

MODERN SHRAPNEL.

DEADLY EFFECT OF THIS FEARFUL IMPROVEMENT OF WAR.

What Happens When a Single Projectile Suddenly Bursts Into Two Hundred Separate Messengers of Death...

The improvements in modern guns have embraced all calibers, from that of the small arm firing a projectile only one-third of an inch in diameter...

Keeping step with these advances have been those made in the various classes of projectiles. Even the smallest of these, with its case hardened bullet, is far ahead of the old fashioned lead bullet used in the small arms of 30 years ago.

One of the most effective of modern projectiles is the shrapnel. It is one of the forms of case shot. The others were the old fashioned grape and canister. A case shot may be said to be a collection of missiles in a case, which breaks up either in the gun or at some point in flight, thus setting free its death dealing particles.

As soon as the case is broken each of these particles goes on a separate path, and it's a sorry day for the man struck by one of them. All of these falling upon a piece of level ground would mark out an irregular oval, whose area varies with differing conditions. It has been found that the best point to burst the shrapnel is about six yards above and 60 in front of the enemy.

Colonel Shrapnel of the British service first invented shrapnel in 1803. This early form consisted simply of a spherical shell filled with bullets and a bursting charge of powder in the spaces between. This was a crude invention, which scattered the fragments too much and was liable to go off when not expected and not so when desired.

This form was improved upon during our civil war, and the modern shrapnel can be considered the most dangerous of all life destroying projectiles. It consists of three parts—the tube, the fuse and the head. The powder charge is in the base, which is firmly attached to the body either by electric welding or by screwing. Leading from the base through the center of the body is a tube which is also filled with powder, which is ignited by the fuse at the point of the shrapnel and carries the fire to the main charge. Between 200 and 300 bullets rest upon a diaphragm just over the powder charge. These are held in place by a matrix of resin which is melted and poured upon the bullets when in place. A skeleton case of cast iron containing receptacles for each bullet is sometimes used instead of the resin.

The head is put on in the same manner as the base, and when the fuse is inserted the projectile is ready for use. Some shrapnels have the bursting charge in the head instead of the base. The fuse used is rather complicated, but the United States has as good a one as there is. It is a time fuse and in actual test has shown its reliability.

It can readily be seen that one great objection to the shrapnel is its high cost. The fuse alone costs about \$2.50. The same gun is usually supplied with three styles of ammunition—the solid shot, the shell and the shrapnel. Some batteries are also supplied with canister for use at close quarters. The bullets in the canister have a wider dispersion, because the case breaks up in the gun. Canister was used to repel the famous charge led by the Confederate general Pickett at Gettysburg. A perfect hail of missiles swept the slope leading up to Cemetery Hill, against whose destructive effects human valor was of no avail.

The shell is used to destroy inanimate objects as well as animate ones. It consists of a hollow cast iron shell, with a fuse and bursting charge of powder. The famous shot fired during the cutting of the cables at Cienfuegos is a good example of its use. The Spaniards having taken refuge in and behind a light-house, a shell was fired by one of our ships, which, striking it fairly, burst and utterly destroyed the structure, killing many of the soldiers.

But against men in battle formation the shrapnel is the more effective. It sends a perfect shower of missiles which, falling in the midst of a company, would almost annihilate it. Many tests have been made to show this.

Shrapnel fired from a gun a mile away in one instance and a mile and two-thirds in the other were made to strike a board target one inch thick. The fuses were set off by the contact and burst the projectile into 200 or 300 parts, each of which was capable of dealing death to any living thing in its path. Screens were placed at indicated distances behind the target. These may be considered as representing a battalion of infantry in column of companies. From the number of hits upon all of them the efficiency of shrapnel fire against close order formation may be judged.

In one shot 152 hits were made by a single shrapnel. In another 215 hits are recorded, but these are not so well scattered. Imagine, then, the effect of a well placed shrapnel upon a group of men such as is here represented.

The reader can readily understand why wars are now waged at greater distances and why hand to hand conflicts are almost unheard of.—New York Herald.

His Mistake.

"That politician is a 'has been,' 'im't be,'" remarked the observer. "No," replied the captious friend, "he isn't even that. He's merely a 'need to think he was.'" Washington Star.

HE SAVED THE MILK.

It Required Genius to Do It, but He Was Equal to the Occasion.

"Talking about cows," said Andy Henderson, "I really think that I had one of the most peculiar experiences with the animals in question that ever befell a citizen of west Texas. It was soon after I went to El Paso, some ten years ago, and before I had got familiar with the vagaries of the El Paso climate.

