

Caring for the Soldiers' Eyes.

From the Russian Information Bureau.

The Surgeon General's office of the army in conjunction with the sub-committee of the Council of National Defense has been making preparation for the care and treatment of the eyes of the troops, writes the Army and Navy Journal. The committee made a survey of all the eye specialists in the United States, and Maj. Gen. W. C. Gorgas now has a list of all the ophthalmologists who are willing to serve for the war. The committee sent to 9,000 specialists a communication designed to elicit the special training and experience of each, to ascertain his fitness for army service. It sent to those who were approved and who had signified their willingness to serve blank cards for admission to the Medical Reserve Corps.

Dr. Nelson M. Black was commissioned and on the recommendation of the Surgeon General was assigned to duty in his office, in charge of ophthalmology as a subdivision of the section on surgery of the head. There he has prepared a list placing the names of the physicians in classes according to their experience and standing, so that the Surgeon General may be guided in selecting the right men when the time comes. He is now engaged in preparing a list of the members of the Medical Reserve Corps especially qualified for making all examinations at the army cantonments. He has selected a group of specialists to examine all suspected cases of trachoma, as every effort will be made to keep that serious infection out of the army.

Eye trouble has always been one of the favorite claims of the malingerer; but this section has prepared a set of tests that will certainly land him in the guardhouse, unless he is unusually proficient. This same section has prepared a list of eye instruments for use in the base hospitals. It has also prepared plans for utilizing one of the wards in each cantonment hospital for eye examinations. It recommends that members of the Medical Reserve Corps wishing immediate service apply to the Surgeon General for assignment to one of the medical officers' training camps for instruction in administrative duties, indispensable for properly carrying on work in the Medical Department. There is no provision in the Medical Department for optometrists; and thus far the only manner in which they can be used is by enlisting as privates, to be detailed in case of need to that duty for which they are qualified. There is, however, a prospect that a unit of manufacturing opticians may be attached to a proposed special hospital for surgery of the head; but thus far no such unit has definite status.

Is the Theory of Heredity Exploded?

The high spots in your disposition and your character—where did you get them? Were you born with them or has association with others given them to you? How much credit do you give your ancestors for what you are today?

Heredity is an interesting problem. Science may never succeed in solving it. Yet there are many instances of children with traits common to their parents. Were they born with these traits or were they acquired through association with the father and the mother?

In Robert W. Chamber's newest novel, "The Restless Sex," now appearing in Cosmopolitan, he leaves some doubt as to the part heredity may play in moulding the character of a young girl. There is a question as to whether Stephanie Quest will revert to the character of her parents or whether she will react to her environment.

At the age of twelve she was picked up in the slums by a wealthy, heart-hungry old gentleman. The father and mother were weak, dissolute characters who had committed suicide.

The only evidence Stephanie gives of being different from other girls in her set is that she is not content to be a social butterfly. She feels a great desire to express herself unhampered by man-made convention. She wants to live her life as she sees fit without reference to the criticisms and the demand of society. When she is thrown on her own resources, will she be the same sweet, vigorous, lovable character that she is now or will she "take after her father and her mother?"

An absorbing novel with a theme well worth discussion.

Origin of the Salute.

The military salute had a curious origin, if the tradition brought to light by United States Marine Corps officers may be believed. The navy soldiers say that the salute originated in the days of the tournament, at which a queen of beauty was chosen to preside. The knights and their esquires and all who took part in the tourney, on presenting themselves before the queen lifted each one a hand level with the brows as though dazzled by the light of her presence.

Although its significance has been forgotten that same salute is now used by military men in recognition of a superior rank, the marine officers say.

Always Unusual.

"How do you account for the remarkable weather?"

"Haven't tried. To be perfectly frank, I don't believe I recall more than a few months in the past 10 or 15 years when the weather wasn't being described as remarkable."—Washington Star.

—The London County Council has decided to buy the London part of the London United Tramways company's lines—a length of about five and a half miles—for 235,000 pounds. Payment is to be made "not earlier than the declaration of peace."

—A new mail-sorting machine recently installed in Chicago's postoffice does the work of 30 men.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT

There is no finer chemistry than that by which the element of suffering is so compounded with spiritual forces that it issues to the world as gentleness and strength.—G. S. Merriam.

