

FUTURE ADMIRALS.

HOW NAVAL OFFICERS ARE MADE AT ANNAPOLIS.

The 'Life of the Plebe' on Board Ship—Daily Routine at the United States Naval Academy.

WHEN spring makes all the world fresh and green, the host of candidates that seek admission to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., through the gateway, where a marine sentry stands guard day and night. To those who leave through that gate after an unsuccessful bout with the entrance examinations, the glance back through the gate seems like a view of lost paradise and the sentry seems a bar between them and their fondest hopes. To the others—those who pass the entrance examinations with flying colors, the same sentry seems like a prison guard, keeping them in from the world they have left outside. The lesson of discipline, daily, hourly discipline, is hard to learn, and the course of daily study and drill seems long to look forward to; but once through successfully, the reward is reached and the Government gives the successful cadet a commission that is certainly most honorable, and reasonably sure for life. Once passed, he takes the "iron bond" oath of allegiance from an old justice of the peace in Annapolis, whose office is in the building that served as a law office when General Washington came to Annapolis to resign his commission, and has been doing the same duty ever since.

After this the young cadet, or "plebe," in the parlance of the academy, gets a cap (the only part of his uniform that is not made to order) and starts to his temporary home on the old Santee that does duty, tied to the dock and grounded in the mud, as quarters for the "new fourth" class, and as a prison ship for the unfortunate cadets who may commit any serious infractions of the regulations. Then begins the month of drilling in "setting up" that precedes the first cruise. Of all drills, setting up drill,

Well, generally, it is said that he does not refuse, but when he does a fight may be arranged, and the matter settled in the wash room up forward on the Constellation, according to Queensbury rules. And many a fight has this old wash room seen, though rarely with any permanent injury to the combatants. The summer cruises generally start



AFTER REVEILLE.

out from Annapolis, and make a short stop at Old Point Comfort, where the cadets may get a chance to go ashore and charm the girls with their brass buttons and blue uniforms, for girls are always fond of uniforms. Then the ship goes up the coast to New London and Newport. When the ship gets fairly out to sea, the woe of the plebe is multiplied, for seasickness generally adds to hazing and hard work to make his life miserable. But once in port at some of the New England summer resorts, the half day's leave to visit the shore on Saturdays and Sundays to those who remain on the first conduct class comes like an oasis in the desert. The hotels on the beach are thronged with summer girls, who always appreciate the cadets, and look forward to the hop on board, which is the last thing in port.

LIFE ON BOARD SHIP.

During these summer cruises the week days are spent cruising about in Long Island Sound, the cadets working the ship, those in the lower classes

the Severn River the life of a cadet seems ideal, and they may even ask what he does to occupy his time. But as time is well occupied. Here is the daily routine during the eight months' study from the 1st of October until the graduation in June: At 6 o'clock the buglers march through the hall, playing reveille, that familiar call that every cadet has hummed.

"I can't get them up. I can't get them up. In the morning! Get up you lazy loungers. Put on your blouse and trousers. I can't get them up in the morning!"

Then the cadet in charge of the floor starts at the last note to inspect the rooms and see that every one is turned out, and woe to the sleepy ones, for five demerits is the penalty. Thirty minutes later the assembly sounds and down the stairs all rush to formation for breakfast. The long lines fall in and the ranks are opened and minutely inspected by officers who, according to the cadets' ideas, can see a spot of dirt a hundred yards away. All the formations are with exact military precision, the orders are read and the battalion marched into the mess hall. One-half of the lower floor of the cadets' new quarters is occupied by this mess hall, where the 300 cadets are seated at the tables in three rows, about twenty-five at each table. At a small table near the centre are the officer in charge (a lieutenant of the discipline department), the cadet lieutenant commander (the ranking cadet officer), the cadet adjutant and the cadet officer of the day. Three times a day the assembly sounds for meal formations, and the cadets have just time to get in ranks with clothes and shoes brushed, blouses buttoned and caps on square, when the bugle sounds "left face" and the rolls are called, the tardy and absent ones spotted, and afterwards assigned demerits unless their excuses are infallible.

The room itself is interesting, with its high ceiling and windows looking out on the fair grounds of the academy. The walls and pillars are covered with trophies—flags won in the boat races in several quarters of the globe, class pictures and banners, the names of crack shots of past classes and some of the targets showing their score and the bow and sculls of a famous racing shell.

