

SOLDIERS ARE SUPERSTITIOUS

British War Museum Official Digs Up Some Interesting Information.

NEARLY ALL WEAR AMULETS

One Officer Carrying Charm Refuses to Reveal Its Nature for Fear of Bad Luck—Another Carries Piece of Coal.

London.—Certain interesting superstitions prevalent among British colonial troops at the front are described by Edward Lovett, an official of the Imperial War museum at London, in the Morning Post. He says:

"Many of the superstitions held by British soldiers are also held by our troops from overseas and by men of the allied forces. One day I happened to meet an Australian soldier who wore the figure 5 on the collar of his tunic. This 5 is known on the continent as the Pentad, and in Belgium the Fifth regiment is considered to be the lucky regiment. The logic of the Pentad is as follows: Figure 1 stands for God, absolutely alone. Figure 2 is the mind of God in operation as shown by the works of nature. Figure 3 represents man as the highest work of God. Taking, therefore, figure 1 as being unique, the figures 2 and 3, that is, God's work in the hands of man, equal 5, and this 5 is said to represent everything. In this country we do not fully appreciate the meaning of the figure 5.

Lucky Australian Five.
"To come back to our Australian soldier. He told me that he knew nothing of the Pentad, and he was rather inclined to sneer at luck in general. But he told me that his company, which was the Fifth, was very lucky, and day after day the men had many narrow escapes from death or wounds. The company, in fact, had lost only 15 men out of 180, while the Second company had lost a much larger proportion. He also told me that the No. 13 was considered by them a lucky number, and most of the men in the Fifth company, curiously enough, had 13 in their regimental numbers, his own number being 51327.

"On one occasion, after lecturing to some men from New Zealand and Australia, I was entertained for the night and put up in an officer's hut. Before turning in I chatted over the subject of folklore and soldiers' mascots with four officers. One of the officers told me that he carried a charm, and I said I would like to know what it was. It turned out to be simply a Swastika, which was apparently new to him, and he was glad to hear more about it. The second officer took from his pocket a small cross of grotesque form, which, he informed me, was his mascot. The third officer laughingly added, 'Well, I

need not show you mine, because it is only a piece of coal, wrapped in a little bag which I brought over from Australia.' The fourth (and this to my astonishment, being the 'highest possible') said, 'I also have a mascot, but I regret to say that I don't intend to show it to you. I won't even tell you what it is, because it would spoil my luck.' Nothing I could say would induce him to alter his decision. His was the most superstitious case of all.

"The commonest charms among the soldiers of France and Belgium are made of aluminum and copper fragments of German shells. It is considered that if you wear a piece of an enemy's projectile it inoculates you against future danger from such sources. In Italy the men wore the kippets of charms and amulets which have been common in that country for many generations—even centuries, I

may say. They consist chiefly of phallic emblems, and may be seen by thousands in the streets and markets of Naples especially.

What the Germans Wear.
"I have a number of examples of German charms, some of which were taken from German prisoners, while others were collected by myself in Germany about 12 years ago. They are of a character you might expect from such a people, and consist largely of pigs, many of which, I regret to say, are grossly vulgar and offensive. Another German charm is a small model of a fungus, which is of natural blood-red color. This is really a phallic emblem. A third kind is a teetotum, the meaning of which is 'chance.' On the other hand, in the German navy, or what remains of it, they have rather a pretty charm. It consists of a small, cheap medal, bearing the figure of Christ stilling the tempest, with the motto 'Safety in storms.' I gathered from several of my friends that the charms in common use by the Germans were generally small objects, such as I have mentioned, which had been presented to the wearers by their mothers or sisters, but in few cases had the charm any definite logical meaning.

JEWES IN SERBIA IN BAD PLIGHT

Economic Ruin and Epidemics Have Fallen to Their Lot in Balkans.

BULGARIAN OUTLOOK BETTER

Investigator Urges Shipments of Food and Clothing to Roumania—Fund of \$35,000,000 Being Sought in United States.

New York.—Reports of the condition of Jews in the Balkan countries, as made to the American Jewish Relief committee by its investigators abroad show that economic ruin, epidemics of typhus, tuberculosis, and other diseases have fallen to the lot of Balkan Jews to an extent equal to that suffered by their co-religionists in other war-torn countries, but that political and religious repressive measures have been lacking.

The first detailed account of the situation in Serbia in many months is from Dr. Isaac Alcalay, chief rabbi of Serbia, with headquarters in Belgrade. He said Belgrade was still without regular communication with the provinces, because the railroads and bridges destroyed by the Austrians have not been restored.

"During the war," he wrote, "Jews in Belgrade suffered proportionately more than the rest of the population. Most of their habitations were exposed to gunfire throughout the 15 months that the city was under bombardment. Almost all homes are destroyed. The

Jewish population of the city, formerly 8,000, now numbers no more than 4,500. The number is being increased daily by returning refugees. Many men are still with the colors.

"Economically, the Serbian Jews have suffered terribly. Because of the uncertain political situation, all regular commerce is impossible, and it is difficult for Jewish citizens to improve their condition.