The just-below-the-hip coat of plain velvet, dark-toned, is a fashionable fall model. It is semi-fitting and finished at the bottom with a tightly-drawn-in band. These coats are worn with straight hanging skirts of plaid velvet.

The knitted trimmings that first originated with Martial et Armand of Paris will be quite the smart thing this winter. First they were used on sporting costumes. Now they give chic and unusualness to one-piece dresses. A string-colored gabardine one-piece coat dress has a knitted collar of beet-root wool with a fancy knitted edge in black. Another dress of forestry-green velour has knitted belt, cuffs and collar in navy blue with a sand-color edge.

Oriental ideas are seen in many of the new season's gowns.

This season particular attention was given by manufacturers to dark shades; but gay colors were not neglected, for still the big houses have a large clientele in countries not at war, nor does war prevent gay colors in the south, particularly Monte Carlo.

These thick, rough stuffs call imperatively for simple lines, but because of the great variety of materials, diversity in results is easily gained. Worth, Paquin, Lanvin, Premet and Callot show partiality to Indian cashmere of hairy surface in neutral cloths trimmed with terra-cotta pelusa.

Poiret endorses chic black and white combinations with color, primitive embroideries and butter-colored jersey cloth bordered with dark blue. With Poiret, materials count for little compared to his use of them.

Jenny uses heavy decorative stuffs, and produces tailored costumes of smooth-faced serge combined with plush trimmings. She cleverly handles long woolen fringes and makes charming dresses of fine crepe spattered with large embroidered dots. Doucet uses duvetyne in several shades of red and butter-yellow. He likes neutral colors in thick woollens. Green and black, and yellow and black are favorite combinations in big checked sporting stuffs.—Woman's Home Companion.

Let each one of us do a little reforming among the ranks of gossiping women. Idle women, women in town, women in the country and women in boarding houses will gossip sometimes with no thought of harm, but often the tongue wags maliciously, the oner taking delight in the interest she has awakened with never a care for the mischief she is making. If Mrs. Jones has run over to tell some scandal of Mrs. Brown, don't repeat it, but try, in the gentlest way you can, to make Mrs. Jones feel that she has made a mistake in her estimate of the news she carries.

To make a fountain that will delight a small child you should get a small glass bottle and nearly fill it with water. Then bore a hole through the cork and place a straw through the hole.

The straw should be long enough to reach almost to the bottom of the bottle, and if the straw does not fit the cork tightly you should put sealing wax round it to keep out all air.

You should now take a glass jam jar and heat it over a lamp or candle. Stand the bottle of water on two or three sheets of damp blotting paper laid on a plate or dish, place the jar over the bottle and press hard to prevent air getting underneath.

Now, as soon as the air in the jar begins to cool, the water in the bottle will rise through the straw and form a little fountain. The great thing to remember is to press the jar down ever so tightly. If the air can get away from under the jar you will not have your fountain.

Only 75 per cent. of the students at the western branch of the Western Union Telegraph company in Portland, Oregon, are women.

The Massachusetts Minimum Wage Commission has recommended a minimum wage of \$9 a week for experienced women employees in men's clothing and raincoat factories in that State.

Miss Helen Barnum, niece of the famous showman, Phineas T. Barnum, is past 100 years of age.

Over 7,000 bushels of wheat was harvested this year by Mrs. Dora Long, of Neodosha, Kansas.

Mrs. Grace Humiston, the most noted attorney in New York city, will shortly launch a campaign to raise \$1,000,000 for the purpose of endowing a Nation-wide organization for the protection of womanhood. Several wealthy women of the United States have promised support.

If you'd content and happy be,
Then heed the maxim old,
And neither give yourself away
Nor let yourself be sold.

—Boston Transcript.

If new shoes have a tendency to blister the children's feet, bathe them daily in salt water.

Apply salt and soda to a bee sting. Household ammonia also will do the trick.

If one person is ironing, many irons can be kept sufficiently hot without the draught being on the stove.

A good salad is made with chopped green peppers, a little grated onion, lettuce leaves and boiled dressing.

In summer it is best to clean and dry the bread box every morning. This prevents the bread from moulding.

Cream Mousse.—Put in a mixing bowl one pint of cream, one ounce of vanilla sugar, three ounces plain sugar, and whisk all together. When the mixture begins to thicken, flavor as desired and turn into mold, pack and freeze.