The meals are composed of good, substantial food, well cooked and fairly well served. For example, a recent day's menu was as follows: Breakfast—Beefsteak, fried potatoes, rolls, coffee, tea, chocolate; dinner—soup, roast beef, roast mutton, potatoes, corn, sliced tomatoes and ice cream; supper—cold meat, rolls, tea, coffee. While not elegant, this is enough to keep the young men in good health and strength, and on holidays a finer dinner is set out, in which all the skill of the gray-haired cook and his three assistants is demonstrated.

But to return to the routine of daily duties. Breakfast over, thirty minutes is given the cadet to put his room in order. The three upper floors of the quarters are divided into rooms on either side of the hall that run lengthwise of the building, each room about twelve feet square and holding two cadets. In the center is a plain, square



CADET GROUNDS.

table, with a gas jet dropping from the ceiling over it. On either side of the single window stands a wardrobe, where the regulation clothing is kept neatly put away and ever ready for inspection, while on either side of the room is a narrow iron bedstead, with a hair mattress and hair pillow, with white sheets and spread.

Two chairs and two shelves complete the furniture of these very plain and conventional rooms, yet they are comfortable enough. The two cadets in each room take turns for a week at a time as "cadet in charge of room" and each cadet is required to make his own bed, keep his mirror and toilet articles clean and in order, his shoes neatly blacked and arranged beneath his bed, his wardrobe in order and his books dusted and arranged on the shelves, according to size and right side up. As a result every room looks exactly like any other room.

At 8 o'clock in the morning the "study call" is sounded, and half of each class falls in to go to recitation, while the other half goes to the rooms to study. An hour later they alternate, at 10 again, and at 12 still again. Then a few minutes' rest comes before dinner at half-past 12. From half-past 1 until 4 in the afternoon the study and recitation again alternate, then comes an hour or two of drill, then supper at half-past 6; while from half-past 7 till half-past 9 study hours are preserved, and at 10 taps sounds and "lights out" ends the busy day. During the study hours those cadets not at recitation are required to remain in their rooms and study and no visiting is allowed, a system of frequent inspections generally making visits among the cadets during these hours very difficult. Yet friendly parties will get together and when the approaching footsteps of the officer of the day is heard the visitors hide in the wardrobes, where there is barely room to crouch down out of sight until the inspection is over, or get caught, which means more demerits and no liberty on Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoon are the hours of rest with one hour recreation on Wednes-

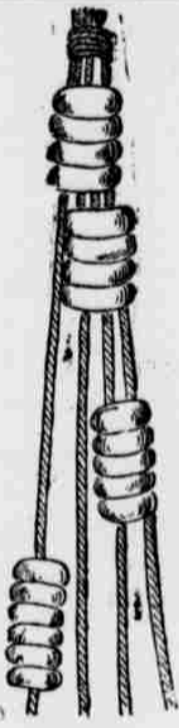
day afternoon, and at these times the fortunate ones who have not enough demerits to restrict them, generally spend these afternoons in the quaint old city of Annapolis. During the winter a series of hops form amusement for Saturday nights.

The holidays are few and short, only Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year and Washington's Birthday being allowed, and then the unfortunate cadets on the first conduct class who can find a relative in Washington or Baltimore to visit go off for a day or two on Christmas and New Year, and the ones who stay behind find solace in a rest from study and the great boxes of cake and turkey and good things that come from home.—Washington Star.

The Chimpu.

The chimpu is a reckoning device still employed in some remote parts of Peru and Bolivia. It consists principally of a certain number of cords tied together at one of their extremities and along which slide small perforated balls. The cords are of different colors and the balls are made of the shells of various fruits. These balls can be strung all at the same time upon all the cords or upon a certain number only.

The Indian thus has a means of creating for himself categories of juxtaposed numbers corresponding in our processes to as many columns as there are cords in the apparatus. If, as it happens, moreover, the native calculator decides that the balls strung



THE CHIMPU.

single time shall represent units, that those through which two cords pass shall equal tens, etc., he will be able to represent any numbers whatever. He will figure, for example, as in Mr. Ber's drawing, the figure 4456 by stringing six balls on one cord, five on two cords, four on three cords and four on four cords. The little instrument once tied at the lower extremity, as it was previously at the upper, will indefinitely preserve the quadruple numbers which will have thus been confided to it.

