless is being installed then Mrs. Burk's name is mud!



"My dear, there's something very queer about that!" Mrs. Wollop, ever on the lookout for spies, is convinced that no ordinary day laborer would have chocolate cake in his lunch box.

Gladys the volunteer Red Cross stenographer, wants to know if "Colonel" is spelled "cur" or "ker." Three dictionaries have fallen down on the job and there's no one around to ask but the Finnish scrublady.



Miss Peddie accuses Mrs. Joe Watts of being pro-German and trying to undermine our morale by saying that Germany is stronger than ever before and likely to hold out indefinitely. Mrs. Watts is somewhat taken aback, being just on the point of accusing Miss Peddie of the same thing. Miss Peddie had just said that Germany could hardly last a month longer, and, argues Mrs. Watts, what can be worse and more seditious than to encourage the sentiment of false security among us?