

TARGET PRACTICE.

HOW THE SOLDIER IS DRILLED IN AIMING AND POINTING.

Facts Concerning "Sight Estimating"—Misses Sure to Be Made in Pulling Off the Piece—Gallery Firing—Various Other Difficulties.

(Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.)

The target season in the United States army extends throughout the year, winter and summer alike, during which time the soldier is eternally drilled in aiming and pointing in estimating distances by pacing and by sight, in gallery practice indoors at reduced targets and reduced ranges, and in the field before the butts at all distances. The regular target season begins about May 1, and ends about Oct. 31, when the new target year actually begins.

Suppose we commence with the regular course of training necessary to make a good shooting machine of him, which ends Oct. 31 of the succeeding year.

It constantly happens that men detailed from the main body of the army are called upon to determine for themselves their distance from an object to be fired at. Experience abundantly proves that soldiers, by continued practice, may learn to estimate distances up to 500 and 600 yards with considerable accuracy by simple, rapid observation.

Every soldier is supposed to be a good eyesight; he, therefore, after a little practice in sight-estimating, learns the following facts:

At 50 yards the white of man's eyes is plainly seen, and the eyes themselves up to 80 yards.

At 100 yards all parts of the body are seen distinctly, slight movements are perceptible, and the minute details of the uniform can be distinguished.

At 150 yards the brass buttons on the blouse can still be separately distinguished.

At 200 yards the outlines of the face are confused, and the rows of brass buttons look like yellow stripes.

At 300 yards the buttons are no longer visible.

At 400 yards the face is a mere dot, but all movements of the legs and arms are still distinct.

A 600 yards details can no longer be distinguished, though the files of a squad, if the light be strong, can be counted.

At 800 yards the men in a squad can not always be counted, nor their individual movements distinguished.

At 1,000 yards a line of men simply resembles a broad belt; the direction of their march can, however, be readily determined.

At 1,500 yards infantry can be distinguished from cavalry.

At 2,000 yards a mounted man looks like a mere speck or dot.

These estimating drills are at first conducted on smooth, level country, and afterward on rough ground.

The above drills are supplemented a little later in the season, by skirmish practice, when the soldiers are advanced or returned on a run before a line of targets the size of men lying down, kneeling, and standing, when they load and fire at the sound of a bugle, depending entirely upon their own judgment as to what distance they happen to be from the objects fired at.

It teaches them to be quick and observing, and, above all, to depend entirely upon themselves for the manipulation of their sights and the handling of their pieces.

The estimating distance drills are usually kept up for two months, when the soldier is practiced indoors at aiming, pointing, and pulling the trigger.

Of all misses, made by anybody when firing at an object, charge better than 50 per cent. of them to defective pulling of the trigger. Nearly every rifleman in the world, be he a greenhorn or an expert, deranges his aim to a more or less degree when he pulls off the piece.

First-class riflemen will, as a general rule, fairly deny any such imputation against their superior marksmanship, and will claim that they have long ago mastered the defective pulling of the trigger, but the real expert (who is a grade above the first-class rifleman) knows better than this, and that as a matter of fact not one rifleman in a thousand pulls off his piece perfectly. Now, if our best shots can not always thoroughly overcome this one drawback to fine shooting after years of hard practice, how difficult it must be for the ordinary soldier in the ranks to master it! Hence it is that aiming and aiming drills are continuously practiced in the army, so as to give the soldier, whether standing, kneeling, or lying down, a perfect command of his rifle, as well as to teach him steadiness of both person and rifle, and to establish between the hand and the eye such a prompt and intimate connection as will insure the finger acting upon the trigger at the proper moment without causing any derangement in the aim.

The next step is gallery practice, which is conducted indoors at a reduced target and with reduced charges. Iron target frames are issued by the ordnance department on which are painted targets reduced to any size desired. The eight-inch eye of the field target at 200 yards is reduced to one inch for twenty-five yards, the other sections of the target in proportion.