Big Mussels.

Some very fine specimens of mussels were brought to this city from Mendocino City by Parser W. H. Paddock, of the steamer Point Arena, which came into port during the morning. He brought a sack of them down for Ned Short, the wharfinger on the dock, but that individual had so many of his friends call on him and ask for a couple that he did not have more than half a dozen to take home.

Any single one of the mussels would make a fair meal by itself. The bivalves ranged in size from five to eight inches in length, were from an inch and a half to two and a half inches wide, and from an inch to two inches in thickness. They are monster mussels. The meat is not as coarse as would naturally be expected and the mussel flavor is all there.

These bivalves grow on the rocks all along the coast. At Mendocino City, where the specimens drawn in the cut were taken at low tide, the mussels grow very fast. They are dislodged from their holdings on the rocks by means of a sharp spade. Coasting steamers at outside ports lie within a few yards of high rocks and bluffs off



MENDOCINO MUSSELS.

Mendocino, and it is a favorite pastime of the crew to launch a boat and secure a mess of mussels.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Seigneur was the title originally given to the ruler of a district.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

A training ship was utilized in London for the teaching of homeless boys in 1866.

The first American counterfeiter, so far as known, was one William Buel, of Vermont.

The Roman sestertius was like our "bit," a money of account, having no coin to represent its value.

The Portuguese have a proverb that no man can be a good husband who does not eat a good breakfast.

Hyenas fight kneeling down, because the shank of the foreleg is the most invulnerable part of their body.

Before the French Revolution the Austrian monarchy had a distinct coinage for each of its principal districts or political divisions.

A Glasgow, Scotland, gentleman received through the post the other day a letter which his lady-love had despatched to him seven years ago.

One of the wagons abandoned by General Sherman's army on its march to the sea is now owned by Jordan Bailey, who is using it on his farm in Georgia.

The most highly prized piece of ancestral silverware preserved by the Lees, of Virginia, is a mammoth stirrup-cup, which even when empty is a burden for two stalwart arms to lift up.

The bread fruit tree seen in the Dutch East Indies grows forty to fifty high. The fruit is round or slightly oval in shape, first green, then brown, then turning yellow when fully ripe.

Titles were most abundant and grandiloquent in the latter days of the degenerate eastern empire. The formal titles of one of the latter Constantines would fill two columns of a daily newspaper.

The existence of the Colossus of Rhodes is considered by some historians as extremely doubtful. There is no evidence that the ancients were able to cast pieces of metal of such size as must have entered into its composition.

In Texas there is a rock which presents in the moonlight a striking resemblance to an immense castle with many windows brilliantly lighted. The effect is produced by the reflection of the moon's rays from the polished surfaces of quartz.

The longest swim ever made in the rough sea was by Samuel Brock, a Yarmouth fisherman, on October 14, 1835. The vessel in which he sailed was wrecked, and he swam seventeen miles in seven and one-half hours through a strong gale.

Fish are being killed in large numbers in Boone county, Iowa, by a novel process. The river is low and the fish are in the few deep places. Their slaughter is affected by placing unslacked lime in an ordinary fruit jar, putting in a quantity of water with it and screwing on the top.

William Harlis, an eccentric resident of Hawkins County, Tennessee, has just celebrated his 107th birthday. He has lived in the same place ninety years, but during the last two years he has refused to stay in his house at night, and sleeps in a big hollow elm tree, exposing himself to all kinds of weather.

A collector of rarities at Keokuk, Iowa, is the owner of an insole made of the shoes of the young Rainbow (Mo.) giantess. At the time these shoes were made—in the spring of 1891—the girl was only seventeen years old, but even then she had a foot that would make "Big Foot" envious, of Ohio. The insole is fifteen and one-half inches long and five and one-fourth inches broad.

Rattlesnake Weed.

