UNCLE SAM'S TARGETS.

NEW METHODS OF TEACHING SOLDIERS TO SHOOT ACCURATELY.

Targets Are Built According to a Sensible Idea—Soldiers Will Be Taught to Hit an Enemy—Diagrams and Descriptions of the New Objects For Marksmen.

When companies C and D, of the Nineteenth Infantry, begin their range practice at Mt. Clemens one day this week, says a recent issue of the Detroit Free Press, they will fire at new targets called for by the revised regulations for small arms just issued by the War Department. The keynote of this new dispensation is to train the United States soldier to fire at the head and heart of his enemy. Target practice under the new regulations has for its objective point representations of human figures in the various positions in which the soldier would encounter his enemy in action. A glance at the accompanying illustrations will convey, better than it is possible for words to do, the full meaning of this fact.

The targets range in their distance from the soldier from 200 to 1000 yards. Careful calculation has shown that it is within these points of distance that the soldier must do his effective firing. It would be nonsense to talk of firing with accuracy with a Government small arm at a greater distance than 3000 feet. When the conflict becomes very much closer than 600 feet the only things for the soldier to remember are to keep cool and shoot at the head and the heart.

The first of these targets is called a short range. Sometimes it is used for a hundred yards practice; that is, at a distance of 100 yards from the marksmen. More often it is used at 200 yards, and occasionally at 300 yards. On this target, in silhouette, is the figure of a soldier lying down, as he does in action sometimes. In such a case as this, the soldier is seen directly in his face, his head being elevated from the ground as he leans on one elbow while taking aim. In other words, it is the exact position of the skirmisher, and the skirmisher is the man at whom the soldier must ordinarily first fire, as every advance of an army is led by a skirmish line.

The centre of the target is rectangle—that is, a space of any desired size, the four sides of which are right angles. The rectangle may be in a form of a square, oblong, or diamond shaped. This centre, as it is called, is twenty-two inches high, just the height of a soldier who is lying down, and four feet wide, this latter being the width of the target. This centre is one of three divisions into which the target is platted. The next division is known as the inner, and the third or outside division is known as the outer. The score a soldier makes is made up in high or low degree by the portion of the target which his bullets strike.

These three divisions are subdivided in two sections each, these two portions being known as the right and left centers, The same rule applies to the inner and outer. To thoroughly understand just what is meant, picture to yourself something like this: Take a target six feet high and four feet wide, divide it into three sections after the fashion of the measurements given, the sections running from right to left. Then draw a line directly through the center of this target from top to bottom. First you have the centre, twenty-two inches high and four feet wide. Then comes the inner which is a rectangle also. This inner runs in depth from a point forty-two inches above the bottom of the target to the lower line of the centre. The entire target forms a rectangle six feet high and four feet wide.

ONE THOUSAND YARDS RANGE.

There is no bull's eye—Creedmoor fashion—shooting in this sort of target practice. The soldier is taught to aim at the head and heart of the figure. The nearer he comes to these marks, the higher is his score. A little careful study of the facts given in the foregoing paragraph will show what a tremendous weapon this concentrated accuracy will be in the hands of United States soldiers. It has long been a recognized fact that the great trouble in throwing masses of men into a conflict with one another was that the fighting was not conducted intelligently by the private soldier; that he fired recklessly with the apparent idea that it did not make much difference in what direction the bullet went so long as the cartridge left his gun. Now when the United States soldier goes into battle there will be just two points of his enemy that he will have in mind, and those will be his head and heart.

The other targets used in practice will be the midrange target intended for practice at from four to six hundred yards; the eight hundred yards target, for distances of from seven hundred yards; the eight hundred yards target, for distances of from seven hundred to eight hundred yards; the thousand yards target for the range the name would indicate. The same principle described in the short range target governs all others, but, of course, there is a difference in the figure and a corresponding change in the size of the target. For instance, the midrange target in a square, six feet on a side, which is still rectangular. The figure on this is the silhouette of a soldier in kneeling position.

The eight hundred yards target as it is called, that being the limit of distance from the marksmen at which the target can be placed, is six feet high and twelve feet wide. On this target is the silhouette of a soldier standing.

TARGET "A"—SHORT RANGE.

