

SWISS AS MILITARY MEN.

Swiss Government Conditions Make Their Army a Superb War Machine. Every year the Swiss soldier must do a certain amount of rifle practice in order to keep his marksmanship up to a high standard.

BELIEVE IN SOOTHSAYERS.

Many Women of Various Classes Are Regular Patrons of the Clairvoyants.

The writer recently called upon half a dozen professional palmists and clairvoyants and gathered in the course of the interviews some very startling facts concerning the clients who consult these ladies, says the New York Telegram.

"Every unmarried woman," said one clairvoyant to me, "asks the same question, namely, 'When shall I marry?'" - a patently absurd question.

"Some people's notions of the power of palmistry," declared another lady, "are wildly vague. For instance, a gentleman called here the other day who had lost \$100, and he asked me where it could be found."

Fashionable authors are prone to inquire if their new books will go well, and one of our best known actors invariably consults a palmist in order to learn whether he will be successful in a new role.

Men, I learn, are quite as superstitious as women, and some even more so. Stockbrokers come in large numbers to consult one fashionable clairvoyant, and to another flock betting men, in order that the crystal globe may be consulted as to the success of a horse who may be carrying their money.

WOMEN HAVE DECORATION.

Forty-One of Them Have Received the Ribbon of the Legion of Honor.

According to a chart in the Palais des Femmes at the Paris exposition—the women's palace—the number of women who have received the ribbon of the Legion of Honor is not large—some 41 in all. Sarah Bernhardt is the latest name to be recommended for this honor, and this is the first time, it is understood, that an actress has been nominated. Of the 41, 31 had been decorated for special services in connection with hospital or ambulance work, one was an artist, one an archaeologist and three were rewarded for heroism in war.

FOOD FOR THE FAMISHED.

Island in Torres Strait Where Stores Are Left for Distressed Sailors.

"Did you ever hear of the old ocean storehouse in Torres Strait?" asked the old seaman, relates the Washington Star. "It's called Deliverance Island, though it is sometimes marked on the charts as Berby Island. It is like a mound rising out of the ocean, the highest point being about 50 feet. It is well-nigh barren, having only a few bushes and shrubs. On one side is a sandy beach, on the other a fissure forming a sort of cave, in which stores are left by men-of-war and merchant vessels passing through for the relief of distressed and shipwrecked sailors."

"I went in there last year from the Enterprise, an American bark. "During a calm, we lowered a boat and pulled in. In this cave we found tins of preserved meat, biscuits, tobacco and a wooden box marked 'post office.' Our skipper, Capt. Samuels, wrote a letter to a friend of his in Boston. It reached him, too. Deliverance Island that day belonged to the French, but we took down their flag and hoisted the stars and stripes. That is the custom—the last ship through the strait hoists its flag on this ocean storehouse and post office."

WORLD'S SUPPLY OF IRON.

Prediction That Ferruginous Ores Are Likely to Become Increasingly Scarce.

A good deal of anxiety has been felt during the last two years as to the available supplies of iron ores and fuel. The total world's consumption of iron ores in 1959 was probably more than 50,000,000 tons. Of this quantity I take it that the United States contributed more than 22,000,000. But in all countries alike very exceptional efforts were made to increase the output so as to overtake the greatly stimulated demand. These efforts are still being continued. Spain has been ransacked from one end to the other in order to increase the available supplies. France is opening up new sources of supply in Greece, North Africa and elsewhere. The Germans have sought to acquire almost a monopoly of the supply of Swedish Lapland—within the arctic circle—for a number of years to come, and have concluded arrangements which point to their belief that iron ores are likely to become increasingly scarce, writes J. S. Jesus, in Engineering Magazine.

This is a very general apprehension, and if, as I believe, it is justified by the facts, it seems to be probable that this condition may mainly determine future supremacy. Mme. De Stael once observed that "Providence fights on the side of the biggest battalions." In the war of commerce and industry it is conceivable that Providence may in the future seem to interpose on behalf of the nation that has the largest available supply of cheap iron ores.

