

SOLDIER'S FEARS.

It is extraordinary what curious fears some soldiers have. One fighter always dreads that his charcoal fire will be destroyed by a shell. He always places the burner in the most protected part of the trench, but remains quite indifferent in regard to his own personal safety.

Another extraordinary fear of a soldier at the front, is that of having his bootlaces untied. Nothing else has terrors for him, from bayonet fighting to asphyxiating gases. But he is quite certain that if his bootlaces are loose he will trip over them and break his neck. He always examines his laces to see if they are properly fastened. Another soldier who has been through the thick of the fighting is terribly frightened of going through a wood, and would rather walk miles round it than half-a-mile through it. He has the fear that some day a tree will suddenly fall and crush him.

Many soldiers have a horror of losing their identification discs, or of being unidentified if they are killed, and buried in a nameless grave. One man is known to carry little scraps of paper in every pocket, giving his name and regiment, so that his body may be recognised if he is killed.