On the target with the thousand yard range is the figure of a mounted soldier, but the legs of the horse are cut off at a height of two feet from the ground. Just why this has been done no one seems to really know, and it is considered that here, if any, is the only inconsistent point in the whole scheme.

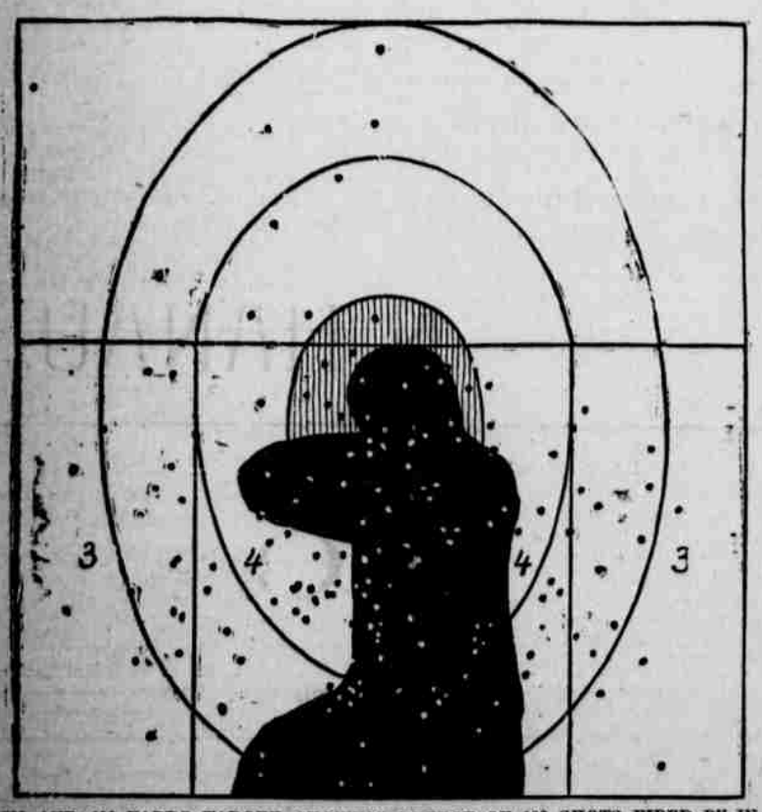
There is still another target which is known as target A; that is the short range target. There is this difference, that the figure thereon is that of a soldier in the position of firing while standing. A horizontal line is drawn across the target at the middle point of the figure. Every time a soldier's bullet hits directly above this line—that is, the line across the middle—or if his bullet strikes some point of the target at an angle and is deflected so that it strikes the target above the line, he scores 5. All bullets that hit the figure below the line entitle the marksman to the score of 4. If the soldier hits the target above the line but not the figure, the score is three; if below the line, 2.

Heretofore it has been the custom in many cases to allow the soldier to use in target practice various aids, such as shades for the sight, spirit levels to enable an accurate aim, and all that sort of thing. Under the new regulations the men who wear the army blue will have no aids beyond those which nature has given them, except that they may be allowed to blacken the sight of the gun, which always happens in battle, anyway, because of the powder smoke. There will be no firing from sheds or shelters of any kind. Everything must be done in the open. From this it may be seen that the new regulations, if they are lived up to in the spirit as well as the letter, will accustom the men to accurate marksmanship under all conditions and without artificial aid.

It is more than doubtful if fifty per cent. of the crack marksmen of the United States army to-day could go into action and fire with half the skill or accuracy they can at a target which they have been accustomed to pepper under he old conditions. Under this new method, however, with their sole thought being to strike the head or the heart of the humanity at which they fire, they will not be looking for a black ringed bull's-eye, but will aim at exactly what men who seek to accomplish the death of their enemies should have as their target.

Another good feature of the new departure is that the troops in every branch of the service will use in small arm practice—that is, practice with anything less than artillery—the weapon with which they are armed, instead of selecting the very best weapon that can be found for the teams picked out for practice. Officers and enlisted men of the staff corps will use the rifle as will infantry men and artillerymen. Cavalrymen will practice with the carbine. During the target season, the regular practice will be held until the prescribed course is completed, at least three times a week by each troop, battery and company, and at least once a week by each regimental non-commissioned staff and members of regimental bands.