Have Suffered Terribly.
"Such a situation is unfortunate, for the war has brought us new duties. The Jews of old Serbia took a very active part in the Balkan wars and in the world war. The years of fighting have deprived more than 400 families of their bread winners. These people have to be helped.

In Bulgaria, according to a report from Miss Hetty Goldman of this city, the condition of the Jews is somewhat better than in Serbia. Poverty is not so widespread, nor are health conditions so bad.

"Bulgarian Jews are able to meet the needs of their own poor, but they have recently been confronted with a new responsibility. Roumanian Jews are seeking refuge in Bulgaria, and their Bulgarian co-religionists are at a loss to know what to do with them. There is no work, even for skilled artisans.

"A soup kitchen is being run for these people of Sofia, but many are desperate. An allotment from our American Jewish relief fund must be made to care for them."

In Roumania there is need of clothing and staple foods. It was Miss Goldman who made the investigation in this country also.

Clothing Greatest Need.
"The people needed clothing above everything else," her report reads. "Almost everybody is shabby, and a large percentage of the poor are practically without clothing. I went into many homes where the inmates had on mere rags or were huddled in torn blankets of sucking.

"The second greatest need is for staple foods, such as dry beans, peas, rice, vegetables, fats and the like. Such supplies as are to be had are sold at exorbitant prices.

"I was painfully impressed by the number of sick in Roumania. In Bucharest, out of a Jewish population of 45,000 there was an average of eight funerals a day last winter. A large percentage of typhus cases in Bucharest and Jassy have been among Jews."

Machinery for the effective distribution of relief in the Balkan countries is in operation. More than \$200,000 worth of supplies, including several tons of kosher meat, was sent from New York late in July to Constanza, Roumania. The American Jewish relief committee, under the chairmanship of Louis Marshall, plans to continue regular shipments of this kind to the Balkans and to Poland, Galicia, Czechoslovakia, and the other countries.

For this purpose a fund of \$35,000,000 is being sought in the United States this year.

of customs, who laid it before the shipping board. Mr. Curry has since returned and reports that that board, members of congress, and American business men have promised to do all they can for the island.

Another oil depot is being erected here to meet increased demands. The people of St. Thomas believe it possesses far better facilities than most other West India islands, and are determined to make known its availability as a port of call for supplying steamers.

Marine Good Walker.

Richmond, Va.—Ralph Walter Slater ambled over from his home at Mount Tell, W. Va., to Charleston, a distance of 23 miles, to join the marine corps. Having successfully passed the examination he strolled over home—another 23 miles, to tell his folks good-by. Completing his farewell he made his way over the West Virginia mountains back to the recruiting office in all. Slater walked 78 miles to become a marine.

He who is happy is forgetful.

Can Anyone Know?

By REV. W. W. KETCHUM
Director of the Evening Classes,
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TEXT—These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life; even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God.—1 John 5:13 R. V.

Can anyone know in this life whether or not he is eternally saved?

This certainly is an important thing to know, if it can be known.

The Bible, the theme of which is salvation, gives this information. If anyone, desiring to know whether he is eternally saved, will go to the Bible, it will tell him, for it speaks in unmistakable terms.

First of all, the Bible states plainly that all people of whatever race or class are lost.

This message of the Bible is resented by many, but why should we resent knowing the truth about ourselves, especially since God, who tells us we are lost, also tells us that he has made provision whereby we may be saved? Is it not better that we know our actual condition than to go on in ignorance of it? If we know we are lost, and also know there is salvation for the lost, then we may be saved if we desire.

If for a single moment you doubt that all men are lost, I would ask you to read the third chapter of Romans, and find out just what God says is the actual condition of all men. The teaching of this chapter in Romans, which is confirmed by other portions of the Word of God, gives the plain, unvarnished truth concerning this matter. It should stir us to the very depths of our beings, and would leave us in hopeless despair if God did not at once tell us that he has graciously provided, in the Lord Jesus Christ, salvation for all men, and that they may be saved if they will take Christ as their Savior.

In the next place the Bible makes a clear distinction between people who have taken Christ by faith as their Savior and those who have not done so.

It says of those who have failed to make Christ their Savior that because of this failure, since they are afflicted with sin, they shall perish. What could be plainer concerning this than the statement of our Lord himself, spoken to those who have not settled this momentous question, "Unless ye repent ye shall all likewise perish;" or this one, "He that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."

You see, the Bible does not leave anyone, who has not taken the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, in doubt for a moment as to whether or not he is saved, but plainly tells him that he is lost.

Now what does the Bible say of that person who has by faith accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior? Does it say of him that he is eternally saved, or does it leave him in doubt? Logically, if the one who has not taken Christ as his Savior is eternally lost, then conversely it is true that the one who has taken Christ as his Savior is eternally saved. But does the Bible teach this, and does it as plainly give the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ the assurance of his salvation, as it gives the unbeliever the assurance that he is lost? It certainly seems reasonable that if one who fails to accept Christ as his Savior can know he is eternally lost, the one who accepts Christ as his Savior should be able to know he is eternally saved. This is precisely what our text says the believer may know: "These things have I written unto you—that ye may know," not hope, nor feel, but "know that ye have eternal life."