HAVE AN ANTI-PATHY TO SOAP

Geysers in the Yellowstone Park Violently Rebel When Required to Make Suds.

Some few years ago an unfortunate discovery for a time menaced the tranquility and almost the existence of some of the geysers in Yellowstone park. The story goes that an adventurous Chinaman once essayed to use the bowl of one of the geysers for the purpose of washing clothes, the temperature of the water appealing to his oriental mind. Everything went well until he began to use soap, when suddenly a violent eruption seized the apparently innocently geyser, hurling clothes and all into the air. The experiment was tried on other geysers with similar results, and for a time it was considered a great blessing, as, when large tourist parties arrived, it was a great convenience to bring on a special display by "soaping the geyser," as it was called; while before the advent of the Chinaman and his soap, some of the most beautiful geysers often remained stubbornly inactive for days and often weeks and months.

After a time, however, it was discovered that this soaping was slowly but surely harming the geyser action, "firing them out," in fact, and thereupon the government put a stop to the use of soap in the park in connection with the geysers.

WOMEN IN GERMANY.

They Have Many Various Opportunities of Advancement in the Various Professions.

The regulations of the German government as to woman's place in the learned professions are exceedingly liberal. For some time past they have not been technically barred from the right of being doctors, dentists, etc., but the chances of training were so limited that only very few women could avail themselves of the privileges thus afforded. The establishment of "gymnasiums" for girls in many of the larger German cities, notably Berlin, Leipzig, Hanover, Konigsberg, Stuttgart and others, has given to girls the preparation which they required in order to enter upon the university training which is needed to qualify for any learned profession. The universities admit women, if not as full students, at least to the lectures. The position of dentist requires two years' university training only, as against five years for medicine, which easily explains the preponderance of fully qualified dentists over doctors. In the whole of Germany there are, it is said, only nine female doctors, six of whom practice in Berlin, one in Frankfurt, one in Leipzig and one in Munich.

WAS TOO LAZY TO BREATHE.

Man Who Ought to Be on Some Government Commission to Investigate Something.

The laziest man in North America discovered himself the other evening in the swell bachelor apartments, not far from Lafayette square, where he lives, says the Washington Post. He was lying on a couch in the lounging-room, smoking a cigar, when the cigar went out. That is to say, the fire at the end of the cigar departed. The man raised himself on one arm with great effort and snapped the messenger call that was installed over the couch. Then he reclined and waited. After about ten minutes there was a knock at the door and a messenger boy entered. "D'you ring, sir?" asked the boy. "Yes, son," said the laziest man in the western hemisphere. "Just gimme a match off that table there, will you?"

"The boy handed the man on the couch a match, and waited. The man relighted his cigar and smoked on. "D'you want me to go somewhere, sir?" asked the boy, fidgeting. "No, that's all," said the man. "Take that half-dollar off the table."

Then the boy went out grinning. That man ought to be on some government "commission" to investigate something somewhere.

HEROIC CURE FOR AN ITCH.

Serio-Comie Experience of a Stage Coach Passenger Who Was Held Up by a Road Agent.

Whatever differences of opinion may exist in regard to other subjects, those who have been held up by highwaymen are unanimous in the statement that no matter how few the holdups or how many they held up, each and every man said that the robber's weapon was pointed directly and solely at him. Years ago, says the Troy Press, in California a traveler was on a stage coach that a pair of bandits went through. The 14 passengers were all made to get out and stand in a row, with their hands high over their heads. One burly ruffian stood guard over them with a double-barreled shotgun, while the other engaged in the pleasing task of relieving them of their valuables and spare cash. This particular traveler was nearest the man with the shotgun.