The service rifle is used with a round ball the caliber of the gun, and a charge of powder usually not less than three grains nor more than seven grains. There is no recoil from such a light cartridge, and the soldier therefore quickly overcomes his tendency to flinch.

Now if he had been marched direct to the range and given his rifle with the full cartridge, and told to shoot a score at the regular target, the chances are nine out of ten that he would have tightly closed both eyes when pulling the trigger and trusted to luck for hits. But the gallery practice for the soldier paves the way to field firing, just as the primer enables the schoolboy to progress successively to the higher studies. Excellent results are attained at the miniature targets, and many full scores are often made. Gallery firing is continued until the regular practice begins on the range, when the soldier is regularly advanced from one range to another by a system of classification according to the merit of his scores, and soon learns to overcome, as far as possible, all the difficulties of light, shadow, wind, moisture, etc., under the competent instruction of the range officer.

Iceland's Forest. (Reykjavik Letter.)

Some of you, perhaps, have heard of the one tree in Iceland, a dwarfed thing that the people wrap in clothes each winter to protect from the severity of the frosts. I had often been told and had read of this wonder, and naturally was anxious to see it, but to-day in this town I came upon three as large and handsome mountain ash or rowan trees as I remember ever of seeing. Standing about twenty feet in height they spread their branches over a large area, and are, to all appearances, healthy, flourishing trees, of which the people take no more care than we in our warmer climates do of ours.

THE STORY THAT WAS TOLD

By the Florid-Faced Man With Clear-Cut Features and Innocent-Looking Eyes. (New York Tribune.)

A man with a florid face and clear-cut features, whose eyes had a peculiarly innocent look in them, got on an elevated railroad car the other day to come down town. He became absorbed in the contents of a newspaper, and apparently did not notice a young man sitting near him, whose eyes seemed riveted upon his heavy gold watch-chain. After several stops at the stations the car became nearly empty. The young man suddenly rose, and, crossing over to the old gentleman, remarked:

"I beg your pardon, sir, but is not this your purse? I found it in the seat by your side."

The older man looked at the purse and then at the young man for full a minute. Then he carefully removed his glasses, wiped them with his handkerchief, smiled to himself, and calmly queried:

"And if it was not mine what would you do with it?"

"Why—of course," said the young fellow, slightly coloring, "I'd return it to the owner."

"Oh, yes, I see. But, young man, sit down here for a minute and let me tell of a scene that I once witnessed."

The young man, somewhat disconcerted, mechanically obeyed, and allowed the elder one to proceed.

"One day in April, some three years ago, I was passing through Chambers street, on a business errand, when I espied a pair of lady's kid gloves lying upon the sidewalk. I hurried forward to pick them up; but was just too late, as another person a short distance ahead of me secured them. He looked at me in a quizzical manner, and when I asked him to let me see them, he politely assented. But as if fearful of being seen he nudged me to come into an open doorway where we could look at our prize with comparative safety. As I took the gloves from his hand and pulled them apart, so as to examine their worth, I was surprised to find a large, heavy lump of something tied up in one of the fingers. With greedy haste communicated to him my discovery when he snatched the gloves from my hand and commenced working the article out of the finger hole. In a few moments he held up to my astonished view a handsome jeweled ring, which at the lowest ought to have been worth \$50. I expressed my surprise in a very open way, and asked him to let me see it. This he did, and at the same time asked what I thought it was worth. I hesitatingly gave him my opinion. Then what had he better do with it? he asked. 'Why, advertise it in the papers,' I suggested, 'and the owner will probably give us a handsome price for returning it.' This he thought was a very good plan, but he was then on his way to the train to go out of the city for a month or two, and consequently he would not be able to receive any of the money. 'I'll tell you,' he finally said, 'the owner will at least give you \$10 for returning it, and if you will give me \$5 now I will surrender the gloves and ring to you. How does that suit? It's fair, isn't it?'

