

Officers' Straps for War Nurses.

Nurses in this war are exposed to many perils. Sometimes they are obliged in the course of their duties to venture within five miles or less of the firing line. Many have been drowned on submerged hospital ships; many more have been killed in field hospitals by German bombs. Some have been gassed.

To guard against this last danger, our war nurses are now provided with gas masks, and they are taught how to use them before being sent "over there." Like the soldier boys, they are required, for the sake of practice and to give them confidence, to enter chambers filled with poison gas.

So far, so good. They are not afraid. But one thing they are urgently demanding, and that is recognized military rank as officers of the army. A bill granting them such rank has been introduced in both Senate and House, and the Congress will probably pass it.

Vanity or martial pride has nothing to do with this demand. It is purely a question of efficiency. Enlisted men (there are now more than 150,000 of them) assigned to ward duty in the hospitals have as a rule no training in the care of sick and wounded. Often such duty is given them as a punishment. They are unwilling to take orders from the nurses because the latter have no recognized rank, and the patients suffer in consequence.

Indeed, this trouble has cost many a soldier's life already. In one instance, which will serve for illustration, a number of gassed and wounded men were brought into a field hospital together after a battle. The nurse in charge ordered the gassed men brought to the ward first, because only quick action could save them; but the orderly refused to obey and some of the gassed men died.

There is just one thing a soldier will obey quickly and unhesitatingly, and that is shoulder-straps. It is for them the nurses are asking, in order that they may be able to do their work efficiently. Canadian and Australian nurses have rank as officers, with corresponding pay and quarters. The bill now before Congress does not bestow commissions or increased pay upon nurses. It merely prescribes for them relative rank and permits them to wear the appropriate insignia. Ordinary war nurses would rank as second lieutenants; chief nurses as first lieutenants; assistant superintendents and directors as captains. The head of the corps (with headquarters at Washington) would be a major. But all of them would be at all times under the orders of medical officers of the army.

Steam Engineers Wanted for the Navy.

If they step lively there is a chance for 100 Pennsylvanians to become officers in the United States Navy at a salary of \$155 a month, or if married, \$185.

The United States navy needs more steam engineers and needs them instantly. Men between the ages of 20 and 40 years are eligible, but they must have had either a practical experience as steam engineers, or a technical or civil or electrical engineering course at college.

To get into the ranks of commissioned officers of the United States Navy by this short route, an applicant must follow this course, approximately five months divided as follows:

- One month military training at Naval Training Camp, Pelham Bay Park, N. Y.
- Six weeks of technical instruction at the U. S. Navy Steam Engineering School, Hoboken, N. J.
- Six weeks practical training on board ships and in shops in the vicinity of New York.
- One month final instruction in U. S. Navy Steam Engineering School.

Applicants for admission will be inducted into the navy as apprentice seamen and upon qualifying for admission to the school will be rated as Chief Machinist Mates at a salary of \$83 per month and in addition lodging and subsistence.

Graduates will be commissioned as Ensigns in the U. S. Naval Reserve Force. The salary of an ensign at sea is \$155 per month if without dependents, and \$185, if having dependents.

Applicants for admission should apply to Ensign C. L. McIntyre, 225 W. 42nd St., New York, N. Y.

Deserters Will be Brought to Trial.

Deserters from the military and naval service and men absent without leave have been comparatively few, considering the magnitude of the new American army and navy. The government is determined that there will be no "easing up" of punishment accorded to the few men who have voluntarily placed themselves on the "missing" list.

To the government's other means of apprehending such men in this State have been added the resources of the Pennsylvania Council of National Defense. The Defense Council is authorized to locate and bring to justice such runaways. To aid it in its work, it is furnished with regular reports by the United States Adjutant General, giving full name, rank, organization and home addresses of the men who have deserted or are absent without leave.

In half the counties of the State, the Council has well organized Volunteer Home Defense Police units, capable of dealing with desertions. Elsewhere, its Military Service Departments and executive officials will assist the government in its work. The fact that the Council's organization extends to every district of the State leaves small chance of deserters returning to their old haunts undetected.