FRIENDSHIPS BRED BY WAR

Man's Inherent Instinct for Comradeship Renewed in the Stress of the Great Conflict.

One of the most affecting and inspiring side issues of the war is the revival of man's inherent instinct for comradeship and all that implies in its more fundamental aspects. We make friends even under our luxurious civilization. But what is that compared to the sense of comradeship developed under the fire of great guns, gas bombs and all the destructive engines of warfare? Once more the ancient legends of sacrifice of friend for friend are made real among men in whom the primitive virtues were stified not so long ago by the materialistic impulses of an unheroic period. In a very mild way this is illustrated by this semi-humorous extract from a letter to the Vigilantes, apropos of Miss Lynch's trip to the French front:

"Our chauffeur, gray-haired and heavily built, had been mobilized for this employment. At the hottest point of very hot road, with the sun in the zenith, the dust choking remonstrances, of course the tire burst. He put himself to work, the perspiration, according to scriptural injunction literally pouring in rivers from his face and head. The sigh with which he accomplished his work was more expressive than any Anglo-Saxon sigh I ever listened to. A half mile or so further along we came up with a car that had proudly passed us, also with a punctured tire. Hopping from his seat our chauffeur put on the second tire and when he came back to us explained that he did it because his companion chauffeur had a little touch of heart trouble. If he were hot and tired before, imagine his plight after this second effort, but not a word of complaint, just the smile of 'camaraderie' and we who had been inclined to grumble a bit at this felt suddenly ashamed and relapsed into an admiring silence."—From the Vigilantes.

TABLET HARD TO SWALLOW

Physician Has Provided Safeguard Against Accidental Poisoning by Bichloride of Mercury.

At the annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical association, Louis Spencer Levy described a "safe bichloride tablet." The user is safeguarded against mistaking it for a headache tablet, probably the most frequent mistake, by the addition to the ingredients of about 1 per cent of pungent oils, such as capsicum or mustard, and by shaping the tablet so that it is practically impossible to swallow.

Regarding the latter form of protection the author says: "Very few persons find much difficulty in swallowing pieces of food of considerable size, but anything of rodlike shape, about 1 1/4 inches long, cannot be swallowed without great difficulty, if at all, even with water. I have, therefore, designed a tablet of this length, about one-fourth inch wide and about one-eighth inch thick, weighing about 1.6 grammes. If you try to swallow anything this shape, you will get the surprise of your life."

Gotham's New "Cops."

The New York cop of 1917 will be a physical prodigy, according to the New York correspondent of the Pittsburgh Dispatch. He will have slim legs, a beltline suggesting the wasp and low visibility. He will be boyish-looking, have a clean shaven face and will have a free, bounding gait. Many remember the old-time, double-action, double-chinned cop who could stand at a corner and quell a riot with one beclubbed hand in front of him while he reached the other hand to the rear and committed petty larceny from the peanut stand. Just keep that type of cop in mind and try to imagine him being ordered to peel off and step in the "gym" for a physical and mental test. Beginning next week the medical and physical examiners of the civil service commission will examine 4,000 men who aspire to be patrolmen. An old-fashioned cop would stand no chance of passing the gruelling physical tests that are at present required for admission to the department.

Liberty.

A wolf was kept a prisoner in a cage in a park where many people came to look at him and be amused.

One day it grew very hot and the wolf dug down into his sawdust in search of moist earth wherewith to cool himself. But he found nothing better than the metal bottom of his cage, whereat the people laughed, deeming his discomfort good sport.

Presently, however, the war brought about a shortage of food and another day the keeper opened the door of the cage. "Come out!" he commanded. "We can't feed you any longer and so we're going to shoot you."

The wolf was glad. "Now I know why they call it a war of liberation!" he thought to himself.

Candle Still Burns.

Nowadays we think of light in terms of electricity or gas lamps, but it will surprise some to learn that the average daily expenditure for candles in this country alone this year will be about \$87,000. On this scale the valuation of the 1917 production of candles in the United States will total a round \$20,000,000.—Popular Science Monthly.

They Come High.

A North Vernon youngster had several clerks in a local grocery guessing the other day when she called for a quarter's worth of hypocrites. Later it was learned that she wished 25 cents worth of apricots.—Indianapolis News.