"Well, yes, I had to acknowledge it was, and so without murmuring I handed him \$5, and walked away with the ring. The next two days I advertised in the papers for the owner of the ring; but no one came to claim it. On the fourth day I concluded I had acted honestly in the matter, and was now justified in selling it. I took it to a prominent jeweler's where I knew its true value would be given, and—what do you think it was worth?"

The young man shifted uneasily in his seat and dodged the smiling eyes of the speaker.

"Why, it was a brass ring worth about 3 cents, and put in the glove by that rascal of a swindler. Now, then," continued the gentleman, in a severe tone, "what would you do if you discovered that same fellow up to his old trick again?"

"Ah! this is my station; I must go. Good morning." And the young man with the purse slid gently along the car, and disappeared in the crowd on the platform. The old gentleman resumed his reading, and chuckled to himself a petty now and then.

Public Baths. (Democrat's Monthly.)

Some of the most splendid works of ancient Rome were its public baths. Their remains are to-day the wonder of all who visit the imperial city. It is evident that the Romans under the emperors were a more cleanly people than the ordinary dwellers in our modern large cities. It is noticeable that in all capitals of the world to-day there is a disposition to imitate the Romans. Public baths are recognized as being as essential as common schools.

Public health can be preserved in no better way than in providing means for keeping the mass of the population clean. We are rediscovering also a fact well known to the Romans, that hot air and vapor baths have a therapeutic value. They cure diseases of various kinds.

The public baths of Vienna almost vie with some of the Roman baths, and are the finest in the world. The building is situated in the heart of the city, is 570 feet in length and 176 in width, and has accommodations for 1,500 persons at one time. There are also accommodations for women. In New York and other of our large cities free baths in summer were first looked upon as an experiment, but are now regarded as a necessity, and their popularity yearly increases.

Other large capitals, such as London and Paris, are hindered in providing bathing facilities, because of the difficulty of procuring sufficient water; but from the tendencies of the age, it is very clear that before the twentieth century has far advanced, the public baths of the modern world will vie with those of ancient Rome, not only in general utility but in splendor.

Etiquette for the Seaside. (Boston Beacon.)

A seasonable bit of gallant etiquette is offering to empty a lady's slipper of the sand gathered during a stroll on the beach. The lady hops on one foot while her cavalier, very much in the same way he would pick a stone from a horse's hoof, deftly extracts the gritty particles which have made the fair one "go lame." Fashionable slippers were not made for country walking, but they are a "boon," as Artemus Ward once said of the tower of London, to idle youngsters, who pose as gallants of the deepest dye at summer resorts.

The Modern Myth-Maker. (Atlanta Constitution.)

The newspaper reporters have done exceedingly good work since they were placed in charge of the myth factory. The story of the George Washington hatchet is a very fine myth, but the most ordinary newspaper reporter can get up a better one in twenty minutes by the watch. As a matter of fact he has invented better ones about Lincoln and Grant, and is preparing to invent others whenever he deems it necessary. Long live the modern myth-maker.

Silhouette Art's. Silhouette artists at Coney Island earn from \$50 to \$60 a week. They make from fifty to 300 silhouettes a day.

WHEN I AM DEAD.

(C. H. L.)

When I am dead, I pray thee, sweet, Mourn not above the winding sheet, But rather smile, and say: "At last The hot and thorny way is passed— The dew of heaven shall cool my feet."

Yet profitless and incomplete Life's journey, should I fail to meet One happy death who to be blest? When I am dead.

But thou—whose joyance is the seat And throes of Love—I thee entreat, Rend not before the cruel blast, Listening in vain for one heart beat When I am dead!

Causes of Deteriorated Eye-Sight. (Popular Science Monthly.)

The causes to which this deterioration of eye-sight has been attributed are alleged to be cross-lights from opposite windows, light shining directly on the face, insufficient light, small types, and to the position of the desk, forcing the scholar to bend over and bring the eyes too close to the book or writing paper, etc. But, were all these defects remedied, the integrity of the eye would not be restored nor its deterioration prevented.

