

WARSHIPS AT NIGHT.

From the First Call at Sundown to the Mournful Taps.

The routine of life on a battleship at night will interest boys who have a nautical bent.

The "first call" is sounded five minutes before sundown, when the ensign and the jack halyards are manned and a stay light made ready for hoisting to indicate the ship's whereabouts during the night. Then the color call follows at sundown as the flag is lowered and hauled by all as it reaches the deck. The assembly is then sounded for evening quarters and muster, but there is no drill.

As a rule, it is just after sunset when the bugle call is sounded to "stand by hammocks." That brings all the crew on deck, and they stand in silence close out to the ship's side beside the hammock nettings, in two ranks facing the stern, until the boatswain's mate reports to the officer of the deck, "All up and aft." The latter then orders, "Uncover; pipe down!" and in obedience to this order and the boatswain's whistle the nettings are thrown open and the hammocks are served out and taken below to their proper places. Each hammock has printed on it a number, and that same number is on the hooks below decks where the hammock has to be swung, so that each man sleeps in the same place every night, and that place is called his "billet."

Unless a boat is called away there will be no more bugle calls until five minutes of 9 o'clock. The period is one of complete relaxation and is spent by the sailors in smoking, spinning yarns, singing, playing on musical instruments and dancing. At five minutes of 9 the first call is again sounded as a warning to the crew to prepare to turn into their hammocks and go to sleep. Then at 9 o'clock comes the call known as "Tattoo."

This tattoo is the survival of an old custom. In the "old navy" it used to last fifteen minutes and was performed with drum and fife, playing all manner of airs and quicksteps according to the fancy or ingenuity of the drummer and the fifer. It is even said to have been handed down from a period of superstition, when they used to make a hula-balo after dark to drive the devils out of the ship. At the last note of tattoo the ship's bell is struck twice for 9 o'clock, and the boatswain's whistle sounds "Pipe down." Every man must then turn into his hammock, whether he is sleepy or not, for an inspection is made by the master at arms to see that all have done so. Then sounds that last long, mournful call, "Taps."—Chicago News.

Harrisburg to Hartford.

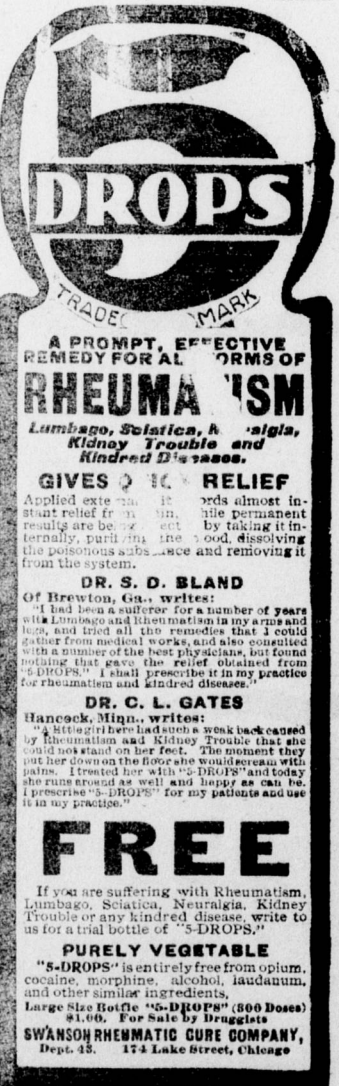
Pennsylvania granges are preparing to attend the national grange meeting at Hartford in goodly numbers. Plans are being made for a large party to rendezvous at Harrisburg, then to proceed to New York, stop overnight and go on to Hartford next day.

New York will have added about 10,000 new members by the time the next state grange meets in February, 1908.

Exact justice, equality and a fair reward are the watchwords of the grange.—Aaron Jones.

Elementary Arithmetic.

Judge—What age are you? Pat—Eight and fourscore my lord. Judge—and why not fourscore and eight? Pat—Because, my lord, I was eight before I was fourscore.—London Answers.



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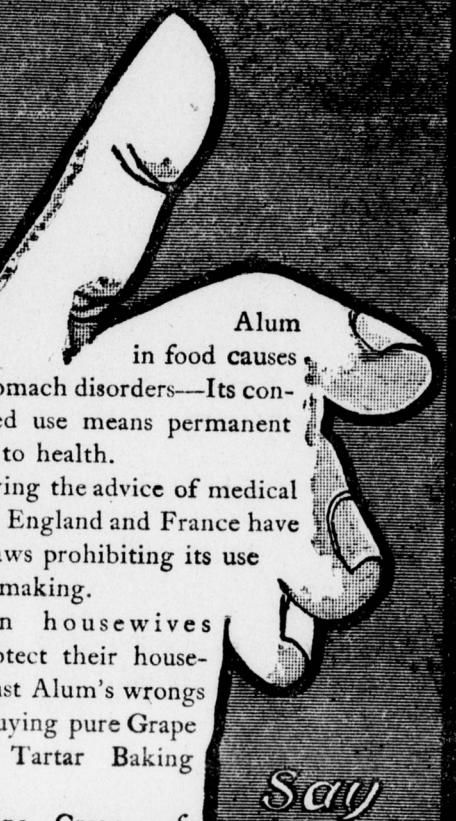
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