

**TWO-SWORD MEN OF JAPAN**

With Their Disbanding, Comparatively Few Years Ago, the Secret of Blademaking Disappeared.

As late as 1868 there were some 400,000 two-sword men in Japan, highly trained fighters attached to the nobles of the land in bands ranging from two or three to an entire army. When the revolution came the work of the two-sword men was done, the nation was made into a solid unit and the strength of the blade carriers was needed at plow and bench.

With this disbanding, an exchange explains, the trade of the swordmaker was also lost to the vast number following it, and with them, as the years passed, died the secrets of the warrior tools. Swords can be obtained in Japan today whose blades are so keen they can cut through a veil or a sofa cushion, and also can be driven through a bar of iron, provided the wielder has the strength. Others have blades covered with a beautiful and intricate tracery that disappears and reappears at odd times, and no one can solve the "why" of it. One moment the blade is as smooth and unmarked as a mirror and the next the design leaps out before the eye of the startled beholder and can even be felt by sensitive fingers. Yet other blades are colored red, blue, silver or gold, and while seemingly an alloy, a chemical analysis shows nothing but steel. Yet others are coated with a poison that is unseen, but beyond all other poisons deadly. In large part it consists of decayed human blood.

**RACE SOON TO BE EXTINCT**

Is in Wake of Civilization Have Spelt Doom to the Polynesians of South Seas.

That modern civilization is bringing death and extermination to the splendid race known as the Polynesian, is the claim of all travelers who have spent time on the beautiful southern Pacific islands. Charles Bernard Nordhoff, in the Atlantic Monthly, in sorrowing over this says:

"To say that Christianity was their undoing would be absurd; they died and are dying under the encroachments of the European civilization of which Christianity was the remnant. Everywhere in the South Seas the story has been the same, whether told by Stevenson, or Melville, or Louis Becke. We brought them disease; we brought them cotton clothing (almost as great a curse); we suppressed the sports and merriment and petty wars which enabled the old islanders to maintain their interest in life. And lastly, we brought them an alien code of morals, which succeeded chiefs in making hypocrites of the men whose souls it was designed to save. Today there is nothing to be said, nothing to be done—the Polynesian race will soon be only a memory."

**New Method of Identification.**

Not only are the finger prints of every human being different but the position of the bones of the fingers, and also the shape of the nails are different. Doctor Beclere, a well-known student of radiography, utilizes this fact in a new method for identifying criminals. The method consists in making an X-ray photograph of the hand, showing the bones and the fingernails. Ordinarily such a photograph would not show the flesh, but in order that the record may be complete the fingers are soaked in an opaque salt, by means of which all the lines and marks are clearly shown. Doctor Beclere considers that the possibility afforded by his discovery of keeping a record of nails as well as of finger prints should prove of the greatest use in identifying criminals.

**Vast Wealth in Liberia.**

The Sun and New York Herald a few weeks ago was probably the first newspaper in our country to announce that Liberia, in West Africa, had just come into view as very rich in natural resources, both agricultural and mineral. It is nearly as large as the state of New York, fronts on the Atlantic for about 300 miles and its coast belt is only about twenty miles wide. North of the coast belt the whole country is a vast forest, through which Sir Alfred Sharpe of England has recently penetrated. He has informed the Royal Geographical society of the enormous population of this, till now, unknown forest land and of the unexpected resources, including gold and other minerals, that await development there.

**Radio Control for Airplanes.**

There can be doubt that if the war had lasted a few months longer we would have witnessed the leading armies employing great fleets of airplanes controlled by radio means. The United States army had progressed pretty far along this line when the armistice was declared. The same can be said for Germany. Now we learn that the French have demonstrated that five or six small and inexpensive bombing planes, without pilot, can be successfully guided by a "shepherd" in a larger plane through the means of Hertzian waves.—Scientific American.

**Marriage Promotes Long Life.**

Marriage, according to Doctor Schwartz of Berlin, is the most important factor of longevity. Of every 200 persons who reach the age of forty years, 125 are married and 75 unmarried. At sixty the proportions are 48 to 22; at 70 years, 27 to 11; and at ninety years, 9 to 8. Fifty centenarians had all been married.

**PROPOSE FOREST PROTECTION PLAN**

Wood and Pulp, Famine Spurs Experts to Action.

**LEGISLATION IS SUGGESTED**

Bill to Be Offered in Congress Calls for at Least \$11,000,000 a Year—Adequate Protection Against Forest Fires, Reforestation of Denuded Lands and Extension of National Forests Among Things Sought by Forestry Association.