Hereafter there will be no picked teams of men who have shown special ability as marksmen selected from the ranks to demonstrate what they can accomplish, but every enlisted man who wears the uniform of Uncle Sam will have to learn to shoot and shoot well. Each will be taught that the head and heart of the enemy are the vulnerable points. They will shoot to kill and not to maim.



800 AND 600 YARDS TARGET, SHOWING EFFECT OF 180 SHOTS FIRED BY INFANTRY AT 500 YARDS.

A Wonderful Work.

The new railroad bridge over the Danube River, which has just been completed, is the largest in the world, and one of the most important, and the Roumanian Government is enjoying its possession with a well earned sentiment of complacent pride. The new bridge is 13,325 feet long without approaches, which would make some hundreds of feet additional. The largest vessels that sail the Danube can pass under it at the highest tide, as the lower rafters of the superstructure are 105 feet above high water mark. Some idea of the length of this bridge may be gained by comparison with the other great bridges of the world. The Tay Bridge, Scotland, is 10,725 feet; the Mississippi Bridge at Memphis, 10,600 feet; the Forth Bridge, Scotland, 7800 feet; the Morody Bridge in Galacia, 4800 feet, and the bridge over the Volga near Sysran, 4700 feet. The Danube Bridge has one span of 620 feet and four of 455 feet each.

Chicken With Four Legs.

The first prize for a freak in fowl flesh for the season of 1897 belongs to Daniel Lemmon, of Columbus, Ohio. For the past two months he has been carefully raising a chicken which is a curiosity, to say the least. It has four regularly formed and perfectly developed legs. One pair of legs is in the proper place—that is, where all chickens with perfect anatomies have them. The other two legs are just back of these. For about a month after it was hatched Mr. Lemmon's queer fowl had complete control of all four of its legs and moved about like a quadruped. Gradually, however, the two hind legs began to stop growing and for some time have not grown at all. They now hang useless from the body. This freak is also the possessor of a double backbone and two craws or crops. The chicken stands

FOUR-LEGGED CHICKEN.

four inches high and measures five inches from beak to tail. It does not appear to suffer any inconvenience on account of its marvelous formation.

GOWNS IN GRAY SHADES.

SOME NEW FEATURES IN THE REALM OF FASHION.

Description of a Handsome Waist in Pearl Gray, With Bolero of Cashmere and Hat of Braided Straw—A Most Becoming Linen Blazer for a Young Girl.

Golf, tennis, wheeling and all outdoor sports call for the easiest possible costumes to be worn during the oppressive summer days. May Manton writes that the model shown in the illustration combines linen canvas in the natural color with light-hued plaid in the shirt waist, and is eminently youthful at the same time that it is serviceable. Both the belt and tie are black, while the hat of rough red straw shows a trimming of black and red, with quills of the former color.

BLAZER FOR A YOUNG GIRL.

The blazer shows dartless fronts, straight backs, which terminate in underlying plaits at the waist line, side forms and under-arm gores. It is wholly unlined, the seams being neatly bound. The straight fronts turn back to form curves and meet the rollover collar in uneven notches. The sleeves are one-seamed, and show the fulness at the shoulder, which is still held correct for all outer garments. The material being washable, no interlining or stiffening is required. Collar, revers and sleeves are self-faced and finished with a single bow of stitching.

To make the blazer for a miss of fourteen years will require two and three-fourths yards of the same width goods.

Waist and Fancy Bolero.

Many of the newest and most charming gowns are shown in various shades of gray. The waist portrayed in the large illustration is carried out in pearl-gray taffeta figured in red which forms the waist proper with a bolero of cashmere in the same tint. The decorations consist of black velvet ribbon and narrow gilt braid arranged in trefoil effect. The hat is of braided straw adorned with wild flowers, ribbon bow and rhinestone buckle. The waist has a foundation lining having the usual number of seams, double bust darts and closing in the centerfront. The material of the back lies smoothly across the shoulders with a slight fullness at the waist collected in gathers that are drawn well to the center-back. Smooth under-arm gores join the back to the front which is smooth-fitting across the shoulders and bust, falling at the waist in slight blouse effect over a crush girdle that is deepest at the center-back. The fanciful bolero is included in the right shoulder and under-arm seam and closes invisibly on the left shoulder and under-arm with the full waist which also closes at this point.