While the ceremonies were in progress his nose began to itch and instinctively he started to lower one hand to scratch it. "Hands up, there!" came the stern order, and his hand went automatically back into place. But that itching redoubled and again he essayed the relievable scratch. "Say, what's the matter with you, anyhow?" demanded the highwayman. "Are you wishful to become a lead mine?" "My nose itches so I can't stand it any longer," tearfully explained the sufferer. "I simply have got to scratch it." "No, you haint," ungrammatically corrected the knight of the road, "because I'll do it for you." And with that he proceeded to scratch the offending nasal organ with the muzzle of his shotgun. You can wager your shoes that that particular nose stopped itching with great abruptness.

FISH PRESERVED IN ICE.

Arctic-Indian Dentists of the Deep Discovered in a Huge Glacier.

State Fish and Game Commissioner Johnson is one of the oldest cowboys in the state. He is an exceptionally entertaining talker and a man who in past years has been considered modest, truthful and kind to those easily induced to believe stories concerning the beasts of the field and the fishes of the sea, says the Denver Times.

But he has apparently changed. On a recent morning he claims to have seen a man who saw a fish frozen in the ice in the perpetual glacier on the north side of Long's peak.

"The story is a true one," said Mr. Johnson, "for the man who told it to me is a scientist and one of the most prominent men in the country. His discovery will be announced to the department at Washington and a scientific investigation may follow. He tells me the fish appears to be about 18 feet in length, as nearly as one could estimate looking through a field glass."

"But there are no fresh-water fish of such proportions," was ventured. "Tisn't a fresh-water fish. It's a salt-water fish."

"But how did it get there?" "Easily enough to a fish man. That fish has been frozen in the ice glacier there ever since the time of the flood, when all this land was inundated. That is the reason the find is an important one."

HE WAS GETTING TIRED.

The Annoying Experience of a Janitor with a One-Night Theatrical Company.

"While I am at it I might as well tell of that other company—a repertoire company—who played 12 plays, opening Monday afternoons and playing twice a day for the entire week in towns not usually good for a "one-night stand" for a metropolitan organization, says the Denver Times.

This one opened on a Monday afternoon at Ravenna, O., an extraordinarily bad stand, and it was "raining pitchforks." Two o'clock came and not a single soul in the house; 2:30 and the anxious "actor-manager," looking out the "peephole" in the curtain, saw one lone individual sitting in stately silence in the middle of the "hall."

To close and not play meant the circulation of the report that they were stranded, so the a. m. stepped before the curtain and said:

"Sir, notwithstanding that you are the only distinguished citizen of this progressive place who has deigned to honor us with your presence at this, our opening performance, I wish to state that we shall proceed with the performance and give just as careful a production as though the house was packed to the walls."

"I wish you'd hurry up, then," grunted the audience. "I'm the janitor and I want to go home."

Sultan's Silver Jubilee.

Great preparations are being made for the sultan's silver jubilee on August 31, when he will have been 25 years on the throne. Poets and historians are busy writing accounts of his pious works and the great things he has done for his subjects. These will be translated and published in all languages.

Vacation Cards from Libraries. Vacation cards, issued by a public library in Somerville, Mass., are good during July and August, and those who possess them are permitted to take out ten books at a time and return them within four weeks by mail or express and exchange them for another ten books.

Won't It Jar the Boerist? The suggestion that the name Pretoria should be changed to Victoria is said to be receiving wide support.

ECONOMY WITHOUT PAIN.

A Dealer Gives Reasons for the Difference in the Manner of Packing Goods.

"Goods in large packages like, for instance, tomatoes in gallon cans," said the canned goods man, according to the New York Sun, "are sometimes crated, this being done for the sake of economy, the crate costing less than a box. But canned goods in smaller packages, of which the number of cans put up is enormous, are commonly shipped in boxes. The reason for this is very simple.