A bill is to be introduced in congress for a national forest program, including better fire protection for the forests.

"This step, following an agreement by all the industries interested, marks the first united move in this direction in this country," says Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the American Forestry association, which announces the outline of features to be embodied in the proposed legislation. The plan calls for national appropriations of at least \$11,000,000 a year.

**Would Help States.**

The provisions of the proposed measures are two-fold—for a considerable extension of direct federal activity in forest ownership and production and for the development with federal aid and encouragement of systematic policies in the several forested states to bring about adequate forest production and reproduction.

The program provides specifically through co-operation between the government, the states and owners of timberlands, for adequate protection against forest fires, for reforestation of denuded lands, for obtaining essential information in regard to timber and timberlands, for extension of the national forests and for other steps essential to continuous forest production on lands chiefly suitable for this purpose. The following legislation is proposed:

Authorizing the secretary of agriculture, after consulting appropriate local agencies, to approve an adequate policy for each state, covering fire protection, reforestation, cutting and removing of timber crops. Not less than \$1,000,000 annually available for such co-operation with states.

**Provides for Experiments.**

A survey of forest resources, forest production and forest requirements of the nation.

Provision for studies and experiments in forest reproduction methods, wood utilization, timber tests, wood preservation, development of by-products and other steps to bring about the most effective use of the nation's forest resources.

Provision for a study of forest taxation, to assist states in devising tax laws which will encourage the conservation and growing of timber. Also of methods of insuring against forest losses by fire.

Provision for more rapid replanting of the vast areas of denuded lands within the national forests.

Appropriation of \$10,000,000 a year for five years for the purchase of lands, which should be added to the national forest system, whether or not on the headwaters of navigable streams as such purchases are now limited.

Authorizing the addition to national forests of lands now in other forms of government ownership but found chiefly suitable for permanent forest production.

"The very great importance of this program and the suggestion outlined cannot be overestimated," said Mr. Pack. "They affect every state in the Union and the business interest of every state, which means that every man who wants to build a home, who wants to get along, will be affected by this important legislation."

**PUTS BABY TO SLEEP**

Young Father Has Happy Thought and It Works Like Charm.

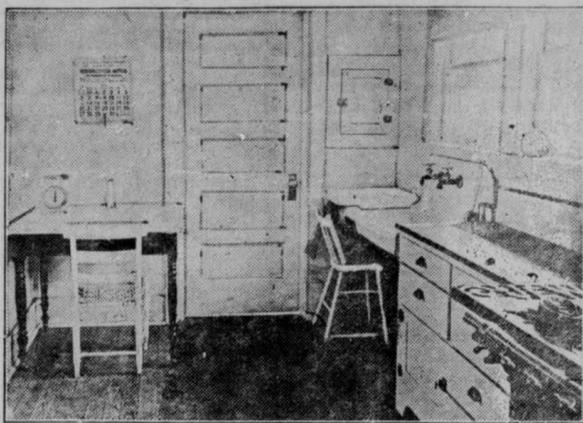
M. L. Leahy of Wichita, Kan., has discovered what he considers an entirely new way of putting babies to sleep. Leahy is a young married man and has a three-months-old baby. The little one has been automobile riding several times and Leahy has noted how quickly the motion of the car and the purr of the motor has induced sleep.

Recently the baby was put to bed but instead of going to nodland as a well-regulated baby should, insisted on crying. Happy thought, the father procured their vacuum sweeper, installed it under the crib and watched results. It worked. Baby went to sleep and was quiet as long as the sweeper hummed. When it quit, baby stirred. It is not recorded whether the motor was allowed to run all night.

**Where Sympathy Lies.**

An auto speeder, fined several weeks ago, pleaded with Judge Bernard C. Fox of the Cincinnati Municipal court for a suspension of the fine, saying he helps support his mother. "Some of these," Judge Fox said, pointing to the number "57," which shows the total number of automobile fatalities here during the year, a sign which hangs before his desk all the time, "some of these supported mothers, too."

**WELL-LOCATED SINK REDUCES HOUSEWIFE'S KITCHEN WORK**



In a Well-Planned Kitchen Like This a Good Sink is of First Importance.

One of the biggest savers of time, strength, and labor in the kitchen is the sink. Yet many women are struggling along with none at all or, at best, a poor and badly placed one. The following suggestions in regard to sinks are given by household specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture:

The size of the family and of the kitchen must determine the size of the sink, but a short sink with ample table and shelf room near it may be more convenient than a long sink. Two smaller sinks, one for the table dishes near the dining room and the other for general use in the kitchen, are very convenient.