In Monterey, as well as Santa Clara county, California, there grows a weed called the rattlesnake weed. It is so named from the story that when rattlesnakes get to fighting and bite each other, this weed, if eaten by them, will prevent death. It grows about six inches tall, has a red stalk and slender leaves. On the top of the stalk comes a head of flowers, and the seeds of these flowers are said to be very annoying to one in passing through a mass of them, as they are furnished with sharp barbs commonly called stickers. The early settlers who had herds of sheep always made their herdsmen keep with them a bottle of strong tea made of rattlesnake weed, and when any of the sheep were bitten they were drenched with this tea, which always saved them.—Pacific Tree and Vine.

Yellowstone Park at present has 25,000 elk, 400 buffaloes, 500 antelopes, and a large number of moose, deer, beaver and other animals.

SOLDIERS' COLUMN

IN A NORTHER.

A Member of the 66th Ohio Tells His Experience on the George Peabody.



48th Ohio.

On the 28th of December, 1863, I was detailed as Lieutenant in charge of guards to take a lot of recruits to Galveston for the 4th and 6th U. S. Cav. then to Texas. We left New Orleans on the steamship St. Mary, we had a large crew on board, and made Galveston in good time. There we were relieved of our recruits by the

We left Galveston on our return Jan. 2, 1864, on the steamship George Peabody. This old ship had seen hard service. The trip Comrade Howard writes of would have ended a less staunch vessel. At this time she was leaning to some extent on her side, owing to keep her head while at the wharf. There was a number of passengers on board. The weather was fine after we left Galveston until about 9 p. m. of Jan. 3, when one of those dreaded northerers swooped down upon us, and while our experience was nothing like that of the 25th Ill., yet it was more than we should like to go through again. The stoves, tables and chairs broke from their fastenings in the cabin, and rolling about added to the confusion. We had to hold on to something solid to keep from being dashed about. To all appearance death was face to face with us. How it affected the different people was curious. Some prayed at the mouth of the Mississippi. The boys of our squad had faced death before in different snafes and many forms, and amidst the uproar it was curious to see them taking the matter calmly. In a few hours we were in quieter waters at the mouth of the Mississippi.

COL. HENRY RUSH.

Death of the Noted Leader of the Rush Lancers.

Colonel Richard Henry Rush, who died recently at his home in Philadelphia, of heart failure, was a son of Richard Rush, and was born in England 68 years ago, during the time his father was Minister to the Court of St. James. He was graduated from West Point in 1846, and as lieutenant in the 2d Art. served with the regiment and as instructor in artillery at West Point until the commencement of the Mexican war, through which he served with great distinction until its close.

Upon the breaking out of the war Col. Rush, who had resigned from the Regular Army years previously, urged upon Gen. Curtin the necessity of calling out large bodies of troops, and later on, upon the governor's doing so, the latter placed Col. Rush in command of the 9th Pa. Cav., a regiment largely raised by the Colonel's efforts, and officered by his personal friends—a regiment widely known throughout the war as "Rush's Lancers," of whom Gen. McClellan said: "They are the eyes and ears of my army."

Col. Rush was three times recommended for promotion to the rank of Major-General; but it is said that, owing to official jealousies, the recommendations were never acted upon. He served with his regiment during the arduous campaigns of the Peninsula, and was finally ordered to Washington, where the chief command of the organization of the Veteran Reserve Corps was conferred upon him, he creating and doing much to bring the corps to a high degree of efficiency.

At the close of the war Col. Rush retired into private life.

The Art of War.

It is a satisfaction to hear that the number of college students interested in military matters is rapidly increasing. There are 5,000 more enrolled in the classes conducted by Army officers than there were in 1893, and if a pending bill to enlarge the number of officers on detail for courses becomes law, the increase will go on still more rapidly. The whole number of students under drill is 18,481, a respectable army of themselves.

It would seem from this that fondness for the art of war is growing into a passion and that it will take firm place in prevailing passion for athletics. The hope is that may. A knowledge of that art is of value to the student and it may be useful to his country besides the discipline that it teaches.

One of the First Families.

Several years ago there was an old family in Pennsylvania named Roth. Indeed the long line of Roths was about all the family had to show by way of distinction, and so much did they make of the long branches of the family tree and the Niagara of blue blood that had in centuries past coursed through their veins that people of the more recent generations really began to think these Roths were of some account.

One evening there happened to be a party in the little town of M., and, beside the great Roth family, the guests numbered among others young Dr. Sha p. He was a popular and rising physician, and considered by match-making mamma a particularly desirable catch.