"The big cans are likely to have only a strip or a band label, the rest of the broad expanse of tin being left uncovered. It isn't necessary to put this package up in fancy style, for it is not to be displayed anywhere. These goods are sold to hotels and restaurants and other large users. The steward or other purchaser knows the goods perfectly by the label, which is to him an unmistakable brand; he wouldn't care a bit if the label was scratched or marred, as it might be by coming in contact with something through the open space in the crate. What he wants is the goods.

"On the other hand, the small cans are completely covered with a handsome label, which helps to make the goods salable. These cans are displayed on the shelves and on counters and it is important, of course, that these should be in perfect order as to labels. The cans must not be dented in. One bad-looking can might mar a whole display, besides not selling so well itself. So the small cans are shipped in boxes for their protection, which is of more importance with these goods than the saving that might be effected by crating them."

IT WAS THE WOMAN'S WAY.

How a Scheming Housewife Saved Money While Her Husband Was Absent.

There is really no use of having a man about the house. At least that is the opinion of many members of the fair sex. There is a Detroit woman and her cook, however, who have learned the fallacy of such an idea, says the Free Press.

The other day the head of the household was suddenly called away from town. When he was gone his wife decided to look after the barn herself and put the money thus saved into a beautiful summer dress that she did not need. That evening it rained, and she slipped to the stables in a machintosh that she tossed on the nearest part of the nearest horse, in lieu of a convenient peg, and was immediately kicked a dozen feet in a straight line. The cook ran out and displayed her presence of mind by turning the hose on her mistress and playing it on her until she had to revive in order not to drown.

When it came to putting hay down into the mangers the cook fell headforemost into the funnel-shaped chute made for this purpose, and most of her blood had gravitated to her brain before the people in the block—two policemen, a contractor and a veterinary surgeon—had rescued her. She is in bed under medical care, the wife is being treated for general contusion of the body, and the returned coachman is under extra pay to assure the husband that everything went off nicely.

GYPSY CAUSED ALARM.

What Was Believed to Be Burglars in a Mansion Turned Out to Be a Dog.

A burglar alarm turned in to the Cottage Grove avenue station a few nights ago from a Michigan avenue mansion resulted not in the capturing of burglars, but in the finding of a pet dog which had been missing for three days, reports the Chicago Chronicle. Sergt. O'Connor and several officers responded to the call in the patrol wagon. They found the family standing on the front step greatly excited. The officers surrounded the house, making it impossible for the intruders to escape, and two of the bluecoats placed their revolvers handy and entered the house.

The excitement had been caused by a noise in the basement under the fireplace. The officers listened, but could hear nothing and descended the stairs. They could find no evidence that burglars had been there, and finally the sergeant opened the ash dump which is under the fireplace. He found a small dog covered with soot and coal dust and so nearly starved that it could not walk. He carried the animal upstairs and its mistress seized the pet in her arms.

"Why, Gypsy has been missing for three days," she said, "and I supposed she was stolen. Here she has been starving to death in that dirty ash pan." Gypsy had stepped into the fireplace and had fallen through the pipe into the basement box.

The French Mushroom Crop.

The annual crop of mushrooms in France is valued at \$2,000,000; and it is said that there are 60 wholesale firms in Paris dealing exclusively in them. In the department of the Seine it appears there are some 3,000 caves in which mushrooms are grown, and about 300 persons are employed in their culture, and rarely leave these caves.

Many Shipplasters Still Out.

It has been recently estimated that there is still outstanding more than \$15,000,000 of the old "shipplasters," or fractional paper currency. No doubt much of this has been destroyed, but private collectors are believed to hold great quantities of the bills. They are still redeemable at face value, though they are no longer legal tender.

RIGHTS OF VAGABOND MULE.

Legal Decision That Affects Long-Eared Animals and Their Owners.