The chief causes of the evil would still remain. These are the color of the paper and the ink. White paper and black ink are ruining the eyesight of all reading nations. The "rays of the sun," says Lord Bacon, "are reflected by a white body, and are absorbed by a black one." No one dissents from this opinion; but despite these indications of nature and of philosophy, we print our books and write our letters in direct opposition to the suggestions of optical science.

When we read a book printed in the existing mode, we do not see the letters, which being black are non-reflective. The shafts reach the retina, but these are not received by a spontaneous, direct action of that organ. The white surface of the paper is reflected, but the letters are detected only by a discriminating effort of the optic nerves. This effort annoys the nerves, and when long continued exhausts their susceptibility. The human eye can not long sustain the broad glare of the white surface without injury. The author of "Spanish Vistas" in Harper's Magazine, says of cartegena that "blind people seem to be numerous there, a fact which may be owing to the excessive dazzle of the sunlight and the intense verdure." Mr. Seward, in his tour around the world, observed that "in Egypt ophthalmia is universal," attributing it to the same excessive dazzle of the wide areas of white sand; and the British soldiers, in the late campaign in that country, exhibited symptoms of the same disease.

In the Smithsonian report for 1877 it is stated in a paper on "Color Blindness," that "M. J. Chevreul produced 14,420 distinguishable tints of the elementary colors from which the paper manufacturers could select colors more agreeable to the eye than the dazzling white, weakening and lacerating to the nerves of that delicate organ."

The Mail in China. (Casell's Family Magazine.)

But as regards letters, a considerable proportion of the 400,000,000 Chinamen do occasionally exchange letters—those who cannot write for themselves hiring scribes to do so. These letters are consigned to firms which have houses in all the large towns, where letters are forwarded to distant ports, to be distributed by special agents, who generally collect the postage from the receiver. There was certainly something comic in the fact that when China was no longer able to exclude foreigners from Peking, our British postal arrangements were no sooner established than some of the Imperial officials came to ask Sir Frederick Bruce to forward certain state documents for them between Peking and Canton.

In the death of the Emperor Hien-fung, which occurred just at that time, intimation thereof was sent from his country palace (a distance of 600 li, which is upward of 300 miles) in twenty-four hours, which is the highest speed attainable in China. But the placid Celestials, to whom hurry appears a form of vulgar impatience, and to whom telegraphs are an abomination, are content that all ordinary communications should be conveyed either by slow paddling boats, or else by footrunners, whose high sounding title of "the thousand mile horse" does not quicken their pace beyond about twelve miles in twenty-four hours. They carry a paper lantern and a paper umbrella, and their letter-bag is secured on their back by a cloth knotted across the chest.

The New "Oosophy" of Buddhism. (Atlanta Constitution.)

Many intellectual people in this country who have always professed to hold spiritualism in utter indifference are now very much interested in what they call "Psychical research." They are also investigating a very extraordinary phase of spiritualism called "theosophy."

This queer mystery comes to us from oriental lands, and is a mixture of Asiatic gnosticism, medieval magic and modern science. Mr. A. P. Sinnett is the founder, or rather the introducer of this new school. In his "Occult World" and "Esoteric Buddhism" he has outlined its main features very attractively.

Such a hold has the new "osophy" already obtained that numbers of wealthy men have left their homes (as well as hermits in the wilds of Tibet, where they may learn the unknowable from Buddhist professors. It is difficult to see what useful thing is taught in this weird school. It is claimed that the prosecution of certain studies will enable the student to walk in the air, to play with the clouds, to control the winds, to steer the stars, to multiply himself and appear in two places at the same time, and project himself astrally any distance. He also comes to a full understanding of the nature of God and learns how to re-incarnate himself in a body when old and worn out. Now these things are more wonderful than anything in ordinary spiritualism, and yet there are learned men and women in Europe and America who profess to believe.

An Arctic Attraction. (Arkansas Traveler.)