At the neck is a close standing band, the outstanding frill of lace at the upper edge forming an effective finish. The sleeves have under and upper portions and show a modern amount of fulness above the elbow. The wrists are pointed in Venetian style and a full cap-frill stands out stylishly from the shoulders. The design, which is eminently useful, admits of various combinations and is sufficiently dressy for a church, visiting or high class social function.

To make this waist for a lady in the medium size will require three yards of forty-four inch material.

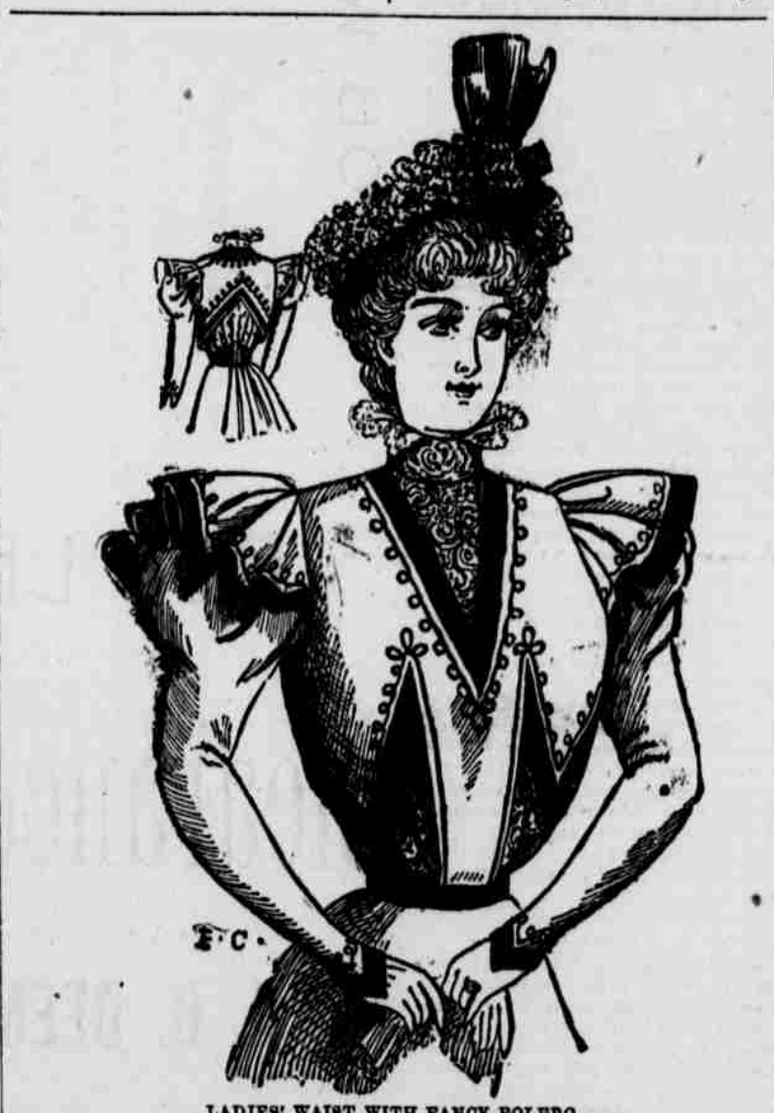
White the Prevailing Color.

White is very much worn this season, and white gowns of almost any material, if properly made, are sure to be a success. White grenadines appear among the dressy costumes at the fashionable summer hotels. One unusual model has three graduated flounces of white silk on the skirt. The bottom one, gathered over another of white silk, is the widest, and each one is finished with a narrow frill of white glace silk, which is in turn edged with a tiny ruffle of white chiffon. Another pretty gown is of white gauze over rose glace silk. Around the hips a few inches below the waist is one row of cream lace insertion, a little distance apart, run to the bottom of the skirt, both front and back. The bodice of gauze is tucked crosswise; insertion outlines a square at the neck, from which vertical bands of insertion extend to the waist.

Dress Sleeve With Epaulette.