"What is your favorite text in the Bible?" asked Brown.
 "John xxi, 3," replied Jones.
 "And what is John xxi, 3?" asked Brown.
 "I go fishing," replied Jones.

PLATINUM "FAKE" IN OREGON

Geological Survey Explodes Report of Find of Precious Metals in a Western District.

The present shortage of platinum and the consequent greatly increased price of the metal bid fair to result in a considerable increase in the domestic production of platinum during the coming year, according to the United States geological survey. At the same time, while legitimate miners are increasing their production and to some extent relieving the country's shortage, other persons are using the interest aroused by the present nation-wide search for the metal to make extravagant claims for utterly worthless deposits, and some honest prospectors are led by false assays, made by inefficient or venal assayers, to believe mistakenly that they have valuable platinum deposits. Reports of platinum in some mythical combination—"volatile platinum" or "colloidal platinum"—should be regarded as sufficient evidence of the incompetence or dishonesty of the assayer.

During the season of 1917 the geologists of the United States geological survey, department of the interior, spent much time in visiting platinum deposits that proved to be worthless. A notable example is seen in the supposed platinumiferous sands of the Deschutes river, near Terrebonne, Ore.

The material collected there consists of loosely cemented dark volcanic sand and conglomerate interbedded with basalt and volcanic tuff. The black basaltic sand is supposed to have the richest content of gold and platinum, but neither in panning the material in the field nor in the chemical tests made by the geological survey could any trace of platinum or other metals of the platinum group be found. Neither was any gold found in the concentrates, and it is concluded that material of this type is very unlikely to contain workable amounts of gold.

MONEY LOANED FOR THE WAR

Dollars Invested in Bonds Expended for Food, Clothing, Ammunition and Other Necessaries.

What becomes of the dollar which is invested in government bonds? Here is the course it takes as visualized by Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo in his annual report to congress:

First, it goes to the government as a loan for the war.

Second, it is expended by the government for food, clothing and ammunition, which go directly to a gallant soldier or sailor whose fighting strength is kept up by the food, whose body is kept warm by the clothing, and whose enemy is hit by the ammunition.

It has not been expended in the purchase of needless food and clothing for the man at home, and is, therefore, released for the use of the soldier. It is saved wealth to the man at home and can be loaned to his government at interest with resulting benefit to himself and to his government.

Utilized Artificial Flood.

By means of an artificial rise, started on October 18, 1917, at Dam No. 7, Ohio river, and augmented by water from the Muskingum, Kanawha and Big Sandy rivers, more than 80,000 tons of coal from the Kanawha river were delivered to Cincinnati and other river cities, says a bulletin of the department of commerce. Every available tugboat and barge was used in this movement, even the small harbor boat of one of the coal companies being utilized to bring down four coal boats, and a snowboat pusher was chartered to bring down ten barges. Fourteen tows of more than 200 craft were in the movement. Last August, during a period of extremely low water, a fleet of barges, which carried 18,000 tons of coal was successfully moved by means of artificial floods. About a year ago two similar experiments were carried out successfully at a time when there was a shortage of coal in Cincinnati.

Unmanned Boats Foiled.

The Germans recently attempted an attack on British warships by means of small boats loaded with high explosives, unmanned and controlled by wireless. The idea was originally an American one, and was developed in the Hammond wireless controlled torpedo. But the drawback in all these radio-controlled devices is that the enemy can send out "interfering" waves and throw the boat off its course. The latest improvement in boats controlled from shore is said to be a craft whose course is directed by playing a searchlight on a selenium cell. The electrical resistance of selenium varies with light and darkness, and this fact can be taken advantage of to manipulate a steering apparatus by means of the user of the searchlight beam.

Government to Use Buildings.

Prof. C. C. Nutting, who will lead a party of Iowa scientists in an expedition to the West Indies next summer, has received word, says the Iowa University News Letter, that the English government building on the Pelican Islands, which will be the base of the expedition, will not be turned over to the explorers without cost. Some of the men who intended to go with this expedition at first have since entered naval service, but plans are going forward rapidly and the outlook is most promising, Professor Nutting declares. He made a preliminary visit to the island of the expedition last summer, and says that he has never seen a place so well suited for scientific research and was any greater.

