

Health Hints :- Fashions :- Woman's Work :- Household Topics

Steel Caps in Modern Warfare

BY GARRETT P. SERVISS.

One of the most interesting consequences of the altered method of warfare as it is now exemplified on the western battle line in Europe is the revival of ancient and medieval armor for the heads of the combatants. How closely these "iron pots," which have now become steel pots, without much change of form, resemble the old time headgear of battle may be clearly shown by comparing them with specimens dating from the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

It is evident that the old makers of these things had covered the ground so completely that virtually nothing was left to be added when twentieth century armor makers were suddenly called upon to enter the same field of invention. As far as general shape was concerned, the latter found nothing to invent; they had only to go to a military museum and imitate what they found there.

In one respect only do the modern helmets have any notable advantage over their ancient predecessors, and that is in the superiority of the metal of which they are composed. We have learned how to make steel more resistant than the iron and imperfect steel formerly used, and possibly something may be saved in weight. But at the same time, the blows dealt by modern weapons are harder and more penetrating.

Armor of Ancients Would Be More Burden Than Protection Now.

So true is this that armor for the whole body, such as the knights of old wore, would be far more of an encumbrance than a protection in these days. It is only the head that can be effectually shielded, and that because in the deep trenches now used high-powered projectiles cannot directly reach their aim.

Shrapnel and hand-bombs are the weapons employed, and the fragments shot down into the trenches from their explosions do not possess a momentum too great to prevent their being warded off by a steel helmet, especially when, as must most commonly happen, the blow dealt is a slanting one.

One of the 1915 models has no rim at all, so that it can afford no protection except to the skull. This is probably designed to save weight, but the other forms, which have rims, look as if they would be more effective, while the increase in weight cannot be very serious. Inasmuch as no projectile can reach soldiers hidden in a narrow trench unless it descends in an almost vertical line from above, it would seem as if the

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addition of side wings a little wider would complete the protection by guarding the shoulders. But, of course, the soldier does not remain continually at the bottom of his trench. He must also place himself at the parapet, where he can see and shoot at the enemy, and here his helmet may be the target for more direct blows from projectiles coming directly horizontally. In such cases he may be so protected by the walls and shields of the trench that hardly any more of his person is exposed than a narrow horizontal strip

of his face, including the eyes. The top of the head, which would otherwise be a fatal mark, is more or less effectually shielded by the helmet.

It is not improbable that other forms of personal armor will be developed, such as shields for the heart and other vital organs. This is rendered possible by the diminutive size of modern rifle projectiles. They may pass directly through the body in various directions without inflicting a mortal wound, provided they are deflected aside from certain or-

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Manage Carefully the Nervous Child

Children are not all "little animals." Some have such keen sensibilities, such acute imaginations, such teeming little brains that they should be treated with all the thoughtfulness and consideration given to adults of the same tendencies.

Such children have to be tenderly and constantly watched, and their delinquencies met with an amount of sympathy that gains and holds their confidence.

Those children who are scolded and punished for the least delinquency become hardened in wrong doing or demoralized by fear. In the latter case, demoralized is certainly not too strong a term for the results which follow injudicious punishments.

A nervous child becomes so afraid of doing wrong that at last he loses the power of discerning between

what is wrong and what is right, and he naturally chooses the course which he thinks least likely to lead to chastisement. He will descend to any amount of wrong-doing, and it is entirely out of the question that, if his first years are passed in such a mistaken and perverted way, he should ever grow up into an honest and straightforward man.

When children show themselves to be abnormally sensitive and nervous, they should be treated in a totally different way to the others who are healthy and boisterous; but they must not be spoiled, for that would simply aggravate the evil. They should have the benefit of a frequent change of air, especially to the seaside.

No stimulating drinks, such as coffee, tea and beer, must be given. The food must be quite plain, but wholesome and nourishing—fish, eggs, vegetables, cooked fruit and plenty of milk and milk puddings.

Above all, avoid scolding them.

"Daddy, I jus' got to have



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It Matters Now What Women Think

BY ADA PATTERSON.

"It doesn't matter what you think." These words, spoken by a man to a woman, are among my earliest recollections. I did not know why what the woman thought was of no consequence. Measured by all standard of looks, of brains, of age, of position, she attained the same height as the man. Now I know that in all essential points she overtopped him. That what she thought didn't matter was a mere accident of sex. She was a woman.

I was a child when I first heard these words. I am a woman and have again and again listened to them. But I am hearing them less often of late, and particularly since the biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs was held last month in New York. Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, the newly elected president of the general federation, said that after the biennial convention met in California, a man close to the administration said: "I am going back to tell the president that this is something we must reckon with. The women are getting together."

The representatives of 2,500,000 women, and of 9,000 women's clubs, allied themselves during their last convention to the International Council of Women, representing 70,000,000. That means that 72,500,000 women are "getting together."

It is beginning to matter a great deal what women think. California has struck the keynote in the motto of its woman clubbism. "In union is more strength." Frequently in the deliberations of the large and dignified body of women assembled to discuss the vital topics of the day and to crystallize their opinions of them at the biennial, one heard the phrase, "Organized womanhood."

"You can get anything you want if you organize, then agitate," was the advice of a leader of modern thought. Labor thought so and is coming near to realizing the prophecy.

Strange how curiously united they were. Differ as to means they did, now and then, only at last to agree. The western woman, alert, quick of movement, wearing a hat of many angles, business-like clothes, chafing with an eye chiefly to service, of speech as direct as the glance of her bright eye, forceful as the breeze that blows across the wide prairies and down the canyons of her home region; the southern woman, drawing a little as to speech and dragging a bit as to the lacy, chifony clothes, and the big-brimmed picture hats of her; the New England woman, narrow of face, spare of person, deep of conviction; the New York woman, best poised and best dressed, but somewhat lacking in authority, in other directions, reached the end by different means, but the end was the same.

What do women want? They want to conserve child life. They want the best possible conditions provided for the environment and education of their children. There is never a dissenting woman's voice about that. They are securing these ends by means of the Children's bureau, which they established.

They want clean and wholesome food for themselves and families. They are securing that through the pure food law, which they passed. They want cleaner cities. They are getting them, by the vote where they have it, and by their united influence, where they have not the ballot. They want a single standard of morals and they will get it, by the slow changing, irresistible force of public opinion. Women want better homes, better lives, better health, better children. They are getting them, for they have organized. The more they organize the sooner they will get them.

They want peace. The International Council of Women may not be able to secure instant cessation of war. But peace secured, you may be sure it will be kept. If all the women of all the world forbid war there will be no more war.

Women to greater and greater extent make public opinion, and public opinion is all-powerful. What women think the world will think. It matters mightily what women think.