Blue and white foulard is the material selected for this stylish sleeve, which is coat-shaped, with the slight fulness at the elbow which is always desirable in such as follow the arm closely. The fitting is accomplished by inside and outside seams. The wrists have a soft frill of lace falling deeply over the hand, with band of insertion above. Double epaulettes that are lace-edged and insertion-trimmed stand out prettily at the top, affording a becoming breadth to the shoulders. The style is among the newest of sleeves and is adapted to organdy, lawn, batiste, summer silks, cotton or light-weight woollen fabrics.

To make these sleeves for a woman of medium size will require one and one-half yards of forty-four-inch material.



LADIES' WAIST WITH FANCY BOLERO.

DRESS SLEEVE WITH EPAULETTE.

With Muslin Dresses.

Many of the newest plain India muslin or flowered organdie muslin dresses have tuckered bodice and flounced skirts, with the very fashionable ribbon sash, with long loops and ends at the waist.

BICYCLIST WITHOUT LEGS.

The Legless Son of a Kansas Minister Rides a Wheel.

Bicyclists with but one leg are becoming quite common, but a no-legged bicyclist is indeed a novelty. Such a one is James Jump, the son of the Rev. Albert Jump, of Independence, Kan. Twelve years ago the boy lost both of his legs in a railway accident. One of his legs was cut off close to the thigh and the other only a little lower down. On the stump of the latter he was able to fasten an artificial leg. Recently Mr. Jump became seized with a desire to ride a bicycle. He had witnessed venturesome feats of one-legged cyclists, but he was in doubt about the ability of a boy with no legs at all to speak of to sit half astride a wheel and make it go. He bought a wheel, however, and set about learning to ride. Leading his rubber-tired steed to the curbstone, he balanced himself on his crutches and, with a side motion made easy by the absence of his leg, slipped into the saddle. Fastening his crutch in a spring catch on the side where his legs ought to be and putting his artificial foot on the pedal, he was off. He soon mastered the art of balancing and can now ride at almost any common speed he desires and can ascend and descend any ordinary-sized hill.

RIDES WITHOUT LEGS.

SMALLEST HUMAN ATOM.

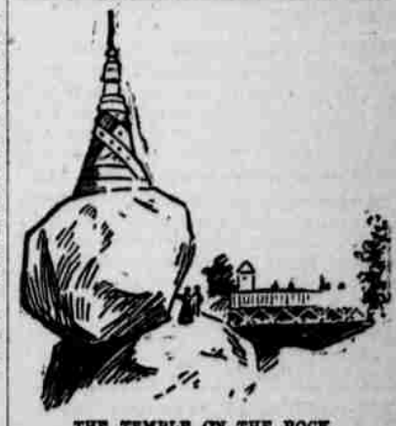
Weighed But Twenty Ounces and Was Only a Foot High.

The smallest human being that ever existed is believed to have been a little girl named Catherine Elliott. The Coroner of Liverpool, England, was called upon to hold an inquest on her diminutive body. This human atom was born in Glasgow, Scotland, about three weeks ago. Her parents were poor, and were easily induced by managers to place their daughter on exhibition as a freak. She was being exhibited in Liverpool, the parents receiving £3 10s. for showing and attending her. The child weighed only twenty ounces at the time of her death and was just a foot high. The palm of her hand was not as large as a silver twenty-five-cent piece. Her feet were no larger than an ordinary man's thumb. The parents disclaimed any desire to limit the growth of the midget. The little one had been guarded from cold, was well-nurtured and had never had a day's illness until the day it died. The jury returned a verdict that the child died from natural causes.

SMALLEST BABY IN THE WORLD.

Strange Site for a Temple.

One of the most strangely situated buildings in the world is a Hindoo temple. It is built upon a huge rock that is balanced very nicely upon a seemingly insecure base. The great mechanical difficulty of getting the building materials to the top of this rock must have been vastly increased by the peril of overbalancing the huge mass and bringing it crashing down upon the plain like an avalanche. There is another temple in Burmah similarly situated.



THE TEMPLE ON THE ROCK.

The Value of Electrical Plants.

Few persons realize the enormous amount of money which is invested in electrical plants of various sorts. Over 100,000,000 of dollars are invested in electrical machinery used in mining. Electric elevators employ about fifteen millions more. Electric railways represent about one billion dollars. This does not include the money now being used in the manufacture of electrical machinery.