Numerous passages in the Word of God substantiate this teaching, and it is only because we have hearts of unbelief that we ever doubt it. It is so wonderful, and it seems too good to be true, that God should eternally save those who accept Christ as their personal Savior. But it is true just the same, for God has said it, and he cannot lie.

It is a marvel of God's grace that the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ at once has eternal life (John 3:16); that he passes at once from death unto life, and that he shall not come into judgment (John 5:24). God who saves has promised to finish the job, and has made provision to do so. It is not for us, if we really have appropriated Christ as our Savior, to doubt that God will faithfully finish our salvation; but as Paul tells the Philippians (Phil. 1:6), so should we be confident of this very thing, "that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Church Must Be Democratic.
An undemocratic church in a democratic age is an anachronism, and no matter how ancient her lineage, or well established her historic position, unless she is in close and sympathetic touch with those great world movements she is doomed to defeat and to spiritual deadness and decay.—Bishop Guerry.

GEORGEOUS EVENING GOWNS AND OTHERS



Heavy satin cloth of silver and rich, fall are the materials that are in demand for formal evening gowns. These materials are gorgeous in themselves and therefore adapted to the present styles in evening dress, which depends upon graceful draping of the figure and not upon embellishments for interest. It is beauty of fabric and beauty of lines that must hold the attention.

Sometimes, in the simpler models, the drapery suggests the ease and flowing lines of the classic Greek garments, and sometimes a single piece of material appears to be wrapped about the figure, with a long loose end forming a train. But an artist in draping may use material more freely than is indicated in either of these styles so long as he knows how to use drapery to glorify the figure. The corsage is usually plain and flat at the front and held in place by narrow shoulder straps. It follows the lines of the corsetless figure very closely here and does not concern itself with covering much of the back. Gowns of this kind, cut in-

step length or a little shorter, in peacock shades or jade green and in the regulation evening shades, worn with satin slippers and silk hose to match, are likely to out-shine any rivals.

The draped satin gown in the picture is one of those in which the material seems to be wrapped about the figure and to end in a short train. It is of white satin with a drapery of tulle on one shoulder that falls almost to the ankles, from the other shoulder strands of beads fall in long loops and there is a trailing spray of silver roses at the back to finish up the splendor.

The pretty dress of turquoise georgette crepe shown in company with this gorgeous evening gown, does not aspire to rival it. Yet it might appear at the same function and prove as pleasing. Not every woman can carry off magnificence, and times have so changed that many fine ladies have no longer much use for it. The simpler, fine-grained things suit them better; so they choose that which fits personality and do not attempt to play a role that does not please them.

Paris Launches New Silhouette



The tunic skirt and the straight cord, and the chemise dress have had a long reign. But now they bid fair to be displaced, beautiful as they are, by fitted lines, the full hip and skirt, panier and other draperies that look to the period of Louis XV for inspiration, and to the time of the Second Empire.

Changes in styles from present lines to those for fall promise to be radical. They are in the experimental stage just now; but designers are drawing upon many sources and times for ideas and presenting entirely new creations that have many allurements besides that of newness, to compel success for them.

The Directoire influence is the dominant feature in the odd costume for afternoon, pictured above. It has a plain skirt made of fibre silk apparently in an irregular brocade pattern, and—yes—a redingote of satin entirely covered with a scroll pattern of silk

PATROLS READY FOR NEW MEXICAN OUTBREAKS



Three-inch field pieces going to their station on the border along the Rio Grande. The military authorities are taking all necessary precautions to be ready for any new outbreak on the Mexican border.

ST. THOMAS PICKS UP

American Port Regains Former Marine Standing.

Improvements Slow During the War, but Ships Are Now Calling Regularly.

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.—This American port is beginning to regain some of its former maritime importance. Owing to the war, improvements in this direction have been slow since the Virgin Islands were purchased from Denmark, but now, after considerable agitation by business men of St. Thomas, American steamers are beginning to call here. This is the result of representations which have been made to Washington in behalf of the inhabitants of the islands.

The islanders feel that American steamship owners, and especially the shipping board at Washington, have

heretofore overlooked the facilities of the harbor of St. Thomas for providing coal, fuel oil, and other stores.

While few American steamers have been calling at St. Thomas for supplies, many have called at the neighboring British islands, where facilities are not considered as good as here. The price of coal is cheaper at St. Thomas than at the British islands.

To bring this matter before the shipping board and to obtain all the help possible from the American people and congress, a meeting of the inhabitants of the Virgin Islands was held here. Resolutions were adopted calling the attention of the shipping board to the facilities of the port, such as a pier 3,000 feet long with thirty-one feet of water alongside and all up-to-date appliances for the quick dispatch of vessels wanting coal, water, fuel oil and other stores.

The resolution was carried to Washington by Darwin O. Curry, collector

Julia Bottomley