Mr. W. Matten Williams remarks that the popular notion that mosquitoes are chiefly resident in tropical and sub-tropical countries is quite a mistake, the home of their mightiest legions being within and about the Arctic circle. On coasting trips to the North cape even, vessels are invaded by maddening swarms at every stopping place. It is reported that in Alaska they form clouds so dense that it is impossible for sportsmen to aim at objects beyond. Native dogs are sometimes killed by them, and even the great grizzly bear is said to be occasionally blinded by their attacks and finally starved in consequence.

Superior Excellence. The reasons for PERUNA'S superior excellence in all diseases, and its modus operandi, are fully explained in Dr. Hartman's lecture, reported in his book on the "ills of Life and How to Cure Them," from page 1 to page 4, through the whole book should be read and studied to get the full value of this far excellent remedy. These books can be had at all the drug stores gratis.

W. D. Williams, U. S. Pension Agent and Notary Public, New Vienna, Clinton County, Ohio, writes: "I take great pleasure in testifying to your medicines. I have used about one bottle and a half, and can say I am almost a new man. Have had the catarrh about twenty years. Before I knew what it was, had settled on the lungs and breast, but can now say I am almost well. Was in the army, could get no medicine there that would relieve me."

Col. E. Finger, Ashland, Ohio, writes: "I am happy to say I have used several bottles of your medicine called PERUNA, and my health has been greatly improved by it. I cheerfully recommend PERUNA to all who suffer with heart trouble, as being an invaluable medicine."

Rev. J. M. Ingling, Altamont, Ill., writes: "My father-in-law, who resides with me has been using your PERUNA for kidney disease, which has afflicted him for forty years and could get no relief until he saw your medicine. I induced him to try a bottle, which he did, and the one bottle of PERUNA and one bottle of MANALIN has given him more relief than all the other medicines he ever used."

Mr. Robert Grimes, Rendville, Ohio, writes: "My wife has been an intense sufferer from chronic catarrh, and after every other remedy had failed, she commenced to use your PERUNA and MANALIN. They have helped my dear wife more than anything she has ever used. She has now taken two bottles, and is so much better that she will never quit its use until she is entirely well. It has wonderfully improved her sight. We think PERUNA and MANALIN will cure any disease."

R. Palmer, Pastor of the A. M. E. Church, No. 192 Canal Street, Wilkes-barre Luzerne Co., Pa., writes: "Having used your PERUNA, and by experience became acquainted with its value, I write asking you to please send me five bottles of PERUNA and one of MANALIN by express and oblige, your humble servant."

Cook Bros., Prospect, Marion County, Ohio, writes: "We have a good trade on PERUNA, our customers speak well of it. PERUNA is sold by all druggists. Price \$1.00 per bottle, six bottles \$5.00. If you cannot get it from your druggist, we will send it on receipt of regular price. We prefer you buy it from your druggist, but if he hasn't it do not be persuaded to try something else, but order from us at once as directed. S. B. HARTMAN & Co., Columbus, Ohio.

A PLAIN ROAD TO HEALTH.

Read the Sworn Testimony and Satisfy Yourself. THE HOWARD GALVANIC SHIELD.

HOWARD GALVANIC SHIELD TRADE MARK

This is the only appliance made that can be applied directly to the Kidney, Liver, Stomach, Spleen, or any part of the body. It can be worn at night or during the day by either Man, Woman or Child.

If you are Weak, Languid, Irritable, Fretful, Nervous, Forgetful, Unsocial, without any apparent cause, that your Energy can no longer be concentrated, your Thoughts Clouded and Disconnected, that Home and Social Circle no longer have any Charm for you, and that Hope is almost gone. The Howard Shield will overcome it effectually.

I hereby certify that the following testimonials are a true and exact copy as given by me by the parties whose names are attached thereto.

W. C. McLEAREN, Sworn and subscribed before me this 5th day of June, 1885, Lafayette Webb, Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of Milton county, Pa.