WHALES STOOD ON HEADS

According to Ship's Officers, Large School Certainly Acted in a Most Peculiar Manner.

This is a whale story, concerning whales that stood on their heads, and all vouched for by officers of a fruit steamer which arrived recently from the tropics, according to a recent issue of the Boston Evening Transcript. And, seriously, the chief officer of the steamer intends to make a written report about the whales to the federal bureau of fisheries. The whales were sighted south of Nantucket shoals lightship. During their respective careers at sea the officers have seen many whales, but none which behaved in the manner of those sighted on this trip, and it was the peculiar behavior of the leviathans, together with their number, which attracted attention. Between 6 a. m. and 4 p. m., according to the chief officer, nearly 100 whales were seen. For the most part, they appeared to be in shoal water, and from time to time would dive and remain poised with their tail-ends protruding twenty or more feet above the surface, according to the size of the individual whale. In the opinion of the ship's officers, the whales pursued these tactics to obtain food fish swimming close to the bottom. On the other hand, a number of the whales again, according to the mariners, floated on the surface apparently asleep and were not disturbed by the approach of the steamer.

In addition to the story, the steamer brought 28,000 bunches of bananas.

RIFLE STILL POTENT WEAPON

Military Authorities Recognize Value of Infantryman Despite Changes in Modern Warfare.

The Army and Navy Gazette of London, commenting on the great value of good rifle shooting in the present war, says: "Happily the military authorities have not been misled by the results achieved by the big guns, the bombs, and the various missile-throwing trench weapons into imagining that the infantry soldier has ceased, or was likely to cease, to be primarily a rifleman, and the good work which was initiated before the war at Hythe and at Bisleigh, and at regimental rifle meetings, has been continued and expanded at the many musketry schools which have been established behind the front in France, where selected officers and men of our forces have been taught all that was to be got out of the service weapon. The result has been shown in the account we hear of the wonderful rifle practice made by our troops in the fighting around Bullecourt, reminding us of the stories that used to reach us during the retreat from Mons of how German mass attacks withered up under the fire of our infantry of the old army."—Scientific American.

Air Raid Insurance.

Accident rates issued by London underwriters insuring against personal injury by air raids are quoted at surprisingly low rates and would seem to greatly belittle the loss occasioned by the air raids.

The wheel and wing policies, covering all personal air raid risks, including falling buildings, bombs, shrapnel, fire, explosion, etc., issued at the £1 rate, offer the following personal benefits: £1,000 in event of death, £1,000 in event of blindness or the loss of two limbs, or any other injury causing permanent total disablement; £500 in event of loss of one eye, hand or foot, or any other injury causing permanent partial disablement; £6 per week during total disablement up to 52 weeks; £1 10s. per week during partial disablement up to 52 weeks.

All medical expenses up to 15 per cent of the compensation otherwise payable.—Spectator.

Case Long in English Courts.

A law case which was begun in 1848 and was interrupted because Richard de Maundeville had to leave for the war in France, was resumed recently in the chancery, says the London Express. The point at issue was the right to hold a market at Stowmarket, Suffolk, and the suit was originally brought by the abbot of St. Oyst, Essex, in the twenty-second year of Edward II, against Richard de Maundeville. According to the abbot, who said he was lord of the manor, Richard had wrongfully obtained the grant of the right to hold a market in Stowmarket, and his assertion was "to the grave damage of the said abbot." Richard claimed the king's protection, and eventually the case was adjourned sine die because of his departure abroad.

Black Africa.

Nearly one-fourth of the earth's land surface is comprised within the continent of Africa, and it is as far around the coast of Africa as it is around the world. Every eighth person of the world's population lives in the Dark continent. The blacks double their number every 40 years and the whites every 80 years. There are 843 languages and dialects spoken among the blacks of Africa, but only a few of them written.—Christian Herald.

"Everything Is Lovely."

As an instance that slogans of the marines do "catch on," Colonel McLemore reports that he offered passage from the suburbs to a certain town to a neighbor—an Irishman.

He asked him to what army he belonged and a neighbor— "The Marines," he thought for a moment and then said, "The Marines are here and everything is lovely," which is at any rate a free translation of their best-known slogan.

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