Ignored Body Evaporation.

In the early days of steam vessels a firing suit was invented. A thin metal or asbestos cover was lined with rubber. The wearer carried a small water tank on his back. By opening a small valve near his shoulder he could sprinkle his bare skin. The inventor scalded to death, notes a writer, trying to prove his point. The sad part of it was that he was on the wrong track entirely. The suit made body evaporation nearly impossible, and that is really what cools us.

Clear Conscience.

Say, old fellow, don't carry the joke too far. Send the umbrella to Room 11, Fraternity Building. If the owner is not in just set it up beside the door. Or if you have that weak feeling and are in need of a tonic, and not able to climb the stairway, you can just pitch the shower stick in at the lower door entrance and return home, or any old place you like, carrying a clear conscience of one having done a good and worthy deed. Try it once.—Winchester Sun.

Right of Choice.

You cannot always choose your associates, but you can select your companions, observes a sage. Circumstances may throw you with people who are distasteful to you, but circumstances cannot force you to take them to your hearts and into your confidence. Choice is stronger than environment. Wherever you are, you always have the privilege of choosing.

Live Right.

Right living and the right kind of work have changed many a stunted boy into a well-developed man, asserts an educator. Spiritual growth is not greatly aided by sitting down and thinking about it. Live in the sunshine of trust. Rely on a strength higher than your own. Reach out helpfully to others, and growth in the divine life will look after itself.

The Shawm.

A shawm was a wind instrument of the oboe class but with a wider bell. It is a very old type of musical instrument, as it is spoken of by the Psalmist. The Romans used it freely. There were treble shawms and bass shawms, and the name gradually gave way about the sixteenth century to "moby" or "howboy," eventually evolving to "oboe."

Working and Thinking.

There is no less virtue, rather more, in events, tasks, duties, obligations, than there is in books. Work itself has a singular power to unfold and develop our nature. The difference is not between working people and thinking people, but between people who work without thinking and people who think while they work.—Henry Van Dyke.

Written Before Christ.

All the books of the Old Testament were written long before the birth of Christ, some of them as much as 1,400 years before, others from 500 to 1,000 years before. The Gospels and other books of the New Testament were written from 33 to 60 or 70 years after the birth of Christ.

Might Have Saved French.

In the Franco-Prussian war a dispatch was "lost" which might have averted the French defeat in 1870. Bazaine, whose message Marshal MacMahon never received, was after the war ordered shot for treason, a sentence which was commuted to 20 years' imprisonment.

Needless to Copy Others.

To do anything because others do it, and not because the thing is good, or kind, or honest in its own right, is to resign all moral control and capitulate upon yourself, and go post haste to the devil with the greatest number.—Stevenson.

Are Parrots Left-Handed?

It has been noticed that parrots seize objects with the left claw by preference or exclusively, and they make a readier use of the left claw for climbing than the right. Are they "left-handed"?—Exchange.

Curious.

Just happened to think—funny, but true—that every man who ever made a pioneer of himself was considered looney! Can you locate a single exception? Look 'em over.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Women Carry All Wealth.

In Dutch Guiana the women carry upon their persons all the family savings in the shape of heavy bracelets, anklets, necklaces and even crowns of gold and silver.

The Excuse.

"Many a man," said Uncle Eben, "thinks he has done a day's work when he has made up a good excuse for not doing no work yesterday."

The Minuet.

The old-time "minuet" derives its name from the Latin minutes—small, applying to the short steps peculiar to this dance.

Be Cheerful!

Don't be a gloom-distributor. Join the Silver Lining club.—Boston Globe.

SCIENTISTS AIDING IN WAR

Experts Have Found a New Work in Which They Are Materially Assisting the Government.