In a lawsuit arising out of the unlawful acts of a disorderly mule the opinion says the animal was found "loitering about the streets . . . without any apparent business, no visible means of support and no evidence of his ownership except a yoke on his neck," which was evidence that "the mule had been at some time in a state of subjection, but did not indicate to whom." Being arrested and taken to the lockup, after five days' delay an advertisement was published for two days and then the mule was sold. This notice, relates Case and Comment, was held insufficient on the ground that "no owner would feel any great sense of loss in so short a time."

On the question of delay before publishing the notice, which the ordinance required to be published immediately, the court said: "The argument is that the word 'immediately' as used in the ordinance does not mean 'instantaneously'; that the poundkeeper must have sufficient time to shut the pound gate, so as to keep the mule in, before he starts to the printing office; that after he does start he may proceed in a brisk walk and is not required to run, and after he gets there time must be allowed to set up the matter in type and there must then be a delay until the hour when the paper is printed and ready for distribution, and that the poundkeeper is not required to get out an extra. We are satisfied the learned trial judge did not mean to require such dispatch as this."

GETTING UP SPEED QUICKLY.

An Ingenious Grade Device That Is Employed on the Central London Railway.

A novel expedient is being tried to shorten the running time of trains on the Central London railway, the underground electric line that was opened recently, says the New York Tribune. This road has 12 or 13 stations and a length of 6 1/2 miles. The track of the Central London is not laid altogether level. Just before reaching a station it rises 1.66 feet to a hundred, and immediately after leaving it descends even more rapidly for a short distance, the grade being 3.3 per cent. The object of this plan is to stop a train more quickly when it is arriving, and hasten its departure when it moves onward again.

It has often been observed that trains on the elevated road in this city waste more time in slowing down and getting up speed again than they spend with open gates. A train may remain motionless only six or eight seconds, but the loss of time from the other causes is two or three times as great. By accelerating both stoppage and start a saving of ten seconds might be made. This repeated a dozen times would make a difference of two minutes in the total run. The advantage secured by the expedient employed in London is apart from and additional to the use of electric motors, which enable a train to develop full speed sooner than steam does.

SHARE THEIR VACATION.

London Lawyers Open the Inner Temple Gardens to Poor Children.

When the weather gets hot in London the leading lawyers leave their city quarters for the country to enjoy what they term the "long vacation," a period of about ten weeks, says the New York Post. Close by the Inner Temple, one of the headquarters and resorts of these lawyers, are the neighboring poor districts, where live small children who don't have "long vacations." And now come these great "long vacation" law firms and say, in effect, to these small children, to the boys and to the girls: "Beginning with June 12, you small boys and girls, the Inner Temple gardens, the green grass, the trees and the flowers thereof, are by permission of the Benchers (that's us) thrown open for your comfort and happiness, to be by you enjoyed from the hour of six p. m. until dusk every evening; and so they shall remain every evening, Mondays and Saturdays excepted, until the end of August, a period of about ten weeks, more or less; and this, for you, shall be in the nature of a 'long vacation.'"

And so it happens that the lawyers are to share their "long vacation" with their small neighbors.

Queer Japanese Custom.

At the close of formal dinners in Japan the guests are presented with any portion of the meal they may fail to eat. However great or small the amount may be, it is carefully wrapped up for them, and they are expected to take it home with them. The unique custom was followed at official dinners until a short time ago, when it was discontinued, but the withdrawal of government example has not materially affected the practice. There may be all kinds of elaborate courses at a dinner that one does not care for, but the mental struggle to say "No" is not half so hard when you know you will get a chance to carry the food off, and either give it to the children, throw it to your dogs or cats, or distribute it among your friends. The Japanese practice is all that could be expected. Each kind of food is kept separate, and at the close of the dinner the share of each guest is made up in a neat and artistic bundle.

Teasps Valued at \$600.

Among the exhibits at the Paris exposition is a set of teaspoons the cheapest of which is valued at \$600.

REAL POOR-BAHS IN CHINA.

Officials Who Combine Many Privileges and Work Hard According to Their Idea.