"I had settled on a very pretty ranch some miles out of the progressive frontier city and was doing nicely until I decided to go into the butter business. I sent east for a dozen fine Jersey cows and began operations. Well, the cows came on, and I hustled the butter business for a month, when the weather grew very warm and the atmosphere very dry. The Rio Grande dwindled until a roach could have waded across. Every bit of moisture disappeared, but this did not affect me, because I had a fine artesian well on the ranch and plenty of water. I observed, however, that my cows were losing milk day by day, until at last they were perfectly dry. I was astounded, for they had plenty of feed and lots of water from the well. I couldn't understand it and determined to investigate.

"I got up an hour before daylight and examined the cows, and, to my astonishment, I found the udders of the cows heavy with milk. I did not milk the animals, but simply watched and waited developments. Day dawned and the cows lazily meandered into the pasture, and I followed. The sun came up, and with the sun came the terrible dryness, but it didn't faze me in the least. What knocked me out was the sight of my cows' udders. They were growing smaller and smaller as I looked until they were as flaccid as a punctured tire. Then I tumbled. The dryness of the atmosphere simply evaporated the milk through the walls of the udder.

"What did I do? Why, I varnished the milking apparatus of the beasts and the milk couldn't ooze through the flesh. That stopped it."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A SENSE OF HUMOR.

It Is a Precious Gift and Helps to Lighten Life's Way.

I regard a sense of humor as one of the most precious gifts that can be vouchsafed to a human being. He is not necessarily a better man for having it, but he is a happier one. It renders him indifferent to good or bad fortune. It enables him to enjoy his own discomforts.

Blessed with this sense he is never unduly elated or cast down. No one can ruffle his temper. No abuse disturbs his equanimity. Boredom does not bore him. Humbug does not humbug him. Solemn airs do not impose on him. Sentimental gush does not influence him. The follies of the moment have no hold on him. Titles and decorations are but childish baubles in his eyes. Prejudice does not warp his judgment. He is never in conceit or out of conceit with himself. He abhors all dogmatism. The world is a stage on which actors strut and fret for his edification and amusement, and he pursues the even current of his way, invulnerable, doing what is right and proper according to his lights, but utterly indifferent whether what he does finds approval or disapproval from others.

If Hamlet had had any sense of humor, he would not have been a nuisance to himself and to all surrounding him.—London Truth.

Spending Money.

It is an excellent thing to give children as soon as they arrive at about 12 years, or even before, a little allowance for spending money and an account book. Show them how to keep an account of small expenditures and make it a condition that they do so if they wish to receive their allowance. There is no instruction more necessary to children than instruction in the wise management of money. Children should be taught early what true economy is and to exercise their judgment—not their fancy—in making purchases. A little instruction now, and experience if needed, of the genuine discomforts of extravagance may save them from much suffering in after years.—New York Ledger.

He Had Changed.

A widow once called upon an artist and asked him to paint a portrait of her husband. "When can he sit?" inquired the artist. "He can't sit at all," said the widow, "he's dead." "Then you will have to furnish me with his photograph," said the artist. "He never had his picture taken," said the widow. Nevertheless the artist undertook the job, and when he had finished the work he asked the widow to come and see it. "It's a fine picture," said she, "and you'll please send it to my home—but how the old man has changed."—Boston Herald.

He Saw the Play.

They were giving "She Stoops to Conquer" in a small provincial town. A penniless individual, anxious to see the play, stalked past the ticket office in a careless, independent sort of way. When stopped and asked by what right he went in without paying, he replied: "By what right? I am Oliver Goldsmith, the author of the piece they are going to perform!" "Ah, beg pardon, sir," said the check taker, making a bow. And Goldsmith walked in to see his play.—London Answers.

Why Is It Ever Thus?

The whole crowd of men raved of her beauty. She was divine, they said, incomparably divine, and gloriously beautiful. So she was, just as they had said. But one man did not think so. Her brother. Vin.

Living in Manila.

Living in Manila, says Joseph Earle Stevens in McClure's Magazine, is dirt cheap—if you are not fond of tinned peas and asparagus, that come from France and Germany.

"Our cook got 40 cents per diem to supply our table with an entire dinner for four people, and for 5 cents extra he would decorate the cloth with orchids and put peas in the soup. As a servant, the native is satisfactory if you have enough of him. He takes boxing well, and you can punch his head if things go wrong. In fact, he rather expects it than otherwise, and does not put his arms akimbo and march out of the house when you mildly suggest that the quality of ants in the cake was not up to standard. For ants are everywhere, and unless the legs of your dining table and cook stove stand in cups of kerosene, the ants will be apt to eat the dinner before you do.