**No Cracks or Square Corners.**

The material should be the best available, nonabsorbent of grease as well as of moisture, and there should be no cracks or square corners to increase the work of keeping it clean. A wooden sink, even when it receives an annual coat of paint, will absorb moisture and grease which attract insects, and is likely to be swarming with bacteria and to "sour" and have an unpleasant odor. Even drainboards of wood are not recommended unless they have a waterproof finish of varnish, oil, or paint. If a wooden sink is necessary, it is better to have it metal lined, provided the sheets of metal, which is usually tin, zinc, galvanized iron, copper or lead, are soldered where they are joined and all parts of the sink, including the tops of the sides, are covered with the metal, so that there is no chance for the wood to absorb moisture. Another plan is to have a cement sink built into a wooden frame and lined with sheet copper or tin.

Iron sinks of good quality are superior to wooden ones, since they do not absorb grease or moisture and are durable. They are easily kept clean if smooth (and they will soon wear smooth), but they have the disadvantage of neither showing dirt nor proclaiming their cleanliness. Unless the front is protected by a strip of wood, the dresses and aprons of the worker are likely to become stained with iron rust.

A soapstone or a slate sink is durable, but sometimes becomes uneven with wear, and if this happens much brushing and scrubbing are required to remove the sand and grease that

gather in the depressions when vegetables are cleaned, dishes washed, etc. Like iron, they do not show whether they are clean or not.

Enameled-iron sinks are smooth, last well with careful use, and may be easily kept clean, but they are more expensive than iron. Porcelain sinks are similar to the enameled ones, but their price is almost prohibitive. Perhaps the ideal plan, if cost is not to be considered, would be to have an enameled or porcelain sink for the tableware in the kitchen or the pantry near the dining room and an iron or soapstone sink for the heavier kitchen ware.

The double sinks, with one basin for washing and another for draining dishes, are very convenient, but unfortunately they are relatively expensive. A small sink with a rubber stopper for its escape pipe may be used as a dishpan.

The plumbing should be easy of access, and therefore it is better that there should be no closet under the sink. Hooks or shelves under the sink or near it will accommodate everything usually kept in the dark, often musty, "sink closet" of older kitchens. A "sink closet" can be kept sweet and clean but it means extra work to do it.

**Location of Drain Boards.**

If possible, there should be a wide shelf or drain board on each side of the sink on the level with the rim of the latter, one to receive soiled dishes and the other clean ones. Some housekeepers have these covered with zinc. As in all other places where it is used, the metal must be neatly fitted and closely fastened down so as not to leave any chance for loose, rough edges, or to provide breeding places for insects or a lodging place for grease and dirt. If there is no place for permanent drain boards, sliding or hinged shelves may be used. A right-handed person usually holds the dish in the left hand while washing or wiping it, and the dishcloth, dish mop, or towel in the right hand. It is convenient, therefore, to have the dishes move from right to left as they pass from dishpan to rinsing pan, and from rinsing pan to drainer and tray. This should be kept in mind, and provision made for soiled dishes at the right and for a drain board at the left of the sink.

**SUPERIOR QUALITIES OF HOME-MADE BREAD**

Most Appetizing of Foods When One Is Hungry.

Loaf Should Be Light in Weight Considering Its Size, Symmetrical Form, With an Unbroken, Golden-Brown Crust.

Good home-made bread is about the most appetizing of foods when one is hungry, but there are many kinds of home-made bread. Some is good, some is bad, and some indifferent. Which kind do you make? If you don't know, judge it by the following description of a good loaf given by the home economics kitchen of the United States Department of Agriculture:

Good bread is porous and contains a large number of holes or cells, all of which are of about the same size and shape. It is better for some reasons to think of it as a mass of tiny bubbles made of flour and water and hardened or fixed in shape by means of heat. This calls attention not only to the size of holes or cells, but also to the character of walls of the cells, which in good bread are always very thin.

A loaf of bread should be light in weight, considering its size, and should have a symmetrical form and an unbroken, golden-brown crust. The crust should be smooth on top and should have a certain luster, to which the term "bloom" has been given.

The loaf as a whole, the crust and the crumb, should be elastic. The loaf, if pressed out of shape, as it often is when slices are cut from it, should regain its form when the pressure is removed. Bits of the crust, if bent a little between the fingers, should show the same power to rebound, as should also the cut surface of the loaf if pressed.

The crumb should be creamy white in color and should have a "sheen," which may be compared with the bloom of the crust. This sheen can best be seen by looking across a slice rather than directly down into it. The

distribution of the holes, on the other hand, and the thickness of the walls can best be examined by cutting a very thin slice and holding it up to the light.