Secretary of the Interior Lane, in his recent annual report, portrays the transition of a peaceful democracy into a nation organized for war. Possession of resources alone, he warns the country, does not win wars, and recouping the enormous progress made on every hand, declares the physical resources of the United States are almost completely at the command of the world's needs.

"What can you do to serve me?" quotes the secretary, replying: "The answer of this department is that it has put every agency and activity which it has at the service of those departments more directly concerned with war-making."

"Our men of scientific knowledge—metallurgists, chemists, engineers, typographers—have found new work at their hands."

"The patent office has been searched for new devices that could be brought into use to kill the submarine or limit its destructiveness, for the plans of heretofore unused lethal weapons and for the formulae of improved or unknown sources of power."

"The scientific bureau of the government found themselves converted overnight into adjuncts and auxiliaries in the great international contest. Men who had regarded themselves as modestly useful only in the discovering and revealing of new sources of material strength found that their years of experience in the mountains and on the desert, in laboratories and in mines, called them at once into the thick of the European struggle."

NOT COLDEST AT SOLSTICE

Crust of Winter Weather Comes Much Later Than the Accredited Beginning of That Season.

Though the day as a whole begins to lengthen December 22, we have the puzzling fact that the sun continues to rise later for some days, a scientist states. The earth is actually nearer to the sun at this season than it is in summer, but the sun's low angle prevents it from warming things up as it otherwise would.

Though nominally "winter begins" December 22, this is an arbitrary date, and everybody knows from experience that this is not the coldest part of the year. The crest of the cold comes in January and February. The reason for this lag of the cold season is that in December the earth is still enjoying the heat it stored up from the sun in the summer and it does not cool off to its maximum point till a month or two later.

In the same way the hottest part of summer is not at the summer solstice, June 21 and 22, but from a month to two months later, for it takes the earth that long to get warmed up.

An Incident of Sea War.

William McFee, author of "Casualties of the Sea," tells in an English paper, Land and Water, of an attack by a submarine upon a steamer and describes this incident of the engine room before the boat was sunk: "For those three men (the officers) stood by for the better part of an hour. The stokehold was empty, the steam was dropping, and there was considerable water in the bilges, but they stood by watching the speaking tube and the blind white face of the telegraph pointing irresolutely to 'Stand By' (the orders from the bridge). And presently the strain of waiting grew oppressive, so that the chief, looking up toward the skylight, said to my friend, 'Mister, go up and see what's doing. It must be daylight now.' And he went up, and came out on deck and found himself face to face with a problem of some complexity. For the deck of the ship was deserted, and far across the dark sparkle of the sea he saw the boats crawling toward a smear of smoke on the skyline."

Training for War.

If Englishmen considered the football field as the place to win their battles, Prussians have always held that the best way to prepare for victory is by training their young officers in the hunting field, notes a writer. Since medieval times the chase, especially on the continent of Europe, has been advocated by the school of warriors. In the old days, when men were only interested in fighting, and when there weren't really enough wars to keep a healthy feudal nobleman continuously occupied and happy, warring upon wild animals was discovered to be the next best thing to warring on humans.

Officer Ignored Orders.

Early in the war when Field Marshal John French and General Joffre were straining every nerve to hold back the German advance which they did finally at the Marne a French general, so the story goes, refused to open orders sent by an officer who had been promoted over his head. The message, like the dispatch in the Franco-Prussian war, was "lost" and a division, which was left without support, was almost annihilated. The story goes that the general was ordered shot.

Marriages in England.

The war has resulted in 200,000 English people being married between August, 1914, and June, 1917, who in the ordinary course would not have married. The marriage rate for 1915 was the highest recorded, 194. These figures are given out by Sir Bernard Mallet, registrar general of births, deaths and marriages in England.

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We have just opened a full assortment of Silk Waists with high and low collars in all the new colors—white, flesh and yellow. All sizes up to 56, at especially low prices.

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The largest and best assortment of Table Linens, Napkins to match, that cannot be matched in price.

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Still saving money on all Shoes bought at our store. All styles for men, women and children.

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To keep you warm these cold nights. Prices the lowest.

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