"For wages, these boys—and they are called boys till they die—get some \$1 a month, and on this salary my own servant paid 10 per cent to the government, supported a wife and two children, bought all his own food and ran a fighting cock. I don't know how much he stole, but he used sometimes to call on me for an advance, saying that he needed funds to bury some relative. At first I was touched at his loss, but later on, when he tried to bury his mother twice over, I found it necessary to keep a record of the family tree in order not to be led into paying an advance on the cost of two funerals for the same person."

Inside of a Molecule.

The New South Wales government analyst, William M. Hamlet, delivered the presidential address in the section of chemistry at the recent meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, the subject being "The Molecular Mechanism of an Electrolyte."

He defined an electrolyte as a body in solution or state of fusion, capable of being instantaneously decomposed by a current of electricity, and he claimed that if the explanation he offered was adequate for the electrolyte it must hold good for the constitution of the matter in the universe, so that the treatise on the electrolyte has a most important scientific bearing. The method of investigating the action of one body upon any other, he reminded his audience, was brought to a high degree of accuracy by the immortal work of Sir Isaac Newton. He alluded to some observations of the late Professor Clifford, made over 20 years ago, this authority remarking, almost prophetically, "We can look forward to the time when the structure and motions in the inside of a molecule will be so well known that some future Kant or Laplace will be able to make an hypothesis about the history and formation of matter."—Natura.

The Cavalry Regiment.

The sabers clank'd, the men look'd young and healthy and strong; the electric tramping of so many horses on the hard road, and the gallant bearing, fine seat and bright faced appearance of a thousand and more handsome young American men, were so good to see. An hour later another troop went by, smaller in numbers, perhaps 300 men. They, too, look'd like serviceable men, campaigners used to field and fight. July 3—This forenoon, for more than an hour, again long strings of cavalry, several regiments, very fine men and horses, four or five abreast. I saw them in Fourteenth street, coming in town from north. Several hundred extra horses, some of the mares with colts, trotting along. (Appear'd to be a number of prisoners too). How inspiring always the cavalry regiments. Our men are generally well mounted, feel good, are young, gay on the saddle, their blankets in a roll behind them, their sabers clanking at their sides. This noise and movement and the tramp of many horses' hoofs has a curious effect upon one.—"The Wounded Dresser," by Walt Whitman.

She Married Him Anyway.

A convict at a French penal settlement who was undergoing a life sentence desired to marry a female convict, such marriages being of common occurrence. The governor of the colony offered no objection, but the priest proceeded to cross examine the prisoner. "Did you not marry in France?" He said, "Yes." "And your wife is dead?" "She is." "Have you any documents to show that she is dead?" "No." "Then I must decline to marry you. You must produce some proof that your wife is dead." There was a pause, and the bride prospective looked anxiously at the would be groom. Finally he said, "I can prove that my former wife is dead." "How?" "I was sent here for killing her." And the bride accepted him notwithstanding.—Denver Times.

The Difference.

Dr. Pellet—All you need is 25 cents' worth of soda bicarbonate, dissolved in water. You'll get it at the drug store—at the drug store, remember, not at the grocery.

Patient—But what difference does it make, doctor?

Dr. Pellet—It will make a heap of difference to you. If you go to the grocery, they'll give you so much that the dose'll kill you.—Boston Transcript.

Peculiar to the State.

"In answer to a question," "the shortest word of four syllables is 'Ohioan.'" "Well," observed the professor, removing his cigar from his mouth a moment, "it's the same way as regards the offices. The Ohioan always gets there with fewer letters than anybody else."—Chicago Tribune.

Hard Requirement.

He—I'm about to get a good position under the city; nothing to do practically but sit still and look wise.

She—Oh, I do hope you'll be able to all the place!—Cincinnati Enquirer.

His Own Composition.

A recent article in Le Figaro of Paris is devoted to the American colony in that city. It says that the colony has always played the important and brilliant role in society chiefly because most of the Americans were "Americanists." "It is certain," continues Le Figaro, "that out of ten 'Americanists' residing in Paris there is but one American. Affairs—'business,' as they say over there—absorbs the sterner sex in the United States. In that country the men have neither the inclination nor the opportunity for much leisure, and only pay us very short visits.