The flavor of the bread should be, as nearly as possible, the flavor of wheat developed or brought out by the use of salt. This flavor is not easy to describe, but is familiar to those who have tasted the wheat kernel.

**KITCHEN IS WORKSHOP**

The kitchen is the workshop in most farm homes. In it the housekeeper and her helpers prepare the food for the family, and from it as a center carry on most of the other household work.

More and better work can be done in a well-lighted shop arranged for the comfort and convenience of the workers and equipped with good tools than in a dark shop where much time must be spent in unnecessary steps and energy wasted with scattered equipment. Business men have found this a sound principle, and it should be applied to the farm kitchen so that the housekeeper can do her work more quickly and with the least fatigue.

**HOUSEHOLD NOTES**

A small sink with a rubber stopper for its escape pipe may be used as a dishpan.

With roast pork serve apple sauce, mashed potatoes and green vegetable—peas, beans or spinach.

Celery, lettuce and other salad plants, because eaten raw, must be washed with the greatest care.

Salt soda in hot soap suds is splendid for removing grease from a gas range. See that it is thoroughly dried afterwards.

**EX-FIGHTERS IN CIVIL SERVICE**

Sixty Thousand Have Passed Examinations for Positions Under the Government.

**PUT SNAP INTO THE WORK**

Amendments to the Law Establish Preference for Soldiers—Not Disqualified by War Wounds—Number Increases Steadily.

Washington.—The civil service is undergoing a change, for many former army men are "still in the service" and are injecting some of the old-time war pep into their handling of the mail, keeping records of government insurance, helping to liquidate the nation's war contracts, putting together the results of the 1920 census, opening up and irrigating and draining new government land, clerking in all the various government departments—doing anything that needs to be done around the national household. The number of ex-service men working for the government is increasing steadily, and today numbers 60,000 who have passed the examination and 40,000 who have been certified for appointment. At the present time the actual count is 15,750 ex-service folk now detailed for duty with the government, but with these new appointments the number will be doubled and tripled in the near future.

**Like Old Times.**

"It reminds a person of old times to wander through some government buildings and hear a head clerk shout out the never-to-be-forgotten 'snap to it,'" writes J. W. Rixey Smith. "Many a sedate and settled-for-the-ages government bureau has had its papers and its calm ruffled recently as the thousands of men who did their hitch in the army or the navy walked in under civil service to occupy desks in just about the same manner as they would take trenches. They hurl papers around as if they were throwing Mills bombs, and they chase in and out as if they were always after a German, bitterly lamented one old-timer about to be retired to make way for the new blood.

Many amendments looking toward civil service jobs for ex-service men and women and their dependents have been added to the civil-service laws. Five such amendments and two executive orders of the President have been instrumental in opening the gates of government service as wide as possible to the ex-service man.

"One amendment establishes preference for all honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines, wives of disabled men and widows of service men in appointments to certain positions in the District of Columbia.

"Another amendment provides for the reinstatement of all civil service employees who went to war. Another restores to their places on the civil service eligibility list all those who lost their civil service status by reason of joining the military or naval forces.

"A fourth amendment makes it possible for a disabled ex-service man to hold a civil service position in spite of his disability upon the certification of the federal board for vocational education that he has been trained for and is capable of performing the work.

"The fifth and last amendment provides that, instead of the percentage of 70 required to be made on the regular civil service examinations, a percentage of 65 made by ex-service persons shall result not only in their passing but in their being placed on the civil service eligibility list above all others regardless of the marks made.

**Civil Service Preference.**

"Of the two executive orders of the President on the subject of civil service and the ex-service man, one provides for the reinstatement, within five years of an honorable discharge, of those who held positions before the war in the competitive classified service, and the other extends civil service preference regulations to all postmasterships of the first, second and third classes.

"Despite the fact that 60,000 war veterans are on the civil service eligibility list and that these changes have been made in the law in their interest, only 15,750 have so far received civil service appointments. There are two reasons for this: The first and most obvious is that there have not been 60,000 vacancies. The second is that the law requires in the making of the civil service appointments the names of the three highest eligibles shall be submitted to the department head. Where the name of an ex-service man is submitted, along with the names of two other persons who have made the highest marks of any civilians taking the examination, the department head may choose either the ex-service man or one of the other two eligibles for the position. Thus all of the congressional amendments and preference talk notwithstanding, the civil service job for the ex-service man depends in a great measure upon the department heads of the government.