PARALYSIS AND CONSTIPATION. Milroy, Pa., May 30, 1885. Gentlemen—I deem it a pleasure as well as a duty to state that I have worn them for several months and have gradually improved from the effects of Paralysis of one side and Constipation. Since using the appliance have been free from the terrible, bed-ridden I have improved in my general health. I therefore commend them to any who may be suffering from the same trouble. D. M. COUNTNER, NERVOUS PROSTRATION AND SLEEPINESS. Milroy, Pa., June 3, 1885. Gentlemen—My wife has suffered for years with Nervous Prostration, so much so that she could not even attend to her household duties. Her rest a sleep was so much broken and disturbed that she could not without much difficulty perform her daily household duties. She was induced to try the Howard Shield, has worn it over two months and now sleep well at night, and even during the day, can work with comfort that was a burden before. She has improved in general health and complexion. I consider your appliances invaluable for nervousness, sleeplessness and general debility. JOHN COOK, NO MEDICINE NEEDED. Belleville, Pa., May 30, 1885. Gentlemen—I have been greatly benefited by the use of the Howard Shield, No. 2, for constipation. I have worn it since May and would not like to do without it. I now feel thankful for your appliance and have advised others to give them a trial feeling sure that they would be benefited as I have been. C. B. PEACY, WHAT A LEADING DOCTOR SAYS: Milroy, Pa., June 2, 1885. Gentlemen—I have suffered many years with Cramps in my lower extremities, mostly at night, often having to rise and walk the room for relief. I procured a Howard Shield and have been wearing it for some time and Rheumatism in my back has had the most wonderful relief since wearing it over the small of my back and have gained strength of muscle to a most wonderful degree. I can therefore recommend the use of these appliances of all Rheumatic and nervous complaints particularly nervous debility. I have recommended them to my patients and in every case with benefit. A HARRISBERGER, M. D. WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE 1ST NATIONAL BANK SAYS: Ashland, Pa., March 30, 1885. Gentlemen—I know what your Appliances are for personal use and I therefore recommend your shield to Mrs. Hanburger some time ago for Sciatism and induced her to send for one which she did and has used it for about four weeks, and she is now able to stand and feel entirely cured. Yours respectfully, GEO. H. HELFRICH, President of the 1st National Bank. Another Affidavit from a Prominent Citizen of Ohio NERVOUS DEBILITY IN ITS WORST FORM. Columbus, O., cor. Friend & Sand'ry sts., 53, '95. Gentlemen—I take pleasure in saying that I have tried almost every known remedy, as well as so-called Electric Appliances without any benefit. I was weak, nervous, despondent, almost without hope, almost entirely starved, looked pale and thin, and in a word was afflicted with the worst symptoms of Nervous Debility the effects of which are so well known to every sufferer. I can truthfully say that the Howard Spinal Appliance and the Howard Shield entirely cured me. I commenced their use in 1881 and was restored to perfect health. I am now married and have never had a recurrence of my former trouble. You can refer anyone to me as I shall ever feel grateful to you. Your treatment is as represented. You have proven yourselves worthy of the confidence of every sufferer. AUG. F. ELLERMAN. Personally appeared before me, Aug. F. Ellerman, to me known, deposed and sworn that the above letter certifying as to the curative powers of the Howard Electric Shield and Spinal Appliances is true. Sworn and subscribed before me this 5th day of May, A. D. 1885. THOS. H. BRICK, Deputy Clerk of Courts of Franklin Co., O. For further information, we send our Illustrated Pamphlet giving a large number of testimonials for other ailments. AMERICAN GALVANIC CO. 1103 Chestnut Str. Phila., Pa.

CALL

CENTRE DEMOCRAT

—AT THE—

Job Office

And Have Your Job Work

CHEAPLY, NEATLY AND WITH DISPATCH.

DONE

Now is the Time to Subscribe

"CENTRE DEMOCRAT,"

The LARGEST and CHEAPEST Paper in Bellefonte.

ONLY \$1.50 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

OFFICE: HARRIS' NEW BRICK BLOCK, BELLEFONTE, PA.