Mrs. Roth had four marriageable daughters, so at the first favorable opportunity she cornered the young doctor and sought to impress upon him the importance of her wonderful family.

"Why, doctor," she said, "we all came over in the Mayflower; so I know you will not think me bold in asserting that the Roths are really one of the first families."

"Pardon me," replied the young physician, "but I have no hesitation in saying that your family enjoys even a greater distinction."

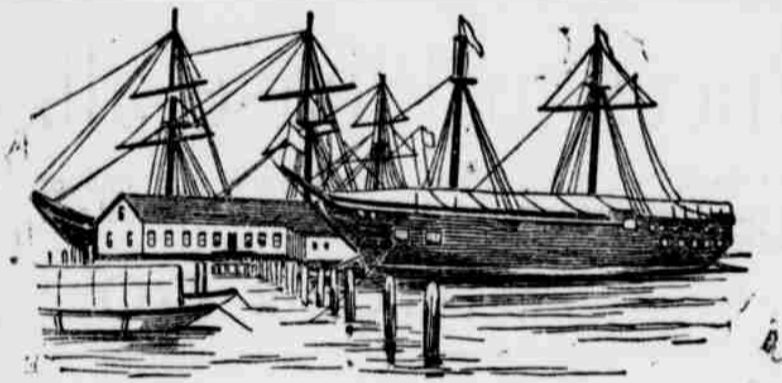
"O, doctor," gushed the old lady, giving herself a congratulatory hug on her coming triumph. "Indeed, you flatter me."

"Not at all," he replied, "for I know you are the first family."

"Who told you that, dear doctor?" "The Bible," he replied reverently, "for it says the Lord was Roth."—Boston Budget.

The Horse.

A brisk rubbing down when the horses come in at night from a hard day's work will aid them in performing more labor the next day. When the perspiration dries on the skin the pores become closed and the health of the animal is endangered. The skin should be kept clean. Careful grooming is as important as food and water.

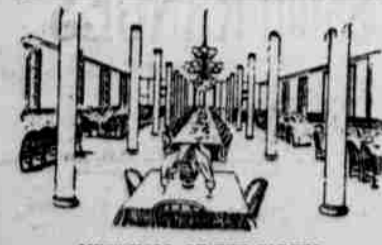


UNITED STATES STEAMSHIP Santee.

which consists of a series of calisthenic and marching drills, is the most prosaic and dull, and this, too, while the upper class cadets in the academy are enjoying the happy weeks preceding graduation day and that culminating of a series of calisthenic and marching. While the other cadets spend their few spare hours in dancing at the hops and walking and flirting with the crowds of pretty girls that come to Annapolis at this time, the new plebe must spend his time either on the old Santee or drilling under the guidance of Swordmaster Corbesier and his assistants—and fine drillmasters they are, too. Then at nearly every turn some new and unexpected regulation confronts the inoffensive plebe and, whether he meant to do wrong or not, the demerits go down against him. But it is when he goes up to the mess hall to meals that his cup is full of woe, for there the upper classmen are upon him, some with strings of questions that bother and perplex him, and others with remarks upon his soldierly bearing—generally an awkward attempt to be military—or upon his uniform, which is likely at that time to be a conglomeration of uniform and civilian's clothing.

THE CADET'S FIRST CRUISE.

At last the June ball and graduation over, the cadets left behind, except the second (junior) class, embark on the Constellation, a sailing frigate, over a hundred years old, for the three months' summer cruise, when the plebes learn the first duties of a sailor and the upper classmen practice the duties of officers. Dressed in a blue jacket suit of white duck, sleeping in a hammock hung from the beams above the deck, and working from morning till night, the young plebe's life is a hard one now. It is not the work only that is hard; it is the hazing and running that now becomes the bone of his existence, for it seems to him that every upper class-



MESS HALL OF THE CADETS.

man thinks it a duty to make a plebe's life miserable. The injurious hazing of former days, which often resulted in bodily injury, is gone, but enough remains to keep the plebes occupied. He may be required to eat a piece of soap, occasionally taste a cake of soap, but that is the limit, and the common forms of hazing amount only to saying over doggeral rhymes or standing on his head. And what if the plebe objects and refuses, you say?