

IDENTIFYING THE DEAD

HOW MEN SLAIN IN BATTLE ARE RECOGNIZED.

Turkey the Only Country Which Refuses to Make Use of Any Contrivances by Which Its Dead Defenders May Be Known.

"A dead man is of no use to the sultan; why, therefore, trouble about him?" replied a Turkish pasha (general) when asked why Turkey, of all the warring nations, omitted to supply some sort of identification means for its lost men.

Every other nation in the present conflict provides means of identifying the dead, and these tags or identification slips are usually sent by the victors to the vanquished after a battle, as a courtesy of war, although it has been noticed that "courtesies of war" are going into the decline just now.

The British and Japanese systems are the most elaborate. Each English soldier has a small oblong card stitched inside his tunic. On it are entered the man's name, regiment, next of kin and other similar information. Besides this, every article of his clothing is stamped with a number which corresponds to one written opposite his name in the regimental records, as well as the county depot of his battalion.

The Japanese system is very similar. Each man has three disks—one round his neck, another on his waist belt and a third in his boot—on each of which are three numbers corresponding to the wearer's name, corps and brigade respectively.

Russian soldiers wear a numbered badge shaped like an "ikon"—sacred picture image—which is formally blessed by the priests.

Germany's soldiers carry a metal disk bearing a number, which corresponds with a number at the Berlin war office. After a battle numbers, not names, are telegraphed and certified. And the effectiveness of this system may be judged by the fact that after the fighting around Metz in 1870, when the casualties exceeded forty thousand, complete lists were posted in the capital two days later.

The United States government uses a simple cloth tab woven into the shoulder strap of the tunic. Italy uses a small zinc plate affixed to the trousers at the waist, on which are embossed the soldier's name, place of origin, number and date of enlistment, while the Portuguese cavalry soldier has a number stamped on the leggings.

The French, who formerly used little aluminum name plates, which in war with savages seemed an irresistible attraction to the enemy, now use little cards; but Austria still has an ornate identification badge of gun metal, shaped like a locket, with inside all particulars inscribed on little parchment leaves.

Praise Better Than Fault Finding.

Praise a boy for his good deeds rather than spank him for his bad ones. Many a parent has tried it, with successful results, as well as pleasant ones for the boy.

Hardheaded business has made a similar discovery. A Pennsylvania railroad superintendent found that posting in public places the faults of his employees failed to reduce the number of delinquencies.

"I'll try a new game," he said. "The failures I shall keep to myself, but the particularly good bits of work done by the men I shall paste upon a bulletin board where all may read."

And the result of this scheme of heart instead of fist? A quick drop of two-thirds in the number of men who required discipline. This was pure gain, and a big one, for the railroad, but the men profited even more. There was a decrease of more than 70 per cent in loss of wages through suspensions.

Improved Torpedo.

The dirigible torpedo of a New York inventor is propelled electrically, guided by a single insulated wire, and kept at the required distance below the surface by an automatic depth regulator. At the will of the operator a jet of water or a beam of light can be thrown up from the torpedo to show the exact location reached.

IMPROVED BY MORE SLEEP

London Schoolchildren Recently Made the Subject of Some Interesting Experiments.

There are some interesting conclusions in the first report of the recently appointed official psychologist to the London county council—a post which is, I believe, unique in this country. Mr. Cyril Burt's chief work is in applying tests to backward children in the schools to ascertain whether or not they are suitable for tuition in the special class for the mentally defective. Mr. Burt has examined over 2,000 children—400 subnormal children, 200 certified mental defectives and about 1,400 normal children. The great majority of the 400 children who were presented by the teachers on the ground of mental insufficiency were found to suffer from mere dullness, backwardness or special and limited defects rather than from mental deficiency. Only 24 passed the medical examination for admission to a mentally defective school. Mr. Burt says there is a striking disagreement as to where the line between the defective and the ordinary child is to be drawn and remarks that school progress is only a very indirect measure of mental ability or defect. His conclusion is that there is no one definite or constant mental characteristic in which children classed as mentally defective resemble one another and differ from ordinary children. In intelligence, as in every other quality, they overtop enormously with ordinary children and are not a separate class or species, but largely simply the inefficient tail-end of a more comprehensive normal group. Mr. Burt's report suggests the need of more delicate discrimination in the selection of children to be classed as mentally defective. He carried out an interesting investigation to show the influence of loss of sleep upon school work. In one school the children were divided into two groups. One group were allowed to sleep for two hours daily in school, the other group worked in the ordinary way. It was found that among the children who were allowed to sleep those who suffered most from lack of sleep at home gained greatly in general ability. In the worst cases the gain more than made up for the loss of time. Experiments of the same kind are going on, which Mr. Burt says may show that lack of sleep may be as damaging to school work as lack of food.—London Mail.

Aerial Dreadnaughts.

When Mr. Tennant spoke in the house of commons recently on the large aeroplanes used by Russia, he was alluding to what is known as the Sikorsky biplane, the dreadnaught of flying machines. This biplane is the largest heavier-than-air machine yet invented, and can carry at least twice the load of any known aeroplane. The dead weight of the machine is no less than three and a half tons, and it can carry a load of over a ton.

Nearly half a ton of fuel and oil is carried, and when on a war reconnaissance could carry a quarter of a ton of explosives, consisting perhaps of half a dozen giant bombs, each weighing 10 pounds, as compared with the one or two which aeroplanes now carry, or ten or a dozen 20-pound bombs. Although compared with a Zeppelin the Sikorsky biplane only carries about a quarter the amount of explosives, and has a much shorter range, it has the very great advantage of being much cheaper, easier to build, less at the mercy of the elements, and a smaller target. It was stated in 1914 that the Russian government had ordered five of these big biplanes.—London Times.

Light for Sick Room.

To shade the electric light in a sick-room or in a child's sleeping room, make a bag of green china silk, large enough to slip over the light, shade and all. Put in drawing string to tie it on. This will soften the light wonderfully.

Journey into the Unknown.

The University of Pennsylvania Amazon expedition has made another journey into the unknown and is now exploring the frontier regions of Brazil, Peru and Bolivia. The expedition expects to spend six months in that region and to return to civilization at Para.

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game, except in the case of the Iowa game, when the tickets will be placed on sale November 8. Reservations will be filled in the order of their receipt.

The following is the University of Nebraska schedule:

- October 2—Drake at Lincoln.
- October 9—Kansas Aggies at Lincoln.
- October 16—Washburn at Lincoln.
- October 23—Notre Dame at Lincoln.
- October 30—Iowa Aggies at Ames.
- November 6—Nebraska Wesleyan at Lincoln.
- November 13—Kansas at Lawrence.
- November 20—Iowa at Lincoln; annual home-coming.

Military Science Repeives and Excuses

Students who are subject to the Military Science requirement, desiring to be reprieved or excused, must make application for the same to the Commandant during registration days, and file the reprieve of excuse at the time of filing the application for registration.

Where the condition under which a student expects to be reprieved or excused exists at the time of registration, a reprieve or excuse will not be granted subsequent to the filing of the application for registration.

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