"Salaries in the civil service vary greatly. The average departmental position in Washington pays anywhere from \$1,200 to \$3,500 a year, while many civil service positions in the work of the different departments throughout the country pay as low as \$500 a year with quarters and mount as high as \$5,000 a year. All salaries under \$2,500 carry a yearly bonus of \$240."

**The Pretty Dream**

By MOLLIE MATHER

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Julie thought it would be different after she was married; everyone told her so. Aunt Millicent in comfortable complacency explained how light romantic visions vanished in the reality of sensible devotion, and surely no husband had ever been more sensibly devoted than Tom. He was kindly concerned in her health and her pleasures as well, and never too wrapt up in business to refuse a sympathetic ear. Yet, the "visions" remained. Visions of a green bordered road with a lake blue and sparkling at its foot. Of a summer there, the magic of its moonlit nights. Of a crude, picturesque cabin at the edge of the wood where a young man labored over possible inventions, a bronze faced, dark eyed young man with a smile of womanly sweetness, and a tender voice to match the smile. Julie had been much in this man's companionship. It was her uncle who had whimsically introduced the two.

"Stewart," he said, "this is a modern maid of the cities; Julie, my friend here was born a future Edison, but he has not quite achieved—not yet."

After that the girl had seemed to chance upon the unusual man everywhere—in the wood where the trees made a cathedral, on the banks of the lake, where his little boat was harbored—sometimes they would row together, sometimes talk idly as he explained and laughed with her about his future inventions.

There were hearts, Julie was told, that had loved and lost where Stewart Holmes was concerned. But the girl smiled and went on to her fate—for Julie, too, learned to love the man of gentleness and charm. All at once Tom Carter back in the city seemed a crude being, on an endless quest for mere dollars. Dollars won by hard thinking and tireless action in a big concern in the city. Tom's brief notes proved to her his absorption in mercenary pursuit. "Dear Julie," Tom would scrawl—"Busy every minute; thinking of you just the same, and hoping you will hurry home from the wilds."

And while Julie would crumple her unsatisfactory letter, Stewart would go on talking in his beautiful way, hinting sadly of what her return would mean to him. Julie realized what it was going to mean to her.

When Stewart made love to Julie she longed wildly to break her engagement, and told him so. But even in his disappointment Stewart was thoughtful.

"Take time to think it over, Jewel," he said.

Jewel was his name for her.

"There will be plenty of time to think, I fear," he added sadly, and motioned toward the cabin toward his many half-finished plans. It was then that Aunt Millicent interceded regarding practical choice in a husband. Stewart was her loved friend, she said, but Tom was her choice. Stewart himself settled the grievous question. Julie had gone, near the time of her departure, to meet her woodland lover on the bank of the lake, and as the moon turned the waters to gleaming silver, Stewart tenderly leaned toward her, while her hands clung to his.

"Good-night and good-by, little Jewel," the man said. "Ours has been a pretty dream."

Later she told big Tom all about it. Tom's only answer was the repeated urging that she set their marriage day. As far as Julie could judge, her summer romance troubled him not at all.

But as years passed, and Julie endeavored to be worthy of her husband's sensible devotion, the dream remained to haunt her happiest hours. Unconsciously she found herself continually comparing Tom's good nature with the other man's sympathetic understanding; Tom's bluff ways with the other's tender, half-uttered thoughts, and she wondered if from that gifted mind some idea had not gone out to enlighten a world. She wished, sometimes impatiently, that Tom was not so commonplace in his care for her; every physical comfort was well supplied. Tom's labors had won him success, but still—her dream. Then one day they motored to a distant town. Tom had business there, and Julie accompanied him. Half-way on their journey they encountered engine trouble. The spot was a strangely familiar one—the short-cut through the woods, a crude cabin near by.

"Tom," cried Julie, "this is where I used to visit with Uncle five, six years ago before we were married. You remember, Tom?" Her husband nodded absently; he was examining the car's engine. "Now, if I could find some fellow to help me," he said. A man came from the cabin.

"In trouble?" asked a musical voice. Tersely Tom explained.

"Sorry I can't help you," Stewart Holmes said, "but I am not much on practical work. There's a garage at the bend."

"You won't mind waiting?" Tom asked his wife. Julie shook her head, then she and Stewart Holmes looked at each other. The man's face seemed untouched by the years, his mouth less purposeful, perhaps, his clothing worn and faded. The cabin door hung on its broken hinge, the pictures had turned to shabbiness. And after a while, as Julie and her husband rode in their way, she looked up in his face with a little happy laugh.

"What foolish, romantic dreams girls can have, Tom dear," she said.