"While their wives install themselves here the 'good' husband only makes flying visits and is very seldom referred to in the elegant salons of the wives." The writer continues: "I was at an official ball not long ago, where one of them was the hero of a curious 'histoire.' He wore on the lapel of his coat a brilliant star, which struck me as original and somewhat curious in form. Although very artistic, the order was unknown to me. Some indiscreet person interrogated the Yankee as to what order it was. The Yankee replied in a plegmatic tone, 'It is my own composition.'"

Superstitions Bonapartes.

The Bonapartes always were superstitious, especially the mother of Napoleon. She always had a presentiment that the rise and fall of her family would occur in the same century, that the glory which was prophesied for them would be followed by disaster. And the prediction was verified. She died in her eighty-seventh year, having lived long enough to see the downfall of all her children.

Napoleon I always feared Dec. 2 as an unlucky day, and it is related of him that before every important battle he would throw dice to ascertain if he were to lose or win. The "red men" whom he always saw going to battle with him was a delusion that caused him much suffering.—Toronto Saturday Night.

Not Worried About That.

Her Father—Well, if you are determined to marry my daughter, I shall offer no objections, but before you take this irrevocable step I think it is only right to let you know that I have decided to leave all my money to educational and charitable institutions.

Glib Suitor—Oh, that's all right. I've got proof that you bet on a bicycle road race once. It'll be easy enough to show that you're of unsound mind.—Chicago News.

An Indication.

"He," said the fund but firm father, "is, I fear, a young man of extravagant tastes."

"Yes," the daughter admitted, "he wants me for a wife."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The largest coffee plantation in Brazil and perhaps in the world is the Dumont plantation, established by a Frenchman in the state of Minas Geraes. The number of coffee plants in 1896 was 4,718,000.

BEECH CREEK RAILROAD.

New York Central & Hudson River R. R. Co., Letters CONDENSED TIME TABLE.

Table with columns: READ UP, READ DOWN, May 15, 1898, and various station names like PATTON, SYDNEY, etc.

* Daily. † Week-days. ‡ 6:00 p.m. Sundays.

CONNECTIONS.—At Williamsport with Philadelphia & Reading R.R. At Jersey Shore with Fall Brook Railway. At Mill Hill with Central Railroad of Pennsylvania. At Philadelphia with Pennsylvania Railroad and Altoona & Philadelphia Connecting R.R. At Clearfield with Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railway. At Mahanoy and Patton with Cambria & Clearfield Division of Pennsylvania Railroad. At Mahanoy with Pennsylvania & North-Western Railroad. A. G. PALMER, F. E. ISHMAN, Superintendent. Gen'l Pass. Agt., Philadelphia, Pa.

DR. HENRY BAXTER'S MANDRAKE BITTERS. CURES CONSTIPATION AND BILIOUSNESS. A delightful tonic and laxative. No dieting necessary. Eat anything you like and plenty of it. Builds up "run down" people making them well and vigorous. Try it. At Druggists. Only 50c per bottle. Henry, Johnson & Lord, Props., Burlington, Vt. For sale by H. A. Stoke.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF REYNOLDSVILLE.

Table with columns: Loans and discounts, Overdrafts, U. S. Bonds, Stocks, etc., and various financial figures.

State of Pennsylvania, County of Jefferson, ss: I, John H. Kaucher, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

JOHN H. KAUCHER, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of July, 1898.

ALBERT REYNOLDS, Notary Public. CORRECT—Attest: C. MITCHELL, J. H. CORBETT, J. C. KING, Directors.

L. M. SNYDER, Practical Horse-shoer And General Blacksmith. Horse-shoeing done in the neatest manner and by the latest improved methods.

HORSE CLIPPING. Have just received a complete set of machine horse clippers of latest style.

The Star, If you want the News. The largest coffee plantation in Brazil and perhaps in the world is the Dumont plantation.

N. HANAU Great Reduction. In All-wool Summer Clothing, Scotch Plaids and Check Suits you can save from 10 to 20 per cent. Men's \$5.00 Suits, now \$3.50. Men's All-wool \$7.00 and \$8.00 Suits, now \$5.50. Men's All-wool \$9.00 to 12.00 Suits, \$7.00 to \$9.00. In Youths' Suits you can save the same reduction.

Mid-Summer Sale Announcement. In order to fully appreciate the bargains we are offering in all lines of staple and fancy wares, it is only necessary to call at our store, where you will soon be convinced that we are

"Rock Bottom" in prices on high grade goods. You will find an immense, carefully selected stock from the best markets in the world and we guarantee SATISFACTION with every purchase. It will be to your advantage and we will be pleased to have you call. JEFFERSON SUPPLY CO., PLEASANT AVE., REYNOLDSVILLE, PENNA.

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