Some idea of the work of the average Chinese official will be gathered from the following statement made by an eminent Chinese statesman to an interpreter, says the London Mail. The interpreter states: "I once asked a member of the Chinese cabinet who was complaining of fatigue and overwork for an account of his daily routine. He replied that he left home every morning at two o'clock, as he was on duty at the palace from three to six. As a member of the privy council he was engaged on that body from six until nine. From nine until 11 he was at the war department, of which he was president, and, being a member of the board of punishment, he was in attendance at the office of that body daily from twelve until two. As one of the senior ministers of the foreign office he spent every day from two till five or six in the afternoon there. These were his regular daily duties, and in addition to them he was frequently appointed to serve on special boards or commissions, and these he sandwiched in between the others as he could. He seldom reached home before seven in the evening."

It should be added, however, that the Chinese idea of hard work is not quite the same as the English idea. The Chinese official undoubtedly spends long hours at his various offices, but this is no safe guide. Perhaps the busiest department in the Chinese government is the board of punishment, which reviews the sentences pronounced by Chinese judges in all parts of the empire. Naturally, therefore, the work is rather heavy, but in other departments eating and drinking is the chief business of the day.

FORTUNE IN A TRUCK FARM.

One Man Near Philadelphia Who Has Accumulated Half a Million Dollars.

There are over 600 acres of Philadelphia land under cultivation south of Porter street, in the district known as the Neck, and there is now living in Germantown a man who has amassed a fortune of \$500,000 in raising early vegetables in that locality, says the Philadelphia Record. His two sons are still engaged in truck farming, although they have not the same chances as their father had during the civil war, when spinach sold for eight dollars a barrel and onions brought \$12 a barrel. The father, with his half million, has removed to a handsome country seat near Germantown, where he lives in opulence.

He was an orphan and at the age of 21, having been bound to a trucker, he went with another man to work a farm on shares. In two years he was able to take a farm of his own and succeed in his efforts. In those days the farmer took his own produce to market and sold it direct to the consumer without the aid of the commission merchant. Then, too, there was no competition from the south in the matter of early vegetables. The labor of boys could be had for two or three dollars a week. But all this is now changed. On Porter street between Thirteenth and Sixteenth there are two large public schoolhouses, and the boys who used to work on the farms now attend school. The farmers are consequently obliged to employ men at this season of the year and pay them nine dollars a week.

AN INVENTIVE RECTOR.

English Divine Whose Church Bells Are Now Rang by Means of Electricity.

In the parish of Runwell, in Essex, England, an apparatus has been lately invented by the rector for ringing the church bells by electricity. The origin of the invention is rather curious. The rector, finding a difficulty in obtaining bell-ringers, rung the bells for three months himself. In order to save labor involved in performing this task, he invented the "automatic ringer," and erected the apparatus in the church tower. By connecting the machine with the electric current already in use for lighting the church and rectory, he succeeded in ringing the bells with perfect order and precision. The invention is in all respects an absolute success and the apparatus can be worked by oil power instead of by electricity. This makes the invention of general interest with regard to bell ringing. The "automatic ringer," for which a patent has been obtained, can be supplied to churches and buildings whenever required. The profits will be devoted by the rector to the fund for restoring the ancient church of Runwell, where the invention had its birth.

Cares of Royalty.

Members of the royal family in England have been indulging in some confessions as to when they are really happy. The prince of Wales has admitted that he is happiest when he can shake hands and talk with Sir Edward Clarke without its being rumored that "the prince of Wales is violently opposed to the present war," and when he can spend a quiet evening at home with the princess and his family. "I am unhappy," he continues, "when I have a raging toothache and have to attend some social function, where I must smile as pleasantly as though I never had a pain in my life." These confessions of royalty are instructive, says the New York Observer. Public duties if honorable are burdensome, and many a man who wears a dual coronet would gladly rid himself from time to time of the wearisome weight.