

difficulty at times in reconciling their practised Italian phrases with an Army Arabic hard to discard. The old favourite "Maleesh," which will die hard in the returned soldier's vocabulary, was not displaced and the familiar "Shwoya" (for small, or little) battled evenly with the newly-acquired "poco."

With red-caps continuing to hold high priority, the range of subjects for discussion increased tremendously in Italy. Vino, the average township street scene, lack of originality in nomenclature for Italian infants, suicidal American 6 x 6 truck-drivers, Carabinieri, Polish road signs which said "Ostry Zakret" and "Post Waski," and opera, were a few. Opera and stout prima donnas, having been seen by the duo, come in for criticism on the following lines:—

"What's this opera stuff got that boogie-woogie hasn't, anyway?"

"Culcher," said the bloke. "Look at Lucy da Lam-er-more . . ."

"The one I saw made a quarter-bloke look like an advt. for Berlei," I said. "Just one big foundation garment."

"But she could sing," said the bloke.

"So can I," I said. "But it doesn't get me double rations."

"How do you know she gets double rations?" said the bloke. "It's deep breathing that does it."

On rare occasions (when it was assumed the bloke was on leave or in hospital) Johnny Enzed reverted to his former style of essay writing. It was his ability to express what all saw and heard that made him so popular and in the following extracts from a column written in May, 1944, when we had seen only a third of the country, is demonstrated the ease with which he summed up first impressions of Italy:—

"There are more children to the square yard in Italy than any other country, and almost all of them are prospective Galli-Curcis or Carusos. Deep breathing and vocal exercises for the Italian young commence at birth and reach crescendo before they are (a) strangled, or (b) promoted to grand opera chorus. Almost all Italian small girls are called Maria, and almost all Italian small boys are called Nino. From time to time Italian mothers stand

